

 **Geyer Springs**  
**United Methodist Church**  
5500 Geyer Springs Road & Mabelvale Pike  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72209-1811

**Church Staff**

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*Please join us for*

**Worship in the Sanctuary 9:30 am to 10:30 am**

**Sunday School 10:30 am**



# The Informer

Geyer Springs United Methodist Church

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## The Art and Science of Renewal

Bobbie recently gave a copy of an article on Garden Club renewal written by Donna Rauch, their Membership Chairman for their periodic newsletter. The article struck familiar notes with me concerning church renewal.

Church renewal begins with some realizations. First, is to realize that the "same" has become the "same old." The second realization comes when we realize the same old isn't working anymore to attract anyone new. Then, the most painful realization. Put in question form, it is "Do we want to change?" When we are happy and comfortable with our church, it is easy to think "I like it, everyone else should like it too." Nothing is further from the truth.

Change without a focus or goal or just to do something is different is not renewal. Renewal comes when we set aside our wants and desires to discern what will draw others to us to begin a journey of discipleship. I don't mean names on the roll, I mean disciples who are living out faith, following Jesus' path.

A process of renewal requires us to forget about ourselves and focus on others. When you become a member, church stops being about you. When you become a disciple, you take your place working to create other disciples from those who follow. It is now all about the new person. You have not been demoted, you remain essential to the faith and the process of discipleship. It is also essential that we become the agents of renewal.

Before we start toward renewal you should pray for the greater church and for our local church. Ask for a spirit within you that wants to disciple others and is open to change when change is necessary. Then begin the path.

The first point on the checklist is ourselves. Disciples serve as a living example of faith. Our faith is out in front for everyone to see. If we are not living as a good example people don't want any part of us or what we preach. If we expect renewal, we must first be renewed.

Second, we must be a place that looks like we care. I emphasize appearance of the building and grounds for the simple reason people will not give us a second look if they think we don't care about how we look. Maintenance is important and for the same reason.

Our welcomes must be genuine. Nothing further need be said, you do this well.



Sept 1 Betty Stout  
 Sept 1 Greg Clay  
 Sept 3 Jeff Graves  
 Sept 3 Julia Bullard  
 Sept 11 Kathleen Clay  
 Sept 13 Thomas Kelly  
 Sept 15 Kathy Kline  
 Sept 16 Daniel Dean  
 Sept 16 Brad Clay  
 Sept 20 Brian Currio  
 Sept 21 Gina Dungy  
 Sept 23 Louise Johnson  
 Sept 23 Magan Pool  
 Sept 24 Skip Hoggard



Sept 1 Barbara & Stan Chapman  
 Sept 2 Rose and Tom Kelly

**Treatment and Concerns:**

Please continue to let us know of your prayer, joys, and concerns:  
 Rev. David Hoffman, (501) 475-6397  
 PastorDavid@GeyerSpringsUMC.org

**Grief:**

Hazel Wilson and the Wilson Family

**Rehab & Nursing Centers:****Home Bound:**

Mildred Chenault  
 Carol Haskins  
 Charles Turley Brookdale on Napa Valley  
 Betty Stout Col. Glenn Rehab on Lawson

**Treatment and Concerns:**

John Bencick	Hildegard May
Marie Brown	Linda McCown
Mildred Chenault	Debbie Morehart
Allyson Cheyene	Fay O'Donnell
Glenda Clay	Betty Ross
Vance Gault	Victoria Ross
Mary Sue Henry	Rose Teter
Lenny Hicks, "Lady K"	Rita Williams
Rose Kelly	Hazel Wilson
Tom Kelly	Becky Young

**Wednesday Night Fellowship**  
**Wednesday Evenings**  
**at 5:30 pm**

Adults: \$3 Children: \$1 Any of the host groups welcomes your help.

<b>Sept 5</b>	<b>New Beginnings</b>
<b>Sept 12</b>	<b>Myers</b>
<b>Sept 19</b>	<b>UMW</b>
<b>Sept 26</b>	<b>Blackwell</b>
<b>Oct 3</b>	<b>UMM</b>



The Food Pantry continues to feed the hungry in our neighborhood. This would not be possible without the generous support of our congregation. Donations to the Food Pantry may be given directly to Terri Hammond or to the office with a designation "Food Pantry" on your envelope.

**Rummage Sale**

The annual rummage sale sponsored by the women of the church will be Saturday, September 8. Hours will be 7 am to 12 noon.

Thank you.

I have obligations as well. I will preach and teach about a God of all-inclusive love, compassion, forgiveness, mercy and grace sufficient for all needs. I will also preach and teach about Jesus, who gave us the path to salvation. When asked, I will offer counsel to those who seek.

Finally, we all must be mindful of what our community needs from us. The greatest way we evangelize is to serve our neighbors in ways that demonstrate the depth of our faith and our desire to follow Jesus' example. For renewal we must discern what our community needs from a church and quickly move to satisfying those needs. Today's generation wants to know if we are sincere in our faith. It is proven that people who are seeking a church home or are struggling with the first calls of discipleship are attracted to places where they see faith at work.

I am excited to continue this journey with you.

Dear GSUMC Friends,

Thank you for making my birthday party such a memorable occasion. It was such a pleasure to visit and see old friends and former members of our church. My heart is filled with love and gratitude for faithful members who are willing to work together and keep our church alive.

This church has brought me and my family through the best of things and the worst of things and after being a member for 61 years (in October), God is still blessing us and carrying us through!

Thanks for a great party!  
See you at church.

Lillian Shelton