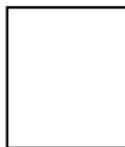




70 Queendale Center  
Beverly, KY 40913-9607



# Red Bird Notes

SUMMER 2018

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## Jennifer Wilder Leads as New Principal

After twenty-six years of leading as teacher and guidance counselor, Mrs. Jennifer Barbee Wilder, was chosen to continue her leadership at Red Bird Christian School as its new principal. Jennifer has served as a teacher for 17 years including 4 years as a Reading Recovery/Resource Teacher. Since 2009 she has served as Guidance Counselor, been a member of the administrative team, and has served as the Chair of the School Improvement Committee since 2006.



In announcing the selection of Mrs. Wilder as Principal, Ms. Kari Collins, Executive Director, said, "Jennifer is dedicated, well-educated and knowledgeable about Red Bird Christian School. She is well-versed on the school's strengths and areas needing improvement. She is an effective leader and a skilled educator. Jennifer is strong in her faith."

Jennifer's base for leadership is evident in her statement, "The fact that my Lord is mindful of me, loving without conditions, merciful and willing to intercede on my behalf is truly humbling. All that I am and everything I have comes from Him. I want to be God's hands and feet in this place. Red Bird students deserve academic excellence that always points towards our Creator and Lord."

### High Marks on Accreditation

Christian Schools International recommended full accreditation for Red Bird Christian School to the accreditation commissions for CSI and AdvancED. The visiting team had high praise regarding our dedicated staff noting, "The academics and culture of Red Bird Christian School have been transformed since the last school improvement plan."

Other highlights included in the site team's report were:

- Red Bird Christian School has a welcoming, "family" atmosphere. Students expressed that they feel wanted and valued in the diverse student body.
- Broadening the enrollment through the international student program has invigorated the school. Many of the international students shared that they valued the Christian perspective.
- The intentional Christian culture of Red Bird Christian School is apparent.
- The music program is bringing together diverse cultures in a Christ-filled and dynamic manner.



### 95% of Graduates Continue Education

The Red Bird Christian School Class of 2018 typified the diversity noted by the CSI team, but one com-

mon characteristic prevailed – continued education and preparation to take their place as leaders in the world. Eighteen of the twenty-one graduates plan to enter college or community college in the next few weeks, two have begun work force training and one will pursue training and employment as a flight attendant for an airline.

Outgoing Principal Michael Hensley encouraged the graduates to make their mark in history through his baccalaureate address that paid homage to the first superintendent, Dr. John J. DeWall; the first medical doctor, Dr. Harlan Heim; and the first Red Bird School graduate to lead Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic as executive director, Dr. O. Taylor Collins. Commencement speaker Aimee Allen Hoskins (Class of 1996), a nurse scientist working with renowned hospitals and universities around the world, shared her "Up" lessons learned at Red Bird School and through life to "Look it up," "Just Show Up," "Chin Up," and "Lighten Up".

Red Bird Christian School is definitely on an upward trend because of leadership (past and present), and support that creates the environment to fulfill the mission of "providing opportunities for spiritual growth and academic excellence for lifelong learning, leadership, and service." Your regular support through prayer and financial gifts is vital to carrying our mission forward next year and for many years to come.

## Faithfulness

What does it mean to be faithful?

Dictionary.com defines faithful as, 'loyal, constant, staunch, steadfast, resolute meaning firm in adherence to whatever one owes allegiance. Faithful implies unswerving adherence to a person or thing or to the oath or promise by which a tie was contracted'.

Faithfulness was the theme for the group numbering more than 30 that headed to Eagle Rock Camp over a long weekend. The group of staff and families made the



trip to bond, fellowship together, and grow spiritually at Eagle Rock Camp. Eagle Rock has been a special place for the scores of students that have attended the annual high school retreat organized by Mrs. Angela Crawford, Spanish teacher at Red Bird Christian School. Many staff attended for the first time since the focal group previously

was students in grades 10-12.

Rain throughout the weekend could have put a damper on the weekend, but God had other plans for those in attendance. A break on Saturday morning allowed the group to do the usual service work of cleaning and minor maintenance projects around the center. Normally, outdoor activities like hiking, canoeing, ropes courses and paint ball are provided by staff at Eagle Rock Camp, but a rainy forecast on Saturday afternoon led to a switch in plans to visit a nearby "trading post" allowing time together as a group.



God's presence was felt as students and adults took turns sharing meaningful songs during worship time. Teachers Mark Smallwood and Jeremy Baker, along with Tim Crawford, Development Director, lead the scripture studies and discussion around the theme. Many recounted God's faithfulness to them and being inspired to remain faithful to God throughout the trials and difficulties of serving and living for Christ. In the end, there was a sense among all of being spiritually refreshed and strengthened for continuing the ministry each one does at Red Bird Mission.

## Ways to Support

Secure online donations - [www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org)  
Donations by phone - 888-726-3459 (toll free)  
Donations by bank transfer - 888-726-3459 (toll free)  
Copy paper & USB drives for school

Furniture & household items  
Make RB Mission or RB Clinic your Amazon Smile charity  
Tyson A+ labels, Boxtops for Education  
Sponsor an Appalachian Craft Fair in your church

For a more complete listing of needs, click "Ways to Support" on our home page

## “Is It Taste Testing Day?”



When students arrived in the morning, the first question would be, “Is it Taste Testing Day?” That excitement was the result of a project that encouraged the Red Bird Christian School 3 and 4-year old preschool students to try a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. The tastings were one of several nutritional initiatives included in the Red Bird Rural Food Security Project funded by a grant received from the United Methodist Global Health Program.

A weekly taste testing was held at both Queendale and Joy Center class locations for the RBCS Early Childhood Development (ECD) preschool. Each week, a large chart would display a drawing of the fruit or vegetable; the name; if it was fruit or vegetable; and characteristics such as color, size, shape, flavor; and stickers placed on the chart by each child that tasted it.

A sheet went home with each student containing the food information and the child’s response: ‘Yum!!’ ‘It was OK.’ or ‘Maybe next time.’ Twenty-seven different fruits and vegetables were tasted throughout the year. The class also roasted pumpkin seeds, dried apples, and squeezed lemons for lemonade.

All the parents were invited for a taste testing lunch of 32 different items at the annual Easter egg hunt. Prizes were given to the top 3 “grown up” tasters and the top 3 student tasters. The fathers were very competitive with one father trying 30 and two others trying 27 to win a contest.

The program finished with a field trip to Pine View Farms where each family picked out a tray of plants (about 48) for their own home garden. Family attendance for the trip was high, and the day was a hit with all participants.

Private donations are needed each year to supplement the fees paid by the families and occasional grants received. Please consider being one of those partners by giving to Red Bird Mission for ECD.

## Calling All Mission Teams

Work Camp at Red Bird Mission is a tradition going back to 1947. With last year’s numbers a little lower than the previous, we have additional spots to fill this year. We depend on Red Bird Mission Work Campers to provide labor and material cost for the families waiting to have projects completed that they cannot manage themselves. Many wait with hope that a roof can be fixed before walls are ruined. Some are in need of a handicap ramp to get out of the house for doctor appointments, and are essentially confined to their house until help comes in the form of a RBM Work Camp group.

For \$375 per person, you can make a huge impact for a family’s physical wellbeing as well as spiritually. Call Susan in the Work Camp office to reserve your group spot. Applications and more information can be found on our website - [rbmission.org/work-camp](http://rbmission.org/work-camp).



## Certified Processors Utilize New Red Bird Valley Kitchen

The Red Bird Valley (RBV) Kitchen is already fulfilling its purpose to provide a place for Grow Appalachia members to create value added food products that can be sold in Kentucky Farmers Markets and Certified Roadside Stands.

Bernd Gruner, a Grow Appalachia member for 3



years, was the first user of the RBV Kitchen when he perfected his salsa recipe in March. As a Certified Homebased Microprocessor, he has submitted his “secret” recipe to be approved by nutritionists at the University of Kentucky. After approval, Bernd can move forward with production and sales at the Red Bird Farmers Market, Red Bird Mission Craft Shop which is a Kentucky Certified Roadside Stand, and from his farm.

Marybeth Ingalls, a first year Grow Appalachia member and Certified Homebased Microprocessor, recently used the Red Bird Valley Kitchen to create three types of strawberry jam – Strawberry Chia Seed, Strawberry Lavender Chia Seed, and Low Sugar Strawberry Rhubarb. Marybeth used the new labeling software available through Red Bird Mission Community Outreach for those certified to produce value added products in the RBV Kitchen.

As Grow Appalachia members and others in the community begin harvesting this summer, they will have the opportunity to pursue certification for sale of canned products, or simply utilize the modern, spacious, safe kitchen for home use. Your support of Red Bird Mission will strengthen ventures like the Red Bird Valley Kitchen that already holds the promise of creating a more sustainable, self-supporting community.

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Advance Project Numbers • Red Bird Clinic #773724 • Red Bird Mission #773726 • Red Bird Mission School #773728

## Red Bird Clinic, Inc. Former Coal Miner Hears Again



As a former coal miner and a type 2 diabetic, his hearing has been on the decline for 7 or 8 years. His last doctor visit confirmed 75% hearing loss, and the impact on his daily life has been profound. Without the financial resources to correct his hearing, he has tried to adapt to this limitation. Neighbors told Caleb about the hearing clinics and assistance at Red Bird Mission that might be able to provide hearing aids to improve his quality of life.

Angela Hubbard, Community Health Nurse for Red Bird Clinic, Inc., works hard to organize humanitarian teams to provide hearing clinics to offer screenings, fits, rechecks, and repairs. Because of partnerships with audiology teams like the University of Cincinnati, funding from Hear the World Foundation, and private

donations, the time had come to assist Caleb with hearing aids.

Caleb was tested and then fitted for his first hearing aids. He completed the training to learn how to care for the devices and optimize their performance. Just before leaving with a bag of supplies, instructions, and a grin on his face, to test out his new ‘ears’, he stopped to list ways that he would benefit from improved hearing.

- He will be able to hear the information clearly at monthly Grow Appalachia meetings to learn how to maximize his production of fresh, organic food in his garden.
- Talking on the telephone will be possible now allowing him to keep up with his 12 grandchildren easier.
- Socializing in groups will be possible instead of only speaking to one person while facing them.

Caleb left the clinic excited to try out his newfound hearing but thanked Red Bird Mission and the volunteer audiologists for giving him back the ability to interact with his family and friends again.

Support from organizations like Hear the World Foundation, volunteer audiologists, churches and individuals have been vital in providing improved hearing to approximately 600 people in our region in recent years. More partners are needed in the future to continue this important ministry as Hear the World is expected to decrease funding. Donations may be made to Red Bird Clinic, Inc., for Community Health to underwrite Angela’s work, or to Red Bird Mission, Inc., for Hearing Health Care needs.

