



JULY NEWSLETTER

July 2023

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“Free Indeed!”



by Rev. Grant Parker

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

John 8:36

July 4th—Independence Day—a very special day set apart in this country to celebrate the freedom (independence) of our great nation from a foreign power (England). It is quite an understatement to say that Americans savor freedom. We have paid a premium with our own blood, sweat and tears, and that of our ancestors, to obtain and preserve our freedom. Our great historical documents officially declare and insure what we believe are God-given rights as individuals and as a country to be free and independent. We have rung bells, exploded firecrackers, and been entertained by extravaganzas in an effort to celebrate our freedom.

But have you ever thought it strange that we go to all the expense and trouble to celebrate freedom, in a country where millions are yet enslaved? Now that may seem like a strange question to ask, but there are indeed millions of Americans for whom freedom seldom rings. For example, there are unborn children threatened by abortion on demand, there are multitudes suffering from depression, loneliness and anxiety, there are countless addicts enslaved

by alcohol and other habit forming and mind altering drugs, and there are wives and children wearing the chains and bearing the marks of abuse heaped upon them by their husbands and fathers. Somewhere in our great nation there are teenage girls (and boys, for that matter) who feel alone and abandoned and trapped as though there is nowhere to turn. Many in our communities are “serving time” in a prison of poverty and/or unemployment, lacking adequate food, shelter and clothing. Then there is the multitude of elderly Americans who have lived just long enough to learn that the term “golden age” is mythical for many of their generation. Somewhere, there are single parents, or just single folk or a child or a young person for whom “alone” is an address--it’s where they *live*...not just what they *are*. There are

terminally ill patients who are bound by the chains of fear and a sense of hopelessness. And can you hear the voices of a multitude of people who are so enslaved by sin that they see no way out, as though there is no hope of their ever being forgiven and set free to begin life again, with no thought of the past?

My brothers and sisters, when you and I have reached out and touched and ministered to each of “the least of these” in the name of the only One—Jesus Christ—who can truly set them free, ***then we can honestly say we have fought to establish and preserve freedom in this so-called “one nation under God”!*** For it is only when freedom is established throughout our great nation in the name of the Son of God, Who alone can set the captive free, can we truly say we live in a free country. Let us pray for and work towards the day when the banner of Jesus Christ shall wave as frequently and fervently as do the “stars and stripes” throughout our land!

Keep the Faith but Share the Gospel,

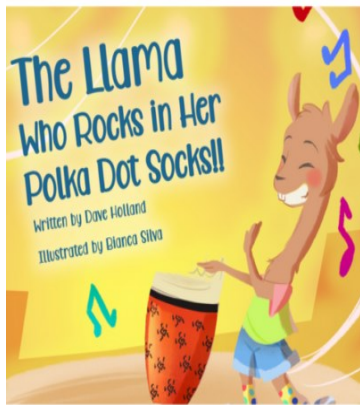
Brother Grant

EPWORTH KIDZ CREW



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS IN JULY - Join us for Terrific Tuesdays July 18th and July 25th. More details coming soon. If you are available to drive on either of these Tuesdays, please contact Letha by phone or email. (334-298-3186; letha.parker@epworth-pc.org)

BLUE LAKE CAMP PARTICIPANTS - Time is near! We will be leaving Monday, July 10th, at 9:00. Please meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time. We will eat at McDonalds in Greenville and check in at Blue Lake at 1:00 Central Time. You must have an Event Form filled out and signed by your parents to ride the church van. Please be looking for an email from Blue Lake with information regarding camp. It's a great time to serve the Lord and enjoy His fellowship! Call Letha if you have any questions! 205-799-8547.



The Llama Who Rocks in Her Polka Dot Socks

Lulu rocks her week by making great choices everyday! On Saturday, she invites her friends over for a drum circle. Have fun learning and jamming with Lulu and find out how you can rock in your polka dot socks!

Written by: Dave Holland

This special book is written by Dave Holland who entertained everyone at our 2023 Mother / Daughter banquet. If you would like to order a copy of Dr. Dave's book, please call the church office at 334-298-3186.

Servant Role	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Prayer Chapel 8:30	Vicky Moss	Sheryl Bell	Merri Jane Evans	Don Harbuck	Rendi Hall
Prayer Chapel 9:45	Shirley Goode	Gloria Griggs	Meg Clark	Becky Coreno	Marcia Zmijewski
Prayer Chapel 11:00	Marcia Myles	Pam Shores	Sandra Arnold	Gail Hogge	Steve Ward
Greeter 8:30	Gloria Griggs	Sheryl Bell	Merri Jane Evans	Don Harbuck	
Greeter 9:45	Jason & Kristy Prins	Ralph & Vicky Moss	Vicky Moss	Margaret Moss	
Greeter 11:00	Marcia Myles	George & Kathryn Perdue	Bryce Gaunt	Becky Coreno	
Communion Server 8:30	Frankie Lake Sandra Rowan Kevin Sharpe				
Communion Server 9:45	Daina Wooten Mary Frances Head Marilyn Williamson				
Communion Server 11:00	George & Kathryn Perdue Kevin Sharpe				

Stellar "Shine Jesus' Light" Vacation Bible School Report

Total registration: 132

Volunteers: 100 + average of 86

Average Attendance: 98

Largest Night: 106

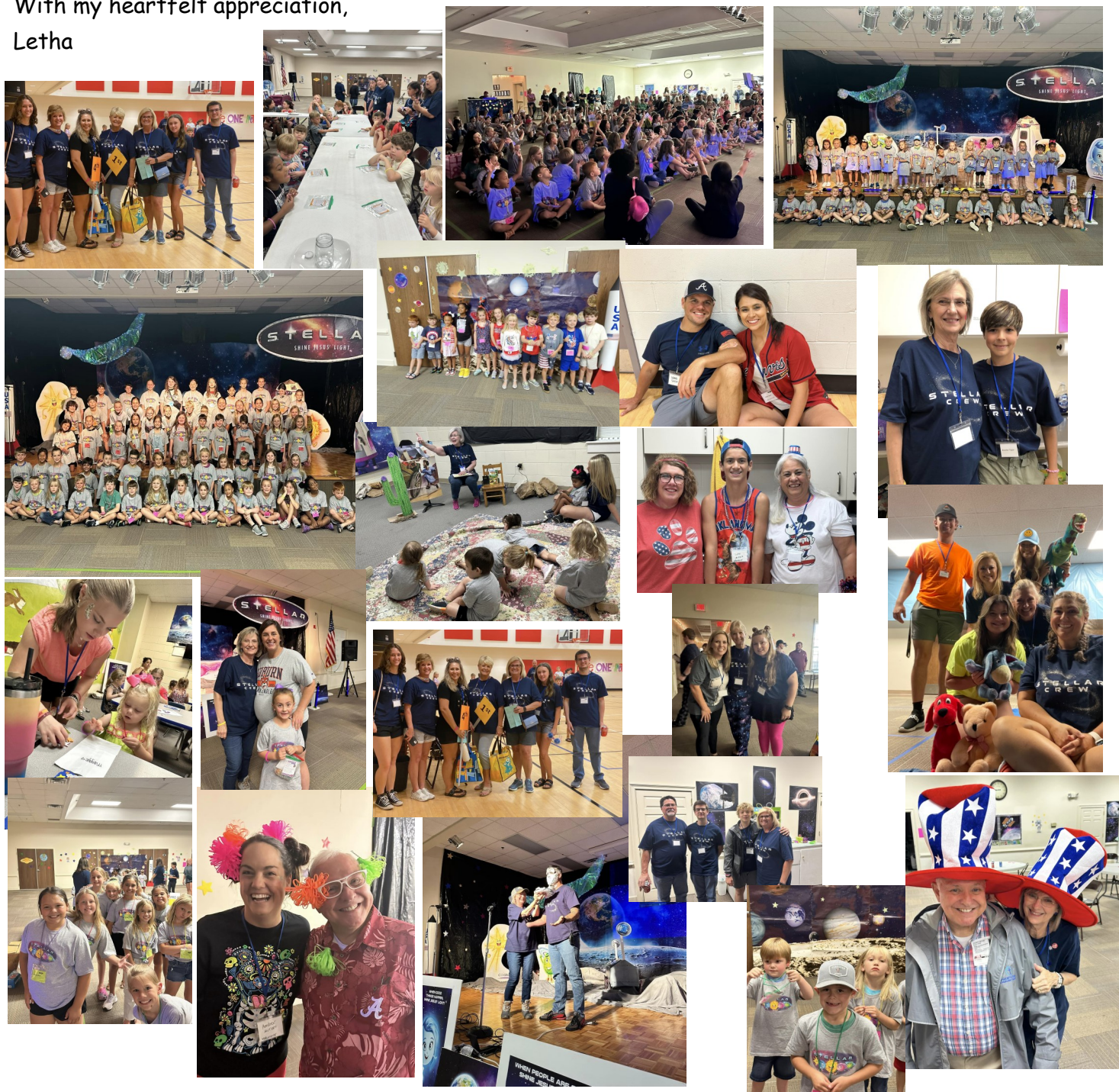
Mission Offering: \$ 704 for Elizabeth Zubiandi, Venezuela and I.H.S. Ministries

Thank you to all the VBS volunteers! Your willingness to sacrifice your time and effort will be "living messages that are sent forth" to the generations to come. May God bless you as you honor Him with your lives. Keep the faith, share the gospel.

Psalm 145:4 "One generation commends your works to another; They tell of your mighty acts."

With my heartfelt appreciation,

Letha





The youth will continue our Wednesday night events with *Movie Night*, *Game Night* and *Christmas in July*. We hope you will come, and bring a friend.

Sunday nights in July are *Family Nights*. The youth will take part and assist in all of the *Family Night* events.

Sending out a huge "Thank You" to all the youth that helped make our *Vacation Bible School* a great success!!



VETERANS DAY DINNER

- Epworth is planning to host another free dinner this year to honor our military men and women, our Veterans, and their immediate families.
- We are planning to conduct this year's dinner on Thursday, 9 November 2023.
 - *We want to give our military and Veteran personnel and their families a great, catered meal, warm fellowship, a top-notch speaker, patriotic entertainment and some great door prizes.
 - *If you are a member or attendee at Epworth, we want to ensure we send you a personal invitation so you and your family can attend.
- The "Epworth Military Connections" page on our military bulletin board in the Gathering Room shows all the active, retired, and Veteran military personnel we believe we have at Epworth. We suspect there are more, and we need your help so we can honor them and invite them, too!
- If you are or know a current or former military person who attends Epworth or who is a family member of an Epworth attendee, and whose name is not already on our bulletin board, please let Pastor Grant (grant.parker@epworth-pc.org or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode (camovet@ctvea.net or 706-464-5089) know.
- Give us the names of other Epworth military connections, mark your calendars for 9 November 2023, and look for more information concerning our Veterans Day Dinner soon.

Birthdays

July 1	Rylee Pruett
July 3	David Johnson Natalie Wade
July 4	Inge Seibert
July 5	Bill Griffis Zach Ranew
July 6	Josh Thomas Noah Cato
July 7	Danielle Bradley Gabriel Linsley
July 8	Carol Addison
July 9	Rendi Hall Brittany Lurker Brock Garner
July 10	Sandra Arnold Kayla Caldwell
July 13	Pam O'Brien Letha Parker
July 15	Jake Jones
July 16	Susan Wiggins Tina Byrd
July 17	Kathy Yohn Payton Zeigler
July 18	Dalton Pippins Lou Sieck
July 19	Mallory Campbell
July 20	Bill Prickett Tammy Leatherwood Carmen Brooks
July 22	Leigh Ann Barbaree
July 25	Steve Ward Marietta O'Neill
July 26	Betty Henderson Ted Shores Lindsey Gentry Britt Wilkerson
July 27	Ronnie Badowski Jesse Parker Caitlyn Martin
July 29	Carver Johnson
July 30	Laura Johnson
July 31	Belle Lee Elise Culpepper

Anniversaries

July 1	David & Carol Parker
July 2	Steve & Cindy Gray
July 4	Mike & Roxanna Hamilton
July 7	Josh & Jessica Thomas
July 13	John & Linda Findlater
July 17	Cameron & Mallory McLeod
July 23	Drew & Brittany Lurker Taylor and Scott Riddle
July 24	David & Amy Head
July 31	Jay & Adicia Coulter

**Visitation
Volunteers**

The following people will accompany Brother Grant when he goes visiting on Monday nights. Please meet Brother Grant at 6:30 pm at the church.

July 10th Tony Deal
July 17th Steve Ward
July 24th Teri Medina
July 31st Maria Chedrick

Blessings,
Kathryn Perdue

**Come One, Come All to Epworth's
Family Camp Meetings**

During the month of July we will have family events Sunday evenings. Camp meeting Sunday is a fun time to gather at church and enjoy some fun time together. We encourage you all to come out and participate... go ahead now and mark the following dates on your calendar:

July 9 at 5:00 pm—Movie Night - Jesus Revolution

July 16 at 5:30 pm— Bible Bingo and Watermelons

July 23 at 5:00 pm - Challenging games in the gym

Adults against the kids and ice cream

July 30 at 5:00 pm - covered dish dinner

Anyone interested in helping set-up for these events, and serving, please contact the church office at (334) 298-3186 or Frankie Lake at (706) 289-1527.

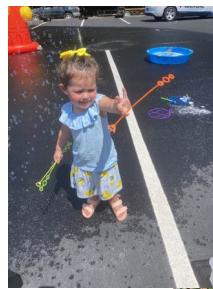
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

Epworth Family Thank You!

The FunFest committee would like to give thanks to the congregation of Epworth Church. We thank for your support of FunFest with your prayers, donations, and time. It was an evangelistic event and we are most certain God showed up and showed out! Not only did this event bring our community lots of smiles, laughs and some Saturday fun, it brought our community together for fellowship to know who we are at Epworth Church and to know the true meaning behind John 3:16; and I'm not just talking about the FREE Chick-Fil-A sandwiches that were handed out. During FunFest we enrolled numerous VBS participants and had multiple new visitors to our church on Sunday morning. Glory be to God!

It is with deepest gratitude we Thank You and look forward to another successful FunFest event in the Summer of 2024!



JULY 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5 6:00—7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm - Pastor's Bible Study, Classes and Kids Konnection	6 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out 5:30 pm Methodist Women "Summer Girls' Night Out" at Backwaters at the Landing	7	8
9 5:00 pm—Camp Meeting Sunday—Movie Night—Jesus Revolution	10 Newsletter Deadline Noon Happy Days "Covered Dish Luncheon" Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake	11 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake	12 6:00—7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm - Pastor's Bible Study, Classes NO Kids Konnection Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake	13 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out 6:00 pm—Men's Ministry meeting 6:00 pm—Grief Ministry Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake	14 Children's Summer Camp— Blue Lake	15
16 4:00 pm—Council on Ministries meeting 5:30 pm—Camp Meeting Sunday—Bible Bingo and Watermelon	17	18 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out Terrific Tuesdays 9:30 am—Bible Study 6:00 pm—Prayer Vigil	19 6:00—7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm - Pastor's Bible Study, Classes and Kids Konnection	20 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out	21	22
23 5:00 pm—Camp Meeting Sunday—Challenging games and Ice Cream in the gym	24	25 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out Terrific Tuesdays 9:30 am—Bible Study	26 6:00—7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm - Pastor's Bible Study, Classes and Kids Konnection	27 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out	28	29
30 5:00 pm—Camp Meeting Sunday—Covered Dish Dinner	31					

Sundays ~
 8:30 am—Traditional Services
 9:30 am - Coffee & Donuts
 9:45 am—Contemporary Service
 9:45 am—Sunday School
 11:00 am—Traditional Services
 11:00 am - Sunday School

JOIN EPWORTH'S SECURITY MINISTRY TEAM

- You may not see them, but members of our security ministry team volunteer during every service and special church-wide event to help ensure the safety of our worshippers and the sanctity of our services.
- The more security ministry team members Epworth has, the less frequently any one of them needs to volunteer. We can certainly use your help. We will train you before you serve.
- Many positions on our team do not require much physical activity – you can walk, drive the golf cart, or just sit.
- Join us and help keep Epworth safe! If you are interested or know someone who is, please let Pastor Grant (grant.parker@epworth-pc.org or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode (camovet@ctvea.net or 706-464-5089.) know.

Summer Girls' Night Out

July 6th is the date for our **Summer Girls' Night Out**. Backwaters at The Landing is the place. The invitation is open to all women, whether Epworth members, visitors, neighbors, or friends. We plan to meet at the church at 5:15 (to depart at 5:30) and either carpool or take the church bus. (Dinner is Dutch treat.) We hope you can be there!

Please sign up by July 2nd in the Gathering room so we know how many to expect. Call or text Diane Glass @ 706-681-2107 if you have questions.

Please join us for a great time of fellowship!!!!