

Epworth Church

A Methodist Congregation



by Rev. Grant Parker

October 2023

WWW.EPWORDH-PC.ORG
(334) 298-3186

“And Nothing But the Truth!”

I read a story about a man who answered an advertisement about a talking dog. He went to the specified address where the “talking” dog was said to live, where he found the dog’s owner sitting in a swing on the front porch. The man charged him \$10.00 and told him that his miraculous dog was presently lounging in the back yard under a shade tree. Sure enough, the man found the dog in the back yard, and as promised—the verbose dog initiated an amazing conversation! The chatty canine boastfully informed his inquisitive guest, “Yes, I once worked as a translator for both the FBI and the CIA. My assignments required me to travel all around the globe. In fact, I have visited every continent in the world and been in the company of some especially important and famous people! I have been instrumental in solving countless crimes and uncovering dozens of international conspiracies. I was a legend in my own time, and a credit to my own kind! But alas, I am retired now, and satisfied to live out my remaining days enjoying a relatively carefree life in the lap of luxury!”

Upon hearing the dog’s tale, the visitor was incensed! He stormed back around to the front porch and demanded a full refund from the owner of the dog. “Why?” asked the owner, “Didn’t my dog talk to you?” “Yes,” said his angry visitor, “But your dog is nothing but a liar! There’s no way he’s done all the things he says he’s done!”

Sometimes, it is not that easy to discern the truth. Our country/culture is being inundated with “information” (misinformation) by the “entertainment” industry, electronic communications of every sort and medium, and educational, political, and “news” sources. I am reminded of something the old folks used to say when I was a kid: “Some folks would rather lie on *credit* than tell the truth for *cash*!” We are constantly deluged by the outrageous promises of vendors on every form of media known to man! Yet their products fail to live up to our expectations. We find ourselves often living with the results of broken contracts and covenants. Frankly, we so often hear

ourselves asking the same thought-provoking question that Pontius Pilate asked of Jesus, “What is truth?” (John 18:38)

But as Christians, we find comfort in the always trustworthy words of the “Word” who “became flesh and lived among us,” our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! (John 1:14 NRSV)

He called Himself, “the way, the *truth*, and the life,” because He is! (John 14:6) When all else fails, when others—even those we love the most—fail us or mislead us or disappoint us, we can count on and call on Jesus! His precepts, His promises, His claims—His *words*--are true! He will always be trustworthy! You can depend on Him! And that’s the truth!

Keep your hand in Jesus’ hand and your eyes on the Cross!

Brother Grant

A message from our Youth Minister Daniel Cook

The early church was experiencing growth like never before. In the book of Acts we see the church growing by thousands of people in one day. I could imagine the excitement to see this many people come to faith in Christ at one time. I could also imagine the panic that took place in the church leaders as they considered how to take care of so many people all at once. What we see in the following verses is how the church was able to do such a great task.

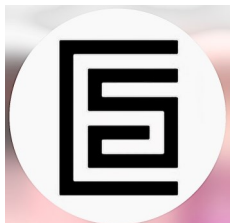
Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

There are a few things that stand out to me in these verses. They took it upon themselves to meet the needs of other believers, continued to meet together at church, and broke bread together in their homes. I see it this way: they showed up consistently each day, looked out for the needs of others, worshiped and fellowshiped together, and were happy to do so. What was the result? The Lord added to the number daily those who were being saved.

God is blessing the youth group with students who haven't come in some time but also new students from our area. As God sends students our way, it is our responsibility to care for them but also teach them how to be the church. Since they are teenagers, some of this responsibility falls on us parents and the church. We have to lead by example and with expectations for our students to be involved in a true community. As a church and as parents we also must help provide resources and opportunities for this type of community to take place.

It is my prayer that every student experiences this type of community when they come to worship services. It will take parents setting the example of how to be the church, it takes the church opening our doors on campus and off campus to teenagers, and it will take the teenagers committing to show up consistently. I am excited about the opportunities that lie before us and together, with God's guidance, we can set an example of what the church is to look like for the next generation.





EPWORTH STUDENT NEWS

Wednesday Nights

September Series: Beyond Belief (A series on doubts & questions)

Join us on Wednesday night from 6:00 - 6:30 as we hang out in the gym, game room, and snack bar.

From 6:30 - 7:30 we have our youth service and then hang out for a few minutes after.

Now is a great time to get plugged in as a lot of new and exciting things are taking place.

Fall Brawl

The Fall Brawl is in full swing and a lot of exciting things will be happening over the next two months. On September 6th we had a Hawaiian night in which we took up \$200 to send to the victims of the fires in Hawaii. We also just had a Friends Night where we saw many new faces! Take a look at the schedule below to see what will be coming up:

10/4: Water Night - Come out for a night of water games including slip-n-slide kickball.

10/11: Trivia Night - This will be a fun night of many different trivia challenges and contests.

10/18: Dodgeball Tournaments - You could call this a "dodgeball palooza!"

10/25: White Out - Prepared to get messy as we have our first ever Flour Fight!

Sunday Mornings Worship

We invite all families and teenagers to attend a Sunday morning worship service. As you know there are three to choose from, with most teenagers attending the 9:45 service. We would love to see your family worship with us!

Small Group

Sunday Mornings at 11:00

Following the 9:45 service there is a class offered for all teenagers. Some may call it Sunday School and others call it a Small Group, no matter what you call it, it is important. This is a place for teenagers to talk through the Bible and life with other teenagers to grow together as they navigate what it means to follow Christ.



Anniversaries	
Oct 3	Jeffery & Jennifer Head
Oct 5	Garrett & Jill Glass
Oct 11	Noah & Terrell Sartin
Oct 12	Steve & Michele Lake Jared & Bethany Martin
Oct 24	Wade & Kalen Sieck Justin & Chami Chedrick
Oct 25	Billy and Barbara Sides
Oct 27	John & Judy Grimes

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday!

Birthdays	
Oct 1	Becky Ivey
Oct 3	Ellen Ward Sherry Martin
Oct 5	Connie Burell Marcia Zmijewski Billy Sides Brooke Durrance
Oct 6	Sophie Wilkerson
Oct 7	Poo Carrero Denise Wilkerson Mark Wooten Landon Beaver
Oct 8	Don Verner Ryley Sims
Oct 10	Joey Wade
Oct 11	Mike West
Oct 13	Derek Griggs
Oct 14	Drew Lurker
Oct 15	Cheryl Smith
Oct 17	Shane Barbaree Marilyne Williamson
Oct 18	Marquis Sanders Nate Riepe
Oct 19	Ralph Moss
Oct 20	Wayne Lake Debi Johnson
Oct 21	David Parker John Grimes
Oct 22	Cody Burtts Jeff Coreno
Oct 23	Phyllis Nicholson
Oct 25	Liza Price
Oct 27	Meagan Burkes
Oct 28	Kevin Sharpe
Oct 29	Blake Sigmon
Oct 30	Mary Katherine Atchinson



Operation Christmas Child

The Epworth Kidz Crew will be packing Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse during the month of November. If you would like to make donations to our Kidz Ministry, please drop items for shoeboxes in the collection bin in the Gathering Room. All shoeboxes will be packed and ready to go by November 19th, and then we will

deliver them to the collection point in Phenix City on November 20th.

Please help us reach our Church Goal of 200 shoeboxes by:

- *Donating appropriate items
- *Packing your own shoeboxes and delivering them to the church on or before Nov. 19th.
- *Donating financially to help fund the \$10 per box needed for shipping

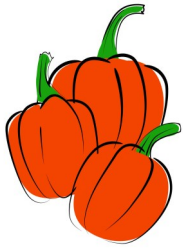
www.samaritanaspurse.org

Visitation Volunteers

The following people will accompany Brother Grant on visitation visits on:

- October 2—Mary Frances Head
- October 9—Office Closed (Columbus Day)
- October 16—Tony Deal
- October 23—Marcia Myles
- October 30—Jaime Singer

Please meet Brother Grant at 6:30 pm at the church. If you are unable to do so, please contact Kathryn Perdue, 334-298-2948.



EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

FALL HAPPENINGS

Sunday Nights, 5:30 pm

* Cherub Choir—Ages 3 years through 1st Grade

* Kidz Cruise—2nd through 5th/6th Grade



Fall Festival

Sunday, October 29th, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of games, prizes, hayrides, inflatables, a cupcake walk and **TRUNK OR TREAT!**

Fall festival is right around the corner, and we are looking for **volunteers** and **donations** for this family fun event! **Needed donations include:** sweet snacks (individually wrapped brownies, cookies, etc.) packaged chips, goldfish snacks, juice boxes, cupcakes (for our cupcake walk), candy, pumpkins, gourds, hay, and cornstalks.

TRUNK OR TREAT VEHICLES are also needed. Deck out your car trunk or truck bed with family friendly themes (add a Bible verse or Christian principle or saying that goes with your theme) and share candy at the end of our festival time!

If you are able to volunteer or sign up for a trunk or treat vehicle spot, please contact Letha Parker (letha.parker@epworth-pc.org or text Letha at 205-799-8547.)

(Teens may receive community service hours for your volunteer time.)

Angel Tree

Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that serves incarcerated parents by providing a pathway for strengthening and restoring their relationships with their children and families. Angel Tree is a unique program that gives Epworth an opportunity to share Christ's love with families of prisoners. The program connects parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts given on the parent's behalf.

When a mother or father is in prison, the pain of separation from their child can be acute, but an Angel Tree gift, delivered in the parent's name, can help restore and strengthen the relationship and act as a symbol of God's love. Epworth has been participating in the Angel Tree Program for over twenty years. Many children, their families and prisoner parent have been blessed by this program.

Epworth will be participating with the Angel Tree program again this year. We will not be asking you to sponsor a specific child, buy and wrap presents and deliver to the church. Several options were given from Prison Fellowship Ministries and it has been decided that we will provide gift cards to each child. We are asking for donations so that we can provide a \$35.00 gift card to each child on behalf of their incarcerated parent. We feel this is the safest way to be able to carry on this worthwhile program. Please make your donations to Epworth Church and earmark/memo for Angel Tree.

You have always been a very generous and loving church and I look forward to us being a part of Angel Tree again this year and praying for those we serve.

Pam Shores, Your Angel Tree Coordinator

EPWORTH'S NEWEST LITTLE LAMBS

Ministry to our youngest Epworth Kidz!

Welcome to the flock.....

Molly Lane Martin, January 3, 2023,
Daughter of Kaylee & Estin Martin.

Grandparents: Sherry and Steve Martin



Weldon "Tate" Ranew, March 10, 2023,
Son of Pennie & Zach Taylor.

Big Brother, Kirkland.

Grandmother: Vickie Taylor

Great Grandparents: Brenda and the late Cody Kirkland

Kennedy Blaire Humphries, June 7,
Daughter of Olivia & Judson Humphries.

Big Sister: Adalyn Big Brother: Grayson

William Harris Brown, July 27, 2023,
Son of Michelle and Justin Brown.

Big Brother: John Kenneth

Big Sister: Caroline

Grandparents: Tammy and Terry Echols

Koa James Smith, August 3, 2023,
Son of Victoria Garrett.

Big sister: Elena

Grandparents: Teresa and Mark Sanders

Whitten Gunnar Petsch, Aug. 8, 2023,
Son of Lindsay and Tyler Petsch.

Big brothers: Wes and Raylan

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 events 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! 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.**

Veterans Day Dinner



- Epworth is planning to host its free Veterans Day Dinner this year to honor our military men and women, our Veterans, and their immediate families.
- We are planning to conduct this year's Veterans Day Dinner on Thursday, 9 November 2023.
 - * The theme of this year's dinner will be Honoring Our Veterans, and we are excited that our guest speaker will be Retired Navy Officer, Pastor, and author Norman Drummond.
 - * We want to give our military and veteran personnel and their immediate families a great, catered meal, warm fellowship, a dynamic speaker, some patriotic entertainment, and 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 334-297-3186) or Ross Goode (camovet@ctvea.net or 706-464-5089) know.

October 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 4:30—5:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 6:30 pm Pickleball	2 12:00 pm—Happy Days Luncheon 6:00 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room	3 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Ezekiel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Daniel”	4 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	5 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm Methodist Women’s meeting (Fellowship Hall)	6	7
8 4:30—5:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 6:30 pm Pickleball	9 Office Closed Columbus Day	10 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Book of Revelation”	11 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	12 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm Men’s Ministry 6:00 pm—Grief Meeting led by Minnie Henderson	13	14
15 4:30—5:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 6:30 pm Pickleball	16 6:00 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room	17 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Book of Revelation” 6:30 pm—Prayer Vigil	18 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	19 9:00 am - Mom’s Day Out & Preschool	20	21
22 4:00 pm—Administrative Board Meeting 4:30—5:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir 6:30 pm Pickleball	23 6:00 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room	24 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Book of Revelation”	25 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	26 9:00 am - Mom’s Day Out & Preschool	27	28
29 4:00—5:30 pm—Fall Festival	30 6:00 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room	31 9:00 am Mom’s Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Daniel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Book of Revelation”				



WREATH ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)

- Wreaths Across America Day, which is Saturday, December 16, 2023, is approaching fast.
- As you know, Wreaths Across America Day is the day we honor both our living and fallen Veterans by sponsoring wreaths thru WAA and placing them on the gravesites of Veterans interred at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Fort Benning Cemetery, and other local cemeteries.
- You have done a great job with WAA every year.

Your love for our Veterans, your generosity, and selflessness have caused you to grow from ensuring Fort Mitchell received 145 wreaths in 2018 to 776 wreaths last year. Already this year, you have sponsored enough wreaths to ensure Fort Mitchell will receive 477 wreaths.

- We need to sponsor approximately 200 more wreaths to surpass the record we set last year. Please help us do that to honor our Veterans even more this year.
- Wreaths cost the same this year as they did last year: only \$15 for one; \$30 for two; \$75 for five, etc., and for every two wreaths you sponsor, WAA will provide a third wreath free to Fort Mitchell.
- Sponsor your wreaths today! Pick up a form from the military bulletin board in the gathering room or the table outside the Sanctuary, put your check marked for "WAA" in the offering plate, or sponsor wreaths on the Epworth website. Contact Mary Pittman or Ross Goode if you have questions or need more information.

LET'S SUPPORT OUR LIVING AND FALLEN VETERANS THRU WAA EVEN MORE THAN WE DID LAST YEAR!