

Epworth Church

A Methodist Congregation



by Rev. Grant Parker

I have been blessed to receive many honors since answering God's call on my life to be a pastor in A.D. 1983. Oh, I don't mean that I have received grandiose accolades, national awards and recognition, honorary degrees from the finest universities in the land, and so forth. No, the honors I have received over the span of my ministry have been more of an intangible, yet highly personal and meaningful nature, such as presiding over weddings, baptizing infants and adults, and yes—even conducting funeral services for brothers and sisters who have "outrun us to the Father's house."

One such occasion was Saturday, September 4, A.D. 2010, when I was highly honored by the family of Brother Jack Lanier Kinney to participate in his funeral service. Brother Jack was one of the most gifted singers I have ever heard. His talent as a musician was legendary in the Phenix City area and far beyond. Furthermore, his patience with rowdy children like me in his so-called "Booster Band" of First UMC (Phenix City) was as abundant as his singing skills! I

can still remember Brother Jack showcasing the "Booster Band" in the "big" choir on Sunday night worship services once a month. I also remember him leading the congregational singing in worship services, and I particularly recall him leading songs from the old "Power and Praise" hymn book during our informal and spirited Sunday evening worship.

Sometimes, Brother Jack would lead us in singing the delightful song written by Ira B. Wilson and sung to the tune of music added by George S. Schuler, entitled "*Make Me a Blessing*."

Give as 'twas given to you in your need,

Love as the Master loved you;

Be to the helpless a helper indeed,

Unto your mission be true.

Chorus:

Make me a blessing,

Make me a blessing,

Out of my life, may Jesus shine;

Make me a blessing, O Savior I pray,

Make me a blessing to someone today.

What a divine desire, a holy request—"make me a blessing to someone today!"

November 2023

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(334) 298-3186

"Blessed to be a Blessing!"

The mindset that we are truly "blessed to be a blessing" compels us to take seriously the matter of faithful stewardship. Our Fall 2023 Stewardship Emphasis Campaign, "See, I Am Doing A New Thing!" calls us as a church and individually to consider our commitment to serve the Lord through the ministries offered by the Epworth Church in A.D. 2024.

We are "blessed to be a blessing," indeed!

Thanksgiving Day is so much more than a national holiday, isn't it? Thanksgiving is an annual reminder of just how blessed we are as a nation and as individuals. God has been so good to us!

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ tells us in Luke 12:48: "When someone has been given much, much will be required in return" (NLT). In other words, we are "blessed to be a blessing!"

Methodist Christians have pledged, upon entering church membership, to support our church with our "prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness." Our annual Stewardship Emphasis simply allows us the opportunity to prayerfully and thoughtfully determine and designate, in advance, how we are being led by the Holy Spirit and the word of God to be used by God through this His church in A.D. 2024. (Continue on last page.)



“SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING!” Isaiah 43:19 NIV

The Five Areas of Stewardship! There are many opportunities to use your **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness** to advance the Kingdom of God—come learn how!

Important Stewardship Dates:

Sunday, November 5th - Stewardship Presentation
Learn More about our church Stewardship!

Sunday, November 12th - Stewardship Speaker

Sunday, November 19th - **Stewardship Sunday** - Turn in completed Stewardship forms and join us for our Stewardship Luncheon 12 pm—everyone is invited!



All Ladies Invited to Celebrate Christmas

Please join us at 6:00 on 12/05/23 to ring in the Christmas Season with food, fellowship, carol singing, and many laughs! **All ladies** of the church are invited to join us, and please sign-up a friend to bring with you. If you'd like, you may choose to participate in a gift-swap. **Participation is NOT REQUIRED**.... If you'd like to swap gifts, simply bring a wrapped present. (Limit \$15) We'll number them and draw for the gifts. A nursery will be provided at the church (if needed). See Diane Glass or Susan Wiggins if you have any questions. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room, and you'll need to sign-up

NO LATER THAN 11/26/23. Hope you can join us!

(NOTE: If you make a reservation and do not cancel by 12/1, we must ask that you pay for the meal that's been ordered for you.)

WHAT: Ladies Christmas Dinner

WHEN: December 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm

COST: \$25.00 (checks payable to Epworth EMW)

WHERE: W.C. Bradley Co. Museum, 1017 Front Ave, Columbus

Epworth Methodist Women (EMW) would like to ask our Epworth congregation to help with their “2nd Annual Bake Sale”. Please support our efforts by donating baked item(s), cookies, cakes, breads, candy for the holidays. The proceeds raised are used to donate to charities to aid women and children in need. The bake sale will be held on Sunday, November 19th from 8:45 until 1:00. You may contact Vicky Moss @ 706-325-8938 by text or email rp moss47@gmail.com with your baked items to be donated. Baked items may be delivered on Sunday morning at 8:00 am in the Epworth Fellowship Hall. Please have your baked items in a non-returnable container. You may reach out to Vicky with any questions.

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 KIDZ CREW

FALL HAPPENINGS

Sunday Nights, 5:30 pm

- * Cherub Choir—Ages 3 years through 1st Grade
- * Kidz Cruise—2nd through 5th Grade

Wednesday Nights, 6:30—7:30 pm

- * Kidz Connection—4 Years through 5th Grade



No Cherub Choir or Kidz Cruise...Sunday afternoon, November 19th
No Wednesday Kidz Connections the week of Thanksgiving... November 20th—24th
No Preschool or Moms Day Out Thanksgiving week...Nov. 20th—24th
Enjoy the holiday with your family!

DON'T FORGET!

Our CHERUB CHOIR is now preparing FOR THE
CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PROGRAM
Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Angels and Animals!
3 Year old through 1st Grade



Enter through the gym door. Practice in the Kidz Sunday School area.

Please encourage your child to participate on Sundays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. as we prepare for our Christmas Program on December 10, 6:00 pm. Christmas just isn't the same without our Cherub Nativity. Hope to see you soon!



CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 18th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for our annual CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP where kids make gifts to give to their family!

We will provide a pizza lunch OR you may send a sack lunch if your child would prefer something different or if your child has dietary restrictions.

PLEASE REGISTER your child's attendance by email: letha.parker@epworth-pc.org; text or phone: 205-799-8547; or by signing up on the Kidz bulletin boards in the Gathering Room or downstairs in the Kidz Crew area. **Child's name, age & grade, contact email and phone.**

HANGING OF THE GREENS PARTICIPANTS:

WHEN: Sunday, December 3rd, Beginning of 11:00 Worship Service

WHO: Children ages 3 years through 5th Grade

WHAT: Kids will bring in green branches and ornaments to be placed on the altar and the Chrismon Tree during the Hanging of the Greens Service.

INTERESTED? Please email or text Letha if your child/children will be participating. Thank you for this act of service as we share the Good News of Christ our Savior.
(letha.parker @epworth-pc.org/205-799-8547)

Anniversaries	
Nov 1	Lee & Catherine Milligan Curtis & Denise Wilkerson
Nov 5	Chase & Benitra Morris
Nov 12	Taylor & Adriana Hartley
Nov 14	James & Janice Parker Roy & Avan Redfoot
Nov 19	Larry & Sandra Rowan
Nov 20	Jason & Kristy Prins Austin & Mason White
Nov 22	Ted & Pam Shores
Nov 23	Skylar & Keagan Clark
Nov 25	Clint & Mallory Campbell

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday!



Operation Christmas Child

Our Epworth Kidz will have the opportunity to pack an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox on **Wednesday, November 15th**. If you would like to pack shoeboxes as a family, please have them returned to the church by Sunday, November 19th. If you would like to donate items for the shoeboxes, the Kidz Crew will be filling some shoeboxes during Sunday evening Kidz Cruise and Wednesday evening, Kidz Connections. Donations may be brought to one of the Kidz classes or placed in the Shoebox collection bin in the Gathering Room. The cost for shipping a shoebox is \$10.00. You may place the money inside the completed shoebox, or make a donation to the church for the purpose of shipping our Kidz Crew boxes. **We have set a church wide goal of 200 boxes.**

Thank you for your support of this ministry project. The Epworth Family has proven itself to be a most generous group, supporting many ministries and outreach projects. May God bless you richly as you are a blessing to so many.

Visitation Volunteers

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

November 6th—Steve Ward

November 13th—Bryce Gaunt

November 20th—Maria Chedrick

November 27th—Becky Coreno

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.

Birthdays	
Nov. 3	John Henderson Emory Yohn
Nov. 4	Keith Badowski Stephen Curtiss Emily Byrd Cameron Brewer
Nov. 7	Emmett Meacham Brady Caulder
Nov. 8	Mary Frances Head Ame Shields Deareion Lewis
Nov. 9	Carlos Velazquez Cindy Tucker Gray Molly Bridges
Nov. 10	Michelle Word Dorthea Caldwell Andy Johnson Coco Meacham
Nov 11	Natalie Lawhon
Nov. 12	Katherine Elkins
Nov. 13	Hannah Lenoir
Nov. 14	Wynell King Christian Linsley
Nov. 16	Roger Cassman Craig Coulter Conner Snedigar
Nov. 18	Reid Byrd Caleb Sheppard
Nov. 19	Brandon Culpepper Andrew Gil
Nov. 20	Marcia Myles Wade Sieck Leilani Bridges
Nov. 21	Jim Bloodworth Christi Badowski
Nov. 22	Michelle Shields
Nov. 23	Penny Verner
Nov. 24	Sawyer Moss
Nov. 26	Seth Atchinson
Nov. 27	Steve Gray
Nov. 29	Bethany Martin
Nov. 30	Rita Amerson



Come be a part of the Epworth Prayer Ministry on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00 pm. God calls us to pray! We will meet in the chapel. Prayer requests will be asked for and we will be praying for the future of our church, our Alabama Global Conference and the Global Methodist church as a whole. We have much to pray about for the direction of our church. Come be a partner in prayer!

The Bible says "May my prayer come before you: turn your ear to hear my cry." Psalms 88:2 NIV



Please plan to join us Monday, November 27th at 10:00 to decorate our church for Christmas. Your help is needed and everyone is welcome. Additional details coming soon.



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 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode (camovet@ctvea.net or 706-464-5089) know.

A message from our Youth Minister Daniel Cook

November is a month that we are reminded to be thankful as we celebrate Thanksgiving. It's not just the month of November that reminds us of this but also God's word. 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." Oftentimes we tend to place more focus on things in our life that are not going the way we would hope and we begin to lose sight of the things God has blessed us with. But when we focus on what God has done for us, those problems we face begin to not seem so daunting.

As a youth ministry, Epworth Students have a lot to be thankful for. Here is a top 10 list of things we are thankful for.

We are thankful for:

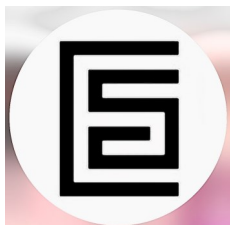
1. A church that wants to see this generation reached with the love of Christ.
2. A church that is praying for the youth leaders, youth students who attend Epworth, and the students who will one day attend Epworth.
3. A church that gives to the youth ministry and its students, so finances are not a hindrance.
4. A church that welcomes and accepts students from different backgrounds.
5. A church that has great facilities and activities for students to enjoy.
6. Church leadership which demonstrates the importance of reaching the next generation through vision and action.
7. The youth ministry leaders who give selflessly of their time, energy, and talents.
8. Parents who see the importance of their teenagers being plugged into a youth ministry, make it possible for them to attend ministry functions, and support the youth ministry.
9. Friends who show up week after week to offer friendship and accountability.
10. The most important - God's love, forgiveness, and grace, which is very much needed, especially in the life of a teenager!

In case you did not catch the theme of the list above, Epworth Students are thankful to have a church body and leadership that loves, supports, and prays for us daily. With your continued prayers and support, we will see more and more students come to know and experience the love of Christ.

Thank you,

Daniel Cook and the Epworth Students





EPWORTH STUDENT NEWS

Events in November:

Wednesday Nights

November Series: Over the Top - In this four-week series, we'll see what the book of 1 Thessalonians shows us about loving others through what we can give. We'll discover how to make a big difference by being generous with our time, being generous by sharing the good news, being generous by caring for each other, and being generous with our encouragement.

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 pm we have our youth service and then hang out for a few minutes after.

Fall Brawl

The Fall Brawl will be coming to an end this month! Which team will eat steaks? Which team will eat beanie weenies? Take a look at the schedule below to see what will be coming up:

11/1: Gross Games - You have to see it to understand it!

11/8: Triple Points and Small Groups - This is the last chance you have to catch up!

11/15: Winner Announced!!!

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.

Winter Trip

Ski Trip - Limited Spots Available

Dates: December 27 - 30

Where: WinterPlace Ski Resort, Ghent, West Virginia

For: Students 7th - 12th grade

Cost: \$300

We have just a few spots left, so it's not too late. If your teenager wants to attend let us know today!

Youth Scholarship Fund - *If you would like to help students be able to attend our upcoming ski trip, you can do so by donating to our Student Scholarship fund. Any money donated will go toward participants who need financial help in order to attend the trip. Any amount will be greatly appreciated as you help us provide students with an unforgettable experience growing as a group and closer to Christ.*

Sunday Nights

We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday nights during the month of November. On November 19th we will pack Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. During November we will focus on bringing in items on Wednesday night for our packing night on the 19th. We also will accept donations of items that can be packed into the boxes.

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR KIDS

What kids believe about themselves is the foundation on which they build their lives, beliefs, and relationships.

The words we speak over kids, the lessons and Bible stories we teach (and the way we teach the Bible), the songs we sing, the conversations we have, and the advice and comfort we offer are all planting seeds that will grow into the fruit of identity that comes from being rooted in Christ.

Speak these truths over kids and pray for them to internalize and believe them.

- I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:13-14)
- I am loved by Jesus, and I get to share His love too. (John 13:34, 35)
- I was made in the image of God and am an image-bearer. (Genesis 1:27)
- I was created with a purpose and God has prepared good works for me to do. He will give me everything I need to do them. (Ephesians 2:10)
- I am chosen by God. I am valuable to Him. My life tells of His wonder. (1 Peter 2:9)



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!

Safe House of Columbus has an ongoing need of napkins! (They use 200 a day) Also, mustard, BBQ sauce, salad dressing, and any kind of spices. These items can all be purchased at the Dollar Tree.

With the cold weather ahead, they will surely need coats and warm clothing.

Thank you for all you have done for this most worthy ministry. If you have any questions at all about Safe House, call Marilynne 706-593-1307.

"God causes all things to work together for good FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD and WHO ARE CALLED according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

November 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:30 pm EMW (Fellowship Hall)	3	4
5 Stewardship Kick-off 5:30 pm—Family Night—BIBLE Bingo 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	6 12:00 Happy Days Luncheon 6:30 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room	7 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Ezekiel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Daniel”	8 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	9 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 7:00 pm Veteran's Day Dinner	10	11
12 Veteran's Recognition 4:00 pm Council on Ministries meeting 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	13 6:30 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room	14 9:00 am—Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Ezekiel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Daniel”	15 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	16 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	17	18 9:00 am— 12:00 pm Children's Christmas Workshop
19 9:15 am—12:30 pm EMW Bake Sale 12:00 pm Stewardship Luncheon 5:00—6:30 pm Youth	20	21 Office Closed for Thanksgiving 6:30 pm— Thanksgiving Service at Epworth	22 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	23 	24	25
26 5:00—6:30 pm Youth 5:30 pm Kids Cruise and Cherub Choir	27 10:00 am Decorate Church for Christmas 6:30 pm— “Man Church” in Youth Room	28 9:00 am - Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am—Bible study “Ezekiel” 6:30 pm—Bible study “Daniel”	29 9:00 am Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	30 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool		

(Continued from page 1)

Most of you will receive by mail and as bulletin inserts “See, I Am Doing A New Thing!” material, offering opportunities to serve and to give. On Sunday, November 19 we will receive and dedicate our written responses during the worship services, followed by the “See, I Am Doing A New Thing!” Celebration Lunch.

This is truly an exciting time to be part of what God is doing in and through the Epworth Church! You are a loving, generous people—always blessed, and always a blessing!!! As your pastor, I look forward with expectation to see what God will do as an encore through your dedication and generosity in A.D. 2024!

Keep your hand in Jesus’ hand and your eyes on the Cross, my brothers and sisters!

And, as Brother Jack Kinney would say, let’s all turn to Number 56 in the “Power and Praise” hymn book and sing together, “Make Me a Blessing” (to someone today)!

To Blessed To Be Stressed,
Brother Grant