



# EPWORTH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 2024

(334) 298-3186

WWW.EPWORDH-PC.ORG

## Reflection on July 4<sup>th</sup>—Independence Day

**“My country ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;**

**Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims’ pride,**

**From every mountainside let freedom ring!” (“America”)**

“Let freedom ring!” That phrase has a good sound to it, doesn’t it? In fact, a sweet sense of patriotism and blessedness swells up within me each time I hear Lee Greenwood singing in “God Bless the USA”: “I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free!”

Nonetheless, even in America, in this “land of the free and home of the brave,” there are several instances in which our freedom is not absolute. For example, I have freedom only to the extent that my actions do not infringe upon another person’s rights, or as the adage states: “My freedom ends where your nose begins.”

Speaking now in a spiritual sense, it can also be said that there are other limitations to our freedom as well.

First of all—we are never so free as to be above and beyond the gracious limits God places on all human conduct through the precepts, commandments, and guidelines found in the Holy Bible. When we transgress God’s biblical principles of morality, we have indeed abused the privilege of free will He has endowed to humankind. There is great wisdom in the words of Peter Marshall’s prayer before the U.S. Senate: “Make us to see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do right.”

Secondly—we are never so free that we can treat others just *any* way we please—regardless of the pain we inflict or offense we give. Jesus said: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39) and “just as you want people to treat you, treat them in the same way” (Luke 6:31).

Thirdly—we are never so independent that we have no need of God. In the Bible,

James writes: “Every good thing bestowed

and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” (1:17). Even as He fed the children of Israel on manna and quail and gave them water when they thirsted, God still provides for our daily needs. In this world of so called “self-made” people, we need to remember that sunshine and rain, food and shelter, the clothing we wear and the air we breathe—these are gifts bestowed by God Almighty, needs met by His mighty benevolent hands.

Finally, we are never really free—not really—until we have accepted God’s gift of salvation from our sins through faith in Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul writes to the church at Rome: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1-2)

John’s gospel bears good news indeed! “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!” (John 3:16). It’s a fact that God loves you, no matter who you are, or whatever your lot in life. It is God’s desire that we experience His love and receive His grace to the fullest.

That’s why, though tragically separated from God by sin, we still can be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. God has provided a way that we can be reconciled unto Him and be saved from our sins.

We must admit that we have sinned. The Bible tells us, “For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...” (1 John 1:8).

We must realize that we cannot save ourselves. The Bible tells us “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one would boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).



by Rev. Grant Parker

In fact, Jesus Christ died on the cross, for our sins. That’s what Calvary and His crucifixion was all about. “God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Therefore, we are invited to accept Jesus Christ by simple, childlike faith as our Savior. “But as many as receive Him, to them gave He the right to become children of God, even to them that believe in His name” (John 1:12).

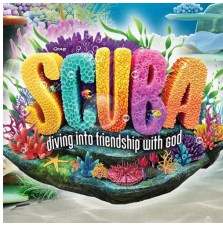
Would you like to know that sweet assurance of your salvation unto eternal life? Remember the promise of Jesus in John 8:36: “If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed!”

You can receive that assurance of your eternal salvation, even at this very moment! Won’t you pray for that assurance right now?

(Continued on page 3 of Newsletter)



# EPWORTH KIDZ CREW



**THANK YOU FOR A GREAT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE!!**

*Diving into Friendship with God!*

What a wonderful way to kick off the summer! We wrapped up Scuba VBS 2024 with an average of 101 students and more than 92 volunteers throughout the week, and we exceeded our missions goal of \$500 by the third night!

- Best night's attendance: Monday—108
- Largest attendance Preschool—37
- Largest class: Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: - 18
- Mission Offering—\$914.43

Thank you, parents, for making it possible for your children to attend. What a joy to hear them singing the songs of praise and confirmation of our Savior!

Thank you volunteers for making VBS possible. The months of preparation and the hours of execution of a plan to bring the Friendship of God and the Love of Jesus to these children is a blessing that will have long-lasting rewards in the Kingdom of God. Thank you for taking your tasks and doing them in a great way! Thank you church family for the magnificent way that you support Children's Ministry with you tithes, offerings and designated giving throughout the year. May God bless you with grace and peace knowing that you have been a part of sharing the Good News to a very special group of His creation.

Looking forward to next year's VBS, June 8 – 12, 2025!!

## TERRIFIC TUESDAYS!!!!

Ages 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Check for time and events on our Facebook page or call the church at 334-298-3186.

VOLUNTEERS please contact Letha at 205-799-8547.



**Coming in August—Blessing of the Backpacks & Promotion**  
 Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 and 11:00  
 Services

Bring your Backpack and some extra school supplies to share with our Partners in Education Schools.

## KIDZ SUMMER CAMP: July 8-11

Please pray for our safe trip, a fun time and a great worship and learning experience with Jesus!!

Birthdays	
July 1	Rylee Pruett
July 2	James Baker
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 Melissa Townsend
July 9	Rendi Hall Brittany Lurker Brock Garner
July 10	Sandra Arnold Kayla Caldwell
July 12	Noah Sartin
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	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 Claire Hall
July 29	Carver Johnson
July 30	Laura Johnson
July 31	Belle Lee Elise Culpepper



### **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 1st—Josh McCart

July 8th—Bryce Gaunt

July 15th—Cheryl Bain

July 22—Ross Goode

July 29th—Teri Medina

### **Summer Girls' Night Out**

**July 11th** 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 caravan. (Dinner is Dutch treat.) We hope you can be there!

Please sign up by July 7th 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!!!!**

**(Continued from page 1)**

**“Lord God, I confess that I have sinned. I acknowledge Your Son Jesus Christ as Your way of salvation and receive Him by faith into my life as my Savior and Lord. On the authority of Your promises in the Bible, I claim the assurance that You have pardoned and accepted me and saved me. I thank You Lord, for the forgiveness of my sins and for my eternal salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.”**

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord today, ask me and/or other Christians to pray for you in your daily walk with Jesus. Read and study the Bible--God's written word--daily. I'll be glad to share material that will guide you in your reading and study. Please—get involved in a Bible-believing church quickly if you are not attending such worship somewhere already. May God fill you with His Holy Spirit and empower you to do His will daily. Keep the faith, but share the Gospel!

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

Brother Grant

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

### **Veterans Day Dinner**

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, and watch for more information concerning this year's free Veterans Dinner soon.

# *A message from our Youth Intern—Walter Turberville*

As the summer season continues, we enjoy the longer days and summer nights. This was no different as we had the chance to build new friendships and spend time with the Lord in our youth summer camp at Merge. The trip allowed our students to build spiritual connections with other brothers and sisters in Christ at Shocco Springs. The camp was a great getaway to get disconnected from everyday struggles as students had the opportunity to spend four days in the Lord's presence with other believers.

The camp was led by our very own youth pastor, Daniel Cook. Merge is a vision that the Lord gave Daniel 12 years ago to help students attend a high-quality camp at an affordable price. The camp is built on the idea of students from different churches coming together to worship the one true King. Our church was fortunate enough to attend such a camp to help our students build new friendships and also build their relationship with Jesus.

Our youth group had the chance to connect with other students through recreational games, small groups, and fellowship. The recreational games allowed our students to show off their talents and competitiveness against other students. The kids were split into 12 small groups led by college leaders. The small groups were a mixture of kids from different churches. The recreational games consisted of dodgeball, kickball, gaga ball, speedball, tug of war, and tiger ball. The games were a great way for our youth to work with other students to help them compete for first place in their respective small groups. Students also had the chance to enjoy swimming at the pool, complete an aqua park course, and go down a 50-foot water slide into the lake during their free time. The four days were filled with constant activities and fellowship.

Small group was an awesome experience for our youth to learn from other students and their everyday struggles. This helped give our students the opportunity to grow with one another as they had to get out of their comfort zones to talk to new people. At first, this was very intimidating as it took time for everyone to get comfortable sharing their everyday struggles with someone they did not know. Through the recreational games and fellowship our students began to get comfortable. This was shown through their involvement in the small groups with other students as they began to share their stories with the other kids.

The presence of the Lord was evident in those four days as the kids were able to worship their Savior without the fear of being judged. In Psalm 100:1-2 the author says, "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing" (NKJV). Throughout the four days, the students shouted praises to the Lord as they came together as one body of Christ to worship the one true King. For some kids, this was a life-changing trip as they came to know Christ as their Lord and Savior and surrendered their lives to Jesus. There is no greater choice than the choice of choosing to spend eternity with King Jesus. The theme of the camp was "Rep the King.24" as students learned how to represent Jesus in their everyday walk. The message helped students to understand the importance of representing Christ in all that we do. The world wants you to put yourself at the center of attention but we must not conform to what the world wants, but instead make our life to serve Jesus. As followers of Christ, we must choose every day who we are representing. For the students, this was a great week to find freedom from the things that they were struggling with and come back into their homes ready to share the gospel with others. The camp was an experience that touched many lives and one that the students will never forget!

Walter Turberville



# Epworth Students Upcoming Events:

## Wednesday Nights

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 service that includes a time of games, teaching, and worship. Once a month we split off into small groups to discuss the topic of the night and talk about how we can apply it to our lives.

## 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, but 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 and to grow together as they navigate what it means to follow Christ.

## Summer Schedule

This summer there will be many opportunities for students to connect through different outings, events, and services. Along with the schedule below there will be certain Wednesday nights we have Wednesday night services at someone's house enjoying a cookout and swimming, along with other intown events happening on Thursdays. It will be an exciting summer that you do not want to miss!

- White Water - July 22nd

## Things to come in 2024:

- Dnow (Youth weekend) - August 16-18

A DNOW (Disciple Now) weekend is a youth retreat that is designed to be "at home" for 6th -12th graders. There are several elements to a DNOW weekend: worship services, small groups, and events around town.

- Ski Trip - December 27th - 30th





## Support our Schools

Epworth would like to help support our Partner in Education school Ridgecrest Elementary, with a school supply drive. Please pick up any of the following supplies and leave them in the gathering room in our school supply box. If you would rather we shop for the supplies, you can donate online on the Epworth website in the Non Budget category of School Supplies, or note “school supplies” on the memo section on your check in the offering plate. Needed supplies include: 24 pack crayons, #2 pencils, wide ruled paper, kids scissors, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, tissue and copy paper.

## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)**

- We're off to a great start with WAA this year: we have already sponsored enough wreaths to ensure Fort Mitchell National Cemetery receives 732 wreaths.
- However, we still need to sponsor 137 wreaths by the WAA closing date in late November to beat the record we set last year.
- An explanation of the WAA wreath program and forms for sponsoring wreaths are on the Military Bulletin Board in the Gathering Room and on a table in the hallway.
- Let's sponsor enough wreaths to break our previous year's record for the sixth year in a row.

## **HELP US KEEP EPWORTH CHURCH SAFE**

- 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.
- It's a shame we have to think about security while we are in God's House, but we believe it is a prudent precaution.
- We need your help:
  - \* Stay alert whenever you are at Epworth.
  - \* Report anything out-of-the-ordinary to our staff or security team.
  - \* Pick up a one-page information sheet from the Gathering Room Counter to see how you can prepare.

If you have a comment or suggestion concerning our security, or if you are interested or know someone who is, please let Pastor Grant ([grant.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:grant.parker@epworth-pc.org) or 334-298-3186) or Ross Goode ([RCGoode525@gmail.com](mailto:RCGoode525@gmail.com) or 706-464-5089.) know.

## Prayer Chapel Schedule

### July 7, 2024

8:30 am Vicky Moss  
9:45 am Shirley Goode  
11:00 am Marcia Myles

### July 14, 2024

8:30 am Sandra Rowan  
9:45 am Maria LaMee  
11:00 am Sandra Arnold

### July 21, 2024

8:30 am Rendi Hall  
9:45 am David Bain  
11:00 am Pam Shores

### July 28, 2024

8:30 am Gary Dillard  
9:45 am Becky Coreno  
11:00 am Mary Pittman

## Greeter Schedule

### July 7, 2024

8:30 am Gloria Griggs  
9:45 am Vicky Moss  
11:00 am Marcia Myles

### July 14, 2024

8:30 am Sandra Rowan  
9:45 am Cheryl Smith  
11:00 am Kathryn Perdue

### July 21, 2024

8:30 am Joanie Stephens  
9:45 am Margaret Moss  
11:00 am Jaime Singer

### July 28, 2024

8:30 am TBD  
9:45 am Sheryl Bell  
11:00 am Becky Coreno

# July 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Happy Days "Covered Dish" Luncheon	<b>2</b> 9:00 MDO 10:00—Terrific Tuesday	<b>3</b>  No evening activities for Kids or Youth	<b>4</b>  <b>4<sup>th</sup> JULY</b> INDEPENDENCE DAY	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Kidz Camp	<b>9</b> 9:00—MDO  9:30 am Bible Study  Kidz Camp	<b>10</b>  6:00 –7:30 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study  Kidz Camp	<b>11</b> 9:00—MDO  5:15 pm Summer Girls' Night Out  6:00 pm— Men's Ministry  Kidz Camp	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  4:00 pm— Administrative Board meeting  5:00 pm Family Movie Night	<b>15</b>  Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b> 9:00—MDO  9:30 am Bible Study  10:00—Terrific Tuesday  6:00—Prayer Vigil	<b>17</b>  6:00—8:30 pm Vacation Bible School  6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>18</b> 9:00—MDO  Youth—Lunch and Devotion	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  5:00 pm Bible Bingo and Watermelon	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out  6:00 pm— Prayer Vigil	<b>24</b>  6:00 –7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out  Youth—Lunch and Devotion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  12:00 pm— Covered Dish Luncheon After the 11:00 Service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  6:00 –7:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections			



### **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 14 at 5:00 pm—Movie Night

July 21 at 5:00 pm— Bible Bingo and Watermelons

July 28 at 12:00 pm - Covered Dish Luncheon (following the 11:00 Service)

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*