



# EPWORTH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

**August 2024**

**(334) 298-3186**

**WWW.EPWORTH-PC.ORG**

## “Dog Days”

**“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”)**

I’m sure many of us old folks are familiar with the term. “Dog days,” according to the dictionary, are those hot, uncomfortable days of July and August when we tend to grow lazy and lethargic, in essence--- less than lively.

My preacher friend and fellow Global Methodist Pastor, Brother George Mathison, once shared the following litany by way of his church’s weekly newsletter. Quoting yet another unidentified article, he writes:

LIVE churches always have parking problems, dead churches don’t.

LIVE churches are always changing methodology, dead churches don’t have to.

LIVE churches have lots of “noisy” youth and children, dead churches are fairly quite.

LIVE churches are constantly deficient on staff, dead churches usually have a surplus.

LIVE churches’ expenses frequently exceed their income, dead churches always take in more than they ever dream of spending.

LIVE churches grow so fast you forget people’s names, in dead churches everybody knows everybody’s name for years.

LIVE churches support missions enthusiastically, dead churches keep it all at home.

LIVE churches focus on people, dead churches on problems.

LIVE churches are filled with tithers, dead churches are filled with tippers.

LIVE churches move out in faith, dead churches operate totally on sight.

LIVE churches evangelize! Dead churches fossilize.

Isn’t it GREAT to be part of this ongoing “Epworth Experience,” where we are, by the marvelous grace of God and the power of His sweet Holy Spirit, ALIVE in Christ?! Spread the word, my brothers and sisters! People all around you are dying to hear the words of life: “Simon Peter replied, ‘Master, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words that give eternal life!’” (John 6:68)

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

Brother Grant

### **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.

August 5th—Marcia Myles

August 12th—Belle Lee

August 19th—Steve Ward

August 26th—Mary Frances Head



**by Rev. Grant Parker**



### **VETERANS DAY DINNER**

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for 12 November 2024, the date for this year’s free dinner for our active duty, retired and Veteran personnel and their immediate families.

We want to ensure we send every Epworth Military Connection family a personal invitation to attend this dinner, so if your military member or Veteran’s name and address are not already in our “Epworth Military Connection” notebook on the Gathering Room counter, please add it or give it to Pastor Grant or Ross Goode.

Watch for more information concerning this year’s free Veterans Dinner soon.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact 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.)

# EPWORTH KIDZ CREW

## EPWORTH KIDZ PRESCHOOL & MOM'S DAY OUT

We are looking forward to a great year in Epworth Kidz Preschool and Mom's Day Out. Thank you to the staff that makes these programs available to the community.

**MOM'S DAY OUT BEGINS:** Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00–12:45

**PRESCHOOL FIRST DAY:** Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00–1:00

**Substitutes Needed:** If you are interested in helping us with either of these programs as a **substitute**, please contact Letha for an application.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....

NURSERY – 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 services

KIDS' CLASSES SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF VBS AND KIDS CAMP!

Your generosity in time, talent and monetary gifts made it possible for Epworth to share the gospel of Christ to more than 100 children in VBS, and give over \$900 to two ministries to South America to help build churches, give Bibles and feed hungry children and teach them of Jesus' love.

You also gave generously to the camp scholarship fund which provided financial help for 17 kids and 3 adult counselors! Camp week was filled with fun activities and wonderful worship/Bible teaching about God our Creator, God our Savior and God our Sustainer! We are so very thankful for 4 of our Epworth campers who made decisions for Christ during this time!

May God grant you blessings, grace and peace in abundance for your generosity in sharing the gospel with kids. I am forever grateful. –Letha

### **Blessing of the Backpacks And Promotion**

Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

9:45 and 11:00 Services

ALL students, preschool through college, bring your backpacks as we would like to pray over you and your school year. We will also have a time of prayer for all educators and staff of our schools. You may also bring school supplies and backpacks to be given in support one of our Partners in Education schools, Ridgecrest Elementary.



**Operation Christmas Child:** We would like to encourage every family to donate at least one Shoebox to be given to Samaritan's Purse in November. These boxes will not only bring joy to those children who receive them, but the Gospel of Christ will also be shared with those who may have never heard. You may also donate items that the Kidz Crew will pack in shoeboxes during the evening programs on Wednesday and Sunday. Please check out the web site for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child for "How to Pack a shoebox" @ [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org).

Birthdays	
Aug 3	Susan Stillwell
Aug 4	Johnny Burell Jimmy Hall
Aug 5	Nell Griggs Lee Milligan Sebastian Culpepper
Aug 8	Whitten Petsch
Aug 9	Abby Supan
Aug 10	Edith Gentry Bobby Don Richards
Aug 12	Dana Townsend
Aug 13	Veronica Sanders
Aug 14	Terrell Sartin
Aug 15	Henry Gentry Jeffery Rollo Pennie Ranew
Aug 16	Steve Martin Jodi Wisor Chandler Gatewood
Aug 17	David Bain Katherine Grantham Eddie Supan
Aug 18	June Chadwick Melissa Bridges
Aug 19	Mark Sanders Amira Kennedy
Aug 21	Wendy Esco
Aug 22	Shirley Wilkerson
Aug 23	Dave Stephens Katie Ketchum
Aug 24	Thelma Courson David Jones Jeremiah Moss Josh Bradley
Aug 26	Reid Yeilding
Aug 27	Linda Fuller Eddie Livingston
Aug 28	Frankie Lake Geri Druash Timothy Parker Linley Wade
Aug 29	Taylor Riepe
Aug 31	Judy Smith Jake Brewer

Anniversaries	
Aug. 4	Chris & Tammy Garrison
Aug. 5	Brad & Stephanie Baker
Aug 8	Wayne & Frankie Lake
Aug 10	Payton & Donna Zeigler
Aug 12	James & Claire Hall
Aug 15	Shane & Lora Collins
Aug 18	Jeffery & Ann Marie Rollo
Aug 21	Ronnie & Cathy Head
Aug 24	Joe & Mary Barnette
Aug 26	Brad & Michelle Word
Aug 27	Jeff & Danielle Bradley
Aug 29	Bob & Carol Stanton
Aug 30	James & Meg Clark



## New Men's and Women's Bible Study

We're kicking-off 2 new Monday Night Bible Studies on Monday, August 12th at 6:30 pm. Both the Men's and Women's studies are video-based with free study guides. (Nursery will be available.)

### Men's Study - "Shaken" by Tim Tebow (5-week session)

*Who are you when life is steady? Who are you when storms come?*

In this powerful series, Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow passionately shares glimpses of his journey staying grounded in the face of disappointment, criticism, and intense media scrutiny. Following an exceptional college football career with the Florida Gators and a promising playoff run with the Denver Broncos, Tebow was traded to the New York Jets. He was released after one season.

In *Shaken*, Tebow talks about what he's learned along the way, building confidence in his identity in God, not the world. This moving series features practical wisdom from Scripture and insights gained from others who have impacted Tebow in life-changing ways.

Though traveling hard roads is not easy, it's always worth it!

### Women's Study - "Faith in Hostile Times" by Berni Dymet (6-week session)

Are you overwhelmed by the godlessness sweeping across our world and flooding every corner of cyberspace? Are you disillusioned that the most vitriolic voices in debates are sometimes those of people calling themselves Christians?

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

As we transition from the carefree days of summer into the structured routine of school, we are reminded of the season of change and the opportunities they bring for growth and renewal. This transition mirrors the changes in nature around us—where the vibrant colors of summer gradually give way to the crispness of autumn, signaling a time of preparation and transformation. Change in our lives is something we all are accustomed to in our daily walk with Christ. This change is an exciting moment as we embark on a new season full of new blessings, new friends and new challenges!

In the church, this theme of transition resonates deeply with the teachings of renewal and readiness. Just as students eagerly equip themselves with new supplies and knowledge for the school year, so too are we encouraged to prepare ourselves spiritually and mentally for the awesome school year that the Lord has planned for our students and teachers. In Deuteronomy 31:6 the author states, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” As followers of Christ we are reminded daily that Jesus is there to guide us through this new season of uncertainty! It is a time to reflect on our experiences, both joyful and challenging, and to seek guidance from our faith as we embark on new beginnings.

The transition from summer into school offers us an opportunity to renew our commitment to learning and personal growth, both academically and spiritually. As adults this can be a great time to learn with our kids as we commit to helping our kids with their homework and projects! For kids this is a great time to show your parents how smart you truly are! In the midst of change, there is an underlying sense of excitement and anticipation—a chance to set goals, build relationships, and deepen our understanding of ourselves and our faith.

As we navigate this transition, let us embrace the lessons of patience, perseverance, and gratitude. Just as the seasons transition seamlessly, so too can we transition into the school year with a spirit of openness and resilience. Let us draw strength from our faith community, finding support and encouragement in each other as we embark on this journey together. The Lord has truly blessed our country with educational opportunities for our kids, and that is something worth rejoicing in!

The transition from summer into school serves as a reminder of the constant opportunity for growth and renewal that the Lord has blessed us with. Through reflection, preparation, and a steadfast faith, we can navigate this transition with grace and purpose, embracing the new season with hope and anticipation for what lies ahead.

Walter Turberville

## **Donations Are Needed**

**Safe House Ministries** in Columbus Georgia, which feeds and helps the homeless, is in need of several items.

Safe House is in real need of cleaning supplies, condiments, seasonings (salt, pepper, garlic and onion powder). They also have an urgent need of metal dinner forks and tablespoons. If you can help in this area, it is greatly appreciated.

Please put your donation in the blue bin in the gathering room. Love, blessings, and thanks.

## **The Backpack Buddy Program Needs Your Help**

Epworth participates in the Backpack Buddy program in conjunction with Feeding the Valley to send food to children who might not otherwise have something to eat on the weekends. Last year Epworth delivered 56 bags each week to Ridgecrest Elementary and 3 each week to Lakewood Primary. We are looking for people to help us with the packing and delivering of the bags on a rotating basis.

Please contact Christi Badowski at 334-614-2656. If you would like to make a donation towards this program, you can give online under non-budget, and then choose Backpack, or you can make your check out to Epworth and note that it is for the Backpack Buddy Program. Corporate sponsors cover most of the costs for the food (\$120 per child), but any donations are appreciated. These funds are also used to purchase small goodies for the children for each holiday.

We also want to thank all of our volunteers from last year: Carol Addison, Rich and Becky Coreno, Susan Wiggins, Cheryl and David

# Epworth Students Upcoming Events:

## New Ministry Starting

Starting in August we will begin to split our Junior High (6th - 8th grade) and Senior High (9th - 12th grade) students on Wednesday night. We will start off together in the youth room for announcements, worship, and games, then we will separate for teaching. This will allow us the opportunity to best minister to each group with age appropriate teaching. This will also give the ministry an opportunity to meet together but also allow time for the groups to meet with other kids closer to their age. The leaders and teachers will rotate between the two groups to build relationships with all students.

## Sunday Nights

After we return from our summer break from Sunday night meetings, we will start to meet once a quarter on Sunday nights for a mission/outreach project. This will give students an opportunity to serve alongside each other as we serve our community and local mission/outreach programs. These opportunities to service will be announced in the coming weeks as they are planned.

## 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, small groups and worship. Once a month we separate 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 to grow together as they navigate what it means to follow Christ.

## Mark your calendar:

- 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 School Supplies Drive

Epworth would like to help support one of 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 of November 29th 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 in front of the sanctuary.
- 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

#### August 4, 2024

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

#### August 11, 2024

8:30 am Pat Roberts  
9:45 am Gloria Griggs  
11:00 am Steve Wart

#### August 18, 2024

8:30 am Sheryl Bell  
9:45 am Gail Hogge  
11:00 am Amber McCart

#### August 25, 2024

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

### Greeter Schedule

#### August 4, 2024

8:30 am Hilda Bozzelli  
9:45 am Vicky Moss  
11:00 am Marcia Myles

#### August 11, 2024

8:30 am Sandra Rowan  
9:45 am Cheryl Smith  
11:00 am Emily Hogge

#### August 18, 2024

8:30 am Joanie Stephens  
9:45 am Kalen Sieck  
11:00 am Pam Shores

#### August 25, 2024

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

# August 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b>  <b>6:30 pm— Women’s Ministry</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>  <b>Backpack Sunday 9:45 and 11:00 Services</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>12:00 pm Happy Days “Covered Dish” Luncheon</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>9:00—MDO &amp; 1st Day of Preschool</b>  9:30 am Bible Study	<b>7</b>  <b>9:00 Preschool</b>  6:00 –7:30 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study	<b>8</b>  9:00—MDO & Preschool  <b>6:00 pm— Men’s Ministry</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>  <b>4:00 pm— Council on Ministries</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  <b>6:30 pm— Men’s and Women’s Bible Study (Open to everyone)</b>	<b>13</b>  9:00—MDO & Preschool  9:30 am Bible Study	<b>14</b>  9:00 Preschool  6:00 –7:30 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study	<b>15</b>  9:00—MDO & Preschool	<b>16</b>  <b>Youth— DNow Weekend</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>Youth— DNow Weekend</b>
<b>18</b>  <b>12:00 pm— Youth Fundraiser Luncheon</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>6:30 pm— Men’s and Women’s Bible Study (Open to everyone)</b>	<b>20</b>  9:00 am Mom’s Day Out  9:30 am Bible Study  <b>6:00 pm— Prayer Vigil</b>	<b>21</b>  9:00 Preschool  6:00 –7:30 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study	<b>22</b>  9:00—MDO & Preschool	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>6:30 pm— Men’s and Women’s Bible Study (Open to everyone)</b>	<b>27</b>  9:00—MDO & Preschool  9:30 am Bible Study	<b>28</b>  9:00 Preschool  6:00 –7:30 pm Youth  6:30 pm Classes, Pastor’s Bible Study	<b>29</b>  9:00—MDO & Preschool	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

