

The Handbell Choir expresses their gratitude to the Memorial Committee for their generous donation of new mallets. The handbell choir will be using them in their next performance.

The United Methodist Women will open their calendar year as guests of the Calvary Unit on Monday, March 2. The "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program will follow immediately after the meal in the sanctuary. Brenda Hunt is Epworth's chairman along with Linda Waybright from Calvary. We are hoping for a large turn out from our ladies as we fellowship with our sister church.  
  
The Spring Meeting of the Little Kanawha District UMW will be held on Saturday, March 14 at Washington UMC on Dupont Road in Parkersburg. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program following at 9:30 a.m. Guest speaker is Patricia Mick who is well known on the local, district and conference levels. We will be car-pooling from our church that morning.  
  
The noon Lenten series will be at Epworth this year, and will revert to the days of Holy Week. Our ladies are responsible for preparing the luncheon on Monday, March 30. You will be contacted at a later date for your food contribution.  
  
We are adding additional names to our Andrew Callers list. The members have been busy these past months and we would like to increase the participation. If you would like to join us in this wonderful endeavor, please contact Polly Hughes, 372-4161 or Hazel Parsons, 372-4791. You will be called upon to either prepare a side dish or contribute $10 for a bereavement meal, usually once or twice a year.

**Friendship Circle** will meet on Monday, February 9th at 1pm at the home of Ollie Harvey.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will be hosted by the Inner Circle Class on Tuesday, February 17 from 5:00-6:30.

Message from Rev. Deane

Stewards for February & March

Kwire Korner

Memorial Report

Calendars

Centershot

### Inside Newsletter

#### Save the Date!

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Epworth Messenger

February/March 2015

Dear Epworth Friends and Family,

This newsletter begins in winter, but we will be moving all the way to Easter over these next 2 months.  The cycle of life and faith continues!  With that in mind, let me start this newsletter by thanking all our Epworth ministry teams and volunteers for the amazing work done for Christ and the Kingdom during the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany cycle of the year.  We laughed and wrapped 12 Days of Christmas gifts, we smiled and sorted Adopt-A-Family groceries and gifts, we had wonderful meals and watched proudly as our Kings Kids and cherub choir shared music and the story of Christmas with us.  There was fabulous music, from the bells and the chancel choir, and from special singers and instrumentalists during the Christmas season.  The church was aglow with light and life and quiet joy sometimes, and with loud and happy enthusiasm on Student Sunday.  How awesome to worship with you!  What a difference you are making in lives and hearts!

 Given how much I see being done and given, behind the scenes, I’m always hopeful that we can keep growing in faith and be ever ready to do more.  My sermon series in January has focused on new beginnings, depth of commitment, and being called by God.  As we move into the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on Feb 18th (service at 7pm), we will be talking about the Spiritual Disciplines, and one of my hopes is that some of you would be willing to share your faith by giving a 3-5 minute devotion/testimony/praise during worship about how the practice of Christian discipline and life has helped you.  I need speakers to talk about Prayer Fasting (could be fasting from food, but just as important is “fasting” from the self-centered life and sins to which we all are prone), Bible study, simplicity in living/ stewardship, service, and worship/being intentionally in Christian community.  If you would like to share your faith in this way, please contact me via email or cellphone, or talk with our Worship Committee chairperson, Georgia Hughes Webb.

 The Jackson County Ministerial Association has voted to return to our former schedule of Lenten services, every day during Holy week, rather than weekly during all of Lent.  Epworth will host these services, beginning on Monday March 30th at noon and going through Good Friday, April 3d.  As always, the worship service will last about a half hour, and then we will gather in the Fellowship Center for a meal.  Our church is responsible for the meal and service on Monday.  If you would like to help, contact any member of the United Methodist women.

 We live and worship in the midst of life, which has both winter and summer, hard times and moments of joy.  As a community of faith, these past months we’ve shared gladness as many of our families (and staff) welcome new babies, or find new beginnings in faith and life, and we’ve cried together as some walked through the valley of the shadow of death.  In all these things, God is with us.  I am trusting and praying for you, and for all of us, that as we walk through the calendar year 2015, we will hold deeply to God and to each other.  We are blessed, and we are called to love and serve in the name of our amazing, loving, with-us-in-everything God.

Love you!

Terry

# Message from Rev. Deane

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | Feb. 1 | Feb. 8 | Feb. 15 | Feb. 22 |
| Liturgist | Polly Hughes | Ollie Harvey | Beth Miller | Shelly Thomas |
| Greeters | Scottie, Kelsea, Payton, Zoe & Brody Casto | Kevin, Talana & Sadie Brier | Jeff, Susan, Gavin & Gianna Curry | Chuck, Lisa, Caleb & Lauren Bailey |
| Acolytes | Brock Matson  Luke Matson | Lauren Bailey  Summer Hartley | Lily Gorrell  Zoe Miles | Wyatt Simon  Rory Holmes |
| Infant Nursery | Kelsey Casto | Erica McVay | Margaret George | Alyssa Perry |
| Toddler Nursery | Beth Miller  Hunter Miller | Kevin Brier  Talana Brier | Paula Knopp  Rae Knopp | Lisa Bailey  Caleb Bailey |
| Head Usher | Cookey Gunther | Keith Rake | Shelia Lokant | David Raines |

Easter is just around the corner and it will soon be time to order flowers for Easter Sunday. This year the cost per flower will be $9.00 and all order must be placed by March 22, 2015. Please place your order as soon as possible to assure the correct amount is ordered and the dedications can be typed and proofed in a timey manner. Please type or print dedication and your salutation legibly, and indicate if the dedication is “In Honor of” or “In Memory of”.

You may either mail your Order and check (made payable to Epworth Flower Fund) to MarySue Cain, 506 ½ West Main Street, Ripley, WV 25271, email me the dedication at mscain04@hotmail.com and mail the check, place order in collection plate or leave in church office.

Order forms can be picked up in the narthex or we can email you one at your request.

Stewards for March

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | March 1 | March 8 | March 15 | March 22 | March 29 |
| Liturgist | Ingrid Lee | Louise Raines | Mike Casdorph | Reva Kelley | Zoe Miles |
| Greeters | Butch & Debbie Barnette | Larry & Sara Moore | Ingrid Lee & Monica French | Janice Stemple | Teresa Carmichael |
| Acolytes | Tori Rotenberry  Gavin Curry | Rory Holmes  Summer Hartley | Chase Pepper  Colton Pepper | Luke Matson  Brock Matson | Zoe Miles  Lily Gorrell |
| Infant Nursery | Haley Taylor | Samantha Skeens | Kathy-Jo Knopp | Savanna Whiting | Amy Perry |
| Toddler Nursery | Monica French  Kyra French | Tyler McCauley  Marie McCauley | Mike Knopp  Grace Moore | Mary Jane Anderson  Parker Anderson | Erin Matson  Jadyn Casto |
| Head Usher | Hazel Parsons | Don Henthorne | Sherrie Moore | Larry Lokant | Louise Raines |

#### Mark your Calendars!

**Tuesday, February 17:**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner from 5-6:30pm

**Wednesday, February 18:**

Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm.

**Sunday, March 29:**

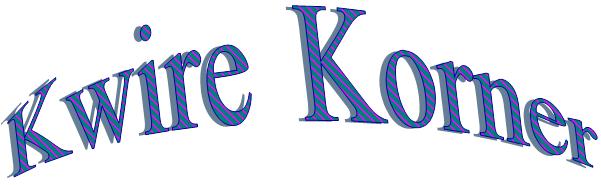
Palm Sunday Dinner @ 6pm FC

**Thursday, April 2nd**

Maundy Thursday Hoy Service

**March 30 –April 3:** Holy Week Services @ noon

Stewards for February



ARE WE ALIVE AND WELL?

Choirs everywhere are losing members. No denomination is exempt. Many churches no longer have a choir or if they do, it’s just a small one. It seems that folks just don’t want to commit anymore. People are just so busy and don’t have the time. But, hey now…wait just a minute! That is surely not the case at Epworth. Epworth’s Chancel Choir is not only alive and well, but is thriving!!

Epworth’s choir has been around for a long time and even though some of us will not admit to being over 39, the love of singing God’s praises is still thrilling! And have you noticed that we have a goodly number of younger folks in our midst, too? Several have young families with school-age children, but they also make “music for the Lord” a priority in their lives. 17 yr. old Pamela Johnson is our youngest member and did you noticed too, that a couple of our elementary age children recently sang for us on Christmas Eve? Future choir members? We hope so! And is there an age limit in order to sing with us? No way! Young and old alike are welcome in our midst.

We’re also so happy to announce that we have gained **4** new members in recent weeks! We have soprano, Annette Roberts; alto, Kristin Stover; bass, Bo Hartley; & tenor, Chaed Smith joining our ranks. We are sad to have seen Dannette & Larry move away & wish them only the very best as they search for a new church and a new choir, too. We’re thrilled, though, that God has given us four new members. Praise the Lord!!

So, how would you like to know a bit about what you might encounter if you venture into one of our rehearsals? You already know that we rehearse each Wednesday evening at 7 pm in our sanctuary and perhaps you might also be just a tiny bit curious to know just how a rehearsal might go. Bet you think it’s boring and dull. No way, Hosea! We begin by singing “Happy Birthday” to whomever is having one and you haven’t lived until this choir has sung “Happy Birthday” to you!! It’s “out of this world” (literally)!! Next, we share our joys and concerns together, followed by prayer. Then, it’s on to the joke of the week with Jim Hughes who always keeps us laughing. The next item is “housekeeping” with any pertinent announcements. Finally, we begin our rehearsal with a warm-up exercise and then it’s on to rehearsing the anthems for the next several weeks. Laughter is abundant, but so is hard work and before we know it…it’s time to quit!

One other thing you need to know about us. Our Chancel Choir is a family…we love each other and work together to sing of God’s love and to encourage others to know God’s love, too. We are alive and well and warmly welcome any of you who might want to sing with us. Just give me a call so that I might have a folder with music for you & just show up on Wednesday at 7 pm. No auditions, no dues, and no strings attached. Just give it a try!

Grace, Joy, and Peace,

Joyce Lawhon

Chancel Choir Director

**It’s Puzzle Season again**The day after Christmas thru March 31 is ‘officially’ Puzzle Season.   
And fortunately for us, Epworth has a wonderful ***Puzzle Ministry.***    
We received so many new/used puzzles this past year,   
that we had to re-organize the area.   
But we can always allow for more!   
If you have puzzles at home that you don’t want any longer,   
you can “recycle” by donating them to the church.   
There is no check-in/check-out process.   
There are no deadlines.    
There are no late fees!!  
Just come in, select and puzzle and enjoy working it.   
Some people even write their name and completion date   
on the back of the puzzle; but it’s not required.   
During your puzzle making, enjoy your quiet time.   
Share some thoughts/prayers with the Lord.   
Say a prayer/blessing over the puzzle when you return it.  
Then get another one.  
So come on….enjoy the ***Puzzle Ministry*** and work a puzzle.  
 

Stop the presses! We have another new baby announcement. Congratulations to Mike and Kathy-Jo Knopp on the birth of their daughter, Clarissa Joleen Knopp. She was born on Jan. 28 @ 4:20pm weighing 8lbs. & 9ozs. & 20 ¾ inches long.

Leo Arthur Felty was born at 1:07 AM 12/19/14 in Morgantown, WV to Ross and Leigh Felty.  
Leo was 5 lb 8 oz and 19" long.  
Grandparents are Rodney and Donna Felty of Ripley and Butch and Meredith Varney of Ravenswood.

Elijah David Johnson arrived Sunday, December 14 @ 12:06pm….while we were singing “Joy To The World” at church.  (7 lbs, 1 oz; 20 1/2” long)  Elijah is the son of Philip Johnson and Ashleigh Sharp.  Grandmother is Sandy Isner-Johnson with Pamela Johnson being the proud Aunt.  Great-Grandparents are Donna and Pete Isner.

Brady Grant Rake (6lbs - 11 oz ; 19" long) was born Sunday, December 14th at 10:00 am in Cincinnati, OH.  Parents are Grant and Britney Rake and grandparents are Keith and Jill Rake.

Adelynn Elizabeth Kent was born in Denver, Colorado on Wednesday, December 10th at 8:49 AM MT. She was 6lb 15 oz and 19-1/2" long. She is the daughter of Monica (Felty) and Ryan Kent. Grandparents are Rodney and Donna Felty of Ripley, WV and Robert and Marylynn Kent of Clarksville, AR.

Congratulations to Nick & Evi Waybright  on the birth of their son, Eugen Hendrix Waybright.  He was born on Sunday, November 30 @ 11:35 am weighing 8lbs, 9ozs and is 20.5 inches long.

On December 13th Dot McCloud celebrated her 95th birthday.

On January 20th Dorothy Roberts celebrated her 95th birthday.

On December 28th John Gunther celebrated his 80th birthday.

On February 1st Ernest Rawlings will celebrate is 89th birthday.

Note from Mike Knopp

Youth Pastor

During the election cycle of 2014, I had students in class who argued about who was the better Presidential candidate: Obama or Romney. I had to laugh. Most 10 year olds don't understand politics much less have an opinion about who to vote for. So what was happening? I was hearing conversations from parents at home. Whether we realize it or not, every action and word we say are seen, absorbed, and directed back by our children.  This is true for religion as well as politics (discussing politics AND religion in the same paragraph? Dangerous). Our children pick up our attitudes toward religion.  When we, as parents, make our Godly life a priority and set the example, then we shall see the reflection of that life mirrored in our children.

**With Sympathy**

Our love and sympathy is extended to

The family and friends of:

Ova Ray Randolph

Donald Hoffman

Lisa Smolder

**General Fund**

Donation made in m/o of Don Hoffman by Hazel Parsons

Donation made in m/o of J. Wayne Parsons and in Honor of Hazel Parsons, by Cindi & Billy Dunn

Donation made in m/o of Ray Randolph by Hazel Parsons, Jim & Polly Hughes

Donation made in Honor of Barb Casto’s Birthday by Cleta Walker

Donation made in Honor of Helen Trout’s BIRTHDAY by Hazel Parsons

Donation made in Honor of our Great Grandmother Hazel Parsons, by Gracie & Hannah Boyles

Donation made in m/o of Herman “Blink ’ Cavender by Hazel Parsons

**Memorial Fun**

Donation made in m/o of Ray Randolph by, Delton Slaughter, Vernon & Bobbie Fisher, Mike & Rachel Tillinghast, Carolyn Tippens, Eleanor Mills, Doris Randolph , Barbara Conley and Jeanie Dotson

Donation made in m/o of Herman ‘Blink’ Cavender by Donzel & Patona Whiting

Donation made in m/o of Bea Jones by Cleta Walker

**Compassion Fund**

Donation made in m/o of Ray Randolph by Teresa Carmichael for Food Pantry

Donation made in m/o Delcia Kerwood by Vernon & Bobbie Fisher

Donation made in Honor of Helen Trout’s Birthday by Bobby Goff for the Food Pantry

Donation made in m/o Anne Moore Cummings by Ingrid Lee

Donation made in m/o Thom & Elaine Stone by John, Ellen, Evan, & Laura Hoffman for Compassion Fund &

**Adopt-A-Family**

Donation made in Honor of Ingrid Lee by Greg & Dee Fisher Shockley for Adopt-A-Family

Two Donations made in Honor of Vernon & Bobbie Fisher by anonymous for the Food Pantry

Donation made in m/o of all pasted members of Friendship Circle for Adopt-A-Family by Friendship Circle

**Sanctuary Sound system**

Donation made in m/o of Herman “Blink” Cavender by John & Cookie Gunther

Donation made in m/o Ray Randolph by John & Cookie Gunther

Donation made in Honor of Jim & Anna Batten by John & Cookie Gunther

**Centershot**

Donation made in m/o Ray Randolph by Delbert & Lydia Ludwig

**UMW**

Donation made in Honor of Helen Trout by Jim & Polly Hughes

**Andrew Callers**

Donation made in m/o Ray Randolph by Ingrid Lee

## MEMORIAL REPORT



299 North Church Street  
 Ripley, WV 25271

Sunday School Sundays 9:45 am

Worship Sundays 11:00 am

Muffins and More Tuesdays 10:00 am

Handbells Wednesday 5:30 pm

Chancel Choir Wednesday 7:00 pm

Pastor: Reverend Teresa Deane

Office Phone: 304-372-3493

Office Hours: Tues. thru Friday 9am to 12pm

Pastors Cell: 1-304-380-6813

Epworth United Methodist Church

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