

Message from Rev. Deane

Stewards for February & March

Kwire Korner

Memorial Report

Calendars

Centershot

### Inside Newsletter

**Friendship Circle** will meet on Monday, February 10th at 1pm at the home of Ollie Harvey.

#### Save the Date!

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will be hosted by the Inner Circle Class on Tuesday, March 4 from 5:00-6:30.

OUR NEW HANDCHIMES!

Recently, Epworth United Methodist Church purchased a three octave set of Schulmerich Melody Chimes. How exciting! Handchimes are easier to ring than handbells, so they can easily be used by seniors as well as young children. These handchimes also make a great addition to the adult handbell choir, as sometimes handbell music calls for handchimes to chime.

“The King’s Kids,” children from Epworth church in grades second through fifth, debuted the handchimes by playing “Away In a Manger” on December 22, 20013 after the Christmas dinner. Accompaniment was provided by Alyssa Perry, flute, and by Joyce Lawhon, piano.

We are blessed to have several adults working with the King’s Kids. Leaders include Lisa Bailey, Monica French, Kelsey Casto, and Rachel Casto.

The children learn Bible stories, Bible lessons, have been working hands on with the Bible looking up scriptures, memorizing Bible verses and also are currently working on memorizing the books of the Bible.

Our Mission project is collecting 16 oz. jars of peanut butter for the Snak Pak ministry that provides packs of food during the school year for Jackson County WV school children that have no food on weekends. If you would like to donate 16 oz. jars of peanut butter, please give to any 2nd through 5th grade child, or to Lisa Bailey, Monica French, Kelsey Casto, or Rachel Casto.

We will be doing handchimes through mid- February and then will switch back to regular youth meetings. We meet on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00. If you have a child in 2nd through 5th grade interested in joining the King’s Kids youth group, please come join us on Sunday evenings at 6:00.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Epworth Messenger

February/March 2014

Dear Epworth church family and friends,

Welcome to the “It’s still Winter but we are looking ahead to Spring” newsletter!

During the two months of February-March, we move from the liturgical season of “ordinary time” (when the scripture readings and sermons focus on the ministry of Jesus and the life of the Church) through the beginnings of Lent.

 Lent, as many of you know, is the six week period leading up to Easter.  The early church used this time to prepare persons to receive baptism and become professing Christians, or to be reunited with the Church if they had strayed.  It reminds us of the 40 days in the wilderness that Jesus endured after his baptism and just before he began his ministry, which of course then led to his crucifixion and resurrection.  Easter is “late” this year, on April 20th, so our Lenten services don’t begin until the first week of March.

 Here at Epworth, we will have our traditional Pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 4th, and the Ash Wednesday service on the 5th.  That day will also mark the Jackson County Ministerial Association Lenten Luncheon Series, which is hosted this year at Calvary UMC.  (Details to follow in bulletin notes and emails after the JCMA meeting in mid-February)  
  
The “outer” preparations for Holy week and Easter are not as important as the internals.  How do we prepare our own lives and hearts for the great celebration of the story that is central to our faith?  How do we incorporate the story of Jesus’ life, ministry, teaching, death and resurrection into our own lives?  How do we deepen our commitment to God? These are the questions I ask you to think about, during the short, cold days of February and then on to Lent.

 May I suggest that you look up the following scriptures for your daily Bible reading and prayer time:  
Joel chapter 2, especially verses 12-17, Psalm 51, 2 Corinthians 5:20 to chapter 6 verse 10, and the 3 parallel stories of the temptation of Jesus, found in Matthew 4:1-11,  Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4: 1-13.

I look forward to worshipping with you during these holy weeks.

Blessings,  
Terry

Stewards for February

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | Feb. 2 | Feb. 9 | Feb. 16 | Feb. 23 |
| Liturgist | Dr. Hardman | Dannette Lowry | Paula Casto | Youth |
| Greeters | Larry & Celia Parrish | Kevin, Talana & Sadie Brier | Jeff, Susan, Gavin & Gianna Curry | Brad, Margaret, Alec & Grant George |
| Acolytes | Tori Rotenberry  Gavin Curry | Michael Turkaly  Summer Hartley | Brock Matson  Luke Matson | Kaylee Smith  Zoe Miles |
| Infant Nursery | Georgia Webb | Janice Stemple | Rachel Casto | Volunteer |
| Toddler Nursery | Lisa Bailey | Alyssa Perry | Susan Curry | Tonya Gorrell |
| Children’s Church | Erica McVay  Kelsea Casto | Mike Knopp  Julie Morris | Ralph Summers  Georgia Webb | No Children’s Church |
| Head Usher | Hazel Parsons | David Raines | Larry Parrish | Jim Perry |

# Message from Rev. Deane

**WHY DOES CHILDREN’S MINISTRY MATTER?**

Kids matter to God and they should matter to us. Christian parents and churches must do more to reach the next generation.

**HOW DOES CHILDREN MINISTRY BENEFIT THE CHILDREN?**

1. **It helps them make sense out of life.** Only understanding who made the world, what went wrong and God’s plan to fix it can explain this world we all experience.
2. **It’s their best chance to accept Christ.** Research has proven that kids tend to be more receptive to the gospel than any other age group. We want our children to have every opportunity to believe in Jesus.
3. **It can help them learn to love others.** The 2nd greatest commandment is to love your neighbor. We must teach this as a way of life. It provides real life experiences for them to love other people. There are many outreach projects in our church that they can be a part of.
4. **It helps kids want to come to church.** There is nothing wrong with having a program that appeals to the interests of children, especially when it brings more children to hear the Gospel. An example of this is the Centershot program which always includes a devotional.
5. **It helps them make new friends.** Some of the best friend’s children will ever make is in the Church.
6. **It gives them special memories.** Think back to the memories you had of when you were a child in Church. Our children will have memories of Sunday school, the All Saints Party, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, Centershot, Adopt a Family, and other outreach ministries of the church. (MINISTRY-TO-CHILDREN -Tony Kummer)

**CENTERSHOT ARCHERY SPRING PROGRAM BEGINS IN MARCH**

Our spring session will be Tuesday, March 11, Tuesday, March 18, Tuesday, March 25, and Tuesday, April 8, 2014 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. A notice will be placed on our website, [www.epworthumcripley.org](http://www.epworthumcripley.org)/as to the dates and times of each program along with an announcement in the Jackson Herald. The website will include a registration form that you can print, fill out and return to the Church (Epworth United Methodist Church, 200 North Church Street, Ripley, WV 25271). Forms will also be available in the Office. As these forms are received they are placed on a first returned first served basis. There are only 55 slots open and when those are filled we will no longer be able to take students.

If you have questions regarding this process, you may call the office at 304-372-3493 or Frank or Janet Strohl at 304-372-1563.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | March 2 | March 9 | March 16 | March 23 | March 30 |
| Liturgist | Dr. Hardman | Michelle Rotenberry | Mike Webb | Bo Hartley | Youth |
| Greeters | Butch & Debbie Barnette | Larry & Sara Moore | Ingrid Lee & Monica French | Janice Stemple  Laura & Haley Taylor | Chuck, Lisa, Caleb & Lauren Bailey |
| Acolytes | Wyatt Simon  Jadyn Casto | Lauren Bailey  Rory Holmes | Summer Hartley  Brock Matson | Colton Pepper  Chase Pepper | Zoe Miles  Tori Rotenberry |
| Infant Nursery | Monica French | Volunteer | Erica McVay | Susan Curry | Volunteer |
| Toddler Nursery | Haley Taylor | Kelsea Casto | Janice Stemple | Rachel Casto | Marie McCauley |
| Children’s Church | Kelsea Casto  Beth Miller | Georgia Webb  Paula Knopp | Julie Morris  Erica McVay | Mike Knopp  Kathy-Jo Knopp | No Children’s Church |
| Head Usher | Cookey Gunther | Louise Raines | Frank Hughes | Keith Rake | Jim Perry |

Stewards for March



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 just a doggone minute! That is surely not the case at Epworth in Ripley. Listen here: Epworth’s Chancel Choir is not only alive and well, but is thriving!!

Epworth’s choir has been around for a long time, but even though some of us are no long 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 and school-age children, but they also make “music for the Lord” a priority in their lives also. Recently, we are pleased to add our youngest members, 16-yr. old Pamela Johnson (who also brought along her “more than 16 yr. old” mom to sing with us), and 20 yr. old Taryn Matheny (who also has his grandparents who sing with us). Is there an age limit in order to sing with us? No way! Young and old alike are welcome in our midst.

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. 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 announcements by yours truly. Finally, we begin our rehearsal with a warmup 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 show up on Wednesday at 7 pm. No auditions, no dues, and no strings attached. Just come.

Grace, Joy, and Peace,

Joyce Lawhon

Chancel Choir Director

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

How would you feel about a night out with the family where you could see a FREE wholesome movie without having to drive to Charleston or Parkersburg, be comfy in your own chair or blankie, have good fellowship with your friends, and get FREE snacks & popcorn to boot? Yep, that’s what our busy Social Life Committee is offering us.

It all begins on Friday, February 21 at 7 pm in our Epworth Fellowship Center. This movie, for all ages, is “Facing the Giants” and centers on a football coach who finds that the power of God’s Word shows that there’s more to sports than fame and glory. And, did we mention it’s all FREE?

Then, this next one is slated just for adults and includes dinner plus a movie! The date of Saturday March 8 at 6 pm gives you plenty of time to schedule that babysitter. This night out invites us to “Dinner With Jesus of Nazareth.: We begin with an Italian dinner consisting of an Italian entrée, salad, dessert, and drinks followed by the movie “The Perfect Stranger.” The plot tells how a successful attorney, Nikki Cominsky, worries that her life is not perfect. After a mysterious dinner invitation asks her to “Dinner With Jesus of Nazareth,” her journey leads her to a full understanding of who Jesus really is. Our Epworth youth will be serving our dinner and we ask a $5 donation for the youth program.

Finally, on Friday, March 28 at 7 pm, we return to an all ages movie with “The Ultimate Gift.” Did we say FREE again with FREE snacks & popcorn? This movie depicts a man who had given his family everything had actually made them selfish and greedy. One exception, however, a great-nephew (Jason) goes on a year-long spiritual journey teaching him (and us) great lessons in most unexpected ways.

Now, can you beat all this? Young and old: come one, come all! You are invited…….

The United Methodist Women will not have a general meeting in February. All circles will meet as previously planned.    
On Monday, March 3, our group will be hostess to the ladies of Calvary UMC for a dinner meeting for the annual "Call to Prayer and Self Denial." The meal will be served at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Center with the program to follow immediately after. The Circle chairmen will contact their members as to the covered dish needed, and non circle members will be contacted as well. We look forward to a new year of interesting programs and good fellowship.

**Rose Circle** will meet at 10:00 on Feb. 4 at the church for "business" trip to Parkersburg.  Anyone who would like to join us is invited to meet at the church.

**Rose Circle** will have its annual **"Souper Bowl"** soup sale on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2. following the worship service. Soup will be $5 a quart or your greater donation.

**Rose Circle** will do its book study of The Traveler's Gift at its March meeting, March 10.  Anyone who has read the book is invited to join the discussion.  We meet in the parlor.

## MEMORIAL REPORT

**General Fund**

Cindi & Billy Ray Dunn m/o J. W. Parsons and in Honor of Hazel Parsons

Gracie & Hannah Boyles in Honor of our Great Grandmother Hazel Parsons

Joan Hunt in Honor of Rose Circle

Carolyn Tippens in m/o All my family

**Compassion Fund**

Anonymous donor in Honor of Bobbie Fisher

Ingrid Lee m/o Shirley Barnette

**Memorial Fund**

Charlie & Twila Miller in Honor of Garnet Landfried

**Chancel Choir**

Ida Wilson in m/o Edwin Wilson

**Sanctuary Renovation Fund**

Barbara Casto in m/o Aunt Beatrice Jones

Barbara Casto in m/o Uncle Erston Thomas

John & Cookey Gunther in m/o Jean Simon



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

Epworth United Methodist Church