

When in the presence of another Christian you never know the significance a simple remark might have on either of you. Because of such a circumstance and being surrounded by a loving church family, we now have a brand new, leak free roof overhead.

For this, our family is eternally grateful for all who had any part, be it big or small.

Thanks be to God!

The Lokant family

**3rd ANNUAL MOTHERS DAY HAT CONTEST**

**Congratulations to the winners**

**Most Beautiful: Jill Rake**

**Most Creative: Janet McCauley**

**Funniest:**

**Greta Tyler**

**College Graduates** are Brett Barnette, Holly Casto, Abby Fisher, Lexy Kessel, Shasta Morgan, & Olivia Snyder

Message from Rev. Deane

Stewards for June, July & August

Kwire Korner

Memorial Report

Calendars

VBS

Youth News

UMW News

Sanctuary Renovation

### Inside Newsletter

#### Save the Date!

VBS will be from 6:00-8:30pm Sunday thru Thursday.

We had three graduates this year: Jake Casto, Kelsey Casto, and Khalil Thomas

# Epworth’s High School Graduates

Annual Conference

This year the Annual Conference will be held June 12-14 in Buckhannon. In the event of an emergency, you can leave a message on Rev. Deane’s cell phone and she will get back to you.

July 17 & 18

##### Yard Sale

##### VBS

July 27-31

Yard Sale will be 17th from 4-7pm & 18th from 8-1pm

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Epworth Messenger

the

Summer 2014

WHAT:  UP 4 CHRIST, an Outreach Community Youth Rally targeting youth from middle school through college  
WHEN:  Saturday, July 19, 2014  All Day   
                Registration 10:00-11:30  
                11:30 Praise and Worship by Christian Rock Band Torn In Two  
                Keynote speaker Haley Morgan Smith, recording artist and worship leader   
                Lunch is roasted pulled pork BBQs  
                Afternoon activities: Bouncy house/waterslide; K-9 unit, Fishing, cornhole, and more  
                5-7 pm Evening Worship by Torn in Two and Rev. Richie McNeil, pastor Lakeview UMC in St Albans   
WHERE:  Parchment Valley Baptist Conference Center  
COST: Free to participants/  sponsorships and donations accepted/ partly sponsored by the Jackson County Ministerial association  
Families are welcome to attend.  Youth groups encouraged to plan and come together, but anyone may come, for any part of the event.

Dear Epworth Church Family and Friends,  
    Summer time!  After a winter of snow and variable weather, I’m excited for some warm days and starry nights.  
By the time you receive this newsletter, school will be ending and a new Conference year will be starting, as Methodists from across the state gather on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College June 12-15.  Summer camps, junior fair, VBS, and family time will mark the passage of the weeks in June and July.  These long days are a time for growth, in our gardens and in our hearts.    
    I encourage you this summer to read the story of the early church in the book of Acts.  June 8th is Pentecost Sunday, when some of our scripture is from Acts chapter 2, about the coming of the Holy Spirit to the gathered community; we often call this the birthday of the church.  Also on June 8, we will be looking at the story of Moses, who heard God’s call and began a journey that would culminate in the Exodus of God’s people from slavery in Egypt. Scripture sings the song of growth and fruitfulness in the lives of those who will stop and listen to God.  Are you listening?  Are you faithful, in the midst of whatever comes your way?  The Bible speaks of deserts, wilderness, wandering, Valleys of Shadow, slavery, and moments of doubt, parallel and alongside its promises of living water, the river of life, the Garden of Eden, and land of milk and honey.  The Church’s journey flows across time and geography, up and down, but ever onward.  One of the gifts of God is that we make this journey together.  I pray that we will have a renewed sense of community and shared purpose as we continue on God’s path for us.  
    We have lots to celebrate this year; within this newsletter you will find stories about confirmation, graduation, birthdays, and other special events.  The retreat planning committee is also working on our fall retreat---our “problem” now is that we had such good participation last year that we have almost outgrown the overnight housing at any of the church facilities nearby (Spring Heights or Parchment Valley)....it’s a good problem to have!  For right now, let me just say “Save the Dates” of Friday Sept 12-Sunday September 14. As our plans firm up, we will let you know how to sign up for the second annual Epworth family retreat.  
    With the good times always come valleys, too, and we have many folks within our church family who need our love and prayers just now.  Talking to God about someone is a ministry everyone can share in.  “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”  Philippians, chapter 4, verses 6-7.  May God bless us so that we can be a blessing to others.  
    Love,

Terry

Message from Rev. Deane

VBS will offer Adult Class as part of Workshop of Wonders

As part of our Vacation Bible School curriculum we will be offering a Adult Class taught by Rev. Deane every night during VBS. They will learn the same lessons the kids are learning, do a craft, play some games and receive an awesome snack and develop a closer relationship with God. If you have dropped off your child/grandchild and have always wondered how to pass the time for the next 2.5 hours now you have your answer. VBS starts on Sunday, July 27 at 6:00 p.m. and continues through Thursday, July 31 at 8:30. There will be a carnival on Friday night from 6-7:30 p.m. It will be loads of fun. We hope everyone will join us but in order to properly plan we need you to sign up. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or turn it in to Paula in the church office by July 12th.

VBS Adult Class Sign Up

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many will be attending the class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thanks to everyone who supports and attends this wonderful week.

Beth Miller & MaryJane Anderson, VBS Directors

Cardboard (all sizes) play tools mini white lights

Hardhats large boxes kids blocks(all sizes)

Colorful sheets old 45 records art easels

Metal paint cans tool belts wooden frames

Tackle boxes shoe boxes empty spools

Cardboard tubes colorful baskets dress up clothes

Kites pvc pipe sand buckets/shovels

Mini colored Christmas lights stuffed animals legos

Ice cream cylinders Lincoln logs wooden barrels

Colorful laundry baskets colorful fabrics nuts/bolts

Diff sizes glass containers saw horses old file boxes

Old paint chips from paint stores galvanized buckets safety cones

Duplo blocks butterfly/insect nets buttons

Metal washers(all sizes) empty pringles cans lg plastic coffee cans

Large plastic round bulk food containers Empty yogurt containers metal cans (all sizes)

Gears (all sizes) mason jars old paintbrushes (can have paint on them)

Empty butter/whip cream containers milk jugs with lids small cardboard boxes

Jenga game tin cans empty 2 liter bottles

Workshop of Wonders: Imagine and Build with God! Your children after a high energy opening assembly at the wonder workshop where you will meet our mascot for the week, Rivet. The Visioneers will make their way to the Bible Nook where Interactive Bible Lessons reveal five wonder words for following God’s blueprint for our lives and your children will discover vision verses, bible memory verses that will build their faith long after VBS.

The children will expand on what they’ve discovered by participating in a variety of activities: Making their own art projects at the Crafts Lab, singing new music at the Song Studio, exploring science activities at Science Station, participating in recreational activities at the Game Garage, and enjoying tasty snacks at the Snack Stop. The whole week our children and adults will earn tickets that will be turned in on Friday night at our end of week VBS carnival in the back parking lot at the church. This year we are even offering an adult class taught by Rev. Deane.

Gear up! Join us here from Sunday, July 27 through Thursday, July 31 from 6-8:30 p.m. We will offer something from 3 years-Adult and hope to see everyone here.

In order for our VBS to WOW you we are in need of several items you might be able to find around your home as listed below. If you find the items please gather them up and bring them as soon as you can and leave them on the stage in the fellowship hall (upstairs). The items needed are as follows:

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CHANCEL CHOIR SUMMER REHEARSALS

June 4 & 25

July 30

August 27

**Epworth’s Annual Yard Sale**

The Epworth Yard Sale will be July 17 and July 18, 2014.    
Collections will be begin Sunday, July 13, at 1:00 and last through Wednesday, July 16, at 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday morning July 18 will be last-minute pricing and placing of items.  
Sale begins:  Thursday, July 17, at 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Friday, July 18, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.  
Please bring items that are clean and workable.  No electronics or large furniture.  
Refrain from placing items on the stage.  
Contact Teresa Carmichael, Cookey Gunther, or Millie McKee  if you have questions.  
Please schedule a time to help with the Yard Sale.  This is the only fundraiser for Missions for the entire church.

TIE CONTEST

The annual father’s day tie contest will be Sunday, June 15. Don’t forget to wear your “favorite tie”!!!

Stewards for June

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | June 1 | June 8 | June 15 | June 22 | June 29 |
| Liturgist | Brenda Hunt | TBA | Youth | Tyler McCauley | Youth |
| Greeters | Jo Ellen Nicholson | Bill & Arlene Kuryla | Joyce Lawhon | Rod & Donna Felty | Keith & Jill Rake |
| Acolytes | Michael Turkaly  Gavin Curry | Lauren Bailey  Summer Hartley | Brock Matson  Luke Matson | Wyatt Simon  Rory Holmes | Chase Pepper  Colton Pepper |
| Infant Nursery | Monica French | Susan Curry | Marie McCauley | Volunteer | Volunteer |
| Toddler Nursery | Tonya Gorrell | Erica McVay | Amy Perry | Laura Taylor | Georgia Webb |
| Children’s Church | Georgia Webb  Paula Knopp | Lisa Bailey  Kelsea Casto | No Children’s Church | Michelle Rotenberry  Mike Knopp | No Children’s Church |
| Head Usher | Louise Raines | Frank Hughes | Keith Rake | Shelia Lokant | Jim Perry |

Thank you to the Ripley Rockets

4-H club for you generous donation to the Epworth food pantry.

**Father’s Day Celebration!** Please join our Epworth Family after church on June 15th for a Father’s Day reception hosted by Rose Circle immediately following the worship service. Everyone is welcome.

**SPRING HEIGHTS SUMMER CAMP 2014**

Any youth from K-12 that is interested in attending summer youth camp at Spring Heights can pick up a registration form from the church office.



**Epworth has lots to celebrate!**  
Baptized:  Parker Anderson  
Confirmed in the Christian Faith: Parker Anderson, Hunter Miller, Davisson Flint, and Chris Whyte  
Graduating High School:  Jake Casto, Kelsey Casto, Khalil Thomas  
And graduating college or grad school: Brett Barnette, Holley Casto, Abby Fisher, Lexy Kessel, Shasta Morgan

and Olivia Snyder  
Thirty from Epworth attended the Casting Crowns concert in Charleston in May  
Fifty people (many from the community) participated in the spring session of Centershot Archery  
Eighteen were part of the spring planning retreat  
Social Life’s movie nights have between 20-45 people each time  
We celebrated the Third Annual Mother’s  Day hat contest and flower gifts for all the women in church on Mother’s Day  
Epworth hosted the Little Kanawha District Celebration of Mission Event in April, with 84 participants and sales and donations totaling $5252.12 for conference mission projects  
We also donated to Shoes4Strangers, the snack-pak ministry, the food pantry, Habitat, Project Graduation, rehab project on local housing, and other special offerings  
Plus, we are current on our Conference Fair Share, to support all the missions and ministries of the United Methodist Church, worldwide and locally  
 Epworth folks served meals twice during the JCMA Lenten luncheon series at Calvary UMC  
The Epworth hymn sing and talent night on May 18 showcased some fabulous music!  
This year’s VBS will include a study for adults, led by the pastor

Stewards for July

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | July 6 | July 13 | July 20 | July 27 |
| Liturgist | Dr. Hardman | Lynn McCauley | Joan Henthorne | Youth |
| Greeters | Mike & Rachel Tillinghast | Jim & Polly Hughes | Benny & Brenda Hunt | Dick & Helen Casto |
| Acolytes | Brock Mason  Zoe Miles | Gavin Curry  Summer Hartley | Lauren Bailey  Rory Homes | Tori Rotenberry  Luke Matson |
| Infant Nursery | Georgia Webb | Janice Stemple | Rachel Casto | Volunteer |
| Toddler Nursery | Lisa Bailey | Alyssa Perry | Susan Curry | Tonya Gorrell |
| Children’s Church | Georgia Webb  Janet Stohl | Kelsea Casto  Beth Miller | Julie Morris  Ralph Summers | No Children’s Church |
| Head Usher | Don Henthorne | David Raines | Hazel Parsons | Jim Perry |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | August 3 | August 10 | August 17 | August 24 | August 31 |
| Liturgist | Dr. Hardman | Joyce Board | Keith Rake | Sue Overmiller | Youth |
| Greeters | Beth & Hunter Miller | Roger & Jane Winters | Mike, Georgia, Lucia & Vivien Webb | Hazel Parsons & Jeanne Casto | Lynn & Janet McCauley |
| Acolytes | Summer Hartley  Jadyn Casto | Tori Rotenberry  Michael Turkaly | Rory Holmes  Gavin Curry | Colton Pepper  Chase Pepper | Zoe Miles  Lauren Bailey |
| 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 | Janice Stemple  Erica McVay | Mike Knopp  Lisa Bailey | Georgia Webb  Paula Knopp | Beth Miller  Mary Jane Anderson | No Children’s Church |
| Head Usher | Cookie Gunther | Larry Lokant | Louise Raines | Frank Hughes | Jim Perry |

**SANCTUARY RENOVATIONS**

The choir shuffle might be ending soon!  An ad hoc committee empowered by the church administrative board has been meeting all spring to work out details of a renovation to our worship space that will replace the side-facing pews in the front of the church (chancel area) with chairs that face the congregation and can comfortably seat our whole choir. Those of you who have noticed that you could hear the choir better on the few times they stood on the steps and sang out, will now get to hear the anthems in a bigger, bolder way!  YAY!  The same committee has also chosen a contractor to create some platforms and a wider central area in the worship space, to accommodate praise bands, and make the space more accessible for weddings, funerals, and other special services where we need more space than the current set up allows.  Everything will be done to blend in well with the beautiful architectural details of Epworth’s sanctuary.  
    Also, improvements to the seating in the pews will allow for more accessibility for folks in wheelchairs or with other mobility issues.  Our sign out front says “Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors.”  We want to be sure that everyone who wants to worship here can easily participate and feels welcome in our space.  Hospitality is a responsibility from God!  
    These two projects are “Phase One” and “Phase Two” of our goal to make Epworth’s worship align better with the “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” that we studied in small groups and focused on in Sunday worship over the past few years:  Radical Hospitality and Passionate Worship can happen better if our space is configured a little bit differently.  (Just to refresh your memory, the other 3 of the Five Practices are Risk-Taking Mission & Service, Intentional Faith Development, and Extravagant Generosity.)  Because of generous individual donations, these projects are fully funded and we will not be borrowing money or using regular donations and operating expense money to pay for them.  
    We have also discussed, in the ad hoc committee, in small groups, and in open meetings that everyone has been invited to attend, the possible “Phase Three” of incorporating a screen or screens, and projectors for multi-media during worship.  If you visit other churches, you know that many (if not most) now have these items as part of their worship space, and use them every Sunday to project announcements, song lyrics, scripture readings, liturgy, film clips, and other visuals that enhance and tie-in with the sermon.  It’s always, always about God, and how to share the Good News to as many folks as possible, in ways that work today!  Many folks think that this equipment would help people, especially younger people, to be more involved and interested in our worship.  Because of this, we have received some donations toward Phase Three.  A specialist in church sound and video equipment who met with some members gave us estimates and equipment lists, and we’ve had lots of discussions about where and what size screens and projectors could/should be.  One of the big issues in considering the purchase and installation of this kind of equipment is recruiting volunteers to work with it:  folks from churches who use this multimedia tell us that it takes a couple hours  per week, in preparation time and actually running the program. Are you interested in working with computers, multi-media equipment, etc.?  Is there anyone who would volunteer to be trained to run this equipment if we were to purchase it? And are there two or three others who would also be trained, to fill in on Sundays when needed?  Although we have made announcements in worship and asked folks to stay for meetings about renovations, etc., some of you have not been part of the discussion, and that’s why the church office is including this notice in our newsletter.  Again, it’s about finding ways to reach out and share the Good News in as many ways as possible, to as many folks as possible.  Prayerfully consider what you think our next steps should be, join the discussion, and, if God is calling you, volunteer to help!

Stewards for August

As summer approaches and the weekly youth programs end, don't forget to look for opportunities both in the church and outside church for opportunities to teach our children about Christ. Weekly Sunday morning classes will continue. This is the time our children learn the basics of the story of faith. VBS will be coming up. This is an excellent outreach for children beyond our church walls, but it's also an important part of the education of our children within the church. Outside of church, be on the look out for teachable moments of God's grace and love. Whether on a family vacation or watching a movie, there are always moments that can be used to teach about the love and life of Jesus Christ.

**HAPPY 92ND BIRTHDAY TO**

**VERNON FISHER**

**Jackson County Ministerial Association**Fall bowling league interest survey

The JCMA is looking to form some church bowling leagues for fall fun and fellowship.  All ages are welcome!  We would be bowling in Ravenswood.  If you are interested in being part of an Epworth team, let the church office know now.  Details, including times, teams, and schedules, are being worked out this summer, so we can start with lots of enthusiasm in the fall.

**Relay for Life Luncheon** will be Sunday, June 8 following the worship service in the FC. You can bring sandwiches, chips or cookies to share. Donation will be accepted at the door. All money goes to Relay for Life.

**Rose Circle** will have a meeting on August 11, 7:00 in the parlor to plan fall activities.  All Rose Circle members are asked to attend.

There will be no summer meetings for the UMW in June and July. We will have an Executive Committee meeting on August 26 at 1pm in the parlor.

July 24-26 is Mission u @ WV Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. This year theme is: Changing the World-Make It Happen!

On September 8th we will have our Annual Fall luncheon @ noon in the FC. Debbie Higginbotham will be the speaker.

Thank you to 1st UMC in Ravenswood for the lovely dinner and program on May 5. We had 17 ladies from Epworth in attendance.

**General Fund**

Cleta Walker in honor of Noah Green

Donations made in m/o Cindy Jones Parsons by: Drema Cook, Connie Jones, Carolyn Tippens & Hazel Parsons

**Memorial Fund**

Patona & Donzel Parsons in m/o Bill Jones

Pat Holbert in honor of Steve Holbert

Pat Holbert in m/o Dick Landfried

**Sanctuary Renovation Fund**

Donations made in m/o Dick Landfried by: John & Cookey Gunther, Delbert & Lydia Ludwig, Benny & Brenda Hunt

Mike & Rachel Tillinghast in m/o Cindy Jones Parsons

Joan Hunt in honor of Benny Hunt

John & Cookey Gunther in m/o Denver Casto

**Sanctuary Sound System**

Ralph & Lois Nuckles in m/o Dick Landfried

**Centershot**

Donation in honor of Frank & Janet Strohl by the Strugglers SS Class

**Project Graduation**

Donation made in honor of Rae Knopp’s 13th Birthday

**Andrew Callers**

Donations made in m/o of Cindy Jones Parsons by:

Millie McKee, Ingrid Lee, Dee & Greg Shockley, Kirby & Jan Stutler

**Memorial Report**



Go to Epworth’s web site: [**www.epworthumcripley.org**](http://www.epworthumcripley.org)

and look for the link for the Epworth Multi Media survey

WHAT’S AHEAD FOR THE CHOIR?

Epworth has been blessed with a very fine choir for many, many years. We are blessed, too, to have so many of our congregation as dedicated, loving, and faithful members of our choir. Now, before you get excited, none of that is going to change! Perhaps you would like to know, though, what plans are ‘in the hopper’ for the rest of this current calendar year.

Well, to start off with—as we go into the summer months, we have the opportunity to take a little breather. Oh, we’ll still continue to rehearse and sing—just a little less often. (How many choirs still continue to be active through the summer? Here’s a clue…almost none!) What we generally do is rehearse once and sing once during each summer month. That will be no different this year, except for the month of June when we’ll rehearse twice and sing twice. (You know, just like in English class—there’s always an exception to the rule!)

So, then, you can expect no special music each and every week during the summer? Oh no, that’s just not the case at all. We will be blessed with solos, duets, & instrumentals throughout the other weeks. With that being said, many of those songs will be presented by our choir members as individuals.

On another note (musical, of course), I must tell you about a very special anthem that the choir will be doing on June 8th. Its title is “Moses.” It’s all based on the Old Testament Scripture of how Moses was called by God, how he surely just did not want to go, and well; you know the story. Just maybe, though, you should read up on it before June 8th and review it a little. You’ll find it in the book of Exodus and once you get started reading, you won’t be able to stop!! Just start with chapter 1.

That brings us to some additional plans for this anthem. You’ll remember how each year the two U.M. Church choirs in Ripley and two in Ravenswood get together for a Community Choir Festival. We rotate as to which church will host the event. Well, this year it is Epworth’s turn to host and we will be presenting this choir festival on Sunday evening, November 16, in our fellowship center. Now, back to “Moses,”—this will be one of the anthems Epworth will present during that program. Better put Nov. 16 on your calendars now. It’s a not-to-be-missed musical event!

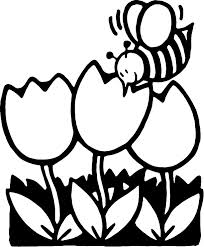
Finally, the Sanctuary Renovation Committee has devised a plan which will be implemented this summer whereby the front of the sanctuary platform will be increased in size and the choir will then be able to sit as one cohesive unit facing and singing to people, rather than opposite walls. This will also allow for adequate room for groups and various instruments to present their programs. Further implementation of this plan will also give the congregation more room between pews and will provide designated spaces for those with physical limitations. All of this will be done while still maintaining the same beauty of our sanctuary.

So, as you can see, the rest of this year will be full of energy, vitality, and moving ahead as well as our greatest priority—praising our Lord and Master and being thankful for all He has done for us!! Have a wonderful summer!

Grace & Peace,

Joyce Lawhon

Chancel Choir Director



**Early Worship Service Sundays 9:00 am**

**Sunday School Sundays 9:45 am**

**Worship Sundays 11:00 am**

**Muffins and More Tuesdays 10:00 am**

**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

299 North Church Street  
Ripley, WV25271

EPWORTH UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH