May 2014

A Note from Pastor Chip:

As you know by now you will have the joy and honor of receiving Donna Parramore as Epworth’s pastor on Sunday, June 29th. A new chapter in Epworth’s history will begin on that day and you will find that God has lead the Bishop and cabinet well in selecting Donna to be Epworth’s pastor. Donna possesses the gifts and graces Epworth needs in this upcoming era. She is a seasoned preacher who loves to preach and teach in addition to her heart for pastoral care. You will find her to be personable, faithful, and especially gifted for the task of leading Epworth into a bright future.

Donna comes to Epworth after serving Ebenezer UMC in New Johnsonville for nine years. You should know that Ebenezer has been thrilled with Donna and her leadership. The folks in New Johnsonville grieve her departure. However, these times of transition remind us that the United Methodist Church is a connectional church. Our mission as United Methodist (to make disciples) connects all United Methodist churches in many different ways and is especially visible in pastoral transitions. Donna has done a tremendous job in New Johnsonville and is now the right person to lead Epworth. Although she will miss Ebenezer, she is excited about coming to Epworth.

On June 29th Donna will officially be your pastor. Please welcome her with open arms. Experts say that moving is one of the top three major stresses in life and pastors are not exempt from this stress. Epworth is known conference wide for your generosity and care. Be sure to take time from your busy schedule to grace Donna with that care.

Deb, the kids and I thank you for all that you have done for us over the years. Watching children grow, enjoying fellowship, and working together to help make disciples has been a joy. I have great memories of fun times here at Epworth as I look forward to a new season for our family. You will always have a special place in our hearts.

It is the United Methodist custom to celebrate the ministry of pastors both leaving and coming, but not to hang on to the past. In order for Donna to be well established as your new pastor we will need to hug, cry, celebrate, remember, and move boldly into the future God has for my family and for Epworth. As much as a pastor’s heart would love to come back and be a part of special occasions, a pastor’s role is to serve fully where they are appointed. For this to happen we all welcome the transition and look forward to building new relationships. You will be blessed by the new relationship you form with Donna! God is good.
On Wednesday night, May 14th, these youth will be “roasted” as well as honored at the Family Night Supper at 6:15 p.m. in Vaden Hall. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend to help celebrate this milestone with our youth and their families.

Epworth Blood Drive........June 1, 2014
8 a.m.—noon

Facts about blood needs:
- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- A total of 30 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.
- The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 pints.
- The blood type most often requested by hospitals is Type O.
- The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs.
- Sickle cell disease affects more than 70,000 people in the U.S. About 1,000 babies are born with the disease each year. Sickle cell patients can require frequent blood transfusions throughout their lives.
- More than 1.6 million people were diagnosed with cancer last year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.

Job Opening at Epworth UMC: Director of Children And Family Ministries
Job summary: Serves as staff member of Epworth UMC with overall responsibility for creating and driving implementation of a progressive children’s ministry and family ministry. Develops and implements plans for each ministry in collaboration with Church Council and aligned with the vision and mission of Epworth UMC. A detailed listing of primary responsibilities and qualifications is posted on the bulletin boards and available in the church office and the communications table in the Narthex. Contact John Sowell at johnmsowell@yahoo.com for more information or to apply for position.

Radical Hospitality
Vibrant, fruitful, growing congregations practice radical hospitality. Christian hospitality is the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the undying richness of life in Christ.

One way to engage in this at Epworth United Methodist Church is to welcome strangers and guests. We are a very welcoming group and can overwhelm newcomers with our love! In order to make it easier for guests to remember our names, wearing a nametag can assist our guests in helping them feel at home. You know your own name, but others may not know your name. The nametag is designed to help others connect with you and our church family. Please consider ordering and wearing a nametag. Contact the church office or sign up for a nametag on the bulletin board outside the new sanctuary.

Bell Choir Director and Summer Bell Choir Camp
We are in need of a Volunteer Bell Choir Director at Epworth. If you are interested in applying for the position, please contact Laurie Evans at laurie.evans@epworth-umc.com or call 615-354-3906. Beginning in June, the Bell Choir will host a Summer Camp for those who would like to learn the techniques of “bell ringing” and will rehearse musical selections. Bell Choir members will alternate each week in leading the “summer camp” sessions in the sanctuary (new site). We hope youth and adults will join together in ringing the bells!
News from the Ends of the Earth Missions Team:
$2100 of Faith Promise funds were recently sent to Tanzania for the new construction of a much needed guest house at the Pommern Parish. Here is the acknowledgement from our partner, Pastor Sagga:

Hello Cindy
I would like to thank you so much; I have already received money for foundation construction. Therefore we have started to prepare for cleaning site, may be next week project will start. Convey more thanks to the church, we appreciate your contribution, have a good preparation of Easter may God bless you.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our MIC a great success! Thank you to all who participated and made Faith Promises or Life Commitments to be in mission with God! Please pray for the Outreach Team as we seek to discern how to use the resources you pledged which totaled $57,238!

The Epworth Friends College Ministry will meet on Sunday, May 18th, 11:30 p.m. in Vaden Hall. Please join us for the “revealing” of who secret friends were for the year and enjoy a lunch together. Contact Cindy Peden for more info.

Liturgist for May:
8:00 Colleen Perry
10:30 Brad Temple

Acolytes:
8:00 a.m. Amanda Grisham
10:30 a.m. Lyla Reasons

Greeters:
8:00 Betsy Losee
10:30 Chuck/Peggy Hawkins

Ushers:
8:00 David/Laura Grisham
10:30 Rob/Robyn Roten

Pillowcases for “Sweet Sleep”
If you would like to sew pillowcases for our mission partner, Sweet Sleep, please take an instructional sheet from the information table in the Narthex. Return finished pillowcases and add your name and quantity to the list. Sweet Sleep will distribute them with beds, bedding and Bibles to orphans and foster children through the world. You may contact Marianne Richards (791-0904) for information or mc_richards@bellsouth.net for an emailed instruction sheet with fabric requirements and web links for patterns and tutorial.

Dedication for fireplace at the pavilion to be held
The dedication of the fireplace and grill recently built in memory of Jimmy Lillard will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday May 31st at the pavilion. Bring your own lawn chairs, but the FOOD will be provided! Epworth Mountain Soul will be here along with lots of other musical guests. Bring the whole family and your neighbors and join us for this wonderful time of fun, fellowship and memories.

Readers Volunteers Needed! Project Transformation
We are partnersing with Project Transformation again this summer! Project Transformation is a summer program that matches Christian college students with children in needy communities of Nashville through an 8-week literacy summer camp. More than thirty-six college-aged interns have answered the call to mentor and love these children. They need our help.

Project Transformation partners with local churches like ours to complete their mission. They need volunteers to read with the children that they serve. Epworth is being asked to send at least ten people each day to read one-on-one with the children for a few hours this summer. No special training is needed and they will provide all supplies.

Monday – Thursday, June 23-26, we need volunteers (age 13+) to read with the children at Antioch United Methodist Church from 9:15 to 12:15. Even if you cannot commit to all four days, could you possibly attend two? We can carpool to the location and will be given the instructions we need to be successful. You will be blessed by the experience of sharing your time with these needy children. To get more information on this project or to volunteer your time, please contact Colleen Lowe at mcdiowe@yahoo.com.

A second opportunity to be in mission with Project Transformation is bringing dinner to the interns residing at Belmont and working in the program. Watch for the dates that Epworth UMC will be bringing a hot meal to these students and how you can help.
Please join us for worship on Sunday!
8 am and 10:30 am
Sunday School at 9:15 am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don't forget **Feeding Under the Bridge** on Friday May 16. We carpool from the parking lot beside Steak 'n Shake at 4:30 p.m. or you can meet at the Salvation Army Center in Nashville at 5:30 p.m. Questions, call Teresa Gary (615/218-8882) or Tim Underwood at (615/812-0700)

**May**

- 1.20pm Iglesia (H)
- 4.00pm UMYF (H)
- 6.30pm Church Council (H)

| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | |

**The church office will be closed on Monday May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.**

**A Gift for Mom**

The two young children told their mother that she was not to lift a finger on Mother's Day. They were going to do all the cooking! So, they got out three pots, two frying pans, six measuring spoons, three mixing bowls, a double boiler, a chopping board and eight serving dishes.

Mom said it was the best Jell-O she had ever tasted!