

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The sanctuary flowers are given to the  
Glory of God and in honor of  
Our Children by Donna & James Faircloth.

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The welcome center flowers are given to the  
Glory of God and in honor of Helen Pharris'  
80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Steve & Lyn Pharris.

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Choir Director	Lyn Pharris
Church Administrator	Susan Snider
Custodians	Martha Conklin Barbie Webb
Media & Communications	Dawn Wilson
Music Director	Bob Lee
Nursery Worker	Martha Conklin
Pastor	Tony G. Crosby
Interim Worship Leader	Kayla Moss

**THIS COMING WEEK**

Sunday, August 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Monday, August 14, 2017

6:30 p.m. New Life UMW Group Meeting  
6:30 p.m. UMM Meeting

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

10:30 a.m. GRSA Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Meeting  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper

**CONTACT US**

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Pastor's Cell (706) 329-2484  
Church Website: www.epworthumc.com  
Church (706) 322-6973  
Fax (706) 322-0492

6:15 p.m. Praise Team Practice

6:30 p.m. Study

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, August 20, 2017

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monday, August 21, 2017

6:30 p.m. Growing Christians UMW Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper  
6:30 p.m. Study

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

7:00 p.m. Feeding Rose Hill UMW

Epworth connects and equips  
all kinds of people to  
seek, serve, and share Christ.

**What About Free Will and Predestination?**

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

Romans 8:29-30 (NRSV)

*The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3:9 (NRSV)

Last week, we attempted to deal with the “problem of evil” and sought answers to the first question in Our Biggest Questions series. I mentioned that this week’s message would be a sort of “part two” to that sermon. One of the issues we considered was if God is all powerful and evil is real, that may suggest that God is the cause of all things, even evil things. This question leads us into yet another significant theological debate surrounding the topic of predestination.

Most of us do not vehemently debate free will and predestination all that often. This issue, however, has been addressed by theologians for centuries. The historic protestant theological “schools” in which these ideas are founded had lasting impact on the churches and denominations we find today. The principles of predestination are often associated with the teachings of John Calvin whose teachings are foundational for many Presbyterians, Baptists, and other so-called “reformed” churches. The school of thought often associated with free will comes from the teachings of Jacob Arminius and is the foundational background for Methodists, Holiness, and many Pentecostal churches. This doesn’t mean that every one of these denominations subscribes to every teaching of these theologians, but it definitely sets us in different “camps” of thinking.

As we come to discuss this issue, some of the questions were based in Biblical characters. For example, did Adam and Eve REALLY have a choice about eating the forbidden fruit? Did Judas have a choice in betraying Jesus or not? Were these actions predetermined? Our questions around this issue are significant because the answers help us understand the very nature of God and us. What is really at work when we say “everything happens for a reason?” Are we accepting a predestination-oriented understanding of God that somehow makes God the culprit behind our calamities? What does it mean when we say “God is my pilot” or “God is my co-pilot”? Is God flying the plane or are we? What are we really saying when we soothe ourselves in the midst of tragedy by saying “God is in control.” Does that make us feel better or does that raise more questions than answers?

The truth is that we have to take a deep look at who God is, who God made us to be, and look at the whole of the Bible to make sense of this issue. We will once again probably end this day with questions still unanswered, but there is growth to be had in seeking God’s nature and how God walks with us through our life’s journey.

In Christ,



## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

### THE CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Kindergarten - 5th Grd.: Margaret Gosden  
Youth: Rev. Tony Crosby

### THE FRIENDSHIP CLASS

Study: Class Discussion  
Teacher: Class

### THE GENESIS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...  
Teacher: Leslie Morris

### THE JOY CLASS

Study: I Love Growing Older, but...  
Teacher: Class

### THE NATHAN PATTERSON/WESLEY CLASS

Study: 2 Peter 3  
Teacher: Bobby Smith

### THE NEW CONNECTIONS CLASS

Study: Beter Together  
Teacher: Debra Johnson

### THE NO NAME CLASS

Study: Wired Word  
Teacher: Suzy Revell

### THE QUESTORS CLASS

Study: Exodus  
Teacher: Rev. Tim Paulk

### THE SEEKERS CLASS

Study: Class Discussion  
Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

## MEMORIAM

Given to the Children's Ministry in memory of  
*Frances Griffin* by Buddy & Susan Dunn.

Given to the Children's Ministry in memory of  
*Jimmy McCullough* by Buddy & Susan Dunn.

Given to the General Fund in memory of  
*Frances Griffin* by Bobby & Callie Clark,  
Carolyn Gambill, Steve Sawyer and the  
Questors Sunday School Class.

Given to the Rose Hill Ministry in memory of  
*Frances Griffin* by Richard & Clarel Fowler.

## THOSE WHO SERVE SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. Worship Service:

Greeter: Barbara Stubbs

Usher: Randy Morris

Acolyte: Usher

Children's Church: ***Needed***

11:00 a.m. Worship Service:

Greeter: Lillian Wooldridge

Ushers: James Faircloth, Steve Whittington

Acolyte: Ema Cheraisi, Emma Knight

Children's Church: Janet Cheraisi

Nursery Volunteer: Vicky Griffin

Financial Secretary: Shawn Jandreau

Turn Key: John Daniel

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

August 6, 2017

Tithes & Offering: \$9,859.00

Received To Date: \$185,724.12

Needed To Date: \$217,747.20

Building Fund: \$100

### ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School 62

Worship: 9 a.m. 52

Worship: 11 a.m. 81

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## YOUTH & CHILDREN

**Youth Meetings** - resumes Tuesday, August 15, at 6:30 p.m., in the Youth room. Please join us and invite a friend.

**Youth & Children Sunday School Classes** - For a great lesson, wonderful fellowship in a Safe Sanctuaries approved environment, classes are by age/grade beginning at 10 a.m.

**Pray for our kids and teachers** - School is back in session for all our children and teachers in the surrounding area. Lift them up in prayer.

## MISSIONS

**August Mission Focus** - Wynnton Neighborhood Network. Items needed: Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Canned meat, Canned tomato products, Macaroni and Cheese, Spaghetti sauce and noodles, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Soup, Rice, Toilet paper, Bar soap, Laundry detergent (powdered or pods). Monetary donations are always appreciated. Our goal this month is 300 items. Place your items on the Mission Cart.

**Summer of Service** - Do a kind thing, give a small gift, offer a hand to someone in need and share what you did (without your name) on a leaf on our "Summer of Service" tree in the welcome center. We want to see how alive our congregation is in service to our neighbors.

**Volunteers Needed for Magnolia Manor** - Rev. Vickie Scott, the chaplain at Magnolia Manor campus here in Columbus, is seeking to increase the presence of United Methodist churches in our senior adult ministries. Volunteers are being sought to bring musical programs, visit residents, conduct Bible studies, or more. Contact Tony if you are interested and he will connect you with Rev. Scott.

**Social Second Sundays** - Let's all be a part of spreading the word about Epworth with our social media accounts. People of all ages are on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and more. Beginning today, we are going to encourage "Social Second Sundays" in which we are asking everyone to share something from church or church activities on the 2nd Sunday of the month. You might share a photo from worship or a quote from the sermon or a Sunday school lesson. Maybe you have participated in some ministry and you would like to share a word about it. Let's let our friends and family know that we are excited about what God is doing at Epworth in us and through us.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Our Biggest Questions Sermon Series** - continues this Sunday, August 13. Please plan to attend to find out the answers to questions you and others have submitted.

**AA Support Group Meeting** - every Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m., Questors classroom as available.

**New Life UMW Meeting** - Monday, August 14, at 6:30 p.m., in the Woods. Hosted by Marguerite Hay and Debra Johnson.

**UMM Meeting** - Monday, August 14, at 6:30 p.m., location to be announced.

**GRSA Meeting** - Tuesday, August 15, at 10:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

**Wednesday Night Supper & Study** - August 16, at 6 p.m. For the menu and to make reservations, see the information board. There will be a study at 6:30 p.m. *Do I Need to Change? I Do Need to Change!* by John Ed Mathison, our homecoming preacher. Copies are in the welcome center for \$12 each.

**Growing Christians UMW Meeting** - Monday, August 21, at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. If anyone is interested in knowing more about this group or joining, contact Becky Britton.

**Reachers UMW Group Meeting** - Tuesday, August 29, in the Questors classroom.

**Office Closed** - Monday, September 4, in observation of Labor Day.

**Church Council Meeting** - Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Homecoming** - Sunday, September 17. Guest pastor, Rev. John Ed Mathison. Bring your favorite covered dish to share for lunch following the 11 a.m. service. Make plans to attend.

**Upper Room Devotionals** - September/October issue is available from the WWC. Cost is \$1.25, regular, and \$1.75, large.

**EPWORTH PRAYER LIST**

**Church Family**

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kitty Crockett
Sibyl Wells	Keri McElvey	Jan Shackelford	Kernodle Family
Judy Scanling	Barbara Watson	Helen Batastini	Scott & Sheila Dunn
Elsie Spanogians	Faircloth Family	Aaron Jackson	Lorene Carlisle
Jimmy Bridges	Kristii Daniel	Melonie Phillips	Joe Flynn
Frances Griffin			

**Extended Church Family**

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Dr. Drew Williams	Laurie Osteen	Jayce Foster	Preston Silvernail
Dora Spires	Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Brian Tench
Shirley Mann	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill	Ken Green
Kim Jordan	Charlie Rolling	Clyde Hutto	Kristy Stier
Dorothy Ogg	Susan Simpson	Elaine Miller	Bruce Chapman
Joyce Kuester	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin
Tyrone Mims	Stephanie Bryan	Glen Horace Daniel	Pearce Family
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Bill & Pat Waldo	Joseph McKey	Henry Dunn
Robin Grantham	Diane Wiggins	Jim Wetherington	Adams Family
Bill Stubbs	Ginger Jarvis		

**Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound**

Calvary Community - Lou Williams	River Place - Betty Cummings, Jane Sanders
Covenant Woods - Nelle Lloyd, Bettie Davis	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska	Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman
Manor House - Cammie Van Over	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

***(Please continue to pray for our homebound folks. They would love a visit.)***

*If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office*

*or leave a note with updates. Help us minister effectively by*

*calling the church office about yourself or a family member. Thank you for your help.*

***Would you like the joy of helping your church?  
Do you have the gift of service?  
Here’s an excellent opportunity for you!***

**Team Members Needed  
For  
Wednesday Supper Clean-Up**

Please don’t put this form aside and ignore this chance to be of service. We *need* you! Whether you regularly attend Wednesday Suppers, or only attend occasionally, or you don’t attend at all, this is still an excellent opportunity for you to help your church.

We’d like to form 4 teams of 4 to 5 people to help with clean-up after our Wednesday Suppers. Each team would serve only one Wednesday night a month with Team #1 serving as the clean-up crew on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, Team #2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, and so forth. Even though there are 5 Wednesdays this month, we will have suppers only 4 times; our Teams will serve in order starting with Team #1 on August 9.

To become a Team Member and help your church, please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate today or you may hand it to Jeff Stolpa, Buddy Dunn, or Susan Dunn. Thank you!

Also, if you can help with supper preparation (if needed occasionally) please indicate that on the form as well.

*Thank you for being willing to help meet this need.  
If you’re unable to serve on a Team due to work/time constraints or other limitations,  
we covet your prayers for the Supper Ministry and all its Team Members.*

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ALL INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Check one of the boxes above for your preferred method of contact.*

**Yes! I can serve on:**

[ ] Team 1 [ ] Team 2 [ ] Team 3 [ ] Team 4

[ ] I can serve on any Team [ ] I can serve as a substitute

*Check all that apply to you but you will serve on only one Team.*

[ ] **Yes! I can help with supper preparation if/when needed.**