The Transforming Power of Generosity

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10 (NRSV)

Despite the fact that I am a city dweller these days, I grew up a country boy. My brother and I grew up on 40 acres of land. My father helped his parents make a living on this land for many years. I can only imagine all of the different harvests this little plot has produced: everything from peanuts to soybeans to cotton to tobacco to watermelon and many more. In addition to all of these for-profit crops, decades of summer vegetable gardens have also come from this plot of land. Butterbeans, blackeye peas, zipper peas, green beans, okra, corn, tomatoes, squash, and many more have filled the freezers of my own family and many of our friend's freezers from the bounty of all that would come from this plot of family land.

One thing that has been consistent through the years is that in order for anything of worth to grow from that dirt, seeds had to be planted. If seeds were not intentionally planted, then the remnants of whatever may have been left from the past would have come up and been swiftly smothered by the weeds that would overtake it. Instead, seeds were sown and the field was tended. By the providence of God, the ground and seeds come together with the blessings of rainfall and the miracle of life and the produce of fruit and vegetable happens. This is what we are called to do at Epworth. We have a field to tend. We must do the seeking, serving, and sharing on our plot of land. However, if we do not sow for the harvest, we can find ourselves tending a fruitless field. In order for us to see the mighty harvest that I believe God is ready to bring to our field of good soil, we must sow seeds. And we will reap as we sow. Generous sowing will produce generous yield.

Like my little family farm, if we sow faithfully, we will have food for the family and a bountiful harvest to share with the world. We will see lives changed in the family and we will see lives changed in the world around us. It will only happen if we sow generously.

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Just like the family farm, we can often look at our little field and wonder what we can do with our seemingly small plot of ground. We must see our plot of land with God's eyes, not ours. God is ready to do mighty things with our 40 acres. Will we sow generously to allow God to work?

Oh, God! Thank you for the fruit you have brought forth in Epworth throughout the years. Thank you, Epworth, for giving to the Lord! Lives have been changed. Lord, help us sow for the future so that your hopes and dreams for our church can become reality.

In Christ,
**SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M**

THE CHILDREN'S CLASSES
- Kindergarten - 5th Grd.: **Needed**

THE FRIENDSHIP CLASS
Study: God's Covenant with David
Teacher: Barbara Stubbs

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: Jude
Teacher: Margaret Gosden

THE NEW CONNECTIONS CLASS
Study: 40 Days of Community
Teacher: Mary Lee Crews

THE CHILDREN'S CLASSES
- Nursery 11 a.m.: **Needed**

**SERVANTS NEEDED**

If you feel led to volunteer or would like more information, please contact the church office. You will be trained and added to the schedule.

9 a.m. Acolytes: All Sundays
9 a.m. Ushers: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays
Children’s Sunday School: 4th Sundays
Children’s Church: 9 a.m. - 2nd Sunday
Children’s Church: 11 a.m. - 4th Sunday
Nursery 11 a.m.: 4th Sunday
Turn Key: 1st and 5th Sundays

**THOSE WHO SERVE**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service:
- Greeter: Mary Lee Crews
- Usher: Shawn Jandreau, Steve Sawyer
- Acolyte: Usher

Children’s Church: Anne Wilson
11:00 a.m. Worship Service:
- Greeter: Suzy Revell
- Ushers: Janie Nellums, Jan Shackelford
- Acolyte: Eva Cheraisi, Emma Knight

Children’s Church: **Needed**

Nursery Volunteer: **Needed**

Financial Secretary: Bryan Pruett
Turn Key: Baron Conklin

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

October 15, 2017

Tithes & Offering: **$3,428.00**
Received To Date: **$226,422.40**
Needed To Date: **$283,731.20**
Building Fund: **$0**

**ATTENDANCE**

- Sunday School: 70
- Worship: 9 a.m.: 37
- Worship: 11 a.m.: 72

**YOUTH & CHILDREN**

**Youth Meeting** - Tuesday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m., in the Youth room. You are welcome to invite a friend.

**Epworth’s Fall Festival** - Saturday, October 28, between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free games, candy, hot dogs and lots of fun. For children of all ages. Join us!

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

Congratulations to Blair & Cam Willis and the Morris family on the birth of Hayes Kardane Willis, who was born on Friday, October 13.

**MISSIONS**

October Mission Focus - We will send monetary donations to UMCOR Disaster Response, International. 100% of your donation reaches the ministry. When a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the United States, UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. Please give! Mark your Offering envelope, “UMCOR.”

**Fall Festival Needs** - Please donate small toys and individually-wrapped candy. Place donations in the bucket located in the foyer. There are many ways you can volunteer. If interested, please contact Rosemary DiSimone, Debra Ledbetter or Melanie Phillips.

**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**

To make donations toward the Epworth team, go online at www.afsp.donordrive.com.

**Helping Hands Ministry** - Pick up a form from the information rack. Return to Becky Britton, Barbara Stubbs or the church office.

**Wynnton Neighborhood Network September 2017 Report** - We served 1,336 bags of food to 340 families which included 331 children. We helped 56 families with utilities and spent $3,740.39. Your support genuinely changes lives in Muscogee County.

**Tree of Life Memorial** - Memorials can be made for members of the Epworth UM or Hamp Stevens UM churches. Fill out a form and return it with your gift made out to UMCOR. Every donation reaches the ministry. When a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the United States, UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. Please give! Mark your Offering envelope, “UMCOR.”

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**THEME OF THE WEEK**

- **Advent Devotional**

Looking for a different way to celebrate Advent this year? Write your story for our Advent devotional! Testimony-based stories that reflect your life and walk with God should be submitted by November 1, 2017. Check the information center rack for forms and/or to submit your form.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

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

**AA Support Group Meeting** - every Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. and every Saturday, at 5 p.m., in the Questors classroom.

**Wednesday Night Supper & Study** - October 25, at 6 p.m. Menu: scrambled dogs, salad bar and dessert. To make reservations, sign up on the information board. At 6:35 p.m., both studies continue from the Book of Ephesians or I Am a Church Member.

**Adult Bible Study** - every Thursday, at 9 a.m., in the Questors classroom. Contact Debra Johnson if you are interested.

**Prayer Team Meeting** - Thursdays, at noon, at Margaret Gosden’s home.

**Reformation Sunday** - October 29

**MEMORIAM**

Given to the Choir Fund in memory of Gene Knox by Buddy & Susan Dunn.

Given to the Choir Fund in memory of Bruce Zimmerman by Mary Lee & Sidney Crews.

Given to the Parsonage Fund in memory of Tom Evans by Lee Rogers.

Given to the General Fund in memory of Frances Griffin and Bruce Zimmerman by Earlene Gresham.

**EWPWORTH ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

Looking for a different way to celebrate Advent this year? Write your story for our Advent devotional! Testimony-based stories that reflect your life and walk with God should be submitted by November 1, 2017. Check the information center rack for forms or visit our website to submit a copy. Contact Susan at susan@epworthumc.com or Stacey at srpruet@yahoo.com for more information and/or to submit your form.
### Church Family
- Fred & Emilie Carswell
- Vanessa Desoto
- Sibyl Wells
- Judy Scanling
- Elsie Spanogians
- Ann Smith
- Blount King
- Ron & Betty Sawyer
- Keri McElvey
- Barbara Watson
- Aaron Jackson
- Glenn Griffin
- Gladys Plant
- Thrower Family
- Jan Shackelford
- Helen Battistini
- Joe Flynn
- Trudy Harris
- Kittye Crockett
- Kernodle Family
- Scott & Sheila Dunn
- Jimmy Bridges
- Vanessa Desoto
- Ron & Betty Sawyer
- Thrower Family
- Kittye Crockett
- Sibyl Wells
- Keri McElvey
- Jan Shackelford
- Kernodle Family
- Judy Scanling
- Barbara Watson
- Helen Batastini
- Scott & Sheila Dunn
- Elsie Spanogians
- Joe Flynn
- Jimmy Bridges
- Ann Smith
- Glenn Griffin

### Extended Church Family
- Steve & Carol Guilbeault
- Dotty Baker
- Miranda "Randy" Jones
- Willie Ryles
- Kim Jordan
- Joyce Kuester
- Sandra & Jeff Anthony
- Ralph & Sandy McGough
- Michael Taff
- Ricky Clark
- Laurie Osteen
- Judy Patterson
- Kristy Stier
- Marilyn Buck
- Henry Dunn
- Diane Wiggins
- David Olson
- Robbins Family
- Preston Silvermail
- Cassie Prochaska
- Dorothy Ogg
- Danny Chiester
- Adams Family
- Stephanie Bryan
- Doyle Adams
- Andrew Wade
- Dora Spires
- Billy Hill
- Bruce Chapman
- Beth Goodwin
- Ginger Jarvis
- Robin Grantham

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

### Helping Hands Ministry
**Sponsored by Epworth UMW**

Are you living alone? Do you need someone to help you with replacing light bulbs? AC filters? Batteries in a smoke detector? Have you given up driving? Do you need a ride to the doctor? Grocery store? The local drug store?

Helping Hands Ministry just may be for YOU! Epworth's UMW will connect you with volunteers at Epworth to help you with these tasks. If you have questions, feel free to ask Becky Britton or Barbara Stubbs more about this new ministry for those who live alone.

Complete one of the forms at the bottom of this sheet if you want to be part of this ministry. Put the form in the collection plate, give it to Becky Britton or Barbara Stubbs personally or to Susan Snider in the church office.

### Those who need HELP:

Name:______________________________________________________________________
Address:____________________________________________________________________
Home phone:___________________________Cell phone:_________________________

### Those who will VOLUNTEER to help:

Name:_____________________________________________________________________
Address:___________________________________________________________________
Home phone:___________________________Cell phone:_________________________

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*Helping Hands Ministry*

(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.*