

EPWORTH NEWS & NOTES

A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church in Indianapolis

Spring Edition 2017



Pastor Rodney's Ramblings

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God. I Timothy 2:15 KJV

A recent study revealed that just 48 hours after exercise our muscles stop building and repairing themselves. It is easy to conclude then that as a result of our inconsistent faith workout we fall behind in our knowledge and understanding of God and faith in our lives. Is it any wonder that we struggle with our faith, especially if Sunday morning is the only workout we get.

It has been found that students that participate in summer reading programs make substantial gains in reading skills and return to school with increased confidence and excitement. That made me think that perhaps we need a summer reading program at church. What if we all spent some time this summer reading some things to help challenge and grow our faith?

Our Church Library contains books suitable for all reading levels and all ages. Not sure what to read this summer? We have a list of suggestions available in the library. Here are just a few of the books on my summer list (Spoiler Alert: My readings often lead to sermon series):

- *Baseball as a Road to God* by John Sexton
- *Slow Church* by Smith and Pattison
- *The Feasts of The Lord* by Howard and Rosenthal
- *Holy Curiosity* by Winn Collier
- *The Gospel in the Marketplace of Ideas* by Copan/Litwak

Summer is nearly here and school's almost out. So when the rain comes or the heat becomes unbearable, grab a good book, settle down for an afternoon, and challenge your faith. There are also a number of learning opportunities taking place this summer during the week. And you can always give your faith a good workout on Sunday mornings!

See you around? *Pastor Rodney*

This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you You are my friends if you do what I command you. John 15:12-14 CEB

Communication Plan

Our Communication's Team has been hard at work this year to develop a communication plan that will get our simple message of loving, growing, and serving to more people.

This newsletter is one of the new ways that we plan to reach people, but there is more to come:

New Attendance Software

Epworth is making a shift to *Servant Keeper*, a church membership software that will allow us to keep track of membership and group data like never before.

New Website

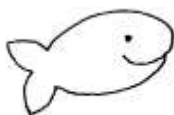
Did you know that nearly 75% of people search for a church online before even stepping foot into a church building? Our Communications Team has been working with IronGate Creative to develop a new website that will help be easier to navigate and update allowing us to reach more people

Much More to Come!

More exciting opportunities are on the horizon! Our team is always looking for new ways to serve Epworth, and we're very excited about a number of projects that we have in the works. Stay tuned to learn more information about our new Communication Plan as it is completed in the next several months.

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2017 Annual Fish Fry
June 15,16,17



Same Fish - Same Weekend - New Purpose

*What if your participation in a fish fry could help end hunger?
What if the hunger was in Guatemala? or Indianapolis?
What if a fish fry could create 40,000+ meals to help feed the hungry?*

Sign up to End Hunger and be a part of the Annual Fish Fry
Volunteers are needed — You can make a difference
Registration available at Church - Register today for a shift



Loving



A Note from John

Accessibility Project Updates ...

A long and complicated list of issues that have delayed the addition of a new drive up and drop off lane in front of the church have been resolved. Construction should begin within the next two weeks and will take about 4 weeks to complete. In addition to this improvement, the steps to the front door will be rebuilt to provide wider tread steps and the ramp space will get a beautification upgrade as the exposed concrete will get a coat of stucco and the sidewalk crack repaired. Upon completion we will be working on updating the signage in the parking lot and around the building grounds to provide better directional help to those encountering our building for the first time.

New Ways to give Electronically

Upon a recommendation from the United Methodist General Committee of Finance and Administration, we have entered into an agreement with Vanco Services to provide electronic giving for those that request it. Electronic Giving is easy and convenient and a great way to make sure your offering is consistently given to the church each week or month. Changes can be made easily during the year. Sign up is also easy. **Forms are available by request** from the church office. Please consider making this a part of your Stewardship plan.

Did we mention that it was easy?



Happy Easter Everyone!

Even though the actual day has passed, it is still the Easter Season, so, on behalf of the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and the Praise Team, I would like to wish the entire Epworth Family a Happy Easter.

What a joy it was to sing about the wonders of the resurrection and to carry on our tradition of ending our Easter Service with a mass singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus". And a special shout out to my "assistant director" Alan Capodagli !



Have you wanted to sing in the choir, but just don't have time to commit to a Wednesday night Rehearsal ?

WELL HAVE I GOT A DEAL FOR YOU.

On June 11th, July 16th and 23rd, we will have SUMMER CHOIR. Anyone who wants to "make a joyful noise" is invited to meet in the sanctuary for a 15-20 minute rehearsal of an easy anthem to sing during that days service before worship.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

Just a willingness to have a good time lifting our voices in song. More information will be coming as we get closer to the dates.

If you would like more information about the music ministries here at Epworth, please contact me at jdmsman@gmail.com .

A Healthy church grows by the numbers and gets stronger ...

We acknowledge that people are more important than numbers. The numbers we report represent our work and efforts as a church. Each number also represents a person. The numbers presented are current thru April 2017.

We celebrate a growth in attendance this year along with an increase in giving. While expenses have thus far outpaced giving, we remain in a healthy financial position going forward with all projects funded and bills paid.

2017 Average Worship Attendance = 158

2017 Ministry Fund Year to Date Giving: \$138,195 vs 2017 Expenses: \$144,408

2017 Mission Giving - YTD \$19,437

2017 Total Capital Giving - \$8,476 2017 Total Phase II Building Giving - \$30,309



Serving



Love to write, edit, or design?

The Communications team is looking for creative individuals to serve in various roles throughout our creative process! If you would like to help write articles and posts, proofread various texts, or design images, then we'd love to have you join us! Please contact us: Melissa Zabel | Team Leader | melissawzabel@gmail.com or Aaron Taylor | Church Staff | taylora@epworthindy.org

Epworth Office Assistance:

We can use your help in the office including answering phones, general office help, restocking, and other opportunities. To help, call the church or office or contact Patty thomasp@epworthindy.org

One Day Building Project

SAWs is a ministry that builds ramps to provide persons with disabilities and conditions of aging with the freedom to remain in their homes and reconnect with their communities. The next build opportunity is on June 24th. For more information, or to sign-up, please contact David Tatum at tatum.david@att.net

Trash to Treasure Garage Sale

Shalom Zone Sale to benefit Schools on Wheels. Saturday June 3rd from 8 am until Noon at Cross & Crown Lutheran Church. Flea Market Style Sale. Reserve your spot for \$10. For more info contact Kathy Clausen @ Kathleen.j.clausen@gmail.com

Epworth Mission Partnerships

Who knows how God will use these new connection to make and grow disciples?



2017-2018 Mission Travel Opportunities



July 16-22, 2017

Project Jubilee

Sneedville, Tennessee

Cost is \$300

Information Meeting

Sunday May 21 @ 11:45 am

We will do light construction and assist with other work projects



2018 Holy Land Trip

with Pastor Rodney

January 29-February 7, 2018

Cost \$3198 Register Now

Still Time to Join this Group



2018 Mission Guatemala

July 28-August 5, 2018

Only 20 Spots Available

Cost \$1595 Info Available this Fall

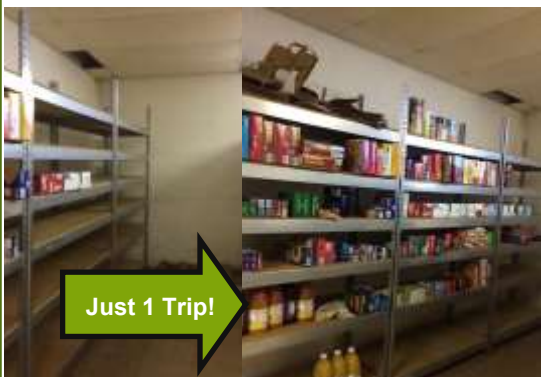


We learned from IMPD Police Chief Bryan Roach that there is a connection between hunger and crime. Just South of Epworth is the Forest Manor neighborhood that is ranked above average for ten different types of crime.

The Forest Manor Food Pantry is a light of hope in the area bringing food and building relationships. This United Methodist Church run pantry is the hope in this area.

Your Donations Matter

Currently Epworth UMC is the only regular source of food donations for the pantry. Each month we have the opportunity to fill their shelves with hope. And every month the pantry is emptied as those in need come to be fed. We are continuing to develop this new partnership and we will provide updates as more ways to serve are developed.



Save the Date

and Help Create 40,000+ meals

October 14-15, 2017



Please keep our mission partners in your Prayers. Pray for their work and our church as we work to better connect as partners in their work.

Linda Stransky Director of Jubilee Project
Larry and Jane Kies, Africa University
Mission Guatemala
Forest Manor Food Pantry



Intentional Faith Development



Every day we each learn ...
sometimes by accident ...
sometimes on purpose.

Intentional Faith Development is focused on the later.

Pat Engel, Director of Discipleship, is working with our church staff to develop a Discipleship Path with specific opportunities to grow our faith for the next three years. Each year focused on our vision:

2017-18 *Loving God and Others*

2018-19 *Serving God and our Community*

2019-20 *Growing in knowledge of God and our place in Community*

This new discipleship focus will help focus our faith development as a church while serving to compliment our existing small groups. Later this summer, we will publish a catalog highlighting all that will be available in the coming church year for you to intentionally develop your faith.

These offerings built around the annual theme will include Sunday morning classes, weekday studies, retreats, service opportunities, family activities, youth and children programs, and more.

Spring is a time of Renewal and New Life and this has certainly been reflected in the renewed enthusiasm and cooperative attitude demonstrated by your Epworth Leadership Table. We have adopted a Leadership Table Covenant which is based on free, open communication among members and mutual respect. Our meetings have been positive and very productive.



In February we celebrated the completion of our new Youth space. We made a decision to move forward with incorporating the church. Among other things, incorporating will add a layer of legal protection for all members. We are undertaking an initiative to explore how we can best utilize our Public Areas --looking at Aesthetics, Traffic Flow, Usability, etc.

In March, elected to pursue a new insurance provider for the Church which resulted in coverage that is more comprehensive--and ultimately will save us nearly \$6,000/ year. We also elected to adopt a new Cloud-Based membership software which will enhance our office efficiency. A new building use policy (internal and external) will be formulated. And with Aaron "joining" our full time staff in June, Staff Parish is working with Pastor Rodney to review and define Staff roles and responsibilities.

We look forward with excitement to our annual Fish Fry,

New Study Opportunities

Sign up on your connection card or by emailing: engelp@epworthindy.org

Study the Bible

with Pastor Rodney

Grow your understanding and knowledge of The Bible

Grow your Faith and Get to know other people

Come once ... Come every week ...
Come when you can ...

The Way of Discernment

(A Companions in Christ Study)

Led by Pat Engel

The class will help you discover God's guidance in making personal decisions through daily readings and class discussion

A Five Week Study

Life Lessons Bible Study

By Max Lucado

Led by Gene Anderson

Max Lucado brings intriguing questions, inspirational story telling, and profound reflections to the study of the Bible.



Growing

Do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

Proverbs 3:1-2 ESV



Parenting is hard work . . .
 Here at Epworth, we totally get that! Additionally, we believe that parents have the greatest influence on the faith of their children and great parental relationships lead to a greater understanding of how God loves us and how we love others.

So, we've created a **Parents' Night Out** scheduled for **Friday, June 2 at 5-9 pm**.

Our team of trained volunteers will be dedicated to creating an enjoyable experience for your little ones, so that the only thing you have to worry about is one another! Even better, there's **no cost!**



A Very Blessed Summer:

A Summer Experience for the Whole Family!

I love summer. In my opinion, warm temperature means warm hearts! Based on that logic, however, you might wonder why I choose to live in Indiana as opposed to someplace that isn't so darn cold most of the year, and I think it's because having something to contrast the warm weather to reminds me that such great weather is a blessing.

The very fact that we're alive is a blessing too. Jesus' disciples surely knew that. They woke up every day, and they had the opportunity to travel with the Creator of the Universe, Jesus, in the flesh! However, having had such an amazing experience with Jesus, also made His death that much more painful, and His resurrection that much more rewarding. Then things changed forever, Jesus was no longer with them in the flesh, but instructed them to always remember that he goes with us wherever we go through the power of the Holy Spirit.

That means that Jesus walks with us too.
 Have we forgotten that He travels with us wherever we go?

Perhaps we should take a look at how the disciples remembered what a blessing it is to live alongside Jesus . . . At the end of Acts 2, we are told that the early church gathered together to eat meals together, to study together, to pray together, and to worship together. Therefore, maybe it's a good idea to follow in their footsteps!

So, this summer we invite you and your family to join us in a four-week

SUMMER MISSION TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY
JULY 16-22, 2017
SNEEDSVILLE, TN

Informational Meeting:
May 21, 11:45 am

For More Information:
Contact Aaron Taylor
taylora@epworthindy.org

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Sunday, May 21st, 11:45 a.m.**
Summer Mission Trip Meeting
- Sunday May 28th, 9:30 am**
HS Senior Recognition Sunday
- Friday, June 2nd, 6:00 p.m.**



- Parent Night Out*
- Thursday, June 15th 4-8 pm**
Fish Fry Carnival
- Friday, June 16th, 8:00 p.m.**

Krazy Kinfolk

You think your family is dysfunctional?

Wait 'til you meet some of the families in the Bible!

June 4: A Lying Father

June 11: A Conniving Mother

June 18: No Place like Home?

June 25: Wayward Children



Graduation Sunday



May 28th
9:30 am



Join us for a special Sunday
Worship Service celebrating
our 2017 High School Graduates.



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