

# EPWORTH NEWS & NOTES

A Newsletter of Epworth United Methodist Church in Indianapolis

Back to School Edition 2017



## Pastor Rodney's Ramblings

*Everything's up to date in Kansas City  
They gone about as fer as they can go  
from Kansas City in Oklahoma*

It is hard to believe that we have been at Epworth for over a year, but it is true. And what a year it has been! It seems everything is new and up to date at Epworth... or soon will be. Driveway access, updated entry stairs, new outdoor classroom space, monitors in the sanctuary, new seating in Gathering Area, updated youth room, Café, and much more. Why you might say like they did in Oklahoma!

*They gone as fer as they can go!*

However, I tend to think of another song ...

*We've only just begun ...*

So please plan to join us on **Sunday, September 10** after Worship and Sunday School (don't worry the Colts don't kick off until 4pm). We will have a catered lunch and we will spend time celebrating, dreaming, and learning about the coming year at Epworth. This is an important time for our church leadership to hear from you as we finalize plans for the upcoming year. You will also learn about some of the exciting new programs coming for children, youth, and adults.

I haven't even mentioned the exciting things planned for our worship later this year. I can't wait to share the strange and exciting Bible stories planned for September. And in October we will go on a Treasure Hunt together—who knows what we might dig up?!

**See you Sunday?** *Pastor Rodney*

*How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow God. If Baal is God, follow Baal. The people gave no answer. | Kings 18:21*



## ERROR

Have you ever found yourself plugging in your electronic device, only to end up frustrated by an obnoxious "ERROR" message on the screen?

This was our experience earlier this year, as we came to realize that yes, even churches have to update their software on occasions.

That's why we're collecting a church-wide survey (see below), which are available for pick-up at the church office.

**While we're on the topic of technology . . .** Updated Financial Statements will be sent out in September. If you'd like to receive your Financial Statements by e-mail instead of a physical copy, you can contact Patty Slipher (pslipher@aol.com) to do so.

Also, our website got a whole new look! Check it out for yourself at [epworthindy.org](http://epworthindy.org)!

## In This Issue

- A Word from Pastor Rodney
- A Note from John
- Technology Updates
- Mission and Service Opportunities
- The Future of Growing Our Faith
- News from Preschool
- Insert - Community Events
- Insert - Growing our Faith



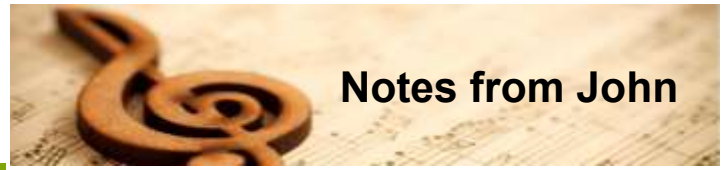
## Do you have the missing piece?

Epworth recently updated the church membership software and in the process we discovered that a some of our data was missing or inaccurate. We are taking this opportunity to ensure all of our data and member information is current and accurate. Please take the time to complete a survey and return to the church by August 13th. If you have questions or need help completing the survey, contact the church office by calling 317-251-1481.





Loving



## Notes from John

### New Additions Coming This Fall

As we prepare for the school year to begin again, we have several up-and-coming projects to look forward to.

One of those projects is an outdoor classroom located on the Northwest side of the property, inside our playground area. The classroom is expected to be completed for the beginning of the school year, and will be celebrated at our Back-to-School Bash celebration on August 27 from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Additionally, you can look forward to new digital signage located in our education wing and in our Gathering Area. We're looking at completing our digital signage project this Fall as well.

### Music Ministry

Things are gearing up for another great year of "making a joyful noise"! Below are several opportunities for you to become involved in the worship service.

### Chancel Choir

Our chancel choir is the largest of the musical groups and **ALL** are welcome! We're always looking for new members, especially tenors and basses. Don't read music? No problem! All that is required is a love for singing. The chancel choir usually sings the **first two Sundays of the month** with **rehearsal the preceding Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm**. Our first rehearsal is **Wednesday, August 9** and we sing **Sunday, August 13**.

### Praise Team

Our Praise Team focuses on more contemporary music and usually sings for the **third and fourth Sundays of the month**, with **rehearsal the preceding Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm**. It consists of singers and instrumentalists. We can always use more members. We are especially in need of a **guitar player!**

### Bell Choir

We have a 3 octave bell choir that consists of 11 ringers. We currently have a slot open and are always in need of substitutes. The ability to read music is very helpful. The bell choir **usually plays the 4th Sunday of the month** with rehearsals the preceding 2 Wednesday evenings at 7:00.

### Drama Ministry

All The World's A Stage! Do you have a hidden desire to win an Academy Award or a Tony? Well then, our new Drama Ministry is for you! We will perform skits and plays to enhance the worship service. There isn't a "set rehearsal/performance schedule". They will be scheduled as the need arises.

If you would like to be a part of these exciting ministries. Contact our Worship Director, John Phillips at [jdmusman@gmail.com](mailto:jdmusman@gmail.com) or 317-445-5165.



Join us for this time of celebration with our District Superintendent, Jim Bushfield, in recognition of the ministry of Epworth.

Additionally, you can come to support our Director of Family Ministries, Aaron Taylor, as he is officially commissioned into the ordination process of the United Methodist Church.

### All Church Celebration & Luncheon

**September 10**

Following Worship

**RSVP:**

Church Office  
(317)-251-1481

### 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 = 152**

**2017 Ministry Fund Year to Date Giving: \$243,284 vs 2017 Expenses: \$252,236**

**2017 Mission Giving - YTD \$38,338**

**2017 Total Capital Giving - \$19,471    2017 Total Phase II Building Giving - \$47,796**

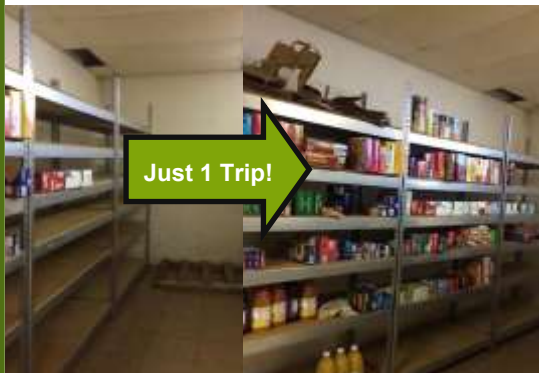


Serving



**FEEDING HUNGRY PEOPLE:**

Your response to the Forest Manor Food Pantry has been wonderful. PLEASE continue to bring in bags of non-perishable items each week! Norb Scher and the Ministry Team have been able to deliver food twice a month. We continue to be the ONLY source for donations. What you donate MATTERS. So, please consider each time you shop for yourself, shop for someone else.



**BABY BOOMERS:**

Be on the lookout as we are working on offering half-days of service to begin this Fall. From feeding hungry people to helping domestic violence victims to reading to pre-schoolers....and lots more. Watch for the "Baby Boomers Day Out ! (AND.....don't forget Baby Boomers NIGHT Out the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month-dinner at a different place each month-sign up on Sunday with your connection card).

All of the proceeds from this year's Annual Fish Fry are being used to purchase the supplies to produce Rice Meal packets with the organization Pack Away Hunger. The packing event will be hosted here at Epworth in Fellowship Hall. Everyone will have the opportunity to participate in making over 50,000 meals that will be distributed to Food Pantries here in Indy and sent to Epworth's mission partner in Guatemala.

**50,000+ Meals**

**Save the Date**

**October 14-15, 2017**

**Pack Away Hunger**



Want to help plan the event?

**Planning Meeting  
Monday August 21st  
7:00 pm**

Anyone is welcome to attend

**2017-2018 Mission Travel Opportunities**



**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**

**Important Information Meeting**

**Monday September 18th 7 pm**

This trip will fill up ... don't miss this first chance to register



**Project Jubilee**

**Sneedville, Tennessee**

Interested in a short term trip?  
Want to help plan a trip in 2018?

Contact Aaron Taylor

**Epworth Mission Partners**

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



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.

The summer of 2017 has been a busy season at Epworth. Your Leadership Table has been privileged to oversee new programs and staff initiatives that will support our Church's mission for years to come.



We are all pleased to see the finishing touches being applied to the Accessibility

Drive project. Under the direction of Dawn Blake, a new Children's Outdoor Garden and Nature Area has been proposed--and will come to fruition within the next few weeks! Plans are being made to update and re-decorate the gathering area and halls outside of the sanctuary.

Aaron Taylor has come on board as the full time Director of Family Ministries; Pastor Rodney and Staff Parish have focused on re-defining roles and responsibilities for each of our Staff Members. Pat and Aaron have taken the lead in developing an articulated Discipleship Plan that will be introduced this Fall.

We are looking forward to an all-Church planning meeting this September. This will be a time for taking stock of where we are as a Church, and spelling out our priorities for worship, mission, etc... heading into 2018, and beyond. A Leadership Table planning retreat will follow. As always, please feel free to contact myself or another member of the Table if you have an idea for a new mission initiative or

## New Study Opportunities

Sign up on your connection card or by emailing: [engelp@epworthindy.org](mailto:engelp@epworthindy.org)

### Study the New Testament

with Pastor Rodney

**Begins August 15th and 16th**

Grow your understanding and knowledge of The Bible

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

### Sacred Rhythms

Led by Dawn Blake & Susie Dorrell

The class will introduce you to spiritual practices that will nourish and feed your soul with activities, DVD instruction, and discussion.

**A Six 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**



Which of these might apply to you:

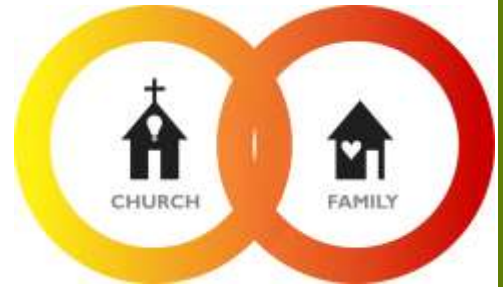
- I am ready to grow my faith
- I want to go deeper in my relationship with God
- I want to learn more about being a disciple of Christ, but don't know where to start
- I have questions about The Church, about being a Christian, about God, about....
- I want to be in a group where I can share my faith story and learn from others' stories as well
- I am ready to put my faith into action

If you can answer "yes" to any of these, Good News. WE HAVE A PLAN for you!

Beginning this Fall, Epworth will offer a series of courses, small groups, retreats and missional events that will help us grow in our faith in an

### Did you know?

The average church only has **40 hours** in a given year to influence a life, but the average parent has **3,000 hours** per year to influence the lives of their children.



That's why it's so important for the church to partner with families to create disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

What if what happened on Sunday mornings spilled out into every aspect of our family lives throughout the week? That's what we're striving for this Fall as we introduce a new curriculum for our Family Ministry that will use the 40 hours we have in church to leverage the 3,000 hours parents spend with their kids.

In addition to our new curriculum and format on



This year we celebrate our **50th anniversary**. We have much to celebrate including the opening of

our newly constructed Outdoor Classroom. Come celebrate with us during the Back to School Bash on Sunday, August 27th from 3-5pm. We are also looking forward to our 2017-2018 school year that begins the last week of August. We have added new staff member for the year and are looking forward to

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

**Monday August 21st, 7:00 pm**  
*Pack Away Hunger Planning Meeting*

**Sunday August 27th 3:00 p.m.**  
*Back to School Bash*

**Sunday, September 10th, Noon**

*Church Luncheon and Celebration*



**Saturday, September 16th @ 6:00 p.m.**

*Outdoor Worship at Turkey Run State Park*

Pastor Rooney's  
**Believe It  
or Not!**<sup>®</sup>



September 10  
A Donkey Speaks



September 3  
World's Laziest Man



September 17  
A Disappearing Sword



September 24  
Pigs Fly

**PLUS**



**Contact Us:**

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[www.epworthindy.org](http://www.epworthindy.org)



**Fun for Everyone!**

**Sunday August 27th**

**3:00—5:00 PM**



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Epworth United  
Methodist Church