

Epworth News

The mission of our church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**DECEMBER
2009**

**In this issue
you will find**

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**December
Worship**

Preschool/Daycare

Did You Know?

Baptisms

Difference Maker

Prayer Quilt

**Membership &
Nurture**

Youth / Children

Missions

New Members

**Christmas Eve
Dinner**

Calendar

**Celebrating the
Risen Lord
8:30 & 10:30 am

**church Phone
740-387-8344**

**Meredith Farson
Church Admin. Assist.**

**Rev. Colleen Ogle
Emergency #
614-774-0956**

**Rev. Brooke Hilliard
Contact #
614-404-7124**

Advent: Awe and Adventure

Ad-vent – *def.* 1. the coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important

Ad-ven-ture – *def.* 1. an exciting or extraordinary event or series of events
2. an undertaking involving uncertainty and risk

I will never forget meeting Clyde W., a man with whom I worked in a prison ministry to incarcerated juveniles. Clyde was a 60s-something masonry contractor with contagious smile and weathered face. During a break in a team training sessions Clyde told me that a few years earlier he had been to see the Vietnam Veterans Wall in Washington, D.C. where he had been profoundly moved by the intense grief it elicited from vets he saw there. It was about 1988 when Clyde and his wife returned to Sunbury, Ohio with a commitment to help vets. Clyde thought about all the vets whose disability or financial circumstances would keep them from seeing the Wall. He decided to reach them by creating a flimsy replica of the Wall with the names of Ohio veterans, which he drove as a float in a local parade. It made such an impact he decided to build a permanent but mobile Vietnam Memorial of Ohio. His first attempts to find materials that looked like the genuine wall but were light enough to transport failed and he became discouraged and almost forgot about it. But one day he was driving his truck on a routine job estimate in northwest Columbus when he had a sudden, very strong urge to turn into a building supply store he'd never frequented. He turned, not knowing why, and found the exact material he needed to make his portable replica. In subsequent years Clyde pulled the mobile Vietnam Memorial of Ohio over 100,000 miles into all 88 counties. He made friends with hundreds of motorcyclists along the way, as Rolling Thunder vets often accompanied the journeys of the memorial. He witnessed to many, was inspired by others, and was a catalyst for spiritual reconciliation and healing.

I remembered Clyde's story today because I was thinking about the season of Advent. For the church it is the four Sundays before Christmas. It is marked by candles on a wreath and scriptures that recall the ancient prophecies of God's promises to set things right in the world. For me Advent suggests that Adventure is part of life in Christ. Clyde's eyes glowed and his expression filled with wonder years later as he told of the way that God called him to a ministry of compassion, guided it into shared experiences of healing with thousands, and blessed him with numerous new brothers and friends in faith.

The Christian life is meant for awe, wonder, adventure—Advent.

Peace,

Rev. Colleen Ogle



DECEMBER WORSHIP



December 6
10:30 Worship Only
 Bishop C. Joseph Sprague, guest preacher

Consecration Sunday
Celebration Luncheon, after worship
 in the Fellowship Hall

December 13
Worship 8:30 and 10:30
 Rev. Colleen Ogle, preaching

Joy in Simple Living
 Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:7-18,
 Philippians 4:4-7

December 20
10:30 Worship Only
 Rev. Ogle, preaching

The Right Requests on Your Christmas List - and
 The Christmas Musical **Scrooge in Bethlehem**
 Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10

December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Informal Community Worship

5:15 pm Community Christmas Supper –
 Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm *The Child Born for Us*
 Rev. Ogle

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Candlelight Service with musical soloists

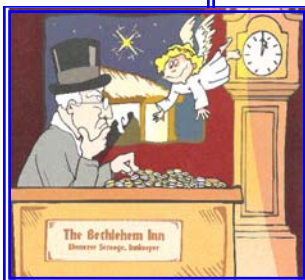
11:00 pm *The Child Born for Us*
 Rev. Ogle

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Candlelight Service with Chancel and Bell Choirs



December 27
10:30 Worship Only
 Rev. Brooke Hilliard, preaching

The Boy Jesus in the Temple
 Luke 2:41-52



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

"A Christmas Carol: Scrooge in Bethlehem."

Rehearsal Schedule

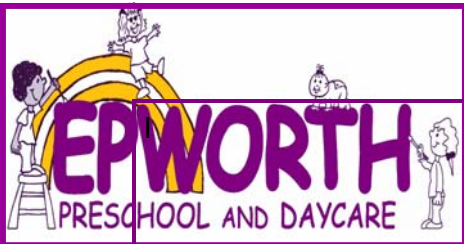
Sunday, November 22	4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 24	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 29	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 3	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 6	4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 8	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 15	6:30 p.m. (if needed)
Thursday, December 17	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 19	10:00 a.m.

All practices, with the exception of Saturday, December 19, will be 1 hour long.

Rehearsal on December 19 will be a 2 hours dress rehearsal/pizza party.

Performance

Sunday, December 20th 10:30 a.m.



It's a blessing to be apart of the lives of more then one hundred and forty children each week. Every weekday, beginning at 6:00 A.M., the hallways of Epworth Church come alive as children arrive at school to see their friends and teachers. Every day is filled with activities as they learn colors, shapes, numbers, alphabets and most importantly how to get along with each other. The excitement level is so high at holiday time that you can feel it in the air. One of our favorite activities each year is our Gingerbread Family Celebrations. Parents are invited to come to Fellowship Hall and then together children and parents decorate miniature gingerbread houses. In each class-



room the children create Christmas gifts and decorations for their parents and family. For the past twenty-seven Christmases the Rick family has trimmed our tree with precious ornaments made by

our children here at Epworth Preschool. Our December mission project is to collect toys, food and other necessary items for Christmas Clearing House. It is inspiring to hear children talk about what they brought for the basket and to see the baskets at each classroom door fill up to over flowing. For some of our children they will hear the Christmas Story for the first time in their classroom while others know it by heart. If you want to catch this wonderful Christmas spirit come to your church and see what you are doing in the lives of the 140 children who come to school here each week at Epworth.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Robin Rick
Director



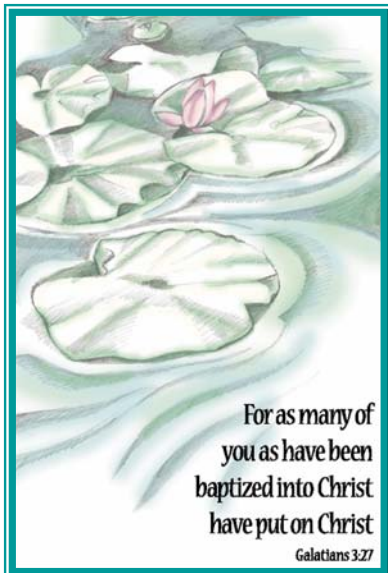
If you missed ordering fresh Christmas greenery this year we can still meet your decorating needs because we ordered extra. Just call Tracey or Jacque at 387-1062 or stop at the Reception Desk.

Harding Singers will present their Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15 in the Epworth Sanctuary. Everyone Welcomed!



Did You Know?

You can read the daily devotional reading from The Upper Room online for free at the website... <http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/>



On Sunday, November 15, Epworth UMC was honored to be a part of the baptism of

***Brianna Kai Davidson
Brandon Mark Davidson***

Presented by Bernie Davidson and Laurie Davidson

***Julia Anne Johnson
Madison Lynn Johnson***

Presented by John and Lee Johnson

Parker Alan Keifer
Presented by Jeff and Katie Keifer

***Brielle Marie Swihart
Brendon Andrew Swihart***
Presented by Dawn and Jeff Swihart

Difference Makers



Our Difference Maker for the month of December is Bill Dutton. Bill is a head usher for the 10:30 worship service at Epworth. He helps seat people, greets people, passes out bulletins, assists with communion, takes up the collection, and helps count the money from the collection and puts it in the

safe. He has helped with the evacuation and safety plan for the church. He has assisted with the drawings and diagrams to help people evacuate the church in case of an emergency situation. He has worked to repair carpet in the church and worked with a crew to lay tile in the church kitchen. He also has worked at the church parsonage doing various repairs. Bill has helped to set up for Epworth's Christmas Eve dinner, served at the dinner and cleaned up and torn down after the dinner.

Bill is a retired firefighter. He is married to Mary, has a son, Mike, a daughter, Cathy, and three step-daughters, Sa-

brina, Angie and Cindy. He has three grandchildren, five step-children, and seven great grandchildren. Bill's hobbies include wood working, playing golf, using the computer to seek information, and play solitaire. He enjoys traveling, when he can, to such places as Las Vegas, Florida, and the Great Smokey Mountains.

Bill enjoys doing everything he does for Epworth United Methodist Church. He was pleased and surprised to be chosen as a Difference Marker. We are happy to receive the benefits of Bill's talents and hard work. Congratulations to our December Difference-Maker, Bill Dutton.

Epworth sweatshirts - in a variety of sizes and colors – are now for sale. Cost is \$24 / \$28. Please contact Paula Aparis at 382-3916 or Kathy Swanger at 360-9429 if interested. Great Christmas Gifts!. Checks to be made payable to Epworth UMC. Thank you.
Membership & Nurture Committee

The Christmas gifts for the homebound have arrived. This year we have beautiful ornaments with the imprint of our church on the front. There are a few left over and if you would like one, please call Paula Aparis @ 382 - 3916. Cost is \$6.00



PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Prayer Quilts were made for:

<p>Joe Osborne for strength and patience while healing</p> <p>Marge Keggan for strength for surgery and comfort for healing.</p> <p>Joan Melitsky for peace, comfort and healing.</p> <p>Mary Bratt for healing and a full recovery</p>	<p>Evan Albright - a newborn undergoing tests at Children's Hospital - for comfort and healing</p> <p>Dennis Monnette for comfort and peace.</p> <p>Blake Hamby - a 2 year old with leukemia - for complete healing.</p>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6 4-6pm

Youth Lounge
Extreme Makeover
Epworth Edition

December 12 8:45-12:15

Elves @ Children's
Make-N-Take

December 20 4-7pm

Youth Christmas Party

December 24

Epworth Youth News

December 2009

**EXTREME MAKEOVER
EPWORTH
EDITION**

YOUTH MAKEOVER UPDATE

The past several months, the youth have been busy dreaming and designing the perfect Youth Lounge. It is slowly coming together as the room is being cleaned out, furniture moved, and new cabinets and area rug purchased. But there is much work to do and work teams will continue to install cabinets, recover couches, make pillows, find window coverings, install sound system and video projector, and design a wall covering.

This process is so much more than a room makeover. The youth are learning to come together as a group, listen to one another's ideas, and seek what is best for everyone, even the youth who will call Epworth home in the future.

Watch the newsletter for more updates and plan on attending the Open House when the Youth Lounge is complete.

Peace for your Journey,
Rev. Brooke Hilliard



December 8 -

Jonathan Green

December 8 -

Cassie Hosp

December 18 -

Anthony Grill

December 28 -

Taylor Hamilton

December 29 -

Emily Spoon

CONFIRMATION 2010

Discipleship, following Jesus, is a life long process. For many it begins early in life when parents present their children for infant baptism. Others it was a journey with God that leads them to baptism. Confirmation is a wonderful opportunity for teens to explore, ask questions, serve, and grow in their discipleship. As a part of their discipleship journey Confirmation Sunday is a celebration where each teen has the opportunity to stand before their congregation and remember their baptism and proclaim their faith anew.

If you have a 7th-12th grader who would like to be a part of this years Confirmation class, join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, January 3 from 6:15-7:00pm.

Show your Buckeye Spirit!! Purchase a buckeye necklace to support the Youth Ministry. \$10.00 — a real bargain. May be purchased through Rev. Brooke or at the church office.



DECEMBER MISSION EPWORTH

Youth Elves @ Children's Make-N-Take

Hey Youth! December's Mission Epworth is the perfect way to get in the Christmas Spirit. So mark your calendars; Saturday, December 12 from 8:45am-12:30pm. You will be serving the church by becoming Elves at the Children's Make-N-Take Event. You will have the opportunity to interact and assist children as they make and gift wrap Christmas gifts for their family members. Please text (614-404-7124), facebook, email (Bhilliard@Epworthumc.org, or call Brooke 387-8344 if you plan on participating.

Remember, EVERY Mission Epworth event you participate in, earns you points towards next Summers Work Camp. Watch January's Newsletter for details and location of our next Work Camp.



Epworth Kids

Children's Christmas Make-N-Take

Saturday, December 12
9am-Noon Epworth Fellowship Hall
3yr-olds to 5th Grade



The Children's Christmas Make-N-Take is almost here! Every child will not want to miss out on this FUN filled day as they create, package, and wrap gifts for their loved ones. Some of the crafts include hand puppets, jewelry, sachets, chocolate spoons and so much more. Participants will also hear the Christmas story and experience the true gift of Christmas, Baby Jesus.

SO, call your friends, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and make sure they are at Epworth on December 12 for the Children's Christmas Make-N-Take.

Items Needed for the Make-N-Take: Pint size jars, New pastel wash clothes, potpourri, lace fabric, cotton print fabric in various colors, small boxes, Christmas wrap, scotch tape

Adult Volunteers Needed: Craft supply preparation, Christmas cookie bakers, craft leader, gift wrap assistants, greeters and sign in team

On Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 the Epworth Kids will present their Christmas gift to the Church as they share the story of Scrooge In Bethlehem. The kids are working hard to make this extra special for the congregation. Make plans to be here to receive this priceless gift.

BEHOLD,
I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF
GREAT JOY
LUKE 2:10



December 3 -
Emily Richards
December 9 -
Owen Richards
December 23 -
Anna Redd

Missions

What is Love INC?

Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) is a phone ministry in Marion County where Pastors, Church Staff Members, Agency Workers and Individuals can turn for help when other resources have been blocked.

Love INC does not provide direct services; instead it works as a clearing house for the churches of Marion County by determining the legitimacy of a request. It works with local churches and community agencies to provide help for those in need. Love INC works with local churches to set up needed ministries in the area.

Love INC churches not only help with the physical needs of the individual, they also help meet spiritual needs through prayer, friendship and

community. Love INC in Marion County has the resources to provide for:

- ◆ Food
- ◆ Clothing
- ◆ Personal Needs
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Minor Home Repairs
- ◆ Diapers

Sometimes they also handle furniture, though there is no warehouse to store such items. Love INC is not a resource to pay utilities, though they are able to help with prescriptions.

Love INC is open 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday through Friday.



A CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA FOOD, MUSIC, AND FUN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
Meal at 6:00 pm
Music at 7:30 pm

Dear Epworth Friends:
Please plan on attending our Third Annual Epworth Christmas Extravaganza. This is open to the community. Suggested \$10.00 donation per person for the dinner and music. Proceeds will go towards various missions in the Marion Community. Put this on your calendar



On November 8, we welcomed 8 new members into the Epworth UMC Family.

Donna Coale (Rev. Mark)
646 Hampton Woods Drive
Marion, OH 43302

Arden and Pam Douce
494 South State Street
Marion, Ohio 43302
740-375-8610

Jess Hilliard (Rev. Brooke)
686 Girard Avenue
Marion, Ohio 43302

Alicia Strzelecki (Kyle)
589 Morral Kirkpatrick Rd W
Marion OH 43302
740-465-8011

Bernie Davidson (Kai & Brandon)
873 Irwin Shoots Rd. E
Marion, Ohio 43302
740-387-4833

Karen Wilson
2298 Talon Place
Marion, Ohio 43302
740-223-3158

Mrs Judith Kiger (Rev. Dan)
909 Cambridge Avenue
Marion OH 43302
740-387-2466

Missions

*Christmas
Eve Dinner
Welcoming
others as
Christ
welcomes us!*

In an evening of radical hospitality, Epworth will wel-

come our neighbors for worship and dinner on Christmas Eve. It is our time to remember, and help others to know, that whatever our current circumstance, Jesus is there for us. The Missions Committee invites adults and older youth of the congregation, to join

our partners, Kohl's and Wyandot Snacks, to participate in this ministry for our neighbors. Dan Erickson will be coordinating the meal preparation. Your help is needed for set-up, serving, clean-up, cookie baking, and most especially being gracious hosts in

worship and dinner. Will we welcome others as Christ welcomes us? Please use the form below to indicate how you'd like to reach out in love on Christmas Eve.

*Sharon Gilbert &
Missions Committee*



Christmas Eve Dinner Volunteer Form

I (we) would like to help in the following ways:

_____ I will help set up tables, set tables, and prepare fellowship hall - Dec. 24, 9 - 11 a.m.

_____ I will provide 2 dozen home baked cookies and deliver them to the church kitchen by 10 a.m. Dec. 24.

_____ I can help prepare plates of cookies, and cut pies. Dec. 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

_____ I'd like to help Dan in the kitchen, Dec. 24, during 12 - 4p.m. OR 4-6:00 p.m. with whatever tasks are needed.

_____ I'd be glad to come for 4:30 worship. Then I'll be happy to sit at the table, joining our guests for a wonderful meal and conversation. (New role - please consider this act of hospitality!)

_____ I will welcome and serve our guests. Dec. 24, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

_____ I will be part of the cheerful clean-up crew. Dec. 24, 6- 7 p.m.

Name _____ Phone _____



December 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7:30 Men's Bkfst (Colonial House) 5:30 Yoga 7:00 SPRC	2 5:30 Souper Wednesday 6:15 Bells Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice	3 5:30 Yoga 6:30 Missions 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Trustees	4	5 11:00 Prayer Quilt Ministry
6 CONSECRATION SUNDAY NO 8:30 SERVICE 9:30 Sunday School Classes for all ages 10:30 Worship Service 4-6:00 Youth Group	7 6:00 UMW 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 7:30 Men's Bkfst (Colonial House) 1:00 Evelyn Kendall Circle 4:00 Quilt Class 5:30 Yoga 5:30 DC Holiday 6:00 Youth Council 7:00 Finance Committee	9 11:00 PS Holiday 12 noon - Marion General Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon served by UMW 5:30 Souper Wednesday 6:15 Bells Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice	10 5:30 Yoga 6:00 Quilt Class	11	12 9:00 Children's Make & Take
13 8:30 Worship Service 9:30 Sunday School Classes for all ages 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Worship Committee Christmas Extravaganza 6:00 - Dinner 7:00 - Music	14 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 7:30 Men's Bkfst (Colonial House) 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Harding Singers Concert NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 5:30 Souper Wednesday 6:15 Bells Practice 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice	17 5:30 Yoga 5:30 Membership & Nurture 7:00 Lay Leadership	18	19 9:00 Women's Morning out at Panera Bread
20 NO 8:30 Worship Service 9:30 Sunday School Classes for all ages 10:30 Worship Service 4-6:00 Youth Christmas Party	21 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 PS/DC Board	22 7:30 Men's Bkfst (Colonial House) 4:00 Quilt Class 5:30 Yoga	23 6:15 Bells Practice 7:00 Choir Practice	24 Christmas Eve Office Closes at Noon 4:30 Informal Community Worship 5:15 Christmas Dinner 7:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 11:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 26 	
27 8:30 Worship Service 9:30 Sunday School - Classes for all ages 10:30 Worship Service	28 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 7:30 Men's Bkfst (Colonial House) 5:30 Yoga	30	31	JAN 1, 2010 Office Closed	2

Epworth News

Epworth United Methodist Church

249 East Center Street

Marion, Ohio 43302-3873

Pastor: Colleen Ogle

Preschool & Daycare Director: Robin A. Rick

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 41

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Label Here



December 24, 2009 Events

4:30 p.m. Informal Community Service

Christmas Eve Dinner— 5:00 p.m.

Public Welcome

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services -

7:00 and 11:00 p.m.