

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stop It! - Stop Watching God Work

“...be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” James 1:22 (NRSV)

“Do or do not. There is no try.” -Yoda

Some time ago, I read a quote by Andy Stanley that deeply offended me. I have to be careful about my emotions concerning megachurch pastors. Sometimes, the way I receive their words is affected by some degree of envy of their success or frustration with my failures (or both).



I have thought upon this statement a number of times. I believe that some of my gut reactions to this quote is absolutely Biblical and it deserves some serious critique. However, like many words of criticism (or in this case, possibly prophecy), there is some truth to be found. Praying for God to move within the church with a fresh wind of grace and power would NEVER be wrong and should be a constant cry, but Stanley is right. We bear much responsibility for our failures in our churches. We are most guilty of complacency and low expectations when God is calling us to tireless devotion and confidence in the miraculous.

I have come to think about and even invite us to pray *The Lord's Prayer* in new ways. I often say something like, “Lord, hear these words as we say them and let our lives live them out as we pray...”. The epistle of James is an enemy of anyone who wants a lazy or spectator's faith. James says, “If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?” That really isn't hard to understand. In fact, that is so clear it convicts us mightily.

Our “let go and let God” theology falls flat on its face. Reading the whole of the scripture makes it clear that God has not chosen to act in the world so that we can sit idly by and watch God do His thing. Yes, God has done, is doing, and will do some incredibly mighty things in our world. But God has CHOSEN us to be doers. We are redeemed by Christ to BE Christ to the world. A church trying to save itself will fail, but a church proclaiming the message of salvation in WORD and DEED to the world will thrive. I believe this.

We must move from hearing to doing. We must move from watching God work to working with God.

In Christ,

The sanctuary flowers are given to
 the Glory of God and in memory of
 Sarah Combs by Lee Rogers.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Children's Ministry DirectorLindsey Fossa
 Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris
 Church Administrator Susan Snider
 Contemporary Music Director.....Kayla Moss
 CustodiansMartha Conklin & Barbie Webb
 Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel
 Media & CommunicationsDawn Wilson
 Music DirectorBob Lee
 Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin
 Pastor..... Tony G. Crosby

CONTACT US

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THIS COMING WEEK

Sunday, February 4	6:30 p.m. Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship	7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Sunday School	Thursday, February 8
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship	9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
Monday, February 5	12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	12:00 noon Vintage Group Meeting - Ed's Country Cooking
Tuesday, February 6	Saturday, February 10
10:30 a.m. HIS Group	5:00 p.m. AA Group Meeting
6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting	Sunday, February 11
6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting	9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
Wednesday, February 7	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal	11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper	

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Classes

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Margaret Gosden

The Youth Class

6th - 12th Grade: Kristii Daniel

The Friendship Class

Study: Faith Without Works is Dead

Teacher: Class

The Genesis 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: Genesis 5

Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class

Study: Getting Along with Each Other

Teacher: James Johnson

The Pathfinders Class

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Questors Class

Study: Grace in a Tree Stump

Teacher: Glenn Griffin

The Seekers Class

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

LENTEN STUDY

Max Lucado has written *He Chose the Nails* as a book and study guide for Lent. We will offer this study twice weekly; the pastor will lead a study on Sundays at 4 p.m., and on Wednesdays, the lesson video will be shown after supper at 6:30 p.m. and then Debra Johnson and Doug Franks will share in leading at 7:00 p.m. in the Questors classroom. These options should provide everyone in the congregation an opportunity to experience this powerful teaching. The study will begin the week of February 21. Study materials will be available in the Whitehurst Welcome Center.

THOSE WHO SERVE

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Janie Nellums

Usher: Diane Morris

Acolyte: Usher

Children's Church: Janie Nellums

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Susan Davis

Ushers: Donny Davis, Doug Revell

Acolyte: Eva Cherai, Jake DiSimone

Children's Church: Debra Johnson

Nursery Volunteer: Lisa Crosby

Financial Secretary: Steve Sawyer

Turn Key: *Needed*

OUR STEWARDSHIP

January 28, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$1,808.01
Received To Date:	\$17,793.35
Needed To Date:	\$
Building Fund:	\$0

ATTENDANCE:	
Sunday School	69
Worship: 9 a.m.	39
Worship: 11 a.m.	61
	100

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Meeting - Tuesday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m. Come and bring a friend!

Youth & Children Sunday School Classes - A great lesson and fun for all.

Parents' Night Out - Valentine's Day, February 14, 5:30-8:00 p.m., at the church. Fun activities, pizza and more to keep your children, ages 4 and up, entertained while you enjoy an evening out. A \$10 donation per household would be appreciated. Epworth is safe sanctuary approved. RSVP by February 12, at epworthumc.com.

MISSIONS

Mission Focus for February - *Open Door*

Classic, Saturday, March 3. Registration; 7:30 a.m., for the run and 8:30 a.m., for the walk. Donations will go to support ODCH programs of ministry, including community, homeless, and poverty. If you would like to join the Epworth Team, sign up at opendoorcommunityhouse.org or see Becky Britton or the church office. To donate, mark your offering envelope with "Open Door." For more info, see flyer in today's bulletin.

Campbell's Labels for Education - We are no longer accepting Campbell's labels. The company has cancelled the program.

United Methodist Men Cake Auction - Sunday, February 11, at 5 p.m. UMM (and their secret assistants) are asked to bake any kind of sweets or casseroles to sell at the auction to raise funds. In the past, UMM has supported many projects within the church and community with your generous donations.

Bench Project from Recycled Plastic - Collect clean and free-of-metal caps and lids to obtain a bench for the playground.

Can Recycling - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door. They will be picked up and recycled by the HIS Group.

Epworth Volunteers Needed - Positions available: Turn Key, Usher, Nursery helper, Children's Sunday School teacher, Children's Church teacher, Wednesday Night Children's teacher and Wednesday Night clean-up helper. If you feel led to volunteer, please contact the church office for more information. We will help you find your talent and add you to the schedule.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Epworth's New Website - We have gone live! There are a few items to complete within the site, but go online and check it out.

HIS Group - Tuesday, February 6, 10:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Our hostesses will be Brenda Karastury and Helen Howard. Barbara Stubbs will present the program. Bring the covered dish for which you signed up. Our mission project continues to be the "Showering Program" at Open Door.

Wednesday Night Supper - February 7, at 6 p.m. Sign up to make supper reservations on the information board. Menu: meat loaf, crashed hot potatoes, steamed veggies, gravy, sauteed mushrooms, onions and peppers, corn bread, salad bar and dessert. There will be no supper on February 14, Ash Wednesday.

Wednesday Night Study - Wednesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m., by our pastor on the study of Bishop Reuben Job's book, *Three Simple Questions*. Books are available for \$5 each in the Whitehurst Welcome Center.

Vintage Group Meeting - Thursday, February 8, at noon, at Ed's Country Cooking on Woodruff Farm Road, Columbus. To RSVP, sign up on the information board.

Ash Wednesday for Sunday Morning - We are anticipating a powerful worship experience on Sunday morning, February 18. We will have "Ash Wednesday on Sunday Morning" to begin our Lent season. Special music will be featured at both services. Bishop James King will preach. Then a special time of Holy Communion and ashes will invite us to observe a holy Lent together. Don't miss it!

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	Shackelford Family	Kernodle Family
Judy Scanling	Barbara Watson	Joe Flynn	Lillian Wooldridge
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh	Glenn Griffin	Daniel Family
Anne Wilson	Jane Grandon		

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Miranda "Randy" Jones	Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires
Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill
Kim Jordan	Kristy Stier	Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman
Amanda Hay	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin
Luby Family	Henry Dunn	Adams Family	Ginger Jarvis
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Katherine Naegele		



Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Calvary Community - Lou Williams	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

(Please continue to pray for our homebound people. 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.*

We Love Because He First Loved Us....
I John 4:19

 **Parent's Night Out**
Valentine's Day
February 14, 2018
Epworth United Methodist Church
2400 Devonshire Drive
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. 
Ages 4 and up
Asking \$10 Donation per household

Fun activities, Pizza, and a Movie to keep
your children safe and entertained while you
enjoy a quiet dinner together!

 *Please RSVP by February 12
at epworthumc.com/children*

February Birthdays

Say a prayer and write a note...

Epworth United Methodist Church

February 2018

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30a-Adult Bible Study 12:00p-Prayer Team	2	3 5:00p-AA Support Group Meeting
4 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	5 10:00a-Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	6 10:30a-HIS Group UMW Meeting 6:30p-Youth Bible Study 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	7 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Lenten Study 7:00p-Choir Practice	8 9:30a-Adult Bible Study 12:00p-Prayer Team 12:00p-Vintage Group Meeting	9	10 5:00p-AA Support Group Meeting
11 Transfiguration of the Lord 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service 5:00p-UMM Cake Auction	12 6:30p-UMM Meeting 6:30p-New Life UMW Meeting	13 11:00a-GA State Retirement Assoc. 6:30p-Youth Bible Study 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday 5:30p-Parent's Night Out 6:00p-Praise Team 7:00p-Choir Practice	15 9:30a-Adult Bible Study 12:00p-Prayer Team	16	17 5:00p-AA Support Group Meeting
18 Ash Wednesday Recognized 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service	19 Washington's B-day 6:30p-Growing Christians UMW	20 6:30p-Youth Bible Study 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting	21 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Lenten Study 7:00p-Choir Practice	22 9:30a-Adult Bible Study 12:00p-Prayer Team	23	24 5:00p-AA Support Group Meeting
25 9:00a-Contemporary Worship Service 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Traditional Worship Service 4:00p-Lenten Study	26	27 5:00p-Feeding Our Neighbors @ Rose Hill 6:30p-Youth Bible Study 6:30p-AA Support Group Meeting 7:00p-Reachers UMW Meeting	28 6:00p-Wednesday Night Supper 6:00p-Praise Team 6:30p-Lenten Study 7:00p-Choir Practice			

- 2 Flip Buchanan
- 4 Leah Flynn Stewart
Leslie Flynn Ginn
- 5 Fred Carswell, Jr
Bobby Knox
- 6 James Johnson
Dawn Wilson
- 9 Jane Sanders
- 10 Cheryl Jandreau
Addison Spencer
- 13 Andrea Carbaugh
- 18 Doug Franks
Cam Willis
- 19 Mary Lee Crews
- 22 Alison Bullock
Melonie Phillips
- 26 Mason Friend
Art Halouska
Gladys Plant
Judy Scanling
- 27 J. S. DiSimone
Mike Morris

A Birthday Prayer

May God bless you today and each day that follows,
May you hear His voice and follow His footsteps,
Be comforted by His care and live in His grace now and forever,
Amen.