

**Sheep With Shares**

*“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,”* John 10:14 (NRSV)

The stock market has always fascinated me.

I did not grow up in a wealthy family, so we didn’t know much about stocks. I do know that about four times per year, we got a check in the mail for a dollar or two from General Motors. I imagine it may have cost them more to produce the check than the face value of it. It was a dividend payment. Years before, my dad had purchased a car for which one of the incentives was a share of General Motors stock. Despite being customers of General Motors for years (my dad had a few Fords and Chryslers along the way as well), we are also an owner and a shareholder. I suppose if my dad had the means or the inclination, he could have attended a shareholders’ meeting in Detroit and had his say in corporate governance. Instead, we were happy to simply cash our quarterly check for a dollar or so a few times per year.

In hindsight, I suppose we weren’t very good shareholders. In fact, the previously unthinkable happened when General Motors went bankrupt in 2009. That single share of stock is worthless and not worth the paper it is printed on. I doubt my mother could even find it. We were a part of the corporate family, but we didn’t do our part.

Although Jesus is the head of the church, we are all members of the body of Christ, and likewise, we are shareholders in the church. Don’t get me wrong, the church will survive because it is of God. But the church has found itself nearly bankrupt of its core values at various times throughout history because it became more about preserving the corporation and the brand rather than fulfilling its mission. All organizations begin to consume themselves when they become focused on self-preservation rather than on contributing to the needs of the world around us.

So, following our good shepherd, I am suggesting that we might be better sheep if we understood that we have “shares” in the work and ministry of the church. Even though the image of the shepherd and the sheep fits us well, God is calling us to be more than a body of grazing farm animals. God is calling us to take on the role and ministry of the great shepherd ourselves and become the incarnation of Christ’s grace and love for the world. We are sheep with ownership shares. We must move beyond doing things “for” the church and understand that we “are” the church itself.

In Christ,



**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Children’s Ministry Director .....Lindsey Fossa  
 Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris  
 Church Administrator ..... Susan Snider  
 Contemporary Music Director .....Kayla Moss  
 Custodians .....Martha Conklin & Barbie Webb  
 Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel  
 Media & Communications .....Dawn Wilson  
 Music Director .....Bob Lee  
 Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin  
 Pastor.....Tony G. Crosby

**2018 FLOWER CALENDAR**

The 2018 flower calendar is on the office window. Sign up to reserve your special Sunday. Each flower arrangement is \$50. Questions or to request a date, call the church office.

**CONTACT US**

staff’s first name@epworthumc.com  
 example: tony@epworthumc.com  
 Pastor (706) 329-2484  
 Church Office (706) 322-6973  
 www.epworthumc.com

**THIS COMING WEEK & BEYOND**

<b>Sunday, April 22</b>	6:30 p.m. <i>Joy Stealers</i> Study
12:00 noon Country Comfort Luncheon	7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
<b>Monday, April 23</b>	<b>Thursday, April 26</b>
6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting	9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
<b>Tuesday, April 24</b>	12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting
5:00 p.m. Feeding Our Neighbors @ Rose Hill	<b>Sunday, April 29</b>
6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting	9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
7:00 p.m. Reachers UMW Meeting	11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
<b>Wednesday, April 25</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 1</b>
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper	10:30 a.m. HIS Group UMW Meeting
6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal	6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

### **The Children's Class**

Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Lindsey Fossa

### **The Youth Class**

6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kristii Daniel

### **The Friendship Class**

Study: The Lord God the Almighty

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 16

Teacher: Bobby Smith

### **The New Connections Class**

Study: 40 Days of Community

Teacher: Doug Franks

### **The Pathfinders Class**

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Suzy Revell

### **The Questors Class**

Study: Class Discussion

Teacher: Gary Tomlin

### **The Seekers Class**

Study: Wired Word

Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

## EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Join us May 6 at 6:00 p.m. as we come together to seek the Lord and lift our church, community, and one another in a special worship service focused on prayer. Prayer is the heartbeat of the ministry of the church. The Apostle Paul urged that "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim 2:1-4 NRSV).

## THOSE WHO SERVE

### APRIL 22, 2018

#### **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 Cherai, Emma Knight

Children's Church: Suzy Revell

Nursery Volunteer: Lindsey Fossa

Financial Secretary: Bryan Pruet

Turn Key: Baron Conklin

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

April 15, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$2,579.00
Received To Date:	\$75,883.97
Needed To Date:	\$95,188.20
Building Fund:	\$0

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Sunday School	59
Worship: 9 a.m.	33
Worship: 11 a.m.	46
	79

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Youth Meeting** - Tuesday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. We will complete our study on God's Armor: Putting it all together.

#### **Volunteers Needed in the Children's Ministry**

Children's Sunday School - 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Children's Church 9 a.m. - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays

Children's Church 11 a.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Nursery 11 a.m. - 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

#### **Youth & Children Sunday School Classes**

For a great lesson, wonderful fellowship in a Safe Sanctuaries approved environment, classes are by age/grade beginning at 10 a.m.

## MISSIONS

**April Mission Focus** - is 300 food items for Wynnton Neighborhood Network. We have collected 200+ items so far. Please continue to bring items in over the next two Sundays. Most needed: baked beans, pork & beans and any kind of cereal. Other needs: canned soup, fruit, vegetables, meat, tomato products and mac & cheese. Place items on the mission cart in the hallway near the youth room.

**Health Kits for Rose Hill Ministry** - The HIS UMW group is collecting items during April: gallon-size zip-closure bags, men's and women's socks, combs and brushes, washcloths. Full-size: lip balm, hand sanitizer, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, shaving cream. Travel-size: lotions, shampoos, body wash. The congregation is welcome to participate. Place your items in the marked container on the stage in the fellowship hall.

**Open Door Needs Your Help** - The Kiwanis Club is selling jumbo Vidalia onions. Kiwanis is offering an extra \$250 to the organization that sells the highest dollar amount. Open Door would like your help to win the \$250. For more info and to order, see the form on the information board. Orders will be taken until Sunday, April 29. Payment is due by May 1. Make payable to Kiwanis Club.

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

**Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill UMC** - We will provide supper on Tuesday, April 24. Preparations will begin at 5:00 p.m.; serving at 5:45 p.m. If you want more information about serving or helping to prepare the meal, contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Upper Room Devotionals** - May/June issue is available in the welcome center. Price as noted.

**Country Comfort Food Luncheon** - this Sunday, April 22, at noon. Sponsored by the UMW. All donations will go toward the new HVAC for the fellowship hall.

**Church Council Meeting** - Monday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall. If you have questions or want to be put on the agenda, contact Debra Johnson, chair.

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

**Reachers UMW Meeting** - Tuesday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m., in the Questors classroom.

**Wednesday Supper & Study** - April 25, supper at 6:00 p.m. Sign up to make supper reservations on the information board. Menu: scrambled dogs (with all the fixins), chips, salad bar and dessert. We are studying *Joy Stealers*, by Rob Renfro, at 6:30 p.m. Read Chapter 4 on Busyness. You can purchase the book from the welcome center for \$12 each.

**Adult Bible Study** - Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m., in the Questors classroom. If you are interested, contact Debra Johnson.

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

**HIS Group UMW Meeting** - Tuesday, May 1, at 10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

**Youth-Led Sunday** - May 6. Please attend to support the youth as they lead both services.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting** - Monday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

## 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	Jimmy Bridges	Rabon Family	

### 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	Ellen Pilgreen
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Al Fohan	Mark Oliver	Charles Holmes

### 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!)*

## **April Mission Focus** Wynnton Neighborhood Network

- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables (need most: baked beans & pork-n-beans)
- Canned meat
- Canned tomato products
- Cereal (need most)
- Mac & cheese
- Spaghetti sauce
- Noodles
- Rice
- Jelly
- Peanut butter
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent (powder or pods)
- Bar soap
- Monetary donations

*Place items on the Mission Cart*

*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.*

# Tree of Life Memorial

for Epworth UMC and Hamp Stevens UMC

**Given by The Friendship Class in memory of Jean F. Morris  
whose generosity and caring spirit made this world a better place.**

You may remember a family member or friend, now deceased, on the lasting Tree of Life Memorial that graces the entrance of our Sanctuary. Consider commemorating their life with a leaf placed on this handcrafted piece of art.

Memorials can be made for members of the Epworth United Methodist or Hamp Stevens United Methodist churches. Initiated by the Friendship Sunday School to honor Jean's life, it is carried forward by Epworth's Board of Trustees.

Complete the section below and return it with your gift made out to Epworth UMC. With limited space, we will only be able to include names on the leaf-no other messages. The minimum donation for an engraved leaf is \$50.

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Names to be Engraved: *5 rows of up to approximately 12 characters on each row*

## SAMPLE



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_