



EPWORTH NEWSLETTER

February-March 2018

This is the 11th Edition of the Bi-monthly Newsletter

Mission Statement

“To build and nurture relationships with God and our neighbors”

Wow! Where does the time go? Some of us are still recuperating from the Christmas holiday season and the Lenten season is right around the corner. Hope everyone has been able to stay warm and healthy throughout this ever changing wintry season.

Many thanks to the over 50 Epworth folks who participated in the “Drive-Thru Live Nativity”. Over 275 cars passed through over the two night event and we have received many thanks and positive remarks. As it turned out, the event was self-sustaining. No money came out of the church treasury thanks to our sponsors, individual gifts, in-kind gifts, along with donations of those who drove through. God is good!

As usual, Epworth continues to be a very busy place. In case you missed the “Birthday Bash”, following worship service on January 28 – “HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ONE AND ALL!” As usual, there was a great combination of food and merriment.

Our Annual “Souper” Bowl Sunday Meal and Fundraiser, on Sunday, February 4, was very successful. An abundance of food items were collected as well as \$359 in cash which will be shared between the Epworth Food Pantry and the Street Ministry programs.

Plan to stay after church on Sunday, February 18 to hear our Treasurer, Scott Speicher, give a presentation on the 2018 budget for Epworth. It will be presented in a new way, showing how our church’s stewardship of money is being used in mission and ministry to many different ways. We are grateful for the many faithful and generous givers, and hope this gives a picture of what God can do when we share our time, talents, AND financial resources.

Epworth was also graced with 11 new members this past year. Anyone interested in joining the church are encouraged to talk to Pastor Jennifer at any time.

During 2017, Epworth’s food pantry handed out more than 10 tons of food to 1,881 people. The street ministry and produce markets combined served about 9,600 people with 49 tons of food. To view that another way, those 59 tons of food are equal to about 118,000 cans of soup!

Our partnership with the Mid-Ohio Food Bank enables fresh, healthy food to be accessible to food-insecure households. That relationship enables your financial donation to stretch further by keeping the cost of food lower.

Easter is early this year with Ash Wednesday falling on Wednesday, February 14. Pastor Jennifer will be offering ashes and prayer in the church's driveway from 11 am to 1 pm. People don't even have to get out of their cars! They can roll down their windows and Pastor Jennifer will administer ashes representing both our mortality, as well as God's forgiving grace revealed through the cross of Jesus Christ. We are looking forward for some people to step-up and hold posters that say "GOD LOVES YOU," "DRIVE-THRU ASHES", etc. along Karl Road to draw attention to this gift of God's grace to the community. The Worship Center will also be open from 6-8 pm that evening for personal prayer and reflection as we begin the season of Lent. Pastor Jennifer will be present to administer ashes and pray with people.

During the 6 weeks of Lent, there will be an opportunity to participate in a small group Bible study - meeting in various homes, and the church. The title of the book is 24 Hours That Changed the World by Adam Hamilton. Participants will be encouraged to read the chapter assigned for the week prior to the gathering. Each gathering will include a brief video, following discussion of what you have heard or read. Opportunities to sign up for a group that meets in your area are available. Classes begin the week of February 12.

Epworth has started up its after school tutoring program again after the Christmas break. We're glad to do this in partnership with Global Community United Methodist Church for 6th through 10th grade students from the Nepal community in our neighborhood. Thanks to Epworth volunteers who selflessly mentor these kids.

"Moms2B", a relatively new outreach program sponsored by OSU Medical Center OB/GYN, continues to meet at Epworth on Tuesday afternoons. This program is for pregnant moms who can participate until their child is 1 year old. It provides support, education, case management, and lot of love for moms and their kids.

Condolences are in order for the family of Peggy Ratliff, who recently passed away at the age of 104. Peggy was a long time member of Epworth and will be missed by many. Also, condolences to the family of former member, Evelyn Clayton, who passed away this past week.

Following many unforeseen glitches in the renovation of the church Nursery, things are looking up! Hopefully, it will be finished by month's end. In the meantime, we are using Room 1, down the East Wing for this purpose. Thanks to all for your patience.

In addition to the Lenten Bible Study, the "Bad Girls Class" and the "Men's Group" continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9 am, as well as the "Cultivating Christian Life" Bible Study Class that meets on Sunday nights at 6:15 pm in Room 9. Pastor Jennifer also leads a Bible study on Wednesdays at 7 pm. The scripture passages for the Bible study can be found in the bulletin each week.

Did you know that Epworth has a very active Prayer Shawl Ministry? Carol Ellis heads up the group that meets on the first Monday of the month. The ministry has not just provided prayer shawls for those held up in prayer, but have also been presented baby blankets to those involved in Moms2B, as well as caps/mitten, etc. at Christmas for local school children. If you would like to join this group, contact Carol!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John: 3:16