



919/489-6557

February 24, 2016

www.epworth-umc.org

CLOSE THE GAP CAMPAIGN BEGINS

This past Sunday we presented to the church a report on the current financial status of the church's budget for this year. Through a power point presentation during each worship service we explained that our projected income is short (\$57,736.00) of our projected expenses. If you were not present in church this past Sunday, copies of the information are available by contacting the church office for either a hard copy or e-mail copy. For any questions, also contact the church office.

We remind everyone that we need to know by March 6, if you can help close the financial gap. Contributions can be made by making a pledge for 2016, if you have not done so, by increasing your 2016 pledge, or making a one-time gift as you feel led to make. We have proposed that if each giving unit would increase their annual giving for this year by \$10.00 per week, we can "Close the Gap." Cards for your response are available in the church office.

This information has been presented to you, because you, the congregation of Epworth United Methodist Church, have always provided what is needed for God's work, once you are aware of the needs. Maintaining our church building and our church staff are necessary for us to be able to worship God, to thank him and praise him for what he has provided for us. Through the leadership of our staff, we are given the direction and assistance we need to plan and reach out to others.

Therefore, you are asked to join hands and close this gap. Remember to prayerfully consider what you can do. Always ask "Lord what do you want to do through me."

Thanks you.

Joe Jernigan, Chair of Church Council

Ed Boltz, Chair of Stewardship Committee

SUNDAY, February 28, 2016

Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 and 11:00 Worship

Sermon "Tough Questions for Jesus" Rev. Karen H. Whitaker

Scripture: Psalm 63: 1-8, Isaiah 55: 1-9, Luke 13: 1-9

Hymns "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

9:00 Worship

Sermon "Peace Like a River" Rev. Laura Wittman

Scripture: Psalm 63: 1-8, Isaiah 55: 1-9

Songs "Hear the Sound" "I'll Fly Away" "We Believe" "In Christ Alone"

Liturgists 8:30 Maureen Oakes 11:00 Todd Benware

Ushers Harry Dutton, Emily Dike, Rick Dike, Betty Ketch

Altar Guild Laurel and Charlie Rose, Nancy Myers

Nursery Marcie Harp, Theresa Shebalin, Korrine Terroso, Lisa Byrd

Counters Beth Armbruster, Bill Matteson

Acolyte Ian Kim **Youth Reader** Caleb Engel

Crucifer Peter Walker **Bus Driver** Beth Armbruster

Greeter Meg Bass, Todd Benware

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the church staff
by Robbie and Trish Robertson.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you have been attending Epworth and are interested in more information about the church or church membership, we invite you to attend our new member class. Come and meet some of the church leadership and hear more about Epworth UMC. Our next New Member Class will meet for a 2 part session at 9:45 on March 13 and 20 in the conference room in the office suite. Please contact Pastor Karen or the church office if you plan to attend.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? As we seek to grow Epworth, the January Church Council meeting discussed the idea of having a coach work with Epworth UMC as we move into God's preferred future. We are looking for 10- 12 persons who want to be on a task force that will meet with the coach to dream, discern and envision the future of Epworth. Our task force is almost formed. If God is nudging you to join contact Pastor Karen 919-210-6839.



EGGSTRAVAGANZA is scheduled for March 13 at 3pm here at Epworth. We will have Easter Egg Hunts, a bounce house, treats for the children, games and crafts!

We will be collecting candy (preferably peanut free) and small prizes to use for goody bags between now and March 6. If you would like to make a donation, please feel free to drop it by the church office at your convenience.

SPRING GARDEN-CLEAN UP Volunteers of all ages are needed on Sat., March 5, from 9 a.m. til noon... Bring your gloves and garden tools. Donations of mulch, large pots, perennials, and SNACKS will be appreciated. Contact Leanna Murphy Dono if you have questions. MurphyLK2@yahoo.com or phone 513-543-3472.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**The Durham CROP Walk is on March 20th. Outreach will sponsor information tables in the Farthex starting February 28th.

** Epworth will be participating in building a Habitat for Humanity house from March thru June. Please contact Bill Matteson (whmatteson@gmail.com) for further information.

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EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 3002 Hope Valley Rd.,
Durham, NC 27707 919-489-6557

Rev. Karen H. Whitaker, Senior Pastor 919-210-6839 (cell) kwhitaker@epworth-umc.org

Rev. Laura Wittman, Associate Pastor 919-666-8774 (cell) lwittman@epworth-umc.org

Kim Philpott, Director of Music kphilpott@epworth-umc.org

Meg Bass, Financial Manager mbass@epworth-umc.org

Dona Gamble, Administrative Secretary dgamble@epworth-umc.org

Joyce Dalglish, Interim Youth Director 919-489-6557

Dr. Fred Ibberson, Organist fred.ibberson@gmail.com

Gail Heath, Preschool Director 919-489-6098 director@epworth-preschool.org

Marcey Harp, Nursery Director nursery@epworth-umc.org

Marlin Lennon, Sexton

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Reality Ministries' mission is to create opportunities for the overlooked and underserved populations in Durham, not only those with disabilities but also disadvantaged youth from the inner-city. Reality includes both men and women. They strive to have this group "experience belonging, kinship and the life-changing Reality of Christ's love."

<http://www.realityministriesinc.org/about/>

On Saturday, Feb, 13th the UMM of Epworth hosted about two dozen of the men from Reality Ministries for a pancake breakfast. Their ages ranged from the late teens to mid-60s. They are a warm hearted group who were so thankful for the opportunity to spend time with others. Lots of conversation, hugs and laughs, just overall enjoyable group to be around. We ended up singing songs to the accompaniment of a guitar by a couple of the volunteers from Reality. By spending time with them we expected that we would be brightening their day and lifting their spirits. Our consensus was it was the other way around. This was the second time we've hosted them, and we are doing another breakfast on April 9th. The UMM welcomes others to join us.

MOST NEEDED BY BACKPACK MINISTRIES

CHOCOLATE MILK HEALTHY SNACKS JUICE BOXES
MAC 'N CHEESE

Please call the church office if you have questions.



YOUTH NEWS & NOTES:

Sunday School Reminder: Reminder to bring your Sunday School offering! Keep it up!! 40-Day Bible Challenge is going strong! Keep up the good work with your readings! There's plenty of time to catch up!

Service Opportunities:

Youth Help Requested!!

Acolyte and Crucifer needed for the Maundy Thursday service on March 24th at 7:00 p.m. Communion Servers needed for the following services (youth and parents are both invited to share this special worship experience):

Maundy Thursday service on March 24th

Easter Sunday services (8:45 and 11:00) on March 27th. If you would like to participate, please Laura Wittman: email - lwittman@epworth-umc.org, church office - 919-489-6557, or let Joyce know.

Youth Ministry Saints for this week:

"Chefs" for the UMYF Dinner this Sunday: Boltz and Northern-Sweeting families

Acolyte: Ian Kim

Crucifer: Peter Walker

Reader: Caleb Engel

Thanks and blessings to the Nadwornys and Benware/Davis families for providing the UMYF dinner last Sunday!

Upcoming Special Events:

Mark your calendars for these upcoming special UMYF events:

March 13th: Eggstravaganza

March 20th: CROP Walk

March 27th: EASTER-No UMYF



Conference Youth Events:

Check out these events offered for our youth by the North Carolina Conference of the UMC. These are great opportunities for our youth to grow in their faith with other youth. More details available in the church office. Some events such as ACS, Breakaway and the Appalachian Trail Hike fill up fast:

ACS (July 18th-23rd)

Appalachian Trail Hike (July 11th-16th)

Breakaway (June 20th-25th)

CYC Retreat (August 12th-14th)

Kaleidoscope (April 8th-10th)

Duke Youth Academy provides an opportunity for a class through worship, study, play and service with the Duke Divinity School faculty.

Leader-in-Training at Camp Don Lee offers a four-week intensive leadership development program for older youth. Camp Don Lee has summer camps for all ages.

