



The Carillon

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

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Shortly after I posted our “Two Minutes to Tell Our Story” video on Facebook on Oct. 17, it got a like from Janie Barnette. Janie was staff-parish chair when I was serving Central UMC in Clifton Forge, before coming to Epworth. I think I knew that Janie had liked our Facebook page, but I don’t recall ever seeing her like one of these videos, which we began posting in March.

Why did Janie like this video? Perhaps because of the topic, which was stewardship. If you haven’t seen it yourself, the link for that week is <https://www.facebook.com/epworthumc124/videos/341460913087323/>

In the video, Donna Benken, our administrative assistant, and I talk about Giving Sunday, which is Nov. 11. The Gospel passage for that day is Mark 12:38-44, which tells of the widow’s mite. One commentary I’ve read on the passage asks us to think about stewardship or giving in terms of relationship: to think of giving as an expression of our love for God rather than thinking about it as a sacrifice, a notion that is often associated with that passage.

Stewardship is something we need to discuss at Epworth. At our Oct. 15 church council meeting, I calculated the percentage of our budget covered by giving. With a combined budget of some \$538,000 for 2018 and 2019, and giving projected at \$75,000 each year, that means that giving covers about 36 percent of our budget. Given these numbers, and the fact that our apportionments – which are based on our expenses – are \$45,000 for 2019, I plan to ask our district superintendent if it’s time for Epworth to have a part-time pastor, rather than a full-time pastor. This doesn’t mean that such a move is imminent, but it may be time to have this conversation.

We’ll consider stewardship in the weeks to come, leading up to Giving Sunday.

Our text for Oct. 28, Job 42:1-6, 11-17, lends itself to this conversation, too. Please note that I will miss the Sunday in between, Nov. 4, which is All Saints’ Day, due to a mandatory drill with the naval reserves. Phyllis Earley will be our guest speaker that Sunday.

Please be in prayer about how our giving can reflect our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Grace to you, and peace,
Ned Alderman



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

NOVEMBER

Mary Banks	7
Janice Smith	7
Jan Root	9
Grayson Bailey	14
Ann Hurd	18
Ron Bennington	21
Judi Bowen	21
Syler Ward	22
Dylan Cook	29
Eric Grieve	29
Jake Harlow	29

**DECEMBER**

Amy Sumner	2
B. J. Blankenship	7
Jeanne Luse	11
Diane Maxwell	13
Noelle Pennington	14
Liam Park	15
Lacey Park	19
Kacy Bailey	21
Victor Edwards	21
Jay Demeter	27
Carolyn Rogers	29



That all offerings taken during Communion on the 1st Sunday of each month 100% goes to Ghent Area Ministry. Just look for the collection boxes at the front of the Sanctuary during communion.

Holiday Service Schedule

November 4 - 11 am
All Saints Day
Remembering loved ones & friends.

November 11 - 11 am
Pledge/Giving Sunday

December 2 - 11 am
1st Sunday of Advent - Hanging of the
Chrismos

December 24 - 6 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 30, 11 a.m.
Festival of Lessons & Carols

PAWS IN FAITH

A monthly "pet-friendly" worship service held the 1st Sunday of each month featuring each month a

"MISSION MEAL"

(Services are held outside weather permitting.)

*** November Service - 11/4 @ 4:30 pm**

*** December Service - 12/2 @ 4:30 pm**

Come worship with your four-legged friends and enjoy a meal beforehand!

(Remember dogs need to be on leashes and small pets in carriers)

**PRAYER MEETING**

Weekly Prayer meetings
are on Monday
evenings, at 5:30 p.m.
in the church parlor

Make someone's day special by participating in our monthly
"Card Shower"
 for members who are either in Health Care facilities or Homebound.
 AKA our *Missing Angels*

**A – C send to:**

Ms. Louise Gwaltney
 10 Applewood Drive
 Hopewell, N. J. 08525

Mary Lee Lowe
 6311 Granby Street, #209
 Norfolk, VA 23505

D – G send to:

Mary Banks
 350 S. Ridgewood Avenue
 Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Dorothy Whitfield
 1213 Suffield Drive
 McLean VA 22101

R – Z send to:

Beverly Smeltzer
 310 24th St., #102
 Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Ed Hurd
 1127 Vintage Court
 Virginia Beach, VA 23454

H – L send to:

Elinor Edwards
 538 Washington Park, #B1
 Norfolk, VA 23517

Marilyn Sarko
 432 Bartell Drive
 Chesapeake, VA 23452

M - Q send to:

Ann Gatling
 5417 Wesleyan Drive #204
 Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Jane Lewis
 6311 Granby Street, #221
 Norfolk, VA 23505

Don't forget that at this time of year many of our shut-ins/Missing Angels may be forgotten.

Epworth has a wonderful tradition of purchasing and taking poinsettia plants to these persons who otherwise might not receive anything else.

Just knowing that they have been thought of and prayed for is a wonderful blessing.

Please consider volunteering to transport poinsettia plants which have been dedicated to go to an Epworth shut-in or sick member.



4th - Paws in Faith, 4:30 pm
 10th - Outreach Committee, 10 am
 10th - Blessing of the Animals, 4 pm
 11th - Giving Sunday, 11 am
 17th - Grand Illumination parade
 26th - Church Council, 6:15 pm

**November
 Calendar
 Highlights**

2nd - Paws in Faith, 4:30 pm
 8th - Outreach Committee, 10 am
 16th - Christmas Dinner, 12 pm
 24th - Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm
 27th - Mobile Meals, 10 am

**December
 Calendar
 Highlights**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

Dear Friends,

There is a touch of autumn in the air today. I think the temperature has finally caught up with the calendar. What a beautiful time of the year with the trees changing colors to every hue of red, orange and yellow, bright orange pumpkins on doorsteps, and, speaking of pumpkins, pumpkin spice everywhere! I fully expect to see pumpkin spice perfume in department stores.

With the season come so many opportunities to help others. Some of us have participated with our pastor in the *Rise Against Hunger* events at area churches. If you ever have a chance to do this, do it. You make new friends, serve a very worthy cause and have a great time. Ned does a wonderful job of presenting us with chances to help throughout our community. Watch the Connection for his suggestions.

Can you believe how many drives we have going today? Members of Epworth, your giving spirit amazes the charities and groups that we support. Of course, we have our year round collections, towels for the SPCA and Norfolk Animal Care Center, and paperback books for the prisoners of the Norfolk City Jail. If you have any extra cards or notepaper that you could spare, they would be such a blessing to the prisoners, who want to write to their families and loved ones. For the fall season, we have our annual collection for Thanksgiving dinner bags for GAM. They hope to reach a goal of helping 350-400 families this year. To achieve that goal GAM needs a commitment from each church of **20 food bags**. What a wonderful way to show our thankfulness for all of the blessings that God has mercifully granted to us. We can't forget the Red Bird drive. Blankets, towel sets, coats and toys. Pardon me, but I want to share a little story. For a time, my nephew taught high school and coached football in Tennessee, near Gatlinburg. One of the students came to school in cardboard shoes, as his mother (no father present) couldn't afford regular shoes for him. We cannot imagine that this level of poverty and need exists in our country. BTW, Brad, my nephew, got him some shoes and mentored him through high school. The young boy graduated and entered the military. When Brad was leaving that school, and he and his family were moving to Georgia, the young man, now a member of an elite group in the military, returned to speak at a going away event. He talked about what Brad had meant in his life. We can make such a difference in the lives of these precious people through giving them warm blankets for their beds, coats to block out the cold, toys for their children to enjoy at Christmas, and towels, such a simple thing.

In November, again, we will be collecting mittens and caps for the Warm and Fuzzy Christmas offered by the Buffalow family of South Norfolk. Watch as our tree in the Crusader Room fills with colorful mittens to warm tiny hands.

It seems too easy to simply say "thank you" for all that you have done and are doing for others through your giving. May God bless you and continue to bless our efforts in 2018.

Mary Baker, Chair Outreach Committee
Donna Benken, Jackie Fulcher, Mary Lee Howlett, Ann Long,
Carolyn Rogers, Karen Ward, and Ann Gatling, Member Emeritis



What we love about hymns: *IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MUSIC*

Which brings to mind another either/or: would you like to supply the QUESTION, or the ANSWER?

This is a heart and mind issue and we learned it early in life. The answer is in family relationships and traditions. Perhaps we prayed, or sang. Or, both. Some of us did it at home and at church. It leads to the question of the day in 2018, every morning and it's the self-convicting lyric of one, dear hymn: "Are Ye Able?"

The issue is we love to sing together, at home (maybe only in the shower); and we love to sing in our Church Home together with a hundred other voices and full instrumental support. It is time to return to the primary question, Where is your salvation?

Bring an unchurched person to church this Sunday. Epworth is not a Museum. We love to serve, to worship and to sing of the Lord's goodness. You will be blessed in your heart.

The refrain, #530, The United Methodist Hymnal, says "YES, WE ARE ABLE." I believe this. (MK 10:35-40.)

We work for the night is coming.



We love to sing together.

---Dr. Jean Theil, Minister of Music.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

**The spirit of Christmas saturates the soul with goodwill;
"An eye for an eye"? No! Rather that evil not persuade
the heart to win the bidding war.**

**What would Christmas be without:
the inspiration of Handel's "Messiah";
the colorful enchantment of "The Nutcracker" ballet;
the childhood innocence of Natalie Wood in "Miracle on 34th Street";
the regeneration of the spirit in "Scrooge";
the Christmas cards with personalized messages of hope that
come from the recesses of the soul-----to remain there forever,
never to be lost or defeated in this troubled world;
the special reverence of Christmas Eve communion that brings a
congregation "together";
decorating a Victorian tree with its teddy bears, nutcrackers, and
strings of glassy, pink tinsel that sparkle amid miniature lights.**

**Most importantly, celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
and capture the true meaning of Christmas -----
that through His birth, He has given us a way into His Kingdom.
So, with renewed desire we venture forth, ready to confront life
with hope and purpose!**

---Jane Edwards

Blessing of the Animals



Bring your pets, furry and not so furry, with the appropriate leashes or in carriers.

Saturday, November 10th, 4 pm

The service will be held on the Freemason Street porch, weather permitting.

Grand Illumination Parade

New This Year!

During the Grand Illumination Parade on Saturday, November 17th, we will not be parking cars, but we will be hosting a Food Truck Rally.

We have obtained a permit from the City of Norfolk to have 6 to 8 food trucks setup in the parking lot.

They will begin getting in place around 3 p.m. and most should be there by 5.

We have commitments from Dula's Fish on the Fly, Cajun Hot Dogs to Go, and Plaza del Sol.

We are looking for other trucks that might sell pizza, BBQ and sweets.

Members of the Outreach Committee will still be offering cocoa on the Crusader porch.

Plans include Christmas music in the center of the parking lot.

The parking lot will be closed to vehicular traffic and member parking.

We have e_x_p_a_n_d_e_d our Coffee on the Porch to include Thursdays at 9:00 am, as well as Sundays at 9:00 a.m., as a way of meeting our neighbors who live and work around downtown.

Coffee is served outside in the parking lot (not really on the porch) and a good time has always been had by all.

COFFEE
ON THE
PORCH



Don't forget !

We accept year round donations of used towels, dog & cat food, toys, and pill bottles for the Norfolk SPCA, paperback books for the Norfolk City Jail inmates, and empty printer ink cartridges. Boxes for donations are located in the Outreach Corner outside the chapel and at the back of the sanctuary. Donations may also be dropped off during church office hours.



**HAVE
CHRISTMAS
DINNER
WITH US**

Christmas Congregational Dinner

*Come out to enjoy the fellowship and Christmas Cheer
on Sunday, Dec. 16th, after the worship service!*

*Keep your eyes open for further information TBA
in the worship bulletin & the Epworth Connection.*

The Outreach Committee asks you to

Please donate to our MITTEN TREE!

Help us help children
by donating mittens
and caps to keep little
hands & heads warm
this winter.

All donations will be
hung on the mitten tree
& then donated to the
Buffalo Family
Community Service
Project.



**Donations
accepted til
December 9**

*It's time again to place your
order for Christmas Poinsettias.
Please cut out the order form
below and mail with your check
to the church office by
December 9th.*



Christmas Poinsettias

You are invited to place a poinsettia(s) in
the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season.
Please submit your check payable to
Epworth UMC and mark it "Poinsettia."

Deadline for orders is December 9th.

Please place: 6.5" Poinsettia plant(s) (write
in color choice & number of each below)

Red ____ **Pink** ____ **White** ____

In honor of/memory of (circle your choice)
(Please PRINT)

GIVEN BY:

___ Please take my poinsettia(s) to an
Epworth shut-in or sick member. (tax
deductible) \$8.50 ea.

___ I will pick up my poinsettia(s). (non tax
deductible) \$8.50

*Our Annual Christmas by the Fireside
will be held 4 pm, December 14th.*

*All are invited to join in sharing the
Christmas season*

*with refreshments, caroling by the children
& a special visit from Santa Claus.*



Epworth United Methodist Church
124 W. Freemason Street
Norfolk, VA 23510
(757) 622-2970
Email: epworth@epworthva.org
website: www.epworthva.org

Address Service Requested



1 HOUR ON
SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 3RD



Epworth is now on Facebook
Like us on our facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/epworthumc124

The Carillon newsletter is published
bi-monthly.

Articles for the January/February
2019 Carillon are due no later than
December 17th.