

# The Carillon

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

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A wise command master chief gave me some good advice once, but, before we get to that, let's talk about some important dates in our ministry:

Sunday, Sept. 2, 4:30 p.m. We used to offer "But First, Pizza" before Paws in Faith, but, for clarity's sake, "But First, Pizza" will now be called a mission meal, and while we don't have a guest speaker for Paws in Faith Sept. 2, we have a significant ministry to discuss: The Open Table Mission. Epworth is one of four churches invited to join a cluster group to minister to an individual or family in transition. One or more volunteers are needed to represent the church at weekly meetings that'll help a family or young adult cope with education, finance, housing, health care, insurance, and spiritual life. We're asked to help the group pay a \$500 licensing fee, and to aid volunteers from the church contribute up to \$10 a week at meetings. Time is the real commitment here, so please pray for discernment and inspiration.

Sunday, Sept. 9, brings Rise Against Hunger to our neighbors at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This is a ministry that Vicky Joplin and I supported at Community UMC in Virginia Beach last month, packaging dried food to provide sustenance in famine. Please consider heading to St. Paul's after worship Sept. 9, or joining Sunday, Sept. 30, when Thalia UMC in Virginia Beach hosts Rise Against Hunger. Please see me for details on registration.

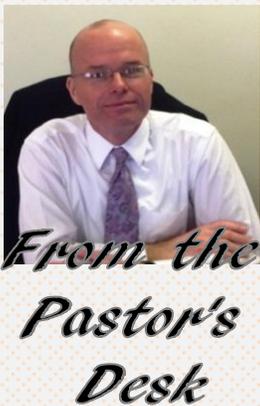
Speaking of Thalia UMC, Dan Cott, a member of that church, will be part of a Kairos Prison Ministry weekend next month, and has invited us to support this by baking cookies for incarcerated members of this retreat. Dan has given us recipes and instructions for packing, and had noted that the key ingredient is prayer. Please see me if you'd like to; donations of cookies are needed by Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Back to the CMC: While serving as chaplain of CAG-14, in Lemoore, Calif., I worked with four F-18 squadrons, including VFA-115. One day, the command master chief there said, "Chaplain, you can never know how to minister in a situation until you know both sides."

His example was this: If a sailor came to me and said, "Chaplain, my command is out to get me! They're always picking on me, they're always singling me out, and they're making my life miserable," I had two options: I could go into the master chief's office and say, "A sailor came to me and told me that you are always making his life miserable and that you are always picking on him and always singling him out! I demand to know why you are being so mean!" I could also go into the master chief's office and say, "A sailor came to me and told me he's miserable here; what can you tell me to help minister in this situation?" I might be told that everything the sailor said is true, or that parts of it are, or I might hear that the sailor is always late, never passes inspection, and has told friends that he plans to fail three physical fitness tests in order to be separated from the Navy. In any case, there is conflict, and I cannot know how to minister in it until I got both sides.

Whenever we are faced with conflict, may we get both sides of the story in order to know how to minister.

Grace to you, and peace,  
Ned Alderman



**SEPTEMBER**

Dabney Baker	1
Ruth Compo	2
Louise Gwaltney	3
Allen Ramey	3
Sherrie Roman	3
Erin Apple	5
Alex Demeter	6
Timothy Olin	6
Emily Cook	12
Victoria Hecht	12
Gordon Holley	16
Kathy Ramey	17
Elizabeth David	18
Albert Copperthite	24
Elinor Edwards	24
Margaret Lints	24
Joanne Meiers	28



**OCTOBER**

Christian Fitchett	2
Karen Lindquist	2
Jonathan Soulen	6
Nora Roadcap	11
Harmon Long	15
Thomas Bailey	16
David Fulcher	17
Charlotte Grieve	23
Amy Perkins	27

**WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:**

Jeon Sook Jung Moon and family  
 on the death of Rev. Hyung Il Moon on  
 July 5th. Rev. Moon served as pastor of Epworth  
 UMC from 2010 - 2011.  
 May God comfort them in their loss.



**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.)*

- \* September Service - 9/2 @ 4:30 pm
- \* October Service - 10/7 @ 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)*



**UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS**

- † September 30 - 5th Sunday Hymn Sing
- † October 7 - World Communion Sunday
  - † October 14 - Laity Sunday
- † October 28 - Reformation Sunday
- † November 4 - All Saints Sunday



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:**

**Mary Banks**  
 350 S. Ridgewood Avenue  
 #208  
 Ormond Beach, FL 32174

**Dorothy Whitfield**  
 1213 Suffield Drive  
 McLean VA 22101

**D – G send to:**

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

**Marilyn Sarko**  
 432 Bartell Drive  
 Chesapeake, VA 23452

**R – Z send to:**

**Ms. Louise Gwaltney**  
 c/o F.X. Shannon  
 10 Applewood Drive  
 Hopewell, N. J. 08525

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

**H – L send to:**

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

**Jane Lewis**  
 6311 Granby Street,  
 Apt. #221  
 Norfolk, VA 23505

**M - Q send to:**

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

**Ed Hurd**  
 1127 Vintage Court  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23454

**THE SUNBEAMS OF OCTOBER**

Hypnotically entranced do they play their themes  
 As destiny plots each step:  
 a dance of fluttering lights through window shade slats;  
 a display of hopping dots and dashes in constant motion on a wall or  
 carpet,  
 almost certain to stir up a cat's curiosity; or  
 sheer shades of transparent light  
 -----almost invisible-----  
 that get caught in a strand of hair momentarily,  
 only to bolt through to escape to a far wall.  
 One gets mesmerized by this activity October can truly captivate,  
 for the sun's intensity has lessened to a milder hue  
 -----a perfect wavelength-----  
 that soothes the eye and calms the soul.

--Jane Edwards



Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of summer, we reflect on the warm, sunny days, the joyous times shared with family while on vacation, and the more relaxed pace of the season. During these months, the mission work at Epworth never took a vacation and, thanks to all of you, and through our partnership with ForKidsVA, we have been able to provide BTS supplies to homeless children who live in shelters in our area. Some of us remember when we provided hot meals and partnered with Ignite to help these children with their homework. We learned how truly bright and wonderful they are. Our baby bottle campaign for the Crisis Pregnancy Center raised \$465.75. Well done! They were thrilled with the results and are so grateful that we cared enough to make them a priority at our church. What a joy for all of us that we can make such a difference in the lives of children by helping ForKidsVA and the CPC. Hopefully, we can discover even more ways to benefit both of them.

In late August, we are giving our day school teachers and staff gift cards with personal notes. While we are always looking outward for ways to help others, this time we are looking inward to say “thank you” to the teachers who care for the young children entrusted to us by their parents. In October, we hope you will once again help us collect new full size blankets, new and gently used coats, new toys and new towel sets for the families helped by Red Bird. Last year 500 children received toys and 200 families received new blankets. This will be our second time helping the people of Appalachia in 2018. Earlier this year, we supplied the team from Haygood UMC with supplies for their Appalachia Service Project mission trip. In the Connection, please see copies of the thank you notes that Epworth received from that team. In November we will be asking for your support as we collect hats and mittens for Warm and Fuzzy Christmas in South Norfolk presented by the Buffalow family and their neighbors. The dedication that this family has shown in their efforts to help their community has caught the attention of local media. What it has shown us is that it can take only one or two truly dedicated people with a vision and a “never say die” attitude to create a major change for good.

Other wonderful opportunities for service have been presented by our pastor Ned Alderman and Church Council chair Jonathan Soulen. Please consider helping wherever you can, whether it's preparing food for hungry people around the world at the *Rise Against Hunger* events at St Paul's Episcopal and Thalia UMC in September, or baking cookies for Kairos due in September, or supporting the Sound and Light concerts given every Wednesday in September in our sanctuary. The last is a wonderful opportunity to welcome visitors to our church and show hospitality to others, while hearing beautiful music provided by our organist, Dr. Jean Thiel. Even if you cannot attend these events or cannot even attend church anymore, we ask that you be part of a team of prayer warriors who lift up this church and its mission in daily prayer. That is truly the most powerful thing that any of us can do.

Thank you, people of Epworth, for your loving and generous support. May God continue to bless our efforts in 2018.

Mary Baker, Chair,  
Donna Benken, Mary Lee Howlett, Ann Long, Carolyn Rogers,  
Karen Ward, and Ann Gatling, Member Emeritus



In the last Carillon of last year, we ran a meditation from Amy Oden's book *God's Welcome*, which was the source for a Bible study. Not having done so since, it's time to run this installment on Welcoming the Stranger. Let's incorporate approaches like these in reaching those right outside Epworth's doors.

### SEEING CHRIST IN THE STRANGER

*A meditation from the book "God's Welcome, Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World", by Amy G. Oden*

*Scripture reference: Matthew 25:35-36*

Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 that it is in the least likely of places - in prisons and sickbeds, among the hungry and thirsty, even among the lost - that we will encounter Jesus himself. His parable suggests that Jesus may be especially present among the vulnerable. If we want to know Jesus, we're going to have to hang out with strangers.

At first blush this seems counterintuitive. Wouldn't we want to hang out with models of Christian faith, maybe clergy or church leaders, if we want to know Jesus? Certainly we will seek out brothers and sisters who can offer their wisdom and faith as we journey along. But if we turn only to those sources to know Jesus, we will miss out on some of God's profound welcome. As we cultivate a spirituality of hospitality we want eyes to see Jesus in each person we encounter, even when the Jesus we find there is not the Jesus we expect.

You already know the experience of seeing Christ in another person. Most likely, you have experienced the grace of God's welcome into abundant life through another person in your life. As you reflect on those in whom you have encountered Jesus most profoundly, what was it that conveyed Christ's presence to you? Perhaps their gentleness, mercy, or forgiveness. Or perhaps their devotion to others or their holiness of life. It's not a big stretch to believe we can see Christ present in these ways. But how can we see Jesus in those who do not exhibit such likeable traits? How can we see Jesus in the talkative persons who interrupt and seem uninterested in anyone's thoughts but their own? Or in the perfectionist who seems to have little patience with others who don't measure up? Could we see Jesus in the panhandler on the sidewalk or in the shabbily dressed stranger who visits on Sunday morning, standoffish and shuffling to a seat?

To be fair, it takes time and patience to develop this spiritual discipline of seeing Jesus in others. For most of us, it doesn't come naturally. We have to desire this state of the heart, and it begins with trust. Trust that God is, indeed pervading every molecule of the universe, so God must already be at work in this person, planting seeds, calling them to abundant life, nudging and welcoming them.

Notice: our trust is not in the goodness of the other person, or even in our own ability to see Christ in the other, but in God's life itself, present and powerful in all things. Cultivating a spirituality of hospitality pulls us back to this foundational trust in God's welcoming work. No matter who we welcome, God got there first, offering welcome in this person's life long before we showed up. Our inability to see Christ in the stranger doesn't mean Christ isn't there, but that we need to exercise our imaginations!

In chapter 1 we talked about recognition, seeing beyond appearances. This is an act of the imagination, seeing beyond labels or demographic categories, seeing others most deeply for who they are, the gifts and burdens that they bring. If we live in the trust that God has already been at work, we are expectant that, in this visitor, God has something to say to us. If we want to know what Jesus is up to, and the abundant life Jesus has for our church family, we pay attention to this stranger, trusting that in welcoming the stranger, we welcome Christ himself.

#### ***Questions to Ponder:***

- *In whom in your life has it been easy to see Christ? Why?*
- *In whom has it been hard to see Christ? Why?*
- *How do you know Jesus when you see him?*
- *What seeds has God already planted in the strangers you welcome at church?*

Amy Oden, *God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel Hungry World*, The Pilgrim Press © 2008 by Amy G. Oden.].



**NEW IN SEPTEMBER!!**

**SANCTUARY SOUNDS & LIGHT**

We invite Epworth Church family and friends every Wednesday in September, from 12 to 12:30, to come to the Sanctuary and enjoy a mid-day musical interlude listening to our organist, Dr. Jean Thiel, on the organ in the beautiful ambience of sun-lit, stained-glass windows. Afterward, enjoy your bag lunch and fellowship in the Crusader Fellowship room.

*Dessert and drinks provided!*

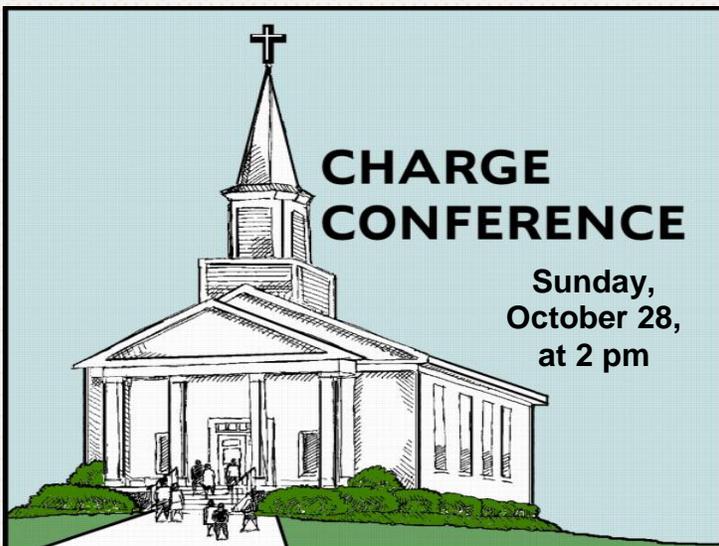
**Blessing of the Animals**



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

**Saturday, October 28th, 4 pm**

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



**Trunk or Treat**



October 26<sup>th</sup>, in the Church parking lot, 4 - 6 pm. If you would be interested in participating using your vehicle, please contact the church office at 622-2970 or [epworth@epworthva.org](mailto:epworth@epworthva.org).

*All are invited!*



**THE EPWORTH OUTREACH COMMITTEE**  
*Is collecting donations for the  
 Henderson Settlement of the Red Bird Mission.*

**What is needed?**

- Age appropriate toys for toddlers, pre-school, school age and teens.
  - New blankets for double/queen sized beds
  - New and/or gently used coats & jackets
  - New towel sets (bath, hand & washcloth)

*A box for donations is located in the Outreach Corner,  
 just outside the Southgate Chapel.*

*Deadline for donations: **October 28.***

*The Outreach Committee Thanks you!*



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.



**Don't forget !**

We are still accepting donations of used towels, dog & cat food, toys, and pill bottles for the Norfolk SPCA. A box for donations is located in the Outreach Corner outside the Southgate Chapel.



**KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS:**

It's easy to continue your support every time you shop and use your Shopper's Card. Just login to [Kroger.com/CommunityReward](http://Kroger.com/CommunityReward) select Epworth UMC, and use NPO/Pin #80607.

The "new year of giving" starts September 1, so re-enroll now and make every shopping trip count!

This year we have earned over \$140.00 with 5 households enrolled.

So if you haven't already registered your card do so today!

**COFFEE ON THE PORCH**

We have expanded our Coffee on the Porch to include Mondays & Thursdays at 8:30 am, as well as Sundays at 9:30 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.

**September Calendar Highlights**

- 2nd - Paws in Faith, 4:30 pm
- 3rd - EDS/Church Offices Closed
- 8th - Outreach Committee, 10 am
- 24th - Church Council, 6:15 pm
- 27th - Mobile Meals, 10 am
- 30th - Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing, 11 am

**October Calendar Highlights**

- 7th - Paws in Faith, 4:30 pm
- 13th - Outreach Committee, 10 am
- 25th - Mobile Meals, 10 am
- 29th - Church Council, 6:15 pm
- 26th - EDS Trunk or Treat, 4 pm

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

**Address Service Requested**



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***Like us on our facebook page at:***  
***[www.facebook.com/epworthumc124](http://www.facebook.com/epworthumc124)***

The Carillon newsletter is published  
bi-monthly.

Articles for the November/December  
2018 Carillon are due no later than  
October 22nd.