



THE ROCK



APRIL 2016

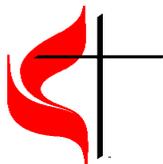
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Epworth UM Church

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EP COMING

April 3,10,17,24

Confirmation Class 5:00 PM

April 7-10

Confirmation Retreat

April 7-8

Salkehatchie Yard Sale Set-Up

6:30 PM

April 9

Salkehatchie Yard Sale

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

April 12

Charlotte Herbert Circle

10:30 AM

April 18

Carrie Bull Circle 7:30 PM

April 19

Admin Council Meeting

7:30 PM

April 22-24

Church Retreat

James Island County Park

April 28

Volunteers @JIO

April 30

Private Event

Taste of James Island

11:15 AM



With Ben Every
Tuesday
7:15 AM

Have I told you about my favorite restaurant yet? I tell everyone I can about this amazing place to eat in downtown Charleston. It has great service, wonderful atmosphere, and the best food ever! If I have not told you about this place yet, then we need to talk.

Pastor Ben's Corner

How many people have you referred to your favorite restaurant? Chances are you have done it more than you might think. Oftentimes we offer up recommendations without even realizing it. Someone says they are going out to eat, and we respond by telling them about our favorite places to go. "Oh, don't go over there. Go over here and order the ..."

How many people do you invite to Epworth? Better yet, how excited are you when you make the invitation? We get very excited and passionate when we talk about our favorite sports team, restaurant, vacation spot, and so on. We paint a picture with our words, energy, and body language that lures people into what we are saying.

When we invite people to church, we often concede rejection before we open our mouth. Rather than talking with the same passion we have for our favorite restaurant, we limp in at the end of a conversation with, "By the way, do you want to go to church with me on Sunday? You don't have to. I understand if you don't want to." Sometimes we even sound like Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh.

Imagine inviting people to church with the same fervor you have for your favorite restaurant. "Oh, you have to come to church with me on Sunday! Last week the pastor had a bunch of balloons and we sang my favorite song. There are some great people I can't wait to introduce you to. Let me treat you to brunch after the service."

Why do you come to Epworth? Identify your favorite aspects of Epworth. It can be the music, people, preaching, formation or anything else. Figure out why you like Epworth so much. Then share that excitement with others.

The best way to grow a church is by word of mouth. People are more likely to attend a church for the first time if a friend invites them. Church signs and steeples do not draw new people in anymore. Growing congregations have passionate congregants who are relentless in inviting people to church. If you love Epworth, then share the love with someone else; invite them to Epworth.

Editor's Page *Karey Gogolin, Editor*

Easter, celebrated against the background of the shadows and darkness of Lent and Holy Week, truly becomes a living expression of the hope that God has brought into the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus. God raised his only begotten Son from the dead to give us salvation. As born again Christians, we must believe that God is always with us even when we are at our worst. Jesus' resurrection is an example to us that even when we think we've hit rock bottom, the Lord Jesus will raise us up just as he did his only Son. We just have to believe and let our faith take action, instead of a feeling.

Personally, six years ago I hit that rock bottom and didn't see any way out. But I believed that God had a plan for me. No, it wasn't easy to believe there was a way out. I didn't understand what God's plan was for me. But at the right time I was raised up to new heights and learned the meaning of my trial. It took an action from me to keep serving the Lord and not follow just a feeling.

Sometimes God allows us to hit rock bottom so that he can raise up to new heights, where he wants us to be. Many of us are living proof.

When waiting is hard:

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning – yes, more than those who watch for the morning." Psalm 130:5, 6

Sometimes the hardest thing to do is wait. This especially true when we're in a hurry and when we want things to happen now – if not sooner. But God's plan doesn't always unfold in the way we would like or with the speed we want it to. So as thoughtful men and women who trust in a benevolent, all knowing Father, we must learn to wait patiently for God to reveal Himself and to work out His plan for our lives.

We humans know precisely what we want, and we know exactly when we want it. But we don't always know what's best. God does. He has a perfect plan for each of us. We simply need to trust Him enough to wait and let Him work it out in His perfect timing. After all, He is trustworthy, and Father always knows best.

"Those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth." Psalm 37.9

FOLLOWING JESUS is courageous, risky, adventurous, and thoroughly disruptive. Following Jesus is an act of trust-filled surrender to the discipline of love that ultimately frees us for a life of abundant mercy.

Jesus warned and promised his first apprentices, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

Following Jesus is demanding, no question. Following Jesus into the world and loving the world with God will stress and stretch us. But it will also bring us unexpected and inexplicable joy.

- Rebecca Dwight Bruff *Loving the World with God*

SIX DAYS & A REST is getting ready for a busy spring. God has been good to us and is using us in a wonderful way. He put this group together and is working through each and everyone of us.

We have two events coming up. First is Taste of James Island which will be at James Island Christian School on Saturday, April 30th. The band will hit the stage at 11:50am. The event goes into the afternoon and its purpose is to raise funds for James Island Outreach, (which Epworth is the peanut butter church). The following Saturday, May 7th, we will be playing at Folly Park. We were asked this year to be a part of the Folly Praise and Gospel Festival. The event is from 10:00am to 5:00pm. We have not been given our set time yet but not to worry; as soon as we know, we will pass that on to all of you!

Every summer Epworth sends a willing crew to Rock Hill for Salkehatchie. Six Days has been given a standing night to play. We will get the opportunity once again to play for the campers up there on the Tuesday of that week.

Our hope is that through music people will come to know Jesus and build that relationship with him. Music knows no bounds and it is a universal language. It has the ability to reach people where they are. It is a blessing to all of us to be a part of that. God is good!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 3 Audrey Elliott
- 12 Stephen Hunt
- 13 Joyce Smith
- 16 Robert Bishop
- 16 Audrey Tipton
- 20 Bill Tyrrell
- 21 Eden Holloway
- 28 Karen Majors
- 30 Barbara Taylor



On your birthday you are wished all that you hope for, all that you dream of, all that makes you happy.

Happy Birthday To You

Save the date!
April 22-24, 2016

Epworth Retreat

This year we will be heading to the Campground at James Island County Park where we will have two cottages for the weekend of April 22-24. This retreat is open to anyone who would like to attend. More information will become available as the date approaches.



If you have any questions, please contact Carol Klauber or Sonja Kohser.

APRIL 2016

SUN	MON	WED	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><i>TEACH US, good Lord, to serve as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. -Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)</i></p>					1	2
<p>3 Contemporary Worship 8:44 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Confirmation Class 5:00 PM</p>	<p>4 Serenity AA Meeting 8:00 PM</p>	<p>5 Bagels with Ben 7:15 AM Visitation Team 10:00 AM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM</p>	<p>6 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM</p>	<p>7 Salkehatchie Yard Sale Set-up 6:30 PM Contemporary Band 6:30 PM</p>	<p>8 CONFIRMATION RETREAT Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM</p>	<p>9 CONFIRMATION RETREAT Salkehatchie Yard Sale 8:00 AM-1:00 PM</p>
<p>10 CONFIRMATION RETREAT Salkehatchie Yard Sale break down and cleanup Traditional Worship 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Confirmation Class 5:00 PM</p>	<p>11 Serenity AA Meeting 8:00 PM</p>	<p>12 Bagels with Ben 7:15 AM Visitation Team 10:00 AM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM</p>	<p>13 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM</p>	<p>14 Contemporary Band 6:30 PM</p>	<p>15 Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Traditional Worship 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Confirmation Class 5:00 PM</p>	<p>18 Carrie Bull Circle 7:30 PM Serenity AA Meeting 8:00 PM</p>	<p>19 Bagels with Ben 7:15 AM Visitation Team 10:00 AM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM Administrative Council Meeting 7:30 PM</p>	<p>20 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM</p>	<p>21 Contemporary Band 6:30 PM Maunde Thursday 7:00 PM</p>	<p>22 Church Retreat @JICP Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM</p>	<p>23 Church Retreat @JICP</p>
<p>24 Church Retreat @JICP Traditional Worship 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Confirmation Class 5:00 PM</p>	<p>25 Serenity AA Meeting 8:00 PM</p>	<p>26 Bagels with Ben 7:15 AM Visitation Team 10:00 AM Boy Scouts Meeting</p>	<p>27 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM</p>	<p>28 Volunteers at JIO 9:30 AM Contemporary Band 6:30 PM</p>	<p>29 Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM</p>	<p>30 Private Event Taste of James Island Churches</p>