



THE ROCK



JUNE 2016

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Epworth UM Church

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3-5
Kim Griffith Workshop

June 14
Charlotte Herbert
10:30AM

June 19
FATHER'S DAY

June 20
Carrie Bull Circle
7:30 PM

June 25
Summer Bash with Waterslide



With Ben
Every
Tuesday
7:15 AM

Pastor Ben's Corner

As many of you already know, I am a creature of habit. I love the dependability of routine. Each evening I set the coffee pot up for the next day and hang the next day's clothes in the bathroom so that they are ready to wear. I have done this so many times that I do not think about it. This routine comforts me because I know everything will be in order when I need it.

Routines can be a wonderful thing. They help us ensure we have done what we are supposed to do and it allows us to complete it without thinking. If I did not have consistent routines in my life, I would either forget to do things or become overwhelmed trying to remember all the things I need to do. Imagine if you stopped your routine of brushing your teeth; imagine if you had to cognitively remember when, where and how to brush your teeth each day. The amount of energy and focus that would require would be a tremendous drain.

All of us employ routines throughout our lives. Some people map out a routine with chores, some with work, and/or some with recreation. The irony is the more dependent we are on our routines, the less we realize we are practicing a routine. Prior to reading this article, when was the last time you cognitively thought about brushing your teeth?

With all the benefits routines give us, we must remain open to the Spirit moving in our midst and calling us to change. Many Christians struggle to see where God is calling for change in their lives. Most of us have places we want to see God's change happen in our lives. We want God to empower us to live healthier lives, avoid bad habits, be more likable, or whatever else. We look for God to show up in these places and bring about change.

What if the Spirit is beckoning you to change a different aspect of you life where you are not expecting it? God does not just call us to changes according to what we want; God calls us to change according to what God wants. That means we need to remain open to whatever God wants, even if it is a call for change in our routines.

Sunday morning is a routine for most Christians. Before we get out of bed we know where we are going, where we are going to sit, who we are going to talk to, what we expect to experience at worship, where we are going to eat afterwards, and whom we are going to eat with. These routines exist from rote memory. Some times we get frustrated when anything challenges the stability and comfort of our routines.

God might want us to experience something different on a Sunday, even if it is not what we expect and/or want. God might want someone from a traditional service to experience the spontaneity and energy of a contemporary service. Conversely, God might want someone from a contemporary service to experience the time-honored traditions that have lead people to experience God's presence through a traditional service.

We often think Sunday mornings are about us. We might say things like, "I attend this service because this is what I want." It is understandable that we might have this mindset. However, as we mature in the faith, we must move beyond ourselves and focus on God. What does God want? The reality is God is glorified through all forms of worship. While it is good that we have our preferences in worship, our primary preference should be what God wants. God's desires for us do not always match up with our preferences. God has a funny way of pushing us beyond our comfort zones. God's will is not limited to what we want or like.

So my friends, I challenge you to explore where God is calling you to do/try something different. Resist the temptation to only seek God's will for change in the places you already want to see change; remember God might be calling you to change in a way you currently do not expect. When we are faithful to God's will for change, even when we do not expect we will like it, we find ourselves in the best place we can be.

Editor's Page *Karey Gogolin, Editor*

ROUNABOUT VERSES

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Four struggle is..... against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6: 11-12)

Some verses have a way of standing out. They're catchy. They're quotable. They stick out, and they stick with us. But when it comes to Bible study, it's important to pay attention to roundabout verses. Think of it as studying a verse in its natural habitat.

When it comes to spiritual warfare, one of those dazzling passages is about the armor of God. Ephesians 6:1 – 20 is the full passage where this appears. Paul provides a handy checklist: belt, breastplate, combat boots, shield, helmet, sword. Knowing that we have spiritual armor is great. Being able to label all the pieces and parts – admirable! But why do we even need this stuff?

Let's slow down and look at those roundabout verses. What's Paul saying? Let's compare notes.

God is our strength: "Be strong in the Lord" (6:10). Remember, if we have any might, it comes from Him.

Take a stand: "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take a stand: (6:11). God has provided everything we need to protect ourselves.

We have struggles: Against an enemy we can't even see. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood." (6:12)

Defend yourself: With truth, righteousness, faith, salvation and "your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" (6:15)

Arm yourself: The only weapon we need is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (6:17). You can equip yourself by memorizing key passages.

Keep on praying: And not just once in a while, but :on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and request: (6:18)

Consider others: Your alert attitude isn't for your sake alone. Paul invites us to pray for one another. "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel" (6:19)

Take courage: Even Paul wanted more boldness. "Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should" (6:20)

Paul calls attention to an invisible enemy. And the checklist Christians so often memorize is surrounded by words of encouragement and a call to action. Take a stand. Keep praying. Consider others. Take courage because God is our strength.

SENDING OFF: Laura Benson's last Sunday at Epworth will be on June 19th (Father's Day). After that she will be appointed by the Bishop to serve as the pastor elsewhere. Please make plans to be



here on Laura's last day at the 11:15 AM service to hear her farewell sermon as we formally send her off. While Pastor Ben will preach at the 8:45AM traditional service that day, we hope you will all be able to support Laura at the contemporary

service on her final Sunday with us.

Change 4 Change: Every Sunday drop your leftover coins into one of our buckets. We will pool all of the coins and ask God to help us meet a tangible need here in our community. This small gesture is just one way for us to love our neighbors. God is great and we can't wait to see how He uses us in this mission!



Tuning into God's Voice God chose to speak to people in the Bible in some crazy ways. The Lord spoke through a burning bush, an audible voice from the sky, a talking donkey, written law, the prophets, angels and so on. God still speaks to us today in a variety of ways, but mostly through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit whispers God's words of truth to our hearts, nudging us towards Christ. God also speaks to us through Scripture, nature, other people, books, sermons, music, poetry, silence, metaphors/analogies and so on. As Christians, it's important to tune into God's voice by tuning out other distractions. We need to learn to recognize God's voice, believe the truth it speaks, and follow God's direction.

NOOMA SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS has not begun this study as of yet due to some people being away traveling. If you are interested, we will be meeting this Sunday during the Sunday School hour to get this started. The study is:
Acts: The Spread of the Gospel (MacArthur Bible Studies).

This is available in Nook or Kindle version for \$5.99 or in paperback through Barnes and Noble or Amazon for \$9.99. The first lesson covers The Birth of the Church with the reading selection being Acts 1:1-2:47. All are invited to join. If you do not personally purchase your books before class we will put an order together. Contact *Helen McGill*.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Roberta Gates | 21 Louise Eckenrod |
| 7 Sandra Maxwell | 21 Barbara Picquet |
| 15 Judy Chapman | 22 Laura Benson |
| 16 Paula Barrineau | 22 Hannah Nelson |
| 16 Hank Lane | 22 Leonita Miller |
| 18 Christine Lewis | 24 Billy Baker |
| 19 Allen Barnett | 26 Jerry Pullen |
| 20 Peyton Kearns | 27 Alberta Chavis |
| 21 Anne Alster | 27 Chris Holloway |
| | 30 Nicholas Cook |

May your special day be surrounded with happiness, filled with laughter, wrapped with pleasure, brightened with fun, blessed with love, remembered with joy and enriched with hopes.



JUNE 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM	2 Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	3 Kim Griffith Site Visit	4 Kim Griffith Site Visit
5 Kim Griffith Site Visit Traditional Worship 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM	6 Serenity AA Meeting 8:00 PM	7 Bagels with Ben 7:15 AM Visitation Team 10:00 AM Outreach Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM	8 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM	9 Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	10	11 Hunt Family Reunion
12 Traditional Worship 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM	13 Serenity AA Meeting 8:00 PM	14 Bagels with Ben 7:15 AM Visitation Team 10:00 AM Charlotte Herbert Circle 10:30 AM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM	15 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM	16 Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	17 Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM	18
19 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Traditional Worship 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM	20 Carrie Bull Circle 7:30 PM Serenity AA Meeting 8:00 PM	21 Bagels with Ben 7:15 AM Visitation Team 10:00 AM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM Administrative Council Meeting 7:30 PM	22 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM	23 Volunteers @J10 Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	24	25 Summer Bash with Water Slide 12:00 Noon
26 Traditional Worship 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM	27 Serenity AA Meeting 8:00 PM	28 Bagels with Ben 7:15 AM Visitation Team 10:00 AM Boy Scouts Meeting	29 Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM	30 Contemporary Band 6:30 PM		