



# THE ROCK

January 2014

Volume 1, Issue 18

## EPWORTH UMC CHURCH

1540 Camp Road  
Charleston, SC  
29412

[www.epworth.net](http://www.epworth.net)  
[office@epworth.net](mailto:office@epworth.net)

Church Office:  
(843) 795-3722

Pastor Ben Burt:  
(843) 532- 0146



Editor:  
Thelma Ford

Designer:  
Karey Gogolin

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14  
Charlotte Herbert Circle  
10:00 AM

January 20  
Carrie Bull Circle 7:30 PM

*Get Chili*  
January 18



## Pastor's Corner



People of Epworth,

**E**pworth UMC was blessed to have wonderful people humbly serve on the different committees in 2013. A congregation is only as strong as its leadership, and Epworth has wonderful members who lead Epworth this past year. Epworth's leadership met and prayerfully discerned what God would have us do and who God would have us be. There were some conversations that were tougher and more passion-filled than others, but through it all, the leadership of Epworth gathered to tackle the difficult task of discerning what God would have Epworth do and be.

A church is not run like a traditional business model, where a boss or manager makes all the decisions and everyone else has to fall in line. The Church is run as the Church. The technical term for this is ecclesiology (theology of how the Church is called to be the Church). The Church is submissive to God and guided by God. However, God's will is discerned through a group of people, not a solitary individual. To understand this we can turn to scripture.

John 20:1-10 is the revelation of the empty tomb. In these verses Mary Magdalena, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved all work together to discern what God has done. Mary discerned the stone was rolled away, indicating something had happened. The beloved disciple discerned that Jesus' linens were lying where Jesus had been, indicating Jesus was no longer where he had been laid. Peter discerned Jesus is no longer in the tomb. No one person understood what God was doing. It

was only when the three gathered together that they could discern God's action in creation.

This is how Epworth is run. Different people have stepped forward for years to humbly serve the Church. These people have worked together to discern what God is doing around us and how we are called to act accordingly. Church leadership is not about individuals applying his or her will on the congregation. Rather it is people who are willing to gather in Christian conference to discern God's will.

Epworth is privileged to have yet another group of people who have stepped forward to lead Epworth in 2014. I am excited to join with the rest of our committees in the coming year. We have many difficult things on our horizon, ranging from possible building projects to special events. Through it all, I am confident that the leadership of Epworth will work together to discern God's will for us. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more about the leadership structure of Epworth or being a bigger part of our committees.

Peace,  
Pastor Ben

*We solicit your inspirational stories, but keep them 150 words or less please. Your stories should be similar to God Moments. Write to inspire.*

## From the Editor

Oops, 2013 is gone; 2014 is here. The celebration of the birth of Jesus has renewed our Spirit. We move into 2014 as a baby. How will we grow? We need nourishment for the body and nourishment for our Spirit. I quit making resolutions about what I would accomplish in each New Year a long time ago. It promoted too many guilty feelings when I fell short. I seek guidance for the beginning of the New Year and for each day that I will not fall short of what God would have me do as I follow the teachings of Jesus.

According to Proverbs 19:21, *"Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand."* I look forward to the New Year and the opportunities it will hold. I am sure you are too. May God bless you in all you do. *Thelma.*

**I**n the book of Acts, Luke reminds us to "feed the church of God." As Christians who have been saved by a loving, compassionate Creator, we are compelled not only to worship Him in our hearts but also to worship Him in the presence of fellow believers.

The church belongs to God; it is His just as certainly as we are His. When we help build God's church, we bear witness to the changes He has made in our lives.

Let us worship God with grateful hearts and helping hands. Let us witness to our friends, our families, and to the world.

When we do this, we bless others, and we are blessed by the one who sent his son, whose birthday we have just celebrated to show the way that we might have eternal life.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

*Smiles and laughter,  
joy and cheer  
New happiness that stays  
throughout the year  
Hope your birthday brings all  
these and more  
Filling life with surprise and  
joys galore!*

*Happy Birthday!*



- 1 Riese Broughton Butler
- 3 April Holloway
- 4 Audrey Healy
- 6 Allen Benson
- 6 Elizabeth Rumble
- 11 Christopher Benson
- 12 Pat Griffin
- 14 Joanie Clute
- 17 Sherry Herring Ortiz
- 22 Barbara Smith
- 25 Shelley Pullen
- 30 Andy Lewis

## Rahab Class


All my life I have gone to what is known as Sunday School. [Are we missing something?] When I was a little girl going to Sunday School, they gave us a little 3x5 card to take home with us and I remember specifically one that I received had a picture on the front of Jesus in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever be on that sea in a boat. But it happened, and looking back over all my experiences, that probably is the highlight of my life. How in the world when I studied that card could I have believed that I would ever experience that. Well, I do not know what 2014 has in store for me, but I have the faith that whatever it is it will be in keeping with the Lord's plans.

Barbara Taylor is a wonderful teacher. She puts a lot of time into getting the messages out to us. Of course I am an adult now and I am still learning. If you are not coming to our Sunday School class, then you can believe that you are missing something. Join us on Sundays at 10:00 AM for Sunday School power hour of learning.



2013 our Shawl Ministry has meant a lot to many people. I believe Karey Gogolin gets the credit for stitching them. God bless Karey in this ministry and God bless the recipients. Maybe Karey can teach some of us to make them and add the blessing of giving to our own life. We will see what 2014 holds for us.

# JANUARY 2014

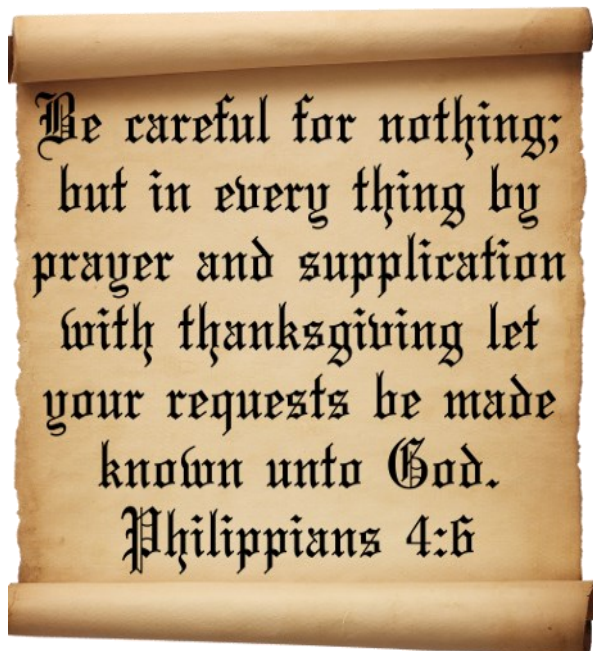
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
			<b>1</b> Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM	<b>2</b> Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	<b>3</b> Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Contemporary Worship 8:44 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM	<b>6</b> Visitation Team 4:00 PM  Serenity 8:00 PM	<b>7</b> Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM	<b>8</b> Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM	<b>9</b> Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	<b>10</b> Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM	<b>11</b> Private Function 9:00 AM
<b>12</b> Contemporary Worship 8:44 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM	<b>13</b> Visitation Team 4:00 PM Serenity 8:00 PM	<b>14</b> Charlotte Herbert 10:30 AM Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM	<b>15</b> Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM	<b>16</b> Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	<b>17</b> Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM	<b>18</b> Get Chili in January
<b>19</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Contemporary Worship 8:44 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM	<b>20</b> Visitation Team 4:00 PM Carrie Bull 7:30 PM Serenity 8:00 PM	<b>21</b> Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM	<b>22</b> Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM	<b>23</b> Volunteers @ J10 9:30 AM  Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	<b>24</b> Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM	<b>25</b> Men Mentoring Men 9:00 AM
<b>26</b> Contemporary Worship 8:44 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM	<b>27</b> Visitation Team 4:00 PM  Serenity 8:00 PM	<b>28</b> Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00 PM	<b>29</b> Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM	<b>30</b> Contemporary Band 6:30 PM	<b>31</b> Family and Friends Game Night 6:00 PM	

# Intercessory Prayer Ministry



**T**he Intercessory Prayer group meets every Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the Rahab Classroom. This is an invitation to come pray with us. This group is led by Barbara Taylor. We pray by request and our prayers are directed to your needs. If you do not wish to join in being there every Wednesday, then that is all right. If you have special needs, just come and we will pray with you. Prayer accomplishes much. If you have a story about an answered prayer, please write it for **The Rock**. Our February issue should be an inspiration to all.

How do you start your prayer? I remember when Nell Forlaw, a beautician, was alive. I would go to her so that she would cut and perm my hair and we got into a conversation about prayer. She told me how and I still start my prayer every night with "Now I lay me down to sleep." I still say my nightly prayer that way and without fail I think of Nell.



## LIFE'S EXTRAS

I took a cue from Archibald Rutledge, Poet Laureate of South Carolina. The words in his writings actually makes one see a picture. One of his books, Life's Extras, gives one a great sense of appreciation to God for his provisions. There is so much to enjoy when you think about it. God provides us with everything we need to abound on this earth. God created us loves us and wants us not to just be good but to be happy. He ministers to our bodies by the necessities: water, seasons for growing, what we need -He ministers to our Spirits by the beauty that surrounds us - the sunrise, the sunset. Almost no two are alike. Rutledge talks about the rhododendrons and sapphire skies and the stars. He talks about the melody of the birds, the climbing rose, white bay flowers, how high is the heaven. Rutledge acquired an unshakable faith through his love of nature, rainbows, moonlight. He knew God as the God of mercy and of tender love. Hopefully we may feel God's presence in all we do. All credit for his life and the way he loved goes to God the Creator.

What can we learn from this? All things big and small the Lord God made them all. It does not matter whether we think we are rich or poor, God made it for all of us. So let us consider ourselves rich and enjoy all of life's extras in 2014.

