

MAY 2017

www.easleyfumc.org

INFORMER

Easley First United Methodist Church



Each morning at dawn in the Serengeti, the gazelle must wake up running, because he must run faster than the fastest lion in order to survive. On that same morning, in the same Serengeti, the lion must wake up at dawn running, in order to catch the slowest gazelle in order to survive. Both are running, both are very busy, but they know why they run. Do you? --African Proverb



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Office hours
Monday - Wednesday
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

If you're reading this, please don't discuss it with my wife. It'd be just one more opportunity to declare me "the pot calling the kettle black...!" The truth is, I believe most of us have problems with busyness.

There's always something to do, somewhere to go, someone to catch up with... And it seems to go on and on and on...

But the question remains: do we know *why* we're running?

Let's look at the facts in the proverb: the gazelle runs because it's important for survival; the lion runs because it's important for survival. So, one might deduce that it's ok to rush IF it's important...

It's not that we are doing the bad things. We are busy with church and school activities, community service, music lessons, sports teams and academics. All good things in themselves, but when combined with a family of four or five, it's crazy! Something has to give!

What is the answer? I don't think the answer is that we all move to the country, grow vegetables, raise goats, start a compost pile, and sell hemp necklaces at the county fair. There has to be something in between going 100 miles per hour and living in Green Acres. But what?

In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul uses an image from the world of sports to talk about being busy with a purpose.

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it... So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air.

— 1 Corinthians 9:24, 26

The key word here is "aimlessly." Paul wants to stop us in our calendar tracks, forcing us to reevaluate our schedules, and determine what activities are worthwhile and what is

simply aimless. And I believe to determine which is which requires some intentional quiet time.

James Dobson of *Focus on the Family* was talking once about focusing our lives on what is truly important. He told a story about his college days when his whole life was consumed by tennis. He spent time training, practicing, and playing tennis until he won the championship and received a large trophy for first place, a trophy that was proudly displayed in the sports hall of fame at the school.

And then one day, several years later, he received a package in the mail from his alma mater. Inside was his trophy and a handwritten note. "I found this in the trash dumpster at school. They were cleaning out the trophy cases and I thought you might like to have it."

All those accomplishments that we think are so important will one day be forgotten. Trophies that define us and plaques that identify us will crumble like dust. Paul makes it clear that he doesn't want that to happen in his life. He wants his life to count. He longs for meaning and purpose, not running aimlessly or beating the air.

The psalmist wrote, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10a). Certainly there is a time to make your request known to God with great details. Certainly there is a time to sing at the top of your lungs. Certainly, there is time to be busy with the things that must be done, but there is also a time to be quiet and to be still and to listen.

Maybe this month we'll have opportunities to slow down a bit, listen more, and center ourselves in the very heart of God. There, I promise you, we will find our purpose. Anything less just won't do...

See You in church!
Pastor Rodney

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Join us May 3 as we begin a study of *Lesser Known Characters of the Bible*. The meal is at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and the study follows at 6:30 p.m. **May 3rd menu:** fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans, salad, rolls and dessert. Register for the meal via the registration pad or by calling church office by noon on Mondays.

Festival of Wisdom and Grace Conference
Forgiveness / Living in Grace
Older Adult Retreat
at Lake Junaluska, NC
August 7-10



Workshops available include:

- Bible Study
- Helping Three Generations Forgive, Love and Pray
- Crossovers: A Relationship Reset With Our Children, Parents, Grandchildren, Ourselves and God
- Body Movement
- Wings of Hope
- Encore
- Golf Outing

To learn more about the conference and to register visit lakejunaluska.com/wisdom-and-grace or call 800.222.4930.

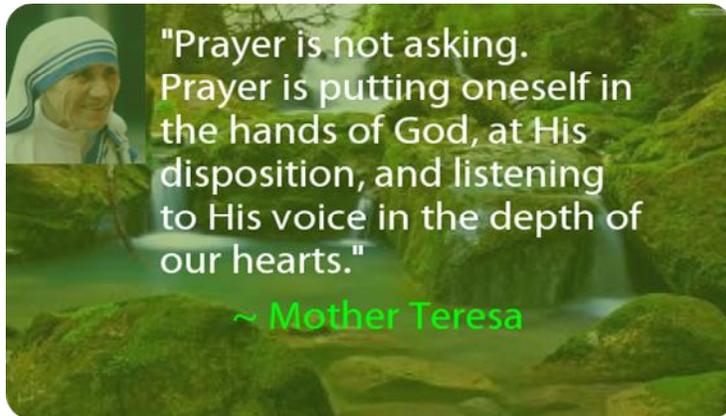
BAZAAR UPDATE

Last year's bazaar netted \$17,476.68. Under the direction of the Church Council, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to apply the bazaar proceeds to the operating budget.

FUMC Financial Report	
As of 3/31/17	
	2017 Actual
Operating:	
Pledged Revenue	82,402
Non-Pledged Revenue	75,307
Total Operating Revenue	157,709
Operating Expenses:	(150,160)
Over/(Under)	7,549
Annual Budget	\$ 628,808
% of Budget Received to Date	25%
Non-Operating Revenue	10,513

Special Gifts

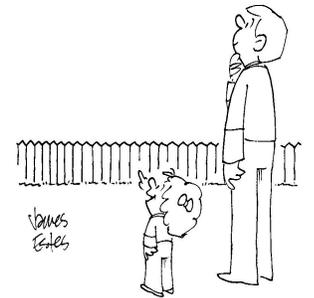
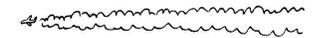
In honor of my children and grandchildren: given by Theron Cochran.



Please keep **Kathie Cannon**, **Doris Ellison** (Steve's mother), **Alta Kingman**, **Cole Sheriff** (Sharon's son) and **Tabby Weston** in your prayers. Our sympathy to **Stan Jameson** and family, following the death of his mother.



Buy **\$50 or \$100 Ingles gift cards** through the church and we receive 5% of the face value of each card sold! All the proceeds go to help pay down the principal on the church mortgage. Last year **\$10,000.00** was paid towards the debt from these proceeds. Gift cards can be used to purchase gas or groceries and are available for purchase in the church office, during office hours, or in the Fellowship Hall between Sunday services.



"Look, Dad — that plane's
making a sidewalk for God."



Prayerfully consider donating to our **Feeding Project!** This project is part of our mission trip to **Terrier Rouge, Haiti**. We need to raise \$3,000 for this ministry as part of our June 3-10 trip. Make checks payable to Bethlehem Ministry with notation that it is for the Feeding Ministry, and give to Julie Dangler or Kitty in the church office. You may also donate online at BethlehemMinistry.org, with a note in the "For" line that your donation is for the Feeding (Dangler trip). Questions? email jdangler@mindspring.com

Easley First UMC

PO Box 589

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Return Service Requested

"Grow in Christ.
Reach Out to Others."



EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME - OFFERING MAY 14

Since 1896, Epworth Children's Home has been a place for children to grow, learn and be loved. Children ages four – 18 come to Epworth from broken family systems and their goal is to nurture and love them by providing education, counseling, medical care and spiritual enrichment.

The mission of Epworth Children's Home is to serve children, youth and families through a caring, accepting and safe Christian community, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

Epworth Children's Home provides group residential care for children and youth from all of South Carolina. They provide child care, counseling and related services to families and children without regard to race, religion, national origin or ability to pay.

The annual Mother's Day Offering is the first of two special Sundays designated by the Annual Conference of our church to support the ministry of Epworth. **Epworth is not an apportioned item.** It relies heavily on the offerings received on Mother's Day to provide the quality care God calls us to provide to the more than seventy-five children who currently call Epworth home. On May 14, please consider giving to this special offering.

