

**W**hen it comes to help, what some people have in mind is for you to do it *for* them. Often we are willing to do just that, but God doesn't work that way. God gives us the tools and materials we need and even instructions on how to use them. Yet, God stops short of doing *everything* for us.

The story of Noah and the Ark are a perfect example of God expecting us to do our part. We learn in Genesis that God is grieved by the way his beautiful creation had been corrupted by sin; and he intended to destroy it because he could not tolerate the violence and corruption polluting his creation to continue.

But then, Noah found favor in God's eyes. Understand what is going on here. In spite of the fact that virtually the entire world was corrupt, God was swayed by the heart of one man. Though the Bible does say that Noah was blameless among the *people* of his time, the reason he is saved—along with his family—is expressed in four simple words: "*he walked with God.*" I find that rather remarkable. Noah (and by extension, his family and the animals of the world) is saved not because he was perfect, but because he walked with God.

Earlier, in Genesis 5:18-24, we learn about a man named Enoch who walked with God for 300 years "*and then God took him.*" And, of course, we can say of all Jesus' disciples that they too *walked with God*. What we cannot say is that any of these individuals was without sin.

***If we only have the will to walk, then God is pleased with our stumbles.***

C.S. Lewis

Ark. Some may argue that he agreed to do so for fear of what would happen to him if he didn't—namely, that he would drown. Somehow, that thought doesn't sit right with me. The feeling I draw from the story is that Noah did everything God asked for the reason Scripture give us. He did it because he walked with God. They were partners in this venture we call life.

Many details are missing from this story. For example, how did those who lived near Noah react to his great undertaking? What did they think when they saw endless stacks of lumber; or when a boat 450 feet long started to take shape? Since none of these folks boarded Noah's ship or offered to help build it, we can surmise Noah's activities invited a lot of scorn and ridicule. Sound familiar?

Being a Christian is far from the in thing to be these days. We face scorn and ridicule because the world we live in is as corrupt and violent as it was in Noah's day. so why doesn't God just destroy its inhabitants once again? The first reason God will not do that is that he promised he would not do so. God even placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of this promise. Noah did expect that God would save him from the Flood, but he also recognized God expected him to do his part. He had to continue his walk with God. And we need to continue our walk as well, no matter how difficult or what ridicule we may face. "*For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.'*" (2 CORINTHIANS 6:16)

Some Assembly Required



by  
Pastor Paul A. Coats

"Blameless among the people" does not qualify as sinless.

My image of Noah is one of a good hearted, well intended soul who was as impetuous as Peter, yet as willing to follow as the *disciple whom he loved* (John). God told him about the coming flood and told him to build an

### **FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS FOR:**

Kitchen	Patricia Banks
Sanctuary	Lee Hartline
Ushers	Walter Nesbitt & Karen Wetherell (CC); Rae Taylor; Theresa Kelly; Taylor Mills; Sheryl Wright
Visitor Greeter	Virginia Gilmore

### **SERVING EPC WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12**

Children's Church	Cheryl Betts; Allison Grainger
Counters	Gail McNair; Charlie Wike
Elder Prayer Partner	Lloyd Frey
Greeters	Ed & Virginia Gilmore
Greeting Cards	Ellen Coats
Lay Reader	Emily Coats
Nursery	Ellen Coats
Security	Barry Cosby
Sound	Nick McNair; Taylor Mills

### **EVANGELISM**

#### **Last Sunday's Attendance at EPC**

Worship: 99    Sunday School: 47  
Visitors at EPC: In town: 5    Out of town: 1

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Re: FIRST PLACE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
Several people have asked about the name of our Sunday School Class. Its meaning is that we are to put God in FIRST PLACE in our lives, and that is what we strive to do. If you are not now attending Sunday School, we would love for you to join us as we begin the study of the Gospel of Mark this coming Sunday, February 12th, at 9:30 a.m.

Mark's theme is Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. Mark wrote for a Gentile audience and begins his Gospel with Jesus as a fully grown man! In ten chapters, Mark packs three years of ministry and then devotes the chapters 11 - 16 to Jesus' final week.

Our study will end at Easter!! We pray that doing this Bible study will prepare us more completely for this Holiest of Days, the celebration of Christ's resurrection!

Join us in this endeavor! We meet in the Life Center in the room designated First Place/Parlor.

**STUDY OF GOSPEL OF  
MARK BEGINS SUNDAY....JOIN US!**

### **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Friday, February 10**

6:00 pm Kids Night In/Parents Night Out until 8:00 pm

#### **Saturday, February 11**

9:00 am Ramp building at 2705 Auburn Avenue

#### **Sunday, February 12**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Fellowship Time  
11:00 am Worship—Scout Sunday  
Prayer in Parlor with elders  
Lunch after Church at Smokey Bones, Whittlesey

#### **Monday, February 13**

6:00 pm HOPE Life Group at Liz Allison's home; pot luck meal  
6:30 pm Life Group Meeting at Coats' home  
7:00 pm Transitions Life Group at Sheryl Wright's home

#### **Tuesday, February 14**

2:00 pm 2-2-Tu Book Club  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

#### **Wednesday, February 15**

10:00 am Crafty Crew in Education Center, Room 4  
5:00 pm Joyful Ringers  
6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir  
6:00 pm Tai Chi Class in Fellowship Hall, stage area  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### **Thursday, February 16**

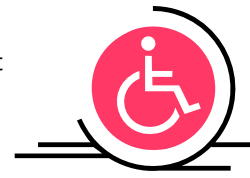
6:30 pm Cub Pack 100

*The Church Office is closed on Fridays.*

### **HOLY ROLLERS**

We are building a wheelchair ramp this Saturday morning at 9:00 am, near EPC at 2705 Auburn Avenue and would like your help if you can! If interested, please contact Larry Mills at 706-321-9099 or email at [larry.mills@flournoyconstruction.com](mailto:larry.mills@flournoyconstruction.com)

Hope to see you there.....



### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **February 10**

Kids Night In/Parents Night Out  
6-8 pm

# **Souper Bowl**

(See separate page for more info.)

## FELLOWSHIP LUNCH AFTER CHURCH

Lunch after Church on Sunday, February 12, will be at Smokey Bones, Whittlesey Boulevard. You are invited (Dutch Treat) to join us. Please don't forget to sign the notebook on the credenza in the narthex before worship for a seating count.



## WORSHIP

### 13 WEEK SERMON SERIES

Feb. 12 *Babel On*

Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 1:21-18

Feb. 19 *Called by a Promise*

Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrew 2:14-18

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary this Sunday are given by Liz Allison who wishes you all a:



## NEW PRAYER GROUP

Do you have a desire to deepen your prayer life?

Do you feel led to answer Scripture's call to pray without ceasing - for those you love, the sick, those in need, for our church, community and country?

If so, there is an opportunity for you to become part of a group that will meet on a monthly basis to lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer. If you are interested and would like more information, please call Julie Ligon at 706-565-9963 or 706-718-9405.

I'm looking forward to a new journey as we wait to see God's hand at work through prayer. We can make a difference, because **Every Prayer Counts!**



*IN JOHN 15:12-14.....JESUS SAID:*

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.*

## CELEBRATION OF FAITH WEEKEND OF MARCH 2-4, 2012

*The Flint River Presbytery will host the 30th Annual Celebration of Faith at Norman Park, Georgia, March 2-4, 2012. Go to [www.flintriverpresbytery.org](http://www.flintriverpresbytery.org) and click on the link on the left hand column marked COF 2012. Sign up right away.*

*It is for children, youth and adults...the food is great and the time is packed with classes and activities....and for some free time as well.*

**Change your prayer life—Change Your World!**



**Making Disciples**  
*where Every Person Counts*

3617 Macon Road  
Columbus, GA 31907

**Scout Sunday**  
**February 12, 2012**  
**11:00 am**



**HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Leo Robertson           10  
Brian Robertson        19



**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CHURCH FAMILY**

The following live in their residences:

Ernestine Banks   Rachel Flournoy   Janie McClerkin   Bertram Hunter  
Margaret Greene   Grace Robinson   Nell Swensen     Don Kinard  
Mig Hanco         J. C. Bray         Wilma Meadows

**Covenant Woods:** Eva Lucille Roberts, PC 227  
**Gardens at Calvary:** Lee Cook, Apt. 321  
**Note new listing for Bette Schroeter:**  
**Heritage Hills:** **Bette Schroeter, Room 123**  
**Magnolia Manor:** Lillian McLeod, Rm 24; Herb Jones, Rm 13  
**Morningside Asst'd Living:** Bob Gedroic, Room 142; David Anastasia, Room 108  
**Muscogee Manor:** Lillie Register, East Wing 25B

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES**

Morgen (Charlie Wike's great-granddaughter) heart problems  
Ava Wilson (Christine Brooks' granddaughter) undergoing tests  
Joe Post (friend of Ligons) stage 4 brain cancer  
Charles Smith (Roark/Grainger relative) deployed to Afghanistan  
Don Morrow (Ligons' friend) undergoing tests  
Tina Singleton (Ligons' friend) unknown cause of illness  
Rigsby Dixon (Mary Adams' premature great-granddaughter)  
Reese Stansfield (baby girl with brain cancer)  
Dorothy Cupples (Bob Ligon's sister) heart condition  
Ron Weller (Ligons' friend) stroke rehabilitation

Jackie Jernigan (Tammy Mills' friend) widespread cancer  
Kay Fouts (former member)  
Miranda Erwin (daughter of Walter & Shirley Williams)  
Al McCullough (Pete Sanders-Nesbitt's Dad) cancer  
Bradley Brooks (Gigi Lennon's friend's toddler) seizures  
Joe Jones (Marge Welker's friend)  
Robert McCart (Frances Long's brother) throat cancer  
Bill Blakely (former member)  
Bobbie Marbut (former member)  
Sue Poore (Janie McClerkin's sister)

# Children & Youth Ministry

## UPCOMING EVENTS



February 10th—Kids Night In/Parents  
Night Out 6—8 PM

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

### **RECYCLING ALUMINUM SODA CANS and INK CARTRIDGES**

Do you bring your aluminum soda cans to Fellowship Hall? I know if you have been a long time member at EPC you know that we take the collected cans to Ronald McDonald House to help them with their utility expenses. I only learned this past Sunday that if you **pull off the aluminum tabs** and save them separately that we collect more money for them than the actual cans. I knew that in reality those tabs are the only total aluminum of the entire soda can.

You can also bring empty ink cartridges that can be recycled and help Ronald McDonald House also.

Please bring all soda cans ***crushed*** and place them in the large Rubbermaid garbage can in the back corner of Fellowship Hall.

## KIDS NIGHT IN/PARENTS NIGHT OUT — THIS FRIDAY

This is the night you have been waiting for —- your night to out to dinner just adults with no children. Wow! Yes, that's right NO CHILDREN. Bring your children infants through 5th Grade to Fellowship Hall for dinner, games and fellowship. Doors open at 5:45 PM and pick up is 8:00 PM.

Please email or call me if you child/children will be attending so we know how many adults to have on hand. Call 706-575-1964 or email [childrenandyouth@epclife.com](mailto:childrenandyouth@epclife.com).

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FINAL REPORT

Thank you EPC for donating 157 cans of food and \$126 in cash donations for **Feeding the Valley Food Bank**.



Pastor Paul getting a pie in the face from Bill McLaughlin and Paul's son,



MH/HS Youth building a pyramid of canned goods donated, Much discussion on how to build it.