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A Publication of Epworth Children's Home
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The Rev. John. E. Holler, Jr.
President

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.



Sponsored by the Epworth Children's Home Alumni Association

*Make plans to join Epworth's Alumni Association for Cook-Out for Kids April 17, 2010
on the Epworth Campus in Columbia.*

The Alumni Association of Epworth Children's Home is gearing up for the second annual Cook-Out for Kids and it promises to be a fantastic day. Cook-Out for Kids is a BBQ event that will feature delicious BBQ from a variety of cook teams, musical entertainment from bluegrass bands and a unique display of Model A Ford automobiles from the Palmetto A's Club.

"We are excited that our Alumni Association is again coming together to put on this great event. Last year's event was a fun time with good food, music and plenty of Epworth friends. The money the Alumni raise with this event will help Epworth continue to care for children whose needs are so great," said Rev. Holler, President of Epworth Children's Home.

More information on the event can be found at www.epworthchildrenshome.org/aboutus/alumni. Mark your calendars for April 17th and come to Columbia for a family picnic!



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A Newsletter of **Epworth**
Children's Home

The Epworth Record

Volume 114, Issue 1 2010



Epworth Basketball

By Tom Parker

Every year as the school year begins I start to get questions like, "Mr. Parker, when does basketball start?" Our kids love to play basketball and thanks to a local church league and the United Methodist Basketball Tournament, they have a great opportunity to experience what basketball is all about.

This year we have 36 children playing on three teams in the Christian youth basketball league. Brad Gray, a United Methodist Minister at Greene St. UMC, coaches our boys team with assistant coach Forrest Dutton. Epworth Pastor Megan Gray assists me with coaching two girls' teams.

Many of our children have never participated in team sports. This year was the first time 12 of our kids had ever played basketball. One girl told me she always wanted to play so she decided to give it a try. She was one of the leaders on our 7th-9th grade girls team before falling and breaking her wrist during a game. She still comes to practice and will dribble and practice shooting with her healthy hand and always has a smile on her face.

Our boys are off to a really good start, as they are 7-0 in the regular season and our older girls have won their last three games despite a slow start. The younger girls have a 3-3-1 record and have made huge progress with learning the game.

Our teams did really well this year and participated in the United Methodist Basketball Tournament held January 29-31. Our kids loved this opportunity because it was out of town and we got to stay in a hotel room. During the tournament we attended the worship service at Ashley Ridge UMC and took communion at Bethany UMC in Summerville. This was a trip our children will always remember. We are excited to see what God is doing and will do in the lives of the youth at Epworth.

News from the Learning Center...

In an era of increased dependency on computers and technology, our residents are learning the importance of becoming "computer literate." The middle and high school students increasingly face school assignments and projects requiring them to use computers and technology. Those requirements, along with the realization that many companies are moving to more web-based programs for recruitment and hiring, make it crucial for our residents to become comfortable using a computer and the Internet. Through a series of computer based lessons, Barnes Learning Center helps our residents gain knowledge and develop practical skills that will benefit them both in and out of school.

With the addition of a certified business education teacher to our after-school tutorial staff, we will provide our residents the opportunity to build skills both in computer based applications as well as business related content. Beginning in February, we will offer weekly sessions focusing on "What can you do with Microsoft Office 2007?" These sessions will help our middle and high school students become more familiar with the basic components of a computer as well as allow them to become proficient in keyboarding and the Microsoft Office programs Word, Excel and PowerPoint. In the near future, we also plan to offer weekly sessions which will focus on transitional preparation. Students will participate in lessons aimed at helping them identify potential career interests, preparing for job interviews, and understanding the importance of time management and budgeting.

With the addition of these classes to our academic program, we believe our students will move one step closer to becoming successful and responsible adults.

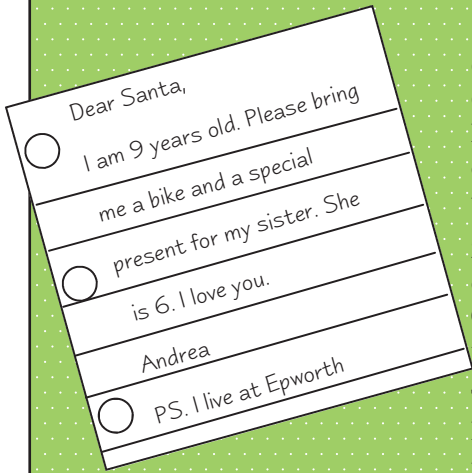
Christmas at Epworth

Christmas 2009 brought many blessings to the children and staff of Epworth Children’s Home. Due to the special people who participated in our Christmas Angel Program, we were able to meet the needs of our children and were also given the opportunity to share their smiles and delight on Christmas morning as they unwrapped their wishes from Santa.

2009 was truly a Christmas to remember. Santa’s Workshop was located in the center of our campus which allowed our donors to experience Christmas life at Epworth. Our residents and staff enjoyed sharing in the excitement of the season.

The Epworth Christmas Team is looking forward to exciting things to come in the 2010 Christmas season to share with our donors, residents and staff.

With Thankful Hearts,
The Epworth Christmas Team
Deborah Keller, Coordinator of Christmas



TOP DISTRICT
TOTAL GIVING

ANDERSON DISTRICT	\$71,050
Dickson Memorial, Townville	6,796.00
St. John’s, Anderson	6,337.00
Clemson, Clemson	6,080.27
CHARLESTON DISTRICT	\$105,548
John Wesley, Charleston	12,850.75
Bethany, Summerville	12,069.15
First, Isle of Palms	8,566.00
COLUMBIA DISTRICT	\$260,605
Union, Irmo	39,896.87
Chapin, Chapin	25,598.00
Shandon, Columbia	20,789.44
FLORENCE DISTRICT	\$83,616
Central, Florence	18,720.00
Manning, Manning	11,341.55
Highland Park, Florence	4,556.00
GREENVILLE DISTRICT	\$96,613
Buncombe Street, Greenville	11,970.81
Aldersgate, Greenville	8,451.00
Mauldin, Mauldin	6,740.50
GREENWOOD DISTRICT	\$119,273
Grace, North Augusta	14,907.24
St. Mark, Greenwood	9,555.00
Nazareth, Saluda	6,772.00
HARTSVILLE DISTRICT	\$83,949
Lyttleton Street, Camden	8,688.25
Bethlehem, Bishopville	5,489.00
Trinity, Darlington	4,782.59
MARION DISTRICT	\$128,764
Macedonia, Mullins	17,059.06
Belin Memorial, Murrells Inlet	12,193.10
First, Myrtle Beach	8,926.00

TOP DISTRICT
TOTAL GIVING

(continued)

ORANGEBURG DISTRICT	\$148,285
St. Paul, New Ellenton	31,307.31
St. John's, Aiken	20,431.99
Clinton, Salley	7,635.00
ROCK HILL DISTRICT	\$89,951
St. John’s, Rock Hill	19,316.81
First, Clover	13,477.00
Woodland, Rock Hill	7,145.90
SPARTANBURG DISTRICT	\$93,638
Cannon’s Campground, Spartanburg	13,734.86
St. Paul, Spartanburg	6,475.00
New Beginnings, Spartanburg	6,258.58
WALTERBORO DISTRICT	\$93,455
Cypress, Ridgeville	15,413.00
Carteret Street, Beaufort	14,399.15

Number of Churches Per District
Giving \$0 in 2009

Anderson - 18
Charleston - 25
Columbia - 2
Florence - 32
Greenville - 10
Greenwood - 11
Hartsville - 33
Marion - 26
Orangeburg - 14
Rock Hill - 5
Spartanburg - 13
Walterboro - 43

HIGHEST PER MEMBER GIVING
PER DISTRICT
(700 or higher membership)

ANDERSON DISTRICT	
Clemson, Clemson	6.41
First, Easley	4.84
St. John’s, Anderson	4.08
CHARLESTON DISTRICT	
John Wesley, Charleston	9.92
Hibben, Mt. Pleasant	9.54
Bethel, Charleston	3.85
COLUMBIA DISTRICT	
Chapin, Chapin	18.38
Union, Irmo	14.48
Trenholm Road, Columbia	9.76
FLORENCE DISTRICT	
Central, Florence	8.72
Highland Park, Florence	4.50
St. Paul, Florence	1.35
GREENVILLE DISTRICT	
Aldersgate, Greenville	5.76
Buncombe Street, Greenville	5.15
Covenant, Greer	4.97
GREENWOOD DISTRICT	
St. Mark, Greenwood	8.46
Grace, North Augusta	7.85
Main Street, Greenwood	3.84
HARTSVILLE DISTRICT	
Lyttleton Street, Camden	7.96
Trinity, Sumter	4.87
St. Luke, Hartsville	2.47
MARION DISTRICT	
First, Conway	9.25
Surfside, Surfside Beach	7.85
Belin Memorial, Murrells Inlet	5.02
ORANGEBURG DISTRICT	
St. John's, Aiken	12.96
North Orangeburg, Orangeburg	.26
Edisto Fork, Cope	.08
ROCK HILL DISTRICT	
First, Clover	16.72
St. John’s, Rock Hill	9.95
Woodland, Rock Hill	7.52
SPARTANBURG DISTRICT	
St. Paul, Spartanburg	6.02
Trinity, Spartanburg	3.94
Bethel, Spartanburg	3.69
WALTERBORO DISTRICT	
Carteret Street, Beaufort	10.88
St. Andrews by the Sea, Hilton Head	6.67
Bethel, Walterboro	3.17

HIGHEST PER MEMBER GIVING
PER DISTRICT
(699 or fewer membership)

ANDERSON DISTRICT	
Zion, Walhalla	93.75
Ebenezer, South Anderson	50.50
Double Springs, Westminster	38.35
CHARLESTON DISTRICT	
Edisto Island, Edisto Island	52.44
Ravenel, Hollywood	37.94
Wren's Chapel, McClellanville	26.67
COLUMBIA DISTRICT	
Cedar Creek, Winnsboro	57.14
Zion, Blythewood	47.78
Bethel, Winnsboro	33.09
FLORENCE DISTRICT	
Paxville, Pinewood	40.88
Earle, Trio	39.06
Elim, Union	34.22
GREENVILLE DISTRICT	
Few’s Chapel, Greer	79.86
Trinity, Gray Court	69.83
Bethel, Greenville	49.49
GREENWOOD DISTRICT	
Warrenville, Graniteville	40.14
Soule Chapel, Waterloo	35.76
Nazareth, Saluda	31.64
HARTSVILLE DISTRICT	
Ashland, Bishopville	104.55
Mt. Olivet, Cheraw	29.79
Bethlehem, Hartsville	16.57
MARION DISTRICT	
Macedonia, Mullins	51.69
Central, Marion	35.00
Mt. Andrew, Latta	27.63
ORANGEBURG DISTRICT	
St. Paul, New Ellenton	128.31
Shady Grove, Cameron	87.67
Cameron, Cameron	50.00
ROCK HILL DISTRICT	
Richburg, Richburg	29.12
Shady Grove, Sharon	27.78
Capers Chapel, Chester	13.10
SPARTANBURG DISTRICT	
Roebuck, Spartanburg	88.03
Cannon’s Campground, Spartanburg	22.55
Duncan, Duncan	17.25
WALTERBORO DISTRICT	
Gillette, Allendale	221.83
Cypress, Ridgeville	181.33
Trinity, Ridgeville	58.95

Want to know what your church contributed in 2009? Visit www.epworthchildrenshome.org for a full list of giving for each church in the Conference as well as District totals.