

# **The Edge**

Edgefield United Methodist Church Newsletter

Estel Williams – Pastor

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April 2021

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Greetings from the pastor. Spring is definitely in the air. A lot of rain, but how beautiful the blooms on the trees, bushes, and flowers are. What a prelude to Easter. May each of you experience the joy of the resurrection. In my time at Edgefield as pastor there have been many milestones and wonderful memories. One of my favorite things about this church is a work ethic that transfers into helping those in need. In the 2000's, it was a Food Pantry that sprung up from a grass root effort that continues strong today to feed the hungry. But today I want to talk about a milestone that has been reached. Five years ago a group of ladies embarked on an adventure. They took quilting to another level. After finding a pattern to make bedrolls for the homeless they decided to meet and try out this task. They begin to meet weekly and put together a sheet, blanket and quilt top. They also found there was a great need for these bedrolls. As time went on they found quicker faster more efficient ways to speed up the process. Using an industrial sewing machine was one of the improvements. I have had the joy of seeing them celebrate 100 bedrolls made, 500 bedrolls made, and now they have hit the milestone of 1000. These bedrolls are in Johnson City, Kingsport and Bristol. We at Edgefield are proud of these hard working ladies who used quilting to do something for the homeless. Making 1000 bedrolls was no easy feat. It goes to show what God can do when his people are willing to be faithful workers. They will tell you when material gets low the Lord always provides, as more shows up. Oh, and by the way they could use some more workers. I have been uplifted by the joy these ladies have for knowing they are making a difference. You can share in this joy. Thanks to these ladies for their faith and determination.

MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU

PASTOR ESTEL

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Congratulations to Chris and Casey Hodge. They are expecting a new baby.

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Congratulations to Tanner Carter and Lexi Simpson on their wedding on April 2, 2021

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Johnson University won the NCCAA National Championship. Gavin Grubb (grandson of Peggy Grubb) plays basketball for Johnson University.

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Congratulations to Willow McClellan: She won first place in shot put at her first track meet of the season at SEMS. She won 2<sup>nd</sup> in shot put and discus in her second meet.

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Makayla Shaw set new personal best times in Indoor track at the Southeastern Conference held at VMI on 2/27 and 2/28. In the 5000 meters her time was 17:55 and in the 3000 meters it was 10:03. She also made the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

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Wish Mack Houston a Happy Birthday on April 7.

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### **Dear Congregation:**

I would like to share a brief note about our financial status. As many may have noticed, financial reports have been few and far between due to our reluctance to meet. Zoom meetings simply do not work well for discussion of detailed financial reports. The really good news is that meetings have not been necessary as Edgefield continues to be financially stable. The congregation is to be commended for its faithful support and generosity during this difficult past year. While it is true that our tithing was down, it certainly could have been much worse. Our tithing loss was more than offset by a forgivable PPP loan (for salaries and utilities) from the CARES act. In a nutshell, we are in pretty good financial shape and continue to hold steady. I think this is quite an accomplishment given the difficulties of the past year. On behalf of the finance committee, I want to say "Thank You". My prayer is that each of us will continue to bless our church as God has blessed us. *Tom Hodge, Finance Committee Chair*

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We have decided to have a **Lord's Acre Sale** this year, the date is set for Saturday, September 25. If you made a basket last year for the LAS, please let Linda Hodge know the theme so she can get a list started. Several sites have had financial issues due to the pandemic. We may or may not receive any donations from these sites. We would like to focus heavily on baskets for this year as well as donated new items. (crockpots, small appliances, gift certificates to restaurants or shops, etc.). We would greatly appreciate any help with these donations. We are also looking for a person to oversee the crafts - basically help with setting up for crafts and get workers lined up the day of the sale. If you would be willing to oversee this, please let Linda Hodge know as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support of our LAS. We are looking forward to our event this year!! *Linda Hodge*

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### **Hooray! Hallelujah! 1,000!**

Let's celebrate that the "Sew-Happy Quilters" have made 1,000 bedrolls for the homeless. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of this mission. Thanks to anyone who contributed in any way. Five years ago who would have thought we would have used 1,000 sheets, 1,00 blankets, and 1,000 pieced quilt tops.

We do know who receives the bedrolls, but we have been told that they been seen going up and down the streets. Most of us never venture in the downtown areas very often, but the need is real. The fact that we have never run out of supplies assures us that God has a hand in this project. Bedrolls from Edgefield have been taken to Good Samaritan, Manna House, and Haven of Mercy in Johnson City, Shades of Grace in Kingsport, and to Hunt Memorial Methodist's Proverbs House in Bristol.

It is a rewarding work, but we struggle with 2 problems; sewing machine problems and not enough people to tie knots. Pray to see if God is calling you to help. It is easy to social distance.

Celebrate 1,000 bedrolls, and give thanks for your blessings and home. The upstairs workrooms and elevator have helped. We are Sew-Happy! *Pansy Wilkinson*

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### **STATISTICS: February Averages**

Worship – 45

Sunday School – NA

Average Budget Offering - \$3,644.00 (3 Sundays due to snow)

(Needed – \$3,515.00)

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## Take Your Children to Church

I remember Easter as a child. I remember the pretty new dresses I got to wear. I remember the shiny new shoes that glistened. But most of all I remember how important being in church not just Easter Sunday, but every Sunday was in our home. It wasn't a question of "Do you want to go?" It was the unspoken rule of our family. Because of that rule, I raised my own kids the same way. Because of that rule I have a church family today that I love and cherish.

Take your kids to church. Make the effort. Wake them up early. Fool with the belts and the buckles and the fancy hair bows. Endure the sleepy, grumpy faces and the misplaced shoes. Run around like a mad woman gathering everything and trying to get out the door on time. Hop to the car with a shoe in one hand and your make-up bag in the other. Give those babies a poptart and some milk and let them eat it in the car. If its raining, get wet. If its cold, get a jacket. If you're tired, go tired. But take those babies to church. You know why? Because Jesus is there.

He's there. And He'll meet them there. He'll be there in the smile of their Sunday School teacher as she greets them. He'll be there in the goldfish and the apple juice and the filling of their little bellies and hearts. He'll be there in the hug from a sweet friend and an encouraging smile. He'll be there in the sacred words read from the Bible speaking truth to their little impressionable hearts. He'll be there in the worship, the raised hands, the watery eyes, and whispers of praise.

So take them. Sit by them in worship. Open your Bible and open theirs. Show them how to find the scripture the pastor is preaching from. Show them how to worship. Explain to them why He's worthy of worship. Let them see you laugh and cry and praise. Forgive their wiggles and paper rustles and know that they're listening even when it seems like they aren't. Ask them questions and answer the ones they ask you. Introduce them to Jesus. Tell them of His greatness, his power, and his faithfulness. Tell them with your words and show them with your life. Tell them what he's done for you and how you've been changed by His grace. Tell them how they can be too. Point them to Jesus. Over and over and over again.

Take your kids to church. They'll love it there. It's the only place where they can go and just be themselves. They don't have to be good enough or smart enough or athletic enough. They don't have to perform for approval or achievement. They just get to go and hear how much God loves them. Just because He created them, they're valued and wanted. Their worth isn't based on the grades they make or their ability to throw a ball. Its not dependent on their performance or skill level. And they need a little more of that, don't you think? A little more grace and a little less pressure. A little more love and a few less demands.

Take them to church. Before you take them to the ball field, the dance studio, or the gym, take them to church. Let them know it's a priority. Show them it has eternal value. Let them see you set aside schedules, other activities, work, and business to be present with the Lord in His house. I promise you won't regret it.

Take them to church. I promise it's worth it.

"But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"

Matthew 19:14.

Happy Easter, Cathy Sidebottom

# What is Compassion Sunday?

“Compassion Sunday is a day all about the Church – and the incredible hope that it can bring into the world.”

I am a sponsor for a child living in poverty.

Compassion Sunday is an opportunity for me to share how a partnership with Compassion International is releasing my sponsored child from poverty in Jesus' name.

Compassion International is Christ-Centered. The organization is Church-based. Compassion International partners with local churches around the globe. The church is “best suited to address the needs of the children in their community.” The church shares the gospel with these children and their families. Compassion International is child-focused: while children are enrolled in Compassion’s program, they receive the physical, emotional and spiritual care they need to escape the cycle of poverty. A ministry you can trust. Financial responsibility is taken seriously. You can learn more at [compassion.com/financial](http://compassion.com/financial).

Compassion Sunday is April 25, 2021 at Edgefield United Methodist Church. “Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful. Romans 12:12 NLT

Pray for children: Ask God to provide food for hungry children, medical care for those facing illness, hygiene materials for the ones without and spiritual care for kids who desperately need it. Pray that many children living in poverty will receive sponsors this Compassion Sunday, and that those new relationships would bring so much joy and hope. Let's continue to "work together to eliminate poverty." Nehemiah 5:10 NLT notes. "Remember, 'whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing'" Proverbs 28:27 NLT Patricia Portnoi

(quotes from C.S. 2021 Presentation Guide)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**Apr. 13 - 6:00 pm – United Methodist Women (church library)**

**Apr. 14 – 10:30 am – Food Pantry Run**

**Apr. 17 – 8:30 am – Food Pantry Distribution**

**Apr. 23 – 8:30 am – Food Pantry Run**

**Apr. 25** - "Table for One?" at Primo's in Piney Flats (after second service)

## Apr. 25 – Compassion Sunday

**Every Monday and Tuesday – 1:00-3:00 pm – “Sew Happy” Quilters in CLC (upstairs)**

## Every Wednesday:

**9:00 am – Mayberry Bible Study (CLC)**

**7:00 pm – Luke Bible Study On-Line (zoom)**



## LORD'S ACRE SALE

### **THE LORD'S ACRE SALE IS SCHEDULED**

### **FOR SATURDAY, September 25**

**Remember to mark your calendar for this day. We will have breakfast, baked and canned goods, crafts, produce, a raffle, and auction.**

### **WE Need your assistance!!!**

**Several sites have had financial issues due to the pandemic. We may or may not receive any donations from our usual sites. We would like to focus heavily on baskets for this year as well as donated new items.**

**Small appliances, gift certificates to restaurants or shops are good examples we can use for the auction. We would greatly appreciate any help with these donations.**

We already have the following baskets: Mary Kay, Bath & Body Works, a Farm Truck Home Decor basket, a Hotwheels Basket, Shampoo basket, a Chocolate basket and a Kitchen Spice/cooking Basket.

***Some of the basket themes we are looking for are a Barbie Basket, Christmas or Snowman Basket, a girl's basket, a boy's basket, a children's activity basket, an adult's activity basket, a UT Basket and a Men's basket.***

We have several miscellaneous items for the auction: Seiko Special Edition Melodies in Motion Clock, 7 quart crockpot, toaster, set of 20 all occasion greeting cards, deluxe set of 24 Birthday cards, Gaint search for Santa Family Fun Pad book, Gates of Heaven Necklace, Cutting board with built in sharpner, set of 3 non-stick baking liners, Frozen II Look & Find book and a Letter board & photo display.

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It is almost time for planting gardens. When you are canning this summer why not prepare a few extra jars of your special recipes that can be donated for our canned goods. We appreciate all donations!! Canning days will be coming soon and we will need lots of help on those days!!

**Details about baked goods and the raffle will be posted in future newsletters.**

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***Thanks for your continued support of our Lord's Acre Sale!! Linda Hto***

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Cole Fleeman	3
Kaleb Hazelwood	3
Gay Lynn Torbett	7
Patty Williams	7
McKinley Casasola	10
Jasmin Hatton	12
Betty Birdwell	13
Mason Johnson	14
Hopelyn Elmore	14
Adam Chapman	15
Jeff Hyder	15
Donnie Chapman	17
Sam Reed	17
Casey Hodge	21
Jessie Ramsey	22
Sam Voorhees	23
Kellie Whitehead	24
Tommy Gasteiger	24
Nancy Little	28
Mitchell Weaver	29

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Gary & Evelyn Hunt	1
Bodey & Teri Fox	2
Mike & Kathy Chapman	22
Roy & Sandy Davis	25
Manuel & Trula Hodge	25

## LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Ann Shipley	Bob Jara	Greg Scarbrough
Bill & Eleanor Ensley	Skylar Hess	Junior Shipley
Mary Beth Sidebottom	Keith Wilson	Renee Campbell
Mack & Helen Houston	Dale Tester	Lisa Grubb
Manuel & Trula Hodge	Jeff Hale	Edward Herbert
Carolyn Fletcher	Bill Sawyers	Jerry Gross
Janice Blackburn	Stacy Fox	
Louise Hewitt	Mike & Michelle Haire	
Rhea Duke	Es Williams	
Bobby Bray	Harriett Lemley	
Don Lewis	Diego (cousin of David Casasola)	
Junior Smith	Family of Eugene Grubb	
Joan Ayers	Family of Dustin Mason	
Sandra Sinard	Family of Glenn Day	

Bradley Chapman # 442749  
TCIX 6B-112  
1499 R.W. Moore Memorial Hwy.  
Only, Tennessee 37140-4050

### **Shut-Ins**

Betty Berry      Betty Birdwell      Carrie Mellons      Jean Sartain

### **Military**

Nestor Grubb, CBT Company I-1, P.O. Box 1530, West Point, NY 10997-1530

### **Nursing Home Residents**

\*Louise Cross.....Courtyards, 2111 E. Lakeview Dr., Johnson City, TN 37601

Hazel Pierce ..... Sycamore Springs, Room 110, 1504 West Elk Ave.  
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Dave Tester.....Cornerstone Village, 2012 Sherwood Dr., Room 613, Johnson City, TN 37601

Janie Walsh.....Dominion Senior Living, Room 228, 2412 Knob Creek  
Road, Johnson City, TN 37604

\*Linda Wilcox.....Christian Care of Bristol, Room 201, 2830 TN-394, Blountville, TN 37617

Bertha Wolfe.....Christian Care of Bristol, Room 108, 2830 TN-394, Blountville, TN 37617

\*Note change

\*New entry





B L E S S I N G S