

Special Gifts Received

DECEMBER 1, 2019

Christmas Joy

COMMUNITY ADVENT SERVICE

 EUMBC	6:00 PM	 Easley First United Methodist Church	7:15 PM
 Easley Presbyterian <small>A Great Place to Grow</small>	6:40 PM	 FIRST BAPTIST of EASLEY	7:55 PM

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW AT EFBC 



DECEMBER 2019



The INFORMER

EFUMC STAFF

A publication of Easley First United Methodist Church

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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.



December 1 - Hanging of the Greens at both morning services.
6:00 p.m. Easley Community Advent Service

December 8
11:00 a.m. - Our Chancel Choir and pianist will present Lessons and Carols.

December 15
Live Nativity and White Christmas at both services

December 22
11:00 a.m. Christmas Carols and Handbells

December 24
5:00 - 6:15 p.m. - Drop-In for Christmas Blessings in Jameson Chapel
6:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service

December 29
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Combined Worship Service



Don't Miss the **DEADLINE!**

Donations for 2019 must be received in the office by **11:00 a.m. on December 30.** If you mail your donations, please plan accordingly. Thank you to all who have faithfully supported the ministries of EFUMC over the past year.



EFUMC Financial Report
As of November 18, 2019

Operating:	2019 Actual
Pledged Revenue	297,926
Non-Pledged	140,450
Total Operating Revenue	438,376
Operating Expenses:	(467,292)
Under Budget	(28,916)
Annual Budget	623,884
% of Budget Received to Date	70%
Non-Operating Revenue	28,235
Weekly Offering Received	6,800
Weekly Goal	13,000



As the Christmas season approaches, it is that time to reflect on this year and all the blessings we have received. Unfortunately there are some in our community that do not have basic essentials in their lives. This **White Christmas**, as a church, we can come together and help those in our community that are in need. This year's angel tree will help get these basic needs out to parents and children who do not have anything. We will be collecting items like sheets, dishes, laundry detergent, combs etc. The White Christmas service will be December 15. Please feel free to wrap your items in white or place in a white bag (available in the narthex). I know for me, that seeing all those white presents reminds me of how "bright" the day is with Christ in it and what we can do when everyone comes together! If you have any questions, please call Heidi Mathis at 360-7043.

We are also collecting gently-used coats and new hats and gloves for United Christian Ministries. There will also be "Heat Angels" on the tree that will be used to help our neighbors in need stay warm this winter.

United Methodist Women will meet Wednesday, December 11. The program will be Annual Christmas Music beginning with Steve at the piano in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend this most delightful and spirit-filled program and enjoy fellowship and lunch.

Christmas Gift Idea~~Ingles Gift Cards



When you buy an Ingles Gift Card from EFUMC, you contribute 5% of the face value to reduce our mortgage principal. In addition to contributing to our church, when you spend the cards, you earn Fuel Reward Points to use at the pumps. The \$50 and \$100 cards can be purchased at the church office during business

hours and on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall between Sunday School and 11:00 Worship.

Personal Testimonies

Each month in the Informer, I'd like to publish your stories of God moments. I'd love to hear from you and get your contributions. Thank you.
Pastor Ken

A Long, Thin Curved Shark's Tooth by Shelley Fones



When I told Pastor Ken how much I enjoyed hearing the events that some of our parishioners shared in our worship service, how uplifted and encouraged I felt, I suggested he ask others to write their stories for the newsletter. He answered, in a very nice way, "You get to go first."

You may have heard the story of Gideon (Judges 6-9) whom God asked to do something that Gideon thought impossible. Though Gideon served God, he decided to "Trust but Verify." He asked God to put dew on a fleece on the threshing room floor and leave the ground dry. The next day, even after the fleece was soaked with water and the ground was dry, Gideon asked God for one more sign. He wanted God to keep the fleece dry and put dew on the ground. The next day, only the fleece was dry, and Gideon knew that God would help him do the impossible.

In 1991, my nineteen-year-old-son, Travis Barbary, completed his second year at Spartanburg Methodist College as a student and a baseball player and had already been accepted at the University of Virginia, also as a student and a baseball player, in the fall. That summer he was invited to play in a baseball league for college players, with his home team in New Jersey.

Off he went to stay with a host family, work during the day, and play baseball at night. The players were scattered around the area, so they drove to a meeting place and were transported together to away games. One night they left their cars at a rest area on the New Jersey Turnpike, and when the team returned, Travis's Jeep had been stolen.

A phone call at 1:00 a.m. in our household usually was not good. It was a scary time for all of us. I called the insurance company, told

Travis that we loved him, that things would be okay, and that we would talk in the morning. At about 5:00 a.m., I answered a call from NYPD asking if I owned a Jeep. They had found it and the young men who had bought it for \$300 and didn't think it was odd to turn it on with a screwdriver in the steering column.

The Jeep was impounded as evidence, but Travis was able to get his belongings from the car. His wallet (no wallet pockets in baseball uniforms) and rock-and-roll eight tracks were gone, but the thieves did leave his Christian and country tapes.

My first husband, Eddie, and I did all the necessary paperwork for insurance, a local car dealership provided a temporary license plate to replace the stolen one placed on the Jeep by the thieves, but he still didn't have a driver's license needed to drive home once the jeep was released. Unfortunately, our DMV insisted that he had to come into their office to get a new license, something impossible.

Not long after, Travis was notified that he had to testify in court in New York City. My small-town Southern boy, who had ridden in a cab only once, and with family, had to take the Staten Island Ferry into the city and take a cab to the courthouse to testify against gang members. Just imagine our fear for him.

After Eddie and I did all that was possible to do from over seven hundred miles away, we decided to go on to our vacation at Edisto Beach. I was so worried, and none of us could enjoy ourselves, so we went for a walk on the beach, my favorite activity. And I remembered Gideon and his boldness. Trust but Verify.

As we started our walk, I started talking to God. I told Him that I needed to know that everything would be alright. I told Him that I

would walk to a specific point, and I asked Him to give me a long, thin, curved shark's tooth on the path that I walked, not to either side, to assure me that He was in still in control.

I had always enjoyed looking for shark's teeth at Edisto, but all I found were stubby and flat, so I asked for something that I had NOT seen there. If Gideon could do it, so could I. When I first started walking, I swept my eyes from side-to-side, then reminded myself what I had asked.

We had walked for a while when Eddie said he was ready to turn back. I replied, "I told God I would walk to the point." He gave me a funny look, and we walked on. Just a few steps further I saw the shark's tooth, long, thin, and curved. Then I knew that God had heard my prayer and given me a sign that all would be well.

There have been many other times that I've known God was close, but this was the only time I have had a tangible sign.

And all was well. My college roommate's husband knew a man in the SCDMV who was able to Fax a copy of Travis's license to him. He drove home in his Jeep, went on to play ball and graduate from UVA, marry a wonderful young woman, have four terrific kids, and now is the manager of the LA Dodgers Triple-A team in Oklahoma City.

God is GOOD...all the Time. Unfortunately, sometimes His goodness is hidden by our worries and fear, and we must look hard and be bold. We must hold on to the fact that He is always with us and always loves us.