



Epworth

# EPWORTH NEWS

**Epworth United Methodist Church**

## NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

**Beginning this Month:** Soles for Souls – contribute new sneakers for homeless youth! Sizes 11 and 12 needed.



Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

**Sunday, Nov. 9:** Second Sunday Potluck with Stewardship Presentation following worship

**Nov. 16:** We will welcome new members! Talk with Linda if you are interested in finding out about joining Epworth



**Monday Nov. 17:** Annual Shelter Dinner Thanksgiving. Please bring pies to donate to church on Nov. 16th.



**Sunday, Nov. 23:** Celebration Sunday with Thanksgiving Luncheon, following worship



**Tuesday, Nov. 25, 6:00pm:** Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering (Service) Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley



**Sunday, Nov. 30:**  
Advent Workshop following the service:  
Crafts, Food, Fun for ALL ages!



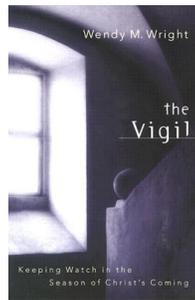
**Sunday Evenings, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, 5:30pm:**  
Advent Small Group: While We Wait – Living the Questions of Advent, Dinner and children's activities included!

**Sunday, Dec. 7:**  
11:20 am, Epworth All Church Conference, & Circuit Event



**Thursday Morning  
Book Study  
9:30 am to 10:30 am**

**Advent Study:  
The Vigil by Wendy  
Wright**



This book is from one of the most original voices in contemporary spiritual literature and weaves together the liturgical calendar, traditions from Christmas masses in medieval times, traditional themes of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, and stories from scripture and her own life. We look forward to sharing the waiting and watching of the season of hope as we explore this book.

The author has been described as having the mind of a scholar, the sensitivity of a poet, and the soul of a deeply committed Christian – the combination of these qualities which make reading her books satisfying reading for both head and heart.

Join us starting November 20 (Christmas is a Thursday so we have to have a little jump start on Advent). The study goes through Christmas and Epiphany. Enjoy food and insightful conversation. See you there.

Books available from Nancy Pullen  
npullen@pslmarketing.com, 415-722-0139

**PIES FOR THE SHELTER DINNER  
By Kit Schweizer**

I invite anyone who has ever helped with the shelter dinner to add their name to the sheet on the wall in Fellowship Hall. It's a fun reminder of the history of this ministry and I am full of gratitude to all who have supported it.



Once again we would like to serve pies for dessert at the November dinner. People who would like to contribute a pie should bring it to church on Sunday, November 16th. Please mark it for the Monday shelter dinner and leave it in the kitchen.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11/1 Vivian Chavez	11/20 Dustin Masterson
11/2 Cherene Fillingim	11/20 Sharon Strachan
11/2 Paul Nasman	11/21 Chris Baetge
11/3 Judy Kriege	11/22 Leif Klokkevold
11/9 Kathe Jordan	11/24 Jonah Arreola-Burl
11/11 Emiille Bergmann	11/27 Odette Lockwood-Stewart
11/12 Aaliyah Coates	11/27 Marty Olney
11/15 Judy Cayot	11/27 Martin Poz-Perez
11/17 Al Kueffner	11/29 Cathryn Bruno
11/17 Linda Rugg	
11/18 Sandra Sanders-	

**Epworth Youth invite you to  
ADVENT WORK DAY**

**Saturday, November 22nd - 9am until 1pm**  
Let's prepare the church for the Advent Season



Bring your gloves  
and a smiling face.  
Let's polish the jewel

**SAVE WADI FOQUIN**

Our United Methodist District Circuit is Sponsoring this special event to Support the People of Wadi Foquin, a small village near Bethlehem. The homeland is being confiscated and farmland taken and poisoned by sewage from an Israeli Settlement.

Every church is asked to sponsor a table. Please let Linda know if you would like to go to make a difference for a whole village in crisis by going to this delicious dinner. Invite your friends to join you.



**What:** Wadi Foquin Fundraiser Dinner with honored guest Ahmad Sokar, mayor of Wadi Foquin, and special performances by Bay Area artists

**When:** 6-8pm

**Where:** Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, Oakland

**Tickets:** \$50/person or \$300/table of 7

Dinner will be catered by Dyar Mediterranean Cuisine



*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Circling through earth so all may grow.  
Vanquishing fear so all may give.  
Widening grace so all may live.*  
Eric H.F. Law

Dear Friends,

**What have you been given in your life?  
What are your greatest blessings?**

Last month we explored the many blessings flowing through our lives. When we come to recognize that our time, our abilities, our community and our abilities are gifts from God we are moved by gratitude and joy, instead of fear and frustration. A perspective of blessing affects *all* aspects of our lives: our relationships, our priorities, how we use all that we have, and even our health.

Our blessings overflow when we share them with others. Recently, we celebrated a vast variety of dynamic ministries through our **Epworth Ministry Faire**. We saw the many examples of how sharing God's blessings touches lives in our congregation and our community.

You have a vital part in passing on blessings through Epworth's ministry. The faithful gifts of your time and abilities, as well as your financial commitment make this transforming, diverse and welcoming ministry we share possible. This is a pivotal and exciting time in the life of our church as we make a renewed commitment to reach out with love and grace to others! Your depth of care makes a difference!

If you haven't pledged before, please consider making an estimate of your giving for 2015. This helps us more accurately plan and support our ministries for 2015. If you give regularly, I invite you to prayerfully consider stepping up your commitment to more fully share in our vibrant local and global ministry.

On **Sunday, November 9** you'll hear about the ministry your generosity will make possible. That day Rev. Dr. Steed Davidson will preach about *Overflow in Times of Drought*. During the **Second Sunday Potluck** following the service, we'll have a special **Stewardship Presentation** detailing the positive impact of your giving at Epworth and beyond.

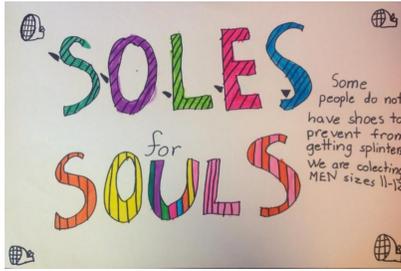
We have been given so much. We'll offer it all back to God on two commitment Sundays: **November 16** (when we will also have the honor of receiving new members) and **Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23** a wonderful day of celebration, including a Thanksgiving Luncheon. You'll be invited to bring a pledge sheet to one of these services.

The celebration won't be complete without you. Come share the blessings!

I thank God for the blessing of *you*,

*Linda*

Pastor Linda Loessberg-Zahl



During the month of November Godly Play kids and Epworth Youth are collecting donations of new athletic shoes (Men's sizes 11 and 12) which will be distributed to homeless teens and young adults through a Berkeley non-profit, YEAH (Youth Engagement, Advocacy and Housing).

YEAH provides emergency shelter and basic necessities, including food and showers, offers case management and counseling, provides links to local education, employment and housing resources, and creates opportunities for meaningful community involvement to the homeless youth who walk through their doors.

An estimated 1200 people live on the streets in Berkeley, about 225 of whom are between the ages of 18 and 25. Homeless youth self-report active drug or alcohol use, indicate mental health struggles, may not have graduated from high school or have no source of income. Many have been in foster care and report they became homeless before they were 16, the average length of time they've been homeless being 2.5 years. And 85% of those interviewed say they are locals.

### You Can Help!

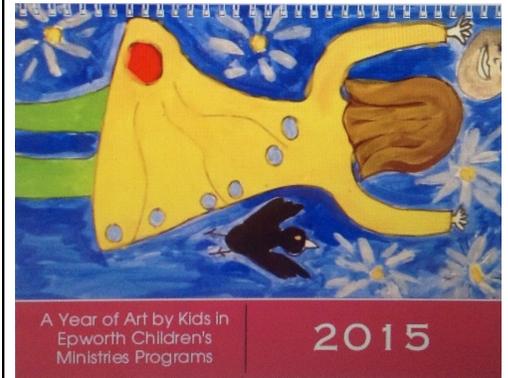
YEAH requests that we donate new shoes, mostly Men's, sizes 11 and 12. Preferred brands are Adidas and Nike. Good places to look for these brands are J.C. Penney's and DSW (a designer discount warehouse - there is one in El Cerrito Plaza). Athletic shoes, especially good brands, can be pricey - perhaps you could go in on a pair with a friend or two?



Epworth children and youth will be collecting donations throughout the month of November. You can either bring your purchase to church with you on Sunday and leave in the Narthex, next to the Welcome Table, or take to the church office during the week between the hours of 9am and 1:30pm.

Thanks for supporting our young people as they "follow Jesus" through connecting with their community and finding ways to serve - and thanks for your donations to Berkeley people in need.

For more information: contact Susan Jardin, Sonia Alvarez-Seldon or Sarah Bruno through the church office. They will be happy to answer your questions.



## A Year in Children's Art: Epworth 2015 Art Calendar on Sale Soon! By Susan Jardin

We've put together a beautiful calendar of art created by children in our various children's ministries programs at Epworth over the past two years: Godly Play Sunday School, Epworth Creative Arts Camp, Epworth Playgroups and Epworth After-school Art Classes. Sculpture, acrylic painting, watercolor, collage and sewing are represented by our own Epworth kids, as well as their friends in and around Berkeley who have participated in our programs and classes. As Julia Garnett, Director of Collective Action, Foundation for Tacoma Students, states, "Arts are the glue that hold a community together".

Calendars are \$20 and can be purchased on Sunday, November 30 during Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall. You can also reserve a calendar by contacting Susan Jardin at [susanejardin@aol.com](mailto:susanejardin@aol.com). They will also be for sale during Coffee Hour during the month of December, as well as in the Church Office during the week. Proceeds will benefit church programs and ministries through the general budget.

## ADVENT WORKSHOP 2014

Get ready for fellowship, arts and crafts, yummy food and fun at Epworth's grand tradition, the Advent Workshop, happening Sunday, November 30 immediately following the worship service in Fellowship Hall.

This is a community event for EVERYBODY, young and old. Musical performances, treats, creative seasonal crafts, and lots more.

Here's how you can help to make Advent Workshop a success:

- bring a dessert or simple finger-food item to share (contact Nancy Pullen)
- offer to help out at a craft table (candle or cookie decorating, art card making, ornament-making) (contact Susan Jardin)
- offer to help put crafts tables up on Saturday (contact Susan Jardin)
- offer to play an instrument or sing a song (contact Caroline Lee)
- offer to help decorate the Parlor (contact Janelia Thurman)
- donate brownie-making supplies (contact Nancy Pullen)



And most of all, invite your friends and family  
**- this is a community affair!**

To volunteer to help in any way, please contact:

Nancy Pullen - [npullen@pslmarketing.com](mailto:npullen@pslmarketing.com)

Susan Jardin - [susanejardin@aol.com](mailto:susanejardin@aol.com)

Caroline Lee - [caroraro@hotmail.com](mailto:caroraro@hotmail.com)

Janelia Thurman - [janeliathurman@yahoo.com](mailto:janeliathurman@yahoo.com)

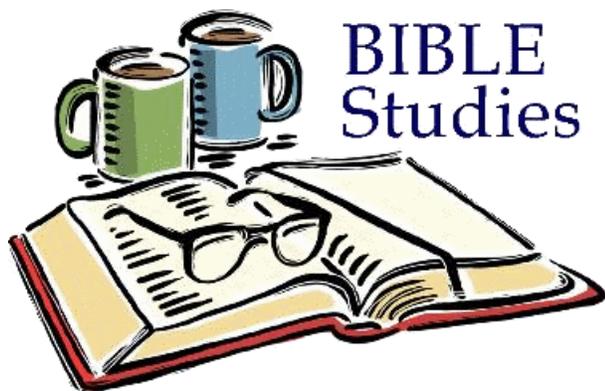
## Advent Workshop – Sand Art Brownies - Sunday November 27

**We also need lots of ingredients and jars for our traditional Sand Art brownie mixes.** We are asking everyone to consider donating one or more items from the following "wish list." (And for everyone who follows the ads/sales you know that this is the time to pick up these types of ingredients as they are all on sale for the holidays – for example, flour and sugar are \$1.88 per package now at Safeway when they are normally around \$3/package)

- Lots of quart mason jars (wide-mouth would be great)
- 18 – 12 oz bags of semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 13 – 12 oz bags of vanilla or premium white baking chips
- 5– 4# bags of granulated sugar
- 16#s of brown sugar
- 9cans (8 or 9 oz) of baking cocoa (Trader Joe's has it at a very good price)
- 5 lbs of chopped walnuts
- 5 – 5# bags of flour



If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Pullen at 415-722-0139 or email her at [npullen@pslmarketing.com](mailto:npullen@pslmarketing.com) to find out specifically which specific items are still needed. There is a labeled plastic bin in the kitchen under the table. Please put all perishable items in one of those bins when you bring them to the church.



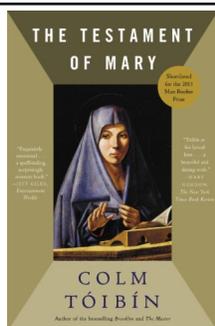
## Lectionary Bible Study

By Tammy Hockley, Pastoral Intern

Are you interested in developing a deeper understanding of the scripture, both in general and in addition to the message from the readings on Sundays? We have a place for you. The Lectionary Bible Study meets every Sunday morning at 8:45 to discuss and discover new wonders contained within the pages of our holy text. The Lectionary is a set of scripture readings assigned to each week of the church year. We use the scripture readings as daily readings and meditation and then gather to share the insights from personal study of the scripture. Each Sunday we also look at a commentary on the scripture that will be read in service and ask what message can be learned from that particular viewpoint. This allows us to go into worship ready to see how different views and insights can be found in one text. The Bible is a living text and every reading can lead to new adventures.

## TESTAMENT

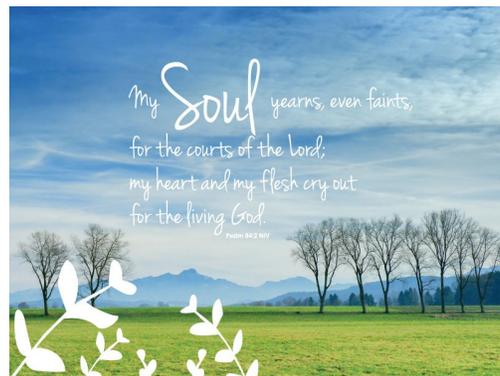
You are invited to see Colm Toibín's "Testament," at ACT in San Francisco at a greatly reduced rate with PSR and GTU faculty, staff and students.



The play will be followed by a private conversation with Seana McKenna, who stars as Mary, Mother of Jesus, Carey Perloff, who directed the play and is Artistic Director of ACT, and Dr. Yii-Jan Lin, PSR Assistant Professor of New Testament.

This special event will be: **Friday, November 14th 8:00 p.m.**

To order tickets, go to [www.act-sf.org/testament](http://www.act-sf.org/testament) and



## While We Wait -

### Living the Questions of Advent

Sunday Evenings December 7, 14, 21

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Children's Activities and Dinner Provided!

This small group is an opportunity to pause and reflect in a new way on the Christmas story. We will explore our faith questions and encounter God's inviting love for each of us. Bring your real-life struggles as we explore daily scripture readings, times of prayer and the journey to deeper hope.

This short term series, drawing from the book by Mary Lou Redding, is perfect for those new to Epworth and for those who have been part of the community for a while. Invite your friends to share this intriguing discussion. Maria Gallo will graciously facilitate the group. Come share dinner and conversation with friends! This Advent evening has something for everyone – children, youth and adults! Please contact the church office to let us know the number and ages of your children.



## Apartment Needed

Several of our members are anxiously looking for places to rent. If you know of a low-cost apartment that would be available soon, would you please call Pastor Linda 916-501-4148? If your friends, acquaintances or neighbors mention something, please pass it on to us.

Your help will make a world of difference for members of our Epworth community.

## WHAT WAS THAT VISIONING PROCESS ABOUT?

### What Did We Do?

Through the work of our Lay Leaders, Caroline Lee and John Schweizer, with assistance from Rev. Dr. Steed Davidson, we began a short-term visioning process to clarify our shared purpose and values. We examined our standing mission statement and other mottos that have captured the unique gifts of the Epworth community. The whole church was invited to participate through a small group discussion and online surveys. Over 70 participated, including youth, those new to Epworth and longtime members. We had heartfelt conversations about our faith and questions; our commitment, passion and hopes; how we came to Epworth; what is meaningful to us at Epworth; and where we are called to improve our ministry.

### Why Did We Do It?

We needed a guiding purpose and a shared understanding of our call and values, in order to move forward as a church community with important decisions about staffing, program and the use of recent large gifts given to the church.

### What Was the Result?

In examining the previous mission statements and other common phrases used to describe Epworth, we did not reach a consensus on specific words and phrases. However, three areas of common values surfaced:

We share a commitment to radical hospitality, welcoming all persons, as highlighted in the reconciling congregation statement. (We welcome all people on their journey of faith regardless of age, physical condition, race, gender, power, privilege, sexual orientation, class or culture, and support each other in our ministries to one another other, the community and the world.)

We are called to grow in our journey together, through reflection, prayer, study and service. An essential part of our call is to work for justice and peace in our community and world.

The emphases of these three areas were clear, though each group and individual framed them with different language.

### What Happens Next?

The Church Council has voted to use these three areas of shared values and purpose to direct and evaluate our ministries and future decisions. More work is needed to refine these to a more concise statement.

In the meantime, these shared values will help the Church Council determine a process to decide how to use the generous financial gifts recently given to Epworth.

We thank each person who participated in this process. We welcome your ongoing conversation and discernment as we follow the inspiration of the Spirit to embrace who we are called to be!

I'm honored to step into the future with you,



Linda



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## Welcome EVERYONE to the Love of God

### Upcoming Sundays in November

#### November 9:

Rev. Dr. Steed Davidson Preaching  
Overflow in Times of Drought - Habbakuk 3:17-19  
Second Sunday Potluck and Stewardship Presentation following worship

**November 16:** Celebration Sunday  
Overflowing Blessings: Experience the Power  
Luke 16:13, Mark 10:21-22

**November 23:** Thanksgiving Sunday  
Thanksgiving Essentials  
2 Corinthians 4:15, Luke 6:37-38  
Thanksgiving Luncheon

**November 30:** First Sunday of Advent  
From Screaming to Seeing in the Dark  
Dealing with Sadness in times of Celebration  
Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

### NOVEMBER 16 - Adult Study

#### We are ALL Immigrants or Sojourners: When did your family enter the U.S. timeline?

You will participate in an interactive process that will allow participants to share the immigration or sojourning stories of our families/ancestors.



Please think about how and when your family on both your mother's and father's side entered the United States. Dianne Rush Woods will lead this Adult Study Class.