



## CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*'Join us for a drink of Living Water'*



### From the Pastor's Desk...

MARCH 2016

Dear Cup Church family and Friends,

In case you were not able to be with us for worship on Feb. 21, I wanted to share with you in writing about some of the amazing things God is doing and is allowing us to be a part of in Sierra Leone. Most of you know I was able to be a part of team from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies that went to West Africa Feb. 3-14.

There were two focuses of this mission. First, we are a part of a Christian Nonprofit Educational ministry called 'EduNations.' This is part of a larger network called the Sierra Leone Alliance that is bringing fresh water wells, health care, elementary education, and churches to some of the poorest and most remote villages in the world. EduNations is currently operating 10 schools (nursery, elementary and junior secondary) in 7 villages. Fintonia in the far northern part of the country, is the village that Cup church specifically supports and works with. I had a chance to meet with several of the 180 students, hear about the joys and needs of the teachers and the principal, and see the new Sewing Vocational School that Pastor Ruth has started with 16 young women who are no longer able to attend school. Such opportunities are rare and valued in African villages. Without this opportunity, many teenage girls would have to venture into the larger towns to the south, away from family and support. Abuse, drugs, prostitution, and human trafficking are often the result. Instead, there are legitimate hopes for good opportunities that will last a lifetime. Current needs at the school are for infrastructure repair at the Junior Secondary School, lab equipment for science classes, money for new teachers' salaries for more vocational school opportunities, and soccer and volley balls and nets.

Thankfully, the church is bursting at the seams! Pastors Dominic and Ruth are seeing about 150 people a week coming out for Sunday school and morning worship. The church currently meets in a school house room, but only about half of the church can fit in there! The other half (mostly children) sit quietly on benches outside of the room to listen to the preaching and teaching. Of course, everyone gets up to sing – very heartily! The ethnic tribe in Fintonia is primarily Susu. This is a group that has been considered completely unreached. Both the Wesleyans and the Baptists have tried missions in this area, without lasting success. We are finding, however, that by starting with the children, and persevering with our support of the school and the pastors, God is bringing about tremendous things. On Monday, I assisted Dominic in 43 baptisms in a nearby creek! (In true Presbyterian fashion, however, Dominic called each one by name and then used the phrase 'covenant child'). This is basically the birth of the Susu church – a group that has been seen as resistant to the gospel for centuries. Dominic reports that the school also has several children for another 'unreached' tribe called the Fula attending the school, and it will only be a matter of time before there are some baptisms from this tribe as well.

There are huge challenges before the young church, but the future appears to be bright. We have funds to clear ground and lay the foundation for an actual church building. The money we raised from last year's golf tournament brought us to the \$6,700 mark. It will cost about \$30,000 to fully complete the building, but with several EPC churches in our area helping toward this goal (see below), I am praying and believing that we can complete the fundraising by mid-2018. This would be especially important in an area where political, medical, economic and religious winds of change can cause problems for outsiders to bring help. We need to 'make hay while the sun shines!'

There are many more stories to share: tales of hippos and monkeys, of parades for us and midnight ceremonies designed to terrify us (unsuccessfully), of dusty rides on motorcycles and prayers for healing in Muslim homes. Through your prayers and finances, you are making an eternal difference that is being celebrated in heaven.

God bless you!

Cordially,  
Pastor Scott

Continued on page 3



# Palm Sunday



**MARCH 20TH  
SHINE SUNDAY**

**NO CROSSCURRENT THAT EVENING**



**THURSDAY  
MARCH 24th  
7:00pm**

**Ceremony of Candles**

**Offering to Benefit Fintonia Mission School Repair**



**CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

**HOSTED BY CUP CHURCH  
12:00pm—1:00pm**

**MESSAGE BY LARRY BETTENCOURT,  
PASTOR CHAMPION LIFE CHURCH**

**Good will offering for Chippewa Meals on Wheels**



**SHINE SUNDAYS  
MARCH 20TH  
APRIL 10TH**

**SPRING MUSICAL  
MAY 8TH  
'NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE'**

**NEW MEMBERS  
CLASS FORMING  
IN APRIL -  
SUNDAY MORNINGS  
AT 9AM**

**Pastor Scott will be speaking at the  
Lenten Luncheon held at Chippewa  
United Methodist Church on  
March 9<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Cost - \$4.**

## **Weekly Meetings...**

**Monday 1:00pm Bible Study** (Daniel)

**7:00pm Grief Share**

**Wednesday Youth Small Groups 7:30pm**

Youth Girls at the Manse & Youth Boys in the Youth Room

**Second Wednesday 1:00pm Game Day** (March 9th)

**Wednesday Morning Woman's Small Group 9:00am**

**3rd Thursday at noon Lunch Bunch** (March 17th @ Harry's)

**Friday Night Small Groups 6:00pm** (@ The Hughes')

**Saturday Morning Men's Group 7:30am** (@ Eat 'n Park)



### *List of Churches Helping with Fintonia*

#### *Church and School Report*

*Bethel EPC – Enon Valley*

*Gateway EPC—Slippery Rock*

*Bethany EPC – Mercer*

*Harmony EPC*

*Covenant EPC – Sharon*

*Redeemer EPC—Erie*

*Center EPC – Grove City*

### **MARCH Calendar**

**MARCH 1**

**6:00pm DEACONS**

**7:00pm WORSHIP**

**MARCH 8**

**7:30pm TRUSTEES**

**MARCH 9**

**12:00pm Lenten Luncheon at Chippewa United Methodist Church with Pastor Scott Speaking**

**1:00pm Game Day**

**MARCH 15**

**7:00pm SESSION**

**MARCH 17**

**12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch @Harry's**

**MARCH 19**

**7:00am Mission Trip to Idora, OH**

**MARCH 20**

**10:30am PALM SUNDAY/  
SHINE SUNDAY**

**MARCH 24**

**7:00PM TENEBRAE**

**MARCH 25**

**12:00PM COMMUNITY GOOD**

**FRIDAY SERVICE HOSTED BY CUP CHURCH**

**MARCH 27**

**8:30AM PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**10:30AM EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**Mondays**

**1:00pm Bible Study**

**6:00pm College & Young Adult Study @ Cline's**

**Wednesdays**

**9:00am Women's Small Group**

**3:30pm "SHINE" After School program**

**followed by Family Dinner @6pm (NO DINNER 3/23)**

**7:30pm Youth Small Group**

**Thursdays**

**7:00pm Choir Practice (followed by Praise Team)**

**Fridays**

**6:00pm Small Group Study @ Hughes'**

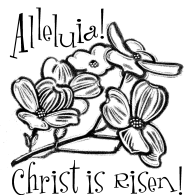
**Saturdays**

**7:30am Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park**

**Sundays**

**5:30pm Confirmation**

**7:00pm Crosscurrent**



**EASTER —  
MARCH 27<sup>th</sup>**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
8:30am**

**WORSHIP at 10:30am**



# THE CHILDREN & YOUTH PAGE



**EPiC WINTER  
RETREAT with  
the Presbytery of  
the Alleghenies**



**Shine**



Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name.



This past month has been an exciting one for the Children and Youth at Cup Church!

We took a wonderful group of students to our annual EPC youth retreat. This year we focused on what it means to be 'Brand New' in Christ, had some amazing worship, and even won the video competition!

Shine has kicked off for the Spring Season! We have yet again a great group of kids and leaders! We are excited to have extended the program through 8th grade. February concluded with our first 'Shine Sunday' of 2016 with songs, Noah drama, and even a middle school praise band!

Pictured on the right, Winter Jam Pittsburgh was standing room only at Consol Energy Center with people from across our community worshipping Jesus together. It is great to be a part of what God is doing!

Lastly, I didn't get a chance in January, but I'll say it here; thank you for your Christmas gift! We feel very blessed to be a part of the Cup Church community!

-Matt Ulrich (Director of Children and Youth Ministries)



**Winter Jam**

