

# THE CUP



---

CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



---

## From the Pastor's Desk...

APRIL 2017

Dear Cup family and friends,

*'If it were a crime to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?'* This is a classic question, and has typically been a theoretical one for us in the United States. Yet in many other parts of the world, including West Africa, this is a query with very real consequences.

Sierra Leone is a nation that is officially 80% Muslim and 20% Christian. Almost all of the Christians, however, are found in the urban centers of the country. In the villages, Islam and secret societies are all most people know. As Christianity has been introduced in the northern village of Fintonia, close to 200 men, women, and children have come to professing faith in Jesus, many of them from the Susu tribe, a group that has never before put their trust in Christ. As the church has begun to grow, however, some forms of persecution or opposition have arisen.

This opposition has never taken a form that has been threatening to me personally or to any of the other Anglo missionaries involved in the EPC work in Sierra Leone. Rather, it appears through some (not all) Muslim Imams scolding the adults in their mosques for allowing their children to come to church. There has also been some accounts of Muslims withholding food from Christians during their fasting in their holy month of Ramadan, although I'm not aware of any children's health getting compromised when this has happened. The Koran teaches that the lowest section of hell is reserved for those who grow up Muslim, but covert to another faith (i.e. Christianity). It has been scare tactics like this that have caused problems for the young church, not only in Fintonia, but in some of the other villages we serve.

On our latest visit, Pastor and new Edunations president Samuel Sesay addressed this topic head on at the community meeting that was jammed with hundreds of people in the village open-air pavilion, including the region's paramount chief and all of the other important local politicians. The crowded conditions only added to the stifling 100+ degree heat. Samuel opened with the appropriate niceties, but then turned his talk to what Christians had done since coming to the village a few years before. They had fixed existing schools and built new ones. They had repaired the local ambulance. They had provided working wells for fresh water. They had given life-saving surgery to a young boy who was near death. At the end of each statement, Samuel said, 'I leave it to you to decide – what kind of people are these Christians? If you meet them, should you smile at them, or slap them?' The response was electric – in a good way. He had simply described what Jesus had said: 'By their fruits, you shall know them.' (Matt. 7:15-20)

What about us? If people are suspicious or even hostile to what we believe, what practical acts of kindness and service can we provide to demonstrate our desire to 'bless and not curse'? (Romans 12:14) Before our neighbors, co-workers or family members will have an interest in finding a merciful God, they will want to know where they can find a merciful neighbor. May they find such a neighbor in you and me!

Blessings,  
Pastor Scott

---



**MAY 7TH—  
SPRING MUSICAL  
'THE BIG INNING'  
7:00pm**

*Step up to the plate and swing for the fences of fun and faith with "In The Big Inning." When the kids gather at the park near the church for a Saturday of baseball, they are in for a surprising glimpse at the Bible's "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. They'll meet Moses ("he got his start in the bush leagues"), Noah ("that guy can really swing the lumber"), Abraham ("with his son Isaac at the plate, it looks like the manager is calling for a sacrifice...") and many more. With shades of the iconic "Casey at the Bat," it all leads to the climactic finish of "Jesus at the Cross," and the Good News of the Gospel is driven home with power.*



**FEAST FOR FINTONIA—MAY 21ST AT 6:00pm  
HOSTED BY CUP CHURCH**

## **CUP Evangelical Presbyterian Church Youth Fundraiser Spirit Sale**



CROSSCURRENT LOGO



CUP LOGO

### **ORDERS DUE WITH PAYMENT BY APRIL 23RD**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CUP CHURCH (MARKED YOUTH SPIRIT SALE)**

**\*All Are Available In the Following Sizes,**

**Youth S, Youth M & Youth L, Adult S, Adult M, Adult L, Adult XL (2X, 3X & 4X Additional \$3)**

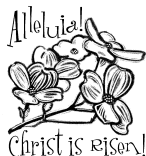
**\* all products are screen print.**

**Please note if it is CUP or Youth design**

### **Item Description:**

- 1. TEE SHIRT (\$13.00) (CROSSCURRENT LOGO IN SKY BLUE / CUP LOGO IN CAROLINA BLUE)**
- 2. LONG SLEEVE TEE SHIRT (\$15.00) (CROSSCURRENT LOGO IN SKY BLUE / CUP LOGO IN CAROLINA BLUE)**
- 3. HOODED SWEATSHIRT (\$27.00) (CROSSCURRENT LOGO IN SKY BLUE / CUP LOGO / CAROLINA BLUE)**
- 4. CREW SWEATSHIRT (\$25.00) (CROSSCURRENT LOGO IN NAVY / CUP LOGO / ROYAL BLUE)**
- 5. HOODED ZIP UP (\$30.00) (CROSSCURRENT LOGO IN NAVY / CUP LOGO / ROYAL BLUE)**

**\*Note that design A will be on back with Crosscurrent Logo on front left side.**



*He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.*

**Ephesians 1:7**

### **Weekly Meetings...**

**Monday 1:00pm Bible Study** (the Book of James)

**6:00pm Monday Night Small Group** @ the Manse

**Tuesday 3:00pm Youth Small Groups** (Girls @ the Manse)

**Second Wednesday 1:00pm Game Day** (April 12)

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

**3rd Thursday at noon Lunch Bunch** (April 20 @ Tinitiques)

**Friday Small Group 6:30pm** @ the Hughes'

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

### Deep Healing Prayer Opportunities

Since Gary and Kathleen Hixson first visited with us, several people have seen or experienced first-hand the dramatic power and love of God that comes in what has been called 'Deep Healing' prayer. Pastor Scott will again provide training to interested members, and the opportunity to receive this prayer will be on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of the month. Members of the CUP prayer team will be participating in these sessions, but all content from these sessions will be confidential. Typically, we will have women pray for women and men pray for men. Please see Pastor Scott if you would like to participate and allow two hours for a session.

Sunday, April 9th from 6-8pm  
Sunday April 23rd from 6-8pm

### APRIL Calendar

<u>April 4</u>	7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>April 9</u>	10:30am Palm Sunday / SHINE 6:00pm Deep Healing Prayer Sessions
<u>April 12</u>	1:00pm Game Day 5:00pm 'GROW' Competition Begins (formerly Outdoor Survival)
<u>April 13</u>	2:00pm 'GROW' Competition Ends 7:00pm Tenebrae
<u>April 16</u>	8:30am Easter Pancake Breakfast 10:30am Easter Worship
<u>April 18</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>April 20</u>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch (at Tinitiques)
<u>April 23</u>	6:00pm Deep Healing Prayer Sessions

Every Monday 1:00pm Adult Bible Study  
6:00pm Monday Night Small Group @The Manse  
Every Tuesday 3:00pm Youth Girls Small Groups @ Manse

Every Wednesday 3:30pm "SHINE" After School program followed by Family Dinner @6pm

Every Thursday 9:00am Women's Small Group  
7:00pm Choir Practice

Every Friday 6:30pm Small Group @ the Hughes'

Every Saturday 7:30am Men's Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park

Every Sunday 7:00pm Crosscurrent

### CUP LIBRARY NEWS

Here is a list of new titles we have added to our shelves recently.

**"SMART MONEY, SMART KIDS"**

By Dave Ramsey

**"A THOUSAND TOMORROWS"**

By Karen Kingsbury

**"THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP"**

By Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**"DEEP WOUNDS, DEEP HEALING"**

By Charles Kraft

**"THE GREATEST GIFT"**

By Ann Voskamp

**"WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE"**

By R.C. Sproul

**"FREEFALL TO FLY"**

By Rebekah Lyons

**"WILD AT HEART" and the "WILD AT HEART FIELD MANUAL"**

By John Eldredge

**"NEXT DOOR SAVIOR"**

By Max Lucado

**"LIFE, MONEY, LEGACY" DVD**

featuring Dave Ramsey

**"THE PRODIGAL GOD" DVD**

featuring Tim Keller

In addition, in our kids section we also now have a beautifully illustrated copy of "THE STORY – for Children" by Max Lucado. And for teens a graphic novel depicting "THE BOOK OF REVELATION" published by Zondervan. Come see what our library has to offer!



APRIL 9TH— 10:30am PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP (SHINE)

APRIL 13TH—7:00pm TENEBRAE

APRIL 16TH—8:30am PANCAKE BREAKFAST (COOKED BY CUP MEN)

10:30am EASTER WORSHIP





Happy Spring!!

Our Crosscurrent youth have been busy this past month. Actually the end of February we spent the weekend in Beulah Beach for our EPiC Winter Youth Retreat. The speakers were awesome and the spirit was moving. We gathered together to help support the BHS Musical where a few of our youth were involved. We also had the opportunity to join Mt. Olive Youth Group on a Mall Scavenger Hunt along with fellowship and devotion shared after. It was a lot of fun! Our youth are involved in so much from Dance, Tennis, Band, Choir, Track, TSA, Gymnastics, Wrestling and so on. It's a delight to watch them flourish in all their activities but most rewarding is seeing their love of Christ! Upcoming we have our GROW move up night, anyone entering 7th grade next year is welcome to join us as we welcome you into Crosscurrent Youth Group. See me for details.



So excited to have added a few new faces to our Shine family this past month. Our last Shine Sunday featured the 3-5th graders as they shared the story of "The Good Egg". What a treasure it was to have them share that we are all broken and that God has a plan for all of us. The K-5th graders again serenaded us with God loving music and the 6-8th graders lifted us up in worship! What a blessing it is to work with all these kiddos. They are a true blessing to all the volunteers and to me. We are working hard on the upcoming musical "In the Big Inning" May 7th. You will not want to miss it so mark your calendars. We hope you will join us at our next Shine Sunday is April 9th.

As always I ask you please continue to keep both our Children and Youth as well as our community in prayer! There are many great things happening!

Your sister in Christ,

*Joel Cunniff*

CUP Children and Youth Director



"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."  
Psalm 51:17

