



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

April '15

Volume 11 Issue 4

Church's e-mail: [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com)

## Inside this issue:

Meetings	2
Special Notice—Library	2
Something to Pray About	2
Special Giving	3
Layman's Revival—May	3
Letter from the Men's Room	3
Church Council, Mar. 15th	4
Something..., con't	4
April Celebrations	5
Acolyte & Nursery Schedules	5
Our Military	5
2015 Seniors—Pictures	5
Hid in My Heart	5
April Events/Fundraisers:	6
Annual Benefit Barbecue	6
Biscuit Sales	6
Easter Egg Hunt/Party	6
Something...con't	6
Biscuit Price List	6
Church Office Hours	6
Calendar	7



## Sunday Services

- 8:30a Worship Service (Contemporary)
- 9:50a Sunday School
- 11:00a Worship Service (Traditional)
- 6:00p Youth Group (Grades 6-12)
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women

**Don't forget to take the Readiness 360 survey by April 4th! Thank you.**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” *Matthew 28:19*



## Pastor's Corner — Rev. Eric Lane



It is always good to get back home! I know that I have been home for almost 3 weeks, but when you are away, it always takes a while to get caught back up. I want to thank you for your understanding.

Soon, through a video, I will be able to share with you the wonderful accomplishments of the trip. The team wants you to know, that without your help, we could not have accomplished all that was accomplished.

In addition to working on the school, we were able to provide funds to purchase picnic tables that are used as a place for the children to eat their lunch. We also provided funds to buy routers and other equipment to develop a computer lab for the students, as well as the teachers; and left money to put tile on the cement floor. We worked on the Belmopan Methodist Church by doing some maintenance on the bell and the bell tower, replaced a wooden door that had rotted away with a new metal door, repaired several pews and left money for their roof fund. This does not include money that we were able to give to replace a roof at Libertad Methodist School. The building is being used as a kitchen/cafeteria for the students.

There is much to do and much more that we can do to help. Someone asked me about the price of food and building materials. The cost for most items is about the same as we would pay in the States. However, when the average construction worker only makes \$15.00 a week, the average person cannot afford the things that we take for granted.

As I reflect back on all that I saw and witnessed, I am humbled by all the blessings that we have. I cannot imagine living without clean drinking water and having to buy bottled water to drink—not simply because I want to buy it. What if you did not have a high school to attend, or what if you only earned \$15.00 a week? What if you had to live in a one room house which you shared with your children?

I pray for our country, our government, our state, our community, our jobs, our church and for you; and I pray that we will not take for granted the many blessings we have, but use the gifts that God has given us to reach and to serve others in the name of Christ.

Thank you for responding to the cry of the world around you.

Rev. Eric Lane



## TUESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 10:00a Prayer Meeting

## WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p.—New Life Rehearsal & 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.



## Meetings

### **Maundy Thursday**

We will have a service on **April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** commemorating the death on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Easter Sunrise Service**

We will have a combined worship service on **Sunday, April 5th**, which will begin at **7:00 a.m.** Breakfast will be served after the service. There will be no Sunday school classes.

### **Church Council Meeting**

The next church council meeting is on **Sunday, April 12 at 4:30 p.m.** All members of the church may attend, but only council members may vote.

### **United Methodist Women**

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Dawn Yount will present the program. Missy Mullinax and Marsha McRary are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are invited to participate.

### **May Newsletter Items**

Please have information and articles for the May 2015 newsletter in by **April 22nd**. Thank you. —Editor

## Special Notice — Library

Bleaka Hollar has cleaned and straightened up the church library, which is on the second floor of the education building.

Anyone may borrow items from the library. Please sign the provided “check out” sheet with your name and the item title and the borrowed date. Record the return date when you bring it back.

There is no due date, but we do request that you return the items you borrow in a timely manner and in the same condition they were in when borrowed. We will accept donations to the collection, but we ask you to let Bleaka Hollar, Eric Lane, or Cindy Sears decide whether or not the items are an appropriate addition to our selection.



## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

**DON'T  
FORGET THE  
NEXT VERSE!**

Throughout the story of the Christian Church—and before—some people have been prone to take some words from the Bible and use them incorrectly as a way to excuse sin or as a way to keep other people down. Here are a few examples of verses in the Bible that would be better read together, than separately.

John 3:16-17: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* Don’t forget verse 18: *“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”* Sounds like Jesus is the only means of salvation, doesn’t it?

Ephesians 2:8-9: *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.* Don’t forget verse 10: *For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* So, though we are saved by grace and not by works; we are expected to do good works—God has already planned them for us. Are you doing “good” works?

Ephesians 5:22-24: *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord...* Don’t forget verses 25-28: *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy...husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies...*

A considerable amount of harm was done to women, because some men read the first verses, but ignored the admonition to the husbands. It is much easier to submit to a husband who puts your care and holiness ahead of his own needs. Then some decided to read the first part as an admonition to all women to submit to all men, and not just a wife to her husband. Would we have so many problems with divorce and sexual immorality today if the Church had emphasized the man’s role as often as it emphasized the woman’s role in marriage?

Now, it’s the children’s turn. Ephesians 6:1: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* Don’t forget verse 4: *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

Obviously, children should honor their parents, but the parents should show respect and care towards their children, too. It is much easier to honor a parent who does not force you to obey, but diligently trains you in the ways of the Lord—and makes his own life a living example of obedience to God.

Here are more verses related to women and men that have been used to keep women subjugated to all men, not just to their husbands:

Genesis 3:1-6a: *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ...When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it...”* Don’t forget the rest of verse 6: *She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

Adam, her husband, who is responsible for his wife, Eve’s, holiness was there

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Special Giving

Ebenezer UMC and its members, gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts received in March:

### **In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:**

Linda & Stephen Coffey  
Robert & Teresa Herman  
Nelson Brookshire  
Marsh & Randy McRary  
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

### **In Memory of Larry Huffman by:**

Marsha & Randy McRary  
Tym & Tammy Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Harvey Harris, Jr.  
Carlene & Jesse Jackson

### **In Honor of Gary Paul Campbell's 38th Birthday by:**

Delores Campbell

### **In Honor of Judy McRary's Birthday by:**

Becky Clark

### **In Honor of Bill Campbell's 78th Birthday on May 5 by:**

Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

## Layman's Revival—May

We are praying and searching for speakers and singers and musicians for our annual *Layman's Revival*. The services will begin on Sunday, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. and continue for as many days as we have speakers for during that week.

Speakers and performers do not have to be members of our church. We are looking for inspirational stories or preaching, and inspiring worship music.

Please contact Bleaka Hollar or Gerald Frye if you want to speak. See Marsha McRary if you are interested in adding some music to the preceding or know of someone we could ask. Thank you.



## A Letter from the Men's Room

Our UMM group has been hard at work so far this year. We just got done with a Saturday of pressure washing tables at the church to a Sunday with the famous Ricky Baker's chicken and dumplings' meal. Each year, well the past two, we have picked a mission for the funds we raise to go to. The first year was the *Kwanzaa Family Inn*-a place for homeless women and children to go when they have nowhere else to turn. The second year, we chose *Robin's Nest*-a place for children that have been sexually or physically abused. They go there for counseling to try to deal with all the horrible stuff they have been put through.

This year, we have decided to look even closer to home. **For many years our church has discussed purchasing a van or bus to help with local missions, the youth, and our, let's say, "more seasoned" members, so they can have a way to go places as groups and not have to rely on individuals to take them there.** As a group, we voted to try to make this happen. I know we have a goal as a church to pay off the CLC as soon as possible. We don't want to take from that, but this is a "can do church." I've seen it. If we put our minds to it, pray about it, and work hard, there's nothing Ebenezer can't do. But, as a men's group, we can't do this alone. So, we are asking for help to fulfill this mission. Last year alone, we had two \$10,000 Sundays and surpassed both of them! I am not going to put a limit on the Holy Spirit, so we have no dollar amount set. Let's just see how far prayer, belief in our Lord and Savior, and a lot of hard work will take us. The UMM have plans for a fish fry in May, a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> BBQ in the fall, and our tree sales in the winter to try to help get us there. Who knows? We might just lock Ricky in a closet until he agrees to do a couple more meals! Giving to the van fund above your tithe is also easy by designating that on the front of your offering envelopes ( in the "Other" space).

As president of the UMM, I appreciate all the prayers, support for our fundraisers, and donations to the van fund throughout this year. Let's just see how far we can go with this mission. To God be the glory in everything.

UMM president,  
Boyd Johnson

P.S.

To all the men at Ebenezer United Methodist Church: If you are a man and a Methodist, you are already a member. We just need you on the roll. We will

put our next meeting time in the bulletin. Shoot, we might even take a couple of Baptists in if we have to in order to get this thing done!





## Church Council — March 15, 2015

Attendees: Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Frye, Gerald Frye, Alice Hill, Bleaka Hollar, Cathy Huffman, Boyd & Emily Johnson, Joann Knepp, Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Terri Miller, Cindy Sears, Jimmy Stone, Jeanette Teague, and Phyllis Brady.

Gerald Frye called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and prayed before beginning the business.

The two February meetings minutes were accepted as written.

Jo Nell Harrison was not available to give us a financial report, because of her accident on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Old Business

Steps: the man who did the original work on the outside stairs has not called Gerald yet about repairing the steps and resealing them. Gerald will call him this week.

Kim had no information on the rack for the chairs we have asked to be built.

Eric talked about the survey that we, as a church, will be doing in the next few weeks. We will make arrangements for those people without computer access or knowledge to participate in the survey. A county wide meeting of all the Methodist Churches who have done the survey will be held here on May 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the results and make plans for using the information from the survey to increase and enhance our ministries in the area.

### New Business

Bleaka Hollar brought up that we have people who would like to see our library in better condition, and that we begin to loan out books. She was given permission to clean up the room and promote its use.

The annual Layman's Revival will be the first Sunday in May. Gerald asked that people be praying and considering speaking at these services. Please contact him or Bleaka Hollar if you wish to speak.

We will have one service on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Youth will be serving breakfast that Sunday, too, as a fundraiser for their summer camp/missions.

Cinda McCrary gave us an address to write to Jo Nell Harrison : c/o Keith Harrison, 27 Augusta Drive, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

The annual Benefit Barbecue will be April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We will need volunteers to work beginning on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We will also need help at lunchtime on Friday for deliveries and putting plates together.

The Easter Egg Hunt and party is April 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. We feed them lunch (hotdogs), also. Volunteers are needed.

Our Youth will be at Camp Carolwood March 27-28 to participate in a fast. They will be asking for pledges for how many hours they can go without food, up to 30 hours.

Boyd Johnson brought up the possibility of purchasing a van for the youth and others to use for transportation of groups to events, missions, etc. He said that the UMM is taking up the charge to begin raising funds for a van. He challenged other groups and individuals to help contribute to the fund.

Half of the profits from the Chicken and Dumpling lunch fundraiser on March 15<sup>th</sup> will be contributed to the van fund.

Gerald expressed thanks to Boyd and the men for being proactive about raising funds for the purchase of a van for the church. He then asked Eric to close the meeting with prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears. ✝

**NOTE:** Jo Nell is now back home (at least temporarily). To donate to the Van Fund, record the amount on the offering envelope in the "Other" field, and write "Van Fund" on the line below.

## Something, con't

*(Continued from page 2)*

when the serpent tempted her—and Adam did not protest or try to protect her. Was he watching the latest wrestling match among the gorillas instead of paying attention to his wife and her needs?

There's one other thing for the children to consider about honoring their parents, even after they become adults themselves. Exodus 20:12 says: *Honor your father and your mother...* But there's more to that verse. It concludes with the only promise attached to one of the Ten Commandments: *...so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.* In Paul's version in Ephesians 6:3, he says it this way: *that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.* Honoring your parents brings blessings on you and on them.

Christians like to claim that we are "Friends of God" due to our relationship with Christ. In John 15:14a, Jesus says to His disciples: "You are my friends..." Yet, the verse does not end there, but continues: "if you do what I command."

We are often told that if we ask for something in Jesus's name, God will provide it. Yet, there are conditions to that promise. In John 15:16 we read: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." In verse 8 of the same chapter we are told that we show ourselves to be His disciples when we bear much fruit to the Father's glory. So, answered prayer, often, is confirmation to us that we are doing "good works" for God and his kingdom.

Another thing we sometimes do as Christians is assume that once we come to Christ, all our problems will be resolved, and it will be smooth sailing from now on. Not so. Read John 15:18-21, Pay special attention to verse 20:

*(Continued on page 6)*





## April Celebrations



*Happy Birthday!*



- 1st—Brian Sears
- 5th—Mariah Miller
- 7th—Andrew Miller
- 12th—Tammy Adams
- 12th—Samantha Stone
- 12th—Sonya Crouse
- 19th—Nancy Sears
- 21st—Emily Haas
- 23rd—Lana Beard, Dakota Helton
- 25th—Terri Miller
- 27th—Wyll Baker
- 28th—Cinda McRary
- 29th—Seth McCrary
- 30th—Jeff Smith
- 30th—Rex Teague

*Happy Anniversary!*



- 12th—Jerry & Loretta Helton
- 12th—Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- 17th—Steve & Samantha Kohnle
- 23rd—Buck & Margaret Spencer

## 2015 Seniors — Get your pictures ready!

It's almost that time again. Every year we prepare a slide show of pictures of the lives of the graduates associated with our church. The high school graduates will receive special recognition and a gift on Graduation Sunday (date to be set soon). We would also like to include any plans of the students for after graduation, such as college, jobs, or travel.

We will also recognize adults who are graduating from college or other degree programs.

Our list of high school graduates currently include: Ryan Stone, Cody Thompson, Victoria Coffey, and Molly Sims. If you know of any other names to add, please let Kim Ellis know.

Please get your photos to us as soon as possible, so we can begin putting the show together. Include name, school, special awards, and college plans if applicable. We accept digital or hard copies (which will be returned). Thank you.



### Acolyte Schedule - APRIL

**5th** Kaylee Haas (7:00 AM!)

**12th** Clair Gilbert

**19th** Kevin Miller

**26th** Savanna Creaseman

### Nursery Schedule - APRIL

**5th** 7:00 Cheryl Vosdinh & Tammy Adams  
(ONE SERVICE)

**12th** 8:30 Heather Stone & Kim Ellis  
11:00 Kay Gilbert

**19th** 8:30 Keith & Susan Keener  
11:00 Joann Knepp

**26th** 8:30 Bleaka Hollar & Nancy Sears  
11:00 Beth Lane

10:30

## Our Military

Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.

Nick Austin  
Kyle Blair  
Anthony Coffey  
Paul Coffey  
Joey Deal  
Dakota Fox  
Ethan Fox  
Andy Gaillard  
Ricky Garland  
Jason Gibson



Trey Hefner  
Chris Kaisenski  
Shane McRary  
William E. McRary  
Travis Miller  
Joey Moore  
Jamie Mullinax  
Michael Potts  
Hunter Tolbert  
Josh Yount

### How do I hide God's word in my heart? Memorize it!

[Jesus] told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

—Luke 24:46-47 NIV



## April Fundraisers & Events

### Annual Benefit Barbecue

**Friday & Saturday**

**April 17-18**

**Fri. 4-7:00 PM**

**Sat. 11-7:00 PM**

Whoopee! It's that time again. Come enjoy the best barbecue in the county and help people in need in our community.



**Friday lunch orders will be delivered to area businesses from 10:30—1:00 p.m.** Please call in your orders by Thursday AM. Plates are \$7 each and do not include dessert or a drink.

Tel: 828-396-2214



**\$8 per plate for adults  
\$4 for children 6-12  
FREE for under 6 years old**

Plates will include: freshly cooked and smoked pork barbecue, BBQ sauce, baked beans, slaw, a roll, your choice of homemade dessert, and a drink.

Proceeds will go to help a member of our community in financial distress.

We thank you for your support!

As always, we ask our members to help by supplying desserts, and volunteering to work. See Kim Ellis or Bleaka Hollar.

### Biscuits Sales

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, April 9th.**

We start at **6:00 a.m.** and stop when they are all gone. It doesn't take long! So **call early or pre-order on Wednesday by calling: 396-7924, 313-9996, 396-2214** (church office; Mon.-Fri. 8:30-1:00 pm).



We deliver orders of 10 or more. Proceeds support our yearly mission trip to and work in Costa Rica.

**Yum! Yum!**



### Easter Egg Hunt/Party

The fun begins on:

**Saturday**

**April 4th**

**10:00 a.m.—Noonish**

All children are invited for a morning of fun, games, sweets, and hotdogs for lunch. Young children should be accompanied by an adult, please.

We are collecting candy for this event now. Please put your donations in the box in the hallway.

We will need help in the kitchen and with the games, too. See Kim Ellis to volunteer.



### Something, con't

*(Continued from page 4)*

*"Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also..." And in verse 18 we read, "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first."*

If you read the whole story of King David's life, who was beloved by God, you will see that easy living is not a given for those who love God and are loved by Him. There will be valleys, as well as mountain tops.

Finally, in the great commission in Matthew 28:18-20, we are told *"to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Our mission for Christ does not stop at bringing people to Christ to be saved, but also we are to teach them to

obey—that's how we make disciples!

Can you find other instances where the Bible has been misread or misapplied by Christians or other people? †

### Biscuit Sale Price List

\$2.00	_____	Ham or Sausage
\$2.50	_____	Ham or Sausage with egg
\$2.00	_____	Egg
\$1.50	_____	Jelly
\$2.00	_____	Gravy
\$2.50	_____	Gravy with Sausage
\$2.00	_____	Fried Apple Pie

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

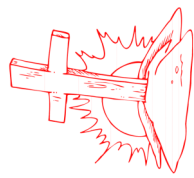
Monday—Friday: 8:30a.m.—1:00p.m.  
Fri. 2:30-5:00p.m. (if needed.)

**Phone: 828-396-2214**



**EBENEZER UMC**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

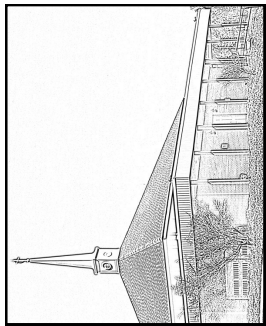





# April 2015



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship	See p. 4 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists	Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies		2 <i>Mundy Thursday Service—7 PM</i>		4 <i>Easter Egg Hunt &amp; Party—10-Noonish</i>
5 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <i>Sunrise Service—7 AM; Breakfast after</i>	6 <b>CHRIST IS RISEN!</b>	7 <i>Prayer Group—10AM</i>	8	9 <i>Breakfast Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'till gone!</i>	10 	11 <i>Baby Shower—time not set</i>
12 <i>Church Council—4:30 PM</i>	13	14 <i>Prayer Group—10AM</i>	15 <b>Annual Barbecue Preparation</b>	16 <i>Caldwell United Meeting—6:30 PM</i>	17 <b>Annual Benefit Barbecue</b> Public sales 5—7 PM Friday; Saturday: 11 AM—7:00 PM See p. 6	18
19	20	21 <i>Prayer Group—10AM</i>	22	23	24	25 
26	27	28 <i>Prayer Group—10AM</i>	29	30		