



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

August '14

Volume 10 Issue 8

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## Sunday Services

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

"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



Dear Church,

Ephesians 3:1 reads "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Reflecting on this verse, I think of the season we are about to put behind us—summer. For many, summer is coming to an end. There are teachers within our congregation who will be returning to their classrooms to prepare for the new school year. Our college students will soon return to their classes. It will not be long before our younger children will begin another school year.

And we will soon be saying good-bye to Jake as he returns to seminary and continues in his studies. First, I want to take the time to thank the church for welcoming Jake into their lives and for letting him minister with you and with me.

You may wonder what Jake has done with his time during the week, so let me share some of what Jake has been exposed to while serving at Ebenezer. Jake has shadowed me as I have gone through my week visiting our shut-ins, people in the hospital, and others within our community. But that has only been a part of all that he has been involved in.



As you know, The United Methodist Churches in Caldwell County have been building a home. I have had the privilege to be the leader on this project, which has required me to be present during the building, as much as possible, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Jake has gone with me each time and even at times when it was not possible for me to go. Each morning we met at 7:00 a.m. and then worked until 12:00 p.m. or later on the Habitat home. Then in the afternoon we would go out and visit.

Additionally, Jake has stepped in and helped Tasha and Chris Hass with our youth. As I mentioned on Youth Sunday, Jake has been able to connect with our

(Continued on page 3)

## TUESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 10:00a Prayer Meeting

## WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p.—New Life Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study—Adult & Children's.

## OFFICE HOURS:

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

Phone: 828-396-2214

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



## Meetings

### Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, August 10th at 4:30 p.m.** All members of the church are invited to attend.

### Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will prepare and deliver their next meal on **Monday, August 11th.**

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m.** Celeste Creaseman will present the program. Nancy Sears and Barbara Miller are in charge of refreshments.

### Sept. Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the September newsletter in by **August 26th.** Thank you. —Editor

### Notice to All Committees

The following committees need to meet this month and next to determine the need for new committee members and the church budget for next fiscal year: *Nominations and Personnel, Finance Committee, Staff-Pastor-Parish Committee, and the Trustees.* Leaders of each committee are asked to set up meetings as soon as possible. Let Cindy know so that she can publicize the meetings and send notices. Thank you.

"The concept of universal human rights and equality comes exclusively from the biblical idea that all people are created in the image of God."

—www.faithfacts.org

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

"A false accusation is as deadly as a sword, a club, or a sharp arrow."

—Proverbs 25:18 GNT

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

### WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT CHRISTIANITY?

"You are like light for the whole world...your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven." —Matthew 5:14a, 16 GNT

Christians and Christianity get a lot of flak from the media nowadays. We have been blamed for all kinds of bigotry and injustice and exploitation in the world. Many people want to believe that science and religion are incompatible, that Christians are misogynistic and bigoted, and that we want to set up a theocracy and force people to abide by our faith's tenets and doctrines. They like to wail about how Christians have suppressed women or opposed scientific facts or the acquisition of knowledge, and condoned injustices, such as slavery or the exploitation of poor workers by powerful business owners. The Christian underpinnings of our country have been denied and ignored and taken out of our history books. It is time that we fought back with "Just the facts, Ma'am" as Joe Friday said on Dragnet. Actually, he said, "All we want are the facts." So here are some good facts about Christianity.

"The concept of universal human rights and equality comes exclusively from the biblical idea that all people are created in the image of God." From this belief we see the evolution of Jewish and Christian societies to become more and more egalitarian and more just and fair throughout history.

Christians also highly value the lives of all humans. This has led to better treatment for women (early promoters of women's rights, including voting rights, were Christians) and children (Christians worked to improve and then eliminate the use of children in labor), who are no longer considered as property to be disposed of at will. It was Christians who rescued Roman babies that were left to die because their parents did not want them. Most Christians have consistently opposed abortions, too. We were also at the forefront of the abolition of slavery in the West. (Actually, slavery was outlawed in the "Dark Ages." It resurfaced later when the Church became corrupted.) We and our missionaries have helped to eradicate cannibalism and human sacrifice in many parts of the world.

Christian monks saved many ancient texts from being lost by copying and preserving written works—secular, pagan, and Christian. "In order to promote Bible literacy, Christians have been leaders in education." When the Puritans in America passed the first law to require education for the masses, they called it "The Old Deluder Satan Act." They believed that Satan got his foothold in people's lives because of their *ignorance of Scripture*, (which is a major problem in American churches today.) "All but one of the first 123 colleges in colonial America were Christian institutions." Christian faith influenced the literature of such writers as Dante, Chaucer, Donne, Dostoevsky, Shakespeare, Dickens, Milton and more. Much of classical music was written in praise of God, and especially of Jesus. Handel, Vivaldi, and Bach worked to honor God with their compositions. Art of all kinds has been used to honor God and point people to Jesus or glorify the works of God in the natural world. The cathedrals of Europe show how architecture can honor God, too.

Scientific inquiry has its roots in Christianity. Other world religions express a worldview of *fatalism* (everything is fatalistically determined) or of *illusion* (the physical world is an illusion). The Christian worldview says that a rational God

(Continued on page 3)



## Something..., con't

*(Continued from page 2)*

created the world, and that view led to the possibility of scientific laws. Nearly all the founders of modern science were Christians—Kepler, Boyle, Newton, etc.

In government, we have stood for the Rule of Law based on moral absolutes (a biblical concept), and that all people have certain “inalienable rights.” Private property rights can be traced to the Ten Commandments. Our work ethic comes from biblical ideas and we have found that biblically-based capitalism helps move human’s natural selfishness toward altruism as business people try to make more money by fulfilling the needs of their customers. “One may say that capitalism civilizes greed in much the same way that marriage civilizes lust.” (Dinesh D’Souza)

Robert Woodbury, a graduate student in sociology at UNC-Chapel Hill had historical proof that Christian “missionaries had educated women and the poor, promoted widespread printing, led nationalist movements that empowered ordinary citizens, and fueled other key elements of democracy. Now the statistics were backing it up: Missionaries weren’t just part of the picture. They were central to it.” From his research, Woodberry can now support a sweeping claim:

“Areas where Protestant missionaries had a significant presence in the past are on average more economically developed today, with comparatively better health, lower infant mortality, lower corruption, greater literacy, higher educational attainment (especially for women), and more robust membership in nongovernmental associations.”

In short, want a blossoming democracy today? The solution is simple—if you have a time machine: send a 19<sup>th</sup> century missionary.”

What about today? After years of letting the film, music, publishing, and art industries be overrun with immorality and vulgarity and gory violence, Christians are once again stepping into all aspects of art and literature and helping to turn the tide back to more wholesome and edifying materials. We are out of practice, so much of our work has been subpar; but we are improving and making better films and art, and writing better literature and music. We are also becoming more politically engaged. Though we go overboard at times, forgetting that only God can save and provide for us, at least we are learning to speak up for what is true and good. Younger people are now more likely to consider abortion wrong, too.

Find out more good things about Christianity with the following resources: “The Good News about Marriage: Debunking Discouraging Myths about Marriage and Divorce” by Shaunti Feldmahn and Tally Whitehead. (Things are not as bad as we’ve been led to believe, because 72% of people today are still married to their first spouse. Of those who are not, a portion of them are widows, so the current divorce rate is actually 20-25%, not %50 as is often stated. Among those who attend church regularly, the percentage of those who have divorced is even less.); “How Christianity Changed the World” by Alvin J. Schmidt; “America: Imagine a World without Her” and “What’s So Great About Christianity” by Dinesh D’Souza; “Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery” by Eric Metaxas; “Christian Film Industry” on Wikipedia.org; <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/amabrel.htm>, the section titled: “American Abolitionism and Religion;” and <http://www.ctlibrary.com/ch/1992/issue33/3321.html> about “The Abolitionists” (Christians); and visit [www.faithfacts.org](http://www.faithfacts.org) for many articles on the topic of how Christianity has improved the world.



## Pastor’s corner, con’t

*(Continued from page 1)*

young people in a way I cannot. Beth reminded me (as if I needed to be reminded) that it was because I am old. Anyway, Jake traveled with our youth to Copperhill, Tennessee and spent a week with them, working, playing, and nurturing them, and the results are clear.

I cannot leave out the fact that he also shared the Word with us on two occasions. When I was at Conference and on Youth Sunday, we heard two inspired messages that led us to ponder and think more deeply about our relationship with God.

You can see from all this that Jake’s time has not been all fun and play; but, hopefully, not all work either. The goal was to expose him to ministry—ministry in the real world. As Jake stated in his message on July 27, to love God is a different experience for each of us. At best, all we can do is to show others that this is our understanding of how to love God. And that was my intent this summer. Text books and lectures can provide knowledge of God, the Christian faith, the Church, and ministry; but as in the words of James that says “faith without works is dead,” knowledge without putting that knowledge to use is useless.

So, as we come to the end of another summer, we must say goodbye to Jake; but it is my hope that Jake will take back with him the love that you as a church have shared with him. As he mentioned in his message, perhaps we have shown to him, as he has shown to us, what it means to love God.

August 10<sup>th</sup>, will be Jake’s last Sunday with us. I invite everyone to come and share a covered-dish meal and break bread together as we wish

*(Continued on page 4)*





## Coming in September

### Celebrate Your Creativity! And Eat a Good Meal!

We invite the artists and craft makers of our community to display their creations at our church on

**Saturday  
September 13th  
5-7 PM**

We know that there are many talented people in this area and the United Methodist Women's group at Ebenezer wants to encourage your creativity.

Artists/Craftmakers may sell their works or simply display them for people's enjoyment. Please call the church office at 396-2214 to reserve a free space .



**Paint it!**

**Mold it!**

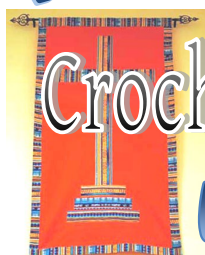
**Build it!**



**Draw it!**



**KNIT IT!**



**Crochet it!**

**MAKE IT!**

The United Methodist Women of Ebenezer will have a

### "Mexican Party"



**September  
13th  
5—7 PM**

#### Menu

**Tacos, Taco Soup, Enchiladas,  
and Burritos, Tea or Soda**

**Price: donations**

Enjoy the meal and take some time to look at or buy some of the arts and crafts on display from the creative people in our church and community.

### Cruise In & Show Off Your Classic Car!

**Cruise-In**

**SEPTEMBER 27TH**

**10-2:00 PM**

Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Fries, and Sodas for sale during this event.

Beautiful cars and good food.

Join us for the fun!



### Pastor's Corner, con't

*(Continued from page 3)*

Jake a blessed journey. We will also take up an offering to show our appreciation for his service. It cost us nothing for Jake to be with us. We simply had to provide a place for him to live, and Tasha and Chris were gracious hosts. For Jake's participation in the program, Duke Endowment will provide a small amount of tuition assistance and a very small amount to assist Jake in his expenses. I am asking you to join me in a love offering for Jake, because I remember my days in seminary; and if I had not received gifts of love from other Christians offered to my family and me, I don't know how we would have survived.

I encourage you to speak to Jake and let him know how he has personally blessed you as we conclude this season of time together and move on to the season ahead.

Jake, thank you for your gift of love and self. May God continue to be with you!

Rev. Eric Lane



### Special Giving

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

**In Honor of Billie Sue Bumgarner by:**

Melvin & Elizabeth Mundy

**In Honor of Margaret Fairchild by:**

The United Methodist Women

**In Honor of Freida Farr by:**  
Jeanette Teague

**Remember!**

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

—Anonymous



## August Celebrations



- 1st—J. B. Coffey
- 2nd—Mastin Seagle
- 3rd—Ellen Minton Lance
- 6th—Tyler Baker
- 9th—Mackenzie Kohnle
- 11th—Anthony Austin
- 11th—Becky Clark, Ariel Carlisle
- 15th—Wesley Bradford
- 23rd—Monte Hollar
- 24th—Candace Collins, Casey Collins
- 24th—Cooper Behmer, Connor Johnson
- 25th—Kaylee Haas
- 30th—Kelsey Horne, Kaleigh Seagle
- 31st—Joy Sherrill

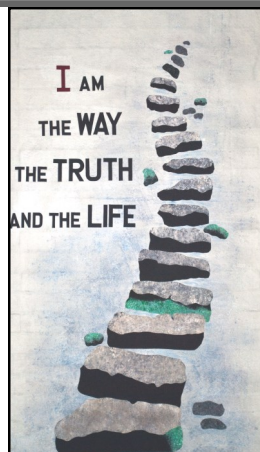
### *Happy Anniversary!*

- 4th—Lyle & Angie Miller
- 16th—Thomas & Lillie Johnson
- 22nd—Butch & Kay Smith
- 24th—Robert & Missy Mullinax
- 25th—Brian & Kim Knepp
- 31st—J. B. & Patty Coffey



### Thank you, Freida!

Thank you, Freida Farr, for keeping fresh and beautiful flowers in the pots of the garden next to the church bell, and for the many lovely banners hanging in the Christian Life Center and the Sanctuary. We appreciate the donation of your time and talents to beautify the Lord's house.



### Acolyte Schedule - AUGUST

**3rd** Samantha Stone

**10th** Devon Lyda

**17th** Hannah Abernethy

**24th** Clair Gilbert

**31st** Makayla Settlemeyre

### Nursery Schedule - AUGUST

**3rd** 8:30 Beth Hernandez & Jessica Haas

11:00 Nancy Sears

**10th** 8:30 Sonya Crouse & Becky Yount

11:00 Tasha Haas

**17th** 8:30 Boyd & Emily Johnson

11:00 Rosalind Kelley

**24th** 8:30 Teresa Simmons & Dawn Yount

11:00 Teresa Herman

**31st** 10:30 Tammy Adams & Linda Moretz

### Our Military

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

Kyle Blair  
Anthony Coffey  
Paul Coffey  
Joey Deal  
Dakota Fox  
Ethan Fox  
Andy Gaillard  
Ricki Garland  
Jason Gibson  
Trey Hefner  
Chris Kaisenski



Shane McRary  
Travis Miller  
Joey Moore  
Jamie Mullinax  
Jason Nichol  
Michael Potts  
James Starbuck  
Hunter Tolbert  
Josh Yount



### Prayer:

*"Don't give God instructions, just report for duty!"*



## August Fundraisers

### Bake Sale & Meals by the Costa Rica Team

#### Bake Sale & Lunch

Saturday

August 23rd

8 AM—1 PM

#### Hotdogs & Hamburgers

10 AM—1 PM

The Costa Rica Team will have a Bake Sale in the morning, and then sell hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch starting at 10:00 a.m.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to buy clothing for the children in Costa Rica when the team goes down there in January 2015.

Thank you for your support.

#### Luncheon Meal

Sunday

August 24th

10:30 AM & 12:00 PM

The Costa Rica team will also serve up lunch on Sunday between the two worship services. Carry out will be available. The menu was not set at press time, but we're sure the food will be delicious!

Proceeds will be used to buy clothing for children in Costa Rica for school and church attendance.

Thank you for your support.

### Breakfast Biscuits

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, August 14th.**

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!**



## Upcoming Appalachian District Events

### Gathering of the Laity

August 8-10, 2014

The Gathering of the Laity is a spiritual renewal and revitalization conference, designed to encourage and challenge you in your walk as a Christian disciple. There will be worship, music (including the Lake Junaluska Singers), and special speakers.

Cost is \$30 per person. Those 15 years old or younger may attend for **FREE**. Fee does not include housing accommodations.

Call the Lake Junaluska Conference center at 1-800-222-4390 for information regarding accommodations. Make checks payable to "Gathering of the Laity."

See registration form in church office.

### Inspire Living Worship

Saturday, Sept. 27th

9:30 AM—3:00 PM

First UMC N. Wilkesboro  
401 6th St, N. Wilkesboro, NC

Choose 1-2 workshops in the morning. Lunch is included, and an afternoon worship service. **\$10 per person.** Brochures and registration forms are available on the table in the hallway at Ebenezer UMC.

Workshops include: *Music in Worship, Emerging Worship, Radical Hospitality in Worship, Creative Worship Planning as a Team, Liturgical Movement & Dance, Visual Arts in Worship, Using Technology in Worship*, and a workshop for clergy: *Empowering the Laity for Ministry*.

See [www.wnccumc.org/events/inspire-living-worship](http://www.wnccumc.org/events/inspire-living-worship) or call the District Office at 336-667-5401.

### 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

Only a Southerner knows how many fish, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, beans, etc. make up "a mess."

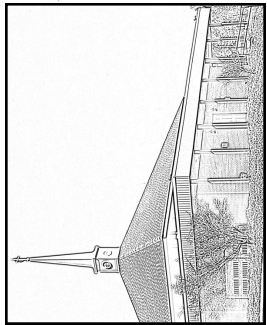









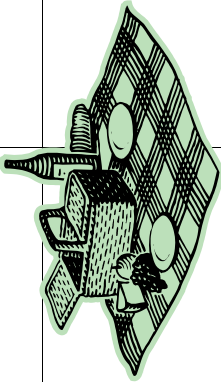
**EBENEZER UMC**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

# August 2014



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**  
*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Every Sunday:</b> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sun. School 11:00 a.m. Worship	See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists		<i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies		1 Youth Lock-in	2 
3 Communion Sunday	4	5 Prayer Group—10AM	6 	7	8	9
10 Farewell, Jake Covered-dish, 12 PM Church Council, 4:30 PM	11 Food Ministry, 5 PM	12 Prayer Group—10AM	13	14 Breakfast Biscuit Sales, 6 AM 'till gone!	15 CLC Floor waxing & buffing	16 
17	18	19 Prayer Group—10AM	20	21	22	23 Bake Sale, 8 AM Lunch, 10-1 PM, See p. 6
24 Lunch Between Services, see p. 6 UMW, 7 PM	25	26 Prayer Group—10AM	27 	28	29	30 
31 ONE Service Sunday; 10:30 AM Sun. School, 9 AM				Back to school time! August 25		