



# EBENEZER

## United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

# August '16

Volume 12 Issue 08

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

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We collected 24 pints at our summer blood drive. We thank everyone who participated and helped with the drive.



American Red Cross  
Together, we can save a life

### 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



## Pastor's Corner — Rev. Jay Bissett



### Light for the World

*"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:14-16

It seems that everywhere we look we see darkness. Violence, hatred, disrespect, intolerance. Or perhaps a better way to put it is that there seems to be fewer and fewer lights of hope and goodness.

Part of this is the way the media works. Fear, danger, and sensationalism sell. There isn't much money in reporting good news. But I am afraid that part of the growing darkness is that there might be fewer "lights" out there to brighten our world because of the culture of divisiveness in our country. It seems that the way to deal with those who believe differently is to condemn, mock, label as stupid or worthless.

In order to be a light, you have to risk. You have to put yourself on the line. Risk-taking makes us vulnerable to those who like to do nothing but find fault with others.

As Christians we are to be lights to our community—to be an inspiration to others that point to God. It is scary in this world of cynicism, division, suspicion and intolerance of others who believe differently to put ourselves "out there"; to reveal our faith. Yet that is exactly what Jesus challenges us to do.

Jesus calls us to be a light to our community. He calls us to follow him in practicing forgiveness, non-violence, justice. He calls us to accept others who may be different. He calls us to offer hospitality to those who are hurting and rejected.

St. Francis of Assisi wrote "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle." The fact that there seem to be fewer lights of goodness around us should not cause us to hide our lights; it should inspire us to shine brighter so that others may see the light of Jesus through us.

(Continued on page 4)

### WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.



### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



## Meetings

### Church Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be on **Sunday, August 21st at 4:30 p.m.**

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **August 28th at 7:00 p.m.** Celeste Creaseman will present the program. All women of the church are invited to participate.

### Sept. Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the September's newsletter in by **August 22nd**. Thank you. —Editor



### Food Ministry News

The Lord's Supper Ministry will not be serving the monthly meal in July and August, but **will resume in September**. Near the end of August you can let us know of people who may need a little extra attention, and we can add them to our list. Have a happy summer!

"There are many human standards of right and wrong—and they cannot all be correct. We need a final authority. Either that authority will be the powerful (government or rich and strong people) or God. Who would you rather trust?"

### Great News!

*People's Bank* has extended the Christian Life Center mortgage at the same interest rate as our current loan! (See the July Council notes). Thanks, Jo Nell, for convincing them to trust us. Now, Folks, let's get this paid off in the next five years, so we don't have to haggle with the bank again.

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"I gave them your message, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One." —John 17:14-15 GNT

**GOD IS IN CONTROL!**

*God is strong and always victorious;  
both deceived and deceiver are in his power.  
He takes away the wisdom of rulers  
and makes leaders act like fools.  
He dethrones kings and makes them prisoners;  
he humbles priests and men of power.  
He silences those who are trusted,  
and takes the wisdom of old people away.  
He disgraces those in power  
and puts an end to the strength of rulers.  
He sends light to places dark as death.  
He makes nations strong and great,  
but then he defeats and destroys them.  
He makes their leaders foolish  
and lets them wander confused and lost;  
they grope in the dark and stagger like drunkards.* —Job 12:16-25 GNT



Our country, not to mention the world, seems to be spiraling into a morass of confusion and depravity of all kinds: men thinking they are women, and vice versa; killing of the powerless and unborn, and selling of their body parts for profit (and we thought the Nazis were bad!); mass murders in the name of religion; racial hatred on the rise again, and enabled and encouraged by our leaders and media; women and young girls being exploited sexually or even sold into sexual slavery; men constantly in danger of being accused of rape or sexual assault; increased child abuse; more and more single parent families, often leading to poverty, more child abuse, and delinquent children (because of family instability); hostile and disrespectful language towards anyone who disagrees with one's own beliefs; protests that turn to violence and violent rhetoric; anti-Semitism, now coupled with Christian-bashing, becoming more acceptable and common; laws being re-written by judges and presidents, or simply ignored; a double-standard with the law—one for the rich and powerful, one for the poor and powerless.

Of course, we forget that things like this have been going on since Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden. We like to think that people are basically good; but history continues to prove that we are basically bad, and some of us are very bad indeed. We need to be restrained from evil. If we will not do it ourselves, we will have to be restrained in other ways. There are plenty of people out there who would like to be the ones telling us how to live. There are many human standards of right and wrong—and they cannot all be correct. We need a final authority. Either that authority will be the powerful (government or rich and strong people) or God. Who would you rather trust?

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Special Giving

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

**In Memory of Rilla Phillips by:**  
Ebenezer United Methodist Women

**In Memory of Max Frye by:**  
Ebenezer United Methodist Women

**In Memory of Wade Austin by:**  
Ezma Austin

**In Honor of Our Military by:**  
Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

**In Honor of VBS by:**  
Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

**In Honor of Jay Bissett by:**  
Heavenly Sonlighters Class

**In Honor of All VBS Workers by:**  
Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

**In Honor of the Adult Choir by:**  
Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

## Youth Group Assistants

We are thrilled that Terri Miller & Scott have volunteered to take over the Sunday evening youth group, but we can still use some extra helpers. Please contact Terri or Roy Hamby if you are willing to help or take over some of the evenings for Terri and Scott. They will want some help with special activities for the youth, too, such as mission trips and fundraising. May the Lord supply more workers for his kingdom!

“As economist Walter Williams puts it, ‘I respect ordinary thieves more than I respect politicians. Ordinary thieves take my money without pretense. (They don’t) insult my intelligence by



proclaiming that they’ll use the money that they steal from me to make my life better.’”

## Church Council Minutes – July 17, 2016

**Attendees:** Rev. Jay Bissett, Becky Clark, Kim Ellis, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Boyd & Emily Johnson, Connor Johnson, Keith Keener, Joann Knepp, Jerry Kohnle, Steve Kohnle, Judy McCrary, Libby McCrary, Scott Miller, Kevin Miller, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jimmy Stone, Alice Hill, Jessica Haas, and Ricky Baker.

Boyd called the meeting to order; Jeff Smith opened us with prayer. Jimmy Stone did a short devotional, calling us to fix our attention to God, and do not get caught up in the culture.

There were no corrections to the June minutes. Keith Keener made a motion to approve them; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Smith. Minutes passed as written.

### Financial Report from Jo Nell

**Harrison:** We spent more money in June than we took in. We hope that, once vacation time is over, our offerings will go up again. VBS, staff gifts/bonuses, youth trip, a new desk for the parsonage, awnings for the CLC breezeways, and other items put us over for the month. We are still on budget – ahead of the budget, we just had a lot of extra expenses in June.

**Mortgage report:** We still owe \$131,000+ on the CLC loan. People’s Bank wants to raise the finance charge slightly. They have offered a 10 year balloon payment loan that would lower our monthly payments for 5 years, but after that time, the interest rate may rise again for the remaining principle.

Jerry Kohnle made a motion to continue with People’s; Seconded by unknown. Motion passed. Jo Nell will try to get the interest rate back down to the original 4.6%, instead of going up to 4.85%.

### OLD BUSINESS

Toilets, etc. have not been repaired yet. The trustees will work on getting this work completed. The cleaning crew problem is resolved. CLC outside lights problem has been

corrected. Jimmy is still working on the Wi-Fi for the nursery. Communion linen has not been bought yet. Smell in the men’s restroom continues, and will be investigated further.

**SPPR Committee Report:** The Youth Minister qualifications’ list is completed. We will post the job notice in various venues, such as the Conference website, nearby seminaries, colleges, etc.

### NEW BUSINESS

There is a **roof leak** in the choir room under the flat roof area. Someone has been called to take care of that.

**Dirty filters** were the reason for the air problem in the CLC; the filters have been changed. This needs to be done on a regular schedule. The trustees are looking into getting a maintenance schedule from the AC people to take care of this. If it is too costly, the men’s group will handle the filter changes.

Concerning the **bowed Nursery floor:** Kevin Simmons will cut out the bad laminate and then place tile at the door. He will also fix the bowed ceiling tiles in one of the Sunday school classes up stairs.

Bleaka Hollar brought up the problem of mulch being washed away outside. She asked if borders could be put around the area to stop that? She would like to add a couple of small trees to the area also. The Trustees will make that decision; Bleaka is willing to put out the trees.

**Playground equipment:** The wooden items will need to be replaced in the near future. We will not replace this year, but should look at it next year.

Kim Ellis: Since we need to clean out the mechanics rooms, we may want to look at buying or building an outside storage building, especially for the larger items we need to store.

Jessica Haas said she needs a DVD

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Council, con't

*(Continued from page 3)*

drive for Children's Church. The separate, external drive will cost about \$40. Keith and Boyd gave her \$40 to buy it with. Problem solved.

VBS nightly attendance average this year was 164 a night. Sunday night was our highest night, and Thursday night had great attendance, too. The counts were down a little from last year.

Steve Kohnle reported that the Men's group wants to do a fundraiser to help out a family in the church dealing with illness and unemployment. The men will pay for the food, so all the proceeds will go to the family. They will serve breakfast on July 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m. We will also have the covered-dish on this day as previously planned. Donations will be appreciated, even if you choose not to eat.

Rev. Jay asked about buying a clock for the sanctuary, but decided to place a watch on the pulpit instead.

Gerald Frye prayed us out, and the Council was adjourned.

—minutes by Cindy Sears



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

Even the birds and animals have much they could teach you;

ask the creatures of earth and sea for their wisdom.

All of them know that the LORD's hand made them.

It is God who directs the lives of his creatures;

everyone's life is in his power.

—Job 12:7-10 GNT

## Pastor's Corner, con't

*(Continued from page 1)*

When a friend or co-worker says or does something we disagree with or don't understand, let us remember that we are all imperfect, and come from different perspectives and experiences. Let us react by seeking understanding rather than judging.

When someone says something hurtful, let us consider the possibility that we misconstrued or misunderstood. Even if there is spite or hatred, let us follow Jesus' teachings and offer love for hatred and forgiveness for enmity.

When we hear words that hurt others, that belittle or dehumanize, that promote prejudice, let us speak up for the full humanity of all God's children.

We are called, then, to love, forgive, welcome, and serve. Strive against the darkness. Take risks. Shine!

*Rev. Jay Bissett*



## Something, con't

*(Continued from page 2)*

The God revealed in the Hebrew/Christian Bible is a God of power and wrath, but also a God of righteousness and redeeming love. He knows all and sees all, so he cannot be deceived or deceptive. He created us, so he knows what is best for us. He cared enough for us to come here, become one of us, and die a horrible death to redeem us—if we will accept the gift. He is our only hope for true restraint against evil, in us and in our societies. He is our only hope for a brighter tomorrow—here and in the hereafter.

In this present morass, we Christians should stand out like sore thumbs, or a better analogy would be like a lighthouse in the midst of a dark storm—a storm of evil. If you do not stand out from the crowd, pray long and hard about your life choices. A relationship with Jesus involves change every day. We are not of this world, only in this world (see John 17:14-16, et. al.). Join a Sunday school class, along with attending our worship services and reading in the Bible daily, and you will be better prepared to navigate the waters of this storm in our world today.

*"In the Lord's name, then, I warn you: do not continue to live like the heathen, whose thoughts are worthless and whose minds are in the dark. They have no part in the life that God gives, for they are completely ignorant and stubborn. They have lost all feeling of shame; they give themselves over to vice and do all sorts of indecent things without restraint. That is not what you learned about Christ! You certainly heard about him, and as his followers you were taught the truth that is in Jesus. So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to—the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy."*

—Ephesians 4:17-24 GNT ✚



## August Celebrations



*Happy Birthday!*



- 2nd—Mastin Seagle
- 3rd—Ellen Minton Lance
- 6th—Tyler Baker
- 6th—Danielle Alvarado
- 9th—Hoke Clark
- 9th—Mackenzie Kohnle
- 11th—Anthony Austin,
- 11th—Becky Clark
- 11th— Ariel Carlisle
- 18th—Kinley Starbuck
- 23rd—Monte Hollar
- 24th—Candace Collins, Casey Collins
- 24th—Cooper Behmer, Connor Johnson
- 25th—Kaylee Haas
- 30th—Kaleigh Seagle
- 31st—Joy Sherrill

*Happy Anniversary!*



- 1st—Jay & Monica Bissett
- 4th—Lyle & Angie Miller
- 16th—Thomas & Lillie Johnson
- 18th—Ricky & Shawn Baker
- 22nd—Butch & Kay Smith
- 25th—Brian & Kim Knepp

### UMW School Items Collection

Our United Methodist Women's group is collecting the following items to help out the teachers in the local schools:

**Facial tissues, paper towels,  
sanitizing wipes, #2 pencils.**

Please place the items in the Old Fellowship Hall. See p. 6 for another list of helpful items for our schools and students.



### Acolyte Schedule - AUGUST

<b>7th</b>	Andrew Miller
<b>14th</b>	Emily Haas
<b>21st</b>	Bethany Huss
<b>28th</b>	Savanna Creaseman

### Nursery Schedule - AUGUST

**7th** 8:30  
11:00

**14th**

Nursery schedule was not available  
in time to put in the newsletter.

**21st**

11:00

**28th**

8:30  
11:00

10:30

### Our Military

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

Nick Austin  
Kyle Blair  
Anthony Coffey  
Paul Coffey  
Dakota Fox  
Ethan Fox  
Andy Gaillard  
Ricky Garland  
Jason Gibson  
Trey Hefner  
Chris Kaisenski



Shane McRary  
Travis Miller  
Joey Moore  
Jamie Mullinax  
Michael Potts  
Alex Shealy  
Hunter Tolbert  
Josh Yount

### Rev. Eric Lane's New Church Address

You may send cards/letters to Eric & Beth at:

**Mineral Springs UMC  
Rev. Eric Lane  
P. O. Box 67  
Mineral Springs, NC 28108**

Please restrict your comments to personal and not pastoral  
or church related affairs.



## Rev. Jay Bissett Commissioned



## SCCM School Book Bags

We are now collecting the following items to place in book bags to give to needy children in the schools:

### Kindergarten-First Grade:

pencils, pens, glue, glue sticks, crayons, colored pencils, erasers, highlighters, notebook, notebook paper, folders, rounded scissors, pencil box, and writing tablet. Optional items: facial tissues, antibacterial wipes.

**Grades Two-Five:** same as above to *scissors* then pencil pouch, tissues, wipes and calculators.

**Grades Six-Eight:** notebook paper, dividers with tabs, folders with pockets, 2 spiral notebooks, pencils, colored pencils, 2 colors of highlighters, black, blue, red pens in a book bag.

**Grades 9-12:** 1 notebook and notebook paper, 4 spiral notebooks, pencils, pens, highlighters, and dividers with tabs in the book bag.

**Suggestion:** The adult or youth Sunday school classes could purchase the materials for the book bags and then let the children's classes put them together.

**BAGS ARE NEEDED BY  
AUGUST 18TH.**

**THESE ITEMS WILL BE HANDED  
OUT ON AUGUST 29TH.**

**Please leave items at the church  
in the fellowship hall and we  
will get them to SCCM. Thank  
you!**

Questions or concerns may be sent to [sccm-director@sccm1983.com](mailto:sccm-director@sccm1983.com) or call Debbie at 396-4000.

## August Fundraisers & Events

### Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class has taken over the biscuit sales. They will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND bologna biscuits on **Thursday, August 18th.**

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m.** You can eat in or we will continue to deliver orders of 10+ to area businesses, etc. Please **call early or pre-order large orders on Wednesday by calling: 396-2214** (church office; Mon.-Fri. 8:30-1:30 pm).

Proceeds will now support local missions. Please make your checks out to ART, which stands for *Area Response Team*.

**Yum! Yum!**

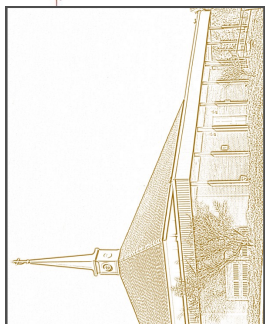




**EBENEZER UMC**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

# August 2016



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship	1	2	3 <i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 <i>Back to School Bash at Grace Chapel UMC—11-3 PM</i>
14	15	16	17	18 <i>Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 6</i>	19	20
21 <i>Church Council—4:30 PM</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>UMW—7 PM</i>	29 	30	31	See p. 5 for Acolyte & Nursery Schedules		