



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

August '17

Volume 13 Issue 8

Church's e-mail: ebenezerumc@yahoo.com

Inside this issue:

Meetings , etc.	2
Special Giving	2
Something to Pray About	2
Something..., con't	3
Council Minutes—06/11/2017	3
Church Council, con't	4
Hid in My Heart	4
August Celebrations	4
VBS Report	4
Our Military Prayer List	4
Habitat House Dedication	4
Calendar	5

If we start with the end in mind, then the road to success carries us where we want to go. But if we set off in pursuit of our own gratification, then we are likely to wander into oblivion.

Sept. Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the September newsletter in by **Monday, August 28th**. Thank you—Editor



Sunday Services

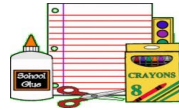
- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women

“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*

AUGUST Fundraisers & Events

Back-to-School Bash

Grace Chapel UMC will sponsor the Back-to-school bash again this year on



SATURDAY
AUGUST 12TH
11—3:00 PM

We encourage everyone to come, bring school supplies (you can use the SCCM annual lists for guidance), and enjoy good food and music while helping to supply school items for financially strapped parents in our area.



Promotion Sunday Worship and Picnic

SUNDAY
AUGUST 20TH
10:30 AM

Our Sunday school promotion day worship service will be at Oak Hill Park. There is a covered area where the service will be held.

Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, August 17**.

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: 396-3935** (Bleaka Hollar).

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

Yum!

Yum!



Ebenezer will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks.

Participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert, if you can. Bring a lawn chair or something to sit on. There is a covered area where we can worship and eat. There is a creek and other activities available for further fun and fellowship.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 6:30p Teens for Christ (Gr. 6-12)
- 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings, Etc.

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, August 13 at 4:30 p.m.**

Trustees Meeting

Trustees will meet on **Monday, August 14th.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper will serve its next meal on Monday, **August 20 at 5:00 p.m.** Driver/Delivers need to be there at 5:00 p.m. Please see Ricky Baker for when the kitchen help is needed.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, August 27th at 7:00 p.m.** Celeste Creaseman is in charge of the program. Other attendees are asked to bring finger foods to share. All women of the church are invited to participate.

As Jay Leno once said, if you eat right and exercise you'll get more years - but they'll be years in your eighties, when what most people want is more years in their twenties.

Quoted on Jewish World Review

Special Giving

Ebenezer UMC and its members, gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts received in *August 2017*:

In Honor of All People Coming to Church at Ebenezer by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of the United Methodist Men's Group by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Children's Time by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of the VBS Teachers & Assistants by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

When they finished praying, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God's message with boldness.

—Acts 4:31 GNT

**LET'S PRAY
BIG!**

It's past time to pray big. God has given us permission and encouraged us, even demanded, that we pray big.

In Matthew 7:7, Jesus calls upon us to not only ask, but to seek and knock, and expect good things from the Father in answer to our prayers (v. 11). In Matthew 21:18-21, Jesus tells his disciples that by faith they can command "a hill to get up and throw itself into the sea." After this amazing claim, Jesus says (v. 22): "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

James (James 5:13-16) called on believers to pray over the sick and they will be healed. He concludes with "The prayer of a good (righteous) person has a powerful effect." (v. 16b)

Please note that James says the prayer of a "good" person—or righteous person. Harboring unconfessed sins blocks the power of the Holy Spirit. That's why in verse 16a, James says: "So then, confess your sins to one another, so that you will be healed." Also, in verse 15, James declares that not only will the person prayed over be healed, but that his sins will be forgiven, too.

Yet, how do we pray, and what do we pray for? It seems clear that to Jesus the work of the kingdom, God's kingdom, ranked higher than all other needs. In the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus used as a sample of good prayer, he ask us to pray that God's will be done on earth as in heaven before he has us ask for our daily provisioning. In Luke's version of the "ask, seek, knock" saying (Luke 11:9-13), Jesus ends with a promise of God giving praying people the Holy Spirit. Jesus also implies in verses 5-8 that we may have to pray often and insistently, not just waiting on God to act upon our prayers, but continually imploring that he do so, until we receive a definitive answer.

When I read these passages, I am convicted of three things: 1) my praying tends to be weak and watered down (lacking strong belief or anticipation of God answering in the affirmative); 2) I am not persistent enough, easily giving in to "his will" without really knowing for certain that it is God's will; and 3) many, if not most, of my prayers are "me" centered, not kingdom centered. Why do I not ask for really big things, especially regarding the Kingdom's work? Or only ask half-heartedly, afraid to ask for "too much" or to bother God over and over again about the same thing?

Elijah prayed for the rain to cease and then to begin again after many days. King David prayed for the life of his child day and night, fasting as he did so. The answer was "no," but David did not cease to plead with God until the child died. After the ascension of Jesus, the believers "gathered frequently to pray" (Acts 1:14), and their prayers were answered mightily on the Day of

(Continued on page 3)



Something..., con't

(Continued from page 2)

Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 2). Some of the best prayers are from Apostle Paul. His prayers tended to be centered on the church's growth and spiritual maturity. In 1 Thessalonians 3:12, he prayed for his church "to increase and overflow" in love. In 2 Thessalonians 3:16, he prayed that God would give them "peace at all times and in every way." He even prayed that they would be "filled with the knowledge of God's will for their lives."

Are we willing to pray big for Ebenezer Church, the UMC, and each other? Are we willing to be consistent and insistent in our praying? Can we learn to expect great things, not just peace, health, or comfort; but growth in the knowledge of God, power for witnessing and ministry, faithful and sacrificial giving of our time, our talents, our tithes to the work of the Lord's Kingdom? And why not pray for revival—real revival, in our churches and outside of them. Let's confess our sins, buy some knee pads, and wear out the floor praying for BIG things to happen here, in our community, in our nation, and around the world. Get ready, get set, GO! ✝

(Main idea and some scripture references come from "Are Your Prayers Big Enough?" by Scott McDermott, Good News, July/Aug 2017, pp. 15-16.)

Church Council – July 23, 2017

Attendees: Ricky Baker, David & Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Gerald Frye (Chairman), Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Pastor Tom Hunter, JoAnn Knepp, Marilyn Kohnle, Judy McCrary, Cinda McRary, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, and Jeff Smith.

Gerald called the meeting to order. Jeff Smith opened with prayer. Then, Gerald read a devotion about Jesus' baptism, and temptation in the wilderness.

Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved.

FINANCE REPORT

Jo Nell Harrison said: Our Jo Nell Harrison: A question about the phone bill report was answered—about new phone number at the parsonage. We are in the red for the budgeted amount. As of the end of June, we are \$27,000 low on our budget giving for the year to date. The church's electricity bill is higher than what we budgeted for.

Concerning repairs and maintenance—Jo Nell said Roy had gone crazy. We have spent \$1800 over the budget, because of problems with the heat pumps and the freezer/cooler in the kitchen. Essentially, we are \$10,000 over the budgeted amounts, so far. One point of good news the building loan amount is down to \$82,000; even though we are \$7000 below projected giving amounts for the building fund for this year.

Kim Ellis verified that Jo Nell can pay the VBS bills out of the VBS fund first, then use budget money to finish paying any remaining amounts.

At this point, we are \$2500 overdrawn on budget payouts. (The checking account is not in the red, because several other fund amounts are kept in the same account.)

NEW BUSINESS

Jo Nell has said that she needs help with the financial records/bill paying. But we need to be looking for an accountant (volunteer, of course). There was a discussion about what to do about getting help for Jo Nell in keeping the budget records. Nothing solid was decided, but people have been turning in their receipts better this past month. This is a great help to Jo Nell, and saves her time in maintaining the church's accounts.

Libby McCrary Long resigned her position as Sunday school superintendent, and membership in the church. Bleaka said that we will wait until we nominate new committee members for next year to replace this position of leadership. Kim Ellis and Marsha McRary will handle Sunday school matters for now. Another item for consideration brought up was the literature orders. Please let Cindy know if you need to cut back on your literature (or increase it).

Ricky Baker notified us that Scott and Terri Miller called to say that they were resigning from the youth group leadership. Ricky will speak with Jason and Candace Collins to see if they will take over for now.

VBS report from Kim Ellis: Average attendance was 126. Average attendance for adults was 51; for children it was 42. Thank you to everyone for helping to make this year's VBS a success.

The annual barbecue fundraiser will be in September, 29th-30th. Concerning Homecoming: Tom said that he is willing to preach that day. No decision was made about revival. The Back to school bash is scheduled for August 12th, 11-3:00 p.m.

(Continued on page 4)



Church Council, con't

(Continued from page 3)

A recommendation was made to cut back on the Upper Room order. Cindy will check into that, too; and stop the Spanish version that we receive, too.

Tom Hunter: announced that there would be another "Dialog" sponsored by WNCC in October. We'll have more info later. Tom needs a new computer and printer for his home office. Dylan Baker will be asked to look into this.

Kim Ellis, reporting for the Worship committee, reminded everyone of the Worship Service at Oak Hill Park on August 20th. Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m., and there will be no Sunday school that day. Hamburgers and hot dogs and drinks will be provided by the church; participants are asked to bring a side dish, if you can. Bring a lawn chair or something to sit on. There is a covered area where we can worship and eat. There is a creek and other activities available for further fun and fellowship.

Bleaka Hollar closed the meeting in prayer.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 

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

"I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him. He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated. My salvation and honor depend on God; he is my strong protector; he is my shelter."

—Psalm 62:5-7 GNT

August Celebrations



- 2nd—Mastin Seagle
- 3rd—Ellen Minton Lance
- 6th—Tyler Baker
- 9th—Hoke Clark
- 9th—Mackenzie Kohnle
- 11th—Anthony Austin
- 11th—Becky Clark
- 11th—Ariel Carlisle
- 18th—Kinley Starbuck
- 23rd—Braylen Helton
- 23rd—Monte Hollar
- 24th—Candace Collins
- 24th—Casey Collins
- 24th—Cooper Behmer
- 25th—Kaylee Haas
- 30th—Kaleigh Seagle

Happy Anniversary!

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



VBS Report

Thank you to everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School this year!

Our average attendance was 126 (52 adults; 42 children).



Our Military



Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski
Shane McRary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

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

God causes events to coincide, and we call them 'coincidences'.

— Rabbi Shraga Silverstein

Habitat House Dedication

Our latest Habitat House building project is completed. This year's house was built for Lorena Sanchez and her family—Ludwin, William, Luis & Adam, and Denis. The address is: 93 Falls Ave. Granite Falls.

Dedication of the completed home will be on August 12th at 3:00 p.m.

We continue to collect for our portion to help finance this project. Our goal is \$5,000. As of July 23rd, we have \$4,424—only \$576 to go!

We thank you for your support.




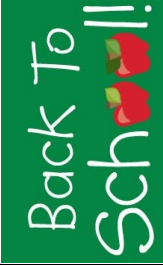
EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

August 2017



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school		1 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM Worship Committee—7 PM	2 Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6:30 Teens for Christ 7 PM Adult Bible studies	3 Wedding Rehearsal—4-5:00 PM	4	5 Wedding—9-1:00 PM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Back-to-School Bash—11-3:00 PM, see p. 1 Habitat Dedication—3PM, see p. 4
13 Church Council—4:30 PM	14 Trustees—6:30 PM	15 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	16	17 Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 6	18	19
20 Promotion Sunday—10:30 AM, see p. 1	21	22	23 	24	25	26
27 UMW—7 PM	28 	29	30	31 