



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

August '19

Volume 15 Issue 8

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SEPTEMBER 2019  
newsletter items are due  
by **Monday, August 19th.**

## Special Note:

**We are beginning the process of appointing committee members for 3Y 2020. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Tom or Lay Leader, Bleaka Hollar.**

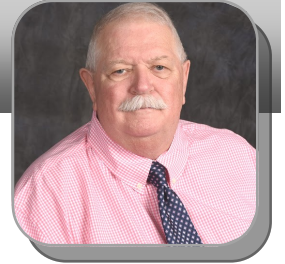
## Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 5:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 6:00p 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 Pen



### Who Are You?

May I see your identification? The Red Cross employee always asks. Unless the receptionist at the doctor's office knows me well, says, “May I see your ID?” We live in a world that wants to know our name. Are we who we claim to be?



The Highway Patrol Officer advised me to update my driver's license address (in no uncertain terms). He had difficulty understanding why I was driving in that area, an hour and a half from home. I told him where I lived at the time and he said update your license. **Everybody wants to know, Who Are You?**

As a nation we tend to build our identity according to profession. It is important to our status to be able to say I am employed at a certain place or I perform a specific task. I usually say “I am a United Methodist minister. I am serving Ebenezer UMC in Granite Falls, beautiful downtown Dudley Shoals. I have been a minister since 1980.

The writer of today's *Upper Room* devotion spoke of losing her identity when she lost her position in the church. Apparently she had to find another job. The only position she could find was as a cab driver. She felt it beneath her. How would she fulfill her calling? What could she do to serve God now that she was no longer a minister? She found that driving a cab allowed her to serve God by being with her riders.

Yes, we have to satisfy the rules and regulations of our state, but it is more important to satisfy the desires of God. God knows us, but God wants the kind of relationship that does not require an ID. God wants us to have an identity that God gives. God provides many opportunities for us to serve. Perhaps our identity should be “Friend of God.”

*Pastor Tom*

## WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 6:00p 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.

### Lord's Supper Ministry

The next meal will be delivered on **Monday, August 19th at 5:00 p.m.** See Ricky Baker to volunteer to help.

### Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, August 19th at 7:00 p.m.**

### United Methodist Women

The women will meet on **Sunday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m.** Celeste Creaseman is in charge of the program.

## Special Invitation

Everyone is invited to help the members of Bethlehem Baptist Church (7500 NC Hwy 127, Taylorsville) celebrate the opening of their new church facilities after the fire destroyed the church in 2015.

**Open House**  
**Saturday, August 3rd**  
**5-7:30 pm.**

Hamburgers, hot dogs, & drinks will be served.

**Sunday, August 4th**

There will be a covered-dish lunch after the service with a time of praise and thanksgiving to follow the meal.

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *July*:

**In Honor of 51st Anniversary of Bill & Delores Campbell on Sept. 7th by:**

Bill & Delores Campbell

**In Honor of Billy Wayne Campbell's 50th Birthday on September 19th by:**

Bill & Delores Campbell



## Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.  
—Matthew 28:19-20 GNT

**THE 1 OR  
THE 99**

“What do you think a man does who has one hundred sheep and one of them gets lost? He will leave the other ninety-nine grazing on the hillside and go and look for the lost sheep. When he finds it, I tell you, he feels far happier over this one sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not get lost. In just the same way your Father in heaven does not want any of these little ones to be lost.” --Matthew 8:12-14 GNT

Wouldn't you think that any reasonable shepherd with 100 sheep would be more worried about keeping the remaining 99 sheep safe than going off to look for the one missing sheep? But this good shepherd leaves the 99 grazing on a hillside, and goes searching diligently for that one lost sheep. There isn't enough detail included in the Matthew version or the Luke (15:4-7) version of this parable for us to know if the 99 sheep have other shepherd's helpers watching over them or not, or if they are enclosed in a walled pasture for protection.

If one believes in the “once save always saved” doctrine, the shepherd doesn't need to worry about the 99 left behind. Whether or not one believes that, maybe the “righteous” sheep are fairly safe anyway, because they're living right, in God's will, and that protects them. Anyone who lives by God's precepts and commandments is less likely to stray or to become involved in dangerous or harmful situations.

Yet, the point of this parable by Jesus mainly seems to be saying one important thing to us who believe in Jesus as God's Son and the Savior of the world. One lost soul still out in the world is one lost soul too many by God's standards.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” --2 Peter 3:9 KJV

The last time that Jesus saw his disciples he commanded them to go and make disciples of all peoples everywhere! (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8) Does that sound like God wants us to pick and choose whom we invite to come to Christ? Does it sound like he is okay with us sitting comfortably in our churches with fellow believers, and never going outside the four walls to tell others about the Good News?

As long as there is one lost sheep, one soul that does not know the Lord personally as Savior, one person who has not admitted his sinfulness before the holy, all-powerful, creator God, and then confessed his need for redemption, our job is not finished.





## August Events & Fundraisers

### Back 2 School Bash

**Saturday, August 10  
10-2 PM**

There will be games, food, and music at the annual Back 2 School Bash at the Grace Chapel UMC Community Park. Everything is free! Come join the fun.

Listed below are some items you can donate to help provide school supplies that will be given out to students and teachers at this event:

**For students:** 16 pack crayons, 2 pocket folders, composition books, glue sticks, pencil boxes, colored pencils, safety scissors, blue ink pens, loose leaf paper, index cards, yellow highlighters.

**For teachers:** spiral notebooks, pencils, deodorant, snacks (peanut butter cups for diabetics), juice cups, peanut butter cups, disposable lunch bags.

Donations can be taken directly to Grace Chapel UMC or put in the Teachers Closet box in our lobby by August 7th.

Thank you for helping out our school systems. Volunteers are also needed during this event to help with the games, etc.

### A Full Life

Living life to its fullest doesn't mean we should be constantly happy and thankful. It doesn't mean that we should never be angry with our loved ones or work too hard or endure mistakes. It doesn't mean we should never feel sad or hurt. Living life to its fullest simply means surrendering to these things as a necessary part of life.

Love is not a one-way street. Therefore, a person cannot have love of money, because money cannot reciprocate. He can only have a lust for money. What is the difference, you ask? Ah, unfortunately, love can be satisfied, whereas lust is a never-ending, unfulfilling chase.

— Rabbi Meir of Apt

### Biscuit Sales

**Thursday  
August 15th  
6 AM — 'til gone!**

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg, liver mush, bologna, and gravy biscuits on **Thursday, August 15th.**

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. —til gone!** 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 Response Team*.

**Yum! Yum!**



"Man's despair is not despair of God at all, but despair of all that is not God. Beyond that certain despair lies Christian hope, the certainty that God alone is enough for man."

—William McNamara

## August Celebrations



- 6th—Tyler Baker
- 11th—Anthony Austin
- 11th—Becky Clark
- 11th—Ariel Carlisle
- 23rd—Braylen Helton
- 23rd—Monte Hollar
- 24th—Candace Collins
- 24th—Casey Collins
- 24th—Cooper Behmer

*Happy Anniversary!*

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

### Our Military

Nick Austin  
Kyle Blair  
Ricky Garland  
Trey Hefner  
Shane McRary  
Jamie Mullinax  
Michael Potts  
Hunter Tolbert  
Josh Yount



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

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

Turn to the LORD and pray to him, now that he is near. Let the wicked leave their way of life and change their way of thinking. Let them turn to the LORD, our God; he is merciful and quick to forgive.

—Isaiah 55:6-7 GNT



## Church Council — July 21, 2019

Attendees: Pastor Tom, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Jim Farr, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, John McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Phyllis Minton, Cindy Sears, Kim Knepp, and Cinda McCrary.

John McCrary called meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotional: Matthew 2:10-11: wise men seeking Jesus. Rejoiced when they saw the star; presented gifts to Jesus and his parents. We find exceeding joy in our hearts when we come to Jesus. We are called to give gifts to God, too. Gift of faith, worship, our lives (giving him control).

### Jo Nell Finance

We are paying our bills and the apportionments. General discussion followed about the money for the new barbecue building—where to put it or record it.

There was a discussion about our Missions funds and how to designate them. We decided to close the Mission Scholarship Fund, and put the funds in a Mission Fund. Motion passed.

Jo Nell confirmed again that the Food Ministry fund is closed. Our church is funding this ministry through our budget. Any money designated to this will be put in the General Fund.

Reading of the minutes: Accept as written. Marsha 1<sup>st</sup>, Bleaka 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

United Methodist Men's report from John McCrary: Next work day is on Saturday, July 27th at 7:00 a.m. they will work on putting a roof for a member, and clean up around the church signs.

Marsha reported that she will be gone for a couple of Sundays. She has arranged for her Sunday school classes to be covered.

Bleaka Hollar: Pastor Tom needs a microphone to wear on Sunday. The old one has been discarded. John and Bleaka made motions to get him a new one. Marsha or Bleaka will check in to this and order a new one.

Roy Hamby Trustees Report: The ice machine has been replaced. The sagging ceiling tiles upstairs have been fixed. The CLC kitchen door has been replaced. The fire door locking mechanism on the inner entrance to the CLC still needs to be replaced.

Judy McCrary announced that SCCM has sent us their annual request for book bags for school kids. This list will be provided to the congregation to help us fill the need.

Pastor Tom's comments: It is time to begin meetings for Charge Conference. Committee replacements will be needed. We are asking for volunteers. Tom also said that we should add conference trip money back into our budget, because the next pastor may need that money. Pastor's education fund will need to be added back, too. We assured him that we normally include money in the budget for those two items, and will do so again once he leaves our church.

Kim Ellis thanked everybody for their help in VBS. The average attendance each night was 97. Dudley Baptist used some of the materials, and then passed it on to someone else.

Bleaka talked about the Teacher Network Closet in connection with the Back to School Bash coming up on August 10<sup>th</sup>. They are asking for school supplies to be donated for this to fill up book bags. We are asking our members to bring school supplies to our church, and then we will deliver them to Grace Chapel. Items needed include pencils, notepaper, scissors, glue sticks, etc. Our Praise Band will be there. We would like more volunteers from our church to attend and help out during this event.

Motion to adjourn was made by Cindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bleaka. Meeting adjourned.

--Minutes by Cindy Sears

## Marriage—Good for Both Sexes

It grieves me that so many women today don't have the same opportunities. Feminism was supposed to expand women's choices, and in some ways it did, but by devaluing marriage, it has left many women — especially those with less education — struggling to handle all of the responsibilities of parenthood on their own. I cannot imagine how difficult it would have been to be a single mother. The decline of intact families has also denied millions of men the solidity and maturity that marriage confers, while also denying children the key character traits that dads instill.

—Mona Charon







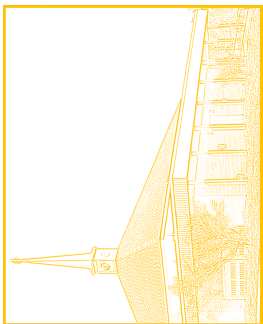
**EBENEZER UMC**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

# August 2019



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*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Every Sunday:</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir Practice			<i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	1	2	3
4	5 Basketball—7 PM	6	7	8	9	10 B2School Bash—10-2 PM at Grace Chapel UMC's Community Park
11	12 Basketball—7 PM	13	14	15 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!	16	17
18	19 Lord's Supper Ministry—5 PM Basketball—7 PM Trustees—7 PM	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Basketball—7 PM	27	28		30 Wedding Prep. —2 PM-10 PM — Sanctuary & CLC	31 Wedding—All Day, Sanctuary & CLC