



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

AUGUST '21

Volume 17 Issue 8

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

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August 1st, 2 PM

Meet at the church to go to the Hickory Crawdads game at 3:00 p.m. Bring a bulletin for a discounted ticket, and to get a donation for our church.



Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 5:00p 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 Note



I want to tell you a preacher story.

Once upon a time there was a man. He had a nice house, in a quiet neighborhood, near a river. One day it started to rain, and the river began to rise. It rose so much that his yard and basement was flooded along with the road into his neighborhood. He prayed for God to save him from the flood. His neighbor, who had a truck with big tires that could drive through the water still, stopped by and begged the man to get into the truck, and they could go to safety. The man replied, "No thanks. I have prayed for God to save me, and I trust that God will." So, his neighbor drove off and looked for others in need.

It kept raining and the waters kept rising. Eventually the man's downstairs was flooded, and he had to retreat upstairs. He prayed again for God to save him. At that moment, the sheriff's department came by in a boat. They knew the man was there because of his neighbor. They called for him to get in the boat, and go to safety with them. He leaned out his window and said, "No thank you. I have prayed for God to save me, and I trust that God will." The boat left to look for others in need.

It kept raining and the waters kept rising. Eventually the waters rose to the second story, and the man had to climb onto his roof. He prayed again for God to save him. At that moment a National Guard helicopter came over his house. They sent a basket down for him to climb into, and be taken to safety. He yelled at them over the sound of the rotors, "No thank you. I have prayed for God to save me, and I trust that God will." The helicopter left to look for others in need.

It kept raining and the waters kept rising, and the man drowned. He found himself in heaven standing before God. He was angry. He said to God, "I prayed for you to save me, but I drowned. Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "I sent a truck, a boat and a helicopter. What more did you want?"

We have been praying for God to save us from Covid-19. Yet, we find ourselves with cases rising again. People are being hospitalized and more are dying. Why won't God help us?

However, God has helped us. Through the wisdom and intelligence given to us humans, several vaccines have been developed that can provide protection from this illness. I know that many of you are vaccinated, and that some of you are not. As your pastor, I encourage those of you who can get vaccinated to please do so. There are those among us who can't at this time either due to age or health conditions. I

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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, Events, etc.

Prayer Group

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. our weekly prayer group meets. You may call the office or email us prayer requests at ebenezerumc@yahoo.com.

Wesley Class Meetings

These class sessions will be held on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Pastor Alan if you wish to attend, but have not signed up for the group yet.

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will deliver their next meals to shut-ins and others in need of special care again on **Monday, August 16 at 5:00 p.m.** Please contact the church if you know of someone who is recovering from sickness, or surgery that might like to be added to the list.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, August 22 at 7:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to attend.

Church Council

The Council will meet on **Sunday, August 29 at 4:00 p.m.**

Seniors Gathering

Ebenezer's next monthly gathering with a free meal for our Senior Citizens is:

**Tuesday
August 24th
11:00 AM**

Our Senior Citizens can meet at Ebenezer, then car pool to Oak Hill Park where hot dogs will be served for lunch. You may bring a dessert to share if you can.

Guest speaker will be Tim Hart. After he speaks, the group will go to Hart's Creamery for free ice cream. Yum! Yum!

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." —Romans 6:23 NIV

**BASIC DOCTRINE:
SIN—WHY WE NEED
GRACE**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. —Romans 3:23 NIV

"A right concept of sin is therefore imperative for if man errs here, he errs everywhere. If he does not have scriptural views of sin's nature, he will not have scriptural views of sin's efficacious remedy. Man's estimation of sin differs considerably. What is sin to one is not sin to another. But to accept the Bible's verdict on "sin" is to accept the Bible's provision of salvation from sin by the Saviour (sic)." (Lockyer, p. 153)

I have talked about the grace of God in a couple of articles; now it is time to be more specific of why we need God's grace. The word "sin" is not much mentioned in our churches today. We are all about grace and love and kindness and goodness and service and worship. Yet, reading the Bible I find a great deal of emphasis on sin. The very beginning of mankind, created by God, is almost immediately marred by sin—disobedience of a command from God. And that was just one command! Adam and Eve, who had everything they needed right at hand in the Garden of Eden, wanted more. Just like Satan, who is the first sinner, because he was not satisfied with being second to God.

So, what is sin? "Sin is the transgression of a divine command." When a person sins, he transgresses a boundary set by God. It is trespass—"going beyond assigned limits." "The very principle of sin is unbelief in the divine word and denial of the divine will. Thus sin can be summarized in the threefold way Dr. C. I. Scofield indicates: It is an act, the violation of, or want of obedience to the revealed Word of God. It is a state, the absence of righteousness. It is a nature, enmity toward God." (Lockyer, p. 154)

So, when we sin, we deny God's right to set boundaries for us or to command us. When we sin, we also fail to meet God's standard for a good life. As Romans 3:23 says, we "fall short of the glory of God."

All sin is based on a lie, and involves lying to oneself and to others, and denying reality. The first lie by the serpent was to question what God had said—"Did God really say...?" (Genesis 3:1) People have been questioning what God said ever since as they try to justify their refusal to obey him. This involves denying that the Bible records God's Word correctly, or denying that the Bible is God's Word at all—or simply denying that there is a God (ultimate Creator of all that is, and therefore our rightful Ruler).

Though sin can be pleasurable, it contains a sting, ultimately the sting of death (Romans 6:23, "for the wages of sin is death"); but in this existence the

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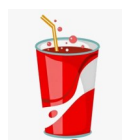
Community Day at Ebenezer

Saturday, August 7th
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Come for a fun-filled Saturday at Ebenezer! **Everything is free!**
For adults and children of all ages!



Face Painting!



Food!



Inflatable water slide!



Dunking Booth!



& we're working on even more fun stuff!



Reptile Zoo! Eek!

Helping the Local Schools, Teachers, & Students

The annual **Back 2 School Bash** will be held in the Grace Chapel UMC parking lot on:

Saturday, August 14th
10-12:00 p.m.

Any student (K-12) may pick up a bag of school supplies for free. This will be a drive-through event.

Ebenezer is not officially helping with this in 2021, but students from our church are still invited to participate.

Teacher's Closet Needs

We will be accepting items to add to the **Teacher's Closet** through the school year. Below is a list of items requested for this resource that is used by teachers in our local schools for oft needed supplies not provided by the government.

Paper towels, tissues, Clorox wipes, Sharpies, dry markers, highlighters, black pens, blue pens, colored pencils, glue sticks, composition books and notebook paper—wide and college ruled, crayons, scissors, index cards, file folders, white out, paper clips, markers, 3 ring notebooks, large and small legal pads, staples, construction paper, rulers, and more. Currently, they **DO NOT NEED PENCILS**.

Place the donations in the Teacher's Closet box in the old fellowship hall. We thank you for helping to support our schools, teachers, and students.



August Celebrations



- 5th—Alan Gaylord
- 6th—Tyler Baker
- 11th—Becky Clark
- 11th—Ariel Carlisle
- 18th—Kinley Starbuck
- 20th—Casey Mullinax
- 23rd—Braylen Helton
- 23rd—Monte Hollar
- 24th—Candace Collins
- 24th—Casey Collins
- 24th—Cooper Behmer

Happy Anniversary!



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

Our Military

Kyle Blair
Ricky Garland
Trey Hefner
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert



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

Blood Drive Success!

We collected 32 units of blood from 30 donors on July 19th during our summer Red Cross Blood Drive.

Thank you to everyone who gave blood and helped with this drive. Up to 96 lives will be impacted by this event.!



Something to Pray About, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

sting can take many forms of painful consequences—physical, mental, emotional, and economical. It can mar generations of a family, community, or nation. Its scars can last one's whole life. It can cause shame and bitterness, and lead to violence in words and deeds. It is darkness, separation, emptiness, corruption, perversion, and servitude—to the devil. (I don't know about you, but I would rather be a servant to God, than a slave to the devil and sin.) The more we give in to sin, the more are bodies and souls are corrupted—both become rotten, loathsome, unclean. It ruins Life and Hope. When we obey God, we are whole; when we disobey we are disconnected, twisted, beleaguered by circumstances, anxious, indecisive, confused. Sin always leads to chaos—and individuals fall apart, families fall apart, countries fall apart.

Yet, though we are born to sin, we are not born a slave to sin. We become a slave when we voluntarily yield to sin. (Lockyer, p. 154) "Man is a sinner by birth, but is not responsible for this. When he becomes a sinner by practice, then he is responsible to God and others for sins committed." (ibid.)

This is why we need grace and Jesus as our Savior and Lord. He bore our curse, he provides for our cleansing. Jesus heals us, delivers us from slavery to sin, and remakes us in his image. Though we continue to strive with our sinful nature, we are now empowered by the Holy Spirit to just say no to sin. We continue to fail to live within our Lord's boundaries—but by choice, not by weakness. If we are a child of God, saved in Christ Jesus, we have the power to obey, and live lives filled with hope and life. No circumstances will cause us despair, because we know he lives; we know he is in charge of all—and we trust him through it all. We will triumph in the end, because Jesus triumphed over the devil, sin, and death on the cross for our sakes. Praise God! Hallelujah! ✝

Church Council Minutes, July 25, 2021

Attendees: Pastor Alan, Irene Austin, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Peggy Jenkins, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary (Chairperson), Linda Moretz, Cindy Satterwhite, Cindy Sears, Kenny Silver, Becky Clark, Phyllis Minton, Ricky Baker.

Scripture devotion was taken from the Upper Room: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek

him." (Hebrews 11:6 NIV). When we give up things for God (time, money, things, activities), God will reward us for doing so. He will guide us in all we do for him. Marsha gave the opening prayer.

Reading of the minutes: passed as written.

Financial Report – Irene Austin

We are spending more than we are taking in. She suggested it is time to consider doing some fundraisers. The grant for the Lord's Supper Ministry came in: \$1500.

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August Worship Information

Sermon Series for August

Pastor Alan will preach five times this month.

The schedule will be:

August 1st: Ephesians 4:1-16; plus Communion Service

August 8th: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

August 15th: Ephesians 5:15-20

August 22nd: Ephesians 6:10-20

August 29th: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts received in July:

In Honor of Bleaka & Monte Hollar by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of Margaret Fairchild by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

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

For if by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

—Romans 5:17 NIV

Sound Booth Volunteers

We need more trained volunteers for the sound booth to back up Randy. If you are interested, please call the church office, or talk with Pastor Alan.





Church Council Minutes, cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

Trustees – Monte Hollar

The hand rail was fixed; the door knob was replaced/repared. We will have to have the building sprayed for bugs, and we may have to sign a contract. The Trustees are checking on this now. The cooler door now shuts completely. The grill has been repaired. The church's Insurance company says that we need signed waivers for basketball players (once-a-year). We will find a form for the players to sign.

Jerry Helton wants to buy the window air conditioner taken out of the Pairs and Spares room. Discussion. It was determined that he can have it for a donation to the church.

Old Business

Kim says that we need canopies for the Community Day on August 7th. If you have one, please consider letting us borrow it. The Council thanked Irene Austin for volunteering to organize this event.

Kim Ellis says that a date has been set for the trip to Romania, but wants to wait to tell it to make sure that it will work for everyone. There are passport issues for some people. She has canceled her proposed breakfast fundraiser, because she is the only one going from our church, and believes she will have enough for this trip with the current donations and fundraiser.

New Business

Cindy Sears brought up the problems with the print function of the copier, and suggested that we need to look into buying or leasing a newer one. Ricoh is no longer making parts for this copier/printer. Trustees will look into this and get back to the Council.

The tentative date for the BBQ is Saturday, September 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be no meals on Friday; and no take-outs

for businesses this year. People are encouraged to begin making desserts for this now. We can store them in the church's freezer.

Promotion Sunday for Sunday school students moving up is set for August 22nd

Pastor's Report

Pastor Alan Membership audit: Pastor Alan presented us with 20 names of people he will contact the first go-round with a letter asking them if they wish to retain their membership with our church, or if they have moved to another church or denomination. There were no objections expressed to any of the names on the list. Those who say they want to or have moved their memberships, and those who do not respond will be read out at the next charge conference. It will be another year or more before they will be officially removed from our membership rolls, unless they specifically say they wish to be removed.

He also presented a list of missing members that he cannot find addresses or contact information for: Susan Chester, Michael Crouse, Sharon Hodges, William McCrary (Will McCrary's son), Erin Mejia, Ellen Minton, Michael Potts, Sydney Richardson, Allison Thompson, Cody Thompson, R. J. Thompson. If you have any information about these people, please contact Pastor Alan or the church office, and let us know. Thank you.

The Pastor asked us for a list of homebound members, which we provided for him.

Appalachian Service Project: Pastor Alan wants us to consider helping with this missions' opportunity. It cost \$350 for a week per participant. Teams need to have 5-7 members, with youth and adults (rising 9th graders and up). Their motto is: "warmer, dryer, safer." The group works on homes of the poor in

the Appalachian region. We need to register this year to be able to participate next year (summertime). Visit their home page at www.asphome.org for more information.

There was discussion of back-to-school needs in our area. After bringing up the Back2School bash held at Grace Chapel, and a list of items (the usual) for bookbags for SCCM to pass out, and the Teacher's Closet; we decided to concentrate on the Teacher's Closet this year. The SCCM due date is August 1st, so we received that information too late to promote that. We decided it was best not to split our resources so much, which is why we settled on filling up the Teacher's Closet, instead. Items needed include tissues, paper towels, markers, dry markers, and more. A list will be included in the August newsletter.

Hickory Crawdads outing is coming up on August 1st. Anyone who wants to go needs to be at the church by 2:00 p.m., and bring a bulletin for your discounted ticket and a donation to our church!

Grant Updates: Renfro Trust application is due September 1st. Pastor Alan is working on this. Mission Grant has been received. The Lord's Supper Ministry will receive all of the \$1500 from this grant. The Both/And grant is still in the works. This grant is for technical equipment/software to help us increase our worship presence online.

Pastor Alan plans to be out of town on November 6, 2021 for his daughter Ashton's wedding; and on January 9, 2022 for his grandson Leo's baptism.

Next Council meeting will be on August 29th at 4:00 p.m. Ricky Baker gave the closing prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.





Finding Hope Ministries, July 2021 Update

Hello to all! Thank goodness that summertime is coming and school is almost out! We've planned lots of outings, activities, and trips for the kids. We hope to keep the kids quite busy, and fill Summer 2021 with lots of fun for the FHM kids. Some of our plans include a beach trip, hiking, summer camps, camping, family outings, etc.

The three homes in Romania are all up and running at capacity, despite the fire that destroyed much of Anchor House. If you didn't know, we had an electrical fire in early May that totally destroyed most of the Anchor House... No one was hurt, so we thank God for that! The kids who were living there are currently spread throughout the other two homes. It is tight... We are managing though and the kids are all doing well.

Rebuilding is now underway. The roof is back on and some of the electrical is done, but we still have a long way to go! We are looking for mission teams with construction skills to help with the rebuild. The work needed is mostly interior: drywall, flooring, hanging doors/windows, trim, building interior walls, etc... We will provide free accommodation along with food... The sooner you can come, the better. We welcome individuals or groups. Please help us get the word out. As COVID restrictions are finally lifting, the kids are getting more and more involved in church and the youth group again. Some have even given their lives to the Lord, and three of them are getting baptized this summer. We are so thankful that so many of our kids are coming to know the Lord. Please pray many more will continue on this path.

Things with the home in USA, NC children's home are still moving at a snail's pace. We have begun some renovations, but the paperwork for licensing is turning out to be quite the headache... We are currently talking with the local Baptist Association to see if collaboration with them can help expedite the licensing process... The Lord will work it out in His time, and in His way. Please continue to pray for this work.

We are still moving forward with the gypsy outreach and church plant. The church in the gypsy village is going strong and has only been up and running for a little over a year! It has a very vibrant youth program there, always bustling with activity every Sunday. Please pray that God will raise up leaders from the local gypsy village for the church there as it grows...

As always, we need prayers, mission teams, and funding. Thank you so much for praying for and giving to Finding Hope. We cannot even begin to thank you folks enough for your abounding outpouring upon us... Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Finding Hope Ministries & Nathan & Anca

Appalachian Wesley Foundation Re-consecration Service

You're Invited

Sunday, August 29th

4:00 p.m

Light Refreshments will be served following the Worship Gathering.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Firm Foundation Renovation Project.

461 Howard Street

Boone, NC 28607

www.appwesley.org

Valet Parking: Valet service will be offered. Pull into the Howard Street Circle in front of the Wesley Center. A Student leader will park your car in the Peacock Parking Lot.

Self Parking: Please use the Peacock Parking Lot, or the Turchin Center Parking Lot located down the alley between First Baptist Church and the Turchin Center.

It's a Boy! Kersey Baby Shower

Join us for a Baby Shower honoring

Rachel Adams Kersey

Sunday | August 22nd | 2PM-4PM

*Ebenezer United Methodist Church
4948 Burns Rd, Granite Falls*

*RSVP to Sarah Christas by texting to
828-221-4217 by August 13th.*

*Please bring a baby picture of
yourself.*

*Registered at
Amazon & Babylist.com*





Pastor's Note, cont'd

know that you may have concerns about the vaccines. I understand. I have had some of those same concerns.

However, my family and I are vaccinated. In fact, each of us received a different vaccine.

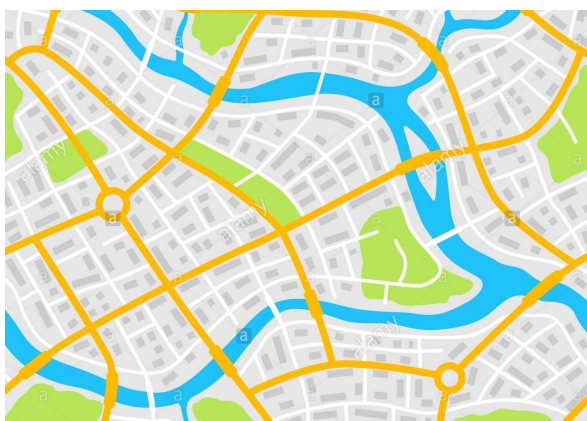
I write these words not from a political position. I write them as your pastor. I am concerned for your health and well-being. I do not wish to see anyone suffer. I do believe that God has heard our prayers for a way out of this pandemic through the vaccines. I encourage you to get them if you are able (please talk with your doctor.)

I will close with these words from 1 John 4.7. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God." Let us remember these words as we seek to take care of one another.

In God's grace, Pastor Alan

We have members for whom we have no addresses. Please review the names and if you know their address, please contact the church office.

Susan Chester
Michael Crouse
Sharon Hodges
William McRary
Erin Mejia
Ellen Minton
Michael Potts
Sydney Richardson
Allison Thompson
Cody Thompson
R.J. Thompson



Where are you?

Save the Date

Homecoming will be October 10th. Worship will be at 10:30 a.m. with dinner on the grounds to follow.

Missional Grant

We applied for a Missional Grant from the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC. We have received \$1500 for the Lord's Supper Ministry.

Mission Trip for Next Summer

The mission of the Appalachian Service Project is "warmer, dryer, safer." They work in very rural counties in North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia that are in the Appalachian Mountains. During the summer, mission teams come in to fulfill that mission. The current cost is \$350 per person. It is for 1 week and is available to those who have completed middle school and up. We are looking at the weeks after annual conference next year and hope to work with the other churches in our missional network. Talk with Pastor Alan if you are interested.

The Gaylord family thanks you for your prayers during Debbie's surgery and recovery. The pins are out, and she is on her way to recovery.

See p. 4 for Worship information for August.

"When God says "no," look for the bigger "yes" that He is protecting. God's prohibitions are for our better "good," not just to limit our actions." — Sam Allberry, *Why Does God Care Who We Sleep With?*

"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."
—Benjamin Franklin

"Valuing people for their efforts and achievements, and thus expecting everyone to lead a useful life, even those who can well afford to be useless, is one of America's greatest contributions to the world." — Judith Martin