



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

December '14

Volume 10 Issue 12

Inside this issue:

Meetings	2
Something to Pray About	2
Pastor's Corner, con't	3
Honorary Poinsettia Sale	3
Basketball Tournament	3
Christmas Play	3
Church Council, Nov. 16th	4
Special Giving	4
December Celebrations	5
Acolyte & Nursery Schedules	5
Our Military	5
Hid in My Heart	5
Dec. Events/Fundraisers	6
Bake Sale/Lunch	6
Senior Citizens Lunch	6
Biscuit/Turkey/Ham Sales	6
Gateway Meal	6
Christmas Play Rehearsal	6
Mission Scholarship	7
Ebenezer Budget 2015	8
Calendar	9



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



Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." We now approach the end of 2014, and as a family we have experienced good times and difficult times. We have welcomed new births, and have had to say good-bye to family and friends. The road that we have traveled that has brought us to this point, sometimes has been easy, and at times, I expect, some of us have wondered just how we would be able to take one more step.

Yet, through it all, God has been by our side, and has shown up at our door in the presence of those around us. I want to take this time to express my gratitude to all of you for bearing with me, and loving my family. I give thanks to God for the opportunity to be a part of your families in the midst of this journey upon which the road of life takes us.

Reflecting back over the year, I have seen God's hand at work through many of you. I have witnessed the presence of Christ feed his children, care for the sick and dying, and cloth the naked. Yes, there is much more we can do, but there is also much that has been accomplished in the name of Christ.

With Christmas approaching, our children begin to think of gifts that they hope to unwrap when they wake up on Christmas morning. But let us never forget to remember and to share the true meaning of Christmas. Let us always be ready to share the "good news" message that the reason for the season is that God loved us so much that He willing and freely gave us the greatest gift ever, the gift of Jesus Christ, His only Son, "so that whoever believes in Him (Jesus) shall not perish but have eternal life."

A gift that will last for an eternity! I can't say that I have ever been given such a gift as that, except for when I asked Christ into my life. Over the years, I have received many wonderful gifts, but none has ever compared to what my Lord has done for me.

And that is what we as a Body of Christ, we as a church, have in common. We may all have different talents and gifts; and while we all look different and act differently,

(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



Meetings

District Dialogue

There will be a dialogue on the future of the United Methodist Church at Faithbridge UMC in Boone on **December 7 at 2:30-4:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to participate. Eric will be attending, so let him know if you are interested in going. Bishop Goodpaster will preside over the dialogue.

Christmas Eve Service

We invite you to a short Christmas program on **December 24th at 6:00 p.m.** as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and continue to anticipate His return.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, December 28th at 7:00 p.m.** for their annual holiday party. Nancy Sears will present the program. We invite women of the church to bring a finger food to share and a \$10 wrapped gift to exchange.

Church Office Closings

The church office will be closed **December 1-2 and December 24-26** for vacation and holiday observances.

Bulletin items for December 28th need to be in to the office by 9:00 a.m. on Dec. 23rd. Thank you.

January Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the January 2015 newsletter in by **December 14th due to the Holiday schedule.** Thank you. —Editor

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

Half to your loved ones;

Half to the ONE who loved you before you knew Him—and died to prove it!

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Jesus said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

—Matthew 17:20 RSV

**GIFTS
FOR
CHRIST**

Here's an idea that was presented during our last Church Council. Every year our members wrap up a monetary *Gift for Christ* to lay upon the altar on the Sunday before Christmas. This gift usually goes to the Building Fund, though last year we decided to give it to South Caldwell Christian Ministries to help with their expansion project.

Now let's consider this: The Christian Life Center mortgage payment each month is over \$3800 or \$46,000 a year. Think of what we could do with that kind of money—the people we could help through a tough time, the ministries we could start or enhance, and the mission work we could fund here and abroad. If we don't pay off this mortgage soon, we will have to refinance this loan. Conditions may not be as favorable to us the next time. Interest charges may rise. In the meantime, we are paying hefty finance charges now. Isn't it time we made a **BIG EFFORT** to get this loan paid in full? Are you willing to sacrifice a little more and do it?



Let's play the half and half game again this year that I wrote about in my article last year. Buy your Christmas gifts, but spend half as much on each gift or person, and match the amount you spend and give it to the Ebenezer building fund. Let's give a really big Gift to Christ this year. \$10,000 is a nice round number to aim for, but we could do more than that. Every extra amount we put on the principle of the loan, lowers the amount of interest charges we will pay over the life of the loan. Then in 2015, I challenge you (and me) to give a little extra every month (or week) to the Building Fund. I also challenge our classes and ministry groups to search for ways to raise funds to pay off this loan as quickly as possible. Do not limit God's power to work it out—and He will also keep us working to spread the gospel message and the love of Christ while we do this. May God be glorified in it all!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





Pastor's Corner , con't

we all have been given the same gift from God.

This is the one gift that is to be shared with others; yet, when we share it with others, it continues to fill us and to grow within us. So, as we approach the New Year, I look forward to serving God and being in service with each of you, and sharing the gift of Christ with those around us.

An early Merry Christmas to all of you,

Rev. Eric Lane



Christmas Play—2014



Swing into a great adventure on

**December 14th
at 6:30 PM**

with Isaiah Jones and the Seekers of the Lost Christmas Treasure!

Our children and youth have been working hard to prepare this special show for you this Christmas.

Join in the excitement as our young hero, along with his friends and companions search for the Lost Christmas Treasure, navigating levels of a video game world as they go. Cheer them on through challenge after challenge as they follow the shooting star that guides their way on a suspense-filled journey, leading them to their greatest discovery—the real Treasure of Christmas is Jesus!

Hot cider, hot chocolate and lots of sweets will be served after the performance in the Christian Life Center.

Merry Christmas!

**Buy a poinsettia in Memory
or Honor of someone you
love!**

\$5 each



**Names of
honorees and purchaser will
be published in an upcoming
bulletin.**

Fill in the form on the back of the insert that will be included in the next couple of bulletins. Make checks payable to Ebenezer UMC.

The plants will be displayed in the sanctuary until right before Christmas; then you may take the plant to the honored person or their family.

Basketball Tournament

**January 3rd, 2015
3 on 3 Basketball
Tournament**



We are hosting another basketball tournament! Details are not completely set yet, but there will be a fee for each team that wishes to participate. The contest will be held in the Christian Life Center gym.

Food will be available for purchase during the games. Come and watch the contests and have a good hot meal, too.

Call Wayne or Kim Ellis at 396-1320 to register your team. If we get enough teams, there will be games on Friday, January 2nd, also.

Come join the excitement!

Special Notice

Dear Ebenezer Members,
Please help us with the Christmas play refreshments by bringing cookies and brownies, etc. to serve after the show. We will need people to help set up and serve also. See Kim Ellis to volunteer.



Church Council — November 16, 2014

Attendees: Anthony Austin, Ricky Baker, Barbara Frye, Gerald Frye, Jo Nell Harrison, Alice Hill, Bleaka Hollar, Keith Keener, Joann Knepp, Judy McCrary, Scott Miller, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jimmy Stone, Rhyann Stone, Jeanette Teague, and Roy Hamby

Gerald Frye called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and opened with prayer. We then read over the minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes stand as written.

Jo Nell Harrison brought the financial report to the Council. We paid \$7000 on the CLC loan this month. We are keeping within the budget, and receiving enough to cover the regular bills, etc.

Old Business: Praise Band cordless mics will be set up this month. We have all the mics we wanted.

New Business

Anthony Austin showed us a plaque that we received from the Tractor Show people. Keith Keener made a motion that we allow Anthony to buy into the having the church's name put on the t-shirt for the show. Jeff Smith made a second. Motion carried. Anthony stated that we were the first church to ever ask to be put on the shirts.

Kim Ellis through Gerald brought up the problem with the toilet paper holders in the CLC. Gerald asked Keith Keener, the chair of the Trustees, to check into the matter and determine what can be done to make the process of changing the rolls easier.

Eric told us that he will be gone on Sunday, Nov. 30th. Retired minister Lynn Hawkins will be speaking that Sunday. He suggested that we take up a love offering for him (Lynn), who is disabled. We decided to do so.

Gerald then thanked the council and the church for the opportunity to lead the council again next year. He also thanked everyone who accepted a position on the council or a committee for the coming year.

Eric then spoke to the Council: Jimmy Stone, Emily Johnson, Kim Ellis are involved with setting up a way for the UM Churches in Caldwell County to communicate better with one another and work on projects together. Ebenezer is number three in size in the county and 2nd in financial stability. We are trying to find a way to pool our resources, instead of each church in the county trying to do everything on their own. Currently around 73% of the people in Caldwell County do not attend a church at all. Jo Nell says that the people of the county are deeply into drugs and alcohol, and her company is having a terrible time getting and keeping employees, because of the problems in this area. We need to figure out how we can do a better job of showing people the hope found in Christ Jesus. Gerald said that we are the hands and feet of Christ in this area, and Bleaka Hollar said that we need to pray for specific things and use our prayers more effectively. Eric also brought up that we can do more to develop leaders and disciples in our church, through small group studies and special seminars.

Gerald reminded us about using the *Gifts for Christ* this year as a way to raise money to help pay off the mortgage early.



Ricky Baker announced that he will bring in the signs that were used for the benefit golf tournament to show us. The net for the tourney was around \$7,000, which will be used to help pay Wyll Baker's medical bills.

Bleaka Hollar closed the meeting in prayer.

Special Giving

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

In Memory of Larry Stafford by:
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of Lawrence "June" Holman by:
Zelma Foutz

In Honor of Hoke & Cleo Clark's 60th Wedding Anniversary by:
Becky Clark

In Honor of Leonard & Jeanette Teague's Wedding Anniversary by:
Larry & Alice Hill

In Honor of J. B. & Patty Coffey by:
Robert & Teresa Herman

In Honor of Rev. Eric Lane by:
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell



December Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 2nd—Boyd Fairchild
- 3rd—Justin Shoemake
- 4th—Shane Kelley
- 5th—Ellen Burns, Teresa Simmons
- 7th—James Farr
- 10th—Abby Mullinax
- 11th—Jeanette Eby
- 14th—Carla McCrary, Patty Coffey
- 15th—Jerry Kohnle
- 16th—Missy Mullinax
- 17th—Scott Miller
- 23rd—John McCrary, Kelsey Bengé
- 25th—Tommie Williams
- 26th—Lyle Miller, Sarah Teague
- 27th—Cheryl Vosdingh
- 28th—Joann Knepp
- 31st—Marvin Bowman

Happy Anniversary!

- 3rd—Kenny & Laura Silver
- 30th—Michael & Kay Gilbert



Christmas is the time we celebrate how God finally answered the question,

“Where is the God who is suppose to be just?”
—Malachi 2:17 GNT

We should be grateful that He answered it by giving us the gift of salvation through Jesus His Son or none of us could ever satisfy God’s justice.

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

“The LORD Almighty answers, ‘I will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger you long to see will come and proclaim my covenant.’”

—Malachi 3:1 GNT



Acolyte Schedule - DECEMBER

7th Kevin Miller

14th Kaylee Haas

21st Payton Lyda

28th Clair Gilbert

Nursery Schedule - DECEMBER

7th 8:30 Boyd & Emily Johnson

11:00 Wayne Ellis

14th 8:30 Teresa Simmons & Dawn Yount

11:00 Tasha Haas

21st 8:30 Cheryl Vosdingh & Tammy Adams

11:00 Rosalind Kelley

28th 8:30 Heather Stone & Kim Ellis

11:00 Teresa Herman

10:30

Our Military

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

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Joey Deal
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Andy Gaillard
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson



Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski
Shane McRary
William E. McRary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount





Christmas Shoe Boxes

We are collecting shoe boxes filled with toys for children for Samaritan's Purse again this year. Boxes, packing guidelines, and labels are available at the church. If you hate to shop, you can also go online at www.samaritanspurse.org and pack a box that way.

Please drop your boxes off at the church by Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Please enclose \$7 to offset shipping charges (place in top of box).

God bless you and the children who receive these gifts!



Biscuits/Turkey/Ham

We're selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, December 11th.**

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.

The team is also selling **turkey breasts and Boston butts, pre-cooked** and ready to serve for Christmas. Cost is **\$30 each.** Last order date is December 21st. Pick-up day is Tuesday, December 23rd, 5-6 p.m. Call Barbara at 396-7924 or the church office to place your order.



Bake Sale for Costa Rica

Pick up a good dessert for the coming week on

**Saturday
December 6th
8:00 AM until**

Barbara and her team are baking all kinds of good pies, cakes, and other sweets for you to enjoy. Come early before the good stuff is gone!

Thank you for your support.



Senior Citizen's Do

In cooperation with Dudley Shoals Baptist Church, we will be hosting a Senior Citizens' lunch on

**Monday
December 15th
11:00 a.m.**

If you can provide soup or desserts or finger foods, please contact Bleaka Hollar and let her know.

This event will be held in the Christian Life Center.

Gateway Meal—Dec. 17

Our church will be hosting a meal for **Gateway School on Wednesday, December 17th**—either breakfast or lunch. Please see Kim Ellis for more details, and if you would like to help.

December Events & Fundraisers

Costa Rica Team Meal

The Costa Rica team will host lunch

**Sunday
December 7th**

Service will be after Sunday school and after the 2nd worship service.



Menu

Pork Chops
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes
Slaw
Roll
Dessert & Drink



Donations are requested. Proceeds go towards Costa Rica Missions. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Is Coming!



Play Rehearsal Schedule

In the CLC.

Dec. 7th—4:00-6:00 PM

Dec. 14th—**Dress Rehearsal 3:30 PM**

Dec. 14th—**Play at 6:30 PM**



Advent Wreath Class

There will be an advent wreath-making workshop on

Saturday, December 6

from 10-12:00 p.m.

Cost is \$12 (for supplies).

Please call Beth Lane at 396-2215 or at 493-1470 to see if you can still register for this class.



Mission Scholarship Fund

Our church has voted to create a new designated contributions fund to enable lay members to apply for assistance in paying expenses related to mission trips—short or long, close to home or far away.

These funds will be used to provide assistance to those whom God has called to serve on mission trips. Therefore, we encourage our congregational members to donate over and above their tithe to help finance trips for those who are willing to give their time and talents to mission work. This is an opportunity for those of us who cannot physically go on a mission trip to have a part in God's plan to spread the gospel all over the world. Also, it is an opportunity for a person who feels called to use their God-given talents and skills for mission work to go on a trip, when to do so completely on their own resources would be too great of a financial burden.

A committee will be organized to administer these funds. Individuals can continue to raise money for each of their respective mission trips. The mission fund money will be used to assist them in paying costs for traveling expenses and materials when necessary and based upon available funds.

Individuals can ask for assistance in the form of matching funds (equal to what they can contribute or have raised through other resources); or, when there is a last-minute decision to make a trip, funds can be used without matching amounts when there is not enough time to raise funds before the trip.

Missions do not always involve going to faraway lands to preach the gospel, help build homes or places of worship, teach children, or treat patients. Sometimes it's simply helping someone in a nearby neighborhood cleanup after a storm—to help push water out of their house or carry debris to the curb. Or, it may just mean being there to listen to them tell their story and pray with them in their time of need.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." -- Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus commands us to go and make disciples. There are many ways to follow his command, but this is one way I can do my part—and you can help, too.

Cathy Huffman—Mission Scholarship Fund Chairperson





Ebenezer UMC Budget for 2015

PASTORAL STAFF TOTAL	93,953
Pastor's Salary	65,157
Pastor's Stipend Bonus	2,342
Pastor's Travel Expense	6,000
Pastor's Cont. Education	600
Pastor's Health Insurance	9,792
Pastor's Pension	9,412
Pastor's Christmas Gift	450
Intern Expenses	200
SUPPORT STAFF TOTAL	22,811
Admin. Asstnt's Salary	17,511
Continuing Ed. Clerical	100
Musician's Salary	5,200
EMPLOYER EXPENSES TOTAL	2,900
Payroll Taxes	1,650
Workers Comp. Insurance	1,275
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP. TOTAL	10,780
Office Sup., Postage, CP HDW	5,250
Phones, Internet, Website	5,530
BUILDING & GROUNDS TOTAL	93,700
Mortgage/interest payment	46,000
Propane	5,025
Electricity	17,750
Water/Sewer	600
Insurance	5,550
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	
Grounds supplies	725
Janitor Supplies	100
Cleaning Service	8,650
Repairs/Maintenance	5,000
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	
Lawn Service	3,500
Repairs/Maintenance Equip.	800

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TOTAL	5,075
Vacation Bible School	4,200
Christmas Program	875
MUSIC TOTAL	675
Choir	150
Music Supplies	165
Copyright Licensing	360
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH TOT.	6,825
Community Outreach	1,000
Speaker Expense	100
Revival Speaker(s)	200
Special Events	2,800
Senior Adult Ministry	225
UMYF/Jr. UMYF	2,100
Children's Ministry	400
MINISTRY EXPENSE TOTAL	10,200
Kitchen & Church Supplies	3,200
Books & Literature	7,000
OTHER EXPENSES TOTAL	1,500
Conference Lay Delegate	500
Conference Clergy Delegate	700
Misc. Expenses	300
TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET	248,419
WNCC Apportionments	19,745
CC Pregnancy Care Center	200
CC Hospice	1,000
CC Bible Teacher	1,000
SCCM	1,400
Caldwell Prison Ministries	200
TOTAL Local Missions/Appportionments	23,545

TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET	248,419
TOTAL LOCAL MISSIONS	3,800
TOTAL WNC APPORTIONMENTS	19,745

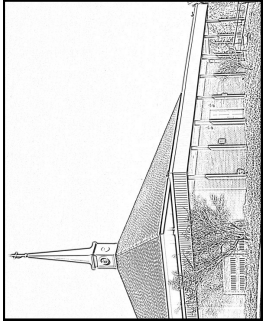
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	271,964
AVERAGE NEEDED PER WEEK	5,230



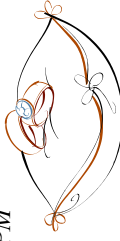





EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

December 2014



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sun. School 11:00 a.m. Worship	1 Church Office Closed for Cindy's vacation time.	2 NO PRAYER GROUP	3 <i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies	4	5 Private Party—5 PM	6 Shoeboxes due AM Bake Sale—8 am 'til Minton Party—4:30–8:30 PM
7 Costa Rica Lunch Fundraiser, see p. 6	8	9 Prayer Group—10AM	10	11	12 Helton Wedding Rehearsal—5 PM	13 Helton Wedding—3 PM 
14 Dress Rehearsal—3:30 PM Christmas Play—6:30 PM	15 Senior Citizens—11 AM	16 Prayer Group—10AM	17 Gateway School Meal—8-2 PM	18 	19	20
21 Gifts for Christ Jan Newsletter items due today	22 	23 NO PRAYER GROUP Bulletin items due by 9 AM	24 Christmas Eve Service—6 PM	25 	26 	27 Church Office Closed for Holiday
28 UMW Holiday Party—7 PM	29	30 Prayer Group—10AM	31 	See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists		