



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

December '19

Volume 15 Issue 12

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

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Ingratitude makes happiness impossible.

— Dennis Prager
www.jewishworldreview.com/0919/prager091019

January 2020
newsletter items are due by
Monday, Dec. 16th

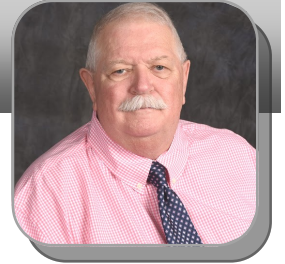
Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 5:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 6:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women

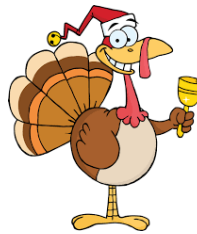
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." *Matthew 28:19*



Pastor's Pen



Happy Thanksgiving



I hope your Thanksgiving celebration was all you expected. I say this because there is a good chance you have had your Thanksgiving. My family got together November 17th for our annual affair. It was more than I expected. All of the immediate family got together including mom's younger sister and excluding Patsy's older brother (who had to work).

What a difficult task to find a day that most people in our family could come and eat. No, you may not bring food. Patsy and I will provide the meal. We had the usual food and plenty of it. Everyone took leftovers home. Everybody has their favorite dishes. Desserts were also available.

Now the Christmas rush begins. It seems that everyone has a number of opportunities added to already busy schedules. For most of us this culminates in Christmas celebrations. Many of those will occur on a day or night other than Christmas. Not everybody is able to be present on Christmas Day. Like Ebenezer Scrooge, we are probably glad we didn't miss it. I so look forward to being with family and friends.

We need to pay homage to a number of traditions. One of my favorites is Christmas Eve worship. We celebrate the giving of the Son of God as Savior of the world, and hold on to the hope that this might be the year he returns. Israel had been waiting a long time, and in spite of the signs given, many did not recognize him. I wonder if we recognize the opportunities we are given. Or are we too busy to take hold of the gifts given and share among those around us?



May I also suggest that we include our church on our Christmas gift list? Are we able to share with God through God's church? Give a gift to honor our Lord and thank Him for the gift he brought to us. It is a gift we never worry about returning.

Take time to pray during these special days. There are a variety of situations that are in need of prayer.

Most of all take time to relax occasionally and enjoy the holidays this year.

Tom

(See page 2 about special *Gifts for Christ* and the *Memory Tree*.)

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.

Hanging of the Greens

We will decorate our church for the Christmas season during the worship service on **Sunday, December 1st**. We invite all who are able to help hang ornaments on the Chrismon Tree, and begin to enjoy this most wonderful time of the year.

UMW Meeting

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, Dec. 1st at 6:00 p.m.** Kim Ellis is in charge of the program. (Nov. meeting that was canceled due to Community Thanksgiving Service. This is their only meeting in Dec.)

Church Office Closed

The church office will be **closed on December 24th & 25th** for the Christmas holiday. Bulletin items for Dec. 29th need to be in by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 26th.

Special Notes

The Church Council and Trustees will not meet in December, and The Lord's Supper Ministry will not be delivering a meal this month.

Christmas Memory Tree

We will be setting up a Memory Tree again this year. Forms will be available for you to fill-in whom you wish to honor or memorialize with a special *Gift for Christ* on December 22nd. Please turn in your forms by Sunday the 15th, so that we can list the memorials and honorariums in the bulletin, and place an ornament on the Memory Tree with the person's name.

Gifts for Christ will go toward our General Fund.

We thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.



Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

NOTES ON EBENEZER'S 2020 BUDGET

Bring the full amount of your tithes to the Temple, so that there will be plenty of food there. Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things. —Malachi 3:10

I hate to be the bearer of bad news. I also hate beating the same dead horse. But, I must call your attention to the 2020 budget (short version) printed on page 6.

Please note there are quite a few 0's listed in the columns of several items that we used to fund in our yearly budget. Going by the current average weekly offering, we cannot afford some of the items that are listed as being funded. It is especially grievous to me that we have had to drop several of the local missions from our budget. We will attempt to help them out by using the Thank Bank offering during a specific week or month to give them something this coming year, but we cannot include them in the budget. If our conference lay or clergy delegate needs financial assistance to attend the district conference, we will have to scrounge for the money from somewhere. We have no money designated for senior adult, youth, or children's ministries. Keeping the church building running in good condition, and maintaining the equipment and the lawn areas cost money. Having a pastor and offering regular worship services and Bible study classes cost money, too. Behind the scenes work goes on every day, such as the publishing of this newsletter and the weekly bulletins, and cleaning of the church. Paper towels, bathroom tissue, running water, lights, air, heat—all cost money.

Jesus did not shy away from talking about money. He preached on our relationship with money many times. I know—we all like to have new things, keep up with the latest electronic gadgets, have reliable vehicles, have a nice home to live in, enjoy a night out on the town, or eat at a nice restaurant. Jesus wants his followers to enjoy life and to have some fun, but he also expects us to be "fishers of men." One of the ways we do that is by giving money to worthy causes that help promote and spread the Christian message. My question to you is: Is Ebenezer UMC worthy of your support?

Yes, we have fewer people coming to Ebenezer. We especially have fewer people who believe in tithing. Tithing is not a dirty word. It is the *beginning* point of giving—not the *end* point of giving to God's work. Under grace, we are not *required* to tithe; but we are *expected* to care enough to give generously and regularly to the work.

Is it too much to ask that we each choose something to sacrifice to God, and instead give that money to his church? I have tithed (10%) whenever I was able to do so, and given extra when God seemed to be speaking to me to do so. My blessings have abounded through this church and in other ways. I have avoided bankruptcy when it seemed inevitable. I have paid for items that seemed out of my reach, such as heat pump and auto repairs. I have had major surgery without medical insurance, and did not incur debt. One time I

(Continued on page 5)



December Events & Fundraisers

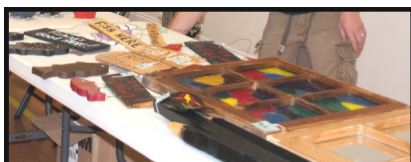
Arts & Crafts Show

**Saturday
December 7th
4-7 PM**

We invite the local artists and craftsman to display and sale their wares at our Arts & Craft Show at Ebenezer UMC. You retain the proceeds from the sale of your products.

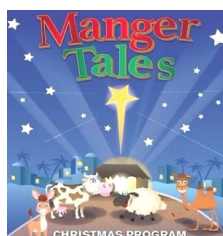
Our in-house, talented chef, Ricky Baker, will be preparing his award-winning chicken & dumplings. Come look at and buy unique items from our local artists and crafts people, and enjoy a fine meal for a donation to our church.

What finer Christmas gift could you purchase for your friends or family members than one made by hand by local talent?



Christmas Play/Party

**Sunday
December 22nd
6 PM**



program called "Manger Tales."

After the program, we invite you to stay for refreshments as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Tuesday
December 24
7 PM**

We invite one and all to our annual Christmas Eve service as we remember the first advent of our Lord, and continue to anticipate His second coming. We will have a short program and sing, pray, and celebrate Communion.

Prepare for Christmas Day by gathering with fellow believers to commemorate our Lord's birth, and be reminded of the greatest Love of all time.



December Celebrations



- 3rd—Justin Shoemake
- 4th—Shane Kelley
- 5th—Teresa Simmons
- 7th—Jim Farr
- 10th—Abigail Mullinax
- 11th—Jeanette Eby
- 12th—Barbara Frye
- 14th—Carla Yoder
- 14th—Patty Toliver
- 20th—Peggy Jenkins
- 23rd—John McCrary
- 26th—Pastor Tom Hunter
- 26th—Lyle Miller
- 26th—Sarah Teague
- 27th—Cheryl Vosdigh
- 28th—JoAnn Knepp



Happy Anniversary!

- 13th—Shawn & Heather Wallace

The accent today is on demands, not obligations. Everyone thinks of what society owes them, not what they owe to society.
— Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovitz

Our Military

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.



Church Council Minutes — November 17, 2019

Attendees: Ricky Baker, David Crouse, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, Marsha McRary, Phyllis Minton, Cindy Sears, Kenny Silver, and Cindy Satterwhite.

David Crouse brought the meeting to order. Our devotional came from 2 Samuel 22:1-7 about how we should let God “Guide Our Steps.” We must remember to ask God for His guidance in the coming year, and count on Him to grow our church His way. Let us be in prayer to listen to God, and go in the way that we should go. Ricky Baker said the opening prayer.

The October minutes were read. Jo Nell made a motion to accept them as written. Bleaka seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report by JoNell Harrison.

Jo Nell requested that we return to monthly meetings, beginning next year. There was general agreement to this request.

Jo Nell presented the September report first. She said that our money in the bank got really low (for running the church). We made it through the month by temporarily using funds designated to other accounts. Our bank account rebounded in October, but only because of the \$10,000 Sunday extra contributions that came in. Jo Nell stressed that we need to get more people in the church, and that tithing needs to be preached and taught more than it is. We need monetary support, or we cannot continue with our ministries. She said that we really need to get youth back into the church with their parents. Something has got to change financially. We cannot continue as we are until things get better. We should look for a younger pastor, and a non-Elder, so that we can cut back on the cost of the pastor for our church. Our regular attendees, who are not already giving as much as they can, will need to step up and be more willing to finance the church’s ministries and activities. After all, electricity, water, and gas, among other things, is not free.

Old Business

Pastor Tom is using Ricky's spare mic, and it seems to be working okay.

Committee Reports

Kim Ellis’ Report

“**Light Up Granite Falls**” is on **Monday, Nov. 25th**. We want to send tables and the tent to Granite Falls around 3:00 p.m., so that will be set-up and ready for the rest of our supplies when they are ready. We will be providing biscuits and coffee for free at the event. Monte Hollar will be here at 11:00 a.m. to begin working on the meat for the biscuits. We will need help stuffing biscuits later in the afternoon.

Hanging of the Greens is on Sunday, Dec. 1st.

Kim thanked everyone for their support for her trip to Romania. Nathan and the kids are planning on coming here next summer. They need some monetary help. Kim is asking our church to help with the cost of plane tickets, and to provide some fun activity for the children when they arrive here. Jo Nell suggested that we could use some of the needy fund. The UMW and the UMM and others could provide some money, too. We will announce the need and seek donations for this event.

The Christmas Play and Jesus’s Birthday Party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6:00 p.m. We will ask our members to bring finger foods.

Cake and drinks will be provided.

Trustees Report by Roy Hamby.

The grease that was backing up the drains has been removed from pipes. This will need to be scheduled on a regular basis, about every 3 years (but checked more often). The pipes going into the grease pit may have settled, causing them not to drain well. We will need to dig that out and fix the problem this spring.

Sunday School Report by Marsha McRary

A new Sunday school teacher for the youth group has been found to help Tammy Adams. Marsha says her class has grown, so she is splitting off her class, and re-starting the Butterfly Class. The Lighthouse Class sometimes has to meet with Kim's class.

Ricky Baker reported that the Staff, Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet in December.

Kim Ellis reported that she is not sure about going to Belize yet. She will have a fundraiser or two in January for this mission trip if needed.

Bleaka Hollar reported that Ricky is wanting the church to buy a deep fryer. The Arts and Crafts Show will be used to help with this. Ricky is working on a chicken and dumpling meal to sale during the **Arts and Crafts Show on December 7th, 5-7:00 p.m.**

January 26th will be the next council meeting.

Motion made to adjourn by Bleaka. Seconded by Ricky. Council dismissed.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *November*:

In Memory of Kat Teague & Mary Wike by:

Cindy Satterwhite





Finding Hope Ministries Update—November 2019

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. —Proverbs 31: 8-9

Hi everyone! Time for another update from Finding Hope Ministries. God is doing a lot, so we wanted to share a bit of what He is doing with you all.

Finding Hope Children's Homes:

The Hope House and Lucas House are finished. We're just waiting on government inspections. Please pray the government will move forward quickly so we can get the kids in soon. There are still many orphan children wasting away in state-run orphanages and dying on the streets.

The Anchor House (the third children's home) remodel is underway. We hope to be finished with the remodel by early next year. We could sure use some construction teams/individuals to come help. So, if you or anyone you know would like to help with construction projects, please let us know. We would be really grateful.

Soon we are starting the paperwork to begin a 4th children's home in the Republic of Moldova. We already have the building. We just have to do the necessary paperwork and renovations to get it to code (which can take some time). We hope to open this home late 2020 or early 2021. Like the other homes, it will house 12 kids, have God-fearing host parents (which we already have) who serve as a defacto family for the kids God brings there.

What's more, we will be starting paperwork to open a 5th Finding Hope children's home in North Carolina - right in my hometown. We are so excited about opening this home, as it is on our home turf near so many of you all! Once we find the correct location and do the paperwork, we will be reaching out

to you - North Carolina natives - to help!

Church Planting and Evangelism:

The church plant at the gypsy village in Dalas is still going strong. We held a baby dedication this month. Our goal is to start building a church there sometime next year. We will need funding and construction teams for this.

We are also planting a church in another gypsy village. In fact, we just purchased land and a building for said church. There are currently some ten families attending and it just keeps on growing. The building we purchased needs some renovations to make it more suitable for a church, so we are looking for construction teams to help with this. If God is speaking to you to organize such a team, please let us know.

Mission Teams:

We had a dental team come a month or so back. They worked mainly in the gypsy villages pulling and drilling thousands of bad teeth in hundreds of patients. We were able to witness to many. As a result, we're seeing more people attend our church plants. The clinic was a HUGE success, but the need is still GREAT! If anyone has any contacts to help set up another dental team, please let us know.

Setting up a Finding Hope Adoption Agency:

Currently, we are praying about and laying the groundwork for a Finding Hope Ministries Adoption agency. Our idea is to provide a means by which families in the USA and Western Europe can adopt children, both locally and from around the world. Please pray God will open the doors and make this vision become a reality. There are millions upon millions of kids around the world who need loving families. We hope to help some of

these desperate millions find families!

As always, continue to pray for us and for our ministry. The needs are great. There is still so much to be done yet. If you're willing and able, come help us yourself. If not, help support us financially and pray for us. God is faithful and good. Thank you for your continued support.

Love,

Nathan & Anca

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

"Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.

—Matthew 13:45-46 GNT

Something, cont'd

wrestled with God who seemed to be telling me to give \$50 on Homecoming Sunday when I felt squeezed for money because of upcoming bills. I even told God that he had better get that money right back to me, because he knew that I could not afford to give it! I received the whole \$50 back unexpectedly the very Monday after Homecoming! God is amazing! He even answers "snarky" prayers.

Do you have the courage to test God in this? Do you believe in Ebenezer UMC enough to give above and beyond? We need your help. Please pray and give more, so that we may continue to show the light of Christ and his grace in our community and around the world. Thank you—and may God bless you—and He will!





Ebenezer's 2019 Budget

PASTORAL STAFF TOTAL	89,619
Pastor's Salary	65,012
Pastor's Travel Expense	2,700
Pastor's Cont. Education	750
Pastor's Health Benefit	13,594
Pastor's Retirement	7,563
Pastor's Christmas Bonus	0
SUPPORT STAFF TOTAL	23,250
Admin. Asstnt's Salary	16,750
Continuing Ed. Clerical	0
Musician's Salary	6,500
EMPLOYER EXPENSES TOTAL	2,915
Payroll Taxes	1,665
Workers Comp. Insurance	1,250
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP. TOTAL	6,570
Office Sup., Postage, CP HDW	2,404
Phones, Internet, Website	4,190
BUILDING & GROUNDS TOTAL	44,495
Security Service	448
Propane	2,850
Electricity	16,372
Water/Sewer	725
Insurance	5,400
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	
Garbage Pick-up	300
Pest Control	0
Cleaning Service	7,200
Repairs/Maintenance	6,000
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	
Lawn Service	3,500
Repairs/Maintenance Equip.	1,700

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TOTAL	2,000
Vacation Bible School	1,900
Christmas Program	100
MUSIC TOTAL	250
Choir	0
Music Supplies	0
Copyright Licensing	250
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH TOT.	4,280
Community Outreach	480
Speaker Expense	200
Revival Speaker(s)	0
Special Events	600
Senior Adult Ministry	0
Community Food Ministry	3,000
Children's Ministry	0
MINISTRY EXPENSE TOTAL	6,100
Kitchen & Church Supplies	1,100
Books & Literature	5,000
OTHER EXPENSES TOTAL	0
Conference Lay Delegate	0
Conference Clergy Delegate	0
Misc. Expenses/no receipts	0
TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET	179,479
WNCC Apportionments	18,698
CC Pregnancy Care Center	
CC Hospice	
KAIROS	
SCCM	
(Note: special offerings taken during the year will fund local missions.)	
TOTAL Local Missions/Apportionments	18,698
TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET	179,479
TOTAL LOCAL MISSIONS	0
TOTAL WNC APPORTIONMENTS	18,698
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	198,177
AVERAGE NEEDED PER WEEK	3,811

2020 Committee Changes

Church Council New Members:

Trustees Chair—Monte Hollar; **Members at Large** to Council: New: Ted Daniel, Kenny Silver, Cindy Satterwhite. Going off: Seth McCrary, Chris Haas, Wyll Baker, Patty Toliver.

Trustees: New: Monte Hollar, Gary Minton; Going off: Roy Hamby, Sarah Adams, Dawn Yount; **Cemetery:** New: John McCrary.

Nominations & Personnel: Going off: Will McCrary; Renewed: Cinda McCrary, Kim Knepp.

Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations: New: Jim Farr, Kay Gilbert; Going off: Jimmy Stone.

Audit Committee: New: Dawn Yount, Kim Knepp; Going off: Heather Stone, Will McCrary.

Finance Committee: New: Monte Hollar; Going off: Roy Hamby.

You may pick up a full list of the 2020 Church Committee Members on the table in the lobby area.

Christmas Cards

Save on postage by letting us deliver Christmas cards to our regularly attending members and affiliates. Place the cards in the box in the lobby area before Dec. 22nd.

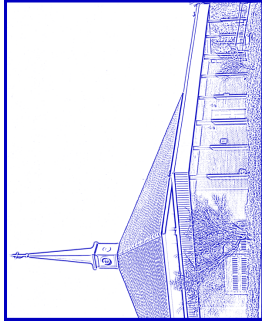




EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

December 2019



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Hanging of the Greens—during worship	2 Basketball—7 PM	3 Volleyball—7 PM	4	5	6	7 Arts & Crafts Show—4-7 PM
8	9 Basketball—7 PM	10 Volleyball—7 PM	11	12 	13	14
15 Last day to turn in Memory Tree gifts! Turn in Christmas cards today, please.	16 Basketball—7 PM	17 Volleyball—7 PM	18	19	20	21 Private Party—1 PM
22 Christmas Play/Party—6 PM 	23 	24 Christmas Eve Service—7 PM	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> and a happy new year Church Office Closed	26	27 	28 Private Party—1 PM
29	30 Basketball—7 PM	31 Volleyball—7 PM	Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir	Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies		