



# EBENEZER

## United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

# DEC '20

Volume 16 Issue 8

Church's e-mail: [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com)

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

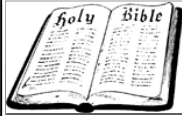
In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

—Hebrews 1:1-3a NIV

### Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 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 Note



### Covid-19 Update

As this is being written, North Carolina has gone to a color-coded system to share how each county is doing regarding the spread of Covid. Caldwell County currently is at orange which is the color between red and yellow. 3 counties around us are at red, which is above orange. If the county should go to red, we have been asked to stop in person worship by Bishop Leland. You can help to slow the spread of this disease by following the 3 W's: Wear a mask, Wait 6 feet apart, Wash your hands. Thank you for your understanding as we are all in this together.

### Pastor's Note

This has been a year like no other that we have lived through. We are unsure what our world, our country will be like this Christmas and New Year. Will Covid-19 continue to surge? How many more will get sick? How many more will die? What about Christmas shopping? What about our family gatherings? When will the vaccines be available? When will the world go back to normal?

That does not even touch upon the political situation in our nation and all that we have experienced this year.

In all this turmoil, I seek to remember the promise of Christ who is called Emmanuel. That means "God with us." I seek to remember that none of us have been forgotten, nor forsaken. I seek to remember the mission that God has for us as the church here in Dudley Shoals. I seek to remember the promise of the baby born in a manger. I seek to remember the promise of the crucified, risen, and glorious Savior. I seek to remember that God has got this.

As we move closer to Christmas day, I pray that we can sing together these words from the Christmas Carol "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear":

*For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

May we remember to sing the angel song in this season!

In God's grace,  
Pastor Alan

### 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.

### Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee will meet on Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m.

### Christmas Eve Service

We hope to have our annual **Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m.** with a Festival of Lessons and Carols. We may have to meet outside, so we are considering a huge bonfire to gather round at the BBQ building area. More info to come.



### Gifts for Christ

We will have a memory/honor tree set up for Christmas again this year. Forms are available on the table near the entrance to the Christian Life Center. **Forms need to be turned in by Sunday, December 13th to have the honorees name placed on the tree.** Your monetary gift can be held until December 20th. Do not forget to mark the names as “honor” for the living, or “memory” for the deceased. We thank you for your gifts.

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *November*.

**In Loving Memory of Hoke Clark by:**  
Becky Clark



## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1 NIV

**BASIC DOCTRINE:  
THE UNCAUSED  
CAUSE**

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth...”

Do you realize that atheists believe in God? They don’t call him that, and keep trying to replace him with an impersonal, mechanical thing or theory of everything.

We, who live in linear time, have a difficult time grasping the concept of eternity and no time. Yet, God is all about eternity and the absence of linear time. The Uncaused Cause or the First Cause existed before time began. Something was there before all that we know, including us, ever existed.

Atheists attempt to explain all that is apart from a personal Creator. Their theories are regularly being debunked, or they cannot find proof sufficient to make the theories truly believable. Some, once claimed, that aliens seeded life on earth, but that only pushed back the question of who made the aliens in the first place. Once, there was a theory that our universe was eternal itself, thus making the need for an Uncaused Cause meaningless. That theory broke apart when it was discovered that the universe is continually expanding—so it appears to have had a beginning. (See Einstein’s theory of General Relativity; Geisler, p. 74.) Next, they tried the multiple universe theory; and there are other proposals that get more and more fantastical through the years.

- 1) Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
- 2) The universe had a beginning.
- 3) Therefore, the universe had a cause.

NOTE: God does not need a cause, because he had/has no beginning. He always was—“I am what I am.” (See Geisler & Turek, p. 75)

Though these theories can be interesting to read about, Christians have only one theory that never changes or needs to change. The Uncaused Cause is God. This is such a basic belief that the Old and New Testament writers never tried to prove the existence of God—“all the writers presupposed God’s existence with their writings being the product of his influence. Everywhere in the Bible, the existence of God is assumed as a fact...” (See Lockyer, p. 11) If you have read any ancient history, or read about archaeological finds, you know that every known civilization believed in a god or gods. Everyone everywhere worshiped some higher power.

Atheists deny the existence of God without viable evidence or proof of their belief. They do not want there to be a God who made it all, because they know that would mean he owns it all, and has the right to rule it all—and they

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Something to Pray About, continued

do not like the rules, because they want to live by their own rules. Many other people who believe in God or gods don't like the Judeo/Christian concept of God for the same reason. (NOTE: not even Christians can definitively prove that God exists; but by logic and revelation we can know that he does. I'll have more on this in a later article.)

Below are the characteristics of God or the First Cause (uncaused by any other being or thing):

- ◆ "He is self-existent, timeless, non-spatial and immaterial (since he created time, space, and matter, the First Cause must be outside of time, space, and matter. In other words, he is without limits, infinite;
- ◆ Unimaginably powerful, to create the entire universe out of nothing;
- ◆ Supremely intelligent, to design the universe with such incredible precision;
- ◆ Personal, in order to choose to convert a state of nothingness into the time-space-material universe (an impersonal force has no ability to make choices).

The question that every non-believer and believer should ask is: "If there is no God, why is there something rather than nothing at all?" Can anyone truly believe that nothing created something?

So, as a Christian, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth"—and everything else!

References: All the Doctrines of the Bible by Dr. Herbert Lockyer, R.S.L., F.R.G.S., Zondervan, c1964; I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist by Norman L. Geisler & Frank Turek, Crossway Books, c2004.

## Church Council Minutes — November 29, 2020

Attendees: Pastor Alan, Irene Austin, Ricky Baker, David Crouse, Sonya Crouse, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Peggy Jenkins, Judy McCrary, Phyllis Minton, Cindy Satterwhite, Cindy Sears, and Kenny Silver.

David Crouse called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Devotions from Galatians 5:13-26. "Walk in the spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." "Serve one another humbly in love." Bleaka lifted a prayer for the meeting.

Reading of the minutes: Bleaka made a motion to accept as written. Second by Ricky Baker. Passed.

### Financial Report -Irene Austin

We are paying our bills and employees so far. Contributions remain down, but we are not in any danger at

this point. There were no questions after her report.

### Old Business

Monte said we will try out the floor machine before we buy it; and then negotiate the price. Kim asked if it could be used to clean the kitchen floor. Answer: Not really. It is mainly for keeping the gym floor in good condition.

Ricky Baker thanked everyone who helped with the meal. He had plenty of help, and they made about 150 boxes. All in all the event went over real well.

### New Business

Cindy brought forth that we have \$260 in our Habitat Hourse fund, but we are not involved in a build project at this time. M was made by Sonya Crouse to

## 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 C. Toliver
- 20th—Peggy Jenkins
- 23rd—John McCrary
- 26th—Lyle Miller
- 26th—Sarah Teague
- 27th—Cheryl Vosdingh
- 28th—JoAnn Knepp

Happy Anniversary!



- 13th—Shawn & Heather Wallace



## 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.



## **Ebenezer United Methodist Church Council – 2021**

2021 Church Officials (Voting Members); New Members/Positions in **BOLD TYPE**.

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Alan Gaylord</b>
<b>Church Lay Leader</b>	Bleaka Hollar
<b>Chair of Finance Committee/Financial Secretary</b>	<b>Irene Austin</b>
<b>Chair of Church Council</b>	TBA
<b>Financial Secretary Assistant</b>	JoAnn Knepp
<b>Chair of Nurture Ministries (Education, Worship &amp; Stewardship)</b>	Kim Ellis
<b>Chair of Outreach Ministries (Missions, Volunteer Ministries)</b>	Candace Collins
<b>Chair of Witness (Evangelism &amp; Church Growth)</b>	Barbara Ferguson
<b>Superintendent of Church School</b>	Marsha McCrary
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Kim Ellis
<b>President of United Methodist Women</b>	Kim Ellis
<b>President of United Methodist Men</b>	John McCrary
<b>Youth Representative to Church Council</b>	unfilled
<b>Delegate to Annual Conference</b>	Kim Ellis
<b>Alternate to Annual Conference</b>	Cindy Sears
<b>Representatives to SCCM</b>	Judy McCrary; Barbara Ferguson
<b>Church Treasurer/Coordinator of Communications</b>	Cindy Sears
<b>UMYF Coordinators</b>	Jason & Candace Collins; Jimmy Stone
<b>Church Historians</b>	Cindy Sears
<b>Communion Steward</b>	Sonya Crouse, Peggy Jenkins (Assistant)
<b>Chair of Trustees</b>	Monte Hollar
<b>Chair Staff/Pastor Parish</b>	TBA

### **Members at Large to Church Council**

<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Jim Farr	Cindy Satterwhite	<b>Linda Moretz</b>
Ted Daniel		
Kenny Silver		



For unto us a child is born...



### **December Worship Schedule**

December 6<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent/Communion/Isaiah 40.1-11  
 December 13<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent/Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11  
 December 20<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent/2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service @6 p.m.  
 December 27<sup>th</sup> – Bleaka Hollar preaches





## Council, continued

send the funds to Habitat House of Caldwell County. Seconded by Kim Ellis. Motion passed. Cindy asked Irene if she would like to extend the support from Power Church software vendor for another six months at \$149.00. She made a motion that we do so. Seconded by Monte Hollar. Motion passed. The request for money from The Wig Bank is to be announced to the church body in the newsletter to see if anyone is interested in donating to this cause.

Monte announced that we have installed handicap commodes in the older section of the church. Gutter guards have been installed. He sewed grass in part of the graveyard but much of it may have washed away during the heavy rains that came right after the sowing.

Kim Ellis thanked the praise band for continuing to provide music for us every Sunday.

David Crouse announced that he has served as chair council for three years now. He is stepping down. We will need to find a new chair before the beginning of the year 2021.

## Pastor's Report

**Covid-19 update:** color codes are being used in North Carolina to show severity of positive tests in each county. Our county is now at orange. If we go to red, Bishop Leland wants us to stop in-person, in-house meetings. We may have to have the Christmas Eve service outside. Suggestions include building a hug bonfire and singing carols around it that night if we cannot meet inside.

**Gatherings:** Pastor Alan continues to meet with members of the congregation. He has met with about 40 people so far, and will continue to have more gatherings in December as able.

**Youth Meeting:** He had 5 youth to attend his meeting. They are looking to do more in 2021.

Nominations Committee will meet on December 6, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. They will need to find a new Staff Pastor Parish Committee Chairman as Ricky Baker has served six years and

## Trustees + Bleaka Hollar

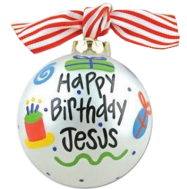
2021	2022	2023
Billy Long	Gary Minton	Wayne Ellis
Barbara Ferguson	Monte Hollar (Chair)	Kirk Austin
		Jerry Helton



## Cemetery Committee – All Trustees, plus Gerald Frye & John McCrary

## Nominations and Personnel: Alan Gaylord (Chair) + Bleaka Hollar

2021	2022	2023
Judy McCrary	Kim Knepp	Cindy Satterwhite
Sonya Crouse	Cinda McCrary	Chuck Adams
Tammy Adams		



## Staff-Pastor-Parish-Relations Committee - + Kim Ellis; Bleaka Hollar

2021	2022	2023
John McCrary	Jim Farr	Kenny Silver
Phyllis Minton	Kay Gilbert	Jimmy Stone
		Tasha Haas

## Audit Committee + Bleaka Hollar

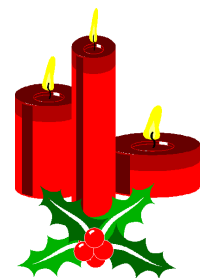
2021	2022	2023
Loretta Helton	Kim Knepp	Marsha McCrary



Audit Committee also includes the following: JoAnn Knepp, Cindy Sears

## Finance Committee

<b>Chair/ Financial Secretary</b>	Irene Austin
<b>Assistant Financial Secretary</b>	Jo Ann Knepp
<b>Pastor</b>	Alan Gaylord
<b>Church Treasurer</b>	Cindy Sears
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Bleaka Hollar
<b>Chair of Church Council</b>	David Crouse
<b>Chair of Trustees</b>	Monte Hollar
<b>Chair of SPPRC</b>	undecided
<b>Nurture Chairperson</b>	Kim Ellis



is stepping down. They will also address the Council Chair vacancy. Volunteers can contact Pastor Alan.

Pastor Alan announced that he has completed his "orientation of Ministry" in the Western North Carolina Conference. He will be going on vacation from Christmas Day to January 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be

out of state during that time.

Next council meeting in January will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Cindy Sears. Applause and thanks were given to David Crouse for his service as the chairman of the council. Meeting adjourned. Minutes by Cindy Sears.