



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

February '15

Volume 11 Issue 2

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## 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



On February 15th, a team, including Kim and Wayne Ellis and I, will travel to Belmopan, Belize for a ten day mission trip. I was thinking and reflecting upon our trip. Advertisements lead us to believe that Belize is a tropical paradise, everywhere you turn there is beauty, and all is well. Judging from the cruise line and tourists commercials, why would we ever send teams to build schools and strengthen the church in Belize?

The truth is that you have to go to Belize to realize that what you see on the commercials is not what is really happening within the country. There is great beauty in Belize, but there is also great poverty and a lack of education that keeps the people from overcoming their poverty. What the world sees is what the cruise lines and the tourists industry want you to see. We see only what is on the outside; we can't see what is happening on the inside.

I got to thinking about our own personal lives, and I realized that the same is true for each of us. We tend to put on a front, a disguise, to try to hide our pain, our struggles, and our sin from the world. You might say that we are living in our poverty; hiding our true needs from the world. But God knows our needs, and He responded by sending Jesus Christ His only Son, so that we could overcome. You could say that God sent Jesus on a mission—a mission to free us from our sin, and to give us hope for a better future. To all who receive Him, He gives us the Holy Spirit, Who continues to work within our lives to perfect us as Christ is perfected.

As a mission team, we cannot offer forgiveness of sins to anyone, or transform their lives as Christ transforms lives. Yet, by the grace of God, we can give hope—hope in the name of Jesus Christ—hope that God has heard their cry and is responding to their needs. It is in this hope that we go to serve, and we pray that God will use us as His vessels to bring His light, hope and salvation to those we encounter.

Thank you, Ebenezer, for being a part—a vital part—of this mission of ministry; not just to Belize, but to Costa Rica, Bolivia, Alaska, Lenoir, Granite Falls, Dudley Shoals, and to all the world. I pray that you will support our speakers while we are away, and we look forward to sharing with you what God is doing in Belize.

God bless you,

Rev. Eric Lane

## 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](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com)



## Meetings

### Relay for Life Meeting

We are in need of some “crafty” people to help make bracelets to sell at the annual Relay for Life fundraiser for cancer research and treatment. Please meet at the church on **Monday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

### Ash Wednesday Service

Our annual Ash Wednesday Service will be on **February 18th at 7:00 p.m.** Eric will be in Belize on a mission trip. Rev. Philip Setzer will be conducting the service.

**NOTE:** We will be collecting non-perishable food items on Ash Wednesday and every Sunday throughout Lent in all the United Methodist Churches in our area. Please place your donations on the green bench under the bulletin board next to the CLC entrance in the Old Fellowship Hall. (Donations specifically for our food pantry should go on the bench near the brown cabinet unit in the Old Fellowship Hall.)

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** Sonya Crouse will present the program. Cinda McRary and Dawn Yount are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are invited to participate.

### March Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the March 2015 newsletter in by **February 22nd.** Thank you. —Editor

*“The Bible is the only source of truth. Anything written by man cannot be infallible.” --Alex Malarkey*

*“...though born fully God and fully human, it appears that [Jesus’] divine powers or His divinity was subdued until the moment of His baptism. All His miracles occur after His baptism.”*

## Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed. —2 Timothy 3:16-17 GNT

**STICK TO  
THE  
BIBLE**

Recently, the young man who figures in the story of the book, “Boy Who Came Back from Heaven,” has publicly denounced the account as a fraud. The book has now been pulled from most stores.

*“I said I went to heaven because I thought it would get me attention. When I made the claims that I did, I had never read the Bible. People have profited from lies, and continue to. They should read the Bible, which is enough. The Bible is the only source of truth. Anything written by man cannot be infallible.” --Alex Malarkey*

This is not the only time that lies have been promoted as truth and related to God or Jesus. Some books that did not make it into the biblical canon included stories of Jesus as a young boy doing such things as turning balls of mud into doves.

Very little is written in the Bible about Jesus as a child, but let’s think about what is recorded. Jesus was about 2 years old when Herod murdered the infants in and around Bethlehem. If Jesus had “powers” then, why couldn’t he have used them to save the children? Why did God warn Joseph in a dream and have him run away instead?



We know from the Bible that Jesus was fully God and fully man. At His baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove (see Mat. 3:16-17). So, though born fully God and fully human, it appears that His divine powers or His divinity was subdued until the moment of His baptism. All His miracles occur after His baptism. Think about it. Would you want a 2 year old to have supernatural powers? Remember, Jesus was a fully human child as well as fully God. Children have to mature emotionally, as well as, physically, and this takes time. Jesus was about 30 years old when He began His ministry. There is no biblical record of Him doing miracles before He began His ministry. Why? Did the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon Him at His baptism release His godly powers for use at that time? Why then? Miracles are not simply supernatural acts, they are *signs*. Jesus did not need to do signs until He began His ministry and His walk to the cross. One way you can determine if a “miracle” has happened or not is to determine if it is a “sign” that points to God or Jesus.

God broke into our physical, material world to bring Jesus here (He tore open the sky, see Ps. 18:9a; Is. 64:1). Yet, once Jesus was here in Mary’s womb, He became subject to the laws of our world. As a child, He knew the Father as His Father, but He did not possess the power of the Godhead fully until His baptism. After that baptism, His human side did not diminish: he continued to suffer hunger and thirst and tiredness; but now He was also able to channel the power of God for signs that were always used to promote His core message of forgiveness and redemption, and to point people to God.

There are good and legitimate reasons for the make-up of the canon of scripture. This canon was discussed and argued over, but most of all, prayed about, for decades,

*(Continued on page 3)*



## A Special Gift

On January 11th at our Church Council meeting Rhyan Stone requested a donation from our church to help finish a fundraising effort by his group from South Caldwell High School for the STOP HUNGER NOW campaign. The group had managed to raise \$2500, but needed another \$500.

The Council voted to fulfill the request and arrangements were made to write the check and take a picture of it being presented to Rhyan for the project.

Unfortunately, Rhyan ended up with the flu, so Ragan Knepp is shown accepting the check from Pastor Eric Lane on January 18th.



## Speaking of Hunger...

Ebenezer UMC has its own Food Pantry that is used to help people in the area who are in temporary need of food.

We thank everyone for all their donations to the food pantry, because we have had an overwhelming response lately to our request for more items.

We would like to suggest some of the items that are specifically needed, though, which include:

*Toothpaste, facial tissues, dishwashing liquid, bar soap, mayonnaise, tea, box meals, such as Hamburger Helper, Banquet, etc., Pastaroni, and Riceraroni.*

All items are appreciated and we praise you for all you have done for the food pantry and our food ministry, "The Lord's Supper."



## Kwanzaa Family Inn

One of the local ministries that we have helped for the several years has been going through some hard times lately. The Kwanzaa Family Inn is a non-profit organization that provides refuge for homeless women, and women with minor children.

Our UMW and Young Adult Sunday school class have given generous donations of materials to the home, and we have also sent teams to paint and do repairs.

But as the housing director, Leila McMichael says:

*"...our needs continue. Grant funding has been slow, so we always need monetary donations. We also accept gifts in kind, including offers to maintain and repair the physical facility. We will happily give a receipt. No donation is too small. All donations are tax deductible."*

If you would like to give, please contact McMichael at 759-3999 or let Eric or Cindy at Ebenezer know. You may also designate money to the Kwanzaa Inn on your Offering Envelope and we will send the money to them. ✝

## Something, con't

*(Continued from page 2)*

before it was finalized. And the early Christians really prayed. They spent time with the Lord—large amounts of time—something I dare say that most of us do very little of today. The stories about Jesus doing miraculous things as a child made Jesus appear more as a magician or wizard than as a member of the Godhead; so they were not included.

The point here is that the Holy Bible as we have it today is the one solid revelation that we have been given by God—from Genesis to Revelation. Contained within its pages is everything that God expected us to need to know about Him and His work in the world. Read it, mine it, dig deeply into it; but don't stray from it. Use it to assess all other claims of truth. Let its precepts and admonitions be the one overarching guide to how you live your life. If you want to speculate about things that are not in it, go ahead; but don't think that you can actually discern anything for certain that is not included in the Word of God. His Word is precious beyond belief. Stick to the Bible. Live by the knowledge the Word gives you, and rest in the peace of God, knowing that He is in control of everything. And He has good things planned for you beyond this mortal existence. ✝



## Special Notice

Sorry folks, but there will be no *Sweetheart Banquet* this year. The youth will plan another fundraiser for later this spring.

## Special Giving

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

### In Memory of Faye Stafford by:

Ebenezer's United Methodist Women  
Randy & Marsha McRary  
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

### In Honor of Roy Hamby by:

Judy McCrary

### In Honor of Kim & Wayne Ellis by:

Alice & Larry Hill



## Church Council — January 11, 2015

Attendees: Robert Mullinax, Jo Nell Harrison, Phyllis Brady, Cindy Sears, Eric Lane, Keith Keener, Rhyan Stone, Judy McCrary, Roy Hamby, Linda Moretz, Scott & Terri Miller, Jimmy Stone, Jerry Kohnle, Boyd Johnson, Alice Hill, Marsha McCrary, Sonya and David Crouse, Cinda McCrary, Kim Ellis, Joann Knepp, John McCrary, Cathy Huffman.

Substitute Chairman, Jerry Kohnle, began the meeting at 4:29 p.m. and opened with prayer. (Gerald Frye was out sick.)

Reading of the minutes from November. No corrections.

Jo Nell brought us the financial report. We ended up with over \$16,000 in the bank at the end of the year, not counting the building fund. There are some problems with the totals of the UMW and the Youth Fund. Jo Nell will get with the leaders and figure that out.

Jo Nell proposed that we pay \$13,000 on the building fund debt. Cathy Huffman made a motion to do this, Keith Keener, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

### New Business

Rhyan Stone ask for help with the Stop Hunger Now project for his school group. They have collected \$2500, but need another \$500 to have enough. Marsha McCrary made a motion to donate \$500 to this. Linda Moretz, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. (See p. 3)

Kim Ellis has several organizations wanting to use our CLC for basketball practice. Three groups are requesting access to the gym. Keith Keener (Trustees) said that the churches would have to have us as a named insurance coverage on their insurance policy. Jo Nell was worried about our non-profit status if we rent the space out. Eric will check on the rules and ramifications of using deposits for use, etc. Then we will decide what to do.

Kim Ellis brought up that the last few times the CLC was used, the floors were not swept and spot mopped. The Kitchen floor needs to be mopped entirely, along with cleaning up and putting everything where it belongs.

Kim Ellis also said that we could use some hanging racks for the chairs. She will talk to John McCrary about making a rack for our chairs, which will make it a little easier to store, move, set-up, and put the chairs back up.

**Calendar events for 2015:** April 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Egg Hunt (if someone will volunteer to do it—see Kim); Easter Sunday sunrise service, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Mother's Day Banquet is May 9<sup>th</sup>. VBS is scheduled for the week of July 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Mission Team goes to Belize on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday. Eric is talking with two ministers to do a service for us. Philip Setzer will do the service on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry asked David Crouse to close the meeting with prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears. ✝

### Calling the Talented

We are planning a Poor Man's Supper on March 7th and we need some talented people to perform for the diners at our Back Porch Show, at 7:00 p.m.

Please contact our talent coordinator, Bleaka Hollar, if you are interested in showcasing your musical or comedic skills. Proceeds go toward the *Relay for Life* campaign.



### Book Review

*America's Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation* by Grant Wacker, c2014 (Available at Lenoir Library)

This is not a biography of the man, but of the evangelist, and how Graham influenced, promoted and helped define evangelicalism in the U. S. Graham moved evangelicals to more prominence in our religious and political cultures. Early on, Graham learned how to use technology, media, and organization to promote his crusades and his message of salvation in and through Christ—a message that never changed. Though he made mistakes, Graham was never

## February Fundraisers

### Biscuits Sale

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, February 12th**.

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.

**Yum! Yum!**



### Biscuit Sale Price List



|        |                         |
|--------|-------------------------|
| \$2.00 | Ham or Sausage          |
| \$2.50 | Ham or Sausage with egg |
| \$2.00 | Egg                     |
| \$1.50 | Jelly                   |
| \$2.00 | Gravy                   |
| \$2.50 | Gravy with Sausage      |
| \$2.00 | Fried Apple Pie         |

caught up in scandal related to money or sex. He walked and talked with men of power—in politics (11 presidents) and the business world, but he willingly and constantly reached out to people in all walks of life and of all races. Grant Wacker examines Graham's life as an evangelist and how Graham helped to change America during his tenure as *America's Pastor*. Well-written, balanced, enlightening. —C. Sears



## February Celebrations



*Happy Birthday!*



- 4th—Colt Bowman
- 4th—Maggie Bowman
- 5th—Robert Herman
- 10th—Angie Miller
- 12th—Chris Ellis
- 14th—Brian Knepp
- 14th—Kristin Settlemeyre
- 15th—Hannah Abernethy
- 16th—Bernice Burns
- 18th—Kay Delahanty
- 19th—Judy Smith
- 19th—Abby Triplette
- 20th—Dylan Baker
- 20th—Lucas Teague
- 22nd—Jesse Barber
- 24th—Keith Blair
- 24th—Nelson Spencer
- 24th—Sara Spencer
- 26th—Robert Mullinax

Happy Anniversary!

- 14th—Will & Arlene McRary



## Acolyte Schedule - FEBRUARY

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| <b>1st</b>  | Makayla Settlemyre |
| <b>8th</b>  | Kaylee Haas        |
| <b>15th</b> | Clair Gilbert      |
| <b>22nd</b> | Payton Lyda        |

## Nursery Schedule - FEBRUARY

|             |       |                               |
|-------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b>  | 8:30  | Boyd & Emily Johnson          |
|             | 11:00 | Tasha Haas                    |
| <b>8th</b>  | 8:30  | Teresa Simmons & Dawn Yount   |
|             | 11:00 | Rosalind Kelley               |
| <b>15th</b> | 8:30  | Cheryl Vosdingh & Tammy Adams |
|             | 11:00 | Nancy Sears                   |
| <b>22nd</b> | 8:30  | Heather Stone & Kim Ellis     |
|             | 11:00 | Kay Gilbert                   |
|             | 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**

| Sunday  | Monday                         | Tuesday                  | Wednesday                        | Thursday                    | Friday                       | Saturday                   |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>February 2015</b>  |                                |                          |                                  | Acolyte & Nursery, see p. 5 | Wed. 6 PM Praise Band Pract. | Wed. 7 PM Bible Studies    |
| 1   | 2 7 PM<br>Relay for Life, p. 2 | 3 10 AM<br>Prayer Group  | 4                                | 5                           | 6                            | 7 All day<br>Private Party |
| 8   | 9                              | 10 10 AM<br>Prayer Group | 11                               | 12 6 AM -<br>Biscuit Sales  | 13                           | 14 9-4 PM<br>Private Party |
| 15  | 16                             | 17 10 AM<br>Prayer Group | 18 7 PM<br>Ash Wed. Service, p.2 | 19                          | 20                           | 21                         |
| 22  | 23                             | 24 10 AM<br>Prayer Group | 25                               | 26                          | 27                           | 28                         |
| Notes: Rev. Lane will be in Belize part of February. Our guest speaker for Feb. 15th will be Philip Setzer from Camp Carolwood. The speaker on Feb. 22nd will be Delbert Minner, the chaplain from Hospice. |                                |                          |                                  |                             |                              |                            |

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

“Give me the desire to obey your laws rather than to get rich. Keep me from paying attention to what is worthless; be good to me, as you have promised.”

—Psalm 119:36-37 GNT