



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

February '16

Volume 12 Issue 02

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

Inside this issue:

Meetings	2
Something to Pray About	2
Hid in My Heart	2
Church Council Minutes, Jan.	3
Something, con't	3
Special Giving	3
Old Greeting Cards	3
February Celebrations	4
Acolyte & Nursery Schedules	4
Our Military	4
Welcome to Ebenezer	4
Quotable Quote	4
Calendar	5



Sunday Services

- 8:30a Worship Service (Contemporary)
- 9:50a Sunday School
- 11:00a Worship Service (Traditional)
- 6:00p Youth Group (Grades 6-12)
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women



Pastor's Corner — Rev. Eric Lane



Matthew 6:25-34

This passage begins: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear."

With each passing birthday, I find myself worrying about the future, and questioning the past. With every medical checkup, I worry about what the doctor will find—blood pressure okay? What about my cholesterol?—and everything else you can imagine. I have tried to reduce my intake of red meat in order to lower my cholesterol, and watch what I drink to keep my weight down. I try to exercise to improve my health, and Beth worries more than I about what I wear.

So what do we do? Do we simply throw up our hands and say nothing matters and return to life off the grid?

I don't believe that this passage is addressing these issues, except that we must be careful not to allow our worry to get in the way of our faith. I believe the point is that, if we put our trust and faith in a God whose desire is to provide the very best for our lives, then, rather than worry, we can walk in the faith of knowing that, whatever we face or whatever decision we must make, will be the right decision.

This doesn't mean that we will go through life without struggles or difficulties, but we can go through life facing whatever we face knowing that "God's got this."

As I come to the end of the first month of this New Year, I realize that there is a lot out there that you and I will face this year. Some will be good, and others things not as good. Yet, knowing that God has us in His hands, and that he tells us that we don't have to worry about it, makes the journey easier to face.

Instead of worrying about things, we need to pray what is known as the serenity prayer:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Think about it. God promises to all who believe in the name of Jesus Christ as Lord, that he has provided a dwelling place for an eternity—one not made with human hands. He has promised to clothe us with His righteousness and glory. He has promised us eternal life.

So let us walk this journey together; and may we laugh and cry, and share one another's burdens and joys, for a strand of three cords is always stronger than one—God, you and I together.

Blessings

—Eric Lane

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tues.—Friday: 8:30—1:30 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings

Ash Wednesday

We will not have a service at our church on Ash Wednesday, because Eric will be in Belize on a mission trip. We will try to get information for you about the First UMC Granite Falls service by Feb. 7th, so that you can attend their service if you wish.

Caldwell United Service

We will have another gathering of United Methodist Churches **at Colliers UMC**, 2625 Clark's Chapel Road, Lenoir from **3 -5:00 p.m. on February 21st**. We will be packing bags for the homeless during this event. Our church is to supply 200 cans of Vienna Sausages for the bags. We are asking for donations of the cans from now to February 21st for this project.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet at **4:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 28th**. If you have business to bring before the Council, please contact Boyd Johnson, the new Council Chairperson. All members of the church may attend.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **February 28th at 7:00 p.m.** Bleaka Hollar will present the program. Please bring a covered-dish to share. Women of the church are invited to come and explore the possibility of joining the UMW.

March Newsletter Items

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

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

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

—James 5:16 HCSB

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

...the Word was God...The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.
—John 1:1,4-5 GNT

**LIGHTS,
BROODING,
SHEEP**

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved (brooded) upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."
--Genesis 1:1-3 KJV

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
--2 Corinthians 4:6 KJV

We don't know how long God waited after creating the universe to form the earth into a life-bearing planet. How long did His Spirit "brood" over the waters and the darkness before shining the light? How long did God brood over your soul before you saw His light and let it shine into your dark heart? The Holy Spirit still broods over the darkness, hoping to shine the light of Christ into each wayward, dark-loving soul on the earth. And God wants us to help shine that light by spreading the light He has so lovingly and graciously given to us that we might see the Good News found only in His Son Jesus Christ. (See John 14:6)(See McGee's, Thru the Bible, vol. V, p. 103)

"As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain."
--2 Corinthians 6:1 KJV

The Apostle Paul was not writing just to the leaders or pastors of the congregation in Corinth, but to all the Christians in the church. We are all called to the witnesses to the Light—Jesus Christ—and the salvation we receive through Him and His work upon the cross. As stated in McGee's quote from an Earl Radmacher, "Shepherds do not produce sheep. Sheep produce sheep." We followers of Christ cannot leave the mission of winning souls for Christ to the clergy. We are all bearers of the Light, and we are to shine that Light wherever we go and in all that we do.

"God has given teachers and preachers and evangelists and missionaries to fill out and prepare the body for their ministry of going out to witness for Christ...The [shepherd] feeds the sheep and watches over the sheep. He shepherds the sheep, but he doesn't produce sheep...The sheep produce sheep."
--McGee, Thru the Bible, Vol. V, p. 115

Accepting God's grace in vain is when we accept God's mercy for ourselves, yet continue to live world-centered lives, instead of Christ-centered lives. And what does Christ want enough to die on the cross for? "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9 KJV) We are the candles holding the Light of that knowledge that saves, and the day of salvation is now. (See 2 Corinthians 6:2)

(Continued on page 3)



Church Council Minutes – January 10, 2016

Attendees: Becky Clark, Sonya Crouse, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Cathy Huffman, Boyd & Emily Johnson, Connor Johnson, Keith Keener, JoAnn Knepp, Marilyn Kohnle, Steve Kohnle, Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Libby McCrary, Scott Miller, Kevin Miller, Linda Moretz, Robert Mullinax, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jimmy Stone, Barbara Ferguson, Alice Hill, Jerry Kohnle, and John McCrary.

Chairman Boyd Johnson opened the meeting and asked Gerald Frye to say the opening prayer. Boyd then read a short devotional based on Psalm 23.

Reading of the previous meeting minutes: Relay for Life date was corrected to April 30th instead of May 30th: passed as read.

Old Business

UMM reported that they made \$1115 on their Christmas tree sales this year.

It was reported that the Gateway School meal was given and came off well.

Financial Report (by Jo Nell Harrison)

Jo Nell mentioned several things that were kept below budget last year. Jo Nell will pay \$15,000 on the building fund principle, plus another \$5000 more on the principle of our mortgage. Eric said that we have another year on the loan, to 2017. With this amount, we will be down to \$153,000 on the principle. We ended up with about \$19,000 left over from last year's contributions.

Eric thanked everyone for what we gave above and beyond the budget.

New Business

Trustees: A pine tree fell on the corner of the CLC. Kevin Simmons will repair this damage when he returns from Costa Rica. We are not going to put it on our insurance—just fix it.

Kevin Miller brought up that the youth are planning fundraisers for a mission trip to South Dakota in 2017. It will cost about \$1,000 per person for the trip. They will be building and rebuilding on the Sioux reservation there. There will be four straight days of work, and one day off for recreation and touring. Connor Johnson asked for prayer and support of their fundraisers between now and the time of the mission trip.

Boyd asked for prayer and support for the UMM with Steve Kohnle as the new chairman.

Eric announced that the UMW will be doing the January 31st Sunday service. He is also thinking of letting other groups or classes take over the 5th Sunday services.

Gerald brought up that Libby McCrary is our new Sunday school superintendent, and we need to give her our support and prayers. Libby mentioned that she is looking for an assistant and a teacher still.

Jeff Smith asked if the garbage pick-up is going well, and Eric said that it is going very well.

Boyd closed the meeting and asked Eric to say a closing prayer.

We will be meeting on the third Sunday in February, to give Jo Nell enough time to get her financial records ready for the meeting.

—Minutes by Cindy Sears

Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

So, do not grieve the Spirit, who still watches over you, but live your life centered upon Christ, and be a light to the world about the wonderful news of salvation and LIFE eternal.

Special Giving

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

In Memory of Max Spencer by:

Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of Kenneth Reid by:

Gail Reid

In Memory of Keith Bradford by:

Grace Bradford

In Memory of Phyllis Brady by:

Judy McCrary

In Honor of Eric Lane & Family by:

Bill Campbell

In Honor of Youth Class by:

Bill Campbell



Old Greeting Cards

Don't throw them away!

Cindy Satterwhite is collecting old Christmas cards (and other greeting cards) for St. Jude's Hospital. Please place them in the box in the hallway. Thank you.





February Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 2nd—Marlene Coffey
- 4th—Maggie Bowman, Colt Bowman
- 5th—Robert Herman
- 10th—Angie Miller
- 12th—Chris Ellis
- 14th—Kristin Settlemyre, Brian Knepp
- 15th—Hannah Abernethy
- 16th—Bernice Burns
- 18th—Kay Delahanty
- 19th—Judy Smith, Abby Triplette
- 20th—Dylan Baker, Lucas Teague
- 22nd—Jesse Barber
- 24th—Nelson Spencer, Sara Spencer
- 26th—Robert Mullinax
- 29th—Tony Chester

Happy Anniversary!

- 14th—Will & Arlene McRary



Welcome to Ebenezer



**Roy and
Patricia
Williamson**



**Seth and Amber McCrary
with daughter, Aubree**



Acolyte Schedule - FEBRUARY

7th	Payton Lyda
14th	Bethany Huss
21st	Cole McCrary
28th	Kevin Miller

Nursery Schedule - February

7th	8:30	Keith & Susan Keener
	11:00	Kristin Settlemyre
14th	8:30	Bleaka Hollar & Kay Gilbert
	11:00	Becky Yount
21st	8:30	Nancy Sears & Linda Moretz
	11:00	Tasha Haas
28th	8:30	Sonya Crouse & Friend
	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
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

Quotable Quotes

“You get ready to do something by doing it.”

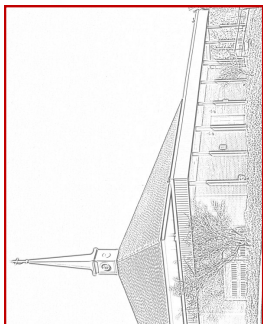
--Dennis Praeger




February 2016

EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>1 Church Office is now closed on Mondays</p>	<p>2 </p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Private Party—12-6 PM</p>
<p>7 Private Party—1-5 PM</p>	<p>8 Belize Mission Team departs</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 See p. 2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 </p>	<p>15 </p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Belize Mission Team returns</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Caldwell United at Colliers UMC, 3-5 PM, see p. 2</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Church Council—4:30 PM UMW—7 PM, see p. 2</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>See p. 4 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists</p>	<p>Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</p>			