



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

February '17

Volume 13 Issue 2

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Happy
Valentine's
Day



Sunday Services

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



Pastor's Corner — Rev. Jay Bissett



Congratulations to Blanche Kohnle and Rachel Poe on reaching their 100th Birthdays in 2017.

Ebenezer's members and friends, plus the families of Blanche and Rachel helped us celebration a marvelous milestone for both these ladies this year on January 29th. We had two special guests also: our WNCC Bishop, Paul Leeland, and our District Superintendent, Carl Arrington.

We thank Jesse Barber and Pastor Jay and Jimmy Stone for preparing filmed interviews with Blanche and Rachel to show during our service. Thank you to everyone who brought food to share at the after worship party, too.



Thank you, Lord for blessing these ladies so much, and for blessing us and their families with their presence. Amen.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

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



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.
Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings

Leadership Planning

Retreat

Church council members will meet on **Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** to discuss ministry goals and projects for the year 2017. Coffee and donuts will be served in the morning, and a light lunch will be provided. Please be in prayer and be ready to present ideas for service and ministry at Ebenezer in 2017.

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, February 19th at 4:30 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper people will meet to fix and deliver another round of good food to our shut-ins and others on **Monday, February 20th at 5:00 p.m.** We welcome all volunteers to help. Contact Ricky or Shawn Baker for more information.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **February 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Bleaka Hollar will present the program. Attendees are asked to bring a covered-dish item to share a meal. All women of the church are invited to participate. Come find out what the women's group is all about and consider joining.

March Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the March newsletter in by **Tuesday, February 21st**. Thank you—Editor

Only a Southerner knows instinctively that the best gesture of solace for a neighbor who's got trouble is a plate of hot fired chicken and a big bowl of cold potato salad. If the neighbor's trouble is a real crisis, they also know to add a large banana puddin'!

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Because those people refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God, he has given them over to corrupted minds, so that they do the things that they should not do. They are filled with all kinds of wickedness, evil, greed, and vice...They are hateful to God...they have no conscience...they show no kindness or pity for others.

—Romans 1:28-31, selected GNT

EVIL

(This is in reference to the kidnapping and torture of a special needs white youth by four black persons in Chicago.)

Forget the races of both the perpetrators and the victim. Forget the hateful, nasty language used by the perpetrators. Forget that the victim was mentally handicapped. Forget the rhetoric on the Right and the Left. Look at the deed: four persons kidnapped and physically and verbally tortured one person for hours and live-streamed it on the internet. This was a despicable, anti-social, and horrifying act of EVIL.

It wasn't caused by "bad home training." It didn't suddenly appear as a response to "white racism." It didn't grow out of "left-wing deceit about racial problems and inequality—though all these things helped embolden the attackers at this time. Satan is the driving force behind all such EVIL. Those four persons chose EVIL over GOOD. Why? Because they and others like them have chosen to ignore the ONE TRUE LAWGIVER; therefore, they have no moral base from which to make choices. If no one is in charge, everyone can do "what is right in their own eyes" and damn the consequences to themselves, to others, and to society as a whole.

God gives us boundaries and checks and balances on our behavior—not because he is mean, spiteful, or authoritarian—but because he created us, knows what is best for us, and loves us enough to call us to obedience to his boundaries. It is his boundaries that keep us from going off the deep end and destroying not only ourselves, but our societies, too.

"You are doomed! You call evil good and call good evil. You turn darkness into light and light into darkness. You make what is bitter sweet, and what is sweet you make bitter. " --Isaiah 5:20 GNT

We humans continue to be a "stiff-necked and rebellious" people. Although this is to be expected, because Satan still rules in this world—for now; it is not inevitable. We can choose whom to follow. As Christians, we are called to choose God's way, even when it seems foolish to the world or harms our chances to be liked by those in the world. We are told by Jesus that "If you love me, you will obey my commandments." (John 14:15) This can be difficult, but the love in your heart for Jesus can strengthen your resolve and give you the strength and courage to obey.

One of the main problems in our world today is not the presence of evil and of non-believers, but the weaknesses of Christ's followers. We, as Christians, are called to witness for our Lord daily, not only by our words, but by our lives—every part of our lives. Too often Christians go to work or go somewhere to play or to be entertained, and leave Jesus outside. Jesus is not

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Special Giving

Ebenezer UMC and its members, gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts received in *January 2017*:

In Memory of Harold Shull by:

Sharon & Bruce Williams

In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:

Wilcox Marketing (Stephen Coffey & Tina McClain)
The Herman Family

In Honor of Blanche Kohnle and Rachel Poe's 100th Birthdays by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell
Nancy Sears

In Honor of Bleaka & Monte Hollar by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Gerald Frye by:

Marsha McRary

In Honor of Police, et. al. by:

Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell

Church Housekeeping Rules

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you unlock it, lock it.
4. If you break it, repair it.
5. If you can't fix it, report it to the office.
6. If you borrow it, return it.
7. If you use it, don't abuse it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back.
10. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
11. If it belongs to somebody else and you want it to use it, get permission before taking it.
12. If it doesn't concern you, don't mess with it.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Church Council – January 15, 2017

Attendees: Ricky Baker, Jay Bissett, Becky Clark, David & Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Cathy Huffman, Connor Johnson, JoAnn Knepp, Steve Kohnle, Judy McCrary, Seth McCrary, Libby McRary, Kevin Miller, Terri Miller, Jeff Smith, Jimmy Stone

Jay called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. because Chairman Boyd Johnson was absent. Sonya Crouse gave the opening prayer.

Reading of the minutes—corrected spelling of Connor Johnson's name. Sonya made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Jimmy Stone second. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion about the decision not to hire a youth pastor this year. Roy Hamby stated that because of the current financial situation, we decided not to hire one. Scott & Terri Miller agreed to continue as the leaders of the youth program. Jason and Candace Collins have also agreed to help with this ministry. We have stopped all ads for the youth pastor hiring.

The Justin Shoemaker counseling program was paid for. The Men's group and the Rainbow Class did pay their agreed upon 1/3rd part, but the UMW decided not to help. The remaining amount came from the Evangelism fund.

The new Chrismon tree was purchased and used this year.

Sonya said that after the offering this Sunday, we were still short for Stop Hunger Now packing event by about \$350. She met with the men's group, and the UMM made up the difference. Praise be to God and our men! She also let us know how excited the youth and children of our church are about this event. Jay expressed his appreciation for Sonya and David for taking this project on and getting it done.

The Leadership Planning Retreat was postponed because of snow. It has been rescheduled to Feb. 4th, from 9-3 p.m.

Hickory Daily Record will be interviewing Blanche and Rachel, and

the Bishop will be speaking that Sunday (Jan. 29th) when we celebrate their 100th Birthdays. We will also have a dedication of our new van. Jay thanked the UMM for helping to buy the van, and all those people who also contributed to this project.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jo Nell explained that the Building Fund monies are used to pay the CLC mortgage; it is not taken from money given to the General Fund. We have included a total amount that will halve what we owe this year, in hopes that we can finish paying off the loan in December of 2018.

The amount that our church members have given to the Habitat Fund is \$2500 less than previously reported, because a grant was added to the fund that passed through, instead of being a part of our goal of \$5,000 for the next project.

Jo Nell complained about a bill that did not have an address and contact number and contact person. We also need to know who approved the expense, please.

We also need to turn in receipts turned as soon as possible for anything bought on the church credit cards, or bought in any other way.

Roy Hamby asked that the Caldwell Prison Ministries fund be renamed Kairos. Motion passed with a second from Jimmy Stone.

Roy also made a motion to raise amount our budgeted amount for KAIROS from \$200 to \$500. Jo Nell made a motion to do so, and it passed.

We will vote on the budget for 2017 on Feb. 4 at the Retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

Cathy Huffman has a request to use some of the Mission Scholarship Fund, but we have not set-up any parameters for using this fund. The committee will decide the policies, and then make decisions about pay-outs. We need a new committee, though. Cathy, Jay, Sonya, Barbara Frye (if she still wants to be on it) were elected/volunteered to serve. Bleaka made a motion to set up

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Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

a spoil sport, but believing in him should make a profound difference in how we conduct our businesses, work for our employers, and play with others, or choose our entertainment. Our very presence ought to restrain evil. Does your presence ever do that? We make jokes about how our behavior changes when the pastor joins our group. Shouldn't any Christian's presence change the dynamics of any group we are in? Think about it.

"We know that we belong to God even though the whole world is under the rule of the Evil One. We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we know the true God. We live in union with the true God—in union with his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and this is eternal life. My children, keep yourselves safe from false gods!" --1 John 5:19-21 GNT

Let's permeate the world with our presence and our radical obedience and service for God, while we reach out to those who have no hope and no moral basis presenting to them God's truth, and expounding on the mercy he offers through his Son, Jesus Christ to anyone who will accept the gift.



Council Meeting, con't

(Continued from page 3)

the committee, second by Jay. Motion passed.

Terri Miller announced that there will be a Sweetheart Banquet this year on Feb. 18th—prime rib or teriyaki chicken will be on the menu. Babysitting will be available, too. The cost is \$15 per person. Please see a member or the youth for tickets.

Kim has changed her mission trip from Belize to Bolivia. A motion was made and passed to move the money from the Belize fund to the Bolivia fund.

Steve Kohnle said a group of the men is going to draw up guidelines for use of the van. The UMM will be paying for the insurance and maintenance for this year. It will need to be put on next year's budget, though. A chauffeur's license is not necessary to drive it. One key will be kept at the church; and one with the men. Eventually, we will have a shed built.

Council adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

—minutes by Cindy Sears



Stop Hunger Now Event Huge Success!

Our Stop Hunger Now meal packing event was a huge success. We packed:

20,008 Meals

For the hungry around the world in less than two hours!

Thank you to everyone who helped pay for the supplies and for our partners in this venture:

SCCH Interact Club

1st UMC Granite Falls.

And special thanks to all the people from Ebenezer and the above groups who helped us pack and fed us afterwards—110 people in all. Magnificent job!

Below are some photos from the event. Next year 30,000!





February Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 2nd—Marlene Coffey
- 4th—Colt Bowman, Maggie Bowman
- 5th—Robert Herman
- 10th—Angie Miller
- 12th—Chris Ellis
- 14th—Joe Sims, Kristen Settlemeyre
- 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

Quotable Quotes

“When we hear people spouting off about the so-called “equality” of any and all forms of sexual behavior, claiming that the wrong attitudes cause disease, or attempting to punish anyone who dares to point out the truth about health risks, we need to help our families and friends understand where all this comes from.

Ultimately, it’s a rejection of God’s loving—and healthful--design for sexuality.

—Eric Metaxas
Breakpoint Commentary, Aug. 10, 2016



Acolyte Schedule - FEBRUARY

5th Savanna Creaseman

12th Emily Haas

19th Cole McCrary

26th Andrew Miller

Nursery Schedule - FEBRUARY

5th 8:30 Bruce & Cathy Kirby

11:00 Tammy Adams

12th 8:30 Sarah & Lucas Teague

11:00 Celeste Creaseman

19th 8:30 Bleaka Hollar & Sonya Crouse

11:00 Teresa Herman

26th 8:30 Tammy Adams & Linda Moretz

11:00 Angie Miller

10:30

Our Military

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

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Andy Gaillard
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski



Shane McRary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

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

Jesus said..."...in the beginning, at the time of creation, 'God made them male and female,' as the Scripture says. 'And for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one. No human being must separate, then, what God has joined together.'" —Mark 10:5a, 6-9 GNT



FEBRUARY Fundraisers & Events

100 Years!

Sunday February 5th 2-4 PM

We invite you to join Rachel Poe and her family and friends as they celebrate her 100th birthday.

Blanche had her party and now it's Rachel's turn. Help us congratulate this fine Christian woman and mother of three boys for her long life of Christian witness.



New Van Dedicated!

The United Methodist Men's group bought a van for the church in December! Thank you to the UMM and everyone else who contributed to this purchase.

The van was dedicated on Sunday, January 29th by Pastor Jay, WNCC Bishop Paul Leeland, District Superintendent Carl Arrington, and UMM President Steve Kohnle. Despite the cold, piercing wind blowing, we all felt warm in our hearts for this addition to our ministry work at Ebenezer UMC.



Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, February 16th**.

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m.** You can eat in or we will continue to deliver orders of 10+ to area businesses, etc. Please **call early or pre-order large orders on Wednesday by calling: 396-3935** (Bleaka Hollar).

Proceeds will support local missions. Please make your checks out to ART, which stands for *Area Response Team*.

Yum!

Yum!



Sweetheart Banquet Returns!

Saturday February 18th 5-7:00 PM

Our youth group and its leaders have voted to put on another Sweetheart Banquet this year. We invite you to bring your special sweetheart or any friend or family member to an upscale (for Dudley Shoals, anyway) meal of chicken teriyaki or T-bone steak. Babysitting services, with a light meal for the children, will be available for an extra fee.

Chicken plate	\$15
Steak plate	\$15
Both meats	\$20

Tickets are on sale now. See a member of *Teens for Christ* to buy. Proceeds go to the youth program. We thank you for your support.

3 on 3 Basketball Tourney

You think you're good. Prove it! Grab two of your friends and jump into a game of

3 on 3 Basketball Saturday Feb. 25th All Day

Call Kim Ellis at 396-1320 for more details and to sign up. Teams pay a fee to enter.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be sold during the tournament. If you don't play, come and watch and eat!

Proceeds go towards Bolivia Mission Trip.

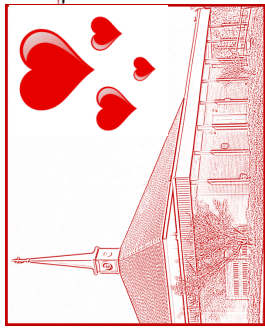




EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

February 2017



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

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>See p. 4 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists</p>		<p>1 Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	<p>2 Happy Groundhog Day!</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Leadership Planning Retreat—9-3:00 PM, see p. 2</p>
<p>5 Rachel Poe 100th Birthday Party—2-4:00 p.m., see p. 6</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Private Party—(12-6:00 PM, reserved)</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Biscuit Sales for A. R. T.—66-9:00 AM, see p. 6</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Sweetheart Banquet—5-7:00 p.m., see p. 6</p>
<p>19 Church Council—4:30 PM</p>	<p>20 President's Day Lord's Supper Ministry—5 PM, see p. 2</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament—All Day see p. 6</p>
<p>26 Girl Scout Sunday UMW—7 PM, see p. 2</p>	<p>27</p>					