



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

February '19

Volume 15 Issue 2

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

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March 2019  
newsletter items are due  
by **Sunday, Feb. 17th.**

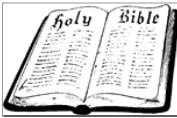
**Only \$9,000 left on  
the CLC mortgage!**  
**Let's keep giving and  
burn that note this  
spring.**

**Praise God for all  
our faithful and special  
givers!**



## Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 5:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every **FOURTH SUNDAY** United Methodist Women



## Pastor's Pen



### New Year's Resolutions

As the year ends and a new year is beginning, we hear a number of people talking about their resolutions. Most people have hope that the new year will be a better period of time. Many decide to do things differently from the previous one. They think about possibilities and make resolutions concerning activities in their lives. Their intentions are based on those hopes for a better year. Some want to budget their money, lose weight or be a better person in general—nothing wrong with any of these intentions. The problem for most is that by the end of the first week of January the resolutions have been forgotten, or are being ignored.

Resolutions are no longer part of my life. Good intentions are difficult to maintain. But there are facets of our personality or activities of our lives that we are not happy having.

Personally, I decided to lose weight. I thought seriously about how I could accomplish this. In my life I have lost several hundred pounds only to regain them and more. What will work for me? I could pray that God would reduce my desire to eat; I could tape my mouth shut for long periods of time. Nah. I examined the foods that I was eating. Too much bread, pasta and rice, too many chips were a main stay of my diet. I cut back and gradually removed these foods, except occasionally, from my food list. Vegetables, salads, nuts and meat became my diet. I also pray for strength to continue this diet. I have lost weight. I want to reduce a little more.

Prayer has helped me. Resolutions fall by the wayside, but through prayer I have felt the presence of God and strength to continue. Dieting is difficult. It is hard to reframe from favorite foods. Talking to God about my needs has helped. Would I recommend my diet to anyone else? No, I would suggest that anyone that wished to lose a little weight, keep a list of the foods they eat and make sure they are receiving proper nutrition.

Prayer has helped me in my life. Many things that used to be important have fallen by the wayside. I concentrate on God's will for life and believe I have formed a deeper relationship with God.

Resolutions have not helped; God and prayer have.

Pastor Tom



## 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.

### Church Council

The Council will meet on **Sunday, February 17th at 4:00 p.m.** All members of the church are invited to attend.

### United Methodist Women

The women will have their annual membership drive on **Sunday, February 24th at 6:00 p.m.** Current members are asked to a covered-dish item to share. Bleaka Hollar will be in charge of the program.

### The Lord's Supper Ministry

The Ministry will prepare and serve a meal on **Monday, February 18th at 5:00 p.m.** See Ricky Baker if you want to help cook. Deliverers need to arrive by 5:00 p.m.

### Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, February 18th at 7:00 p.m.**

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *December & January*:

**In Memory of Tom Harrison by:**  
Jo Nell Harrison

**In Memory of Jack Frye, Ranny Frye & Zetta Mae Frye by:**  
Barbara Frye

**In Memory of Missy Mullinax by:**  
Robert Mullinax

**In Honor of Ricky Baker & Monte Hollar by:**  
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

**In Honor of Patty Coffey by:**  
Robert & Teresa Herman

**In Honor of the Lord's supper Helpers by:**  
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

**In Honor of the Heavenly Sonlighters by:**  
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

**In Honor of Ulysses S. Spencer by:**  
Freida Spencer Matthews & Mildred Starnes Tolbert

**In Honor of Jo Nell Harrison by:**  
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell ♥

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!  
--Matthew 5:6 GNT

### CHRISTIAN GIVING

We received good news this month during the January 20th worship service: **our mortgage on the Christian Life Center is down to \$9,000!** We are grateful to everyone who contributed to this project, especially with their faithful giving, and their special gifts. Our church was blessed with a large contribution in December (you know who you are—thank you very much!), plus the Gifts for Christ amount was \$3,154. We should be able to pay the building off before Vacation Bible School. This will enable us to do much more ministry in the church and in the community—if our members are willing to continue to give—not only their money, but their time and effort.

As a reminder about what Christian monetary giving is all about, I am reprinting the following article on the subject from Ligon Duncan of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals (January 21, 2015; edited for length).

#### 10 ESSENTIAL TRUTHS ABOUT CHRISTIAN GIVING

Very often, people ask or wonder "what are the basic biblical principles for Christian giving?" As we seek God's answer to that question and as we contemplate our own giving to the Lord's church in response to the clear teaching of His Word, perhaps it would be wise and helpful to review those principles here. First, let us go to the Word of God itself, without comment (shortened, see Bible for full passages):

**Matthew 6:1-4** Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven....

**1 Corinthians 16:1-2** Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

**2 Corinthians 8:9-15** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich... For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality - at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need..."

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7** Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

In our review of these four New Testament passages, we find at least ten principles for Christian giving.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## February Events & Fundraisers

### Special Conference

The called Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church is being held on **February 23-26** in St. Louis, Missouri. Our lay representative is Kim Ellis. Those attending the Conference will be voting on at least three plans to determine the direction of the UMC in the coming years.

This is a very important meeting. The UMC is losing membership at an accelerated rate, some of it due to conflicting ideas related to Christian and church doctrine.

Please pray for Kim and the other attendees—that they will be led by God to do what is right and true in God's eyes—not what the culture says. We can be a welcoming church without turning away from God's word or what is true. We can be the salt and the light in the world for Jesus.

May God's will be done.

### Biscuit Sales

**Thursday  
February 21st  
6 AM — 'til gone!**

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg, livermush, bologna, and gravy biscuits on **Thursday, Nov. 15th.**

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. —til gone!** 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!**



## February Celebrations



- 5th—Robert Herman
- 12th—Chris Ellis
- 14th—Brian Knepp
- 16th—Bernice Burns
- 18th—Kay Delahanty
- 19th—Judy Smith
- 20th—Dylan Baker
- 20th—Lucas Teague
- 22nd—Jesse Barber
- 24th—Keith Blair
- 26th—Robert Mullinax
- 29th—Jacob Jenkins

*Happy Anniversary!*

- 14th—Will & Arlene McRary

### Something, con't

*(Continued from page 2)*

1. The Lord Jesus expects and requires us to give. Jesus said to His disciples, "when you give" not "if you give" (Matthew 6:2)! Hence, Christian giving is not optional, but rather essential. We often hear folks say: "in the Old Testament they had to give, but not in the New - now we only give if we want to." This is clearly not Jesus' teaching. He expected all His followers to be givers. Christians will give. Are you giving?
2. The Lord Jesus wants us to give for the right reasons. Jesus warned His disciples not to give for the sake of being admired by men (Matthew 6:1). When we give, we must be careful to examine our motives. We ought to give for the glory of God and the good of His people. We must desire His approval of our giving, rather than the praise and admiration of people. Are you giving for God's praise or man's?
3. The Lord Jesus wants us to practice benevolent or charitable giving. Jesus said "When you give to the poor . . ." (Matthew 6:2-3). Jesus is specifically teaching about "alms" in this passage: aid, charity, or benevolent offerings for the needy. Do you give amply enough to the Church that she can be generous in benevolent giving?
4. The Lord Jesus reminds us that our giving is ultimately to the all-seeing heavenly Father (Matthew 6:3-4). When we give, we are not simply adding to the Church budget, we are giving up a thank offering to the Father Himself... Our ultimate goal in giving is to please Him. Are you conscious of the fact that your giving is to the Lord and seen by the Lord?
5. The Bible teaches that Christian giving is an act of worship. In 1 Corinthians 16:2, Paul teaches the Corinthians that their taking up of the collection is an act of worship which is to be a part of their regular Lord's Day worship. When we put our money in the plate, we are worshiping Almighty God in accordance with His Word. Note well, Paul is speaking here of a "collection for the saints" - this is giving by the Church to the Church for the Church. Did you realize that giving is a part of worship? Is your worship in this area abundant or inhibited? Is giving to the Church a

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Something, con't

*(Continued from page 3)*

priority with you?

6. The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in light of the incarnation. Many Christians argue about whether the tithe (10% of our income) is still the standard for our giving to the Church (disputants usually want to show that less than 10% is fine). Paul scuttles the whole debate in one verse. He says: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Christ's self-giving is now the standard for our giving! We begin from the base of the tithe and aim for emulation of His self-sacrifice. Our giving is to be inspired and instructed by Christ's inexpressible gift. In light of such a challenge, who could possibly satisfy himself with asking "how little a percentage is acceptable for me to give?" Do you try to get by with giving as little as possible to the Lord, or do you give in view of the Lord's costly sacrifice?

7. The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in accordance with our means (2 Corinthians 8:12). Put another way Paul is saying that you should give in proportion to what God has given you. He said it this way in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper." This means at least two things: (1) since we are all supposed to give proportionately, those who have more money are expected to give more [we who are particularly blessed materially must remember this], and (2) the Lord never asks us to give what we do not have, or contribute beyond our means. Are you really giving in

proportion to the material blessings that the Lord has given you?

8. The Bible teaches that the liberality of God's blessings to us is connected to the liberality of our Christian giving. Though it may seem strange, both Jesus and Paul emphasize that there is a relation between our giving to the Lord and the Lord's giving to us. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:6 "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." ...Jesus reminds us of this in Matthew 6:4, where He teaches that our reward in giving comes from our heavenly Father. As someone once said: "The desire to be generous and the means to be generous both come from God." Do you realize that the Lord has given you much, so that you can give much?

9. The Bible teaches that Christian giving must be willing giving, free giving. We learn this in 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion." But doesn't this contradict what we learned under the first principle, that Christian giving is not optional? The answer is, of course, no. True Christian giving is both mandatory and voluntary. It is required by God, but always willingly given by the believer. Is your giving to the Church something you do wholeheartedly, or indifferently, or grudgingly?

10. The Bible teaches that Christian giving ought to be cheerful giving. As Paul says "God loves a cheerful giver." This is a truly amazing assertion. Paul assures us here that the Lord takes a special delight in those who are joyful, energetic, merry givers. Is there joy

in your heart as you give? Can you truly be characterized as a "cheerful giver"?

We have not come close to reaching our potential for giving. Won't you pray that we will give as we ought? That we will give for the right motives? That we will give joyously? And that we will give extravagantly. ♥

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

Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice—you will be blessed by God in what you do.

—James 1:22-25 GNT

"...Freedom will become fleeting when we choose evil. The wrong choices become patterns of behavior that finally masters those who made the choices."

--David Jeremiah

## Our Military

Nick Austin  
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 for January 20, 2019

Attendees: Pastor Tom Hunter, Ricky Baker, Patty Coffey, David & Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Wayne Ellis, Jim Farr, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Jerry Kohnle, John McCrary, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Will McCrary, Phyllis Minton, Cindy Sears, Billy Long, Cinda McCrary, Kim Knepp.

David Crouse opened the meeting and thanked the members who attended. Our devotional reading came from Ephesian 4:1-7, about the church being one body, one spirit. David reminded us that we grow and worship together as the body of Christ. We live in a fallen world, and we struggle with our own sins and weaknesses; so conflict will occur. Yet, if we keep our eyes on Christ, and develop humility, love one another, and practice forgiveness, we can continue to work together and do good things in Christ name and for his glory.

Roy Hamby opened the meeting with prayer. The November Council meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Pastor Tom related a story of how Marley Smith, who had been given \$5 by his Sunday school teacher to give to any charity he chose, decided to give it to Briar's custody battle. Praise God!

Jo Nell Harrison brought us the finance report: \$15,000 insurance amount that we received will go to the Trustees to rebuild the barbecue shed that fell down during the big snowstorm in December. Jo Nell also announced that we paid \$15,000 on the CLC mortgage this month. We now owe \$9,000 (principle). We also paid all the Apportionments to the UMC for 2018.

John McCrary reported for the UMM: the men aren't doing much now because of the weather, but have many projects planned to do when the weather is better for working outside. The UMM spent \$1300 cash in 2018 on projects, but the men have done more than that amount reflects, because of others supplying the items needed to do the work.

Bleaka Hollar reported that the effort to begin a small group study has not garnered any interest. We may try again when the weather is not so uncertain. The ART Biscuit sales started back this month. Money from this is used to help people in the community.

Kim Ellis did not have anything to report for the UMW. She said that we will have a children's event for Easter on the April 20<sup>th</sup>. She is looking for a volunteer to head it up.

Roy Hamby from the Trustees reported: The CLC outside faucet had some problems again, because at some point, it was not turned off or drained to keep it from freezing. The faucet was replaced. People who use the kitchen and mop afterwards, need to remember to turn the water off on the inside and drain the outside faucet to avoid this problem. More faulty faucets in the back of the kitchen were replaced. The Trustees are looking 3 different types of buildings to replace it the barbecue shed. The old shed will have to be torn down and removed when the weather is more amenable, so that they can replace the old building. There were more repairs on some done on some of the heating/cooling system units. They are still looking for a new inside kitchen door, and will purchase it soon.

Marsha McCrary, Sunday school Superintendent announced that our children's classes attendance has increased a little.

Judy McCrary announced that Debbie Thomas is leaving as director of the SCCM.

Ricky Baker said that the SPPRC is caught up on its paper work on Pastor Tom for the district. The group will meet in the near future.

Jerry Kohnle brought up a request by Tom Kohnle about fixing some bare spots in the cemetery. The Trustees and the Cemetery Committee will look into that at their meeting on the 21st.

Pastor Tom reported that we gave away 300 biscuits at the Granite Falls tree lighting event in 2018. That went very well, and so did the hanging of the greens and putting the stuff away. Thanks to everyone for their help.

Tom also thought that we might want to rethink the food pantry. Much of it goes to waste, or we might change the types of food that we have in it, because many people don't know how to cook. Another idea is to give gift cards to local grocery stores with restrictions on what they can purchase.

Tom requested that some of the

council members take a copy of the book, *Get Their Name*, home to read for ideas about growing our membership and attendance.

Easter is coming up in April, and Ash Wednesday in March, which we had on Sunday last year. He suggested a name change for the Lay Revival, maybe, *Journey with Jesus*, and that we have it during Holy Week going into Maundy Thursday and the Good Friday service.

Since many people have left the church, and are no longer supporting the church, we will be removing names from the roll this year. We have been through a rough time, but we have accomplished a lot in this past year. We have pulled together well. Tom congratulates us for what we have been able to do.

The Good News Bible club will start in February. Tom and Linda Moretz will be involved in it. The new school superintendent has declared that the club will not have to pay the \$100 fee for use of the facilities. Around 150 students have signed up for the club so far.

Kim Ellis thanked the church for supporting Kirk and her on their trip to Belize for mission work. Our money was used to pay for the roof and one tool to build the enclosure where the children can purchase food for lunch from local vendors.

Tom made a motion to adjourn; second by Bleaka. Meeting adjourned.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 

...the next time someone says you should do more than pray, remember this insight from Adoniram Gordon, the founder of Gordon College: "You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed." Amen! (Breakpoint.org article)

"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love one another but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."  
—Mother Teresa



# Gifts for Christ—2018

## In Memory of

\***Doug Behmer** by John & Kelly McCrary  
\***Brenda Causby** by Rosalind Kelley  
\***Junior & Jean Emory** by Patsy and Tom Hunter  
\***Bill & Sue King** by Patsy and Tom Hunter  
\***Joe Blair and Sondra Crouse** by David & Sonya Crouse  
\***Zachary Cullop & Missy Mullinax** by Barbara Ferguson  
\***Bob Sears** by Nancy Sears  
\***Tom Harrison** by Jo Nell Harrison  
\***Boyd, Allie & Mindie McCrary** by Cinda McCrary  
\***Alden & Louise Sheets and Steve McCrary** by Cinda McCrary  
\***J. B. Coffey** by Patty Coffey  
\***Rick Lyda & Edith Lyda** by Jerry & Loretta Helton  
\***Eugene Helton & Volenia Helton** by Jerry & Loretta Helton  
\***Jim & Pearl McCrary** by Bleaka & Monte Hollar  
\***Doris Ann McCrary** by Bleaka & Monte Hollar  
\***R. L. & Margie Hollar** by Bleaka & Monte Hollar  
\***Missy Mullinax** by Robert Mullinax  
\***Judy Mullinax & Dennis Mullinax** by Robert Mullinax  
\***Frances Baker** by Ricky & Shawn Baker  
\***Exie Stafford, Keith McCrary, and Linda Bowman** by Judy McCrary  
\***Zetta Mae Frye, Max Frye, & Corrine DeVries** by Gerald Frye  
\***J. C. & Lois Ellis and Bob Sears** by Wayne, Kim, Jordan, & Tyler Ellis  
\***Kenneth & Rachel Parlier and Irene Norris** by Roy & Tina Hamby  
\***Keith McCrary & Roy Good** by John & Kelly McCrary  
\***Charles Lick and Houston Adams** by Tammy Adams  
\***Wade Austin** by Anthony & Sherry Austin  
\***Charels and Alice Newton** by Anthony & Sherry Austin  
\***Leo & Polly McCrary and Larry Huffman** by Rene Huffman  
\***Ralph & Phyllis Collins** by Jason & Candace Collins  
\***Steve McCrary and Leo McCrary** by Jason & Candace Collins  
\***Keith McCrary** by Brian & Kim Knepp

\***George Hutchinson and Doc Dockery** by Celeste Creaseman  
\***Clarence & Louise McCrary** by Will & Arlene McCrary  
\***Barry & Lou McCrary** by Will & Arlene McCrary  
\***Gary, Betty, and Wilma Shoemake** by Will & Arlene McCrary  
\***Ken & Addie Kingsley** by Gerry & Ted Daniel  
\***Ethel Daniel and George Flatt and Tom Willis** by Gerry & Ted Daniel

## In Honor of

\***Judy McCrary** by John & Kelly McCrary  
\***Hunter Tolbert** by John & Kelly McCrary  
\***Gary & Phyllis Minton** by John & Kelly McCrary  
\***Judy Smith and Donald Baker** by Ricky & Shawn Baker  
\***The Baker Boys** by Ricky & Shawn Baker  
\***Theo Jayden Yount & Ryatt James Walker** by Nancy Sears  
\***Siena Youst and Lucus Yount** by Barbara C. Frye  
\***Zalee and Zayra Frye** by Barbara C. Frye  
\***Levi Bowls and Eva Fite** by Barbara C. Frye  
\***Carson & Baylor Hamby** by Roy & Tina Hamby  
\***Randy McCrary and Cole McCrary** by Marsha & Randy McCrary  
\***Judy McCrary and Russ & JoAnn Knepp** by Brian & Kim Knepp  
\***Louise Teague** by Will & Arlene McCrary  
\***Scott & Aaron McCrary** by Cinda McCrary  
\***Ezma Austin** by Anthony & Sherry Austin  
\***Clementine Hutchinson** by Celeste Creaseman

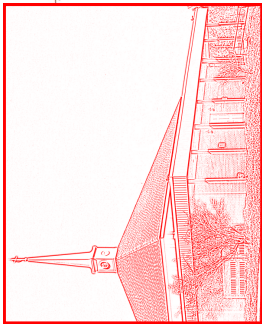
Thank you for honoring your friends and relatives as you honored our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with your special gifts at Christmas time. You have helped us to get much closer to paying off the Christian Life Center mortgage. May God bless you in 2019!



**EBENEZER UMC**



*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

# February 2019



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Every Sunday:</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir Practice			<b>Every Wed.:</b> 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM <i>Teens for Christ</i> 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies		1	2 Happy Groundhog Day! 
3	4 Basketball—7 PM	5 <i>Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM</i> Volleyball—7 PM	6	7	8	9
10	11 Basketball—7 PM	12 Volleyball—7 PM	13	14 	15	16 Baker Wedding Shower
17 Church Council—4:00 PM	18 Food Ministry—5 PM Trustees Meeting—7 PM Basketball—7 PM	19 <i>Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM</i> Volleyball—7 PM	20	21 <i>Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!</i>	22	23
24 UMW—6 PM	25 Basketball—7 PM	26 Volleyball—7 PM	27	28	