



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

January 14

Volume 10 Issue 1

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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



Once again we come to the beginning of a new calendar year. With the New Year comes the excitement that 2014 will bring with it new beginnings. Wouldn't it be great if every January 1 we could wipe clean the slate of our lives and start completely over again?

Sadly, while we can make New Year resolutions concerning goals that we set for our lives in the coming Year, we really don't get a chance to start fresh and new. However, with Christ we do have an opportunity to start anew. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reads, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!"

Sure, accepting Christ as our Lord doesn't make our bills go away, and may not free us from the human struggles that we face in life; but with Christ we are given a new life, one that goes beyond the realm of this world.

Being "born again" also gives us something that the world does not have to help us face the things that we may have to face in the coming year--the Holy Spirit. Jesus says; "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," John 10:10.

When we use that which God gives to us to face that which we must face, we have a power that is greater than this world to guide us, direct our decisions, and cope with whatever we must.

Here is a fail-proof New Year's resolution for all of us; listen closely: begin with Christ. Those who have accepted Christ as their Lord have a promise that every day can be a new beginning. We can go to our Lord and seek his forgiveness, and he will forgive us of our past mistakes and sins; then restore us in his presence.

For those who have never professed Christ as Lord, there is this promise, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved," Romans 10:13. And as quoted earlier, anyone in Christ is a

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If anyone is in *Christ*
he is a new creation.

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: 396-2214

Church's e-mail: eumc@ebenezerum-church.org



Meetings

United Methodist Men

The men will meet on **Sunday, January 12th at 3:00 p.m.**

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, January 12th at 4:30 p.m.** All members of the church may attend.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m.** Nancy Sears will present the program. Judy McCrary and Bleaka Hollar are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Church Office Closures

The Church Office will be closed on **January 1, 2014** for New Year's Day.

February Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the February newsletter in by **January 26th**. Thank you. —Editor

January Fundraiser

There will be a **3 on 3 basketball tournament on**

**Saturday, January 4th
from 9—4:30 p.m.**

Come watch the fun and stop by for a hamburger or hot dog around lunchtime. Proceeds go towards missions.

The Bible is a “feast of blessings, promises, hopes, assurances, encouragements, warnings, guidelines—essentially everything we need to navigate this perilous obstacle course we call life.”

Reminder

ALL church committees need to meet in January to elect new officers (if necessary) and acquaint their new members with the duties and tasks of the committee. You can also determine how often and when you are going to meet in 2014.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

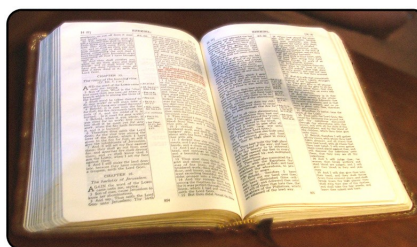
THE LIVING SWORD

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. —Hebrews 4:12 NKJV

Although the Holy Bible remains the best seller of all time, it is probably the least read best seller of all time, too. What keeps people from reading the Bible? Is it busyness, laziness, or fear?

I realize that our world today is full of distractions, which makes it difficult to set aside time for reading anything, let alone the Bible. After all, the Bible is not just one book; it is 66 books in all. It is also very old—and we prefer new things today. So biblical ignorance is rampant in our society; but, sadly, it is also rampant within the Church. Busyness is not a good reason though—not for Christians. We always find time to do what we really want to do. Make the commitment to read and the time will be available.

I have often heard people say that they just don't understand the Bible or that they find it difficult to read. This complaint is a hard sale today. There are at least 50 different translations available in the English language. As of 2012, parts of the Bible have been translated into 2,778 languages. The whole Bible is available in 518 world languages. There is even a Manga version (graphical/picture type) and a version using Cockney rhyming slang. No one has to wade through the old King James Version, which used old English language and grammar. (Actually, we don't even have the original old King James Version or only old English scholars would be able to read it.) Language is fluid, not static; and these translations help keep the Bible readable for every generation. There is a translation out there, especially for English readers, which you can understand. Drop that excuse.



As for the fear, I can understand that one. For as the verse in Hebrews 4:12 tells us, God's Word is “sharper than a two-edged sword.” When you read the Bible regularly, you will be changed. This will be a blessing, but, at first, it may feel more like a curse. As with surgery to remove a cancerous tumor, when God removes evil from us, it can hurt and take time for a full recovery.

Yet, the Bible is a “feast of blessings, promises, hopes, assurances, encouragements, warnings, guidelines—essentially everything we need to navigate this perilous obstacle course we call life.” I highly recommend you find a way around your obstacles or objections and read the Word daily. Please accept the challenge from Emily Johnson and read through the Bible in 2014, even if you do not want to officially join the Bible reading group. She can point you to a Bible reading plan that will be more pleasurable than a “read straight through” option.

As you read, do not expect to understand everything you read. God's

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Church Council — December 8th, 2013

Attendees: David & Linda Abernethy, Anthony & Sherry Austin, Judy McCrary, David & Sonya Crouse, Boyd & Margaret Fairchild, Barbara Frye, Chris Haas, Bleaka Hollar, Keith Keener, Joann Knepp, Eric Lane, Cindy Sears, Jimmy Stone, Gerald Frye, Jerry Kohnle, Linda Moretz, Bob Sears, Scott Miller, Alice Miller, and Rhyann Stone.

Gerald Frye called the meeting to order and opened us with prayer. Reading of the minutes; minutes approved as written.

Financial Report: Eric Lane presented the information for Jo Nell and opened the floor to questions. Eric brought forth a motion to move the Thanksgiving meal funds to the Food Ministry program. Bleaka Hollar second. After general discussion, the motion passed. Eric will also go to the person who wrote the bus fund check and ask if we can move this to the General Fund or somewhere else.

The floor was opened to questions. Concerning the question about the CD; we are waiting until the first of year to decide what to do about that. The Financial report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Rocking chair for Nursery is not yet resolved. Concerning the light change over (from florescent to LED)—suggestion is to wait until we have to change them. First Aid kit supplies have been bought and will be put in the cabinet. Automated defibrillator costs and training was then discussed. David explained that the \$1800 cost was a package deal with case and other supplies needed. Once we get the item, there will need to be training for people in the church to use the equipment. We have 4 qualified people at this time. David is checking on having someone come to the church and teach a CPR class. We will bring this up again in

January 2014.

NEW BUSINESS: Cindy made a motion to get keys made that people could check out when needing to use the CLC. There was general discussion over this. Bleaka said that she is willing to come and open and lock doors if she knows about the events. It was suggested that we give renters phone numbers to call if they cannot get in the building. Motion was rejected.

Eric brought up that we now have a form for borrowing tables and chairs. People need to go through the Trustees first to borrow them. There was no more new business.

Eric thanked everyone for their participation on the board this past year.

UMW is going to fix breakfast for the Gateway School on Dec. 20th. There was a motion by Bleak Hollar and a second by Judy McCrary that if they need money for the food items, can we take it from the evangelism funds. Motion passed.

David Crouse brought up that the Pairs and Spares class wants to prepare a meal for the school, too, early next year. He will ask the UMM for help also. We will decide on that in January.

Eric finished his thanks and said that he was looking forward to more ministry and missions work in the coming year.

Gerald thanked people for their vote of confidence in him to chair the council in the coming year. God has placed each one of us in positions of responsibility and we need to use our resources for His glory and the work of His Kingdom. Jimmy Stone dismissed us with prayer.

—By Cindy Sears

Blood Drive



Our annual winter blood drive in memory of Leo McCrary is on

**Monday, January 6th.
2:30—7:00 PM**

We encourage you to come give blood to help save lives in our community. We serve hot soup and sandwiches, along with homemade desserts to the blood donors.

This is your chance to give a little and help a lot.

We ask that the members of our church help by bringing soup and desserts to share. Volunteers are needed. See Gwen Teague, the blood drive coordinator, to volunteer.

Special Giving

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

In Memory of Tom Harrison's Birthday by:

Jo Nell Harrison

In Memory of Keith Bradford by:

Grace Bradford
Cathy L. Swanson

In Honor of "The Rock" class by:

Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Grace Bradford by:

Cathy L. Swanson

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

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

—John 1:29 NKJV



Something..., con't

ways and His thoughts are higher than ours (see Isaiah 55:8-11). There are some passages that are obscure even to scholars and theologians. Some passages may leave you scratching your head today, but when you read the same passages again later in life, the Holy Spirit will turn on the light bulb of understanding for you right when you need it. Be willing to listen to what the Word is saying, and do not attempt to add to it or twist it around to suit your own desires. Do not be quick to put your own spin on His Words (see Proverbs 30:5-6). If you get behind in your reading, don't just give up. Play catch-up or just start from the day you ought to be on. Be consistent and committed but not obsessive.

Remember that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." But don't forget to read the next verse in that passage, which says, "...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work," (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God's Word is not meant to just be read; it is meant to be acted upon—to lead to action. Use it to defend yourself in times of temptation, to encourage you in times of affliction, to guide you when making decisions, to change you to be more like Christ each day, and to lead you into service to God and man.

I believe that the higher the number of our members who accept the challenge to read through the Bible in 2014, the more blessings God will bestow upon our church AND the more we will be able to minister to our community in the name of and with the love of Christ. Accept the challenge; be blessed; and become a blessing.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," Psalm 119:105. (NKJV)

"Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk." (CEV)

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." (NLT)

"Your words are a flashlight to light the path ahead of me and keep me from stumbling." (Living Bible)

"Your word is like a lamp that guides my steps, a light that shows the path I should take." (Easy-to-Read Version)

"Your word is a lamp for my steps; it lights the path before me." (The Voice)

"Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey." (CEB)



Pastors Corner, con't

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new creation. So you, too, can find new life--a new beginning for your life.

Yes, I look forward to the new year of 2014 for "life is worth the living because he lives." Happy New Year and may your life be blessed forever.

Eric Lane

Light My Path, Lord

An opportunity to join a new kind of Bible Study is coming January 1st! This group will commit to reading through the Bible in 2014 by reading a portion of the Bible each day. The group will also meet once a month to share a short devotion; then go out into the community to perform an outreach mission.

Anyone interested, please join the meeting between services on **Sunday, December 29** to pick up a reading plan and discuss our first meeting date and mission. See Emily Johnson for more information or if you miss the meeting or cannot attend.

Join us and be blessed!

All ages are welcome. You do not have to be a member of our church to participate.

Walk to Emmaus

The *Walk to Emmaus* is a spiritual retreat for building church leaders. It consists of a 72 hour absence of distractions so that you can focus on God and what His plan in your life may be. There are two groups on two separate weekends, one for men, and one for women. The **men's walk will be March 27-30, 2014, and the women's walk will be the next weekend, April 3-6, 2014.**

If you are interested, please see David or Sonya Crouse, Jimmy Stone, Lucas or Sarah Teague, or Eric Lane. These people are known sponsors at Ebenezer UMC.





January Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 1st—Mary Teague
- 4th—Kyle Settlemyre, Rhyan Stone
- 6th—Lindsay Teague
- 10th—Cole McCrary
- 14th—Makayla Settlemyre
- 15th—Emily Johnson
- 16th—Anna Miller
- 18th—Chuck Adams, Kasey Smith
- 19th—Lindsay Bradford
- 21st—Kennedy Behmer
- 23rd—Tyler Ellis
- 25th—Dawn Yount
- 26th—Steve Miller
- 27th—Eric Lane, Amanda Simmons, Stephanie Shook
- 28th—Blanche Kohnle, Dwight Kelley
- 29th—Weston Triplette
- 30th—Glennie Sims, Kevin Sears
- 31st—Rachel Poe

Happy Anniversary!



- 4th—Eric & Beth Lane
- 27th—Anthony & Sherry Austin
- 27th—David & Sonya Crouse

Special Funds Report

We thank everyone for their continued support of our church and the special funds that we request you to help us with on top of our regular budget. Below is a report of some of these special requests:

Costa Rica Mission Fund: \$5,223 in 2013 (Biscuit Sales and Baked Goods Sales)

Habitat House Fund: approx. \$3,530 as of Dec. 15 (direct giving). Our goal is \$5,000 by spring for the next house project.

Youth Activities Fund: \$5,181.93 (fundraisers and direct giving)



Acolyte Schedule - JANUARY

5th	Payton Lyda
12th	Makayla Settlemyre
19th	Austin Teague
26th	Kevin Miller

Nursery Schedule - JANUARY

5th	8:30	Cheryl Vosdingh & Tammy Adams
	11:00	Kay Gilbert
12th	8:30	Heather Stone & Kim Ellis
	11:00	Joann Knepp
19th	8:30	Keith & Susan Keener
	11:00	Beth Lane
26th	8:30	Bleaka Hollar & Cinda McCrary
	11:00	Natasha Haas
	8:30	
	11:00	

Our Military

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

Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Joey Deal
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Andy Gaillard
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner



Chris Kaisenski
Shane McCrary
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Jason Nichol
Michael Potts
James Starbuck
Hunter Tolbert



*They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,
Their righteousness endures forever;
Their horn will be lifted high in honor.*

—Psalm 112:9 NIV

Our church members gave 68 boxes of toys/gifts to *Samaritan's Purse* this year to distribute to children around the world for Christmas. Thank you for showing the love of Christ through this ministry.



In Memory of

Tom Harrison and Eula Looper by Jo Nell Harrison
Helen Munday by Nancy Sears
Keith Bradford by Grace Bradford
Keith Bradford by Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Smith
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Hollar by Monte & Bleaka Hollar
Mr. & Mrs. Jim McCrary & Doris Ann by Monte & Bleaka Hollar
Our son, Greg Hill & Virginia McCrary by Larry & Alice Hill
Sondra Crouse by David & Sonya Crouse
Zachary Cullop by Barbara Ferguson
Zetta Mae Frye by Gerald Frye
Corrine DeVries by Gerald Frye
Gary Cullop by Robert & Missy Mullinax
Keith McCrary by John & Kelly McCrary
Gerald Miller by Barbara Miller
Terry Cloninger by Teresa Simmons
Logan Family by Brenda Coffey
Steve McCrary by Cinda McCrary
Boyd & Allie McCrary & Mindie McCrary by Cinda McCrary
Keith Bradford by Wayne, Kim, Jordan, & Tyler Ellis

Memorial Poinsettias



We thank everyone who honored their loved ones this Christmas season with the purchase of a poinsettia through our church. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

NOTICE: We are not having a biscuit sale this month for Costa Rica Missions. Please pray for our team as they return to Costa Rica this month to work in the field for Christ and His kingdom.

In Honor of

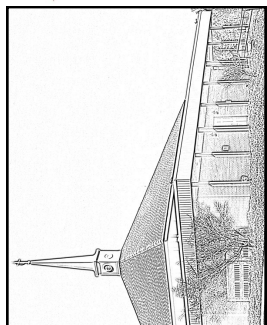
Blanche Kohnle by Jo Nell Harrison
Missy Mullinax by Nancy Sears
Pairs & Spares Sunday School Class by Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Smith
Paul and Edna Hurt by Grace Bradford
Braylen Abigale Helton by Jerry & Loretta Helton
Missy Mullinax by Robert & Missy Mullinax
Barbara Frye by Robert & Missy Mullinax
Barbara Miller by Robert & Missy Mullinax
Nancy Sears by Robert & Missy Mullinax
Dennis Mullinax by Robert & Missy Mullinax
Judy Mullinax by Robert & Missy Mullinax
Boyd, Emily & Connor Johnson by David & Debbie Britt
Ebenezer Congregation by David & Debbie Britt
Gary & Phyllis Minton by John & Kelly McCrary
Debbie Britt by Boyd, Emily & Connor Johnson
Phyllis Price by Boyd, Emily & Connor Johnson


Lillian Price by Boyd, Emily & Connor Johnson
Mary Johnson by Boyd, Emily & Connor Johnson
Judy McCrary by John & Kelly McCrary
Gail Cloninger by Teresa Simmons
Jim Simmons by Teresa Simmons
Jennie Simmons by Teresa Simmons



**EBENEZER UMC***Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

January 2014

**Ebenezer United Methodist Church***Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.***7**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship	See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists		1 Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies	2	3	4 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament—9-4:30, see p. 2
5	6 Blood Drive—2:30—7:00 PM, see p. 3	7 Prayer Group—10AM	8	9 	10	11
12 UMM—3 PM Church Council—4:30 PM	13	14 Prayer Group—10AM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Prayer Group—10AM	22	23	24	25
26 UMW—7 PM	27	28 Prayer Group—10AM	29	30	31 