



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

January '20

Volume 16 Issue 1

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

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"What we call 'values' today are really nothing more than mere sentimentality, still drawing on the vapor trails of Christianity." --William Barr

John Adams: *Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*

February 2020 newsletter items are due by **Tuesday, Jan. 21st.**



Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 5:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 6:00p 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 Pen



Hope You Had a Very Merry Christmas

The year is winding down and we have just celebrated many people's favorite holiday, **Christmas**. December 25th is a day young and old alike wait to appear. When I was a child, it seemed that Christmas came every **two years**; now that I am no longer a child, it comes every **six months**.

Christmas Carole by Charles Dickens is my favorite secular version of the blessed events. It is a story of redemption, transformation, and love. Ebenezer Scrooge, the primary character, becomes a transformed man; not only celebrating the holiday, but blessing his clerk and the town of London as well.

At least 5 movies have been produced with the name of Christmas Carole, and several others have a similar storyline but different title. It appeals to all ages.

Christmas Carols are one of my favorite music genres. Most tell the story of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Some of my favorites:

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming, Away in a Manger (both tunes), It Came upon the Midnight Clear, What Child is this, In the Bleak Midwinter, He is Born and Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.

I cannot list all the songs I like, nor can I sing them all. I love to hear a beautiful voice sing *Ave Maria*, but I would not publicly disgrace it by attempting to sing it.

Christmas time is family time. Too many families are separated by time, distance, and old hurts. We cannot do much to change job requirements. (While serving in the military, I was separated from family for seven Christmases).

Jesus came to heal and make whole. Wouldn't Christmas be wonderful if we could forgive each other for real and imagined hurts from years past and say, "I love and forgive you, will you forgive me?" As Christians we do not have the right to hold grudges. Let us forgive even if we are not forgiven.

Christmas is for sharing. God shared God's son with the world. May we share that same son as the reason for this beautiful season. My prayer for you, "May you love and share as God loves and shares with you."

Pax Christi

Pastor Tom

Happy New Year!

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 Office Closed

The church office will be **closed on Wednesday, January 1st.** Happy New Year!

UMW Christmas Meeting

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, January 5th at 6:00 p.m. at the parsonage.** This is the annual Christmas party. Please bring a \$10 gift to exchange during the meeting. Refreshments will be provided.

Church Council Meeting

Members of the 2020 Church Council will meet on **Sunday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m.** New Members: Ted Daniel, Kenny Silver, Cindy Satterwhite, and Monte Hollar.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, January 27th at 7:00 p.m.** New members: Gary Minton, and Monte Hollar (Chairperson).

2020 Committee Meetings

NOTE: All Church committees should have an orientation meeting in January or February for their new members and vote on a chairperson if necessary. Contact the office with time and day.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *December*:

In Memory of Bob Sears by:
Nancy Sears

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

In Memory of Wayne Reid, Lillian Reid, & Kenneth Reid by:
Gail Reid

In Memory of Jerry Kohnle by:
Marilyn Kohnle

In Honor of Our Dear Friends at Ebenezer by:
Larry & Alice Hill



Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sits on it...And I saw the dead...standing before the throne...the dead were judged according to what they had done...Those who did not have their names written in the book of the living were thrown into the lake of fire. —Revelation 20:11, 12, 15(selected)

SCALES OR GRACE?

One of the people that I often listen to and read on the Internet is Dennis Prager, a Jew who comments on today's culture and politics. Even though I agree with much of what he says, I found one thing that he said disturbing. A man asked him about "getting to heaven" and wondered if he could make it without a strong belief in God or Jesus, or active participation in some religion. As a Jew, Prager would not acknowledge Jesus as the Savior. I understood that. But his answer to the man wasn't very logical—even from a Jewish standpoint (at least in my mind's eye). Yet, his answer is a belief that permeates our society and even some of our Christian churches. Prager believes that if his good deeds outweigh his bad deeds, then all will be well when he finally meets his Maker face to face.

This reminds me of the Egyptian belief that the soul (heart) of each person is weighed by the gods on a scale after his death. Those whose evil deeds outweigh their good deeds are punished forever. As related on Wikipedia:



"This concept of weighing something in order to judge the fate of the deceased is first seen in ancient Egypt around 2,400 B.C., where people's hearts are weighed on a scale against a feather.

The Weighing of the Heart would take place in Duat (the Underworld) where the dead were judged by Anubis, using a feather, representing Ma'at, the goddess of truth and justice responsible for maintaining order in the universe. The heart was the seat of the life-spirit (ka). Hearts heavier or lighter than the feather of Ma'at were rejected and eaten by Ammit, the Devourer of Souls."

This idea also shows up in Ancient Greek thought; and makes its way into Christianity later by way of a heretical document, the "Testament of Abraham." This is why Michael the Archangel is often depicted holding scales and weighing people's souls. But this idea is not found in the Bible—and certainly not in the New Testament. Even in the Old Testament, it is flatly stated in Isaiah 64:6 that our righteousness is as "filthy rags" in God's eyes. The verses above this one tells us that God welcomes "those who find joy in doing what is right, those who remember how you want them to live." Yet, the verses also state that God is "angry with us, but we went on sinning: in spite of your great anger we have continued to do wrong since ancient times." The daily bloody sacrifices in the Temple were a constant reminder

(Continued on page 3)



January Events & Fundraisers

Blood Drive

**Date to be announced
3-7 PM**



Our annual winter blood drive **in memory of Leo McRary** will be coming up soon. Please tell your

friends and co-workers, and ask them to give so that others may live.

We will serve hot soup and sandwiches to the donors, and ask that our members help supply the soup and some sweets. Thank you.

To volunteer to help, please see Cindy Sears or Bleaka Hollar for more information.



Biscuit Sales

**Thursday
January 16
6 AM — 'til gone!**

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

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*.

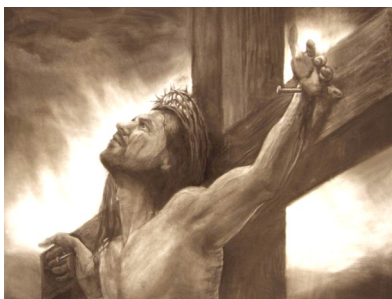
Yum! Yum!



Something, cont'd

that we cannot be righteous without God's help and forgiveness. The Apostle Paul writes in anguish in Romans 7:14-25 that though he desires to do what is good, he often does what is wrong. Our sinful nature wars within our hearts daily and we lose many battles. But Paul closes this passage with the wonderful declaration: "What an unhappy man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is taking me to death? Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

When a person accepts Jesus as his Savior and Lord, immediately he is justified in God's eyes—but only because God now sees his Son's righteousness covering us, instead of seeing our sins and sinful nature. Even though I have basically been a "good person" throughout my life, I know that I cannot stand before an all holy and all good God on my own merits and survive. It is grace that will save me and you—nothing else will. You cannot out give God. You cannot bribe God. You cannot match God in his goodness. And you cannot love more than God "who gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes on him shall not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16b) Nonbelievers will stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment and be found "wanting." Believers will stand before a throne of judgment, too; but



January Celebrations



- 1st—Barbara Shelton
- 1st—Mary Teague
- 4th—Rhyan Stone
- 5th—Jason Collins
- 10th—Cole McCrary
- 14th—Garry Minton
- 14th—Neal Haas
- 16th—Rosalind Kelley
- 18th—Chuck Adams
- 20th—Barbara Ferguson
- 21st—Kennedy Behmer
- 23rd—Tyler Ellis
- 25th—Dawn Yount
- 27th—Amanda Simmons
- 28th—Dwight Kelley
- 30th—Kevin Sears



Happy Anniversary!

- 27th—David & Sonya Crouse

only to judge our life works as followers of Jesus. We will be covered by the blood of Christ, and found "pure." Doesn't grace sound wonderful and sure? How could anyone believe they will be good enough to merit heaven on the record of their own works?

"Who will rescue me from this body that is taking me to death? Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ!" Amen and praise be to God, and to God only!





Gifts for Christ

In Honor Of

- ***Judy McCrary** by John & Kelly McCrary
- ***Gary & Phyllis Minton** by John & Kelly McCrary
- ***Theo Jayden Yount, Ryatt James Walker, & Mackenzie McCrary** by Nancy Sears
- ***Siena Youst** by Barbara C. Frye
- ***Lucus Yount** by Barbara C. Frye
- ***Zaylee Frye** by Barbara C. Frye
- ***Zayra Frye** by Barbara C. Frye
- ***Levi Bowls** by Barbara C. Frye
- ***Reed Bowls** by Barbara C. Frye
- ***Eva Fite** by Barbara C. Frye
- ***Cole McCrary** by Marsha & Randy McCrary
- ***Louise Teague** by Will & Arlene McCrary
- ***Brian Knepp & Judy McCrary** by Kim Knepp
- ***Ruby Martin** by Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- ***Our kids & Grandkids** by Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- ***Clair Gilbert** by Kay Gilbert
- ***Tammy & Gary Camp** by Judy McCrary
- ***John & Kelly McCrary** by Judy McCrary
- ***Kim & Brian Knepp** by Judy McCrary
- ***Darren & Sarah McCrary** by Judy McCrary
- ***Our Children & Grandchildren** by Tom & Patsy Hunter
- ***The Hard Working Ebenezer Church Family** by Tom & Patsy Hunter



In Memory Of

- ***Brenda Causby** by Rosalind Kelley
- ***Junior & Jean Emory** by Patsy and Tom Hunter
- ***Bill & Sue King** by Patsy and Tom Hunter
- ***Laura Silver** by Kenny Silver
- ***Zachary Cullop & Missy Mullinax** by Barbara Ferguson
- ***Bob Sears** by Nancy Sears
- ***Tom Harrison** by Jo Nell Harrison
- ***Paul & Inez Spencer** by Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell
- ***James F. & Nell Campbell** by Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell
- ***Seth & Hester Stafford** by Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell
- ***Edith Lyda** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- ***Eugene Helton & Volenia Helton** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- ***Rick Lyda & Diane Brown** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- ***Zetta Mae Frye, Max Frye, & Corrine DeVries** by Gerald Frye
- ***J. C. & Lois Ellis and Bob Sears** by Wayne, Kim, Jordan, & Tyler Ellis
- ***Keith McCrary & Roy Good** by John & Kelly McCrary
- ***Charles Lick and Houston Adams** by Chuck & Tammy Adams
- ***Keith McCrary** by Kim Knepp
- ***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
- ***Oren & Virginia Teague, Fred Brown, and Phyllis Anderson** by Lucas & Sarah Teague
- ***John & Wilda Cole and Leo & Polly McCrary** by Randy & Marsha McCrary
- ***John & Essie Jenkins and John & Annie Pope** by Bob & Peggy Jenkins
- ***Wilbur Martin** by Russ & JoAnn Knepp



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

"Listen!" says Jesus. "I am coming soon! I will bring my rewards with me, to give to each one according to what he has done...Happy are those who wash their robes clean and so have the right to eat the fruit from the tree of life... —Revelation 22:12, 14a GNT

Our Military

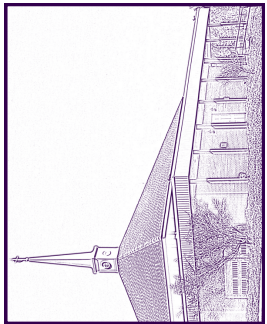
Kyle Blair
Ricky Garland
Trey Hefner
Shane McCrary
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

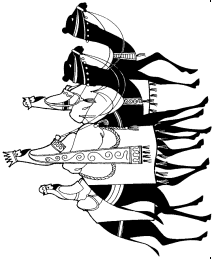


Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.

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

January 2020

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir Practice	 6 Basketball—7 PM	Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	1 <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 Volleyball—7 PM	3	4
5 <i>UMW Christmas Party—6 PM at Parsonage</i>	6 Basketball—7 PM	7	8	9 Volleyball—7 PM	10	11
12	13 Basketball—7 PM	14	15	16 <i>Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!</i> Volleyball—7 PM	17	18
19	20 <i>Food Ministry—5 PM</i> Basketball—7 PM MLK, Jr. Day	21	22	23 Volleyball—7 PM	24	25
26 <i>Church Council—4:00 PM</i>	27 Basketball—7 PM <i>Trustees Meeting—7 PM</i>	28	29	30 Volleyball—7 PM	31	