



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

# JAN '21

Volume 17 Issue 1

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

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

—James 1:2-4 NIV

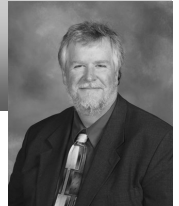
## Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 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 Note



Congratulations! You have made it to 2021. Saying that does not imply that our times of trial are all behind us. The problems of 2020 will follow us into this year. We will continue to deal with Covid-19 and the fallout from this illness. We will continue to deal with the political division in our nation. We still need to have General Conference in order to make decisions related to same sex marriage and ordination questions. We will still deal with our own health, financial, family, and personal issues. All of that has followed us into the new year.

We have also been followed into this new year by the same God who saw us through 2020. We still have Jesus sitting at the right hand of God. We are still covered by the blood of Christ. The Holy Spirit wind still blows through our lives. As Paul reminds us in the letter to the Romans, “*For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love.*” (*Romans 8.38a GNT*)

As we move deeper into this year, I share with you these words:

**Ebenezer is still here, and still has a ministry in Dudley Shoals.** We still stand. We still share the love of God. We continued to worship and did so in new ways. We paid our apportionments thanks to your financial faithfulness. People still need our ministry. We are still called to love our neighbors.

**We will worship in the sanctuary one day.** I do not know when. We may have some more stops and starts along the way to that. When the county returns to orange we can reenter the CLC on our way to being back in the sanctuary. When that happens, it is possible that the county goes back to red and we will need to return to the parking lot as we do now. I do not see any of this as a straight line with a hard timeline. Yet, we will get there.

**God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.** I had a Bishop once who said that at all our gatherings. God put us here together for a purpose. God is not done with us. 2021 will have its own challenges and problems. We will overcome them together if we remember that God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.

Let us face this new year with the confidence of the children of God.

In God's grace,  
Pastor Alan



## 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, Events, etc.

### Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, January 24th at 4:00 p.m.** This is the first meeting for the new council members for 2021.

### Winter Blood Drive

Our annual winter Red Cross Blood Drive will be on

**Monday  
January 11  
2:30-7:00 PM**

Blood supplies have been negatively impacted by the reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please consider giving this year.

Please visit **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter: Ebenezer UMC to schedule and appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting **RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass** to complete you pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

**Be the Lifeline Patients Need.**

*Give Blood*

**Volunteers are needed to help check in donors, and to hand out snacks and drinks. Please see Cindy Sears or Bleaka Hollar to volunteer. Thank you!**



## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” –2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

**BASIC DOCTRINE:  
THE WORD OF GOD**

In my previous article, I wrote about how the belief in God is logical, and was pervasive in the ancient world—and even in the world today. The main arguments against the Creator God are disagreements about His nature, and His laws for right living. Practically, all people believe in a higher power than mankind. If a person does not fulfill that desire for an ultimate authority with the one true God, he is open to such substitutes as false gods, demons, government, cult leaders, ideologies that deny reality, wealth, worship of nature, or personal power.

Christians (and the Jews) rely upon the Bible for discovering the nature of, and for information on how we are to live (morality) and worship/serve God.

God’s written word has been under attack for centuries. Often this involves “book burning,” or the creation and promotion of alternative stories or books (especially related to Jesus the Christ in the early days of Christianity). The main attacks today revolve around denial of certain parts of the Bible, or denial of Scripture as divinely inspired, or attacking the historical facts in the Bible as unreliable or wrong. I once subscribed to the magazine “Biblical Archaeology,” which showed how discoveries by archaeologists kept proving how accurate the Bible’s history actually is. Yet, people continue to claim that there are inaccuracies in the Bible.

Men continue to attempt to undermine the Word of God. Parts of the Bible have been expunged—Thomas Jefferson cut out all the miracles in the New Testament Gospels. New books have been added—major example is the Mormon Church, which has its extra-biblical sacred texts. Some people claim to have found secret code in the Bible or hidden knowledge that only the “chosen” can see. Or they claim that God has changed the meaning of certain passages, because we live in a more enlightened era. This is the height of arrogance, since even Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” (Matthew 5:17-18 NIV)

Another way to undermine the Word of God is to produce “translations” or “new revelations” that purport to be the “true” meanings of the words in the Bible. Bible translations that are highly suspect include the Passion Bible from a man who claims that Jesus actually appeared in his room, and “downloaded” words into him as he “translated” the Bible into more modern

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Something to Pray About, continued

language. These and others should take note of what the Apostle John wrote in The Book of Revelation: "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book." (Revelation 22:18-19 NIV) Even though John was speaking specifically of the Book of Revelation, this can be applied to all of God's Word. Because these new translations or works can lead the innocent astray or away from God, they are in danger of feeling the full wrath of God. As Jesus said, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:6 KJV)

The most reliable translations involve teams of Bible scholars who know Greek, Latin, and Hebrew; and their work is critiqued by others before the translation is published. No, Jesus did not speak in King James English, but the KJV is one of the more reliable translations. As older or more reliable copies of books of the Bible have been discovered, words have been altered in the Bible, but only after careful study and prayerful consideration. Usually, the meaning has not been altered by much; and the important doctrinal issues have not been undermined in any way by these edits.

For a tome that includes 66 books from about 40 authors, written over the course of centuries, the Bible is very unified and consistent. When you consider that the words had to be copied by hand for most of those centuries, so that copies were available for reading to a larger audience; it is miraculous that the Bible has come down to us at all, and that we have so many copies of the Word from ancient times and today. Satan has attempted to have it destroyed by using tyrannical rulers and governments, but God has preserved His Word in all instances. To me this, along with fulfilled prophecies, and inclusion of shameful behavior by even the heroes in the Bible, is another sign that it is the Word of God, and not of men.

In closing, the Bible is our main source of information about God, and our relationship with Him. Christian doctrine is built on the stories and prophecies and letters found in God's written Word. It is therefore a major foundation of the Church. If we undermine His written Word, we undermine our faith and our relationship with our Creator. "One's attitude toward the Scriptures determines his ability to understand and appreciate the august doctrines they proclaim. If the divine inspiration and veracity of the bible are rejected, then any system of truth it contains cannot be relied upon." (All the Doctrines of the Bible, Lockyer, p. 3) Do not treat it lightly, or ignore it; read it, learn it, and learn from it. You will not regret being steeped in knowledge that comes from God. Who else can know what is truly best for us?



## 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
- 27th—Amanda Simmons ?
- 28th—Dwight Kelley
- 30th—Kevin Sears

Happy Anniversary!



- 27th—David & Sonya Crouse

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *December*.

**In Memory of Blanche Kohnle by:**  
Tom Kohnle



## Our Military

Kyle Blair  
Rick Garland  
Trey Hefner  
Shane McRary  
Jamie Mullinax  
Michael Potts  
Hunter Tolbert



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

**Ebenezer UMC Budget for 2021****Living in the POWER**

<b>PASTORAL STAFF TOTAL</b>	<b>77,163</b>
Pastor's Salary	52,000
Pastor's Travel Expense	2,700
Pastor's Cont. Education	750
Pastor's Health Benefit	14,150
Pastor's Retirement	7,563
<b>SUPPORT STAFF TOTAL</b>	<b>28,450</b>
Admin. Asstnt's Salary	16,750
Musician's Salary - Guitar	5,200
Musician's Salary - Piano	6,500
<b>EMPLOYER EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>3,275</b>
Payroll Taxes	1,900
Workers Comp. Insurance	1,375
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXP. TOTAL</b>	<b>6,604</b>
Office Sup., Postage, CP HDW	2,404
Phones, Internet, Website	4,200
<b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>47,195</b>
Security Service	448
Propane	2,850
Electricity	16,372
Water/Sewer	725
Insurance	5,700
Garbage Pick-up	300
Cleaning Service	7,200
Repairs/Maintenance	10,000
<b>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE</b>	
Lawn Service	3,600
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000</b>
Vacation Bible School	1,900
Christmas Program	100

<b>MUSIC TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>
Copyright Licensing	250
<b>EVANGELISM/OUTREACH TOT.</b>	<b>4,480</b>
Community Outreach	480
Speaker Expense	200
Special Events	600
Senior Adult Ministry	200
Community Food Ministry	3,000
<b>MINISTRY EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>6,100</b>
Kitchen & Church Supplies	1,100
Books & Literature	5,000
<b>OTHER EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>
Conference Lay Delegate	300
Conference Clergy Delegate	300
<b>TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET</b>	<b>176,117</b>
WNCC Apportionments	16,599
CC Pregnancy Care Center	
CC Hospice	
KAIROS	
SCCM	
(Note: special offerings taken during the year will fund local missions.)	
<b>TOTAL Local Missions/Apportionments</b>	<b>16,599</b>
<b>TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET</b>	<b>176,117</b>
<b>TOTAL LOCAL MISSIONS</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL WNC APPORTIONMENTS</b>	<b>16,599</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>192,716</b>
<b>AVERAGE NEEDED PER WEEK</b>	<b>3,706</b>

In my career, I listened to many potential terrorists who had one thing in common – how they described Christians. They would say Christians are “weak in spirit and discipline”, or “Christians don’t know what it means to die for God”. Now as a believer, I see how those words should NEVER be used to describe a follower of Christ!

Our courage comes from knowing that we have the Holy Spirit’s power and that Christ lives within us to overcome any kind of obstacle. Every man dies but very few really live. That's the choice we have because Jesus Christ died for us to have life, and life more abundantly. We must choose to stand in the power of the Lord.

Preaching the Gospel is giving the good news of salvation through Christ, with authority and power. We should not be concerned with popularity, polls, or politics but with God’s word going out to all his people. The great commission is a commandment for the believers to go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything He commanded. There is no caveat that says we only do this when it is

comfortable, or that it is merely a suggestion in a plethora of options. God's truth is binary – it's not a spectrum. There's good and evil, truth and falsehood. Saying that is not being judgmental, it's being honest. I lived under the oppression of a false religion for decades. I refuse to lie so I can spare someone's feelings because I want them to experience the love and freedom that comes from accepting Christ. People have problems. Jesus is the solution.

Whatever insults, ridicule, or intimidation they throw at us, we cannot waiver or change the Truth of the Gospel. Only faith in Christ saves, heals, and redeems. In this time of turmoil, the world needs Jesus more than ever. Hedieh Mirahmadi, ex-Muslim on Christian Post (online) 10/2020.





# GIFTS FOR CHRIST

## In Memory of

- \***Bob Jenkins** by Peggy Jenkins
- \***Penny Fox and Frances Baker** by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- \***Laura Silver** by Kenny Silver
- \***Zachary Cullop & Missy Mullinax** by Barbara Ferguson
- \***Bob Sears & Missy Mullinax** by Nancy Sears
- \***Edith Lyda** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- \***Eugene Helton & Volenia Helton** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- \***Dianne Brown** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- \***Rick Lyda** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- \***Zetta Mae Frye, Max Frye, Jack Frye and Corrine DeVries** by Gerald Frye
- \***J. C. & Lois Ellis and Bob Sears** by Wayne, Kim, Jordan, & Tyler Ellis
- \***Florine Lick, Charles Lick, Catherine Adams, and H. L. Adams** by Chuck & Tammy Adams
- \***Rick Hollar and Margaret Campbell** by Bleaka & Monte Hollar
- \***Ken & Addie Kingsley , Pop & Nana Willis** by Gerry & Ted Daniel
- \***Ethel Daniel, George & Catherine Flatt, and Tom Willis** by Gerry & Ted Daniel
- \***John & Wilda Cole and Leo & Polly McCrary and Rene Huffman** by Randy & Marsha McCrary
- \***Herb Creaseman, Dwayne Thompson, Tim Dockery, and Alex Devlin** by Celeste Creaseman
- \***Margaret Campbell** by Anonymous
- \***Keith McCrary, Margaret Campbell, & Linda Bowman** by Judy McCrary
- \***William Deal, Silvia Deal, & Billy W. Long** by Billy Long
- \***Keith McCrary and Margaret Campbell** by John McCrary

## In Honor of

- \***Henry, Roland, Leo and Roman** by Alan & Debbie Gaylord
- \***Theo Jayden Yount** by Nancy Sears
- \***Ezra Yount** by Nancy Sears
- \***Ryatt Walker, MacKenzie McCrary, & Aubree McCrary** by Nancy Sears
- \***Billy Wayne Campbell, Gary Paul Campbell, & James W. Campbell** by Delores Campbell
- \***Cole McCrary** by Marsha & Randy McCrary
- \***Brian Knepp** by Anonymous
- \***Judy Smith and Don Baker** by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- \***Baker Boys & Maggie, Mackenzie, & Marley** by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- \***Judy McCrary** by John McCrary
- \***Gary & Phyllis Minton** by John McCrary



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