



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

July '14

Volume 10 Issue 7

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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



Dear Ones,

Just the other day I read a great article from *The Upper Room*. The writer compared our lives and sin with that of “carry-on” luggage. For those who may have never flown, each airline typically allows you one carry-on piece of luggage—however, that piece of luggage must be small enough to fit in the overhead bins, and has a weight limit as well.

The purpose for the airlines’ request is so that the plane will not be overweight, which could cause problems with taking off and landing. The size that can be securely stored away is a safety issue, too.

I related to the comments of the writer, because I have pushed the limits of trying to pack as much stuff in my carry-on as possible—often exceeding the weight limit—and many times, I have had to push and push to get my bag in the overhead storage compartment.

There was even a time or two when I had to repack my bag so that I could take it on the plane with me. It wasn’t that I wanted to disobey the rules, but rather that I was simply afraid that my bags would go in one direction and me in another. I did not want to let go and trust the airlines with my possessions.

The writer caused me to reflect on those past events and compare them to my life. Let me quote the article for you so that you can reflect on your own life.

“As I reflected on that incident, I realized that in many ways I have treated sinful habits like carry-on luggage. I have carried around my lust for material possessions, hunger for approval, and appetite for sensual pleasure. I’ve depended on their presence to feel good about myself. However, they offered little relief from my emotional or spiritual struggles. I am learning that God’s opinion of me is what matters. And because Christ is my Lord and Savior, I am accepted, loved and valued.”

(Continued on page 4)

## 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: 828-396-2214

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



## Meetings

### No July Council Meeting

The Church Council will not meet in July, because of vacations and other activities.

### Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will not be providing a meal in July. This ministry will resume in August.

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, July 27th at 7:00 p.m.** Marsha McRary will present the program. Barbara Ferguson and Margaret Smith are in charge of refreshments.

### August Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the August newsletter in by **July 27th**. Thank you. —Editor

### VBS Adult Class

The following people will teach the Adult VBS class on the designated days:

**Sunday: Cathy Huffman**  
**Monday: Cindy Sears**  
**Tuesday: Bleaka Hollar**  
**Wednesday: Roy Hamby**  
**Thursday: Barbara Miller**

The Adult class will meet in the Sanctuary. The class begins at 6:30 p.m. and will last for about one hour.

**"It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere."**  
 —Voltaire

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

**"If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free."**

—John 8:36 GNT

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

**"Freedom is what we have—Christ has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again."**

—Galatians 5:1 GNT

**LIBERTY**

We are free in Christ, because we now live under grace and not under the law. We are no longer slaves to sin, and God does not want us to become slaves to sin again, for that way leads to death (see Romans 6: 12-23) .

The founding fathers of the United States did not want us to become slaves to tyrants again, so they built our country on Christian principles, and gave us a Constitution and checks and balances in our government to protect our liberty. Yet that liberty comes with responsibilities, the same as our walk in Christ, who calls upon us to "take up our cross" and follow Him. As citizens of the U. S. we must also take up the fight for liberty, because "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance" (Thomas Jefferson).

**In the spirit of those who made this country a haven for liberty, listen to these words, take them to heart, and work to recover liberty while we can.**

**"The man who loves his country prefers its liberty to all other considerations, well knowing that without liberty life is a misery."**

—Andrew Hamilton

**"Real patriotism is a willingness to challenge the government when it's wrong."**

—Ron Paul

**"As government expands, liberty contracts."** —Ronald Reagan

The history of liberty is a history of resistance. The history of liberty is a history of limitations of government power, not the increase of it."

—Woodrow Wilson

**"The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite."**

—Thomas Jefferson

**"Toleration and liberty are the foundations of a great Republic."**

—Frank Lloyd Wright

### But what exactly is liberty?

**"Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right to do what we ought."**

—Lord Acton

**"Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it."**

—George Bernard Shaw

**"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right."**

—Peter Marshall

**"Liberty is always freedom from the government."** —Ludwig Von Mises

**"If liberty means anything at all, it means to right to tell people what they do not want to hear."**

—George Orwell

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Church Council — June 8, 2014

Attendees: Anthony Austin, Kim Ellis, Barbara Frye, Gerald Frye, Jo Nell Harrison, Alice Hill, Bleaka Hollar, Keith Keener, Dwight Kelley, JoAnn Knepp, Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Marsha McRary, Scott Miller, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jimmy Stone, Ryan Stone, Jeanette Teague, and Jake Resor.

Gerald Frye called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. Eric Lane opened the meeting with prayer. Gerald then read from a "Handbook" that explained that the Bible is the best handbook on how to live life to the fullest and in the best way. It tells us of our Savior. Everybody ought to love the Bible. Minutes stand as written.

### Financial Report

Jo Nell said that we are staying on the budget fairly well, and currently are taking in slightly more than needed to meet the budget. \$256,192.46 remains on the mortgage principle after making our regular payments plus some extra. We have taken in over \$26,000 for missions above the regular budget amounts.

Jeff Smith reported that the Audit Committee met and everything seems to be in order. Kim asked about the Bolivia Mission fund. Some of it will be going to Eric for his trip to Belize, since he decided not to go to Bolivia this year.

### Old Business

Eric said that it looks like we will be able to borrow the Granite Falls 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist van for the youth to go on their trip this summer. We will be paying Jake Resor's expenses for this trip.

Trustees have decided to build a room in the corner of the fellowship hall for more storage. The estimate is about \$500 for materials. Jeff made a motion that we do it. Alice Hill seconded. Motion passed without further discussion.

The car for the person in need was purchased as proposed at the last meeting.

Ministers meeting report from Eric: The District Superintendent has requested that we wait until after July because she has a meeting planned this summer with the new ministers in the area.

### New Business

The Duke interns will meet at our church on Monday morning. Jake Resor will host this meeting.

Habitat House is going more slowly than expected. The dedication will probably not happen until around July

20<sup>th</sup>. A firm date will be decided later.

Anthony Austin thanked the church for the ad for the tractor show book and passed around the booklet for the council to look at the page.

Outreach, Evangelism Committee has gone visiting and out to invite people to church. Bleaka Hollar asked that the church continue to pray for this effort.

Eric announced that we are in need of greeters for the first and second services. Please see Eric to volunteer. Scott Miller offered to help. Linda Moretz suggested a sign-up sheet, so that people could rotate on and off this duty. Scott Miller was nominated to be in charge of our greeters and agreed to coordinate this service.

Jeff Smith and Eric Lane will be going to conference June 18<sup>th</sup>. He explained that there is information about the conference online and on YouTube. He mentioned that pension and medical insurance rates for the church will be about \$1000 less for next year.

It was suggested that we skip the meeting in July, because of the holiday, VBS, and vacations. It was agreed that there will be no Council meeting in July. Gerald Frye closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears. ✝

## Special Giving

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

### In Memory of Bob Sears by:

Nancy Sears  
Wayne, Kim, Jordan, Tyler Ellis  
Anonymous

### In Memory of Helen Duncan by:

Terri Barger Brandywine

### In Honor of Delores Campbell's 77th Birthday on June 26th by:

Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

## Something..., con't

*(Continued from page 2)*

"The only task of the strictly liberal state is to secure life and property against attacks both from external and internal foes." —Ludwig von Mises

### How do we protect our liberty?

"When the people fear their government there is tyranny; when the government fears the people there is liberty." —Thomas Jefferson

Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith."

—Alexis de Tocqueville

"A society that puts equality before freedom will get neither. A society that puts freedom before equality will get a high degree of both."

—Milton Friedman

"Security is no replacement for liberty." —Martin Firrell

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Pastor's Corner, con't

I might add that in my travels the airlines have only lost my luggage a couple of times; and that was on my return trip home, when it really didn't matter. The luggage was returned the next day, so my luggage was never really lost; it simply missed the flight I was on and was placed on the next flight.

Well, God and God's ways can be trusted much more than any airline with my possessions, and especially with my life. I am learning to let go and let God have His way. It is not easy, because the world teaches me to take care of myself and to trust no one.

God truly wants only what is best for your life and for mine; and He reminds us that He knows what we need, and He will provide it for us.

Last year returning from Belize, I put all I had in my check bag and carried on nothing to be stored away. I found that the flight was more relaxing, because I did not have to keep a constant eye on my bags, afraid that others might take them. Also, I could relax and not fight the other passengers over the storage bins.

If only we would trust God the same way! In Jeremiah 29: 11-13 (NIV), God says:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

The Fourth of July, Independence Day, is almost here, and we are in the midst of vacation time. I encourage you to spend some of that time with family and friends and by yourself with God.

May God Bless you and keep you,

*Rev. Eric Lane*



## June District Conference

As many of you know, Jeff Smith and I recently attended our annual Western North Carolina Conference. The Conference is open to anyone; however, the "voting" body is made up of clergy within our conference and an equal number of laity. This way, decisions for our church are made by both clergy and laity.

There is a website open to anyone that will allow you to follow the events at our conference. The website is [www.wnccumc.org](http://www.wnccumc.org). There is also an Appalachian District website where you can follow what is going on within our own corner of the conference or "District". You do that by going to the above website and choosing "Districts" in the upper left corner of the home page. Select the district you want (ours is the Appalachian District) from the list. Any information you want can be found on the page that comes up. If you scroll down, you will find the most current "Newsletter" with information concerning our district. I hope that you will use this information, and find it helpful in the future.

Conference is not all business; conference is also about worship. It is a time to reflect, reconnect and revive the fire burning within the Body. Every year we celebrate our homecoming, and conference is very much like homecoming. We have a chance to become reacquainted with old friends—those whom we have served with in churches, on boards, and committees, and have traveled with through ministry. It's a time where we hear the word, break bread, and pray together for one another and for the church—both our local congregations and the whole body of Christ.

We celebrate those beginning

## Something..., con't

*(Continued from page 3)*

"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech."

—Benjamin Franklin

"Those who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

—Benjamin Franklin

"This land will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

—Elmer Davis

"The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm the government and I'm here to help.'"

—Ronald Reagan

And don't leave God out of it because:

"There is only one kind of freedom and that's individual liberty. Our lives come from our creator and our liberty comes from our creator. It has nothing to do with government granting it."

—Ron Paul







## July Celebrations



**Happy Birthday!**



- 3rd—Freida Farr
- 4th—Maddie Seagle
- 10th—Cameron Collins, Arlene McRary
- 13th—Alice Hill
- 14th—Marilyn Kohnle, Matt Shook
- 15th—Wesley Bradford
- 16th—Danielle Miller
- 19th—Thomas Johnson
- 20th—Casey Mullinax
- 22nd—Kay Gilbert
- 26th—Michael Sherrill
- 27th—Cody Parham
- 29th—Josh Bowman
- 30th—Rebecca Hirt, Mildred Tolbert
- 31st—Jerry Parson, Jr.

## Happy Anniversary!

- 13th—Steve & Cheryl Vosdingh
- 14th—Chris & Melissa Wilson
- 18th—Boyd & Margaret Fairchild
- 27th—Jason & Angela Sue Vetter



## Conference, con't

their journeys as licensed pastors, provisional deacons, and elders. We celebrate those who are ordained on Saturday night as Deacons and Elders. We also celebrate those who are retiring from full time ministry, and those who have taken their place in the Church Triumphant.

It always amazes me that so much happens in such a short time—and still things are left undone. Yet, the closing service on Sunday has always been special as the pastors stand and receive their appointments, promising to faithfully go and serve their appointments; then the lay delegates stand and promise to faithfully serve God, the church, and the pastors that have been appointed to them.

Thank you for your support as we continue in ministry for the Kingdom of God. —Rev. Eric Lane



## Acolyte Schedule - JULY

**6th** Payton Lyda

**13th** Austin Teague

**20th** Makayla Settlemyre

**27th** Kevin Miller

## Nursery Schedule - JULY

**6th** 8:30 Tammy Adams & Linda Moretz  
11:00 Nancy Sears

**13th** 8:30 Heather Stone & Kim Ellis  
11:00 Kay Gilbert

**20th** 8:30 Keith & Susan Keener  
11:00 Joann Knepp

**27th** 8:30 Bleaka Hollar & Cinda McCrary  
11:00 Beth Lane

10:30

## 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  
Rick Garland  
Jason Gibson  
Trey Hefner  
Chris Kaisenski



Shane McRary  
William McRary  
Travis Miller  
Joey Moore  
Jamie Mullinax  
Jason Nichol  
Michael Potts  
James Starbuck  
Hunter Tolbert  
Josh Yount

"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle; but

with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, where potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

—Erma Bombeck





## July Fundraisers & Events

### Vacation Bible School

**July 13th—17th, 2014**



We invite your children to become *Visioneers* at our *Workshop of Wonders* during this year's Vacation Bible School. Interactive Bible lessons reveal *Wonder Words* for following God's blueprint for our lives, and the children will learn *Vision Verses*, that will build their faith long after

VBS is over.

Each evening, we provide a light supper at 5:30 p.m. The children's assembly begins at 6:15 p.m. Classes and activities end at 8:45 p.m. The Adult class will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### VBS Commencement July 18th 6:00 PM Cook-out Afterwards

(Note: all meals are free. Adults are invited to eat before their class, too.)

Parents are encouraged to pre-register their children. Forms are available at the church.

### Breakfast Biscuits

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, July 10th**.

We start at **6:00 a.m.** and stop when they are all gone. It doesn't take long! So **call early or pre-order on Wednesday by calling: 396-7924, 313-9996, 396-2214** (church office; Mon.-Fri. 8:30-1:00 pm).

We deliver orders of 10 or more. Proceeds support our yearly mission trip to and work in Costa Rica.



**Yum!  
Yum!**



### Mini-Benefit Barbecue for Russell Davis

**Thursday, July 24th, 11 AM—1:00 PM**  
**Carry-Out Only!**

There will be a benefit barbecue for Russell Davis who was involved in a motorcycle accident recently that left him paralyzed from the waist down. He is currently unable to work. Proceeds from the benefit will be used to pay hospital and living expenses.

**To place an order call:**

**Church Office at 828-396-2214 or**

**Rebecca Davis Hirt at  
828-493-2086**

Menu: pork barbecue, baked beans, slaw, apples, roll.

We will deliver orders of 10 or more plates.

Thank you for your support.



### Biscuit Sale Price List



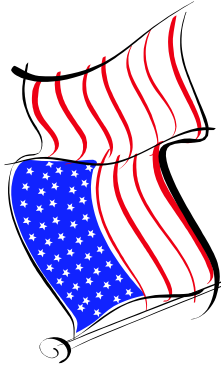
\$2.00	Ham or Sausage
\$2.50	Ham or Sausage with egg
\$2.00	Egg
\$1.50	Jelly
\$2.00	Gravy
\$2.50	Gravy with Sausage
\$2.00	Fried Apple Pie

When GOD solves your problems,  
you have faith in HIS abilities; when  
GOD doesn't solve your problems  
HE has faith in your abilities.

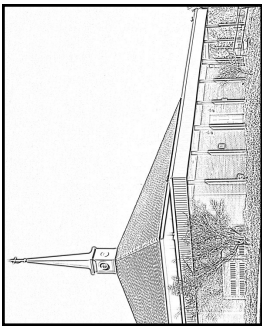


**EBENEZER UMC**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*




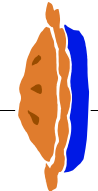






**July 2014**



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

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	Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies	1 Prayer Group—10AM	2	3	4 Church Office Closed All Day Happy Independence Day!! 	5 
6 VBS Craft Teacher's Meeting—4:30 p.m.	7	8 Prayer Group—10AM	9	10 Breakfast Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'till gone!	11	12
<b>Vacation Bible School Prep All Week</b>						
13	14	15 NO Prayer Group	16	17	18 VBS Commencement & Cookout—6 PM	19 Habitat House Dedication (more info later)
20	21	22 Prayer Group—10AM	23	24 Benefit BBQ for Russell Davis—11-1 PM, see p. 6	25	26
27 UMW—7:00 PM	28 	29 Prayer Group—10AM 	30 	31 	See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists 	

**VBS JULY 13-17, 5:30—8:45 P.M.**