



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

July '15

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

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Sunday Services

- 8:30a Worship Service (Contemporary)
- 9:50a Sunday School
- 11:00a Worship Service (Traditional)
- 6:00p Youth Group (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



We were having a worship service at Lake Junaluska when the tragedy occurred in Charleston. While we were hearing from Bishop Ziphosihle Siwa, (Bishop of the Methodists of South Africa), not far from us, nine people attending a Bible study would be killed.

That night, our speaker spoke about how people in South Africa faced violence and danger daily and yet only 290 miles away, a group was about to experience and succumb to violence. Is this the future that we face?

If we stand with Christ, this is not what our future holds. Christ's message is one that rings loud and clear—that God's kingdom welcomes the least, the last and the lost; and that we are to love God first, and love our neighbors as ourselves. If we stand with Christ we know that justice will one day overcome injustice, love will overcome bigotry, and all forms of evil will one day come to an end.

Yes, I know for now we live in a time where there are days when it looks like evil wins; where death and sickness is all around us, and we struggle to find peace. Yet, from the ashes of death comes life, as we witnessed from the families who faced the loss of their loved ones. They confessed their pain and sorrow; they grieved the loss of their loved ones; and by the power of the Holy Spirit within them, they forgave the one who took the lives of their loved ones.

I am reminded of the time when they hung Jesus on the cross, and he drew his last breathe. I expect that some watching felt that evil had won that day; others thought that they had put an end to Jesus's "Good News" message. Then, on the third day, Christ rose from the grave, giving hope to the hopeless; and, suddenly, the world was turned upside down.



So now, I am convinced even more that the world needs to hear the message that God loves them, and that through Christ we can find forgiveness and reconciliation with God the Father. And one day—maybe one day very soon—old things such as hate, bigotry, racism, sickness, violence, and even death will pass away, and there will be a "new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away..."

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WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p New Life Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday: 8:30—1:00p.m.
Phone: 828-396-2214



Meetings

No Council Meeting in July

The Church Council will not meet in July. Enjoy your summer.

Lord's Supper Ministry

This ministry will not be delivering meals in July, but will continue the service in August.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Marsha McRary will present the program. Barbara Ferguson and Margaret Smith are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are invited to participate.

August Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the August 2015 newsletter in by **July 26**. Thank you. —Editor

Church Office Closure

The Church Office will be **closed on Friday, July 3rd** for the Independence Day Holiday. Please have your bulletin items for July 5th in to Cindy by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 2nd. Thank you.

"When we, who call ourselves Christians, begin to pick and choose which scriptural admonitions we will follow, and which are now "outdated," we might as well throw the whole Bible away."

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

ON GOD'S SIDE

"For some godless people have slipped in unnoticed among us, persons who distort the message about the grace of God in order to excuse their immoral ways..." —Jude 4 GNT

We've heard much lately of Christians who stand firm in the biblical and church teachings about sexual matters being on the "wrong side of history." After the fall in the garden, sexual license and perversion were rampant in the world. Read the Bible—God's Word does not sugarcoat or deny the pervasiveness of such behavior. Adultery, fornication, homosexuality were practiced indiscriminately in the Roman Empire in the time of Jesus and the Apostles, too. It was first the Israelites and then Christians who spoke out against such behavior, because **God told them to do so.** (see Ex. 20:14; Lev. 20:13; Matt. 5:27-28; Gal. 5:19; Romans 1:18-32) Christians are not on the wrong side of history—those who champion or acquiesce to such behavior are. And we not only have God's Word to show us what is right. We have God's design of our bodies to show us the truth as well.

So, is God a prudish tyrant that just hates to see us have fun? Does He object to our behavior, insisting that we should only do things His way, because He is a "control freak?" God is a God of love and justice. He sets boundaries for the seas, and for us—for our own good—and also for the good of all our communities. We sin as individuals, but that sin affects the whole community—of our immediate families, and outward to our friends, companions, church families, whole cities, the state, the country, the continent, and, eventually, involving the whole world. No sin is private sin. No rebellion against God and His boundaries is limited to one person. The whole world is involved. In many instances, future generations are involved, too.

"I use the phrase 'The Bible says' because the Word of God is the authoritative basis of our faith. I do not continually distinguish between the authority of God and the authority of the Bible because I am confident that he has made his will known authoritatively in the scriptures." --Rev. Billy Graham

When we, who call ourselves Christians, begin to pick and choose which scriptural admonitions we will follow, and which are now "outdated," we might as well throw the whole Bible away. We have opened a deep chasm where nothing in God's Word has authority unless we "modern, intelligent, scientific" people approve of it. As scientific theories come and go because of new evidence, nothing we accept in the Bible will be permanent any longer. Everything is debatable and easily discarded when it becomes inconvenient.

When did the Church stop being "radical" and begin to follow the culture instead? Even one atheist knows that we are not being true to our faith when we acquiesce to the culture's view on sexual sin and the same-gender marriage issue:

"Even as a (gay) atheist, I wince to see the philosophical mess that religious conservatives are making of their case. Is there nobody of any intellectual stature left in our English church,

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Church Council — June 14, 2015

Attendees: Kim Ellis, Barbara Frye, Gerald Frye (Chair), Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Alice Hill, Bleaka Hollar (Lay Leader), Cathy Huffman, Boyd Johnson, Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jeanette Teague, Jerry Kohnle, Beth Lane, and Phyllis Brady.

Gerald Frye called the meeting to order, and asked Roy Hamby to give the opening prayer at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes stand as read.

Financial Report from Jo Nell Harrison:

We need to get the address and send in \$90 that is still in the Relay for Life Fund.

Van Fund: Jo Nell made a case for paying off the CLC mortgage before buying a van. Boyd Johnson disagreed.

We are still under budget in our contributions to the General Fund.

Eric Lane jumped in and agreed with Jo Nell about paying off the mortgage, but feels that if we are willing to sacrifice that we can do both. He thanked us for the commitment we have made towards ministry.

Old Business

We have shelved building another chair rack for now. The bottom stair outside has been fixed and the whole staircase has been resealed.

Library organizing and re-fit is about finished. Bleaka Hollar said that we have good Christian leisure reading books, along with the Christian life and Bible study books. Gerald asked us to give Bleaka a hand for doing this work, which we were very willing to do. It was affirmed that you can remove books from the library without signing them out. We ask that you return them in a timely manner and in good condition.

Layman's Revival was very well received and attended this year. Gerald requested that we begin to pray now for the next year's revival.

Eric reported that we have completed the Readiness 360 survey work. There is a book that Eric would like for

the whole church to go through, with a possible roll out date in September. This would basically be for adults. There will also be another Caldwell United Worship Meeting on September 13th that will be a way to welcome the new pastors in Caldwell County, along with giving us more updates on the work being done through this project.

Eric will be gone to conference next week, so Jake Resor will be preaching for us on June 21st. Eric and his family will go on vacation afterwards. Roy Hamby will speak for Eric during the weekend when he is gone. We will have a special speaker on the October fifth Sunday.

New Business

Gerald reminded us is that we need to be more proactive in inviting people to church and in our attendance. He encouraged us to be reading the Bible more on a regular basis and to pray for our church and our ministries. We need to learn to pray in the Spirit and to do the work in His power, and not rely on our own strength.

There was some discussion about why some people have left our church—not always because of something we have done or failed to do. Eric said that some came here to be healed, received the healing, and then returned to the church they grew up in after healing occurred in that church, too. Yet, there are members who just don't come, or only sporadically attend. We need to do more to keep contact with them.

Eric informed us of a need for more money to help pay for the Bible classes held in the schools last year. Jo Nell said that we have not paid our annual amount yet, which is \$1000. Do we want to do more? Boyd made a motion to pay the \$1000 and we could consider doing more next year when we make the budget out. We will revisit this later if they do not get all they need for this year.

Boyd thanked everyone who helped with the fish fry. They raised over \$1200. They will be trying to do another one later.

Kim showed us the skateboard drawing that Kim wants to have decorated by every family in the church. These need to be turned in by the first Sunday in July. Please pick your copy up and get it completed soon.

Gerald brought up that we need to get our giving back up, because we are behind on our budget. We also need to work harder at getting the CLC mortgage paid off as quickly as possible.

Jerry Kohnle said the closing prayer and we adjourned the meeting.

(Minutes by Cindy Sears.)



Special Giving

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

In Memory of Our (Deceased) Veterans by:

Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of Ronnie Satterwhite by:

Cindy Satterwhite

In Memory of Tom Harrison by:

Robert & Teresa Herman

In Memory of J. B. Coffey, Everette Coffey, and John Nelson Brookshire by:

Patty Coffey

In Honor of All Our Veterans from 1775 to 2015 by:

James Campbell



Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

or the Roman church, to frame the argument against Christianity's slide into just going with the flow of social and cultural change?...Can't these Christians see that the moral basis of their faith cannot be sought in the pollsters' arithmetic?...Can the preponderance of public opinion reverse the polarity between virtue and vice? Would it have occurred for a moment to Moses (let alone God) that he'd better defer to Moloch-worship because that's what most of the Israelites wanted to do?" -- Matthew Parris (in *The Spectator* on the occasion of the same-sex marriage vote in Ireland)

I highly recommend that you find and read the whole article by Parris on the Web. He makes more excellent points. It is a shameful aspect of our time that an atheist has to call out to the Church to stand up for the truth in God's Word. I'm sure Parris would like to see us lose the argument, ultimately; but that does not nullify his point. Until Christians begin to stand up for sexual chastity, the sanctity of marriage, and the dignity of all human beings (without denying what is sin), we will continue to be shunted to the sidelines of history; because we, finally, will become irrelevant (exactly what Satan intends for us).

Speaking of being called to be "different" from the culture, I want to refer you to two more articles. Both appeared in the Jewish World Review online. "America, Not Dylann Roof, Should Be Forgiveness" by Dennis Prager, and "Amazing Grace in Charleston" by Cal Thomas looks at what the relatives and friends of the nine people slain by Roof at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC did in response to this unspeakably evil act. They forgave Roof for what he had done. Prager could not understand that gesture. Thomas found it such a rare act that he knew most people would not know how to respond to it.

"The accused killer doesn't deserve it, but he is offered forgiveness nonetheless. It speaks volumes about the character and spiritual strength of those extending grace to him...when the world sees such acts of kindness, it doesn't know what to say."

It's okay for the world not to understand us, and even to reject us; we serve the Lord God, not the culture or mankind. *We are on God's side in His Story.* †

SCCM Pantry Fundraiser—Win a sofa!

Center Grove Baptist Church is sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit South Caldwell Christian Ministries in the construction of their new pantry. Tickets are being sold at \$5 each to win a brand new sofa! Sofa is being donated by Wally Mitchum, owner of Carolina Classic Furniture. The winner gets to choose the upholstery material for the sofa.

If you want to buy a ticket or help sell tickets, please contact Wally Mitchum at Center Grove Baptist or call SCCM at 396-4000 for ticket information.

The drawing will be held in September during the Open House

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

Be obedient to God, and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant. Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy. —1 Peter 1:14-15 GNT

Kids for Christ

A new Children's church minis-



Beginning August 30th

During first service.

A time to break out,
and learn about Christ
through music and scripture.

Pre K-5th grade

Please pray about this ministry and for the leaders.

Jessica Haas is looking for

12 helpers to rotate monthly.



July Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 3rd—Phyllis Brady, Freida Farr
- 4th—Maddie Seagle
- 10th—Arlene McRary, Cameron Collins
- 13th—Alice Hill
- 14th—Matt Shook, Marilyn Kohnle
- 15th—Wesley Bradford
- 19th—Thomas Johnson
- 20th—Casey Mullinax
- 22nd—Kay Gilbert
- 27th—Cody Parham
- 29th—Kirsten Hartley
- 30th—Mildred Tolbert, Rebecca Hirt
- 31st—Jerry Parsons, Jr.

Happy Anniversary!

- 3rd—Randy & Marsha McRary
- 13th—Steven & Cheryl Vosdingh
- 14th—Chris & Melissa Wilson
- 18th—Boyd & Margaret Fairchild



Pastor's Corner, con't

I cannot say what the future holds for me, for you, or for the world we live in; but I can tell you that I know the one who holds the future, and I believe in the promise that he has gone to prepare a place for those who believe in him, and that he will one day come again and take us to that place. As that old hymn goes "Oh Victory in Jesus, my savior forever..."

May God be with you!

Rev. Eric Lane



Acolyte Schedule - JULY

5th Kevin Miller

12th Cole McCrary

19th Bethany Huss

26th Clair Gilbert

Nursery Schedule - JULY

5th 8:30 Keith & Susan Keener

11:00 Tasha Haas

12th 8:30 Bleaka Hollar & Nancy Sears

11:00 Beth Lane

19th 8:30 Jessica Haas & Linda Moretz

11:00 Kay Gilbert

26th 8:30 Boyd & Emily Johnson

11:00 Rosalind Kelley

10:30

Our Military

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

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



Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski
Shane McRary
William E. McRary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

United Methodist Church News & Information

The Western North Carolina conference website is: www.wnccumc.org. You can sign-up for Conference Newsletters at the bottom left of the homepage. Appalachian District no longer maintains a website, though I think they have a Facebook page. You can access the United Methodist Church website at : www.umc.org.



It's almost time for another
GREAT Vacation Bible School at
Ebenezer UMC!

Come and find out all about the



July 12-16, 2015

We have classes for everyone
of every age. There will be free
food, games, live action Bible
stories, crafts, fun and fellowship
while everyone learns about

God's Love In Action!

Workers are needed in the
kitchen and classrooms. We'll be
asking for food and dessert items
soon; so, get ready to give. See Kim
Ellis to volunteer and for more info.

July Fundraisers & Events

Biscuits Sales

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg
and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit
pies on **Thursday, June 16th.**

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!



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. in the Sanctuary.

VBS Commencement

July 17th

6:00 PM

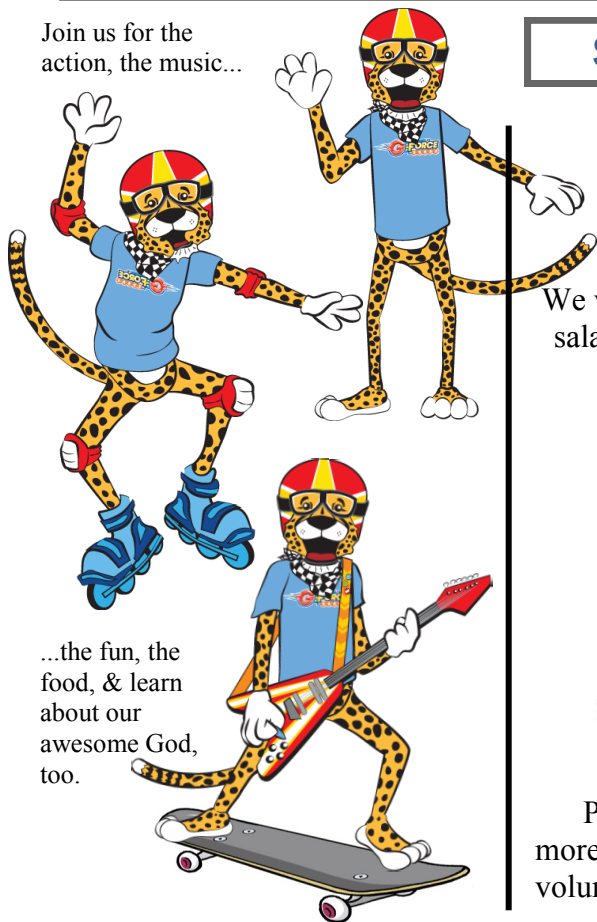
Cook-out Afterwards

(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.



Join us for the
action, the music...



...the fun, the
food, & learn
about our
awesome God,
too.

Summer Blood Drive

**Monday
July 20th
2:30-7:00 PM**

We will be serving spaghetti and
salad to our donors, along with
homemade sweets.



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Please see Dawn Yount for
more information, and to
volunteer to help.

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 Fruit Pie

We continue to accumulate
funds for a church van. As of June
28th, we have

\$2,741.85!

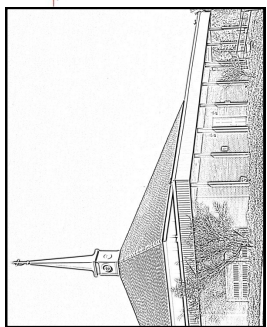
We thank you for your help in
building up this fund.





EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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	See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists		1 Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies	2	3 Church Office Closed	4 PROCLAIM 11
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PREP WEEK FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — CLC UNAVAILABLE FOR USE						
12 	13 	14 	15 	16 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!	17 VBS Commencement—6:00 PM Cookout afterwards	18
19	20 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE—2:30—7:00 PM	21	22	23	24	25
26 UMW—7 PM	27	28	29	30	31	

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 5:30-8:45 P.M.

