



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

July '17

Volume 13 Issue 7

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

Inside this issue:

Meetings	2
Special Giving	2
Something to Pray About	2
Something..., con't	3
Council Minutes—06/11/2017	3
Just a Thought	4
"I Am a Soldier of God"	4
July Celebrations	5
Nursery Schedule	5
Our Military Prayer List	5
Hid In My Heart	5
Love Offering Box	5
July Fundraisers & Events	6
July Service Hours	6
Rev. Hunter's Arrival	6
Biscuit Sales for A.R.T.	6
VBS Is Here!	6
Habitat House Project	6
Calendar	7



Follow me to the best in hero training this summer. Learn to be a hero for God!

Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Teens for Christ (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*



New Dudes in Town



Rev. Tom Hunter

Education: Old Fort HS; UNC-Asheville; Emory University (Master of Divinity)

Military: US Navy, 1970-1976; Hospital Corpsman

United Methodist Churches Served:

St.Marks/Cross Mill – Marion (3 years)

Snow Hill – Candler (8 years)

Maple Grove/Elizabeth Chapel – Waynesville (6 years)

Granite Falls First – Granite Falls (11 years)

Pilot Mountain First – (6 years)

Family:

Married Patsy King Hunter – October 17, 1969

Daughter: Heather Hunter Francis – son-in-law Jim; grand-daughters Katelyn (12 years); Kallie (8 years); live in Waynesville

Son: Lucas Hunter and fiancé Wendy; grand-daughter Fiona (11 months); lives in Asheville

Patsy's Work:

McDowell Public Library-Marion, NC

Administrative Assistant to Manager of WFGW/WMIT (Blue Ridge

Broadcasting-Billy Graham Radio) – **January 1977 until June 2001;**

Administrative Support Manager for Med/Surg Department at Catawba Valley Medical Center, Hickory – **2001 until present**

Hobbies/Interests: both Tom & Patsy

Avid readers (especially mysteries); enjoying family time

Goal: to have active involvement in Ebenezer UMC and the community

Life is a series of journeys. We are excited about this new "Life Journey" God has led us to. We look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you, who will be an important part of this next Life Journey.

—Pastor Tom

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study —Children & Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, July 23rd at 4:30 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper will not serve meals in July.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, July 23rd at 7:00 p.m.** Marsha McCrary is in charge of the program. All women of the church are invited to participate. .

August Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the August newsletter in by **Monday, July 24th**. Thank you—Editor

Special Giving

Ebenezer UMC and its members, gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts received in *June 2017*:

In Memory of All Our Fallen Days (Memorial Day) by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory Paul Spencer by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of Bob Sears & Tom Harrison by:

Nancy Sears

In Memory of Blanche Kohnle by:

Ebenezer's UMW

In Memory of Keith McCrary by:

Kim Knepp

In Memory of Ronnie Satterwhite by:

Cindy Satterwhite

In Memory of Hayner R. Spencer by:

Freida Matthews

In Honor of Barbara Frye by:

Peggy Jenkins

In Honor of the Campbells by:

Peggy Jenkins

In Honor of Father's Day by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody. Never take revenge, my friends, but instead let God's anger do it. For the scripture says, "I will take revenge, I will pay back, says the Lord."...Do not let evil defeat you; instead, conquer evil with good. —Romans 12:17-19, 21 GNT

A SUGGESTION AND INVITATION



Our church is in the midst of a trial. What has happened has been allowed by God—he is in control. How we react to this will either increase our faith and our testimony for Christ—or weaken our faith and our testimony. This is a good church and a fine group of people who have done much good in our community, and even farther out. Can we become a prominent force for good in this community again? Can we become stronger in our faith and our ministries after this trial?

I know that there were harsh words said out of anger and fear. I know that many people in this church do not understand yet what the fuss was all about. For those of you who stayed because you liked the pastor, I have a question: Do you really think that people who have attended this church for years, even generations, would stop coming just because they did not like the new pastor's preaching style, or his personality, or his politics? Think about that for a minute. Our attendance is down by 50% or more; our contributions are down by over 60%. Do you really believe for a moment that this was only a personality conflict? Don't you know your fellow believers better than that?

For those of you who stayed despite strong convictions that conflicted greatly with the pastor's confessed beliefs, I thank you for remaining in trying circumstances. For those who left our fellowship because of your strong convictions, I understand why you decided to leave. But now I ask those who stayed: are you willing and able to welcome back those who left? And those who left: are you able to return to our fellowship? Can you let go of your anger and your fears, trust in God to do what is right, and continue to serve God here? If you cannot, I pray that God will guide you to another place of service and worship, and bless you and that new fellowship mightily.

Still, I suggest that it is unwise to let one person's behavior destroy your service to the Lord; or to worry about any other person's opinion of you. We are called to serve Christ—only His opinion counts. Also, we all need to understand that, though the war is won (Jesus is King of kings, and Lord of lords), individual battles rage on—in the culture, in our families, in our churches. There is no place to hide from it; and no battle can be won if there are no soldiers left to fight. We are called to be soldiers of the cross. We are called to stand, to persevere, to teach and preach the Word (all of it)—to make disciples, not just converts; and to fight the evil by doing good things. I hope that each of you will pray; open your hearts and minds to God's Holy

(Continued on page 3)



Something..., con't

(Continued from page 2)

Spirit; ask for forgiveness for unloving thoughts, words or deeds; drop any bitterness and remaining anger into God's lap; then reconsider and choose to remain or return and make your stand for Christ here at Ebenezer Church.

"So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect."

--Romans 12:1-2 GNT



Work on your spiritual muscles with me!

See p. 6 for our upcoming training program.

At the heart of existence is a moral law. That law had dare not be violated. Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

Church Council – June 11, 2017

Attendees: Patty Coffey, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Gerald Frye (Chairman), Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Cathy Huffman, JoAnn Knepp, John McCrary, Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Terri Miller, Cindy Sears, and Jeff Smith.

Gerald Frye opened the meeting with prayer, and read a portion from Judges in the Bible; 6:13+ about Gideon. He reminded us that the Council members are leaders of the church. We need strong and courageous leaders. Yet, only God can really save us. So, we all need to pray, and let God guide us in bringing our church back.

Minutes of May meeting were read and approved as written.

FINANCE REPORT

Jo Nell Harrison said: Our preacher taught things that we do not believe in. And that has caused a rift in the church. He believes what he was taught at Duke Divinity. He is not a "bad" person, per se, but much of our membership cannot accept his beliefs. People have been upset about these teachings. We have hurt each others feelings, instead of speaking openly to each other about the disagreements. Can we apologize and come together again? (included some general discussion)

We are \$652 in the hole today, before this Sunday's deposit is recorded. We will not have enough to pay our bills without using our savings to pay the pastor's salary. We only have about \$8700 in savings. We are cutting back on expenses, but things will have to turn around soon to keep ahead.

Please continue to pray for our church and the new pastor, Rev. Tom Hunter.

OLD BUSINESS

Vacation Bible School Report from Kim Ellis: VBS is July 16-18, with commencement on Wednesday, the 19th at Redwood Park. She has cut down on some of the food and materials cost. We will ask for money along with food to help pay for what we need this year from our members and affiliates.


NEW BUSINESS

Jo Nell has said that she needs help with the financial records/bill paying. But we need to be looking for an accountant (volunteer, of course). Suggestion was made to have Cindy be the one who collected the receipts, which would then be sent to Jo Nell to record the information. Cindy will put a note in the bulletin, but we still need to find someone who can do this job in the near future.

Roy Hamby announced that the Van Driver training has been schedule for 24th of June from 8:30-10:30 a.m. You will have to attend the training to have permission to drive the church van. Current drivers need to attend also.

The youth group, Teens for Christ, meeting has been moved from Sunday night to Wednesday evening for the summer. Kim Ellis announced that her children's Bible study class is cancelled for Wednesday because of this change through the summer months.

Roy Hamby closed the meeting in prayer.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 

What feels like the end of something good may actually be the start of something better.



Just a Thought

No other subjective source of knowledge and truth, such as sense perception (sight, sound, smell, taste), intuition, reason, insight or inspiration could be as reliable or as perfect as knowledge received through the direct communication of GOD. At Sinai, millions of people heard the same words at the very same time. Since man is subjective, since we all think differently and have differing opinions, likes and dislikes, we would all develop conflicting ideas of right and wrong and would never be able to agree on a universal standard which all of mankind must have if there is ever to be justice and peace on earth.

The unique contents of the Torah are in themselves an indication of its GODly origin. No human mind could have invented the elevated and sublime ideas, ideology, laws and systems of the Torah, certainly not in the cultural and religious environment that prevailed at that time. The thinking of every other "civilized" nation was diametrically opposed to the Torah in goal and practice. The peoples of the world and its great civilizations were steeped in war, idolatry, cruelty and inhumanity; their cultures and civilizations were based on values, standards and "morality" which ran opposite to all that the Torah teaches. The ancient world was an age of child sacrifices, of killing an entire family in compensation for a murder, of pagan magic and mutilation, of sexual aberrations, of prostitution as a form of worship, of cruel and inhuman slavery.

Read more at http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0517/shavuot_stolper_revelation.php3#r8mzlZG

I Am a Soldier of God

I am a soldier in the army of my God.
The Lord Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer.
The Holy Scripture is my code of conduct.
Faith, prayer and the Word are my weapons of warfare.

I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience,
tried by adversity and tested by fire.

I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity.
I will not get out, sell out, be talked out or pushed out.
I am faithful, reliable, capable and dependable.
If my God needs me, I am there. I am a soldier.

I am not a baby. I do not need to be pampered, petted,
primed up, pumped up, picked up, or pepped up. I am a soldier.
No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me or lure me.
I am a soldier. I am not a wimp. I am in place, saluting my King,
obeying His orders, praising His name and building His kingdom!
No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards or candy, or give
me handouts. I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for or
catered to. I am committed. I cannot have my feelings hurt bad
enough to turn me around. I cannot be discouraged enough to
turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit.

When Jesus called me into this army, I had nothing. If I end up with nothing,
I will still come out ahead. I will win. My God has and will continue to supply
all of my need.

I am more than a conqueror. I will always triumph. I can do all things through
Christ.

The devil cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot
weary me.

Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot beat me. Money cannot buy me.
Governments cannot silence me, and hell cannot handle me. I am a soldier.

Even death cannot destroy me. For when my Commander calls me from His
battlefield,

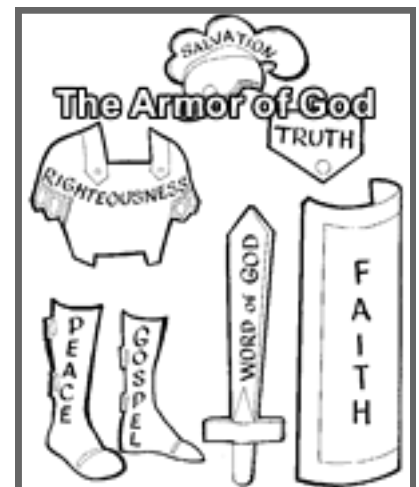
He will promote me to captain and then
allow me to rule with Him.

I am a soldier in the army, and I'm
marching claiming victory.
I will not give up. I will not turn around.

I am a soldier, marching heaven-bound.
Here I Stand! Will you stand with me?

—Unknown Author

Accessed on www.greattrib.com





July Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 3rd—Freida Farr
- 4th—Maddie Seagle
- 7th—Chris Miller
- 10th—Arlene McRary
- 10th—Cameron Collins
- 13th—Alice Hill
- 13th—Phyllis Minton
- 14th—Marilyn Kohnle
- 14th—Matt Shook
- 15th—Wesley Bradford
- 19th—Thomas Johnson
- 20th—Casey Mullinax
- 27th—Cody Parham
- 29th—Josh Bowman
- 30th—Mildred Tolbert
- 30th—Rebecca Hirt
- 31st—Jerry Parson, Jr.

Happy Anniversary!

- 3rd—Randy & Marsha McRary
- 14th—Chris & Melissa Wilson



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

So Jesus said to those who believed in him,
"If you obey my teaching, you are really my
disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth
will set you free." —John 8:31-32 GNT



Acolyte Schedule - JULY

We have only a few acolytes left to serve, and some will be on vacation trips in July. Every Sunday, we will need someone to serve as acolyte. Please see Terri Miller or Bleaka Hollar to volunteer. Thank you.

Nursery Schedule - JULY

2nd	9:00	Phyllis Minton
9th	9:00	Celeste Creaseman
16th	9:00	Loretta Helton
23rd	9:00	Nancy Sears
30th	9:00	

Our Military

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

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski
Shane McRary



Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

Love Offering Box

Please note that we now have a *Love Offering* Box attached to the wall underneath the light switches in the narthex. Money put in this box will go to help members of our community with short-term financial emergencies. Thank you for your gifts to this fund.

Every act of conscious learning requires the willingness to suffer an injury to one's self-esteem. That is why young children, before they are aware of their own self-importance, learn so easily.

— Thomas Szasz



Service Hours in July

Worship: 9 AM

Sun. School: 10:15 AM

We will continue with one combined worship service each Sunday in July. This schedule will continue until further notice.



Rev. Hunter's Arrival

Our new pastor, Rev. Tom Hunter, will arrive on July 5th. He and his wife, Patsy, will arrive around 12:30 p.m. If you are able to be there then, they can use some help moving in their belongings.

Pastor Tom, as he prefers to be called, will begin his official "office" hours on Sunday, July 9th. His first preaching service will be on July 16th. We'll have a commissioning service on that Sunday, too. We hope you will join us as we welcome him to Ebenezer.

Send welcome notices to his e-mail at THunter@wnccumc.net or letters/cards to the parsonage, at 5145 Ebenezer Church Rd., G. F.

Please, keep them in your prayers.

JULY Fundraisers & Events

Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, July 20th**.

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m.** 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 Resources Team*.

Yum!

Yum!



GOD IS LOOKING FOR HEROES

Are you ready to be one?

VBS Coming!
16 - 18

Put it on your calendar now. The fun and learning are on the way!

This year's theme is all about *Heroes*—God's heroes, including you!

Invite all your friends, young and old, and in-between to join us at Hero Central.



Learn how to be a hero for God.

Commencement is July 19 at Redwood Pool, Hudson with cookout!

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM



Daily Schedule — 16-18

Meal (kids) — 5:30 PM
Adults Eat — 6:00 PM
Assembly (kids) — 6:15 PM
Adult Class — 6:30-7:30 PM
Dismissal — 8:45 PM

Habitat House Project

Our latest Habitat House building project will be completed by June 29th.

This year's house was built for Lorena Sanchez and her family—Ludwin, William, Luis & Adam, and Denis. The address is: 93 Falls Ave. Granite Falls.

Dedication of the completed home will be on July 29th.

We continue to collect for our portion to help finance this project. Our goal is \$5,000. **As of June 25th, we have \$4,050—only \$950 to go!**

We thank you for your support.

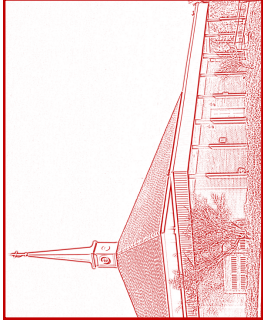




EBENEZER UMC
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



July 2017



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			Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6:30 Teens for Christ 7 PM Adult Bible studies			1
2	3 <i>Happy 4th!</i>	4	5 Rev. Hunter Arrives, see p. 6	6	7	8
	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
VBS PREP WEEK — CLC UNAVAILABLE						
16 Rev. Hunter's first sermon, see p. 6	17	18	19 VBS Commencement & Cookout, see p. 6	20 Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 6	21	22
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, see p. 6						
23 Private Party, CLC 1-5 PM Church Council, 4:30 PM UMW, 7:00 PM	24 August Newsletter items due in today.	25	26	27	28	29
30	31		Work on your spiritual muscles at Vacation Bible School with me. I'll show you how God can make you one of His heroes.		