



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

June '16

Volume 12 Issue 06

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

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You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

--- C. S. Lewis



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



Pastor's Corner — Rev. Eric Lane



Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

--2 Corinthians 13:11-13

I was trying to decide what to say and the words of Paul came to mind. Paul was the first itinerant preacher. I am certainly glad that I have not had to move as often as Paul. God has blessed all of us over the last 14 years, and I am certain that he has many blessings in store for us in the future.

This is my final newsletter article as your pastor; and, as we prepare to depart, I encourage you to continue what you are doing. As I have stated many times, you are a loving church. Embrace your gift, and share that love with those around you. Encourage one another, pray for one another, and stay in touch with one another.

We are reminded in scripture to welcome the "alien," which is a term used for those who have moved in to our area or are visitors. Scripture continues by saying: do not forget; you were once an alien, a foreigner. Make sure that anyone who walks through the doors is welcomed; then make sure that you allow and encourage them to take part, to join in; and listen to them.

The other day, we were looking for a counter top. Lindsey kept telling me to go to a certain place that she had heard had the best price. Well, I am older and have lived longer than Lindsey, so I went to two or three other places before I finally broke down and went where Lindsey had suggested. Guess what—she was right.

The point that I wish to make is that we need to listen to others—young people and new people—may have a better idea. Let their voices be heard.

Well, you have had the opportunity to hear me preach at least 728 times, so I will simply close with these words:

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Love you!

Rev. Eric R. Lane, Pastor

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 Meeting

There will be no Council Meeting in June. There's just too much going on and we just don't have the time or energy for it!

ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY

We will have a combined worship service on Sunday, June 26th. This will be the farewell Sunday for Eric and Beth. Please see page 6 for details.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **June 26th at 7:00 p.m.** Cinda McRary will present the program. All women of the church are invited to participate.

July Newsletter Items

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

Introducing Our New Pastor

Our new pastor, Rev. Jay Bissett, will be arriving here in July. We will have his commissioning service on July 10th and a welcome to the community covered-dish lunch on July 31st after our regular 5th Sunday Combined Worship service. Please keep these dates free and join us as we celebrate and welcome Jay to Ebenezer.



Jay comes from service at two small chapels near Asheville. He has been involved in building programs and in advocating for stronger support of public education in North Carolina. He is looking forward to continuing the Habitat House program with the UM churches in Caldwell County.

Jay writes, "I am guided by the possibilities that are offered for liberation through Jesus Christ from our sins, both personal and societal, and the invitation God offers us to work for the establishment of the Kingdom of God."

Please pray for Jay and his wife, Monica, as they make this major change in their lives.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"The only person who likes change is a wet baby." --Mark Twain

"I am the LORD, and I do not change." —Malachi 3:6a GNT

CHANGE & THE UNCHANGING

I hate change. I hate people moving my cheese. I become irritable when change occurs and takes me out of my comfort zone—where I know where everything is, and who everyone is, and how everything is done. But, without change, life can be one big BORE. Variety can be good. Although an old, comfortable t-shirt is nice to have; it is nice to wear something new and brighter, too. Though the snow is pretty and it can be fun to toss snowballs at your friends (or enemies), the return of spring flowers and green leaves on all the trees is wonderful, too. Some changes can be bad, though; such as your body beginning to sag in all the wrong places, wood rotting, weeds growing, memories failing, good people and friends gone away, a job lost, a good worker retired.

Well, change is definitely coming to Ebenezer in July. We are saying goodbye to some dear friends and a passionate, encouraging leader of our church. Rev. Eric and Beth Lane will be moving to another church at the end of June. We knew the day would be coming; but we hoped it never would, too.

Yet, there is ONE we can count on to never change: the ONE TRUE and FAITHFUL GOD. As Hebrews 13:8 says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." In Hebrews 1:10-12, we are told that God is always the same:

He also said, "You, Lord, in the beginning created the earth, and with your own hands you made the heavens. They will disappear, but you will remain; they will all wear out like clothes. You will fold them up like a coat, and they will be changed like clothes. But you are always the same, and your life never ends."

The Psalmist proclaims his constant love in Psalm 89:1-2:

"O LORD, I will always sing of your constant love; I will proclaim your faithfulness forever. I know that your love will last for all time, that your faithfulness is as permanent as the sky."

We are reminded in Psalm 48:14 that we can count on our God to lead us forever:

"This God is our God forever and ever; he will lead us for all time to come."

And we cannot move too far away for God's love and care to find us:

"LORD, your constant love reaches the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the skies. Your righteousness is towering like the mountains; your justice is like the depths of the sea. People and animals are in our care. How precious, O God, is your constant love! We find protection under the shadow of your wings. We feast on the abundant food you provide; you let us drink from the

(Continued on page 4)



Special Giving

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

In Memory of Max Frye by:

Leonard & Jeanette Teague
Earlie & Donna Peel
Angie Frye
Gerald Frye

In Memory of Zetta Mae Frye by:

Gerald Frye

In Memory of Betty Joyce (Williams) Wright by:

Leonard & Jeanette Teague

In Memory of Rilla Phillips by:

Bill, Delores & Gary Paul Campbell
Family of Rilla Phillips
Jean McWilliam Family

In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:

Steve & Linda Coffey

In Honor of Rev. Eric Lane by:

Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Rev. Eric & Beth Lane by:

Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell
Heavenly Sonlighters Class
Robert & Teresa Herman

In Honor of Eric Lane's Family by:

Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of the 48th Wedding Anniversary of Bill & Delores Campbell on Sept. 7th by:

Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Billy Wayne Campbell's 47th Birthday by:

Delores, Bill & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Patty Coffey by:

The Hermans



"Majorities mean nothing: during the Flood only one man knew enough to get out of the rain."

--Edythe Draper (1992)

Church Council Minutes – April 24, 2016

Attendees: Becky Clark, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Boyd & Emily Johnson, Connor Johnson, Keith Keener, JoAnn Knepp, Jerry Kohnle, Rev. Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jessica Haas, and Alice Hill.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Boyd Johnson. Bleaka Hollar said the opening prayer. Boyd read from a devotional based on Psalm 27:14.

Keith Keener made a motion to waive the reading of April's minutes, because we had no copies (copier was down). Motion passed.

Finance Report.

Jo Nell Harrison told us that there is about \$136,250 left on the CLC mortgage. We have \$13,000 in the bank to pay on bills, etc. Eric informed us of some items (money) that will go to the new pastor; and what has already been paid out to Eric.

Our electric bill was up. Eric said that is probably due to the perimeter CLC lights outside, because the timer was cut off. We will see about reprogramming that, so the lights will not stay on so long at night.

Everything is inline on the regular expenses.

Roy Hamby mentioned that the Finance Committee said that people will be required to stay in their budget parameters. He asked Kim if the \$4,000 will be enough for VBS. Kim said that she is not sure. The cost of the food is most likely to put us over the budget. We have the largest VBS in the county, and the food is a good talking point for the event. Jo Nell told Kim that she would be glad to help with the overage this year, if needed.

Kim said that we need to make sure that all the lights are turned off, and the toilets are not stuck. There are two toilets that tend to get stuck and continuing to run. Keith will find someone to check that out.

Old Business

Basketballs were acquired. Phone Tree is working. There have been a few glitches reported, but overall the system is working fine. The Undergrace Class

owes us some money. Jo Nell stated that money from group fundraisers need to be put in their specific fund; then Jo Nell can move the money to the church fund that it goes to, such as the Building Fund or the Van Fund, etc.

The Youth Minister's job description has not been set yet. It needs to be finalized before we begin advertising for the position. A Committee will be going through the applications, and the new pastor, Jay Bissett, will be involved later in the process of hiring.

Concerning wiring in the nursery: Randy got a price. It will be anywhere from \$200-500 to fix the wiring, so that the nursery workers can hear the worship service. Jimmy Stone said that we may be able to use the wi-fi to pipe the service into the nursery instead. Keith Keener will check with him on that before spending any money.

An in-house Safe Sanctuary workshop has not been scheduled yet.

CLC mortgage re-financing: Jo Nell believes it might be better to leave it as is, since the bank has agreed to let us go another year with the current loan agreement. Things are unsettled right now, so we cannot be sure we'll be able to get better terms. Keith made a motion to continue with the current mortgage; Roy seconded; motion passed.

New Business

Trustees had the parsonage inspected, as required before a new pastor comes in. There are no major issues; just minor recommendations, such as cutting back shrubs, smoke detector replaced, etc. We will need a new desk for the pastor's office.

The Communion Stewards reported that some of the linens are badly stained and need to be replaced. Sonya would like to look for some replacements. She will price some and then get back to the Council on the cost. Emily and Boyd agreed to split the cost and buy some new ones at Sam's.

Eric wants to take his computer with him. Kim made a motion to let him do so; Cinda seconded; motion passed.

Upcoming important dates: On June 26th, we will have one worship



Church Council Minutes, con't...

service, which will be a day of reflection and celebration of Eric's service to Ebenezer. On July 10, our new pastor, Jay Bissett will be commissioned for service at Ebenezer. This will be a one-worship service day also. Then on July 31st, we will have another combined worship service with covered-dish afterward to officially welcome Jay Bissett to our church and community.

Eric and Boyd said that Jay is really passionate about keeping up the Habitat program, so we need to begin raising money for that again.

Boyd adjourned the meeting. Sonya closed us in prayer.

—Minutes by Cindy Sears, ☆

Merrill Orphanage Update

Nathan Merrill has sent another update on the Finding Hope Ministries Orphanage. We will run a copy in one of our June bulletins. A pdf will be available on our website, also.

Jay Bissett's Contact Info.

We encourage you to write to Rev. Jay Bissett and welcome him to our church, and send encouraging words during this time of transition. (Please refrain from asking pastor-related questions until after he arrives at our church.)

Below are his physical and e-mail addresses:

**22 Kirby Rd.
Asheville, NC 28806**

JBissett@wnccumc.net

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

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

—Hebrews 13:8 GNT

Something to Pray About, con't

(Continued from page 2)

river of your goodness. You are the source of all life, and because of your light we see the light."
--Psalm 36:5-9 GNT

No matter what changes occur in our lives or the church, our God remains with us. We can count on him to be with us and care for us and guide us through all changes, good and bad.

We have had to say good-bye to many leaders and workers in our church over the years. Now we are saying good-bye to Eric, but our mission continues—as it did when the great prophet Moses died in the wilderness:

"There has never been a prophet in Israel like Moses; the LORD spoke with him face-to-face. No other prophet has ever done miracles and wonders like those that the LORD sent Moses to perform against the king of Egypt, his officials, and the entire country. No other prophet has been able to do the great and terrifying things that Moses did in the sight of all Israel."
--Deuteronomy 34:10-12 GNT

"After the death of the LORD's servant Moses, the LORD spoke to Moses' helper, Joshua son of Nun. He said, 'My servant Moses is dead. Get ready now, you and all the people of Israel, and cross the Jordan River into the land that I am giving them...Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go.'"
--Joshua 1:1-2, 9 GNT

As the Israelites had to accept a new leader, despite having had the best prophet ever to lead them before; we, too must move on and accept new leadership. It is the mission that must carry on—taking the good news about Christ to the entire world. We will always need new leaders and workers to carry out that mission, but our God will never forsake us (Hebrews 13:5b) and He will be with us "to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b). We can count on him. Can we count on you to "stay the course" and "fight the good fight?" (see 2 Timothy 4:7 and 1 Timothy 6:12).

Let us pray diligently, constantly, and fervently for one another and for Eric and Beth and their new church during this time of change and transition. For Eric and Beth, I close with this ancient blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

"May the LORD bless you and take care of you; May the LORD be kind and gracious to you; May the LORD look on you with favor and give you peace."

And this from Hebrews 13:20b-21:

"May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will, and may he, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleased him. And to Christ be the glory forever and ever!"

--AMEN





June Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 1st—Joan Pennell
- 2nd—Carson Teague
- 3rd—Melissa Wilson, Dustin Kirby
- 6th—Ethan Haas
- 7th—William McRary, Sidney Austin
- 8th—Margaret Fairchild, Becky Yount
- 9th—Gerald Frye, Beth Lane
- 10th—Mary Lynn Pennell
- 13th—Kim Ellis
- 16th—Casey Knepp
- 22nd—Nathan Adams
- 23rd—Theia McRary
- 25th—Barbara Miller
- 26th—Sharon Bowman
- 28th—Teresa Herman, Boyd Johnson,
Ragan Knepp, Cara Benge

Happy Anniversary!



- 20th—Boyd & Emily Johnson
- 20th—Jimmy & Heather Stone
- 22nd—Dwight & Rosalind Kelley
- 22nd—Rex & Gwen Teague
- 24th—Chris & Tasha Haas
- 28th—James & Freida Farr

Call for Teachers & Leaders

Acolyte Program Director: We need someone to take over the acolyte program in June. Please contact Beth Lane if you are interested in leading our young people in this vital service.

Assistant Teacher: Kim Ellis is looking for another assistant to help with the Middle School Class every other month starting in June (rotating). Please contact Libby Long, Kim Ellis, or Beth Lane if you are interested in helping.

Youth Group Leader: We are looking for a leader and assistant to take over our Youth program, which meets on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m., currently. Please see Roy Hamby for more information or to volunteer.



Acolyte Schedule - JUNE

5th	Kaylee Haas
12th	Andrew Miller
19th	Bethany Huss
26th	Emily Haas

Nursery Schedule - JUNE

5th	8:30	Phyllis Minton & Teresa Simmons
	11:00	Becky Yount
12th	8:30	Bruce & Kathy Kirby
	11:00	Patty Coffey
19th	8:30	Dwight & Rosalind Kelley
	11:00	Tasha Haas
26th	10:30	Kim Ellis & Robert Mullinax
	ONE SERVICE SUNDAY	

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
Andy Gaillard
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski



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

Cathy Huffman Contact Information

Cathy is in Alaska on a mission trip for the summer. Below is the address where you can write to her and encourage her in her mission work:

Catherine Huffman
%LIM
P. O. Box 72961
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707



JUNE Fundraisers & Events

Fare-Thee-Well Supper

We invite everyone in our church and in the community to a *Farewell and Celebration of Service* Covered-dish Supper for Rev. Eric and Beth Lane on

**Saturday
June 4th
6 PM**

Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share while we say a fond good-bye and God bless you to Eric and Beth; and thank them for their 14 years of service to our church and community.



We promise you don't have to cook, Beth!



We hope to keep Eric from singing!



And we won't make you clean up this time!

Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class has taken over the biscuit sales. They will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits **AND bologna biscuits** on **Thursday, June 16th.**

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: 396-2214** (church office; Mon.-Fri. 8:30-1:30 pm).

Proceeds will now support local missions. Please make your checks out to ART, which stands for *Area Response Team*.

Yum! Yum!



Father's Day Breakfast

**SUNDAY
JUNE 19
9:30—10:30 AM**

We are feeding our men a whopping big breakfast on Father's Day to celebrate and honor all our fathers, brothers, uncles, granddads.

Join us for good food and fellowship and say thank you to the men of our church and community for all that they do for their families and the church and the community.



Time to Say Goodbye

We must say good-bye to our Pastor, Rev. Eric Lane. This is a sad time for us. We need your prayers.

Yet, we want to make this a time of celebration, also. A celebration of 14 years of wonderful, passionate, tireless service from Eric, Beth and their family.

Please come by on June 4th (see above) and help us say good-bye.

Please bring a card or letter or send them one before they leave on June 26 to express your appreciation for all they have done for our church and community.

May God bless them in their new church, and continue to bless us at Ebenezer.



ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

JUNE 26TH

We will have only one worship service this Sunday as we reflect upon and celebrate Rev. Eric Lane's 14 years of pastoring our church.

Sunday school

9-10:00 AM

Worship

10:30 AM

(contemporary and traditional style worship combined)

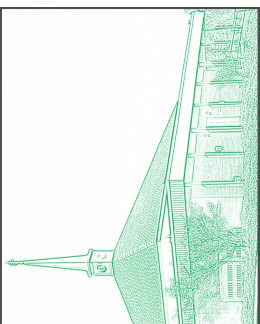
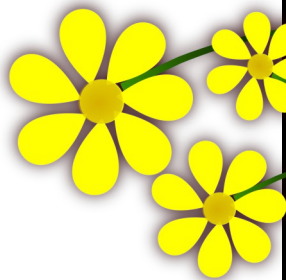
Please bring a covered-dish of your favorite food or dessert to share after the worship service as we say goodbye to Eric and Beth.



EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

June 2016



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship	See p. 5 for Acolyte Schedule		1 Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies	2	3	4 Lane's Fare-There-Well Covered-dish Supper—6 PM, see p. 6
5 Graduation Sunday 	6	7	8	9	10 	11
12 Private Party—3-5 PM	13	14	15	16 Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 6	17	18
19 Father's Day Breakfast—9:30 AM, see p. 6	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26 ONE SERVICE SUNDAY , see p. 6 Baby Shower—2-4 PM UMW—7 PM	27	28	29	30		