



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

March '14

Volume 10 Issue 3

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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



Greetings,

It is great to be home again! There is an old saying that goes something like this; "Sometimes it is hard to see the forest for the trees." To me this means that there are times when I must get out of my "normal" routine, so that I can see things in a new and clearer way. I am thankful that you allow me to represent you and serve on mission teams. These times help me to see more clearly how we can continue to be in ministry with God as a church.

I thank everyone for the many cards that I received each morning, and I want you to know that they lifted my spirits and helped me keep focused, even when things became hard and difficult and the body hurt from the hot sun and the hard labor.

And I felt your prayers and witnessed how God continues to work in and through his people to bring the impossible into being. I am grateful to be a part of a church that surrounded those in need while I was away. It truly showed that the little song we sang as children rings true; "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together..." Together we make up the body of Christ, and the week that I was in Belize truly showed me that we are the living church of God—together.

I am encouraged by what I feel is the presence of God working in the life of each of you. Returning from Belize, I see how truly blessed we are, and I sense that there is much more we can give of our gifts, time, and talents, so that the kingdom of God may continue to grow.

I hope to share stories and pictures, and to answer questions about the

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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: 396-2214

Church's e-mail: eumc@ebenezerum-church.org



Meetings

Relay for Life

There will be a brief meeting at **6:00 p.m. during the Poor Man's Supper fundraiser on Saturday, March 1st** for anyone who is interested in helping with the food booth and other fundraising activities for *Relay for Life* this May. See Warren Bumgarner for more information.

United Methodist Men

The men will meet on **Sunday, March 9th at 3:00 p.m.**

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, March 9th at 4:30 p.m.** All members of the church may attend.

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will prepare and deliver another meal on **Monday, March 17th at 5:00 p.m.** We need drivers to deliver the meals. See Ricky Baker to volunteer to help prepare the meal and/or clean up.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.** Sonya Crouse is in charge of the program. Cinda McRary and Dawn Yount will provide refreshments.

April Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the March newsletter in by **March 23rd**. Thank you. —Editor

Ambassador *n.* 1. a diplomat sent by one country as a permanent representative or on a special mission to another. 2. an official messenger.

—Oxford American Dictionary

"We are ambassadors of our Lord and Savior. Honor His Name and our faith by how you live."

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

—2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

I am reading the book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: a Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity* by Nabeel Qureshi. This is the story of how Nabeel was raised as a Muslim, but came to know Christ as Lord and Savior. The descriptions of how Nabeel was raised in the Islam faith are fascinating, and, frankly, humiliating when I compare it with how I was raised in a Christian, regular-church-attending, family. We were at church practically every time the doors were open, and I was involved in Sunday school, VBS, and in the G.A.s (Girls' Auxiliary of the R.A.s or Royal Ambassadors—the boys group) in a Baptist church. I also participated in Bible drills, where we practiced and competed in quickly looking up Bible passages; and I memorized Bible verses on a regular basis. But, I don't remember either of my parents ever drilling me on what I knew about Christ or Christian theology or history. I was never asked to quote Bible verses at home. The only thing we did at home was say a short prayer before we ate our meals.

Nabeel tells of being drilled on Islam tents of faith, the prophet Muhammad's life, and the history of Islam. He memorized prayers that he had to say up to 32 times a day; plus he memorized whole sections of the Quran (Islam's sacred text) and in the original Arabic, no less. He also was required to learn apologetics or how to defend his faith and, specifically, undermine Christian beliefs.

Listen to what his mother tells him as he enters an American school in Virginia during his teen years:

"Beyta, I wish there were some Muslim boys in your school so you wouldn't be alone in representing Islam and so you would have true companionship. But that was not Allah's will. Always remember this: no matter where you are or what you are doing, you are an ambassador for Islam. You will always be an ambassador for Islam." (p. 74; emphasis added)

Nabeel's mother goes on to say:

"...Whatever you do, be the most respectful, honest, and dignified one doing it, so people will praise Islam...Be such a virtuous person that no one can even point a finger of blame at you. In their hearts, they will praise you because they will know you are honorable, or they will dislike you because they dislike themselves. Either way, they will know that Islam has made you the good person you are." (p.75)

I mentioned the old-style Baptist group, the R.A.s above, which refers to the Royal Ambassadors. We used to be taught that we were ambassadors of Christ and for Christ in the world. Are children being taught that today? Do we adults understand that we are ambassadors for Christ? Do we try to be honest, pure, and respectful, and do whatever we are doing in a way that will

(Continued on page 4)

Church Council — February 9th, 2014

Attendees: Anthony & Sherry Austin, Ricky & Shawn Baker, Warren Bumgarner, David & Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Barbara Frye, Gerald Frye (Chair), Jo Nell Harrison, Alice Hill, Keith Keener, Joann Knepp, Eric Lane (Pastor), Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Barbara Miller, Scott Miller, Linda Moretz, Bob Sears, Cindy Sears, Robbie Settlemyre, Jimmy & Rhyan Stone, Jeanette Teague, and Jerry Kohnle.

Gerald Frye opened with scripture reading and asked Jimmy Stone to open the meeting with prayer. Gerald read about the coming of the Holy Spirit, and how He is our guide and forms the church, and gives us gifts to use in service to the church.

Minutes stand as read.

Jo Nell brought us the financial report. All in all, we are doing well at this time. We will need to decide where the money will come from to pay for the defibrillator that we just purchased. It was decided to use the office equipment line item to pay for the machine.

OLD BUSINESS

Eric brought us information about the phone tree system. With ONE CALL, you pay a monthly fee and they monitor/send out the calls. That system does not go on the computer or tie up the telephone line. PHONE TREE offers a one-time fee of \$1800 and you own the system, and the phone is tied up while the calls are going out. There was a general discussion about other ways of handling this, and whether it is actually needed. Barbara Miller made a motion that Jimmy Stone see if he can set up a program and send special notes to people to phone others who do not have internet access or a cell phone.

David Crouse talked about the acquisition of the defibrillator and setting up the CPR classes.

NEW BUSINESS

Eric Lane wants to see if the church will sponsor him for a continuing education course in Ohio. He will bring the costs of it to us next month.

Kim Ellis says the Barbecue is set for May 2-3 if there is nothing else to interfere with it. *(Please note that this*

date has been changed to April 4-5; change was determined after the Council meeting.)

Sherry Austin brought a request for the purchase of an ad with the Tractor Power Show, \$65 for an inside ad in the booklet from the show or \$100 for our name on the back of the shirt that is sold at the event in May. The Tractor Club is a Christian organization. Marsha McCrary made a motion to do both, second by Bob Sears. Motion amended by Kim who asked if we could do something as "in memory of Wade Austin" on our space in the booklet. Jeff Smith wondered what a half page ad would cost. Anthony will find out more information on the cost and how many lines we would be allowed. Marsha amended the motion to the shirt and an ad, once we have a price. Motion passed.

Jimmy asked for permission to use the church credit card to order books for Bleaka's upcoming Wednesday Bible study until the people could pay for the books. Permission granted.

Next we discussed what to do with the Gifts for Christ money received this December—the total was \$1680. Jimmy Stone made a motion that we give it to the SCCM expansion. Jeff Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Bob Sears dismissed us in prayer. ✝

Times They Are A' Changin'

It's coming up on that time again. Man has decided that he cannot leave the clocks alone. I guess he has the right; he invented them.

Move your clocks 1 hour forward on Saturday night, March 8. We enter Daylight savings time again on March 9.

Spring forward



Don't forget to set
clocks ahead
one hour
at 2 a.m.
Sunday.

AP

Prodigal God Bible Study

The Wednesday night Bible study group will be using the book, *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller beginning around the end of March. This book offers a fresh way to look at the story of the "Prodigal Son," and see how much is revealed about God and his love for us in this parable. "The book is laid out in seven brief chapters which aim to uncover the extravagant (prodigal) grace of God, as revealed in this parable." (Brian Hedges)

Bleaka Hollar will lead the study. She has some copies of the book. If you would like a copy for yourself, please see her in the next couple of weeks, so that we can order more copies if necessary.



You do not need the book to take part in the study.

Special Giving

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

In Memory of Keith Bradford by:

Paul & Edna Hart
William & Karen Worsham

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

"The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

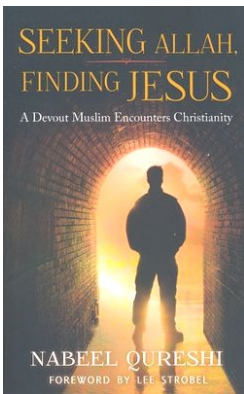
—Psalm 24:1 NKJV



Something..., con't

bring honor to His Name and to Christianity?

People of the Islamic faith look at America as a Christian nation, and find proof that “Christians” are not God-fearing people, because they assume that all Americans are Christians. When they look at what is going on here—in TV shows and movies, in the news, in personal and business relationships, they have the proof they want that Christ is not the Son of God and Christianity is a false religion. It is up to us—the true believers in Christ, who are not “Christians” in name only—to show them and tell them what Christianity and being a disciple of Christ is all about. We are ambassadors of our Lord and Savior. Honor His Name and our faith by how you live.



I highly recommend this biography by Qureshi, and put forth another note from the book. Nabeel said a Christian friend spoke with him and lovingly answered his questions and arguments against Christianity for seven years before he came to Christ. That's a lot of seed planting, plowing, watering, and hoeing! Be a friend first, witness with how you live first, and be open to every opportunity to speak of Christ—and most of all be patient. The Holy Spirit brings people to Christ; we are only His official messengers. †

Economics for Everybody

The Pairs and Spares Sunday school class will have a study on basic economics from a Christian world view in March and April.

The study is a DVD series called *Economics for Everybody: Applying Biblical Principles to Work, Wealth, and the World*. It was developed by R. C. Sproul, Jr. We will view a segment of the DVD and then go through some discussion questions. Each week we will review the previous week's main points. There will be short sections of scripture at each session that sets forth the principles in the lesson.

As Sproul says in his introduction to this study,

“Jesus taught us to pray, ‘Give us this day our daily bread.’ The provision of our daily needs matters to us, and it matters to our heavenly Father.

“In this series, we are going to look at how God answers this prayer and, in His grace, gives us our daily bread. My prayer is that you will not just come away with a better understanding of how God has ordered His world, but that you will, in turn, become a more faithful steward, remembering that ‘the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.’”

The basic economic principles we will explore are:

- ◆ *God owns everything.*
- ◆ *Man is the steward of God's property.*
- ◆ *Economics is man making choices as to how to best use his limited resources in order to be a good steward before God.*

We invite you to join us for this study. †

Pastors Corner, con't

(Continued from page 1)

trip very soon. Meanwhile, I invite you to come out March 5, for our Ash Wednesday service, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent, which is a time of confession for us.

God bless you and thank you again,

Rev. Eric Lane



Small Move, Big Change

Book Review: *Small Move, Big Change: Using Microresolutions to Transform Your Life Permanently* by Caroline L. Arnold, Viking, c2014.

How many of you made a New Year's Resolution this year? How many of you have already given up on it? Arnold says that you should NEVER make a resolution that you can't keep. Instead, make a small, easy resolution, that is very specific and stick to it for 4-8 weeks until it becomes a new habit.

Example: Don't say, “I'm going to lose 25 lbs. this year.” Or, “I am going to spend one hour a day running or exercising.” Instead, choose a specific and more easily manageable goal. “I am going to eat oatmeal for breakfast 2 days a week.” “I am going to go for a 15 minute walk on Monday and Friday evening.”

As Arnold explains, we live by habit. And habits are difficult to overcome, because they tend to be so automatic. But if you concentrate on changing one small thing at a time, it leads to change and that small change can lead to greater change down the road.

Read the book for more good insights and give it a try. (Lenoir Library has a copy for checkout.)

—by Cindy Sears





March Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 3rd—Michael Smith
- 5th—Christine Teague
- 7th—Trena Kirby, Kim Knepp
- 8th—Kevin Lane, Judy McCrary
- 10th—Kay Smith, Bryan Turner
- 12th—Margaret Smith
- 13th—Clair Gilbert
- 14th—Wayne Ellis, Jerry Helton
- 16th—Rachel Adams, Sarah Adams
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 18th—Angie Miller
- 20th—Tracy McRary
- 25th—Jordan Ellis
- 26th—Emily Kohnle, Cody Thompson
- 28th—Amanda McRary
- 29th—Rene Huffman, Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Happy Anniversary!

- 28th—Michael & Margaret Smith



Special Funds Report

We thank everyone for their continued support of our church and the special funds that we request you to help us with on top of our regular budget. Below is a report of some of these special requests:

Habitat House Fund: We have reached our goal of \$5,000 and exceeded it! We have over \$5,384.

SCCM Expansion Fund: We want to raise \$2,500 for a matching grant to expand the SCCM's building with a good cooler/freezer and more storage area. We have used the Gifts for Christ from Dec. 2013 for this fund, and with current donations, we now have \$1,901 in this fund.

Bolivia Mission Trip: Please see p. 6 for details of our fundraiser this month for this trip.



Acolyte Schedule - MARCH

2nd	Payton Lyda
9th	Austin Teague
16th	Makayla Settlemyre
23rd	Kevin Miller
30th	Samantha Stone

Nursery Schedule - MARCH

2nd	8:30	Cheryl Vosdingh & Tammy Adams
	11:00	Nancy Sears
9th	8:30	Heather Stone & Kim Ellis
	11:00	Kay Gilbert
16th	8:30	Keith & Susan Keener
	11:00	Joann Knepp
23rd	8:30	Bleaka Hollar & Cinda McRary
	11:00	Beth Lane
30th	10:30	Tasha Haas

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
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner



Chris Kaisenski
Shane McRary
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Jason Nichol
Michael Potts
James Starbuck
Hunter Tolbert

special Sunday!

Join us in the *Christian Life Center*
March 30th at 10:30 a.m.
for a special

Praise & Worship Service

Sunday school will meet from 9-10:00 a.m.

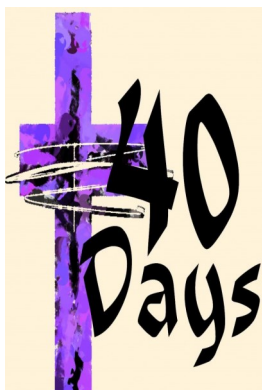


Ash Wednesday

We will have a special service on

**Ash Wednesday
March 5th
at 7:00 p.m.**

This marks the beginning of the season of Lent, which commemorates the 40 days of prayer and fasting of our Lord Jesus Christ before he began his public ministry.



Join us as we dedicate ourselves anew to service to the Lord and His Church.

March Fundraisers & Events

POOR MAN'S SUPPER

**Saturday
March 1st
5—7:00 PM**

Menu

Pinto beans	Desserts
Potatoes & onions	Tea
Slaw	Coffee
Cornbread	

Donations requested
To finance Ebenezer's food booth at the annual *Relay for Life* cancer fundraiser in May.

Entertainment begins at 5:30 PM
Pantomimes—Songs—Instrumentals
Enjoy the food!
Enjoy the fun!

Breakfast Biscuits

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, March 13th.**

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!**



Bake Sale

**Saturday
March 15th
8:30 AM—until**

The Costa Rica Team will have a bake sale on the 15th to help raise funds for their annual mission trip to Costa Rica.

Come by for some delicious homemade desserts—pies and cakes and cookies.

We thank you for your support of our mission efforts.



Bolivia Yard Sale

**Saturday
7 AM to 3 PM
Lunch
12—2 PM**



Come to our yard sale and search for treasures and bargains and help out our mission efforts. We will also be serving hamburgers and hotdogs during lunchtime.

We are accepting donations of items in good condition to sale at the yard sale. Please drop them by the church during normal office hours, Monday—Friday, 8:30—1:00 p.m.

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

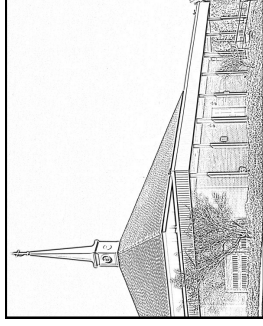
When GOD solves your problems,
you have faith in HIS abilities; when
GOD doesn't solve your problems
HE has faith in your abilities.



EBENEZER UMC



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

March 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	See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists		Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies			1 Poor Man's Supper— 5-7 PM, see p. 6
2	3	4 Prayer Group—10AM	5 Ash Wednesday Service—7 PM, see p. 6	6	7	8 Spring forward one hour, see p. 3
9  UMM—3 PM Church Council— 4:30 PM	10	11 Prayer Group—10AM	12	13 Breakfast Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'till gone!	14	15 Bake Sale—8:30 a.m.—until, see p. 6
16	17 Food Ministry—5 PM, see p. 2 	18 Prayer Group—10AM	19	20	21	22 Bolivia Yard Sale—7-3:00 PM, see p. 6
23 Roberts Party—2-4 PM (11-5 PM) UMW—7 PM, see p. 2	24 Saint Patrick's Day March 17th 2014	25 Prayer Group—10AM	26	27	28	29 Simmons Bridal Shower, 12-7 PM (3-5 PM) - private
30 Praise & Worship Combined Service, see p. 5	31			Annual BBQ Benefit coming on April 4-5!		