



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

March '15

Volume 11 Issue 3

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



I was reading from Isaiah the other day and these words struck me, "...you are precious in my sight..." I am still in Belize, a very poor country, yet in other ways a very beautiful country. As I reflect on all that we have and all that they lack, I feel the presence of God both here, and from each of you. If not for your help and support, we could not have come here to share with others.

The other day I met with a retired minister whose wife is very ill, and he was told to just make her as comfortable as possible. He told me how they had been blessed to share together 61 years, and in March, it will be 62 years of marriage. He said that he never regretted a moment. His story was not about all that he had done, all that he had, and all that he had accumulated; but rather about the love that he had shared with his companion, and he gave thanks to God for making it possible.

That moment connected me with each of you as I recalled the difficult and hard times that you have gone through, or, maybe are going through now, and of your faithfulness to God through it all. Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah again:

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Isaiah 43:1-7

I look forward to my return and in continuing our ministry for the kingdom together. May God richly bless you,
Rev. Eric Lane



TUESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 10:00a Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

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



Meetings

Canned Goods Collection

We are collecting non-perishable food items on Sundays throughout Lent in all the United Methodist Churches in our area. Please place your donations in the designated box in the Sanctuary or on the green bench under the bulletin board next to the CLC entrance in the Old Fellowship Hall. (Donations specifically for our food pantry should go on the bench near the brown cabinet unit in the Old Fellowship Hall.)

Church Council Meeting

The next church council meeting is on **Sunday, March 8 at 4:30 p.m.** All members of the church may attend, but only council members may vote.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** Sonya Crouse will present the program. Cinda McRary and Dawn Yount are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are invited to participate.

Combined Service

We will have a combined worship service on **Sunday, March 29th**, which will begin at **10:30 a.m.** Sunday school will move to 9:00—10:10 a.m.

April Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the April 2015 newsletter in by **March 22nd**. Thank you. —Editor

Church Office Closure

The Church office will be **closed on March 30-31** for Cindy's mini-vacation.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday: 8:30a.m.—1:00p.m.
Fri. 2:30-5:00p.m. (if needed.)

Phone: 828-396-2214

"It is better to be irrelevant to the culture than be a party to the destruction of the family and civilization, and the eternal damnation of individuals..."

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

For some godless people have slipped in unnoticed among us, persons who distort the message about the grace of our God in order to excuse their immoral ways, and who reject Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

—Jude 4 GNT

IRRELEVANT

Former megachurch pastor, Rob Bell, has said that any church that does not support same-sex "marriage" will "continue to be even more irrelevant." (See www.patheos.com for full article.) He seems to think that the Church should not be listening to what is written in "2000 year old letters." Does he also believe that we should not listen to the 8000+ year old Ten Commandments? Are murder, stealing, and coveting now acceptable behaviors if they make us "feel good?"

If we Christians do not stand on the Truth in God's written word, we will have no way to fight the destruction of the family and civilization by the forces of evil inherent in moral depravity of all kinds.

It is better to be irrelevant to the culture than be a party to the destruction of the family and civilization, and the eternal damnation of individuals—not to mention the harm that befalls people who indulge in sin (rebellion against God and His Truth) in the here and now.

To those abandoned babies in Korea that the Korean pastor has adopted and arranged adoptions for, Christian Church is **not irrelevant**. (See "The Dropbox" movie)

To those people in Africa suffering from the Ebola virus, the Christian doctors and nurses who are treating them at extreme risk to their own safety are **not irrelevant**.

To those children who are alive today, because Christians convinced their mothers not to abort them, Christianity is **not irrelevant**.

To criminals who have been freed from their prison of sin and helped to become reintegrated into society once released from their physical prison, the Christian Church is **not irrelevant**.

To many people living in poverty or in areas of famine, the Christian Church is **not irrelevant**.

To thousands of children around the world who receive boxes of gifts during the Christmas season from Christians, the Christian Church is **not irrelevant**.

To women and children who have been enslaved and exploited sexually and rescued by Christians, the Christian Church is **not irrelevant**.

To all citizens of the United States where each person is considered to have "inalienable rights," Christianity is **not irrelevant**.

To all those charities that receive more money for their ministries from Christians than anyone else, the Christian Church is **not irrelevant**.

To anyone who has ever needed hospital care or education, been adopted, used technology, studied science, had hospice care for a loved one, read Greek or Roman classical literature, studied or listened to much of classical music, and enjoyed looking at fine art, the Christian Church is **not irrelevant**; because all of these things were begun and/or preserved by Christians based upon their faith in God the Creator and in Jesus Christ His Son.

(Continued on page 6)



Special Giving

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

In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:

Robert & Teresa Herman
Larry & Alice Hill
Paul & Cynthia McCurry
Joyce Hartley
Stephen Coffey
Ernest P. Gish
Suncrest Farms Country Ham Inc.
Leonard Teague
Heavenly Sonlighters Class
Women's Bible Class
Brown & Gene Holbrooks
Kent & Betty Proctor
David & Erena B. Calder

In Memory of Quincy Poe by:

Rachel Poe

In Rosie Hill by:

Larry & Alice Hill

Food for the Hungry

Although we have had a good response for the call to fill up Ebenezer UMC's own Food Pantry, we have not received many donations for the LENT collection that will be distributed throughout Caldwell County.

We thank everyone for all their donations to our food pantry, and hope that you will also see fit to help with the county wide collection during this season of Lent.

Please bring your items on Sunday mornings and place them in the box at the altar. We thank you for your generosity and concern for those less fortunate.

We also praise you for all you have done for the Ebenezer food pantry and our food ministry, "The Lord's Supper."

May God bless you and your family in return.



Women's Retreat Invite

Women of Ebenezer are invited to join a group planning to go to the

Fresh Grounded Faith

Women's Event in Blountville, TN

April 10-11

We need to have at least 10 participants **signed up by March 8th** to get the discount tickets.

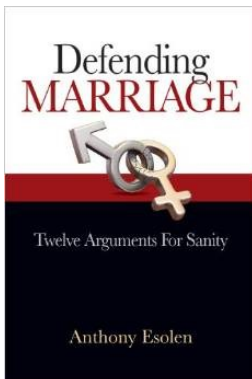
Please see Jessica Haas or Beth Lane to sign-up.

The group will be leaving at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and returning on Saturday around 4:00 p.m. The tickets for the event are \$39 each, plus you will need to help with the hotel costs and have money for meals. The women will carpool to the event.

See www.FreshGroundedFaith.com for more information on the event.



Book Review



Defending Marriage; Twelve Arguments for Sanity by Anthony Esolen, c2014

This book should be required reading for all people who call themselves Christians. Unfortunately for our society and our men, women, and children, the truths expressed here have been ignored or discarded by so many that their recovery and our culture's recovery are in serious doubt.

From the title and with what is going on in the courts today, you would think the author would begin his book with a denunciation of homosexual pseudo-marriage; but that is not the case. Esolen builds his defense of marriage by showing how marriage and, subsequently, the family have been under attack and been made weaker for decades. Many of the problems we have today stem from the acceptance of more morally lax heterosexual relations and the easing of divorce laws to make it easier for people to break up their families or never begin one in the first place. Esolen shows how these changes have changed our society for the worse, for instance, making it more difficult for men to have chaste friendships with women or non-sexual, but affectionate relationships with other men. Teenagers are growing up in a society where

having a sexual relationship is the way to (1) prove one's adulthood, and (2) prove one is heterosexual.

Marriage between a man and a woman—as God ordained and our physical anatomy proscribes—has been weakened even for those who believe their vow “until death do us part” is a solid, unbreakable covenant. No matter how much you believe in this, there remains in the back of your mind the knowledge that you can call it quits at any time. And our children know this, too. Therefore there is no sense of family security, even for the never divorced.

Still, as the title of the first argument Esolen makes says: *We must not give the sexual revolution the force of irrevocable law.* And we must continue to fight for sanity in the Church, in our families, and in our society. When the Church disconnected from the culture and stopped teaching the truth about sexuality and marriage, we lost a crucial battle. Women, children, and even boys and men will be abused more and more as the sexual depravity increases. It is time to wake up and reclaim the joy and sanity embodied in the God-ordained institution of marriage and sexual purity.

—C. Sears ☆



Church Council — February 8, 2015

Attendees: Sonya and David Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Frye, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Alice Hill, Bleaka Hollar, Cathy Huffman, Boyd Johnson, Keith Keener, Joann Knepp, Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Scott & Terri Miller, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jimmy & Rhyan Stone, Jeanette Teague, and John McCrary.

Gerald Frye called the meeting to order, and opened with prayer. There were no corrections to the minutes of the last meeting. Stand as read.

Financial Report

Jo Nell Harrison informed us that we still need \$356 for the microphones. This will come out of our regular funds, since these are an asset. We are in good financial shape, but we spent about \$1500 more than we took in in January.

Old Business

Kim said that she had not checked on how well the groups are cleaning the CLC now after functions. She will let us know if she notices anymore problems.

John McCrary and others are working on making a chair hanging unit. This will not come out of the maintenance fund, but funds will be voted on by the council when we have a price. He estimates \$230 per rack, which would hold 75 chairs. We will need three racks. The racks will be 5 feet wide and 12 feet high when the chairs on the rack.

Kim made a motion to have one of these made, and if we like it, we will order the others. Bleaka Hollar seconded. Motion passed.

Rhyan Stone thanked everyone for helping with the meals. They packed 11,000 meals that will be sent to Haiti.

New Business

Gerald Frye brought up the problem of the broken pebble-like stair covering at the bottom of the outside stairs. Gerald called the man who did the original work to come check it. He

will arrange to fix it and put more sealer on it, but this will have to wait until warmer weather comes in.

UM Churches in Caldwell County have been discussing how to make our churches stronger and more vibrant. Eric's group is talking about cooperative efforts that the churches can do. He has found a survey to have the members of the church answer questions that helps to identify the strengths of each church. Our Conference will pay for the survey. Then we can determine which churches would work together best on certain types of projects. This is an online survey. We will need 30 (or more) people to volunteer to fill out a survey. The surveys need to be completed within a 2 week time period.

Gerald Frye said that we should support it. Eric is only asking for support, because there is no cost for the service. It was agreed to do the survey. We will have more information about this soon.

Collier's Church bought a new van and they need to get rid of their 15 person van. It is a 1987 one with only 46,000 miles on it. They are asking for \$3000 or a little less. Cathy Huffman brought up the possible cost of insurance and that drivers would have to take a driving test to qualify to drive it. Jo Nell made a motion to pay \$2500 for the van. Cinda McCrary made a second. Boyd suggested that we have a mechanic look at the vehicle first. Scott will be glad to get a mechanic (Terry Fowler) to look at it, probably for free. Scott volunteered to take it to the mechanic. He will ask Fowler about probable maintenance costs. Motion passed.

Bleaka Hollar told us that April 17-18th is the annual barbecue fundraiser date. Rainbow Class needs more meat and asked for money to purchase it now, because of a current sale. Boyd made a motion to fund the purchase, and to provide money to buy all the needed supplies; second by Jeanette Teague. Motion passed.

Bleaka announced that she is

Special Notice

DON'T BE LATE!

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, **March 8th**. Set your clock forward one hour on Saturday evening!

searching for talent for the Poor Man's Supper and Show on March 7th.

Gerald closed the meeting with request for prayers for several members and their families going through some tough times: J. B. & Patty Coffey and family, Dwight Kelley, Patsy Fowler, and the Belize Mission Team. Bleaka Hollar closed the meeting in prayer.

Emergency Meeting – Feb. 15, 2015

Attendees: Sonya Crouse, Gerald Frye, Chris & Tasha Haas, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Alice Hill, Bleaka Hollar, Cathy Huffman, Boyd & Emily Johnson, Keith Keener, Joann Knepp, Judy McCrary, Scott Miller, Robert Mullinax, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jimmy & Rhyan Stone, Jeanette Teague, and Jerry Kohnle. (22 present)

Scott Miller reported that the Colliers' 1987 Dodge van was not in good shape and would cost over \$1,000 to fix. Miller found another van in much better shape; a 1993 model for \$4,000. The odometer needed to be replaced, and there were some minor leaks that needed to be fixed.

Council members expressed concerns about cost of buying and owning a van relative to renting a van when needed. Jo Nell Harrison made a motion to reject the proposal to buy and to rent a van when needed instead. Motion seconded by Sonya Crouse. Motion Passed. We will concentrate on paying off the Christian Life Center mortgage, and then reconsider the purchase of a van after that.

Meeting closed by Gerald Frye with prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears. ✝



March Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 1st—Charlie Mullinax
- 3rd—Michael Smith
- 6th—Gary Paul Campbell
- 7th—Kim Knepp, Trena Kirby
- 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, Olivia Spencer
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 18th—Angie Adams
- 20th—Tracy McCrary
- 25th—Ginger Shealy
- 26th—Emily Kohnle
- 28th—Amanda McCrary
- 29th—Rene Huffman, Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Happy Anniversary!

- 28th—Michael & Margaret Smith



Get Ready for Readiness360

The United Methodist Churches of Caldwell County have signed-up for a survey that will help us see what type of ministry each church is best suited to do. The information we garner from this survey will be used to mobilize our congregations to do bigger and better work for the Kingdom of God in our community.

We will have more information about this in the coming weeks. We are asking for your enthusiastic cooperation in helping us by volunteering to take the survey and by a willingness to move forward with the knowledge gleaned from this tool.

Thank you.



Acolyte Schedule - MARCH

1st	Kevin Miller
8th	Cole McCrary
15th	Savanna Creaseman
22nd	Bethany Huss
29th	Makayla Settlemyre

Nursery Schedule - MARCH

1st	8:30	Keith & Susan Keener
	11:00	Joann Knepp
8th	8:30	Bleaka Hollar & Nancy Sears
	11:00	Beth Lane
15th	8:30	Jessica Haas & Linda Moretz
	11:00	Tasha Haas
22nd	8:30	Boyd & Emily Johnson
	11:00	Rosalind Kelley
29th	10:30	Teresa Simmons & Dawn Yount

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 McCrary
William E. McCrary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

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

"My dear friend, do not imitate what is bad, but imitate what is good. Whoever does good belongs to God; whoever does what is bad has not seen God."

—3 John 11 GNT



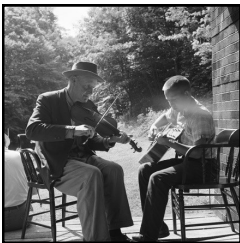
Poor Man's Supper & Back Porch Show

**Saturday, March 7th
5-7:00 PM**

Come in for pinto beans, cornbread and more. Then stay to listen to some great local talent.



Donations Requested



Proceeds go towards the *Relay for Life* booth at the annual spring fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

If you are interested in appearing in the show, please contact Bleaka Hollar.

March Fundraisers

Chicken & Dumplings

We invite you to eat some more great food on

**Sunday, March 22nd
11 & 12:00 o'clock**

The United Methodist Men will be dishing up some of Ricky Baker's award-winning Chicken & Dumplings and the fixings.



Proceeds go towards the ministries of the men's group.

Biscuits Sales

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, March 5th AND March 19th.**

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!**



Breakfast Again!

Join us for breakfast on

**March 29th
8:30—9:00 a.m.**

Our youth will have a mini-fundraiser and fix biscuits for us before Sunday school on the 29th. Come hungry and ready to worship.

We will be having a combined worship service on this 5th Sunday of the month, so Sunday school will be held from 9-10:10 a.m. We will worship together at 10:30 a.m.



Something, con't

It was Christians who fought against slavery and continue to fight against it today. It was Christians who first believed that women were as valuable as men, and should, therefore, be treated with respect and dignity. It was Christians who first began orphanages and hospitals. It was Christians in monasteries who copied classical literature by hand to preserve it for later generations. It was Christians who wanted to learn about God's world and became the first real scientists. It was Christians who wanted to glorify God who created some of the finest paintings, sculptures, and musical compositions.

We have a country that is freer than any other society in history, because it is based on the Christian belief that we are all equal in the eyes of God, made in the image of God, and, therefore, capable of making choices and accepting responsibility for those

choices. The further away we turn from God, the more we will digress to a society that only values certain people. That way leads to tyranny and death.

Church attendance is falling in the very churches that align themselves the most with the current culture. Those churches which stand up for God's truth, no matter how hard or unpopular, are the ones that are growing in number and strength. But even if they weren't, it is better to follow God and be relevant to Him, than be relevant to a sinful and dying culture. To God be the glory. ✠

So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.

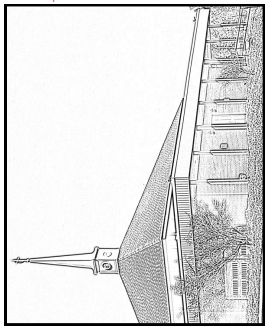



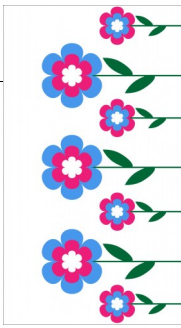
EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



March 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Breakfast Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'till gone!</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Private Party, 12-2 PM Poor Man's Supper & Show, 5-7 PM; see p. 6</p>
<p>8 Daylight Savings Time Begins Spencer Reunion, 12:30—5:00 PM Ch. Council, 4:30 PM</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Austin Baby Shower, 1-4 PM Kohnle Party, 5:30-8 PM</p>
<p>15 Private Lunch, 11-12 AM (CLC)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Prayer Group—10AM</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Breakfast Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'till gone!</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22 UMM Chicken & Dumplings Lunch, p.6 UMW—7 PM, see p. 2 Mar. Newsletter items due today</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 see p. 6 & 2 Youth Breakfast Fundraiser, 8:30 AM Sun. Scho. 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM</p>	<p>30 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>31 Church Office Closed</p>		<p>See p. 4 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists</p>	<p>Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	