



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

March '17

Volume 13 Issue 3

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Instead of asking "What is God's will for my life today?", we should be asking "What does God want me to do next." Glorify God and witness for God wherever you are. — Anonymous

Sunday Services

- 8:30a Worship Service (Contemporary)
- 9:50a Sunday School
- 11:00a Worship Service (Traditional)
- 6:00p Teens for Christ (Grades 6-12)
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women



Pastor's Corner — Rev. Jay Bissett



Each winter, just as it seems Spring will never arrive, the Season of Lent (which comes from the Old English word for Spring) arrives to usher in Easter. Even though this year Winter seems to have forgotten to arrive, Lent is upon us.

Lent is a time of Preparation and Introspection before Easter, recognizing our sinfulness, our mortality, and our need of God. Hopefully, by the time Easter arrives we have new perspective and new joy in God's grace and the promise of resurrection.

We begin our observation of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service on March 1st at 7:00 p.m. We begin with admitting our mortality. Lent continues through Saturday, April 15th excluding Sundays, which are technically no part of Lent because each Sunday is a "little Easter".

Traditionally, Lent has been observed with a fast of some kind: historically meat and yeast bread would not be eaten during Lent; more recently chocolate and sodas have been popular to give up for Lent. The idea was that to deny yourself would allow you to more closely identify with Christ's suffering.

Several years ago, I came across an article that suggested that instead of giving up meat or chocolate or soda, that we give up habits that separate us from God. I hope that you will read this list and use it for Lent.

19 things you might consider giving up this Lent and beyond:

1. **Fear:** God is on my side. In Him I am more than a conqueror. (Romans 8:37)
2. **The need to please everyone:** I can't please everyone anyway. There is only one I need to strive to please.
3. **Envy:** I am blessed. My value is not found in my possessions, but in my relationship with my Heavenly Father.
4. **Impatience:** God's timing is the perfect timing.
5. **Sense of entitlement:** The world does not owe me anything. God does not owe me anything. I live in humility and grace.
6. **Bitterness and Resentment:** The only person I am hurting by holding onto these is myself.
7. **Blame:** I am not going to pass the buck. I will take responsibility for my actions.

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WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings

Ash Wednesday Service

We encourage you to join us for the beginning of the Lent season on **Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, is the first day of Lent in Western Christianity. It occurs 46 days (40 fasting days, if the six Sundays, which are not days of fast, are excluded) before Easter and can fall as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. This is a time of reflection and penitence leading up to Easter Sunday. The ceremony of putting ashes on the forehead (made from last year's Palm Sunday fronds) reminds us of the shortness of our lives, and the need to live them to the fullest, and also the mercy of God shown in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus, to atone for our sins.

Though fasting has gone out of style, many people still give up something else they cherish until Easter Sunday as a way of sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and as a constant reminder of God's love shown so emphatically to us all on that "Good Friday" centuries ago.

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, March 19th at 4:30 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper people will meet to fix and deliver another round of good food to our shut-ins and others on **Monday, March 20th at 5:00 p.m.** We welcome all volunteers to help. Contact Ricky or Shawn Baker.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **March 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Barbara Ferguson will present the program. All women of the church are invited to participate. .

April Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the March newsletter in by **Tuesday, March 21st**. Thank you—Editor

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

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, GNT Unfaithful people!

Don't you know that to be the world's friend means to be God's enemy? James 4:4a, GNT

**ORTHODOX
IS NOT A
DIRTY WORD**

"I am surprised at you! In no time at all you are deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ, and are accepting another gospel. Actually, there is no 'other gospel,' but I say this because there are some people who are upsetting you and trying to change the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel that is different from the one we preached to you, may he be condemned to hell! ...

"Does this sound as if I am trying to win human approval? No indeed! What I want is God's approval! Am I trying to be popular with people? If I were still trying to do so, I would not be a servant of Christ." --Galatians 1:6-10, GNT, Apostle Paul

Orthodox = of or holding correct or conventional or currently accepted beliefs, especially in religion. Doctrine = a principle or set of principles and beliefs held by a religious or political or other group.

The orthodox doctrines (beliefs) of the Christian Church are derived from the Holy Bible, both the Hebrew (Old Testament) and the Christian (New Testament) texts. The sayings of Jesus and writings of his apostles, especially Apostle Paul, carry extra weight in the Church; but do not nullify or make obsolete what came before in the Old Testament.

"Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teachings come true. Remember that as long as heaven and earth last, not the least point nor the smallest detail of the Law will be done away with—not until the end of all things." --Matthew 5:17-18, GNT, Jesus

As Jesus makes clear, we can't throw out the Hebrew part of the Bible. Still, it is generally accepted in the Christian Church that the old Hebrew dietary laws no longer apply to Christians, because of special revelation to the Apostle Peter. The sacrificial laws no longer apply because of the obvious reason: Christ was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. For most Christians, the Sabbath, which in Jewish observance was on Saturday, is now moved to Sunday, which is the day that Jesus rose from the dead.

There are certain beliefs for Christians that are supposed to be non-negotiable and never-changing. These include: Jesus is the Son of the one true God, and is both fully human and fully divine; Jesus was born of a virgin; Jesus died on the cross for our sins; Jesus rose from the dead on the third day; Jesus ascended into heaven, and sits at the right-hand side of God the Father; Jesus will come again in power, and completely destroy sin and death; and Jesus is the only way to salvation. There are many more, but the core beliefs are found in the Nicene Creed (# 880) and the Apostles' Creed (#881, in the UMC hymnal).

Many of these beliefs have been under attack since the beginning of the church. The attacks continue today. We modern people have a tendency to arrogantly believe that we are superior to the people who lived long ago, a belief that has been enabled by the "evolutionary theory" that animals evolve through time. Even if that is true, we

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Special Giving

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

In Memory of Mindy McCrary by:
Gerald Frye

In Honor of Blanche Kohnle's and 100th Birthday by:
Rodney & Sandra Benfield

In Honor of Gary Paul's 40th Birthday on March 6th by:
Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Bill's 80th Birthday on May 5th by:
Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Delores's 80th Birthday on June 26th by:
Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Billy Wayne & Jackie's engagement by:
Heavenly Sonlighters Class

We want to remind everyone that we have a **Missions Scholarship Fund** for our church members to use for mission trips. Individuals who want to go on national or international mission trips can receive up to \$1,000 matching funds, if the money is available. You can also apply for training funds (such as Disaster Response Training) that will be awarded by cost per person. Mission team awards will be based on a team's expenses. **Please help us by giving to this fund when you can.** See Cathy Huffman for more information or to apply for aid.

Church Council – February 19, 2017

Attendees: Ricky Baker, Jay Bissett, Becky Clark, Kim Ellis (tardy), Barbara Ferguson, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Cathy Huffman, Boyd Johnson, Steve Kohnle, Judy McCrary, Seth McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Libby McCrary, Kevin Miller, Terri Miller, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, and Jimmy Stone.

Boyd called the meeting to order and asked Bleaka to say the opening prayer. Roy Hamby led our devotion for the session from John 15:1-7—"I am the true vine..." When we keep Christ as center of focus, we will produce good fruit. Yet, sometimes we need to be pruned, before we can produce good fruit again.

Reading of the minutes: One note by Pastor Jay: the Trustees will determine the guidelines for use of the new van, not the UMM. Motion to pass the minutes as read by Steve Kohnle, second by Jimmy Stone. Passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jay and others will discuss what to do with the Children's Church Fund, since we are no longer doing that ministry. The Youth Minister Fund will be moved to the Youth Activity Fund, because we decided to wait on hiring a youth pastor. Gifts for Christ still has \$5 in it, which will be moved to the Building Fund. The good news is that our CLC mortgage is now down to \$93,000 as of the end of Feb. Praise the Lord!

OLD BUSINESS

Sweetheart Banquet went very well. Boyd and others commented on the great job from the youth and their leaders. Terri expressed her appreciation for everyone who helped and participated in the banquet. Currently, it appears they have cleared about \$1500.

As stated above, the Trustees will take over the van and prepare guidelines for its use. Roy said the

trustees will address this in Monday's meeting (Feb. 20).

Justin Shoemake needed textbooks for his class, fairly quickly, so Jay went ahead and bought them. Jo Nell made a motion to pay for those books that cost around \$167. Motion was seconded by Judy McCrary. Motion passed. We will reimburse Jay for the books.

Cathy Huffman will provide the guidelines for use of the Mission Scholarship Fund in the March newsletter, so people will know what and how the money can be used and accessed.

The Lord's Supper Ministry money of \$100 per month funding by the church has been added to the budget. It was determined that the \$1600 in the Community Outreach fund could not adequately cover the meal and other outreach ministries.

Jay brought up the Planning Retreat. He will be calling meetings for each of the sections discusses (Worship, Nurture, Outreach, Mission and Ministry), and make sure the work is carried out.

NEW BUSINESS

Layman's Revival will be Sunday, May 7th – Wednesday or Thursday of that week. We are asking for volunteer speakers from our church or people of the community. Please give the names to Bleaka Hollar.

This year's Habitat House project starts Saturday, March 11 with a dedication ceremony. We will have sign-up sheets for workers soon. The goal is to complete the building by mid-June. We need to promote the fund for this more aggressively.

Jay is working on getting a team together to go down to the Fayetteville area to help with the flood recovery

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Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

modern humans cannot have evolved yet, because not enough time has passed. Our arrogance is also built on our scientific and technological advancement; but that does not mean our ancestors were more stupid than us—they just did things differently—and we have built upon their knowledge and trial and error. Wisdom, as opposed to knowledge, has not advanced much at all. It appears to be losing ground, along with logical reasoning based in reality (in other words, science). How else do we explain the acceptance that “gender is fluid” in today’s world? Biology is a physical fact, not a feeling. And why is socialism, proven by history to be a dangerous failure, still being promoted as a viable form of government?

And the insanity, the darkness continues to encroach upon the Church in general and the United Methodist Church in particular:

My dear friends, I was doing my best to write to you about the salvation we share in common, when I felt the need of writing at once to encourage you to fight on for the faith which once and for all God has given to his people. **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.** Long ago the Scriptures predicted the condemnation they have received.” --Jude 3-4, GNT (emphasis added)

What do we do about the darkness that is incessantly undermining the true faith of the Church? (Part 2 of this article will appear in the April newsletter.) †

Book Bag Ministries

Ebenezer’s United Methodist Women are supporting the Union Baptist Church Book Bag Ministries this year. This group sends food home each weekend with school children who are in need. They are currently serving 15 students at Oak Hill School.

Below is a list of items needed for each bag that we are collecting March-May (place in boxes in lobby):

- Ramen Noodles (1 chick. & 1 beef)
- Individually wrapped cookies
- Granola bars
- Poptarts (1 package)
- Oatmeal packets (any flavor)
- Mac N Cheese in bowls
- Canned spaghetti (1 per bag)
- Canned Ravioli (1 per bag)
- Saltine crackers (1 sleeve a week)
- Peanut butter (once a month)
- Bottled water (already have plenty)
- Juice packages
- Fruit cups

Council Meeting, con't

(Continued from page 3)

efforts. Jay will get back with us on a date.

Jay asked if we are interested in having a summer intern this year. We have to provide housing for the intern. The Council gave him permission to go ahead, and he said that he will fill out an application for an intern for this summer, and check on that.

Steve Kohnle brought up the graphics to put on the van. Chris and Tasha Haas will pay for it. A picture of a possible design for the van was passed around, but the Trustees will be making the decision on the final design.

Bleaka Hollar brought up the problem with unlocked doors, lights left on, coffee pots left plugged in and on, etc. We need to be much more careful about making sure the outside doors are locked, etc. when church activities or services are over. The person who is

the leader of the group meeting or the activity is the person responsible for making sure all doors are locked, lights turned off, toilets flushed, electrical appliances are turned off before leaving the building. Please be more careful about this. Thank you.

Bleaka reminded us that we are recycling plastic, glass, etc. (use the designated garbage can in the kitchen). Also, The aluminum drinking cans are still be collected for the Youth fund. Please place ONLY aluminum drink cans in the outside closet under the stairs. Thank you.

See above about the Lord’s Supper Ministry funding. Adjustments will be made to the budget—again.

Please remember that the dishes have to be hand washed. The machine in the kitchen only sterilizes the items put in it.

Roy Hamby took the floor. Our committees need to follow the Book of Discipline guidelines. We are called to

oversee the care of our members, which includes attempting to get every member involved in the church activities, Bible studies, service in the church, etc.

He reminded us that the Church Council is responsible for administration, and the vision of the church, and evaluating our ministries, etc. every year. We need to spend more time on worship, nurture, etc. in our meetings. Basically, we need to work harder at retaining members and bringing more people in. Jay said that he is going to be pushing us to do more and better. The ways we have done things in the past were good, but may not be working so well today.

Bleaka Hollar made a motion to adjourn; second by Roy Hamby. Cathy Huffman prayed us out.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 



March Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 1st—Charlie Mullinax
- 3rd—Michael Smith
- 6th—Gary Paul Campbell
- 7th—Kim Knepp, Trena Wilson
- 8th—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 Adams
- 20th—Tracy McCrary
- 25th—Jordan Ellis, Ginger Shealy
- 26th—Emily Kohnle
- 28th—Amanda McCrary
- 29th—Rene Huffman, Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Happy Anniversary!

- 28th—Michael & Margaret Smith



Habitat House Project

Our latest Habitat House building project begins in March. Training for construction crew leaders will be on March 4th. The concentration service and the start of building will be on March 11th. We hope to have the home completed by June 11th.

Workdays are Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8am-noon and Saturdays 8am-1:00 p.m.

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

Please contact Rev. Jay Bissett to volunteer and for more information.



Acolyte Schedule - MARCH

5th Savanna Creaseman

12th Emily Haas

19th Cole McCrary

26th Andrew Miller

Nursery Schedule - MARCH

5th 8:30 Candace Collins & Nancy Sears

11:00 Terri Miller

12th 8:30 Keith & Susan Keener

11:00 Teresa Herman

19th 8:30 Dawn Yount

11:00 JoAnn Knepp

26th 8:30 Kim Ellis & Robert Mullinax

11:00 Becky Yount

10:30

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

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

Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way. Never think that you are wiser than you are; simply obey the LORD and refuse to do wrong.

—Proverbs 3:5-8, GNT



MARCH Fundraisers & Events

Poor Man's Supper

**Saturday
March 4th
5-7 PM**

Ebenezer will host a Poor Man's Supper to help raise funds for the upcoming "Relay for Life" event in April, an American Cancer Society event to raise cancer awareness and funds to help cancer patients.

As we all know, meat is a "dear" food (meaning expensive), so our supper will be the old standby food for those wanting to save on their grocery bill—pinto beans. We will also serve slaw, fried potatoes & onions, cornbread, a beverage, and cobbler with the meal.

We thank you for your support and donations to this worthy cause.

Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, March 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: 396-3935** (Bleaka Hollar).

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

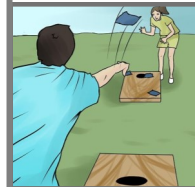
Yum!

Yum!



Cornhole Tournament

The United Methodist Men want you to have fun in between eating some delicious hamburgers and hotdogs during their fundraiser on:



**Saturday
March 18th
11 AM—**

So, they are including a "Cornhole Contest" in the mix. Come and show us how good your aim is in this new version of the old horseshoe throwing game of skill. If you can't throw at all, you can enjoy the show, and cheer on the competitors. See you there!

Proceeds fund the UMM's ministries.

Pastor's Corner, con't

(Continued from page 1)

8. **Gossip and Negativity:** I will put the best construction on everything when it comes to other people. I will also minimize my contact with people who are negative and toxic and bring other people down.
9. **Comparison:** I have my own unique contribution to make and there is no one else like me.
10. **Fear of failure:** You don't succeed without experiencing failure. Just make sure you fall forward.
11. **A spirit of poverty:** Believe with God that there is always more than enough and never a lack.
12. **Feelings of unworthiness:** You are fearfully and wonderfully made by your creator. (see Psalm 139)
13. **Doubt:** Believe God has a plan for you that is beyond anything you could imagine. The future is brighter than you could ever realize.
14. **Self-pity:** God comforts us in our sorrow so that we can comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
15. **Retirement:** As long as you are still breathing, you are here for a reason. You have a purpose to influence others for Christ. That does not come to an end until the day we die.
16. **Excuses:** A wise man once said, if you need an excuse, any excuse will do.
17. **Lack of counsel:** Wise decisions are rarely made in a vacuum.
18. **Pride:** Blessed are the humble.
19. **Worry:** God is in control and worrying will not help.

<http://www.dailyworld.com/story/opinion/2017/02/16/19-things-give-up-lent-arent-chocolate/98005614/>



EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

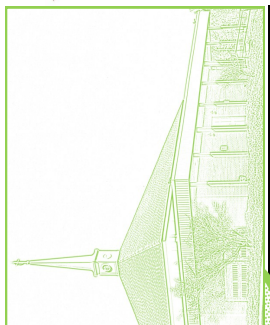
March 2017



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

7



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Every Sunday:</i> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>See p. 4 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists</p>	<p><i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	<p>1 <i>Ash Wednesday Service—7 PM</i> <i>Bible 101—7:30 PM</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 <i>Poor Man's Supper—5-7 PM, see p. 6</i></p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Habitat House Consecration Service & Build Start, see p. 5 Set clocks ahead ONE hour tonight!</p>
<p>12 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 <i>Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 6</i></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 <i>UMM Cornhole Tournament and Meal, 11 AM—, see p. 6</i></p>
<p>19 <i>Church Council—4:30 PM</i></p>	<p>20 <i>Lord's Supper Ministry—5 PM</i></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	