



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

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

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April newsletter items are due on March 18th. Thank you.

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

Since you are God's dear children, you must try to be like him. Your life must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave his life for us...

—Eph. 5:1-2a NKJV



Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women



Pastor's Pen



Forrwwaaard, Harrch!

Back in the days, those words told the platoon to move to their destination, classroom or shooting range, chow hall or grinder (exercise field). The platoon was one of many. Each platoon consisted of approximately 80 young men. There were no female recruits at the Recruit Training Command in those days. The recruits marched in step everywhere they went. Dressed alike, the recruits wore baseball caps and hand washed blue jeans and chambray shirts the first five weeks. Their clothes were terribly wrinkled and ill fitting. Due to the marching, drilling, exercise and no food, except at meal time, they had lost weight. They were strong and fit, preparing for service to their country in the United States Navy. Almost from day one of life at RTC, they looked forward to week **Six**. **Oh—week six**. The platoon would march to *Small Stores* and receive their blues and whites (uniforms). They would also receive their white hats. They would be considered Sailors at last. The recruits had been trainees, they still were; but now they wore the white hat. They had better fitting clothes. Their blue jeans now went to the laundry. No more hand washed, wrinkled pants and shirts. They were pressed with creases. Great changes had taken place in the recruits. Physically, mentally, and emotionally they were being prepared for life in the US Navy.

Lent has long been considered a time of training for members of the church. In the early days, candidates for membership would attend class and be educated in the Scriptures. They would be assigned a mentor. Usually, the mentor was much older than the candidate and of proven character. They knew the Scriptures and had demonstrated their understanding of the Christian life. The candidates were baptized (naked or nearly so) Easter morning. As they came forward from the baptismal pool they were dressed in new clothes celebrating a new life in Christ. These were first or second generation, not far removed from Jesus and his early disciples. They continued to be educated by the older members of the church until the time they were given tasks and sent forward.

Times have changed. We want our candidates to quickly adjust. We want

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WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 6:00p Teens for Christ (Gr. 6-12)
- 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings, Etc.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, March 18 at 4:30 p.m.** Please contact Cindy or David Crouse if you wish to add a request or concern to the agenda.

Lord's Supper Meal

Cooks and helpers and drivers will be needed. Please see Ricky Baker to volunteer. Thank you.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Women

The women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.** Barbara Ferguson is in charge of the program. Cinda McRary and Dawn Yount will provide refreshments.

Our Military

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski
Shane McRary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts

Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount



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

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in *February*:

In Memory of Ginny Teague by:

Lucas & Sarah Teague
Ebenezer's United Methodist Women
Duane & Rebecca Teague Coen
Cindy Sears

In Memory of Rachel Poe by:

Jo Nell Harrison

In Honor of Patty Coffey by:

The Herman Family

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
—Matthew 5:3,10 NIV

TO BE OR NOT TO BE- ATTITUDES

Beatific – 1) bestowing bliss, blessing, happiness, or the like; 2) the state of being beatified.

Beatify – to make blissfully happy

Beatitude – blessedness

Attitude – manner, disposition, feeling, position, etc. with regard to a person or thing; tendency or orientation, especially of the mind.

—Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

Blessed – more than happy, which depends upon outward circumstances; this "blessed" in Matthew "refers to the ultimate well-being and distinctive spiritual joy of those who share in the salvation of the kingdom of God." (NIV Study Bible notes)

Jesus sat down to teach his disciples, with many other people listening in, and he began his discourse with what has come to be called "The Beatitudes." These "blessings" are found in Matthew 5:3-12 and a shorter version is in Luke 6:20-23. Often, when we read these verses or hear a sermon based upon them, we are called to work our way into being these things: poor in spirit, meek, to hunger and thirst after righteousness, to be merciful, to have a pure heart, to be peacemakers, and to bless those who persecute us and rejoice in our persecution because of our love for Jesus; and to wait for Jesus to comfort us when we mourn, and to comfort those who mourn.

Yet, these blessings are not a set of rules like the Ten Commandments are. Jesus is not setting forth systematic doctrine or ritual teaching. It is not a prescription of the form of any outward observances. "Christ came to found a kingdom, not a school, institute a fellowship, not to propound a system." With his first disciples, "doctrinal teaching sprang out of fellowship with Him (Jesus). (Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, p. 364-365)

We do not strive to be these things set forth in the Beatitudes. We do not force ourselves to have these "attitudes." These attitudes are given to us by Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, because these are the fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Have you let these beautiful attitudes be bestowed upon you? Have you let these beatitudes flower within you? Have you encouraged these attitudes to manifest themselves in your actions?

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Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

Or do you stamp them down, dampen their spirit, ignore their pull; opting instead to answer the calls of pride, greed, worldly comfort, and self-satisfaction or just plain busyness?

In the Pairs and Spares Sunday school class, we are studying "The Beatitudes from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. I am looking forward to delving deeply into these precious words of Jesus about His Kingdom. I challenge our members to set aside some time each day to read one of the Beatitudes, and contemplate its presence in your heart and life—because, if you are a disciple of Jesus, you have this attitude within through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Let this fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven assert its attitude into your very being, and become that "Be-attitude." Blessing—true bliss—is bound to follow. †

Pastor's Pen, con't

(Continued from page 1)

them to become church members, and immediately undertake a position in the church. It matters not that most of the time they are not equipped to perform. We want them to become involved. Definitely! But let's make time to encourage this involvement.

The church might prosper if we took a little more time to educate our potential members and allow them to acclimate to a new climate; test the waters before we push them in to sink or swim. If we

Soup/Sandwich Lunch

**Sunday
March 11th**

11:30-1:00 PM

We invite you to enjoy lots of hot and delicious homemade soup and sandwiches with us after Sunday School for donations to go toward the Bolivia Missions trip.

We request that our church members help by fixing soup and sandwiches and some cakes, pies, etc. for dessert.

Come eat with us. We'll do the cooking and the dishes. Nice, since this is the day you lose one hour of sleep because of Daylight Savings Time.



Chance to Win

Pastor Tom is challenging us to guess how many units of blood he has given over the many years he has supported the Red Cross Blood Drives. Tickets are \$1 each. The first closest guess to the actual number will win. One-half of the proceeds goes to the winner, and the other half goes to the Bolivia Mission Trip. Call the office or visit Ebenezer to buy your raffle ticket today. Thank you for your support!

could, the candidate might receive their marching orders with more excitement and success.

Let's train them better before we command them, "Forrwaaard, Harch." †

March Celebrations



- 21st—Charlie Mullinax
- 3rd—Michael Smith
- 6th—Gary Paul Campbell
- 7th—Trena Kirby Wilson
- 7th—Kim Knepp
- 8th—Kevin Lane
- 8th—Judy McCrary
- 10th—Bryan Turner
- 12th—Margaret Smith
- 13th—Clair Gilbert
- 14th—Wayne Ellis
- 14th—Jerry Helton
- 16th—Rachel Adams
- 16th—Sarah Adams
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 17th—Patsy Hunter
- 18th—Angie Adams
- 20th—Tracy McRary
- 25th—Jordan Ellis
- 26th—Emily Kohnle
- 28th—Amanda McRary
- 29th—Rene Huffman
- 29th—Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker



Happy Anniversary!

- 28th—Michael & Margaret Smith

A man likes his wife to be just clever enough to comprehend his cleverness, and just stupid enough to admire it.

— Israel Zangwill



Church Council Minutes for Feb. 18, 2018

Attendees: Tom Hunter, Ricky Baker, Patty Coffey, David & Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, JoAnn Knepp, Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Will McCrary, Cindy Sears.

Roy opened the meeting in prayer. David read from Matthew 9:37-38 about sending out workers into the harvest field. In John 4:35, we are told that the fields are ripe unto harvest. Then in Galatians 6:9, we are told to not become weary in doing good; we will reap the harvest if we do not give up. As Tom said in the Sunday service, the people who have left us are not coming back. Therefore, we need to be looking out into the fields around us, and look to bring new people in.

Reading of January minutes:

The BBQ was canceled. Kim made motion that the minutes stand approved. Gerald second. Motion passed.

Jo Nell Financial Report:

Somehow, we keep having the money we need to pay our bills. Electric has been higher than normal, because of the cold. We still need to make sure lights are turned off and heat turned down when leaving the building. Our mortgage finance charge is down to less than \$300 a month now. We owe around \$54,000. Jo Nell has requested a quote for insurance for the church to see if it can be gotten for less.

Group Reports

Marsha McCrary, Sunday school superintendent: She stopped or reduced some literature orders that were not being used to save on expenses.

Pastor Tom: in his Worship report said that the fifth Sunday of April (29th), we are going to flip the Sunday school and worship times. We may have a singing service that day, too. This is a one-time test to

see what happens. On March 29th will have a Maundy Thursday service, and a Good Friday service on the 30th, too. Both services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Tom also announced that the SPPRC filled out forms requesting that Tom be allowed to remain as our pastor for next year.

Roy Hamby, Trustees Report:

Some repairs have been done. The broken push bar on the kitchen door was replaced. Roy requested that people “dog down” the door during events/functions when people are going in and out the door often. The Trustees are also looking at adding push bars to the lobby doors. Light bulbs are being changed out to ones that use less electricity, a few at a time.

We are requesting that anyone who carries or wants to carry a weapon in the church needs to provide us with a copy of their driver's license and carry license, which will be kept on file at the church (for private use only).

There are more repairs that need to be made to the church. We need to have higher giving to be able to take care of things that need to be replaced. The repairs cannot be put off much longer.

Roy announced that the Trustees approved to have the gutters replaced on the parsonage. These will be seamless, oversized gutters. The cost is \$800. The UMM will put new dirt around the foundation of the parsonage where it has been washed away by overflowing gutters.

Ricky Baker announced that the SPPRC Committee will meet soon.

Kim Ellis told us that she coordinated with another church to share some of the expense for supplies for our annual Vacation Bible School. She is also planning a soup/sandwich lunch on a Sunday, March 11th, to help raise money for the Bolivia Mission trip. Donations

are requested, and the service time is 11:30-1:00 p.m. We hope that our members will help provide soup and sandwiches and sweets for dessert during this fundraiser. Also, please talk to Kim if you have a special place you want to work in VBS. She wants to borrow small Christmas trees (no decorations or only lights that will not be used) (for a forest), and sleeping bags for VBS.

Tom Hunter brought forth the possibility of a “gambling pool” to guess the number of units of blood he has given in his lifetime. The idea is to sell tickets in March; \$1 per ticket with ½ of collection going to the Bolivia trip; ½ to the winner who guessed the closest number.

Project Graduation 2018—alcohol, drug, violence free party for the high schoolers. We received a request to help sponsor this. Will we be helping with this? No decision was made at this meeting.

David Crouse: AED machine needs updating. The refresher pack will cost \$235.30. Jo Nell made a motion to get it. The final cost will be provided at the next meeting, since there may be discounts we can use.

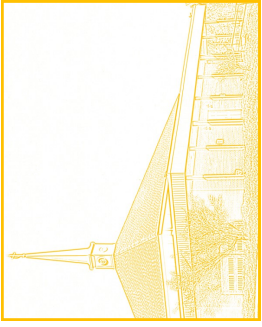
Tom made a motion to adjourn, with second by Ricky. Meeting was adjourned.

--minutes by Cindy Sears



Our annual Layman's Revival is coming up in May. If you would like to provide music or speak or know of someone who does, please contact Bleaka Hollar, Pastor Tom, or the church office so we can plan for your appearance in the Revival. Thank you.

Salvation is unconditional from the standpoint of the Giver, but not unconditional from the standpoint of the receiver—you must believe—by faith you are saved. —Leighton Flowers.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school	Every Monday: Basketball—7 PM		Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	Every Thursday: Volleyball—7 PM		
4 CLC, Private Party— 1-5 PM (Herman) UMW—7 PM (postponed from Feb.)	5 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	6 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	7 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	8 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	9 Set-up for Party, PM	10 CLC, Private Party— 1-5 PM (M. Coffey) Turn clocks ahead one hour tonight
11 Daylight Savings Time begins Soup/Sandwich Lunch Fundraiser—11:30-1 PM	12 Lord's Supper Ministry, 5 PM Trustees—7 PM	13 20 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	14 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	15 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	16 Set-up for Party, PM	17 CLC, Private Party— 11-7 PM (Hileman)
18 Church Council— 4:30 PM	19 Lord's Supper Ministry, 5 PM Trustees—7 PM	20 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	21 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	22 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	23 Set-up for Party, PM	24 CLC, Private Party— 11-7 PM (Hileman)
25 Palm Sunday United Methodist Women—7 PM	26 Lord's Supper Ministry, 5 PM Trustees—7 PM	27 20 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	28 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	29 Church Office Closed Maundy Thursday Service—7 PM	30 Church Office Closed Good Friday Service—7 PM	31 CLC, Private Party— 11-7 PM (Hileman)

