



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

March '19

Volume 15 Issue 3

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APRIL 2019
newsletter items are due
by **Sunday, Mar. 17th.**

Don't be late for church!

Daylight Savings Time
begins at 2:00 a.m. on
March 10th. Set your
clocks ahead by ONE
hour before you go to bed
on Saturday, March 9th.



Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 5:00p 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 Pen



Happiness

Happiness is....

The answer is up to you. Think for a few moments about the why of being happy. Charles Schultz said “Happiness is a warm puppy.” Almost every day I see Face book postings about lost dogs or cats. Those people are unhappy because an animal they have learned to love is not at home. Many of those pets are returned home safely. Some are not. They disappear and no one knows where.

Our animal companions are important to us and provide hours of fun.

Happiness is...

To many of us happiness is a new automobile. Yes, they do provide a measure of happiness, but it is short term. It becomes commonplace or we tire of the payments, or worse, we see a better model being produced. The object we thought we loved has become unlovable.

Happiness is....

Many pursue success. To them happiness is achieving a measureable level of importance, in business, politics, or even church. Sometimes the price for this success is huge. Friends and family are often casualties of efforts made in the climb to the top. Tom Landry was at the top of the game with the Dallas Cowboys. His motto was Football, family, God. He was unhappy and wanted more. He went through a life change and his motto became: God, Family, football. He became a happy man. Tom Landry learned an important lesson; happiness comes from those we love.

Happiness is....

Many people have learned that lesson today. Happiness comes from the ones we love and love us. God has given us many opportunities related to the people around us and we ought to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way.

Our days are limited and families grow and change, make the most of being with them.

Happiness is

—Pastor Tom

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.

Ash Wednesday Sunday

We will conduct the traditional Ash Wednesday service on **Sunday, March 3rd** during our regular worship service, instead of on Wednesday night. (See p. 3 for more information.)

SPPRC Meeting

The Staff, Pastor, Parish Relations Committee will meet on **Monday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.**

Church Council

The Council will meet on **Sunday, March 17th at 4:00 p.m.** All members of the church are invited to attend.

The Lord's Supper Ministry

The Ministry will prepare and serve a meal on **Monday, March 18th at 5:00 p.m.** See Ricky Baker if you want to help cook. Deliverers need to arrive by 5:00 p.m.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Women

The women will meet on **Sunday, March 24th at 6:00 p.m.** Barbara Ferguson is in charge of the program. Cinda McRary and Dawn Yount will supply the refreshments.

UMCOR Sunday

We will take up a special offering for UMCOR, the emergency aid fund of the UMC, on **Sunday, March 31st.**

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *February*:

In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:
Patty Coffey

In Memory of Jerry Townsend by:
Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Nancy Sears by:
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell



Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"Go, then, to all peoples everywhere
and make them my disciples...
--Matthew 28:19a GNT

**GET THEIR
NAME**

When I was a young girl, I went on a "witnessing" trip with other teens and adults from my church. This turned out to be a horrifying experience for a couple of reasons. Number one, I was and am an "introvert," which makes it difficult for me to jump into conversations with strangers. Number two; these were "cold" calls. The people did not know we were coming to their homes, and did not know us personally (though they may have known who we were). Ever since then, I have been very reluctant to "witness" for Jesus—unless I already had a strong, solid relationship with the person, and the other person brought up the subject first.

The book, "Get Their Name; Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships," that our Pastor asked the members of the Church Council to read, puts forth a plan for bringing the unconnected into church by first developing a relationship with each person. No more "cold" calling. No more accosting people we don't know about their need for salvation. The relationship comes first; then we look for an opening to invite the person to church or to tell the person our own faith story.

The authors also believe in practicing in a safe place before attempting to witness to others outside of the church. They put forth a series of steps to be taken to develop confidence and competence in inviting people to church and sharing one's witness.

For instance, one step is to combine a good deed with the good Word. An example of this would have been handing out a written invitation to hear about Jesus and to visit our church when members Ebenezer were handing out free biscuits, etc. at the Christmas Tree Lighting in Granite Falls last year. A reference could have been made on the invitation to the "bread of life" and the true meaning of the Christmas season, for instance. These kinds of invitations should not be done at fundraisers, only when freely giving something to people outside of the church.

A slightly more difficult step is to practice sharing one's faith story in a safe place—such as your Sunday school class or other small group setting. Regularly take the time to let individuals relate a story from the previous week about how God worked in their life or in the lives of their friends and relatives during that week. Invite your class or group members to write out a short account of their salvation story, and tell it to the class. The next step is to let people tell their story during the worship service, either live or on pre-recorded video (short accountings that are about 2-5 minutes long).

The next step is to invite someone you know that does not attend church to come to church with you. A good invitation is personal, specific, and relational. We ask that person by name, we give a specific date, time and place, and offer to pick them up. You can also plan to go to lunch afterwards.

(Continued on page 3)



March Events & Fundraisers

Ash Sunday Service

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, March 3rd at 9:00 a.m.** and prepare for the beginning of the season of Lent. We will observe Holy Communion and place the ashes of last year's Palm Sunday palm branches on participants foreheads.

The ashes are a symbol of our need to repent of our sins, a reminder of our mortality, and our need for a Savior, Jesus, who has triumphed over death and helps us overcome our tendency to sin.

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. This helps focus our mind upon the awesome sacrificial gift our Savior, Jesus, presented to us when he died on the cross to atone for our sins, and arose the third day, to affirm that he has conquered death. As the Word of God says:

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life."

—John 3:16 GNT

Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

Another important step is to get to know new people. As Christians, we often tend to develop good relationships with fellow Christians and church members—a good thing. Yet, we should also be open to developing relationships with the unconnected, with the unchurched. The first step to doing that is to really look at the people we see throughout our day and week, speak to them, get their name, and let them talk about themselves while you truly listen to them. Don't jump right in with your Jesus story, but wait for an opening in the conversation where religion

Biscuit Sales

**Thursday
March 21st
6 AM — 'til gone!**

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg, livermush, bologna, and gravy biscuits on **Thursday, Mar. 21st.**

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. —til gone!** 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!



or Jesus or church can be brought naturally into the conversation. This may take many conversations over many weeks. Be patient, and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is not up to you to save the person; that is the work of the Spirit. You just want to plant the seed, and get them to church or get them thinking about God and their need to know their Creator.

There are many other good ideas in the book, "Get Their Name" by Bob Farr, Doug Anderson, and Kay Kotan. My Sunday school class will be finishing this book on March 3rd. Maybe your class would like to read it and use it for a short study. There are 10 copies available, which we will put back in the library after

March Celebrations



- 1st—Charlie Mullinax
- 6th—Gary Campbell
- 7th—Trena Wilson
- 7th—Kim Knepp
- 8th—Judy McCrary
- 10th—Bryan Turner
- 13th—Clair Gilbert
- 14th—Wayne Ellis
- 14th—Jerry Helton
- 16th—Rachel Adams
- 16th—Sarah Adams
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 17th—Patsy Hunter
- 20th—Tracy McRary
- 25th—Jordan Ellis
- 28th—Amanda Coffey
- 29th—Rene Huffman
- 29th—Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Our Military

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Ricky Garland
Trey Hefner
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount



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

we finish with them. Let's learn how to share our faith and reach out to the unchurched for they are unlikely to walk in our doors unless they are invited by someone they know. That someone could be you.



Church Council Minutes for February 17, 2019

Attendees: Pastor Tom Hunter, Ricky Baker, Patty Coffey, David & Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Wayne Ellis, Jim Farr, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Jerry Kohnle, John McCrary, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Will McCrary, Phyllis Minton, Cindy Sears, Billy Long, Cinda McCrary, Kim Knepp.

Chairman David Crouse opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. He presented a short devotional based on the idea of good stewards from 1 Peter 4:7-11. Love will cover a multitude of sins when we love one another. We are also called upon to be good stewards of the grace of God, and with the gifts that God has provided us—all done to God's glory. David included some thoughts from Charles Stanley about how each Christian ought to have another Christian to help with one's accountability. God discerns our intentions as well as our actions. Since everything is given to us by God; we are accountable to him for how we use what we have. Council members are stewards for this church; so let's be good stewards.

Jimmy Stone opened the meeting with prayer.

Next, we had the reading of the January minutes. Pastor Tom made a motion to accept them as written with second by Marsha. Motion passed.

Finance Report

Jo Nell inadvertently paid off the rest of the CLC mortgage, but we will continue to collect for the fund because the funds came from the BBQ shed loss insurance money.

We were over \$3800 short in our giving for January, compared to what we need for the budget. We need to do better.

There followed a discussion about what to do with the surplus in the Belize Mission fund & the Mission Scholarship fund. A motion was made to leave the funds alone for now by Cindy with a second by Ricky. The motion passed.

Pastor Tom: The food pantry is inadequate, and he wants to do away with it. After discussion Tom made the motion to do away with the pantry and donate the items to SCCM or our food ministry or Safe Harbor or any other places that can use the food. Marsha seconded. The motion passed. Motion made to move pantry funds to the Lord's Supper Ministry. Motion passed.

John McCrary, UMM Report: The piano in the CLC exit hallway must be moved to avoid fines from the fire marshall. It was decided to ask MaryLynn which piano she prefers for rehearsals; then we will give away the other one. The piano will be moved from the hallway; and everything else blocking the exits will be removed, too. Marsha knows of someone who wants the piano, and she will take care of getting rid of the one we do not want to keep.

John also reported that the UMM has nine projects on their agenda; but weather remains a hindrance. They have scheduled work days on March 9th and 23rd to get some of these things done. The old BBQ cook shed will be dismantled on the 23rd.

Bleaka and Tom will be meeting about **changing the Layman's Revival to Holy Week**. They will let us know what they come up with later.

Kim Ellis: VBS she is looking at will be different from what we have done in the past. She said not to be afraid to volunteer, because of this. VBS dates are set for June 9-11 with commencement on the 12th.

Roy Hamby, Trustees: The Trustees have chosen the new kitchen door and the building for the new BBQ shed. The total cost for the 20 x 50 ft. shed will be around \$9,000. Adding new lights and other items will bring the cost up to about \$10,000.

Pastor Tom: Tom reported on the Fresh Expressions Dinner Church idea that was presented in a meeting that he and Bleaka attended in Asheville. A free meal is served with a 5 or 6 minute talk on Jesus at the end. The dinner would be served somewhere other than the church as a way to get non-church goers interested in hearing about Jesus. Tom said that this is something to think about. It works in some places; not so well in others. A general discussion followed, along with a discussion of the "Lay Revival."

The next Council meeting is March 17th. David will not be here; so contact John McCrary if you want to bring anything before the Council that month.

Sonya made a motion to adjourn; second given by Tom and others. Meeting closed.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 📖

"A hundred times a day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depend on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the measure as I have received and am still receiving."

— Albert Einstein

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

Sing a new song to the LORD;
he has done wonderful things!
By his own power and holy strength

he has won the victory.

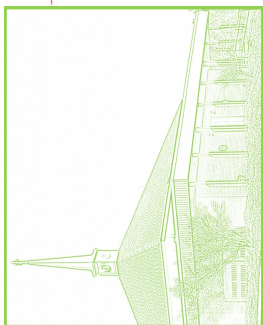
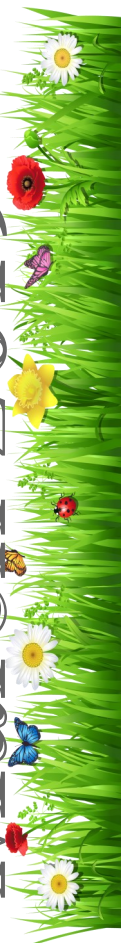
—Psalm 98:1 GNT



EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

March 2019



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Every Sunday:</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir</p>			<p><i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies</p>		1	<p>2 Coffey Wedding—11-1 PM (Sanctuary) C. McCrary Baby Shower—1-3 PM</p>
<p>3 Ash Sunday Service—9 AM, see p. 3</p>	<p>4 SPPRC—7 PM Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>5 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>6 Season of Lent begins Volleyball—7 PM</p>	7	<p>8 CLC Reserved—5-9 PM</p>	<p>9 Private Party—12-6 PM Set clocks ahead 1 hour tonight!</p>
<p>10 Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 AM</p>	<p>11 Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>12 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>13</p>	14	15	<p>16 Chelbe M. Baby Shower—1-3 PM</p>
<p>17 Church Council—4:00 PM</p>	<p>18 Food Ministry—5 PM Trustees —7 PM Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>19 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>20 The First Day of Spring</p>	<p>21 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!</p>	22	23
<p>24 UMW—6 PM</p>	<p>25 Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>26 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>27</p>	28	<p>29 CLC Reserved—3-9 PM</p>	<p>30 Adams Wedding Shower—10-12 PM Pitts Reception—4-8 PM</p>
<p>31 UMCOR Sunday-</p>		