



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

May '14

Volume 10 Issue 5

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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



The other day, I was reading the Upper Room devotion and it spoke to me in many ways. The devotional article began by talking about how the author's husband and she, as they aged, have had to purchase reading glasses.

This spoke to me, because for many years I have been blessed with good eyesight and it was not until I reached the age of 52 that the print was so small that I had to see the doctor about glasses. He was quick to inform me that at my age glasses were needed (I didn't need that!). Like the author of the devotion, I am not used to glasses, so I kept misplacing them or losing them (fortunately they were dollar specials); therefore, I bought several pair to put around where I thought I might need them.

The author went on to talk about how the glasses made the words clear, so that they could be understood; and of how, through the receiving of the Holy Spirit, the word of God and the understanding of God's will for our lives becomes clear.



But as I said the message struck me in several ways. You see, I left my glasses lying around and only used them or picked them up when I thought I needed them. I was unwilling to accept that I needed them all the time; therefore when circumstances arose I was not prepared.

For me, the answer was a simple one. I was prescribed a contact to wear in one eye. This allowed me the ability to read and yet did not interfere with my distant vision. The contact became a part of my daily life, and now I don't leave home without them.

Maybe you have made the connection by now. When we recognize that life with Christ is more than something that we simply keep around for those times when we may need it, but that Christ is truly a way of life; then we begin to see clearly through the lens of Christ.

(Continued on page 4)

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: 828-396-2214

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



Meetings

United Methodist Men

The men will meet on **Sunday, May 18th at 3:00 p.m.** (not confirmed—Editor)

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, May 18th at 4:30 p.m.** All members of the church may attend.

Food Ministry

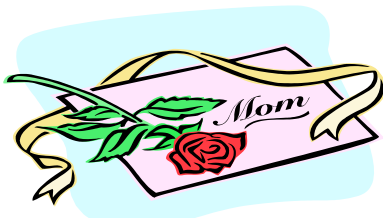
The Lord's Supper Ministry is scheduled to prepare and deliver another meal on **Monday, May 19th at 5:00 p.m.** We need drivers to deliver the meals. See Ricky Baker to volunteer to help prepare the meal and/or clean up.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m.** Barbara Miller will present the program. Bleaks Hollar and Patty Coffey will provide refreshments.

May Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the May newsletter in by **May 26th.** Thank you. —Editor



for all you do
you do with love
you are so special
a gift from above
and with all my heart
I want to say
I LOVE YOU MOM
happy mother's day



Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

SWORDS

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
Hebrews 4:12 NKJV

I am reading in the book of Joshua now about the conquest of Canaan. The details involve much slaughter. Much blood was shed by the swords of war. I don't know why God chose to have His people act in history this way, but these words do help me to me more grateful that I was born after Christ first coming, rather than before it.

I am no "peacenik," nor a pacifist that believes that war is never justified. I know that, even after Christ coming, we continue to live in a fallen world, and that means that sometimes our only valid recourse is to take up arms against evil and injustice—it may even happen again in our country.

Yet, Jesus our Lord never commanded us to go and conquer and force people to believe in Him. His command was to "make disciples" (see Matthew 28:19) and "be witnesses" to Him (see Acts 1:8) throughout the world. And above all, we are to show love to one another and to those who have not yet entered into the fold of God (see John 15, et al). We are also told to be able to explain why we believe what we believe in reasoned discourse (not in shouting matches): "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15). In this endeavor, we have several strong weapons at our disposal. One of the main ones is the Sword of the Word—God's Word—Holy Scripture.

Keep in mind, that, though we are no longer called to shed blood in our quest to conquer the world for Jesus, this does not mean that our use of the Sword of the Word will not cause pain and death. God's Word is Truth and it is "sharper than a double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). "God's word is alive and active," and dangerous to those who deny God; therefore His word is continuously under attack.



So, to be able to stand against evil, we cannot just carry a Bible around with us or listen to a sermon once in a while or even every Sunday of our lives. We must know what the Bible says. We must read it and understand it. This will help us to discern when people are twisting the Word to their own agendas by using verses out of context or misquoting verses. But, we must go even further today and enter into the world of apologetics and into the study of history of biblical times and Church history. Otherwise, we will fall for Satan's lies exemplified by such books as *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown, which tries to prove that much of the Bible and Christianity is fake, or *The*



Church Council — April 13th, 2014

Attendees: Anthony Austin, Ricky Shawn, Warren Bumgarner, Kim Ellis, Gerald Frye, Jo Nell Harrison, Alice Hill, Bleaka Hollar, Keith Keener, Dwight Kelley, JoAnn Knepp, Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Scott Miller, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jimmy Stone, and Jerry Kohnle.

Gerald began the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and read from the story of the Tower of Babel. Jimmy Stone opened us with prayer.

The minutes from the March meeting stand as read.

Jo Nell Harrison then went over the budget and financial report. We brought in enough income last month to make our budget. We now owe around \$262,000 on the building.

Old Business

AED machine and first aid kit are here and set up. One CPR class has been held. The machine is attached to the wall in the foyer of the CLC. The first aid kit has been attached to the wall in the kitchen near the outside entrance.

United Methodist Men's group is sponsoring a housekeeping day on May 3rd from 8-12 p.m. They will serve a free lunch to everyone who helps with the cleaning. They also reported a net profit of about \$600 from their chicken & dumpling meal on April 13th and thanked everyone for their support.

Gerald Frye mentioned the Layman's Revival again. We still only have 1 speaker. Gerald encouraged people to volunteer to speak. Bleaka Hollar said that we have plenty of music, so those who choose to speak do not have to deliver long talks. (As of April 27th we have 3 speakers, but would like to have more.)

Evangelism committee has been working on reaching people who have not been coming regularly and inviting more people in the community to come to church. Jo Nell said that much of what keeps people from coming to church is their feeling that they do not need the church, or that the church would only take their money or their efforts for selfish reasons.

Bleaka said that they mailed out 40 cards to people. The next step is to go visiting the people. Volunteers are needed to help with this program. Eric reminded us that building relationships is the first step to leading people to consider attending church. To help people to see that we are interested in them and involved, we must continually be working at doing good works in the community. Plus, we must make them feel welcome when they do come to church. There was a long discussion about ways and means to reach the people in our county.

Warren Bumgarner brought a report from the Trustees. The leak from the roof on the area between the buildings has been repaired. The estimate is that the roof will need to be replaced completely in about 5 years. The janitorial service will be buffing the CLC floor every 8 weeks. He also brought up a service contract for the ice machine that we are considering doing. There is a drainage issue that Eric is going to work on.

Cindy verified that the Tractor Show ad had been created and sent in. We will be billed for the cost of the ½ page ad at \$175.

NEW BUSINESS

Jo Nell asked if we should have liability waivers signed by the people using the gym during the week. Eric explained that since the basketball and volley ball events are not organized events, that should not be a problem with our insurance.

Jimmy Stone asked if we could go with Charter for the internet service, because we continue to have problems with the connection on Century Link. Eric made a motion that we let Jimmy look into this and determine the price differences.

Gerald closed the meeting in prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears. ✝

Special Giving

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

In Memory of Bob Sears by:

Ezma Austin
J. B. & Patty Coffey
David & Sonya Crouse
Jo Nell Harrison
Heavenly Sonlighters Class
JoAnn Knepp
Blanche Kohnle
Marsha & Randy McCrary
Pairs & Spares Class
Keith & Patricia Woods

In Memory of Pinola Holman by:

Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Loving Memory of Pinola Holman, Zetta Mae Frye, & Jack Frye by:

Barbara C. Frye

In Memory of Tom Harrison by:

JoAnn Knepp
Rex & Gwen Teague

In Memory of Wade Austin by:

Ezma Austin
JoAnn Knepp

In Memory of Ned Hall by:

Ezma Austin
Marsha & Randy McCrary

In Memory of Brittany Chester by:

Carolyn Davis Family
Tony Chester Family

In Honor of Freida Farr by:

Judy McCrary

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

"God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that You way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations."

—Psalm 67:1-2 NKJV



Something..., con't

Good Book by Peter J. Gomes, which attempts to gloss over passages about sexual sin (including homosexual sin) and deny what the Bible really says. Not knowing what the Bible says also leads us to fall for gnostic-style misrepresentations of Christ, heaven, hell, sin, salvation, etc., also known as "New Age" heresies (prominent in the popular book, *The Shack* by William Young).

In my grandparents day, when Christianity was more prominent and accepted in the larger culture (at least its principles or morals were), it was easier to live a Christ-like life. There was less need to defend one's faith or to discern between right and wrong, true or false ideas. Now, our culture is permeated with deceptions and lies and outright denials of the existence of God and of Jesus Christ in particular. All warriors need training in the use of their weapons. To wield a sword well, you must practice using it and learn all about it. It must become a second hand or arm to you, as natural as your own arm of flesh and blood. Pick up your Sword of the Word—learn it, use it in you daily walk with the Lord, understand what it says about God, about God working in and through history, about Jesus, about sin, about the ONE WAY to salvation. As you practice with this weapon, you may cut yourself on the edges of its truth; but this will help you to be more discerning in how you wield it in warfare against Satan and his followers. But always keep in mind, that we wield the Sword of God in love. Our goal is to help God conquer and win the hearts of men and women—not just to destroy evil, but to overcome it. Put on the whole armor of God (see Ephesians 6:10-18) and fight for what is right and true according to God's Word—not according to the present culture.

And be prepared for persecution and ridicule. A small price to pay considering the price paid by the Lord Jesus for our salvation. ✠

Pastor's Corner, con't

Like mastering the use of contacts, it takes time and practice to live in the Way, but soon we wonder how we could ever get by without Christ.

As in my personal life when I struggle with my contacts, there are times when I struggle spiritually, but once I have overcome, I can see life more clearly and fully.

God Bless,

Rev. Eric Lane



Layman's Revival

Our annual Layman's Revival is in the works, but not quite set yet. Below is the information that was available at the time of publication:

Sunday — The Soots Family (music);
— Jo Nell Harrison (speaker)

Monday — The Whisnants (music);
— Jacob Whisnant (speaker)

Tuesday — (music not set);
— Jason Borders (speaker)

Wednesday—(music not set);
— (speaker not set)

Thursday — (music not set);
— Carlos Hernandez (speaker)

Invite your friends and co-workers to this time of praise and worship for what God has done in the lives of ordinary people. There will be lots of good music every night, even if we don't have everything set right now.

Washington Monument

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation,

Laus Deo 'Praise be to God!'

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfanta perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.



May Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 3rd—Bea Spencer, Kelle Bowman
- 5th—Brei Ledford
- 6th—Molly Sims
- 8th—Marsha McRary
- 12th—Heather Helton
- 13th—Ricky Baker, Meredith Knepp, Lindsay Lane
- 14th—Carolyn Davis
- 15th—Darren McCrary, Ann Smith
- 17th—Kevin Miller
- 18th—Robbie Settlemeyre
- 21st—Tom Kohnle
- 22nd—Michael Crouse
- 24th—Lillie Johnson
- 28th—Jamie Starbuck, Jacob Settlemeyre

Happy Anniversary!

- 13th—Robert & Teresa Herman
- 18th—Joe & Glennie Sims
- 30th—Monte & Bleaka Hollar



National Day of Prayer—May 1st

If you missed this special day of prayer, it is never too late to pray for our country. I am awed by George Washington's prayer for America Have you ever read it? Well, now is your unique opportunity, so read on! Then set aside time to pray for the USA yourself.



Acolyte Schedule - MAY

4th Devon Lyda

11th Samantha Stone

18th Hannah Abernethy

25th Clair Gilbert

Nursery Schedule - MAY

4th 8:30 Teresa Simmons & Dawn Yount

11:00 Nancy Sears

11th 8:30 Cheryl Vosdigh & Tammy Adams

11:00 Kay Gilbert

18th 8:30 Heather Stone & Kim Ellis

11:00 JoAnn Knepp

25th 8:30 Keith & Susan Keener

11:00 Beth Lane

10:30

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
Josh Yount

' Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'



May Fundraisers & Events

Clean-Up Day!

**Saturday
May 3rd
8 AM—12 PM**



Bring your gloves, buckets and mops. We are cleaning up this place, and making it shine for the Lord!

Free lunch will be served at noon to all our helpers, so come ready to work and to eat.

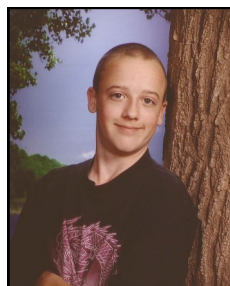
We will need plenty of volunteers to work on the inside of the church and on the grounds.

Thank you for your help!

Josh Yount Send-off

**Saturday
May 3rd
5-8 PM**

Josh Yount has joined the army and will be leaving for training soon. Please join us for a farewell party. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. Come by and speak a few words of encouragement to Josh and let him know that he will be in your prayers as he prepares to serve our country in the Armed Forces.



Breakfast Biscuits

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, May 15th.**

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!**



Roast Beef Lunch

**Sunday
May 4th
11—12:30 PM**

Pairs & Spares Class is serving up roast beef for a change of pace. Menu also includes green beans, mashed potatoes, and a roll and drink.

The class is requesting donations to help fund their ministries. We thank you for your support and generosity!

(Take out will be available.)



Mother/Daughter Banquet



**Saturday
May 10th
6:00 PM**



The theme of this year's annual Mother/Daughter Banquet is:

***"Loving God's
Abundant Life."***

We invite all women, whether a mother or not, to join us as we celebrate all our mothers. There will be good food, entertainment, and prizes for our guests.

Please bring a dessert to share if you can (but not required).

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

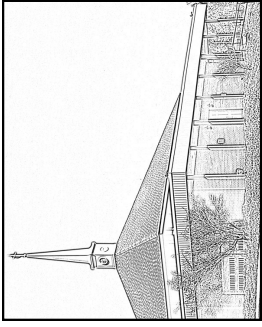
Biscuit Sale Price List

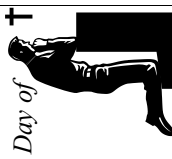




\$2.00	_____	Ham or Sausage
\$2.50	_____	Ham or Sausage with egg
\$2.00	_____	Egg
\$1.50	_____	Jelly
\$2.00	_____	Gravy
\$2.50	_____	Gravy with Sausage
\$2.00	_____	Fried Apple Pie

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

May 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists</p>		<p>Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	<p>1 National Day of Prayer</p> 	<p>2 May Friendship Day</p>	<p>3 Clean-Up Day, p. 6 Josh Yount Send-Off, p. 6</p>
<p>4 Roast Beef Lunch, p.6 Layman's Revival Begins, p. 4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Mother/Daughter Banquet, p. 6</p>
<p>11 </p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Breakfast Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'till gone!</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 UMM—3 PM? Church Council—4:30 PM</p>	<p>19 Food Ministry—5 PM?</p>	<p>20 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Aldersgate Day</p>
<p>25 UMW—7:00 PM</p>	<p>26 Happy Memorial Day! </p>	<p>27 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Ascension of the Lord</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

LAYMAN'S REVIVAL — 7:00 PM