



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

May '15

Volume 11 Issue 5

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## Inside this issue:

Meetings	2
Library Update/Request	2
Something to Pray About	2
Special Giving	3
Layman's Revival—May 3-7	3
Letter from the Men's Room	3
Church Council, Apr. 12th	4
Thank you, John McCrary!	4
Something..., con't	4
Senior Pictures Request	4
Hid In My Heart	4
May Celebrations	5
Acolyte & Nursery Schedules	5
Our Military	5
Pastor's Corner, con't	5
May Events & Fundraisers:	6
Relay for Life	6
Mother/Daughter Banquet	6
Biscuit Sales & Prices	6
UMM Fish Fry	6
Bake Sale	6
Network Worship/Meeting	6
Ladies Retreat Invite	6
Blessings, Dear Ones	6
Calendar	7

## 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



*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* —2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

Our District Superintendent in the Appalachian District gave the clergy a book at Christmas. entitled *Shift* by Phil Maynard, which addresses the topic of "Helping congregations back into the game of effective ministry." In the "Forward," Paul Nixon wrote these words: "...all growing churches constantly experience the temptation to get lazy because their ministry is thriving. When we get lazy, we tend to fall back into old habits and ways of thinking."

As I read this book, I began to see how the message in it fit not only the church but us as Christians, too. No one likes to be considered lazy. We all prefer to be seen as vibrant, hard- working, Christians who are "on fire" for the kingdom; but the truth is that is not always the case. The author does not use the term "lazy" to mean that we don't care, but rather that we "burn-out, tire out, or perhaps just plain give up." To prevent this from happening, we must continually exam our lives and seek God's direction for our lives while seeking fresh ideas. If the Word of God is alive, then let's keep it alive and fresh.

When we study the people within the Bible, and in the history of the Christian faith, what we see is that God is continually shaping and changing them into vessels that are used to pour out his message to the world. The clearest example of that is the twelve "rag -tag" bunch of men that Jesus called to become his disciples. If you wanted to start a business or a movement today, I don't think that you or I would have given any of these men a second look or asked them to join our team.

Yet, Jesus saw something within each of these men and that was faithfulness. Jesus called to each of them to "Come and follow me..." and they stepped out, leaving their pasts behind, to follow Jesus.

When we examine their journey, we see that it is a lot like our own. They had questions; they jumped to conclusions; they had doubts; at times, they were amazed and showed fear—and we even see one that gave up. Yet, those who remained faithful, pressed on; and with God's help through the gift of the Holy Spirit, they brought forth "new life." It may be hard to imagine, but I expect that they too became "lazy" at times. Soon after the resurrection we read of Peter and John who have returned to their old ways—fishing.

They had gone as far as they could on their own. Now they needed a new direction,

*(Continued on page 5)*

### TUESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 10:00a Prayer Meeting

### WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

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

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday: 8:30—1:00p.m.

Phone: 828-396-2214



## Meetings

### SPPR Committee Meeting

The Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations Committee will meet at **5:00 p.m. on Sunday May 3rd**. All members are encouraged to attend.

### Church Council Meeting

NO MEETING IN MAY. The next church council meeting will be in June.

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Barbara Miller will present the program. Bleaka Hollar and Patty Coffey are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are invited to participate.

### Combined Worship Service

May 31st will be a ONE WORSHIP Sunday. Sunday school is at 9:00 a.m. and Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

### VBS Meeting

The time is fast approaching! If you are interested in helping us put on the best Vacation Bible School in the area, please be at the meeting on **Sunday, May 31st at 5:00 p.m.**

### June Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the June 2015 newsletter in by **May 24th**. Thank you. —Editor

## Library Update/Request

There have been some busy little bees working to organize and clean up the church library, but **we need more book cases**. If you can donate one in good condition, we would appreciate it.

Anyone may borrow items from the library. There is no due date, but we do request that you return the items you borrow in a timely manner and in the same condition they were in when borrowed. We accept donations of books, though we may return or discard items deemed inappropriate for the collection. Thank you.



## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

And He said to them,  
“Why are you troubled?  
And why do doubts arise  
in your hearts?”

—Luke 24:38 NKJV

### ARE YOU A SECRET DOUBTING THOMAS?

*One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”*

--John 20:24-25

Thomas asked to see the nail scars in the hands of Jesus before he would believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. What do you want God to do before you will believe that He loves you and cares for you, and that He is the ruler of this world?

Heal yourself or a love one you are praying for?

Get you that job or raise you long to have?

Protect that relative or friend in the Armed Forces from harm?

Protect your home from thieves or destruction?

Help you to overcome an addiction or a sinful behavior you indulge in?

Provide you with the money you need to do something you really want to do?

Do you doubt God so much that you cannot believe He is there for you as you live out your daily life? For instance:

Have you faltered in your walk with God and fallen into an old (or new) sin and then beaten yourself up, claiming that you are not worthy of God's love or forgiveness?

Has someone hurt you badly and you refuse to forgive them, because they don't deserve to be forgiven?

Have you been asked to teach a Sunday school class, but you don't believe you have the skill or time to do it?

Have you noticed a friend or co-worker struggling with a rough situation and felt that you should do something to help, but you were afraid that you wouldn't say the right thing, so you didn't say anything at all?

Have you found out about someone who is in financial trouble, but felt that you could not afford to give money to help them?

Do you want to give money to the church regularly, but your bills are so high and your wages are so low, and you are afraid that when an emergency arises, you won't have the money left to handle it—so you don't give at all?

So, the question remains: Do you really serve a risen Lord? Do you really believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Or are you looking for the nail scars in the hands of Jesus like Thomas?

(Continued on page 4)





## Special Giving

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

### **In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:**

Janet B. Atwood  
Ronald & Donna Barclay  
Linda & Stephen Coffey  
Ebenezer's UMW

### **In Memory of Larry Huffman by:**

Rene and Theia McRary  
Donald & Peggy Huffman  
Ebenezer's UMW

### **In Memory of Bob Sears by:**

Nancy Sears

### **In Honor of Patty Coffey by:**

Robert & Teresa Herman

### **In Honor of Delores Campbell's 78th Birthday on June 26 by:**

Bill and Gary Paul Campbell

## Layman's Revival

We are praying and preparing for another great Layman's Revival beginning on **Sunday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.** Please come and invite your friends and co-workers. You will be blessed by some wonderful testimony from our speakers, listed to the right, and our musical guests, which are listed below:

**Kerri Craven with Bruce & Kathy Piercy**

**Whisnant Family**

**4 For Him**

**Sherry Nelson**

**Jerry Shealey**

(Days for the musical groups appearances were not set at time of publication.)

## A LETTER FROM THE MEN'S ROOM

Howdy y'all! It's been a pretty quiet month for the guys. No real projects, no fundraisers, not even a meeting. Who's the president of this outfit, anyway? Oh... that be me. Oops. I know you girls are saying or thinking, "Typical men," and maybe you're sort of right 'cause we are real good at doing a whole lot of nuthin' sometimes. But that's about to change.

We are going to have a meeting Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm to get the month started off right. Don't forget, all my church peeps, the men are doing a fish fry on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> as one of our fundraisers. I think it be catfish and flounder, slaw, maybe homemade hushpuppies (don't know this for sure), maybe fries; who knows? All I know is that it's going to be good. Please come out and support our Men's group as we try to get a shiny sort of new van.

By the way, thank you, thank you, thank you for y'all getting' the "van fund" over \$1,000 in the first month! Praise the Lord! We have a ways to go, but what a great start! Thanks for letting me and my family be a part of y'all's family and letting me have the privilege of leading the Men's group.

So, Methodist Men: did ya get that? We're meeting Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm and cooking Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. We need help to pull this off. I know some people don't like it when the preacher has sermons on giving money. Well, I ain't no preacher, so let's get this van paid for!

A couple of verses to end with:

*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

--Proverbs 3:9-10

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

-- Luke 6:38

UMM President, Boyd Johnson



## Layman's Revival

### Our Speakers

**Sunday — May 3**

**David Crouse**

**Monday—May 4**

**Zach Starnes**

**Tuesday—May 5**

**Steve Kohnle**

**Wednesday—May 6**

**Jimmy Collins**

**Thursday—May 7**

**Beverly Kirby**



## Church Council — April 12, 2015

Attendees: Kim Ellis, Gerald Frye (Chair), Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Alice Hill, Bleaka Hollar (Lay Leader), Keith Keener, Eric Lane (Pastor), Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Scott Miller, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jimmy Stone, Jeanette Teague, and Jerry Kohnle.

Gerald Frye called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Minutes from March meeting were read and there was one small correction.

Jo Nell Harrison went over the financial statement. She suggested that we pay an extra couple of thousand on the building principle this month. We agreed to do that.

We found some money in an account for the VA van, and it has been given to them.

General discussion about keeping the youth trip funds separate from the regular fundraising funds.

Russell Davis fund had a negative \$36. Motion was made by Eric to pay for that from the needy funds and 0 it out. Jerry Kohnle made a second. Motion passed.

## Old Business

**Chair stacker** looks good. Do we want another one? It would take two more racks to hang all the chairs on them. Bleaka Hollar made a motion to shelve it for now; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Hamby. Motion passed.

**Step repairs:** Gerald has not been able to contact the man to do the steps, but will keep trying. Roy offered to provide us with another name if Gerald cannot contact him.

**Library** is a work in progress, but it is coming together. Monte is going to make a rack to hang the banners on, instead of rolling them up as we do now.

**Layman's Revival** will run Sunday through Thursday. Three of our church members and two outsiders have signed up to speak.

**Survey** will continue one more week.

## New Business

Eric said that we need to be in prayer about our attendance, because it is down compared to last year. Our attendance has been going down for several years. Gerald spoke and encouraged us to talk up the church, send cards to people who have stopped coming, visit and invite more people to join us.

Please be in prayer about what we can do to shake things up or make changes that will help to draw more people in.

Bleaka Hollar closed the meeting with prayer after inviting people to take flyers to pass out for the barbecue in the coming weekend.

Minutes by Cindy Sears. ✝

*We extend a great BIG THANK YOU to John McCrary who used his expertise and labor in designing and building a portable chair rack for our church. You're GREAT, John! And we are GRATEFUL!*



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

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. —1 Corinthians 12:4-7 GNT

## Something, con't

*(Continued from page 2)*

Do you live as if your Lord is alive? How much doubt do you harbor in your heart and life that keeps you from truly living abundantly in Christ and for Christ?

I, myself, tend to harbor doubts—not verbally—but by the timid way I live. I am a child of the LIVING and SOVEREIGN LORD, so why do I worry so much about money, my health, the state of the world, even my service to the Lord? I shamefully admit doubt when the Kohnle's proclaimed the healing of their son from a long-standing disease. Is that only because so many miracles are claimed that really aren't miracles, or do I doubt that God works miracles today? I pray that God opens my heart and mind to living with a broader, wider, stronger faith in His power in the here and now—and in me. There is no need to test God's love, because His Son, Jesus died for me before I knew Him. Yet, there is obviously still a need for God to test my love for Him—and show me that I do believe. ✝

## 2015 Senior Pictures

Please get your photos to us as soon as possible, so we can begin putting the Graduation Sunday slide show together. Include name, school, special awards, and college plans if applicable. We accept digital or hard copies (which will be returned). Thank you.





## May Celebrations



*Happy Birthday!*



- 3rd—Bea Spencer, Kelle Bowman
- 5th—Bill Campbell, Brei Ledford
- 6th—Molly Sims
- 8th—Marsha McCrary
- 12th—Paul Bronson III, Heather “Helton”
- 13th—Ricky Baker, Meredith Knepp, Lindsay Lane
- 14th—Carolyn F. 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!*



- 2nd—Lucas & Sarah Teague
- 13th—Robert & Teresa Herman
- 17th—Steve & Samantha Kohnle
- 30th—Monte & Bleaka Hollar

### Pastor's Corner, con't

and Jesus provides them with that direction. Gathered around that fire with Jesus, Jesus instructs Peter to feed the lambs, care for the sheep, and to feed the sheep.

These are words that we need to be reminded of when we become “lazy.” For when we become comfortable, we tend to fail to be faithful. When we fail to be faithful, we fail to feed the lambs, care for the sheep, and feed the sheep.

When we become “lazy” in our personal relationships, they, too, tend to become stale, and “unfulfilling.” Then, the relationships grow apart instead of growing closer. That’s when you hear phrases like “we are no longer in love or we have fallen out of love.” The cure is to bring freshness back into the relationship—to “stir things up.” The same is true in our relationship with God. While God is always ready to bring freshness and



### Acolyte Schedule - MAY

<b>3rd</b>	Makayla Settlemeyre
<b>10th</b>	Payton Lyda
<b>17th</b>	Cole McCrary
<b>24th</b>	Kaylee Haas
<b>31st</b>	Kevin Miller

### Nursery Schedule - MAY

<b>3rd</b>	8:30	Jessica Haas & Linda Moretz
	11:00	Tasha Haas
<b>10th</b>	8:30	Boyd & Emily Johnson
	11:00	Rosalind Kelley
<b>17th</b>	8:30	Teresa Simmons & Dawn Yount
	11:00	Nancy Sears
<b>24th</b>	8:30	Cheryl Vosdingh & Tammy Adams
	11:00	Kay Gilbert
<b>31st</b>	10:30	Kim Ellis & Heather Stone

### 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

newness to our lives (we are reminded of this with every sunrise and sunset), we are the ones that become lazy and, thus, stale.

So, I leave you with this question. What does God want to do in your life and in the life of our church to bring about a spirit of “new life;” so, that the lambs and sheep are fed, and that the sheep—his sheep—are cared for?

Pray for one another and pray for our church as we begin to seek God’s will and God’s direction in ministry. ✝



## Relay for Life

**Friday, May 1—  
Saturday, May 2**

We encourage you to come to the *Relay for Life* celebration and fundraiser at

**WEST CALDWELL HIGH**

on May 1. We will be selling food at our booth at this event and helping to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The event begins in the early evening and runs through the night.

You can purchase luminaries in honor or memory of members of your family, and participate in the walks around the stadium for cancer survivors and their caregivers and supporters.

**Celebrate Life & Healing**

## MAY Fundraisers & Events

### Mother/Daughter Banquet

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

*All Ladies are invited  
Royal Banquet!*



**Saturday, May 9th  
6:00 PM**

This year's theme is:

*Daughters of a Heavenly King*

Come celebrate your relationship with the King of the World and with your mothers and daughters at our annual Mother/Daughter Banquet. The men will be cooking, serving, and cleaning up (Hallelujah!). All we ask is that you bring a dessert to share—if you can.

### Biscuits Sales

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, May 14th.**

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!**



### UMM Fish Fry

**Saturday, May 30th  
4-7:00 PM**

Our men's group has caught a bunch of fish and they are frying them up for all the hungry people in Caldwell County and beyond. I assume we will have the usual sides with the fish. Price was not set at time of publication.

### Network Worship/Meeting

For the last year or so, members of all the Methodist churches in Caldwell County have been working on ways to better coordinate or cooperate with one another on our local mission and service projects. We invite you to a gathering on

**Sunday, May 17th  
3-5 PM**

For a rousing worship service, and to hear about what has been decided and accomplished so far. May everything we do be about Our Lord and His Glory.!

### Ladies Retreat Invite

The UMW invites all the ladies of the church to a retreat at Lake Junaluska

**June 12-13, 2015**

Please **let Kim Ellis know by May 17th** if you wish to attend.



We thank God for blessing us with another year's presence and service from our two longest lived members, Rachel Poe and Blanche Kohnle, who celebrated their 98th birthdays earlier this year. May you have many more!

### Bake Sale by "The Rock"

The Rock Middle School Sunday School Class will have a bake sale on **Sunday morning, May 31st** before Sunday school and the service (a One Service Sunday).

Proceeds will go toward the church Van Fund, so treat your sweet tooth and help us raise money for a good van, tool. Thank you!

### 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 Fruit Pie



**EBENEZER UMC**

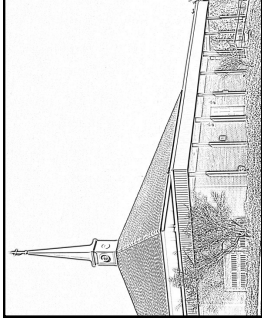
*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

**May 2015**



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



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. 4 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists</p>		<p>Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</p>		<p>1 <b>Relay for Life</b> Event at West Caldwell High School, see p. 6</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 SPPR—5 PM Layman's Revival Begins—7 PM, see p. 3</p>	<p>4 <b>LAYMAN'S REVIVAL</b></p>	<p>5 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>6 <b>7 PM EACH EVENING</b></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 CLC unavailable— Prep time for banquet</p>	<p>9  Mother/Daughter Royal Banquet—6 PM</p>
<p>10 </p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Network Worship &amp; Meeting—3-5 PM, see p. 6</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 UMW—7 PM</p>	<p>25 Church Office Closed </p>	<p>26 Prayer Group—10AM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 </p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 UMM Fish Fry—4-7 PM</p>
<p>31 ONE SERVICE Sun. Sch.—9 AM Worship—10:30 AM Bake Sale, see p. 6</p>						