



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

May '16

Volume 12 Issue 05

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

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The more you observe politics, the more you've got to admit that each party is worse than the other.

--- Will Rogers



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



Pastor's Corner — Rev. Eric Lane



"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." --
Philippians 4:13

I was wondering where to start this newsletter. God is a great place to start and that is how our journey together has been.

In 2002, Ebenezer began a new uncharted journey as a "station" church, and I began as a brand new pastor. As I reflect back over the years, I give God the glory for all that has taken place. God placed me in a church that loved my family and loved me—not only loved me, but forgave my mistakes, and allowed me to learn and grow from my mistakes.

You might say that we have come a long way. Today we pause—pause, as once again we face an unknown future. As a church, you will soon be welcoming a new pastor—one that, while I do not know personally, I expect is pretty excited to come and worship and do ministry with you. I can say that because I know you. I know that you are a loving church. I know you care about the ministries of this church. You care about sharing the "good news" with others. You will support your pastor—and that is pretty exciting.

As I pause, I reflect on the unknown future, too. We will be moving to an area we do not know, meeting people we do not know, and all the things that come with this—such as packing, finding a new dentist and doctors; and leaving, not just friends behind, but family as well.

So, how can we find peace when there appears to be so much uncertainty and unknown variables? May I suggest that we pause and reflect and learn from our past? Back in 2002, Ebenezer UMC, as well as myself, put our faith in God that He would guide us. "He leads me beside the still waters..." We faced the unknown future because we put our faith in God.

"[We] can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens [us]."

Therefore, as we go forward, let us put our trust in God, and pray for His divine guidance.

Thank you for the many wonderful memories. I love each and every one of you!

—Blessings, *Rev. Eric Lane* ✝

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet at **4:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 15th**. If you have business to bring before the Council, please contact Boyd Johnson, Council Chairperson. All members of the church may attend, but only Council members may vote.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **May 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** Barbara Miller will present the program. Patty Coffey and Bleaka Hollar are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are invited to participate.

June Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the June newsletter in by **May 23rd**. Thank you. —Editor

Church Office Closing

The church office will be closed on **Monday, May 30th** for Memorial Day.

The Time Has Come...

We must say good-bye to our Pastor, Rev. Eric Lane. This is a sad time for us. We need your prayers.

Yet, we want to make this a time of celebration, also. A celebration of 14 years of wonderful, passionate, tireless service from Eric, Beth and their family.

We are preparing for a **Farewell Dinner on Saturday, June 4 at 6:00 p.m.** Please keep this day and time free; and prepare to come help us say good-bye. This will be a covered-dish affair, and, with all the good cooks and bakers in this church, a delicious way to say, "Fare thee well" to Eric, Beth and his family (though some of his family will remain in the area). Please bring a card or letter or send them one before they leave on June 26 to express your appreciation for all they have done for our church and community.

May God bless them in their new church, and continue to bless us at Ebenezer.



Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Jesus answered... the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!

—Matthew 11:5-6 GNT

**TOO GOOD
TO BE TRUE?**

How many offers have you heard lately that are just too good to be true? There seem to be scam artists and outright liars trying to take advantage of people's good will or just separate them from their hard, and honestly, earned money everywhere. Here are a few examples:

We'll pave your driveway for 80% less than anyone else.

Be debt free in 90 days!

Boost your metabolism and lose 40 lbs. of fat without diet or exercise.

Recover 20/20 vision in 7 days – guaranteed—in just 10 minutes a day of special exercises. No surgery; be free of glasses or contacts forever.

Interest free credit card. No interest loan (for 6 months).

Send me \$100 and your bank account info, so I can bring \$500,000 into the U. S. & I'll let you keep half of the money.

Health Insurance for everyone! Lower premiums for all! (and "if you like your insurance plan and doctor, you can keep your plan and doctor. Period."—sorry, I couldn't resist.)

Be pain free forever in 30 days with these pills, vitamins, diet, exercises, lotions, bracelets, etc., etc., etc.

Look and feel 30 years younger in 90 days or less!

Break the Stock Market and get rich quick with our proven techniques.

Buy a lottery ticket today and help fund education in N. C. (I couldn't resist that one either.)

Free Home Security system, free dance lessons, free Dream Vacation, free World Cruise, yada, yada, yada.

Elect me and I promise NOT TO RAISE TAXES. (How often are we going to fall for this one?)

Elect me and I promise to reduce the national debt, fix Medicare and Social Security, reduce the size of government, stop governmental waste, protect our veterans, give you or your kids a free college education, protect our borders, protect and create more jobs, stop global warming, cooling, and climate change, increase your pay and benefits, clear up your acne, make your lawn dandelion free, save your marriage... (okay, those last three are low blows, but it's all a bit ridiculous to think one person, president or county commissioner, has the power to do all of that him or herself.)

This doesn't take into account the many "charities" out there that are nothing more than money-makers for people that do little or nothing for the

(Continued on page 4)



Special Giving

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

In Memory of Wade Austin by:

Anthony & Sherry Austin

In Memory of Max Frye by:

David Frye
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell
Carolyn & Roscoe Marshall
Carolyn F. Davis
Women's Bible Class

In Memory of Betty Joyce (Williams) Wright by:

Carolyn & Roscoe Marshall

In Memory of Missy Mullinax by:

Robert Mullinax

In Honor of the Heavenly Sonlighters Class by:

Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell



We Need You!



Our wonderful new children's church program desperately needs people to step up and help Jessica Haas lead our young

children in their own worship service on Sunday mornings. Please help give our children the opportunity to have a worship experienced geared more to their level of understanding, and contact Jessica today to say you will help.

We are very grateful for the many people who volunteered to help with the nursery. If we can do it with the nursery, we can do it with this program, too.

The more volunteers we have, the fewer times each year you will need to lead the services. Materials are provided, so you are not required to "make things up as you go along."

God will bless you and the children for your service. Thank you.



Church Council Minutes – April 24, 2016

Attendees: Becky Clark, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Boyd & Emily Johnson, Connor Johnson, Keith Keener, JoAnn Knepp, Jerry Kohnle, Steve Kohnle, Rev. Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Libby McCrary, Scott Miller, Kevin Miller, Linda Moretz, Robert Mullinax, Cindy Sears, Jeff & Ann Smith, Ricky Baker, and Alice Hill.

Boyd called the meeting to order and asked Sonya Crouse to open us with prayer. Boyd read a devotional from Numbers 15:37-41. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as read.

Financial Report

Jo Nell Harrison said the report is good. She mentioned that we might want to add to savings or the parsonage account, since we have extra money now, and haven't done that in a while. Eric will check with members of the Under Grace Class about money that is in their account. We've got a good year going. We hope that it continues through the summer months.

Jo Nell paid an extra thousand dollars on the building mortgage in April. Our note comes due in June. We will owe a little less than \$140,000, and will need to refinance that amount; though People's Bank has offered to let us go another year at the same interest rate. Jo Nell will check into various options. Jo Nell answered a few more questions about various fund amounts.

Keith Keener said that the Trustees were approached about selling another grave plot for \$1200. It was requested that the funds be used to straighten up the headstones. So, this payment will go to the Cemetery Fund. Bleaka Hollar mentioned that a man has been coming and working on straightening up the stones now, but more work needs to be done.

The Trustees have priced awnings for the CLC glass entrance doors. The cost is \$1900, plus tax. The Trustees will need more money, because they only have \$1300 in their budget. Kim

seconded the motion for money. Motion passed.

The sign at the front has been repaired.

The Trustees are looking into replacing the wiring that runs from the Sanctuary to the new Nursery for the sound system that lets the Nursery workers hear the services.

Old Business

Cindy said the Phone Tree System is up and running.

Safe Sanctuary workshop report: Libby Long reported that it was a very good workshop—very informative. We have some improvements to make in our procedures, which will protect the workers and the young children and adults of our church. Bleaka and Libby want to have an in-house workshop with our teachers and workers here, and will make arrangements to do that.

SPPRC report: Roy Hamby said that they have come up with a job description for a Youth Director (part-time and full-time proposed salaries). He passed around a copy of the proposal. Yearly cost was \$7800 for the part-time (average of 10 hours a week); full-time \$20,000-34,000 a year. The full-timer would do much more than just run one meeting or program a week. The person would also coordinate other youth or children programs, including recruiting more youth (not just member's children) to the programs. There was general discussion. Eric went over some ways to hire a person and acquire some monetary help from the Methodist Conference and other grants.

Steve Kohnle made a motion to proceed to find a full-time youth minister; seconded by Kim Ellis. Motion passed. Some people expressed trepidation about the yearly cost. Jerry Kohnle said that we can do what we decide to do. We had great youth



Church Council Minutes, con't...

programs before by using volunteers, but now many families have both parents working. Emily Johnson brought up that there are many more dangers and non-Christian ideas that the children are faced with every day. It is a different world. The children need greater influence from a good Christian leader on a regular basis.

New Business

Kim Ellis wants to buy some good basketballs for the gym at around \$60. Several people offered to buy one for her. She also mentioned that the glass doors are not getting completely closed at times in the CLC. Please be more careful about that.

Boyd gave us names for the Committee to find a full-time youth minister: Roy Hamby, Kevin Miller, Bleaka Hollar, Connor Johnson, Boyd Johnson, Ann Smith, Tasha Haas, Rev. Jay Bissett (New pastor).

Keith made the motion to dismiss; seconded by Steve. Gerald Frye closed us in prayer.

—Minutes by Cindy Sears, ☆

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

Israel, the LORD who created you says, "Do not be afraid—I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you.

—Isaiah 43:1-2 GNT

Something to Pray About, con't

(Continued from page 2)

people or things the charity is suppose be helping.

But what about this one:

"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

As Christians, we are supposed to believe this one. We are supposed to believe that the Creator of the Universe loves us enough to die for us! Do we live as if we do? Do we live as if people are condemned to eternal hellfire if they do not accept Jesus as their Savior? Do we live as if Christ is the only way to be saved from God's righteous judgment? Do we live as if Jesus's sacrifice is wonderful and incomparable, and impossible for us to repay? Do we live as if this life on earth is not all there is; that something better and everlasting is in store for us?

Or do we live as if there is no hell waiting for those who die without accepting Christ? Do we live as if there are other ways to be saved, and mend one's relationship with the Creator? Do we live as if God's sacrifice wasn't all that special, or as if sin isn't all that bad? Do we live as if we can repay this debt with our good deeds or work for the Kingdom? Do we live as if this lifetime is all there is, so we must "grab for all the gusto" we can now?

"Remember that the LORD your God is the only God and that he is faithful. He will keep his covenant and show his constant love to a thousand generations of those who love him and obey his commands, but he will not hesitate to punish those who hate him." --Deuteronomy 7:9-10 GNT

"I will show you whom to fear: fear God, who, after killing, has the authority to throw into hell. Believe me, he is the one you must fear!"

--Luke 12:5 GNT

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

--John 15:13 NKJV

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

--John 14:6 NKJV

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

--1 John 1:9 NKJV

"There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you...I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am."

--John 14:2 GNT

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: 'Now God's home is with people! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God.'"

--Revelation 21:1a, 3 GNT

Gospel means "good news." Let's spread it around. We could all use some good news.





May Celebrations



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

Happy Anniversary!

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



Call for Teachers & Leaders

Acolyte Program Director: Since Eric and Beth are being moved to another church, we need someone to take over the acolyte program in June. Please contact Beth Lane if you are interested and she will train you to lead our young people in this service.

Assistant Teacher: Kim Ellis is looking for another assistant to help with the Middle School Class every other month starting in June (rotating). Please contact Libby Long, Kim Ellis, or Beth Lane if you are interested in helping with the Middle School Class.

Youth Group Leader: We are looking for a leader and assistant to take over our Youth program, which meets on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m., currently. Please see Roy Hamby for more information or to volunteer.



Acolyte Schedule - MAY

1st	Emily Haas
8th	Savanna Creaseman
15th	Anna Miller
22nd	Makayla Settlemire
29th	Cole McCrary

Nursery Schedule - MAY

1st	8:30	Lucas & Sarah Teague
	11:00	Celeste Creaseman
8th	8:30	Nancy Sears & Candace Collins
	11:00	Kristin & Makayla Settlemire
15th	8:30	Boyd & Emily Johnson
	11:00	Angie Miller
22nd	8:30	Marilyn Kohnle & Beth Lane
	11:00	Doris Kohnle
29th	10:30	Keith & Susan Keener
	ONE SERVICE SUNDAY	

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

Graduation Sunday Pictures Needed

If you or your child is graduating from High School or a College program, please provide us with photos for our annual slide show to celebrate this milestone. Hard copies will be returned. Send digital pictures as jpgs at a fairly high resolution. Thank you and Congratulations!

Graduation Sunday is June 5th. We need your photos at least 2 weeks before that.



MAY Fundraisers & Events

7:00 PM Each Evening

Layman's Revival

Our Speakers/Musical Guests

Sunday — May 1	Dr. Steve Merrill/ <i>Sara Triplett</i>
Monday—May 2	Steve Lockhart/ <i>Gospel Way</i>
Tuesday—May 3	Audrey McRary/ <i>4 for Him</i>
Wednesday—May 4	? / <i>Drew Moseley</i>
Thursday—May 5	?

We are letting our lay people take to the pulpit to tell us their story of how Jesus has touched their lives. Join us for some wonderful testimonies and great musical worship!

Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class has taken over the biscuit sales. They will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND **bologna biscuits** on **Thursday, May 19th.**

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: 396-2214** (church office; Mon.-Fri. 8:30-1:30 pm).

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

Yum! Yum!



Mother/Daughter Banquet

**SATURDAY
MAY 7TH
6:00 PM**



We invite all the women and girls of the church and community to join us for a celebration of motherhood. (You do not need to be a mother to attend. You had a

mother!)

The men of the church will be cooking, serving, and cleaning up! Whoopee!

There will be entertainment and prizes, along with the great food and fellowship.



**SATURDAY
MAY 21
11 AM 'TIL GONE!**

Ebenezer's United Methodist Men will be cooking up lots of fish again, along with fixin's. I wasn't given a price, but I'm sure it's a good bargain.

Proceeds go towards the men's ministries, plus 50% will go to the Church Van Fund.

We thank you for your support!



ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

MAY 29TH

We will have only one worship service this Sunday.

Sunday school

9-10:00 AM

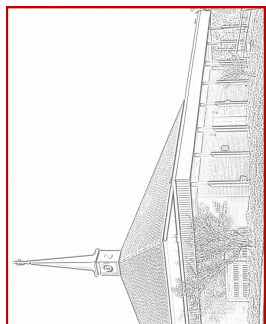
Worship

10:30 AM

(contemporary and traditional style worship combined)

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

"So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own." —Matthew 6:34a GNT



May 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			LAYMAN'S REVIVAL — 7 PM			<i>Mother/Daughter Banquet—6 PM, see p. 6</i>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
 happy mothers day						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Church Council— 4:30 PM				<i>Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 6</i>		<i>UMM Fish Fry—11 AM 'til gone!, see p. 6</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>UMW—7 PM</i>						
29	30	31				
<i>ONE SERVICE SUNDAY, see p. 6</i>	<i>Church Office Closed</i>		<i>Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship</i>	<i>See p. 5 for Acolyte Schedule</i>	<i>Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</i>	

