



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

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Quotable

"love has been redefined as acceptance." --Alicia Childers online

"The true gospel is offensive. Period. We can speak the truth in love and after that let the chips fall where they may. If people don't realize they are sinners, they will not seek a Savior." --Karri Compton (comment on youtube)

"all through history, Christians have gone against the culture of the day." --unknown



Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 5:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 6:00p 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 Note



As we travel through the season of Lent I ask you to reflect on the following questions:

1. Has your heart been strangely warmed?
2. How is it with your soul today?
3. Are you moving on to perfection in love?

These three questions are expressions of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. I will tell you about them.

Has your heart been strangely warmed?

At a church service in a place called Aldersgate John Wesley felt his "heart strangely warmed." By this phrase he came to believe that he was saved and that Christ died for him. Note that at this time John Wesley was an ordained Anglican priest, had been a missionary to the colony of Georgia, and taught theology. He had also been raised in the Anglican church as his father was an Anglican priest. Yet he struggled with truly knowing if he was saved. On that night in Aldersgate it hit him that he was and that Christ died for him.

We can be a part of the church for our entire lives and not know this. I ask you, "Do you know Jesus as your Savior? Has your heart been warmed by the grace of Christ?"

How is it with your soul today?

This was THE question that was asked of people who participated in the class meetings of the Methodist movement. The class meeting met weekly. We would call them small groups. Ten to twelve people would meet under the guidance of a leader who would ask each person how their soul was doing. They would receive encouragement, support, and correction if needed.

In this time of COVID-19, political turmoil, economic challenges, and denominational concerns-- I ask you, "How is it with your soul, today?"

Are you moving on to perfection in love?

John Wesley believed and taught his people that it was possible to become perfect in the love of God. He taught that this was a process as we grow in faith, and takes place over time. It was the bringing of the body, mind, and soul into alignment with God's grace that we find in Jesus Christ. It involved both learning and doing. Another word for this movement is "holiness."

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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, Events, etc.

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will begin delivering monthly meals to shut-ins and others in need of special care again on **Monday, March 15th starting at 5:00 p.m.** Please contact the church if you know of someone who is recovering from sickness, or surgery that might like to be added to the list.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, March 28th at 4:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. We thank you for your service on this committee.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, March 28th at 5:00 p.m.** Barbara Ferguson is in charge of the programming. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Kindergarten Screenings

Dudley Shoals Elementary School is now scheduling for their annual kindergarten screenings to be held on Wednesday, March 31st.

You **MUST pre-register at:**

www.caldwellschools.com/dses.

Click on Kindergarten Enrollment. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Call 828-396-3457 if you have questions.

Other Meetings/Events

Prayer Meeting every **Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.**

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services are still in the planning state.

The **UMW Country Store** fundraiser is scheduled for **Saturday, April 24th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
Luke 24:49 NIV

**BASIC DOCTRINE:
"HE" NOT "IT"**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

—Acts 2:1-2 NIV

The above scriptures show us that The Holy Spirit is a powerful force—not a pillow of comfort. Many people have come to believe that the Holy Spirit is some kind of ephemeral emanation or influence from God, or divine energy or power. Though He is powerful, the Holy Spirit is a person. Therefore, the Holy Spirit should never be referred to as an 'it.' He is to be honored the same as God, for He is God—the Three in One—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

He is called Holy, because He came from the holy God, and He bears the image of God. It is also His job to lead us into holiness. He is called Spirit, because He does not have a visible body, such as Jesus possessed.

The term Trinity is not found in the Bible, but comes from the Synod of Alexandria in A.D. 317, and is used to express the "threefoldness" of God. Although, the Holy Spirit is known as the Third Person of the Trinity, this is not meant to convey a hierarchy of power within the Godhead. This refers to the "order of divine performance: God the Father is the original source of everything; God the Son follows in the order of revelation; God the Spirit is the Channel through which the blessings of heaven reach us. Thus, from the Father—through the Son—by the Holy Spirit" (Lockyer, p. 75).

The Holy Spirit actively worked in and through individuals in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, the Spirit did not dwell within the person on a regular basis, but only in certain circumstances to carry out God's will or to inspire the writing of Scripture. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit, after Pentecost, began to indwell all believers at all times. Now He is our direct contact with God. He convicts us of sin, teaches us, guides us, and manages our sanctification process. The Holy Spirit is the Administrator of the Church—when we let Him lead us.

The Holy Spirit quickens the Church. He is where our power, perseverance, and devotion to and ability to obey comes from. The Holy Spirit is our ultimate worship leader.

The Holy Spirit acts upon the material world as Creator, the breath of life, animation of the animals—He is the Co-Creator (see Genesis 1:2).

(Continued on page 3)



Something to Pray About, continued

The Holy Spirit made the birth of our sinless Savior, Jesus Christ possible. "The Holy Spirit shall...overshadow thee." "As the Spirit of Holiness, consecrated and purified that part of the virgin's flesh whereof Christ, according to the flesh, was fashioned (p.67, Lockyer).

The Holy Spirit is the Co-Creator of our new nature in Christ Jesus. In John 3:6 we learn that "A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit" (Lockyer)

The Holy Spirit is the Co-Creator of the Church. Pentecost marks the birth of the Christian Church. The Disciples of Christ, which were once individual believers, now become "fused together into the mystic fabric Paul called 'the church of God'" (Acts 20:28; p. 67, Lockyer).

The Holy Spirit is the divine Author of all Scripture: "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21 NIV). And only the Holy Spirit can unlock the truth of the Scriptures to those who read and study God's Word.

The Holy Spirit will be a paramount force in the creation of the new heavens and earth; and in presenting a holy and pure Bride (the Church) to Christ, the Bridegroom, at the end of the age.

We pray through the power of the Holy Spirit, but we call out to Jesus—because the Holy Spirit is the One who convicts us of our need for Christ and testifies of Him; and the Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit Who works to change us into the image of Jesus Christ. This is why we can grieve the Spirit when we are disobedient or neglectful toward our Lord.

The Holy Spirit comforts us, yes, but He is God and therefore, He is powerful. As believers, we have been invited by God to tap into His power through the Holy Spirit who permanently indwells the Christian. Are you tapping into that power?

Source—All the Doctrines of the Bible, by Lockyer.



Pastor's Note, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

I ask you, "Is your life arranged in such a way that you are becoming more like Jesus every day? Are you moving towards Christian perfection in love?"

As we move closer to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus may these questions help to focus our lives and our ministry together here at Ebenezer.

In God's grace, Worship in March

Pastor Alan

March 7th – 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 (Communion will be observed)

March 14th – Roy Hamby preaches

March 21st – Hebrews 5.5-10

March 28th – Mark 11.1-11 (Palm Sunday)

March Celebrations



- 1st—Charlie Mullinax
- 6th—Gary Paul Campbell
- 7th—Trena Wilson
- 7th—Kim Knepp
- 8th—Judy McCrary
- 10th—Bryan Turner
- 13th—Clair Gilbert
- 14th—Wayne Ellis
- 14th—Jerry Helton
- 16th—Sarah Christas
- 16th—Rachel Kersey
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 20th—Tracy McRary
- 22nd—Jesse Barber
- 25th—Jordan Ellis
- 28th—Amanda Coffey
- 29th—Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Happy Anniversary!



- 2nd—Kyle & Patty Toliver
- 24th—Dylan & Vickie Baker

"Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you"
(Andrew Murray)

Our Military

- Kyle Blair
- Ricky Garland
- Trey Hefner
- Shane McRary
- Jamie Mullinax
- Michael Potts
- Hunter Tolbert



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



Church Council Minutes—February 28, 2021

Attendees: Pastor Alan Gaylord, Irene Austin, Ricky Baker, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Peggy Jenkins, JoAnn Knepp, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary (Chairperson), Cindy Sears, Kenny Silver, and Linda Moretz.

Marsha McCrary called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. 2 Timothy 3:10-17 was the scripture reading. Some points taken from these verses: The Lord delivers us from persecution, but all believers will suffer persecution. We must persevere in the faith built upon Christ Jesus. Despite all that is going on in the world today, this is not the time to give up; but to remember what we learned in our youth in the church, and to stand on the truth of God. We need to support the church as God wants us to do, not as we may prefer to do. Marsha then opened the meeting with prayer.

Reading of the Minutes:
Accepted as written.

Financial Report by Irene Austin

We remain in pretty decent shape, but we spent more than we took in in February by about \$4000. We did have some expenditures that were not normal monthly spending. We have enough of a cushion to survive if we choose not to apply for the PPP loan. Discussion.

If we apply for the loan and get it, there are stipulations about how to use the money that if they are not met, we would have to pay the loan back. This topic continued below.

Robin's Nest will receive the Thank Bank donations from Jan. and Feb. Cindy will give the total to Irene who will write the check and send it.

Old Business

Marsha asked to vote on accepting Roy Hamby as the SPPRC chairman to replace Ricky Baker. All were in favor.

New Business

Kim Ellis: Missions has been on her mind. She would like for us to Do something at the school. A suggestion she gave was to give away a free water and Little Debbie cake/snack or something for the parents that are waiting in line to pick up their children. Let's think about this for April.

Also, Kim said that at the free meal in February, she said we had many people come by for the meal that she did not recognize. Ricky Baker said the total meals handed out was around 150 or so. It was confirmed by Ricky Baker that we will be doing the monthly shut-in meals again beginning on March 15th.

Pastor Alan's Report:

Covid-19: Caldwell County has moved to orange. We started back in the CLC today. We hope that things will continue to improve, and we can remain inside.

PPP loan follow up: Pastor Alan is not sure whether or not to apply for the loan. This involves a large amount of paperwork. The loan/grant is for more than simply payroll now. For instance, it can be used for Covid-19 mitigation items, such as sanitizer, or equipment for filtering the air.

Pastor expressed thankfulness for our members and friends' generosity that is there to keep us going. Do we want to try for the PPP loan? Discussion.

Vote taken: in favor—1; opposed everyone else. Motion failed.

General Conference/Annual Conference updates: Annual Conference will be held virtually. General Conference has been

postponed for another year. They are getting permission for paper ballots, so that the Conference can continue to run until the next meeting. Virtual General Conference cannot be done, because of varied time zones and access to the internet.

Worship

Pastor Alan then asked us that if we can continue to meet inside, what would we like to do for Holy Week? Maundy Thursday service? It was suggested that we could still do breakfast for Easter after the service by setting up tables in various areas, including outside or offering boxed meals. We will consider doing this.

The Pastor presented the worship service information for March and April, though services for Holy Week are not yet set. He will be out of town on March 14th and April 11th.

There was a discussion of **what to do this summer**. No plans were set, though we are looking at a one-day VBS or a community fun day.

It was decided to encourage all the **Sunday school classes** to begin meeting again. March 14th was chosen as the begin date.

Facility vision: Pastor Alan would like to see the old fellowship hall area set-up as an area for collecting donations to other ministries, and as a display area for some of the historical items in the church; plus, place some of the books from the library in the area for people to pick up and use/read. There was more discussion about cleaning up and organizing various areas in a better way.

Personal notes: the Pastor will be in Jacksonville, FL March 12-15; and in Pennsylvania from April 5-11.

Next Council meeting will be on Sunday, March 28th at 4:00 p.m. Roy Hamby gave the closing prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.





Finding Hope Ministries Newsletter Excerpts—February 2021

*Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
Romans 15:13*

Hello everyone! Praise the Lord, He is our ANCHOR and HOPE in the midst of the storm! How are you all? We are doing well at Finding Hope – always forging forward as God leads.

Finding Hope Children's Homes

Our Children’s homes are doing well – always full and bustling! Currently, most of our kids are still going to school virtually (from home), but some have actually returned to the schoolhouse. Hopefully, more of the kids will go back to school soon so we do not have to keep on homeschooling 40 children!

We are always trying to keep them pretty busy with lots of activities: board games, worship/Bible reading times, crafts, sports, trampoline jumping, playing/learning the guitar, cooking, deep cleaning, walks, hikes, sledding, ski trips, ziplining, bike rides, etc....

Moreover, every Thursday evening we have a worship service with all the Finding Hope kids and staff. We usually sing a bit, play a small group game, share some, and then read/study the Bible together. Additionally, each children’s home has their individual nightly devotions with the kids. This usually includes, a Bible story, prayers, and a short sharing time.

USA Children's Home - Grace Home

We are still moving forward with the Grace Home in NC. Between the government red tape and COVID, the forward progress has been slow. We are hoping to go get the house remodeling underway by early 2021. There are several house updates/renovations that will be required to pass the codes for NC child protective services. Our goal is to be able to house 12 kids at this home. As COVID settles down, we will be sharing more about this with everyone, so please continue to keep this in prayer.

Gypsy Ministry

Our church in the Tichendeal gypsy village is going strong despite COVID. We are still holding Sunday services and people are hearing God’s Word. The relief/evangelism work in the villages has waned a bit because of COVID, but we have been able to distribute some food and clothes. We are praying hard that COVID will abate so we can ramp up our outreaches in the villages again. We especially would like to resume bringing mission teams to help us with the work in the villages. We are hoping and praying the borders will open soon so the mission teams and volunteers can return.

Presently, we have three ministry vans here in Romania to transport our children. Even with these three vans, we still have to make multiple trips back and forth to be able to transport the kids to and from church, and other family outings. We would really like to be able to do it in one trip. One more van would do it. If you would like to donate to help with this cause, please let us know.

You can donate online via our website at: www.findinghopeministries.org. Once on the website click on the orange “single donation” button. Fill in the details and put in the comments box “for ministry van.” Also, you can donate via PayPal on our website. To do this scroll down to bottom of homepage.

You will see a blue "donate by PayPal" button. Click on this, fill in the details and put in note "for ministry van." Lastly, one can donate via check or money order. Make checks out to Finding Hope Ministries and put on the memo line “ministry van.” Send check to:

Finding Hope Ministries
P.O. Box 1705
Lenoir, NC 28645

We thank the Lord for his constant provision. We are always so amazed at how God takes care of us, providing each and every need in His perfect time! It is truly awesome seeing how God has grown and provided for Finding Hope all these years through you all! We cannot even begin to thank you for your very generous giving and unceasing prayers. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You all are truly the heartbeat of Finding Hope Ministries!

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *February*:

In Memory of Bea Spencer by:
Delores Campbell

In Memory of Cleo Clark by:
Becky Clark

In Honor of Gary Paul Campbell’s 44th birthday by:
Delores Campbell

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

If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

—John 14:15-17 NIV