



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

November '14

Volume 10 Issue 11

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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



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ,

On October 26, we held our Charge Conference for Ebenezer. At that time, we reflected back on the events that have impacted Ebenezer and its ministries. Each year, I put together a projection of goals for our church to work towards in the next three years. Then, I review these goals with Bleaka, our Lay Leader, and Gerald Frye, our Council Chair, before sending them to our district office.

The goals that we measure are: church membership, professions of faith, worship attendance, number of mission teams, and number of people involved on mission teams, disciple—making small groups, and the percent of contributions given to missions outside of our apportionments.

We are doing very well in some areas. While our membership is not growing at the rate that it once did, it is still growing. There are other areas that we seem to be doing well in, such as missions, number of people in missions, and percentage of money going towards missions.

However, there are areas for improvement on our part as a church. One of those areas is in professions of faith. While this does not measure those who had been away from the church and have returned to become faithful disciples, it does measure how we as a church are witnessing to those who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord. We must not assume that everyone knows Jesus or knows God.

While we never want to drive people away from God by being overbearing or shove the gospel down anyone's throat, we should always be looking for opportunities to be a witness for Christ. Also, we should always be willing to share our faith and belief with others. You may be thinking that this is the job of the pastor, but the fact is that it is not only the job of the pastor; it is what all of us have been called to do as Christians. That thought leads me to another area that we need to prayerfully seek to improve—our disciple-making or small groups studies.

We all have very busy lives. There never seems to be time enough to accomplish

(Continued on page 3)

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

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, November 16th at 4:30 p.m.** All members of the church are invited to attend, but only members of the council may vote.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m.** Kim Ellis will present the program. Teresa Simmons and Libby Long are in charge of refreshments.

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will prepare and deliver their next meal on **Monday, November 17th at 5:00 p.m.** We will need volunteers to help with deliveries.

Thanksgiving Service

Ebenezer is hosting the community service this year. We are asking our members to supply us with oodles of finger foods for this event on **Sunday, November 23rd at 6:00 p.m.**

Hanging of the Greens

Help us decorate our church for the Advent season on **Saturday, November 29th at 5:00 p.m.**

Bring a pot of soup, cornbread or some sandwiches and desserts to share after we have a short service and put up the Christmas decorations. Everyone is invited to this festive occasion.

One Worship Service Sunday

On **Sunday, November 30th at 10:30 a.m.**, we will have a combined worship service. Sunday school classes will meet from 9:00—10:10 a.m.

December Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the December newsletter in by **November 18th due to the Holiday schedule.** Thank you. —Editor

The LORD judges in favor of the oppressed and gives them their rights. —Psalm 103: 6 GNT

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

POLITICS & LIBERTY

"Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go." —Joshua 1:9 GNT

I grew up in the era of "Watergate," so I know what it's like to be totally disillusioned with an elected official. Watching political candidates' commercials greatly irritated me back when I still had TV service. I could not stand the talks by candidates either, because they mostly excoriated their opponent, but told me little to nothing about what they believed in or planned to do when in office. If you have ever watched the movie "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," then you know the kind of elected official I would dearly love to have in Congress, but despair of ever seeing.

Taking all that in, along with financial shenanigans, sexual scandals, partisan politics, payouts to cronies, and general disregard of our nation's constitution, and the fact that it cost so much money to run for office, politics seems totally corrupted and unredeemable. Yet, politics is not a dirty word. It is the price of freedom.

Though I'd like to put my head in the sand and ignore the whole mess, I know that if I want to keep my freedoms, I **MUST VOTE!** And when selfish, self-centered, self-indulgent, socialistic, idiots make it into office despite my vote, I **MUST LEARN TO PROTEST**, too!

It is way past time that Christian Americans became more active and more vocal in the political arena—locally and nationally. **DO NOT REFUSE TO VOTE** just because you aren't enthused by any of the candidates. This is a time to pick the lesser evil as best you can, and then hound the ones who get into office to be better representatives of the people—all the people of the United States, not just me and my neighbors or special friends.

This country continues to slide down a slippery slope toward less and less freedom, and more and more intrusive government, and bigger and bigger government, when all the government was meant to do was to protect us from enemies foreign and domestic AND allow us, as individuals and groups, to live our lives according to our beliefs and consciences, while working to better our lives. Notice the word "working." We each have a right to "work" towards our own personal American dream. We do not have the right to steal from or rely on other people's work and be handed the American dream.

It is particularly frightening to see our freedoms of speech and religion being eroded more each day. We need to step up and become more visible as Christians at work and in the public square. If you can talk about your favorite movie with a stranger or co-worker; then you can talk about the sermon you heard in church. If you can talk about the novel you read, then you can talk about the Bible passages that brought a new insight to you during your devotions. If you can speak about your battle with cancer, you can speak about what Jesus has done for you. If you can worship and pray to Jesus in the church, then you can pray in Jesus name in public, too.

(Continued on page 3)



Pastor's Corner , con't

everything on our to-do lists. However, I expect that all of us will admit that we make the time to do what we feel is important. We make sure that our needs are covered. We take time to eat, even at times overeating; we take time to see that we have clean clothes, and that we look presentable when we go out in public. I expect most of us will admit that we take time to rest our bodies, and that we even try to take time for our families and our friends. But where does our spiritual development or growth come into play? Where does God fit into our lives and how do we mature in our faith?

A small group study is a place where you can learn to nurture your faith, and grow stronger in your faith. It is also a place where you learn to support your fellow believers. These are the threads by which your and I are woven together in unity as one—with God and with one another. A small group can become a place of refuge from the storm, and a place of sharing, as well as, learning.

In most addiction recovery circles, small groups are developed to strengthen one another, support one another, and provide one another a “safe place” to share. In larger groups, such as, in Sunday school and worship, it is too easy for us to “blend in,” or to sit comfortably back and be silent. Another value of having small groups is that, often, this is where new leaders are born, and we need leaders within the church.

I hope that you will join me in praying about our worship attendance, too. I will be the first to admit that I may have set the goal too high. I realize that everyone has responsibilities, so there will be times when we simply cannot attend church; and we all get sick and need vacations. Yet consider this: what if you were as “faithful” to your job as you are to worship?

Maybe Sunday morning is not a good time for you to worship. If you feel this way, the SPPRC and I would love to discuss the possibility of having another worship time; maybe even have it on another day.

As a body of Christ, we have much to be thankful for. However, we simply cannot sit back, relax and become comfortable. The world around us continues to change, and not always for the better. As a body, we must continue to strengthen our faith and our belief, so that when we come under attack, and the Bible tells us that it will happen, we will know how to be strong in the Lord.

We are to be a light into the darkness, and provide a place where we and other people can find hope, comfort, and strength to face tomorrow.

As your pastor, I thank you for your support of my family and myself. I look forward to continuing to serve God with you. I am open to what we can do to continue to be strong in Christ. God has blessed us. Let us never forget that he has blessed us. Let us never forget to give God our thanks.

Peace,

Eric Lane



Something...

(Continued from page 2)

Study the history of democracy. Without the foundation of Christianity and Judaism upon which our freedoms are based, there would have never been a United States of America. And without the knowledge of God as the ultimate authority, the only authority left is government—or whoever is the most powerful at the moment. Do you really want to leave your freedom and fate in the hands of anyone other than God, who loves you enough to have sent His Son to die for you? We need a government to insure peace and justice and property rights, but we do not want to be enslaved by it. Choose wisely on November 4th. VOTE! †

Special Notice

Attention Women of the Church

A survey about the United Methodist Women will be handed out at both services on **November 9th and November 16th**. Please take a few minutes to fill it out. A drop box for the survey will be located on the front pew. If you do not receive a survey, please contact Bleaka Hollar or Libby Long.

Ebenezer UMW thanks you for helping us with your responses on this survey.

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2nd. Turn your clocks BACK ONE HOUR on Saturday night before going to bed—or you'll be sorry and late.



Charge Conference/Council — October 26, 2014

Attendees: Anthony Austin, Ricky Baker, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Frye, Gerald Frye, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Keith Keener, Dwight and Rosalind Kelley, Joann Knepp, Eric Lane, Judy McCrary, Barbara Miller, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jimmy Stone, Boyd and Emily Johnson, and Jerry Kohnle.

Eric called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and Barbara Miller opened with a prayer. Eric then explained the various reports that we turn in to the District Conference each year. One form lists our goals and accomplishments and Eric went over some of our past goals, and told us what we had accomplished. He also talked about some of our goals for 2015, and told the Council that we are the leaders in finding ways to meet these goals; such as, worship attendance, professions of faith, small groups, and mission teams/trips.

We also send in a **Pastor's Report** in which we list those who have been baptized or confirmed as full members, and those who have joined the church in 2014. The only losses incurred were two deaths of full members. Our giving is up after the pledge drive and a greater emphasis on giving. This report also includes information on our local and distant mission trips, and other ministries. Two of our goals for 2015 and beyond are to pay off our CLC mortgage and increase the number of our small groups that are meeting.

We also turn in a **Finance Report** and a **Trustees Report**, which Eric summarized for us. We have a safe sanctuary report that has to be gone over and turned in. Eric mentioned that we are due for another training session in the guidelines in 2015. There is also a **Parsonage Report** from the annual walk through the parsonage to check for potential problems and repairs/upgrades needed (if any).

Nominations Committee Proposed Committee Members List

Eric read over the various committees and the new committee members. He asked for a motion to accept. Sonya Crouse made the first motion; Jo Nell Harrison seconded.

Motion carried.

2015 Proposed Budget

Eric explained how we came up with the proposed budget for 2015 by comparing our previous budget and spending. The PPR and the Finance Committee approved a 3% increase in the pastor's and the administrative assistant's base pay. Eric's health insurance and pension amounts have decreased a little, and the total cost of his benefits has decreased slightly. The Administrative Assistant goes from 13.47/hr. to 13.87/hr.

He then went over the other line items, showing where there are increases or decreases, and explaining why they occurred. The total increase is around \$2300 above last year's budget on total expenses. Our apportionments increased slightly and we increased the VBS budget amount by \$200.

Our total expenses will be about \$4500 more in 2015, making our projected budget for 2015 at \$225,964; but we will take in over \$235,000 by the end of this year if our income continues the same as it has so far this year. If we meet that budget, we will end 2015 with over \$11,000 in the black. After some discussion and verifying questions, Anthony Austin made the first motion to accept the new budget; Bleaka Hollar seconded. Motion carried.

Lay Servant Reports

The following people were accepted as lay servants: Cindy Sears, Bleaka Hollar, Jimmy Stone, Sonya Crouse, Roy Hamby, and Cathy Huffman. Jo Nell Harrison made the first motion; Gerald Frye seconded. Motion passed.

Gerald Frye to closed our Charge Conference with prayer.

Council Notes

Finance Report from Jo Nell Harrison. She reports that we are in the best financial condition we have been in years. We are basically staying on

budget and our apportionments are paid for the year. Ricky Baker reported that he is in the process of buying the cordless microphones for the band.

Eric proposed that we try to do a \$10,000 Gifts for Christ this year and put that on the building fund. We would need to promote this and make sure people know that this gift is to be above our regular giving. Bleaka Hollar made a motion that we use the Gifts for Christ and try to raise \$10,000 to go on the principle of the mortgage. Barbara Miller voted second. There will be a promotional effort about this in the newsletters and bulletins. **The date for the Gifts for Christ will be December 21st.** After some discussion, the motion was affirmed.

Gerald asked Jimmy Stone to dismiss us in prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears



Special Giving

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

In Memory of Bob Sears by:

Nancy Sears

In Memory of Larry Stafford by:

Randy & Marsha McCrary
Ebenezer United Methodist Women

In Memory of Steve McCrary by:

Cinda McCrary

In Memory of Zetta Mae Frye by:

Gerald Frye

In Honor of Ebenezer UMW by:

Bill, Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Jo Nell Harrison by:

Judy McCrary

In Honor of Eric & Beth Lane by:

Larry & Alice Hill

In Honor of Ricky & Shawn Baker by:

Judy McCrary



November Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 1st—David Tolbert, Jacob Vosdinh
- 4th—Jeanette Teague, Steven Vosdinh
- 8th—Grace Bradford
- 12th—Jessica Bowman, Scott Sims
- 15th—Paul Burson IV
- 18th—Jessica Haas, Steve Kohnle
- 21st—Amy Fowler, Hunter Tolbert
- 24th—Kathryn Behmer
- 27th—Abby Haas, Samantha Kohnle
- 28th—Sue McDonald
- 30th—Mark Bumgarner

Happy Anniversary!

- 11th—Nelson & Donnetta Spencer
- 12th—Scott & Terri Miller
- 13th—Donald & Janet Ray
- 17th—Leonard & Jeanette Teague



Christmas Is Coming!



Play Rehearsal Schedule

In the CLC, except where noted.

Nov. 2nd—1st Service & 4:30 PM

Nov. 9th—1st Service & 4:30 PM
(not in CLC until after baby shower)

Nov. 16th—1st Service & 4:30 PM

Nov. 23rd—1st Service

Nov. 30th—1st Service

Dec. 7th—1st Service & 4:30 PM

Dec. 14th—Dress Rehearsal 4 PM

Dec. 14th—Play at 6:30 PM



Acolyte Schedule - NOVEMBER

2nd Cole McCrary

9th Kaylee Haas

16th Clair Gilbert

23rd Austin Teague

30th Makayla Settlemire

Nursery Schedule - NOVEMBER

2nd 8:30 Heather Stone & Kim Ellis

11:00 Nancy Sears

9th 8:30 Keith & Susan Keener

11:00 Kay Gilbert

16th 8:30 Bleaka Hollar & Loretta Helton

11:00 Joann Knepp

23rd 8:30 Jessica Haas & Nancy Sears

11:00 Beth Lane

30th 10:30 Sonya Crouse & Becky Yount

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 McRary
William E. McRary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount



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

"He who brings thanksgiving as his sacrifice honors me; to him who orders his way aright I will show the salvation of God!"
—Psalm 50:23 RSV



TRUNK OR TREAT!

The spooks are coming! Come and enjoy the fun on...

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 1
6-8:00 PM**

Dress up yourself, your children and your trunk or truck bed and help us give away candy to all the little spooks. We will also serve hot chocolate, hotdogs, popcorn, cookies and brownies to our hungry monsters and ghouls.

We ask our members to help us by baking some cookies, brownies and other light snacks for this event. Workers are needed in the kitchen and elsewhere. Contact Kim Ellis to volunteer.

November Events & Fundraisers

Youth Fundraiser

**November 2nd– 16th
Thirty-one Gifts**

Help support our Youth for their trip to

Winterfest,

December 20th—January 2nd

by buying a gift from a special catalog. Don't forget Christmas is coming! Buy your gifts from us.

Please find a member of the youth group to see the catalog and make a purchase. Each youth member is trying to sell \$300 worth.

Breakfast Biscuits—2x's

We will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits AND fried fruit pies on **Thursday, November 6th AND November 20th.**

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!**



UMW Fall Bazaar

**Saturday
November 15
8 AM to 2 PM**

Breakfast biscuits and hot coffee!

Hotdogs & Hamburgers for lunch!

Crafts and baked goods!



Enjoy great food, grab a dessert for Sunday dinner, and do some early

Christmas shopping at the annual bazaar of Ebenezer's United Methodist Women. Proceeds fund their many ministries throughout the coming year.

We thank you for your support.



Belize Mission Yard Sale

We are gluttons for punishment, so we are having another yard sale on...

**Saturday
November 22nd
8 AM to 2 PM**

Pastor Eric is returning to Belize on a mission trip in 2015. Help us to raise money for his trip by donating gently used items to a **BIG YARD SALE.**

We will also serve hamburgers and hotdogs, chips, and sodas for lunch.



Donations can be dropped off at the church during normal office hours now to November 21st.

We thank you for your support!

Christmas Tree Sales

The United Methodist Men will be selling Christmas Trees again this year.

Delivery date: Nov. 29th.

Cost: \$25 each

Order forms will be in the November 2nd bulletin. You can have the tree delivered to Ebenezer UMC or go to Alleghany County to pick one up.

Contact:

Boyd Johnson (828) 499-6332 or Chris Haas (828) 381-5741 or Jeff Smith (828) 896-7690 for directions or for more information.





Ebenezer United Methodist Church Committees – 2015

2015 Church Officials (Voting Members); New Members/Positions in BOLD TYPE.

Pastor	Eric Lane
Church Lay Leader	Bleaka Hollar
Chair of Finance Committee/Financial Secretary	JoNell Harrison
Chair of Church Council	Gerald Frye
Church Treasurer	JoAnn Knepp
Chair of Nurture Ministries (Education, Worship & Stewardship)	Kim Ellis
Chair of Outreach Ministries (Missions, Volunteer Ministries)	Cathy Huffman
Chair of Witness (Evangelism & Church Growth)	Bleaka Hollar
Superintendent of Church School	Marsha McRary
Membership Secretary	Kim Ellis
President of United Methodist Women	Kim Ellis
President of United Methodist Men	Boyd Johnson
Youth Representative to Church Council	Rhyan Stone
Delegate to Annual Conference	Jeff Smith
Alternate to Annual Conference	David Abernethy
Representatives to SCCM	Judy McCrary, Becky Yount, Marlene Coffey
Coordinator of Communications	Cindy Sears
UMYF Coordinators	Jimmy Stone; Chris & Tasha Haas
Church Historian	Jeanette Teague
Communion Steward	Sonya Crouse & Emily Johnson; Samantha Stone (Assistant)
Chair of Parsonage Committee	Terry Miller
Chair of Trustees	Keith Keener
Chair Staff/Pastor Parish	Roy Hamby

Members at Large to Church Council

2015	2016	2017
Barbara Frye	Sonya Crouse	Robert Mullinax
Alice Hill	Robbie Settlemire	Cinda McRary
	Chuck Adams	
	Scott Miller	
	Linda Moretz	

Honorary Board Members (Non-voting): Blanche Kohnle

Church Office will be closed

**Thursday November 27th
through
Tuesday, December 2nd**

For the Holiday and Cindy's Vacation

All bulletin information for November 30th needs to be into the office by 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 26th.

Thank you.



Ebenezer United Methodist Church Committees

Trustees

2015	2016	2017
Scott Miller	Keith Keener (C)	Lucas Teague
Joann Knepp	Phyllis Minton	Phyllis Brady
Dawn Yount	Randy McRary	John McCrary

Cemetery Committee – All Trustees, plus Gerald Frye / Randy McRary

Nominations and Personnel: Eric Lane (Chair)

2015	2016	2017
Emily Johnson	Judy McCrary	Linda Moretz
	Jerry Kohnle	Kay Gilbert
	Cheryl Vosdingh	Jason Collins

Staff-Pastor-Parish Committee

2015	2016	2017
Wayne Ellis	Roy Hamby (C)	Barbara Miller
Gerald Frye	Susan Keener	Emily Johnson
	Tammy Adams	

Audit Committee

2015	2016	2017
Ricky Baker	Jeff Smith	Rosalind Kelley

Audit Committee also includes: JoAnn Knepp, Jo Nell Harrison, Cindy Sears

Parsonage Committee

2015	2016	2017
Jason Haas	Heather Stone	Terry Miller (C)
Shawn Baker	Dawn Yount	Darren McCrary
	Randy McRary	Boyd Johnson

Finance Committee

Chair/ Financial Secretary	Jo Nell Harrison
Pastor	Eric Lane
Church Treasurer	Joann Knepp
Lay Leader	Bleaka Hollar
Chair of Church Council	Gerald Frye
Chair of Trustees	Keith Keener
Chair of SPPRC	Roy Hamby
Member at Large	Alice Hill

Please note: the 2015 Budget Summary and the Mission Scholarship letter will be in the December newsletter.

—Editor



Gifts for Christ—2014

We are doing the annual Gifts for Christ fundraiser a little differently this year. Our goal is to raise

\$10,000

Or more!

To go directly towards the principle of the Christian Life Center mortgage.

We are asking you to pray and give above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings. Please consider matching what you spend on Christmas gifts dollar for dollar to give to this special offering.

God blesses us when we sacrifice for Him, because that shows Him how much we truly love and trust our God and King.

Praise be to God and thanks to your for all your support in this and throughout the year. ☆



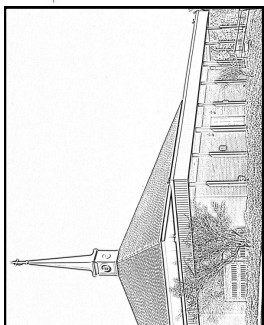
Plus Cindy Sears (Administrative Assistant);
Kim Ellis (special invitation)



EBENEZER UMC



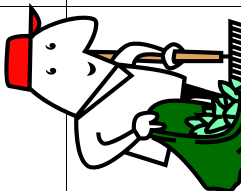

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

November 2014



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sun. School 11:00 a.m. Worship	See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists		Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies		HAPPY HALLOWEEN	1 Trunk or Treat—6-8 PM 
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4 Prayer Group—10AM <i>Election Day</i>	5	6 <i>Breakfast Biscuit Sales, 6 AM 'till gone!</i>	7 <i>CLC floor waxing and buffing—PM</i>	8 <i>Baby Shower—2-4 PM</i>
9 <i>Baby Shower—1-5 PM</i>	10	11 Prayer Group— 10AM  <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>UMW Fall Bazaar —8-2 PM</i>
16 Church Council— 4:30 PM UMW—7 PM	17 <i>Food Ministry—5 PM</i>	18 Prayer Group—10AM December Newsletter Items due today!	19	20 <i>Breakfast Biscuit Sales, 6 AM 'till gone!</i>	21 <i>CLC Reserved for Yard Sale</i>	22 <i>Belize Missions Yard Sale—8-2 PM</i>
23 <i>Baby Shower—2-4 PM</i> Community Thanksgiving—6 PM	24 	25 Prayer Group—10AM	26 <i>Nov. 30 bulletin items due in by 9 AM!</i>	27 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed for the Holiday Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29 <i>Hanging of the Greens—5 PM</i> 
30 ONE WORSHIP SERVICE—10:30 AM						