



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

November '16

Volume 12 Issue 11

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

Inside this issue:

Meetings	2
Church Office Closure	2
Something to Pray About	2
Special Giving	3
Charge Conference—2016	3
UMW Donations Request	3
Something, con't	4
Tree Lighting in G. F.	4
Special Request—Nursery	4
Nov. Celebrations	5
Story Time	5
Acolyte & Nursery Schedule	5
Our Military Prayer List	5
Hid in My Heart	5
Nov. Fundraisers & Events	6
UMW Country Store	6
Quilting Workshop	6
UMM Chili Cook-off	6
Gateway School Breakfast	6
Hanging of the Greens	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



Pastor's Corner — Rev. Jay Bissett



Of course since November is here we think about Thanksgiving. It means different things to each of us.

Planning. Shopping. Preparation. Traveling. Eating. Groaning. Eating. Watching football. Shopping.

Thanksgiving has become not a day apart, but a week of celebration, consumption, and regret. Thanksgiving for many has become a noun rather than a verb. It has become synonymous with turkey and dressing, cranberry and pumpkin pie. Oh, and let's not forget about football and Black Friday! Rather than a day set aside for contemplation, it has become a week of over-eating, over-spending, stressing over dealing with relatives, and struggling to get into clothes that fit us last week.

What began as a day set aside to thank God for the many blessings has become instead a day of mindless consumption. Can you imagine the confusion (and perhaps anger) that one of our Christian brothers or sisters in the developing world might have upon observing our Thanksgiving?

For Christians, real Thanksgiving is a form of prayer. Thanksgiving is acknowledging God's goodness and grace in our lives. Without the goodness of God's Creation we would have nothing. Without God's Grace, we would be struggling with self-righteousness rather than understanding that it is God's love that makes us acceptable, and makes others acceptable also.

As Christians, we also recognize that true Thanksgiving involves responsibility. God did not provide us with the bounty we have so that we might selfishly waste and squander it. God has entrusted the goods and gifts that we have so that we might invest and share them that others might know God. How do we do that? Budget a part of your Thanksgiving spending to be given away to an organization that helps others. Invite a lonely or hungry neighbor to share in your meal. Break old family dysfunctions or grudges by forgiving relatives as we have been forgiven by God.

This November, let's break with tradition and truly have a thank-full Thanksgiving.

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

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, November 20th at 4:30 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper people will meet to fix and deliver another round of good food to our shut-ins and others on **Monday, November 21st at 5:00 p.m.** We welcome all volunteers to help put the plates together and deliver the food. Contact Ricky or Shawn Baker for more information.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **November 27th at 7:00 p.m.** Kim Ellis will present the program. All women of the church are invited to participate.

Dec. Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the December newsletter in by **Tuesday, November 22nd**. Rev. Jay or someone else may have to put this together, so give them plenty of time to work. Thank you—Editor

Church Office Closure

The Church Office will be temporarily closed during the month of November (or longer) as Cindy has surgery and recovers from it.

Rev. Jay will be checking for phone messages daily; but if you have an emergency situation, please call him directly at his cell phone #: 828-493-8390.

Please send bulletin and newsletter items to the church e-mail, not Cindy's, while she is out: ebenezerumc@yahoo.com.

Thank you. Cindy Sears.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

DARK NIGHTS OF THE SOUL

"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come. During the day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer; I call at night, but get no rest..." --Psalm 22:1-2 GNT

"O God, put a curse on the day I was born; put a curse on the night when I was conceived! Turn that day into darkness, God. Never again remember that day; never again let light shine on it...Curse that night for letting me be born, for exposing me to trouble and grief. I wish I had died in my mother's womb or died the moment I was born...Everything I fear and dread comes true. I have no peace, no rest, and my troubles never end." --Job 3:2-5,10-11,25-26

"LORD, if I argued my case with you, you would prove to be right. Yet I must question you about matters of justice. Why are the wicked so prosperous? Why do dishonest people succeed? --Jeremiah 12:1

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" --Matthew 27:45-46

Have you ever had a dark night of the soul—when your faith in God, especially a God of love—has been sorely tested? As you can see from the biblical quotes above, you are not the first one to endure bad things, or to doubt God's care. You are not the only one being tested, beaten down, and unjustly hounded by others in today's world either. But knowing that others are suffering does nothing to ease your suffering. Your suffering is truly your own. I cannot share it. I cannot really understand what it is doing to you, or to your faith. If I am wise and loving, I will NOT quote Romans 8:28 to you while you are in the deep valley of sorrow and pain, where the Son's light is dimmed or completely hidden by the shadow of piled up worries and problems, or sin, or sorrow.

When Job was hounded by Satan, his friends came to him, wailed and cried and tore their clothes in grief; then sat in the ashes with him and for seven days and nights and said nothing "because they saw how much he was suffering." Then they made the mistake of opening their mouths and spouting godly platitudes or accusing Job of deserving his pain and sorrow.

As a Christian, let me assure that you DO NOT deserve any punishment. You are washed in the blood of Christ Jesus. You are clean, justified, and, in God's eyes, free from sin. Though Job was a normal man, in God's eyes he was righteous. How much more righteous are you?—for you have been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Job questioned God because of what happened to him; and, though God did rebuke Job at one point, God reserved his greatest wrath for those who gave excuses for the trouble by blaming Job and saying that Job was ultimately responsible for the evil that befell him. Despite all the pleas from Job for an explanation from God, God never gave Job one—God simply

(Continued on page 4)



Special Giving

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

In Memory of Missy Mullinax by:

Robert Mullinax

In Memory of Bob Sears by:

Nancy Sears

In Memory of Rilla Phillips by:

Freida Matthews

In Memory of Corinne de Vries, Max Frye, Jack Frye, Zetta Mae Frye, and Brittany Chester by:

Carolyn F. Davis

In Loving Memory of Ranny & Jack Frye by:

Barbara Frye

In Honor of the Spencer's Reunion by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Pairs & Spares Class by:

Cindy Sears

In Honor of Larry Hill's birthday & Alice & Larry Hill's anniversary by:

Jeanette & Leonard Teague

In Honor of Ebenezer's United Methodist Men by:

Cindy Sears

In Honor of the Homecoming Givers by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Cleo Clark's Birthday by:

Becky Clark

In Honor of and Appreciation of Pastor Jay Bissett by:

Heavenly Sonlighters Class

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Jerry & Marilyn Kohnle and the Pairs & Spares Class by:

Steve & Samantha Kohnle

Charge Conference – October 23, 2016

Attendees: Rev. Jay Bissett, Becky Clark, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Boyd Johnson, Steve Kohnle, Judy McCrary, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, and Barbara Ferguson.

Boyd called meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Steve Kohnle gave the opening prayer.

Rev. Jay Bissett read from Psalm 100 – "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord..."

Kim made a motion to approve the Pastor's salary of \$65,012 per year; second by Judy McCrary. Motion passed.

Regarding the Nomination and Leadership Development Team recommendation of Cathy Huffman, Kim Knepp, and Will McRary to Nominating Committee for 2017-2019, a Motion to accept was made by Jeff Smith; second by Bleaka Hollar. Motion passed.

The local church list of Lay Leadership and Officers (committee members) for the upcoming year (2017) has been approved.

The following lay servants have been approved: Bleaka Hollar (Lay Leader), Roy Hamby, Catherine Huffman, Sonya Crouse, David Crouse, and Jimmy Stone.

Jay brought up the apportionments for the Conference and District, which increased by approximately \$70. Approved by the Council.

We will vote on the budget at next month's council meeting; it must be approved before end of the year.

Charge conference concluded.

Boyd Johnson brought up our low attendance. He recommended that we begin asking people who have not been coming to come back. We need to make contact with them, not just pray about it.

Jay proposed that we have a "retreat" or planning session for the coming year on January 7th or 14th. We will decide on that at the next Council meeting.

Bleaka Hollar closed the meeting with prayer.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 

UMW Donations Request

Ebenezer's United Methodist Women will be opening their **Country Store again on Saturday, November 5th.**

They are asking for donations of **lightly used items** to stock the store for the big sale. Baked and canned goods will be good additions to their inventory, too. Homemade crafts and art pieces are also welcome. **Please NO CLOTHES or SHOES!**

The proceeds from this event will fund the women's many ministries for the coming year. We thank you for helping them make this annual event a success.

Please place your donations in the old fellowship hall on the bench.





Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

affirmed that He, God, is sovereign and can do as He pleases.

O how we hate to hear that! We want to think that we can influence God into being kind to us, to always protecting us from all forms of suffering and evil in this world. We want our good works to be paid in kind by good things in our present lives.

"Five times I was given the thirty-nine lashes by the Jews; three times I was whipped by the Romans; and once I was stoned. I have been in three shipwrecks, and once I spent twenty-four hours in the water. In many travels I have been in danger from floods and from robbers, in danger from my own people and from Gentiles; there have been dangers in the cities, dangers in the wilds, dangers on the high seas, and dangers from false friends. There has been work and toil; often I have gone without sleep; I have been hungry and thirsty; I have often been without enough food, shelter, or clothing..." —2 Corinthians 11:24-27

Even the Apostle Paul was not spared bad times, despite all his good works for God's kingdom. Why should you or I be spared? We live in a fallen world. Don't you just hate that line? So what? Doesn't the Lord care enough for me to help me anyway? Why can I not hear him? Why does he not show himself to me? "Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them." When? "Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for

you in heaven." Why do I have to wait that long?! (See Matthew 5)

"The burdens placed upon us were so great and so heavy that we gave up all hope of staying alive. We felt that the death sentence had been passed on us. **But this happened so that we should rely, not on ourselves, but only on God, who raises the dead.**"

—2 Corinthians 1:8b-9

I left the church during one of my "dark nights of the soul." Although God has redeemed and is still redeeming those years eaten by the locust, I don't recommend that path when troubles and doubts assail you. Stay with your church family. Continue with prayer—even if you can only rail against God during those prayers. Don't pretend to be happy in Christ when you are not. Speak to those members of your family in Christ that you can count on to not condemn your harsh words or doubts. Try to focus on the good that still surrounds you in the midst of your pain—yes, it is there—LOOK hard, you'll find it. Remember what Christ went through to save you from your sins. Let Him work in and through the bad and the good in your life. Cry, complain, and whine, until you are exhausted. Then wait on the Lord. He will come to you. He will restore your faith—you only need faith the size of a teensy, tiny mustard seed for Him to work with.

"Hear me, LORD, and be merciful! Help me, LORD!"

"You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance; you have taken away my sorrow and surrounded me with joy. So I will not be silent;

I will sing praise to you. LORD, you are my God; I will give you thanks forever."

--Psalm 30:10-12

May God sustain you in your dark valley until you, too, can dance for joy and sing praise to God again.

(This is too large a subject to talk about in a short article. I have barely skimmed the surface about suffering and faith. I recommend the following books for further reading and exploration: *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* by Timothy Keller; *The Problem of Pain* by C. S. Lewis; *Why Suffering? Finding Meaning and Comfort When Life Doesn't Make Sense* by Ravi Zacharias & Vince Vitale. All available on Amazon.com.)



Tree Lighting in G. F.

Our church will have a table at the annual *Festival on the Square* in Granite Falls on

**Monday
November 21
6-7:30 PM**

We are asking our members to help supply some baked items to sell at our table during this event. Come and enjoy the ceremony to light the Christmas Tree on the Square, too!

Special Request

We are looking for a new coordinator to help Nancy with the nursery schedules and to insure that we always have people to take care of the babies and toddlers during our worship services. Please see Nancy Sears or Kay Gilbert to volunteer.





November Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 1st—David Tolbert, Jacob Vosdingh
- 4th—Jeanette Teague, Steven Vosdingh
- 6th—Linda Moretz
- 8th—Grace Bradford
- 9th—Sherry Deanda
- 12th—Rick Lyda
- 13th—Lilly Teague
- 15th—Paul Burson IV
- 18th—Jessica Haas, Steve Kohnle
- 21st—Amy Fowler, Hunter Tolbert
- 22nd—Colby Collins
- 24th—Jo Nell Harrison, Kathryn Behmer
- 27th—Abby Haas, Samantha Kohnle

Happy Anniversary!



- 11th—Nelson & Donetta Spencer
- 12th—Scott & Terri Miller
- 17th—Leonard & Jeanette Teague

Story Time

Contributed by Delores Campbell

Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child

We were at a gas station and a man that Billy Wayne knew came out to get in his car.

Billy Wayne called out to him, "Hey there, Santa Claus."

The man came to our car and Billy told us he was Santa Claus. Well, whoever he was, he showed us a picture of him dressed up as Santa Claus, and there was a whole bunch of kids in the picture with him.

He said he asked one of the kids if he knew what the word "hickory" meant. The kid answered that it was a town down the road from Granite Falls.

The man said, "When I was a kid, it meant, when us kids did something Mom didn't like, she would whip us with a hickory stick. Her hedge had a lot of hickorys on it."

Santa Claus said kids of today don't know what a hickory is.



Acolyte Schedule - NOVEMBER

6th Savanna Creaseman

13th Cole McCrary

20th Emily Haas

27th Andrew Miller

Nursery Schedule - NOVEMBER

6th 8:30 Tammy Adams & Linda Moretz

11:00 Angie Miller

13th 8:30 Nancy Sears & Candace Collins

11:00 Tasha Haas

20th 8:30 Keith & Susan Keener

11:00 Patty Coffey

27th 8:30 Bruce & Kathy Kirby

11:00 Doris Kohnle

10:30

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 McRary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

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

Everyone must obey state authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God.

—Romans 13:1 GNT



UMW Country Store

**Saturday
November 5th
8 AM—2 PM**

**Biscuits, hotdogs,
hamburgers, & more!**

The United Methodist Women of Ebenezer will be selling breakfast and lunch, and lots of delicious homemade baked goods. There will be used items and craft items for sale, too. All proceeds go to help fund the women's many ministries in the coming year.



We thank
you for your
support!

November Fundraisers & Events

Quilting Workshop

**Saturday
November 12th
9AM—12 PM**

We are signing up people now for a quilting workshop to be led by Monica Bissett. Please record your name and contact number or e-mail on the sheet hanging on the large bulletin board in the hallway behind the sanctuary.

Please contact Monica if you have any questions about this event: tel. 828-545-8074.



Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, November 17th**.

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: 396-3935** (Bleaka Hollar).

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



Yum! Yum!

UMM Chili Cook-off

**Saturday
November 12th
5-7 PM**

The men will hold this cook-off. I have no other information, but I assume there will be plenty of chili to eat.

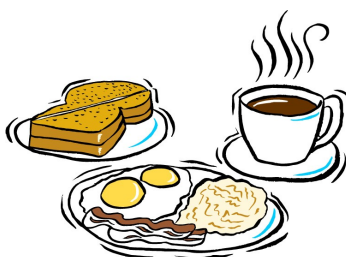


Gateway School Breakfast

**Tuesday
November 22nd
9:30 AM—12 PM**

We have invited the Gateway School students and staff to breakfast, again. We invite you to help us in the kitchen and by being here to greet the students and make them feel at home.

Let's show them that we care about them and that God loves them, too.



Hanging of the Greens



**Sunday
November 27th
10:30 AM**

Our annual decoration of the church will be held on Sunday morning this year. We will move Sunday school to 9:00 a.m. and the worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m., which will be used as a time to reflect on the importance of the Advent season, and to decorate the Chrismon tree.

Come help us to prepare the church for this important season, and have some fun, too!

Happy Advent Season!





EBENEZER UMC

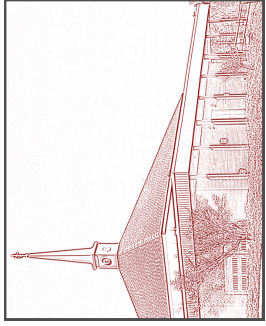
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

November 2016



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. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship	See p. 5 for Acolyte & Nursery Schedules	1	2 <i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies	3	4	5 <i>UMW Country Store</i> —8-2PM, see p. 6
6	7	8 	9	10	11	12 <i>Quilting Workshop</i> —9-12 PM <i>UMM Chili Cook-off</i> —5-7 PM, see p. 6
13	14	15	16	17 <i>Biscuit Sales</i> —6-9 AM, see p. 6	18 <i>Private Party</i> —5-11:30 PM	19
20 <i>Church Council</i> —4:30 PM	21 <i>Lord's Supper Ministry</i> —5 PM <i>Festival on Square, G.</i> F. 6-7 PM, see p. 6	22 <i>Gateway School Breakfast</i> —9:30 a.m., see p. 6	23	24 	25 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	26
27 <i>ONE Worship Sunday</i> —10:30 a.m. — <i>Hanging of the Greens</i>	28 	29 	30	<div> Please note: The Church Office will be closed the month of November due to Cindy's surgery and recovery. Phone messages will be checked daily. If you have an emergency, please call Rev. Jay at 493-8390. </div>		