



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

October '17

Volume 13 Issue 10

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

[Jesus said], "I do not ask you (God the Father) to take them out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One."

—John 17:15 GNT

Nov. Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the November newsletter in by **Monday, October 23rd.**

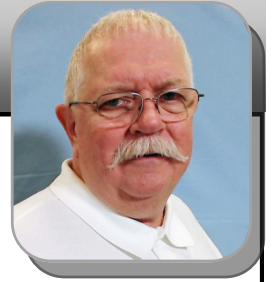
Thank you—Editor

Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every **FOURTH SUNDAY** United Methodist Women



Pastor's Pen



Greetings,

"This is my favorite time of year." How many times have we heard a similar statement or said it ourselves? Fall is the season of the year when we see change. Leaves turn, then fall. The humidity is lower, so days get cooler (we hope!). The church encourages us to step forward and accept change, if directed by God.



October has been designated as a time of special prayer. October 8th through the 15th will be a special emphasis.*

We need to ask the question: Do we want to be part of a church that just gets by or part of a church not afraid to change; part of a church that is excited about the impact that we can make in our church family and our community? Where is God leading us? Let us each pray "God show me"!

Pastor Tom

*NOTE: Instead of revival services this year, Ebenezer members and friends are encouraged to stop by the church during the week of October 8th to quietly pray for our church, community, and nation. Doors will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Our worship service on October 15th will be centered on prayer.

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, Etc.

District Dialogue

The next dialogue will be at Grace Chapel UMC on **Oct. 8, 3-5:00 p.m.** Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. Leaders of the church are encouraged to attend.

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, October 15th at 4:30 p.m.**

Trustees Meeting

Trustees will meet on **Monday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper will serve its next meal on **Monday, October 16th at 5:00 p.m.** Driver/Delivers need to be there at 5:00 p.m. Please see Ricky Baker for when the kitchen help is needed.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, October 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to participate.

Charge Conference

The annual charge conference will be held on **Sunday, October 22nd at 4:30 p.m.** as the Council votes to confirm the 2018 budget, committee members, positions of service, and paperwork that needs to be turned in to the District.

Special Giving

Ebenezer UMC and its members, gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts received in *September 2017*:

In Honor of Peggy Jenkins by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Cindy Sears by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Flaxen Reid by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of All Church Workers by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of All Those Who Have Left Us-Gone But Not Forgotten by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers...You are the salt for the whole human race. But if the salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless...

—Matthew 5:11, 13a GNT

CLEANING UP THE CHAOS

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma created a great deal of chaos in the areas they traveled into and through. Power was interrupted, roofs were blown off, windows broken, whole houses flattened, businesses closed, families and communities torn apart or severely disrupted. There was loss of income, loss of jobs, loss of possessions, and loss of life. People have been inundated with water and anxiety and stress. The cost for recovery is estimated in the billions. Cleaning up the chaos will be a long and difficult job for everyone—those who endured the initial chaos and those who come in to help alleviate it.

The same holds true for the spiritual chaos we have allowed to escalate in our world. Our nation and our churches have been swept with spiritual chaos for some time now. Are we finally waking up to the problems associated with spiritual weakness and hollowness? Do we finally see the waters of sinfulness rising everywhere? Do we finally hear the winds of evil howling through our culture, our families, our communities, and our churches? Water lapping upon the shore or gurgling in a creek seems to be a pleasant thing. But when it swells in volume and sweeps away the foundation of your home, it doesn't seem so nice. Wind whispering through the leaves of a tree and softly caressing your skin seems pleasant, too. But when it screeches at high speed and volume and rips your house to shreds, it doesn't seem so nice.

Complacency is a quite way to die. The Christian Church and Christians have been living complacently for a long time now in the U. S. We have let sin fill up segments of our society while remaining silent; because we thought the river of sin was far enough away from our house to never be a danger to us. We have allowed the winds of change to wind their way into and through our homes and churches, because the sin seemed to be such a small thing—not really worth the effort to close the windows or doors against the whispering lies of Satan and his followers.

"For some godless people have slipped in unnoticed among us, persons who distort the message about the grace of our God in order to excuse their immoral ways, and who reject Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord. Long ago the Scriptures predicted the condemnation they have received...These people are always grumbling and blaming others; they follow their own evil desires; they brag about themselves and flatter others in order to get their own way." --Jude 4, 16 GNT

Many in the Church did not speak up when degrading language, sexual perversion, excessive violence and gore, and the ridiculing of tradition, religion, and country began to be inserted into movies and television shows, and our educational system. Many in the Church did not speak up when murder of infants was legalized. Many in the Church refused to speak out against the normalization of pornography, homosexuality, and mental illness. Many in the Church denied that the loosening of the divorce laws would lead to a loosening of morals and a decline in intact families and solid marriages.

What has been the result of being silent, and enjoying all the pleasant things in this society without worrying about how much of it has been slowly corrupting our thinking and morals and those of our children? Chaos. Broken families, divided

(Continued on page 3)



Church Council – 091717

Attendees: Tom Hunter, Patty Coffey, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, John McCrary, Judy McCrary, Cinda McRary, and Cindy Sears.

Gerald called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and read a devotion from 2 Timothy Chapter 3. Do not be distracted or disturbed by what is going on in the world. Focus upon Christ and lean on him.

Reading of August minutes: accepted as written.

FINANCE REPORT

Jo Nell Harrison: we ended up with \$701.81 left at the end of August. There was a general discussion about various funds; then Jo Nell reported that we took in \$11,447 in August; and we spent \$11,844.51. For the Building Fund, we took in \$2,511.

OLD BUSINESS

A1 Termite is scheduled to come out to the parsonage on Sept. 26th.

Offering envelopes for the Homecoming Offering have been

ordered; they will be mailed to our members and friends to request a contribution.

NEW BUSINESS

Bleaka Hollar passed out copies of a paper that MUST be filled out for a person to be reimbursed for funds spent for the church. If the receipt and the form are not turned in, you will not receive repay. We must keep our records correctly, and money cannot be paid out without proof of purchase or work being done. A discussion followed.

BBQ is coming on Sept. 29 & 30. —We need help! Thursday and Friday morning, especially, and we need people to help deliver orders to local businesses. And boxes for orders.

Kim Ellis asked if we are going to do a Children's Christmas program this year. Roy Hamby suggested a Christmas or Happy Birthday Jesus party. This would involve sharing of finger foods and socializing with members and community visitors; we would also sing Christmas carols, and invite people to express thanks for blessings during the past year. A date was set for Sunday, December 10th, at 5:00 p.m. Patsy and Tom will take care of the cake for this event. Kim

Ellis will be in charge of decorations. Bleaka Hollar will coordinate the overall activities.

Committee Member proposals for 2018 were brought to Council. David Crouse has agreed to be the Council Chair in 2018. We did not select a youth representative for this year or a Chair of Outreach.

There was a recommendation to accept the list by Tom, which was approved. Another adult is needed to help with the Communion set-up. Sonya Crouse volunteered to find someone to be an alternate for her.

Tom proposed we use the same budget for 2018 that was used for 2017. It was suggested that we needed to cut some out of the budget. General discussion ensued.

Kim made a motion that the Finance Committee meet and go over the budget to determine if anything can be cut or cut back. Bleaka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance will meet Sunday, September 24th at 4:30 p.m.

Gerald adjourned the meeting. Bleaka said the closing prayer.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 

Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

churches, increasing public coarseness and rudeness, disregard for laws and law enforcement, empty church pews and coffers, the almost complete destruction of black families, increase in gangs and gang violence, the return of racism (white and black), increased corruption in all levels of government and business, increased rates of drug abuse and suicide, especially among the young and those who have fallen for the sexual liberation (confusion) propaganda.

For fear of being ridiculed by the cultural elite or our co-workers or family members, we have failed to point out sin or tell people about Christ. Now, Christians are being openly persecuted and discriminated against for acting on our beliefs. Those churches that have drifted farthest into the culture's belief system have lost and continue to lose members.

Cleaning up the spiritual chaos can only be accomplished by a people steeped in the Word of God (all of it), grounded in truth, including real science, and people able to pray constantly, and give generously to God's evangelism work (money, work, time). Can we let go of our complacency, our desire for comfort and acceptance, and be the salt and the light that the world needs to overcome the truly devastating chaos in our world today?

"But remember, my friends, what you were told in the past by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, 'When the last days come, people will appear who will make fun of you, people who follow their own godless desires.' These are the people who cause divisions, who are controlled by their natural desires, who do not have the Spirit. But you, my friends, keep on building yourselves up on your most sacred faith. Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and keep yourselves in the love of God, as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy to give you eternal life. Show mercy toward those who have doubts; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and to others show mercy mixed with fear, but hate their very clothes, stained by their sinful lusts."



Oct. Events/Fundraisers

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, Oct. 19th.**

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 -9:00 a.m.** You can eat in or we will 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 Resources Team*.

Yum! Yum!



CLEAN UP THE CHURCH DAY

Saturday, Oct. 21

Morning—until



We are asking our members and friends to join us for a day of work to clean the grit out of all the corners, pick up all the trash on the lawn, wash the windows, scrub the floors, knock down all the spider webs, polish the pews, and just get everything looking really great around here for the advent season.

Thank you for your help!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, Oct. 28

5-7 PM



We invite you and your children to our annual *Trunk or Treat Halloween Party*. Decorate your car trunk or truck bed with spooky and icky things, then come and help us pass out candy to the little spooks who come to laugh in the face of “scary things.”

We are collecting candy now, and will need cookies and cupcakes, etc. for the party. Hotdogs will be served to the children to help counteract the sugar. It is all free, and everyone is invited.

October Celebrations



- 3rd—Kevin Simmons
- 4th—Bleaka Hollar
- 5th—Gwen Teague
- 7th—Larry Hill
- 8th—Jackson Behmer
- 12th—Skylar Helton
- 12th—Michael Knepp
- 17th—Warren Bumgarner
- 18th—David Crouse
- 19th—Katelyn McCrary
- 21st—Loretta Helton
- 22nd—Colby Collins
- 23rd—Cleo Clark
- 26th—Victoria Coffey
- 28th—Randy McCrary
- 28th—Donnetta Spencer
- 30th—Felicia Fowler

Happy Anniversary!



- 16th—Reggie & Dawn Yount
- 26th—Marvin & Sharon Bowman
- 27th—B. Dale & Flaxen Reid

Our Military



Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski
Shane McCrary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

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



HOMEcoming at Ebenezer—October 8th

We thoroughly enjoy our yearly celebration of all our members and friends, past and present. Join us for our **worship service at 10:30 a.m.**, then stay for fellowship and great homemade foods afterward at the **covered-dish lunch**. We ask our present members and attendees to help us provide a large spread of delicious meats, vegetables, and desserts to share—as you always do. (Sunday school will not meet.)



& \$10,000 Sunday

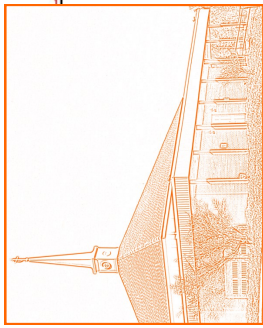
We are also asking our friends and members to reach deep into their pockets and give a little extra this year to help us continue to finance our church and its ministries. Thank you for your support and your prayers. May praise and glory abound to the Lord Jesus Christ always.



EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

October 2017



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion Sunday	2 Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school	3 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	4 Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6:00 Teens for Christ 7 PM Adult & Children Bible studies	5	6	7 
8 Homecoming Service—10:30 AM Covered-dish, see p. 4	9	10	11 	12	13	
15 Spencer Reunion—2-4 PM (rsrvd, 1-5) Church Council— 4:30 PM	16 Food Ministry—5 PM Trustees—7 PM	17 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	18	19 Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 4	20	21 Clean Up Church Day—Morning — until, see p. 4
22 Charge Conference— 4:30 PM UMW—7 PM	23	24	25	26	27	28 Trunk or Treat—5-7 PM, see p. 4 
29	30	31 Reformation Day 				