



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

September '16

Volume 12 Issue 09

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**"Life has no remote.  
Get up and  
change it  
yourself."**



## 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



Several days ago I was updating my calendar and was surprised to notice that Fall was less than a month away. The days are growing shorter and soon the gardeners, whose discussions have been about the heat and the rainfall, will be looking for the first frost. School starts next week. Busses will be running, and many folks will spend their Friday nights rooting for their school's football team. I haven't noticed, but would not be surprised, if stores are already putting out Halloween candy; and it won't be too long before the weekly specials include turkeys and cranberry sauce. Of course, that means our annual binge of gift shopping, parties, and traveling to see the families for the holidays...

I'm suddenly tired just thinking about it.

But wait, let's all just stop and breathe, and remember that we still have a month of summer to enjoy. This summer we have all talked about how hot it has been. Certainly that is true, but come next February many of us will probably look back fondly on these hot days as we battle snow and ice.



It is easy to get caught up in looking at next week, or next month, or to the next holiday. The problem with that is that it makes it hard to enjoy the gifts God gives us today. Each day, each season, has its own blessings. If you know where to look, God is blessing us every day.

The winter cold gives nature time to rest so that we can enjoy the explosion of life in the spring. Spring gives way to summer where the warmth of the long days provide food. The fall provides a last brilliant display of life before the trees give up their leaves to nourish the ground.

In Matthew 5:34 Jesus tells us, "do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." That is certainly true, but it is just as true that we should enjoy today, because each day has gifts of its own to enjoy.



## 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

### Senior Citizens Meeting

Our Senior Citizens are invited to a meeting on **Tuesday, September 6th at 11:00 a.m.** Lunch will be provided.

### Church Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 18th at 4:30 p.m.**

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **September 25th at 7:00 p.m.** Libby Long will present the program. All women of the church are invited to participate.

### Oct. Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the October newsletter in by **Wednesday, September 21st**. Thank you. —Editor

### Food Ministry News

The Lord's Supper Ministry resumes this month. Let us know of people who may need a little extra attention, and we can add them to our list. To volunteer to help with this ministry, please see Ricky or Shawn Baker.

"The media are concentrating on the *personalities* of the two main candidates, because that is the perfect way to keep us from *thinking* about who to vote for because we are consumed by feelings or emotions. What we need to do is decide which political party's *platform* we agree with or can support the most. "



## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

### HOW HARD CAN IT BE?

"Remind your people to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them, and to be ready to do good in every way. Tell them not to speak evil of anyone, but to be peaceful and friendly, and always to show a gentle attitude toward everyone." —Titus 3:1-2 GNT

*"A great many Americans have come to the conclusion that they cannot, in good conscience, vote for either one of the two turkeys being served up on the presidential platter, and with no choice, are simply going to sit back.*

*"Rejoice, for there is one name, while sounding subversively Soviet, and not appearing on the ballot, deserves to be written in [as] a personal statement from the voter to the government. When that day comes, let those who feel as they do go out and vote, and cast their write-in vote for Nonoff Z. Abov."*

Can you guess when the above was written? (See p. 5 for the answer.)

Even though the United States of America remains the most free nation on earth, that freedom is under attack—and has been for a long time. How long will we be able to hang onto our freedoms? Only God knows for certain.

Many Christians have begun to wonder how much support they can give to a government that seems hell-bent on following the devil's agenda instead of God's. Well, God has given us some directions on this issue.

Besides the verses quoted above, the Apostle Paul had this to say about our relationship with the state:

*"Everyone must obey state authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God. Whoever opposes the existing authority opposes what God has ordered; and anyone who does so will bring judgment on himself. For rulers are not to be feared by those who do good, but by those who do evil...They are God's servants and carry out God's punishment on those who do evil. For this reason you must obey the authorities—not just because of God's punishment, but also as a matter of conscience. That is why you pay taxes, because the authorities are working for God when they fulfill their duties. Pay, then, what you owe them; pay them your personal and property taxes, and show respect and honor for them all."* (See Romans 13:1-7 for the full statement.)

Do you know what was going on in the Roman Empire when Paul wrote those words? Christians were being persecuted by the state—and killed. Tax collection is highly corrupted, too. So, why did Paul command

(Continued on page 4)



## Special Giving

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

### **In Memory of Joe Blair by:**

Broome Associated Ins. Agency  
Dan & Ruthann Waters  
Rebecca & John Smith

### **In Memory of Lillian & Kenneth Reid by:**

Gail & Ann Reid

### **In Memory of Keith Bradford by:**

Edna & Paul Hart

### **In Honor of Mary Lynn Pennell by:**

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

### **In Honor of Jo Nell Harrison by:**

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

### **In Honor of Roy Hamby by:**

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

### **In honor of Blanche Kohnle by:**

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

The Divine is of no importance unless He is of extreme importance.

— Abraham Joshua Heschel

## UMW School Items Collection

Our United Methodist Women's group is collecting the following items to help out the teachers in the local schools:

**Facial tissues, paper towels, sanitizing wipes, #2 pencils.**

Please place the items in the Old Fellowship Hall.

See p. 6 for another list of helpful items for our schools and students.



## Church Council Minutes – August 21, 2016

**Attendees:** Rev. Jay Bissett, Becky Clark, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Boyd & Emily Johnson, Connor Johnson, Keith Keener, Joann Knepp, Steve Kohnle, Judy McCrary, Libby McRary, Scott Miller, Kevin Miller, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Alice Hill, and Ricky Baker.

Boyd called the meeting to order and Gerald Frye opened us with prayer. Boyd read a devotional based on Psalm 121: on the faithfulness and protectiveness of our Lord God.

The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved.

**Financial Report:** Our cash-on-hand is down a little, because so many people were off on vacations. It was brought up that we have \$1,000 in the Merrill Orphanage Fund. This was donated for Eric's planned mission trip there. Should we donate this to the orphanage? Cindy will check on that to see how the money was originally designated.

We have gone over the budget some on the building maintenance, because of repairs. We are also over on our special events, and a few other items.

Motion was made to officially designate Boyd Johnson, Council Chair, and Keith Keener, chair of the Trustees, as signers of the new mortgage note. Motion by Steve Kohnle to approve; second by Gerald Frye. Motion passed.

**Trustees Report:** Much of the repair work has been done, but there is still one toilet and sink with a problem. Bleaka's Sunday school class will plant some myrtle trees out front. The air filters have been replaced.

Roy Hamby brought up that the Heavenly Sonlighters' class wants to do a thermometer to show where we are on paying off the CLC mortgage. It will be displayed and updated constantly.

On Saturday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-10:00 a.m. the men and youth group will have a breakfast fundraiser with all proceeds going to the Van Fund.

Bleaka asked the church to pay for the annual barbecue benefit supplies, and they will reimburse the church from

the proceeds. Motion made to do so, and seconded by Keith Keener. Motion passed.

Jo Nell and Kim brought up some phone problems. Cindy will call Charter and have them come check the problems.

Concerning the search for a Youth Minister: Jay said there will be a meeting next week with some applicants. Tasha Haas will be rolled off the committee. Scott and/or Terri Miller will join the committee instead.

## New Business

Kim Ellis reminded us that we need to replace the sign at the bottom of the outdoor sign with worship times, because it still has Eric's name on it. Keith Keener (Trustees) will take care of this.

Some problems with doors were discussed. The glass door of the CLC sometimes does not close properly. It may need to be adjusted. Cindy brought up that the kitchen door has a problem also. Keith will check into both problems.

From Jay: the Charge conference will be on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. A Safe sanctuary class is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will need to approve the apportionments at the conference, but the whole budget is not required.

A District Dialogue is scheduled for Nov. 13th at 3:00 p.m., and Jay needs to bring one or more church leaders to this. Roy Hamby volunteered to go with him. If anyone else wants to attend, please see Jay.

Caldwell United requested \$250 to help fund the Youth Fest at Mulberry Rec. Center on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3-6 PM. Scott Miller gave permission to take that amount out of the youth fund.

Jay said that he had met with the new principle at Gateway School, and he wants to continue the partnership with our church. Kim brought up that Gateway has a Store that is used as a reward system. She asked if we could contribute to that store, and made a motion to give \$250. The motion was seconded and passed.

Jay brought up the possibility of

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Council, con't

*(Continued from page 3)*

doing a new picture directory using a company that would not charge us any upfront cost, but we will need to coordinate it. Jay will talk to several different companies, and he will bring more information to us on that. The projected time frame for doing it is spring of 2017.

Jay also wanted to know how to do special giving requests. We decided to announce a love offering on the first Sunday in Sept., and then take up the offering on the 11<sup>th</sup>. This offering will be going to UMCOR for flood relief in Louisiana.

**Homecoming:** Jay said that there were no former pastors available to speak on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, so he'll be glad to do the service. Jay will work on getting speakers for the Revival that will run Sun-Wed. We will ask that our members and affiliates help us raise \$10,000 over and above our regular offering goal again, too. This money will be paid on the Christian Life Center mortgage's principle.

We need volunteers to help with the BBQ on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> for the BBQ, which will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We especially will need people to help deliver on Friday at lunch time when we prepare plates for area businesses. Plates will be \$9. Baked apples will be the dessert on the business plates. We need lots of cakes and pies, etc. to serve with the in-house and take-out plates in the evening and on Saturday. Start baking now. You can bring your products to the church, and we can put them in our freezer if you don't have room to store them at home.

Sonya closed us in prayer.

—minutes by Cindy Sears



“Only the left is allowed to define what is offensive. They are allowed to (and do) routinely offend those who believe in morals and ethics. But if you are offended it just shows how narrow minded and bigoted you are.” --Wally (commenter online)

## Something, con't

*(Continued from page 2)*

obedience to the authorities of such a cruel government? Is there any time when a Christian is obligated to resist the rulers and authorities of the state or the church?

In Acts, Chapter 4, we read of how Peter and John refused to stop preaching about Jesus when ordered to cease and desist by the Jewish authorities. But there is nowhere in the Bible where open rebellion against the state or religious authorities is called for or sanctioned. We do not bow down to Caesar to worship him, but we do not pick up arms to oppose him either. (Though God does move nations to conquer other nations because of rampant evil.) Yet, Paul used every means available to him legally to fight against his own persecution by the Jews and the Romans.

As people living in a democratic republic, we have recourse to law and to the vote—to choose our leaders, locally and nationally. All of our choices are flawed in some way, because we have “all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” So, as in this presidential election, we must choose between two flawed people. But if we don't choose, aren't we simply letting someone else choose for us?

We also have the freedom to speak out about our beliefs and opinions, and to protest (peacefully) against things going on in our society. But we can only keep the liberties that we are willing to defend—no matter the cost to us personally. Peter and John were imprisoned and whipped. Other Christians, including Paul, were murdered by the state. Is voting or writing our governmental representatives so difficult that we refuse to defend or speak out for what we believe is right?

Regarding the quote at the beginning of this article, I am not advocating for a “write-in” vote. That would just be thrown away. I believe that voting for a third party candidate is basically throwing away one's vote, too. The media are concentrating on the *personalities* of the two main candidates, because that is the perfect way to keep us from *thinking* about who to vote for because we are consumed by feelings or emotions. What we need to do is decide which political party's *platform* we agree with or can support the most. (First, you have to read them!) Again, remember that perfection is not available in either group's agenda. As a Christian, I want to choose the platform that most closely conforms to biblical truth (you'll have to read and study the Bible to discover that, too), and that will increase our liberty, not decrease it. Don't sit this one out. Read the agendas, and vote! Don't forget that God is in control, and He is the only true and lasting answer to all our problems, individually and corporately. ☺





## September Celebrations



*Happy Birthday!*



- 1st—Devon Lyda
- 3rd—Leonard Teague
- 4th—Dale Reid, Heather Stone
- 9th—Jadelynn Chester
- 11th—Will McRary, Daniel Simmons
- 12th—Sherry Austin
- 13th—Jason Haas
- 16th—Chris Haas
- 17th—Tasha Haas, Susan Keener
- 18th—Payton Lyda, Kenny Silver
- 19th—Butch Smith, Billy Wayne Campbell,  
Michael Gilbert
- 20th—Kelly McCrary, Jerry Shealy,  
Ginny Teague
- 21st—Kalieb Reid, Flaxen Reid
- 24th—Lois Starnes, Louise Teague
- 30th—Russ Knepp

*Happy Anniversary!*



- 3rd—Hoke & Cleo Clark
- 3rd—Paul & Linda Moretz
- 5th—Jeff & Ann Smith
- 7th—Robbie & Kristin Settlemyre
- 7th—Bill & Delores Campbell
- 10th—Chuck & Tammy Adams
- 13th—Kevin & Teresa Simmons
- 25th—Paul & Annette Burson
- 26th—Wayne & Kim Ellis



### Acolyte Schedule - SEPTEMBER

<b>4th</b>	Kaylee Haas
<b>11th</b>	Kevin Miller
<b>18th</b>	Cole McCrary
<b>25th</b>	Andrew Miller

### Nursery Schedule - SEPTEMBER

<b>4th</b>	8:30	Phyllis Minton & Teresa Simmons
	11:00	Patty Coffey
<b>11th</b>	8:30	Bruce & Kathy Kirby
	11:00	Tasha Haas
<b>18th</b>	8:30	Kim Ellis & Robert Mullinax
	11:00	Doris Kohnle
<b>25th</b>	8:30	Dwight & Rosalind Kelley
	11:00	JoAnn Knepp
	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 has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free.

—Romans 3:23-24 GNT

### **Food Pantry Needs List**

We need the following items for our food pantry:

**Bathroom tissue, paper towels, facial tissues, mac and cheese, canned fruit, crackers, soups, peanut butter, cake mixes, frostings, canned spaghetti & meat balls, canned Ravioli.**

We thank you for helping us to help others.



## Benefit BBQ Returns!

We've put it off as long as we can—just kidding. We decided to have the BBQ at a later time in the year in 2016. The food is going to be just as good as ever, so join us for a delicious plate of BBQ pork and all the fixings on

**Friday  
September 16th  
5:00-7:00 PM  
&  
Saturday  
September 17th  
11:00-7:00 PM**

We invite you to eat with us or pick up a take-out plate.

**Price per plate  
\$9**

**Includes**

**BBQ, sauce, slaw, baked beans, dessert, and drink**

There will be a variety of homemade desserts to choose from. The meat is smoked and barbecued fresh at the church!

**Proceeds go to help people in the community pay medical bills.**

We are asking our members and affiliates to help us by baking up some delicious desserts, and volunteering to help in the kitchen and dining area.

Volunteers are needed to help pack and deliver plates to area businesses at lunchtime on Friday, too. Please contact Bleaka Hollar to volunteer. We need workers to start helping at the beginning of the week.



NOTE: Because of the BBQ, we will not be selling biscuits in September. The breakfast biscuit sales will return in October.

## Special Love Offering

**Sunday, September 11th**

We will take up a **special love offering for the flood victims in Louisiana** on this Sunday. We hope that you will plan to give. The money will go to UMCOR, and 100% of the funds will be used to help the people in Louisiana.

We thank you for your support of our church and all the special mission & ministry projects that we do, including:

**Habitat House  
Lord's Supper Ministry  
Van Fund  
Needy Fund  
Food Pantry  
Mission Scholarship Fund  
Foreign Mission Trips  
Merrill Orphanage Fund  
School Supplies Collections  
and more!**

## The Corrosive Misconception...

“The corrosive misconception that has shaped our brave new world is that happiness is a product of wealth, fame, freedom, and pleasure. But our grandparents understood what we have forgotten: they knew that happiness comes from being connected to something greater than oneself; that physical pleasure leaves us empty if we don't find pleasure in the value of our lives; that freedom is only worth what we do with it; and the greatest wealth is measured in those things that cannot be measured at all.

As a result, the generations of the past did not seek to stand out in the crowd but looked to find the right crowd to stand together with. They did not try to sever their connection to the past but recognized that knowing where they came from steered them toward a destination worthy of the journey. They were not afraid of change, but they held the reins of progress tightly so that change did not carry them headlong into places they would never want to go.”

Read more at [http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0316/Goldson\\_disintergration\\_cultural\\_boundaries.php3#047K7MmYWCwAXrJ8.99](http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0316/Goldson_disintergration_cultural_boundaries.php3#047K7MmYWCwAXrJ8.99)

“Remember your former leaders, who spoke God's message to you. Think back on how they lived and died, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not let all kinds of strange teachings lead you from the right way...” —Hebrews 13:7-9a GNT



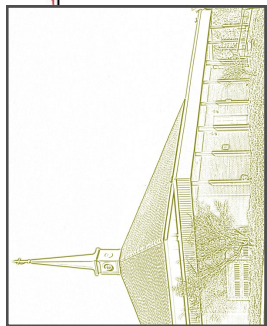
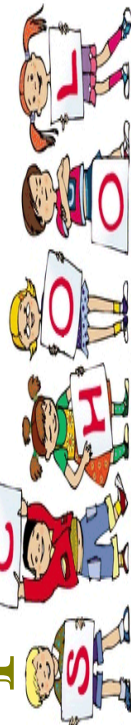
**EBENEZER UMC**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**  
*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

# September 2016



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		Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies	1	2 Wedding Rehearsal— 5-9 PM	3 Wedding—Reserved, Noon-10 PM
4	<b>LABOR DAY</b>  6 Senior Citizens Meeting, 11 AM		7	8	9	10
11 Special Love Offering Sunday, see p. 6	12	13	14	15	16 Annual Benefit BBQ Friday 5-7 PM Saturday 11-7 PM	17
18 Private Party—1 PM Church Council— 4:30 PM	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 UMW—7 PM	26	27	28	29	30	