



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

September '17

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

Everyone has sinned...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

Oct. Newsletter Items

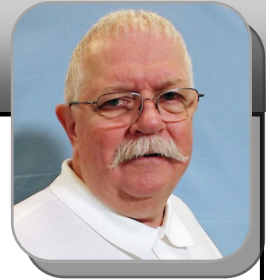
Please have information and articles for the October newsletter in by **Monday, September 25th**.
Thank you—Editor

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



Have you noticed an increase of the ugliness that abounds: road rage, surly customers, people demanding their "rights" at the expense of other's rights?

Not long ago it was popular to commit random acts of kindness. Today, too many individuals seem intent on committing random acts of violence, destruction and stupidity. How do Christians combat this shift in society?

Most of the things we can do are simple: hold the door open for others; allow other vehicles to cut in front of us; using the "magic" words of please and thank you. It is important to be kind to the wait staff and clerks who provide us service. One never knows the kind of day they have had or what burdens they carry. Treat all the way we would like to be treated. The more acts of kindness we perform, the kinder we become. Our actions affect our attitude and our attitude affects our actions.

Jesus reminds us, "...and they will *know you are my disciples by your...*" rules, No; your theology, No; your righteousness, No; your power, No; your purity, No; **your Love, YES!** (John 13:35)

Today Lord, let others see Jesus in *me*,

Pastor Tom



WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 6:30p 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.

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, September 17th at 4:30 p.m.**

Trustees Meeting

Trustees will meet on **Monday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper will serve its next meal on **Monday, September 18th 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, September 24th at 7:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to participate.



Special Giving

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

In Memory of Paul & Inez Spencer by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Rev. Tom Hunter by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Patty Coffey by:

Peggy Jenkins

In Honor of All Our Church Workers by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Monte & Bleaka Hollar by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, while Jesus was alone on land. He saw that his disciples were straining at the oars, because they were rowing against the wind; so...he came to them, walking on the water. —Mark 6:47,48 GNT

ROWING AGAINST THE WIND

(Reference: see Matthew 14:22-36; Mark 6:45-56; John 6:15-21; also, "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah by Alfred Edersheim.)

After Jesus broke the bread, blessed it, and fed over 5,000 people with a few small loaves and fishes, he ordered his disciples to depart in a boat and row to the other side of the lake. Jesus remained behind to dismiss the people and then went up a hill to pray. The people wanted to make Jesus their earthly King; the disciples had thoughts of earthly glory, too. But Jesus put a stop to both dreams. On the water, the disappointed disciples soon struggled against a strong wind to follow His orders to row to the other side.

This incident can be viewed as a symbolic representation of Christ's

relationship with His Church. Our Lord is now in heaven, at the Father's side, praying for us. Until Christ returns, He has commanded us to go unto all the world to preach the Good News and to teach and train as disciples those who accept the gift of salvation.

The first believers expected Christ to return very soon—but He did not. They struggled mightily to convert the world. It was very tough going, and, at times, mortally dangerous.

In the U.S., compared to many believers through the ages and in other countries today, we Christians have had it easy for a long time. Why? Because our country was founded on the search for religious freedom, and organized by people who believed in Judeo-Christian principles and precepts. Now the wind has shifted; we are rowing against the wind of cultural change and wider disbelief in God and his moral law. Yes, it is nighttime, but morning is on the way, and Jesus is watching. He knows how we are struggling. He is coming to us and will walk along beside us. If we look for Him, we will see His power displayed. If we trust Him, He will give us the power to "walk on water." If we falter, He will lift us up with His hand of love and strength. Ignore the wind and waves of Satan's minions that beat against the Church. Jesus is with us; He will make sure that we get to the other side, safely.

As Jesus said, "Don't be afraid." And in John 16:33: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

So, don't let Satan's darkness eclipse the Son in your life—or in the Church!



SEPTEMBER Fundraisers

Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, Sept. 21st.**

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 Resources Team.*

Yum!

Yum!



2017 BBQ Fundraiser

Friday, Sept. 29

4-7:00 PM

Saturday, Sept. 30

11 AM—7:00 PM

\$9 per plate

Ebenezer church is serving up some of the best barbecue in the area again. Plates come with pork barbecue, slaw, baked beans, roll, sauce, dessert, and a drink.

Eat-in and enjoy some good fellowship, or order take-out. We cook and smoke the pork fresh on church grounds, and desserts are homemade. This year, proceeds will go to the church budget. We thank you for your support.



Church Council – August 20, 2017

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

Gerald Frye called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Gerald then spoke about prayer, and read some scripture on prayer, and some of the "Something to Pray About" article in the July Newsletter. We may have to pray often and insistently, and be patient as we wait on God's response.

Reading of the July minutes: Accepted as read.

FINANCE REPORT

Jo Nell Harrison: We ended up with \$2700 in the bank. In July, we took in more than we spent. We are over on equipment repair, but under budget on building repairs. Loan is now \$77,500, because Jo Nell was able to pay a little more on the principle.

OTHER REPORTS

Gerald asked if any of the committees had a report on their meetings or work. JoAnn Knepp is working on a form with people's name on it for what they signed up to do using the Time and Talent form. Another form will be ready soon, listing other places of service, which will be passed around on Sunday, and people will be asked to sign up for specific Sunday's.

Bleaka Hollar presented a report on the Senior Adult's visiting of shut-ins and other people. This is going well. Tom plans to go visit Rachel Poe and offer her communion. He would like to have a couple more members to go with him when he does this.

OLD BUSINESS

Jason and Candace Collins are taking care of the youth now. The Upper Room subscription has been changed to a lower number, and the Spanish version has been stopped. The BBQ this year will be for the church, either the General Fund or Building Fund. Bleaka will retain some money that is already in the fund, and that will be kept as a reserve for helping people in need.

Homecoming will be designated again this year as a \$10,000 Sunday, to hopefully get our church back up financially. Tom brought up that we might want to send our members a note with an envelope to help spur people to give sacrificially during this time. Worship time will be at 10:30 a.m. On October 8th for Homecoming; no Sunday school, with a covered-dish meal afterwards.

Dialog is in October. There is a questionnaire that needs to be filled out before the meeting. It is recommended that the leadership team from the church needs to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Jo Nell made a motion to pay for Tom's access to internet, since he does not have an office in the church (along with the phone bill). Bleaka made a motion to do so, Jimmy Stone seconded. Motion passed.

Tom: A1 Termite and Pest Control. He ordered an inspection and treatment at \$150 (initial visit) with \$85 quarterly payments for a year's service. Tom will pay for this, but he needed a signature from the church; Trustees Chairperson, Roy Hamby, signed the documents.

Tom then brought up the

(Continued on page 4)



Church Council, con't

(Continued from page 3)

possibility of doing a "Thank Bank" offering. This is an opportunity to put money for a special offering to express gratitude for something. These funds would be used to help people with short-term emergencies, like our "needy fund" is used for now. This would be a separate collection during a worship service. People would be able to express gratitude aloud at the time they gave. This would be an every Sunday offering. We will try this, beginning November 5th. (Our "Needy Fund" box has not been used very much, so this would help to fund our benevolence fund.)

Kim Ellis: Promotion Sunday, Aug. 27th. She asked that we buy Bibles for Carson Teague and Idella Townsend, because they are starting school this year. She was given permission to do so.

Gerald adjourned the meeting. Tom gave the closing prayer.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 

Nursery Schedule - SEPT

3rd 9:00 Tasha Haas

10th 9:00 Patty Coffey

17th 9:00 Tammy Adams

24th 9:00 Kim Ellis



September Celebrations



- 1st—Devon Lyda
- 2nd—Grayson Benge
- 3rd—Leonard Teague
- 4th—B. Dale Reid
- 4th—Heather Stone
- 9th—Jadelynn chester
- 11th—Will McRary
- 11th—Daniel Simmons
- 12th—Sherry Austin
- 13th—Jason Haas
- 16th—Chris Haas
- 17th—Tasha Haas
- 17th—Susan Keener
- 18th—Payton Lyda
- 18th—Aubree McCrary
- 18th—Kenny Silver
- 19th—Billy Campbell
- 19th—Michael Gilbert, Butch Smith
- 20th—Ginny Teague
- 20th—Kelly McCrary
- 20th—Jerry Shealy
- 21st—Kalieb Reid
- 21st—Flaxen Reid
- 24th—Lois Starnes
- 24th—Louise Teague
- 30th—Russ Knepp

Happy Anniversary!

- 3rd—Hoke & Cleo Clark
- 3rd—Paul & Linda Moretz
- 5th—Jeff & Ann Smith
- 7th—Bill & Delores Campbell
- 9th—Peggy & Ernest Jenkins
- 10th—Chuck & Tammy Adams
- 13th—Kevin & Teresa Simmons
- 25th—Paul & Annette Burson
- 26th—Wayne & Kim Ellis



Our Military



Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski
Shane McRary
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.

The study, conducted by "an international team" for the journal Nature Human Behavior, found in a study of 3,000 persons in 13 nations on five continents that "across the world religious belief is intuitively viewed as a necessary safeguard against the temptations of grossly immoral conduct," and that "atheists are broadly perceived as potentially morally depraved and dangerous." Ordinary people are twice as likely to assume that a serial killer is an atheist.

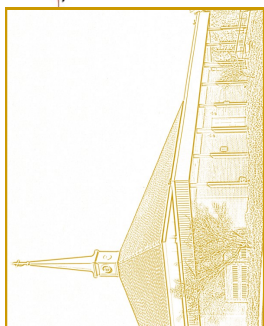
Read more at <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/pruden080817>





Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Every Sunday:</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school			<i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 PM Praise Band 6:30 <i>Teens for Christ</i> 7 PM Adult Bible studies		1	2
3	4 Church Office closed 	5 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 
17 Church Council—4:30 PM	18	19 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	20	21 Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 3	22	23
24 UMW—7 PM	25	26	27	28	29 BBQ—4-7 PM, see p. 3 30 BBQ—11-7 PM, see p. 3	

ANNUAL BBQ PREP. AND EVENT