



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

September '18

Volume 14 Issue 9

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

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“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 Pen



Summer's End

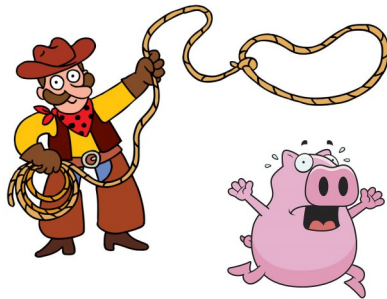
North Carolina is a land of seasons. We are blessed to have a variety of weather and changes. It is often said, “If you don’t like the weather, wait five minutes.” That’s not exactly correct, but our weather is changeable. Soon autumn will be here.

Autumn is the season of barbecues, football and the green leaves changing to colorful foliage (some leaves are already changing and the daylight hours are shorter). Autumn is also the time of the Charge Conference in the United Methodist Church. That is the season the church chooses officers to direct the church activities for the coming year. Most pastors do not enjoy the extra meetings and associated activities. A sense of relief always is present when the necessary paper work is completed.

Our year is more than half over. September is the ninth month of the year. March and August seemed to be very long months. Now we are facing the end of the year 2018. As we age, time seems to slip by more quickly. The Labor Day holiday is next week, and Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are looming in the near future. We need to make the most of the time that God has given us. We need to guide our thoughts in the direction that God gives us that we may bring honor to our Lord. Let us consider the good things of life and find ways to live in his joy. We want to dwell on the good gifts that God shares with us. We need to accept what is given to us, so that we may share with our church, our family, our friends, and those in need.

For Christians helping should be as natural as breathing. I helped a person in need recently. I didn’t stop and analyze the situation. I acted in the way that seemed to be the help he needed. As I helped, others came to his aid and we conquered his problem. He thanked us, and we went on our way. It was a simple need, but the few minutes of our time and effort saved him money, time and stress. Hopefully, he will “pay it forward” and help someone else. Look around. Someone near you may be in need of the assistance you can offer. Don’t let the year end without practicing the spirit of helpfulness.

—Pastor Tom



Lasso that pig!
Yippee!
BBQ coming!
See page 3.

Sunday Services

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

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.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet on **Tuesday, September 4th at 7:00 p.m.**

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, September 16th at 4:30 p.m.** Non-council members may attend, but cannot vote; though, they can make comments during the meeting and join in discussions.

Lord's Supper Meal

Monday, September 17th at 5:00 p.m. Cooks and helpers and drivers will be needed. Please see Ricky Baker to volunteer. Thank you.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Women

The women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

October NL Items

October newsletter items are due by September 23rd.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in *August*:

In Memory of Hoke Clark's birthday by:

Cleo & Becky Clark

In Memory of Charlie Hartsoe by:
Larry & Alice Hill

In Honor of the Praise Band by:
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of A.R.T. by:
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of the United Methodist Men by:
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of the United Methodist Women by:
Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell



Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power. Put on all the armor that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the evil's evil tricks. —Ephesians 6:10-11

GOD'S HEROES, WARTS & ALL, PART 4

We have looked at many Old Testament people used by God to further his will in the world. Now we turn to the New Testament.

Have you ever wondered if you have messed up so badly that God will never be able to use you again in his ministry in the world? Take heart; there have been others before you. Some people start out living good lives, but then falter by falling into great sin or messing up big time. Others begin their Christian walk by meticulously following rules, many of these rules being man's input and not from God, and then looking down on those who don't obey the rules as well as they do. The Apostles Peter and Paul are good examples of these two types of people.

Apostle Peter – Impetuous, Lowly Fisherman, Cowardly in a Crisis: Simon Peter began well while working with Jesus and the other disciples during the earthly ministry of our Lord—then Jesus was arrested. Though Peter had the strength to slice off the ear of one of the mob that came to capture Jesus and sneaked along behind to find out what was going to happen to Jesus; he failed miserably when someone pointed out that he was probably one of Jesus' disciples. He denied his Lord three times; and went away sobbing, because of his cowardice in the face of danger to himself and his Lord. Still, Jesus restored him, and appointed Peter the leader of the new church. —John 18:1-11, 15-18, 25-27; Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19

Apostle Paul – Pharisee of the Pharisees, Persecutor, Enabler of Murder: Saul, a Pharisee, steeped in the Old Testament scriptures and the law of Moses, plus all the parts added on by later Jewish rabbis, actively sought for permission to root out the followers of Jesus as the new Christian Church was beginning to grow in Jerusalem and beyond. But God saw something about Saul that he knew would be useful to the growth and spread of the new church. So, he accosted Saul on the way to persecute the church in Damascus; then changed his name to Paul to make it clear to all that this was a new man in Christ. And the rest, as they say, is history. --Acts 7-9ff

Apostle Thomas – Coward, Doubter: Thomas said that he was willing to die with Jesus, but ran away when Jesus was arrested. After the Resurrection of the Lord, Thomas insisted upon seeing the wounds of Jesus and touching them before he would believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. He later became a missionary in India. —John 11:16, John 20:24-29

John Mark – Deserter: Mark left in the middle of his first mission trip with Paul and Barnabas, which caused Paul and Barnabas to split up as missionary partners. Yet, later Mark became a loyal friend and helper of Paul while he was in prison in Rome, and wrote the Gospel of Mark based upon Peter's testimony. —Acts 12:25; 13:1-13; 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11

Apostle Matthew – Dreaded Tax Collector: Matthew had a job that led

(Continued on page 4)



September Events & Fundraisers

September Celebrations

Directory Photo Sessions

**Monday
September 10th
2-8:30 PM**

The photography sessions are filling up fast for pictures of our members and affiliates for the new church directory. Call the office or schedule you session online today.

If you have not received a notice about this and would like to participate, please contact our office as soon as possible.

BBQ Is Here!

**September 20-21
4-7 PM Fri.
11-7 PM Sat.**



It's time again for some delicious, freshly made pork barbecue at Ebenezer. Our usual wonderful main course will be supplemented with the following sides: slaw, baked beans, roll, beverage, and your choice of homemade dessert.

Prices

Adult plate —\$9

Child's plate—\$4

Under 3—FREE

Take-out will be available. Please call early for large orders. Proceeds will help Ebenezer continue our many ministries.

Breakfast Biscuits

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, Sep. 27th.**

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. —til gone!** 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!



Christmas Shoe Box Program

We will be collecting the shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child program this year. Please begin buying items now. See the website for a list of acceptable items. A \$9 donation to offset shipping costs is requested. You can also pack boxes online at:

www.samaritanspurse.org/occ

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

I will always thank the LORD; I will never stop praising him. I will praise him for what he has done; may all who are oppressed listen and be glad! Proclaim with me the LORD's greatness; let us praise his name together!

—Psalm 34:1-3 GNT



- 2nd—Grayson Bengé
- 3rd—Leonard Teague
- 4th—B. Dale Reid
- 4th—Heather Stone
- 11th—Will McRary
- 11th—Becky Clark
- 11th—Daniel Simmons
- 12th—Sherry Austin
- 17th—Tasha Haas
- 18th—Aubree McCrary
- 18th—Kenny Silver
- 19th—Billy Wayne Campbell
- 20th—Kelly McCrary
- 21st—Flaxen Brookshire-Reid
- 24th—Lois Starnes
- 24th—Louise Teague
- 30th—Russ Knepp

Happy Anniversary!

- 3rd—Paul & Linda Moretz
- 7th—Bill & Delores Campbell
- 9th—Ernest & Peggy 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
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.



Something, con't

him to be ostracized by his fellow Jews, and it is probable that he "cheated" his fellow citizens to make his work more profitable. But, Jesus chose him as one of his inner circle; and Matthew later wrote the gospel account named after him.

Onesimus – Runaway Slave: Onesimus became a Christian after running away from his master. The Apostle Paul returned him to his master, Philemon, and told him to serve him faithfully as a witness for the Lord. First, Paul wrote to Philemon, who was also a follower of Christ, to ask him to deal fairly with the slave because Onesimus

was now a brother in Christ.

We are human, and prone to make mistakes and to rebel against authority—even the highest authority, which is God. Christians are not immune to this tendency. We can be misled by others in the culture or in the church. One reason for us to read God's Word daily, and attend worship services and Bible studies is to arm us against the lies of the devil. Jesus empowers us to do his will, and is always willing to forgive us when we repent, and return to him—our one, true master. Be willing to be used by the Lord no matter what happened in your past, or what your present weaknesses are. Onward Christian soldiers! ✚

Church Council Minutes for August 19, 2018

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

John McCrary, subbing for Chairperson, David Crouse, asked Tom to pray before the meeting; then he read from the Bible from: Isaiah 41:10—fear not for I am with you; 1 Cor. 15:58—be steadfast, unmoveable, always abiding in the work of the Lord; Psalms 55:22—give your burdens to the Lord, He will carry them, and not let us slip and fall; Jeremiah 29:11—plans for good, and not evil—God's plans for us.

The August minutes were read, and accepted as written.

Jo Nell Harrison Finance Report

This month we ended up with almost \$12,000 in the bank. Praise to God. (This does not include the van sale.)

There is \$1700 in the needy fund, and we are helping people.

We are keeping up with all of our bills. We sold the van for \$13,300, and will receive a refund on the insurance.

We are \$10,000 short on the apportionments up to this time. Tom

said that we could use some of the van money to catch up on two payments. After more discussion, Jo Nell said she would watch the bank balance and pay some on this every 2 to 3 weeks if it looks feasible.

Sonya reported that she is still working on getting some counters.

New Business

UMM Report by John McCrary: We are going to replace the sign at the crossroads, instead of trying to fix the sign. The UMM will pay for the sign, and will put up the new sign. They will put up another small sign at the Pine Mt. Road/Christie Road junction on September 8th.

Bleaka Hollar reported that the 3rd Saturday supper fundraisers are going well; our workers are doing a good job with the meals.

The annual BBQ fundraiser is set for September 14-15th. Plates are \$9 for adults. Proceeds will go to the General Fund. Bakers, please begin getting cakes and pies ready. We will need workers on Thursday-Saturday. We'll deliver lunch plates to businesses on Friday as usual.

Kim Ellis reported that she loaned our VBS materials to Ebenezer UMC in Vale and 4 other churches in our area.

She also told us that Promotion Sunday will be on August 26th.

Trustees Report by Roy Hamby: The members prayed about for a week, and there was a unanimous vote to sale the van. It was sold to Everette Chevrolet for \$13,300. The Book value (NADA) was \$13,500; so we did well on this. There were no breakdowns in equipment this past month.

Pastor Tom presented his report on the state of our church's activities, along with some other information. Then he told us the Charge Conference dates: Oct 19th – Oct. 23rd. He wants to do this during the morning worship service, since it is an approval vote only. He told us about the District Dialogues that are coming up again on Oct. 14th at Grace Chapel UMC. We will need some of our people to attend.

He then went over a list of the things we are doing to minister to our community and raise money for the church. The Birthday party for Jesus was the most attended event outside of worship services. We expected 30 and had over 60 to attend. Yet, attendance for the Holy Week services was poor. We need to work on this. On the Laity Revival, Tom said that he would like to see some changes here to try to grow attendance for these services. Our VBS had good attendance and many workers. He did suggest we consider an all day Saturday VBS, instead of through the week, and then continue the theme on Sunday. He also suggested we have a Sunday to celebrate our BBQ fundraiser and its workers. He mentioned that he would like to expand the Hanging of the Greens Service.

Tom said that we will also have liver mush next time for the biscuit sales. We need to push the biscuit sales; and it would be good to see more people come in to eat, too.

The New Directory: photo day is Sept. 10th. There was some discussion of this and tasks that need to be done to complete this project.

Kim Ellis spoke up again about a Christmas play. Tasha Haas has said that she wants to do something this year, though we may still have a birthday party.

Pastor Tom would like to have a confirmation class this fall during the Sunday school time. Adults would be welcome to attend, also.

Meeting was adjourned.

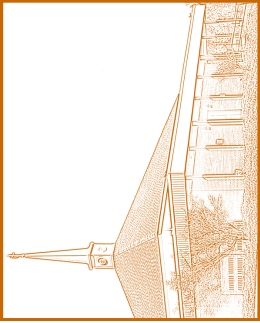
-- recorded by Cindy Sears. 📖



EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

September 2018



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Every Sunday:</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 6:00 PM Adult Choir</p>	<p>3 Church Office Closed Basketball—7 PM Happy Labor Day!</p>	<p>4 Seniors Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM Finance Committee—7 PM</p>	<p>5 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	<p>6 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>7 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>8 Volleyball—7 PM</p>
<p>9 Directory Photo Sessions, see p. 4</p>	<p>10 Directory Photo Sessions, see p. 4</p>	<p>11 9-11 Seniors Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM</p>	<p>12 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	<p>13 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>14 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>15 Volleyball—7 PM</p>
<p>16 CLC Reserved—2-11 PM Council—4:30 PM</p>	<p>17 Food Ministry—5 PM Trustees Meet—7 PM Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>18 Seniors Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM</p>	<p>19 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	<p>20 Annual BBQ prep</p>	<p>21 Annual BBQ Fundraiser—4-7 PM</p>	<p>22 Annual BBQ Fundraiser—11-7 PM</p>
<p>23 UMW—7 PM</p>	<p>24 Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>25 Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>26 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	<p>27 Biscuit Sales—6 AM—'til gone! Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>28 Biscuit Sales—6 AM—'til gone! Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>29 Biscuit Sales—6 AM—'til gone! Volleyball—7 PM</p>
<p>30</p>						