



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

September '19

Volume 15 Issue 9

Church's e-mail: [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com)

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OCTOBER 2019  
newsletter items are due  
by **Monday, Sept. 23rd.**

## Christmas Shoe Boxes

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.samaritanaspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ)

## Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 5:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 6:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women

"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



### Money

I like money, don't you? If you don't or have no use for money, just give me all you have.

Many of the ideas presented here come from Money is Everything, Herb Miller, Discipleship Resources: The United Methodist Church

What are we to do with our money? Money influences our lifestyle, relationships with people, our goals, how others think of us.

Some say, "Money doesn't buy happiness." Others see it as the most important thing in life. Some wish to separate our material life from our spiritual life. Jesus said that money is everything, especially in the spiritual sense. Our attitude toward possessions (money) affects us physically and spiritually. Our relationship with God is affected by the use and misuse of money. Luke 12:34 says "that where our treasure is our heart will be." George Buttrick says in Parables of Jesus 62 percent of the parables Jesus used refer to money or possessions. Jesus must have thought money important.



Early in the Hebrew Scriptures human beings offered gifts to God. They gave part of their crops or flocks. (Gen 4, Cain and Abel)

Abraham won battles against neighboring kings and gave a tenth of his possessions to Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High. This tenth became known as a tithe, and that God was entitled to receive this as basic. (Lev 27:30)

We are called to bring offerings. In the Old Testament are listed a number of offerings God's people could bring. We would say, "as God has blessed us we are to return a portion to show our thankfulness for God's blessings."

We may consider a gift. Gifts are given with no strings attached. We give gifts because we appreciate or love the recipient. Who should we love more than God? When considering the blessings and gifts God has shared with us, how could we fail to return gifts to God?

(Continued on page 3)

## 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.

### Nominating Committee

This group will meet on **Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m.**

### Lord's Supper Ministry

The next meal will be delivered on **Monday, September 16th at 5:00 p.m.** See Ricky Baker to volunteer to help.

### Church Council Meeting

The Council will meet on **Sunday, September 22nd at 4:00 p.m.**

### United Methodist Women

The women will meet on **Sunday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** Marilyn Kohnle is in charge of the program.

### Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *August*:

#### In Memory of Jerry Kohnle by:

Peggy Jenkins  
Ruth L. Henson  
Beverly Keller  
Jim & Judy Mackie  
1961 Oak Hill Classmates  
Larry & Alice Hill  
Bill & Peggy Austin,  
Jay Hodges,  
Richard D. Myers  
Oxford Memorial Baptist Church  
Ned & Jean Perry  
Flaxen Brookshire-Reid  
Ebenezer's UMW  
Firm Foundation Class (Dudley B.)  
Freida Spencer Matthews  
Tom Hunter  
Cindy Sears

#### In Memory of Hoke Clark's Birthday on August 9th by:

Becky Clark

#### In Honor of Marilyn Kohnle by:

Larry & Alice Hill



## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

### ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

I am a free man, nobody's slave; but I make myself everybody's slave in order to win as many people as possible. While working with the Jews, I live like a Jew in order to win them...In the same way, when working with Gentiles, I live like a Gentile...in order to win Gentiles...So I become all things to all people, that I may save some of them by whatever means are possible. —1 Corinthians 9:19—22, selected GNT

I ran across an interview of Alice Cooper (the rocker from the 1970's etc.; aka "The Godfather of Shock Rock") with Pastor Greg Laurie on Youtube. Alice (not his birth name) was the son of a minister. He started a hard rock band, wore strange make-up, and did some pretty weird things on stage during the band's performances. He continues to work as a rock and roll performer. He is a Christian now, and managed to give up the alcohol and drugs, and other wild behavior from his early rock days. He has been married to his wife for over 44 years (at the time of the interview). He credits her with helping to bring him back to the Lord.

Alice realized that his rock lifestyle was killing him and his marriage. A golfer friend gave him some sermon tapes that Alice ignored for months, but eventually listened to. The first one he chose was on the book of Ecclesiastes! The first church that Cooper and his wife decided to attend had a "hellfire and brimstone" pastor. Cooper said that was just what he needed at the time. He needed to be scared into a relationship with God. He later listened to another pastor whose message centered on the grace of God, which helped him also in his journey back to God. Although one pastor told Cooper that he would have to give up rock and roll, another one told him that God could use his talents and skills to further the message of God's love. If God could redeem Alice Cooper; he could also redeem Cooper's music. And He has. (You can do a search on the internet for the full interview. It is quite interesting and encouraging.)

I have heard Christians complain about rock and roll music being used in a church setting; but rock and roll is just like any other music: it can be used in a redemptive way or to further the devil's agenda. Charles Wesley used bar (saloon) music melodies when he wrote much of his hymns. He did not condemn the culture outright, but integrated the gospel message into the culture's musical sense. I enjoy the old hymns and symphonic music and rock and roll style worship music—as long as it glorifies Jesus and speaks the gospel message—I am all for it, whatever the style. (Even I have my prejudices, though; I hate hip hop or rap styles.)

Other people have said that we don't need to preach "hell and brimstone" style sermons to bring people to Jesus. Alice Cooper would disagree with you. For some hard cases, fear of the horrors of hell is the only

*(Continued on page 4)*



## September Events & Fundraisers

### Biscuit Sales

**Thursday  
September 19th  
6 AM — 'til gone!**

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

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!**



"Life is like a grindstone; whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on what you're made of."

— Jacob M. Braude

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

Keep on loving one another as Christians. Remember to welcome strangers in your homes. There were some who did that and welcomed angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. Remember those who are suffering, as though you were suffering as they are.

—Hebrews 13:1-3 GNT

### Jerry Kohnle Memorial Barbecue

**September 27-28  
4-7 PM Fri.  
11-7 PM Sat.**

Our annual fundraiser this year is in Memory of Jerry Kohnle. 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.

### Pastor's Pen, cont'd

*(Continued from page 1)*

Think about your life. Think about the way blessings have come to you. Examine your history of tithes, offerings, and gifts. Does it appear that that God is as important as your possessions?

*Pastor Tom*

## September Celebrations



- 3rd—Leonard Teague
- 4th—B. Dale Reid
- 4th—Heather Stone
- 11th—Will McRary
- 11th—Daniel Simmons
- 12th—Sherry Austin
- 16th—Chris Haas
- 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

Kyle Blair  
Ricky Garland  
Trey Hefner  
Shane McRary  
Jamie Mullinax  
Michael Potts  
Hunter Tolbert  
Josh Yount



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





## Finding Hope Ministries Update—September 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Summer has almost passed – and my what a summer it has been here at Finding Hope! So much packed in a few short months. Anca had gall bladder surgery in June. She has recovered well. We've had several mission groups here from different churches doing VBS with the kids (our kids and the kids in the gypsy camps) and helping us get the new children's home ready to take in kids. Everyone has worked very hard. So, our kids have had a great summer. They went to summer camp, the beach, waterparks, hiking, camping, and have just enjoyed time at home riding their bikes, playing ball, and swimming, etc... They're just enjoying being kids!

What's more, our oldest daughter, Alina, left for the USA last month to do her senior year of high school there. She is living with a host family (her sponsor family) in NC and is settling in very well. Since she was the leader among the kids and an extremely hard worker, she is terribly missed around here. But, we know God is with her there and will lead her where He would have her go. Also, she is able to speak at churches in the US. She can tell people her story and how God changed her life through Finding Hope Ministries. If you would like her to speak at your church or for a group, please contact us.

We're putting the finishing touches on the Lucas home and are hoping to start taking in kids very soon. Anchor (3rd) Home is on track but we still need some time to get this home up and running. There are some additional renovations required in order to meet the new codes. Pray we will be able to progress swiftly, as there are many orphan children eagerly waiting to have us as their family!

Our church plant in the Dalas gypsy village is growing. We are seeing more and more folks coming to our gatherings. We started with just a couple and now we have as many as 10. Moreover, we are seeing a lot of spiritual growth in those who are attending. Thanks for your prayers in this regard. Please continue to pray.



As many of you know, we brought our 13 kids to USA last year for the whole summer (summer 2018). We would like to bring them again for the whole summer in 2020. Please pray for this huge endeavor, as the plane tickets will be somewhere around \$20,000 for all of the kids. The last summer trip was truly life changing for our kids. We saw many of them saved and some of them baptized while they were there. Many of the kids were able to develop important relationships with sponsors and families with whom they communicate regularly. It is SO good for them to have folks they can "call" and talk to regularly, and it's a real blessing to the adults on the other side as well! Also, the exposure for Finding Hope as a ministry was tremendous. Because of our trip in the summer of 2018, we were able to secure enough funding for not just one new children's home, but two! We need God's provision so He will make a way for us to return to the USA for summer, 2020. If you are interested in helping with this cause, please let us know. We would be very grateful to have your help.

Lastly, we are still interested in starting a Finding Hope Children's Home in the US and in Moldova. The necessary red tape and required hoops are significant but God will help us in His time. God is SO good! He is doing so

many GREAT things with and through Finding Hope Ministries.

Thank you to any and all of you who have had even a small part in helping us reach where we are today. We still have many needs and certainly cannot reach these children without both financial and prayer support from you. Please continue to be in prayer for us.

Bless you,  
The Merrills and Finding Hope Ministries

## Something...cont'd

*(Continued from page 2)*

way to turn them back to God. And, even for the more receptive cases, if you can't show them why they need Jesus, why would they disrupt their lifestyle by believing on Him?

We are individuals. We come to God by different paths. Do not close a pathway just because you find it uncomfortable or disagreeable. God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform. Thank God for that! Though we must always obey God, rather than man, and avoid sin; we can still meet people where they are now, instead of expecting them to behave just like us before we will tell them about Jesus. And we should be willing to use all means available to us to take the message to them. We cannot abandon the culture to the devil or he will use it to pull many into hell, and to destroy the Church at the same time. Read how the Apostle Paul worked with all kinds of people to tell them about Jesus in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.





**EBENEZER UMC**


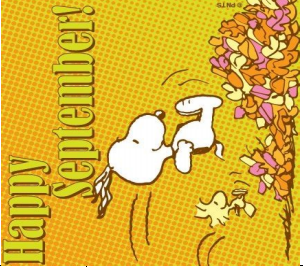
*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

# September 2019



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir	2 Church Office Closed  <b>Happy Labor Day!</b>	3	4 Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM <i>Teens for Christ</i> 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	5	6	7
8	9 Basketball—7 PM	10 Nominating Committee—7 PM	11	12	13 	14
15	16 Lord's Supper Ministry—5 PM Basketball—7 PM	17 Church Office Closed.	18	19 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!	20	21 Private Party—1-4 PM
22 Church Council—4 PM UMW—6 PM	23 Basketball—7 PM Trustees—7 PM	24	25 	26 BBQ Prep. Day	27 BBQ—4-7 PM	28 BBQ Fundraiser—11-7 PM
29	30 Basketball—7 PM					