



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

www.ebenzerm-church.com

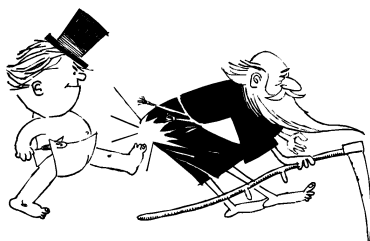
January '24

Volume 20 Issue 1

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

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**God's
blessings to
you and yours
in 2024!**

Sunday Services

- 9:00am Worship Service
- 10:15am Sunday School
- 5:00pm Adult Choir Practice
- 6:00pm Every FOURTH SUNDAY
Ebenezer 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*



Church Council—Dec. 10, 2023

Attendees: Pastor Alan Gaylord, Tammy Adams, Irene Austin, Rosanna Bachman, Ted & Gerry Daniel, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Jerry Helton, Bleaka Hollar, Peggy Jenkins, JoAnn Knepp, Kim Knepp, Billy Long, John McCrary, Judy McCrary, Marsha & Randy McCrary, Linda Moretz, Kenny & Becky Silver.

Marsha called a special council meeting after the worship service to bring forth a proposal for a loan to complete our disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. Irene Austin told us that People's Bank has offered a \$60,000 loan at 8.75 % interest rate. The payment will be \$531 a month (20-year term) and will need to be renewed every 5 years. We must maintain a deposit at their bank. We will also be responsible for a \$700 process fee, plus lawyer costs and closing costs. Our collateral for the loan will be the deed to the parsonage. Irene said that she plans to maintain the credit card and deposit box at our current bank, First Citizens, and only move our main deposit account to People's Bank.

After some discussion, Kim Ellis made a motion to accept the loan, with a second by Rosanna Bachman. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by Cindy Sears., Administrative Assistant.

- Approval of loan with People's Bank in amount of \$60,000.
- Number of signers required to sign the note. Three.
- Legal names of signers and their titles in organization. Ricky Baker, Chair of Trustees; Marsha McCrary, Chair of Church Council; Irene Austin, Financial Secretary; Wayne Ellis, Second Trustees signer.
- Parsonage will be used as collateral for the loan.

As you can see, we will have a new bill to pay each month until this debt is retired. We can only do this with your help. Please plan to give a little more each month, and support our other fundraising efforts, such as the Poor Man's Supper on Saturday, January 27th. Thank you and God bless you!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study — Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.
Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings, etc.

Prayer Group

Prayer group is suspended until further notice.

Wesley Class Meeting

Class meets on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The next meal will be served on **Monday, January 15th**. Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, January 16th at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, January 21st at 4:00 p.m.**

EMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, January 21st at 6:00 p.m.**

That which marshals the forces of life against the forces of death is Good; and that which marshals the forces of death against the forces of life is Evil.

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

CONFRONTING EVIL

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! —Isaiah 5:20 KJV

John 18:22-23; Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 8, pp. 766-767

When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "Testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"
—John 18:22-23

In these passages, Jesus has been arrested and brought before the High Priest, Annas, for questioning. Jesus remains calm even in the face of blatant abuse of power to suppress him and his followers. Even when struck by one of the people, he does not lash out at his tormentors, but only asks why they oppose the truth.

Christ did not always forgive or withhold his anger as he does in this instance. He showed great anger when he drove the moneychangers, etc. from the Temple area (John 2:13-17). In Matthew chapter 23, Jesus spews angry words aimed at the self-righteous and hypocritical Pharisees and rabbis calling them snakes and a brood of vipers! So, Jesus is not always "meek and mild" as he is often portrayed by some. If we are to be his disciples, how do we know when to forgive and when to let our righteous indignation shine forth against evil?

"What then, are we to do? What in this matter does he claim from us and insist upon having? Taking Christ as our standard, the real Christ, and not a man-made caricature of him, the whole Christ as he stands before us in the Gospels, does it not come to this of it—that the usual working rule required of us in practice and in the living of our daily life, when under provocation, is to be patient and forbearing and forgiving; but that there are occasions when, if we are to follow in his footsteps, it becomes us to be angry, with an anger that is clean and wholesome and Christlike anger, and to refuse to make peace with the evildoer until he has desisted from the evil thing. There are times, said Hugh Mackintosh, when not to be angry 'is a sign... of positive unlikeness to Jesus Christ.' (see whole passage in The Christian Experience of Forgiveness, p. 162)(I.B. p. 766)."

Jesus hasn't given us a whole bunch of rules, but general principles to live by "which we must apply for ourselves in differing ways in differing circumstances... That is a risk indeed for bunglers, such as we are. Yet even Christ cannot spare us the responsibility (I.B. p. 766-7). God has bestowed his Holy Spirit upon us to guide us and keep us righteous even in our anger and disgust at evil.

(Continued on page 4)



January Worship Information

Marsha McCrary will be our speaker on Sunday, January 7th. Her scripture comes from Genesis 12:1-9 and Matthew 2:1-12. Her sermon topic is "The Journey."

Bleaka Hollar is set to preach for the next three Sundays.

We will have a special guest on Sunday, January 7th. Retired pastor Rev. Ed Stevenson will join us for our service. He has volunteered to serve as our pastor through June or until we acquire a new full-time minister. Please help him to feel welcome.

Let us begin our journey with the Global Methodist Church with passion and optimism. We ask for your financial support and active service as we move forward, and continue with our efforts to show the love of Christ to our community and spread the Good News about salvation through Jesus Christ to our local community and the world.

Quotable

While I was in London, prominent British broadcaster Piers Morgan invited me on his television show *Uncensored*. In our conversation, he said, "Times are changing. People are changing," and I, too, should reconsider my stance on important social and Biblical issues. I simply replied, "God doesn't change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever."

**--Franklin Graham
(from email to Ebenezer)**

January Events

Poor Man's Supper

**Saturday
January, 27
4-7 PM**

Come in for a delicious Poor Man's Supper of pinto beans, slaw, cornbread, potatoes and onions. We are requesting donations to help us pay the loan we acquired to fund our disaffiliation from the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC.

We ask that are members help by supplying cakes, pies, cookies for desserts at this event.

We thank you for your support.



Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in Dec.:

- In memory of Kelly Minton McCrary by Garry & Phyllis Minton.
- In memory of Larry Hill by Alice Hill.
- In honor of Bleaka & Monte Hollar by Alice Hill.
- In honor of Monte Hollar, John McCrary, and Trey Hefner by Alice Hill.

January Celebrations



- 1st—Mary Teague
- 1st—Barbara Shelton
- 3rd—Libby McCrary
- 4th—Ryan Stone
- 5th—Jason Collins
- 10th—Cole McCrary
- 14th—Garry Minton
- 14th—Neal Haas
- 16th—Rosalind Kelley
- 18th—Chuck Adams
- 20th—Barbara Ferguson
- 21st—Kennedy Behmer
- 23rd—Tyler Ellis
- 27th—Amanda Holder
- 28th—Dwight Kelley
- 31st—Kevin Sears

John Wesley Said:

"Condemn no man for not thinking as you think. Let every one enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself. Let every man use his own judgment, since every man must give an account of himself to God. Abhor every approach, in any kind or degree, to the spirit of persecution, if you cannot reason nor persuade a man into the truth, never attempt to force a man into it. If love will not compel him to come, leave him to God, the judge of all. ."



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

Plato opined that "The unrighteous and vicious are always to be pitied in any case; and one can afford to forgive as well as pity him who is curable, and refrain and calm one's anger, not getting into a passion like a woman, and nursing ill-feeling. But upon him who is incapable of reformation and wholly evil, the vials of our wrath should be poured out; wherefore I say that good men ought, when occasion demands, to be both gentle and passionate (Laws V, p. 731)."

We are seeing Old Testament instances of great evil in our world now (October 7, 2023, in Israel), and, if we open our minds and hearts to it, we can begin to understand why God ordered the early Israelites to completely wipe out certain people groups in the Promised Land. The evil of some societies is so deep, so ingrained that even the children are unredeemable because of the way they are being or have been raised. We see this in "Palestine" Gaza and the Hamas terror group today.

Is it possible that the younger children killed in this conflict will be "redeemed" or "re-claimed" by God somehow after their deaths? We don't know, and not being God, we cannot know. Neither can we be certain of who is redeemable or not but can only do what must be done to stop such vile, malicious evil in its tracks. May God have mercy on their souls because we, and the Israelis cannot afford to.

†

Have A Little Fun!

But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for **joy**, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be **joyful** in thee.
—Psalm 5:11 KJV

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

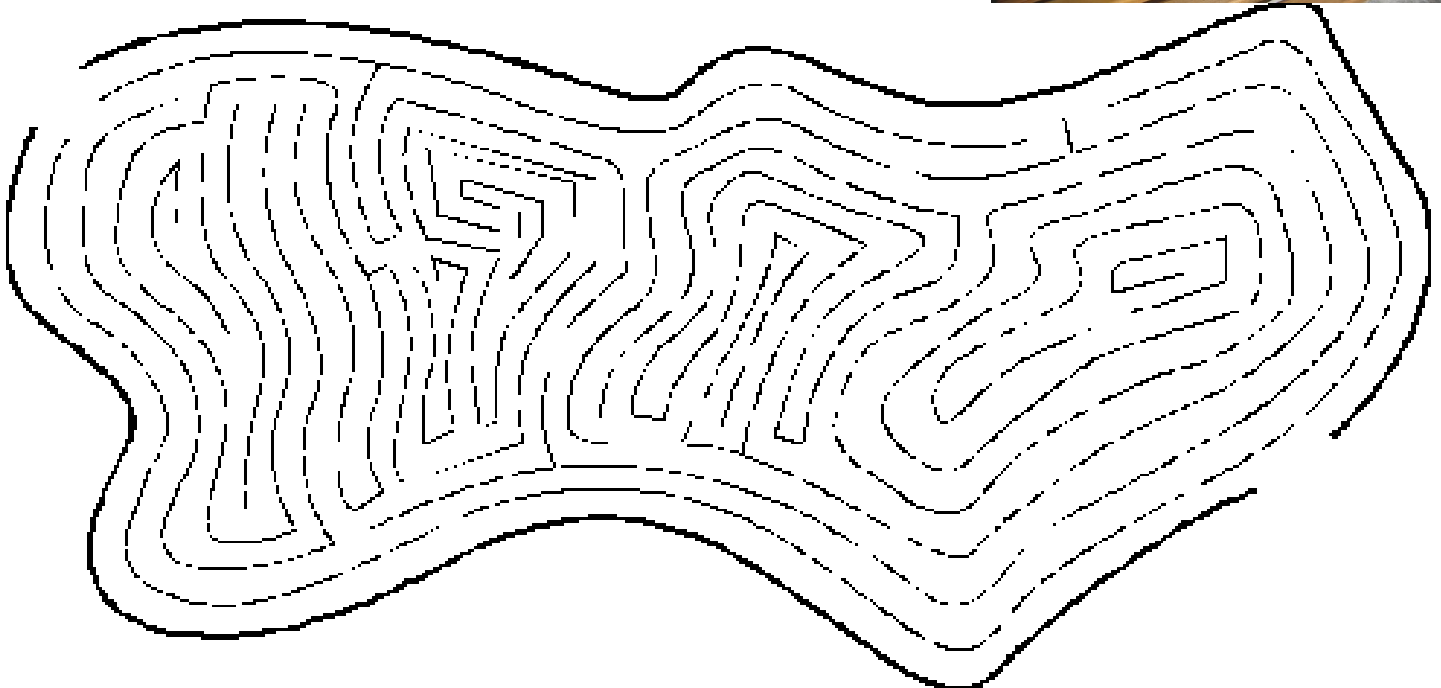
How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees.

Psalm 119:9-12 NIV





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Stone of Help