

Something to Pray About

By Rev. Eric Lane – January 2009

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

BE A GOOD SHEPHERD



Our Lord said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” John 10:11. Jesus also said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” John 13:34-35.

One way we show our obedience to this example from Jesus and the commandment he gave us is by taking care of one another in the church. We are the body of Christ here on earth. We are His disciples. Our example of how we care for one another in the body of Christ shines the light of Christ to the world.

Therefore, we are asking that you give prayerful thought to a new and exciting program at Ebenezer UMC that we are planning to implement in 2009 called the **“Shepherding Program.”**

A shepherd is someone who watches the flock. We are looking for people who are willing to shepherd families within the church. The shepherd will keep a specific family or individuals informed about what is happening in the church. The shepherd will also keep in touch with each family or individual, and (with their permission) let church or staff members know when a family or person is in need of assistance or encouragement and prayer.

Ebenezer has grown over the last few years; as a consequence, there have been times when someone has become ill or something has prevented them from attending church, and no one has known about it. With two worship services, communication has become strained from time to time. To help keep everyone informed and prevent people from being overlooked in their time of need, we want “good Samaritans” to sign up as shepherds.

This is a ministry that we wish to provide for our members. It is to be carried out in an attitude of service and in the love of Christ. As Paul said in Ephesians 4:1-3, “I...beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” We are called to be united in Christ, and we believe that this ministry will help us be more of a unified body. We hope to show the love of Christ within the body of the church, so that our witness to the world will be even stronger. As the Apostle John says in 1 John 3:18, “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” Now is the time for action. Lay down a part of your life and join us as a shepherd of our flock.

Please pray about this. We will have a planning meeting in February. Training and help will be available for the shepherds.

Thank you.
Rev. Eric Lane.

(All Bible verses are from the New Revised Standard Version.)