



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

April '24

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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*



Church Council—Mar. 24, 2024

Attendees: Tammy Adams, Irene Austin, Rosanna Bachman, Ricky Baker, Ted Daniel, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, John McCrary, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary (Chairperson), Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Becky Silver.

Marsh opened the meeting with prayer, then read from Hebrews 12:2-4, 12-13. Let us “Keep our eyes on Jesus” and we can make it through whatever life throws at us.

Reading of minutes: Motion to accept as written: First, Bleaka Hollar, Second, Judy McCrary, passed.

Financial Report – Irene Austin

We are doing fine at this time financially. There are expenses coming in that have not been planned for; and our use of propane and electricity are higher, and the cost is higher, also. We thank all our members who continue to give regularly and generously, and pray that you will continue to support our church and all its ministries and needs.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations – Tammy Adams

This committee will meet with representatives of the Global Methodist Church to provide information of what we are looking for in a pastor. (NOTE: Rev. Stephenson is an interim pastor only. He came out of retirement to serve until we get a more permanent pastor.) If you wish to bring up any preferences, please contact Tammy before the meeting on Wed. March 27th at 5:30 p.m.

Trustees – Ricky Baker

Ricky reported air conditioner and heating unit repairs at the church and parsonage; and a new belt was placed in a unit of the CLC to stop the squeak. Our fire alarm was also repaired—no more beeping! Yeah. He told us that most of the fire extinguishers will need to be replaced next year because of their age. The stove in the parsonage was repaired, but will need to be replaced before our new pastor moves in. A water

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**Smoked
Chicken
Fundraiser
coming in April
See p. 3**



Sunday Services

- 9:00am *Worship Service*
- 10:15am *Sunday School*
- 5:00pm *Adult Choir / 4:00 pm Praise Band Practice*
- 6:00pm *Every FOURTH SUNDAY Ebenezer Methodist Women*

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 7:00p *Bible Study — Adults.*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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



Meetings, etc.

Food Ministry

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

Seniors Gathering

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

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, April 28th at 4:00 p.m.**

EMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, April 28th at 6:00 p.m.** All the women of the church are invited to attend.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in February:

- **In memory of Joan Pennell** by Freida Matthews;
- **In memory of Jack Frye, Ranny Frye, Gerald and Zetta Mae Frye, Charles and Corrine DeVries** by Barbara Frye.
- **In honor of Cindy Sears and Savanna Creaseman's birthdays** by Delores and Gary Paul Campbell

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

So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates to make his people holy by means of his own blood.
--Hebrews 13:12 NLT



There is a song we used to sing in the Baptist church I attended that speaks of the "pow'r in the blood." I was reminded of this song during a Sunday school lesson as we read about "the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him" from Ephesians (see above). The question in my mind is: "Do I really believe that God has given me power to live a righteous and productive life for Him in this world?"

Listen to the words of this song:

Verse 1:

Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

Chorus:

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

Verse 4:

Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

In Romans Chapter 6, the Apostle Paul reminds us of the power found in belief in Christ, the Savior:

And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on his cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should now longer be the slaves of sin. For when we die, we are set free from the power of sin. Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him...In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned...Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes...Sin must not be your master; for you do not live under law but under God's grace. --Romans 6:5-14 (selected)

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April Events

Caldwell Pregnancy Care Center Grand Opening

**Sunday
April 7**

**3-5 PM Floating
3:30 PM Ribbon Cutting**

You are invited to the Grand opening of the new Caldwell Pregnancy Care Center. There will be refreshments and more.

Address is:

200 Timberbrook Lane
Granite Falls NC 28630

The Care Center helps women deal with unplanned pregnancies (before and after birth) instead of opting for an abortion.

Smoked Chicken Fundraiser

**Saturday
April 20
4-7 PM**

Get a great meal and help us as we continue to pay down our disaffiliation loan. This meal will have smoked chicken, baked beans, slaw, roll and choice of dessert for donations.

We thank you for your support! ♥



John Wesley Said:

“I preached on the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith. While I was speaking, several dropped down as dead and among the rest such a cry was heard of sinners groaning for the righteousness of faith that it almost drowned my voice. But many of these soon lifted up their heads with joy and broke out into thanksgiving, being assured they now had the desire of their soul - the forgiveness of their sins.”

Hope for Today

God is never finished.
He is never out of plans.
He is never not able.

Even in times of judgment,
even in the most hopeless of times
and darkest of ages,
He still has a purpose and a way.
Therefore, no matter what happens
in the world,
His people must always take hope,
always press on,
and never give up.

—Johnathan Cahn, The Josiah Manifesto

April Celebrations



- 1st—Brian Sears
- 9th—Sandy Miller
- 12th—Tammy Adams
- 18th—Haley Pitts
- 21st—Emily Haas
- 23rd—Annette Burson
- 24th—Celeste Creaseman
- 27th—Wyll Baker
- 28th—Cinda McRary
- 29th—Seth McCrary
- 30th—Sarah McCrary
- 30th—Rex Teague

Happy Anniversary

- 12th—Jerry & Loretta Helton
- 12th—Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- 14th—Garry & Phyllis Minton
- 30th—Kenny & Becky Silver

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

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

--1 Timothy 6:17 NIV



Something, cont'd

Notice that sin is to *no longer rule in our mortal bodies*. We do not have to wait until we have our eternal bodies! Sin has no power over us now! Do we really believe this, though? Aren't we always making excuses for our failure to live righteously by saying that we are weak in the flesh? But Paul says that we have the power in the blood of Christ and from the indwelling of His Holy Spirit to live righteously now!

And what about what Jesus told us:

"I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do—yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it."

—John 14:12-14 GNT

"But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me..." --Acts 1:8a GNT

It seems to me that our emphasis upon the weakness of the flesh and our inborn tendency to rebel against God needs to be muted a little, and more emphasis placed upon the power that we have in Christ Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. We are indeed indwelt by God! Shout it from the rooftops! Cherish this truth in your hearts and minds! The world will be a much less scary place for us if we step up and BELIEVE in GOD's POWER within us, as well as, His power in the world.

I struggle with this truth constantly. So often, I whine and complain, or fall into periods of anxiety, because I forget the power available for me in Christ. Pray that God will help us all to believe on Him and in the power He provides to us; so that we may live for Him and to do His work in a fallen world. This work and righteous living should be a part of every aspect of our lives. We are not all called to "Christian ministry;" yet we are all called to witness by our righteous living and working to help make the world a better place to live in all that we do. †

Food for Thought

Man has always sinned. But civilization is maintained by repenting and changing our ways — or, at worst, sinning privately — and professing morality publicly. As for dumbing down standards and leading others toward Perdition just to self-centeredly salve our feelings, this is likely a far greater sin than whatever it is we aim to justify.

Read more: https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2019/11/katie_hill_affair_and_its_aftermath_are_signs_of_americas_decline.html#xzz64JgOf1ZP

Council, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

heater problem was repaired in the parsonage, too.

Ricky then went over our church insurance policy from Southern Mutual. It has increased from around \$5200 to over \$7000. We considered the possibility of dropping the Umbrella policy we have. That will save us \$523. Our regular insurance includes \$1,000,000 coverage in several areas, and the Southern Mutual rep. said that should be enough coverage under most circumstances. After discussion, we voted to drop it.

Ricky confirmed that the Trustees will schedule a walkthrough of the parsonage in the near future to check for damage or other needed repairs and refurbishments before our new pastor arrives. There will be another walkthrough right before the new pastor moves in.

After some talk, we have scheduled two more fundraisers to help pay off the disaffiliation loan. On Saturday, April 20th we will be selling meals of smoked chicken, slaw, baked beans and roll with dessert. Another will be held on May 18th, but the menu has not been set, yet.

Marsha closed the meeting, and Judy McCrary delivered the closing prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.