



EBENEZER

Apr '26

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

Volume 22 Issue 4

www.ebenzerm-church.com

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Easter Sunrise Service
7:00 AM
With Free Breakfast

**BBQ Chicken
Fundraiser**
April 18th,
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*

“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



“He is not here; He is risen!” (Luke 24:6)

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. April brings us to the very heart of our faith—the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. After the solemn journey through Lent, the sorrow of the cross on Good Friday, we arrive at the empty tomb on Easter morning. The message is clear and life-changing: death has been defeated, hope has been restored, and new life is available to all who believe.

The resurrection is not just an event we remember—it is a reality we live. Because Christ is risen, we are not bound by our past, our failures, or our fears. We are invited into a new life marked by forgiveness, freedom, and purpose. As the apostle Paul reminds us, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This season calls us to reflect: Are we living as resurrection people? Do our lives reflect the joy, hope, and victory of Easter? In a world often filled with uncertainty and discouragement, the Church is called to be a beacon of hope. At Ebenezer, we are reminded that our mission is not only to gather but also to go—sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in both word and action.

I encourage each of us this month to renew our commitment to Christ. Let us deepen our prayer lives, engage faithfully in worship, and reach out in love to those around us. Easter is also a time to extend invitation—who in your life needs to hear the message of hope? Who might you invite to join us in worship?

As we move forward, let us also continue to support the ministries of the church. Your generosity enables us to serve our community, care for those in need, and sustain the mission God has entrusted to us. I especially encourage continued support of our benevolence efforts, which make a tangible difference in the lives of many.

I want you to know that I will be on vacation after Easter Sunday. Pastor Eunice has graciously agreed to fill in for me while I am on vacation. I want to say thank you for

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WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:30p Prayer Meeting
- 7:00p Bible Study — Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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



Meetings, etc.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, April 21st at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

Church Council

Our administrative Council will meet next month on **Sunday, April 26th at 4:00 p.m.**

EMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, April 26th at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to participate.



Thank you, Lord Jesus!

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in March.:

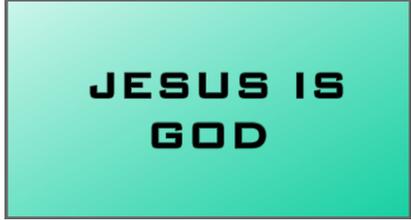
In memory of Jo Nell Harrison and Amy Fowler by Sonlighters Sunday School Class.

In honor of Bleaka Hollar by Judy McCrary, and Shirley Estes.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

“You are not yet 50 years old,’ the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” “I tell you the truth, “ Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” —John 8:57-58 NIV



References: John 6:16-27; Interpreter’s Bible, V. 8, pp. 561-563.

The disciples had rowed about three or four miles when they saw Jesus walking on the water, coming near the boat, and they were terrified. – verse 19 (GNT)

Have we emphasized the love of Jesus who died on the cross to cover our sins with his blood so much that we have forgotten to “fear” him, too? He is not only our Savior. He is our Lord. He not only washes away our sins. He is our judge and jury. He is not only fully human. He is fully God. He is the same God of the Old Testament as he is the God of the New Testament.

Jesus showed his humanity when he stopped at the well to rest and talked to the Samaritan woman. He shows his godly powers here as he walks upon liquid water that is also making furious waves. He is the master of the universe. He ought to be the master of your heart and life, also—if you truly believe.

As C. S. Lewis put it in the Chronicles of Narnia when the little girl meets the Lion, a symbol of Christ the King:

“Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he- quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion..." "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver ... "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you.”



Someone with this much power ought to create some apprehension in us, even knowing that he loves us and only wants the best for us; because what Jesus considers to be the best for us is likely to be something we don’t think we want or need. Why? Because we are as dumb as sheep, chasing after greener grass and not paying attention to the cliff or boggy mire up ahead.

Jesus answered, “I am telling you the truth: you are looking for me to because you ate the bread and had all you wanted, not because you

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April Events & Fundraiser

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m.

The theme of this service as we remember the last meal of Christ and his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion is "Love One Another" (John 13:34).

Foot washing will be offered during the service, along with Holy Communion.

(Note: We will not have a Good Friday service this year.)



Easter Sunrise Service

HIS RISEN

Sunday, April 5

7:00 AM

Come, and help us celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus! Get up early, just as the women did on that Easter morn. Begin in sorrow, but leave with joy in your hearts.

A free breakfast will be served in the Christian Life Center after the service. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

- April 2nd—Maundy (Holy) Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
- April 5th—Easter Sunrise Service with Breakfast, 7:00 a.m.
- April 18th—BBQ Chicken Fundraiser, 4-7:00 p.m.
- April 21st—Senior Citizens' Gathering, 11:00 a.m.
- April 26th—Church Council Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- April 6–May 3—Pastor Simon on Leave

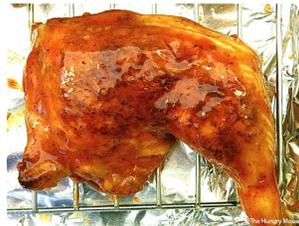
BBQ Chicken Fundraiser

Saturday, March 18

4-7:00 PM

Let's have some barbecue chicken and fixin's with homemade desserts. Eat in or take out for a donation. Proceeds will be used for church ministries.

We thank you for your support.



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

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

—Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV

April Celebrations



- 1st—Brian Sears
- 9th—Sandy Miller
- 11th—McCall Creaseman
- 12th—Tammy Adams
- 18th—Haley Pitts
- 19th—Nancy Sears
- 23rd—Annette Burson
- 24th—Celeste Creaseman
- 24th—Eunice Chigumira
- 25th—Alexandrea Lingle &/ or Remi-Anne
- 27th—Wyll Baker
- 28th—Cinda McRary
- 30th—Sarah McCrary

Happy Anniversary

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

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

John Wesley Said:

"I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity."



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

understood my miracles. Do not work for food that spoils; instead, work for the food that lasts for eternal life. This is the food which the Son of Man will give you, because God, the Father, has put his mark of approval on him.” –vv.26-27 (GNT)

What is worse than having too little reverence for the Lord is that we look to him more to provide us with material comforts, than to recreate us into the image of God we were meant to be.

“If he will be a judge and divider of material things, increasing our share in them; if he will give us loaves and fishes, better houses, shorter hours, bigger wages, gadgets to lessen work and add to our leisure—these are real things well worth the having, and we will follow him for them. But who wants his spiritual gifts? What would we do with them? What difference would they make? And so Christ’s supreme offers to us—the power to conquer selfishness and temper, and so be no longer the helpless plaything of temptation, to be masters of our own lives, putting them to high and worthy ends—are peevishly pushed aside as stupid irrelevancies and nothing to the point.” --I.B. V. 8, p. 562

We spend a great deal of time worrying about money: the lack of it, about those who have much too little, and those who seem to have way too much. We give away our used items to the less fortunate, which gives us an excuse to buy newer things for ourselves. We protest and march and vote and have fundraisers to help others with their physical needs; all the while never or rarely mentioning the Name of the ONE that they truly need in their lives.

“What vexes Christ the most in the economic situation is not that material things are so badly distributed, but rather that they are so grossly overvalued. In his standard of measurement, they rank very low indeed. As Jesus said in verse 27 (RSV): “Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life...”

Be grateful for the grace offered to us by Christ; be thankful for the material things God provides for us; but stand in awe of the Maker of the Universe, who is our King and Judge. He not only saves us through the cross, he will sanctify us, even if it means making us carry our own cross while here on earth. Christ the Lord and Savior is Good, but he is not Safe! Praise be to God!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! —2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV



Pastor’s Pen, cont’d

all who participated in the Bleaka benefit barbeque fund raiser. Thank you for praying for pastor Phillip Hefner, our circle leader at Grace Chapel. Let us walk together in the power of the resurrection, trusting that the same God who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us and through us.

May the joy of Easter fill our hearts and homes.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Simon Chigumira



Theism Saves Real Science

Francis Bacon famously said that a superficial knowledge of science (which he called “natural philosophy”) would “incline the mind of man to atheism,” but a deeper understanding would bring him back to God. That is still true today. A superficial study of origins undermines theism, but the deeper study provided by ID (Intelligent Design) theorists points the other way. —Barry Arrington, interview “Skepticism as a Solution” in note bene, June 11, 2025 newsletter from Discovery Institute