



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

Aug '25

Volume 21 Issue 7

www.ebenzerm-church.com

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

Inside this issue:

Meetings, etc.	2
Hid In My Heart	2
Something to Pray About	2
August Events & Ministry Opps.	3
Community Fun Day	3
Ministry Opportunities	3
Upcoming Events	3
August Celebrations	3
John Wesley Said	3
Something, cont'd	4
SCCM Needs	4
Have A Little Fun. Color me!	4

August is our month to help fill the SCCM Food Pantry.

See p. 4 for a list of items
to donate.

Community Day fun before going back to school 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



Dear Beloved Church Family,

I am reminded of a powerful scripture about why God diligently desires an abundant life for each one of us, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV)

In a world often defined by scarcity and self-interest, the call of Christ invites us into a life of abundance not abundance for our own sake, but that we might live generously. True generosity doesn't begin with the size of our bank accounts, but with the posture of our hearts. It is rooted in our trust that God is our provider and that what we have is meant to be shared for His glory and the good of others.

The Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthian church that generosity is both a spiritual discipline and a testimony. When we give, whether of our time, resources, gifts, or presence, we mirror the generosity of God, who gave His only Son for us. Our giving becomes more than just charity; it becomes worship. As we reflect on all God has entrusted to us; our families, our church, our skills, and our resources, let us ask: How can I be a vessel of blessing to someone else this week/month? Generosity might look like:

Supporting a neighbor who is struggling

Giving faithfully to the ministry of the church

Volunteering our time to a mission project

Offering forgiveness when it's not deserved

Simply being present with someone who feels forgotten

Sharing your produce from the garden or handiwork

Let us be a church known not just for our words, but for our open hands and open hearts. May our generosity be contagious and cause thanksgiving to overflow in our community.

With a grateful heart,

Pastor Simon Chigumira

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.

Lord's Supper Ministry

The next meal will be served on **Monday, August 18, 1-6:30 p.m.** Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, August 19 at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

EWG Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, August 24 at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited.

Other Meetings Coming

Pastor Simon wants the Finance Committee to meet for a more detailed conversation on our budget, and he wants to set-up a committee to accelerate our fundraising to retire our Disaffiliation Loan debt (see p. 3). We will announce meeting dates soon.

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

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

—2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NIV

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

—2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV

MAKING DECISIONS

References: Acts 1:15-26; NIV Luke Commentary by Ajith Fernando.

"Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us..." ...Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. --Acts 1:21, 24-26

We no longer cast lots to make decisions in the church, but this was not a "gamble" per se. First, they noticed a need (the replacement of Judas); second, they listed the necessary qualifications; third, they nominated two equally qualified men. At that point (note that the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out on the people), they had no good way to choose between the two because only God knows a person's heart (or true faith, character and abilities); so they prayed for God to determine how the cast lots fell to help them make their final choice. (Fernando, pp.78-80)

Looking at other aspects of this decision-making event, we find 1) there was theological reflection and the use of Scripture, 2) the whole community helped choose the two applicants with Peter as leader, 3) Peter directed the people to God's Word to help with the decision because "God is the real leader of the church, the human leader's task is to direct people to God's will, which is most clearly recorded in the Scriptures" (Fernando, p. 79), and 4) "shows that prayer should play a critical part in our strategy of appointing leaders." (Fernando, p. 79) "[P]rayer preceded every major decision or crisis in the life of Jesus and the early church" (Robert Stein); 5) "the prayer in verse 24 implies that the disciples needed to have confirmed for them the inner nature of the person's heart, which only God knows. Christian ministry is essentially spiritual in nature, and external qualifications are useless if a person's heart is not right with God." (Fernando, p. 80)

Have we become too complacent about how we choose people to serve in the church, not just as the pastor or lay leader, but in such positions as Sunday School teacher, administrative assistant, janitor, or heads of committees and the church council? Do we just accept the first

(Continued on page 4)



August Events

Community Fun Day!

Saturday, August 23
10 AM—1 PM



Enjoy a day of fun before going back to school! We'll have hot dogs, brownies, cupcakes, an ice cream truck, and more to eat. Activities include a bouncy house, firetruck display, water slide, reptile house, petting zoo, and more. We will give away some school supplies, too.

Everything is FREE! Young children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Bring your own towels and wear appropriate swim wear for the water slide.



Fill up on hot dogs and chips and sweets, then use up the energy on the water slide, in the bouncy house, and just having fun!

Psst! The reptiles will be back!



Ministry Opportunities

Bibles for Uganda.

We are continuing to collect Bibles to send to Uganda. Or you can give money by writing "Uganda Bibles" on an offering envelope in the "Other" field.

Cancel Debt Committee.

We will have a short meeting after the worship service on **August 10th** to choose a date for a longer meeting on ways to pay off our disaffiliation loan. Volunteers are welcome. The following people have been "volunteered" already: Irene Austin, Cindy Sears, Monte & Bleaka Hollar, Ricky Baker, Kim Ellis, Marsha McRary. This debt is cramping our style. Let's get it paid off!

Homecoming/\$10,000 Sunday

Start praying and setting aside money now for our annual Homecoming goal of \$10,000 above our normal giving. Dig deep with a big shovel. Let's reach this goal and surpass it this time. God will bless everyone who gives in many ways and our church, too. We thank you for all your support, financially, physically, and with prayer. Only death stopped the first apostles, so let's keep going until God calls each of us home.

August Celebrations



- 11th—Becky Silver
- 13th—Trey Hefner
- 13th—Pastor Simon
- 19th—Thomas Johnson
- 23rd—Braelyn Helton
- 23rd—Monte Hollar
- 24th—Candace Collins
- 24th—Casey Collins
- 24th—Cooper Behmer

Happy Anniversary

- 18th—Ricky & Shawn Baker
- 25th—Brian & Kim Knepp

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

John Wesley Said:

**"God is so great,
that he
communicates
greatness to the
least thing that is
done for his
service."**

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

August 23 — Community Day, 10-1:00 p.m.
August 24 — Ebenezer Methodist Women, 6:00 p.m.
September 21 — Church Council Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
September 28-30 — Revival Services, 7:00 p.m.
October 12 — Homecoming & \$10,000 Sunday with lunch
October 25 — Trunk or Treat, 5-7:00 p.m.



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

one who volunteers or is volunteered by someone (easy to do in such a small church with limited choices)? Even if we feel that we must take what we can get, shouldn't we spend some time praying that God will support and strengthen each person for the task they have been assigned to do? How about a prayer over each person (individually and by name) who chairs a committee, teaches or leads a Bible study class and other workers/volunteers at the beginning of each year asking God to accept their service and guide them, strengthen them, and provide them with all they need to be successful in their service to our church and to the work of God's kingdom here on earth? Then, we can also pray that all the members of our church will be open to the leading of God's Holy Spirit to help each person perform their service, and that we will be able to provide whatever they need to do the job well. (Suggestion: This could be done during a special worship service as a way of commissioning them for their service in the year to come. See Acts 6:1-7) I believe this could be empowering to these servants of the Lord and our church and lead us to more powerful and passionate service and outcomes. Lord, teach us to pray!



†



SCCM Needs

August is our month to donate pantry items to South Caldwell Christian Ministries

Below is a list of some of the items to consider donating:

Cereal, crackers, Peanut Butter, Canned Meat, Soup, Canned Fruit, Grits or Oatmeal (Instant), Canned Vegetables, Rice (1 lb. bags or boxes), Canned Beans or Dry, and other non-perishable.

We thank you for your support.

HAVE A LITTLE FUN! COLOR ME!

PICNIC

