



# EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

# July '24

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www.ebenzerm-church.com

Church's e-mail: [emcdudleyshoals@yahoo.com](mailto:emcdudleyshoals@yahoo.com)

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**Red Cross  
Summer Blood  
Drive Coming!**



### 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*



## Welcome, Pastor Simon

We will welcome our new pastor in July. His first Sunday with us will be July 7th. Please plan to be here to support him as he embarks on this new venture with us. He is new to the Global Methodist Church as is our church.

Elder Simon Chigumira is originally from Zimbabwe where he earned a Bachelor and Master of Education and taught school for awhile. In the United States he attended Emory University and Asbury Theological Seminary where he is currently working on his Dissertation. He is now a U. S. citizen.

Simon is married to Eunice, who is also an ordained minister, with one child, 37 years old, living at home. He served in his most recent appointment for six years, and has served in various churches in Louisiana for 20 years total.

In the Narrative questionnaire provided by him he says that his leadership style is collaborative, and he believes in dealing with conflict and disagreement as soon as it occurs to resolve the situation quickly. He is comfortable with both traditional and contemporary worship styles. He says, “My partnership with the laity is central and germane to vital ministry. I am persuaded that it takes a united congregation to work cooperatively to accomplish its vision and mission. Equipping of lay leadership becomes an integral part of a successful organization.” In line with this attitude, Simon says, “I believe in organizing laity around Wesleyan Class Meetings. Such class meetings enable discipleship to happen in small groups.” He wants the church to be an active part of its community, and to be willing to take an active part in matters in the public square.

Now to address the elephant in the room. Yes, Simon is a black man, and this is a mostly white community. This should make no difference because we are reading and he is preaching from the same Word of God. Simon has served both mostly white and mostly black congregations. In Christ Jesus “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Here is our chance to live out this verse. Pray for Simon and his family and our church family as we journey together in Christ and in service to his kingdom.

### 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, July 15th**. Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

### Seniors Gathering

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

### Church Council

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

### EMW Meeting

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

*Mary is looking for a dead Jesus, which is why she cannot find him.*

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in June:

- **In memory of Bill Campbell and Paul Spencer for Father's Day** by Delores & Gary Paul Campbell;
- **In memory of Hayner Spencer** by Freida Matthews;
- **In honor of All June Buggers Birthdays and Anniversaries** by Delores & Gary Paul Campbell;

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

And saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." --Luke 24:34 NIV

**JESUS IS ALIVE!**

References: John 20:11-17; Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 8, pp. 792-794; NIV Application Commentary: John by Gary M. Burge, pp. 552-556.

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. --John 20:13b-14 NIV

Mary is looking for a dead Jesus, which is why she cannot find him. Are you looking for a dead Jesus? Do you see him as that person who lived awhile in Israel a long time ago? Do you think of him as in heaven looking down at you now and then? Or do you see him as he who lives within you now as the presence of the Holy Spirit?

"the coming of the Spirit is dependent on the departure of Jesus; in some fashion, when Jesus dies, when he begins his departure to the Father, the arrival of the Spirit will be a feature of his gift. In fact...the identities of Jesus and the Spirit—Paraclete are so closely aligned that they are almost indistinguishable. The promised Spirit will be Jesus' alter-ego, resuming the role of Jesus after his departure." (see John 16:17); Burger, p. 545.

Mary did not find Jesus. Jesus found her. Jesus looks for us every day. He calls for us by name, asking us to hear him, recognize him, to know he is alive! And dwells with us who believe. He is alive! Discover the truth of that statement with R. W. Dale of Birmingham as he did one day when preparing his Easter sermon:

"the thought of the risen Lord broke in upon him as it had never done before. 'Christ is alive,' I said to myself; 'alive!' and then I paused; -- 'alive!' And then I paused again; 'alive!' Can that really be true? Living as really as I myself am? I got up and walked about repeating 'Christ is living! 'Christ is living!' ...It was to me a new discovery. I thought that all along I had believed it; but not until that moment did I feel sure about it." (I.B. p. 792)

Mary did not recognize Jesus when he appeared to her at the tomb—because she was looking for a dead Jesus, a different Jesus. But he was alive! Do we miss Jesus when he comes to us now because we are looking for a different Jesus? A dead Jesus? Or a different kind of Jesus? One that we want to see, who will tell us everything we want to hear, and give us permission to do

(Continued on page 4)



## Mission Fundraiser

Kim Ellis and a mission team plan to return to Romania this fall to help out again at the Finding Hope Ministries Romanian Orphanage. To help with the cost and supplies needed, we are having a fundraiser.

Sign-up to sponsor a day in July, then give to Missions a dollar amount that matches the number of that date. Write the amount in the "Other" section of the offering envelope and note *Missions Fund* on the line beneath or give the money directly to Kim Ellis. (Note: You will not get credit for the donation without an envelope.)

We thank you for your support!

Modernist theology has the same modus operandi every time: it begs for a seat at the table, then it argues to be at the head of the table, then it demands that everybody else leaves the table.

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

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

--Galatians 3:16-29 NIV

## July Event

### Red Cross Blood Drive

**Monday, July 22nd**  
**2:30-7:00 PM**

Join us at Camp Do Good. Give Blood and enjoy a good spaghetti meal or tasty snacks at Ebenezer's summer blood drive.

Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or Call the church office at 828-396-2214 to make an appointment. (Please note that our blood drive still may be listed under Ebenezer UMC.)

You can go online on the day of the drive to [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions to save time.

We thank you for supporting this worthy cause.



## John Wesley Said:

"When I was young I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half so sure of most things as I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me."

## July Celebrations



- 3rd—Freida Farr
- 13th—Alice Hill
- 13th—Phyllis Minton
- 14th—Matt Shook
- 14th—Marilyn Kohnle
- 19th—Thomas Johnson
- 20th—Casey M. Chapman
- 22nd—Kay Gilbert
- 30th—Rebecca Hirt
- 31st—Jerry Parson, Jr.

### Happy Anniversary

- 1st—Matthew & Amanda Coffey
- 3rd—Randy & Marsha McRary
- 4th—Trey & Kelly Hefner
- 10th—Wyll & Joellyn Baker
- 13th—Steven & Cheryl Vosdingh

## Our Military

Ricky Garland  
Shane McRary  
Jamie Mullinax  
Hunter Tolbert



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

"It's not an intellectual problem. People just don't want to stop sinning."

—J. Vernon McGee



## Church Council, Called—June 16, 2024

Marsha McCrary (Chair), Irene Austin, Ricky Baker, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Kim Knepp, Judy McCrary, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears.

A special meeting was called to deal with a request from the local Girl Scouts representative, Claire Gilbert, to use our facilities for meetings/events. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:00 p.m. The meeting will probably be in the old fellowship hall, but we will not limit it to there. A motion to let them use our church for free was put forward by Bleaka Hollar with second by Judy McCrary. Discussion. Motion passed.

Other discussion: there will be no full meeting of the Council in June unless something else comes up. We will not be having any supper fundraisers in July and August. We will start up again in September. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Cindy Sears.

## Something, cont'd

what we want to do? He is alive! He chooses what to say to us, and what he wants us to do for him. We do not do the deciding. He is alive! Listen for him and to him!

“The empty tomb is now history, it is a cave to be disregarded (as it was among the earliest Christians), and only the living Jesus matters.” (Burge, p. 555)

In verse 20:17, Jesus tells Mary not to hang onto him. He wants her to know that his resurrection does not mean a return to the way things were with his disciples on earth. No. Things are different now. His presence will soon be manifested in a broader, wider, more lasting way than could ever be when he lived with them as a man. He will soon send His Spirit to be “with [them] always, even to the end of the age.”

He lives! He is alive! He is with us! “the gift of Christ is not merely a gift of salvation, if by salvation we mean freedom from condemnation and the promise of eternal life. Jesus offers us life, not mere freedom from judgment.” (Burge, p. 546) Jesus is alive! Be alive in him! Feel him and live in the power of the abundant life he imparts to you as he lives in and through you. For Jesus is alive, here and now and forever. †

## Hurt by “Christians”

As a volunteer youth minister, I would often encounter young people who had been "injured" by "the church" or by "Christians" or a "Christian."

I would tell them about my dog. I would tell them I had to finally had to get rid of my dog because of all the things he did that drove me crazy. He would scratch all my furniture legs trying to sharpen his claws. He would rub against my legs with arched back but not let me pet him. He would not use the litter box and mess up my apartment. He would scratch me and anyone who visited me with his sharp claws. After several of these descriptions of my dog's behavior, one student would finally stop me and say "Mr. Dale, you are not describing a dog. That's a cat you are talking about." "No!" I would insist. "It was a dog." My student would argue and insist that I was absolutely NOT describing dog behavior, but CAT behavior. I would tell them I KNOW it was a dog because my veterinarian TOLD me it was a dog. The student would say that my veterinarian was wrong! I would finally say "Yes. He was wrong."

I would tell the group that some of them had shared with me how "Christians" had hurt them or lied to them or betrayed them. I would say "But the people you described to me don't sound like Christians at all. In fact, they sound like the opposite." I would then share with them the fruits of the spirit, and Bible verses which deal with behavior and outer signs in a person's life which indicate that they are indeed a "real" Christian. I would encourage them to always judge truth by what the Bible says, not what people say.

—On web in comments section by @dalefriday5496. Melissa Dougherty YouTube channel.