



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

March 24

Volume 20 Issue 3

www.ebenzerm-church.com

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

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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—Feb. 18, 2024

Attendees: Pastor Ed Stephenson, Irene Austin, Ricky Baker, Ted & Gerry Daniel, Kim Ellis, Wayne Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Jerry Helton, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Marsha McRary, Randy McRary, Phyllis Minton, Linda Moretz, Kim Knepp, Cindy Sears. Becky Silver, Kenny Silver.

The meeting included members of the Trustees, along with the Church Council. Marsha McRary, chairperson of the Council, conducted the special, called meeting.

Marsha presented paperwork regarding the dissolution of our old entity as Ebenezer United Methodist Church from the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC, and from the state of North Carolina under that name. Then members of the Trustees also signed papers for our church to be officially recognized in the state of North Carolina as Ebenezer Methodist Church Dudley Shoals, Inc.

After the presentation of the paperwork, and the signing of said forms, we went into a brief regular Church Council meeting. The Trustee chair, Ricky Baker, informed us that our church had failed the Fire Marshall inspection, because of the problems with our fire alarm system. That will need to be fixed within the next 30 days. No other business was discussed.

Pastor Ed spoke some about what has been happening in the Southeastern area of the United Methodist Church. The UMC has lost at least 25% of its churches. More will follow after the next General Conference.

The Council decided to use this meeting as our February meeting. Next meeting will be in March. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Cindy Sears.

Blood Drive
March 11th;
Egg Hunt 23rd;
Easter Sunrise
31st!
 See p. 3



Sunday Services

- 9:00am *Worship Service*
- 10:15am *Sunday School*
- 5:00pm *Adult Choir /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, March 18th**. Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

Seniors Gathering

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

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, March 24th at 4:00 p.m.**

EMW Meeting

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

Good Friday Service

We will have a Good Friday service (**Mar. 29**) at **7:00 p.m.** Communion will be observed (Intinction).

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in February:

- **In memory of Joan Pennell** by Ebenezer's Methodist Women;
- **In honor of Gary Paul Campbell's 47th Birthday on March 6** by Delores 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

THE RISING

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. --Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV

References: Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." (Matthew 28:5-6 NIV)

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:5-6 NIV)

While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words. (Luke 24:4-8 NIV)

So she (Mary Magdalene) came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb...Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) (John 20:2-3, 6-9 NIV)

With the rising of the sun, the greatest miracle of all occurred: Jesus, who had been crucified, rose from his death bed, and changed a tragedy into the greatest victory over sin and death ever. Angels opened up his tomb; Jesus opened up the door to heaven to those who believe in him. Satan and his demons, and the men who had arranged Jesus' cruel death were laughing and declaring victory over this troublesome man (as the men thought he was) and over this Son of God (as Satan and the demons knew him to be) just two days before. All for nought. The men would soon have all their power and prestige and wealth they were clinging to taken away; Satan and his demons, likewise, saw that their days of power and ruling over the earth were diminished and numbered.

(Continued on page 4)



March Events

Red Cross Blood Drive

**Monday
March 11
2:30-7 PM**

Our annual winter Blood Drive returns. Soup and toasted cheese bread will be served to our donors, workers, and volunteers for free. Snacks, sweets, and coffee, water, or tea will be provided, too.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Ebenezer UMC to schedule an appointment. (NOTE: they have not changed to our new name yet.) Or call the church office to sign up (828-396-2214).

Give the gift of life with your blood this year. ♥

Easter Hunt & Biscuits

**Saturday
March 23
9-11 AM**

Let's have some fun the weekend before Easter. Bring your kids and yourself. Enjoy a hot biscuit breakfast for free. Then enjoy watching the children as they hunt for colorful hidden eggs, including Prize eggs. All community members are invited to come.

Children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.



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Easter Sunrise Service

**Sunday
March 31
7 AM**

Come early on this joyful Easter morning to celebrate our risen Lord!

We will begin worship at 7:00 a.m., and finish with a free breakfast for all at the end of the worship service in the Christian Life Center.

Sunday school classes will not meet, but resume with our regular schedule next Sunday.

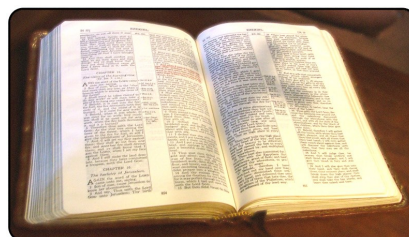
Happy Easter to All!

See p. 2 for information on the Good Friday service.



John Wesley Said:

“The general rule of interpreting Scripture is this: the literal sense of every text is to be taken, if it be not contrary to some other texts. But in that case, the obscure text is to be interpreted by those which speak more plainly.”



March Celebrations



- 1st—Charlie Mullinax
- 6th—Gary Campbell
- 7th—Kim Knepp
- 8th—Judy McCrary
- 10th—Bryan Turner
- 11th—Savanna Creaseman
- 12th—Margaret Smith
- 13th—Clair Gilbert
- 14th—Wayne Ellis
- 14th—Jerry Helton
- 16th—Rachel Kersey
- 16th—Sarah Christas
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 20th—Tracy McRary
- 25th—Jordan Ellis
- 28th—Amanda Coffey
- 29th—Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Happy Anniversary

- 2nd—Patty & Kyle Toliver
- 24th—Dylan & Vicky Baker

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

The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

--Psalm 110:1 NIV



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

Read all the accounts of the different gospels about Jesus rising from the dead. There are differences, which are normal for eyewitness testimony. And how many eyewitnesses have seen a dead man rise? The shock must have been extreme. It was a joyous occurrence, but also frightening and stupefying. How could this be?

We have lived all our lives hearing about Jesus rising from the dead. They had only recently heard about people being raised from the dead since Jesus had been on the earth. This was not expected, not normal, not how they thought it was supposed to be. Their conquering Messiah had become a literal sacrifice. Then he had risen from the dead!

And, as you read on, you find that, though he retained some scars from his ordeal, he did not appear dead, but very much alive and healthy. What kind of man is this? He is the God/Man. He is the Savior of all people that accept his call to belief and discipleship. His ultimate sacrifice showed everyone who has "eyes to see and ears to hear" the message of God's great love for humans, created in his image, and for his glory. Praise and glory be to God the Father, who sent God the Son to pay the price we owed for our rebellion against our Creator, and soon sent God the Holy Spirit to pull us into his circle of love and guide us in our devotion to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Have a gloriously joyful Easter celebration of our Lord's amazing Resurrection. And praise His Holy Name for raising us up from the grave of sin we dwelt in before accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior. †

The Church & Politics

But now, the concept of absolute truth itself is challenged, he said, and spiritual warfare is, of course, always present. Taken together, those two things have reached a confluence in culture where the politics have turned some pastors into silent, timid shepherds who are afraid to touch any question that culture has deemed "political," which includes almost all moral questions.

"It used to be that the Church was the authority on morality and ethics and now the clinical culture has said 'not so fast, these are political issues and since they're political the Church should get out,'" he said.

"I think the root of it is cultural relativism leading to the denial of absolute truth and the work of the Enemy who wants to undermine the Scripture in the Body of Christ."

--Frank Wright, Christian Post, 05132020

**Color Me
Happy
because Jesus
Arose!**

