



EBENEZER

Mar '26

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

Volume 22 Issue 3

www.ebenzerm-church.com

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Daylight Savings Time

Spring forward
ONE HOUR
on March 8th.

Red Cross Blood Drive
March 30.
Sign up online now.
Give the gift of life.

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



“Rend Your Hearts, Not Just Your Garments”

March carries us deeper into the holy season of Lent. Lent is a time when the Church is invited to slow down, examine our lives, and return to the Lord with sincerity. You will notice that our sermon series are focused on this theme of returning to God. Lent is not about outward display or religious performance; it is about inward transformation.

Through the prophet Joel, God speaks these searching words: “*Rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God*” (Joel 2:13). In biblical times, tearing one’s clothing was a visible sign of grief or repentance. Yet God presses deeper. He is not interested merely in what can be seen, but in what is truly surrendered.

To rend the heart is to allow God to break open those places we often keep guarded. Such places may be our pride, our distractions, our fears, our habits of self-reliance. Lent invites us to honest repentance, not as an act of shame, but as an act of hope. We turn back to God because He is “*gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*”

As we journey through March, I encourage you to ask the following questions for your self-introspection:

- i. What needs to be released so God can renew me?
- ii. Where is the Spirit calling me to deeper trust and obedience?
- iii. How can prayer, fasting, generosity, and Scripture shape my daily walk with God?

As part of this Lenten journey, we are also called to express our repentance and devotion through acts of generosity and benevolence. Scripture reminds us that a heart truly turned toward God will also turn outward toward others. In a world marked by need, anxiety, and uncertainty, the Church bears witness to Christ when we give freely, serve faithfully, and care intentionally for those who are struggling. I encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting the ministries of our church and to consider designating some contributions to Bleaka & Monte Hollar’s Benevolence Funds, which will help this family with medical expenses. Through such giving, our generosity becomes a tangible sign of God’s grace at work among us.

May this season draw us closer to Christ, reshape our hearts, and prepare us to celebrate the joy of Easter with deeper faith and gratitude.

Grace and peace, *Pastor Simon*

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, March 17th 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, March 22 at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to participate.

Just a Little Shakespeare

*"Our doubts are traitors."
Shakespeare warned. "and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt."*

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in January/Feb.:

In memory of Randy McRary by Alice Whisnant.

In memory of Jo Nell Harrison by Keith Harrison & Family, Alice M. Hill, and Kathy & Barry Whisnant, Jim & Judy Mackie, McCreary Modern Inc., Bill & Melinda Parker, Jr., Gwen Teague, Tony & Gaye Dickinson, Barron & Marlene Jackson, Angie Scherer, and Freida Matthews, the children of Talley & Lucille Reed, Carroll, Lonnie, Alton, Vernon, Michael, Rex Reed, Dianne Gewaltney, David & Teresa Thacker, Wayne & Wanda Johnson.

In memory of David Sears by Cindy Sears, and Freida Matthews.

In honor of Gary Paul Campbell's 49th birthday on March 6 by Delores Campbell.

In honor of Bleaka Hollar by Delores Campbell.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
—Acts 2:4 NIV



References: Acts 2:1-13; Interpreter's Bible: Acts. Romans.

The Christian Day of Pentecost coincides with the Jewish Pentecost or Harvest Festival, which was 50 days after Passover. It was also called the Feast of Weeks as it was seven weeks after Passover. It came at the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was a Pilgrimage Festival. Jews from around the Roman Empire would make a special trip to Jerusalem for worship. Because of what happened so spectacularly on this day, it became a popular time for baptisms in the Christian Church. Because of the white robes that baptism candidates wore, the Day of Pentecost is also known as Whitsun or Whitsunday (White Sunday) among Methodists and Anglicans. It also became a holiday because this was the first day of the beginning of summer vacations in many countries.

Pentecost may not have been the first time that these early believers were given the Holy Spirit, but it is the first recorded time that they were given the power of the Holy Spirit and felt it surge through them and then outward in witness. Did the presence of the Holy Spirit in the converted combined with prayer, fellowship, and worship with other believers lead to this moment when the full power of the Holy Spirit came pouring out so strongly?

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. —Acts 2:1-3 NIV

The wind was the breath of God blowing away the chaff in their hearts and minds. The fire symbolized the burning of the chaff, or judgment and God's power. The "fire" appears on the head of each person, male and female, instead of a column of fire leading the corporate body of the Hebrews on their way to the promised land. So today, the corporate Church rises from the individuals, not from a designated community or nation.

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March Events & Fundraiser

Chicken Supper Fundraiser

Saturday, March 21

4-7:00 PM

Let's have some 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.

Easter Egg Hunt Party

Saturday, March 28

9:00 AM

Help us provide children with a fun time looking for Easter eggs and listening to stories about the meaning of Easter. Have fun with a craft. Enjoy a hot breakfast and get a treat from our ice cream bar! Everything is free!

This event is open to everyone in our community. Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Learn why Easter is such a joyful time for followers of Jesus and enter into the joy of Easter with us at Ebenezer Methodist Church. (We are collecting Easter candy now. Please place in the designated box in the old fellowship hall.)



Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

- March 8th—Daylight Savings Time Begins—1 hour forward
- March 17th—Senior Citizens Gathering, 11:00 a.m.
- March 21st—Chicken Fundraiser, 4-7:00 p.m.
- March 22nd—Church Council Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- March 28th—Easter Egg Hunt and Party, 9:00 a.m. until...
- March 30th—Winter Red Cross Blood Drive, 2:30-7:00 p.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, March 30

2:30-7:00 p.m.

Our annual winter blood drive will be held on **Monday, March 30**. We will be serving homemade soups and sandwiches with desserts made by our members to blood donors and workers. Volunteers for the kitchen and check in see Irene Austin.

This is a good way to show the love of Christ and support the sanctity of life. Please sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html and put in our zip code 28630 to find our drive and sign-up.

Thank you for caring enough to give.



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

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

—Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

March Celebrations



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

Happy Anniversary

- 24th—Dylan & Vicky Baker

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

John Wesley said:

“ In souls filled with love, the desire to please God is continual prayer. ”



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

Pentecost is the revelation of the supernatural, the unseen, non-material taking over a person, who then does extraordinary things. It is comparable with the athlete who catches the wind and runs farther and faster than he ever has before, the dancer or figure skater who gives the performance of a life time, a musician who plays a piece of music with perfection and passion, a man who lifts a car with his bare hands to save someone trapped under the car, a warrior who defeats a hundred men with the jawbone of an ass.

There are times when we can be “in the zone” where nothing goes wrong, where everything falls into place, where we pull from inside ourselves power and strength and courage that we never thought we had. These people at Pentecost felt that kind of power when God’s supernatural Spirit took hold of them and they let that Spirit control them completely and freely.

They had prayed together for days that God’s will be done. They emptied their hearts and minds of themselves, and God came pouring in to give them power to do extraordinary things. Is this the problem of the church today—we are not willing to let God come in and take over everything? To let God be the owner of all we are and all we have?

They came together as individuals, but became a corporate body through corporate prayer, worship, and fellowship. Then they were able to spread the good news together in power, but still as individuals (each person spoke a different language to those to whom they witnessed).

This is why Christians should not neglect corporate, in person, worship and study of God’s Word. Church attendance keeps our minds on Christ and gives us the power and courage to face the outside world and its problems; plus providing us with the knowledge of God’s Word to make us good witnesses of the Good News. See you in church?



Christ Loves the Church

1. Christ loves the church, with grace beyond all measure. We bear his name, for all the world to see. He will not let us go or let us be, but chooses earthen vessels for his treasure.
3. Christ feeds the church, and fills us with a vision, through praise and preaching, wine and broken bread, of sharing people, doing what they’ve said, who win the world’s respect, or opposition.
4. Christ needs the church, to live and tell his story, to praise his love and marvel at his trust, till, bathed in light, awakened from the dust, we walk with God, alive in grace and glory. —UMC Hymnal, #590

The Reason for Church

Pastor Perry Noble of New Spring Church in S.C. (on Christianpost.com):

“We’ve got to understand, the church was not given to us so that we would have a Sunday option; it was given to us so that we would have a Sunday opportunity to get together and worship the living God as a corporate body and declare His praises so much so that people go ‘I want what you’ve got.’”

“The reason I’m sold out to the local church is I am investing my life in something that matters for eternity.” Noble highlighted.

“At the end of the day, I love my church. I don’t just tolerate it. I love it.”

“Criticizing the church is like criticizing someone’s bride. It’s so detrimental to yourself when you begin to criticize the church because that’s the bride of Christ. When you tell Jesus that His bride’s ugly, you’re booing the bride...”