



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

May '25

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www.ebenezerm-church.com

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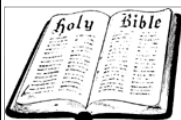
Mother's Day Service Special Display

see p. 3 for
information

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



Easter 2025 was particularly remarkable because Ebenezer was able to invite many folks to attend church. One of the breakfast cooks cited about one hundred people served breakfast that day. I am thankful that I was able to meet many visitors and family members I do not regularly see. This means that there was much planning and commitment to invite other people to come to church. I'm very thankful to Ebenezer for this commitment to the kingdom of God. This is how the church of God flourishes and grows without measure. I invite you to consider how to follow up with our friends and family we regularly interact with. What we usually don't do, though, is strategize on how to follow up practically and personally after our Easter worship service. Here are some ways we need to consider doing just that.

I propose that you contact someone you invited who attended church on Sunday and then thank them for coming. Even if you thanked them at church, thank them again today. Let them know how excited you are that they came. By the way, I encourage you to use your phone and your voice to do this because that personal touch makes all the difference.

Remember that there may be someone whom you invited but did not attend worship. Go ahead thanking them for receiving your invitation and also let them know that they're always welcome at Ebenezer. Following up with someone who did not come is usually the most unexpected. This type of follow-up is a gracious response to these family and friends which can go a long way.

Take time each day this week to pray a simple prayer for all those who heard the gospel on resurrection Sunday and either (1) chose to follow Christ, or (2) did not respond positively to follow Christ. Either way, these folks need prayer support. A short, focused prayer for each group will require only a little time but can influence somebody's eternity. I am sure you also have a card where you listed people you are regularly praying for to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Remember the story of the sinking of the Titanic where some boats left the disaster only half full, leaving behind many to perish in the ice-cold water.

I invite to reflect on this question as you read through this article, "Where do I need to let the resurrection affect my life more today?" Maybe you've been discouraged and hopeless. Perhaps you've been fighting battles that seem to go

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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.

Lord's Supper Ministry

The next meal will be served on **Monday, May 19, 12-6:30 p.m.** Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

Council Meeting

Our Church Council will meet on **Sunday, May 25 at 4:00 p.m.**

EWG Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, May 25 at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday on **Monday, May 26 all day.** The office will reopen on Tuesday, May 27 at 8:30 a.m.

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.

—Galatians 3:26-28
NIV

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

MISSIONS POWER

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. —1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NIV

References: Acts 1:4-5; NIV Application Commentary by Ajith Fernando: Acts, pp. 63-65

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1 shows us that the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance and POWER is very important to missions. But are most Christians able to access that power? We should avoid unbalanced emphasis of the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion, because we can forget to let new Christians know that the same Power of the Spirit at their conversion is available all the time. A Christian can become more holy in the Spirit's power, but too much emphasis on the 'perfecting' of a Christian's life can lead to inaction or unnecessary guilt or concentration on the letter of the law over the Spirit of the law. The Holy Spirit's power is there to be used for sanctification and for mission work and for witnessing.

If a missionary or minister or other Christian worker neglects his or her relationship with the Spirit, it can lead to attempting to do missions, evangelism, or ministry "in the flesh" instead of in the Spirit. Sometimes we need to withdraw for a time daily or longer to renew our relationship with the Holy Spirit, so that we can come back to our Kingdom's work in the Holy Spirit's power and not our own.

People can be drawn into the church by excellent and exciting or entertaining programming, advanced technology, and beautiful buildings and comfortable seating, etc. They can get a weekly dose of religion. "But Christian ministry is ministry in the Spirit. Without the Spirit's power our excellent programs are ultimately futile." (p. 65)

"So whoever we are and whatever we do for God, our great desire should be to be filled with God's Spirit so that our work will spring from his resulting power." (p. 65)

Pray, pray, pray and expect the power of the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon you and your work. When the Spirit's power is present, you know you are doing God's will and moving in the right direction.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!





May Events & Activities

Mother's Day Sunday

Sunday, May 11
9 AM

We will honor our mothers at our worship service on Mother's Day Sunday. Our display will be of mothers, living and passed on, by themselves or with their families. Please bring us a picture (framed) to use on the honor table. Turn them in by Thursday, May 8th. You may retrieve the photos after the service.



Memorial Day Service

Sunday, May 25
9 AM

On the Sunday before Memorial Day, we will honor our fallen and deceased servicemen. Please bring us a photo of a relative or friend who served in the U. S. Armed Forces and has now passed on for a special display as we remember those who sacrificed their time, effort, or lives to protect our country and fight for freedom around the world.



Pastor's Pen, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

on and on. You may be in a relationship that appears to be dying, and you're not sure what to do. Or your faith might be stagnant, routine, and lifeless right now. In all these cases, I encourage you to let the truth of the resurrection restore your hope. The end of hope and passion is not the end of the story in God's eyes. What is being discussed here suggests some changes you need to consider for the sake of advancing the kingdom of God. Among the many benefits of embracing new ways of doing church, you will personally grow and learn new things every time something changes. You learn lessons even from changes that did not lead you to where you wanted to be. Yes, changes trigger progress.

Remember our God is ever making new things, "Behold, I am doing a new thing..." (Isaiah 43:19)

Pastor Simon

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

May 11 — Mother's Day Service, 9:00 a.m.
May 19 — Lord's Supper Ministry
May 20 — Senior Citizens Gathering
May 25 — Church Council Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
May 25 — Ebenezer Women's Group, 6:00 p.m.
May 26 — Church Office closed for Memorial Day holiday

May Celebrations



- 8th—Marsha McRary
- 12th—Paul Burson, Sr.
- 12th—Heather Wallace
- 13th—Ricky Baker
- 13th—Meredith Starnes
- 14th—Carolyn Davis
- 16th—Darren McCrary
- 29th—Ted Daniel

Happy Anniversary

- 2nd—Lucas & Sarah Teague
- 4th—George & Sarah Christas
- 4th—Parker & Rachel Kersey

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 want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship and the whole world for my mission field."