



EBENEZER

Nov '24

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

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www.ebenzerm-church.com

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Inside this issue:

Meetings, etc.	2
Gifts for Christ Notice	2
Something to Pray About	2
November Events	3
EMW Country Store	3
Veterans Service	3
Veterans Free Meal	3
Festival on the Square	3
November Celebrations	3
Military Prayer List	3
Hid In My Heart	3
Something, cont'd	4
Pastor's Corner, cont'd	4
Upcoming Events, Ministries	4
Special Giving	4

“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



Do You Belong to a Small Group Ministry?

Our challenge as a congregation emerging from a ravaging pandemic and an acrimonious disaffiliation process is a full reflection of congregational vitality. Research on vital or healthy congregations point out numerous characteristics that are consequential to growth and success: Inviting and inspiring worship, Engaged disciples in mission and outreach, Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership, Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership, Small Group ministries--among many other.

I invite you to consider the centrality of small groups in our ministry here at Ebenezer Methodist Church. As Methodists, we are all familiar with the centrality of Wesleyan class meetings for the exponential growth and rise of Methodism the world over. Many other denominations have since borrowed this concept and have also experienced phenomenal growth and development. I want us to notice that class meetings are only an example of small group ministry. What then is the secret ingredient that produces health and vitality in congregations?

I think that a strong sense of community is enhanced within small groups; closeness and proximity enhance interpersonal communication and recognition. Small group activities include Sunday school, Bible studies, prayer groups, fishing clubs or fellowship groups. We typically engage each other meaningfully in such small settings.

There is no doubt that when we preach the gospel to one another in such close-knit community, there is spiritual growth that changes us individually and collaboratively as a whole. That change causes us to accomplish our missional goals and vision. It is within small groups, that much of the theology taught in our pulpits begins to be fleshed out in conversation and action.

Small groups create a powerful vehicle for personal discovery. It is within such groups that one learns, ask questions, involves oneself in the lives of others, and generally make yourself vulnerable among other people who are doing the same in small groups. Spiritual growth happens better with others, in community, with open lines of communication and freedom to speak into one another's lives.

Smaller communities create deeper Friendships that deliver deeper friendships that double as accountability. When people know you, really know you, your life becomes far more transparent, including your sin. Others learn to read you and will call you out

(Continued on page 4)



Have a happy Thanksgiving!
Church office will be closed
Nov. 28-29 for the holiday.



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

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, Nov. 18**. This will be the annual Holiday meal with turkey, gravy, and more. Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

Seniors Gathering

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

Nominations Committee

The committee will meet on **Thursday, Nov. 21 at 6:00 p.m.** and will be nominating people for service on our church committees. Please let Bleaka Hollar or Pastor Simon know if you wish to serve.

Church Council

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

EMW Meeting

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

Finance Budget Meeting

This committee will prepare a new budget for Fiscal Year 2025 on **Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 6:00 p.m.** Other committees and ministries in our church should let Bleaka Hollar or Pastor Simon know of changes needed in support levels for your area of responsibility or ministry.

Gifts for Christ

Forms are now available for the Memory Tree memorials. You may hold your gift until Sunday, Dec. 22nd when we will take up this special offering. Thank you.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

“You are a king then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”
--John 18:37 NIV



References: John 19:16-43; NIV Application Commentary: John by Gary M. Burge, pp. 540-544.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. (John 19:19-20 NIV)

Though Pilate acquiesced to the Jewish leaders wanting to have Jesus killed, he placed a sign on the cross that was his way of saying that he believed that Jesus had done nothing worthy of execution though the inscription in essence listed his “crime” as being “The King of the Jews.” Pilate refused to change the sign when the Jewish leaders complained.

John refers to Jesus as being “lifted up,” which is his way of implying that Jesus has been “elevated in glory.” (See John 3:14, 8:28, 12:32, 34.) (Burge, p. 541) With the title being written in the three languages of the Mediterranean area, John hints that Jesus is the King of Kings—King of all people, not just the Jews. The apostles Peter and Paul will both reach out to non-Jews in the future proving that Jesus is a “global King.” (Burge, p.541)

As a king, Jesus “deserves a king’s burial.” And royal burials tended to be expensive and filled with pomp and long processions with elaborate and costly accoutrements. The burial of Jesus, a condemned man is not that elaborate, but John signals his kingship by his burial—not in a pauper’s grave—but in a garden in a freshly hewn tomb, as if expressly for him with 75 lbs. of spices provided for his interment. The procession to the tomb is composed of only a couple of men, but those men, once afraid to show their support for

(Continued on page 4)



November Events

EMW Country Store

Saturday, Nov. 2
8 AM—2 PM

Good Eats! Good Bargains!

The Ebenezer Methodist Women will be selling hot biscuits for breakfast, and burgers and hot dogs for lunch at their annual Country Store fundraiser. Stop by for food, pick up a homemade cake or pie for later, and browse a large assortment of gently used items.

Proceeds will fund the women's ministries in the coming year. We thank you for your support.



Veterans Service

Sunday, Nov. 10
9:00 AM



We will honor our veterans on the day before Veterans Day with a special service during our normal worship time. We invite all veterans and their spouses and families to be a part of this special thank you to those men and women who served in any branch of our country's military.

It is your service that helps keep our country safe and our nation strong. Thank you for your sacrifices.

See the next column for the free meal we plan to serve as another Thank you to our veterans on November 16.

Veterans Free Meal

Saturday, Nov. 16
5 PM

Thank you, Vets!

We will honor our local veterans with their spouses by feeding them a delicious meal of hamburger steak, gravy, green beans and rolls. Dessert will be apple or peach cobbler. It is all FREE as our way of saying "Thank you for your service."



Our church members are encouraged to come and help serve our guests and make them feel welcome and appreciated.

God bless the USA and our Veterans!

Festival on the Square

Monday, November 25th
6-7:30 p.m.

Ebenezer will be giving out breakfast biscuits and water at the Granite Falls Tree Lighting event again this year.

We need volunteers to help prepare the biscuits and hand them out during this event. Cooking will begin around 12:00 p.m. See Ricky Baker for details.

We will begin serving around 5:30 p.m. Come and join in the festivities as Granite Falls begins their Christmas celebrations.



November Celebrations



- 1st—Gerry Daniel
- 4th—Jeanette Teague
- 6th—Linda Moretz
- 7th—Joshua Hefner
- 9th—Sherry DeAnda
- 12th—Rick Lyda
- 12th—Samantha Pitts
- 15th—Paul Burson, IV
- 21st—Amy Fowler
- 24th—Jo Nell Harrison
- 27th—Anna Boone

Happy Anniversary

- 3rd—Thomas & Rosanna Bachman
- 17th—Leonard & Jeanette Teague
- 30th—Darren & Sarah McCrary

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

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

I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

—Psalm 57:9-11 NIV



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

Jesus, now boldly arrange and provide for his kingly burial. (“Note: King David’s tomb was considered a garden. See Nehemiah 3:16 LXX.”) (Burge, p. 542)

Jesus was not just a King; he was also the sacrificial lamb that will cause the “death angel” to Passover all the sinful people who accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Covered in the blood of Jesus, we who believe will not suffer the final death, but are able to look forward to new life—here and now—and eternal life with Jesus after we leave this “mortal coil.”

“In his most explicit teaching on his death Jesus speaks of this gift of his life as necessary for salvation (John 6:51-58). We cannot simply be enlightened by Jesus; we must see ourselves as saved, rescued from a crisis as terrible as slavery to the Egyptians. The pathos of the Passover story—its grim tale of slavery and the thrill of its redemption—must be recreated in our hearts if we are to appreciate the depth of what John saw then he witnessed Jesus dying on the cross that Passover season.” (Burge, p. 544)

Praise and honor and gratitude beyond measure to our King of kings, our Lord of lords, and our sacrificial Lamb of redemption from all our sins!



Pastor’s Corner, cont’d

(Continued from page 1)

for those sins, creating opportunities to deal with real life difficulties as they surface. This is part of what we should expect from good friends.

Lastly small groups engender maximum participation. It is no secret that church life issues can best be discussed openly among trusted friends. Lives are sharpened and leaders developed. Small groups are an absolute necessity for involving as many people as possible in the life and ministry of your church. I hope you have been persuaded to consider actively participating in some small group ministry of your choice at Ebenezer.

Faithfully, Pastor Simon Chigumira

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

Nov. 2 — Methodist Women’s Country Store Fundraiser The women need home baked cakes & pies to sell at this event. We are collecting gently used items now for the sale.

Nov. 10 — Veterans Day Worship Service

Nov. 16 — Veteran’s Meal. We will need workers and desserts to honor our local military veterans with a delicious meal and time of fellowship.

Nov. 25 — Granite Falls Tree Lighting (Festival on the Square). We need workers to help us prepare and give away breakfast biscuits at this annual event.

Dec. 1 — Advent and Hanging of the Greens.

Dec. 22 — Gifts for Christ Sunday

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in October:

- **In memory of Rex Teague** by Alice Hill, and by Roger Coffey & Sons Nursery.
- **In memory of Blanche Kohnle** by Thomas Kohnle.

