



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

www.ebenezerm-church.com

Nov '25

Volume 21 Issue 10

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

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**Daylight Savings Time
Ends, Nov. 2nd**

Country Store

Nov. 1st, see p. 3

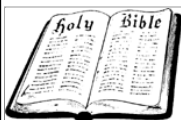
Veterans Free Meal

Nov. 8th, see p. 3

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



Dear Ebenezer Family,

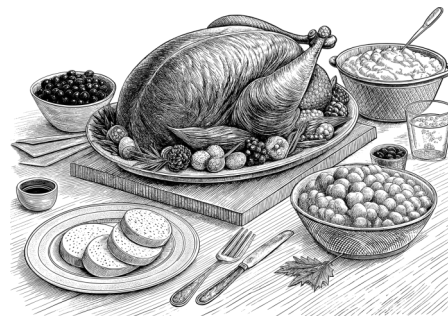
As we enter this beautiful month of November, my heart overflows with gratitude for each of you. Thanksgiving reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from God, and among those gifts are the people who make up this wonderful congregation. I thank God for your steadfast faith, your generous hearts, and your willingness to serve.

This season, we celebrate not only the blessings we've received but also the many ways we share those blessings with others. Our volunteers continue to demonstrate the love of Christ through their service—whether in worship leadership, hospitality, music, media, teaching, maintenance, or outreach. You embody what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Your quiet sacrifices, your hours of dedication, and your joyful spirits make Ebenezer shine with the light of God's love.

As we reflect on gratitude, let us also renew our commitment to support the ongoing ministry of the church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Your faithful giving—through tithes, offerings, and special contributions—makes it possible for us to continue our mission of transforming lives and strengthening our church family.

We are also mindful of our collective responsibility toward retiring the remaining disaffiliation debt. Many of you have already contributed generously to this important effort, and we deeply appreciate your faithfulness. Together, we can meet this goal, ensuring that Ebenezer moves forward with financial freedom and renewed purpose. Let us continue to give as the Lord enables us, trusting that every seed sown in faith will bear lasting fruit.

This Thanksgiving may our gratitude overflow into action—serving joyfully, giving cheerfully, and worshiping faithfully. Let's continue to thank God not just with our words, but with our lives. With a grateful heart and thanksgiving for each of you,



Pastor Simon

(see p. 4 for Thanksgiving Prayer)

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.

Charge Conference

Our Charge Conference will be held at Grace Chapel Global Methodist Church on **Sunday, November 9 at 4:00 p.m.** All Council members need to attend.

EWG Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to participate.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, November 18 at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

Thanksgiving Service

On **Sunday, November 23rd at 6:00 p.m.** there will be a joint Thanksgiving worship service at Trinity Methodist Church in Lenoir for all members of the Global Methodist affiliated churches in Caldwell County. We encourage our members to take part in this service. The address is 901 Seehorn Street NE, Lenoir, NC. Phone number is 828-758-7482.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday—Friday, November 27-28.

Please turn in bulletin information by 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26.

NOTE: December newsletter items need to be turned in by Wednesday, November 19th. Thank you for your cooperation.



Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

MEETING TOGETHER

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. —Ephesians 5:19-20 NIV

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. —Hebrews 10: 24-25

There are believers that say that they do not need to go to church to be a follower of Christ; then they point to the man on the cross whom Jesus said would be in paradise with Jesus that very day. But is this a good analogy or comparison? The thief on the cross was saved for believing in Jesus, but he died that day. He would never have to deal with temptation, distractions, sorrows, pains, persecution, or doubts. Most people who become Christians do not immediately die. They are left here to deal with the slings and arrows of fate. They face temptation daily. They face doubts. They face evil daily because they continue to live in a fallen world.

In Hebrews 10:24-25, we are admonished to “not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing.” Why are we to meet with one another regularly? In those same verses, we read “let us encourage one another—all the more as you see the Day approaching.” That is one purpose in our meetings. That Day that approaches is the day that each of us meets the Lord face-to-face, and there is one Day coming when the whole world will see Jesus and experience either his wrath or his redemption. So, we need the church for encouragement because life can be difficult and persecution will come to us who profess Jesus and live by his standards and not the world’s.

There are other reasons to not forsake church attendance. We can “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (see Hebrews 10:24a). When Christians pray together, great things can happen. It happened at Pentecost (Acts 2) and in Acts 4, after Peter and John were persecuted by the Sanhedrin, they returned to their fellow believers and prayed and “the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly” (Acts 4:31). We can share reports about what God has done. “On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles (Acts 14:27). We can avoid being “carried away by all kinds of strange teachings (Hebrews 13:9). As the Apostle Paul says in Romans 15:32, “so that by God’s will I

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November Events & Fundraisers

Country Store

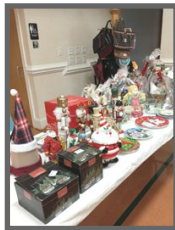
Saturday, Nov. 1
8 AM—2 PM

Christmas shop early with us and enjoy breakfast biscuits and hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch, too!

The Women's Group of Ebenezer will also be selling gently used items, furniture, crafts, homemade cakes, and more. Find a bargain for a friend or yourself.

All proceeds will go to support the women's ministries throughout the coming year.

We thank you for your support.



Butts and Birds for Thanksgiving

Order Now and Pick Up on Wednesday, Nov. 26

Cut back on the stress of the holiday. Let us cook the main course! We are selling Boston Butts or Turkeys, prepared and ready to be served on Thanksgiving Day. You can choose to have the turkeys smoked or deep fried.

Price is \$40 each. The last day to order is Monday, November 24th.

Proceeds will be used to pay down our disaffiliation loan debt.

Call the church office to order or see one of our members to fill out a form.

We thank you for your support!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Honoring Our Veterans Meal

Saturday, Nov. 8
5-7 PM

We will be honoring the veterans in our area by serving a free meal for anyone who served in the armed forces of the U. S. and their spouse.

We give thanks to our brave men and women who have served our country and praise you for the sacrifices you made to help protect the U. S. here and abroad. May God bless you and your families.



A Very Special Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 30
10:00 AM

Our GMC NC Conference Evangelist, Rev. Andy Lambert, will preach on 1st Sunday of Advent during our worship service. We ask that you invite everyone you know to come to hear him proclaim the gospel message.

Before the worship service begins, we will do our annual "Hanging of the Greens" tasks (at 10:00 a.m.). Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. We will have soup and sandwiches in the Christian Life Center after the service. Sunday school classes will not meet.

Also, we will take up a special offering that will go to the loan debt. Please give generously.

November Celebrations



- 1st—Gerry Daniel
- 1st—Vickie Baker
- 4th—Jeanette Teague
- 6th—Linda Moretz
- 7th—Joshua Hefner
- 12th—Lilly Teague
- 15th—Paul Burson IV
- 21st—Hunter Tolbert
- 24th—Jo Nell Harrison
- 24th—Kathryn Behmer
- 27th—Anna Boone

— . — . — . — . — . — .

Happy Anniversary

- 3rd—Thomas & Rosanna Bachman
- 17th—Leonard & Jeannette 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.

John Wesley said:

"Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down. . ."



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed.” Our faith is renewed and we are refreshed by being with our fellow believers in a worship service and in a Bible study group.

When we come together to “[s]peak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:19-20), we reaffirm our faith and our commitment to the Lord and to one another. We are reminded of how much we have received from God and Jesus, creating gratitude in our hearts that gives us peace even when all is chaos around us.

And though we no longer have “everything in common” (see Acts 2:44-45), we can “bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13). In a world filled more and more with lonely people, being an active member of a local church helps you to avoid loneliness and gives you opportunities to relieve the loneliness of fellow believers and others who need to know about Jesus.

Read these descriptions of the Body of Christ, the Church. Reflect on them until you understand what church is really all about—it is not a social club, though you can find and make friends there; it is not just a fall back when something goes wrong, though it can help you through hard times; it is not for entertainment, though

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Thanksgiving Prayer (Pastor Simon)

Gracious and Loving God,

We thank You for the gift of life, for family and friends, for this church community that gathers in Your name. Thank You for the strength to serve, the means to give, and the joy of belonging to the body of Christ. As we celebrate this season of gratitude, fill our hearts with contentment and our hands with compassion. May our thanksgiving flow into faithful service and generous giving, so that all we do may bring glory to Your name.

In Jesus’ name we pray,
Amen.

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

November 1—Country Store, 8-2:00 p.m.

November 2—Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 9—Charge Conference

November 23—Joint GMC Thanksgiving Worship at Trinity Methodist

November 27-28—Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

November 30—GMC Evangelist Andy Lambert Preaches/Hanging of the Greens/Soup and Sandwiches Luncheon/Special Offering for Loan Debt

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in October:

In memory of Randy McRary by:
Chuck & Tammy Adams,
Anonymous, Delores Campbell,
Sharon Childers, Granada Farms
Men’s Association, Wendy Hart,
Alice Hill, Monte Hollar, J. Kenneth
Jones, Mary Miller, Cindy Sears,
Kevin & Pat Sears, & Patty Toliver.

In memory of Amy Fowler by:
Christine Bolick & Family, Fannie
Bryant & Family, Delores Campbell
& Gary Paul, Judy & Jim Mackie.

**In honor of Monte & Bleaka
Hollar by:** Alice Hill.

**In honor Marsha McRary and
Cole McCrary by:** Delores
Campbell & Gary Paul.

In honor of Homecoming 2025 by:
Delores Campbell & Gary Paul.



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

you can be entertained there. The church is here to help us to grow into the people God has always wanted us to be and to help grow the kingdom of God. Be a church goer and doer not just a member.

Ephesians 4:12-16 (emphasis added):

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Colossians 3:12-17(emphasis added):

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of the one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

†

Sin won't keep you from the Bible, but the Bible can keep you from sin.

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

Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

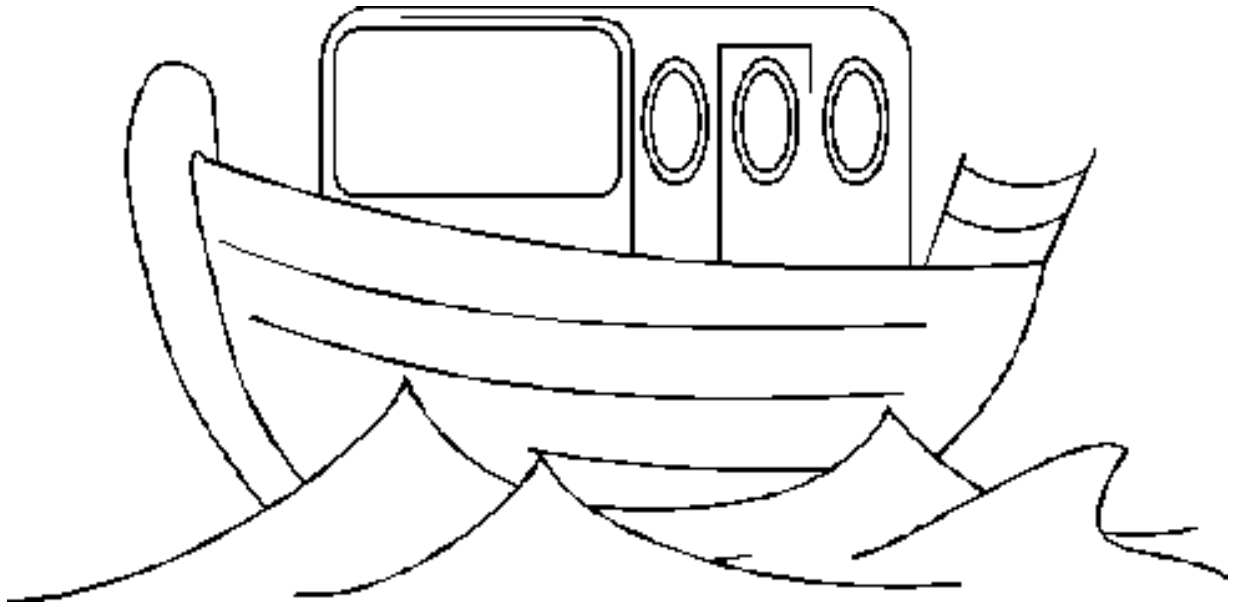
—Psalm 30:4-5 NIV

Quotes to Ponder

"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.'"

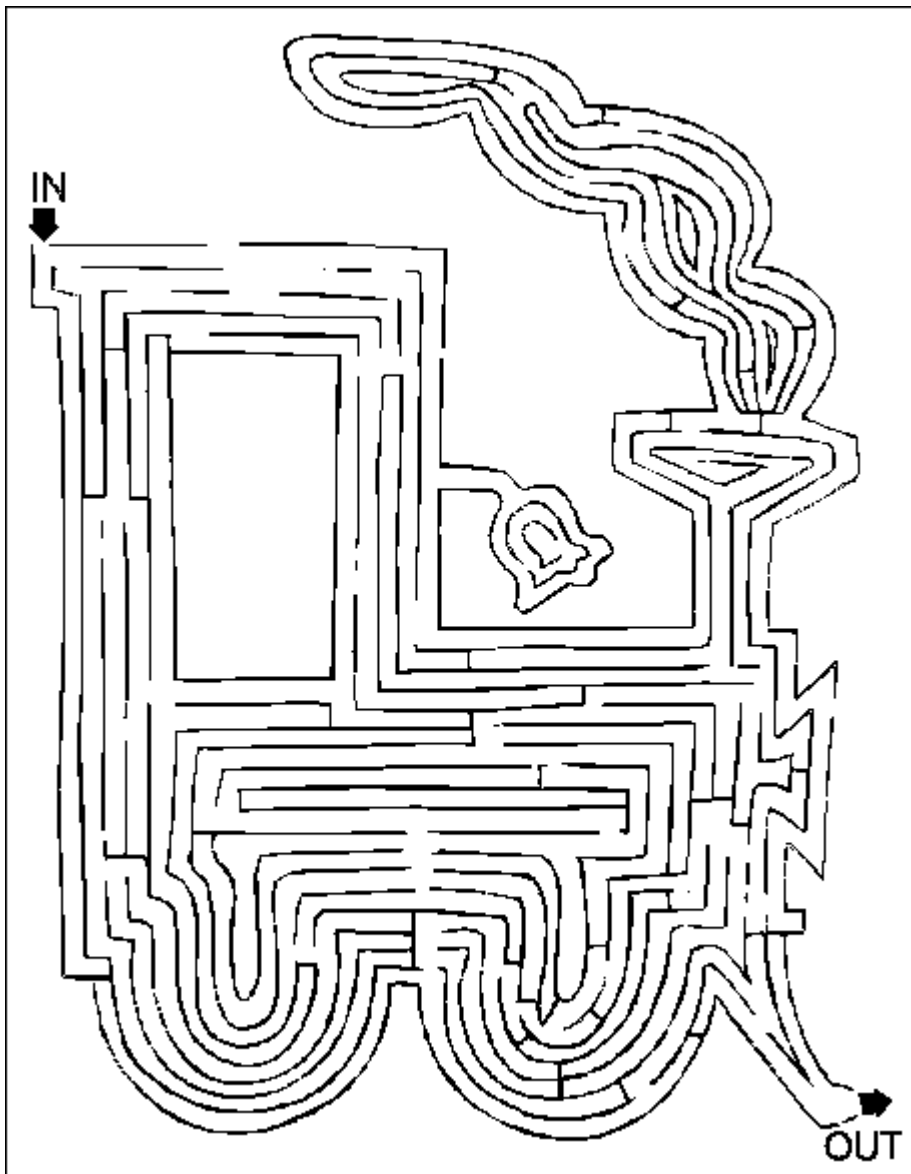
"The reason I'm sold out to the local church is I am investing my life in something that matters for eternity." Noble highlighted. "At the end of the day, I love my church. I don't just tolerate it. I love it."

—Pastor Perry Noble of New Spring Church in South Carolina on Christianpost.com



Color Me!

Find the Way Out!



**“No Sabbath,
no worship;
no religion;
no religion,
no morals;
no morals,
then—
pandemonium.”**

—Crawford Johnson

**Aren't we seeing this
today?**