



EBENEZER

September '24

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

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www.ebenzerm-church.com

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Meet & Greet Pastor Simon

Sept. 8th
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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 Corner



It is amazing how time moves quickly. Yes, we are already in September and soon it will be the end of the year. Why should anyone be concerned about the passing of time? Paul the Apostle says in 2 Timothy 4:7, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” The image of one who is on a race conjures images of a clear vision and focus on the finishing line. We may not run perfectly, but we will not quit midway until the race ends. We may endure unspeakable pain and suffering one way or the other, but we ought to remain focused on the main thing.

When there is a race to be run, the wise runner must make careful preparations. The same is also true with our spiritual journey. We will never reach our fullest potential for the Lord until we are willing to make the preparations and sacrifices that are necessary for running the race. It is true that if we're not moving forward toward that goal, we're losing ground. There is therefore no standing still. It's forward or backward. I hope our church historian has begun gathering data and writing about the riveting events around Ebenezer's disaffiliation chronicles for the next generation.

This fall let me challenge you as I also challenge myself to grow in the Lord. You can do this in every area of the Christian life. You can grow in worship by being more regular on Sundays; in the knowledge of God by joining a Bible study; in service by volunteering at Ebenezer Methodist Church (singing in the choir, helping with the youth, hospitality, community outreach, scholarship and school supplies, Methodist Women or Methodist Men ministries) You can grow in financial giving by being more generous. You can grow in mission by participating in our mission projects. You can share in the enthusiasm of building our children and youth ministries, as well as the media ministry through your prayers and active contributions as the Lord guides.

We are reminded of a people who united and cried to God for deliverance from Pharaoh's tyranny. Scripture declares that God heard their cries and decreed a major breakthrough from the Egyptian bondage. Another word for “their cries” is corporate prayers. I want you to imagine for a moment what would happen if we at Ebenezer would unite in prayer for congregational growth and vitality. Yes, prayer is the key. The Lord is dropping in my spirit a call for such corporate prayers where we cry/pray to the Lord for specific matters. I invite you to call and share with me your thoughts on how and when such prayers could be organized.

If you sensed God calling you to a particular aspect of ministry within the church, please get in touch with the church office, Ms. Bleaka, or myself to let us know. Remember that the laborers are always few, but the harvest is plentiful. God is calling each one of us to active service in His house. I believe in every member in ministry, meaning that you will never run short of what to do in His house. Sometimes it is someone approaching you and suggesting a possible area of service.

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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, Sept. 16th**. Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, Sept. 17th at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, Sept. 22nd at 4:00 p.m.**

EMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, Sept. 22nd at 5:00 p.m.** All the women of the church are invited to attend.

Christ's criterion for gauging our claims of loving him is by our service.

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

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

—Psalm 37:3-4 NIV

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

--Matthew 16:24-25 NIV



References: John 21:15-19; Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 8, pp. 806-811.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" --John 21:15 NIV

What did Jesus mean by "these?" He probably was referring to Simon Peter's old occupation, his old life that he had just tried to return to doing—instead of taking care of God's "lambs" and "sheep." Jesus wanted Peter to devote himself to the kingdom's work of bringing more people into the fold. (I.B. p. 806)

With all our failures to live as Christ would have us to live, to witness as he would have us to witness, to work for him as he would have us to work—we can still plead that we love Christ—and he, who knows all, knows it despite our failings and shortcomings. Each person must search their own heart to know whether "I love you" is a lie or the truth. Jesus always knows which it is.

Peter is directed by Jesus to "feed my sheep." Christ's criterion for gauging our claims of loving him is by our service. It is not so much what we say as what we do. One's service to his work on earth is unique to each person, but the goal is the same for everyone: in everything we do we must honor the Lord and help to increase his kingdom's reach and increase the size of the fold. What we do for a living, the shape of our human relationships, the general course of our lives are ways to honor our Lord and to witness for the Good News to be found in Jesus Christ alone.

Karl Heim: In the Heidelberg Catechism under Part Three: Concerning Thankfulness.

"Since we are delivered from our suffering through grace alone, by Christ, and without service of our own, why is it necessary to engage in good works? For this reason, that we must employ our whole life in expressing our gratitude to God for His goodness and in praising Him."

John records Jesus using different words for the sheep or lambs, and to tell Peter how to take care of his followers. In verse 15c, Jesus tells Peter to "Feed my lambs." He may be referring to young believers, meaning the

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September Events

Meet & Greet

**Sunday, Sept. 8
3– 5 PM**

Meet & Greet

**Pastor Simon &
Family**

You are invited!

We are opening our doors to all the various church leaders and congregations in our community to come meet our new pastor, Rev. Simon Chigumira and his family.

We hope and pray that all the Christian churches in Caldwell County will continue to cooperate with one another in our various ministries, and work to bring people into God’s kingdom by leading them to a saving faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A special invitation goes out to the four other Global Methodist Churches in our county—Grace Chapel Global Methodist, Gamewell Methodist, Trinity Methodist, and Harper’s Chapel Methodist and their leaders and congregations.

Light refreshments will be served.

We would love to meet you!



Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in August:

- **In honor of Monte Hollar** by Alice Hill.

NOTICE: We will no longer include the Church Council minutes in the newsletter. If you wish to have a copy to read, please contact Cindy in the office.

Smoked Chicken Supper

**Saturday, Sept. 14
4 PM ‘til gone!**

Smoked Chicken Supper

Proceeds will go toward paying down our disaffiliation loan.

You asked for it, and here it is again—another delicious meal as we continue to pay down our loan.

Donations are requested. Plates come with smoked chicken and all the fixin’s, and include homemade dessert and beverage. Take out (no drink) or eat in.

We thank you for your gracious support.

Global Methodist Worship

**Sunday, Sept. 15
6 PM**

GMC Joint Worship

The Global Methodist Churches in Caldwell County invite you to a joint worship service on **Sunday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m.** The service will be held at Grace Chapel Global Methodist Church. All five pastors will be helping with the service and we need a few members from all the churches choirs or praise bands to help.

We are working to “create an atmosphere within Caldwell County GMC churches of family and unity.” We look forward to “an amazing time of worship, fellowship, refocusing on God’s love and plan for our lives and our churches, and rededicating ourselves to His mission over the coming year.” quotes from Rev. Phillip Hefner, Grace Chapel.

September Celebrations



- 3rd—Leonard Teague
- 7th—Rosanna Bachman
- 11th—Ariel Carlisle
- 18th—Aubree McCrary
- 18th—Kenny Silver
- 19th—Billy Campbell
- 23rd—Monte Hollar
- 30th—Hayden Boone
- 30th—Russ Knepp



Happy Anniversary

- 3rd—Paul & Linda Moretz
- 10th—Chuck & Tammy Adams
- 13th—Kevin & Teresa Simmons
- 25th—Paul & Annette Burson
- 26th—Wayne & Kim Ellis



Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

John Wesley Said:

“It is good to renew ourselves, from time to time, by closely examining the state of our souls, as if we had never done it before; for nothing tends more to the full assurance of faith, than to keep ourselves by this means in humility, and the exercise of all good works.”



Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

recently saved both young and old. So, new converts must be well-cared for by feeding them the Word of God and teaching them what the Christian life entails. In verse 16c, Jesus tells Peter to “Take care of my sheep.” How do we take care of the sheep? We use visitation, intercessory prayer, connecting with all the members of the church, maintaining relationships with one another, and helping each other out when things go awry. And finally in verse 17c, he says “Feed my sheep.” Just because a person has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior does not mean that they no longer need to hear the Word of God preached and taught to them. Those redeemed believers who are in the sanctification phase need nourishment and encouragement just as much as the newly reborn believer.

Do you love Jesus more than the things of this world? Are you showing your gratitude for what Jesus has done on the cross for us? Jesus knows and is continuously calling for us to work for his kingdom no matter what our circumstances are, or what talents we have or don't have. Do your job, build your relationships, have fun, and do the religious stuff, too as if for the Lord Jesus Christ and with gratitude in your heart and mind—and everything will become easier and better while helping to make the world a less fearsome place to be. †

Pastor's Corner, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

I am working with some leaders on a one day lay training workshop in November this year. Please plan to attend as we collectively plan together mission, vision, and goals for 2025. Training helps the athlete get better at her/his sport. Training makes us better in our faith. Our goal is to be good Disciples of Christ. Athletes aren't content with their last effort, but they always want to improve. That's the attitude Paul says he has, “One thing I do, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature be like-minded.” (Philippians 3:14-15) Wherever you are in your faith, “press on.” Jesus will be pleased. Shalom!

Pastor Simon

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

Sept. 8 — Meet & Greet for Pastor Simon and Family. We request that our members help supply snacks, such as cookies, brownies, candy, chip and dip, cut veges and dip, nuts, etc. for this event.

Sept. 14 — Smoked Chicken Supper Fundraiser. Help us by preparing homemade desserts to serve at this event and volunteer to work in the kitchen.

Sept. 15 — Global Methodist Churches Joint Worship Service. Choir members will be needed for this service. All our church members are invited to attend.

Oct. 13 — Homecoming/\$10,000 Sunday. Plan to prepare a dish of your favorite food or dessert to share at the pot-luck lunch after the service. Dig down deep and set aside a larger offering on this Sunday to help us meet our \$10,000 offering goal.

Nov. 9 — Veteran's Meal. We will need workers and more desserts to honor our local military veterans.

Nov. 25 — Granite Falls Tree Lighting. 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. 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Other events not yet scheduled:

Trunk 'R Treat

Methodist Women's Country Store

Pastor Simon's Training Workshop for Ebenezer's Leaders.

NOTE: we are collecting items for the Country Store now. We will need desserts, too.

If you volunteer to help, we will find something for you to do! The more workers the better for everyone. We appreciate all our volunteers.