



EBENEZER SEP '26

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

Volume 22 Issue 8

www.ebenezerm-church.com

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Layman's Revival
Sept. 23-26
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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 Pen



Dear Ebenezer Church Family, "The Church on Mission"

As we enter the month of September, I am grateful for God's faithfulness to our church and excited about what lies ahead. This is an important season in the life of Ebenezer—a season of prayer, revival, preparation, and mission.

My prayer is that we will not simply be busy with church activities, but that everything we do will help us become the people God has called us to be—disciples of Jesus Christ who worship faithfully, grow spiritually, love one another, and carry the gospel into the world.

During September, we will begin a new sermon series entitled "The Church on Mission." Jesus did not establish His Church simply to gather within four walls. He established the Church to go into the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. Before ascending into heaven, Jesus told His disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." — Matthew 28:19

The Church has a mission. We are called to proclaim Christ, make disciples, serve others, reach the lost, demonstrate the love of God, and be witnesses for Jesus wherever God has placed us. Throughout this series, we will ask some important questions: Why does the Church exist? What is our mission? Who has God called us to reach? How can every member participate in Christ's mission? What would happen if Ebenezer became even more intentional about reaching our community for Jesus Christ? I encourage you to be present each Sunday and invite a friend, neighbor, family member, or someone who may not presently have a church home. The mission of the Church belongs to all of us.

One of the most important events before us is our Fall Revival, September 23–26. I am asking every member of Ebenezer to begin praying earnestly for these four days. True revival is a work of the Holy Spirit that awakens hearts, renews faith, brings repentance, restores relationships, deepens our hunger for God, and sends God's people into the world with renewed passion for Jesus Christ. Let us not wait until September 23 to begin seeking God.

Please also remember the SPPRC Lay Training at Gamewell GMC on September 10 at 7:00 p.m. Training and equipping leaders are important parts of strengthening the ministry of the local church. Please pray for those who will participate that the time together will provide wisdom, encouragement, and practical resources for faithful

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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.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee will meet on **Sunday, September 13th at 3:00 p.m.** to go over the new investments account and work on a budget for next year.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, September 15 at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

God's Word Study

Our monthly afternoon Bible Study will continue in the book of Genesis on **Tuesday, September 15 at 1:30 p.m.** Non-members welcome.

Church Council Meeting

The Council will meet on **Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m.** Members of the church may attend, but only Council members may vote.

EMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to participate.

Covenant Group Meetings

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. How is it with your soul? New members welcome.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in August:

In honor of Adult Choir and Praise Band by Delores Campbell.

In honor of Billy Wayne Campbell's Sept. 19th 57th Birthday by Delores Campbell.

In honor of Ebenezer's Methodist Men (painting of her shed) by Gail Reid.

In honor of Children's Time by Delores Campbell.

In memory of Hoke Clark's August 9th birthday by Becky Silver.

In memory of Krista Church by Becky Silver.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

Genesis 1:31-2:2 (NIV)

It's About Time

God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. —Genesis 1:5 NIV

When I was a child, I remember a short-lived television series about prehistoric people living in caves with dinosaurs around. The theme song began with "It's about time, it's about space, it's about the beginning of the human race." Many critics excoriated the series for various reasons, but one reason was because of the dinosaurs. I mean everyone knew that the dinosaurs died out before humans evolved from apes into humans! Darwin said so, don't you know?

Not so fast. According to God's word, 1) humans were specially created by God, they did not evolve from anything, 2) dinosaurs were also created and designed by God and are mentioned in the Bible as leviathan (see Job 41) and behemoths (see Job 40:15-24). There are many stories throughout the world of very large and dangerous creatures being in the world for a while after the flood. Legends and myths are built upon something real. Humans cannot imagine anything without using information from God's creation, so all these stories are based upon something that was real. On top of that "undamaged soft tissue" and "red blood cells" have been found in dinosaur bones supposedly 75 million years old. Oh, yeah? (Explore this topic more at www.thearchaeologist.org (secular source), and at <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/bones> (Christian source).)

Many people have been fooled into believing that the earth is billions of years old and the universe even older by those people promoting Darwin's theory of evolution (theory, not fact, and not very logical either) and uniformitarianism (everything is the same as it has always been) and carbon-dating and other methods of discerning the age of things on earth. Even Christians, to avoid being mocked, have attempted to fit large stretches of time into the Bible's creation timeline.

There are several fatal flaws for Christians' faith in Jesus in trying to accept large stretches of time, instead of the few thousand years the Bible lays out in the history of earth, and in the gradual accumulation of changes that leads to more and more creatures evolving on the earth; yet, never changing into a different "kind" of animal.

God's word makes it clear that "God saw that it was good." He says this repeatedly in Genesis 1. And before the Fall, animals and Adam and Eve ate only plants and fruits.

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September Events

Layman's Revival!

Wednesday--Saturday
September 23-26
7 PM

We hope that you and your family and friends will join us for our fall revival this year. We have wonderful guest speakers, singers, and preachers coming to give their testimonies, sing for God's glory, and expound on the Gospel message.

Wed. Krystal Bennett will give her testimony and sing.

Thurs. Tyler Baker will give his testimony and his wife will sing.

Fri. Rodney Raby will preach.

Sat. Gary Camp will preach.

May our Lord and Savior be glorified, and souls be saved from the power of sin this year. Please begin praying now for God's Holy Spirit to move and revive us all for greater service and commitment to His kingdom's work.

SPPRC Training - Sept. 10

One or more members of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee need to go to the Global MC training at Gamewell GMC, 2897 Morganton Blvd SW, Lenoir NC. **Begins at 7:00 p.m.** Members are: Tammy Adams, Celeste Creaseman, Kim Ellis, Kelly Hefner, JoAnn Knepp, Marsha McRary, Kenny Silver, Patty Toliver.

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

Sept. 10th—SPPR Committee Training, Gamewell MC, 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 15th—Senior Citizens Gathering, 11:00 a.m.
Sept. 15th—God's Word Study, 1:30 p.m.
Sept. 23-26—Layman's Revival, 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 26th—Helton Wedding & Reception in CLC, 3:00 p.m.
Oct. 4th—Charge Conference, 3:00 p.m.
Oct. 11th—Homecoming Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Think About It

Faith and Works

"The ultimate goal, after all, is to live a life that results in admission into heaven. We are saved by grace but will be judged by our actions, which serve as evidence of our level of faith and help determine where we go after death (Luke 13:24). God creates everyone in His perfect image (Genesis 1:27); therefore, no one is predestined to hell. But He does not force His way into our lives; we must choose Him and His teachings through free will."

From American Thinker online article.

Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

Luke 13:23-27 NIV

September Celebrations



- 7th—Rosanna Bachman
- 18th—Aubree McCrary
- 18th—Kenny Silver
- 19th—Billy Campbell
- 30th—Hayden Boone
- 30th--Russ Knepp

Happy Anniversary

- 3rd—Paul & Linda Moretz
- 10th—Chuck & Tammy Adams
- 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,

"On every occasion of uneasiness, we should retire to prayer, that we may give place to the grace and light of God and then form our resolutions, without being in any pain about what success they may have. In the greatest temptations, a single look to Christ, and the barely pronouncing his name, suffices to overcome the wicked one, so it be done with confidence and calmness of spirit."



Pastor's Pen , cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

service. Healthy churches require faithful spiritual leadership, committed lay leadership, and people willing to use their gifts for the glory of God.

Our Homecoming Worship Service will be October 11. Homecoming is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate God's faithfulness through the years, welcome former members and friends, renew relationships, and thank God for the generations of faithful Christians who have helped build the ministry of Ebenezer. But Homecoming should not only cause us to look backward, it should also challenge us to look forward. We celebrate what God has done while asking: "Lord, what do You want to do through Ebenezer in the years ahead?"

Please begin praying for our Homecoming service. Reach out to former members, family members, friends, and others who have been connected with Ebenezer and encourage them to join us on October 11.

In Christ's service, Pastor Simon.

Something, cont'd

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Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. —Genesis 1:29-30 NIV

This means there was no death until after Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. Evolutionary theory is grounded in death and violence—often referred to as "survival of the fittest." The cursing of the ground is what led to animals and man becoming meat-eaters for survival. (Man was given permission to eat meat after the flood, though eating animals appears to have begun sooner.)

If Adam and Eve were not two real people, if death was already in the world before the Fall, then God lied about seeing his creation as "good." And Jesus did not need to come and save us and restore our relationship with God, because we humans and all the earth were already broken or estranged from God our Creator.

This lie, that God was not needed to create the universe or the animals or mankind, is the greatest lie ever told and the most devastating for the Christian faith. If there was no fall, there was no need for a Savior. If death and violence were always a part of all that there is, why worship the One Who Created it all? If there has always been death and cruelty and disease in the world, how do we know any of these things are bad or not right? Wouldn't we accept it all as normal instead of feeling it is abnormal?

Something, cont'd

We don't have to throw away science to believe the Word of God. Explore the universe with the scientists who believe in God at websites, such as, <https://answersingenesis.org>, <https://biblicalscienceinstitute.com>, www.discovery.org, <https://intelligentdesign.org>. Learn how a God-centered belief is leading scientists to amazing discoveries that point to our Creator and point out the inherent flaws in the materialistic world view that has dominated science for the past 300 years.

Join our God's Word Bible study on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. as we explore the book of Genesis and read the real history of the earth provided to us through Moses and others by the One Who was there in the beginning--our God.



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

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

—Galatians 6:7-8 NIV