EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mission Statement: To provide opportunities and spaces for renewal to all through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Newsletter
Sept/Oct 2014

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR ... BENNY OAKES

What’s Missing?

Many of you heard by now that someone broke into the parsonage on Friday morning, September 5. Whoever it was damaged the back door and stole several items. Thankfully no one was home and no one was hurt. We are also very grateful for all of your prayers and support during this time. I cannot tell you how much it means to us.

During Friday’s events, Officer Miller, the person conducting the investigation of our “breaking and entering” case, asked Monica and me to go through the house and make a list of everything that’s missing. Easier said than done! Of course we noticed right away the missing jewelry because our jewelry cabinet was left wide open. Where it used to be full of mostly costume jewelry and other trinkets, it was now completely empty. Besides the empty jewelry stand, we found it more difficult to notice what was missing. Once you get accustomed to having certain things existing as part of your lives, you don’t notice right away that it is missing. I didn’t realize my shaving bag, containing all of my toiletry items, was missing until I decided to shower the next morning. Where is my deodorant? Oh man! They took my shaving bag, too! Seriously?

Oftentimes there are things missing from our lives that used to be a necessary part. A few years back, we carried a diaper bag containing extra diapers, baby wipes, a spare change of clothes, snacks, and so on, because as parents of a toddler, you need those things on hand everywhere you go. Now when we go out anywhere, the diaper bag is missing from the items we carry because we don’t need it anymore. Thank the Lord! There’s no need for a diaper bag now that Carter is in kindergarten and therefore it’s necessarily missing from our lives.

But what if there are things missing from our lives we haven’t recognized are gone that we actually need? Recently someone convinced me there was something missing from our whole society we desperately need. This something is essential to our lives together and our lives with our Creator. This something is so profound to our daily existence, God knows we cannot thrive without it. Do you know what it is? I’ll give you a hint. It is so critical to our relationship with God and one another, it may be the very reason why it is the longest of the Ten Commandments, and it begins very curiously with the word, “Remember.” It’s almost as if God knew we were going to forget, and so God uniquely begins this commandment saying, “Remember.” Have you figured out what’s missing yet?

In the coming months we will explore what is missing from our lives with God and one another as we reclaim the gift God has already given us. Through prayer, Bible study, and intentionality, we will begin to reclaim this commandment as we learn together what it means to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. Will you join me in this endeavor? Still puzzled about what it is I’m referring to? I invite you to open your bible to Exodus 20:1-17.

Grace and peace,

Benny
Many thanks to the congregation for some great summer singing. We hope you enjoyed participating in the selection and singing of the hymns of the day, as well as the benediction response, the "Amen Blessing". We are looking forward to having you continue this great singing with some of our responses.

The choir has begun its work on the Christmas cantata. Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, December 13, and Sunday afternoon, December 14.

Campers Welcome

Over the years, our sign “Campers Welcome” has brought Ebenezer quite a few visitors who walked or drove over from Jordan Lake’s Poplar Point campground next to the church. On September 7, we experienced a first. A young man and wife and their two sons rode their bicycles to our driveway, parked them beside a tree, came in to worship and share Holy Communion, and stayed for refreshments with us after the worship service. A great affirmation of our commitment to share our faith and hospitality with all who pass our way.

.................Submitted by the Gabors
BBQ Chicken Lunch Fundraiser... September 19, 2014

Are you rested up? The fall fundraiser is now upon us. Let’s make it another successful community BBQ chicken lunch on September 19. Spread the word to your neighbors and friends to come to our Fellowship Hall to enjoy lunch or pick up a plate at our drive-thru. Or take orders (preorders due to Judy Poe by Sunday, September 14) and we will deliver them.

There are sign-up sheets in the Black Book in the Fellowship Hall for making desserts and for working the event, Thursday and Friday. We need your help!!

PICTURES FROM OUR SPRING FUNDRAISER

Many thanks to the ladies for preparing a delicious variety of desserts and packaging them individually the evening before the sale.

Chicken washed the evening before.

Chicken on the grill while it’s still dark outside!

Sauce poured into individual containers.

DONE!

Enjoying a delicious BBQ lunch ....
At our meeting of September 7, the Methodist Men decided to expand our efforts of supplying food for the hungry.

With the proceeds from this year’s Golf Tournament, we shall:

- Purchase a cooler for CORA for the storage of food for the hungry. This program has been gaining ground among the men with more and more donations of vegetables going to CORA during the growing season. With several farmers in our church, we have a ready supply to donate.

- Sponsor a newly inspired outreach program, **Ebenezer Food Ministry**, aimed at addressing the issue of hunger in our local community of Chatham County.

  The goal will be to prepare & temporarily store a variety of frozen meals (casseroles, soups, etc) within our church facility and then distribute these out to families in need. Financial support of this program will fund the purchase of ingredients, containers for packaging, and a freezer for storage.

  This ministry will provide hands-on opportunities both within the church and out in the community to serve and share the blessings of God.

Information about the Golf Tournament follows.

We need players…even if you don’t play that much golf, this will be a day full of fun and great food. Invite your friends.

If you really don’t play golf, you can contribute to the event by sponsoring a hole… Or you can make a door prize donation.

….all in support of our Food Ministry.
Let’s play some golf....

Sponsored by
Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Thursday, October 2, 2014
Sanford Golf Course
Sanford, NC

4 person team
captain’s choice
shotgun start at 9 am

prizes awarded to winning team members
closest to pin and longest drive

Cost: $200 per team
includes greens fees and cart
snacks and cookout
gift bag and door prizes

optional 2 mulligans per person @ $5 each

100% of profits donated to CORA and
EUMC Food Ministry Project

Registration deadline: September 26, 2014
Team members:
(1) ________________________________________
(2) ________________________________________
(3) ________________________________________
(4) ________________________________________

Please return this form with registration fee to:
Kim Powell
175 Bonsal Crossing
New Hill, NC 27562
Registration deadline: September 26, 2014

Hole Sponsorship Form
(tax deductible)

Individual Sponsor $100
Team Sponsor $250
Corporate Sponsor $500

Name__________________________________
Business name___________________________
Address________________________________
Total amount $__________________________

Make checks payable to: Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Door Prize Donation

Gift(s):__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

Mail to: Kim Powell
175 Bonsal Crossing
New Hill, NC 27562
Helping Hands ... submitted by Rori Powell

Our next meal to be taken to The Ronald McDonald House will be on Saturday, November 1, 2014. Please sign up to send food and/or to go and help serve the meal.

We will be supporting our Youth in a project called Compassion International – providing monies and work projects so the Youth can provide assistance to three children in need, in different parts of the world.

We will sponsor a golf hole, at our annual EUMC Golf Tournament, which will be held on Thursday, October 2.

Thanks to our entire church community for the generous contributions of school supplies. They were divided and delivered to 4 Chatham County schools, before the first day of school, and were warmly received!

Dear Rori,
I just wanted to take a minute to thank you and your church for donating the much-needed school supplies to Pittsboro Elementary School. We had a large turnout for Open House.

Our students and their families greatly appreciate your donations and are using them each day. The looks on the children’s and parents’ faces said it all. The children were excited and happy to go “shopping” for their supplies. The parents were extremely grateful.

You have helped our community have a little less to worry about at the beginning of the school year. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness and God bless your generous spirit.

Sincerely,
Leslie Ewald, ESL Teacher, Pittsboro Elementary School
This summer's VBS was about "Weird Animals" and was a great success! It ran from July 21st-25th and averaged about 25 campers each night. We learned that God loves us all no matter what!! (regardless of our weird quirks). The people that created this VBS wrote, "God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures... including you! When kids feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd, nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus."

Want to get the word out about EUMC news and events? We would like for everyone at Ebenezer to participate in getting news and events communicated to both the church and the community. To post an EUMC event, please fill out an event form located in the front cover of the sign-up binder in the fellowship hall and place the completed sheet back into the cover. It will be picked up by a member of the communications committee.

Have a newsworthy item or pictures you would like to share in the Newsletter? Send your suggestions and any stories or goings-on in your life. We want to hear from you at info@churchbythelake.org, or call Rita Mercer, 919-387-0290.
Birthday Celebrations:
Sept 1   Ed Wheeler
Sept 1   Lydia Smith
Sept 3   Lucy Wheeler
Sept 5   Micah Thomas
Sept 9   Susan Harbison
Sept 12  Bob Gabor
Sept 12  Becky Clayton
Sept 17  Megan McMurray
Sept 18  Mary Harbison
Sept 20  Judy Poe
Sept 28  Chloe Tew
Oct 3    Ann Marie Slayton
Oct 3    Eric Vanderhoff
Oct 7    Sue Watson
Oct 17   Michelle Truelove
Oct 20   Skylar Truelove
Oct 23   Walker Lee Sikes
Oct 27   Polly Dupree
Oct 31   Dylan Niklas

Wedding Anniversaries:
Sept 11  John & Polly Dupree
Sept 12  Lee & Kathy Jenkins
Sept 25  Ed & Shirley Wheeler
Oct 4    Tim & Michelle Muhs
Oct 10   Mike & Kay Poe
Oct 15   Dwayne & Vickie Vaughn
Oct 27   Jerry & Judy Poe
Oct 29   Marty & Sue Lukach
Oct 30   Anthony & Joyce Truelove

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT … SUBMITTED BY KIM POWELL AND RITA MERCER

By Our Presence and By Our Gifts

9:00 am worship service attendance and total contributions to Budget Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 6</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>$1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 13</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>2143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 27</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>2083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>$2213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 17</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Budget for 2014..... $86,792
Weekly budget needs ...... 1,669
Average weekly contributions Jan-Aug..... 1,719

Jul-Aug average 56 in worship service.

EUMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Sept 16</td>
<td>Trustees Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Sept 21</td>
<td>5 p.m. Helping Hands Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Sept 21</td>
<td>6 p.m. Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2</td>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Brunch, Ronald MacDonald House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Nov 11</td>
<td>Trustees Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Nov 16</td>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13 and 14</td>
<td>Christmas Cantata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Entries are in **Boldface**