



EBENEZER AUG '26

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

Volume 22 Issue 7

www.ebenezerm-church.com

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

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Community Fun Day
August 22nd
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Donations
Needed
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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 Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we enter the month of August, my heart is filled with gratitude for God's continued faithfulness and for the remarkable generosity of this congregation. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the many members who have given so faithfully and sacrificially in recent weeks. Your significant financial support reflects your love for Christ and your commitment to the mission and ministry of our church. Because of your generosity, we are able to continue proclaiming the gospel, serving our community, and investing in ministries that transform lives. Thank you for your faithful stewardship and joyful giving.

During July, we completed our sermon series, "**Faith for Daily Living.**" Together we explored God's Word and discovered how genuine faith is expressed not only in worship but also in our everyday relationships, decisions, challenges, and opportunities. My prayer is that these messages will continue to bear fruit as we seek to live out our faith with courage, compassion, and consistency.

Beginning this month, we will embark on a new five-week sermon series entitled "**The Teachings of Jesus.**" Throughout this series, we will examine some of our Lord's most profound teachings and consider how His words continue to shape our discipleship today. Jesus calls us not merely to admire His teaching but to put it into practice. I encourage you to attend each week, invite family members, friends, and neighbors, and come with hearts ready to learn and grow together.

Please also mark your calendars for our **Fall Revival**, scheduled for **September 23–25**. Revival is more than a series of special meetings—it is a season of renewed hearts, deeper commitment, and fresh encounters with God's presence. I invite every member of our church family to begin preparing now by setting aside time each day to pray earnestly for a Spirit-filled revival. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to awaken our hearts, deepen our love for Christ, strengthen our faith, and draw many people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. May our revival begin in prayer long before we gather together.

I also ask you to join me in praying for the upcoming **Global Methodist Church General Conference**, which is scheduled to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, this September. Let us pray that God will grant wisdom, unity, humility, and discernment to

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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.

SPPR Committee Meeting

This committee will meet on **Sunday, August 2 at 3:00 p.m.** Members: Tammy A., Marsha M., Kim E., Kenny S., Celeste C. Patty T., JoAnn K., Kelly H.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, August 18 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, August 18 at 1:30 p.m.** Non-members welcome.

EMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, August 23 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.

*Duty is ours,
the results are God's.*
--John Quincy Adams

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in July:

In honor of Jeanette Teague by Delores Campbell.

In honor of Gwen Teague by Delores Campbell.

In honor of Heavenly Sonlighters Class by Delores Campbell.

In memory of Leonard Teague by Delores Campbell.

In memory of Paul & Inez Spencer by Delores Campbell.

In memory of Rex Teague by Peggy Jenkins.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

How to Ruin a Good Life

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."
--Genesis 2:16-17. (NIV)

References: Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17; @Wise Disciple (Youtube): "The Hidden Meaning of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil;" Judges 21:25b' and Genesis 3:1-8.

*Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the **knowledge of good and evil**. —Genesis 2:8-9 NIV*

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "**You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.**"*

I'm sure we have all wondered why God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden he had made for Adam and Eve. Everything was good when they first began living in that garden. They had easy access to plenty of delicious food. There were animals of many kinds to watch and play and maybe work with. The two were expected to work and care for that garden. Their garden had no bad plants, which we have plenty of today, so this was not hard work as most work is today.

But about that tree: God is omniscient; therefore he knew what would happen. So why put that tree there?

The LORD God placed Adam and Eve in a place of superabundance. They had hundreds or more trees to enjoy and to eat delicious fruit from. God gave them only ONE restriction. The more important question here is why they chose to break that ONE commandment to take from that ONE restricted tree.

Satan as the serpent makes Eve believe that God has withheld something better than anything they already have. He subtly insinuates that God lied. She looked at what she did not have, instead of what she had.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. —Genesis 3:6 NIV

Adam and Eve chose to make their own decisions about what was right and wrong, instead of letting God decide. We see people do 'what [is] right in their own eyes' (Judges 21:25b NKJV) throughout the Bible and today.

God, who visited the Garden regularly (see vs. 3:8), would have taught them everything they needed to know to live a good life. They chose to be their own god, choosing what was right and wrong, which is God's prerogative. They broke

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August Events & Fundraiser

Community Fun Day

Saturday, Aug. 22
10 AM to 2 PM

You are invited!
Everything is FREE!

Bring your kids, grandkids, and the neighbor's kids for a morning of fun, food, and fellowship. Food includes, hot dogs, brownies, cookies, and ice cream. Fun includes, water slide, including one for the little children, petting zoo, reptile zoo, bouncy house, and more.

NOTE: children who want to play on the water slides need to wear appropriate swimwear and bring a towel. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Covenant Group Meetings

Our new Covenant Group will be meeting on **Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.** Led by Pastor Simon, we will explore how to live our lives in tune with Christ's leading and encourage and support one another as we grow in our faith and service to Christ.

All members of the church are welcome to join in this group. If the group becomes too large, we will organize more groups.

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

August 18th—Senior Citizens Gathering, 11:00 a.m.
August 18th—God's Word Study, 1:30 p.m.
August 22nd—Community Fun Day, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations Needed in August

SCCM Food Pantry: It is our church's month to help replenish the food pantry. Canned meats, veges, fruit, Mac & Cheese, crackers, potatoes (instant, canned, bags), onions, cereal, hamburger helper, etc.

Romania Mission Trip: Choose a date in August to give that amount of money to the upcoming mission trip to Finding Hope Ministries in Romania. Please note "Mission Trip" on the envelope.

School Supplies: pencils, pens, glue, notebooks and paper, headphones, tissues, wipes, highlighters, scissors, colored pencils, erasers, etc. These will be handed out for free at our Community Fun Day.

Thank you for your generosity!

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

The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

—Proverbs 11:6 NIV

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

—Proverbs 11:30 NIV

August Celebrations



- 6th—Tyler Baker
- 11th—Becky Silver
- 13th—Trey Hefner
- 23rd—Braelyn Helton
- 23rd—Monte Hollar

Happy Anniversary

- 18th—Ricky & Shawn Baker
- 25th—Brian & Kim Knepp

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

John Wesley said,

When I was young I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half so sure of most things as I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me.



Pastor's Pen , cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

all delegates and leaders as they make decisions that will strengthen the witness and mission of our denomination around the world. May the Holy Spirit guide every conversation and every decision for the glory of Christ and the advancement of His Kingdom.

Thank you once again for your faithfulness in worship, your prayers, your service, and your generous support of God's work. Together, let us continue to be a congregation that loves God, serves others, and faithfully shares the good news of Jesus Christ with our community.

May the Lord bless you and keep you throughout this month, filling you with His peace, joy, and power as we seek to follow Him together.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Simon

Something, cont'd

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their relationship with God, and died spiritually, because to be alive spiritually is to know the Spirit, who is the LORD God. To know the LORD God is to be obedient to him and follow him, rely on him, not our own ways.

Satan was given a choice; he chose to attempt to be like God. Adam and Eve were presented with a choice; they chose to be their own gods. Do you choose to follow the Lord, or do you prefer to go your own way? Are you afraid you are missing some good thing when you obey God's commands? Be not wise in your own eyes. Taste the LORD's ways and learn how good life can be.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes...By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

--Psalm 19:7-8,11 NIV

Good news for Pastor Simon!

God does not deduct from man's allotted time those hours spent in fishing.



A Little Bit of Wisdom

There is nothing more beautiful than a rainbow, but it takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow. If life is to be rounded and many-colored like the rainbow, both joy and sorrow must come to it. Those who have never known anything but prosperity and pleasure become hard and shallow, but those whose prosperity has been mixed with adversity become kind and gracious. (p. 31)

If there is righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character,
If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home,
If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation,
If there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world.
(p. 35)

It is in loving, not in being loved, the heart is blessed; It is in giving, not in seeking gifts, we find our quest; Whatever be your longing or your need, that give; So shall your soul be fed, and you indeed shall live. (p. 13)

Laugh a little--sing a little,
As you go your way!
Work a little--play a little,
Do this every day!

Give a little--take a little,
Never mind a frown--
Make your smile a welcomed thing
All around the town!

Laugh a little--love a little,
Skies are always blue!
Every cloud has silver linings,
But it's up to you! (p. 26)

The real democratic American idea is not that every man shall be on a level with every other, but that every man shall have liberty, without hindrance, to be what God made him. (p. 27)

If we learn how to give ourselves, to forgive others, and to live with thanksgiving, we need not seek happiness--it will seek us.

From *Apples of Gold* compiled by Jo Petty, C. R. Gibson Company, c1962