Stone of Help

EBENEZER OCT '26

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

Volume 22 Issue 9

www.ebenezerm-church.com

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HOMECOMING & $10K SUNDAY

October 11th, 10:30 a.m.

see p. 3

Supper Fundraiser
October 17th
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 Friends and Family,

As we enter the month of October, I thank God for His continued faithfulness to our church family. We have much to celebrate, much to pray about, and many opportunities to serve. My prayer is that we will continue growing together especially after the wonderful four-day revival this past September. The speakers and musicians challenged us to rise up to our calling and never look back.

This month we begin a new sermon series, "Called to Holiness." Scripture reminds us: "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct… (1 Peter 1:15–16). Holiness is not only reserved for bishops and pastors, but every believer is also called to holiness. God is jealous and calls us to belong entirely to Him and to allow the Holy Spirit to shape our thoughts, words, relationships, priorities, and daily conduct. Throughout this series, we will explore what biblical holiness means and how we can practically walk in the Spirit, pursue Christlikeness, resist compromise, and live as people set apart for God's purposes. My prayer is that this will be more than another sermon series. May it become a season of spiritual renewal in which we ask, "Lord, what areas of my life do You want to make more like Jesus?"

Please keep Kim Ellis and Marsha McRary in your prayers as they travel to Romania to serve in mission. We pray that God will grant them traveling mercies, good health, strength, wisdom, and divine opportunities to share the love of Christ. Let us also pray for the people they will meet and serve, asking the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts and make their ministry fruitful. Although Kim and Marsha will travel on behalf of the mission, we can participate with them through our prayers and support. When the Church sends, gives, and prays, we too share together in that ministry.

Please mark your calendars for our Local Missions Fundraiser on October 17. Our mission field is not only across the ocean—it is also right outside our doors. There are people in our own community who need encouragement, practical assistance, compassion, and the hope of Jesus Christ. I encourage everyone to support this fundraiser generously. Through our giving and participation, we can strengthen the ministries that allow Ebenezer to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

We also have a wonderful reason to celebrate. We rejoice with Trey Hefner as he is raised up to serve as a local pastor. It has been encouraging to witness Trey's faithfulness, his involvement in the life of the church, and his willingness to respond to God's call upon his life. Scripture tells us: "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the

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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.

Charge Conference

Our Church Council will meet here for our annual Charge Conference on **Sunday, October 4th at 3:00 p.m**.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, October 20th 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, October 20th at 1:30 p.m.** Non-members welcome.

EMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, October 25at 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 Sunday Service

Our new local Pastor Trey Hefner will be preaching the sermon on **Sunday, October 18th** at 9:00 a.m.

Please come and support him as he follows the will of God for this new phase of his life.

Special Note

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday November 1st. Turn your clocks BACK ONE HOUR before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st! (If you still have any clocks that have to be changed physically.)

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in September:

In honor of Grandparents Day by Delores Campbell.

In honor of Labor Day by Delores Campbell.

In memory of her grandparents Spencers and Staffords by Delores Campbell.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 NIV

Be strong and courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:7 (NIV)

God Came In

Our three-day Layman's Revival that turned into four days was a wonderful experience for those who attended any of the services. I hope you were one of those who came.

On Wednesday, we learned something very important. Never stop praying for or witnessing to your family and friends. The best way to be able to deal with death is to be as sure as possible that the person you love has given his/her life to the Lord Jesus. Then, even in your sorrow at their departure from this world and your life, you can look forward to being with them again after God calls you home, too. We all must go someday. Please be ready and do all you can to be certain that your loved ones are ready for that day, too.

This message was delivered by Krystal Bennett whose young daughter unexpectedly fell ill and died within a few days. She wrote about the experience in the book *Eight Days: Angelica's Story; A Journey of Hope, A Story of Prayer.* Krystal spoke of the power of prayer and the hope that never dies in Jesus. She also blessed us with passionate worship songs. Thank you, Jesus for the strong faith of Krystal and her husband in the midst of tragedy.

On Thursday, despite equipment snafus, Tyler Baker brought a strong message about the blessings of finding the right woman to marry and dedicating his life to service for Christ. His wife Kristen blessed us with some wonderful singing of praise songs, too. Thank you, Jesus for the witness of this young couple.

On Friday, we had the smallest number of attendees, but we were blessed mightily by Rev. Rodney Raby of Lees Chapel Advent Church in Four Oaks, NC. Raby spoke so strongly and passionately that he did not need a microphone at all. We were all ready to walk through fire for Jesus by the time he finished preaching the Word of God. On top of that our own Billy Wayne Campbell blessed us with another rendition of *I Can Only Imagine* sung with conviction, skill, and power. Many of us went to the altar to pray and worship some more through prayer that night. Thank you, Jesus for the powerful preaching and the passionate singing that lifted our spirits and called on us to do more for our Lord and Savior in the power of his Holy Spirit and with commitment and conviction.

On Saturday, Rev. Gary Camp of Rose Chapel Methodist Church in Statesville, NC, eased us out of a strong week of powerful messages and singing. After Irene Austin moved us into a receptive mood with her rendition of *Surrounded* by Upper Room, Gary picked up his guitar, sang for us, and preached for us. He led us to a place of calm power and hopefulness for our church as we continue our ministries in this community and around the world. Thank you, Jesus for ending this week of revival on such a positive note from Gary's preaching and singing.

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September Events

Homecoming & $10,000 Sunday

Sunday, October 11

10:30 AM

Calling all former members and families! We invite you to our annual Homecoming service as we celebrate our Lord and Savior's blessings for the past year and remember all the people who have helped us build Ebenezer and its ministries in the past.

Our speaker for the service will be Rev. Michael Harrill. A pot-luck lunch will be served in the Christian Life Center after we worship our dear Lord.

We pray that God has blessed you in the past year and that you will bless us and help us to reach a goal of $10,000 for our offering on this day.

Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share at the lunch or just bring yourself. We usually have plenty of food.

Come. Bless us and the Lord with your prescence. See you here!

Supper Fundraiser - Oct. 17

Saturday, Oct. 17

4-7 PM

We invite you to a fundraiser meal. Make a donation to our local missions fund (aka Thank Bank) and get a plate of delicious chicken & dumplings, green beans, mashed potatoes, a roll, a homemade dessert and beverage. Eat in or take out (no beverage with take-out).

Help us to increase our funds for helping those in need in our church and community and enjoy a delicious meal.

We thank you for your support.



Trunk R Treat - Oct. 31

It's spooky time again! But you can play it safe at Ebenezer. Bring all your kids and the neighbors kids, dressed up as their favorite hero or something *spooky.*

Our members will be dressing up their truck beds and trunks for the occasion. **On Saturday, Oct. 31, 5-7:00 p.m** , our guests can walk down the line of vehicles and collect all kinds of FREE candy. Then come inside for a hot dog and chips and brownies--also FREE! Have a Happy Halloween with us!

Dear Ebenezer members: we are collecting candy for this event now. We will need brownies, too. Some decorations are available at the church to help you decorate your vehicle. We thank you for helping make this a great and safe time for the children. Small children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

Oct. 4th—Charge Conference, 3:00 p.m.
Oct. 11th—Homecoming & $10K Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Oct. 17th--Chicken &Dumpling Fundraiser, 4-7:00 p.m.
Oct. 18th--Pastor Trey Hefner Preaching, 9:00 a.m.
Nov. 1st--Daylight Savings Time ends & All Saints Sunday
Nov. 7th--Veterans Meal, 5-7:00 p.m.

October Celebrations



- 5th—Brenda Kirby
- 5th—Gwen Teague
- 8th—Jackson Behmer
- 9th—Kelly Hefner
- 12th—Skylar Helton
- 19th--Katelynn Mareece
- 21st--Loretta Helton

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

Have a Happy Autumn!



John Wesley Said:

"When a man becomes a Christian, he becomes industrious, trustworthy and prosperous. Now, if that man when he gets all he can and saves all he can does not give all he can, I have more hope for Judas Iscariot than for that man!"

Pastor's Pen , cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37–38) When God raises a servant from within the church, the whole church has reason to rejoice. Let us surround Trey with our prayers, encouragement, and support as he continues responding to God's call to ministry.



Church, October reminds us that God calls us both inward and outward. He calls us inward—to holiness, becoming more like Jesus. He calls us outward—to mission, carrying the Gospel into our community and around the world. Let us therefore make October a month of holiness, prayer, mission, generosity, and encouragement. May the prayer of our hearts be: "Lord, make us holy and fill us with Your Spirit. Continue to use us for Your glory as You send us wherever You need us."

Grace and peace, Pastor Simon Chigumira

Something, cont'd

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We thank everyone who gave so generously at each of these services. We collected $918 for our speakers, though $448 was returned to us by two of the speakers. We passed that amount on to our Methodist Men's group. They will be using the money to purchase new signage to place at crossroads in our area to point people to our church.

Thank you to Kelly Hefner for the poster and nightly programs about this revival and her helpers that arranged for the speakers and special music, Trey Hefner for leading the services each evening, Mary Pennell for the piano playing, and everyone else who helped make this revival a success—especially those who came to listen and be blessed. I am sure they were not disappointed. Praise be to God! Amen.

Virtue Matters (quote from American Thinker article by J. D. Shurk, Sept. 12, 2026)

"...After the twentieth century's cultural revolutions, morality was mocked as an outdated system of social control. Our institutions--including our churches--increasingly embraced the deception that extolling virtue and condemning sin was an impermissable sin of its own.

The end result has been a sixty-year walk toward nihilism, self-gratification, cynicism, amorality, emptiness, listlessness, and existential dread. All these descriptive nouns evoke torments one might endure in Hell. By refusing to admit that there are good ways and bad ways to live, our society has invited the Devil to remake the world in his image. Then our civic leaders feign surprise when it turns out that this is not a happy place to call home.

I want to make two arguments here: first, Americans will not succeed in the decades to come if they do not recommit to the pursuit of virtuous lives. Second, the United States will not succeed in the decades to come if its leaders continue to embrace moral equivocation over righteous truthtelling."

Think About It

For the individual to successfully resist socialism in its current manifestation, the pursuit of Christian anti-socialism is a given. This involves acknowledging the God-created sanctity of all individuals and living accordingly, in vassalage to God and with self-sacrificial love for all men. It also requires a willingness to serve and contribute to the corporate entities in which we find collective meaning. The collective is rooted in God's church, which brings individuals together in common cause and meaning, as one body.



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

> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righeousness and holiness.
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> —Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV