

# Ebenezer Baptist Church

Newsletter

May 2021

## A Weasel, An Elephant, and a Catch-22

What do these three things have in common?? Shall I give you a minute to venture a guess???

Each of them is symbolic concerning where we are as a church (and society) RIGHT NOW.

The Weasel?? It represents the groups around us, trying to dissuade us from unity. Trying to influence us to believe as they believe, to remain divided politically and informationally, and to keep this unfortunate stewing of our society still rolling and brewing. And they are very "weaselly" about information and how we get it, and how it is filtered. They make unity almost impossible.

The Elephant?? It is Covid. The elephant is getting smaller, but it is still in the room (although no one wants to talk about that). The elephant has been used as weapon by both sides of our political mainstream. It does still exist and it is as real as every other disease on this earth. And it is NASTY, even still. But it is getting smaller!!!

The Catch-22?? That is where leaders in every church (and especially Ebenezer) find ourselves right now. Depending on people whom we trust to help us understand the data and which steps we need to take to keep our church safe. Our Health Team has done a phenomenal job helping us to navigate this past year. A thankless job. In the beginning, some folks were very angry and vocally critical of what was being done because what we were doing was NOT ENOUGH. In an ironic twist, now it seems many people are angry because we are doing TOO MUCH. And in the true spirit of a Catch-22, our team and staff are kind of "doomed if we DO and doomed if we DON'T." And I am thankful that our team and church staff are willing to stand in the breach and still do what we believe God is calling us to do to keep people safe.


Our team has utilized some of the finest, non-political resources that were available to keep us safe. And they have done an AMAZING job.

So ... What can you do about this?? Pray for us. Be patient. It is almost as if we are in mile 24 of a marathon. We can see the end in sight, we just need to run a little longer. Keep running!!

David



WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE LIKE  
JESUS!



# BABY DEDICATION

Mother's Day  
Sunday, May 9  
during Morning Worship  
9:15 am



# SUPER SATURDAY

AT EBENEZER

MAY 15  
10:00AM-12:00PM

VBS REGISTRATION  
DONATE BLOOD  
MOBILE HOUSE OF HOPE  
PRAYER WALK  
FREE HOTDOGS  
& KONA ICE




# Ebenezer GRADUATE RECOGNITION

THE CLASS OF 2021 **SUNDAY, JUNE 6**

RSVP for High School Graduate Recognition at [www.tiny.cc/ebcgrads21](http://www.tiny.cc/ebcgrads21).

If you plan to participate, please email 10 good quality photos of your graduate to [nathan@ebcsc.com](mailto:nathan@ebcsc.com) by Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. These photos should be a variety of ages including a senior photo and family photos. These photos will be used in our graduation video.

\*If you have a College Graduate please contact the church office.



**THE BLOOD CONNECTION**

# BLOOD drive

Saturday, May 15th  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Register by call the church office or online:  
[https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/168690](https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/168690)

*"I've been able to do a lot of things in my life. Because one person decided donating was worth the trouble."*  
John, recipient



# SHIPS INTERNATIONAL

Join us Wednesday evening May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm in the Chapel to hear from the OM Ships Missionaries.

Also, check you SS folders for a chance for your class to serve the first Saturday in each month at OM Ships here in Florence beginning Saturday, June 5th



**CONCRETE & CRANES**  
Philippians 1:6

GRAB YOUR HARD HAT & TOOL BELT!  
VBS 2021  
June 14-16  
6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Registration opens May 1st

If you are interested in serving, please contact the church office.

## Ways to give your tithe

- text to 73256 and enter EBCSC
- drop it by the church office
- drop it in the secure church mailbox
- mail to 524 S. Ebenezer Rd.

Financial Report Through April 25, 2021	
Year to date needs.....	\$517,742.82
Year to date receipt.....	\$496,259.01

Join the Mission team and help distribute rain gear at

# PARKING LOT MINISTRY

Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:15 am behind the old Hope Health building on Palmetto St.

**How can you use your talents & gifts at EBC ??**  
 Be on the look out Sunday Mornings as we share about some of our ministry teams and the work they do here at EBC.  
**Contact the church office with questions or interest in being a part of a team.**

Business Meeting, Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the conclusion of Morning Worship

Baptism, Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> during Morning Worship.

### May Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Danny Parker Diane Wright Madeline Taylor Thea White Rhett Bausmith Heather Ward
2	3 Jaden Carter Tabitha Modrell	4 Leta Hutchinson	5 Drew Wike Christopher Harden Rylee Watkins Melia Garrett	6 Paula Shriver Blake Townsend Kelly White	7 Nadine Wise Jo Ann Hall Candy Kirshy Mark Barhite	8 Laura Graham Ellis Neighbors
9 Rachel Freeman Bert Winburn	10 John Brown Scott Turner	11 Chase Anderson Beth Simmons	12 John Watkins	13	14	15 Wade Townsend
16 Addison Hanna	17 Matthew McCabe Fran Greer Ladson Hardesty Donna Barnes Ellis Wood	18 Andrena Connor Marty Harrell	19 Sue Saylor Judy Lee	20 Teresa Suddreth Luke Green Happer Brown Hattie Cole Huggins Donnie Atkinson	21 Melinda Huiet Jacqueline Finklea Susanne Fountain	22 Davis Townsend
23 Deanna Smith	24 Ross Reeves Ronnie Lee	25 Shannon Grimsley Connor Drake Deal Madison Mitton Reagan Mitton	26 David Turner Pat Rose Merissa Taylor	27 BJ Ranson Lisa Sansbury Blake Connor Karen Clemson	28 Marcia Winburn	29 Nathan Neighbors
30 Robert Mahoney Ronald Newsmith	31 Jim Stamp Elizabeth Medlin					



## EBC MISSIONS

### May 2021 Opportunities

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

**Parking Lot Ministry**  
 We will be distributing rain attire, such as ponchos, raincoats, and umbrellas, on May 1. Anyone is welcome to join us. Be at 600 E. Palmetto Street in the parking lot behind the old Hope Health building by 7:15am.

**National Day of Prayer**  
 National Day of Prayer will be observed on May 6. Be sure to tune into EBC Facebook Live throughout the day.

**Mother's Day**  
 We want to wish all our mothers a Happy Mother's Day.  
*Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.* Proverbs 31:31

**Super Saturday**  
 On May 15, EBC will have a variety of activities from 10am-12pm including VBS pre-registration and t-shirt purchase, Bloodmobile, Prayer Walk, Games, Kona Ice, Free Hotdogs, and a mobile House of Hope drop-off.

**House of Hope Meals**  
 On May 17, the **Light Bearers** Sunday School Class will provide and serve a meal at the Courtney McGinnis Graham Community Shelter.

**A Choice to Make (ACTM) Baby Shower**  
 On May 30 from 2pm-4pm, there will be a baby shower to collect items for ACTM. A needs list will be available in the Mission's Center.

**Operation Christmas Child**  
 The Operation Christmas Child collection item for April will be washcloths and soap.

**EBC Food Pantry**  
 Canned vegetables such as green beans and corn, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, pasta sauce, and noodles are just a few of the staple items needed in the food pantry.

**What has EBC Missions been up to? Here is the March recap.**

- A meal was served at the Men's Shelter by the **Young Married** SS class.
- Our goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was exceeded. \$13, 516.47
- Thank you for collections and donations for the Honduras Rummage Sale and for Parking Lot Ministry.

**EBC Missions Committee:**

Kim Andrews	615-2933
Nancy Gatewood	260-1775
Angela Hamlin	496-1283
Tiffany Phillips	283-1091
Suzette Watson	250-0571

**May 12<sup>th</sup>, Last Wednesday Nights for kids until September.**  
**5:45 – 6:00 pm sign in at the Welcome Center**  
**7:00 pm presentation begins in the Worship Center.....Parents invited.**

May 19, last Wednesday night for Youth, look out for Summer details.  
 Adult Bible Study will continue at 6:15 pm in the Chapel on Wednesday evenings during the Summer.

**Health Team Guidelines for Ebenezer Baptist Please Social Distance When Possible**

1. Everyone should wear a mask at all times.  
 Doors open at 9:00 am for Worship.  
**Ebenezerites, please exit Worship Service with your mask on as soon as service ends.**
2. Masks need to worn at all times in the Sunday School classes – 3K and older.
3. For Sunday School Children will be dropped off and picked up at the glass doors to Young Hall breezeway to limit the number of people in and out of Young Hall.
4. You are strongly encouraged to use an alcohol based hand sanitizer periodically, especially when entering or leaving a building.
5. Please exercise social distancing and refrain from hugs, handshakes, etc.....
6. No buffet style food service should be offered. All food servers should wear mask and gloves at all times.  
**Fellowship/coffee time will be suspended indefinitely**

## Wednesday Nights

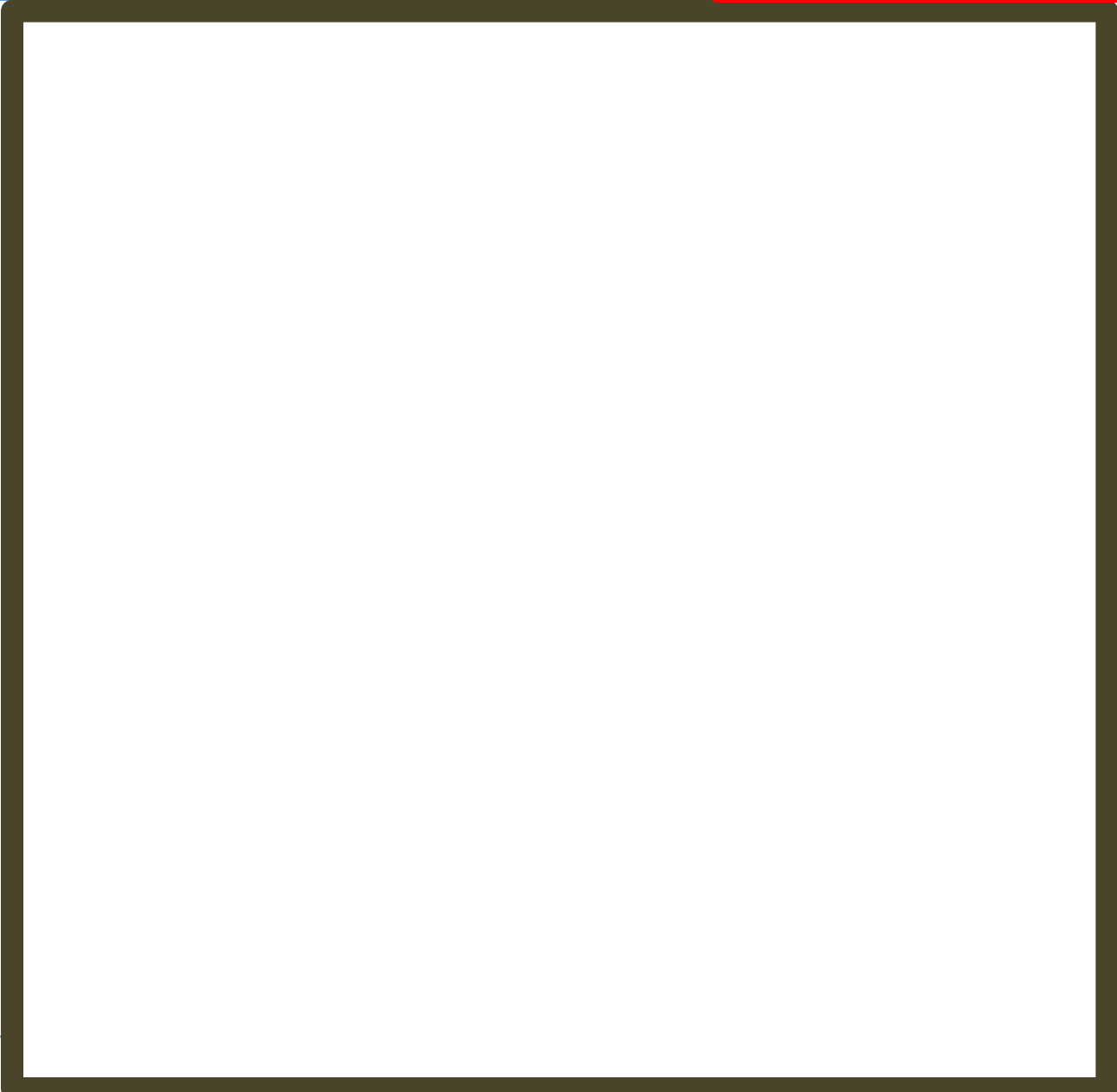
**-Children's Missions & Music: 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

**(Drop off at the Welcome Center , mask need to be worn at all times, and RA/Mission Friend pick up at Young Hall. GA pick up at Pettigrew Hall.)**

**-Youth: 6:00 – 7:30 pm (Youth Assembly Building)**

**-Adult Prayer Meeting: 6:15 pm (in the Chapel)**

**-No Wednesday Night Supper will be served at this time.**



### Health Team Guidelines for Ebenezer Baptist

1. Everyone should wear a mask when entering or leaving a building, but may remove while sitting still in Worship service or Children’s Church. Doors open at 9:00 am for Worship. Ebenezerites, please exit Worship service with your mask on as soon as service ends. Anyone in Sunday School classes should wear a mask at all times for 3K and older.
2. A mask should be worn at all times if you cannot properly social distance at 6 feet at any on campus event.
3. You are strongly encouraged to use an alcohol based hand sanitizer periodically, especially when entering or leaving a building.
4. Please exercise social distancing and refrain from hugs, handshakes, etc.....
5. No buffet style food service should be offered. All food servers should wear mask and gloves at all times. Fellowship/coffee time will be suspended indefinitely.

### Sunday School Health Guidelines

**10:15 am – 11:00 am**

Masks need to worn at all times in the Sunday School classes – 3K and older.

Please Social Distance when possible

Children will be dropped off and picked up at the glass doors to Young Hall breezeway to limit the number of people in and out of Young Hall.

#### Ways to give your tithe during this time:

- text to 73256 and enter EBCSC
- drop it by the church office
- drop it in the secure church mailbox
- Mail to 524 S. Ebenezer Road, Florence, SC 29501
- give by Realm Connect App
- go to ebcsc.com, click the menu, click giving

#### Financial Report -Through October 25, 2020

Year-to-date Needs.....	\$1,223,585.21
Year-to-date Receipt.....	\$1,103,217.63