

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Newsletter

July 2021

A QUESTION OF CULTURE

This month begins a new era in the life of Ebenezer Baptist Church. For the first time in 33 years, Ed Self is not a staff member (although STILL a church member and a beloved member of the EBC family!!) and we must plot a path forward. Our Personnel Team is beginning the process of filling those huge shoes he left behind. And our mission begins with PRAYER!!

Are you praying? We have already heard a variety of thoughts and even a few rumors about how this will be done, who will fill the shoes, and a few other rumors that are simply not true. So, to set the record straight:

- We, the staff, LOVE Ed and we did not want him to retire!!!
- Personnel is responsible for filling the position and they are beginning the process now. They will perform the search and make recommendations to the church for a vote. (This will not be done quickly... Since Ed was on staff for 33 years, we definitely need some time before a permanent replacement is chosen. Every knowledgeable source on church staffing says we MUST take our time and do this carefully.)
- We are working on how to do choir safely! This has not been a plot to do away with our choir. Having a choir is a powerful element of worship leadership. Re-starting choirs of all ages are definitely in our plans even in this interim time.
- After analyzing all that Ed has done over the last 33 years and, more importantly, has been doing since we moved into the Worship Center, we might have to staff this differently. In other words, it will probably take more than one person to replace Ed when we detail the worship pastor responsibilities as well as the technical responsibilities. How will we do that? It will probably require more volunteer help as well as finding the person with the proper skill set for the permanent job. Perhaps you could even help with some of this??

Here is where the matter of culture comes in!! For the past 243 years, Ebenezer has been a church who thought for the future as well as the present. One of the things I most miss today is the voice of Ed Young as we would talk about the future of Ebenezer and he would say "DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO REACH THESE PEOPLE!!" Demographics tell us that 70% of those who live in that three-mile radius of Ebenezer do not attend church in-person (and are probably not attending online). They see no value in a relationship with Christ.

Those last two sentences burn a hole in my heart. I will tell you why in a moment.

As we approach this important decision about a worship leader, some approach this decision with a "right now" mentality. "We want what we want RIGHT NOW. Do away with some of this modern music, modern instruments, and let's go back to mostly hymns. That is the way it used to be and should be."

Others want MORE modern music. More modern instruments. Less of the past. Do what we have to do to reach the people around us.

(Ed Self did a masterful job of blending both for DECADES and some didn't even notice.)

My prayer is that we will continue to blend. Because hymns teach great theology and they touch our hearts. Modern praise teaches great theology and touches our hearts. We can feed the current church AND reach new people if we are all willing to put personal preference in the right context and do what we need to do to REACH OUT.

My prayer, and what I believe God wants for Ebenezer, is to remain connected to our history AND continue to reach forward and connect with the future. Ultimately I believe God put us here to reach this community. And we are losing ground. Hence, the hole in my heart. This is a true watershed-moment for Ebenezer Baptist Church. I am praying and seeking God for a miracle. Will you join me? Will you commit to pray about this HUGE DECISION we must make in the near future? It really is a question of culture. And our answer to that question will certainly determine the future of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

David



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Summer FUN just for KIDS!

Wonderful Wednesday's in July 2021

5K - 4th grade

6:00-8:00 p.m.

July 14th – National Mac n Cheese Day – “Pairs” in the Bible

July 21st – National Junk Food Day – Daniel and his friends

July 28th – National Milk Chocolate Day – Surprise Story???

Register online at ebcsc.com

Crash Welcome Party

For rising 6th & 7th graders

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Wednesdays in July

14th, 21st, and 28th.

Join Nathan, Ashley and a few

Crash Students for 3 special nights that will help Welcome

you to Crash & the teen years.

Dinner provided!

Train Up

a

Child

in the way

He SHOULD

and when

he is old,

GO

he will not

Depart From It

PROVERBS 22:6

Movin' On

UP

Promotion Sunday

August 1st



Be in Prayer for our kids, youth and Adult Campers. They will be returning from Camp Saturday, July 3rd.

Thank you for all those prayer partnering with our campers.

Sunday
School

Teacher Training
for ALL Teachers
Thursday, July 22
6:30 pm

NO
Children's
CHURCH
July 4th
Family Worship
Day

These things
have I spoken
to you, that
My joy may
remain in
you, and that
your joy may
be full.

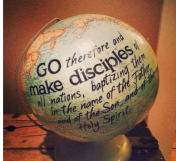
John 15:11



Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you
wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

July Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Iley McLeod	3 Dawson Daniel Olivia Wheeler
4	5 Roy Todd Bailey Conner McKenzie Lee	6 Parker Twelkemeier	7 Matthew Andrews Dianne Massey Ted Sweat	8 Emma Newton	9 Debbie Lane Lee Freeman Charlie Clemson Aubrey Wheeler	10 Rachel Anderson Jamie Huggins
11	12 Kim Gregg Fran Jones Beth Townsend Maddox Daniel	13 K. C. Todd Logan Brown Brody White	14 Brenda Cox Marty Coates Jackson Connor	15 Barbara Lee Hampton Pusser	16 John Floyd Wendy Frazier William Winburn Mari Margaret Marlow	17
18	19 Robert Clemson Patti Holland Jamie Foster Steve Swofford	20 Mia Taylor	21 Austyn Rouse Isabella Talbert	22 Paulette Scott Madilyn King	23	24 Bennett Bradshaw
25	26 Trey Gensel Bette Meads	27 Larry Jones Greg Clemson Andrew Lee	28	29 Cullen Shel- ley Sheila Lein Madi Rowe	30 Carson Gardner Randy Lee	31 Suzette Watson Jacob Graham Jennifer Hanna Rhonda Lee Lorraine de Roche



EBC MISSIONS

July 2021 Opportunities

Stuff The Bus
EBC will be providing 'stuffed' backpacks for students in need at Dewey L. Carter Elementary School. The backpacks will be stuffed with typical elementary school supplies. We are asking that church members "stuff the bus" with a monetary donation to purchase the backpacks and school supplies. Donations can be made during Sunday morning worship or at the church office. Each stuffed backpack will cost approximately \$20. Our goal is to provide 60 backpacks.

Baptist Collegiate Ministry Welcome Packs
EBC will be providing 100 Welcome Packs to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry for distribution to students as they return to campus in the fall. Welcome packs include crackers, pop tarts, mechanical pencils, Tic Tacs or breath mints, and gum.

Connie Maxwell Children's Home
EBC will provide supplies for a July 4th celebration for the girls. This will include hotdogs and buns, cake, chips, craft supplies, and a badminton set. They are always in need of paper products and laundry and dish detergent.

OM Ships
On July 10 from 9:00am-12:00pm there will be a workday with OM ships. Sign-ups are located in Sunday School folders. You can also call the church office if you would like to serve.

House of Hope Meals
On July 19, the **Young Married** Sunday School Class will provide and serve a meal at the Community Shelter.

Prayer Requests for Mission Work
Please pray for Ethan Pettigrew as he will be going to Morocco for 2 months and Kaitlyn Kempson as she will be going to Utah this summer for mission work.

Exercise Class starting in August
An exercise class is coming soon for women only starting after school begins. More information to follow.

Operation Christmas Child
The Operation Christmas Child collection item for April will be pencils, sharpeners, and erasers.

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 April recap.

- A meal was served at the Men's Shelter by the Koinonia SS class.
- Thanks for all who volunteered with OM Ships and donated to A Choice to Make.
- Vacation Bible School was a big success. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents.

EBC Missions Committee:

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

Deacon Nominee Response forms will be mailed out the first week of July.

If you receive a nomination request, please prayerfully consider it and return it to the church office by August 1st.

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 June 27, 2021

Year to date needs.....\$761,386.50
Year to date receipt.....\$716,947.41