



Thus Far...

*Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying,
"Thus far the LORD has helped us." 1 Samuel 7:12 (NIV)*

Winter 2019

Bates to be Rappahannock River DS

God continues to guide us in doing great things in our community for the advancement of His kingdom. In January, 2019, the Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Oldhams, Church Council began a study called "Membership to Discipleship: Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples." As part of a denomination-wide effort, Ebenezer is developing a plan of "intentional discipleship," which will help our members become (or continue to become) disciples of Christ.

Membership drives focus on growing **attendance** at church events; intentional discipleship, on the other hand, focuses on growing **people** in their walk with Christ. See Pastor Rebecca's column on page 2 for more information about this initiative.

The 2019 EUMC Budget as approved by the Church Council, as well as a "Who's Who" of leadership at Ebenezer is included in this issue of Thus Far... on page 7.

By the way, EUMC Council Meetings are open to all. The Council meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. Join us. With Ebenezer's cast of characters, the meetings are never boring!

The Summer 2019 issue of **Thus Far...** will go to press in late May. We welcome your comments on past issues and ideas for future articles. Send your ideas to ThusFar.EUMC@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

.....

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis has announced that the Rev. Charles F. Bates will be our new District Superintendent, effective July 1, 2019. Rev. Bates is



currently serving as lead pastor at Fishersville UMC on the Staunton District.

Rev. Bates began his service at Fishersville UMC in 2015. He is a native of Liberia and is the 15th of sixteen children. He is happily

married to Weade V. Bates (Vickie), his wife of 23 years; they have three children and two grandchildren.

Rev. Bates has served as a pastor in the Virginia Annual Conference of the UMC for almost 15 years. He first served the Leemont Charge on the Virginia Eastern Shore and then Galilee UMC on the Fredericksburg District.

Rev. Bates has an undergraduate degree in accounting, a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies/Judaic Studies; a Master of Divinity in Theology and Congregational Pastoral Care; and a Master of Science in Clinical Professional Counseling. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Psychology.

Rev. Bates will replace the Rev. Dr. Ted Smith, who has served as the Rappahannock River DS since 2011. We hope to be able to host Rev. Bates here at Ebenezer soon after he assumes his new position.



Pastor's Ponderings ...

– from Pastor Rebecca Rumburg

Ebenezer is embarking on an exciting effort in response to Bishop Sharma Lewis' 4-year vision to develop "Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve." By 2020, all Virginia United Methodist churches should have a process of intentionally forming disciples. Each church will individually choose what this process will look like for them.

The Church Council has started studying one of Bishop Lewis' recommended texts: *From Membership to Discipleship: Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples*, by Philip Maynard. Dr. Maynard states, "We need to make a shift from making members to making disciples." He defines a disciple as a follower of Jesus Christ who is committed to being part of the Body of Christ; becoming more like Jesus; and joining Jesus in ministry.

While membership development focuses on statistics – weekly attendance, participation in church projects, number of baptisms, etc., -- discipleship is a life-long journey into the abundant life for which we were created. Discipleship in the biblical tradition is not just learning *about* Jesus, but becoming *like* Jesus.

I hope that every member of Ebenezer will join us in prayer for this effort and contribute to the conversation about our potential mission fields to form disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. Several copies of Dr. Maynard's book are available in the vestibule, and more can be ordered if (when!) needed. May our intentional disciple-making bear much fruit!

.....
Thus Far... is a quarterly publication of Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 144 Ebenezer Church Road, P.O. Box 70, Oldhams, VA 22529.
 Email: Ebenezeroldhams@fredericksburgdistrict.org.
 Editor: Bobbie Bauldock. Send newsletter submissions to: ThusFar.EUMC@gmail.com.

Special General Conference Session to Vote on A Way Forward

On February 23-26, 2019, United Methodists will gather in St. Louis, MO, for a Special Called Session of General Conference to vote on the various plans for the church to move forward on matters surrounding human sexuality. While a number of plans were considered by the Commission on a Way Forward (see <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/the-commission-on-a-way-forward-report-what-you-should-know>), in May 2018 an overwhelming majority of the bishops of The United Methodist Church endorsed the option known as the One Church Plan.

A message from bishops supporting the One Church Plan states, in part:

“We believe ... the One Church Plan offers the best way forward for those holding diverse opinions on human sexuality without compromising the mission of The United Methodist Church. We acknowledge there may be some who cannot move forward with The United Methodist Church. We urge you to reconnect with our true Wesleyan roots; we renew the call for you to be in relationship with The United Methodist Church and live into our baptism of unity in the Body of Christ.”

Additional information about the One Church Plan can be found at onechurchplan.org.

Three meetings will be held at various local churches after the Conference to update us on the results. The meeting closest to us will be held at Warsaw UMC, 287 Main Street, Warsaw VA on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

Please be in prayer for the delegates to General Conference and for the United Methodist Church and its clergy, laity, members and disciples to discern how the Holy Spirit is leading them in the individual decisions each will face.

.....
It takes a church to publish a newsletter. Many thanks to those who contributed to this issue: Pastor Rebecca Rumburg, Cindy Flickinger, Mary Jenkins, Daniel Clarke, Teresa English, Jeanne Axtell, Fran Taylor, Bill Taylor, Ralph Fallin, Linda Fallin, and Mina Croson. Next issue: Your name here!
.....

Fish Fry Fundraiser on March 8th

The Missions Fish Fry Fundraiser will be held on March 8, 2019, in the Fellowship Hall from 5-7 pm. Each meal will include catfish nuggets, French fries, cole slaw, cornbread and a dessert. Yumm! Dine in or carry out. Tickets are \$12, and the proceeds will go to Westmoreland County’s Backpack Buddy Program which provides weekend meals for children so they don’t go hungry while school is out. If you are unable to attend the dinner, donations are also accepted. Please see Mary Jenkins, Teresa English, Mary Sudduth, Sue Jones, Bruce Beahm, Debbie Messick or Fran Taylor for tickets. There are a limited number of tickets, so get yours now!

In Other Missions News...

Teresa and Wyatt English will be returning to South Dakota Standing Rock Indian Reservation again this year at the end of July. From June 29 to July 6, Mary Jenkins will be going to Honduras on a Medical Mission with a team from St. Matthias UMC in Stafford, VA. Please keep our missions in prayer!

.....
Fellowship Hall Renovation Completed

A months-long project to repair and replace the floor of the Fellowship Hall was completed in early February 2019, and the new floor is beautiful! The project started in response to damage to the old floor caused by water seeking up through the concrete in the part of the basement built in the 1905s. A contractor removed the old concrete, installed a French drain and put in a sump pump to prevent the problem in the future.

Once the corrective work was finished, a second contractor installed a seamless epoxy floor on top of the concrete. Installation of the new flooring required that *everything* on the floor be removed, including refrigerators, freezers and even bathroom toilets. Many thanks to those who worked so hard to prepare the Hall for the flooring install.

The total cost for the Fellowship Hall renovation was more than \$40,000, but ensures that EUMC will be well-situated for a future of continuing service to God and our community.

Grace Notes



Praise Band on the Road Again!

Our wonderful Praise Band is once more in demand. The music that the Praise Band presented at the District Celebration in November was so well received that they have been asked to play at the Afton UMC Homecoming on June 2nd. Afton UMC is located in Ophelia, VA (near Heathsville). Start time for the festivities will be announced in the church bulletin. Let's plan to help Afton celebrate and support our Praise Band!

Choir Prepares for Eastertide

Our EUMC choir, Abundant Joy, has started preparing for our Easter cantata, which this year (for logistical reasons) will be presented on April 28th, the first Sunday *after* Easter, during the morning service. The cantata is entitled, "The Body of Christ: Glorified, Anointed, and Sacrificed," and was written by one of the choir's favorite composers, Pepper Choplin.

While presenting the "Easter" cantata after Easter is a bit unusual, remember that Easter is just the beginning of Eastertide, the time in the church calendar between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday, 50 days later. On Easter itself, the choir will present one of the songs from the cantata. Please plan to be with us all through this holy season!



Pastor's Office Gets "The Treatment"

Now that the Fellowship Hall renovation is done, we are tackling the reorganization of the Pastor's Office. The Church Council approved the purchase of new office furniture that will work better in the small office. The contents of the office are being sorted and organized to make a pleasant place for counseling. Stay tuned for "the big reveal!"

Lent Begins on March 6th

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter. It is a moveable feast, falling on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter. (Easter itself is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox; in 2019, Easter is on April 21.) Ash Wednesday can occur as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. This year Ash Wednesday is March 6th.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered after the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned. Plan to join in EUMC's Ash Wednesday service on March 6th (time will be announced in the church bulletin).

Prayer Quilt Ministry Still Needs Quilts

In the last issue of **Thus Far...**, an article about our Pray Quilt ministry included an appeal for additional quilts because Ebenezer had only one quilt left.



Since the need now is acute, we are repeating the appeal: If you sew, please consider making a quilt top (about a 3' by 3' square) which can then be finished

into a quilt. Donations of material would also be appreciated. See Cindy Flickinger or Linda Fallin to help in this ministry of comfort.

Show Your Colors!



EUMC T-shirts in selected sizes are still available. The dark red shirts with our anchor logo and mission statement – "Christ: Love Him, Share Him, Serve Him" – are for sale in the church office for \$15. Supplies are limited, so get yours soon!



Ebenezer is on Facebook

Most of us are aware that Facebook has become a social media mainstay for communication among individuals and organizations alike. Ebenezer UMC's Facebook page has over 150 people following it, and that number continues to grow.

As a congregation of Believers, we need to understand the potential that social media affords us to share who we are in Christ with our community around us. Through Facebook, we can present information about our church and our various church events and activities. More importantly, we can reach out to those who are unchurched, and especially to those who may not know Jesus at all. It is another avenue to share God's love and His message of peace and salvation.

The more activity and interaction we have on Ebenezer's Facebook page, the more it will be seen by others. So, this is our strategy:



- If you are on Facebook and have not 'liked' and 'followed' Ebenezer's page, please do so.
- Invite your Facebook friends to 'like' and 'follow' us, as well.
- 'Like' our posts and share them often.
- Consider doing a Facebook 'Check-in' on Sunday mornings and at church events.
- If you have information on an upcoming event and would like to post in on our Facebook page, please email it to mina@stonewalltitle.com.

More EUMC on the Web

Ebenezer also has a web page at

www.eumcoldhams.org

Check out both of our sites to keep up with all the goings on at Ebenezer.

Scouting Report (Cub Scouting, that is!)

EUMC has been a chartered sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 207 for over 10 years. Pack 207 meets at EUMC on the 4th Monday of each month and is open to both boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Jesse Ault is the Cubmaster of Pack 207, and our own Daniel Clarke is Assistant Cubmaster.



Our Cubs have had an exciting couple of months! A few of the Cubs from our pack helped to present the colors as the Westmoreland County Public Schools Martin Luther King Day breakfast.



The Cubs also had a Rain Gutter Regatta where Cubs and their siblings built boats and raced them at the American Legion in Montross. While they were waiting for the paint to dry, the Cubs learned about safe locations to set up a tent and how to respond to hazardous weather.

Each year we celebrate a Scout Sunday when the Scouts come to church in uniform, present the colors and lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. After service, they hold a Soup and Sandwich fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall. This year, February 24th is Scout Sunday.

For more information about joining or supporting the Scouts, see Daniel or Teresa English, our Scouting Ministry Coordinator.

Ebenezer Partners with Westmoreland Social Services

The Westmoreland County Department of Social Services provides a wide variety of services and benefits to county residents in need. Examples include assistance with rent, food, clothing, medicine, and essential non-food items.

Department employees investigate, treat, and help prevent the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, elders, and adults with disabilities. They provide home-based services to help individuals remain in their homes rather than move to institutions. They also arrange for temporary foster care, assist with adoptions and perform court ordered services. In addition, they provide services to help able-bodied parents qualify for and find work. While carrying out their mission, they continually nurture human dignity, promote human worth, and take steps to strengthen and preserve families.

As a part of our outreach, Ebenezer maintains a partnership with the Department of Social Services to assist them in helping those in need. We have donated funds to help purchase services for the needy. We have contributed discretionary funds for the purchase of prescription medicine, utilities, rent, and short stays at motels while individuals were searching for more permanent housing. We have also provided food, funds and supplies for elder care; new winter coats for children; and toys.

Our Church Council (through "Second Mile Giving"), UMW and UMM have all participated in providing this much needed assistance for the less fortunate of our community. In October 2018, Ebenezer contributed fifty new winter coats for distribution to needy children in our local community.

Our partnership with Westmoreland County is only one way Ebenezer shares the blessings we have received. We *can* make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, even if we don't know who they are.

.....
Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40

The History Corner

Ebenezer, the Oldest Methodist Church in Westmoreland County

What is now known as Ebenezer United Methodist Church has a rich history of service to God and to our community. Our church began in 1838 when 7/8 of an acre was purchased for five dollars from William and Martha Jackson for the purpose of erecting a house of worship. The deed was signed on June 21, 1838, and witnessed by William Middleton, William Wright and Benedict Walker, whose families were among the first members of the church.

Little is known of the earliest building called Ebenezer where members held services during the first twenty years. The sanctuary in which we worship today was built in 1859 with bricks made in a kiln on the church grounds. The tower was built in 1900, and in 1955 ground was broken for the Educational Building, which was dedicated in 1966.

The newest addition to church, which includes additional Sunday School rooms, a nursery and a choir room, plus a large kitchen in the Fellowship Hall downstairs, was built in 2005 and dedicated in 2011.

The original pulpit and pews are still being used today. In 1861, the first communion table was bequeathed to the church by Benedict Walker in his will which had been written in 1839.

Henry L. Thrift gave a plot of ground for the cemetery in 1882. The first marked grave was that of Pelham Chandler Delano who was buried in October 1887. Additional land for the cemetery was acquired in 1904, 1960 and 1988 through gifts from church members. An adjacent 18 acres of land was purchased in June 2010 and placed in the Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery Trust.

The history of Ebenezer Church mirrors much of the history of Methodism. When organized, Ebenezer was a Methodist Protestant Church. The Methodist Protestant Church was formed in 1828 by former members of the Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC),

remaining Wesleyan in doctrine and worship, but adopting congregational governance.

Soon after the Civil War, the church became Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was the denomination resulting from the 19th-century split in the MEC over the issue of slavery, with churches in the South breaking off to form the separate denomination. The plaque embedded in the wall outside Ebenezer's west entrance to the sanctuary shows "South" as part of Ebenezer's name.

In 1965 Ebenezer became a station church, and in 1968 it became Ebenezer United Methodist Church when the Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church joined to become the United Methodist Church.

The current congregation carries on a long tradition of men and women who have blessed and have been blessed by the community surrounding us. We pray that God will continue to work His will through this fellowship of believers.

More information about our church history is available on the EUMC web site, www.eumcoldsams.org.

A Bit More History: The Cross and Flame

The Cross and Flame has been the official symbol of the United Methodist Church since 1968. Adopted shortly after the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, it relates the United Methodist Church to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame).

The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3). The two separate tongues of a single flame represent the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church coming together to form the United Methodist Church.

The Cross and Flame is a registered trademark and its use is supervised by the General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church. When we use the image, even in this newsletter, we include the registered trademark sign, ®.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church Leadership for 2019

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Lynn Rumburg
Council Chair: Debbie Messick
Lay Leaders: Larry Jenkins and Jeanne Axtell
Recording Secretary: Stacey Canter
Church Treasurer: Linda Fallin
Financial Secretary: Scott Flickinger
Chair, Pastor-Parish Relations: Fran Taylor
Chair, Finance Committee: Bobbie Bauldock
Chair, Trustees: To be elected by Trustees
President, UMM: Bruce Beahm
President, UMW: Rebecca Gillions
Lay Member, Annual Conference: Fran Taylor
Lay Alternate, Annual Conference: Buddy Axtell

Membership Secretary: Phyllis Worsham
Parsonage Committee: David English, Chair
Bill Taylor, Marie Yancey, Jimmy Clarke,
Sarah Withers
Worship Committee: Cindy Flickinger, Chair
Choir: Bobbie Bauldock
Praise Band: Dave Croson

Head Usher: David English
Communion Steward: Earline English
Altar Guild: Sarah Withers
Acolytes: Teresa English
AV: Scott Flickinger
Missions Committee: Mary Jenkins, Chair
Mary Sudduth, Sue Jones

Records/History Committee: Rebecca Gillions, Chair
 Bobbie Bauldock, Anne Scates,
 Alma Thrift, Marie Yancey

Coordinator of Youth Ministries: Amanda Birdsall
 Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Fallin
 Prayer Coordinator: To be selected
 Scouting Ministry Coordinator: Teresa English
 Food Pantry Coordinator: Debbie Messick
 Church Historian: Rebecca Gillions

District Conf. Delegates: Jeanne and Buddy Axtell
 District Steward: Scott Flickinger

Child Protection Committee: Pastor Rebecca
 Rumburg, Chair

Disaster Response Coordinator: Barry Sudduth
 Hermitage Guild Rep: Alma Thrift, Betty Bailey
 Virginia Advocate Rep: Wanda Clarke

Lay Servants: Bridget Gillions, Sue Jones,
 Jeanne Axtell, Dave Croson, Mina Croson,
 Joan Balderson.

Members Emeritus: Evelyn Roberts, Peely Thrift

Members at Large: Betty Bailey, Bobby Sanford,
 Kacky Sanford, Jerry Thrift, Wanda Clarke,
 Ralph Fallin

Church Council Approved Budget for 2019

<u>Apportionments</u>		<u>Property & Facilities</u>	27,543.	Prayer Ministry	200.
Virginia Conf	\$24,618.	(utilities, supplies,		Prayers & Squares	100.
Rapp. District	2,568.	maintenance, etc.)		<u>Supporting our Ministries</u>	
<u>Base Staff Compensation</u>		<u>Missions & Outreach</u>		Clergy Moving Exp.	500.
Pastor		Evangelism	800.	Communications	250.
Salary	50,060.	Mission Trips	1,500.	Lay Member to Conf	650.
Reimbursables	2,000.	2 nd Mile Giving	8,800.	Music/AV supplies	1,495.
Annual Conf	650.	Annual Conf	250.	<u>Special Programs</u>	
Continuing Ed	500.	<u>Ministries</u>		Homecoming/revival	500.
Pension	10,500.	Bible Studies	1,500.	Worship Supplies	350.
Pianist	1,500.	Children's Ministries	2,500.	Funeral flowers/food	250.
Custodian	6,000.	Youth Ministries	500.		

Total 2019 Budget: \$146,084.