



Ebenezer
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parish News

Volume 49 | Number 5

May 2021

May 9

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Our graduates will be recognized for their accomplishments at the 10:30 worship service. Following worship we will gather in the courtyard for a casual lunch provided by the Fluer de' Licious food truck.

Use the Sunday worship SignUpGenius to make a reservation. Bring your tailgate chairs. Enjoy lunch and fellowship on the courtyard lawn.



HIGH SCHOOL

Callie Baucom

Graduating from Blythewood High School.

Attending Methodist University in the fall to major in Nursing and play softball.

Olivia Bokesch

Graduating from A.C. Flora High School.

Plans to attend Duke University in the fall to study Economics and French.

Addison Floyd

Graduating from the IB program at Irmo High School.

She will be attending the University of South Carolina College of Nursing.

COLLEGE

Miranda Hampton

Graduating from Clemson University, cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Management and Marketing with an entrepreneurship emphasis.

Kolby Leitner

Graduating from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Bennett Ballentine

Graduating in December 2021 from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Trey Holmes

Graduated in December 2020 from Clemson University with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and is working with TTI industries - specifically with Riyobi.

Pastor's Page

Dear Members and Friends of Ebenezer,

Grace and peace to you! This is a hopeful time – surrounded as we are with the promises of the resurrection, and thankful for the little blossoms of normal that begin to appear in our congregation's life. By the time you receive this newsletter you will have heard some information from our Council about “next steps” for this spring and summer as we work toward being less restricted.

But I can share these things with you now! Sundays in May will include an opportunity to honor our high school and college graduates, a baptism, and the Festival of Pentecost! In August we will welcome a full-time Vicar from Southern Seminary to be with us for a year. James Dahl is from Durham, NC, and is beginning his calling in ministry after a career in

the U.S. Army. He is excited about working with us, and we are excited about the gifts he will bring to this congregation. Evan Fitzsimmons, our first year seminary student, will continue to work with us next year in the area of Faith Formation. Our leaders and staff are working to accelerate the retirement date for our loan, and to envision what our ministry will look like once it is paid off. Many of our ongoing ministries and ministry teams are being rebooted, or in some cases, reinvented. Our community needs us, now more than ever, to be the hands and feet and heart of the Risen Christ!

In the Easter season we read each week from the Acts of the Apostles. What a timely reminder that the Church is always being animated by the Holy Spirit and led in unexpected directions!

In thanks for the Gospel Ministry we share,
-Pastor Paul

In Memory of Lynne Tyler

COVID restrictions made it difficult this year for us to grieve the deaths of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to surround their loved ones with prayer and compassion. In most cases we have been able to have at least a small gathered service. It was not possible for us to have a gathered memorial service for one of our members, Lynne Tyler. Lynne passed away in March. She had been a member of our congregation for a number of years. It was not always possible for her to attend frequently. Some of you will remember Lynne from her participation in one of our adult Sunday School classes. Others will remember that she often brought her landlady's grandchildren, Ethan and Kendall, to worship with her. Lynne was genuine and transparent about her joys and her struggles, and she truly clung to the promises of Christ in her life. Please pray for her sister, Lisa, for her landlady and friend, Rose, and for her “grandchildren,” Ethan and Kendall. May God grant us grace to entrust Lynne to God's eternal care!



O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. elw

Upcoming Handbell Festival

Our handbells have been practicing and will participate in a Handbell Festival, May 8 at Shandon UMC with the nationally known David Harris, of the Raleigh Ringers.

At 1pm there will be a Festival Concert open to the public. All are welcome!

David M. Harris has been the director of the Raleigh Ringers (www.rr.org) since January 1990. Under his leadership, the Raleigh Ringers have gained recognition for their professional performances throughout the US. David is in increasing demand as a clinician and guest conductor and has led several national Handbell Musicians of America events.

Members of the Ebenezer Handbell Choir:
Suzanne Amaral, Holly Anderson, Gaye Betcher, Lisa Brassington, Karen Hardy, Jane Holmes, Beth Mays, Lisa McClain, Judy Woolly, Carolyn Traylor, and David Turner, Director.



Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are a wonderful way for you to honor or remember a family member, friend, special occasion or specific ministry.

How do you provide flowers?

Simply call the church office and speak with Diane Oliver by noon Tuesdays or place your request in the offering plate on Sundays. Both vases are \$75.



GraceWorks will be hosted at Ebenezer July 25-31. All youth in grades 6-12 including those who've just graduated, are invited to participate!

Although we are not certain about service projects we will be involved in at this time, we do hope to engage with our community as much as we are safely able. We plan to hold worship, discussion and learning opportunities during the week at Ebenezer.

We would love for our youth to participate in planning these events. You are welcome whether you've attended GraceWorks in the past or not. The planning meetings are being held virtually. Contact Mimi Wortham-Brown for info mimiwb@gmail.com/call/text 803-319-5007. We look forward to hearing from you!

PLANT SWAP

Saturday, May 1 @ 10:00 am

Corner Parking Lot-Sumter & Calhoun

Open to everyone. Share this info with your friends, co-workers and neighbors. The more participants, the greater the selection!

All types of plants are welcome. Indoor and outdoor plants, shrubs, trees, and bedding plants. Bulbs like Daylilies and Irises that multiply and need dividing, small volunteer trees. House plants that need dividing and other type plants you may have.

The process is quick once all plants are set out.
*Wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Questions? Contact Jim Johnson 803-556-3177 or email jimjohnsonjr60@gmail.com

**A LOOK AT FUTURE EVENTS
BEING PLANNED . . .**

Take me Out to the Ballgame, a night of Fireflies baseball, **June 24** at 7:05pm. There is food and beverage service at designated areas and we will have tables instead of stadium seats, in the picnic area. Use the following link to reserve your seats.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E44A9AB22A2FA7-fireflies>
 Tickets: \$10 each; 40 tickets available.
 Food and beverages on your own.

Retreat & Worship at Camp Kinard
 Sunday, **August 15**. This will be a fun filled day for all ages!

Communion Celebration* for families with pre-school and elementary age children, communing and not yet communing.

Night at the Movies: *Raya and the Lost Dragon*, Sunday, **July 11** at 4:00 in the Parish Life Center.

***Date to be determined.
 More details to follow for each event!**

This May holds three important events in the church, following Easter Sunday.

May 13 - **Ascension Day**
 the day Jesus ascended into heaven.

May 23 - **Pentecost**
 the day the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the disciples.

May 30 - **Holy Trinity**
 celebrates the three persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Finance Team Report

as of April 13

Spending Plan Contributions received April 01 - 11, 2021:
 (Worship, Mail-In Offerings & Electronic Contributions) \$ 23,102

*ELC needs an average of \$14,294/week for 2021 Spending Plan

Year to Date Total Offerings and Other Income through March 31, 2021 \$ 204,519
 Year to Date Total Spent on Ministry through March 31, 2021 \$ 205,506
 Net Income (Loss) through March 31, 2021 \$ (987)

Debt Obligations:
 2007 Renovation Loan (Pay-Off Date July 05, 2023; 4.00% Interest Rate) \$ 72,876

Ebenezer Property Endowment

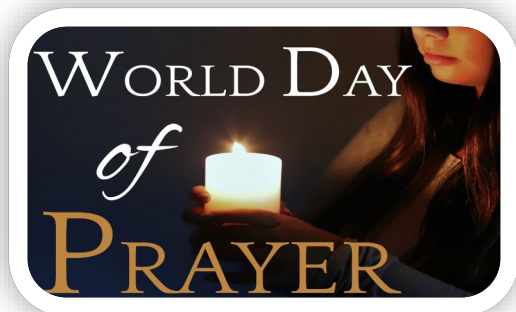
Our congregation is blessed with beautiful facilities and generous hearts! This fall we plan to create a new endowment fund that will appeal to both. The Ebenezer Property Endowment (not a permanent name – stay tuned for our “name the endowment” contest this summer!) will be a place where people can make current or estate gifts to ensure that our historically significant property will be cared for in perpetuity.

At our Annual Meeting in February, we shared that \$458,000 was spent over the past five years on unanticipated repairs and maintenance. In the future, a healthy endowment would be able to ease that burden on the operating budget, freeing up resources for ministry!

This endowment will be an excellent complement to our Ebenezer Foundation, which supports ministry projects that fall outside of our operating budget.

The congregation will have the opportunity to officially create this endowment at our November congregational meeting. In the meantime, we are excited to talk about all of the sacred places and spaces in our property, and how they provide a setting for ministry and memories!

Thursday, May 6



*Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.*

COUNCIL CORNER CONGREGATION COUNCIL MET APRIL 20 - VIA ZOOM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*Reviewed church trends in our community during the pandemic. Discussed a timeline for gradual resumption of activities and practices, dependent upon Covid-19 cases remaining low.

*Received notification of forgiveness of Ebenezer's loan through the payroll protection program in the amount of \$54,900.

*The Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas (LSC) program on the third floor recently submitted a federal grant to expand their program. Their grant request was approved and new federal funding will support an expansion from 12 to 24 children. In doubling the size of their program, they need more space to accommodate the additional children and staff. LSC would like to dedicate the third floor space to children's rooms, move administrative staff to the Carriage House at 1927 Marion Street, and use classrooms 101 and 108/109 on the lower level of our education/office building. Use of the lower level classrooms by Ebenezer had decreased prior to the pandemic, and there are no imminent plans for Ebenezer to resume use of all the lower level classrooms. If Ebenezer identifies an internal ministry need for these classrooms, the church could opt out of the lease agreement. The additional LSC leased space will not change our commitment to hosting Family Promise. LSC agrees to work with Ebenezer during the weeks when our church hosts Family Promise including LSC staff on the lower level adjusting their hours. We are pleased to host these impactful ministries at this particular time in our congregation's life. With this latest arrangement we have fully realized our potential for sharing space with ministry partners, and we are grateful for the financial resources this arrangement with LSC will provide for Ebenezer's ministry. Council approved LSC's utilization of the first floor space and 1927 Marion Street as specified above.

*New lighting has been installed in the transept of the sanctuary and power to the newly installed water heater in the sacristy at a cost of \$1300.



Exciting News for Ebenezer's Children & Youth and Parents

Columbia Children's Theater will utilize the Parish Life Center for their series of weekly summer camps June 21– July 30.

The weekly camps are for age three - high school AND the children and youth of Ebenezer are invited to participate. While there is a cost for the weekly camps our members can participate in a week of camp FREE of charge.

Go <https://www.columbiachildrenstheatre.com/>

Select Education, then Summer Camps to see which week works best for your child and their interest and then sign them up! Use the code EbenezerPromo (case sensitive) at checkout for \$200 off the final cost.

Virtual Easter Lilies given to the glory of God

and in memory of

Leonard Metz by his family
Jean Rhyne by James and Nancy Thomas
Roger Ballentine by Lynn, Candace and Bennett Ballentine
Carolyn Jenkins Price by Lisa and Joshua McClain
Charles James Price by Lisa and Joshua McClain
My parents by Linda Smith Shealy
Loved ones by Jerry and Sarah Bolton
My grandparents, Gene and Leona Catrett,
Jack and Frances Turner by David Turner
Our loved ones by Joe and Gwen Shealy
Kathryn Dasher King by the Kents
Jean Rhyne by Jim and Kathy Chase Johnson
Harold Park by Betty Park
Eric Harris by Betty Park
Kathryn Dasher King by Hank and Gaye Betcher
Our parents by David and Carolyn Donges
Our brothers by David and Carolyn Donges
Bobbie Jean Hiller, beloved wife and mother by Joel Hiller and Dawn Hiller
Hermie Jean Hiller, beloved daughter and sister by Joel Hiller and Dawn Hiller
Our parents by Howell and Colleen Siniard
Eric Harris by Joyce Rose-Harris

and in honor of

Brenda Lown by James and Nancy Thomas
All who make our virtual services available by Bill and Reenie Frew
Diane Oliver by Stephen and Susan Peeples
Bill and Reenie Frew by Stephen and Susan Peeples
Our church staff and all who have enabled us to worship during this unusual year by Jim and Kathy Chase Johnson
Craig and Lois Park Mole by Betty Park
Our Gammy, Joanna Carpenter with love by Worth and Trale Bateman
Ann Birch by Brenda Argoe
Stephanie Birch by Brenda Argoe
Ashley Birch by Brenda Argoe
Caroline Smith by Karli and Vivian Redden
Ben "Daddy" Redden by Karli and Vivian Redden
The members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church by the Ben, Vikki, Karli and Vivian Redden
The church staff by David and Martha Cobb
Rory Leigh Stilwell by Don Titus and Carolyn Traylor

**The proceeds from "virtual" lilies " were used for the cost of potted lilies for the altar area, livestream and special musicians for our Easter Festival Worship services.*

Thank-you...



Dear Fellow Members,
Thank you for the cards and calls I recently received during my recovery from a heart procedure. I appreciate the good thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely,
Joel Hiller



Remember these special members
with a greeting card or a telephone call

Reenie Frew, Lodd & Marilyn Havird, Marilyn Minick, Sonja Zagata; Amara Place: Jo Creason; Heritage at Lowman: Helen Sanders; Presbyterian Home: Mary Hallman, Joyce O'Sheal; Wellmore: June Metz

Member Updates

Joined the Church Triumphant

† Lynne Tyler, March 26
† Johnnie Wise, April 20

Birth

Banks Talton Ketaner, April 8
son of Nick and Katherine Sease Ketaner

SPECIAL GIFTS TO EBENEZER

as of April 19

Capital Campaign-Debt Reduction

- *In memory of Randi Olafson by Stephen & Susan Peeples, Ann Sease, Bill & Reenie Frew, Joyce Lybrand
- *In memory of Lynne Tyler by Stephen & Susan Peeples
- *In memory of Mary Alice Sumner by Roger & Linda Davis, Stephen & Susan Peeples
- *In memory of Eric Harris by Ann Sease, Bert & Rachael Richardson, Bill & Reenie Frew, Ruth Circle, Joe & Gwen Shealy
- *In memory of Ione Hildebrand by Roger & Linda Davis, Joe & Gwen Shealy
- *In memory of Albert Quante and Donald Knox by Ann Sease
- *In memory of Leesa Smith, Bob Bly, Augusta Ellsworth, Ione Hildebrand, Ruby Ford, Mary Alice Sumner, Lamar Hardy, Albert Quante and Eric Harris by Buddy & Ellen Bateman

Care Team

*In memory of Randi Olafson by Annette Metz, Roger & Linda Davis

The Foundation

by Linda Fellers
by the Estate of Julian Wise

Music Ministry

*In memory of Augusta Ellsworth by Jerry & Sarah Bolton

Thanksgiving and Memorial

- *In memory of Lynne Tyler and Mary Alice Sumner by Judy Woolly
- *In memory of Randi Olafson by Judy Woolly, Thurmond & Barbara Sharpe
- *In memory of Augusta Ellsworth by John & Betsy Halloran, Catherine Sharpe ☥

Reaching out to draw others to Christ.

Office Hours

10 am to 3 pm
Monday-Friday
803.765.9430

Visit us on the Web

<http://www.ebenezerlutheran.org>
and Facebook



Ebenezer Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Paul E. Aebischer

Director of Music & Parish Engagement

David E. Turner

Administrative Associate

Diane M. Oliver

Financial Assistant

Philip A. Bingenheimer

Church Council

OFFICERS

Debbie Seale, *President*

Linda Smith Shealy, *Vice President*

Ali Jones, *Secretary*

Lisa McClain, *Council Representative At Large*

Beth Mays, *Treasurer*

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Angela Forand 2021	Jim Johnson 2022
Ali Jones 2021	Debbie Seale 2022
Joyce Rose-Harris 2021	Mitchell Goldsmith 2023
Fred Olafson 2021	Linda Smith Shealy 2023
Dawn Hiller 2022	Lisa McClain 2023
Jane Holmes 2022	Grace Metzgar 2023

Ministry Teams & Team Leaders

Communications - Joan Van Schaik

Faith Formation - Ali Jones

Finance - Phil Bingenheimer

Hospitality - Jane Holmes

Member Care - Linda Davis

Outreach - Chris & Mimi Wortham-Brown

Personnel - Rich Roberson

Property - Jay Metts

Stewardship - Mitchell Kneece

Worship- Suzanne Amaral



Ebenezer Lutheran Church

1301 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201-2578

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sundays

9:00 am & 10:30 am in the church
with limited seating
10:30 am Livestream

Wednesdays Midday

12:10 pm
Video on Facebook

The deadline for the next issue of the *Parish News*
is 12 noon, Saturday, May 15.

To have an item included in the newsletter, please submit in writing
to Diane Oliver or e-mail to doliver@ebenezerlutheran.org



We are a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
www.elca.org