



Ebenezer
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parish News

Volume 50 | Number 3

March 2022



March 2
IMPOSITION of ASHES
Noon and 6:00 pm

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust
you shall return.*



March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6
WEDNESDAYS in LENT
Noon Worship in the Chapel

The service will consist of prayer, a short conversational devotion based on the weekly gospel readings and communion. We hope to see you there as we journey through these 40 days of reflection leading up to our Lord's passion.

March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7
THURSDAYS in LENT
6:00 pm Zoom Lenten Study

Pastor Paul and Vicar James will be leading a ZOOM bible study on Thursdays at 6pm in Lent. We will explore the Gospel readings through the lens of five guiding questions.

Week 1: How might I serve God today?

Week 2: O God, what am I to do while on this earth?

Week 3: How is God being patient with you?

Week 4: What does it mean to dwell in God's grace?

Week 5: How can we express our love of the One who gives us life?

We look forward to fellowship with you on our digital campus. Look for the ZOOM link in your email or on the Ebenezer webpage.

Pastor's Page

Why this? Why now?

These are good questions to ask in times of crisis, times of opportunity, or crucial turning points. You have heard by now that our Church Council has voted to appoint a Call Committee to identify a second pastor who can help us address some of our staff and ministry challenges as we move forward. Some of you may be asking these same questions: Why this? Why now?

If you were not able to attend either of our information forums, it may help you to hear the answers to some frequently asked questions.

Why do we need a second pastor? We began this year-long process of dreaming and imagining with no particular job title in mind, but rather a curiosity about the gifts and competencies that would help us move forward in ministry. The critical needs that would be best addressed by a full-time staff person are faith formation (and ministry with youth and young families), outreach to our community, and community building within our congregation (Koinonia, small groups, volunteer ministries). These particular needs moved us in the direction of a rostered person (deacon or pastor) rather than a lay person. Calling a second pastor would also bring a person with gifts for preaching, teaching, and pastoral care to enhance our ministry.

Can we afford additional staff at this time? The bulk of the proposed second pastor's compensation would be covered by money freed up from David Turner's transition from full to part-time ministry. But we have other reasons to be confident as well. Our stewardship during the time of COVID has been excellent. Our members and friends have been very generous in their support of Ebenezer's vision for ministry. Our fall stewardship emphasis for the 2022 ministry year indicated a growth of about \$50,000 in our giving over the previous year. \$96,000/year will be freed up at the conclusion of the stone and window project this fall. Another \$12,000 will be available in 2023 that would have been budgeted for a new Vicar. We are confident that we have the resources to support another full-time staff member, as well as some part-time contract and consulting help.

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What other plans do we have for our ministry staff needs? The “dream team” that we appointed a year ago to think about our post-COVID and post-construction loan ministry, also identified ways that part-time consultants and contractors could help us with our ministry. We identified the two most critical areas of need as digital technology/social media marketing, and operations/property management. Our Council plans to move forward with these plans once our full-time staff person has been identified.

What happens next? As you remember from previous call committee experiences, our council will meet with our Bishop to go over the process. Council will appoint a call committee that will interview candidates confidentially, and then bring a recommended candidate’s name back to Council. Council will then vote to bring the name and the compensation details to a special congregational meeting for a vote.

Would you join me in praying for the Holy Spirit to guide these conversations as we look with excitement toward our future ministry?!

In Christ’s Peace,
-Pastor Paul

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

at 9:30am

in the Reception Room

Join Pastor Paul for an information forum about our Church Council's vision for staffing our ministry in 2022. Approved unanimously a motion to establish a Call Committee for the purpose of calling a second pastor for Ebenezer.

FOODSHARE



MARCH VEGGIE BOX

ORDER SCHEDULE

Order deadline-noon, Weds, Mar 2, 16 & 30

Call 803.834.0833

Pick up -Weds 4 - 6pm Mar 9 & 23

ELC horseshoe parking lot-Calhoun St side.

Large 18-22 lbs \$20 credit card/ SNAP EBT \$10

Small 15-18 lbs \$15 card card/ SNAP EBT \$5

Open to anyone who wants fresh produce.



Logan Elementary School

FAMILY NIGHT EVENT

Thurs, March 17

5:00 -7:00 pm

We have been asked to serve the meal for this outdoor event. We will wear masks and keep social distancing in mind. If you would like to join us in serving the families at Logan, or have questions contact Mimi Wortham-Brown.mimiwb@gmail.com
or text/call 803-319-5007

“Reaching out to draw others to Christ.”

NEW GENERATION BEACH RETREAT

Coastal Retreat Center @ the Isle of Palms

April 18-20

Make your reservation with Linda Davis (803-309-2406). A limited number of rooms remain. Don't delay!



Family Promise Night of Promise - Gala 2022

Dear Faithful Family Promise Supporters at Ebenezer Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of Family Promise of the Midlands, I am excited to invite you—one of our most faithful supporters—to be among the earliest participants in the Gala 2022 Campaign to raise \$150,000 in support of our mission to help families facing homelessness.

Our Vision

As you well know, the pandemic upended the rotational housing model while at the same time exponentially increasing the need for emergency housing. While many other service organizations had to shutter operations, FPM continued helping families by creating programs focused on keeping families from becoming homeless, expanding the availability of transitional housing, and mitigating the trauma of homelessness, especially for the children.

To continue—and to expand—these life-changing programs, we have set ambitious goals:

Tomorrow's Promise: FPM wants to minimize the trauma of homelessness (1) by helping to prevent families from becoming homeless, (2) by establishing programs to promote financial literacy and community engagement, (3) by assisting with relocation expenses, and (4) by providing children with opportunities that expand their vision of what is possible in their lives, giving them hope for a better future. Here are just a few examples of this program in action:

*We provided financial assistance for rent and utilities, preventing four families (8 children) from becoming homeless and assisting an additional six families (14 children) with moving expenses and deposits.

*We provided emergency shelter for six families (10 children) and transitional housing for two families (4 children).

*We identified funding so that 83 children deeply affected by poverty and housing insecurity could attend a weeklong summer camp experience.

*We have coordinated a free clinic (scheduled for early February) offering vision and hearing screenings in partnership with Healthy Learners, including food and Valentine's Day arts and crafts.

*Partner congregations coordinated Christmas gifts, baseball outings, tutoring, birthday parties, trips to see holiday lights, Thanksgiving dinners, symphony concerts, and much more for families in our program.

25 by 2025: FPM hopes to have 25 transitional housing units available to families by 2025. We now have four, and two more are in the planning stages. When the rotational model returns post-pandemic, these transitional homes will ensure that families can move into stable housing more quickly than in the past.

The Gala 2022 Campaign: \$150,000

You can help us reach our Gala Campaign goal in three ways:

*By purchasing tickets to the in-person event on April 30th

*By participating (donating or bidding) in an online auction to be held from April 15th to 30th.

*By making a generous pledge to the 2022 Gala Campaign.

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We are counting on you to be among the first to launch this campaign and to inspire others to come on board.

Visit the event site to make a pledge and to purchase tickets.
<https://givergy.us/nightofpromise>

How Else Can You Help?

Donate an item to the silent auction, email info@familypromisemidlands.org.

*Consider donating the kinds of items you enjoy bidding on in auctions-- vacation home stays, services, gift cards, and so forth.

*Help us grow our list of potential donors at every level by sharing this email with business owners, friends, and neighbors who may want to support the FPM mission to work toward a community in which every child has a home.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of this important mission.

For the families we serve,



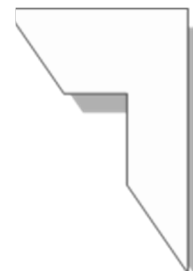
Nancy Tuten
Gala 2022 Co-Chair



...because every child deserves a home.

COUNCIL CORNER

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL
MET IN PERSON FEBRUARY 15
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**



*Welcomed Bishop Ginny Aebischer to discuss with Council the call process for calling a second pastor.

*Have received donations of \$522.50 thus far for Souper Bowl of Caring. Donations can still be received.

*Approved usage request by Columbia Children's Theater to use the gym and several classrooms June 13-July 29 for summer camps.

*Received updates on multiple needs from Property Team. 1. Stone and window re-caulking project continues. 2. Simplex system replacement for the Chapel and the patio security fencing are the top priorities at present. Working to get updated quote on the Chapel Simplex system replacement & arrange for the security fencing contractor to meet with and give an overview of fencing projects to Permanent Improvements Committee. 3. Lease renewal with LSC for 3rd floor space and two first floor classrooms completed (term 2/1/22 - 1/31/23). 4. Elevator key project to restrict access to 3rd floor completed. 5. New stainless steel PLC kitchen refrigerator arrived 1/20/22.

*Choir, handbells, and all worship assistants are in need of new choir robes. Total cost is \$6426, or approximately \$150 per robe. Contributions are welcomed to defray the cost.

Full minutes for meetings are available by request. Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:45 pm in the PLC Dining Room. All Ebenezer members are welcome to attend and observe Council meetings.



**EXCITING NEWS for OUR FAMILIES
WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH!**

**Columbia Children's Theater
will be here in our Parish Life Center
for their summer series of weekly camps June 13 - July 29**

The weekly themed camps are for ages three - high school AND the children and youth of EBENEZER are invited to participate in a week of camp FREE of charge!

The Summer Camp Catalog/Calendar will be released March 1.

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

Select Education, then Summer Camps to see which week and theme works best for your child and their interest, and then sign them up! Use the code Ebenezer Promo (case sensitive) at checkout.

LOOKING AHEAD



New Worship Leaders' Robes!

A subcommittee of our worship team has been researching options to replace our (40+ year old) choir robes. The robes have been chosen and should be ready for us by mid/late spring, at a cost of \$6,426 (or roughly \$150/robe). These will certainly be a blessing to our worship and uplifting to our choir, Worship Assistants, Communion Assistants, and others who serve in our worship services!

Thank you to all who have helped with this process, and especially to Carolyn Traylor for coordinating.

Contributions are welcome if you would like to help defray the cost of the new robes.

Palm Sunday - April 10
8:30 and 10:30 am

Service of the Word
April 11, 12, 13
Noon

Maundy-Thursday - April 14
6:00pm

Good Friday - April 15
Noon - Stations of the Cross
6:00 pm - Tenebrae

Easter Vigil - April 16
7:00pm

Easter Day - April 17
Festival Worship
8:30 and 10:30am

Thank-you...

*My Dear Ebenezer Family,
Thank you for organizing the beautiful reception in my honor. Mitchell and I were first welcomed to Columbia by the folks at Ebenezer, and our hearts could not be more grateful. Ebenezer's passion for Christ-centered excellence is contagious and continues to change lives all over the world. I'm humbled by the opportunity to continue serving on Sunday mornings as part of this life giving ministry. Your gift of the stained glass cross is a forever reminder of this faithful community and my cherished relationship with each one of you. Through this transition, may we all strive to continue the work set before us to share Christ with others through our love for one another.
David Turner*

*Dear Ebenezer Church Family,
We thank you so very much for all of the cards and calls we received expressing sympathy at our unexpected loss of our brother. At such times, receiving messages of care, concern and love brings great comfort, and helps us to recognize God's loving hand through the actions of others. We are grateful for our Ebenezer family.
Peace and blessings,
Ann A Birch and Brenda K Argoe*

SPECIAL GIFTS TO EBENEZER

as of February 15

In memory of

- * Jo Creason by Joe & Gwen Shealy*
- * In memory of Louie Argoe by Roger & Linda Davis, Suzanne Sims, Dianne McCarty*
- * In memory of Doug Cobb by Roger & Linda Davis*

In honor of

- * Joel Hiller by Thurmond & Barbara Sharpe ♡*

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

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

*Thank you to all who made a contribution to the "Souper Bowl of Caring!" Because of your generosity, Ebenezer was able to send \$522.50 to the Harvest Hope Food Bank.
Let's continue to work together to tackle hunger.*

The Glory of These Forty Days

The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.



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

Vicar

James Dahl

Director of Music

David E. Turner

Administrative Associate

Diane M. Oliver

Financial Assistant

Philip A. Bingenheimer

Church Council

OFFICERS

Linda Smith Shealy, *President*

Lisa McClain, *Vice President*

Grace Metzgar, *Secretary*

Jane Holmes, *Council Representative At Large*

Beth Mays, *Treasurer*

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dawn Hiller 2022	Lisa McClain 2023
Jane Holmes 2022	Grace Metzgar 2023
Jim Johnson 2022	Candace Ballentine 2024
Debbie Seale 2022	Aggie Smith 2024
Mitchell Goldsmith 2023	Kathy Quinn 2024
Linda Smith Shealy 2023	Rachael Richardson 2024

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

8:30 am Worship In person

9:30 am Faith Formation - All Ages

10:30 Worship In person & Livestream

WEDNESDAYS

12:10 pm

Video on Facebook

The deadline for the next issue of the *Parish News*

is noon, Tuesday, March 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