



The Eagle

June 2014



Ebenezer United Church
of Christ
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Ebenezer Ucc Chilton



Mission Statement of this Church

Ebenezer United Church of Christ is a vibrant faith community that strives to...

- ◊ Serve the spiritual needs of our neighbors.
- ◊ Transform by walking in Jesus' footsteps.
- ◊ Openly reach out for opportunities to share God's word at home and abroad.
- ◊ Nurture our relationships with God and each other.
- ◊ Empower and embrace faith, hope, and love in God!



PASTOR'S CORNER

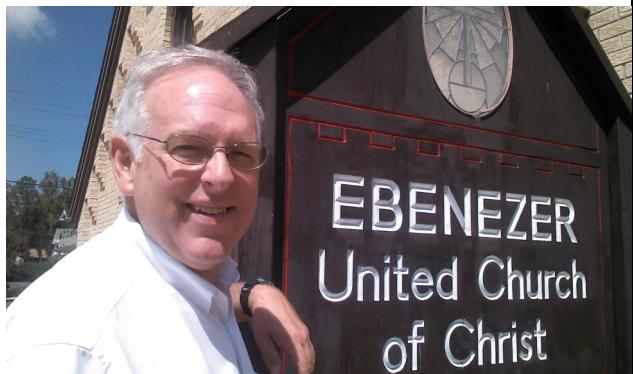
Is Ebenezer healthy?



One way to measure the health of a church is to look at the numbers. How many adults are in worship? How many young people are in church? How many people are being served by the church? What is the average weekly offering? These

are straightforward measurements, they are useful and they are also limiting. They define health in terms of numbers. They cannot measure how a person feels about the church. They cannot measure the presence of the Holy Spirit. Stories tell us about the Spirit.

Cont. on pg. 2



Cont. from pg. 1

One of the many things a new pastor does when arriving at a church is listen to the stories of church life, church history, personal stories of joy and sadness. On one level the pastor needs to hear these stories for they tell a part of the life of the church. The pastor also needs to hear, beyond the historical facts, the words used to describe the church. Those descriptive words, those modifiers, tell the real story of the health of a church.

When I arrived last July I heard the historical stories. I heard the recent history. I heard the stories that people wanted me to hear; good stories and bad. I eventually was trusted enough to hear the more painful stories about many people wondering if the church would be closed in a few months. The stories I began to hear were filled with words such as: *decrease, diminish, dropping, falling, sinking, failing, ending, hurt, no trust, hopeless, broke*.

Over time I heard more about the fears the church would not exist within a few months. These stories presented a church that was not healthy. ***But I have never heard a single story about those times that said God had given up on Ebenezer.***

Today we have a very different set of words and stories testifying to the church's health. Over the past few weeks I have heard words such as:



- “excited,”
- “I don’t want to miss church anymore,”
- “Did you see how many people were here for Easter?”
- “Do you think the balcony will support all those people?”
- “I haven’t seen them in church for a couple of years,”
- “Let’s do a mission project,”
- “Let’s tell people about Ebenezer!”
- “We have kids coming to church, we don’t look as old as we used too.”

Cont. on pg 3

Cont. from pg. 2

Words don't tell the entire story. These things were said by people whose body language matched their excited words. I've seen and heard this at every meeting I've attended and after every church service for the past couple of months. Yes, the numbers also tell a similar story:

- more kids in Sunday School
- a Confirmation class
- attendance is up to 85 people each Sunday (last year at the same time we were at 57 people)
- giving is an average of \$1,975 per week,
- we've paid every bill that has come to us
- we have a small surplus in the bank that grows each month.

The Search Committee has taken huge steps forward in preparing the church profile. The committee is literally a couple of paragraphs and a couple of salary numbers from having a completed profile.

The story of Ebenezer continues to move forward and is now entering a new chapter of excitement and growth, with everyone having the courage to move into the future. Moving into the future is always done with the wisdom, the courage, the vision, and the hard work of those who came before us. All the ministers (both settled and interim), all the lay leaders of the church, all the committee volunteers, and all the paid staff have paved the way, making the roads as straight and level as possible for the next generation of church members.



As the excitement grows we remember them in our prayers, thanking God for the gifts and the contributions they have shared.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Mike

Welcome to the Church

We had good cause to celebrate at the end of April and throughout May. We gathered to mark Palm Sunday with songs and palm fronds, smiles on the faces of all the young people and a bright sun shining in the windows. All was perfect for Palm Sunday.

Easter morning was a special treat as we sat together sharing breakfast, telling stories, admiring our daughters in their best dresses and our sons in their best suits. Worship with communion in a church filled nearly to its limit was a time when everyone felt the presence of the Holy Spirit moving every-which-way all morning long.

The last two weeks we had unexpected joys as Dennis Winkler, Barb DeWitt, and Jane Schroeder (each having experienced significant hospital stays) came back and worshipped with us.

The last Sunday in April continued the weeks of great excitement and joy in the church as we baptized Mariah Rose McGinnis and her dad David.

Then on May 4 we confirmed and welcomed into membership Casey Stephenson, Cole Woelfel and Dylan Tyson.

Mother's Day and the last day of Sunday School round out the regular church year.

It has been a joy filled end of the church year.

new ministry at Ebenezer

A few weeks ago, on a Wednesday afternoon as the Confirmands and I were looking at books and newspaper clippings about Ebenezer's past, a family walked into the church and asked if they could meet with other families twice a week in the church. At a time when we were looking at the past we were introduced to the future.

The family wanted to meet Sunday and Tuesday afternoons for a couple of hours to worship, hear the Word preached, and enjoy fellowship time with other Spanish speaking Protestant families in the area. The father said they would like to make a monthly contribution to the church.

I took the idea to the Council and they liked it. Since late April we have been blessed to host a Spanish speaking ministry with about 20 people of various ages attending. I have had the chance to learn a few words of Spanish and share lots and lots of smiles with parents and children who are absolutely thrilled to have a church in which to worship.

After the first week of worship I was showing Alberto and Juana Maria where the lights switches are located and other things they need for worship when Juana Maria asked for how long they could use the church. I looked at her and said "for as long as you want to use it." She squealed with delight, a big smile came across her face as she ran to me and gave me a huge hug!

I began this month's newsletter articles with the question, "*Is Ebenezer healthy?*" To all the numbers, all the excitement, all the words we can now add a new ministry! Ebenezer is being blessed every day in ways we never expected. Yes, ***EBENEZER IS HEALTHY!!!***



THANKS TO THE PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF AARON LISOWE AND THE DRIVE AND DETERMINATION OF RUTH AEBISCHER, EBENEZER NOW HAS A BRAND NEW WEBSITE. WHILE IT IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL AT THIS TIME, IT WILL NEED TO BE CONSTANTLY UPDATED IN ORDER TO STAY CURRENT. I'M LEARNING TO DO THIS AS I GO, BUT IT'S SOMETIMES SLOW GOING. (OLD DOG, NEW TRICKS—YOU UNDERSTAND) CHECK IT OUT. THE SITE NAME IS WWW.EBENEZERCHILTON.ORG. IF YOU SEE THINGS THAT NEED CORRECTING, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THINGS INCLUDED THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY ON THE SITE, LET ME KNOW AS WELL. ~Shirley



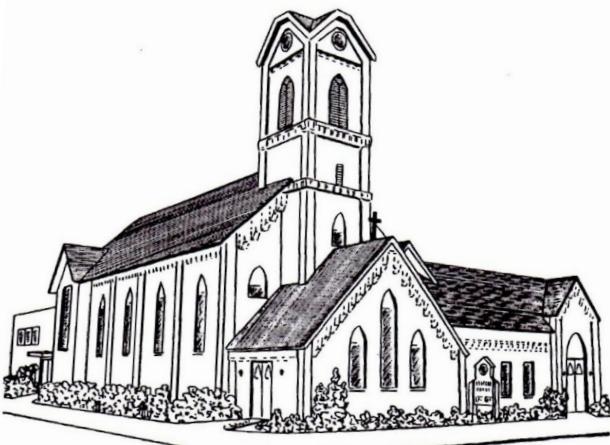
Parsonage Update

The repairs and renovation of the parsonage is nearing completion. As of the time I'm writing this, the dry walling has been finished. A new tub and tub surround has been installed in the upstairs bathroom. Flooring upstairs and down is complete. A new railing has been added to the small porch off the southeast bedroom. Kitchen and bathroom cabinets are in the process of being installed. Once those are in and the appliances are set back in place, the men from Midwest Restoration will return to finish the details such as floor moldings, reinstalling doors, etc. I have been working closely throughout this project with the staff of Midwest Restoration, Fuhrman Heating

(furnace), Jerry at Chilton Furniture (flooring), Frank and Karen Cmejla (cabinets), Dexter Sattler (our insurance agent), John Schwietzer (Hastings Mutual Insurance), and JoAnn Lakin and Diane Sattler as Women's Guild representatives. They have all been great to work with and have helped make this renovation go very smoothly. Thanks to all of you.



~Ken



Newsletter Articles

Please get your articles to Heather by the 3rd Tuesday of the month so she can get the Eagle published before the start of the next month. That means the deadline for the July 2014 Eagle is Tuesday, June 17. Weekly bulletin announcements are due each Tuesday morning.

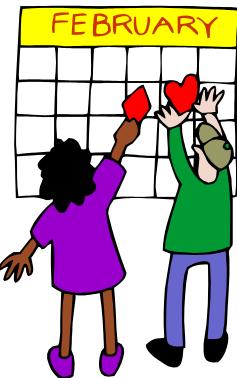
Let's let everyone know what is happening at Chilton's best church!

WALL CALENDAR

Over the course of the past several months people have asked about meeting dates or church availability. Instead of memorizing dates and times we re-introduce Heather's wall calendar.

Yes, the wall calendar has finally arrived and is hanging in the church office behind the door. If you have a meeting, even if it is a recurring meeting, please jot down the date and time for your meeting. This will help ensure meetings make it into the Eagle and the weekly bulletins.

Remember, we'd rather hear about a meeting or event 50 times than for 50 people to assume someone else has told us about the event.



USHERS

June 1 Church Council

June 8 Vern & Ann Gasch, Christopher & Colleen & Patrick Marx,

June 15 Steve & Chris Stenz, Mark Rusch, Ralph Schmid

June 22 Joe & Judy Mastrocola, Nicole Moore, Sue Verier

June 29 Don & Diane Sattler, Don & Donna Pingel



June Birthdays

Ryan Scnell	01	Jane Bolz	17
LeRoy Catt	06	Patrick Marx	18
Kristine Pagel	08	Heather Zipperer	19
Kelly Brown	08	Vern Knoespel	21
Kyla Rona	09	Dean Kloehn	22
June Gasch	10	Marilyn Propson	22
Ruth Roll	12	Brandon Wollersheim	26
Dean Pingel	14		

If you have a June birthday, and it was missed, please let the office know so we can get it right next time.



We have had great participation with our SCRIP program so far this year. Since January 1, we have earned over \$670 for the church. We have been able to do that with less than 15 families participating. Just think of the possibilities if we all would use scrip for our groceries, gas, gifts and dining out. Stop by the office or check out www.glscrip.com to see how you can help support our church. Once you get started, you will see how easy it really is.



Offering Envelopes

You may have noticed a small change to your newest set of offering envelopes. When you receive your new packet of offering envelopes you will notice the red sticker that says you are almost out of envelopes has been moved to the week before you use your final envelope. This small change will allow Heather to get your new packet out to the table before you use your last envelope.

This change helps in a couple of ways. First, the office will have two weeks to get the new envelopes to you. Second, you will always have an envelope at the ready for your offering, no more arriving at church and hoping you have new envelopes for that Sunday.

Thanks for the suggestions that have helped us make improvements to an already good system!



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER...

There are various TV shows that showcase and 'discover' hidden talent, i.e. American Idol, America's Got Talent, etc. I do think we have lots of talent at Ebenezer! When 10 individuals who have multiple day time obligations dedicate at least one hour per week for rehearsal and play for at least 2 worship services per month, they are truly sharing their talent. In addition to the 10 regular bell choir members, we are grateful to 3-5 others that fill in and put forth a great deal of effort. Thank you to all who shared their time and talent to make Ebenezer Brass handbell choir a reality. We are also grateful to Jill Sipple from New Holstein who helps out. In addition to the regular music, several challenges were well met by playing *Fantasia on Joyful, Joyful* (song dedicated in memory of Jeris); the combined bell tree duo (Claudia and Karen) accompanied by the bell choir; the bell choir combined with organ and trumpet, and *The Twelve Days of Christmas* challenge for the *Sounds of Chilton*. In addition to welcoming returning ringers, several others have expressed interest in playing bells next season. It is hoped we can offer something in conjunction with Sunday School next year plus new ringers are always welcomed with a little extra help for regular rehearsals. Claudia Brown and Nicole Moore put in that extra effort this year and have become real contributors to the bell choir. Watch for fall updates. Again, THANK YOU to all the dedicated bell ringers from this season and for all the equipment moving that was needed. We indeed wish William Elliot well in his future plans to go one with music. He will be greatly missed but always welcomed back as are all ringing alumni. The music for Baccalaureate Sunday featured William on trumpet, Karen on bells and a piano accompaniment. As we look forward to summer, so we look forward to involving various music selections—vocal, instrumental, ensembles, etc. for summer worship. If you have an offering or a suggestion, please let Pastor, Heather or Elaine hear about them.



Sunday School Corner

We have wrapped up our year together in Sunday School and are looking forward to summer—that is, if it ever arrives. The kids had been checking out books from our Ebenezer library throughout the year and those who did were rewarded on May 17 with a bowling party at Pla-Mor Lanes. We had so much fun. Krysta and Emily Roehrig took top prize for reading 61 books each and Owen Brown came in at a close third with 59. The following day was our end-of-year party during the Sunday School hour with games and snacks and treats. More fun! Our M&M mission project was such a success and final numbers will be tallied very soon. I am so thankful for the teachers who volunteered their time and talents again this year—Kristi Schnell, Tiffany Knoespel and Bea Pingel. If we would add up the hours these 3 have contributed over the years we would have a really big number! We will now all enjoy our summer break, but plans for next fall will begin soon. We will reconvene on Sunday, September 7 with our Kick-off Rally Sunday.

THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THIS CHURCH

Loving, living, and serving faithfully – uniting God and our neighbors.

Eva Louise	Rod Dennis	Joyce Phyllis	Jane Barb
Charlaine			
Sarah	Stefanie		
Sharon	David	Betty	
Sheri	Mark	Steve	

Due to privacy laws, we can no longer list last names of members of our congregation on the prayer list above because our Eagle goes on the church website which can be viewed by anyone on the internet. Thank you.



Scrip



Please keep in mind to buy scrip if you plan on making a shopping trip, gassing the car, or having dinner out!! It helps our church meet our goals!



United Community

We have partnered with United Community to help raise funds needed to help our church. We are using the funds towards our OCWM contributions and the General Fund. Many of you have been using your United Community Card at the partnered businesses and we thank you for doing that. If you do not have a United Community card and would like more information on how to obtain one, please contact the church office at 849-4331.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship Baccalaureate Sunday	2	3 Church office open 9-5	4 Church office open 9-5	5	6 Conference Annual Meeting	7 Conference Annual Meeting
8 9:30 am Worship Conference Annual Meeting	9	10 Church office open 9-5	11 Church office open 9-5	12 8:30 am Men's Brkfst @ 7 Angels	13	14 Flag Day
15 9:30 am Worship Council Meeting	16	17 Church office open 9-5 Eagle Articles Due	18 Church office open 9-5	19 1:00 pm Women's Guild @ 7 Angels	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship	23	24 Church office open 9-5	25 Church office open 9-5	26	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship Sundae on the Farm 11-3 Grand View Dairy, Brillion	30				June is Dairy Month	