



The Eagle

August 2015

Ebenezer
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“Ebenezer UCC Chilton”

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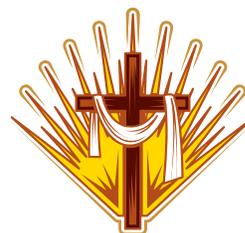
“Ebenezer United Church
of Christ Chilton”



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!

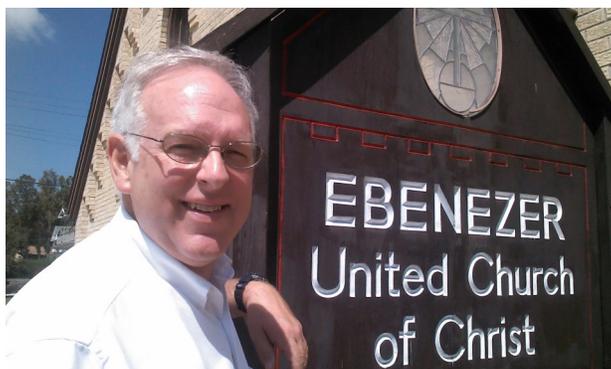


PASTOR'S CORNER

Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer, which the great Nat King Cole so beautifully sang about are here. The heat, humidity and mosquitoes are about and making daily living sometimes a bit challenging. Summer is a time to relax and enjoy those warm temperatures however, relaxing is not what is happening in the church.

Ebenezer has been doing a pretty good job with its ministry over the past 40+ years. We have done a good job taking care of our members. We have created a process which allows us to worship, join in fellowship, and provide spiritual care for those in crises. Unfortunately during that same time the perception of the church (the larger 'church' not Ebenezer itself) and participation in the church life has changed.

Cont. on pg. 2



Cont. from pg. 1

Beginning in the 1960's church attendance throughout the country began to drop. Going to church on Sunday morning gradually began to become "optional." As families found other activities for Sunday morning, a generation of children grew up without knowing the church. As the 60's moved into the 70's, 80's and 90's new generations of children didn't attend church in part because their parents and grandparents had not been "church goers." Eventually religion began to be seen as irrelevant and sometimes hurtful.

Ten years ago the UCC asked people in focus groups for their reactions to church. What they found was disturbing. The following quote is from the March 2004 issue of United Church News.

"The random testing also revealed strong negative feelings about churches in general, regardless of denomination. A large percentage of respondents said they considered churches to be responsible for past hurts in their lives, and many traced their feelings of inadequacy to negative church experiences."

"Too many congregations, the respondents said, left them feeling unwelcomed, financially inadequate and inappropriately dressed."

"Not only had the church injured them, they said, but the church had hurt those they loved. And too many congregations cared more about their own security than about those in need."

It appears that while we were ministering to our members, people outside the church began to see the church as not caring about them and therefore we came to be seen as an uncaring institution with hurtful people. It is in this setting that we are striving to show our love for Chilton and the surrounding communities.

This autumn we will be creating an evangelism team to look into how we care for members and non-members. (Thank you to all who submitted ideas for this team. We received a number of suggestions for care inside and outside the church. Both are important to the long term health of Ebenezer.) We must demonstrate our love for our members and for the larger community. We have gifts to offer within the church and in the wider community that will bring more love into everyone's heart. Healthy churches include spiritual growth for all as we imitate Jesus, following him along "the way".



Cont. on pg 3

Cont. from pg. 2

Healthy, long term growth begins with a strong foundation. To lay that foundation requires time and work. The Council , along with others, will be exploring how to grow at a healthy pace and in healthy ways. Each person in the church will have a role to play in this growth because each one of us represents the church. When we identify ourselves as Christians we have certain negative prejudices to overcome. Do we leave the impression we are only concerned about ourselves or do we live out Christ's command to love one another? Do we speak about the church or do we hide our Christianity? Do we complain about each other or do we speak about the positives of being with other believers? Each of us has a part in the growth and perception of the 'church' in general and Ebenezer UCC in particular.

Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer with Jesus Christ as the head of the church are bright and full of ways that we can touch our neighbors. The future is being found each day and through each person. Praise God for Ebenezer!

Peace,

Pastor Mike



"Welcome to our choir. We needed a good, strong bass."

VACATION RAMBLINGS CONT

In last month's Eagle an article featured what Kyle Pingel is doing at a popular vacation destination, Peninsula Players. In the following article we'll follow what Hannah Verrier is doing at Pilgrim Camp, a vibrant UCC camp with offerings for all ages. She attended many sessions there as she was growing up, enjoying all of the experiences. This year she is experiencing Pilgrim Camp as an employee and writes the following description:

"Working at camp is definitely not what I expected because the days are very long with many of them being close to 15 hours. I am pretty exhausted by the end of the day, but it isn't terrible. I had a grandparent and me camp where grandchildren came with their grandparents to do activities at camp. I played a lot of games with them and watched them while their grandparents took some time for themselves. We also do arts and crafts and nature activities like walk the labyrinth in the woods. The labyrinth is made of rocks brought in by previous campers. Next week I will be doing MADD camp which stands for music, arts, dance and drama. So I'm sure you can understand how excited I am for this camp considering it's what my main interests are. I'm not quite sure the directors for the camp have planned but I know there will be a flash mob that I will probably be choreographing!

If you do not work in the cabin for the week, you are either in kitchen or on "support". In kitchen, you make food for the entire camp and staff and usually the days are extremely long. We start at 6 AM and go until 7:30 or 8 at night. If things are going well then we usually get a 2 hour break during the day. It is very fast paced and chaotic at times, but I like it more than being on support. If you are on support, you start at 7:30 and go until 7 or 7:30 usually. On support, you do maintenance tasks and a lot of cleaning.

As for coming to camp, I think you are still able to sign up for some of the camps at the end of the summer, so if there is someone who still wants to come, let me know and I can see if that is still possible. They are very understanding here and want to get as many people here as they can so I'm sure they would allow more to come!

It is stressful to work here at times, but I truly think Pilgrim Center is a great camp for kids to come to. It isn't a standard church camp where you sit around and read the Bible all day, but you are doing activities like crafts, swimming, and playing games most of the day. Also the environment is very accepting of everyone, and it is treated like a safe space for everyone. Two weeks ago, we had a transgender camper here, and everyone in the cabin was very accepting of that, and everyone on staff was as well, so Pilgrim Center really does accommodate for every camper. If you want to know anything else, let me know!

Thank you Hannah for a vivid description for what you have been doing this summer. What a wonderful experience it would be for any of our Ebenezer family to attend a camp. Check with Heather if you are interested. Someone has provided funds to attend a camp.

Hannah will return to Marquette University for her 3rd year where she is majoring in social work. She is also looking forward to living in the International Apartments, where she will be mentoring a German & a Spanish student.

Council President's Note

Sorry, I've missed the last couple of months writing here. Helping our daughter with wedding plans was time consuming. Now, I'm not making excuses because I know we're all busy and I'm no different. I'll admit, I am a procrastinator and this month doesn't appear to be much different. In fact, I've missed the due date, again, and am now asking Heather if she can still "squeeze" this into the Eagle on time yet. I should NOT be asking her to do that. (Sorry Heather). I used to somewhat enjoy writing but since graduating from school, I don't miss writing all those papers that we always had to do. It seems Eagle letter due date every month just really sneaks up on me and I think of all kinds of excuses to put off writing in this column. My apologies, PLEASE! I will try to do better.

Procrastination! We all do it! Some more than others! It also depends upon the project. Clutter and complexity lead to procrastination and paralysis, while simplicity and focus lead to success and clarity. As the old saying goes, KISS...**Keep ! t Simple, Silly!** If you concentrate on simplifying things and focus on that, completing that task will become much easier and procrastination should become irrelevant.

Hmmm...so keep it simple, huh? It always seems once I start writing, I can also start rambling. So what am I trying to say here? Slow down...clear my mind...stop to smell the roses...keep it simple! But how do I do that when I've got so much to do and so little time to do it in? As Nike always puts it..."JUST DO IT!" **Learn to organize and prioritize!** So here goes...

The other day I took a long ride on my bike out into the countryside to where I used to live on the Irish Road. It was so invigorating, refreshing, bringing back soooo many memories of all the times I'd ride my bike into town as a kid. Those same hills still got the best of me. They certainly didn't get any smaller. In fact, they appeared much bigger, or is it that maybe I'm a lot older and a little more out of shape. But you know what? I really DID stop to smell the roses. Well, in actuality, it wasn't really roses that I was smelling but fresh mown hay. Ahhhh, I will never forget that smell! Again, so good...so refreshing...soooo many memories. I DID stop to smell that hay and it DID clear my mind and I DID feel soooo much better. That's something I've been wanting to do for a long time since we've moved back to Chilton.

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Slow down! Stop! Smell the roses (or hay)! Clear the mind! That's all something we really have to force ourselves to do sometimes but it is so worth it! It really felt like God was right there with me telling me to enjoy that moment...remember it....and do it more often! It's at moments like that God is trying to tell you something. Listen to what God's trying to tell you, try to understand what He's saying to you and make good with it!

With that being said, it seems that activities in church appear to have slowed down a little too, which is a common thing during the summer months. Although I think the ice cream social went well, attendance and giving have slowed a little. We need to keep thinking of the basic fundamentals of running the everyday tasks of our church. Electricity is still being used, internet and phone bills have to be paid, salaries, etc., etc. But on the positive side, a few of our wish list items have already been taken care of by some very generous, giving people: the air conditioning (which hopefully will be finished in the next week or two though not in time for this first heat wave, unfortunately), the organ repairs have already been stated will be taken care of and we haven't even started with that yet, and other amounts from memorials going towards wish list items. But we can't keep relying on these donations. We have to keep in consideration our regularly monthly budgeted items. So please, as you're enjoying the rest of summer, keep your church as a priority. Remember that it's with the help of God that one is able to do the things they want.

In short, I guess what I'm trying to say, is that since our move back to Chilton, life has been good. God is good! I HAVE tried to slow down and appreciate a lot more of the little things. As summer is more than half over and the school year is around the corner and about to start up, just remember to take a step back once in a while to smell the roses. That is that split moment that God is trying to tell you something. Listen and understand it! As I continue to work on this, procrastination may become less of a burden and I might actually get this next article done early. I'll give it my best shot!

Until next time, have a GREAT rest of the summer!

Blessings to all,
Your friend and Church Council President,
Karen Cmejla

PIPE ORGAN PROPOSAL

There have been occasional issues with the organ having various maintenance issues requiring the technician's services. The last time he was called he explained the 'wearing' out of some of the parts that, due to age, would continue to cause problems. We've asked him to do a proposal to rectify and update the worn parts. Tom Salzman from Appleton is an excellent expert technician. Following is a summary of his proposal with an estimate. The entire proposal with all the details is posted on the narthex bulletin board. Please feel free to comment to Karen or Elaine.

"Proposal for rebuilding the main (old) windchests and re-leathering the wind reservoir.

Fifteen years ago, Salzman Pipe Organ Services rebuilt the console of the Ebenezer pipe organ, cleaned and painted the organ chamber, installed a new all-electric swell shade motor, rebuilt the added Stoll Trumpet/Principal windchest, cleaned the pipework, and did various minor repairs, and adjustments on the overall organ framework. At that time it was determined that the existing old windchests might live on for some years into the future.

The years of 'living on' have apparently come to a close, with ciphers (pipes that continue to sound after the key is released, or just "magically" on their own) and dead notes now causing noticeable problems. The proposal is primarily for rebuilding the remaining (quite old) windchests, which operate as primary windchests. Along with this is a price to re-leather the organ's main 3' X 5' wind reservoir.

(Details about the need to re-leather and the actual process are listed in the proposal posted on the bulletin board.

Given current (June 2, 2015) quotes for labor and materials, the total cost of these operations would be \$27,914.00.

If it was decided to NOT re-leather the existing main reservoir, but to wait until at some future date when it actually blows out/seriously leaks, then the cost of the operation would be \$25,514.00.

There has been an anonymous offer to cover the cost of the total project.

Mr. Salzman has indicated that if we sign a contract now he would be able to begin the work on or around April 1, 2016 and complete it by Christmas, 2016. Since there has been the offer to cover the cost the council voted to proceed with the project.

Council Meeting- July 16, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m. Members present: Karen Cmejla, Steve Stenz, Kelly Kress, Tiffany Knoespel, Stephanie Adamietz and Pastor Mike and guest Becky Johnston Interim Association Minister. Missing were Andrea DuWell and Nicole Moore. Steve made a motion to approve the agenda for today and last month's minutes. Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

Becky talked to the Council to discuss further search committee processes, along with the options we had available to us. After Becky left the Council went into closed session for about 45 minutes.

Finances Report:

Our June Revenue is \$8101

Our June Expenditures are \$7750

Our General Fund Balance as of June 30st is \$61,292

Our Current Balance is \$256,001

A discussion was made about changing the Camp fund to read Adult/Child Camp Fund. Stephanie would contact Kyle to get that fixed.

We will follow up on a Church Repair/Upkeep expense for \$7985, Karen will contact the City of Chilton to see why we have 3 water bills.

Kelly made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report pending the question on the water bill and extra church repair costs and to pay the bills. It was 2nd by Steve. Motion carried.

Pastoral Reports:

Pastor Mike gave a verbal list of what he has done from mid-June through mid-July, including visitations to our members in the hospitals and assisted care facilities, along with meetings, weddings and funerals.

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed/Sunday School: -Looking at a possible new curriculum

Mission: Ice Cream Social went well on July 8th. Final totals are not in yet.

Property: Still working on getting Air Conditioners in and a second bid for the West side Fellowship Hall doors.

Old Business:

The Search committee went to see a prospective minister at a neutral pulpit in Elkhart Lake last Sunday. They will be meeting at the end of July to discuss Becky's options and feelings on how the neutral pulpit went.

Evangelism/Stewardship Committees are in the works as Pastor continues to get members involved with that.

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Open/Closed Sign was purchased to display office hours which will be hung on the East Entrance Door.

Nursery- Still in need of a changing table. Any donations are appreciated.

Pictorial Directory- booklets are still available and are able to be picked up. They will be free. Stop in the office and pick one up.

A Chart will be made up for the Wish List items along with what monies are needed. The items will also be listed in order of priority. If anyone wishes to donate towards any of the items, please let any council member know.

A/C Units: Estimated cost of \$3000 with donations covering the entire cost

Pastor Mike needs a new computer. His computer is very slow and he has been using his personal laptop.

Communion bread serving trays and wine pourer.

West Fellowship Hall Entrance Doors: Estimate came in at \$12,760. Waiting for a second estimate.

Electronic Advertising Signage

Organ Repair-Est at \$27,914 with donations covering the entire cost.

Adult/Child Camp Fund-\$500 donation already made

IT System for the church-est. at about \$20,000.

Children's Sundays- They will restart in September.

Tax Assessment- We received a letter from the city stating the parsonage has been reclassified; because a pastor is not living in the house we will need to pay taxes on the Parsonage.

Giving Statements- It was agreed that Giving Statements are to be sent out in July.

Next Council Meeting will be July 12th

Pipe Organ Repair- An Estimate has been attained for the repair of the Pipe Organ. The cost will be \$27,914. The repairs will begin April 2016 and could be done as soon as December 2016 but may go into 2017.

PayPal account is still being worked on.

New Business:

AED information: There has been an inquiry to purchase and AED for the church. 2 quotes have been attained thus far: \$1414 for a device that will last longer and is better quality and \$1209 for another machine. Council will put this on the wish list after all the quotes and information have been received.

A memorial was received from the June Gasch memorials requested to be used toward the audio and visual improvements in the church.

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Cont. from pg. 9

Memorial Fund Records- We would like a records system set up to keep track of the amount of donations people donate and for what item/s they want the monies designated toward so that those monies are being used for those items.

Pastors New Contract was discussed.

Tiffany asked if she could use table and chairs from the fellowship hall... August 29th the council approved the use of it.

Tiffany made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was 2nd by Kelly, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Acting Treasurer for Andrea DuWell,
Stephanie Adamietz



"Thanks for inviting me to vacation Bible school.
I'm all packed."

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER...

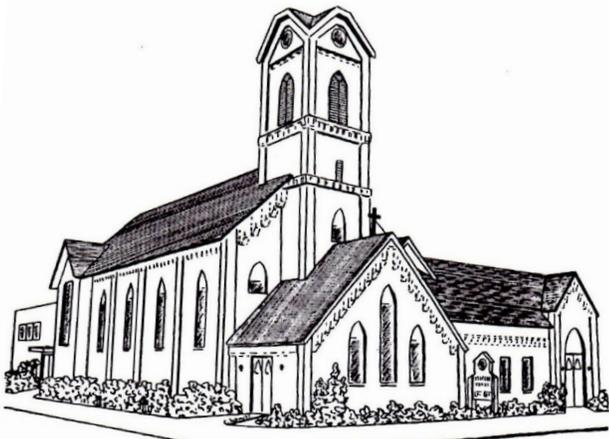
A “spark” was certainly added to worship on July 19 with the special music provided by the Divinity Dudes of Bethel. “*You Raise Me Up*” sung by Don Pingel on July 26 also added extra meaning to worship. THANK YOU to all.

We’ll be welcoming the Sharon Bethel Quartet from Kalona, Iowa on August 23. They will be participating in the 11th annual Gospel Music Fest on August 21 & 22 so extended their stay to sing for our worship on Sunday. There are brochures on the narthex table listing all of Gospel Groups that will be in Hilbert for the Gospel Fest – help yourself. It truly is a fun-filled, inspiring event.

Since there has been an enthusiastic response to all the vocal groups, we’ll try creating our own by doing a sing-a-long 15 minutes prior to worship for the first 3 Sundays in August. Be sure to have some of your favorite hymns to request during that time.

A bell ensemble rang for the memorial service during the Relay for Life on July 17. It was an inspiration for ringers and walkers alike. The event always provides support for cancer survivors. The bells are temporarily out of commission as 11 cracked handles were sent to the Malmark Co. for replacement.





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 September 2015 Eagle is Tuesday, August 18. Weekly bulletin announcements are due each Tuesday morning.

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

What major decision did Ebenezer congregation make 50 years ago? Clue: It was printed in the "This Week in History" section of the July 2 issue of the Chilton Times Journal.

The article is on the bulletin board.

AUGUST USHERS



2: Church Council

9: Dean & Ellie Papendieck, Steve & Chris Stenz

16: Mark Rusch, Ralph Schmid, Terry Schenkus,
Linda Edgington

23: Don & Connie Waldvogel, John & Jane
Schroeder

30: Denny & Ruth Aebischier,
Stephanie Adamietz family

Office Hours

MONDAYS

TUESDAYS

WEDNESDAYS

THURSDAYS



11 AM to 4 PM

August Birthdays

Matthew Michels	01
Ellie Papendieck	02
John Andrews	02
David Kloehn	03
Joan Woelfel	08
Duane Kandler	17
Earl Ploeckelmann	22
Julie Ditter	24
Carl Reichwald	26

Debbie Schumacher	27
Bernice Ninedorf	29
Michael Van Hoorn	29

If your birthday was missed, please let the office know so we can get it right next time.



Come and "Like" us on Facebook!

Just search for "Ebenezer UCC Chilton". We also have a new Facebook location page. To find it, search for "Ebenezer United Church of Christ Chilton" and "Like" us!

REMINDER:



Copies of the daily devotional guide, "The Upper Room", are in the church narthex book rack. It is available in both regular and enlarged print.

If you are interested in donating flowers to be displayed in the front of church, please write your name next to the date you would like to donate on the sign-up sheet located on the wall in the Narthex hallway. Also, please notify Heather as to what the special occasion is for so she may include this in the bulletin.



Directories have arrived! Please pick yours up in the church office at your earliest convenience! And please cross your name off the list that is with them.

Mission Committee News

Where has the summer gone? It is almost August and many of us will soon be thinking about heading back to school with a new backpack filled with the supplies needed to be successful students. Some will come to school on that first day with nothing. We want to help so all of the students have a great year! Last year we did this project in December but have decided to try August because of the availability of supplies. Lists of items needed will be on the table in the entryway. Items will be distributed to local schools at the end of August. Please give generously!!

Yes, God is with us during our many trips this summer but we also need to remember we are not always in church during these months. The bills of the church still arrive with a disturbing regularity

As you plan your vacation(s) this summer please remember to send in your weekly offerings. This is very important because nearly everyone goes away for some time during the summer consequently summer is usually a time of decreased giving.



The decreased giving makes it difficult to faithfully pay our bills. Let's remember to show love to the Council by making it easy to pay the bills.

THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THIS CHURCH

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

[Scrip](#)



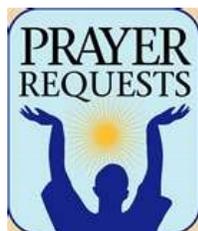
Please keep in mind to buy scrip if you plan on making a shopping trip, gassing the car, or having dinner out!! It helps our church meet our goals!



[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.

Rod Vita Jane Joan
Louise Sharon David Sheri John
Mark Pat Pam David
Marlene



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.

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM
2 9:30 am Worship (Communion) Spanish Ministry 3:30 pm 	3 Church office open 11-4	4 Church office open 11-4	5 Church office open 11-4	6 Church office open 11-4	7 Office Closed Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM	8 Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM
9 9:30 am worship Spanish Ministry 3:30 pm	10 Church office open 11-4	11 Church office open 11-4	12 Church office open 11-4 Council Mtg 6pm	13 Church office open 11-4 8:30 am Men's Brkfst @ 7 Angels	14 Office Closed Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM	15 Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM
16 9:30 am Worship Spanish Ministry 3:30 pm	17 Church office open 11-4	18 Church office open 11-4 Eagle Articles Due 	19 Church office open 11-4	20 Church office open 11-4 Women's Guild 1pm @ 7 Angels	21 Office Closed Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM	22 Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM
23 Sharon Bethel Quartet during service 9:30 am Worship Spanish Ministry 3:30 pm	24 Church office open 11-4	25 Church office open 11-4	26 Church office open 11-4	27 Church office open 11-4	28 Office Closed Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM	29 Spanish Ministry 7:30 PM
30 9:30 am Worship Spanish Ministry 3:30 pm <i>Eagle Published</i>	31					