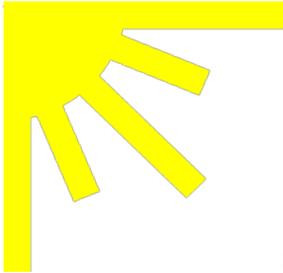


Ebenezer
Today, Tomorrow and Beyond
Monthly Newsletter for Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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Carl's Corner....

July marks the beginning of my second year of ministry at the Prairie Winds Parish! My first year is now officially over. I have heard and seen everything we do each year. I hope I can remember it all. The first year of ministry is referred to as the Honeymoon Year.

According to Thom Rainer, author and researcher, years 2-3 of a pastorate are marked by challenges and conflict. I think it is important that we all know what to expect. I welcome the challenges! Each church in the parish is facing unique and common issues. Some folks would refer to these as problems. *Leaders solve problems.* Leaders also employ other people with expertise in different areas, resources of equipment, material and finances. In a church, the most important resource is the Holy Spirit. As we go forward in this year, all of us, need to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we face whatever comes our way.

I mentioned conflict is possible in year 2-3. People in conflict care about an issue. Jesus taught about conflict in Matthew 18:15-18. (This is the Johnston paraphrase) If you have a disagreement with a person-go talk to that person not everyone else. It is amazing what could be a misunderstanding. Try to settle it at the lowest possible level. If that doesn't work-take two or three others who can confirm the problem. If that doesn't work take it to the whole church body for a decision. Resolution and reconciliation are frequently possible.

The next 12 months are going to be amazing! May the Holy Spirit guide us through it all.

Blessings,
Pastor Carl

Ebenezer Church Council

The next meeting for Ebenezer Church Council is **Monday, July 8th**, at 7 p.m. Church Council is open to all who would like to attend.

Helped to Freedom Series

July 7 - Exodus 7:1-13, Sermon Title: "Let them go!"

July 14 - Exodus 13:17-22, Sermon Title: "Guidance-Day and Night"

July 21 - Exodus 14: 21-31, Sermon Title: "What will it take to believe?"

July 28 - Exodus 16:1-16, Sermon Title: "You can't eat freedom!"

Ebenezer Ladies Lunch

All ladies of Ebenezer are invited to enjoy lunch and conversation on **Friday, July 12th at 11:30 a.m.** - at Destihl. Please let Linda Bristow know if you plan to attend. Future lunches will be the 2nd Friday of each month. For more information talk with Christy or Linda

Ebenezer's Weekly Attendance

June 2019

Date	Adults	Children
2	31	0
9	27	0
16	37	1
23	27	0
30		



Ebenezer Ice Cream Social

Ebenezer will hold their annual **Ice Cream Social** on **Saturday, July 27th**, from 4-7 p.m.

Come and enjoy a variety of sandwiches, pies, cakes and of course, **homemade** ice cream. We will have our signature flavors plus a variety of others.

Invite your family and friends to Ebenezer where they will enjoy good food and conversation in air- conditioned comfort.



Save the Date

Ebenezer Worship & Potluck at Funk's Grove on Sunday, **August 18th** at 11 a.m.

Upcoming Events in the area.....



Hopedale Fourth of July Celebration
Fireworks on **July 3rd** starting at dusk



Danvers Band Concerts

Come enjoy a band concert at the Danvers Park every Sunday evening, starting **June 30th** and continuing each Sunday in July. Each week, different organizations offer sandwiches, desserts and ice cream beginning at 5:30 p.m. The concert begins at 7 p.m. and usually ends before dark. Bring your lawn chairs and meet your family and friends for an evening of entertainment in the park.

Stanford Good Old Days

Good Old Days begins Friday, **July 19th** and continues through **July 21st**. Fireworks are set to start at dusk on Saturday, **July 20th**.



County & State Fair Dates

Logan Country Fair --- July 28 – August 4
McLean County Fair --- July 31 – August 4
Illinois State Fair --- August 8-18



Get Your 6.6 on Route 66!

6th Annual Run/Walk on Route 66 from Funks Grove to McLean!

On **Saturday, August 24th, 2018**, **CORE of McLean**, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is holding their **6th annual 6.6k** (4.1-mile) run/walk to benefit the community of McLean, IL. To register go to: <https://www.mclean-il.com/get-your-6-6-on-route-66>

Annual Conference Wrap-Up

by Paul Black

The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered June 6-8, around the theme, *Let's Get Fired Up: Hearts Strangely Warmed by the Blaze of the Holy Spirit*, at the Peoria Civic Center.

The elections of lay and clergy delegates in concurrent lay and clergy sessions dominated the early business of the annual conference.

Presiding Bishop Frank J. Beard gave an outline of the process of local churches disaffiliating with the conference. Conference leaders are working toward finalizing the process by Sept. 1, but Beard noted that the plan passed by the 2019 General Conference and upheld by the Judicial Council is "narrow in focus, for a specific period of time, for a specific issue" and that the process includes annual conference and conference trustees' participation.

An offering of \$96,735 was collected during Friday's Morning Manna for the Our Conference, Our Kids campaign, pushing the campaign to \$904,954 of its \$2.5 million goal. The campaign, which will be used to endow the spiritual life programs at five conference children and youth welfare agencies was approved by the 2016 Annual Conference and launched at the 2017 session.

Other special offerings included \$6,704.52 by conference laity for the maintenance fund of the John Kofi Asmah School in West Point, Liberia; \$7,605.58 for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College and \$8,589.24 for the Bishop's Ordinand Trip to the Holy Land in February 2020.

Legislatively, the conference announced that the health insurance allowance paid to full-time pastors will remain at \$17,500 for 2020. The conference also approved a 2.25 percent increase to its minimum salaries. In 2020, the salaries will go to \$44,358 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$40,705 for full-time local pastors.

It was reported that all three conference pension funds are fully funded and no increase was needed in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) contribution for 2020. No change was needed for the defined benefits portion of the CRSP plan, which stands at \$5,700 per year for full-time pastors; \$4,275 for ¾ time pastors; and \$2,850 for ½ time pastors. Pastors at ¼ time or less are not eligible.

Retirees under the pre-1982 pension plan will see a 2 percent increase to \$794 per active service year in 2020.

It was also announced that the closing of Living Springs Camp was consummated just days before the start of the Conference session. In 2015, the annual conference authorized the sale of three of five conference camps – Living Springs, Epworth and Jensen Woods – to consolidate and invest in the other two campsites – East Bay and Little Grassy. The sale of Living Springs was the final sale of campsites and conference attendees saw a report of the improvements that have been made with the sale proceeds at East Bay and Little Grassy.

The conference also approved an initiative by congregational development, Reach 1,000 lending its support to local congregations reaching 1,000 new people from new ministries and reaching 1,000 additional new people through existing ministries. Congregational development is putting systems in place to provide training, coaching and assistance in the endeavor.

The 2020 budget of \$12,099,908 was approved – a decrease of \$7,408 or 0.06 percent. This is the seventh year of a relatively flat budget with the 2020 total less than the 2013 budget.

The conference approved the discontinuance of 14 churches –Big Prairie UMC; Blue Mound Bethel UMC; Bonnie UMC; Bryant UMC; Charleston Otterbein UMC; Colp UMC; Decatur Central UMC; Garrison Temple UMC; Irvington UMC; Prairieton UMC; Providence Chapel UMC; St. Jacob UMC; Tower Hill UMC; and Vandalia Luster Chapel UMC – with a combined 2,120 years of ministry.

Seven elders were ordained. Three provisional elders and four provisional deacons were commissioned.

A total of 30 pastors with a combined 769.5 years of service retired.

Membership stands at 118,681 in 2018, down 3,841 from 2017. Average worship attendance is 51,696, down 1,599. Church school attendance stands at 17,046, up 12.

The 2020 Annual Conference will be June 4-6, 2020, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria.