

HOPE & HARMONY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MARY ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH

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WELCOME!

October is a busy month at MEBC. We have many activities going on and continue holding regular worship and offering many small groups and Bible studies. Our youth and children have been gearing up for the last leg of their Operation Christmas Child mission project. 1,700 dollars was raised at the spaghetti supper; in order to reach their goal of 100 boxes this year more funds and more items will need to be collected. If you would like to help them reach this goal, see Magan for more information.

Pastor Appreciation Day and our fall festival and trunk or treat will be coming up in the next couple of weeks. We look forward to celebrating Pastor Joe, who has been Spirit-filled, loving, and energetic as he has taken on the role of Pastor at MEBC. We pray the trunk or treat will serve as a place for families to gather in a safe manner to have fun, but also as an outreach opportunity to our community. Please invite your friends and family.

We are gearing up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season! Advent will be here before we know it. If you would like to submit a short written devotion to share with our congregation in our newsletter or booklet, please let Liz know or email mebc3703@gmail.com.



GOOD NEWS CLUB

MEBC has stepped up as the sponsor for Good News Club at Prospect Elementary School, and many of our members have volunteered to help lead the weekly club. The Good News Club is an after school club that introduces the gospel to children. It is organized by the Child Evangelism Fellowship. On their website CEF states: "CEF® is a Bible-centered, interdenominational, worldwide organization, composed of born-again believers whose purpose and mission are to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, disciple them in the Word of God, and establish them in a Bible-believing church for Christian living."

Volunteers from our church have been trained in delivering the gospel and serving specific roles in the Good News Club. At each session there is a Bible story, memory verse practice, a missionary story, and games and music all focused on presenting the good news of the gospel. We are very excited about this opportunity to witness to children and share the hope, love, and salvation found in Jesus.

The memory verse for the fall / winter session is Psalm 119:9-11, it reads: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, That I might not sin against thee". The simplicity of how to align our lives with Christ is presented in this scripture, and the importance of knowing the Word of God is illuminated. The totality of seeking God wholeheartedly is also highlighted. While presenting the gospel to these children through these verses, we are reminded of how we are to walk in our own Christian lives.

Our church has an opportunity to support this mission with fervent prayer. We can pray that seeds will be planted and the children will feel the love of Jesus when they attend these meetings. If you are interested in other ways of supporting this ministry, reach out to Laura P.



EVERYTHING YOU NEED

My daughter has been very interested in camping for a while now. My brother has many campouts and outdoor adventures under his belt, so he was the natural choice for someone to show her the ropes. They planned a “camp out” where we would pitch a small tent, build a campfire, and of course, roast marshmallows. The evening finally came for the much anticipated event, and my daughter helped her uncle unload all the camp supplies from his truck.

They walked down to the edge of the field and began the process of setting up camp. As the site came together, my daughter noticed the bag her uncle brought with him. They began to go through the contents together. Her uncle presented each item with a brief explanation of its purpose and each time my daughter would reply with an aw-filled “Ooooh.”

He pulled out the flint and wool to kindle the fire. Much to my daughter’s delight there was soon a campfire ablaze. The rest of our family joined them to roast marshmallows and tell campfire stories.

Over the next few weeks, my daughter was still excited about the whole “camp out” experience (even though she decided to retreat to her own cozy bed after a few stories around the fire). And one of the biggest things she fixated on was her uncle’s camp bag. She would say it had “everything!”

During a Bible study I read the following in 2 Peter 1:3, “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” I was immediately reminded of my daughter’s infatuation with the camp bag that had “everything!”

EVERYTHING YOU NEED (CONT)

We have been called as Christians to be like Jesus, to be like God. Through the realization of the love and appreciation of the ultimate gift of salvation, it is to be our desire to grow closer to Him, and in that desire is becoming more like Him. Wow! What a big challenge, and an impossible one without his Spirit. In John 15, when Jesus is using the illustration of the Vine and the Branches, he states in verse 4, "Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me." We must abide in Christ and rely on the Holy Spirit to produce fruit and to live fully in his perfect will.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

2 Peter 1:3

The Lord has promised that we have everything we need to carry out His will in our lives, and that he has provided it. How many times have we felt a calling in our heart to serve God, but feel inadequate and unprepared? How many times have we let this deter us? Have faith, and allow God to show you his glory by providing everything you need. Lean on his promise and allow his provision to be a witness to your soul and to the people around you of his divine power, his glory, and his goodness.

I know there are moments in my life and in the history of our church that the Lord's provision has been a stand out moment that has bolstered my faith, given testimony to his might and benevolence, and shown me what He is capable of when I abide in Him. When I reflect on these moments, I have a similar feeling of awe as my daughter did when her uncle pulled out "everything" they needed for a campout.



YOUTH ON MISSION

WITH NICK HORNE

MEBC's youth group traveled to Pembroke to do mission work at the Odum Home, a part of the Baptist Children's Home. The Baptist Children's Home ministers to children, college students, adults, the special needs population, international children & families, and the community as a whole. According to the Baptist Children's Home's website, Odum Home offers cottage homes for vulnerable children and a family care cottage for single mothers and their children.

Along with a few other youth groups from around NC, the youth helped to clean up around the property. They cut limbs and cleared debris, as well as spread mulch. Their youth leaders were impressed by the diligence and hard work the youth brought to this project. They put their hearts in it and had fun too!

We are blessed to have so many young people of all ages in our congregation. It is wonderful to see members of our church actively serving the community and sharing God's love in a practical way.



FALL

UPCOMING*

- PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY
 - OCT 26TH
- BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST
 - OCT 26TH
- TRUNK OR TREAT & FALL FESTIVAL
 - OCT 31ST, 6:00 PM FOR SET-UP
 - 6:30 PM FOR ATTENDEES
- MOVIE NIGHT
 - NOV 15TH, 6 PM
- JOINT THANKSGIVING SERVICE
 - NOV 16TH, 5 PM
- SUNDAY SCHOOL POWER HOUR
 - NOV 23RD, 6 PM
- FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 - NOV 30TH

*CLICK THE EVENT FOR MORE INFO & SHARABLE FLYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS PLAY

- THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY WILL BE ON DEC 21ST. PRACTICES WILL BEGIN SOON. PLEASE SIGN YOUR CHILD UP IN THE VESTIBULE OR CONTACT CONNIE C

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA

- THE CHILDREN WILL PERFORM A CHRISTMAS CANTATA ON DEC 7. PLEASE SIGN YOUR CHILD UP OR SEE CONNIE C. PRACTICES WILL BE HELD SUNDAY MORNINGS

WISDOM CORNER

Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good;
his love endures forever.
Psalm 107:1

PRAISE REPORT

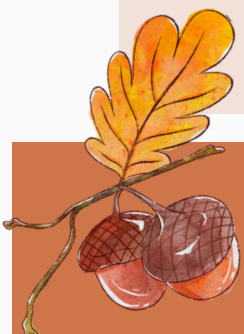
The children's ministries raised \$1,700 at the spaghetti supper to go toward Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!

GOOD FOR THE SOUL

WHY DID THE SCARECROW RECEIVE AN AWARD?
HE WAS OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD!

HOW DO YOU REPAIR A BROKEN JACK-O-LANTERN?
USE A PUMPKIN PATCH!

WHY DID HUMPTY DUMPTY LIKE AUTUMN SO MUCH?
BECAUSE HE HAD A GREAT FALL!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND INTEREST WITHIN OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY. PLEASE FORWARD OUR NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND! IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER OR HAVE CONTENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FEATURED PLEASE CONTACT US AT: MEBC3703@GMAIL.COM