



## ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May-June 2018

### From the Pastor's Study...

At our recent spring Goshen Baptist Association meeting, John Miller, our Director of Missions, told of traveling to Bucharest, Romania, a few years ago. He was part of a team working with children from that city coming out from under the darkest of communist leaders. As they made their way out of the city in a tour bus, at one point all the children got up and went to one side to look out at something none of them had seen before: a cow.

That whole trip he probably felt like he could do nothing right, being so different, and feeling so out of place (after all, we live in the American south, and unless we see a cow doing layups on the side of the road, it's really not that big a deal). I had the same feeling working with children on an Indian reservation. There comes a time where you feel like there's nothing you can do that will work, and feel like a fish totally out of water...

Which brings us to Jonah. You know the story: Jonah was told to go to Ninevah to work some magic among those people that had angered the Lord. But Jonah had exactly the opposite idea, and ran to Tarshish, 180 degrees in the other direction. His boat out of Joppa (a largely Arab suburb of Tel Aviv today, which is indeed in the opposite direction) hit a storm and the sailors aboard thought he had judged them for whatever it is that sailors do while in port, and kicked up the storm to punish them. Needless to say, he drew the short straw.

So he became an appetizer for a "*large fish*." After he was belched up, he got further directions to go to Ninevah, the original destination, only this time he followed them. That was the last time, belatedly, he did something right. After arriving there he proceeded to tell the king, all of his people, and all of their pets that they were all going to hell in a hand basket—generally not a really good missions approach. When the king showed a much larger heart than Jonah and ordered everyone to seek forgiveness, and after God saw fit to accept their cries for forgiveness, Jonah became angry. He didn't even like these people, which was why he lit out for Tarshish in the first place, and didn't want Ninevah to get a break. He even prayed for the Almighty to change his mind.

In the end, God reprovved Jonah for his hardness of heart, and restored Ninevah to his good graces. Despite the fact Jonah never noticed his own sins, despite his trying to call God's attention to all the supposed sins of the Ninevites, and despite his own disobedience—despite the irony of being completely a fish out of water himself—how did things turn out?

*God was still able to use him for good.*

His failures and misjudgments were not a roadblock for God. He accomplished what he wanted, and Jonah was still instrumental to that goal, in spite of himself.

If I had been smart enough to keep a journal throughout my entire career, it would be filled with examples of how I was inadequate to the task, whatever that task was. Over and over again, a sense of failure nags at me.

Yet I have to believe that some good has come of it all. So should you.

Continue to reach not for a comfortable bar, but one well beyond it. Because even you can be used for good, too.

*Mickey*

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **May**

Mission Project:	Goshen Missions Offering
06	Lake Front Services Begin
13	Mother's Day
14 - 18	Week of Prayer for Goshen Associational Missions
20	Laurel Hill Baptist Church - 150th Anniversary - 3:00 p.m.
27	Memorial Day Sunday Celebration

#### **June**

Mission Project:	Louisa Food Bank Offering
17	Father's Day
24	Quarterly Business Meeting

## HISTORY OF THE LAKEFRONT SERVICE

As summer is approaching and our early service shifts to the lakefront, you might wonder how this service came to be. Thanks to Larry Edmonds for sharing the incredible story below.

*“Today we gather in the beauty of God’s creation to dedicate this site to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for the glory of God. We recognize and pay tribute to those who made this ministry possible through donation of land, site preparation, building necessary furniture, providing music leadership and refreshments for our enjoyment. We further commit ourselves to the continuance of this ministry in future years for the benefit of the people of the Lake Anna area.”*

On September 4, 2005 these words rang out across Lake Anna as we dedicated the Lakefront Worship area. It was about a year prior to this dedication service that Pastor Gerald Chancellor had a vision of an outreach to the lake community by way of a church service held on the shore of Lake Anna to offer the good news of Jesus Christ. He had recently learned that the church owned the property across the road from the church which had been donated to the church by Thelma and C.S. Winston in 1974.

Pastor Gerald presented his idea to the congregation at a church business meeting. Considerable discussion ensued with a good amount of skepticism as one might expect especially with something as far-fetched as holding a worship service outside on the lakefront!

Right from the beginning there were those who said it would never work, then there were those who were on board and all for it and the Lord placed it on our hearts that it was something that needed to be done. It was something that the Elk Creek church family could do to make a difference in the lake community in the name of Jesus Christ. The church family talked about it, prayed about it and discussed what it should be like. After several months there were enough of us in favor of the idea, it was voted on and we began to go forward with it.

Some folks thought that the worship area should be directly across the street from the church which placed it up in the end of the cove. Some clearing of brush started there but it just didn’t seem to be the right spot. There were a few folks that thought a much better location would be out on the point where we would be much more visible to people on the lake so clearing brush and trees began in that area.

One day while working on clearing the area an irate neighbor from across the cove confronted us swearing up and down that he would never let our worship area come to fruition. Guess he didn’t realize that a Higher Power was in charge of this! This incident made us even more determined to see this project through to completion. We were

determined not to let anything or anyone stop us. We could feel God's presence and support and knew, with His help, we would get this done!

While some folks worked on clearing the area of brush and cutting down trees, others were busy building the benches. Progress was being made!

On April 13, 2005 the request was submitted to Virginia Electric and Power Company for permission to install a dock, platform and rip-rap. This was subsequently approved then paperwork was submitted to the county to proceed. This was denied due to the site plan not meeting the requirements of the zoning ordinance. Finally got this resolved then proceeded with the work at hand: dock, platform and rip-rap.

Lakefront services began in the summer of 2005.

In 2007 paperwork was submitted to add on to the existing dock structure to accommodate parking for several boats. The original dock was only a straight section 8' by 50'. Went round and round again with the county and had to hire a survey company to do a more elaborate site plan to meet the current zoning requirements.

After a couple years the original parking lot became inadequate. It only went over about as far as the dock. We contracted to have the additional area cleared and prepared for additional parking.

For a number of years battery powered amplifiers were used for the music and microphones then in 2011 the generator was installed and power run down to the platform.

Over the years attendance has gone from the low 20's to sometimes over a hundred people. Music has evolved from a single guitar to as many as five guitars and a keyboard and the platform has just about doubled in size.

As the words of the original dedication stated, "***We further commit ourselves to the continuance of this ministry in future years for the benefit of the people of the Lake Anna area,***" and because of God's help, the Lakefront Worship service is still thriving and growing. Surely His work here will continue for many years to come!

Larry

## **"When God Created Mothers"**

**Submitted by Lynn Edmonds**

By the time the Lord made mothers, He was into His sixth day of working "overtime". An Angel appeared and said. "Why are you spending so much time on this one?"

And the Lord answered and said, "Have you seen the spec sheet on her? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 200 moveable parts, all replaceable, run on black coffee and leftovers, have a lap that can hold three children at one time and disappears when she stands up. Have a kiss that can cure anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart, and six pairs of hands."

The angel was astounded at the requirements for this one. "Six pairs of hands! No way!" said the Angel.

The Lord replied, "Oh, it's not the hands that are the problem. It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers must have!"

"And that's just on the standard model?" the Angel asked.

The Lord nodded in agreement, "Yep, one pair of eyes are to see through the closed door as she asks her children what they are doing even though she already knows. Another pair in the back of her head, are to see what she needs to know even though no one thinks she can. And the third pair are here in the front of her head. They are for looking at an errant child and saying that she understands and loves him or her without even saying a single word.

The Angel tried to stop the Lord. "This is too much work for one day. Wait until tomorrow to finish."

"But I can't!" The Lord protested, "I am so close to finishing this creation that is so close to my own heart. She already heals herself when she is sick AND can feed a family of six on a pound of hamburger and can get a nine year old to stand in the shower."

The Angel moved closer and touched the woman, "But you have made her so soft, Lord."

"She is soft," the Lord agreed, "but I have also made her tough. You have no idea what she can endure or accomplish."

"Will she be able to think?" asked the Angel.

The Lord replied, "Not only will she be able to think, she will be able to reason and negotiate."

The Angel then noticed something and reached out and touched the woman's cheek. "Oops, it looks like you have a leak with this model. I told you that you were trying to put too much into this one."

"That's not a leak." The Lord objected. "That's a tear!"

"What's the tear for?" the Angel asked.

The Lord said, "The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her disappointment, her pain, her loneliness, her grief, and her pride."

The Angel was impressed. "You are a genius, Lord. You thought of everything; for mothers are truly amazing."

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL!**



**Easter Sunrise Service**



**Easter Breakfast between services**



**Late Service Easter Sunday**

# **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

## **May**

Hawkins, Kathy & Joe	02
Paine, Pam	03
Polonsky, Mary Virginia	07
Brown, Robert	09
Powers, Bill & Janice	11
Eder, Jamie	14
Robertson, Mickey & Pam	19
DiFranco, Matthew	21
Martin, Jeff & Jean	22
Shilling, Debbie	24
Pitcher, Kelly & Tom	25
Sherred, Margaret	27
Cooper, Gloria	28
Vancampen, Marc	31

## **June**

Rose, Jim & Connie	01
Roberts, Al	04
Jones, Anna & Steve	07
Robertson, David	11
Talley, Emma Kay	12
Byers, Jennifer	13

## Birthdays and Anniversaries - Continued

Martin, Jean	14
Canty, Stephen	17
Burt, Debby & Chip	18
Hill, Allen	19
Smith, Julie	20
Burghardt, Brian & Amity	21
Kidd, Jessica	24
Barry, Avis	30

Proverbs 31:25-30 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

*Together in Christ.*

*Alana Frazier*