



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September-October 2018

From the Pastor's Study...

“WAKE UP AND SMELL THE (COMMUNION) COFFEE!”

I've heard it for a while now: “Why don't we have communion down on the lake?” or some variation of that. The explanations I offer are usually the roots, tripping over the benches, we do it if the weather forces us inside, and so forth. And they can feel lame to me, too. Yet trying to serve it myself down there once, I found out just how real the possibility is that we might end up juggling trays until we lose control—communion cups and bread meet The Three Stooges!

I don't mean to sound flippant. It's the most vital ritual there is for us today, the sharing of the cup, of the bread, reenacting Jesus' final night with his disciples in that “upper room” in Jerusalem. At that table he told them for the last time something he had tried to get across for a long time, that he would leave them soon, and while it would seem the weight of the world would rest on their shoulders, they should take heart in the fact they would not find themselves alone. He also revealed that he would be betrayed that night, too. It's a reminder of the central role community should play in our lives. Reading Mark's gospel this past year gives us a glimpse into just how easy it is for betrayal to occur, even for us. We all need reminding of just who we are.

But I realize now that all along I've been missing something very important. We actually have communion every Sunday down there. As soon as the service is over, Coral and her minions have coffee ready—*real* coffee, no decaf here!—along with lots of things to eat. Occasionally, even something accidentally gets on that table that's *good* for us, too.

The lectionary (a list of scriptures over three years for every occasion of the church calendar year that I and many, or most, other ministers use now) reading for September 2nd of this year includes a scripture from Deuteronomy about the importance of inscribing the basic teachings of Judaism on the heart, as just saying them or writing them down is not enough.

The Christian scripture for this same week has Jesus attacking what has become an empty practice of faith that, far from a condemnation of Deuteronomy, notes that the community has not done a good enough job of inscribing love and other teachings, and

that the human heart is both the problem, and the solution. It's not hard to sense of community, or communion, is a solution.

Yet just because I may not say the words I usually say, or we may not hand out juice and white bread, but share coffee and banana bread (just a hint...) instead, the effect is still the same: recognition that we share a bond in Christ Jesus, and in each other. It's so good to hear the conversations, to laugh about our common brokenness, and to watch people linger over something that serves the same purpose as a formal worship practice.

So maybe it's time for the church to wake up and smell the *communion* coffee for a change, scarf up the sweet stuff, and revel in the fact that if Jesus had just changed the water at Cana into coffee, we wouldn't even be having this discussion!

MICKEY

DATES TO REMEMBER

September

Mission Project: Alma Hunt Offering for State Missions

23 Deacon's meeting (12:00 p.m.)

30 Quarterly Business Meeting (12:00 p.m.)

October

Mission Project: Samaritan's Purse (Shoebboxes - Due 11/12 - 11/14)

04 Women's Card Ministry (9:00 a.m.) at the church

07 Casual Worship Service (8:30 a.m.) begins at the church

Church Planning Meeting (12:00 p.m.)

24 Book Study Begins (See details below)

30 Goshen Fall Annual Meeting, New Hope Baptist Church
(10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

31 Goochland Correctional Center for Women - cards, stamps due (Place in one quart plastic bags separated by category i.e. Christmas, Birthday, Blank, All Occasion)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September

Frazier, Alana	1
Paine, Gerald	1
Frazier, Alana & Wayne	7
Vancampen, Wanda & Marc	7
Harlow, Margaret	10
Ward, Doug	15
DiFrancos, Mike	16
Myers, Joyce	17
Robertson, Katie	20
Stahl, Lee	21
Powers, Bill	21
Koslow, Jim	23
Burt, Chip	25
Schultz, Myrna	25
Smith, Macy	25
Powers, Janice	28
Croce, Susan	30
Koslow, Jim & Lori	30
Taylor, Jonathan	30

October

Taylor, Lisa	2
Ward, Mindy	4
Ashwood, Chris & Connie	5

October- continued

Ward, Albury	6
Losinski, Jack & Coral	6
Hale, Scott & Pamela	8
Smith, Julie & Gomer	8
Polonsky, Mary Virginia & Stan	9
Ward, Michael	9
Robertson, Mickey	11
Pittman, Karilyn & Mark	11
Brown, Brad	14
Burt, Debby	14
Jones, Steve	14
Smith, Gomer	14
Redic, Trish & Duane	16
Schultz, Darrell & Myrna	17
Martin, Jeff	19
Morrell, Cindy	19
Beal, Debbie	23
Vaughan, Clorese	23
Stevens, David	24
Ashwood, Chris	25
Vaughan, Joey	25
Duerson, Dorothy	29
Raabe, Bill	29
Wood, Rodney & Karen	29

Sami Costea and George Luca guest speakers from Romania-Aug 5th





205th Homecoming with guest speaker, Jeff Cranford - Sep 9th















Women's Card Ministry

We had a great start to the Elk Creek Baptist Church (ECBC) women's card Ministry. Five women shared in Christian fellowship and sent cards to 21 people. We enjoyed each other's company as we wrote notes to let people know we were thinking of them, praying for them and appreciate them. Please consider joining us next month on October 4th, 9:00am at the church. We decided that everyone attending would bring their own coffee or whatever they wanted to drink. If anyone wants to bring along a morning snack for themselves or to share that is great but we also agreed that we want to make our get together preparation simple. We need everyone's help to make this ministry a success. There are several ways to participate:

Attend the Card Ministry on October 4 at 9:00am at the church

Donate cards and/or stamps

Provide names of those that might benefit from receiving an inspirational card by emailing (debbyburt@gmail.com) their name, address and reason for the card. *Inspirational cards can be sent to let someone know we are thinking of them during a difficult time, thank them for their service to the church or community, show appreciation for the service to our country (military, police, fire, EMT etc.)*

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me Debby Burt at debbyburt@gmail.com

Prayer Ministry

If you know someone who is in need of prayers or a visit from our Prayer Partners, please let me know. Alana 703-282-2393 wr.frazier@verizon.net

Elk Creek Book Study

On October 24th we start a new book study titled "Sinners in the hands of a loving God" by Brian Zahnd. Join us at 7:00 p.m. in the Reception Hall at the church as we begin this study on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Wednesday of each month, one chapter each session. If you would like to join us and purchase a book, please contact Tony Wilson at 540-748-1159.

Here's what visitors have said about Elk Creek Baptist Church

Jim Koslow's family

We enjoyed hearing Mickey speak on the gospel and the folks were so friendly.

If I lived at Lake Anna, I'd be at Elk Creek Church every Sunday.

Mike and Linda Bridges

Mindy doesn't know this but when she approached us so Elk Creek could stay connected with us and she took a picture for the directory, we were surprised. We decided to join the church shortly after.

Keep up the good work Elk Creek Family and if you hear nice comments from folks send them my way!!

Be sure to check out our updated website at elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org. We are also on facebook.

Special thanks to Steve and Anna Jones for leading our newly formed communication group to keep our church family and community informed.

Together in Christ,

Alana Frazier

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.