



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January - February 2020

From the Pastor's Study...

Is it just me, or do things just seem “dimmer” these days? I know the days are shorter, so there is less sunlight simply because the sun shines for fewer hours each day. I know the sun’s angles are different now than in the summertime. But that’s not what I mean...It just seems like there are more clouds this time of year, there’s more gloom, and the days are just...I don’t know, just dimmer.

And soon, we all know, that will change. On March 8th, we “spring forward” in time, and the sun rises higher, stays out longer. God bless Daylight Savings Time!

But that’s all natural. It will happen, no matter what. What I’m getting at is, I think that we seem to mirror the gloom of winter at times—and not just during winter, either. It’s a year-round thing. It’s not just one church, but all of us who call on the name of Jesus. Maybe it’s something that seems so un-Christian that we need: pride.

I know, we’re taught from the first day of Vacation Bible School or Sunday School that pride is a bad thing. And as it’s usually understood, that’s as it should be. But hear me out:

God is not just a god that demands faith and devotion. He shows it in return, too! Think about that: He demonstrates his pride and faith in us, as well as demanding it. In other words—and this is where the ground below us begins to get a little shaky—wisely or not, he shows faith in us, too.

Think about it: Scripture is not just words about God. It’s also God’s words to us. That’s right, he talks to us! And I’m not just talking about the way we might hear somebody say that and reach for the straightjackets, either, or a

hymn (“...And he walks with me, and he talks with me...”). What Epiphany has been about is the mystery appearances of God to Moses, his still, small voice offering words to the prophets, and finally the appearance of God “in the flesh” as Jesus himself. It’s the light that looms, continually ever-brighter, through the ever-present darkness.

This fall, before Christmas, we heard from people that have heard his words, words of faith in us and our ability to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, and speak the good. We try to offer words to those that especially need to hear them. We hear from each other the words of encouragement we all need to get through the hour, or day, or week. We speak the Word to those incarcerated, or lonely, or grieving, or simply in need of encouragement.

When we do that, we’re offering more light to fight off the dimness, not just of the season, but of the world humans have made from what God has given us. And it’s God’s faith in us that drives those words. He deserves it, but he offers it in return.

Pride is still harmful, mostly. In fact, to act with such pride that we don’t really need to be open to God’s pride, when we make a joke of it, then it’s the same as death. But to do the work he calls us to do, humility, with a dash of pride in what we do, is life. It’s basic. It’s essential.

But come on, March 8th, anyway!

Mickey

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

06th	Women's Ministry at Bunnie Wyckoff's house - 9:00 a.m.
12th	New spring book study begins " The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel
14th	Valentine's Day
15th	Valentine Dinner, 4:30 p.m. - See Coral for sign-up. \$10.00 per person
26th	Ash Wednesday

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

January

Schnippel, Veronica	07
Morrell, Lee	07
Webb, Wayne	07
Tressler, Rachel & Todd	08
Vaughan, Christina	13
Duerson, James	14
Rapp, John	18
Wood, Karen	19
Sherred, John & Margaret	20
Lunsford, Andrew	21

Wilson, Tony	24
Morrell, Lee & Cindy	27
Chewning, Mary Frances	29
Bacon, Allie	29

February

Croce, Larry	01
Lunsford, Adam	03
Smith, Maguire	04
Keene, Bobby & Linda	13
Wyckoff, Bunnie	16
Rose, Connie	22
Bacon, Marshall	25
Frazier, Wayne	26
Jenkins, Woody & Penny	28



Singing Christmas carols at the Louisa Health and Rehab Center



Bunnie and Gerry helping a resident participate in our Christmas walk and singalong.



Wednesday Night Book Study Christmas Party



Jo and Jay showing their Christmas spirit



Lynn and Larry receiving Larry's Tom Downing Award for Ruritan community and club service. Congrats Larry!!



Kathy, Jon and Sarah joining the church in December.



Ed and Debby Read, who founded The Journey Home for the homeless, at the January open house which was supported by our congregation.



Wanda and Mark joining the church in January.



God's reminder that he loves us.

As seen by Wayne and Alana on Interstate 95 coming back from Richmond.

Together in Christ.

Alana Frazier