



## ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May - June 2020

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

After all this is over, what will you have missed the most?

I'm not going to try to make a list, but after many weeks of staying at home, not being able to go out where I want, having baseball taken away, and basically speaking to just one breathing human being (albeit a good one to speak with!), no church filled (or even half-filled) with people has to be near the top of that list.

And I'm not even thinking just about worship, either. What else is there?

Conversation. The way we "do" church on Sundays allows plenty of time for that. It's the conversations that offer compliments about a sermon (all too rare, but maybe that's why they're memorable), or updates on family situations, or the day's Sunday school discussion, the jokes (and I thought I could go a while without Wayne telling one!), the confessions on the side about a problem one of you is having, even the gossipy rumors—as long as they're not aimed at hurting anybody, of course. *"Let no evil come out of your mouths,"* Paul advises, *"but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear."* Boy am I in need right about now....

We have an early service, then there's food and talk, sometimes more of one than the other, then Sunday School where more conversation can take place—it all builds up and gives grace. Even some of the more salacious ones. Our greatest living Baptist historian is Bill Leonard, and he wrote (on the morning I wrote this) of an Appalachian who said, "In our church we 'love one another' like Jesus taught. We reach out to each other with the right hand of Christian fellowship and the laying on of hands. We used to give each other the kiss of peace, but some people got to lingering a little, so we had to give it up!" That's maybe not a 'best practice' in the Covid era, but substitute some conversations in there and my point is made.

When I was leaving a gypsy village in Romania my first day there, one of my hosts, Florin, was driving me back to the city. Some of the ladies involved in the ministry were in the back of the van because they were planning food for an event that night where I would be speaking in another village. As they spoke animatedly, Florin summed up the gossip for me (as it was in Romanian, I had no clue): “There’s a 78-year old man in our church that lost his wife a while back.” I felt like the discussion didn’t match the sad nature of what he was saying, and I was right.

“They’re not talking about that. He’s not sad at all, now. It’s been a year-and-a half. No, he’s got a 42-year old girlfriend now. What do you think about that?” The mood brightened, I admit the devil was lurking near my passenger seat. My answer was, “I wish you would ask him what vitamins he’s using so I can get a barrel.” He burst out laughing and translated back into Romanian. Mirth poured out into the road.

Is it any wonder I miss it?

Mickey

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**(all tentative based on VA guidelines)**

#### **May**

May Mission Project: Goshen Missions Offering  
25th Memorial Day Sunday Celebration

#### **June**

June Mission Project: Louisa Food Bank Offering  
20th Spring Picnic  
21st Deacon's Meeting (TBD)  
28th Quarterly Business Meeting (May move to July)

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### **May**

Hawkins, Kathy & Joe	02
Paine, Pam	03
Johnson, Jeff	04
Polonsky, Mary Virginia	07
Brown, Robert	09
Powers, Bill & Janice	11
Koening, Martin and Phoebe	11
Eder, Jamie	14
Robertson, Mickey & Pam	19
O'Connor, Steve	19
DiFranco, Matthew	21
Martin, Jeff & Jean	22
Shilling, Debbie	24
Pitcher, Kelly & Tom	25
Sherred, Margaret	27
Vancampen, Marc	31

### **June**

Rose, Jim & Connie	01
Roberts, Al (Popeye)	04
Jones, Anna & Steve	07

Naugle, Scott	09
Robertson, David	11
Talley, Emma Kay	12
Byers, Jennifer	13
Martin, Jean	14
Koenig, Phoebe	16
Bridges, Mike and Linda	16
Burt, Debby & Chip	18
Hill, Allen	19
Smith, Julie	20
Burghardt, Brian & Amity	21
Morrell, Lee & Cindy	27
Barry, Avis	30

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you for your expressions of sympathy for the loss of Phillip's two aunts, Charlotte Bane and Edna McFarlane as well as his cousin Kimberly Peddicord. They passed away March 15, April 7 and 12 respectively.

Linda and Phillip Mason

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Linda Bridges has a friend who is making women's and men's masks for \$5.00 ea. If interested, please contact Shirley Harris at 540-894-4668.



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Sunday School booklets for May, June and July are available to anyone who would like to receive one. Please notify Wayne Frazier @ 703-217-3564 .

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# Quarantined!!



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Our webmaster Steve Jones in "self "quarantine



Our first Sunday of quarantine praying for our church family, community, and singing praises.



When in quarantine get a puppy!!! This is the new addition (Paisley) to the Frazier household.



Frazier's daughter Janelle with husband Stephen and son Isaiah home from East Asia and enjoying dying Easter eggs.





Jody and Bruce Korman with friend hiking at High Bridge State Park.



Stan and Mary Virginia Polonsky in quarantine. Love those masks!!

**Please send us some pictures folks!! We would love to see your faces!! We would also love to hear from you so send us a note to share in our next newsletter.**

**Here's a prayer sung by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli for these times of uncertainty. Take the time and listen to the song.**

I pray you'll be our eyes  
and watch us where we go  
And help us to be wise  
in times when we don't know  
Let this be our prayer  
when we lose our way  
Lead us to the place  
guide us with your grace  
To a place where we'll be safe

I pray we'll find your light  
And hold it in our hearts  
When stars go out each night  
Let this be our prayer  
When shadows fill our day  
Lead us to a place  
Guide us with your grace  
Give us faith so we'll be safe

We ask that life be kind  
And watch us from above  
We hope each soul will find  
Another soul to love  
Let this be our prayer  
Just like every child  
Need to find a place  
Guide us with your grace  
Give us faith so we'll be safe

*Until we meet again, may God bless you and keep you all safe.*

*Alana Frazier*