



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2020

From the Pastor's Study...

I had seen something like it before, in Romania, where everybody attending the packed church knew the songs they would sing, needing no hymnals. The African-American churches I've been in are the same way. So when a Slavic church from Montpelier used our lakeside grounds for their baptisms, as a fellow Slavic church has for years now, it was not surprising as the familiar "How Great Thou Art" was played and every one of the more than 100 attending knew the words—in Russian.

Most everybody wore their Sunday best, ladies' heads usually covered, a unique look for the lake. About two-thirds of those there were either children or teenagers. There was no squirming, and no bored or withdrawn-looking teens. Instead, everybody participated in a creed (again with no script), faces filled with emotion, even tears.

Victor, my contact with the church, is old enough to have lived under communism and described to me first-hand things that had happened to him. This was after the seemingly endless list of executions of millions charged with being enemies of the state. Still, he saw property expropriated without any sort of due process or compensation by apparatchiks (bureaucrats) that treated every average citizen "like trash." He lived the poverty forced on people. He saw the indignity with which people were forced to live.

Sadly, that's why these Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, and Romani (Gypsy) people live here now. Under the non-communist regime of Putin people are still living in fear and without much hope for a dignified life. Many of them have lived in America for decades. This was a different congregation, for the most part, than the one that has used our lakefront for their baptisms in the past few years. They moved here, as a group for the most part, from Oregon recently (in fact, I missed the pastor's call before because I didn't recognize the number calling me listed in Portland! That's when Victor called me for them.) That's exactly how Baptist congregations first fled to continental Europe (the Pilgrims), and then to the New World.

The Gospels and Paul's letters are filled with stories and writing about different ethnic groups and the problems they have living together. Gentiles lived as second-class citizens among Jews, many were dual Roman citizens, the descendants of Canaanites, Philistines, Samaritans, and countless other ethnicities and nations were only a short distance away. Different languages were everywhere.

Their world is now ours: Russian is the fourth most-spoken language in Louisa County, and may now be third (after Spanish). Without fail, we are called upon to be light in a world that only sees them with the labels others give them. We may be called upon to do that first-hand, as they have asked me to preach to them sometime, and down the road want our congregation to share a meal with them that they will host.

They have moved here in search of the right to worship freely. That's hard to find in Eastern Europe even now. But what they most share with people I have seen in other parts of the world, and the black churches here, is that when the need is greatest, religion means the most. That's why, I think, most Americans and Western Europeans are far more casual in their "take it or leave it" approach to faith. That also explains the happy and vibrant looks on every face there that day—even the teenagers.

Mickey

DATES TO REMEMBER

July

Mission Project: Goshen Baptist Association which this year extends to Rurallove and overseas missions in Panama and Romania

Sunday School Join by telephone at 10:00 a.m. Dial 701-802-5156 - when prompted enter code 6363978 and press #. Study guides are available on the bench at the front of the church. Questions? Contact Tony Wilson, 540-748-1159, wilsonTony547@gmail.com or Contact Wayne Frazier, 703-217-3564, wr.frazier@verizon.net

August

Mission Project: TBD

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July

Brown, Brad & Doty	02
Weeks, Jerry	05
Strevig, Gerald	07
Woods, Frances	07
Good, David	10
Bacon, Paul	10
Hawkins, Kathy	15
Duerson, James & Dorothy	16
Talley, Jerry	18
Wyckoff, Gerry	19
Davis, Judy	23
Ashwood, Connie `	26

August

Chewning, Doug & Mary Frances	07
Jenkins, Penny	09
Scanlon, Patrick	12
Edmonds, Lynn	14
Hale, Pamela	14
Keene, Linda	14
Wyckoff, Gerry & Bunnie	14

Teller, Rick and Cheryl	15
Canova, Jay and Jo	16
Bridges, Linda	16
Bridges, Mike	19
Vancampen, Wanda	25
Croce, Larry & Susan	27
Rapp, Caitlin	28
Edmonds, Lynn & Larry	29



Louisa County Resource Council

P.O. Box 52
147 Resource Lane
Louisa, VA 23093
louisaresource@gmail.com
540.967.1510

July 9, 2020

Elk Creek Baptist Church
5916 Kentucky Springs Road
Route 652
Mineral, VA 23117

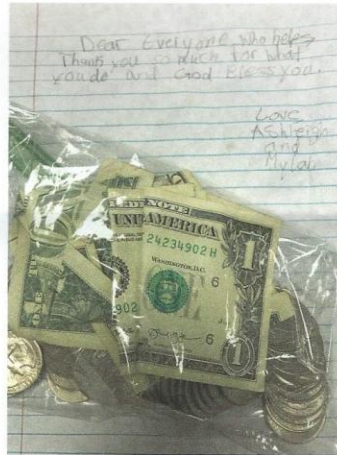
Dear Elk Creek Baptist Friends,

Your commitment to helping neighbors in need is obvious and greatly appreciated. We are seeing a trend that will likely continue for a long time: food requests increasing and donations decreasing. Never have people like you been more important to LCRC.

But instead of despair, we feel hope – especially when things like this happen...

This is a photo our office manager took on her phone a few weeks ago. Ashleigh and Mylah rode to LCRC with their parents who are clients. The girls were delighted with all the kid-friendly food in the Children's Emergency Food Box that they received. They returned to say "thank-you" and brought us the money from their piggy banks. I don't think there was a dry eye around here that day.

You are critical to neighbors like Ashleigh and Mylah. They and their parents are grateful for you.



LCRC Community Resource Center

We are so thankful that your church family continues to partner with us as we serve those less fortunate. Together we are making a difference. May God continue to bless your congregation.

Thank you again for the difference you are making in the lives of families who cannot thank you themselves.

Gratefully,

Lloyd R. Runnett

Lloyd R. Runnett
Executive Director

All in all \$1,906 was collected and sent by Elk Creek Baptist Church. Thanks to all who contributed.



Slavic church from Montpelier that uses our lakefront for Baptisms.



Don Campbell, interim Director of Missions from the Goshen Baptist Association, our guest speaker July 19th and July 26th



worshiping by boat - the ultimate social distancing





Morgan and Johnathon Smith Wedding back in February 2020.
Daughter of Lee and Cindy Morrell.
Beautiful couple!!

Together in Christ,

Alana Frazier

