



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September - October 2020

From the Pastor's Study...

Not too long ago, *Time* magazine published a Special Report issue under the subject, “Finding Hope.” There were lots of single page essays written by people like Margaret Atwood (*The Handmaid's Tale* author and inspiration for the TV series), Mikhail Gorbachev, the Dalai Lama, and even included Stephon Curry (basketball, in case you were wondering—and his wasn't the worst of the bunch, either). Other than the Dalai Lama, there were no prominent religious figures, and even his words were only vaguely spiritual. Whether there were Christians in the bunch, I can't say, but none were obviously so. Some of the essays were as filling as cotton candy.

Gone, it seems, are the days when *Time* would have America's most prominent theologian grace its cover (as Reinhold Niebuhr once was, and did). Billy Graham appeared on it, but that's been a very long time ago. These days, you've got to get yourself into a mighty sordid scandal to find your face on this magazine. So as you might imagine, I was not all that surprised by the lack of depth of what did appear.

Hope has always been a part of the Christian faith. We routinely talk about it, especially in the Advent season, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and speak of the possibilities for the future his coming held for people of his day. There's a gap between the crisis of our present rough times, and a greater future to come; hope tries to fill that gap. That kind of hope is necessary in any hard time.

But if it's things that are more filling that we're looking for, there's another word that fits better. That word is *faith*. Like hope, it comes and goes. It can seem to be fading, yet at another time it clearly grows. Where hope tries to fill the gap between good times and bad, faith can seem like a firm bridge—if, at times, a little rickety.

That's because it rests on something more than hope. There have always been people, even people of the Book, who find their faith lacking. If you don't believe that, crack open the Psalms sometime, and look at the dozens that show people crying out because their faith is fading, the world is closing in on them, hope has melted away, and God seems to be on vacation.

Yet in the end, those writers always find their way back to God at the center of it all. That's because faith is a much firmer belief that beyond all the things that shatter people's lives in the Psalms, and all the things that make us cringe on the evening news, that there is what I call an *ultimate reality* beyond the real world where God calms us and welcomes us with open arms.

An anthropologist came up with a cartoonish way of putting the same thing, probably cleaner and more descriptive than my "ultimate reality" way of putting things: He called it The Real, the real world we live in day-to-day, and The *Really* Real world that we celebrate on Sundays. No matter what readers of *Time* might think, in that kind of faith lies the real hope.

Mickey

DATES TO REMEMBER

September

Mission Project: Alma Hunt Offering for State Missions

7th Labor Day

12th Louisa Cares Community Project (See attached brochure for more information.)

Sunday School - Join by telephone at 10:00 a.m. Dial 701-802-5156 when prompted enter code 6363978 and press #. New series starting Sept. 7th. 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

October

Mission Project: TBD

Sunday School see above to join in.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September

Frazier, Alana	1
Paine, Gerald	1
Frazier, Alana & Wayne	7
Vancampen, Wanda & Marc	7
Harlow, Margaret	10
Ward, Doug	15
Koenig, Martin	15
Teller, Cheryl	15
DiFrancos. Mike	16
Myers, Joyce	17
Robertson, Katie	20
Stahl, Lee	21
Powers, Bill	21
Burt, Chip	25
Schultz, Myrna	25
Smith, Macy	25
Koslow, Jim	26
Powers, Janice	28
Croce, Susan	30
Koslow, Jim & Lori	30

October

Vitolo, Gloria	3
Ward, Mindy	4
Ashwood, Chris & Connie	5
Missy and Jeff Liebold	5
Ward, Albury	6
Losinski, Jack & Coral	6
Hale, Scott & Pamela	8
Naugle, Scott & Troy, Cheryl	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
Schultz, Darrell & Myrna	17
Martin, Jeff	19
Morrell, Cindy	19
Beal, Debbie	23
Teller, Rick	23
Vaughan, Clorese	23
Ashwood, Chris	25

October - continued

Vaughan, Joey	25
Duerson, Dorothy	29
Perks, Rick	29
Raabe, Bill	29
Wood, Rodney & Karen	29

Highlights from our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service



Tom Pitcher, one of our deacons, serving as lay leader



Linda Mason, one of our deacons, collecting tithes and offerings



Doug Ward playing the piano



Wayne Frazier and Mindy Ward providing special music

May the Lord bless you and keep you all safe.

Together in Christ.

Alana Frazier