



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

November - December 2020

From the Pastor's Study...

It sure looks dark outside right about now—and I'm not talking about the days getting shorter, either.

All the death and misery from the virus, the unsettled aftermath of our presidential election, the vast number of unemployed that we have to provide for more and more through Social Services or programs like Rural Love and the food bank...it's enough to make you want to pull up the blankets and stay in bed in the morning. Sure is safer, at least.

Yet soon we will begin a new year on the church calendar and will read from Mary's "Magnificat":

*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

—Luke 1:78-9

It's not a promise that these troubles and more will instantly pass away. It's more a belief that in trying times we need confidence that the light "will break upon us" and lift up those of us staying in where it's safe, and that those who have suffered loss will once more come to know a peace they cannot now sense.

When I was little, probably like most of you, the most exciting part of Christmas was presents under the tree, "what Santa brought us." But now it's the reminder that I need to look for those glimmers of light when they come.

If we did not have that promise, we might fail to look at all. It would be easy to let the gloom in our lives stay gloomy. There would always be plenty of problems to obscure what God is doing, as we speak. That promise, made so long ago, has brought us, through, to where we are. It's a promise that has been fulfilled before. There's no reason to think this year is any different.

Mickey

DATES TO REMEMBER

November

26th Thanksgiving

29th Advent begins

TBD Collection for the Christmas families

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

December

4th Church decorating 9:30 a.m.

13th Gifts for Christmas families due

19th Delivery of Christmas gifts 9:30 a.m.

20th Combined Christmas service 11:00 a.m.

24th Christmas Eve Service - TBD

Sunday School - see above to join in

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

November

Ballis, James	1
Bane, Lisa	3
Korman, Jody	5
Pittman, Mark	5
Webb, Joan	5
Beth Larsen	7
Robertson Weakley, Erin	11
Hale, Scott	13
Pitcher, Tom	15
Hayes, Susan	16
Canova, Jay	19
Jones, Anna	22
Jenkins, Woody	25
Mason, Linda	28
Sharp, Sissie & Keith	28
Missy Liebold	29
Webb, Wayne & Joan	30
Bobby Jones	30

December

Faccone, Mary	4
Wilson, Tony & Sandra	4

Pittman, Karilyn	6
Rose, Jim	9
DiFranco, Michael	10
Weaver, Butch	11
Keene, Bobby	13
Mason, Phillip	18
Brown, Catherine	19
Brown, Phillip	19
Brown, Kim	21
Grecco, Grace	22
Hoffman, Grayson	23

Since this is the month we give thanks for our many blessings, several within our congregation were asked, "What are you most thankful for this year?"

Below are the responses and thanks to all:

Mickey Robertson - Blakely, Erin's health. The health of us all

Pam Robertson - Husband, otherwise the same

Butch Weaver - There is much to be thankful for and I have reviewed that a lot this year to fight off the not so good things.

Dan and Jean Brannon - We are both most thankful for our health, family and treasured friends.

Mindy Ward - Tough question - difficult to pick number 1. Reflex answer is good health.

Doug Ward - Thankful for granddaughter Mackenzie and her baby sister due in less than 90 days as well as my wife Mindy who started it all.

Linda Bridges - LOVE - Love of my family and friends.

Mike Bridges - Friends, family and the love of the Father.

Veronica Schnippel - Thankful that even though we are in the midst of a chaotic world, the Lord keeps me grounded. No matter who's in office, I never want that to be an idol that takes away joy, if it is or not what I wanted. We will all be ok and well, no matter what. We are a blessed nation and country with more freedoms than many others. We are so blessed!! Of course the only things that truly matter are those that breathe air. Furry children included!! That's what I'm most happy about. Whew, that was a book!!

Al (Popeye) Roberts - I'm thankful for my family which includes my church family. (Yes, he got a little emotional saying so!!!)

Bunnie Wyckoff - I'm most thankful for my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who has carried me through this year.

Jody Korman - Building a stronger relationship with Jesus.

Anna Jones - A new healthy grandbaby

Steve Jones - All the little blessings

Tony Wilson - I think I'm most thankful that the virus has passed by not only me, but everyone I care about, including my church family (with one exception). Prayers of thanks and prayers of hope for our days to come.

Jo Canova - Good health

Jay Canova - Family and friends

Kathy Tyler - That's a hard question. We have been so blessed this year. God continues to provide and bless our family. I guess I would say I'm most thankful for my wonderful and healthy family and our faith.

Linda Mason - Our Goddaughter niece had her baby on Wednesday, so that is one of our blessings. Her name is Brooke Ethelyn Hornsby.

Phillip Mason - I am very thankful for family and loved ones staying healthy and the gift of watching God's creation and wonders outdoors. I'm also thankful for the memories of family who passed away in 2020 and for the gifts of 2 sweet baby girls, Kiera and Brooke. I'm thankful for visits at mom's window and her health. Very thankful for our church family.

Wanda and Marc Vancampen - We are thankful for our many blessings and friends we have living at the lake.

Larry Edmonds - I can't come up with what I'm most thankful for. I've been blessed in so many ways. Lynn says the same.

Richie Hurst - I'm thankful that my mother has stayed strong through this pandemic while being bed ridden. Our conversations are so clear and to the point. Helps me continue my day. I'm blessed! Plus my kids are healthy and we are thankful for our family ties.

Mary Virginia and Stan Polonsky - Our health and love of friends and family.

Cheryl Troy and Scott Naugle - Thankful for our Lake Anna friends and our Elk Creek Church friends. We appreciate all of you, our wonderful friends over the past 2 years.

Coral and Jack Losinsky - We are thankful for family, friends and a wonderful life at Lake Anna.

Wayne Frazier - Health

Alana Frazier - Most thankful for a God who during difficult times still resides with us, cares for us, and loves us.

Amazing how each of us in 2020 still have blessings that overflow because of a wonderful and ever loving God. AMEN??? AMEN!!!!



Rev. Michael Gregory was our guest preacher on September 27th . Michael, and his wife Tricia, a school teacher for 44 years, live in Richmond. In 2011 Michael retired from full-time ministry after serving 10 years as pastor of St. Stephens Baptist Church near Mechanicsville. For the past few years he has done interim work and guest preaching. He and Tricia have 3 grown children and 7 grandchildren.

Rev. Gregory's sermon was entitled "When God Sings" and the scripture reading was Zephaniah 3:17-20.



Welcomed back Brad after a battle with COVID. Glad to have you back!!!



Said goodbye to our dear friends Debby and Chip who left VA for warmer weather in Florida. (Come back soon!!!)



Had the pleasure of hearing Tony sing with the band.



Proud parents Martin and Phoebe Koenig with their son Jackson.

Psalm 31:24

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

May the Lord bless you and keep you all safe.

Together in Christ.

Alana Frazier