



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May - June 2021

From the Pastor's Study...

We are a ways removed now from Christmas. Probably by now if you had to return a gift, you've done it.

Do you ever get gifts you don't appreciate? Maybe, like me, you stuff them out of the way somewhere, hardly ever to be seen again. Or, if you have a legitimate reason, you can return them. I always try to clear that with whoever gave it to me, offering the reasons why I appreciate it, but can't use it, at least as is. Often it's the wrong size, or duplicating something you already have. Those are pretty solid reasons for returning and getting something you might use or appreciate instead.

Or have you maybe committed the original gift-giving sin, and given it as a present to somebody else? "Re-gifting" has been the subject of TV comedies and no shortage of embarrassing moments, because word might get back to the original giver—and then where do you stand?

But there is one gift that all of us should re-gift. In the book of Acts, Peter speaks to a group of both fellow Jews and Gentiles of his own growth and recognizing that God is "*God of all nations*" because Peter came to believe that God had forgiven even the Gentiles that most Jews either would not associate with, or even clearly despised. This is called in Acts 10 "*the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" The story calls us back to look at the first pouring out of the Spirit on believers of all stripes at Pentecost.

The gift we *should* re-give is one of acceptance, and tolerance, and forbearance. Sadly, these are not always qualities we find in life, or even in churches. That

means that where God expects it to be common, even unquestioned, instead these qualities are in short supply.

It's a lesson that I, like Peter, have had to learn and sometimes re-learn. It's a constant battle for me. Yet I believe that if we would all only apply ourselves, we would find much more to understand about our family members, friends, and more casual neighbors. After all, that's what the Holy Spirit is *supposed* to be all about.

Mickey

DATES TO REMEMBER

May

Mission Project

Goshen Missions Offering

Sunday School - Join by telephone at 10:00 a.m. Dial 701-802-5156 when prompted enter code 6363978 and press #. Please mute your phone unless you talk. 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

30th

Memorial Day Sunday Celebration

June

Mission Project	Louisa Food Bank Offering
12th	Spring picnic
20th	Father's Day

BOOK STUDY COMING BACK!!

You're invited to a planning session Wednesday, June 9th, 7 pm in Elk Creek's Fellowship Hall to discuss ideas on how and when to get our wonderful Book Study up and running again.

Previous members, please come with fresh new ideas.

Curious others, wanting to check it out, please come - you'll be most welcomed.

Refreshments provided.

For more information, contact Tony Wilson, 540-748-1159

wilsonTony540@gmail.com

Thanks and blessings,

Tony

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May

Hawkins, Kathy & Joe	02
Paine, Pam	03
Polonsky, Mary Virginia	07
Brown, Robert	09
Powers, Bill & Janice	11
Koenig , Martin and Phoebe	11
Eder, Jamie	14
Robertson, Mickey & Pam	19
O'Connor, Steve	19
DiFranco, Matthew	21
Martin, Jeff & Jean	22
Larsen, John and Beth	22
Shilling, Debbie	24
Pitcher, Kelly & Tom	25
Michalski, Brett and Vickie	26
Sherred, Margaret	27
Vancampen, Marc	31

June

Rose, Jim & Connie	01
Rick and Eileen Perks	01
Roberts, Al	04
Jones, Anna & Steve	07
Naugle, Scott	09
Robertson, David	11
Talley, Emma Kay	12
Byers, Jennifer	13
Martin, Jean	14
Koenig, Phoebe	16
Mike and Linda Bridges	16
Burt, Debby & Chip	18
Nancy Moser	18
Hill, Allen	19
Smith, Julie	20
Larsen, John	24
Morrell, Lee & Cindy	27

Easter Celebration















Colors of Easter



He is Risen



Finally back at the Lakefront



Rurallove volunteer appreciation banquet



Together in Christ,

Alana Frazier