



## **ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Serving the Community Since 1813*

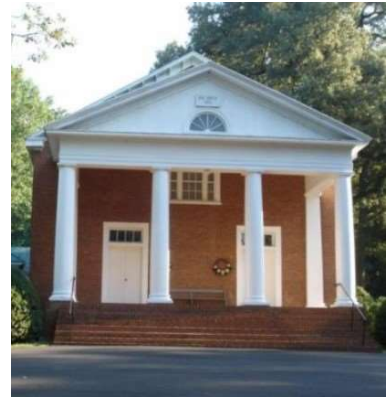
**5916 Kentucky Springs Road**

**Mineral, VA 23117**

**540-967-8004**

***elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org***

**October 2023**



### ***From the Pastor's Desk....***

#### **The Importance of Community**

During worship in September, we focused on scripture related to community. Why is community so important? God loves people and he knows that people need people. He created us to live in community, giving and receiving support, which leads to generosity and gratitude. What does our community need from us?

- To reflect the heart and nature of God.
- To strive to build bridges of understanding, goodwill and mutual respect to all around us.
- To be honest, truthful, trustworthy, reliable, loyal and unselfish.
- To reach out to those who are struggling with caring words of encouragement and deeds of compassion.
- To help those who have fallen and protect those who are vulnerable.

This is not done very often in heroic acts but in the little things we can do every day along life's way.

Author, publisher, and speaker Tom Ehrich writes, "Goodness in its many forms warms a heart: kindness, generosity, self-sacrifice, mercy—in which one sees and cares for the other. The tendency of humanity to deplete—to take more than we give, to wound rather than be vulnerable, to fight for our way, to seize the larger share—is quietly counter-balanced when goodness is at hand. The man Jesus himself seems to have been a quiet doer of good. He had relatively few in his entourage, expected no acclaim, left town before hero worship could begin, amassed no power or wealth, paid no attention to the lofty, launched no institution and in the end gave everything he had, even life itself, to God's beloved. And yet, that doing of good filled the land with new life."

Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian Henri Nouwen believed that community is best understood as a quality of the heart. He wrote, "The word, 'community,' has many connotations, some positive and some negative. Community can make us think of a safe togetherness, shared meals, common goals and joyful celebrations. It can also call forth images of sectarian exclusivity, in-group language, self-satisfied isolation and romantic naïveté.

However, community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own."

Where have we fallen short in building community and what work can we do to make it better? Will you do something about this as you move into a new week? Will you do your part to make your communities stronger and healthier by reflecting the heart and nature of God, which we commonly refer to as being the presence of Christ?

—Jeff Cranford, Interim Pastor

## Meet our Interim Pastor – Rev. Jeff Cranford

Jeff Cranford began serving as our interim pastor on September 3rd.



Jeff earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion at Baylor University and his B.A. in Biblical Languages and Literature at Gardner-Webb University.

He has assisted the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) churches as interim pastor and transition consultant, and has taught as an adjunct professor for Averett University and John Leland Seminary.

He retired from full-time service with the BGAV on March 1, 2019. During his tenure, he served in many capacities, most recently as Central Region Field Strategist and Compensation Planning Specialist. Following retirement, Jeff began part-time service as BGAV Minister-in-Residence for Church Finances. In this capacity, he continues to assist churches with all aspects of church finances. He also leads annual seminars in church and clergy taxes, church financial administration, financial support planning for church staff, and preparing for retirement. Since 2014, he has held the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor SM or CRPC® designation with the College for Financial Planning.

Jeff and his wife of 51 years, Suzanne, are North Carolina natives who moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1995. They have a daughter, Anna Grandpre (husband Matt) who resides in Waynesboro, and has four children--Sam, Eli, Catherine, and Caroline. His son Will Cranford (wife Adrienne) resides in Huntsville, AL and has two children--Zeke and Maggie.



## Comings and Goings -

Our **210<sup>th</sup> HOMECOMING** was held September 10<sup>th</sup> with many local and out of town friends returning to worship with us.





At the end of the service, James Duerson was honored for his many years of service to the church. With family in attendance, he was presented a plaque naming the Fellowship Hall in his honor.





Following the service, many folks enjoyed a picnic in the pavilion.









## More Comings and Goings –



The **Monthly Women's GRACE Fellowship** met on September 5<sup>th</sup> at noon at the home of Katrina Northcraft and were treated to a scrumptious lunch. The devotional was a thought-provoking reflection of true statements we identify with. The next gathering will be on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm at Kristin and Doug Barmoy's house, 574 Burris Mill Road. This one is a "coed plus one" potluck dinner, so bring your spouse or a friend and a dish to share.



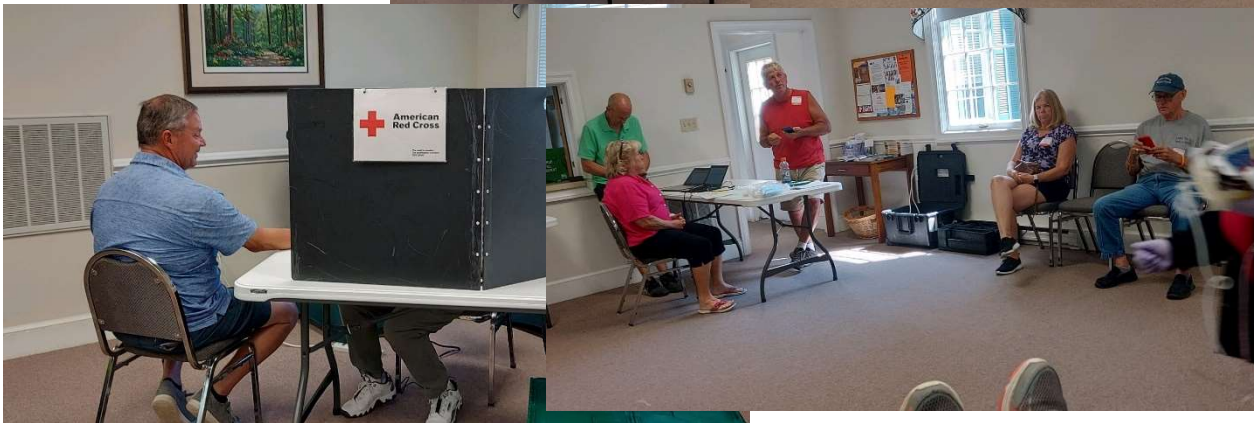
The **Caring Community Team** gathers monthly on the first Tuesday, 6:45 pm at the church, to coordinate the needs of our church family and pray over those on our prayer list. If interested, call Alana Frazier, 703-282-2393.



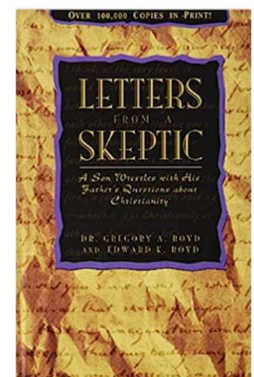


The Quarterly Men's Breakfast, was held on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am, at the church.

**Gave blood and got the t-shirt! How about you? The 3<sup>rd</sup> ECBC Blood Drive was a success!** On Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 33 folks came to donate and/or assist. We collected 29 units; that is 94 in three drives!!



**Book Study** continues the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, at the church. The current book is ***Letters from a Skeptic: A Son Wrestles with his Father's Questions about Christianity***, by Dr. Gregory and Edward Boyd. Everyone is welcome to attend at any time. Each person is responsible for buying their own book.





The **Bunco group** meets the third Wednesday of the month, 6:45 pm Boys and girls of all ages are welcome to play.



**Our church now has Automated External Defibrillator (AED).**

**A free Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED Training** was held on September 28th with 25 people, mostly from our church, attending. 'While this was not a certification class, it gave a good hands-on familiarization should we ever need to use it.





## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Food providers for Sunday morning fellowship** after the 8:30 service. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall, or call Coral Losinski, 571-366-9500, or Bunnie Wyckoff, 202-286-8954, for more information.
- **Wednesday Book Study Snack and Study Leader(s)** to facilitate discussion of the current book on specific Wednesdays. Contact Tony Wilson, 540-748-1159, [wilsontony540@gmail.com](mailto:wilsontony540@gmail.com), for more details.
- **The ECBC Woodchuckers** who provide firewood to families in need can always use an extra pair of hands. If you have any questions about this ministry or would like to get involved, contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743.
- **RuraLove Ministry**, an outreach of Goshen Association, welcomes volunteers. Contact the Ministry Center for more information, 540-894-8440. (Or Coral Losinski, 571-366-9500)
- **Young Life of Louisa can always use your help.** Contact Susan and Dane Swenson, 703-863-9972, [susanswenson466@gmail.com](mailto:susanswenson466@gmail.com).
- **LouisaClean** – Contact Jody Korman, 804-502-1128, [Jody@Jodyshomes.com](mailto:Jody@Jodyshomes.com), to be notified when a road cleanup is scheduled.  
Goal is every Friday between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. Wear long pants, boots if available. Grabbers, security vests, and hats will be given out while supply lasts. PLEASE bring gloves.  
Group photos are requested to share with Keep Virginia Green.



**Mission Opportunities through Baptist Goshen Association (BGAV) - The Hands of Christ: Serving, Growing, and Cooperating**

**Are you getting the BGAV newsletter each month?** If not, email Larry Edmonds, [lynnandlarrye@aol.com](mailto:lynnandlarrye@aol.com). There's lots of information and opportunities to put your talents to work locally, around the country and the world.



**Get Involved in Stewardship.** Contact Donna Duerson Evans (buglady8@yahoo.com) and let her know you want to get involved in the life of the church.

**Worship** – Mindy Ward, chair - reviews and evaluates the worship services with a view to enhancing and strengthening them; includes - services, bulletins, music, communion, and decorations/flowers.

**Pastor-Staff-Church Relations** – works with the pastor in keeping the covenant between the pastor and church up-to-date and abiding by the guidelines adopted for the relationship as noted in the covenant agreement. Serves in support of the pastor, and staff for the needs of the church.

**Spiritual Education** – coordinates Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders and Pastor-led studies, for the understanding of the Bible and spiritual growth.

**Audio-Visual** – Responsible for seeing to the maintenance, security and use of any audio/visual equipment owned by the church for the enhancement and broadcasting of services as appropriate. Volunteers with the knowledge and assistance of the audio/visual equipment.

**Building and Grounds** – Jay Canova, chair - Responsible for the cleanliness, maintenance, security and beautification of the church's building and grounds including the Lakefront Worship area. Periodically, inspects the facilities for possible repairs and upgrading as well as scheduling work days for the purpose of maintaining the building and grounds. Major areas of focus are: Electricity, HVAC, General Maintenance, Facility Protection, and Cleaning Teams.

**Communications and Publicity** – Donna Duerson Evans, chair - Liaison between the church and the media to include: Website, Facebook, Twitter, newsletter, directory, newspapers, television, radio, etc. Updates posted information to include planned special events, services and ministries. Maintains the email distribution list of active attendees used by the pastor and those who provide information to the congregation on behalf of church leadership.

**Missions and Community Outreach** – Plans and promotes mission ministries with Goshen Baptist Association, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and other agencies as appropriate through special emphases or direct hands-on involvement; includes coordinating and promoting the annual mission offerings, and promoting a ministry to contact and share the message of Christ and our church with the Lake Anna Community.

**Hospitality** – Coral Losinski, chair – Ensures kitchen has adequate supplies. Plans and coordinates church dinners and special events such as church's Anniversary/Homecoming, Valentine Fellowship, special concerts, and programs.

**Caring Community** – Alana Frazier, chair – Coordinates Prayer Ministry, Card Ministry, and meal coordination, when needed. Provides assistance with the selection of gifts as needed for special occasions, graduation, and recognition of special accomplishments.

**Finance** – Mike Bridges, chair - Responsible for church finances and other related duties. Chaired by the Treasurer (elected by the church members). Includes an assistant and others who can assist as approved by the deacons under the direction of the Treasurer.



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **October**

**Mission Project:** Goochland Women's Correctional Center (GWCC) Cards and Stamps  
Due TBD. Christmas, Birthday, Blank, All Occasion.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sun. 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 8:30 am Worship Moves Inside  |
| Tue. 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Caring Community Coordination & Prayer Vigil, 6:45 pm at the church |
| Sun. 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Deacon's Meeting  |
| Sun. 15 <sup>th</sup> | Quarterly Business Meeting 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter                  |
| Thu. 12 <sup>th</sup> | Women's Fellowship Co-ed potluck dinner, 6:00 pm, Barmoy's house    |
| Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> | Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church                                   |
| Wed. 18 <sup>th</sup> | Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church  |
| Wed. 20 <sup>th</sup> | Deadline for newsletter postings and pictures                       |
| Wed. 25 <sup>th</sup> | Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church                                   |

### **November**

**Mission Project:** Samaritan Shoeboxes Due TBD

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| TBD                   | Woodchuckers, contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743                      |
| Tue. 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Caring Community Coordination & Prayer Vigil, 6:45 pm at the church |
| Wed. 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church                                   |
| Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup> | Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church  |
| Mon. 20 <sup>th</sup> | Deadline for newsletter postings and pictures                       |
| Wed. 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church                                   |



**Calling potential Woodchuckers!** Winter is right around the corner when a dedicated group from our church will be chopping and storing wood to provide those in the county in need who are not able to supply themselves with wood. Contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743, for more information or to be notified when a need arises, or if you just feel like splitting some wood.



Don't miss your chance to see **"The Bridges of Madison County"** at 5:30 p.m. on **Thursday, November 2** at the **Riverside Center for the Performing Arts** in

Fredericksburg. Group rate of **\$71.30pp**. Your ticket includes: show, dinner, tax and gratuity. You are welcome to bring guests as this is a show for the whole family to enjoy. Please feel forward to send to any friends.

<https://www.riversidedt.com/the-bridges-of-madison-county-2023>

Send check to Anna Jones, 39 Deep Creek Circle Bumpass, VA or **Venmo@stevej840**

## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSERIES**

### **October**

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Helena & Andy Seelinger       | 1  |
| Miranda Vaughan               | 2  |
| Julie Gaumond                 | 3  |
| Mindy Ward                    | 4  |
| Connie & Chris Ashwood        | 5  |
| Albury Ward                   | 6  |
| Coral & Jack Losinski         | 6  |
| Jackson Koenig                | 7  |
| Pamela & Scott Hale           | 8  |
| Mary Virginia & Stan Polonsky | 9  |
| Barbara & Arthur McKenny      | 9  |
| Helena Seelinger              | 10 |
| Maria Kimball                 | 11 |
| Debby Burt                    | 14 |
| Steve Jones                   | 14 |
| Jeff Martin                   | 19 |
| Cindy Morrell                 | 19 |
| Doug Barmoy                   | 21 |
| Tessie & John Fugett          | 22 |
| Katie & Jeff Dick             | 22 |
| Debbie Beal                   | 23 |
| Rick Teller                   | 23 |
| Clorese Vaughan               | 23 |
| Joey Vaughan                  | 25 |
| Chris Ashwood                 | 25 |
| Tony Lovette                  | 28 |
| Dorothy Duerson               | 29 |
| Rick Perks                    | 29 |
| Karen & Rodney Wood           | 29 |

### **November**

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Jody Korman         | 5  |
| Joan Webb           | 5  |
| Beth Larson         | 7  |
| Alvin Brewer        | 9  |
| Rusty Brown         | 9  |
| Cindy & Randy Brock | 10 |
| Scott Hale          | 13 |
| Tom Pitcher         | 15 |
| Matt Huffman        | 15 |
| Jay Canova          | 19 |
| Jerry Whitehouse    | 20 |
| Anna Jones          | 22 |
| Woody Jenkins       | 25 |
| Joan & Wayne Webb   | 29 |
| Bobby Jones         | 30 |



Families in crisis, Pastor Search Committee, Those affected by the recent earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, and shootings, Marc Perks, Ben Settle, Dominic Croce, John Fugett, Erin Boxley, Joyce Myers, Frida Kim, Kylie Parker, Julie Parker, Henry Henderson, Cole Morriss, Lloyd Runnet, Kathy Thompson, Donna Duerson, Tony Style, Rene Rouillard, Robert Vernon,

Debbie Haggard, Lisa Danik, Lauren Cole, Dora McRae, Nancy Ebersole, Sandy Moore, Steve Ostrander, Kathy Munro, Andrew Croce, Allen Lewis, June & Bob Seelinger, Don Gartrell, Coy Bailey, Dee Bailey, Michael Wright, B.M. Seal, Grace Grecco, Teri Kulakowski, Shirley Griffith, Lori Gunter, Kelly Pitcher, Kelsey Cullen, Linda & Phil Mason, Doug & Ellen Hewitt, Rosalyn Cook, Jerry & Emma Kay Talley, Dennis McFarlane, Doug McFarlane, Alfred Sletton, Catherine Proffitt.



**POTLUCK!** From this month's Women's GRACE Fellowship comes this scrumptious salad made even more scrumptious by replacing the craisins with yogurt raisins. Apple cider vinegar works as a good substitute for the red wine vinegar. Thank you to Katrina Northcraft for introducing this salad to our collection.

## Broccoli Cauliflower Salad

Servings: 8 servings    Calories: 359kcal

### Ingredients

- .75 lbs Broccoli florets cut into bite sized pieces
- .75 lbs cauliflower florets cut into bite sized pieces
- 1/4 cup Red onion
- 1/4 cup Craisins
- 3 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp Sugar optional
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup crumbled bacon



### Instructions

1. Combine the mayonnaise, vinegar, and sugar in a bowl and whisk until smooth.
2. In a large bowl, add the broccoli, cauliflower, onion, craisins and dressing and toss to coat.
3. Add the sunflower seeds and bacon and toss again gently to distribute.
4. Serve chilled. Enjoy!

### Notes

- Leftovers of Broccoli Cauliflower Salad can be stored in the fridge for up to a week. If possible keep the sunflower seeds and bacon separate until serving.



## Do you know someone who needs counseling?

BGAV offers Christian Counseling Daystar Pastoral Counseling, Samantha J. Reynolds, BS, MSW, PAC, LCSW. Reasonable fees. For appointment availability call 540.308.7500 or Email: [DaystarPastoralCounseling@gmail.com](mailto:DaystarPastoralCounseling@gmail.com)



## STAY TUNED (IN)....

- **If your contact information changes**, please remember to notify the church. Send changes to your address, phone number and/or email address to Mindy Ward, [dm3ward@gmail.com](mailto:dm3ward@gmail.com), 301-335-8315, so we can update our directory.
- **If you cannot come in person**, tune into the 11:00 am service (and 8:30 am when indoors) on Mixlr app. Download the app on your mobile phone or computer, select "Listen" and search for ECBC-5916.
- **Visit our website** – [elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org](http://elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org) – and like us on our Facebook page.
- **Need access to our secure online directory?** Email the webmaster, [web@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org](mailto:web@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org), for access to the secure directory.
- **Check out the Goshen Baptist Association website** – [www.goshenassociation.com](http://www.goshenassociation.com)

*Together in Christ,*

*Mindy and Doug Ward, Beth Larson, Alana and Wayne Frazier*

[elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com)