



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving the Community Since 1813

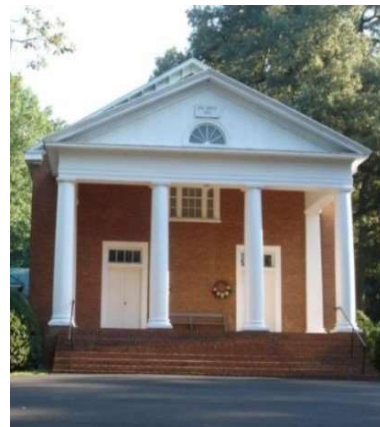
5916 Kentucky Springs Road

Mineral, VA 23117

540-967-8004

elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org

November 2023



Meet Our New Pastor



Rev. Michael Gray

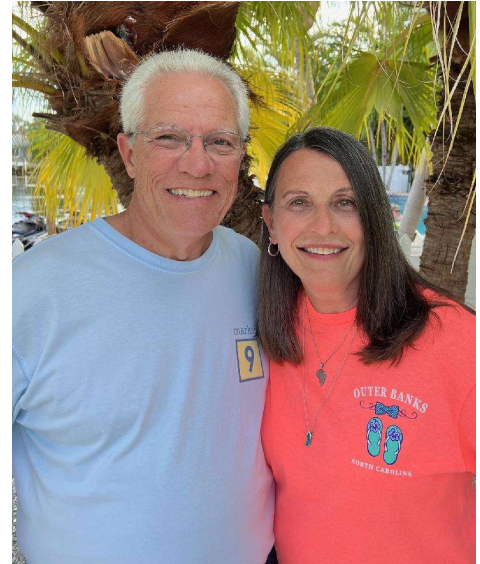
After an extensive search of many months, our Pastor Search Committee notified the congregation that they had narrowed down their search to one candidate – Rev. Michael Gray. A Call Weekend was held on October 28th & 29th that included a Meet and Greet with the church leadership and a Meet the Pastor session for the congregation during which time Rev. Gray introduced himself, and his wife, Cathy, and answered questions posed prior to the session. The day ended with a pizza social where everyone could get to know each other a little better in a relaxed atmosphere. On Sunday, Rev. Gray led a combined service after which a special called business meeting was held and, by secret ballot, the members present voted unanimously to call Rev. Gray as our next pastor.

Rev. Michael Gray was born in Panama City, Florida. He grew up in an Air Force family, so has lived all over the world, most notably St. Petersburg, Florida where he met his wife, Cathy. He was called to the ministry in 1972, holds a Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, KY), and has served churches in Florida, Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana. From 1973-1975, he was also a participant in the TV ministry, “A Man & His Boys”, with Dr. Jess Moody. He most recently served as Interim Pastor of White Stone Baptist Church, White Stone, VA.



Rev. Gray has been married since 1973 to Cathy Lee Graefe. They have two daughters, Lara Capps and Kristen Hamill, and five grandchildren. His hobbies include kayaking, walking, fishing, hiking, and reading.

Cathy was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida. She worked over 39 years in the dental field (front office) in Washington, DC and Newport News, Virginia. Her hobbies include her grandchildren, reading, walking, music (singing and praising God), going to the beach and enjoying the sunshine, and Hallmark movies. She loves serving others, and is looking forward to finding new opportunities to serve both Elk Creek Baptist Church and in the community.



We are grateful to the members of the Pastor Search Committee who gave freely of their time to meet weekly for the last 10 months and devoted many hours to learn the process for selecting a pastor, devising a profile of our church, considering carefully each application before interviewing potential candidates. Chaired by Kathy Tyler, the committee included Jay Canova, Bobby Jones, Wayne Frazier, Lynn Edmonds and Peter Hoffman.



**Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday,
November 5th at 2:00 am.** Don't forget to turn your
clock back before you go to sleep Saturday night.

Thank you to all of the pastors who ministered to us during our search for a new pastor – (left to right, top to bottom) Tom Lambelet, Dee Whitten, Jeff Cranford, Kevin James, Brent Vickery, Jim Aillor, Roger Collier, Doug Gibson, John Miller, Chet Smith, and Joe Paluczak.

A special thanks to Dee Whitten and Jeff Cranford who provided guidance to our pastor search committee.

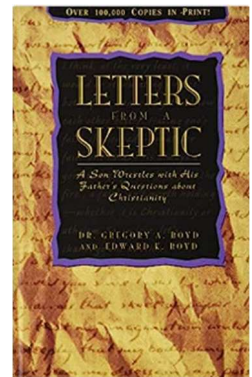


Comings and Goings –



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. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7th. The meeting and vigil is open to anyone who would like to come. Questions? Call Alan Frazier, 703-282-2393.

Book Study continues the 2nd and 4th 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 **Quarterly Men's Breakfast** is planned for Tuesday, November 14th at 8:00 am at the church. For more information, call Jay Canova, 703-624-9802.

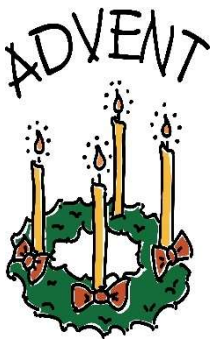
A planning meeting for the **Christmas Joy** Outreach will also be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. All are invited. Bring your ideas of how to bring joy to our church family. Contact Bunnie Wyckoff, 202-286-8954, for more information.

You are invited to



Go to see ***Journey to Bethlehem*** – Thursday, November 14th, the 1:40 showing at Regal Virginia Center in Glen Allen. Departing from the church at 12:30 pm. Contact Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315, if you would like to go.

Enjoy a performance of the Louisa Chorus – Two chances – Friday, November 17th, 7:00 pm, or Sunday, November 19th, 4:00 pm at the Louisa United Methodist Church. These performances are free; donations are accepted to support scholarships for local students. A reception follows the Sunday performance.



Decorate the church for Advent, Thursday, November 30th at 6:30 pm.

Cookie bakers bring some cookies to share. End the evening with some carols to welcome the season.

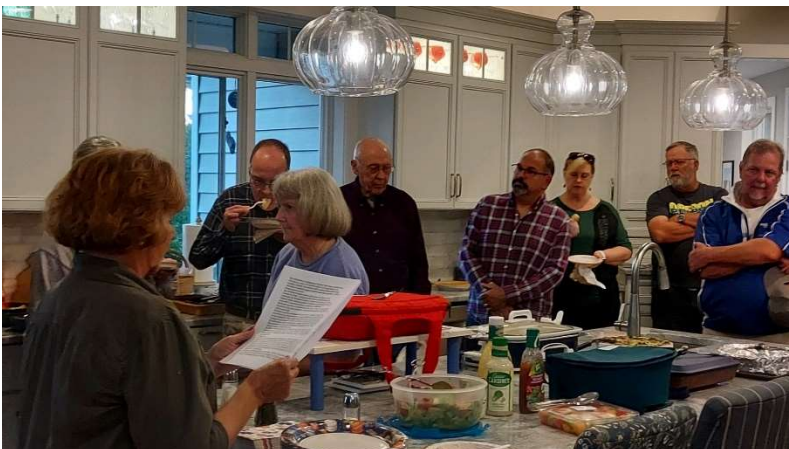
Poinsettia order forms will be available this Sunday, November 5th and will be accepted until November 19th. Remember or honor a loved one(s) for Advent.

Add a hymnal to your library. The hymnals on the table in Duerson Hall were previously used by the church, but are no longer needed. There are several types that are free for the taking. Take one or more for your library, or give one to a friend.



The monthly **Women's GRACE Fellowship** met on Thursday, October 12th, at Kristin and Doug Barmoy's house, 574 Burris Mill Road, for a potluck dinner that included spouses and guests. Alana Frazier shared an article about Native Americans as food for thought before a blessing was asked for the food and everyone enjoyed the selections. It was a beautiful sunset event enjoyed by all.

The next gathering will be the regular women's fellowship at Alana Frazier's house, 133 Boxwood Drive, Bumpass, on Tuesday, November 9th at 9:00 am.





Extraordinary Women 2023 – On October 13th and 14th, Mindy Ward, Pam Paine, Alana Frazier, Jo Canova, Jody Korman and Debbie Randall joined over 5000 women at Thomas Roads Baptist Church in Lynchburg where they were led in worship by, among others, Tim Tebow, Mandisa, Katherine Wolf, Hannah Keeley, Shelene Bryan, Michael O'Brien and Big Daddy Weave. **The experience was so moving that we have already pre-registered for next year's event scheduled for October 4th and 5th.** We are inviting other women from the church to attend with us. Call Mindy Ward, 301-335-8315, for more information.



Speaking of the World Series...

Two brother who love baseball wondered whether they could play the sport in heaven. They vowed whoever went to heaven first would find a way to let the other know. The oldest brother died first and on the night he was buried, appeared at the foot of his brother's bed.

"Is there baseball in heaven?" asked the younger brother.

"Well, I've got good news and bad news," the older brother said. "The good news is that there is baseball in heaven. The bad news is you're pitching Sunday."

The **Bunco group** enjoyed good fellowship on Wednesday, Oct 13th, and had a roaring good time. This group meets the third Wednesday of the month, 6:45 pm, at the church. Boys and girls of all ages are welcome to play.



The Woodchuckers have been busy already. They have made two deliveries of wood this month. 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.



Have you heard of the **Faith Coalition**? The purpose is to unite all the churches in Louisa County. Our church has historically been part of the coalition; Wayne Frazier recently attended the quarterly meeting. Topics discussed were the Ride with Sheriff program, the combined community Thanksgiving service, support for The Journey Home, and cooperative assistance with emergency situations among other things. Current chair of the coalition is Pastor Richard Sandberg of Louisa Baptist. You can follow them on Facebook/LouisaCFC.

The **Faith Coalition Christian Thanksgiving Service** this year is scheduled for Wednesday, November 22nd, 7:00 pm at Mt Gilliam Baptist Church, 4641 Chalklevel Road, Louisa.



From the Buildings and Grounds Team – In case you had questions about the cloth covering the east wall of the sanctuary, work is being done to repair the damage caused from water intrusion. The wall needs to dry in order to be repaired; however, finding the source of the leak has been a challenge. Richie Hurst is working with a window restoration expert to resolve the issue. The damage next to the door to Duerson Hall is also on tap to be repaired.

At the same time, a new sidewalk has been laid leading up to Duerson Hall, a combination lock has been added to the door, and the dead trees at the waterfront are being removed in preparation to plant trees to reduce the road noise. One of the small rooms at the rear of Duerson Hall is being converted into an office for the pastor.

Should you see something that needs to be repaired, or would like to lend a hand, please contact Jay Canova, 703-624-9802.



The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen. Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention...A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words.

(Rachel Naomi Remen, Clinical Professor of Family and Community Medicine, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine)

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, 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.
- **LouisaClean** – Contact Jody Korman, 804-502-1128, Jody@Jodyshomes.com, to be notified when a road cleanup is scheduled. Remember to bring gloves, wear long pants, and boots, if available. Grabbers, security vests, and hats will be given out while supply lasts. 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. 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

November

Mission Project: Samaritan Shoeboxes Due November 12th

TBD	Woodchuckers, contact Rick Perks, 301-704-2743
Fri 3 rd	Louisa Clean Road Clean-up, 8:30 am, meet at the church
Tue 7 th	Caring Community Coordination & Prayer Vigil, 6:45 pm at the church
Wed 8 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 9 th	Women's GRACE Fellowship, 9:00 am at Alana Frazier's house, 133 Boxwood Rd, Bumpass
Tue 14 th	Quarterly Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am at the church
Tue 14 th	Joy Outreach planning meeting, 9:30 am at church
Wed 15 th	Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 16 th	Movie, Journey to Bethlehem, 1:40 showing, Regal Virginia Center
Fri 17 th	Louisa Chorus performance, 7:00 pm at Louisa United Methodist Church
Sun 19 th	Louisa Chorus performance, 4:00 pm at Louisa United Methodist Church
Mon 20 th	Deadline for newsletter postings and pictures
Wed 22 nd	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Wed 22 nd	Faith Coalition Christian Thanksgiving Service , 7:00 pm at Mt Gilliam Baptist Church, 4641 Chalklevel Road, Louisa
Thu 30 th	Decorating Church for Advent/Singing Carols 6:30 pm

December

Mission Project: Christmas Families Gifts and Food Due: TBD

TBD	Louisa Health Care Center Caroling and Tree Decorating
TBD	Christmas Joy Outreach
Fri & Sat thru Dec One	Bright Light at Louisa Baptist Church, 305 E. Main St, Louisa, Reservations required; see notice under "Looking Ahead"
Sun 3 rd	Advent Begins
Tue 5 th	Caring Community Coordination & Prayer Vigil, 6:45 pm at the church
Thu 7 th	Women's GRACE Fellowship Luncheon, noon, at Anna Jones' home, 39 Deep Creek Circle, Bumpass
Wed 13 th	Book Study, 6:45 pm at the church
Wed 20 th	Bunco, 6:45 pm at the church
Sun 24 th	Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm
Mon 25 th	Merry Christmas!!
Wed 27 th	Book Study cancelled



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSERIES

November

Jody Korman	5
Joan Webb	5
Beth Larson	7
Alvin Brewer	9
Rusty Brown	9
Cindy & Randy Bock	10
Jason Koenig	10
Scott Hale	13
Tom Pitcher	15
Matt Huffman	15
Jay Canova	19
Jerry Whitehouse	20
Anna Jones	22
Woody Jenkins	25
Linda Mason	28
Joan & Wayne Webb	30
Bobby Jones	30

December

Mary Faccone	4
Sandra & Tony Wilson	4
Michael DiFranco	10
Katie Dick	10
Butch Weaver	11
Daniel Kimball	12
Bernie & Jeffrey Marsh	15
Jean Brannon	18
Jean & Dan Brannon	18
Phillip Mason	18
Catherine Brown	19
Phillip Brown	19
Kim Brown	21
Grace Grecco	22
Cecilia Hoffman	23
Grayson Hoffman	23
Cecilia & Peter Hoffman	28



Families in crisis, Those affected by the recent earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, shootings, and war, Steve & Debbie Shechtel, Janelle and Stephen Beckwith, Terry Vickery, David Pristas, Gerald Paine, Cindy Sullivan, Gary Harkins, Andy Seelinger, John Fugett, Shannon Muller, Mary Hess, Ben Settle, Dominic Croce, Erin Boxley, Frida Kim, Kylie Parker, Julie Parker, Cole

Morriss, Kathy Thompson, Donna Duerson, Tony Style, Rene Rouillard, Robert Vernon, Debbie Haggard, Lisa Danik, Lauren Cole, Dora McRae, 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! It's Fall and what could be more fitting than bobbing for apples, or maybe just dipping them! Thanks, Kathy Tyler, for this scrumptious apple dip!

Toffee Apple Dip

Ingredients

3 Skor Candy Bars
8 oz. Cream Cheese
1 Tbsp Vanilla
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Brown Sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Confectioner's Sugar

Sliced apples to dip

Directions

Soften cream cheese
Mix all ingredients together

(Best if mixed the night before)



LOOKING AHEAD –



November 22nd – December 31st



With two shows per evening—5:30 & 7:00 p.m.

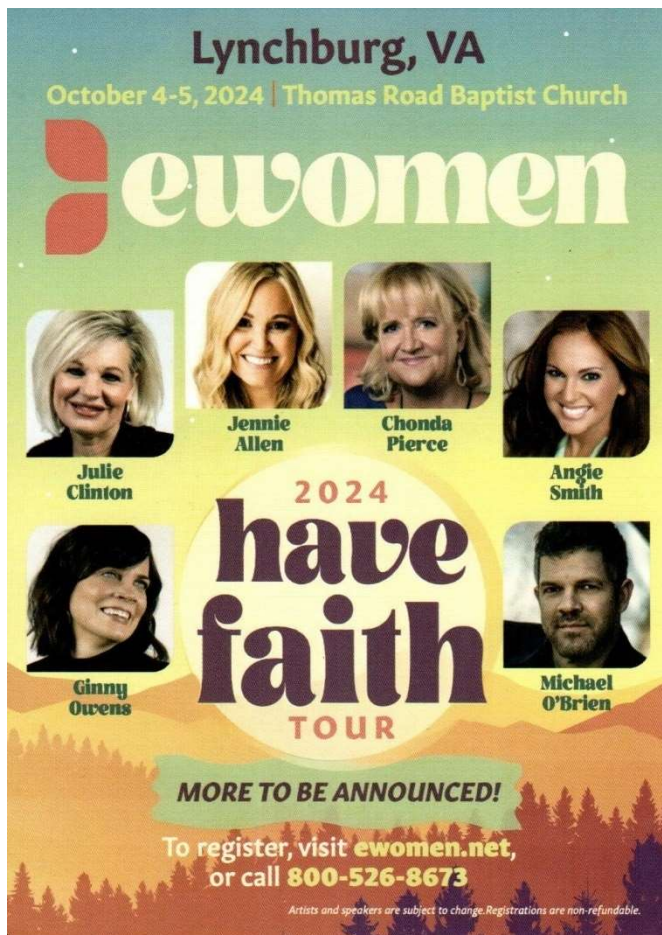
Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2

Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9

Friday, Dec. 15 and Saturday, Dec. 16

Friday, Dec. 22 and Saturday, 23

Reservations at www.onebrightnight.com





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



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, 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 – and like us on our Facebook page.
- **Need access to our secure online directory?** Email the webmaster, web@elkcreekbaptistchurchva.org, for access to the secure directory.
- **Check out the Goshen Baptist Association website** – www.goshenassociation.com

Together in Christ,

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

elkcreeknewsletter@gmail.com