

The Elkins Exchange

Volume 18, Issue 6

April 2017



If anyone would like to receive the newsletter via email please send a note to Ruth at:

firstchurchofchristelkins@frontier.com

Please keep the church updated with address and phone number changes! Can give to Ruth Morgan or email.

Please give any news, pictures, happenings, etc. that you would like to see in the newsletter to Ruth Morgan by the third Sunday of the month.

Inside this issue:

From the Preacher's Desk	1
Newsletter info	1
News	2
Happenings	2
Calendar of Events	3
Church Flowers	3
Scripture Readings	4

From the Preacher's Desk

Okay, this is confession time for me. I didn't like Easter as a kid. Not one bit. First, I'm NOT a morning person, and I don't care what the church serves for

breakfast afterwards, it wasn't worth getting up for the sunrise service. But it wasn't just the earliest day of the year, it was also the most uncomfortable day of the year. It was the one day my parents made me put on a jacket and a tie for church. As a kid who never normally wore jackets and ties, let's just say that my selection wasn't exactly comfortable: an itchy woolen coat and a clip on tie that impaled your sternum every time you sneezed. Easter candy was pastel colored M&M's buried in acres of fake green grass that reminded me of crab legs in that the effort just didn't seem worth the reward. And while dying Easter eggs was tolerably fun, eating that many hardboiled eggs afterward tended to lose the appeal after a while.

I think it's a shame sometimes that we do the whole religion thing. Now before anyone calls for my termination, let me explain just a minute. Despite a well-known disdain for dressing up and wearing shoes, as a professional preacher there are few who appreciate the traditions of organized religion as much as I do. Having an established song service and order of worship, crafting all sermons with three alliterative points, and set times and dates for worship help take away the chaos of the unpredictable. If we know when to stand and sit, when to sing and when to remain silent, we don't have to worry about what comes next and whether or



not it's all covered.

But on the other hand, predictability is what can lead to monotony and boredom. If we don't shake things up a bit, we get stuck in a rut, and the next thing we know we've been going to church for years and

haven't grown. We may not even remember any of the sermons or lessons because it just became all so formulaic that it allowed us to "check out," going through the motions with our bodies while our minds grew distracted and wandered into flights of fancy, instead drawing closer to God.

I think for me, growing up, Easter was often the worst time for tuning out. I don't blame my parents or the church for this. The blame falls firmly on my shoulders. But amidst the religion, the sunrise services and clip-on ties, and amidst the traditions of Cadbury bunnies and baskets full of fake grass with the occasional lavender M&M, I allowed myself to gloss past the message. God loves us so much that, while we were still sinners, Christ Jesus died for us. We were made to live in harmony with God, but our own sin gets in the way of that. So God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin so that, if we want to, we can be restored to Him.

Nothing ever shook up the world like Jesus did all those years ago. It wasn't organized traditional religion. It was radical in-your-face never-be-the-same-again love.

Somewhere, amidst the Easter traditions and religious services, I pray that we get it, that we realize that this isn't a ceremony, a meaningless set of traditions that we tune out. Instead we are celebrating a radical love that sacrificed Himself for our sake. That kind of love is worth paying attention to. He deserves our gratitude, our love, and our worship. That's not religion. That's just joy.

Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for April is the **KYOWVA Evangelistic Association**. KYOWVA began in 1950 & represents the three states of the tri-state area: KY, OH, & WV. This mission works with both independent Christian Churches & Churches of Christ & has extended to more than twenty states in the United States. The reason for this mission is to begin new or assist existing congregations. They have successfully done this with over fifty congregations & four camps.

The association's Board of Directors is made up of members from within the Tri-State area of Ashland, KY; Ironton, OH; & Huntington, WV. They meet on a monthly basis.



A new work was started in September 2001 & is working to save souls under the leadership of George Hall. The goal of this new church is to save souls & to provide this area with a New Testament Church. A New Testament Church where Jesus is proclaimed as Lord, immersion for the forgiveness of sins & the gift of the Holy Spirit is preached, the Lord's Supper will be served every Sunday & an instrument accompanies the singing.

We are asked to support KYOWVA with our Sunday school offering on the third Sunday of April.

Facts and Figures for March

AM Service **73**

PM Service **31**

Weekly Budget need: **\$3449**

News



We are saddened to announce the passing of Ed Kyle on March 19th. Our condolences go out to Mary Ann and family.



Congratulations to new grandparents Mike and Chandra Robinson. Benjamin Oliver Ogada Price was born March 26th to their daughter.



June 5-10

- It's VBS time! This year's theme is **Character Under Construction**. Director's are Patsy Nelson and Beth Cooper.
- Work meetings begin now on Mondays at 6:30pm. Anyone can help with posters and decorations.
- Please pray for success of this year's program!



Women's Guild would like to announce some changes to the Food Pantry. Contributions will now be collected once a month, **the last Sunday of the month**. These items will be donated to the local food bank. For our own membership needs please give cash to Nancy Messer or Etta Jean Kendall.



Life group/Bible Study on Thursday evenings.

- Mark Morgan at his home, Beverly/Dailey area. 7 pm "Eschatology"
- Jason Brandon 6:30 at the church in Elkins, Studying the book of Matthew.

Kid's Own Worship: each Wed. 6:30pm @ Church.



In order to celebrate the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Church, in conjunction with other local churches, is hosting a Holy Week for the "entire local Elkins community" this year.

Dates: April 10th thru 14th (Mon. -Fri.)

Times: Noon to 1pm, services at noon with \$3 luncheon at 12:30. Our church hosts Monday with Jason preaching that day.

See Donna Blackwood or Nancy Messer if you can help with daily clean up.

A Look Ahead:



Mother's Day Banquet will be May 13th at 6pm. Diane Ware will be the guest speaker. The subject will be "Survive or Thrive"

Calendar of Events

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> *Bryn Cooper
<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> VBS mtg 6:30pm *Broady Thompson	<i>4</i> Board Mtg 7pm *Jack Hasselaar	<i>5</i> Kids Own Worship *Shawn Channell	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> VBS mtg 6:30pm	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Kids Own Worship	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> *Joyce Pudder	<i>15</i> *Loretta Hart
<i>16</i> ✝ Resurrection Sunday Mission Sunday	<i>17</i> VBS mtg 6:30pm	<i>18</i> *Karen Reed *Kris Wilmoth	<i>19</i> Kids Own Worship	<i>20</i> *Angela Lall	<i>21</i> *Debbie & Clarence Gochenhour *Clarence Gochenhour	<i>22</i> *Crystal White *Frelie Dotson
<i>23</i> *Cindy Talbott *Cassie Hinkle *Brianna Worles	<i>24</i> VBS mtg 6:30pm	<i>25</i> Elders Mtg 7pm *Marilyn Owens	<i>26</i> Kids Own Worship *Kathleen Price *Pamela Brandon	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> *Jayme Herron	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i>						

Church Flowers given this month

Thank you to Sandra Lilly for the seasonal silk flower arrangements for the pulpit. We still encourage donations in memory or special occasions. Please make your own arrangements with florist and let Mary Ann Kyle know.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

300 Main Street
Elkins WV
26241



Phone: 304-636-1590

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Preaching Minister. Jason Brandon
Bible School Sunday 9:30 am
Worship Service Sunday 10:30 am
Choir Practice Sunday 5:00 pm
Youth Meetings. Sunday 6:00 pm
Evening Service. Sunday 6:00 pm
Kids Own Worship. Wednesday 6:30 pm
Small Groups Thursdays, various times & locations



Visit your church website at:

firstchurchofchristelkins.com

Scripture Readings for April

		1 st	Matt. 28: 1-10 Rom 15:14-33 Psalm 70 Deut. 32	2	Matt. 28:11-20 Romans 16 Psalm 71 Deut. 33, 34
3 rd	Mark 1 :1-8 1 Cor. 1: 1-17 Psalm 72 Joshua 1, 2	4 th	Mark 1 :9-20 1 Cor. 1:18-31 Psalm 73 Joshua 3-5	5 th	Mark 1 :21-34 1 Cor. 2 Psalm 74 Joshua 6, 7
7 th	Mark 1 :35-45 1 Cor. 3 Psalm 75 Joshua 8, 9	8 th	Mark 2:1-12 1 Cor. 4 Psalm 76 Joshua 10-1 2	9 th	Mark 2:13-17 1 Cor. 5 Psalm 77 Joshua 13, 14
10 th	Mark 2:18-28 1 Cor. 6:1-11 Psalm 78: 1-39 Joshua 15-17	11 th	Mark 3:1-19 1 Cor. 6:12-20 Ps.78:40-72 Joshua 18, 19	12 th	Mark 3:20-35 1 Cor. 7:1-16 Psalm 79 Joshua 20, 21
14 th	Mark 4:1-20 1 Cor. 7:17-40 Psalm 80 Joshua 22, 23	15 th	Mark 4:21-41 1Cor. 8 Psalm 81 Joshua 24	16 th	Mark 5:1-20 1 Cor. 9:1-12 Psalm 82 Judges 1-3
17 th	Mark 5:21-43 1 Cor. 9: 13-27 Psalm 83 Judges 4, 5	18 th	Mark 6:1-13 1 Cor. 10:1-13 Psalm 84 Judges 6, 7	19 th	Mark 6: 14-29 1 Cor.10:14-33 Psalm 85 Judges 8
21 st	Mark 6:30-44 1 Cor. 11:1-16 Psalm 86 Judges 9	22 nd	Mark 6:45-56 1 Cor. 11 :17-34 Psalm 87 Judges 10-12	23 rd	Mark 7:1-23 1 Cor. 12:1-13 Psalm 88 Judges 13-15
24 th	Mark 7:24-37 1 Cor.12:14-31 Psalm 89:1-18 Judges 16	25 th	Mark 8:1-13 1 Cor. 13 Ps.89:19-52 Judges 17, 18	26 th	Mark 8:14-21 1 Cor. 14:1-25 Ps. 90 Judges 19
28 th	Mark 8:22-30 1 Cor.14:26-40 Psalm 91 Judges 20, 21	29 th	Mark 8:31-38 1 Cor. 15:1-28 Psalm 92 Ruth 1	30 th	