

The Elkins Exchange

Volume 19, Issue 2

December 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.

From the Preachers' Desk



You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. For

the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. (I Thessalonians 2:1-6a)

I think we spend too much time worrying about what other people think and not enough time worrying about what God thinks.

However, let me also clarify that the bible assuredly states that we are Christ's ambassadors, that it is our responsibility to take the Gospel to the people around us. And it tells us that we should live in such a way as to maximize His message. Paul says, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means some might be saved." (I Corinthians 9:22). It is important to "live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, see your good deeds and glorify God on the day that He visits us." (I Peter 2:12) We can't just act like whatever we want, throw up our hands, and say that it doesn't matter because we only live to please God. Our Lord wants us to live in such a way as to make a positive and Christ-like

appeal for His Gospel, an appeal that is not undermined by the sheer stubborn unpleasantness of the messenger.

Instead what I speak of is more a matter of priority. As Paul says, our goal is to please God, who is pleased when those He loves hear and respond to His gospel.

As Christians we respond by sharing His love with others, so that they may come to see His love for them and love Him in return. Too often we are more worried about whether they love us or not.

We selfishly have our priorities wrong. Rather than keep the focus on God, we try to steal His focus and have people focus on us. For this reason, we often will not share the truth of the Gospel because we fear people will not like us or will be offended by our words. But this assumes that they are our words, and that the end goal is for people to like us. Our end goal is that the people who our God loves (just as much as He loves us) will be saved. We are windows, not pictures. The goal is not to have people look at us, but to look through us and see our Lord Jesus Christ and our God.

When we think we matter so much, we worry about what other people think about us, and we often won't tell people the truths that God wants them to hear.

When we love people the way that God loves them we no longer focus on ourselves, and instead we can give God the glory. We are freed to take the attention off of us and put it on Him who has the power to save all of mankind, for He longs to save those He loves. He loves us all, and He wants us all to come to Him for salvation.

Inside this issue:

<i>From the Preacher's Desk</i>	1
<i>Info updates</i>	1
<i>News</i>	2
<i>Happenings</i>	2
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>Church Flowers</i>	3
<i>Scripture Readings</i>	4

Mission of the Month

Deaf Missions is a Christian mission dedicated to helping deaf people SEE Jesus Christ, so they may accept Him as their Savior and grow in Him. Deaf Missions was founded in 1970. People across the United States and Canada, and in more than 60 other countries, are served by Deaf



Effectively communicating
the Gospel of Jesus Christ
with deaf people



Missions. Bible visuals produced by Deaf Missions are used by more than 50 different denominational groups. The work is supported by freewill offerings from individuals, churches and organizations.

Facts and Figures for November

AM Service 70

PM Service 31

Weekly Budget need: \$2205

News



Shayna Zirkle transferred her membership on November 19th. Welcome to the church family Shayna!



Our **Annual Holiday Dinner** to commemorate Thanksgiving/ Christmas season is scheduled for Sunday afternoon **December 3rd following morning services**. It is a potluck where everyone brings their favorite holiday dishes. Bread and drinks will be provided.



The Live Nativity with the senior youth will be Wednesday December 20th in the empty lot across from the church. Please come out to see this and share with friends.



Life group/Bible Study on Thursday evenings.

- Mark Morgan at his home, Beverly/Dailey area. 7 pm
- Jason Brandon 6:30 at the church in Elkins,

• **No groups on the 28th.**

Kid's Own Worship: Wed. 6:30pm @ Church. Can celled the 27th for Christmas.



Christmas Cantata practice is Sunday's at 5 pm. This year's Cantata is "**Bethlehem Morning**" by Russell Mauldin. The performance will be Christmas eve at 7pm.



The guild is sponsoring Christmas gift cards for the Kids Own Worship children. Please see Etta Jean Kendall or Nancy Messer if you would like to help with this.



There will be a candlelight service by Jason at 7pm Thursday the 21st in place of his small group.



Thanks to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. We filled 70 shoeboxes this year. The shoeboxes will be tracked and we should know their destinations soon. (Ruth Morgan)



I want to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas! See you in 2018!

Ruth Morgan, editor

Calendar of Events

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> *Kaylea Johnson
<i>3</i> Holiday Dinner after morning services	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Board Mtg 7pm	<i>6</i> *Bill Phillips	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> *Dennis Alt
<i>10</i> *Jason Brandon	<i>12</i> *Jean Newman	<i>12</i> *Shaina Morgan *Anita & Jerry Lock- ett	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> Mission Sunday	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> Kids Own Worship party Live Nativity *Madison Licwov	<i>21</i> Candlelight Service 7pm *Cliff & Ann Phillips	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> Cantata 7pm	<i>25</i> 	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> *Cliff & Mabel Wil- moth	<i>28</i> No Small Group	<i>29</i> *Quinnlyn Kelly	<i>30</i>
<i>31</i>						

Church Flowers given this month

Thank you to Sandra Lilly for the new 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. Thursday 6:30 and 7 pm



Visit your
church
website
at:

firstchurchofchristelkins.com

Scripture Readings for December

1 st	John 14:1-14 Rev. 1: 1-8 Job 23 Hosea 1-3	2 nd	John 14:15-21 Rev. 1 :9-20 Job 24 Hosea 4-6	3 rd	
5 th	.John 14:22-31 Rev. 2:1-17 Job 25, 26 Hosea 7, 8	6 th	.John 15:1-8 Rev. 2: 18-29 Job 27 Hosea 9-12	7 th	John 15:9-17 Rev. 3:1-13 Job 28 Hosea 13, 14
8 th	John 15: 18-27 Rev. 3: 14-22 Job 29 Joel 1	9 th	John 16:1-11 Rev. 4 Job 30 Joel 2, 3	10 th	John 16:12-24 Rev. 5 Job 31 :1-23 Amos 1, 2
12 th	John 16:25-33 Rev. 6 Job 31 :24-40 Amos 3, 4	13 th	John 17:1-5 Rev. 7 Job 32 Amos 5, 6	14 th	John 17:6-19 Rev. 8 Job 33:1-11 Amos 7-9
15 th	John 17:20-26 Rev. 9 Job 33: 12-33 Obadiah 1-21	16 th	John 18:1-18 Rev. 10 Job 34: 1-20 Jonah 1-4	17 th	.John 18:19-27 Rev. 11 Job 34:21-37 Micah 1-3
19 th	John 18:28-40 Rev. 12 Job 35 Micah 4, 5	20 th	John 19:1-16 Rev. 13 Job 36:1-15 Micah 6, 7	21 st	John 19:17-27 Rev. 14 Job 36: 16-33 Nahum 1-3
22 nd	John 19:28-37 Rev. 15 Job 37 Habakkuk 1-3	23 rd	John 19:38-42 Rev. 16 Job 38: 1-21 Zephaniah 1, 2	24 th	John 20:1-9 Rev. 17 Job 38:22-41 Zephaniah 3
26 th	John 20:10-18 Rev. 18 Job 39 Haggai 1, 2	27 th	John 20:19-23 Rev. 19 Job 40 Zechariah 1-5	28 th	John 20:24-31 Rev. 20 Job 41:1-11 Zechariah 6-9
29 th	John 21:1-14 Rev. 21 Job 41 :12-34 Zechariah 10-14	30 th	John 21: 15-25 Rev. 22 Job 42 Malachi 1-4	31 st	