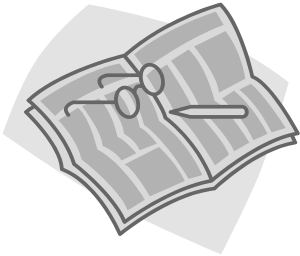


The Elkins Exchange

Volume 18, Issue 4

February 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.

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From the Preacher's Desk

In Matthew 5:43 we read in the Sermon on the Mount these words: "You have heard that it was said 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

Circumstances lately have caused me to think more on this quite a bit lately.

Our nation has been embroiled in a conflict in the Middle East with an enemy that is not afraid to torture, burn, and beat civilians for their beliefs. Our own country has been through a contentious election, and while some can agree to disagree, others have had trouble walking away from the election, and see in their political opponents an enemy to be overcome. Recently our church has been broken into twice, and the second time I found myself in a physical altercation with the perpetrators. Since that time I have been threatened on the street for refusing to support someone's habits. I've had a lot of time to think about this word 'enemy.' But what's more, I've had a lot of time to think about what my Christian response should be in these situations.

In the Old Testament God commanded the Israelites to enter into the land of Canaan and to 'destroy for God' the people of the land (this is the way the language actually reads). The prophet Elijah struck down 850 false prophets with the sword, but the prophet Jeremiah meekly took the brutal treatment of his fellow Israelites. In the New Testament we read that Jesus says "Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go



with him two miles." So which is it? Are the Christians supposed to defeat their enemies, or are we called to be doormats to anyone who comes along? If someone asks for my car, am I supposed to give it to him? If someone breaks into my home and threatens my wife and daughter, am I allowed as a Christian to resist him? How do we balance what we read?

This has been a struggle for Christians through the years. Not only do we see that Jesus was killed by those who sought Him harm, His disciples also suffered the fate of martyrs. But Jesus didn't allow Himself to be harmed earlier than His appointed time; at times when the crowd tried to kill Him he slipped from their grip.

I think we see a clue in the very word 'martyr'. This is a Greek word, and means 'witness,' and this is the key to understanding our Christian response. Our goal as Christians is to witness to the love of God for man through His Son Jesus Christ. At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said these words: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

"Because of Me." We have to ask the question: how is Christ proclaimed? When persecuted for being a Christian, our persecution serves as a witness, hence why we call those who die for being Christians 'martyrs'. Can we pray for Isis? We need to. Can we pray for criminals who prey on our community? Absolutely. But I also believe that we can do this without encouraging those who are evil to continue to prey on the weak and defenseless. Christ's love compels us to both love all men and to encourage them to live lives that glorify God.

New Mission of the Month

Andy & Kristen joined Wycliffe Bible Translators to work in Togo - West Africa. They have two children, Javan (10) and Joshua (7). They work among the Tem people who are very open and hospitable even though less than 1% of the population trust in Jesus. Since 2003, the Weathers have trained and mentored teams of local Tem people in Bible Translation and Tem Literacy. The hope is to see the birth of an indigenous church that can read and discover God's Word in their own language. The New Testament is nearing completion as the translation team aims to complete all the first drafts and final checking in 2016 then typesetting and printing in 2017.



Weathers Family serving Togo, Africa

alive through the language of the heart.

Andy also invests part of his time with the Sahel Initiative, an intermission group that aims to provide hundreds of language groups with God's Word across the Sahel region of Africa. The Sahel is the region south of the Sahara Desert, stretching from Senegal to Eretria, where more than 200 ethnic groups have only a small percentage of followers of Christ. By God's grace, the message of Christ is becoming available to these people through creative media, cell phone apps and web pages. These are exciting times to see God moving and revealing Himself to those who live in difficult contexts.

Join the Weathers and the entire team of Tem Bible Translators as they prayerfully make God's Word come

We will be supporting the Weathers on the third Sunday in February.

News



Starr Junior Roy passed away January 26th. He had been in ERCC for the past couple years. Our condolences go out to his wife Hazel and family!



Character Under Construction will be this year's VBS theme. It will be **June 11-15**. There will be more information soon. Directors are Patsy Nelson and Beth Cooper this year. Please see them if you

want to help!



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.



Don't forget donations are always needed for our church food pantry. The pantry also stocks cleaning supplies and paper products. There are bags in the vestibule to pick up for your donations. Thank you!

The Ladies Guild

Game & Tame Dinner 2017




Facts and Figures for January

AM Service 76
 PM Service 37
 Weekly Budget need: \$3449

Calendar of Events

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 *Harley Phillips *Michael & Chandra Robinson	4 *Dinah Williams *Amirra Umphenour
5	6	7 Board Mtg 7pm	8	9	10 *Roger & Terry Morrison	11 *Ken Cooper
12 *Thom Kendall *Roy & Janie Ocheltree	13	14  Guild 6:30pm *Bob & Loretta Hart	15	16 *Mark Morgan	17	18
19 Mission Sunday	20 *Collene Smith *Marla Hull *Ava Teter	21	22	23 *Roy White	24	25
26	27	28 Elders Mtg 7pm *Christa Licwov				

Church Flowers given this month

If anyone would like to donate flowers in memory or for a special occasion, please make your own arrangements with florist and let Mary Ann Kyle know. Thanks to Sandra Lilly for silk flower arrangements!

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 February

		1 st	Matt. 10:21-42 Acts 15:22-41 Psalms 24 Exodus 1--3	2 nd	Matt. 11:1-19 Acts 16:1-15 Psalms 25 Exodus 4--6
3 rd	Matt. 11:20-30 Acts 16:16-40 Psalms 26 Exodus 7--9	4 th	Matt. 12:1-21 Acts 17:1-15 Psalm 27 Exodus 10--12	5 th	
7 th	Matt. 12:22-37 Acts 17:16-34 Ps. 28 Ex. 13--15	8 th	Matt. 38-50 Acts 18:1-17 Ps. 29 Ex. 16--18	9 th	Matt. 13:1-23 Acts 18:18-28 Ps. 30 Ex. 19,20
10 th	Matt. 13:24-43 Acts 19:1-22 Ps. 31 Ex. 21--23	11 th	Matt. 13:44-58 Acts 19:23-41 Ps. 32 Ex. 24--26	12 th	Matt. 14:1-21 Acts 20:1-12 Ps. 33 Ex. 27--29
14 th	Matt. 14:22-36 Acts 20: 13-38 Psalm 34 Exodus 30, 31	15 th	Matt. 15:1-20 Acts 21:1-26 Psalm 35 Exodus 32, 33	16 th	Matt. 15:21-39 Acts 21:27-40 Psalm 36 Exodus 34
17 th	Matt. 16:1-12 Acts 22 Psalm 37:1-22 Exodus 35-37	18 th	Matt. 16:13-28 Acts 23:1-11 Psalm 37:23-40 Exodus 38-40	19 th	Matt. 17:1-13 Acts 23: 12-35 Psalm 38 Leviticus 1-4
21 st	Matt. 17:14-27 Acts 24 Psalm 39 Leviticus 5-7	22 nd	.. Matt. 18:1-14 Acts 25:1-12 Psalm 40 Leviticus 8-10	23 rd	Matt. 18: 15-35 Acts 25: 13-27 Psalm 41 Leviticus 11-13
24 th	M Matt. 19:1-15 Acts 26:1-18 Psalm 42 Leviticus 14, 15	25 th	Matt. 19: 16-30 Acts 26: 19-32 Psalm 43 Leviticus 16, 17	26 th	Matt. 20:1-16 Acts 27:1-26 Psalm 44 Leviticus 18-20
28 th	Matt 10:1-20 Acts 15:1-21 Psalms 23 Gen 50				