

The Elkins Exchange

Volume 19, Issue 4

February 2018



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

I was reading a commentary on one of the books of the Bible recently and was struck by the audacity of the author. "Our biblical author cannot have meant this; this is what he surely meant to say." And so the writer of this biblical commentary has gleefully taken it upon himself to make the changes necessary to this book of the Bible so it makes better sense to him. I'm sure the irony of a second edition, where he decided to fix some of his fixes, was completely lost on him. And before we decry modern scholarship, which is admittedly increasingly suspect, I will point out that this commentary is now a hundred years old.



This again highlights one of the largest problems that the church has, and this concerns what place the Bible holds in our lives. We see this played out in myriad areas of our Christian faith.

In evangelism, our world has come to this terrible conclusion that we should "ask Jesus into our hearts." So again, let me state that this is a non-biblical phrase. At no point does the Bible tell us that this has anything to do with God's plan for saving man. Instead we are called to hear the gospel, believe it, repent of our sins, confess Jesus Christ as the Lord of our life, and be baptized into His name. All of these are clearly stated in the Scriptures as necessary to come to Christ. "Asking Jesus into your heart" never is. But what is more, it creates a dangerous perception that we can get back to our life as normal, just with a helpful little Friend along for the ride.

The truth is that we don't invite Jesus into our lives; we are invited into His. Our life is broken and sinful without Christ, and He didn't die on the cross just

to forgive us from sin, but to free us from its terrible hold. Going back to our old life is not an option. There will be changes to every Christian's life when we accept Christ, and this is because we join Him. The danger comes from thinking that, in accepting Jesus "into our heart" we make Him join us and approve of our life.

When we have accepted this, we see this play out further. Like the author of the afore-mentioned commentary, we become more concerned with interpreting the Bible to get it to fit into our existing life, and we all but quit trying to match our lives to what we see in the Bible. The Scriptures become increasingly a tool that we wield to pat ourselves on the back, and we take false security in telling ourselves to keep up the good work. Yet that may not be the message that God wants us to hear. "But Jesus loves me and died to forgive me." Yes, but He also died to free us from sin. Clinging purposefully to our sins is no different than rejecting His offer. We don't have to be perfect, but continuously choosing sin instead of righteousness displays what our true desires are. If we do not want to live God's way on earth, why would we want to love His way for eternity? And the obvious answer is... we wouldn't.

To follow God is to flee from sin; we learn of what God calls sin in His word, the Bible. When we reject the teachings of the Bible or twist them to fit our life, we make it all about us instead of about Jesus. This isn't Lordship, and it isn't salvation either. Let us strive to always do the will of God by following Him, as shown in His holy Bible. None of us are perfect, but we know the difference between wanting to do things God's way and wanting to do things our own way. We can only choose one. Which one will we choose?

New Mission of the Month

Wycliffe Bible Translators since 2003. 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.

are exciting times to see God moving and revealing Himself to those who live in difficult contexts.

We will be supporting the Wycliffe Bible Translators on the third Sunday in February.

Join the Wycliffe Bible Translators as they prayerfully make God's Word come alive through the language of the heart.

This organization aims to provide hundreds of language groups with God's Word across the regions of Africa.

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



News



Sharlett Dawn Judy was born January 25th at 7# 4oz, to Samantha and Jamie Judy. Proud grandma is Debbie Vanpelt.

Facts and Figures for January

AM Service **69**

PM Service **21**

Weekly Budget need: **\$2205**



The apple butter has been reduced to \$5/pint and there is also some applesauce available. The proceeds go to the building fund. See Beth Cooper or Nancy Messer.



Life group/Bible Study on Thursday evenings.

- Mark Morgan at his home, Beverly/Dailey area. 7 pm "Churches of Revelations"

Game & Tame Dinner 2018



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



Shipwrecked, Rescued by Jesus is this year's VBS theme from Group. Beth Cooper and Patsy Nelson will be this year's directors. More information will be upcoming soon. Volunteers will be

needed.

Calendar of Events

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> *Patrick & Helena Morgan	<i>2</i> *Brady Hinkle	<i>3</i> *Michael & Chandra Robinson
<i>4</i> *Dinah Williams	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Board Mtg 7pm	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> *Roger & Terry Morrison
<i>11</i> *Ken Cooper	<i>12</i> *Thom Kendall	<i>13</i> Guild 6:30pm	<i>14</i>  *Bob & Loretta Hart	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> *Mark Morgan	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> Mission Sunday	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> *Collene Smith	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> *Roy White	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> Elders Mtg 7pm	<i>28</i> *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				