

The Elkins Exchange

Volume 18, Issue 3

January 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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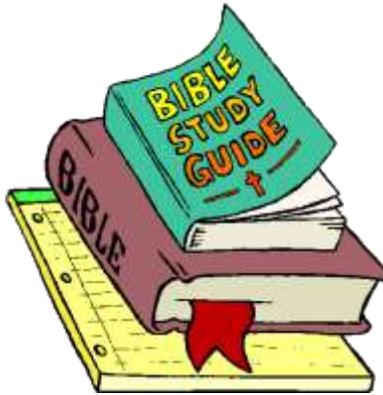
From the Preachers' Desk

On my vice principal's office door in high school was this sign: If you don't know where you're going, you'll probably end up somewhere else.

If you intend to learn a subject, you really need to have a plan. As a former language professor I have poured through numerous linguistic textbooks that detail various methodologies to learning languages. There was even a huge fight that is now called the Linguistic Wars that was waged over the academic merits of various ways of studying languages. I have no idea if other fields of study have academic wars, but I suspect people get pretty passionate about their subject in every field of study, because what we study and how we study it really does matter.

Education is a big deal. We require twelve grades plus kindergarten and preschool, and in today's world college is increasingly seen as an advantage. It's all planned out, because in so many subjects, if you want to learn then you really need to have a plan. No one accidentally learns theoretical physics or generative grammar. It takes diligent study according to a plan. We learn addition before we learn multiplication, and trigonometry comes down the road after that. In language we learn our nouns and verbs before we learn adverbs and adjectives.

If we don't have a plan of study, we really won't learn these subjects. Even non-college subjects require a plan of learning. Auto mechanics don't just tear apart a car with a screwdriver on the first try. Often there is a mentoring process with an experienced mechanic, and it's better to start with simpler engines, like two-stroke lawnmower engines, be



fore tackling the more complex stuff. When I was a locksmith I had to do basic deadbolts for some time before I was allowed to touch the high-security stuff, and Ford's and GM's came before Audi's and Volvo's. There was a method to learning the trade.

When I wanted to be a better locksmith I had a plan. Take some classes, read some trade magazines, and get the guys who had been doing it longer to take me on some service calls and explain things out to me. As a linguist, when I decided to learn Sahidic Coptic (a dialect of Upper Egypt in the region of Thebes 1500 years ago) I had to find just the right university and just the right resources. My quest for the best Coptic bible included multiple emails to the Coptic Archbishop of Australia. It was a lot of work putting it all together, but well worth it. It got me where I wanted to be.

And so, with a new year, I'm left wondering if we have a plan for spiritual growth. Are we where we want to be? Spiritual growth doesn't just happen; we have to be deliberate. Attending Sunday morning service is a great start, but if I wanted to learn another language, I know that one hour a week wouldn't cut it. If I wanted to go back into locksmithing, an hour a week wouldn't be enough to keep up with the changes technology has brought to the field. And I know that if I want to draw close to God, an hour a week isn't enough to follow Jesus. I need prayer and bible study and spiritual discipline in my life. Because if I want to go somewhere in my faith, and if I say "I'd like to be more spiritually mature by this time next year," then I need to have a real plan. I need to know where I'm going and how I'm going to get there; otherwise, I'll just end up somewhere else.

Mission of the Month

The **Christian Children's Home of Ohio** began in 1969 from a vision of local Christians to provide a home to serve children in a family-style setting. They organized the ministry and purchased a farm of 172 acres just north of Wooster, Ohio.

The old farmhouse was used as a foster-home until the first cottage was built in 1975 to serve up to 10 young people. The campus now has four long cottages, offices, a foster-care network, an adoption agency, and a counseling center. A home for older teens is located in the city of Wooster, Ohio. We support this mission work. January



15th will be the day we collect and send monies for this mission. Please pray for this mission and if the Lord leads you to help in this ministry besides your regular support here, please put your offering for this mission in the Sunday school collection, or, mark as "missions" when placing it in the offering plate.

Facts and Figures for December

AM Service 87
PM Service 42
Cantata 112
Weekly Budget need: \$3449

News



We are saddened to announce the passing of Nancy Gibson on December 9th. She will be remembered by the scarves she made for so many others.



The annual Game and Tame dinner sponsored by Dave Wilmoth's Sunday school class is tentatively scheduled for Saturday January 28th at 6 pm. Come out and enjoy some new dishes and fellowship. Please

stay tuned to the weekly bulletin for finalized details.



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,

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



Operation Christmas Child 61 shoeboxes from us have been tracked going to Columbia in Central America.



Teens Live Nativity 2016

Calendar of Events

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> *Virginia Hill	<i>3</i> Board Mtg 7pm	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> *Devin Barger	<i>10</i> Guild 6:30pm *Tom Hensil	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> *Cliff Wilmoth *Kitty & Dennis Alt *Levi Lall *Owen Lowe	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> *Virginia & Walter Burdick *Shelba Lowe	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> *Hugh Hensil	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> Mission Sunday	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> *Connie Williams	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Game & Tame Dinner 6pm
<i>29</i> *Candy Lehman	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Elders Mtg 7pm *Debbie Vanpelt				

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.

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 January

3 rd	Matt 1:1-17 Acts 1:1-11 Psalms 1 Gen 1 & 2	4 th	Matt 1:18-25 Acts 1:12-26 Psalms 2 Gen 3 & 4	5 th	Matt 2:1-12 Acts 2:1-21 Psalms 3 Gen 5---8
6 th	Matt 2:13-23 Acts 2:22-47 Psalms 4 Gen 9---11	7 th	Matt 3:1-12 Acts 3 Psalms 5 Gen 12---14	8 th	Matt 3:13-17 Acts 4:1-22 Psalms 6 Gen 15---17
10 th	Matt 4:1-11 Acts 4:23-37 Psalms 7 Gen 18---20	11 th	Matt 4:12-17 Acts 5:1-16 Psalms 8 Gen 21----23	12 th	Matt 4:18-25 Acts 5:17-42 Psalms 9 Gen 24
13 th	Matt 5:1-12 Acts 6 Psalms 10 Gen 25--26	14 th	Matt 5:13-20 Acts 7:1-38 Psalms 11 Gen 27--28	15 th	Matt 5:21-32 Acts 7:39-60 Psalms 12 Gen 29--30
17 th	Matt 5:33-48 Acts 8:1-25 Psalms 13 Gen 31	18 th	Matt 6:1-15 Acts 8:26-40 Psalms 14 Gen 32--33	19 th	Matt 6:16-24 Acts 9:1-19 Psalms 15 Gen 34--35
20 th	Matt 6:25-34 Acts 9:20-43 Psalms 16 Gen 36	21 st	Matt 7:1-14 Acts 10:1-23 Psalms 17 Gen 37--38	22 nd	Matt 7:15-29 Acts 10:24-48 Psalms 18:1-24 Gen 39--40
24 th	Matt 8:1-13 Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 18:25-50 Gen 41	25 th	Matt 8:14-22 Acts 11:19-30 Psalms 19 Gen 42--43	26 th	Matt 8:23-34 Acts 12 Psalms 20 Gen 44---45
27 th	Matt 9:1-13 Acts 13:1-25 Psalms 21 Gen 46--47	28 th	Matt 9:14-26 Acts 13:26-52 Psalm 22:1-11 Gen 48	29 th	Matt 9:27-38 Acts 14 Ps. 22:12-31 Gen 49
31 st	Matt 10:1-20 Acts 15:1-21 Psalms 23 Gen 50				