

The Elkins Exchange

Volume 19, Issue 3

January 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 Preachers' Desk

I think at Christmas time we often lose the forest for the Christmas trees.

As I write this, it is January 5th, historically the last of the twelve days of Christmas. While there is a lot of variation on what that has meant throughout the years, generally there is a tradition that the three magi arrived to visit Jesus on January 6th, and thus there were twelve days of Christmas before the Wise Men arrived.

(At this point someone usually gets nitpicky and points out that Jesus probably wasn't born on December 25th, probably was born in a cave instead of a wooden barn, and that the Wise Men probably got to Bethlehem much later than this, since Jesus was living in a house when they arrived, and Herod killed all the boys ages 2 and under based upon what the Magi told him. This kind of proves my point though.)

There are an awful lot of people that start gearing up for Christmas on November 1st, if not earlier. But when we say that they're getting ready for Christmas, usually what we mean by this is that they are putting up decorations and buying presents, and probably listening to dogs barking jingle bells on the radio. Rarely do we mean any spiritual preparation. Let's watch the same Claymation holiday specials and listen to another sermon on shepherds, angels, and mangers (likely the same one we've heard every year since we started going to church).

Likewise, Christmas day is a single 24 hour period they cannot wait to be done with. Presents, meals prepared, bickering with the relatives, and now let's get back to life as we know it. Let's read a quick chapter in the bible, get it over with, and go back to watching football or politicians arguing on the television. We can't wait to take the Christmas tree and



the lights down on December 26th.

I wonder what we do to prepare for Christmas spiritually. I wonder what we do to celebrate Christmas spiritually. And I wonder how we let Christmas change us spiritually.

What if we treated Christmas as a spiritual holy-day? What if we set ourselves spiritual goals

for November and December to accomplish, like reading the gospels in those months, or maybe serving the poor and needy in that season? What if we spent Christmas day itself in spiritual discussion instead of arguing with our relatives (or worse, arguing with the referees or pundits on television who can't hear us)? What if we used the twelve days of Christmas, whatever their origin, as a springboard for further spiritual growth? What if we paid less attention to the lights and trees and various hallmark specials, and even paid less attention to the manger, shepherds, and Magi, and instead focused on the Christ whom the shepherds and Magi worshiped and adored? Because I really don't think God cares about the manger. He cares about us, which is why He sent His Son to fill the manger, but really only briefly on His way to the cross to redeem us.

See, I think the problem is that we don't treat Christmas Day (even just the one) as a holy-day. I think we treat it as a common day of commercialism and food and television and stuff, when it should be that one day a year (or maybe twelve) when we contemplate what a relationship with God costs us, considering how much it cost Jesus.

So now that Christmas is over, I guess the question becomes "where do you go from here?" And along with that we ask "what steps have you taken to get there?" How do we draw closer to God through His Son this next year?

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." – I Corinthians 2:2

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



21st 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 **73**
PM Service **19**
Cantata **94**
Weekly Budget need: **\$2205**

News



Justin White was baptized on December 10, 2018. Welcome to the family Justin!



Life group/Bible Study on Thursday evenings.

- Mark Morgan at his home, Beverly/Dailey area. 7 pm

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



The annual Game and Tame dinner sponsored by Dave Wilmoth’s Sunday school class is scheduled for Saturday January 27th at 6 pm. The tame meat will be turkey. Come out and enjoy some new dishes and fellowship.



Operation Christmas Child 70 shoeboxes from us have been tracked going to numerous countries this year. The tracking shows them going to Mozambique, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Columbia, Ghana, “hard to reach places”, Bahamas, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, and Burkina Faso.



Volunteers needed to coordinate the **Gifts for Grundy** next Christmas season. If you could help please see Jason or one of the elders. Thank you!



Live Nativity 2017



Cantata 2017

Calendar of Events

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Board Mtg 7pm *Virginia Hill	<i>3</i> *Mandi McElroy	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Guild 6:30pm *Devin Barger	<i>10</i> *Tom Hensil	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> *Cliff Wilmoth *Kitty & Dennis Alt *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> Mission Sunday	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> Game & Tame Dinner 6pm
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> *Candy Lehman	<i>30</i> Elders Mtg 7pm	<i>31</i> *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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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				