

The Elkins Exchange

Volume 20, Issue 3

January 2019



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

As I write this, it's late at night on Christmas Eve; Christmas day is just around the corner. Presents were already opened, since we'll spend most of tomorrow in a car ride to the Midwest. Pamela spent most of the day packing and getting ready for trip. I worked a bit, watched Calypso for a bit, and really didn't get anything packed; tomorrow I'll do what I usually do and stuff some clothes in a suitcase and call it good enough.



Because of the Christmas cantata and the various things to get ready for tomorrow, we were a little late getting Cally to bed. "You have a big day tomorrow," I said. "Let's get straight to bed so that we can get a good night's sleep. You want to be well rested to see Grandma Roberts tomorrow evening." "But Daddy... we haven't read the Bible."

And that's when it hits you, doesn't it? This is Christmas time. How much time, celebrating Jesus's birthday, have we actually spent with Jesus? How much of the day has been focused on Him, and how much has been focused on ourselves, on presents and packing and decorating and cooking and all the other things that people do because they think it's important, when only One is important?

There two mistakes I think we can make at Christmas. One is to ignore Jesus, making the holiday anything but a holy day dedicated to God. But the other extreme is to make it too unique. How is that possible, you ask?

I am reminded of Ray Bradbury's story "All Summer in a Day." The story takes place on the planet Venus, and on Venus it rains all the time; the sun only comes out one hour every seven years, and so the people on Venus have to make

a bid deal about the one hour in which they get to experience the sun.

We get to experience the Son every day. It's important to remember what Christmas is about, but it's also important to not confine our celebration of Jesus to one holiday a year. There is something, dare I say common, that Christmas should be

about. At Christmas we remember that Jesus is in our lives every day, and not just at Christmas.

And so now we're in a New Year again, and with that comes the chance to make the inevitable New Year's resolutions. More ads for Weight Watcher, discounts at local fitness gyms, and more Bible-In-A-Years sold, trying to take advantage of this resolve to live the life that we know that we should be living.

Can I make a suggestion? Reading the Bible in a year is great, and I'm all for it if you can keep up with it, but it isn't for everyone. I absolutely think everybody should read the Bible from beginning to end, and ideally multiple times, but when you link it to a deadline, it becomes more of a chore and less of a joy. There are a lot of things in this world that sap my joy; Bible reading should never be one of those. Instead, let's resolve to try to stay focused on God more than we did last year. Maybe it's a bit more, and maybe it's a lot more. Maybe it will involve more Bible reading, or more prayer, or more church, or maybe it will involve consciously evaluating our decisions better: what would God have me do in each situation? Maybe it's just living in the knowledge that our God loves us and watches over us every minute of the day. But I think, if we can keep God in mind more than last year, that this year would then be that much better than the last, because to live in the presence of God is always a better way to live.

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

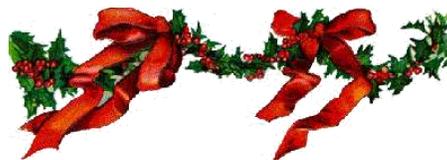
AM Service 80
PM Service 52
Cantata 74
Weekly Budget need: \$2558

News



The annual Game and Tame dinner sponsored by Dave Wilmoth's Sunday school class is scheduled for Saturday January 26th at 6 pm. The tame meat will be turkey.

Come out and enjoy some new dishes and fellowship.



Life group/Bible Study on Thursday evenings.

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

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



Operation Christmas Child 80 shoeboxes from us have been tracked going to numerous countries this year. The tracking shows them going to **Tanzania, South Africa, Philippines, Grenada, St. Lucia, Bahamas, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, Columbia, Ghana, Hard to Reach Areas**



Calendar of Events

January 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--|
| | | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> *Mandi McElroy | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>6</i> | <i>7</i> Elders Mtg 6:15pm Board Mtg 7pm | <i>8</i> Guild 6:30pm | <i>9</i> *Devin Barger | <i>10</i> *Tom Hensil | <i>11</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>13</i> *Cliff Wilmoth *Kitty & Dennis Alt | <i>14</i> *Sophia Thomason | <i>15</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>19</i> |
| <i>20</i> Mission Sunday *Hugh Hensil | <i>21</i> | <i>22</i> | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i> | <i>26</i> Game & Tame Dinner 6pm |
| <i>27</i> | <i>28</i> | <i>29</i> Elders Mtg 7pm *Candy Lehman | <i>30</i> | <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

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 | | | | |