

The Elm Grove Messenger

Issue 19 Volume 5

May 2017

PASTOR'S NOTES

On Thursday May 4th, our nation will once again participate in the National Day of Prayer. This is a day set aside for people to pray and ask God's blessings on our nation. Just think, what if every Christian would stop and spend some time on May 4th earnestly praying for our nation. What would the result be? I believe in scripture, and I think that scripture tells us the answer to that question. In 2 Chronicles 7:14 we read, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." God has promised to heal our land if we would seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. Our nation can be healed, our nation can change, our nation can be different, if we would start to seek after God and follow His ways.

The website for the National Day of Prayer states this: "Many Christians are unaware that they live in a nation that has a law in place requiring our President proclaim a National Day of Prayer each year on the first Thursday in May.

The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals. (Public Law 105-225)

As citizens and residents of the United States and as believers in Christ Jesus, we not only have a spiritual responsibility according to 1 Timothy 2:1-2 to pray, but a civic duty as well to heed our President's call to stand in the gap for our nation. Who but God's people have the ability to enter into the very throne room of Heaven with prayers and petitions!"

The theme this year is For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear Us... Forgive Us...Heal Us! Taken from Daniel 9:19, which says, 'O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God..'

Scripture tells us again and again that our fervent prayer is effective. That our loving God responds to His children's earnest pleas in mighty ways that avail much, and ultimately determine the course of history."

Anne Graham Lotz who is the chairman for the National Day Of Prayer has written the following prayer:

"We worship You, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are the living God of our nation's founding fathers: George Washington, John Adams, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and many others. When we pledge our allegiance, it's as one nation under You. Every time we use American money to buy or sell, we make the statement that in You we have placed our trust. We acknowledge that You are the One who has set us high above all the nations on the earth. You have made us the head and not the tail. We have led the free world. The whole world has known that we are identified with You, and they have respected us.

Again and again, You have given us victory over our enemies. You have blessed us when we have gone out and when we have come in. You have blessed us in our bustling cities and in our beautiful countryside. You have blessed our "fruited plain" so that we have had an abundance for ourselves and for others. You have opened up the storehouse of Your bounty, and have blessed the work of our hands. You have given us unprecedented prosperity so that in the past we have lent to many nations but been debtor to none. (This paragraph is drawn from Deuteronomy 28:1-14)

We now turn to You as the God of Our Fathers. You alone are our Hope for the future. If we as a nation do not get right with You, no one in Washington or in our state capitols can reverse the downward moral and spiritual spiral that has become a free fall and is provoking Your judgment. We approach You now with fear and trembling, as we confess our national sins:

We confess national addiction to sex. To money. To pleasure. To entertainment. To pornography. To technology. To drugs. To alcohol. To food. To television. To popularity. To ourselves.

We confess we no longer fear You, and thus we have not even the beginning of wisdom with which to handle the vast knowledge we possess.

We confess our foolishness of denying You as the one, true, living God, our Creator to whom we are accountable, living as though our lives are a cosmic accident with no eternal significance, purpose or meaning.

We confess our greed that has run up trillions of dollars of national debt.

We confess our arrogance and pride that has led us to think we are sufficient in ourselves.

We confess to believing that the prosperity of our nation has been great because we are great while refusing to acknowledge that all blessings come from Your hand.

We confess that we depend upon our military might and our weapons systems to protect us from harm and danger, while denying, defying, and ignoring You.

We confess that we have allowed the material blessings You have given us to deceive us into thinking we don't need You.

We confess that we live as though material wealth and prosperity will bring happiness. We confess that we have marginalized truth and mainstreamed lies.

We confess choices that reveal we would rather live in bitterness, resentment, and anger, rather than forgive those who have hurt us or acknowledge our own wrongdoing.

We confess that we have become one nation under many gods, divided and polarized, with license to sin and justice that no longer follows the rule of law. (Some of these confession have been take with permission from *The Daniel Prayer*, Anne Graham Lotz, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016)

Therefore, we turn to You with tears of shame and a heart of fear for the judgment we are provoking. We repent of our sin. Please, God of Our Fathers, do not back away from us. Do not remove Your hand of blessing on us. As we return to You with humility...With sincerity...Out of necessity...With a desperate sense of urgency. Please! Return to us! Hear our prayer. Forgive our sin. Heal our land.

For the Glory of Your Great Name...JESUS. Amen

What a prayer! I hope each of you will take time on Thursday May 4th to seek God's presence and pray for our nation. We will have a prayer service starting at noon at the church for anyone who is able to come and join us in prayer. But I understand most will be working so I ask that you take some time during your lunch break and pray where you are.

Prayer can change things. Let's pray to make a difference and see what God has in store for this nation, our church and our lives. May the Lord place a smile on your face and love and joy down deep in your heart as we seek to love and serve Him better every day. Be blessed and be a blessing!!!!

Pastor Baggett

MAY PRAYER CONCERN

This month we are asking everyone to pray for our Denominational Ministries and Convention of OFWB. We have ten ministries that we support. They are: Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Cragmont Assembly, The Christian Education Ministry, Church Finance Association, Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Foreign Missions, Home Missions & Evangelism, Minister's Program, Retirement Homes and the University of Mount Olive. The Convention will be held on May 24. Please ask God to bless and lead each board and director so that they might be able to accomplish the work that He has for them to do. Also pray that we will have unity within our Convention and that the Convention might also accomplish God's will.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S NOTES

In Acts 1, Jesus ascended to heaven, having completed his earthly mission. As this happened, the disciples gazed up after him, watching as he was taken out of their sight. However, two figures in white robes came alongside them and asked, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?" It was a worthwhile question, indeed. The first thing the disciples did after this was return to Jerusalem, to the upper room, and devoted themselves to prayer.

The same should be true for us. We have celebrated Easter and the resurrection, and the Ascension is coming soon. We want to look to heaven and rejoice in what has been done for us. And rightly we should. But we can't rest on our laurels. There is a temptation to grow complacent in the wake of the Christ's victory. Instead we should be diligent and get to the work of the church, and the work of prayer.

There are many opportunities this month to carry out that work. We have our Ayden Court Ministry on May 1 (and the first Monday of every month). Our youth are traveling to Mount Olive for a convention. We still have our Ultimate Wednesday and Wednesday evening activities. Our Ladies' Prayer Group is still meeting on Thursdays. We need hands for our SNO ministry, and we need eyes and ears to find ministry opportunities.

And it's not just within the church walls that there is work to be done. Peter and John encountered a beggar on their way to the temple (Acts 3). The Spirit told Philip to join the Ethiopian eunuch on the side of the road and share the Gospel with him (Acts 8). In the same way, God has prepared good work for us to do. But we have to actually do it. We have to devote ourselves to prayer so we can be ready when the time comes, and we must devote ourselves to others so we can see the opportunities when they arise.

As we move into the busy time of summer with vacations and activities, we shouldn't ever take our eyes off of the prize. We can't allow

earthly matters to distract us from our heavenly calling. Peter wrote in his first letter to the church, "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:14-16)

Let's get to work.

Travis

VIP'S FOR APRIL

April 2 – Ed Chambers
April 9 - Bette Coggins
April 16 – Elizabeth Baggett & Taylor Tobin
April 23 – Jim & Nancy Bowman

SNO

Our next SNO will take place on May 21th at 6:00. This is an opportunity to be a blessing to our community and others. Please plan to participate in SNO.

AYDEN COURT MINISTRY

Our next Ayden Court ministry will be held on Monday May 1st 11:00 am. We encourage everyone to go and worship the Lord that morning.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

The Ladies Auxiliary is currently taking orders for our Mother's Day Cake Fundraiser. There are four cakes available: Red Velvet, Coconut Sour Cream, Lucille Briley Pineapple Cake, and Yellow Cake with Chocolate Icing.

Also, May is the month we participate in the "Change for Children Campaign." We ask that you and your children collect your change during the month of May to benefit the 30 young people that live on the Campus of the FWB Children's Home.

Thank you for your support in these two events. Love and blessings to all!

BLOOD DRIVE

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our April Blood Drive. We collect 22 units that will be a blessing to people in need. Again thank you.

IT DOESN'T MATTER CAFÉ

The next It Doesn't Matter Café I will be on May 21st. Eat in or take out service will be provided after the morning worship service. The menu will include pork chops, mashed potatoes and two vegetables, bread, dessert and drink. The cost will be \$7.00 per person. Remember that the café revenue is used to help fund mission trips. Come out and enjoy a good meal and help support missions.



The Choir will practice Wednesday nights after mid-week services and every Sunday morning at 8:30. We will also practice on May 21st at 4:30.

LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

The Laymen will be sponsoring a fellowship dinner on May 2 beginning at 6:00. The menu will include fish stew, beef stew and bread. Everyone is invited but we ask that you sign up in the vestibule if you desire to attend.

The next Laymen's League meeting will be held June 4th at 6:00. We encourage all our men to come and participate in our Laymen's League meetings.

SUMMER CAMP

This year our week of summer camp will be July 3rd through July 8th. All of our youth ages 7 to high school graduates are invited to attend. Please see Mr. Travis, Mr. Frankie or the church office for the applications. All applications need to be turned in by June 12. We will be taking up a love offering at the end of the morning service on June 11th to help send our youth to camp. Please give as generously as possible.

THANK YOU

To – SNO Ministry Elm Grove Church

"THANK YOU." Thank you for the so sweet card you send my mom, Lottie Rouse at Ayden Court, every month. I read them to her since dementia has taken its toll on her.

*Thank you so much!!!
Kaye Foss (Daughter)*

Dear Friends,

The greatest urgency of our time is to proclaim the Word of God to all people. The Bible says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Only when the Gospel is proclaimed is there fruit.

Thank you for giving during the Telethon and throughout the year to spread God's Word around the world. Your prayer and gift support brings forth fruit each year. **Your faithful support is a great encouragement.**

*With a thankful heart,
Harold Jones
Executive Director*



Our 2017 VBS theme this year is **Maker Fun Factory: Created By God, Built For A Purpose.** This 5 day VBS experience will help everyone discover they are created by God and are built for a purpose. We will learn: God made you; God is for you; God is always with you; God will always love you; and God made you for a reason. Bible School will be held **Monday July 24th through Friday July 28th**. We will be having Prop Shops on June 27, July 17, and July 20 beginning at 9:00. Anyone who can help would be greatly appreciated.



Our Mega Sports Camp this year will be held June 11th - 15th beginning each evening at 6:30 and lasting until 8:30. The Theme will be "Conquer The Day". **We need adults and teens to help with MEGA Sports Camp.** Join the **MEGA Sports** team by helping in the following areas: registration, head coaches, assistant coaches, and rally coaches (teaching short object lessons). See Mr. Frankie, Mr. Travis or call the church office if you can help.

GRADUATE SUNDAY

Our Graduate Sunday this year will be held on June 4th. Any high school seniors who would like to participate are asked to call the church office or see Mr. Frankie or Mr. Travis. Those who desire to participate are asked to compile 10 - 12 photos showing their progression from childhood into young adulthood. These photos will be part of a video presentation that will be shown on Graduation Sunday, as we recognize our high school graduates. Please download your photos to a memory stick, or place your photos in an envelope or folder. These need to be turned into the office no later than **Sunday, May 28th.**

CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

On May 24th the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will convene at Mount Olive College for the 105th annual session of the convention. If you would like to go, please see the Pastor.

END OF SCHOOL BASH

On Wednesday night, June 7th we will have our end-of-school bash. Supper will begin at 5:45. At 6:30 we will have a short devotion followed by games outside for all (most of these games will involve some type of water). Please plan to join us that evening for fun and fellowship.

LEAVES GIVEN DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

In loving memory of WL (Billie) McLawhorn by James and Jennie Lou Garris.

DAY CAMPS

We have scheduled three day camps for this summer. June 28, July 19 and August 16th. Please look for more details in next month's Messenger and Sunday bulletins.



TRIP TO TENNESSEE

On April 3rd 21 people started a journey to Tennessee. After a long day of riding we arrived only to find out that our hotel reservation had been mixed up and we did not have any rooms. But God intervened and provided us with nice rooms for the entire trip. On Tuesday we got the opportunity to tour the Opryland Resort Hotel take a boat ride down the Cumberland River and enjoyed lunch and a tranquil sightseeing cruise aboard the General Jackson. That evening we were entertained at the Grand Ole Opry. The next day we went to Memphis and toured Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley. On Thursday we explored downtown Nashville and had an enjoyable experience at the Nashville Nightlife Theater. Friday morning we packed up and had a safe trip home. The group enjoyed the fellowship and time together. A trip will be planned for the second half of the year. Look for the announcement later in the year and come join us as we explore God wonderful creation.

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

We are so blessed here at Elm Grove to have a pastor that loves God, loves God's word, and is a man of prayer. He loves and cares for the church family in so many ways. On Sunday, May 7th let us show Mr. Frankie how much we love him and appreciate all he does. The worship service celebration will begin at 10:00, follow by lunch. The church is preparing the meal, but we are asking that the congregation bring desserts.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN OUR NURSERY MINISTRY!

If you love children and love the Lord, serving in our nursery is an opportunity for you. Please volunteer to serve and become involved in this ministry. See Kim Russell or Jackie Cayton for more information.

ELM GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden NC, 28513
Telephone – (252) 746-3534
Fax – (252) 746-7651
e-mail - elmgrovefw@embarqmail.com
Web-site – elmgrovechurch.us
Facebook – facebook.com/ElmgroveOFWB
Twitter - @ElmgroveOFWB

CHURCH PALL

Several years back the church was given a beautiful casket pall that is available to be used by anyone in our Congregation. A Pall is a cloth covering that can be used instead of a flower spray on a casket. If anyone is interested in using the pall, all they need to do is call the church office.

BIBLES

I just wanted to remind everyone that the Bibles that we give away are donated from the Christine and Junior Oakley Bible Fund. Also I would like to thank Mrs. Jennie Lou Garris and everyone who made that fund possible.



May 1	Ayden Court Ministry
May 2	Laymen's League Fellowship meal
May 4	National Day Of Prayer
May 7	Pastor Appreciation Day
May 14	Mother's Day
May 19-21	Youth Convention
May 21	It Doesn't Matter Café
May 21	SNO
May 24	Convention of OFWB
May 29	Memorial Day

Wednesday Night Meals

May 3 – Tacos
May 10 - Spaghetti
May 17 – Hot Dogs
May 24 – Ham
May 31 – Chicken Tenders

Inside this Newsletter

- Pastor's Notes
- Associate Pastor's Notes
- May Calendar
- SNO
- National Day Of Prayer
- Woman's Auxiliary News