

The Elm Grove Messenger

Issue 21 Volume 8

September 2019

PASTOR'S NOTES

As a hurricane quickly approached a small coastal town, all the people had hurried to the town's shelter. There they were huddled together in a dark room with the winds howling, sheets of rain beating down & the door of the shelter just about to rattle off its hinges! Everyone huddled in the shelter had their eyes fixed on the door for they knew that if it were to blow off that everyone would be sucked out of the shelter by the hurricane.

The town's elderly pastor stood up in their midst and began to pray with great oratorical effects. crying out he prayed, "Lord, -Send us the spirit of the children of Israel. The spirit of the children of Moses and The spirit of the children of the Promised Land." At this, an old man not as polished but certainly direct cried out in prayer.. "Lord, don't send nobody...You Come yourself!...This ain't no job for children."

I don't know if you can relate, but I can! There have been times in my life when I desperately needed God and God alone! Life has its twists...turns...twirls & thrills leaving one feeling helpless & hopeless in desperate need of a shelter...a shelter that's Safe & Secure.

Psalms 91:1-2 reads, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"

There are three words to note here that are very important: shelter, refuge, & fortress. The Hebrew word "**Shelter**" means "a place to hide from your enemies." The Hebrew word "**Refuge**" means, "a place to run to for safety." And the Hebrew word "**Fortress**" means "the one who keeps me". The Psalmist found in God a hiding place...a safe place...a resting place ... from the trials ... troubles ... temptations ... & terror of this world.

God is our Shelter! He guards us on all sides! -God is before us & behind us (Isa 48:17/30:21) -He's on our right & left. (Ps. 16:8/Job 23:9). God is above & beneath us (Ps 36:7/Dt. 33:27). His Spirit is within us (I Cor. 3:16)

But God is a Shelter of Strength. Verses 5-8 says, "You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the

darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked."

We all, on some level, at some point in life, have had a bout with fear. Fear steals our joy, depletes our strength and paralyzes us with terror. Fact is, we all have to encounter fear, but you don't have to be overcome by fear! Sometimes the Lord calms the storm; sometimes he lets the storm rage and calms his child. Someone once said, "Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared!" Courage is something we all need; whether we realize it or not for life can be a scary at times! Courage is running toward your fears...not...from them! The Psalmist said, "When I am afraid, I will put my confidence in you."

God Is also our Refuge. The Hebrew word "Refuge" means, "A place to run to for safety." Joshua 1:6-9 says, "Be strong and courageous...Be strong and very courageous...Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." God wants you. He is your hiding place...your safe place...your resting place! God is the shelter of courage for He is the source of courage.

A sentry is a soldier posted to prevent unauthorized persons passage. God's Spirit is the sentry of courage posted over your mind and heart! Paul speaks of this Divine Sentry who stands guard in Philippians when he said, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things. Notice verse 8 Paul says don't let the fears of this world occupy your mind... but... rather the things of God!

During the Civil War a Union soldier from Ohio was shot in the arm. His captain saw he was wounded and barked out an order, "Gimme your gun, Private, and get to the rear!" The private handed over his rifle and ran toward the north, seeking safety. But after

going only about two or three hundred yards, he came upon another skirmish. So he ran to the east, and found himself in another part of the battle. Then he ran west, but encountered more fighting there. Finally, he ran back to the front lines shouting, "Gimme back my rifle, Cap'n. There ain't no rear to this battle nowhere!"

Friends, just in case you haven't discovered this yet... "there ain't no rear to this battle called life!" But there is a shelter, refuge & fortress...God Himself!

The Hebrew word "Fortress" means "the one who keeps me". The implication is that God supplies all our needs. He is the one who sustains us in life. He is the provider of all and for all. The idea here is that God is the absolute, eternal, & unchanging one. Therefore, He will sustain His own for that is what He has promised to do. God is the source of courage. The sentry of courage and He's the sustainer of courage for He has promised to provide for His own!

May the Lord place a smile on your face and love and joy down deep in your heart as we serve the Lord and others. Be blessed and be a blessing!!!!

Pastor Baggett



The Choir will practice Wednesday nights after mid-week services and every Sunday morning at 8:30 and Sunday night Sept. 8 and 29 at 4:30.

PRIMETIMERS MEETING

Our quarterly meeting will be held on September 17th at 11:00. Mr. Tommy Hodges will be presenting the program. Please plan to come and fellowship with us that day.

THANK YOU

Members of Elm Grove,

Thank you for the goody bag filled with treats and school supplies. It was such a wonderful surprise awaiting me as I begin this new school year. The supplies were much needed and snacks will be a welcomed treat during the school day. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

*Blessings,
Mrs. Barton, SLP*

BIBLE STUDIES

The ladies' study will begin Sept 19 @9:45. This is a 7 week study by Priscilla Shirer, "The Armor of God". This study is designed to bring to light the war around us and challenge us to suit up, stand firm, and secure victory in our lives.

The men's study will begin on Tuesday September 24th at 7:00. We will be doing a video series by Dr. Ray Vander Laan, that will help us see how Paul communicated the Good News of Christ to the people of Philippi.

VIP'S FOR AUGUST

August 4 – Travis & Jessie Jones
August 11 – Mission Team Participants
August 18– Bill & Marie Rivers
August 25 – Stevi Smith, Arianna, Jonas and McKayla

IT DOESN'T MATTER CAFÉ

The next It Doesn't Matter Café will be on September 22. Eat in or take out service will be provided after the morning worship service. The menu will include pork chops and gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables and dessert. The cost will be \$7.00 per person. Remember that the café revenue is used to help fund mission trips. Please come out and help support missions.

MEMBERS UPDATE

Bessie Herchenbach
C/o Universal Healthcare Room 305
2578 West 5th Street
Greenville NC 27834

SNO

Our next SNO will take place on September 29 at 6:00. For our SNO program to work we need people to participate. Please join us that night and be a blessing to someone else.

LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

The next Laymen's League meeting will be held Sunday night September 8th at 6:00. The District Laymen's League meeting will be at Elm Grove on September 3rd. We encourage all our men to come and help us that night.

ULTIMATE WEDNESDAY

Our Ultimate Wednesday program began on August 28th. If you would like your child to participate you need to come to the office and fill out the forms. We are asking that everyone please pray for the program that it will be a blessing to young people and our church.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

We understand that the summer is a time of getting away, going on vacation and doing many things. But now that school is back in session we need to get into the routine of coming back to church. The idea of a Back to Church Sunday is to encourage everyone to get back into the habit of participating in Worship again on Sunday mornings. This is also a great opportunity to invite those who are not regularly attending service somewhere to come and join us at Elm Grove. That morning during our service we will be led in our worship by Mrs. Dawn Tyson and Miss Abby Jones. They will lead a special music service. After the service we will have an end of summer cookout with some good fixings. The church will provide the food and we are asking everyone to bring a dessert. Let's make this a great day of worship, fellowshiping and getting into the routine of attending Church again.

FALL FESTIVAL 2019

Our annual Fall Festival has been scheduled for **Saturday OCTOBER 5th**. Please put this in your calendars and plan to help with this important day. Along with our normal activities for the Fall Festival, we will have a spaghetti sale on September 27 at lunch. We are striving to sell tickets to businesses that day. Orders of 10 or more plates can be delivered. We need help with fixing the plates as well as delivering the plates. Please call the church office if you can help that day.

AYDEN COURT MINISTRY

Our next service at the Ayden Court will be on **Wednesday September 4th**. Please plan to come and help us worship the Lord with the residents of Ayden Court.

WILMINGTON CELEBRATION CHOIR

The Wilmington Celebration Choir will be our guests on Sunday night October 27th beginning at 6:00. We encourage everyone to reserve that date and plan to be with us and bring some friends. You will be blessed!

HOMECOMING 2019

On October 13th we will be celebrating Homecoming at Elm Grove. This is going to be a great day of worship, praise, fellowship and good food. This is a day to renew old friendships and make new ones. During Sunday School at 9:00 Wesley and Kay Beddard will be singing for us. Our morning Worship service will begin at 10:00. After the service, we will be going over to the Family Life Center for lunch. We are asking each family to bring enough food for your family plus a little extra for our guests. We encourage you to invite everyone you know to come and worship with us that day.

FRANKLIN GRAHAM DECISION AMERICA TOUR

On October 2nd Franklin Graham will be in Greenville at the Pitt County Fair grounds. The event will start at 7:00. We are hoping everyone will plan and attend this night of worship and encouragement. We will leave the church at 6:00 or you can meet us at the fairgrounds before 7:00. Invite your friends and family to attend with you.

On September 16th the Billy Graham Association will be teaching a Christian Life and Witness Course at the Greenville First FWB Church on Charles Street from 6 to 9. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn how to share your faith with others.

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.

MID-WEEK SERVICE TIMES

Starting on August 28th our times for our Wednesday night activities will change. Supper will begin at 5:30 and the mid-week services will begin at 6:30. Choir practice will follow at 7:15. Please take note of these time changes. We are making these changes to encourage more people to attend the services.



September 2 - Labor Day
September 3 – District Laymen Leagues meeting
September 4 – Ayden Court
September 8 - Group Meetings
September 14 – Contemporary music Concert at Mount Olive
September 15- Back To Church Sunday
September 17 – Prime-Timers meeting
September 19 – Laymen’s League Fellowship Dinner
September 22 – It Doesn’t Matter Café
September 27 – Spaghetti Lunch sale
September 29 – Shower for Taylor and Tyler Barrow

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

September 4– Chicken Tenders
September 11– Tacos
September 18– Ham
September 25– Breakfast Foods

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