



# THE CROSS AND TOWER

"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"

MAY - 2017



**Mission Statement:** To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through our witness, worship, and work.

**Our Vision:** To become a faithful and fruitful church for our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Our Plan:**

1. To become an inviting and welcoming church.
2. To find new ways of reaching out for Jesus Christ in our community
3. To become a mission-minded church by reaching God's people in our community and the world.

## From the Pastor's Heart

### Does Jesus Talk to Us?

**John 10: 27** "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

What does it mean to listen to the voice of Jesus? On the one hand, I know a lot of people who consider it ridiculous that Jesus would actually talk to people today. On the other hand, I know a lot of people who insist Jesus talks to them constantly and about everything from what to wear to where to go on vacation. What do you think? Does Jesus speak to people today? Does he speak to you? Here's my understanding. Jesus speaks through his Word and Jesus speaks through the Holy Spirit. So how do we know if what we are hearing is actually from Jesus and not just what we want to believe Jesus is saying to us?

First, is what you are hearing consistent with what Jesus has already said in the Gospels? If what you are hearing is inconsistent with Scripture then you are probably not hearing from Jesus. One of the great gifts of the Gospels is we are given a trustworthy record from which to understand the kinds of things Jesus says. Does what you are hearing sound like what Jesus might say? Second, does what you are hearing create anxiety within you? If so, you might want to question it. The Words of Jesus carry Peace. They do not create confusion and anxiety. In fact, a sign that Jesus is speaking to us may well be an abiding sense of peace that doesn't even make sense to us. Third, does what you are hearing from Jesus find resonance with the discernment of other believers whom you trust? Yes, ask a fellow believer.

In my own experience, this conviction is ever deepening: Jesus is always speaking. Why do I believe this? Because every time I manage to get really still and attentive and find myself humbly submitted to him, I hear his voice. Here's what I don't understand about myself. Why am I not constantly finding this place and posture of listening? I don't have good answer.

The great Methodist missionary to India, E. Stanley Jones, often referenced his practice of going to his "listening post." It demonstrates expectation. I find the more I actually expect to hear from Jesus, the more I hear from him.

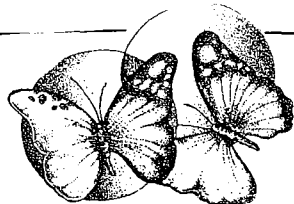
**Let Us Pray:** Abba Father, we thank you for your Son, Jesus, whose word is truth. Thank you that he continues to speak to us through Scripture, and he speaks to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Increase our expectation of hearing his voice. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

In Christ's Love

Michael

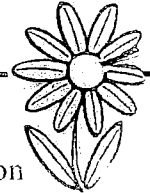
## MAY ACTIVITIES

- May 4: National Day of Prayer  
at Court House on square Noon
- May 7: Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Honoring Our Graduates  
Holy Communion 10:00  
Young Adult Bible Study 4:00 p.m.  
(last Bible Study until June)  
Super Kids 4:00  
Handbell Practice 5:00  
Evening Service 6:00
- May 13: Minnie Ruth Crook's Birthday  
Celebration-Educational Building  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- May 14: **MOTHER'S DAY**  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:00  
(honoring our mothers)  
Baccalaureate EHS Graduates  
First Assembly of God 3:00 p.m.  
No Evening Activities
- May 15: UMW 6:00 p.m.
- May 18: Elba High School! Graduation
- May 19-26 Michael will be on Vacation
- May 21: Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:00  
Morning Worship 10:00  
Bailey Brunson, Guest Speaker, for  
Morning and evening service.  
SuperKids 4:00 p.m.  
Handbell Practice 5:00  
Evening Service 6:00
- May 23: Clothes Closet 5:30 p.m.  
Sonshine Kitchen 6:00
- May 24: **No Wednesday Night Activities**
- May 25: Special Persons 11:30 p.m.
- May 28: Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Singing Group Ministering in song  
10:00
- **SUPER KIDS PARTY 4:00**
- May 29: **MEMORIAL DAY**



## USHERS

Charles Pearce (Head Usher)  
Dylan McCollough  
Rhett McCollough  
Jason Holley  
Max Bozeman  
Mark Vaughan (Alternate)

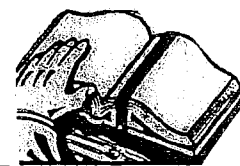


## FLOWERS

May 7: Holy Communion  
May 14: Sherry Johnson  
May 21: **Need Volunteer**  
May 28: **Need Volunteer**

## GREETERS

May 7: Chris Sutley  
May 14: Janie Allen  
May 21: Bill and Jeannette Cowart  
May 28: Chris Parker



## SCRIPTURE READERS

May 7: Gary Allen  
May 14: Jim Gilmer  
May 21: Tom Head  
May 28: Gospel Group will be  
Ministering in Song.

## NURSERY HELPERS

May 7: Heddy Cox  
May 14: Julie Holley  
May 21: Conni Moseley  
May 28: Becky Morrow



## OPERATION SHOEBOX MINISTRY



The items being collected in May for the UMW Shoebox Ministry are - **CLOTHING ITEMS – YOUTH-XL OR ADULT MEDIUM.** (Socks, t-shirts, Hats, sunglasses, hair clips, scarves, bandanas).

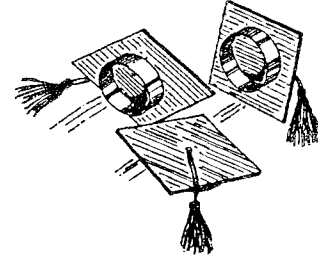
## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Minnie Ruth Crook will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on May 13th. Her children invite you to attend a Birthday Celebration Reception for her On Saturday, May 13, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Church Educational Building.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our graduates. Brian will graduate from Providence Christian School on May 25. We will honor all our Graduates during the morning worship service on May 7th.



## HISTORY OF MOTHERS DAY

Anna Jarvis is recognized as the Founder of Mother's Day in the U.S. Though Anna Jarvis never married and never had kids, she is also known as the Mother of Mother's Day, an apt title for the lady who worked hard to bestow honor on all mothers.

In her childhood, Anna got the inspiration of celebrating Mothers Day from her own mother Mrs. Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis. An activist and social worker, Mrs. Jarvis used to express her desire that someday someone must honor all mothers, living and dead, and pay tribute to the contributions made by them.

A loving daughter, Anna never forgot her mother's words; and when her mother died in 1905, she resolved to fulfill her mothers desire of having a Mother's day. Growing negligent attitude of adult Americans towards their mothers, and a desire to honor her mothers soared her ambitions.

To begin with, Anna sent Carnations to the church service in Grafton, West Virginia, to honor her mother. Carnations were her mothers favorite flower, and Anna felt that they symbolized a mothers pure love. Later Anna, along with her supporters, wrote letters to people in positions of power lobbying for the official declaration of Mother's Day Holiday. The hard work paid off. By 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state in the Union; and on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers!

Elba United Methodist Church  
503 W. Davis Street  
Elba, AL 36323

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 13  
Enterprise, Alabama

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Jim and Nell Gilmer  
1564 Highland Drive  
Elba, AL 36323

<b>Minister</b> Rev. Michael Lawler	<b>Church/Financial Secretary</b> DeBitha Harrelson	<b>Music Director</b> Erin Smith	<b>Organist</b> Pam Baker  <b>Pianist</b> Nancy Brunson	<b>Youth Leader</b> J. T. Jones	<b>Children's Director</b> Melanie Jones