



# THE CROSS AND TOWER

“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”

MAY – 2018



**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.
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Now Don't Forget It From the Pastor's Heart

**2 Peter 1:8-10 & 12**

**8: The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. 10: So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 12: Therefore, I will always remind you about these things - even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught.**

Peter tells us that the more we grow in these virtues: goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love (1:5-7), **“the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** But if we are honest, as he keeps going, a lot of us are saying, “Heard it all before. Tell me something new.”

But then Peter drops the clincher: **“I will always remind you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught.”**

If you look at Jude, Titus, 2 John, and 2 Peter? You will find that these Bible texts pretty much the same thing in these letters. They each:

- State their authority to write as a slave or apostle of Jesus.
- Call for the love, grace, and/or peace of Christ to be with the readers
- Warn of false teachers who could lead them away from Christ
- Encourage them to live a life of true faith in Christ
- Remind them that Jesus is going to come back and judge the world, so be ready.

Those points are just as relevant today as they were then. Maybe the reason they kept repeating the same message was because the root issues for their readers, then and today, is that believers keep **“forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.”** Isn't that why we constantly need to seek repentance, constantly turning away from our sin and back to Christ?

Maybe this is the reason we plow through Bible study after Bible study, but never really seem to grow. Maybe this is why we struggle with “right belief, but a wrong life.” Maybe the reason we're not ready for the “new and relevant thing” is because there isn't one. The message is the same then as it is now: Sin is real, its effects are catastrophic, but grace abounds, all can be saved, and we can all be examples of God's perfect love.

Now, don't you forget it.

In Christ's Love, *Michael*

## MAY ACTIVITIES

May 1 - 4: Michael training - Interim Pastor  
May 3: National Day of Prayer - City Hall  
12:00 Noon  
May 6: Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Holy Communion 10:00  
Senior Recognition-Isabella Jackson  
Lunch following Morning Service  
Henry Terry and George Washington  
Carver Choir in Concert 3:00 p.m.  
No Evening Service  
May 9: Hand Bell Practice 5:00 p.m.  
Light Meal 5:50  
Bible Study 6:00  
Choir Practice 7:00  
May 13: **Mother's Day**  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:00  
No Evening Activities  
May 16: Hand Bell Practice 5:00 p.m.  
Light Meal 5:30  
Bible Study 6:00  
Choir Practice 7:00  
May 18: UMW Book sale 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
May 19: UMW Book sale 10:00 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
May 20: Men's Breakfast Cancelled  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:00  
Young Adult Bible Study 4:00 p.m.  
Evening Service 6:00  
May 22: Clothes Closet 5:30 p.m.  
SonShine Kitchen 6:00  
May 24: Special Persons 11:30 a.m.  
May 27: Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:00  
No Evening Activities due to  
Memorial Day Weekend  
May 28: Church Office Closed  
May 30: Hand Bell Practice 5:00 p.m.  
Light Meal 5:30  
Bible Study 6:00  
Choir Practice 7:00

## USHERS

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

## FLOWERS

May 6: Holy Communion  
May 13: Sherry Johnson  
May 20: Kathy & Fred Smith  
May 27: Need Volunteer

## GREETERS

May 6: Chris Sutley  
May 13: Tim & Lisa Johnson  
May 20: Bill & Jeannette Cowart  
May 27: Becky Morrow

## SCRIPTURE READERS

May 6: Gary Allen  
May 13: Nancy Brunson  
May 20: Jim Gilmer  
May 27: Tom Head

## NURSERY HELPERS

May 6: Lynda Biddle  
May 13: Hedly Cox  
May 20: Julie Holley  
May 27: Conni Moseley

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Two special luncheons will be held this spring. On Sunday, May 6th, we will celebrate Isabella Jackson's graduation from Crenshaw Christian Academy with a covered-dish meal. Also May 6th, Henry Terry and The George Washington Carver High School Choir will be in concert at Elba UMC AT 3:00 p.m.. One of the music teachers that will be honored is Lois Holt. On June 10th, we will have another special occasion meal following morning worship to wish Michael and Peggy a long, happy retirement with all the joy retirement brings.

## **BOOKS NEEDED/BOOK SALE**

The UMW's will be having a book sale Friday, May 18: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., and Saturday May 19: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. They are in need of books. They are accepting new books, old books, good condition, and not so good condition. You may bring your books to the church office.

## **VBS**

Please mark your calendar to plan for your summer schedule: Vacation Bible School will be July 9-12. If you would be able to help, please see me. Your faithfulness is a true blessing. *Karen Davis*

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - SHOEBOX MINISTRY**

Items to donate in May for child 10-14 years old: Soccer balls and pumps, regular balls, yo-yos, slinky, and paddle balls.

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### **Summary of General Fund - Budget, Receipts & Expenditures March - 2018**

	<b>March Budget</b>	<b>March Actual</b>	<b>YTD 2018</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 14,406.80</b>	<b>\$14,606.67</b>	<b>\$39,412.95</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b><u>(18,375.35)</u></b>	<b><u>(14,189.42)</u></b>	<b><u>(67,167.98)</u></b>
	<b>(3,968.55)</b>	<b>417.25</b>	<b>(27,755.03)</b>

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Syble Adkinson  
 Meagan Anderson Danley  
 Carol Arnette  
 Howard Barton, Sr.  
 Sue Boggan  
 Jerry Basford  
 Lamar Brooks  
 Bentley Bryant  
 Kayden Bufield  
 Trevor Clark  
 Ricky Cooper  
 Minnie Ruth Crook  
 Lane Crume  
 Blake Crumpler  
 Janna Westbrook Curtis  
 Mary Frances Daniels  
 Neil Davis  
 Susan Deloney  
 Donald Eagerton  
 Stephanie Collier Fleming  
 Elizabeth Flint  
 Liberty Fountain  
 Terry Galberaith  
 Larry Goodson  
 Jo Greer  
 Randy Grimes  
 \*Renita Bowers

Joe Guerrero  
 June Hamm  
 Lavon Ham  
 Rob Hickman  
 Juston High  
 Joe Johnson  
 Joe Nelson  
 Cameron Jordan  
 Chris Kirkland  
 Clyde Laney  
 Royce Crews  
 Doug Martin  
 Elaine Martin  
 Dave Melton  
 Nancy Morrow  
 Jessica Mullinax  
 Boyd Murphree  
 Jan Murry  
 Holly Vaughan Newton  
 Brad Pence  
 Aaron Roberts  
 Scott Robinson  
 Cindy Shuck  
 Marie Frances Smith  
 Melissa Martin Smith  
 William Charles Smith, Jr.

Carolyn Stokes  
 Gearline Tharp  
 Mary Ann Turner  
 Glen Vaughan  
 Eddie Vaughan  
 Timothy Walden  
 Hal Waller  
 Hope Warren  
 Military Personnel  
 Police Officers/Fire Fighters

**Elba Nursing Home**  
 Patsy Lee

**Enterprise Nursing Home**  
 Annie Helms

**Taylor Mill Oaks**  
 Mary Alice Lee  
 Perrie Prescott

MINISTER	CHURCH/ FINANCIAL SECRETARY	MUSIC DIRECTOR	ORGANIST	CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR	YOUTH LEADER
Rev. Michael Lawler	DeBitha Harrelson	Erin Smith	Pam Baker	Karen Davis	