



THE CROSS AND TOWER

“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”
MARCH – 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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From the Pastor’s Heart

As I write March’s News Letter there is so much happening in the life of our church. This is our first E-News Letter! We will have paper copies at church for those who do not have email. We are praying over the upcoming Charge Conference – whether to sell the parsonage or keep it, on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. And our ministry of making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world goes on no matter what!

Ways of sharing God’s Grace - Elba Community Food Bank is having a **FOOD DRIVE** March 18-24, in front of The Food Giant (our community grocery store). Each day one of our local churches will provide workers to help with food donations. Elba UMC has Tuesday, March 20. We need volunteers between 11-1 and 4-6 that day. What a great way to give back to others!

Easter is April 1, this year, and as we prepare for It; we are having a combined **Easter Egg Hunt** with Westside Baptist Church on March 24, at 10:00 a.m. at Westside. Holy Week this year has opportunities for us to serve others through our SunShine Kitchen and Clothes Closet on Tuesday, March 27. To prepare our hearts and minds for the glory of Easter, we are having a **Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service** on Thursday March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Sharing God’s Grace: Ephesians 3:1-2 “For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for **you...** What a phrase: **the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you.** If I’m honest, and you know I try to be, I typically think of “the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me—for me. Isn’t that the point of amazing grace—“I once was lost but now I’m found; was blind but now I see.” This, of course, is true as it comes to the first half of the Gospel.

But this phrase, **the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you,**” is all about the second half of the Gospel. Let me flesh this first half, second half distinction out a bit.

First Half: Justification.

Second Half: Sanctification

First Half: John 3:16.

Second Half: 1 John 3:16

First Half: The New Birth.

Second Half: Fully Mature

First Half: Baptism by water.

Second Half: Baptism by fire.

First Half: I am loved by God.

Second Half: I am becoming the Love of God.

First Half: God gives us grace for the sake of ourselves.

Second Half: God gives us grace for the sake of others.

You see the point don’t you? It’s those brothers and sisters who press on into the second half of the Gospel who steward the grace of God for the sake of those who haven’t yet entered into the first half. The world will awaken to the first half of the Gospel when our churches awaken to the second half of the Gospel. The so-called unbelievers will believe when the so-called believers wake up.

Have you considered what might be the stewardship of God’s grace given to you for others? If amazing grace is God’s grace to me for my sake, then the grace given to me for the sake of others must be astonishing grace.

LET US PRAY: Abba Father, I thank you for your son, Jesus, who reveals to me the fullness of grace as both a gift to receive and a gift to share. Would you teach me this way of stewarding the grace given to me for the sake of others? I pray in Jesus’ name, amen. **In Christ’s Grace** *Michael*

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies will be placed in the church on Easter Sunday, April 1. If you would like to place a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend, call the church office at (334) 897-2219. The cost of a lily is \$13.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be combined with Westside this year. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 10:00 a.m. Our congregation is asked to donate plastic eggs and candy for the eggs (no chocolate). A box is Provided outside the church office door for your candy and eggs.

BOOKS NEEDED

The UMW's will be having a book sale the first Friday and Saturday in May. 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.

**ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE-SPRING 2018
COMMUNITY ED.**

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|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| Basic Pistol/Gun Safety Course | + | The Rape Aggression |
| Class Instructor: Jeff Spence | + | Self Defense |
| Course Fee: \$85.00 (includes range)+ | | (R.A.D.) Program |
| Requirement: Must be 21 years old | + | Course Fee: \$30 |
| Bring own serviceable handgun & 150 | + | Instructor: Jeff Spence |
| Rounds of suitable ammunition | + | **Women's Self Defense |
| Civilian Response to Active Shooter | + | Refuse to be a Victim |
| Event (CRASE) - Training Workshop | + | Course Fee: \$25 |
| Free Instructor: Jeff Spence | + | Instructor: Jeff Spence |
| BLS/CPR Certification (American Heart Assoc. Cert) | | |
| Course Fee: \$90.00 (includes cert. card) | | |
| Instructor: Tim Hulsey | | |

For course descriptions & times: Visit www.escc.edu/communityed
For questions, call: (334) 347-26223 (ext) 2340 or Communityed@escc.edu

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD—SHOEBOX MINISTRY**

ITEMS TO DONATE IN MARCH: Ivory Soap and wash cloths.  
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SIGN UP TO RECEIVE INPORTANT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

If you would like to receive emergency notifications offered by Coffee County EMA, Text "join 413917" to 30890, or visit www.coffeecounty.us and click on Emergency Management. You will receive warnings and information on Flooding, Severe Weather, Fire, Terrorist Attack, Drought, Wind, Tornadoes.

DONATE ON LINE

You may donate to Elba United Methodist at our website: Elbaumc.org

MARCH ACTIVITIES

March 4: Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Holy Communion 10:00
Relay for Life Luncheon after service
Young Adult Bible Study 4:00 p.m.
Super Kids 4:00
Evening Service 6:00.
Guest will be Troy Wesley Foundation

March 7: Charge Conference 6:00 p.m.
(vote on selling the parsonage)

March 11: **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00
Young Adult Bible Study 4:00 p.m.
Super Kids 4:00
Evening Service 6:00

March 14: Handbell Practice 5:00 p.m.
Light Meal 5:30
Bible Study 6:00
Choir Practice 7:00

March 18: Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00
Morning Worship 10:00
Young Adult Bible Study 4:00 p.m.
Super Kids 4:00
Evening Service 6:00

March 19: UMW 6:00 p.m.

March 20 : Food Bank/Food Drive at Food Giant

March 21: Handbell Practice 5:00 p.m.
Light Meal 5:30
Bible Study 6:00
Choir Practice 7:00

March 22: Special Persons 11:30 a.m.

March 24: Combined Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.

March 25: **Palm Sunday**
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00
Young Adult Bible Study 4:00 p.m.
Super Kids 4:00
Evening Service 6:00

March 27: Clothes Closet 5:30 p.m.
SonShine Kitchen 6:00

March 28: **NO BIBLE STUDY**

March 29: Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 1 EASTER SUNDAY

USHERS

Ronnie Vaughan (Head Usher)
Barry Giles
Phillip Hamm
Tom Head
Tim Johnson
Mark Vaughan (alternate)

FLOWERS

March 4: Holy Communion
March 11: Lynda Biddle
March 18: Judy Hughes
March 25: Palm Sunday

(April 1: Easter Lilies)

GREETERS

March 4: Jenny Allen
March 11: Freddie Pearce
March 18: Ferrin & Heddy Cox
March 25: Jean Helms

SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Items to donate in March are: Ivory
Soap and wash cloths. A box will be
Provided outside the church office door for
your items.

SCRIPTURE READERS

March 4: Jim Gilmer
March 11: Tom Head
March 18: Jean Helms
March 25: Carol Jackson

NURSERY HELPERS

March 4: Sara Smith
March 11: Anna Spence
March 18: Lynda Biddle
March 25: Heddy Cox