

# Elgin Congregational Holiness Church

Newsletter Editor:  
Melinda Abram  
Co-Editor:  
David Abram

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Men's Fellowship: Free Breakfast is the First Saturday of every month at 9am. Everyone Welcome! See Rev. Richard Abram for more information.**
- **Women's Meeting: Third Thursday of every month. Speak to Sis. Linda Cowart to help or if you have any ideas.**
- **Remember our youth: They need our help. Contact Sis's. Melinda Abram or Angela Barnette to see how you can help.**
- **Want to write or help with the newsletter? Contact Melinda Abram  
Email: mabram458@gmail.com**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| From the Sheep to the Shepherd | 2 |
| Subtle Syllogism               | 3 |
| Something in the Making        | 3 |
| Calendar                       | 4 |

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Luke  
Asst Pastor: Rev. Judith Luke

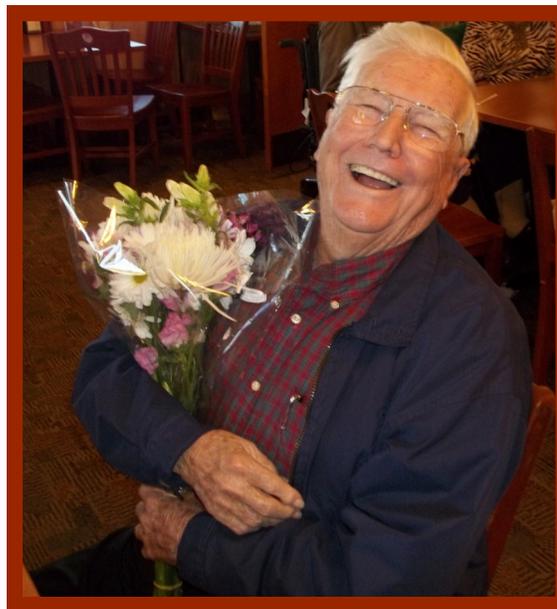
1331 Smyrna Road  
Elgin, SC 29045  
(803)438-5351

Visit us on the web:  
<http://elginchc.weebly.com/>

VOLUME 1. ISSUE 5

MAY 1, 2011

## Pastor Appreciation



**by Melinda Abram-** It isn't often that you find people who are kind, compassionate, loving, caring, honest, good leaders, a wonderful father or nurturing mother, a true friend, and also phenomenal man/woman of God. When we come across such a person most of the time we usually look over them, or just become so expectant of the sacrifices he or she makes for us that such selfless acts seem common place. Many times we fail to remember all the prayers, hard work, determination, dedication, blood, sweat, tears, and long hours it takes to be such a true blessing to everyone around them. Here at Elgin Congregational Holiness Church we are blessed with such an amazing team. Pastor Luke is truly an inspiration to everyone he

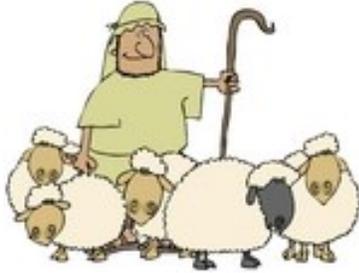
speaks with. He is someone with great wisdom and an overflowing heart filled with love. He is the rock that our church stands on. With God's help he leads his congregation through life with a strong but soft hand. His smile is genuine and the love he feels for us can be felt throughout his church. The Lord has allowed him to build the congregation we have today. I personally have learned and benefitted from

his unfailing leadership. The holy life he exudes sparks passion in the flock he leads. The lives he has touched both directly and indirectly are innumerable. I know I can speak for everyone when I say that we are so thankful to have such a wonderful pastor. However, we can't forget the other part of the team, his wife, Sister Luke. Her love of the Lord comes out in all she speaks. The Lord allows her offer insight on these confusing times. The fire in her voice booms truth. Without the strength she exhibits as such a wonderful woman of the Lord I personally may still be wandering lost and confused without the knowledge of the one true Savior. With that being said I want to thank Pastor Luke and Sister Luke for loving us. With leading by example and continuously demonstrating Jesus in their lives we are all able to be better people.

**For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.**

**Colossians 2:1-5**

# From the Sheep to the Shepherd



*<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*

*Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)*

*We appreciate Pastor Luke and everything he's done. Him and Sister Luke helped us find a place to live. Thank you and we love you! -Tommy and Peggy Dixon*

When we first came to Elgin Congregational Holiness Church, Richard and I had so many questions; Biblical mostly. No matter what time of day or night, we would call Brother or Sister Luke and they would answer them or they would know where in the Bible the answer would be and we would look them up ourselves. For several years, if I could not reach Richard by cell phone, I would call their home and he would be there getting answers and advice while drinking coffee. Makes me wonder how much we would owe if we had to pay for all that coffee! Brother Luke is always looking out for his congregation. When I had surgery, he and Sister Luke were there for me. When my mother had come out of surgery and wouldn't wake up, they came and comforted me. It touched me very deeply, and I will never forget it. Brother Luke has inspired me to be a better Christian, attending church as often as I can, reading and studying. I cannot thank them enough. So Pastor Luke...WE APPRECIATE YOU!! —Ann Abram

Pastor Luke is just amazing. Like Sister Luke said, he just keeps going and going and going. When I've had a hard day at work or don't feel so good and would like to stay home, I just have to think of Pastor Luke, he's 80 years old and I know he'll be there no matter what! He puts us all to shame... — Pat Davis

When I first started coming to this church after getting good and saved, I asked Brother Luke what I could do for the Lord and the church. He recommended I start up a Brotherhood ministry. I didn't think I was qualified at the time, but he encouraged me by having me to pray about it and ask the Lord for direction. And he was right, the Lord did guide me and give me the ability to begin and lead the department. Brother Luke is a good shepherd by leading and encouraging his flock. He is always there for advice, leadership and direction. This church is blessed by his selfless devotion. I will always see him as my mentor, a true man of God. Thank you Brother Luke. —Richard Abram

*Pastor Luke is an amazing dedicated Pastor. He is a great preacher, and amazing leader—Haley Malonjao*

My appreciations for Brother Luke are multiple.

What I speak is from my heart and not mere words

on paper. These are things I have experienced myself personally about him. He has many qualities which most men would like to have. I have found that he and I have many thoughts of the same concerning the church (Scary at times). In many ways he also reminds me of my dad. I see some of my dad traits in him (all good ones)!!!! I believe Brother Luke has the gift of love. I have seen him show his love to many people, not just talking about love but showing love. He imparts wisdom (that is why he has all that gray hair). It's not from worry, it's from on his knees before God interceding for his flock, loved ones and others. He is a man that gives. He gives of his time, finances, etc. He is a man of conviction and honesty. He is a man of integrity, dignity, he is a shepherd, and a counselor/advisor of his flock. Brother Luke, What can I say? He is my Pastor and I love him.—Wayne Cowart

Pastor, from the first time I met you I could see how much you love the Lord and your zeal to preach the Word of God! I also learned very quickly that you do not just preach it you live it! I praise God for you and your walk with the Him. God Bless you and I love you! -Tangy Sims

**Pastor Luke is a dedicated and truth-loving minister. We have been fortunate and grateful to know him for the last 2 years and to be fed under his ministry. —Mark & Candice Madewell**

# Subtle Syllogism

by David Abram

**Month of Remembrance— It's May!**

Apart from flowers, showers and more daylight hours, it's also a great month of respect and remembrance of many kinds. We as a church remember our pastor and his wife, as a people we remember our mothers, and as a nation we remember our fallen heroes.

Pastor Appreciation Day is one that comes and goes by just as quickly as the food on our plates after service, and rarely, I'm



sure, does the celebration do justice to the great sacrifices and work our pastor does in this church. We are truly blessed with a man and woman that strive to emulate our Good Shepherd in all that they do. Thank them daily, for it is a daily job.

Just as pastors use their heart for God to lead the church, the heart of a mother strives daily for the best for her family. We celebrate these special women this month with gifts and dinners, but none of us guys really think we can share enough of what we feel inside with our wives and mothers and daughters to truly express how much we appreciate you.

Thank them daily, for it takes a special person to raise children—and husbands.

There is nothing more dreadful for one of these mothers or fathers than to lose one of

their children. As we travel to celebrate our Memorial Day with barbecues, camping and parades, do your best to remember the holiday for the heroes in uniform who gave us their lives in exchange for our freedoms. In addition to Memorial Day, we also recognize May 21 as Armed Forces Day. Use this day to thank our military for their continued service. In times like these with failed politics and conflicts escalating daily, our military must always be on guard and ready to leave their families and lives to fight for whatever the cause entails. Thank them, and pray for them daily.

As always, I hope this month goes well for us all. As we celebrate the birthdays and holidays, always remember their meaning and don't let the festivities obscure the remembrance. Thank you pastors, mothers, and heroes.



# Something in the Making

by **Angela Barnette**—Is this just an interest or hobby? Or is this God speaking? Questions most have all asked along the way.

During 2008, I heard the first mention of puppets and of which sparked my interest. I'd never really seen puppets before nor had an interest in them. It wasn't very long when I learned our church had puppets stored away. This caught my attention and they were pulled down from the attic. A puppet stage was made from a tri-fold poster board and a twin sheet. I can remember the excitement in the children during class when teaching through puppets. I recall looking to step up from puppets in class -to doing a presentation in the youth service. I was nervous but through it I kept getting a little nudge from the Holy Spirit, to step out. I was able to see the words from the song, "The Holy Ghost will take the chicken out of you" come alive. The God breathed word from Luke 1:37: For with God nothing shall be impossible came real for me. By my stepping out, I was able to see how God would equip with everything.

As I reflect back, I can see how He has equipped the puppet ministry. We now have a huge puppet stage -through the work of the teens. So many different types of puppets are now available due to a generous sister in Christ. Just recently, the puppets have been able to reach a new level due to another sister. Throughout all

of the work, I did not know the bigger picture. I can see it come together for the now.

Before proceeding to share, I must go back to December last year when Johnathan Church held revival at our church. A powerful message was provided that week, I remember being at the altar crying out to God so uncontrollably. The message struck deeply and touched on being selfish with what is available in church - but not taking Jesus to the needy. The words of Mark 16:15: And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature and other like scriptures spoken repetitively from the pulpit was all flooding through my spirit as I prayed. It was like I became spiritually pregnant and I didn't realize at that time all of what God was saying. I simply felt a nudge from deep within to get out of the four walls of the church. Through fasting, praying, and trusting along the way I knew He would show the way. As we know, God is of order. Through the journey earlier this year, I had encounter after encounter which told me more of this birthing that was taking place. A lady I met provided valuable information for outreach then I won a mission trip at the Winter Renewal trip. Collectively these were confidence building within me and confirmation along the way.

It was early March when I learned of a small organization in Columbia with a heart to serve the poor and needy people. By the second visit,

I saw several children with issues all around them needing the love of Jesus in their life. But under the surface, there was potential and future leaders sharing the Word of God. I immediately began to intercede on behalf of the children and saw how puppets would reach them.

To keep myself in check and be sure all of this wasn't me, I sought God. Moments after questioning, God clearly spoke. He spoke through the Sunday evening service of a door just opened and it seemed too good to be true -but it was of Him. When God spoke, I felt the consuming power of God wash within and over me. It was as if a new anointing opened up to carry forth the assignment.

The following Saturday, the car was packed with puppets and I was able to join many others with a heart to serve a needy community. To God receive all Glory for all things said and done! The founder of the organization downtown exclaimed to me that the puppet presentation was able to reach the children in one day, whereas they had been trying to make that kind of impact in several months.

The spark in 2008 through a nervous puppeteer with a tri-fold poster board and homemade puppets went from the classroom and youth services to the now. All of this is just a small portion of something larger. I request your prayers to cover this ministry as the will of God is sought out. I give God all the Glory for that which has happened, that which is currently taking place and that which is to come!

**Elgin Congregational Holiness  
Church**

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Luke  
Asst Pastor: Rev. Judith Luke

1331 Smyrna Road  
Elgin, SC 29045  
(803)438-5351

Visit us on the web:  
<http://elginchc.weebly.com/>

**May & June**

by:  
Allison  
Barnette

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Pastor Appreciation Day	2	3	4	5	6	7 Brotherhood Breakfast
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> Revival: Hartsville	9 Arvin DeSilva Revival: Hartsville 7pm*	10 Arvin DeSilva Revival: Hartsville 7pm*	11 Arvin DeSilva Revival: Hartsville 7pm*	12 Diane Parker Gospel Explosion 7 pm* Revival: Hartsville*	13 Diane Parker Gospel Explosion 7pm* Revival: Hartsville*	14 Diane Parker Gospel Explosion 7pm*
15 <i>Church Singing</i>	16	17	18	19 7 PM WM Meeting	20	21 HM Rally 10am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 6 P.M Youth Service	30 Memorial Day	31	1	2	3	4 Brotherhood Breakfast
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Youth Camp Begins	13	14	15	16	17 Youth Camp Ends	18
19 <i>Father's Day</i> Church Singing	20	21	22	23 7PM WM Meeting	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Coming up: Camp meet July 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> 7pm  *PLEASE CHECK BULLETIN	

**Sunday**

10:00AM Sunday School  
11:00AM Worship/Preaching  
6:00PM Worship/Preaching

**Every 3rd Sunday**

6:00 PM Singing

**Every 5th Sunday**

6:00 PM Youth Service

**Wednesday**

7:00PM Worship/Preaching  
7:00PM Youth Group