



# The Looking Tree

November 2019

*Love lives here, Love flows from here...*



Pastor Hilary Livingston

**Dear HoC members and friends,**

**A Season of Thanksgiving:** As we enter the month of November, it will soon be time to celebrate Thanksgiving. As Christians, we are called to be a people of gratitude and thanksgiving, remembering all of God's good gifts to us. As we celebrate this holiday with our friends, family and loved ones, let us all take time to remember God's goodness to us.



During this season of giving thanks, let me begin by saying thank you! Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries and missions of our church. Your dedication and commitment to our church truly inspires me and bears witness to God's grace at work in our midst. For your dedication of time, talents and resources to our church, week after week and year after year, thank you! Your generous gifts and commitment to our congregation make all we do possible.

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* 1 Thessalonians 5: 17-18

With enthusiastic gratitude, appreciation, and overflowing love,

Blessings,

*Hilary*



## Congregational Meetings

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately following worship on **Sunday, November 10, 2019** for the following purpose:

- Vote on a session-approved motion:

### Motion:

Reduce the size of the session from 9 members to 7 members in 2019 (effective 2020 and following) by consolidating some of the existing committees/commissions.

- Personnel will become part of the A&F committee.
- Mission and Outreach commissions will merge into one entity.
- All other committees will remain as they are for now.

### Rationale:

Given the current size of our congregation, a session size of seven members would be a more manageable number with which to conduct business and to find individuals willing to serve on the body.

Also, a streamlined committee structure would allow for fewer meetings and administrative work, thus freeing up time and energy for possible new ministry ventures.

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately following worship on **Sunday, December 8, 2019** for the following purposes:

- Elect officers for 2020
- Receive the session-approved budget for 2020
- Approve the pastor's terms of call for 2020

All members are strongly encouraged to attend both of these meetings.

If you have questions about the business items at either of these meetings, please contact the pastor or Clerk of Session, Katie Gillespie.

# THOUGHTS ON



## Money Ain't What It Used to Be

*by Ed Crispin*

Every Sunday while I was in my senior year of High School (1958/1959), my father gave me \$10. Five dollars was for Monday through Friday lunches. The second five dollars was for my own use. For my lunches I, and a number of my male friends, went to a small café that was near the school. There, each day with a dollar, I would purchase a sandwich, a bag of chips, a Tastykake, and a drink. As for the second \$5, yes, I spent some of that money for things I wanted. But basically, that became my savings. Ten dollars per week was an excellent income for a high school kid. As a matter-of-fact, my mother seldom spent more than \$20 for a week's groceries. And during that time I knew of only one person who was said to have a million dollars. And I considered, (as did others), that he was rich! TIME'S HAVE CHANGED!!

It's hard to believe the value of money today and how that value has changed. It seems that when we conceptualize, we think back to an earlier date and time and relate to what we remember we could buy with a dollar. But that one million dollars that we thought was, and still anticipate to be a truly significant amount of money, now requires that we must have (if we go on the web and enter 1958 to 2019 into the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator) \$8,970,559.44 in order to have the same amount of purchasing power as we had in 1958. That means to me that we as a Church must keep ourselves aware of and sensitive to how and for what we use our (1) gift funds and be wise in our (2) investing. We must also realize that there is a third part to that equation, that being (3) Church Offerings which can be visualized as the third leg to a financial Church Supporting Stool. Yes, we have been very fortunate to receive some gifts to the Church which, with wise investing, can "at times" produce significant income. But we should keep ourselves aware that gift funds aren't a standard item. And related to our investing, history tells us that we will at times experience downturns and recessions in the markets. Further, as we move into the future, inflation will cause money to lose still more of its value. Offerings are our protector that, if steady over time, keep us and provide for us to be above the benchmark needed to be solvent and to get us through those difficult financial periods. One million dollars ain't what it used to be. Unless we are vigilant, our gifts can be used up and gone in an instant.

## GIVING DOES MATTER





Mark your calendars for a concert by The Imagination Players here at HoC on **Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.** There will be a reception following the concert. Here's some information from their website that tells a little bit more about them.

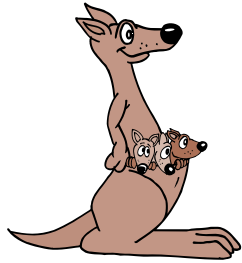
## WHO WE ARE

"Established in 2007, The Imagination Players are a group of talented kids and teens (ranging in age from 7-18 years old) who enjoy spreading goodwill through song and dance. Although the group is performance based, the primary focus is on community service and leadership."

## OUR PRIORITY

"Imagine Harmony" is our motto, but to us it means so much more than simply harmonizing our voices. It is our hope that we can make our community a better place simply by spreading peace and goodwill, not only through song, but through volunteerism as well."





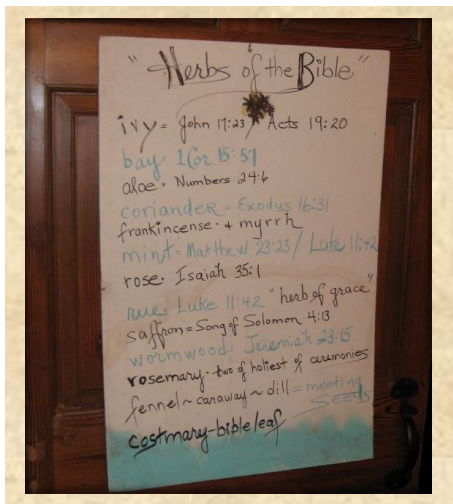
# The "HOP" Event

by Alex Oakes

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

## Sinking Springs Farm

Our early October H.O.P. trip took us to a handsome farm just south of Elkton. There we were greeted by Ms. Ann Stubbs, who invited us into her 300 year old restored plantation house dining room. Nineteen strong, the HOPs all managed to squeeze in and were treated to a gourmet lunch followed by an interesting lecture by Ann on "Herbs of the Bible." As she described each herb, she passed around samples of each which everyone then used to make their own aromatic sachet. We even sampled frankensence and myrrh. It turned out to be a very social event with lots of smiles and laughter. Judging by the smiles, it was a worthwhile HOP event.





## November Coffee Hours

- Nov 3 – Pot Luck
- Nov 10 – Claire Herrington / Sonja Combs?
- Nov 17 – Lillian Crispin
- Nov 24 – No Coffee Hour, set up for Imagination Players' reception
- Dec 1 – Jeanne Hastings



**REMEMBER - YOU** can host any "Pot Luck" Coffee Hour.  
Simply contact Jeanne Hastings at 302-368-9416 if you are interested.



## PLANNING AHEAD...



**Elkton Community Kitchen**  
will be hosting its annual holiday luncheon  
on **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** this year.

**HoC will be providing cookies for dessert**  
as we have done in the past.

**Please put 3-4 cookies into a Zip-lock bag**  
and bring them in on

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and/or Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.**  
(see Alex Oakes if you have questions)





## The Unglued Project Update

by Linda Huffman

The Church Unglued group met on August 22, where we dug further into our church's DNA, discussing who we are as a church.

We shared some of these questions in our Café Church worship service on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>! The congregation members in attendance were great participants and shared their broader perspective of who we are as a church. I found the exercise to be enlightening and heartwarming to see and hear the perspectives of so many people! We will continue our journey this next month, discovering more of who we are, as well as the community we serve, as we start to look more in depth at who our community is. This will include walking through some of the neighborhoods in the immediate area, as well as reviewing survey data that also asks about the community faith beliefs. We are looking forward to learning and sharing more!





# THANKSGIVING TABLE

*As is our long-standing tradition, our Mission efforts in November will support the Cecil County Help Center, Newark Area Welfare and Deep Roots.*

*To provide the most balanced Thanksgiving baskets, the following items are requested for donation by Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.*

*Canned Fruit, Cranberry Sauce  
Bags/boxes of Stuffing, Canned Meals  
(for days beyond Thanksgiving)*

*Bags/boxes of Starchy Sides  
(potatoes, rice, pasta, etc.)*

**Bring fresh items in on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Fresh potatoes (sweet, white), squash,  
or other **fresh** veggies.*



*Thank you for your  
support and generosity!*



## VETERAN'S DAY 2019

Veteran's Day this year falls on Monday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> so we will have our annual HoC Salute to Veterans insert on **Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please let me know if you need to add someone to our list, or if you have changes.

Contact me at [nancy.hoc@outlook.com](mailto:nancy.hoc@outlook.com)



## Holiday Cooking Tips

- ★ **PREPARE TURKEY – ROASTING IN COVERED PAN:** Place turkey, breast side up, on rack in deep roasting pan. Do not use water. Cover with lid, vent open. Roast in 350° oven. Remove lid toward end of roasting if further browning is necessary.
- ★ **PREPARE TURKEY – ROASTING IN UNCOVERED PAN:** Place turkey breast side up, on rack in a shallow, open pan. Do not use water and do not cover. Rub/baste skin with shortening for golden color. Shield skin of neck cavity with a small square of tin foil. Roast in a 325° oven. When skin is light golden brown, place a sheet of lightweight tin foil loosely over turkey breast and thighs to prevent further browning.
- ★ **PREPARING TURKEY STUFFING:** Turkey stuffing should never be prepared ahead of time and placed in an uncooked turkey and refrigerated overnight! Place the stuffing in the turkey just before roasting. Ingredients may be cut up in advance and refrigerated. The ingredients are safer combined just before stuffing the bird.
- ★ **THAWING FRESH TURKEY:** Cover turkey loosely in wrapper and store in refrigerator for 2 to 3 days.
- ★ **THAWING FROZEN TURKEY:** Frozen turkeys should be thawed slowly, never at room temperature or in warm water. Thaw turkey in original bag on a tray in the refrigerator. Allow 2 to 3 days, depending on the size of the bird.
- ★ **QUICK THAWING:** For a last-minute purchase, place turkey in unopened bag in a pan. Cover with cold water. Change water frequently for 2 to 6 hours.
- ★ **IMPORTANT:** After turkey has roasted 2 to 3 hours, it may be necessary to add stock or water from time to time to drippings in pan if they appear to be scant or scorched. This is very important to preserve flavor and color of drippings to be used for gravy.
- ★ **TEST FOR DONENESS:** Timetable below is only a guide to determine when to put turkey in the oven. Roasting times may vary depending on the temperature of the turkey when placed in the oven as well as the oven temperature, pan and shape of the turkey. To tell whether the turkey is done, move the drumstick up and down. If the leg joint gives readily or breaks, the turkey is done. Or, press the thickest part of the drumstick. It is done if the meat feels soft. Using a meat thermometer, it should register 180° to 186°.
- ★ **CARVING:** It is always desirable to plan the roasting schedule so the turkey is out of the oven at least 30 minutes prior to eating for easier carving and to allow the meat a chance to absorb the juices.

### Turkey Thawing and Roasting Time Chart

Weight as Purchased	Uncovered Pan 325°F Oven	Covered Pan 350°F Oven
4 to 8 lbs.	3 ½ to 4 ½ hrs.	2 ½ to 3 hrs.
8 to 11 lbs.	4 ½ to 4 ¾ hrs.	3 to 3 ½ hrs.
11 to 14 lbs.	4 ¾ to 5 ½ hrs.	3 ½ to 4 hrs.
14 to 20 lbs.	5 ½ to 6 hrs.	4 to 4 ½ hrs.
20 to 24 lbs.	6 to 7 hrs.	4 ½ to 5 hrs.

# HOC CALENDAR — November Happenings

Sun	Nov 03	2:00am	Daylight Saving Time ends (turn clocks back)
Sun	Nov 03	11:00am	All Saints Sunday service
Tues	Nov 05		LOOKING TREE DEADLINE
Wed	Nov 06	10:45am	Care & Fellowship Commission
Fri	Nov 08	12:00pm	Hope Dining Room
Mon	Nov 11	6:00pm	Session
Mon	Nov 11	7-9:00pm	Christine Manor C.A. using Fellowship Hall
Weds	Nov 20	11:30am	Nifty-Wifty @ Wesley's
Sun	Nov 24	3:00pm	Imagination Players
Tue	Nov 26	7:30pm	Interfaith Svc. @ Newark UCC
Thur	Nov 28		HAPPY THANKSGIVING



*"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." ~ C. S. Lewis*

CHOIR PRACTICE — MONDAYS — 7:30PM  
 PILOXING — TUESDAYS — 7:00PM  
 TEA & HYGGE — WEDNESDAYS — 1:00PM



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- Nov 2 Andre Marianiello
- Nov 13 Melissa Witt
- Nov 19 Gerry Cole
- Nov 26 Linda Dunn
- Nov 28 Landon Gill
- Nov 29 Lillian Crispin



*Happy Birthday to You!*