

## 2016 OBLIGATIONS PAID IN FULL

By the grace of God, our congregation's generosity and our frugal spending, we were able to fulfill all of our financial obligations for 2016! The Finance Team is very appreciative of every one who "stepped up" to the challenge of covering all our expenses and resulting with about a \$3,000 surplus.

Still the challenge for meeting anticipated expenses for 2017 needs to be addressed. Financial commitments are down significantly from 2016. Help us to keep from eliminating essential programs by turning in your financial commitment if you have not done so or prayerfully consider an additional gift to the church in 2017 by raising your financial commitment. The Finance Team will send out letters with more info soon.



*FUMC member Larry Irwin conducts the Elkin Big Band during rehearsal in the Elkin FUMC Fellowship Hall.*

## BIG BAND TO HELP YOUTH RAISE MISSION FUNDS

The Elkin Big Band is coming to Elkin FUMC on Saturday, Feb. 18, 7 pm to help our youth raise money for summer missions. For only \$5 per person, you can enjoy an evening of Big Band music.

"The Big Band is happy to play and I think it will be good," said Larry Irwin, conductor. "We'll be playing music in the big band style and play some new numbers that we hope will be recognizable!"

The band started in 1981 playing before dinner at the winter theater that was held at our church. "We began playing music that we played in the stage band in high school and we expanded from there," said Irwin. Currently, the band rehearses in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings.

The music will last from 7 – 9 pm in the Fellowship Hall where attendees can dance or just listen to the music. Our youth will be serving refreshments.

Also, homemade cakes will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Not only will the winning bidders enjoy scrumptious cakes, they will help our youth in missions.



*Judy Deck, our Mardi Gras Queen, is ready to welcome you to a big night of celebration on Feb. 22.*

## MARDI GRAS ROLLS IN WITH PARADE AND FUN

Mardi Gras has become a wild and crazy time at FUMC. The fun begins with the traditional pancake supper prepared by Boy Scout Troop 648 on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6 pm. Proceeds from the supper will benefit our Boy Scout program.

Everyone is invited to dress up in Mardi Gras attire and join in the parade. Don't forget masks, hats and umbrellas if you have them. During the parade to New Orleans jazz music, the beads and coins will fly as participants make their way around the Fellowship Hall. And of course, we will feast on the King's Cake along with lots of prizes.

A new feature of this year's celebration is the Mardi Gras Poster Contest. We encourage everyone, especially children, to make a poster. It should be 8 1/2 x 11 in size and can be made from any art media. Everyone will receive a ballot to choose the winner.

Mardi Gras has become a favorite at FUMC thanks to the passion and dedication of Judy Deck who once lived in New Orleans.

"I love bringing New Orleans to Elkin," said Judy. "They call Mardi Gras the greatest free show on earth and I like that we have it here."

Mardi Gras, also known as Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday is the culmination of celebrations the day before Ash Wednesday. We celebrate on Wednesday before Ash Wednesday so that we can focus fully on the meaning of Ash Wednesday on March 1. Prayer stations and the imposition of ashes will be in the Sanctuary from 5:45 until 7 pm.

**Laissez les Bons Temps Rouler!**

**Let the Good Times Roll!**

# Announcements & Reminders

**FEB. 12 IS SCOUT SUNDAY:** Scouts from our own Boy Scout Troop 648 and our Girl Scout Troop will assist in the 10:55 am worship service on Feb. 12. This is always an inspirational Sunday to see our Scouts in worship leadership and an opportunity to say “thank you” to the leaders who make this ministry possible at Elkin First United Methodist Church.

**THE VISION AND LEADERSHIP TEAM** will meet on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 12:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. One of the items for action is a final budget for 2017.

**PRESCHOOL TUPPERWARE FUNDRAISER:** The preschool is running an online Tupperware fundraiser now through Feb. 13. The preschool gets 40% of the proceeds from sales. Shop online at <https://goo.gl/gMvLMH>.

**BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD SUNDAY:** Feb. 19 is designated as Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday in the Western NC Conference. We will receive a special offering during both of our Sunday morning worship services. Please visit the website at [brotherhoodsisterhood.com](http://brotherhoodsisterhood.com) or see the insert in the Feb. 19 bulletins to learn more about your Brotherhood/Sisterhood including how to become a member and make contributions.

**DRY BEANS ARE THE TRI-C DONATION** for February. Deposit dry beans and any non-perishable food items or toiletries in the basket under the table at the administrative entrance.

**BACKPACK PROGRAM NEEDS DONATIONS:** The church is collecting food donations for the Elkin City Schools Backpack Program. Suggested items are: flip top canned items or peel off lids (ravioli, spaghetti, soups, mac-n-cheese, fruit cups, pudding). They also need: cereal, granola bars, peanut butter, jelly, fruit gummy snacks, “Lance” crackers and juice boxes. A collection box is located in the entryway near the Church Office.

**LAY SERVANT TRAINING:** Lay Servant Training is a two-day opportunity for youth and adults to learn about ways to serve in the United Methodist Church. Appalachian District Lay Servant Training will be held on Saturday, April 22 and Saturday, April 29 (must attend both days) at First UMC in Taylorsville. Contact the church office for more information or for an application form.

**CAMP TEKOA REGISTRATION:** Dates for 2017 United Methodist Camp Tekoa have been set. Located near Hendersonville, NC, Camp Tekoa offers camps for children age 7 through high school. Hiking, rock climbing, ropes course, fishing, boating and evening camp fires are included. Scholarships and early registration discounts are available. For more information visit <https://www.camptekoa.org/camps/2017/file>.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Church Family:** Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Dr. Jim Harrell Sr., Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Sallie Park, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencl, Linda Maxey, Sharon Harvey, Mason Leeds, Larry Johnson, Ercel Carter, Walt Pettit, Omega Seaford, Bern Schumak, Diane Pettit, Mark Barden, Jeff Seaford, Pat Trexler, Wyatt Gaddis, nursing home residents & homebound

**Extended Care:** Jim Cockerham, Mary Cockerham, Anne Hine, Iris Amburn

**Extended Family:** Hattie Ford, Ruth Deck, Mary Lou Longworth, Hope Swaim, Russ Kearns, Carol Clifton, Glenna Gambill, Stacy Gentry, Bob Norton, Laura Kennedy, Andy Garner’s mother, Audrey Adkins, Aileen Sparks, Sarah Jarvis, John Seats, Pike Johnson, Vickie Key, Richard Sparks, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Angie Hodge, McKenzie Barneycastle, Edna Neaves & Family, Clifford Jordan, Cambodia Mission Team, Rick Gallimore, Ronnie Ray, Leli Carico, Nada Sheets, John R. Hall

**All of our military personnel and their families**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On Jan. 29 we were excited to have the Eller family join Elkin FUMC. Eric and Stacie transferred their membership from Midway UMC in Midway, GA. Their daughter, Phebe was baptized and became a Baptized Member of the church. Their sons Braxton and Addison are Constituents of FUMC. Their address is 2850 Murrury Rd., State Road, NC 28676. Please take a moment to welcome them to Elkin FUMC!

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who shared acts of kindness to me following my recent surgery and especially those who pitched in to cover for me while I was recuperating. Each expression of love reminded me of how blessed I am to be a part of the Elkin FUMC family. -Blessings, Mark Barden

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Worship Ministry Team

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 pm (Library)

### Finance Team

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 pm (Library)

### Vision and Leadership Team

Sunday, Feb. 26, 12:15 pm (Fellowship Hall)

### Missions Team

Monday, Feb. 27, 7:00 pm (Library)

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