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*The First Word*

*Elkin*

First United Methodist Church

February 23, 2017

Vol. XXXII, No. 4

## Prayer Stations Make Ash Wednesday Unique

Ash Wednesday is a solemn occasion when we remember our mortality, examine our shortcomings, and look to for hope and grace. This year's Ash Wednesday (March 1) service, which is a come-and-go experience between 5:45 pm and 7 pm in the Sanctuary, will be similar to last year's service. Prayer stations will be placed throughout the Sanctuary to lead worshippers on a spiritual journey to the cross of Jesus. After completing the prayer stations, worshippers are invited to kneel at the chancel rail where Rev. Barden will impose the ashes in the sign of the cross on the forehead. These ashes were made from the traditional burning of palm branches from previous Palm Sunday services. Join us for this meaningful worship experience that will prepare you for your Lenten journey.

## Big Band Makes Sweet Music

The Valentine fundraiser for youth missions was a tremendous success. With the help of the Elkin Big Band and some great cake bakers, the youth raised nearly \$1,200 for their summer mission trips.

The highlight of the evening was the Elkin Big Band, led by Larry Irwin, playing hits from the big band era. Larry said the band loved playing and even thought they sounded good too. He said hopefully next time we can get some ball room dancers to come and encourage others to get up and dance. Many especially enjoyed the singing by Carol and Leon Reece.

The bids were high for the cake auction. Gina Peterson made the highest bid to purchase the cake she donated, an apple spice cake, which she really enjoys. Kristin Gaddis bought a pineapple and coconut cake because her son, Wyatt wanted it so badly. Wyatt said his favorite foods are pineapple and coconut. Louise Cockerham bought a cake because she wanted to support the youth. Steve Erlandson bought Mark Barden's Coconut Cake to freeze and use as a birthday cake next month for his wife, Linda.

Great big band music, scrumptious cakes and a great crowd of people enjoying themselves created a wonderful evening to be remembered for a long time.

## Take another step for 2017

The Finance Team is very appreciative of every one who "stepped up" to the challenge of covering all our expenses, to everyone who practiced frugal spending, and to volunteers who performed maintenance tasks around the church saving thousands of dollars.

Still, the challenge for meeting anticipated expenses for 2017 needs to be addressed.

Financial commitments are down significantly from 2016. We still need about \$47,000 to fill the gap between anticipated income and budgeted expenses and obligations. The staff worked together to trim the budget to the "bare essentials."

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. Imagine if each of our 160 giving households could increase giving by just \$5 or \$10 a month, we could raise up to an additional \$20,000! If you are led to increase your commitment or make your first commitment for 2017, feel free to update your commitment online by going to <https://tinyurl.com/takinganotherstep> or contacting Ben Wallace ([bwallace@elkinfumc.org](mailto:bwallace@elkinfumc.org)) at 336-835-2323.





# Crowd Turns Out for Mardi Gras



Grace Harrison  
Poster Contest  
Winner





# March Calendar

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Sunday

8:45 am - Worship  
 9:45 am - Sunday School  
 10:55 am - Worship  
 5:30 pm - Moms' Bible Study  
               - Mens' Bible Study  
 6:30 pm - Richard Rohr Study

### Youth Activities (unless listed otherwise)

5:00 pm - Middle School Youth  
 6:00 pm - Youth Dinner  
 6:30 pm - High School Youth

### Monday-Thursday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Weekday Programs

### Monday

6:30 pm - Cub Scouts  
 6:45 pm - Boy Scouts

### Tuesday

9:00 am - Morning Bell Choir  
 12:00 pm - Moms' Bible Study  
 2:45 pm - Kids' Choir (4 yrs - K)

### Wednesday

2:45 pm - Kids' Choir (1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
 6:00 pm - Solid Rock Café Fellowship Meal  
 6:45 pm - Prayer Service  
               Activities for Children & Youth  
               Evening Bell Choir  
 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday

10:00 am - Adult Bible Study

### Friday

Church Office Closed

## MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS—MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:45 PM-Ash Wednesday Service	2	3	4
5 5:00 PM-No UMYF Meeting	6	7	8	9	10 3:30 PM-Leave for Confirmation Retreat	11
12 3:30 PM- Return from Confirmation Retreat 2:00 PM- Children's Min. Team Mtg. 5:00 PM-No UMYF Meeting	13 6:00 PM-UMYF Girls attend "Girls Empowering Girls" event at The Liberty	14 7:00 PM- Trustees Mtg.	15	16	17	18
19	20 6:30 PM-Youth Min. Team Mtg.	21 6:30 PM- Worship Team Mtg. 7:30 PM-Finance Team Mtg.	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 AM- Youth Visit Cross- fire UMC 12:15 PM-Vision & Leadership Team 5:00 PM-CCC Asheville Meeting	27 7:00 PM- Missions Team Mtg.	28	29	30	31	

# Congregational Care

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 4 - Ellen Schumak  
 March 5 - Charlie Pelkey  
 March 6 - Jeanie Rhyne  
 March 10 - Alison Ackerman, **CJ Pettit**  
 March 11 - Gerald Combs  
 March 12 - Hilary Irwin, **Charlene Solis**  
 March 15 - Cindy Bruton  
 March 20 - David VanAntwerp  
 March 22 - Linda Erlandson, Tiger Sloop, Abriana Padak  
 March 23 - Bill Amburn, Margaret Freeman  
 March 24 - Mike Smith  
 March 28 - Randy Bledsoe  
 March 30 - Claire Grider, Jeff Adams

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 13 - Gerald & Reva Combs  
 March 27 - Charlie & Jill Bellia

## 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 Fencel, Linda Maxey, Sharon Harvey, Larry Johnson, Ercel Carter, Walt Pettit, Omega Seaford, Bern Schumak, Jeff Seaford, Pat Trexler, Wyatt Gaddis, Hal Stuart, Greta Wallace, nursing home residents & homebound

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

**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, US Veterans, Sarah Jarvis, John Seats, Vickie Key, Richard Sparks, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, McKenzie Barneycastle, Edna Neaves & Family, Clifford Jordan, Rick Gallimore, Ronnie Ray, John R. Hall, Lelia Carico, Nada Sheets, Family of Pike Johnson, Family of Angie Hodge, Family of Kenneth Adams, Family of Margaret McManamy, Family of Richard Freeman, Lana Craft, Caroline Collins

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

## OUR SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to the following families:

- Dave Johnson and family upon the death of his father, Pike Johnson who passed away on February 11.
- James Freeman and family upon the death of his brother, Richard Freeman who passed away on February 11.
- Jeff Adams and family upon the death of his brother, Ken Adams who passed away on February 12.
- The Family of Margaret McManamy who passed away on February 12. Margaret was the mother of Pat Sea and grandmother of Stephanie Walker.

## NEW MEMBER

We are excited to welcome Mary Neil to Elkin FUMC. She joined the church by transfer of membership on Feb 12. Mary's address is 230 Hawthorne Rd. Apt. 102, Elkin. Please take a moment to welcome her to Elkin FUMC!

## *UMCOR Sunday Gifts Enable Worldwide Disaster Response*

March 26 will be UMCOR Sunday, formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing. We will collect a special offering which enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to respond to disasters around the world by covering its operational and administrative costs. Unlike other mission programs, UMCOR receives no World Service or other apportionment money. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you enable UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of designated gifts will go to support the designated projects.

There will be an envelope insert in the bulletin on March 26 or you may mail your contribution to the church office (PO Box 69, Elkin, NC 28621.) Makes checks payable to Elkin FUMC and note that it's for "UMCOR Sunday."

For more information visit <http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/one-great-hour-of-sharing>.

## Gathering at the Well Moves to Reception Area

Gathering at the Well, a time of food and fellowship between the worship services, will no longer take place on a regular basis in the Fellowship Hall. Instead, those looking for food and coffee are invited to come by the reception room beside the Church Office where fresh coffee, fruit and snacks will be available each Sunday.

However, Gathering at the Well will continue to be offered on Fifth Sundays in the Fellowship Hall. Also, a special Gathering at the Well will be offered on Easter Sunday between the worship services to help us celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you wish to bring something to add to the table of food, always feel free to bring it.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Sunday, March 5

#### *Youth Sunday*

**Children's Church:** Jennifer Kleinheksel

**Counters:** Dave Johnson, Gardner & Lauren Meek

### Sunday, March 12

**Lay Reader:** Jon Garing

**Children's Time:** Amy Johnson

**Children's Church:** Carrie Morrison & Charlotte Guyer

**Acolytes/Chimer:** TBA

**Crucifer/Banner Bearer:** TBA

**Greeters:** Tom Gwyn, Steve & Vickie Wells, Martha Maier, Emaline Cockerham, Louise Cockerham, Andy & Ann Garner

**Ushers:** Dan Park, Steve Wells, David Van Antwerp, George Crater

**Counters:** Mike Powell, Andy & Ann Garner

### Sunday, March 19

**Lay Reader:** Isaac Powell

**Children's Time:** Mark Barden

**Children's Church:** Kristi Gaddis

**Acolytes/Chimer:** TBA

**Crucifer/Banner Bearer:** TBA

**Greeters:** Steve Mackie, Jane Hazelman, Jake Schot, David & Betsy Robertson

**Ushers:** James Freeman, David Poindexter, David Cline, Charlie Bellia, Danny Freeman

**Counters:** Frank Beals, Steve & Ginny Mackie, David & Betsy Robertson

### Sunday, March 26

**Lay Reader:** Suzie Andrew

**Children's Time:** Cindy Furr

**Children's Church:** Melissa Cline

**Acolytes/Chimer:** TBA

**Crucifer/Banner Bearer:** TBA

**Greeters:** Rob & Gina Peterson, Gambill Aldridge, Sam Tesh

**Ushers:** Gary Conrad, Gerald Combs, Steve Brown, Tiger Sloop, Randy Hunsucker

**Counters:** Joan Sanders, Margaret Tucker, Steve & Vickie Wells

## CHOIR SNACKS

**4 yrs - K:** Tuesday - 2:45 pm

Feb. 28 – Addison

March 7 – Wyatt

March 14 – Benjamin

March 21 – Olivia G.

March 28 – Olivia B.

**1st – 6th Grade:** Wednesday - 2:45 pm

March 1 – Webb, Raelin

March 8 – Cama, Callie

March 15 – Matthew, Abby

March 22 – Charlie Isabella

March 29 – Karlee

# Ministry Volunteers

## SOLID ROCK CAFE

### Wednesday, March 1

**Menu:** Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

**Cooking Team Leader:** George Brown

**Dessert:** Powell, Harrison, Carroll, MacDonald, McDowell

### Wednesday, March 8

**Menu:** Creamy Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

**Cooking Team Leader:** David VanAntwerp

**Dessert:** Lowe, Sanders, Andrew, McCrary, Parker, Dent

### Wednesday, March 15

**Menu:** Taco Bar

**Cooking Team Leader:** Dorothy Harris, Lori Carroll

**Dessert:** Harris, Johnson, Erlandson, Coley, Petrocy

### Wednesday, March 22

**Menu:** Spaghetti, Salad, Bread

**Cooking Team Leader:** Henry Freeman (Scout Fundraiser)

**Dessert:** Brown, Snider, Combs, Midkiff, Kleinheksel, Aldridge

### Wednesday, March 29

**Menu:** Covered Dish Meal

**Dessert:** Furr, Robertson, Tucker, Barden

*Each week also includes Salad and Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches.*

## MARCH MEETINGS

### Children's Ministry Team

Sunday, March 12, 2:00 pm (Library)

### Trustees

Tuesday, March 14, 7 pm (Library)

### Youth Ministry Team

Monday, March 20, 6:30 pm (Library)

### Worship Ministry Team

Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 pm (Library)

### Finance Team

Tuesday, March 21, 7:30 pm (Library)

### Vision & Leadership Team

Sunday, March 26, 12:15 pm (Library)

### Missions Team

Monday, March 27, 7:00 pm (Library)

## Youth to Lead Worship

Sunday, March 5, 8:45 & 11 am

Topic: The Lord's Prayer

*Don't Miss It!*

*A New Way To Give to Elkin FUMC*

**PayPal**  
**Giving Fund**

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/221649>

*100% of your donation comes to the church*



First  
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Methodist  
Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Church Office:** 336-835-2323

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**Website:** [www.elkinfumc.org](http://www.elkinfumc.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/elkinfumc](http://www.facebook.com/elkinfumc)

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#### **Church Staff:**

Rev. Mark L. Barden, Pastor ([mbarden@wnccumc.net](mailto:mbarden@wnccumc.net))

Cindy Furr, Director of Discipleship ([cfurr@elkinfumc.org](mailto:cfurr@elkinfumc.org))

Amy Johnson, Director of Music/Children's Ministries ([ajohnson@elkinfumc.org](mailto:ajohnson@elkinfumc.org))

Benjamin Wallace, Parish Life Coordinator ([bwallace@elkinfumc.org](mailto:bwallace@elkinfumc.org))

Beth Darnell, Director of Weekday Programs ([bdarnell@elkinfumc.org](mailto:bdarnell@elkinfumc.org))

Pat Trexler, Custodian ([ptrexler@elkinfumc.org](mailto:ptrexler@elkinfumc.org))

George Brown, Assistant Custodian ([gbrown@elkinfumc.org](mailto:gbrown@elkinfumc.org))

Submit articles/photos to the Church Office or email [office@elkinfumc.org](mailto:office@elkinfumc.org)

To receive *The First Word*, send an email to [office@elkinfumc.org](mailto:office@elkinfumc.org) with *The First Word* in the subject line. In the body, please indicate your method of receiving it: email only, postal mail only or both. Remember, email copies save the church postage and is good stewardship of God's resources.

## Announcements & Reminders

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

**MISSION TEAM NEEDS YOU!** The Missions Team needs everyone who has an interest in our missions for the coming year to join us on Monday, Feb. 27, 7 pm in the Library. We will be setting our goals for 2017 and making plans for the missions in which we will participate.

**KRISTAN SEAFORD TO SPEAK AT GIRLS SYMPOSIUM:** Girls ages 8-18 are invited to a symposium on the ways in which girls are empowered to reach their dreams, despite the obstacles that inevitably get in their way. Guest speaker will be Kristan Seaford, daughter-in-law of Jeff and Omega Seaford, who has an amazing story to share of the trials and tribulations of the illness that nearly cost her life. The event is Monday, March 13 from 6-8 pm at The Liberty. Admission is non-perishable food for community pantries. Dinner will be provided by Chick-Fil-A of Mt. Airy. RSVP by calling 336-749-4791 by March 8. For more info visit [www.facebook.com/girlsempoweringgirls](http://www.facebook.com/girlsempoweringgirls).

**CANNED TOMATOES IS THE TRI-C DONATION** for March. Deposit canned tomatoes and any non-perishable food items or toiletries in the basket under the table at the administrative entrance.

**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.

**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.

