



## The First Word



First United Methodist Church

March 9, 2017

Vol. XXXII, No. 5

### Help Design Prayer Centers for Good Friday

This year's observance of Good Friday on April 14 will feature prayer centers on the Stations of the Cross, which highlight the events leading up to Jesus' death. If you are interested in designing and preparing these stations, you are invited to join the prayer group on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm in the Library to work on these centers in an atmosphere of prayer and creativity.

These centers will be open all day in the Sanctuary on Good Friday until 8 pm when there will be a short closing worship.

The Maundy Thursday Service on April 13 will feature both Holy Communion and a Tenebrae Service. This service will be at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Details of all the Holy Week services and activities will be shared in the next issue of *The First Word*.



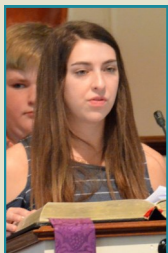
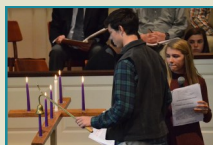
First UMC partnered with Grace Clinic and the NC Baptist Dental Ministry to host a free dental clinic at our church on March 3. The "dental truck" features two fully functioning rooms to take care of dental needs of Grace Clinic patients. This is just another example of our outreach to those in need within our community.



### Youth Sunday

March 5, 2017

See more photos at [www.facebook.com/elkinfumc](http://www.facebook.com/elkinfumc)



### New Study on Mercy Ministry Begins March 26

A new Sunday night study begins on March 26 at 6:30 pm in the Library focusing on outreach ministry to the strangers among us. Birdie Johnson will be leading this study on the book, "The Weight of Mercy: A Novice Pastor on the City Streets," by Deb Richardson Moore, a journalist of 27 years who is now a pastor working at the Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, SC.

The book explores the complications and difficulties of ministry to homeless persons suffering from mental illness, drug addiction and alcoholism. It is also a humorous and deeply touching account of God's grace at work in a myriad of ways.

You may sign up for the study on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the office. Books may be ordered at your favorite local bookstore or online. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Birdie Johnson at 336-287-8884.

Don't forget

## Daylight Saving Time

begins this Sunday.



# Announcements & Reminders

**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. 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.

**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. 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. Make checks payable to Elkin FUMC and note that it’s for “UMCOR Sunday.”

**TRAIL WORKDAY:** The Elkin Valley Trail Association invites you to a trail workday on Saturday, March 18, 9 am - 12 pm. Elkin FUMC will be working with Elkin Presbyterian Church to work on the foot bed of the trail. Work will mostly be raking and shoveling. Bring work gloves, appropriate footwear and water and meet in the parking lot of the Brendles Building at the corner of Carter Mill Rd. and Bridge St. For more information contact Herb MacDonald at 336-467-1606.

**LAY SERVANT TRAINING—DATE CHANGE:** 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 now be held on Saturday, May 13 and Saturday, May 20 (must attend both days) at First UMC in Taylorsville. For more information contact the church office or visit <http://wnccumc.org/lay-servant-ministries>. Deadline to register is April 30.

**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.

**THE FINANCE TEAM MEETING** scheduled for March 21 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held in April.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Church Family:** Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Sallie Park, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencil, Linda Maxey, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Greta Wallace, Bill Amburn, Family of Anne Hine, Matthew Brown, Family of Jim Harrell Sr., nursing home residents & homebound

**Extended Care:** Jim Cockerham, Mary Cockerham, 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, 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, Lana Craft, Family of Jean Pinkston, Gertrude Hamm, Emily Stewart

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

## OUR SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to the following families:

- The family of Anne Hine who passed away on March 3. A service celebrating her life was held on Thursday, March 9 in the Sanctuary of Elkin FUMC.
- The family of Dr. James Harrell, Sr. who passed away on March 6. A service celebrating his life will be held on Saturday, March 11 at 1 pm in the Sanctuary of Elkin FUMC. Visitation will follow the service in the Chapel.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Trustees

Tuesday, March 14, 7 pm (Library)

### Children’s Ministry Team

Sunday, March 19, 2:00 pm (Library)

### Youth Ministry Team

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

### Worship Ministry Team

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

### Vision & Leadership Team

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

### Missions Team

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

Church Office: 336-835-2323  
 Fax: 336-835-8035  
 Website: [www.elkinfumc.org](http://www.elkinfumc.org)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/elkinfumc](http://www.facebook.com/elkinfumc)  
 Email: [office@elkinfumc.org](mailto:office@elkinfumc.org)  
 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))

PO Box 69 ■ 340 Hawthorne Road ■ Elkin, NC 28621



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE  
 STAMP  
 HERE