

United Methodists join
Presbyterians to help blaze trail.
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*The First
Word*

Elkin

First United Methodist Church

March 30, 2017

Vol. XXXII, No. 6



Front Steps Renovation Is Next Capital Project

The Trustees are moving on to the next capital project, renovation of the steps and walkway in front of the main entrance to the Sanctuary. Work will begin as soon as we raise the funds to complete the project, which will take approximately \$23,000.

The steps have been steadily deteriorating over the years creating a safety hazard. Previously, the steps in front of the Chapel and administrative entrance have been renovated resulting in safe and more attractive entrances. Renovation included removing the old slate and masonry, replacing them with new blue stone and masonry. The blue stone has a rougher surface and is safer when wet as compared to the old slate. The same renovations will be performed on the steps in front of the main entrance to the Sanctuary.

The van, which was also one of the capital projects, was funded through capital funds. Now the funds need to be replenished to accomplish this project of renovating the steps and walkway. Prayerfully consider a contribution and designate it for the Capital Fund. For more information, contact Steve Wells, Trustees Chairperson (stevenwlls990@gmail.com).

Holy Week at Elkin FUMC

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9

8:45 am – Early Worship

9:45 am – Sunday School

10:55 am – Worship

The service begins outside in front of the church weather permitting. We will begin with the proclamation of the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and follow our children into the Sanctuary in the traditional palm processional. The passion narrative from the Gospel of Matthew will feature various speakers and music. The service will climax with a thought-provoking anthem that will set the tone for the week.

Holy Thursday, April 13

7:30 pm – A Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for this year's commemoration combining Communion and the Tenebrae (Service of Shadows). We will gather in the candlelit setting around a table to remember the Jesus' Last Supper. Following Communion, a gradual extinguishing of candles and readings related to the events leading to Jesus' death are presented ending with total darkness in the room..

Good Friday, April 14

1 pm – 8 pm - Stations of the Cross

This year's Good Friday Service centers around prayer

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stations based on the biblical Stations of the Cross. You may come to the Sanctuary any time from 1 pm until 8 pm for this self-guided time of meditation and reflection. A short worship experience will take place at 8 pm .

Saturday, April 15**10:00 am – Easter Egg Hunt****Easter, April 16****8:45 am – Service of First Light**

Gather around the fire in front of the Chapel for the lighting of the Paschal Candle and process inside singing “Alleluia!”

9:45 am – Special Gathering at the Well.

To commemorate Easter, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for an Easter Gathering at the Well. This will be covered-dish style. So, everyone is encouraged to bring some type of breakfast food: breakfast casserole, pastries, biscuits, sausage balls, etc.

10:55 am – Easter Worship in the Sanctuary

Bring fresh flowers for the Easter cross as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Following the service Larry Irwin will be glad to take your photo at the cross.



Good Friday to Feature Stations of the Cross

Our Good Friday commemoration will be different this year. Instead of a Tenebrae Service, stations of the cross will be set up in the Sanctuary from 1 pm until 8 pm. All are invited to come by during these hours and go through the stations at his/her own pace using a meditation guide to be provided. Plan for a minimum of 30-45 minutes.

A group of volunteers has been meeting on Wednesday evening to plan and design the prayer stations, which depict the major occurrences on Jesus's journey from the Garden of Gethsemane to Calvary.

At 8 pm a short devotional and music will be offered to bring a close to Good Friday. If any one did not have a chance to finish all the stations, time will be provided after the devotional to complete the experience.

Community Gathers for Holy Week

Each year's Holy Week Services unify our community in ways that no other event can. Christians from all denominations and backgrounds come together each day at noon to worship together and share a meal with one another. This year's services will be held at Elkin Presbyterian Church, April 11-14 beginning at noon followed by a soup and sandwich lunch. Both the service and luncheon should be over about 1 p.m.

This year's theme, "The Love that Unites: Last Words of Christ from the Cross," focuses upon Jesus' love and his last words at his Crucifixion. Below are the scheduled preachers and topics:

- Monday, April 10 – "Father, Forgive Them; They Know Not What They Do," Rev. Stuart Taylor, Elkin Presbyterian
- Tuesday, April 11 – "Today, You Will Be With Me in Paradise," Rev. Judy Davis, Jonesville First and Ebenezer United Methodist Churches
- Wednesday, April 12 – "Behold Thy Son/Behold Thy Mother," Rev. Jeanette Hayes, Wesley's Chapel and Piney Grove United Methodist Churches.
- Thursday, April 13 – "I Thirst," Rev. Roger Hensley, Jonesville First Baptist
- Friday, April 14 – "It is Finished," Sr. Janis McQuade, St. Stephen Catholic

Luncheon Hospitality for the week is provided by the following:

- Monday – Elkin First Baptist Church
- Tuesday – St. Stephen Catholic and Galloway Episcopal Churches
- Wednesday – Jonesville First and Ebenezer United Methodist Churches
- Thursday – Elkin First, Wesley's Chapel and Piney Grove United Methodist Churches
- Friday – No Meal. Fast Day for Good Friday.

Soup Needed for Holy Week Meal

Elkin FUMC will provide the soup for the Thursday meal of the Holy Week Services. We will be partnering with Wesley's Chapel and Piney Grove Churches who will provide the sandwiches and desserts.

You can help our efforts by making a crockpot of soup for the Thursday meal. Please help us plan by signing up on the sheet located on the bulletin board across from the office. It is very important that we have an accurate number of crockpots to expect so we can plan accordingly.

Missions

FUMMC Is New Collection Site for WNCC MRC

Elkin FUMMC is the Western NC Conference's newest collection site for the Mission Response Center (MRC). Twice each year, the MRC truck goes to various locations across the conference to gather donations to Project AGAPE and UMCOR kits. Local churches are encouraged to bring their donations to the collection sites a week before the pick-ups. Boxes will be stored for that week until the MRC truck arrives at the beginning of the following week to take the donations to the Mission Response Center in Terrell.

The advantage for Elkin FUMMC is that our donations do not have to be taken to the MRC or another collection site. Since another site is not located in this area, we are able to offer a closer and more convenient collection location for surrounding churches.

The Trustees unanimously approved FUMMC as a collection site at its March meeting.

The next collection week for Project AGAPE Donations and UMCOR kits is April 24-27 during our regular office hours. Please deliver all donations by Sunday, April 30.

Now Accepting Project AGAPE Donations

It is that time of year again. Project AGAPE Sunday is April 23 when you will have an opportunity to contribute to Project AGAPE. You may also bring in donations to be shipped to Armenia during the next pick-up described above. For items needed and instructions, a handout is available on the table near the Chapel entrance and posted on the Missions bulletin board beside the pastor's office. Online information may be downloaded at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0P2uZ0y8ZmyaHFwbnlPVktTdGc/view>

Save the date:

Saturday, June 3

**IMPACT
COMMUNITY**



Elkin First United Methodist Church

Lent 2017



DISASTER SUPPLY DRIVE

Hurricane Matthew, Tennessee wildfires, floods in West Virginia and South Carolina, and tornadoes in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi have depleted UMCOR disaster supplies in the Southeast. So, every church in Western North Carolina is being challenged to assemble and collect as many UMCOR Health Kits and Bedding Kits as possible this Lent.

Health Kit

- 1 new hand towel (Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable)
- 1 new washcloth
- 1 comb (Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long)
- 1 metal nail file or nail clippers
- 1 bath-size soap (3 oz. and larger sizes only) (No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content)
- 1 adult-size toothbrush
- 6 adhesive bandages (¾ inch to 1 inch-size)
- 1 one-gallon size seal-able plastic bag
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used. Do not remove from original packaging. Assembly instructions found at umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies

Bedding Kit

- 2 flat sheets (double-sized, flat only, no fitted)
- 2 pillows
- 2 pillowcases

All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will then be considered used. Linens may be of different colors. Items may be removed from packaging. Assembly instructions found at umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies

Collection Information:

Elkin FUMMC

Hallway at Administrative Entrance by April 30.

missionwncc.org/mission-teams/disaster-response

April 30 Worship Highlights Native American Ministries

April 30 is Native American Ministries Sunday throughout The United Methodist connection. Today Native Americans - with many unique languages and cultures - honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by primarily Native American pastors.

A special offering will be received to help equip Native American congregations and their pastors. Through our giving, we are able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations, and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

Since April 30 is a fifth Sunday, the 10:55 am worship service will be held in the Fellowship Hall preceded by Gathering at the Well where breakfast foods and drinks are available between both worship services.

April 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 - Mercy Bible 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 (1st - 6th 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—APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 PALM SUNDAY	10 12:00 PM-Holy Week Worship/ Lunch 6:30 PM-Youth Min. Team	11 12:00 PM-Holy Week Worship/ Lunch	12 12:00 PM-Holy Week Worship/ Lunch	13 12:00 PM-Holy Week Worship/ Lunch 7:30 PM-Holy Thursday Service	14 12:00 PM-Holy Week Worship- No Lunch 1:00—8:00 PM- Stations of the Cross 8:00 PM-Good Friday Service	15 10:00 AM- Easter Egg Hunt
16 EASTER 8:45 AM-Service of First Light 9:45 AM-Covered Dish Breakfast 10:55 AM-Easter Worship	17 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	18 6:30 PM- Worship Team Mtg. 7:30 PM-Finance Team Mtg.	19	20	21	22
23 12:15 PM- Vision & Leader- ship Team	24 7:00 PM- Missions Team Mtg.	25	26	27	28	29 9:00 AM- Church Workday
30						

Announcements & Reminders

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed on Monday, April 17 in observance of the Easter holiday.

CHURCH WORKDAY IS SET FOR APRIL 29: The trustees invite volunteers to assist them in the next church workday on Saturday, April 29 beginning around 9 am. There are quite a few projects to be done as we “spruce up for Spring.”

LYDIA CIRCLE MEETING: Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, April 3 at 11:00 am in the parlor. Following the meeting, join us for lunch. All women of the church are invited to attend

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 by contacting Ben Wallace (bwallace@elkinfumc.org) at 336-835-2323.

LECTIO DIVINA GROUP MEETS ON THURSDAYS at 7 p.m. in the parlor of Elkin Presbyterian Church. Anyone interested in this traditional practice of scripture reading, meditation and prayer are cordially invited to participate.

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 info contact the church office or visit <http://wnccumc.org/lay-servant-ministries>. Deadline to register is April 30.

SOUP IS THE TRI-C DONATION for April. Deposit soup 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.

BIBLE SUPERHEROES

You can be a HERO, too!

June 25-29

*Sunday Kick-off Cookout
& Swim at Elkin Park Pool*

Monday - Thursday 5:30-8 pm

Worship, Music, Games, Science, Service & Stories

If you are available to help, please contact Amy Johnson.



Confirmands Join Other Youth for Confirm '17

This year's Confirmation Class recently participated in Confirm '17, a weekend youth retreat at Lake Junaluska. Sponsored by the Foundation for Christian Formation in partnership with the Department of Religion of Pfeiffer University, this extraordinary weekend offered interactive workshops focused on the vows of The United Methodist Church. Experiences facilitated exploration and understanding of the sacraments of Baptism and Communion.

One of the highlights of the weekend included each confirmand making a stole that presented words and symbols of their faith journey. Leadership for the weekend was provided by Ed and Kathleen Kilbourne along with Chris and Gloria Hughes. Confirmands remembered Ed from his worship leadership at our church last November.

During the weekend, the traditional Confirmation photo was taken at the Lake Junaluska cross. It was especially interesting to capture the confirmands in mid-air as they jumped from the base of the cross.

Ministry Volunteers

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, April 2

Lay Reader: Martha Smith

Children's Time: Mark Barden

Children's Church: Rachel Eidson

Acolytes/Chimer: Grace Harrison, Alyssa Snider, Paul Brinegar

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Claire Grider, Ashley Hunsucker

Greeters: J.L. & Jane Lowe, Mary Renegar, Tony Duncan, Chris & Tammy Coley, Bob & Gail Midkiff

Ushers: Frank Beals, Rick Caudle, Glen Grider, Lon Snider, Darryl Rhyme

Counters: Dave Johnson, Gardner & Lauren Meek

Sunday, April 9

Lay Reader: Ercel Carter

Children's Time: Cindy Furr

Children's Church: Stacey Carter

Acolytes/Chimer: Annabel Walker, Granger Teachey, Lydia Teachey

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Cole Walker, Lilly Walker

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, April 16

Lay Reader: Jane Hazelman

Children's Time: Amy Johnson

Children's Church: Janet Canter

Acolytes/Chimer: Eli Powell, Chandler Beals, Bronwyn Sloop

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Jacob Bellia, Jarrett Peterson

Cross Bearers: Luke Bellia, Kelly Hunsucker

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

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

Counters: Frank Beals, David & Betsy Robertson

Sunday, April 23

Lay Reader: Tom Gwyn

Children's Time: Mark Barden

Children's Church: Mary Keller

Acolytes/Chimer: Charlie Pelkey, Matthew Pelkey, Starr Morrison

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Silas Coley, Zara Petrocy

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

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

Counters: Gambill Aldridge, Margaret Tucker, Steve & Vickie Wells

Sunday, April 30

Lay Reader: Claire Grider

Children's Time: Cindy Furr

Children's Church: Jennifer Kleinheksel

Acolytes/Chimer: TBA

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: TBA

Greeters: Carey & Cindy Bruton, James & Lisa Freeman

Ushers: UMYF Members

Counters: Joan Sanders, Jill Bellia, Ercel & Stacey Carter

SOLID ROCK CAFE

Wednesday, April 5

Menu: Baked Potato Bar

Cooking Team Leader: Greta Wallace

Dessert: Powell, Harrison, Carroll, MacDonald, McDowell

Wednesday, April 12

Menu: Stew Beef, Rice, Peas & Carrots

Cooking Team Leader: George Brown

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

Wednesday, April 19

Spring Break - No Wednesday Evening Activities

Wednesday, April 26

Menu: Lasagna, Salad, Bread

Cooking Team Leader: David VanAntwerp

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

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

APRIL MEETINGS

Trustees

No April Meeting

Youth Ministry Team

Monday, April 10, 6:30 pm (Library)

Worship Ministry Team

Tuesday, April 18, 6:30 pm (Library)

Finance Team

Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 pm (Library)

Vision & Leadership Team

Sunday, April 23, 12:15 pm (Library)

Missions Team

Monday, April 24, 7:00 pm (Library)

CHOIR SNACKS

4 yrs - K: Tuesday - 2:45 pm

April 4 - Liam

April 11 - Maci

April 18 - Spring Break

April 25 - Brooklyn

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

April 5 - Giancarlo, Granger, Lydia

April 12 - Reece, Lily

April 19 - Spring Break

April 26 - Evan, Nolan

Congregational Care

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1 - Janet Canter, Bonnie Stuart
 April 3 - Amelia Wrenne Canter, Bern Schumak
 April 5 - Maddie Chappell
 April 6 - Jordan Chatham, Jim Cockerham, Sharon Harvey
 April 8 - Clyde Colwell
 April 10 - Ray Fencel
 April 11 - Lisa Freeman, Mary Tayloe
 April 12 - Andy Garner, Jane Hazelman
 April 13 - Amy Aldridge
 April 14 - Stephanie Gupton
 April 16 - David Robertson, Annabel Walker
 April 17 - Iris Amburn, Flynt Payne
 April 19 - Jimmie Taylor
 April 20 - Alex Duncan, Janice Powell, Kathy Gentry
 April 22 - Becky O'Connell
 April 24 - Jeff Canter
 April 25 - Melissa Smith
 April 26 - Maggie Walker
 April 27 - Chris Coley, Reid Turner
 April 28 - Pat James, Mary Ann Osment
 April 30 - James Gillespie, Ron Giudici, Steve Mackie

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 1 - Gamill & Amy Aldridge
 Jake & Rita Schot
 April 7 - J.L. & Jane Lowe
 April 10 - Ray & Mary McCrary

OUR SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to the following families:

- The Family of Anne Hine who passed away on March 3. A celebration of her life was held at Elkin FUMC on March 9.
- The Family of Dr. James Harrell Sr. who passed away on March 6. A celebration of his life was held at Elkin FUMC on March 11.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the sweet friends at First United Methodist Church in Elkin. We appreciate your love and kindness. Pastor Mark, the service was very uplifting. God bless you all. Let your light shine. Love and prayers.

-S. Caudle and Family

NEW BABY

Congratulations to Gardner and Lauren Meek upon the birth of their son, James Gardner Meek IV, born on March 13. He was 8 lbs. 1 oz. and 21.5 in. long.

BAPTISM

Donovan Waite Maines, son of Donald and Chelsea, was baptized by Rev. Mark L. Barden on March 19 during the 10:55 am worship service.

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 Elkhaiat, Ray Fencel, Linda Maxey, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Greta Wallace, Bill Amburn, Matthew Brown, 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, Laura Kennedy, Andy Garner's mother, Audrey Adkins, Aileen Sparks, Sarah Jarvis, John Seats, Vickie Key, Richard Sparks, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, McKenzie Barneycastle, Clifford Jordan, Rick Gallimore, Ronnie Ray, John R. Hall, Lelia Carico, Nada Sheets, Lana Craft, Gertrude Hamm, Emily Stewart, Family of Bob Norton, Andess Weishaupt, Ethan Spencer, Shirley Williams, Tim, James Sebastian

All of our military personnel and their families

Time to Care and Share with College Students

As the end of the academic semester and final exams approach, nothing lifts the spirits of a college student more than a care package from home. Once again, the youth are collecting goodies to go in care packages for about 20 college students from our congregation.

You are invited to help them out by bringing 20 of the same item(s) and drop them off at Cindy Furr's office before Sunday, April 23 when the youth will assemble them for mailing.



Items you may consider are Rice Krispies® treats, gum, homemade cookies, candy, popcorn packages, a note of encouragement, something homemade, or anything that you think they would like. This is just a small gesture of our love and care for these wonderful students as they prepare for a challenging time in the semester.



First United Methodist Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE STAMP HERE

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Amy Johnson, Director of Music/Children’s Ministries (ajohnson@elkinfumc.org)

Benjamin Wallace, Parish Life Coordinator (bwallace@elkinfumc.org)

Beth Darnell, Director of Weekday Programs (bdarnell@elkinfumc.org)

Pat Trexler, Custodian (ptrexler@elkinfumc.org)

George Brown, Assistant Custodian (gbrown@elkinfumc.org)

Submit articles/photos to the Church Office or email office@elkinfumc.org

To receive The First Word, send an email to 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.

FUMC Missions Expands to Include Trails

Elkin FUMC is extending its outreach to the community by partnering with the Elkin Valley Trails Association on the trail between Elkin and Stone Mountain. On Saturday, March 18, our volunteers joined others from Elkin Presbyterian Church to work on a trail section between Carter Mill Road and Brookfall Dairy Road.

Herb MacDonald, who is coordinating our efforts, is planning the next work day for Saturday, April 22, 8:30 am to do some “heavier work on the section we didn’t work on the last work day.” If you would like to volunteer, meet at the end of Yorkfield Dr. just off Carter Mill Road. For more information, feel free to contact Herb MacDonald at herbmacdonald999@gmail.com.

