

Pastor Mark packs away books, and other office items for his pending move to Shelby.

- Below

Summer Fun Days planned for the Kids at Elkin FUMC

- Page 4

Ministry Volunteers - Page 2

Announcements & Reminders - Page 3



*The First Word*

*Elkin*

First United Methodist Church

June 22, 2017

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## Pastor Mark Offers Parting Thoughts

Boxes are piled high at the church study and throughout the parsonage. Juggling a schedule with more than can fit on a calendar is overwhelming. A wide range of emotions run rampant. And questions about the future, with no definitive answers, dance through my mind. All are typical of a moving United Methodist pastor.

I've been experiencing it since I was born into a Methodist parsonage family residing in the little community of Hiddenite in Alexander County. Methodist itineracy is a way of life for me. Though a familiar "ritual," it is not easy. There is a side of moving that is uncomfortable and unsettling. Yet, it is unavoidable.

As I make the move to Shelby, I will leave behind many cherished friends, a community that offers so many wonderful opportunities, and a congregation that will continue to move into the future blessed by the grace of God. I know that you will be in good hands as Mike Shuford assumes the leadership role as your pastor. He is a gifted man of God committed to Jesus Christ.

As I reflect upon my tenure in Elkin, I see growth and change, both in myself and in our congregation. Some of it has been joyous and fulfilling. Some has been challenging and uncomfortable. Yet, I sense God's hand at work through it all. One of the best lessons I've learned in life (and still need continual reminding) is that God is always present in the best of times and the not-so-good times. As I mentioned in Sunday's sermon, it is up to us to find God in the midst of change and chaos. God will be in the midst of it all because God is faithful.

The FUMC congregation has been such a blessing for which I will be forever grateful. There are so many fond memories that I will take as my life turns down a different path. I feel like singing, "Thanks for the memory," as the great entertainer Bob Hope used to sing at the end of his performances. In spite of my imperfections and short-comings, the love and support you have given me during the past six years will forever be a memory in my mind and a blessing in my heart. Though I will no longer serve as your pastor, we will continue to be brothers and sisters in the wondrous family of God. Thanks be to God!

The time has gone by quickly. And as one of my favorite performers, Carol Burnett, sang at the end of her weekly television show, "I'm so glad we had this time together, just to have a laugh or sing a song. Seems we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say so long." I won't say "so long," just "till we meet again."

May God richly bless each one of you and uphold you, along with Mike Shuford, your new pastor. I pray you will welcome Mike and Donna warmly and quickly integrate them into your lives as I know both of them will a blessing to you. I know good things are ahead for FUMC and I hope I have contributed in some way to the foundation upon which subsequent pastors, working with all of you in this congregation, will shape as God leads.

Love in Christ,

### *Transition Timeline*

**July 2** - Mark's Last Sunday

**July 5** - Shufords Move Into Parsonage

**July 9** - Transition Sunday

**July 10** - Mike Shuford's First Day in the Office

**July 16** - Pastor Shuford's First Sunday

# Ministry Volunteers

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Sunday, July 2

**Lay Reader:** Dan Park

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

**Acolytes/Chimer:** Erika Snider, Alyssa Snider, Raelin Carter

**Crucifer/Banner Bearer:** Paul Grider, Luke Bellia

**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 Rhyne

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

**Radio Commentator:** Tiger Sloop

### Sunday, July 9

**Guest Preacher:** Cindy Furr

**Lay Reader:** Jon Garing

**Children's Church:** Kristi Gaddis

**Acolytes/Chimer:** Cama Ball, Chandler Beals, Margaret Freeman

**Crucifer/Banner Bearer:** Silas Coley, Henry Freeman

**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

**Radio Commentator:** Bob Midkiff

### Sunday, July 16

**Lay Reader:** Martha Smith

**Children's Church:** Melissa Cline

**Acolytes/Chimer:** Matthew Pelkey, Charlie Pelkey, Eli Powell

**Crucifer/Banner Bearer:** Jade Byerly, Ashley 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

**Radio Commentator:** Frank Beals

### Sunday, July 23

**Lay Reader:** Suzie Andrew

**Children's Church:** Rachel Eidson

**Acolytes/Chimer:** Lucas Keller, Annabelle Walker, Paul Brinegar

**Crucifer/Banner Bearer:** Alex Duncan, Lilly Walker

**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

**Radio Commentator:** Tiger Sloop

### Sunday, July 30

**5th Sunday in the Fellowship Hall**

**Lay Reader:** Isaac Powell

**Greeters:** Carey & Cindy Bruton, James & Lisa Freeman

**Ushers:** UMYF Members

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

## JULY MEETINGS

### Finance Team

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

### Vision & Leadership Team

Sunday, July 23, 12:15 pm (Fellowship Hall)

## Youth Volunteer at Tri - C



On June 14, Cindy Furr and several of our youth kicked off the Summer by volunteering at Tri-C in Jonesville



# Congregational Care

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 2 - Mary McCrary, Rita Schot  
 July 3 - Ann Garner, Stone Wells  
 July 6 - Roland Cash, Rob Peterson  
 July 7 - Jennifer Kleinheksel  
 July 9 - Caroline Hall, Erika Snider  
 July 10 - Palmer Duncan, Sam Tesh  
 July 11 - Joel Johnson  
 July 12 - Fred Eidson  
 July 14 - Daniel Brinegar  
 July 15 - Ava Brinegar, Carolyn Comer, Stacey Carter  
 July 16 - Jon Garing  
 July 17 - Sam Neaves Jr.  
 July 19 - Wendy Giudici  
 July 21 - Leigh Freeman, Betty Charles  
 July 22 - Tom Bryan Jr.  
 July 23 - Bliss Vanderpool  
 July 26 - Madison Coe, Phyllis Qualheim, Stacie Eller  
 July 27 - John Comer  
 July 29 - Rick Caudle, Granger Teachey, Lydia Teachey

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 1 - Herb & Linda MacDonald  
 July 12 - Roland & Loretta Cash  
 July 21 - Wayne & Kathy Gentry  
 July 22 - Carey & Paula Gupton  
 July 24 - James & Lisa Freeman

## 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 Fencl, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Glenda Brown, Ercel Carter, PJ Elkhayat, Dan Park, nursing home residents & homebound

**Extended Care:** Jim Cockerham, Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Jenny Brown, Frances Harris, Mary Neil, Linda Maxey

**Extended Family:** Ruth Deck, Aileen Sparks, John Seats, Richard Sparks, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Clifford Jordan, Ronnie Ray, Nada Sheets, Lana Craft, Emily Stewart, Ethan Spencer, Anne Marlette, Clyde Snyder, Florence Leveritt, Ana Garciana, Steve McLain, Betty Jordan, Linda Caudill, Jeff Miltner, Family of Bob Bedford, Family of Chad Sowers, Kristan Seaford

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

**BIBLE SUPERHEROES VBS:** Our VBS kicks off Sunday, June 25 with swimming at the Elkin Park Pool from 5:00-7:00 pm. VBS will then be held each night at the church (June 26-29) from 5:30-8:15 pm. Bring your friends and come join us for Worship, Music, Games, Science, Service & Stories! For more info or to volunteer contact Amy Johnson at the church office: 336-835-2323 or by email: [ajohnson@elkinfumc.org](mailto:ajohnson@elkinfumc.org).

**FAREWELL COOKOUT:** A farewell cookout for Pastor Mark will take place in the Fellowship Hall on July 2 following the 10:55 am worship service. We will have hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and dessert. Feel free to dress casually for church on this Sunday. Come and wish him well on his new appointment.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** The church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

**WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT:** There are a few spots left for the annual Women's Fall Retreat to Lake Junaluska, November 2-5. A deposit of \$40 will hold your spot for the trip. For more information or to sign up, contact Jane Hazelman at 336-244-6557.

**TRI-C DONATIONS NEEDED:** Toilet Tissue is the needed item for July. They are also accepting Bibles to give out to clients. Deposit toilet tissue, Bibles, and any non-perishable food items or toiletries in the basket under the table at the administrative entrance.

**CHURCH PICNIC IN THE MOUNTAINS:** Mark your calendar! The annual church picnic at Phyllis Qualheim's mountain home is going to be held on Sunday, August 27. More information to come!

**PRESCHOOL NOW ENROLLING:** It's already time to begin enrolling in our Weekday Programs for the 2017/2018 school year. The first day back for the kids will be September 5. For more information contact Weekday Programs Director, Beth Darnell at 336-835-2323 or [bdarnell@elkinfumc.org](mailto:bdarnell@elkinfumc.org). Register online at <http://elkinfumc.org/weekday-registration>.

**STEPS RENOVATION:** 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. Prayerfully consider a contribution and designate it for the Capital Fund. For more information, contact Steve Wells, Trustees Chairperson ([stevenwlls990@gmail.com](mailto:stevenwlls990@gmail.com)).

## No Early Service on June 25

Please join us for Worship at 10:55 am in the Sanctuary as Dr. Randy Bledsoe delivers the message while Pastor Mark is at Lake Junaluska for Annual Conference.



First  
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Methodist  
Church

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE  
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HERE

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**Church Staff:**

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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.



# Summer Fun Planned for Kids

Amy Johnson and the Children’s Ministry Team have been working hard to plan a fun summer for all the kids at Elkin FUMC! Take a look at some of the upcoming events planned:

**Wednesday, July 5**  
Bo’s Family Entertainment, Lenoir

- ◆ Leave the parking lot at 8:30 am
- ◆ Arrive in Lenoir by 10:00 am
- ◆ Return to church by 3:30 pm
- ◆ Chaperones needed!
- ◆ Cost: \$15 (includes admission, unlimited games, lunch, gas)
- ◆ Please bring soap, shampoo, deodorant to help the church’s “Neighbor’s Pantry” project

**Wednesday, July 19**  
Blueberry Hill, Elkin

- ◆ Swim, games, cookout/s’ mores
- ◆ Leave the parking lot at 4:30 pm
- ◆ Return to church by 7:30 pm
- ◆ Please bring playdoh/matchbox cars/ coloring books/crayons/gently used toys for The Ark

**For more info contact Amy Johnson at the church office (336-835-2323)  
or visit [www.elkinfumc.org/summer-fun](http://www.elkinfumc.org/summer-fun)**