

Mid-Month Update



The First Word



First United Methodist Church

July 20, 2017

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Missions Celebration Set for August 6



Elkin FUMC Youth have been busy this Summer on several mission trips. Thanks to the generous support of our membership, our youth were able to minister to people in Wilkes County, Asheville and Honduras.

Join us on Sunday, August 6 for our 10:55 am Worship Service as our youth share highlights of how they have seen God at work this Summer through their mission work.

Jon Garing will also share about his recent trip to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana.



Let's Go Fishing!

“Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’” Matthew 4:19

Anyone who knows me, knows that I have been an ardent fan of The Andy Griffith Show for decades. Now I realize people here in Surry County may be tired of hearing about that show or enduring the comparison, but I have found that there are so many people, in so many places, who have an affection for Andy, Barney, Opie and Aunt Bea. There's a worldwide organization of fans of “TAGS.” You may recall the opening credits as Andy and Opie are walking to their favorite fishing hole and someone is whistling a tune that so many people now can instantly recognize. That tune has a title, *The Fishin' Hole*. I tend to think that the reason so many of us are endeared to the folks of Mayberry is that in a world so full of noise, confusion, violence, dishonesty, and immorality, secretly many of us would kind of like to live in Mayberry, even for a short time. It's peaceful, friends and acquaintances abound, and it seems safe in so many ways. I think that is why so many people are drawn to the ideals of Mayberry.

One day, by another fishin' hole, Jesus met two sets of brothers; Simon and Peter, James and John. We're not told much about this encounter other than Jesus called for them to follow him, and suddenly they left their boats, their nets, their livelihoods, everything they had ever known to follow this guy from a village on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. WHY? What drew them to this man that would cause them to give up so much to follow him? Was it his gentle nature? His voice of authority? I dare say that we all might detect something different in Jesus that attracts us. So now the disciples and we fish for people.

As I notice the empty pews in so many of our churches today, I think that there are many people who harbor a concealed desire to share that rock at the fishin' hole with Jesus, but they are fearful to approach. They are uncertain if they are welcome or wanted. Our first reaction is that everyone is welcome and wanted by Jesus, but they don't know that! That's when our people fishing skills must kick in. We call them to join us (invitation is the first step), but just telling them about this man Jesus is not enough. They need to SEE Jesus in us. So, if we are going to fill up the rocks (pews) around the fishin' hole, each of us must invite, tell, and show Jesus to all those with that secret or identified desire to know him. Let's go fishing!

“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”

Shalom,

Mike

Pastor Mike's Contact Info

Office: 336-835-2323

Parsonage: 336-530-4213

mshuford@elkinfumc.org

Announcements & Reminders

SUMMER FUN DAYS FOR KIDS: Our next trip of the Summer will be to the Greensboro Science Center on Wednesday, August 2. We'll leave from the church parking lot at 8:30 am and return by 4:30 pm. Please bring a bag lunch/drink, gift shop money and toothbrushes/toothpaste for Grace Clinic. Visit the Summer Fun For Kids page on the church website for more information at www.elkinfumc.org/summer-fun.

FREE ITEMS: The Trustees are cleaning out here at the church and have found several electronics that are no longer used by the church. If you or anyone you know could use any of the following items please contact Ben Wallace at the church office by July 31. The items are: 3 inkjet printers (2 with scanners), 1 stand alone scanner, 1 Dell computer monitor (old style, not flat screen).

THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM will be meet on Monday, August 7 at 2:30 pm in the Library. If you would like to join our team in visiting homebound members please join us.

PRESCHOOL NOW ENROLLING: It's already time to begin enrolling in our Weekday Programs for the 2017-2018 school year. Open house will be held Tuesday, August 22 from 4-6 pm. The first day back for the kids will be September 5. For more info contact Weekday Programs Director, Beth Darnell at 336-835-2323 or bdarnell@elkinfumc.org. Register online at www.elkinfumc.org/weekday-registration. *Please note: our two year old class is already full.

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: Our annual church picnic at Phyllis Qualheim's mountain home will be held on Sunday, August 27. We will eat around 5:30-6:00 pm. Feel free to come any time after lunch to swim in the lake or play on the beach area. Just bring food to share and folding chairs, blankets, etc. to sit on. Tea and paper products will be provided. Directions will be printed in the next edition of *The First Word*.

STEWARDSHIP REVIEW

June 2017

Income: \$23,467.15

Expenses: \$52,969.42

Difference: (\$29,502.27)

January - June 2017

Income: \$195,324.87

Expenses: \$221,600.37

Difference: (\$26,275.50)

Covered Dish Luncheon to Welcome the Shufords

We will have a covered dish luncheon for Pastor Mike and his wife, Donna on Sunday, July 30 after the 10:55 am service. The church will supply the drinks and paper products. We ask our church family to bring your favorite dish to share with everyone as we meet together in fellowship and welcome the Shuford's. You may drop off your food items in the Fellowship Hall prior to the 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 Fencil, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Glenda Brown, Ercel Carter, PJ Elkhaiat, 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, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Clifford Jordan, Ronnie Ray, Nada Sheets, Emily Stewart, Ethan Spencer, Anne Marlette, Clyde Snyder, Florence Leveritt, Ana Garciana, Steve McLain, Betty Jordan, Linda Caudill, Jeff Miltner, Kristan Seaford, Sharon and Brad Watterson, Pierce & Aishling, Lonnie Snider, Rev. Bill Brown, Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop

All of our military personnel and their families

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Melissa Smith and her family upon the death of her father, George McLaney, on June 27. Please keep Melissa and the family in your prayers.

THANK YOU

I can't thank you enough for the great day of celebration on July 2 for my last Sunday as your pastor. I am totally "blown-away" by the extraordinary quilt that was lovingly crafted by some very talented quilters. The inclusion of the men's ties adds a deeper level of appreciation for such a treasure. Thanks for all your love, which I will carry in my heart always. Blessings, Mark.

Church Office: 336-835-2323
Fax: 336-835-8035
Website: www.elkinfumc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/elkinfumc
Email: office@elkinfumc.org
Church Staff:
Rev. Michael A. Shuford, Pastor (mshuford@elkinfumc.org)
Cindy Furr, Director of Discipleship (cfurr@elkinfumc.org)
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)

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



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