

The Cherub Choir Assembles
Blessing Bags that can be handed
out to the homeless - Below

A New VBS Opportunity -
Page 2

Birthdays & Anniversaries - Page 3

March Meetings - Page 3

Greeter & Usher Orientation - Page 4

Spring Faith Formation - Page 5

Thoughts from Pastor Mike - Back Page



The First Word

Elkin

First United Methodist Church

February 22, 2018

Vol. XXXIII, No. 4



MARCH MISSIONS FOCUS

STONE'S THROW
CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

The mission of Stone's Throw Christian Ministry is to glorify God by providing assistance to individuals, churches, missions teams and other agencies. They gather and provide the resources needed to assist those who are hurting.

The missions team is sponsoring a work day at Stone's Throw Distribution Center (1657 North Bridge St) on Saturday, March 17 from 9 am - 1 pm. A sign up sheet is located on the Missions Bulletin Board outside of Pastor Mike's office. For more information contact Missions Team chair, David VanAntwerp at 336-244-1808.

Thank you,
Elkin FUMC Missions Team

Holy Week at Elkin FUMC

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25

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 service will climax with a thought-provoking anthem that will set the tone for the week.

Holy Thursday, March 29

7:00 pm – A Celebration of The Eucharist and Tenebrae Service

“Maundy” comes from the Latin word for “commandment.” Before His crucifixion, Jesus celebrated the Passover for the last time with his disciples. “Tenebrae” is Latin for “shadows.” The Tenebrae service dates back to the eighth century and commemorates the passion and death of Jesus Christ. We will begin with subdued lighting. As the candles are extinguished, the darkness deepens. The service will conclude by stripping the sanctuary. After the benediction you are invited to leave in silence to honor this solemn occasion.

Continued on next page.

Don't forget

Daylight Saving Time

begins March 11.

Continued from Front page

Saturday, March 31

10:00 am – Easter Egg Hunt

Easter, April 1

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!”

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.

2017 STEWARDSHIP REVIEW

January - December 2017

Income: \$418,239.54

Expenses: \$426,308.91

Difference: (\$8,069.37)

STEWARDSHIP REVIEW

January 2018

Income: \$27,900.85

Expenses: \$35,160.07

Difference: (7,259.22)

MARCH YOUTH SCHEDULE

Sun 3/4	9:45 am: Sunday School 4:00 pm: Confirmation 5-7 pm: Pizza & Games at Ball Home
Wed 3/7	6:00 pm: Solid Rock Café 6:45 pm: Bible Study
Sun 3/11	9:45 am: Sunday School 4:00 pm: Confirmation 5:00 pm: Middle & Sr. High Youth
Wed 3/14	6:00 pm: Chili Cook Off Fundraiser
Sun 3/18	9:45 am: Sunday School 4:00 pm: Confirmation 5:00 pm: Middle & Sr. High Youth
Tues 3/20	4:45 pm: Maple Springs UMC Food Pantry
Wed 3/21	6:00 pm: Solid Rock Café 6:45 pm: Bible Study
Sun 3/25	9:45 am: Sunday School 4:00 pm: Confirmation 5:00 pm: Middle & Sr. High Youth
Wed 3/28	6:00 pm: Solid Rock Café 6:45 pm: Volunteer at The Ark

A NEW VBS OPPORTUNITY!

July 13-15, 2018



Friday, July 13

Kick-off Celebration!

Saturday, July 14 Learning Stations

Sunday, July 15 Breakfast and worship

This is a different format for us—a weekend of hands-on learning about Project AGAPE in Armenia and using our gifts and talents to provide for the people of Project AGAPE. Our weekend will end with an Armenian breakfast and sharing our experience in worship.

Project AGAPE was begun in 1993 as a joint ministry venture between the Western North Carolina and North Carolina conferences. Our efforts are the only humanitarian aid in the Kashatagh region in Armenia.

There will be ways for EVERYONE to participate! Watch the bulletin, *The First Word*, and church website for ways you can be involved! We're looking forward to a great experience!



ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

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 14 and Saturday, April 21 (must attend both days) at Wilkesboro UMC. Registration and a \$30 fee are required prior to attending. Contact the church office for more information or for an application form.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet on Monday, March 5 at 11:00 am in the parlor. Following the meeting, join us for lunch. All women of the church are invited to attend.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION will be held on Sunday, February 25 at 4:00 pm in the youth room. Any youth (age 12 and older) interested in taking Confirmation this year should plan to attend this orientation session **with their parents**. For more information contact Pastor Mike at the Church Office.

HENDERSON SETTLEMENT RETREAT: We will leave from Elkin FUMC at 9:00 am on Thursday, March 15 and head to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY. We will leave to come home at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 17. This is an introduction to Henderson Settlement so you can see all the great things they offer. Friday Kevin Derryberry from Alabama will be performing and there will be guest speakers. Come relax enjoy food and fellowship. The only cost is gas and food to and from; the retreat is free. Please let David VanAntwerp (336-244-1808) know by Wednesday, February 28 if you would like to attend.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 4 - Ellen Schumak
 March 5 - Charlie Pelkey
 March 6 - Jeanie Rhyne
 March 10 - Alison Ackerman
 March 11 - Gerald Combs
 March 12 - Hilary Irwin
 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

SOLID ROCK CAFÉ

Wednesday, February 28

Menu: Smoked Meats, Baked Beans

Desserts: Brown, Snider, Combs, Kleinheksel, Aldridge

Wednesday, March 7

Menu: Mexican Taco Bar

Desserts: Powell, Harrison, Shuford, MacDonald, McDowell

Wednesday, March 14

Menu: Youth Chili Cook Off

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

CHOIR SNACKS

4 yrs - K:

Tuesday - 2:45 pm

March 6 - Johanna
 March 13 - Alex, Mima
 March 20 - Liam
 March 27 - Benjamin

1st - 6th Grade:

Wednesday - 2:45 pm

March 7 - Jocelyn, Joseph, Jonas
 March 14 - Sadie, Lucas K
 March 21 - Olivia G, Ava, Emma
 March 28 - Maci, Charlie

OUR SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to the following:

- Louise Cockerham upon the death of her brother, Allen Laxton, on January 30. A graveside service will be held on Sunday, March 18 at 3:00 pm at Hollywood Cemetery.
- Bob Ball upon the death of his mother, Wilma Ball, on February 10. Visitation with the family and a graveside service were held February 16 in Mount Airy.
- Ann Foster upon the death of her sister, Joyce, on February 10.
- The Family of Pat James, Trish Grider's mother, who passed away on February 22. (No arrangements have been made at the time of publication of *The First Word*.)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, March 4

Lay Reader: Jon Garing

Children's Church: Jennifer Kleinheksel

Acolytes/Chimer: Raelin Carter, Paul Brinegar, Lucas Keller

Crucifer: Luke Bellia

Counters: Dave Johnson, Gardner & Lauren Meek

Sunday, March 11

Lay Reader: Suzie Andrew

Children's Church: Charlotte Guyer, Carrie Morrison

Acolytes/Chimer: Grant Leeds, Lydia Teachey, Granger Teachey

Crucifer: Eli Powell

Counters: Mike Powell, Andy & Ann Garner

Sunday, March 18

Lay Reader: Grace Harrison

Children's Church: Rachel Eidson

Acolytes/Chimer: Reece Long, Ella Kleinheksel, Bronwyn Sloop

Crucifer: Chandler Beals

Counters: Frank Beals, David & Betsy Robertson

Sunday, March 25

Lay Reader: Martha Smith

Children's Church: Kristi Gaddis

Acolytes/Chimer: Erika Snider, Alyssa Snider, Starr Morrison

Crucifer / Banner: Silas Coley, Ashley Hunsucker

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

MARCH MEETINGS

Vision & Leadership Team

Monday, March 12, 7:00 pm (Library)

Trustees

Tuesday, March 13, 7:00 pm (Library)

Children's Ministry Team

Sunday, March 18, 2:00 pm (Library)

Worship Ministry Team

Tuesday, March 20, 6:15 pm (Library)

Missions Team

Monday, March 26, 7:00 pm (Library)

UMCOR Sunday Gifts Enable Worldwide Disaster Response

March 11 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 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 11 or you may mail your contribution to the church office. Make checks payable to Elkin FUMC and note that it's for "UMCOR Sunday."

WHERE ARE YOU IN MINISTRY?

Among the first things you learn in confirmation is that EVERY Christian is a minister. So the question becomes, “How are you involved in ministry?” There are many valid answers to that question. One that I hope you will consider immediately is that of Greeter or Usher for our church. Sounds easy enough but consider this:



- Greeters and ushers are among the first people visitors and first time worshipers meet at our church.
- It is FAR MORE than just saying hello and handing someone a worship bulletin.
- Greeters can be youth (even children) up to senior citizens.
- We need Greeters posted at the front door, the back door, and even in the parking lot.
- Greeters need to be attuned to spot certain things, such as, do they require handicap parking and facilities, (do they know where the elevator is?), do they have small children (does the greeter need to take the family to the nursery before the sanctuary?), can you point out where the restrooms are? Can you seat them near someone similar to them and be sure to introduce them? Our list can go on.

As a matter of fact, hospitality is the responsibility and ministry of the ENTIRE congregation which includes you. Do you make it a point to speak to the people you do not know before or after worship? Do you make them feel welcome and wanted?

This will soon become the focus of our church ministry and it will include everyone, but we are looking for people, adults, youth, and older children, willing to serve as trained greeters, , to make sure visitors and new worshipers have found their church home. If God is calling you to that ministry, please speak to Pastor Mike, Jane Hazelman, or Steve Wells immediately.

Join us for our first Greeter and Usher Orientation/Training session on Thursday, March 1 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Dinner will be provided.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church Family: Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencl, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Ercel Carter, Dan & Sallie Park, Laura Gwyn, Gary Conrad, Bonnie Stuart, Cindy Furr, Greta Wallace, Loretta Cash, Family of Pat James, nursing home residents & homebound

Extended Care: Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Mary Neil, Linda Maxey

Extended Family: Ruth Deck, John Seats, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Clifford Jordan, Ronnie Ray, Nada Sheets, Emily Stewart, Ethan Spencer, Florence Leverett, Ana Garciana, Steve McLain, Betty Jordan, Linda Caudill, Jeff Miltner, Sharon and Brad Watterson, Pierce & Aishling, Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop, Lynn & Dale Rose, Buck Freeman, Lorene Newman, Michael Hines, Dennis Staley, Robert Miller, Joan Shuford, Dr. Richard Belcher, Dr. Gladys Campbell, Mary Harper Edsall, Nan Boyd, Gus Bellia, Lonnie Snider, Teresa Shook, Millie Joyce, Martha Key, Kidd Family, Phyllis Lowe, Family of Margaret Poole Griffin, Rev. Tyler Hege, Rev. Juston Smith, Rebekah Ralph, Amy Shuford, Deborah S. Smith, Judy Moody, Family of Randy Core

All of our military personnel and their families

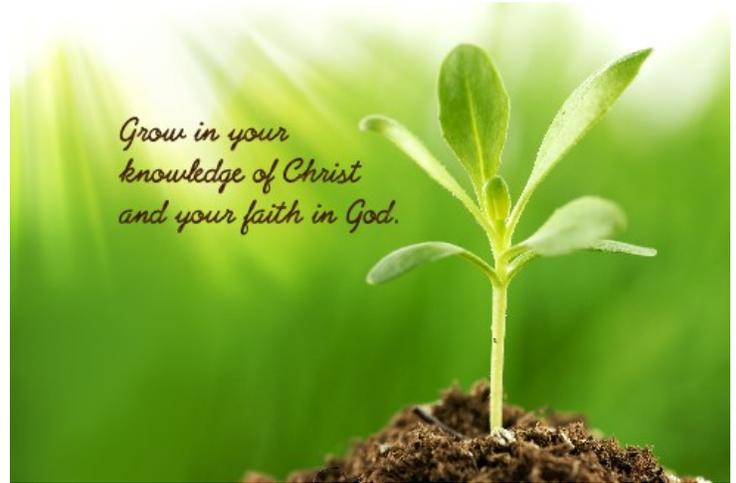
CHILI COOK-OFF TO BENEFIT YOUTH MISSIONS

The next youth fundraiser for missions is the Chili Cook-Off on Wednesday, March 14, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Several varieties of chili along with toppings, salad, cornbread and peanut butter/jelly sandwiches are on the menu. Judges will choose the champ of the cook-off.

This summer, our youth have mission trips planned to Carolina Cross Connection Home Repair in the foothills of western North Carolina (June 17-23), Carolina Cross Connection Urban Ministries in Asheville (June 24-30) and the CSM Mission Trip to New York City (July 29-Aug. 4). Our youth are actively engaged in missions and need to raise a significant amount of money to serve on these mission trips. Let's support them by attending the Chili Cook-Off. Additional donations will be accepted at the cook-off.

Spring Faith Formation

Faith formation is at the heart of what the Christian life is all about. As children of God, we are encouraged to explore and learn more about our relationship with God.



We believe the need to learn never stops, no matter what your age — especially when it comes to faith formation. That's why Elkin FUMC offers many growth and development opportunities for children, youth and adults, from on-going studies to short-term topic specific studies. For more information on any of the below Winter 2018 studies please contact the church office at 336-835-2323.

ADULTS

SUNDAYS

9:45am Sunday School

Forum Class

New Life Class

Explorers Class

5:30 pm JOY Bible Study

(Jesus, Others, You)

"Moses" by Adam Hamilton

5:30pm Men's Bible Study

"A Disciples Path" by James Harnish

TUESDAYS

11:30am JOY Bible Study

(Jesus, Others, You)

"Moses" by Adam Hamilton

WEDNESDAYS

6:30pm Bible Study

"The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

THURSDAYS

10am Adult Bible Study

"Moses" by Adam Hamilton

YOUTH

SUNDAYS

9:45am Sunday School

Worship Scriptures



6th graders
3pm 2nd Sunday of
each month



5pm-6:30pm

Middle & Sr. High

Virtues

Accountability, Unity, Confidence,

Happiness, Boldness & Joy

WEDNESDAYS

6:30pm Bible Study

Paul's Journey

****Other events/worship/missions

as scheduled

CHILDREN

SUNDAYS

9:45am Sunday School

Nursery- Newborn thru 4's

Mrs. Chatham's Class-

5's thru 6th grade

11:15 am
(Library)

4's-2nd grades



TUESDAYS

2:45 pm Cherub Choir 4's-K

WEDNESDAYS

2:45 pm Spirit Singers 1st-3rd grades

Gods Squad 4th-6th grades

Bible Study-Jesus' Life



6:30 pm Nursery

Children's Class 4's-6th grades
(Mrs. Chatham's Classroom)



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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)

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 are good stewardship of God's resources.

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MIKE

“Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’” Mark 1:15

The test of every sermon consists of 1) Do the people hear the Good News? and 2) What's the “so what?” Thus in the verse above we stand at the threshold of the Gospel message from the first Gospel (chronologically if not Biblically). Even though no one had truly yet recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the Incarnate God, he brings to them a very provocative statement that sums the sermon test up pretty well. First comes the Good News: the Kingdom of God has come near. Now, that could mean several different things depending on the hearer. First and foremost, the Messiah, the Incarnate God, is indeed present among them. Secondly, then the Kingdom of God, that I personally separate from the Kingdom of Heaven is *near* in that Jesus will establish the church upon the earth. The church will continue to proclaim the presence of God, to personify that presence, to extend to the whole world the sacrificial love that God provided for humanity. Such may become the Kingdom of God; the priesthood of believers that make up the Body of Christ. This love of God comprises the good news of the presence of God's Kingdom.

Secondly, there's the “so what.” That is repentance. The word “**repent**” literally means to turn around. In other words, if you are walking west, then you turn 180 degrees and walk east. In sin we are walking away from God; in repentance we are walking toward God. If we are walking toward God, then we are becoming more like God. We are more and more the incarnation of that love that makes up the Kingdom that has drawn near. So as we observe our Holy Lent, become aware of those things that require our repentance. Let us turn from our ungodly behavior and abandon that for more Godly action.

A whole sermon, in one sentence....

Shalom,
Pastor Mike