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The First Word

Elkin

First United Methodist Church

April 27, 2018

Vol. XXXIII, No. 8



"Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach. And said, 'Children, you have no fish, have you? Cast your net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. — John 21:4-6

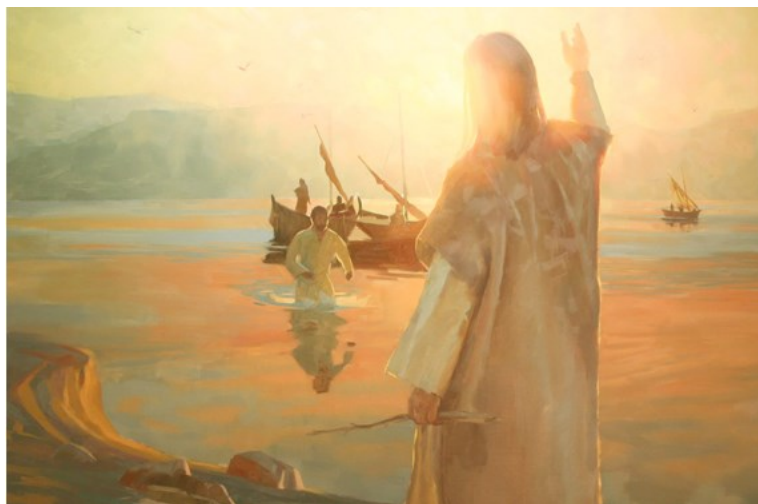
Among many passages of scripture that I think of as favorites, John 21 stands near the front of the line. It's really an intriguing passage for me. Add to that, that I have had the privilege to visit that beautiful spot and can envision it whenever I read this text.

First, note that the disciples are at a loss of what to do now that Jesus has been crucified. So they return to what they know—fishing! But that was NOT what Jesus called them to do. He called them to fish for people; but note this: without Jesus' presence or the thought of this presence, they utterly failed. Yet, when the Resurrected Jesus (note the fatherly address of "Children" now) shows up and they are obedient to him, even though it seemed futile, they were overwhelmingly successful. So, there must be something to this obedience thing after all and how successful might our witness be when we begin from a point of obedience to Jesus?

Then, Jesus goes on to ask Peter, "Do you love me more than these?"

These WHAT???

These boats, and nets that have been your life and livelihood up to now? More than these other disciples love me? Do you love me more than other men? In other words, do you love Jesus more than anything else in the world? Enough to be obedient to him? Yes? Then feed his sheep!



Shalom, Pastor Mike

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

APPLE JUICE NEEDED: Our Weekday Programs is currently in need of Apple Juice. You may place donations in the church office (Ben's office) on Sundays mornings or bring donations to Ben Wallace or Beth Darnell during the week.

LYDIA CIRCLE MEETING: Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, May 7 at 11:00 am in the parlor. Following the meeting, join us for lunch. All women of the church are invited to attend.

ARBOR ACRES SPECIAL OFFERING: On Sunday, May 13 the United Methodist Churches in the Western North Carolina Conference will be taking a special Mother's Day Offering for Arbor Acres, a United Methodist Retirement Community in Winston-Salem. This offering supports the financial assistance ministry at Arbor Acres, currently generating 30% of the Annual Fund income. More info will be in the bulletin on May 13 or you may visit www.arboracres.org. Please make checks payable to "Elkin FUMC" and memo that it's for "Arbor Acres."

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM: If you are aware of a member of FUMC who would like a visit, a card or a call from a member of our Congregational Care Team, please contact Sharon Harvey at 336-835-2510. One of our goals is to keep in contact with all shut-ins. We always welcome new members to our team. Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 7 at 2:30 pm in the Church Library.

THE YOUNG AT HEART will have another gathering on Monday, May 14 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will have Hamburgers, Baked Beans & Dessert. Cost is \$5 per person. Heather Macy from Tri-C will be with us to talk about a "Hunger Free Community." Please RSVP to Cindy Furr (336-835-2323, cfurr@elkinfumc.org) by Wednesday, May 9.

PENTECOST/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY—MAY 20: This is the Sunday to wear red as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and remember the day when tongues of fire descended upon the Christians gathered in the Upper Room. Pastor Mike will also confirm as Professing Members our 2018 Confirmands.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY: Sunday, May 27, we will collect a special offering that will support the United Methodist Peace with Justice Ministries. Gifts given to this ministry help fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. If you are unable to be here on May 27 you may send your contribution to the church office. Make checks payable to "Elkin FUMC" and note on the memo line that it's for "Peace with Justice." For more information visit www.umcgiving.org/PWJS.

CAMP TEKOA REGISTRATION: Dates for 2018 United Methodist Camp Tekoa have been set. Located near Hendersonville, NC, Camp Tekoa offers camps for children age 7 through high school. Hiking, rock climbing, ropes course, fishing, boating and evening camp fires are included. Scholarships and early registration discounts are available. For more information visit www.camptekoa.org.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION will be held on Thursday, May 24 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

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 Fencil, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Ercel Carter, Dan & Sallie Park, Laura Gwyn, Gary Conrad, Bonnie Stuart, Cindy Furr, Loretta Cash, nursing home residents & homebound

Extended Care: Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Mary Neil

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, Nan Boyd, Gus Bellia, Lonnie Snider, Teresa Shook, Millie Joyce, Martha Key, Kidd Family, Phyllis Lowe, Deborah S. Smith, Judy Moody, Family of Bruce Morton, Andra Hankey, Abe Heath, Betsy Robertson's Mother, Andrew Reece, Family of Daniella Suarez, Avery Neaves

All of our military personnel and their families

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for supporting our Carolina Cross Connection Staff Partnerships! With your support we have been able to reach our goals! Since this is a partnership, we are committed to keeping you updated on the ways in which God is working through CCC this summer. Please be on the lookout for updates about our summer experiences with CCC in future newsletters. Our next step is Staff Training beginning May 31st! We would appreciate your continued prayers and encouragement for the summer!

Blessings,
Emma Aldridge and Austin Coley

THANK YOU

Sometimes life takes a different turn, and in this case it was my deteriorating health. Because of my illness I am not able to join the church services at the time. I still hope it will change sometime. At the moment we are in the process of selling our hobby farm and home. We have bought a smaller house and property in Statesville, closer to our daughter's place. Early this summer we have to move out of here which means we have to say goodbye to all the lovely people of the church. We are going to miss you all. Thank you all for the cards, calls, visit and prayers. It has been very important to us and helped us to carry on.

God bless you all,
Jake and Rita Schot

Missions

LITTLE PANTRIES—UPDATE

You may have seen around the community little cabinets mounted on posts with food inside free to anyone who is hungry and has nothing to eat. These are part of an effort called, “Helping Hands – Your Neighbors’ Pantry,” which provides food, personal care products and other items that are needed by those who may not have funds to purchase them.

Of the eight pantries scattered throughout Yadkin Valley, the one located in front of Elkin City Hall has previously been stocked by Beanie Taylor, with donations provided by our church. Our Mission Team recently volunteered to take on the location 100%, meaning not only will the church provide the items for the pantry, but we will also keep it physically clean and stocked.

We are so excited that many of our young families have volunteered their time to be the “overseers!” During May Brent, Jennifer, Ella & Brooklyn Kleinheksel will keep the Little Pantry stocked for those in need. If your family would like to oversee the pantry during a one month period contact Cindy at the church office.

Please bring items to fill the “little pantry” and place in the boxes labeled “little pantry items” located at the office and fellowship hall entries.



Toiletry Items Suggested

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Band Aids
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Kleenex
- Hand Sanitizer
- Soap
- Toilet Paper

Food Items Suggested

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit (or in the plastic containers)
- Spaghetti O's
- Stew Beef
- Vienna Sausages
- Spam
- *NOTE: Try to get food items with pop tops & NO BEANS OF ANY KIND*

Current & Ongoing Mission Projects

Please place donations in the basket/bins located in the entryway of the church office.

BACKPACK PROGRAM SUPPLIES NEEDED

Elkin City Schools needs food to send home to students to sustain them through the weekend. 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.

SALTINE CRACKERS FOR TRI-C

Thanks to the abundance of Toilet Tissue donated by our church (1,442 rolls in 3 months), Tri-C has enough on hand to last until July. They have asked if we can begin donating Saltine Crackers instead of Toilet Tissue.

HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR AREA STUDENTS

The UMW are collecting supplies to help students in memory of Lynn Sloan Barnes and in memory of Nina Tharpe. Needed items include: deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, shaving cream, razors, feminine products, soap and hand sanitizer.

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!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 3 - Jack Turner
 May 4 - Jane Lowe
 May 5 - Catherine Schumak
 May 7 - Steve Erlandson
 May 8 - Jennifer Martin Brown, Holly Crater
 May 12 - Glenda Brown, Ann Foster
 May 14 - Betsy Brendle
 May 15 - Janet Adams, John Kennedy III
 May 16 - Ginny Mackie
 May 17 - Ryan Grider, Jillian Lewis, Darren Pelkey
 May 18 - Allen Sanders
 May 19 - John Kennedy Jr., Mike Powell
 May 21 - Lenna Hobson
 May 24 - Jarrett Peterson
 May 25 - Brian Carroll
 May 27 - Chris Chatham
 May 28 - Jim Jenkins, Bob Midkiff
 May 29 - Sallie Park

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 2 - David & Betsy Robertson
 May 5 - Marc & Tammy Ammen
 May 6 - Mike & Carol McDowell
 May 7 - Ty & Emily Tucker
 May 8 - Steve & Betsy Brendle
 May 9 - Dan & Sallie Park, John & Betty Sapper
 May 14 - Steve & Vickie Wells
 May 15 - Al & Jane Sartain
 May 19 - Rob & Gina Peterson
 May 22 - Alan & Billie Payne
 May 27 - Mark & Barbara Barden
 May 30 - Carey & Cindy Bruton

SOLID ROCK CAFÉ

Wednesday, May 2

Menu: Ham, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes

Desserts: Powell, Harrison, Shuford, MacDonald, McDowell

Wednesday, May 9

Menu: TBD

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

CHOIR SNACKS

4 yrs - K:

Tuesday - 2:45 pm

May 1 - Liam
 May 8 - Benjamin
 May 15 - Brooklyn
 May 22 - Park Day (Last Day)
 May 29 - No Choir

1st - 6th Grade:

Wednesday - 2:45 pm

May 2 - Evan, Callie
 May 9 - Karlee, Cama
 May 16 - Andrew, Erika, Alyssa
 May 23 - Addison, Raelin
 May 30 - Olivia B., Lucas H.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, May 6

Lay Reader: Ray Fencil

Children's Church: Rachel Eidson

Acolytes/Chimer: Granger & Lydia Teachey, Starr Morrison

Crucifer: Henry Freeman

Counters: Dave Johnson, Gardner & Lauren Meek

Greeters: Marian & Bill Green; J.L. & Jane Lowe; Mary, Michael, Lucas & Sadie Keller; Alison & Dave Ackerman, Leigh Freeman

Ushers: Frank Beals, Steve Mackie, John Kennedy

Sunday, May 13

Lay Reader: Richard Brinegar

Children's Church: Kristi Gaddis

Acolytes/Chimer: Lucas Keller, Erika & Alyssa Snider

Crucifer: Claire Grider

Counters: Mike Powell, Andy & Ann Garner

Greeters: Ann & Andy Garner; Steva & Randy Bledsoe, Vickie & Steve Wells; Grace Harrison; Peggy, Zara & Zena Petrocy, Emaline Cockerham, Martha Maier

Ushers: Steve Wells, David VanAntwerp, J.L. Lowe, Charlie Bellia

Sunday, May 20

Lay Reader: Tiger Sloop

Children's Church: Mary Keller

Acolytes/Chimer: Ella Kleinheksel, Cama Ball, Raelin Carter

Crucifer: Eli Powell

Counters: Frank Beals, David & Betsy Robertson

Greeters: Carol & Alex Snyder; Betsy & David Robertson; Steve Mackie, Rande Dent; Gerald Combs; Jennifer Martin Brown

Ushers: James Freeman, Henry Freeman, David Poindexter, Danny Freeman, George Crater

Sunday, May 27

Lay Reader: Eli Powell

Children's Church: Jennifer Martin Brown

Acolytes/Chimer: Reece Long, Paul Brinegar, Miles Cline

Crucifer: Luke Bellia

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

Greeters: David Poindexter; Gina & Rob Peterson; Gambill Aldridge; Joseph, Kristi, Wyatt & Hadley Gaddis; Randy, Yvonne, Ashley & Kelly Hunsucker

Ushers: Gary Conrad, Tiger Sloop, Gambill Aldridge, Tony Duncan

Fellowship Hall Entrance Volunteers:

1st Sunday: Jennifer Kleinheksel

2nd Sunday: Charlie Bellia

3rd Sunday: George Crater

4th Sunday: Gambill Aldridge

CHOIR PROGRAMS

4 yrs - K:

May 16
 6:30 pm
 Fellowship Hall

1st - 3rd Grade:

May 23
 6:30 pm
 Fellowship Hall

4th - 6th Grade:

May 30
 6:30 pm
 Fellowship Hall



First
United
Methodist
Church

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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 are good stewardship of God's resources.

FUMC HOSTS READERS' CHOICE LUNCHEON



On Friday, April 20 our church hosted a luncheon provided by the *Elkin Tribune* for all of the recipients of their "2018 Elkin Tribune Readers' Choice Award." Everyone in attendance enjoyed great fellowship and a catered barbecue lunch.

We are very proud to announce that our own Amy Johnson received an award for "Best Choir Director" and our church received an award for "Best Church."

We also had several church members receive awards! For more information see special section in the April 25, 2018 edition of *The Tribune*.

