

Henry Freeman mows a lawn during the recent youth Mission Trip with CCC - Image Below

Announcements,  
Reminders & Prayer  
Requests - Page 2

Vacation Bible School - Page 2 & 3  
Birthdays & Anniversaries - Page 3  
Worship Assistants - Page 3  
Blood Drive at Elkin FUMC - Page 2 & 4



*The First Word*

*Elkin*

First United Methodist Church

June 28, 2018

Vol. XXXIII, No. 11



As Jesus began his ministry, among the first things that he did was to gather a band of men together whom he called his disciples. The idea was to train them, teach them, lead them by example and thus to send them into all the world to teach, baptize and share the Good News of salvation with all the world. Over seventeen centuries later, a young Church of England cleric heard God call him to reform the church and to call them to reach out to people starving for grace. He called together some other men at Oxford University to study scripture and learn about Christ's ways and they called themselves the Holy Club. Others derided them for their methodical ways and dubbed them Methodists, and John Wesley adopted that name for a new movement within the church.

Wesley sent out "Methodist" preachers to share the Good News to all, even sending Methodist preachers to the colonies in America. Among their practices was that of Holy Conferencing, where they would meet at least annually to discuss ideas, to share ministries and how people were being reached and to decide which preacher was best suited to go to certain areas. Now, almost three centuries later, Methodists still meet for "Annual Conference" which just concluded at Lake Junaluska, the Methodist retreat center owned and operated by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

We heard some great sermons and sang boldly in the old Methodist tradition. We discussed ministries and new ideas for ministry and social justice. We heard about Fresh Expressions, new ways to present the Gospel, we heard about ways that lay folk, like yourselves, can be vibrantly involved in ministry. We discussed issues of immigration, human trafficking and other problems our culture is now facing. We ordained, commissioned and licensed, new clergy (including our own Rev. Cindy Furr, who will remain on our staff but add a quarter-time position as pastor of Charity UMC.)

We also heard from Bishop Ken Carter on The Way Forward, the group commissioned by the Council of Bishops at the request of the 2016 General Conference concerning the LGBTQ decision that we just cannot reach an agreement on. (We Methodists have always been a contentious bunch, but usually in a good way). In anticipation of that decision, I feel it vitally important that our entire congregation needs to have conversation concerning this matter in that the idea supported most by the Council of Bishops will require us to decide where we stand on this spectrum. I would much prefer you be educated and communicate your feelings to our church leadership team so that we can identify where we stand as a congregation and not just a decision by a small group of people. I considered doing this in worship via a sermon, but I have decided I really don't want to take worship time to do that. Therefore, I have chosen to take some time as we restart our Wednesday night suppers in the Fall to openly discuss this issue and allow for questions and conversations. If necessary, we could have an evening of conversation separate from our Wednesday night suppers for those who cannot attend the suppers. Please be in prayer that God will guide us. Listen for more information later.

Shalom,  
*Pastor Mike*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Don't forget to visit the "HELPING HANDS TREE" in the Narthex. Please take a helping hand (or more!), purchase the items, and return to the church office by July 11. These items will be used to fill 100 shoeboxes for Project AGAPE.

**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE:** Mark your calendar—we are hosting a blood drive in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, July 11 from 3:00 until 7:30 pm. Appointments are highly encouraged, but not required. A paper signup sheet is located in the narthex or you may sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Contact Ben Wallace in the church office for more information or to make an appointment via the telephone.

**SNACKS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BLOOD DRIVE:** A few volunteers are needed at registration and the snack table during our blood drive on July 11. We are also in need of some baked goods to provide donors. A signup sheet is located in the narthex or you may contact Ben Wallace at the church office.

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC:** Mark your calendar! Our annual church picnic is going to be held at the **Elkin Municipal Park, Shelter #1** beginning at 4:00 pm on Sunday, August 26. *Please note the new location this year.* Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Everyone is also invited to bring games to play (i.e. corn hole, bocce, volleyball, etc.)

**DON'T LET YOUR TITHE GO ON VACATION!** With Summer underway, many spend time enjoying God's creation through vacations. Whether you're planning to visit the beach or camp in the mountains, don't forget about FUMC. The church's various missions are well underway during the summer months and need your continued support. Contributions may be mailed to the church office (PO Box 69, Elkin, NC 28621) or made online via PayPal Giving Fund (<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/221649>).

**TRI-C REQUESTS SALTINE CRACKERS:** Tri-C has asked if we can begin donating Saltine Crackers instead of Toilet Tissue. Please place crackers in the basket in the entryway of the church office.

**AFRICA MISSION TRIP:** In August, Jon Garing will serve on a medical & building team trip to Africa with other United Methodists from the Louisiana Conference. Financial donations are being accepted to help the team purchase medical supplies/building supplies needed for the trip. If you would like to make a donation, please indicate "Africa Mission Trip" on your check. We will accept donations through Sunday, July 15 and then forward the donations to the trip's team leader so the supplies can be purchased ahead of the trip.

**TRIP TO BARTER THEATRE:** Youth and Adults of **all ages** are invited to go see *Sister Act* at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA on Wednesday, August 8. Cost is \$35 per person (plus the cost of your lunch). The church bus will leave at 9:30 am from the church parking lot and return at 6:00 pm. \$35 is due to Cindy Furr by July 1 to hold your spot. Make checks payable to Elkin FUMC and note that it's for Barter Theatre.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Church Family:** 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, Loretta Cash, Roland Cash, Tim & Jennifer Brown, Jerre Boren, Donna Thompson, Family of Ann Graham, Family of Betty Tesh, nursing home residents & homebound

**Extended Care:** Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Mary Neil, Bliss Vanderpool

**Extended Family:** Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop, Lynn & Dale Rose, Buck Freeman, Lorene Newman, Michael Hines, Dennis Staley, Robert Miller, Joan Shuford, Family of Dr. Richard Belcher, Dr. Gladys Campbell, Nan Boyd, Lonnie Snider, Teresa Shook, Millie Joyce, Martha Key, Kidd Family, Phyllis Lowe, Deborah S. Smith, Judy Moody, Abe Heath, Betsy Robertson's Mother, Andrew Reece, Family of Daniella Suarez, Avery Neaves, Connie Partin, Jeff Wishon, Brian Wilkenson, Nancy Yale, Family of Faye Martin, Family of Paul Tucker, Family of Stella Ledbetter

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

## OUR SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to the family of Ann Graham who passed away on June 12. A celebration of her life was held in our Sanctuary on June 16. Please keep Peter and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

We also express our sympathy to the family of Betty Tesh who passed away on June 15. A celebration of her life was held in our Sanctuary on June 18. Please keep Sam and the family in your thoughts and prayers.



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 2 - Mary McCrary, Rita Schot, Linda Fuqua  
 July 3 - Ann Garner, Stone Wells  
 July 6 - Roland Cash, Rob Peterson  
 July 7 - Jennifer Kleinheksel  
 July 9 - 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 21 - Leigh Freeman  
 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

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Celebrating Project AGAPE! July 13-15, 2018



### Kick-off Celebration!

Friday, July 13  
 6:00-8:45 pm  
 Covered dish dinner and pool party  
*Elkin Park Shelter & Pool*  
**Everyone welcome!**

### VBS Activities

Saturday, July 14  
 9:00 am-4:00 pm



### Breakfast and Worship

Sunday, July 15 - 9:30 am  
*Armenian style breakfast followed  
 by 10:55 worship to share our VBS  
 experience. Everyone welcome!*

## STEWARDSHIP REVIEW

### May 2018

Income: \$32,898.80  
 Expenses: \$29,246.87  
 Difference: \$3,651.93

### Jan - May 2018

Income: \$151,553.07  
 Expenses: \$172,561.09  
**Difference: (\$21,008.02)**

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Sunday, July 1

**Gathering Music:** Amy Tayloe  
**Lay Reader:** Jon Garing  
**Children's Time:** Amy Johnson  
**Children's Church:** Stacey Carter  
**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, July 8

**Gathering Music:** Tonya Smith  
**Lay Reader:** Suzie Andrew  
**Children's Time:** Ali Wells  
**Children's Church:** Charlotte Guyer, Carrie Morrison  
**Counters:** Mike Powell, Andy & Ann Garner  
**Greeters:** Ann & Andy Garner; Steva & Randy Bledsoe, Vickie &  
 Steve Wells; Grace Harrison; Zara & Zena Petrocy, Emaline  
 Cockerham, Martha Maier  
**Ushers:** Steve Wells, David VanAntwerp, J.L. Lowe, Charlie Bellia

### Sunday, July 15

**Gathering Music:** Allison Edwards  
**Lay Reader:** Eli Powell  
**Children's Time:** Amy Johnson  
**Children's Church:** Jennifer Martin Brown  
**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, July 22

**Gathering Music:** Jill Bellia  
**Lay Reader:** Martha Smith  
**Children's Time:** Ali Wells  
**Children's Church:** Mary Keller  
**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

### Sunday, July 29

**Gathering Music:** Kim Arnold  
**Lay Reader:** Ercel Carter  
**Children's Time:** Christie Harrison  
**Children's Church:** Jennifer Kleinheksel  
**Counters:** Joan Sanders, Jill Bellia, Ercel & Stacey Carter  
**Greeters:** James, Lisa, Henry, Margaret & Kennedy Freeman  
**Ushers:** Youth Members

### Fellowship Hall Entrance Volunteers:

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday:** Jennifer Kleinheksel  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:** Charlie Bellia  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday:** George Crater  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday:** Gambill Aldridge  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday:** Joan Sanders



First United Methodist Church

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

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.

PRESCHOOL ENDS WITH A COOL TREAT

Our preschool students enjoyed a stop for the ice cream truck on May 31 for their last day of school.



Elkin First United Methodist Church Blood Drive

Fellowship Hall
340 Hawthorne Road
Elkin, NC 28621

Wednesday, July 11, 2018
3:00 PM - 7:30 PM

For an appointment, contact the church at (336) 835-2323.