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The First Word

Elkin

First United Methodist Church
July 26, 2018 Vol. XXXIII, No. 13

TIDBITS FROM THE SHORES OF GALILEE—JOHN 21:1-19

One of my favorite scripture stories comes from the final chapter of John's Gospel where the disciples meet the resurrected Jesus on the beach for breakfast. First we note that the disciples had no luck in attracting and catching any fish, until Jesus was present. Then Jesus challenges Peter (remember the one who denied even knowing Jesus three times?). Jesus asks Peter, THREE TIMES, "Do you love me?" Peter always answered affirmatively and Jesus said, "Feed my sheep, care for my lambs." Well how do we do that? Evangelism is the key, the job of every single Christian and we begin with loving Jesus, knowing his presence, and taking care of the lambs. With that in mind, I want to share several related things that you should be aware of and I sincerely hope you will participate as best you possibly can:

- Invite! Invite! Invite! Make people feel wanted and welcome. I hear that Elkin HS has hired a new band director who comes from the Wesleyan Church tradition. She has already been invited to come and try our church and made to know our church will welcome her. I bet you know someone who needs a church home and family also. Invite!
- I have recently been contacted by District Court Judge Gretchen Hollar Kirkman (Ann Garner's daughter) who has a burden on her heart about families and kids on drugs and in dysfunctional situations and wishes to educate people on what happens in juvenile courts and custody battles with kids. I have invited her to attend one of our Wednesday night meals to come and share with us and tell us how we may help. Please be listening for when that will be and come hear what Judge Kirkman has to share with us.
- You have already heard me mention the called session of General Conference in February, 2019 to hear the report of the Way Forward Committee and hopefully act upon it. This deals with how the United Methodist Church will minister to LGBTQ persons and what changes will be made in our general church. The Council of Bishops (COB) have recommended three plans for consideration by the General Conference. This decision WILL effect our church! I plan to have at least one (more if necessary) session at our Wednesday night gatherings to highlight these plans for you. Particularly the **One Church Plan** which I have been led to believe is favored to pass. This plan calls for our congregation to state where we stand on the continuum presented. I truly believe that this will require some conversation among our congregation and communication to our Leadership Team as to where you believe this congregation should stand. As much as I trust the few members of our Leadership Team, I truly believe this congregation as a whole needs to communicate with them as to where we stand so that they may act appropriately should this plan go into place. Two other plans will be discussed as well. Please plan to be a part of these discussions, it is imperative to our church.
- Some members of our congregation have concerns about the projectors in the sanctuary. This was approved by our Leadership Team and let me explain why. It comes to the point of feeding the sheep. Foremost, most of our church members now are of the TV and electronic generation and are conditioned to be VISUAL as well as auditory learners. Yes, I know they are not attractive. I did not wish to distract from the beauty of the architecture in our sanctuary but the projectors that would work from the balcony are much more expensive. Consider how we can use these to educate our congregation: Imagine our announcements scrolling as people enter the church. Our scriptures, sermon quotes, and pictures of places and things discussed in the sermon could be put up and actually seen. Instead of the pastor simply trying to relate a movie scene as an analogy to the sermon, we could actually show the scene. Main points of the sermon could be flashed up. Allow me to continue. Potential church members, who are not members of a church family may not actually know the words to The Lord's Prayer, that we pretty much take for granted. Such things may be a hindrance to them attending church because they cannot recite such which can be embarrassing to them and a detriment to their return to church. Get the idea? It also becomes an evangelistic tool. Visuals can add so much to our understanding of the Bible and the world in which Jesus taught. Thanks for your patience as we continue to learn to use it effectively. I think you will all come to like it a lot. - Pastor Mike

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

MISSIONS CELEBRATION: 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 and around Casar, NC and in the Asheville area through Carolina Cross Connection. Join us on Sunday, July 29 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.

PASTOR MIKE WILL BE ON VACATION from July 30 until at least August 8. The Rev. Cindy Furr will be on call for emergencies in Pastor Mike's absence.

MUSIC SUNDAY: The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus: "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." On Sunday, August 5, join us for a special service as we praise God through music! Since the worship service will be devoted to music incorporating leadership from our Chancel Choir, **we will have only one worship service (10:55 am) on August 5.**

DISASTER RESPONSE MEETING: The Western NC Conference Committee on Relief invites you to a Disaster Response meeting, Thursday August 9 from 10 am – 3 pm at Trinity UMC in Statesville. Lunch will be provided. The meeting will include an overview of the Committee's new structure, an introduction to Ricky Hill, the new Disaster Response Coordinator, and a dialogue of what the future of Disaster Response in our conference will or should be.

PRESCHOOL NOW ENROLLING: It's already time to begin enrolling in our Weekday Programs for the 2018-2019 school year. We only have a few spots left in the 4 year old class. For more info contact Weekday Programs Director, Beth Darnell at 336-835-2323 or bdarnell@elkinfumc.org.

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.)

SOLID ROCK CAFÉ RESUMES AUGUST 29

Join us on August 29 as we kick off Fall activities at FUMC. We will have inflatables on the front lawn for the kids to play on from 5:30-7:30 pm. Peter and George will be grilling hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages for dinner at 6:00 pm (in the Fellowship Hall).

SUMMER FUN DAYS FOR KIDS



Our next trip will be to Bo's Family Entertainment in Lenoir on Wednesday, August 8. Cost is \$17 per person (includes transportation, admission, unlimited games & lunch). We will leave the church at 9:30 am and return by 4:30 pm. Chaperones are needed! Deadline to sign up is 12:00 pm on Wednesday, August 1.

Please bring school supplies to donate to area schools.



STEWARDSHIP REVIEW

<u>June 2018</u>	<u>January - June 2018</u>
Income: \$36,358.87	Income: \$187,911.94
Expenses: \$50,317.27	Expenses: \$222,613.36
Difference: (\$13,958.40)	Difference: (\$34,701.42)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church Family: Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencil, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Ercel Carter, Dan & Sallie Park, Gary Conrad, Bonnie Stuart, Loretta Cash, Roland Cash, Tim & Jennifer Brown, Jerre Boren, Donna Thompson, Family of Laura Gwyn, Rev. Steve McLain, nursing home residents & homebound

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

Extended Family: Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop, Buck Freeman, Lorene Newman, Michael Hines, Dennis Staley, Robert Miller, Joan Shuford, Dr. Gladys Campbell, Nan Boyd, Lonnie Snider, Teresa Shook, Millie Joyce, Martha Key, Kidd Family, Phyllis Lowe, Judy Moody, Abe Heath, Betsy Robertson's Mother, Andrew Reece, Avery Neaves, Connie Partin, Jeff Wishon, Brian Wilkenson, Nancy Yale, Family of Faye Martin, Family of Paul Tucker, Family of Tim Evans, Keith Stanley, Damon Long, Rick Smoot, Linda Caudill, Family of Mike Wainright, Tom Medlin

All of our military personnel and their families

OUR SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to The Family of Laura Gwyn who passed away on July 14. A celebration of her life was held in our Sanctuary on July 18. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1 - Brooklyn Kleinheksel, Dennis Thompson
 August 2 - Jeff Eidson, Hugh Turner, George Brown
 August 4 - Robert Ball Jr.
 August 7 - John Caudle, David Cline, Ben Erlandson
 August 8 - Harper Maines
 August 10 - Jerre Boren, Tonya Smith
 August 11 - Darlene Love
 August 13 - Eris Ball, Jennifer Chatham, Sebastian Cline,
 Omega Seaford, Phebe Eller
 August 15 - Stephanie Caudle
 August 16 - Carson Rose Canter
 August 18 - Jane Dale
 August 19 - Wayne Coe
 August 20 - Rande Dent
 August 21 - James Brendle, Tom Bryan, Robin Turner
 August 22 - Eli Powell
 August 24 - Damon Chappell
 August 25 - Ann Neaves, Ben Wallace
 August 26 - Heston Canter, Jill Chatham, Tammy Coley,
 Piper Lewis, Gina Peterson
 August 28 - Thomas James, Tyler Ammen
 August 29 - Jim Teachey, Blair Collie
 August 30 - Barbara Meek
 August 31 - Jill Bellia, Paige Nance

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 6 - David & Jennifer Poindexter
 August 9 - Ray & Susan Parker
 August 22 - Ray & Pam Fencil
 August 23 - Richard & Paula Davies
 August 25 - Brian & Lori Carroll, Larry & Rita Irwin
 August 31 - Bill & Marian Green

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries Sunday Set For August 26



On August 26 we will celebrate Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM) and receive a special offering along with in all the churches in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Jesus reminds us to be in ministry to the least of these

and specifically names the prisoner as one in need of ministry. DBOM grew from a call to take Disciple Bible Study to prison. The first Disciple prison class took place in the fall of 1995. Today, thousands of inmates have taken Disciple Bible Study in North Carolina prisons and hundreds of local church volunteers have taught behind prison walls.

Please make your check payable to "Elkin FUMC" and mark that it's for "DBOM."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, August 5

Gathering Music: Amy Johnson
Lay Reader: Claire Grider
Children's Time: Kristi Gaddis
Children's Church: Kristi Gaddis
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, August 12

Gathering Music: Amy Tayloe
Lay Reader: Jane Hazelman
Children's Time: Amy Johnson
Children's Church: Rachel Eidson
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, August 19

Gathering Music: TBD
Lay Reader: Ellen Schumak
Children's Time: Nancy Ball
Children's Church: Stacey Carter
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, August 26

Gathering Music: TBD
Lay Reader: Ercel Carter
Children's Time: Yvonne Hunsucker
Children's Church: Charlotte Guyer, Carrie Morrison
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

An Easy Way To Give to Elkin FUMC

PayPal
 Giving Fund

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/221649>

100% of your donation comes to the church



First United Methodist Church

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PLACE STAMP HERE

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- Rev. Michael A. Shuford, Pastor (mshuford@elkinfumc.org)
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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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Thank you to all who contributed time, items, money, and prayers to our VBS experience. Project AGAPE will receive 100 shoeboxes, a quilted wall hanging, 10 birdhouses, and 2 large boxes of leftover shoebox items for their Children's Center.

A special thank you to Lori Carroll, Melissa Long, Joan Sanders, Marian Green, Courtney & Chandler Beals, Ashley & Yvonne Hunsucker, Kristi & Taylor Gaddis, Stacey Carter, Tammy Coley, Amy Aldridge, Charlotte Guyer, Dave Johnson, Steve Wells, Linda Erlandson, and Cindy Furr for giving their time to our VBS. We had a great day!

