

Parish Life Coordinator Position,
Charge Conference and more -
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Mid-Month Update

TRUST IN THE LORD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
AND DO NOT LEAN ON
YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.

Proverbs 3:5

*The First
Word*

Elkin

First United Methodist Church

August 9, 2018

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It is good to be back among you after some time away. We had a good trip and were overjoyed to see Amy pinned after completing her BSN from St. Xavier University. Now it's back to the business of growing our relationship in Christ and as part of the church.

A few things for your attention: As most of you know by now, Ben Wallace, our Parish Life Coordinator, has accepted a full-time position at a larger church closer to his home. We certainly wish Ben well and God's blessings in his new position and hope he enjoys it immensely. (See a letter from Ben on page 3) In the meantime, we have begun the search for Ben's replacement. (see note at bottom of the page).

We begin our Wednesday night suppers again on August 29 with George and Peter cooking out for us and there will be entertainment for the children on the front lawn. At the NEXT Wednesday night meal, September 5, I would like to invite everyone to meet after the meal so that I may be able to explain to you the plans of the Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops. This has to do with our relationship with the LGBTQ community. The commission has offered several plans and I hope to sufficiently articulate the three plans chosen by the Council of Bishops to present to the General Conference at the called meeting in February, 2019. Any of these three plans will effect the United Methodist Church and every local church as well. It probably will require some type of decision by our congregation and I want you to have some time to discuss this with one another and then our Leadership Team as well. This decision, I feel, should be made by the whole church and not just a dozen or less folks on the Leadership Team. Though I have complete confidence in them, they need to hear from you.

Charge conference will soon be upon us which means that our various teams will need to meet by deadline to complete their reports. We will also be electing people such as yourself to fill slots on various teams. If you have an interest in serving on any of our committees, please let me know as soon as possible so that your name may be considered.

August 26 will be Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM) Sunday. This will be one of our conference offerings as we support DBOM in places beyond our local churches. In the past this has been mostly for prison ministries and now we are told that NC Corrections has done away with the Chaplain positions and therefore, some of these funds will be used to help make up for that loss. Consider giving a little extra above your regular offering to help support this important ministry.

- Pastor Mike

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is currently accepting applications for the Parish Life Coordinator position. If you know anyone who may be interested in the position, please have him/her send a cover letter and resume to: Rev. Mike Shuford, c/o Elkin FUMC, PO Box 69, Elkin, NC 28621 or mshuford@elkinfumc.org. For more info call the church office at 336-835-2323. The job posting can be found on our website at: www.elkinfumc.org/news/open-position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

LAITY SERVICE AWARD: The Laity Service Award is promoted by the WNCC Board of Laity as a means of recognizing a deserving lay person whose work in the local church and community exemplifies a life of Christian stewardship. The recipients from our church (one adult and one youth/young adult) will be honored during a district-wide celebration being held at Millers Creek UMC on Sunday October 21. If you would like to nominate someone from our church please pick up a "2018 Laity Service Award Selection Form" from the table outside of the Church Library. Please return forms to Pastor Mike by Sunday, August 26.

BLESSING BUCKET PACKING: Stone's Throw Christian Ministries (1657 N. Bridge St.) is holding a Blessing Bucket Packing on Monday, August 13 beginning at 6:00 pm. 5 gallon buckets will be filled with over 21 items, including the Word of God, and then sent into disaster areas. The goal is to pack 400 buckets! Anyone age 8 (with parent) and up are welcome to participate. For more info contact Mitch Callaway at 336-366-7591.

Trip to MRC ON AUGUST 15: The WNCC Mission Response Center is in great need for volunteers to help process donations. We have arranged to take the church van to the MRC near Mooresville on Wednesday, August 15, leaving the church at 9:15 am and returning around 2:00 pm. We'll be taking Christmas boxes put together by our children during VBS, additional items for Project AGAPE and other supplies for UMCOR. Please sign up on the Missions Board beside the Pastor's office.

CHILDREN'S POOL PARTY: Join us Wednesday, August 22, from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Canters' home (1140 Armstrong Rd, Jonesville). Bring a towel, floatees, and sunscreen. Snacks and drinks will be provided. If your child does not swim, please come with them.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE will be held on Friday, August 24 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Come see the classrooms, meet the teachers, visit with friends and fill out important paperwork. The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 4.

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.)

MISSION TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT: Missions Team Chair, David VanAntwerp will take a group from Elkin FUMC to Henderson Settlement October 21-27. The cost will be \$320 per person. For more information or to sign up for the trip contact David at 336-244-1808.

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).

LYDIA CIRCLE MEETING: Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, September 10 at 10:30 am in the parlor. Following the meeting, we will attend the Young at Heart luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to attend.

TRI-C REQUESTS SALTINE CRACKERS: Tri-C has asked that we donate Saltine Crackers instead of Toilet Tissue. Please place crackers in the basket in the entryway of the church office.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED: The Lydia Circle is collecting school supplies for Missions. Our donations will go to UMCOR, Tri-C, and to Elkin City Schools. Place donations in the collection bin located in the church office entryway.

- 1 pair blunt scissors, rounded tips, metal
- 3 packs ruled notebook paper · 1 30cm ruler
- 1 pencil sharpener · 6 unsharpened pencils
- 1 2 1/2" eraser · 1 box 24 crayons

These items may be placed in a 2 gallon zip-lock bag.

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, Gary Conrad, Bonnie Stuart, Loretta Cash, Roland Cash, Tim & Jennifer Brown, Donna Thompson, Rev. Steve McLain, nursing home residents & homebound

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

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, Avery Neaves, Connie Partin, Jeff Wishon, Brian Wilkenson, Nancy Yale, Keith Stanley, Damon Long, Rick Smoot, Linda Caudill, Tom Medlin

All of our military personnel and their families

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Vision & Leadership Team

Monday, August 13, 7:00 pm (Library)

Trustees

Tuesday, August 14, 7:00 pm (Library)

Staff-Parish Relations

Wednesday, August 15, 6:30 pm (Library)

Missions Team

Thursday, August 16, 7:00 pm (Library)

FUMC TRUSTEE UPDATE – JULY 29, 2018

Summer Painting Projects: Those completed to date include the Southwest Preschool Room, East hallway on first floor, and second floor hallways on each side of choir loft. This effort was accomplished with volunteers at considerable savings to the Church. It should be noted that this group has been aptly named by Steve Mackie as the “Cactus Crew” because we are slow, old and prickly.” The “Cactus Crew” membership is always open to additional volunteers. The guiding principle with this project and others around and outside our Church - we can do so many good things when we work together.



Steps and Railings: The step and railing repair/replacement project is complete. The last part of this project was completed as the wrought iron railings on either side of entrance to Administrative wing, and parsonage were removed, sandblasted and powder coated with black paint. Railings were reinstalled with stainless steel supports to control corrosion.

As a reminder, the repair/replacement of the steps and railings was undertaken, not only for aesthetics but also for safety issues. The mortar joints were crumbling resulting in loose stone and brick (tripping hazards), the slate surfaces were slippery when wet, and the support posts for several sections of railing had become detached from their concrete base due to corrosion. The slightly rougher surface of the bluestone chosen to replace the slate is much safer as it does not become slippery when wet. The railings were cemented in place using stainless steel supports to minimize corrosion problems.

Boxwoods: Boxwoods or parts damaged by blight have been removed. Remaining boxwoods will be treated at regular intervals to control blight.

Sanctuary Sound: Hearing and understanding speakers in our Sanctuary continues to be a problem. Damaged and/or non-working sound system equipment has been replaced including new speakers with overall marginal improvement. In an effort to find some direction to our sound problems, we contacted Sound Engineer, Phillip Zanon, of ONAVS, INC. He visited the Church Sanctuary Thursday, July 26, and made the following observations: “the current acoustics, while suitable for the organ, show high energy, low and midrange reverberations which decrease the intelligibility of natural or amplified speech.” In other words, we have a major echo problem. Mr. Zanon believes that improved acoustics are the solution, not amplified sound because the amplified sound increases the echo effect making it even harder to hear sounds at different frequencies – words often seem to run together. He recommends an in-depth study to provide potential acoustical solutions.

What can we do in the meantime? We can control our sound system volume to minimize echo effect. Speakers should: project speech out to audience, speak slowly and succinctly, and do not speak softly or in a conversational tone. Church members should move toward the front of the Church, not only to fill empty pews which helps reduce echoes, but also so that It is easier to hear the speaker. If necessary, use the portable hearing devices provided by the Church and found on a table in the Narthex.

BEN WALLACE STEPS DOWN AS PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR

Ben Wallace will be stepping down as our Parish Life Coordinator on Wednesday, August 15 after more than 5 years of ministry. Here is the letter he sent to Staff-Parish:

Dear Jeff and SPRC,

I came to Elkin First United Methodist Church in June 2013 to embark on a journey with you all in the newly formed Parish Life Coordinator position. I believe God led me to this church for a specific season of my life. Elkin FUMC has loved and supported me as my family grew, suffered the loss of loved ones, dealt with medical diagnoses and much more. I will forever love and cherish my time here. That is why it is so hard to let you know I will be resigning from my position as Parish Life Coordinator, effective August 15, 2018.

I have accepted a full time position as Office Manager at Clemmons Presbyterian Church. This full time position along with a 20 minute commute (versus my current 45 minute commute) will allow me to better support my family and be involved in their lives. While I am excited, I am also sad to leave behind the friends I have made in Elkin.

Thank you for the support you have shown me over the past 5 years. I will be in prayer for the next steps you will take as a church and ask that you pray for us as we take our next steps as a family.

If there is anything I can do to help in the transition to a new staff person (before or after my departure) please do not hesitate to ask. Please keep in touch: 220 W. Church St., Mocksville, NC 27028, bwwallace84@gmail.com.

*Sincerely,
Ben Wallace*





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.

Dear Carolina Cross Connection Partner,

Thank you so much for donating to my staff partnership this summer! I have spent the past six weeks developing the deepest sense of community I've ever felt. From the silly to the serious, this summer working as a Camp Coordinator with Carolina Cross Connection has been truly amazing. I worked alongside five other amazing staff people that helped our camp at West Wilkes Middle School operate smoothly and have become incredible friends.

As a camp coordinator, I helped lead 5 CMG's (small work groups that complete projects during the camp week) and my groups served a total of 10 homeowners across Wilkes, Watauga, Alleghany and Ashe county. As a whole camp, we served four times that many families. Some of the construction projects I personally led included building a ramp, stairs, handrails and repairing a porch roof. I watched as adult leaders gained confidence in their construction ability and young campers used power tools for the first time. The families served by CCC showed incredible hospitality, generosity, and love toward our groups. We were able to meet not only people's physical needs, but their social needs as well, as our campers visited with them in their homes. The churches that attended camp were from all across NC, and we even had groups from Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania! Each week, a united community was formed by campers that had only met each other days earlier.



Each morning during camp began with a morning devotion, and each evening ended in worship. This summer, we studied the book of Jonah and reflected on how relatable Jonah's story was to our lives. We learned how Jonah ran from God, how he had difficulty forgiving his enemies, how he only put half-effort into what God called him to, and how he was angry at God for showing compassion to Nineveh. I appreciate this book of the Bible in a whole new way after spending so much time reflecting on its meaning and worth this summer.



Once again, thank you so much for your gifts and prayers for me this summer! I have seen God in so many ways this summer that I could make this letter continue on and on! This summer couldn't have happened if it weren't for generous partners like you! If you are interested in learning more about CCC or donating in other ways towards our ministry please visit carolinacrossconnection.org!

Blessings,
Emma Aldridge