



THE TORCH

Elon Community Church United Church of Christ



Volume 22, Issue 5
May 2018

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BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.
 Care for the poor.
Forgive often.
 Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
 Share earthly and spiritual resources.
 Embrace diversity.
Love God.
Enjoy this life.



Be the Church: Sharing our Earthly and Spiritual Resources, Enjoy this Life · Practices: Hospitality, Service, Shaping communities, and Celebration

Pet A Puppy Day

SUNDAY MAY 6, 2-4 PM



Last year was such a success and very therapeutic for the students preparing for Final exams. It is a simple gathering and a great chance to share with the students. We will be serving cookies and lemonades while mingling with the students and pups. What you need to do: Mark your calendars, bring your dogs, and donate cookies! Let the church office know if you plan to participate!

Also Ten Thousand Villages is Coming!

On Sunday, May 6, Green Church will host a visit from Ten Thousand Villages, a nonprofit, fair trade organization that sells items from developing countries around the world. Artisans make the items by hand from local materials, usually natural or recycled, and receive a fair, stable income. The event will begin during Meet and Greet and end at 3 pm. A great opportunity to buy gifts for Mother's Day!



Special Confirmation Sunday on Pentecost



Pentecost Sunday has been the traditional day for Confirmation. This year we will receive 4 confirmands. Ethan Gryniewski, Josh Wood, Abby Clifton, and Will Stimpson are finishing up their confirmation training and will come forward on May 20 to claim their faith as their own. It is a special moment and I pray you will now hold them in your prayers as they prepare for this special day! Know that your support through your presence means a lot to them as we grow together and the faith we share becomes a special witness to who we are.

Annual Pentecost Picnic

The Annual Pentecost Picnic will be held on May 20 immediately following worship at Beth Schmidt Park's Picnic Shelter near the playground. We will have hamburgers and hot dogs (veggie burgers also) with the trimmings and sides. Cost will be \$8 for adults, children 5-11 are \$4 and those under 5 eat for free. Tickets will be on sale after church and in the office. You need a ticket to attend. Come out for a time of fellowship. If you have a lawn chair, bring it if you can because space under the shelter might run out!



- Sharon Wheeler



Dear Chris... (*"Chris" is short for Christian*)

GRADUATION

The month of May will be a time for graduations to begin in many ways. Graduation is both an event as well as a hope to be anticipated. In other words, graduation is something that we work toward, not just a given. Also, it is something that stays in question till there is some successful completion that confirms that graduation is a go! It is in this month (this year) that Jesus will ascend to heaven instituting in the Gospel of Luke and the sequel, Acts, the graduation ceremony known as Pentecost! Not always seen as a graduation, it actually clarifies what graduation is for us in real life: A time to move forward, to complete one thing and move on to the next, and an event that allows us to look and act differently.

Here are the graduations going on in May:

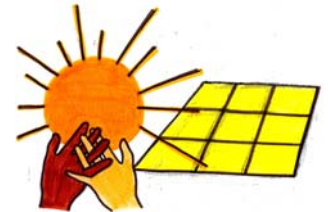
Elon Graduation: (SEE Pet-A Puppy) This annual event fills our parking lot, closes down streets, and transitions close to one-fourth of the population of our college town toward leaving and going on their future pathways to work, careers, and hopefully changing the world with the gifts they have to share, having been honed by a fine education. Former president Leo Lambert will be the speaker at Graduation this year as he has "graduated" from that position to write a book and eventually continue to teach at the university. We will say good-bye to Lexi Hirvo who has been a valued part of our choir. We may see some face changes from students who attend on Sunday morning as well. Things will once again change with a new group coming soon!

Members in College: We will recognize the members of our church who are away at college and graduating this year. Hold them in your prayers as they go on to new adventures.

Children's & Youth Bell and Vocal Choir: This graduation is their last time in worship on May 13. They begin anew in August with Music Camp. What a gift that continues to grow!

Confirmation Class 2018: Confirmation of our young people is a graduation as well. It is a time for them to take the faith on for themselves that parents and supportive church folks have been carrying for them. This year we have four who will be confirmed, but they have yet to pass the test, so who knows? Hold Abby Clifton, Ethan Gryniewski, Will Stimpson, and Josh Wood in your prayers as they reach the end of their confirmation experience and come Pentecost, May 20, they will come forward to be confirmed, and graduate to living the faith they proclaim!

Sun Catchers: The Sun Catchers are hoping to graduate by the end of May. Graduation would stand as the successful outcome of our Phase II campaign to raise the needed funds to place an extra 60 solar panels on our Community Life Center roof! The question and suspense of whether we will be able to graduate to installing these panels and creating significant savings for the energy usage of our church will be seen in our faithful efforts to live out the challenges set before us. I have watched this church create success before, so I am praying for a successful graduation!



Love,
Randy

P.S. Some of the articles will display items from Our "Be the Church" Banner and Christian Practices that we hope to recognize and learn more about as part of our 2021 Vision plan.

Practice: study, discernment, worship

Senior Pastor's Bible Study

May - June Study Begins — Pauline Theology



How do the Letters of Paul that make up such a significant amount of the New Testament have a different emphasis than the Gospel? It is time once again to study Paul's theology through the letters he wrote to the earliest churches of Christianity. This is a fascinating survey of what was important to convey by the earliest writer by 20-30 years in some cases. We begin on May 13 and you are invited. It is a great chance to learn and grow!

MOTHER'S
DAY IS
GOING TO
BE VERY
SPECIAL!

May 13 will be an incredible day of bell and vocal music from our children and youth as a true Mother's Day gift for our congregation! Plan to worship with us on this glad Sunday, the last Sunday in our Easter season.



Kids In Christ's Kingdom (KICK)

May is a busy month. We have lots of things going on at ECCUCC. On May 6 before rehearsals, I encourage the children to bring their dogs/puppies to the Pet a Puppy Event from 2-4 at the church. Don't have a dog? Come anyway because you can pet a puppy! On May 13 you all do your thing in church one last time and we are going to enjoy that event. On May 20 we have our annual Pentecost Picnic at Beth Schmidt Park and we want all our families with children there. The final weekend is a holiday weekend. With all that said, please watch for emails and announcements about an end of the year party in June!



COOL/EDGE Table Talk

- May 2 Meet at church at 5:30 pm and we will go to one of our local restaurants for dinner that evening.
- May 16 Meet at church for taco dinner, fellowship, and fun!
- May 28 Lake Trip! Mike Mayse (Peyton's grandfather) has said we can come spend the day at his Lake house at Hyco Lake. We will meet at the church at 8 am and ride to Hyco. We will have lunch there and be back by 6 pm that evening.

Be the Church: Sharing our Earthly and Spiritual Resources · Practices: Study, Service, and Celebration

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

We look forward to Vacation Bible School 2018. Our Kick Off Event will be Sunday afternoon, June 17 with a cookout, games and activities centered around our Theme, "Rolling River Rampage." This will start at 4 pm in our Community Life Center. We will have some time of play, drama and story time, and end with an awesome cookout. We know it is father's day but bring the whole family because this is a family event. On Monday through Wednesday we will start at 5:30 pm with a light supper and then proceed to our activities, wrapping up at 8:15 each evening. If you are willing to volunteer to help with shepherding children or assisting with an activity, please let Sharon Wheeler know by emailing her at wheeler.sharon04@gmail.com or calling the church office.



Props needed for VBS—Budget runs a little tight for VBS and we love to decorate to get into the theme. The following items would be great to have if we may borrow: small boat rafts, small tents, Christmas Trees, a portable fire pit for Sunday night smores, camping backpacks, old vinyl table clothes that can be cut up. If you have any of these items let Sharon Wheeler know at wheeler.sharon04@gmail.com or call the church office.

Climate, Solar Panels, and Urgency

The scientific community has known about climate change for decades. The general public has been confused about it because of misinformation. All the while, precious time has elapsed that should have been spent formulating plans and taking actions to halt its progress. Now we are told that changes are occurring faster than predicted. It is scary. It can be overwhelming.

As followers of Jesus, we must have the courage to talk about climate change. Often he said, "Do not be afraid." Silence leads to quiet despair, isolation, and inaction. We are called to come together to face a major problem that affects not only us, but all humanity, all life on earth—now and for generations to come.

We are rallying to put more solar panels on the roof of the CLC as soon as possible. It is something that we can do, must do, to fight climate change. Yes, we could wait until we pay off the loan on the CLC—another 4 years. That would be more comfortable financially. But doing that would mean 4 more years of paying Duke Energy money that could go to church ministry. More important, it would mean continuing to add to the atmosphere our maximum amount of carbon dioxide and other pollutants that contribute to climate change and health impairment.

We can do better than that. We must do better than that! We are leaders in the faith community for creation justice. What we do ripples out to other churches, other institutions.

The sooner we act, the more likely it is that we can access a Duke Energy rebate on our solar panel installation. That would be helpful financially, and it would be encouraging to other nonprofits.

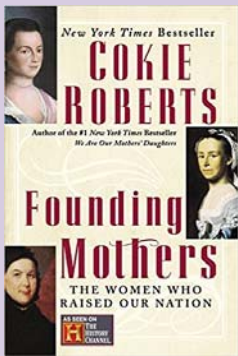
Please contribute what you can as soon as you can. Our campaign will end May 31. A check to ECC for the Solar Panel Fund is best. You can also donate online at <https://tinyurl.com/eccsolar>. Select Solar Panel Fund under "To" and follow the prompts. Can we do this? Absolutely!



- David Andes

Be the Church: Enjoy this Life · Practices: Study and Discernment

Soaring High Book Club Meeting in May



The Soaring High Book Club is pleased to announce that Ted Henson has agreed to lead the discussion of our upcoming "historical" book. Even if you are not a book club member (or have not read the book to the end), you are invited to join us and benefit from Ted's enthusiasm for the Revolutionary War time period. We will meet in the church library at 7 pm on May 28. Contact Katharine Floyd or Tanya Gold if you have questions.

Journalist Cokie Roberts' book "Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation" deals with the wives, sisters, and mothers of the founding fathers. The title is timely for May, with the Mother's Day and Memorial Day holidays. "Although they may not have signed the Constitution, the stories of these founding "mothers" are found in their personal correspondence, private journals, ledgers and lists, and even favored recipes."

- Tanya Gold

Practice: Study, Discernment, Shaping Communities, Meditation

We Are Bringing Back Men's Fellowship

Meeting on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM Starting April 10

For the next 8 weeks, we will take a deep look at the evidence-based ten keys to happiness for men from a Christian Practices perspective. What gives purpose and meaning in today's world? How do we give of ourselves while also taking care of ourselves? Can we still make a difference, even to one person? Please come and join an enchanting conversation.



Church Family & Friend Bike or Hike the Tobacco Trail

Where: Meet at South Point Mall Parking lot near AMC Theater.

When: 10 am—12 pm, Saturday May 12 (weather permitting)

Who: ECC Family and Friends



Questions contact Michelle Abelson or Manda Stiegel
mabelson@yahoo.com or mandacarrie@gmail.com

Practices: Service, Shaping Communities, and Study

Women's Fellowship Circle Meetings in May

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Monday, May 7, 2018. Everyone is invited to attend either circle. If you have questions, call Jean Toms at 336-584-7658 or Kay Elder at 336-449-5933. The Morning Circle will meet in the CLC classroom at 10:30 am. Susanne Doolittle and Mimi Healy are the hostesses. The Evening Circle will meet at 7 pm in the Church Library. Olga Griswold is the hostess.



Christian Practices: Study, Community, forgiveness, discernment, Honoring the body

JUSTICE AND WITNESS LEARNING GROUP

MAY 22 · 7:00 pm · Meet the Author



The tough issues around women, sexuality, and how we see reproductive rights through the lens of faith is the subject of Elon Professor Toddie Peters NEW book, *Trust Women*. We will gather to meet the author and hear from her why this is such an important topic. Reading the book would be a big plus, and the books are available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and where books are sold.

JUNE 16—SAVE THE DATE! WE ARE GOING TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM IN GREENSBORO!

We are still setting plans for the tour, so mark your calendar and let us know if you want to be a part. Children are welcome, but remember this museum shares graphic items so you will have to make that call. Older children should be fine. This is a chance to grow around issues that will move us toward faithful growth. Hope you can join us!



Practices: Hospitality, Service, Justice, Testimony, Submission

Allied Churches Homeless Shelter Meal Schedule

May 4	Sr. Pastor SS Class
June 1	Chancel Choir
July 6	Women's Fellowship
August 3	Trustees Board
September 7	Deacons Board
October 5	Evangelism Board
November 2	Book Club
December 7	Seekers SS Class

Allied Churches of Alamance County operates a weekday lunch and dinner program. With food purchases and donations, 60-80 shelter residents and families from the community without food are given a hot meal. Five servers from the assigned groups are needed for the evening meal on their date. Lowe's Foods donates desserts for the meal. Take all of the desserts from top right shelf of the freezer in the CLC. They will need to be defrosted a day or two earlier. Your group can provide the meal in one of three ways: 1) Prepare the food in your kitchen or the CLC kitchen and deliver it there; 2) Purchase and take all ingredients to the Shelter's kitchen and prepare your meal there; or 3) Request through the Mission and Outreach Board chair that \$150.00 from the Board's budget be mailed to ACAC for the meal which will be prepared by the ACAC staff. Arrival time at the shelter is 6:15 pm. Serving time and

cleanup is 6:30-8:00 pm. Do not wear shorts, spaghetti straps, or sandals. You will be asked to wear an apron, hairnet and gloves and to sign in and out. Thank you for your support of this very vital program!

- Gayle Pollard



By Rev. Randy Orwig

- Finished up Lenten classes during March which were held twice a day and involving simple meal preparation.
- Helped with “Phase II Sun Catchers” Campaign to raise money for Solar Panels beginning on Easter morning. The campaign is in full-swing!
- Continued to meet with Confirmation holding two classes.
- Visits to skilled nursing facilities as well as hospital visits. Also visiting some members who are home and unable to attend church.
- Attend Church night committees and confer with chair people when necessary. Continue to help get Justice and Witness Learning Group and Committee off the ground. Helped assist in the four pods that are breakouts around the committee.
- Attended an installation for a new pastor at Pilgrim UCC in Durham.
- Led a worship service at Brookwood retirement facility.
- Built extra bulletins for Holy Week, and readied the different services involving Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise, and Easter Service.
- Attended and participated in Community Good Friday Service at First Baptist, helped give guidance to wedding rehearsal in our sanctuary, and assisted in the Seder service being held in our Community Life Center!
- Continued to work on reviews for Worship Goal and working with others who applied statistical trends and viewed reports with different groups.
- Helped lead University Relations Meeting on April 12.
- Attended a Church and Ministry Meetings for the Association. These are 3-5 hour meetings. We are very busy.
- Following Easter, have been involved in visiting. Caught up with many members, prospective members, and necessary visits. If you are looking for a call, get on the list!
- Assist staff when necessary holding many conversations with staff for planning. Coordination, direction. Met with worship committee (staff)
- Attended a Bible Study and luncheon at St. Matthew’s AME called Chat and Chew. Looking for other ways to interface the congregations.
- Attend Nurture Committee,
- Attended with Sharon a 2 day Why Christian Conference at Duke University for continuing education.
- Assisted with the Homeless Dinner for the Men’s Fellowship.
- In General, working mostly 6 day weeks and in the church 7 days providing coordination, problem-solving, making contacts, and available for drop-in visits.
- Please call me directly at (336)214-1304 during office hours and on weekends. If you need to call in the evening, please call before 9 pm. If an emergency, anytime.

Thank YOU!

Dear Elon Community Church,

We cannot thank you all enough for your generosity the weekend you helped out at our Catholic Campus Ministry Sunday Supper. All the food was delicious and we are so thankful. Your entire community is in our prayers always.

*In Christ,
Catholic Campus Ministries*



Sustaining Creation: A faith Journey

A Christian Practice for 2018 and beyond — Practice of Sustainable Living: Report

The two classes that met for the six Thursdays of Lent resulted in practices that we believe are highly doable and we believe, if we are willing in faith to do, they could be the personal, communal, and missional (church-wide) practices.

Personal

- Pray regularly for the healing of creation.
- Call regularly, build a relationship with our elected officials
- Use re-usable bottles when possible (glass and metal preferable) and use less disposable items.
- When possible eat seasonal, local foods. We took into account cost and necessity, but are willing to do a little more and work this practice into our daily schedules. This may include the addition of a small home garden, be a part of a community garden, and to utilize Farmer's Markets (Church's Farmers Market)
- Consider herbs, fruit trees, and bushes in your landscaping choices.
- As was possible we would eat more and more plant based diet. Trying to eat less meat is our call.
- Duke power offers a free energy audit of your home, apt., villa, etc. We will plan to find ways to use less energy in our homes and use it as efficiently as possible. Use LED lighting if at all possible.
- Consider your investments, pensions, etc. toward how your values for creation are being supported.
- Continue to educate yourself on valuing the creation (PBS, science shows, other programs and reading)
- Sign up for weekly "Come and See" emails at www.sustainingcreation.org .

Community — *(There are all different formations of communities we are a part of!)*

- We will create a Sharing Group Called "Neighbor to Neighbor" sharing certain tools, appliances, equipment that we don't use often, but could share so everybody doesn't need to *have one*. Begin in May.
- Explore what kinds of things our church can do with the Town of Elon and Elon University in sustainable practices (Styrofoam collection, food options, composting, etc)
- Expand sustainable practices with neighbors (Twin Lakes, our neighborhoods or neighbors as is possible)
- Create more carpooling as is possible for church-going as well as other uses.
- Work in our localities for more pedestrian and bicycle friendly options
- Network and partner with other churches (St. Matthews AME, etc.) on sustainable practices.

Church-wide Missional

- Use the Community Life Center (CLC) to hold candidate forums on creation care issues.
- Organize in the coming years fun, educational events to bolster sustainable living.
- Use as little bottled water at church events as possible and encourage reusable alternatives.
- Create church and community-wide support for our Farmers Market on Thursdays (April-Nov.)
- Enlarge support for Johns River Valley Camp for Mission Camps, environmental and nature training for all ages, and creating energy efficiency of people in poverty.
- **Fully support and share the news of our Solar Panel Campaign so we can create more sustainable, renewable energy for our faith community.**
- Continue to expand our Styrofoam reclamation work with other groups and organizations.
- Teach members how to stop junk mail to lower waste. Also, teach simple efficiencies at home.
- Periodically reset thermostats around our church building.
- Collecting "Junk" — STE(A)M program — we will develop a list of items to bring in to church that can be utilized by others (i.e. Scrap Exchange, Re-considered Goods) for re-use. More in May.



We can do all these things as practices for sustainable living! Thank you to this 2018 Lenten Class for their hard work and attention. More can always be done. Let's start here!

Free Fitness Classes

HIIT
(High Intensity Interval Training)
Mondays—5:15 pm



QiGong
Low Intensity
Wednesdays—5:15 pm

Classes held in the Community Life Center.

Save the Date for Music Camp

Mark your calendars! ECC Music Camp will be held August 13-19! Classes include handbell



ensembles, vocal choir, music theory, art, drama and dance. All children and youth ages 2-18 are



welcome to participate **FREE OF CHARGE!** Be on the lookout for registration, available in May!

CHAT AND CHOW

Chat and Chow will meet next at 5:30 pm on Friday, May 11 at Red Bowl Asian Restaurant in Alamance Crossing. Please sign up on the insert if you plan to attend. If you sign up and end up not being able to come, please let the church office know. See Margaret McTaggart with any questions.



Connie Martin	1
Howard Welborn	2
Richard Denault	2
Earl Vickers	3
Sheala Nicholson	3
Camille Phillips	5
Kirstie Doehler	9
Re Anderson	10
Bryn Covington	11
Dan Kuhn	12
Catherine Goodwin	14
William Fisher	19
Dee Bragg	21
Carol Lehman	21
Heidi Danieley	22
Bob Martin	23
Estelle Willard	26



Brian Gryniewski	
and Michelle Abelson	17
Jack and Janice Walker	18
Wayne and Caroline Holmes	19
John and Ellie Ketcham	21
Steve and Trinity Martin	24
Cody Morris	
and Fiamma Lujan	27
Josh and Monica Nicholson	27
Bill and Anita Davis	30

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR MAY

May 6, 2018

Altar Flowers: Randy and Bev Orwig
Greeters: Randy and Bev Orwig
Ushers: Bob Abrahamson, Jean Lawton, Bob Lawton, Bill Blanchard
Acolyte: Abby Clifton
Liturgist: Bob Martin
Deacon on Call: Derek Tang
Communion Deacons: Connie Martin, Gary Weerts, Gretchen Bruesehoff-Wiles, Russ Martin

May 13, 2018—Mother's Day

Altar Flowers: Jane Shutt
Greeters: Ted Wheeler
Ushers: Sheri James, Ted Wheeler, William Fisher
Acolyte: Tommy Fisher
Liturgist: Manda and Whit Stiegel
Deacon on Call: Rosilyn Dudley

May 20, 2018—Pentecost

Altar Flowers: Kay Elder
Greeters: Kay Elder
Ushers: Millard Gold, Bill Brown, Tom Powell, Ralph Waller
Acolyte: Grier Ingalls
Liturgist: Patty Welborn
Deacon on Call: Ray Pollard

May 27, 2018

Altar Flowers: Dolores Truitt
Greeters: Dolores Truitt
Ushers: Hunt Johnson, Jack Lynch, Jim McCauley, George Troxler
Acolyte: Madison Keeney
Liturgist: Susanne Doolittle
Deacon on Call: Sam Fowler