



THE TORCH

Elon Community Church United Church of Christ



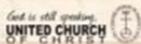
Volume 22, Issue 8
August 2018

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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.



AUGUST AT ELON COMMUNITY CHURCH FOOTBALL SUNDAY · MUSIC CAMP SUNDAY

We have two of our biggest Sundays both in August!

AUGUST 12: FOOTBALL SUNDAY RETURNS! One of the biggest worship services of the year as we welcome 115 visitors into church for worship, blessing the team, and the largest meal of year we hold! Make sure you plan to attend for this wondrous tradition! Drinks, chicken, pot roast, mashed potatoes, and macaroni and cheese will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring salads, vegetables, pasta, and desserts. They love our homemade food, so please bring a generous amount! Sign-up in the bulletin.



AUGUST 19: MUSIC CAMP SUNDAY! Music Camp is our largest outreach worship and Meet & Greet of the year. Your attendance is such an important part of the day. The culmination of around 70 children and what they have learned are expressed at worship. Plan now to attend this fun, yet moving service!



Annual Rally Day Breakfast

This year our Rally Day breakfast will be held on Sunday, August 26 at 9 am in the Community Life Center. Bring a breakfast item to share and come and kick off our back to school/back to church celebration. If you have not joined a Sunday School Class, please come check us out. We have the Pastor's Bible Study Class and The Seekers' Class. Ray and Randy will share with you what their classes are about so you can explore the possibilities. The children's Sunday School will be led by Connie Martin and Virginia Leeds this year. There will be a new Youth class called "Coffee with Pastor Sharon and Steve" where we will gather together at church and go to Acorn Coffee Shop for a beverage and discussion. We look forward to you joining us on August 26 for a time of food, learning and fun!

Worship on Rally Day

On Sunday, August 26 we will recognize our teachers both from church and those serving in our schools this year. We will have our "Blessing of the Backpacks" with our children so they need to bring their backpacks to church that day and we will present Bibles to our 3rd graders! Please be sure to join us in worship as we come back to church and go back to school!





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

MINISTRY (PRACTICES)

Part 2

Last month I spoke about the place of ministry and necessity of the part we play in making sure those ministries are ongoing. Last year we attempted to have a Sunday Meet & Greet event that would allow us to sign up for Boards and Committees you might be interested in and on which you would be willing to serve. The fact is that one moment is not enough time to make these decisions. So, now is the time to begin to make these decisions so we can assemble our ministry teams for 2019 in October and November.

The last weeks of July have shown that we cannot take for granted the work we do and the ministry we are involved in at our church. We have had some powerful examples of how ministry can be a real witness in people's lives and make a difference in the community. The back-pack presentation, Sharon's sermon on camp, the boxes in our halls collecting school supplies for children in need, and the amazing music program that reaches out into the community with our reputation and quality cannot be taken for granted. We must understand that ministry equals involvement, not just something that is always going to be there because we think things can't change.

Every year, we must place 3 new people on our 5 boards that oversee the overall ministries of the church: Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education, Missions & Outreach, and Evangelism. We have numerous committees that need people to do the administrative duties of the Church: Budget & Finance, Personnel, Stewardship, Pastoral Relations, Nominations and Endowment. Each of these committees requires the addition of 2-3 people to continue the smooth operation of these important behind the scene jobs. Right there is a need for nearly 25-30 people who are willing to serve.

We still have more committees that work in specific ministries under the umbrellas of our Boards: Justice and Witness, Music, University Relations, and worship. These are interest based

committees that truly require a willingness and interest to serve needing another 10-15 people to consider these. Almost like these is our Fellowship and Ministry groups that are essential to making this church unique and expressing who it is we want to be: Chancel Choir, Women's Fellowship, Meditation, Green Church, Farmers Market, Youth, Children's Fellowships, Bell Choirs, Special Fridays, Backpack Ministry, Hospitality, Meals On Wheels, Sanctuary Cleanup volunteers, and the list is always expanding because people move to new jobs and new people come to be a part. The numbers here are only as strong as we are willing.

So, without your input, imagine a Nominating Committee trying to fill these positions? With many new people in the church, we don't always know your interests or your willingness. That is why it is imperative that as we approach 2019, it is time for us to inform our church what we are willing to do.

One last ask that I don't always have a chance to do is the one that asks you to "reach." Usually, people will choose one thing they are willing to do. Well, that is not as helpful as we need to know other places you would serve if those jobs are filled. That is what I mean by reaching. Try considering a ministry you know little about. That is the best way to grow in a church. We all learn our jobs in church by trying. So, in addition to what would be comfortable, where might you reach? When the time comes to sign up, give us several options so we can create well-balanced boards and committees. Join a fellowship or ministry group that allows you and others to grow these groups and create strong ministry. Ministry is the backbone of being Church. Let's move forward!

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, prayer

Senior Pastor's Bible Study



Now that we have drawn out the 3 major areas of the Theology of Paul: Justification by faith, In Christ, and Christ Crucified. In August, we plan to see how his letters construct a theology of grace and life that encompasses so much more than we often see. We will also be looking at the Apocalyptic Paul as we approach our conclusion in early September. Please join us and learn about this fascinating Apostle!

Belles and BBQ Fundraiser

I am presently raising money for the ARMC Charitable Foundation for the Patricia Bynum Fund and the C.R. Byrd Fund to raise money for cancer patient's daily expenses and medication. My goal is \$10,000 which is a lot of money! I have a good start, but need more, so Ted and I are putting on a Chicken and BBQ dinner on Friday, September 7 at the church from 11 am—7 pm. You can eat in or take out. There will be chicken, BBQ, cole slaw, potato salad. Drinks will be included if you dine in. The cost of the ticket is \$10 and all proceeds go to this cause. I have tickets for sale. If you would like to buy a ticket let me know. If you are in a business and willing to sell tickets, let me know. If you are willing to help serve plates that day or deliver plates to area businesses let me know. My e-mail is wheeler.sharon04@gmail.com and my phone number is (336)260-9146. My goal is to sell 500 tickets. If you cannot attend or would like to make a donation to this cause you may send checks to ARMC Charitable Foundation, PO Box 202, Burlington NC 27216 or go online and give at <https://blackandwhiteball2018.greatfeats.com/sharon-wheeler/edit>. I appreciate those who have already donated and thanks to you who support this fundraiser and cause!



TAKE ME OUT TO BALL GAME!

We are planning a church night out to the ballpark on Sunday, August 19 to see the Burlington Royals take on Danville Braves. The game starts at 6 pm, so for any who want to ride together we will meet at 5:15 and plan to leave by 5:30 from the parking lot at the church. The price per ticket is \$6 for a group of 20 or more. There should also be a \$2 ticket coupon in the Burlington paper on that Sunday for discount if we do not get 20 folks to go. The kids can run the bases after the game and they are throwing a birthday party for Bingo, their mascot, on that Sunday. So let's go out and enjoy Sunday Funday at the Burlington Royals stadium.



CAROWINDS AMUSEMENT PARK TRIP



We are planning a trip to Carowinds on Wednesday, August 1. In order for us to receive group rates, we need at least 15 folks to go. The group rate per person is \$34.50. I have youth that are interested in going on that date, but I am also opening up to families that would like to make the trip. If you would like to go, please email Sharon Wheeler at wheeler.sharon04@gmail.com or call the church office and let us know how many in your family would like to attend!



By Rev. Randy Orwig

MORE THAN AN HOUR IS ON HIATUS FOR AUGUST!

Randy's set day off is Monday and if Saturday is not scheduled, he uses that as Sabbath time for renewal. Randy has no set in stone office hours, so feel free to call ahead to make sure he can meet with you at the church! Randy is available via cell phone at 336-214-1304 Tuesday—Friday between 9 am—6 pm. If it is an emergency, please call as necessary.



Church World Service School Kits

Our Mission and Outreach Board is once again partnering with Church World Service (CWS) to provide school kits for children in need around the world, such as victims of famine or floods. CWS has published the following list of most needed supplies. In addition to these items, monetary donations are also welcomed and needed to cover shipping expenses.

A collection box is in the narthex as well as the atrium on the lower level. After this drive is over at the end of August, Bill Blanchard will be responsible for the delivery to the East Coast collection site in Maryland. They are then shipped to Church World Service's national office in Indiana where they are prepared for shipment abroad.

Last year because of your generosity our church sent 80 kits in canvas bags. Our goal this year is 100, so please take a minute to remember your school days or those of your children when having all the supplies you needed was a first step toward a successful year of learning and growing.



- Blunt Scissors (removed from package)
- 70-count bound notebooks (no loose-leaf)
- 12" Ruler (30 Centimeter)
- Hand-held pencil sharpener (removed from package)
- Large Eraser
- Unsharpened pencils with erasers (removed from package)
- 24-count Crayon Box

Food for Kids Backpack Program Recap



Elon Community Church has had another successful year in the Backpack program! We have fed 17 children on weekends. We had an opportunity that I would like to share with you. One of the Girl Scout troops that meets in our church asked what they can do to help. These are girls who attend school with the children who anonymously receive backpacks from our program.

I began with "What does the phrase 'food secure' mean?" Then I added the prefix "in" to the word "secure". We also talked about what are some of the things you wouldn't have if there wasn't enough money for food? I lined up 5 girls and said, "One out of 5 children in your school are hungry on the weekends, so one of you would be hungry!"

The best part was when I passed around an actual bag that we distribute. Each girl picked something out. It was a test for us, because I got to see what the girls really liked! I love working with and for children, as all of us do, who help either financially or physically with the backpack program. From the hearts of these girls came care packages for the backpack children and a gift to us of occasionally double bagging grocery bags that we fill each week.

From the hearts of you, our congregation and supporters, you have so generously donated monetarily that we don't need to ask for money this year! Don't forget us, continue to pray for us and the children who need our help.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

- Sue Kuhn

Women's Under the Parasol Tea



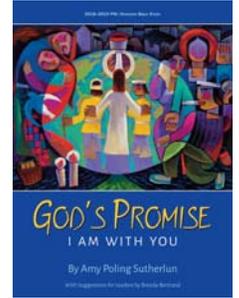
The Women's Under the Parasol Tea will be held on August 26 from 2-4 pm in the Community Life Center. A variety of teas will be provided. Women's Ministries will discuss the programs available at the church. Hats and gloves are optional. Keep an eye out for sign-ups in the bulletin. All women of the church are invited!



Women's Fellowship Program Emphasis for 2018-2019

"God's Promise: I Am With You"

"God's Promise: I Am With You," takes readers on a journey through scripture to consider circumstances in which God articulated God's promise of presence. This study does not delve deeply into manifestations of God's presence but rather on God's actual articulation of God's promise. We will see anew that God offered these words of profound comfort and commitment to individuals and communities from the time of the patriarchs to that of the prophets; from the judges to the kings; before, during, and after the exile; into the New Testament and beyond, to the end of the age.



The Justice and Witness Fellowship Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The August meeting will be held on the 28th centered around immigration. All are welcome!

Free LIFT Exercise Classes



A low impact exercise class is being held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8 am—9 am in the Community Life Center, free of charge. There are stations you move to and do different exercises. This is a women's only class. You need to bring one set of weights (between 3-8 lbs) and a mat. For more information see Sharon Wheeler.

Practices: Hospitality, Service, Justice, Testimony, Submission

Allied Churches Homeless Shelter Meal Schedule

Allied Churches of Alamance County operates a weekday lunch and dinner program. With food purchases and donations, 40-50 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 the CLC kitchen and deliver it there; If you choose Option 1, you need to contact Mary Hughes, volunteer coordinator, a few days prior to your going at 336-229-0881, ext. 105. 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

- August 3* Trustees Board
- September 7* Deacons Board
- October 5* Evangelism Board
- November 2* Book Club
- December 7* Seekers SS Class



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

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Potluck and the Pipeline



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.

CHAT AND CHOW

Chat and Chow will gather next at O'Charley's on Huffman Mill Road in Burlington on Friday, August 10 at 5:30 pm. Please



sign up on the bulletin insert if you plan to attend. If you sign up and find you will not make it, please remember to call the church office to cancel your reservation. See Margaret McTaggart with any questions. Thank you!

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Click or scan the QR Code on the top right of our website, eloncommunitychurch.org, or look for the QR Code in the bulletin and Torch. You can also go to our website and click on the FINANCE tab, to set up an account for regular online giving. Please take into account that we pay 3% in fees on each donation if paid with a credit card. Debit cards and checking accounts are encouraged!



Ed Powell	8/1
Mindi Truitt	8/2
Brad Wroblewski	8/3
Ralph Waller	8/4
Nick Reynolds	8/8
Virginia Griffin	8/8
Louise Barnett	8/9
Gary Cooper	8/9
Katie Brown	8/13
Jane Weerts	8/14
Glenda Crawford	8/15
Kennedy Ramsey	8/15
Lorie Goodwin	8/17
Betty Kircher	8/19
Virginia Leeds	8/19
Sara Danieleley Kernodle	8/19
Richard Allen	8/19
Jackie McHenry	8/22
John Ketcham	8/23
Shayna Tang	8/27
Joe Tang	8/27
Annie McLane	8/27
Whit Stiegel	8/28
Linda Brown	8/30
Tessa Byerly	8/30
Charlie Merical	8/30



Philip Ramsey and Kirstie Doehler	8/9
Justin and Re Anderson	8/10
Derek and Katie Tang	8/12
Jorden and Gretchen Wiles	8/15
David Andes and Karen Lewis	8/16
Russ and Ellen Martin	8/19
George and Carol Oakley	8/25
George and Carole Troxler	8/25

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR AUGUST

August 5, 2018

Altar Flowers: Patricia Woody
Greeters: Patricia Woody
Ushers: Bob Abrahamson, Jean Lawton, Bob Lawton, Bill Blanchard
Acolyte: Grier Ingalls
Liturgist: Ray Pollard
Deacon on Call: Russ Martin
Communion Deacons: Ray Pollard, Rosilyn Dudley, Derek Tang, Gary Weerts

August 12, 2018—Football Sunday

Altar Flowers: Mac and Loudelle King
Greeters: Mac and Loudelle King
Ushers: Sheri James, Ted Wheeler, William Fisher
Acolyte: Madison Keeney
Liturgist: Football Players/Coaches
Deacon on Call: Gary Weerts

August 19, 2018—Music Camp Sunday

Altar Flowers: Dave Turnage
Greeters: Dave Turnage
Ushers: Millard Gold, Bill Brown, Tom Powell, Ralph Waller
Acolyte: Andrea Leeds
Liturgist: Music Camp Participants
Deacon on Call: Connie Martin

August 26, 2018

Altar Flowers: Stephen and Manda Stiegel
Greeters: Stephen and Manda Stiegel
Ushers: Hunt Johnson, Jack Lynch, Jim McCauley, George Troxler
Acolyte: Peyton Lewis
Liturgist: Katie and Marisa Tang
Deacon on Call: Whitney Gregory