

CONSIDERATIONS OFFERED FOR ICY WEATHER

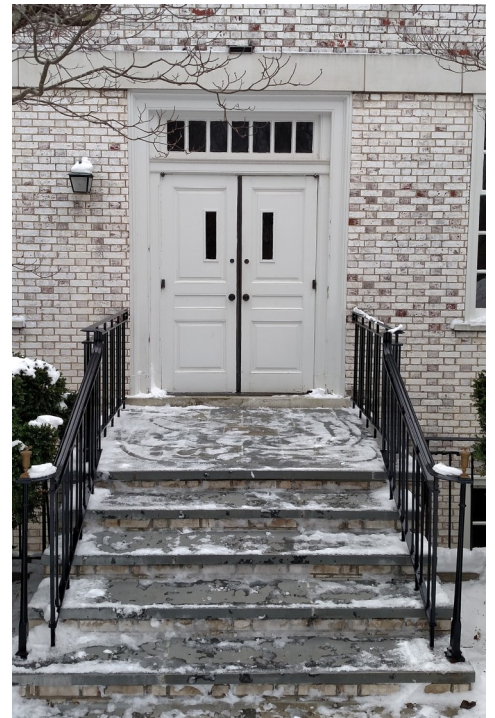
Ice and snow didn't stop 56 brave souls who attended worship on Sunday, Jan. 8. As our snow policy indicates, we will always have the 10:55 am service for those who can safely make it to the church. This month, we are live on radio station WIFM-FM. Hopefully, those who were not able to brave the cold and icy conditions were able to tune in for worship.

On Sundays such as this, be very careful in the parking lot if you do decide to come to church. Most likely the two entrances that will be clear will be the ramp on the west side of the Narthex and the downstairs entrance from the covered drive-through. It is best to drop off riders at the covered downstairs entrance that should be free of ice. Perhaps the most dangerous of the entrances during icy weather is to the administrative area of the building (pictured to the right). Most likely, it will be closed until temperatures permit thawing.

Here is a summary of our cancellation policy:

- ◆ We will always have the 10:55 worship service.
- ◆ A decision on cancelling the 8:45 am worship service will be made by 7 am on the morning in question. The announcement will be sent to WIFM radio in Elkin and WXII-12 TV in Winston-Salem. It will also be posted on the church's website, Facebook page and on the church answering system.
- ◆ During the school week, if Elkin City Schools are cancelled, then afternoon and evening activities will be cancelled as well.

Above all, be safe and do not take chances. We want all participants in church activities to remain well and happy.



CHATHAM WOODS RESIDENTS EXPRESS APPRECIATION

Once again I am proud of this church for your generosity to the Chatham Woods Ministry. Because of you, we were able to provide each resident at Chatham Woods (31 total) with a Christmas gift. It is hard for me to convey to you how much these gifts, and the support from the church, mean to these people. This year we distributed to each resident Food Lion gift cards in the amount of \$50 and a Christmas Oven

Ready Turkey. Nearly all residents were in place eagerly waiting my arrival. My sincere thank you goes to every member that chose to be a part of this effort. You can rest assured that your gift made a huge difference in the Christmas experienced by our neighbors at Chatham Woods.

Janet Adams accompanied me this year and helped me with the deliveries, as a representative of so many people that support this ministry. I encourage you to talk to her about what she saw that day. I would like many more people to see first-hand the impact of this church. If you have an interest in accompanying me next year, please let me know.

Weekday children's program staff, again, added the personal touch by helping the children supply darling hand-crafted envelopes to hold the gift cards identifying First United Methodist Church as the benefactor of the gift cards, and stating the artist's first name. The residents love these, and many ask that their artist be personally thanked.

A smaller scale of this Christmas effort happens periodically throughout the year as a few cards are delivered to individual residents depending upon their needs and church funds available. We accept donations in any amount throughout the year toward this effort. You can write "Chatham Woods" in the memo line of your check then drop it in the offering plate, bring it by the church, mail it to the church, or drop it in the secure deposit box.

Again, my sincere thanks to each of you.

Linda MacDonald, Chatham Woods Ministry

CHILI COOK-OFF TO BENEFIT YOUTH MISSIONS

The next youth fundraiser for missions is the Chili Cook-Off on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Several varieties of chili along with fixin's, salad, cornbread and peanut butter/jelly sandwiches are on the menu. Judges will choose the champ of the cook-off.

This summer, our youth have mission trips planned to Carolina Cross Connection Home Repair in the foothills of western North Carolina (June), Carolina Cross Connection Urban Ministries in Asheville (July) and the Carolina Cross Connection mission to Honduras (July). Our youth are actively engaged in missions and need to raise a significant amount of money to serve on these mission trips. Let's support them by attending the Chili Cook-Off. Additional donations will be accepted at the cook-off.

Announcements & Reminders

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY: On Sunday, Jan. 15, we will collect a special offering for United Methodist Human Relations Day. These offerings help transform lives in difficult, challenging circumstances through its youth offender rehabilitation, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Community Developer's ministries. Envelopes will be available in the bulletin on Sunday morning or you may mail your donation to the church office. Make sure to note on your check that it's for "Human Relations Sunday." For more information visit www.umcsgiving.org/HRD.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The Church Office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

NEW MEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING: Men of all ages are invited to a new Bible study led by Dave Johnson. "Parables Remix" is focused on the teachings of Jesus the way they were intended--as stories you can relate to, learn from and understand. This small group is designed for all men who are seeking to grow in their relationship with God and with others. Unless schedule dictates otherwise, we will meet on each Sunday, 5:30-6:30 pm in the Forum Classroom. Due to snow last week the class will begin Jan. 15.

GUEST PREACHERS FOR JANUARY: Pastor Mark will be leading the Confirmation Class Retreat at Lake Junaluska Jan. 13-16. In his absence, Randy Hunsucker will be preaching. Also, Pastor Mark will be having surgery on Jan. 17 and unable to preach on Jan. 22. Cindy Furr will be leading the service and preaching in his absence. Thanks to Randy and Cindy for sharing in worship this month.

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JAN 29. Join us at 6:30 pm for a new study, "Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What It Means to Be Christian." (Please note the new start date.) If you wish to sign up for the study, please register on the sheet on the bulletin board across from the Church Office or contact Mark Barden at mbarden@wnccumc.net or call the Church Office. Though the book is available, it is not necessary for participation in the study. The book can be ordered through a local bookstore or from an online source.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, Jan. 23 at 2:30 pm in the Library. If you are interested in visiting our homebound members, join us for this month's planning session.

THE FINANCE TEAM meeting scheduled for Jan. 17 has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 pm in the Library.

YOUTH SKI TRIP: Our Sr. High youth will go skiing at Beech Mountain on Saturday, Jan. 28. Cost varies on the ticket you purchase (full day, half day, tubing.) Contact Cindy Furr for more info. Also, let Cindy know by Sunday, Jan. 22 if you plan to attend.

LYDIA CIRCLE: Due to the snow, the Lydia Circle will not meet in January. Their next meeting will be Monday, February 7 at 11:00 am in the Parlor.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Church Family: Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Dr. Jim Harrell Sr., Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Sallie Park, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Emad Elkhaiat, Ray Fencl, Martha Maier, Linda Maxey, Sharon Harvey, Ray McCrary, Mason Leeds, Larry Johnson, Carolyn Comer, Ercel Carter, Gail Midkiff, Walt Pettit, Omegia Seaford, Herb MacDonald, Bern Schumak, Diane Pettit, nursing home residents & homebound

Extended Care: Jim Cockerham, Mary Cockerham, Anne Hine, Iris Amburn, Libbi Parks

Extended Family: Hattie Ford, Ruth Deck, Angie Hodge, Mary Lou Longworth, Hope Swaim, Richard Smoot, Russ Kearns, Carol Clifton, Glenna Gambill, Stacy Gentry, Bob Norton, Laura Kennedy, Andy Garner's mother, Audrey Adkins, Family of Corbet Walters, Aileen Sparks, US Veterans, Sarah Jarvis, John Seats, Pike Johnson, Family of Dustin Bobbitt

All of our military personnel and their families

OUR SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to Betty Ann Williams and her family following the death her of husband, Bennie Gene Williams who passed away on Dec. 22.

Also, we express our sympathy to Suzie Andrew and her family following the death of her mother, Marian Yarbrough who passed away on Dec. 21.

And also, may we remember Ben Wallace and his family following the death of his grandfather, John Thomas Wallace on Dec. 21

NEW BABY

Congratulations to Donald and Chelsea Maines upon the birth of their son, Donovan "Van" Waite, born on Jan. 5. He was 7 lbs. and 20 in. long. Proud big sister is Harper.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the delicious meal you prepared and provided for us. Your sweet spirit and kindness is so appreciated. - Family of Betty Ann Williams

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Vision & Leadership Team
Sunday, Jan. 22, 12:15 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Congregational Care
Monday, Jan. 23, 2:30 pm (Library)

Missions Team
Monday, Jan. 23, 7:30 pm (Library)

Finance Team
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 7:30 pm (Library)

Church Office: 336-835-2323
 Fax: 336-835-8035
 Website: www.elkintnmc.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/elkintnmc
 Email: office@elkintnmc.org
 Church Staff:
 Rev. Mark L. Barden, Pastor (mbarden@wnccumc.net)
 Cindy Furr, Director of Discipleship (cfurr@elkintnmc.org)
 Amy Johnson, Director of Music/Children's Ministries (ajohnson@elkintnmc.org)
 Benjamin Wallace, Parish Life Coordinator (bwallace@elkintnmc.org)
 Beth Darnell, Director of Weekday Programs (bdarnell@elkintnmc.org)
 Fat Trexler, Custodian (ptrexler@elkintnmc.org)
 George Brown, Assistant Custodian (gbrown@elkintnmc.org)

PO Box 69 ■ 340 Hawthorne Road ■ Elk, NC 28621



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