

GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
Volume 219, Number 2 **February 2016**

*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner*



*Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Pancake Dinner at 6:00 PM
in Fellowship Hall*

*Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016
Worship at 7:00 PM in Union Church*

In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.

Lenten Worship each Wednesday night at 7:00 PM in Union Church.



Valentine Dinner

*February 14, 2016 at 4:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
Everyone is Invited*

From the Pastor's Pen...



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at Grace,

My newsletter article to you this month will be more of a study for you, as I want you to earnestly read your Bible and dig into God's Word. This is the lesson from Second Timothy 4:1-2 "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

This is similar to the instructions given to Titus where Paul told him to "Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority [and] Let no one disregard you" (Titus 2:15). Paul had mentored Timothy for years and writes elsewhere to him to "devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching" (1st Tim. 4:13) clearly meaning the Holy Scriptures as Paul names it as a proper noun by capitalizing the word "Scripture." By this time there were a few letters circulating from the apostles and some of the gospels had been written so that is what Timothy, and all pastors should be doing as Paul later writes, "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2nd Tim. 4:2) and this is very important because "the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths" (2nd Tim. 4:3-4). That time has come. But what does it mean to have "itching ears?" What does Paul mean by being "ready in season and out of season?" Are church leaders commanded to rebuke, exhort, reprove, and correct sinning church members (Matt. 18:15-19)? Genesis 4:9 "Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

This account took place shortly after Cain killed his brother Able and God has asked Cain where his brother was and his response has become well known, "am I my brother's keeper?" Of course Cain knew where his brother was and so did God but God was asking Cain that he might confess it and repent of this, but there is no record in the Bible that Cain ever did. This is just the opposite approach that the church should have as Jesus told the disciples, and by extension, He tells us "that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34) meaning we are our brother and our sisters keepers. Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12) and love does care enough to know where our brothers and sisters are in their lives.

Why did God ask Cain where his brother Able was? Was Cain being sarcastic to God in Genesis 4:9? Who is Jesus' brother or sister (Mark 3:35)? I urge you in your study to look at all of the Bible verses and even read them aloud so that you can get the most out of this lesson on responsibility and learn the Christian's responsibility which is to know that "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1st Cor. 13:4-7). That is my responsibility as a pastor and I believe it is the responsibility of every member that makes up the whole Body of Christ, the church!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Gil Gilbert

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY

- ❖ Communion Assistants - Randy and Stephanie Fulbright
- ❖ Ushers - Allen Biggerstaff, Joe Biggerstaff, Joe Whisnant
- ❖ Greeter - Debi Pisko
- ❖ Altar Preparation - Joy Heavner, Nicole Jarrett
- ❖ Children's Church - Sheila Drum, Emilee Bumgardner
- ❖ Nursery - Shelly Scronce, Stormy Shull

FLOWER CHART FOR FEBRUARY



2/07 -
2/21- Bobbie Wright

2/14 -
2/28 - Sherry Biggerstaff

If you wish to give the flowers for a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the narthex. The liturgical color of the day is listed to assist you in selecting flowers appropriate for that Sunday. You should contact the Church Office so that the correct information is placed in the bulleting for that Sunday. Please notify the Church Office the Thursday prior to your selected Sunday. You can call the Church Office between 9 AM and Noon each weekday, leave a note on the desk, or send an email to let us know the occasion or memoriam for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016

	12/27/15	01/03/16	01/10/16	01/17/16	01/24/16
SCS	37	44	34	44	cancelled
Worship	87	100	71	85	cancelled
General Offering	2,999.00	4,623.00	1,356.25	2,791.00	0.00
Learning Hour	124.00	21.20	125.50	23.50	0.00
Building Fund	190.00	135.00	50.00	190.09	0.00
First Sunday Lunch	00.00	209.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cemetery Fund	.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contemporary Worship	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Christmas	844.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cookbooks	15.00	140.00	75.00	15.00	0.00
Children's Learning Hr. Fund	0.00	0.00	53.53	0.00	0.00

NOTE: The financial report will be in the newsletter each month and will be not be published in the weekly worship bulletin. Because the newsletter is distributed the last Sunday of each month, the attendance and giving figures for the last Sunday will be carried over to the next month's newsletter.

THE FRED T. FOARD SENIORS will meet at Noon on Wednesday, February 3rd at Sardis Lutheran.

FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH will be served Sunday, February 7th, following Worship. The Grace Chancel Choir will be serving soup, sandwiches, and dessert.

THE WOMEN OF GRACE will meet Sunday, February 7th, following the First Sunday Lunch.

MEN OF GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, February 13th, at 9:00 AM at the Blue Moon.

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST will be served Sunday, February 14th, at 9:00 AM. Harvey & Helen Leatherman and family and Dan & Tricia Panek will prepare the breakfast.

THE GRACE SENIOR/ADULT GROUP will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 17th, from noon until 2:00 PM. Lunch will be served consisting of baked turkey, dressing, greens, baked apples, rolls, desserts, and drinks. Games will follow the meal. Please invite a friend and come join the fun and fellowship!

CONGRATULATIONS to Terry and Stephanie Ratts on the birth of their daughter, Alley Meree Ratts. She was born Tuesday, January 5th and weighed in at 6 pounds, 3 ounces. The proud great grandparents, Harvey and Helen Leatherman, reported that all are doing well.

MISSING: Staplers are missing from the Library and several classrooms. The small clipboard that was placed in the nursery for the attendance sheets is also missing. Please return any borrowed items as soon as possible. Thank you. (SB)

New Items for February



IT OUT!!!!

FOR ADULTS

1. The Circle Maker by Mark Batterson
"Praying circles around your biggest dreams and greatest fears."
2. Experiencing Forgiveness by Charles Stanley
"Enjoy peace that comes from giving and receiving it."
3. Gift from the Sea by Anne Lindbergh
4. How Good Do We Have to Be? by Harold Kushner
"A new understanding of guilt and forgiveness."



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER will be held Tuesday, February 9th, at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Joy Heavner, Doug & Jackie Jarrett, Jodi Martin, and Jill Matthews will be flipping those pancakes! Everyone is encouraged to join in this time of fellowship before our Lenten Journey begins.

ASH WEDNESDAY worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be held February 10th, at 7:00 PM in Union Church. Plan now to gather with the community of faith as we begin the Lenten Journey. Services of worship will be held in Union Church on Wednesday evenings, February 17th, February 24th, March 2nd, March 9th, and March 16th at 7:00 PM. (KH)



Dear Lord, As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.

Dear Pastor,

I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8.

VALENTINE DINNER will be held February 14th at 4:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. The menu will be Chicken Alfredo, Chicken with Marinara Sauce, Grilled Chicken, Pasta Salad, Rolls, and Dessert. The entertainment will be some fun games. You are encouraged to reserve a spot so the proper amount of food can be prepared. There is a tear off sheet on the bulletin insert, you may list your reservation on the Worship Today Form, or you may call the Church Office. Reservations are not required but they are most helpful in the planning process. The Christian Education Ministry Team is sponsoring this event and are looking for volunteers to help with preparing, serving, and cleanup. If you can help in any way, please contact Nancy Leonard. (NL)

FIRST COMMUNION will be offered to young people on Easter (March 27th). Any young person that has not been instructed in the meaning and purpose of Holy Communion and are showing interest in participating in this Holy Meal are asked to speak with Pastor Gil. A time will be set when Pastor Gil can come to your home and instruct your child before they may receive Holy Communion. (KH)

A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME

"The bread and wine remind us of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. As we receive Communion, we look back to the cross with thankfulness that He died for us so that our sins could be forgiven and our guilt removed (Matthew 26:26-28). Jesus could have left us some other way to remember His death, but He chose to leave us a meal. A meal is often a way in which we celebrate great occasions. One day in heaven, we are going to celebrate for eternity at "the wedding supper" of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:9). The bread and wine are a foretaste of this (Luke 22:16 and I Corinthians 11:26)." *(excerpt from Questions of Life, The ALPHA Course)*

THE FIRST ALPHA COURSE COMPLETED

The first offering of the ALPHA Course was completed in January. It was a 15 week course and we congratulate all those who were part of this great video teaching by ALPHA Founder, Rev. Nicky Gumbel, Pastor of Brompton Church, London, England. Those completing the course were: David and Iris Sigmon, Joe and Lynette Momier, Rick Bivens, Marjorie McDaniel, Glennie Beam, Tricia Panek, Nicky Jarrett, and Pat Dietz. ALPHA will be offered again beginning in the Spring for the wider community so spread the word and invite your neighbors and friends. There are also plans to introduce the ALPHA Course at the monthly Senior Luncheons following their meetings for anyone who would like to stay and participate. Certificates of completing the ALPHA Course will be awarded in worship on March 6. Congratulate them on being the first ALPHA Course Graduates at Grace!

"FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC," A VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION AT CATAWBA COLLEGE

A February 14th musical concert in Catawba College's Omwake-Dearborn Chapel will feature concert pianist Dorothy Lewis-Griffith Shuford of Newton and a brass ensemble performing a world premiere of a commissioned work by a Catawba alumna. The concert, which is free and open to the public, begins at 4 PM followed by a reception in Peeler-Crystal Lounge of the Robertson College-Community Center. Other musicians to perform during the Feb. 14th concert include The Catawba Singers, under the direction of Dr. Phillip Burgess; Christina Pier, soprano; Dr. Renee McCachern, piano; along with brass ensemble members Chris Fenson and Luke Boudreault, trumpet, Chris Ferguson, trombone, and Frank Merritt, horn. (JH)

SENIORS MEET MONTHLY at the Grace Fellowship Hall, and a lot of planning and preparation goes into these events. Betty Wilfong, David and Iris Sigmon, Glennie Beam, Phyllis and Joe Biggerstaff are our Grace volunteers for these monthly functions. Thanks to each of them for continuing this group ministry and fellowship. For those that "fit" the category of "senior" (any person that is available at noon to enjoy a meal and fellowship) be sure to check the schedule for the monthly event. There's always some good food and fun to be had by all. Pass the word to other Grace community seniors. (JH)

CORRECTIONS TO CHURCH DIRECTORY: Ricky Bivens email should be corrected to read rickybivens@charter.com.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS

- ❖ There was a good turnout for the "un hanging" of the Greens on Saturday, January 9th. Thanks to Bobbie Brendle, Pastor Gil and Karen, Don and Nicky Jarrett, Doug and Jackie Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Tricia Panek, Dorothy Shuford, and David Sigmon. Thanks also to David and Belinda Wilfong for removing and storing of our Grace Church Yard Manger scene. Doug Jarrett helped out earlier in the week as well by removing poinsettias from the Grace Church grave sites. (JH)
- ❖ Thanks to all for the many Christmas cards and well wishes for 2016. The donated rugs, blankets, towels and treats for my adopted furry friends were most appreciated. Lift up your voices and sing to the highest heavens in 2016. Thank you all. - Joy Heavner
- ❖ Thank you for the gift and the people who came to sing at Christmas. - Peggy Hall
- ❖ Thanks to Pastor Gil and Karen for the new door mats placed at every door of the church and for two new 4-slice toasters and a tall electric can opener placed in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ Your contribution to The Corner Table in 2015 is greatly appreciated by our staff, volunteers, and most importantly our guests. The Corner Table's mission is to provide nutritious meals in a comfortable environment for any man, woman and child who is in need. Thank you so much for your beneficence toward The Corner Table in support of our community.
- ❖ What a tremendous blessing we have received from you all. We appreciate your generosity and love. Thank you for the wonderful items that were donated to us. We appreciate it all and hope to build a relationship with our Grace Lutheran friends. Thank you for providing for God's work at Safe Harbor.
- ❖ Our hearts are full of gratitude to you all for your donations. Your generosity is helping us to continue to keep people in their homes with the heat on. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. - The ECCCM Staff.
- ❖ Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Not only are we helping those in need, we're spreading the Gospel to those who may have never had the opportunity to hear it before. Thank you for your prayers and support. - Franklin Graham
- ❖ Because of the generous gifts of friends like you, The Salvation Army is able to provide human services for men, women and children of our community. Your gift assures that we will continue Doing the Most Good with compassion. May God bless you for all that you do to help the community. - Captain Timothy Delaney

What God Gave Up for Lent + + + + + **HIMSELF**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for the purpose of approving the revised Constitution will be held immediately following worship on Sunday March 6th (TENTATIVE) pending scheduling by the Board.

CONSTITUTION SEMINARS WELL-RECEIVED

The Constitution Task Force completed their work on the Grace Constitution and with the approval by the Leadership Ministry Board, the Constitution Seminars are being offered to answer questions, comment and inquire about the revisions made to the Grace Constitution. The alterations were minor but still just as important that everyone at Grace should be aware of these changes prescribed by the NALC and the Constitution Task Team. These were included in a copy of the Constitution mailed to every household on record at Grace. They included:

1. Changes in the terminology throughout the document from "Church Council" to "Leadership Ministry Board";
2. The need for the Congregation to be incorporated by the laws of North Carolina (in process);
3. A statement concerning the use of the Fellowship Hall and the NALC amendment recognizing the scriptures and adhering to that with regard to marriage;
4. The re-establishment and incorporation of the Time and Talent Forms to fill the Ministry Teams (formerly called "committees") of the Congregation;
5. The number of Board members being reduced from 12 to 9 (for a congregation the size of Grace);
6. The statute (B12.02) that immediate family members shall not serve on the same Board; and
7. Active members shall commune at least 6 (six) times per calendar year;

The Board has set the date of Sunday, March 6 for a Congregational Meeting for the sole purpose of approving this revised Constitution. The purpose of the seminars is for congregation members to review and have questions answered concerning the Constitution in order that the approval and meeting be brief and positive. To date, all comments have been positive and in favor of the revised Constitution. Thanks to all who have attended the seminars and asked questions and made very positive remarks and comments. The remaining dates and times are Wednesday, February 3rd, at 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM, and Thursday February 4th at 11:00 AM.

UPDATE ON THE FULBRIGHTS: Josh graduated in December and is staying in Wilmington. He has been working at a Marina there and plans to stay on with them. It is a full time role and he loves it. So far Jordan's Sophomore year at UNC Asheville has been great. He made Dean's list for 1st semester and 2nd semester classes have begun. It is also time for baseball to crank up. Their opening series is Feb. 19 in Asheville and he will be pitching. (JH)

ECCCM NEEDS your continuous help to keep the Food Pantry and Homeless Shelter supplied. They are asking for items for children (toys, blankets, and clothing), food, toiletry items (shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brushes, combs, brushes, etc.) and grocery bags. Any items brought to the church for this ministry will be delivered to ECCCM. (JB)

Dear Pastor,

My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something.

Robert Anderson, age 11

HOW DO WE TREAT FIRST-TIME WORSHIPERS AT GRACE?

The question often comes up: How can a worship service be both “worshipful” and also “new worshiper-friendly”? We can have both without compromising either. When we speak of worship, we’re talking about something only believers can do. Worship is an act that is from believers to God. We magnify God’s name in worship by expressing our love and commitment to him. Unbelievers simply cannot do this.

Here is the simple definition of worship that we operate with at Grace: “Worship is expressing our love to God for who he is, what he’s said, and what he’s doing.” We believe there are many appropriate ways to express our love to God: by praying, singing, obeying, trusting, giving, testifying, listening and responding to his Word, thanking, and many other expressions. God – not us – is the focus and center of our worship. God is the consumer of worship. As the popular song goes: God is the audience of one!

Although unbelievers cannot truly worship, they can watch believers worship. They can observe the joy that we feel. They can see how we value God’s Word and how we respond to it. They can hear how the Bible answers the problems and questions of life. They can notice how worship encourages, strengthens and changes us. They can sense when God is supernaturally moving in a service, although they won’t be able to explain it.

When unbelievers watch genuine worship, it becomes a powerful witness. In Acts 2 – on the day of Pentecost – God’s presence was so evident in the disciples’ worship service that it attracted the attention of unbelievers throughout the entire city! Acts 2:6 says, “... a crowd came together.” We know it was a big crowd because 3,000 people were saved that day. Why were those 3,000 people converted? Because they felt God’s presence and they understood the message. I believe both of these elements are essential for worship to be a witness.

God’s presence must be sensed in worship. More people are won to Christ by feeling God’s presence (His Holy Spirit) than by all of our apologetic arguments combined. Few people, if any, are converted to Christ on purely intellectual grounds. It is the sense of God’s presence that melts hearts and explodes mental barriers. Worship without this yields few evangelistic results. There is an intimate connection between worship and evangelism.

In the first place, the goal of evangelism is to produce worshipers of God. The Bible tells us that “the Father seeks worshipers” (John 4:23). When we recruit worshipers, that’s called evangelism. On the other hand, worship provides the motivation for evangelism. It produces a desire in us to tell others about Christ. The result of Isaiah’s powerful worship experience (Isaiah 6:1-8) was Isaiah saying, “Here am I, send me!”

True worship causes us to witness. In genuine worship, God’s presence is felt, God’s pardon is offered, God’s purposes are revealed, and God’s power is displayed. That sounds like an ideal context for evangelism! We’ve all noticed that when unbelievers watch believers relate to God in an intelligent, sincere manner it creates a desire to know God, too. Because genuine worship can have such a profound impact on unbelievers, we need to be very sensitive to their fears, hang-ups and needs when they are present in worship at Grace.

This is the principle Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 14:23: Paul commanded that tongues be limited in public worship. His reasoning? Speaking in tongues seems like foolishness to unbelievers. Paul didn’t say tongues were foolish but only that they appear foolish to unbelievers. As Lutherans, we know that many first-time worshipers do not understand the liturgy, the standing up and sitting down, when to sing, etc.

“So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?” (1 Cor. 14:23)

There is a larger principle behind this advice to the Corinthian church. The point Paul is making is that we must be willing to adjust our perceptions when unbelievers are present. We must be willing to sit with them, show them the difference between an LBW and a WOV; where the liturgy begins, where the hymns are found and encourage them to fill out a Worship Today form so we will have a record of their presence and can visit them later. God tells us to be sensitive to unbelievers in our services! Being sensitive to nonbelievers in our worship is a biblical command. Paul had it right!

Making a service comfortable for the unchurched doesn't mean changing your theology; it means changing the environment of the service – such as changing the way you greet visitors, the music you use, the Bible translation you preach from, and the kind of announcements you make before the service. The message is not always comfortable. In fact, sometimes God's truth is very uncomfortable! Still we must teach "the whole counsel of God." Being sensitive to nonbelievers does not limit what you say but it will affect how you say it. We must make both the worship and the message understandable.

The unchurched are not asking for a watered-down message. The unchurched expect to hear the Bible when they come to church. They just want to hear how it relates to their lives. They can handle a clear, biblical message when it is delivered in terms they understand and in a tone that shows you respect and care about them. They are looking for solutions, not a scolding. A clear message coupled with genuine worship will not only attract unbelievers, it will open their hearts to the power of the gospel. As they feel God's presence and understand the message they will walk away changed.

Worship, then, becomes much more than a witness to nonbelievers. It becomes a source of joy to our God. (PG)

THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX MINISTRY is not completed. Franklin Graham is encouraging congregations to consider making available the Children's Shoeboxes throughout the year. At Grace, we will have available the Shoeboxes in the narthex every Sunday throughout the year so you can take a box and fill it - hopefully, one each month. That way we will be sure to meet our goal of more than 136 shoeboxes being filled at Grace in 2016. Take one home every chance you get so we can continue to spread the good news to the children who need to know of God's love and compassion. Once you have filled your Shoebox, return it on any Sunday and we will store them until it is time to take them to the Samaritan's Purse Distribution Center in Charlotte.

WHAT WILL THE BIBLE MAKE OF US?

Of course, what we make of the Bible will never be as great a thing as what the Bible will - if we let it - make of us. For that which is born of the flesh - our human understanding and handlings - is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit - God's revelation of Himself and the power of that revelation to enliven us - is spirit. The will of man will not ultimately prevail against the will of God. It is the will of God that we should know Him as He revealed Himself and that will has not only survived the arrogant attacks of scientific and "enlightened" men, it has (even more miraculously) thrived in spite of our best intended, though sadly misguided attempts at "rightly dividing" that seamless robe of revelation.

So, let us press on with no faith in our own understanding and nothing but faith in the Truth that is too great to be diminished by our feeble minds and too great to not transform us. Salvation comes from God, not from our cleverness. The Bible is a very great book. Let us submit to it so God may do the great work of making us into a great people. *(submitted by Iris Sigmon)*

WARNING: BE CAREFUL OF THE MEAT YOU BUY

Americans are becoming increasingly more concerned about the meat industry since the US Congress repealed the Country of Origin Labeling law (COOL) on beef and pork. This means that citizens are now denied the right to know where cuts of meat are coming from outside this country. The use of antibiotics has been banned in the US but many countries still use antibiotics as well as other harmful drugs to the food of beef and pork products. The whole world is scared of China made 'black hearted goods'. Can you differentiate which one is made in the USA, Philippines, Taiwan or China? For your information...the first 3 digits of the barcode is the country code wherein the product was made OR the country in which the manufacturer is located. This can be misleading because a bar code may say it comes from China, but the headquarters of the manufacturer may be in Africa or India! Sample: all barcodes that start with 690.691.692 and 695 are all MADE IN CHINA. Bar code 471 in the picture below is Made in Taiwan.



This is our human right to know, but the government and related department never educate the public, therefore we have to RESCUE ourselves.

Nowadays, Chinese businessmen know that consumers do not prefer products 'made in China', so they don't show from which country it is made. However, you may now refer to the barcode, remember if the first 3 digits is 690-695 then it is Made in China .

00 ~ 13 USA & CANADA	30 ~ 37 FRANCE	40 ~ 44 GERMANY
49 ~ JAPAN	50 ~ UK	57 ~ Denmark
64 ~ Finland	76 ~ Switzerland and Lienchtenstein	
471 ~ Taiwan	628 ~ Saudi-Arabia	629 ~ United Arab Emirates
690-695 ~ China	740 ~ 745 - Central America	

All 480 Codes are Made in the Philippines

*Lent is a time to take time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.*

*Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God, to hear your Word and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.*
by Ann Weems

Treasurer's Report for
December
2015

YTD

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	10,938.58
Deposits	14,315.18
Expenses	47,540.06
Ending Balance	-22,286.30
Memorial Fund	
Beginning Balance	20,982.76
Deposits	155.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	21,137.76
Building Fund	
Beginning Balance	66.20
Deposits	920.00
Expenses	1,790.58
Ending Balance	-804.38
Cemetery Fund	
Beginning Balance	140,129.70
Deposits	76.73
Expenses	1,673.26
Ending Balance	138,533.17
Union Church Restoration	
Beginning Balance	44,676.45
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	364.60
Ending Balance	44,311.85
Playground Equipment Fund	
Beginning Balance	3,109.52
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	3,109.52
All Funds	
Beginning Balance	219,903.21
Deposits	15,466.91
Expenses	51,368.50
Ending Balance	184,001.62

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	32,617.90
Deposits	137,993.58
Expenses	192,897.78
Ending Balance	-22,286.30
Memorial Fund	
Beginning Balance	26,281.90
Deposits	2,490.00
Expenses	7,634.14
Ending Balance	21,137.76
Building Fund	
Beginning Balance	-2,118.08
Deposits	5,934.03
Expenses	4,620.33
Ending Balance	-804.38
Cemetery Fund	
Beginning Balance	89,418.20
Deposits	54,819.80
Expenses	5,704.83
Ending Balance	138,533.17
Union Church Restoration	
Beginning Balance	45,013.64
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	701.79
Ending Balance	44,311.85
Playground Equipment Fund	
Beginning Balance	3,109.52
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	3,109.52
All Funds	
Beginning Balance	194,323.08
Deposits	201,237.41
Expenses	211,558.87
Ending Balance	184,001.62

Grace Notes

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church N.A.L.C.
4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway
Newton, NC 28658**

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly