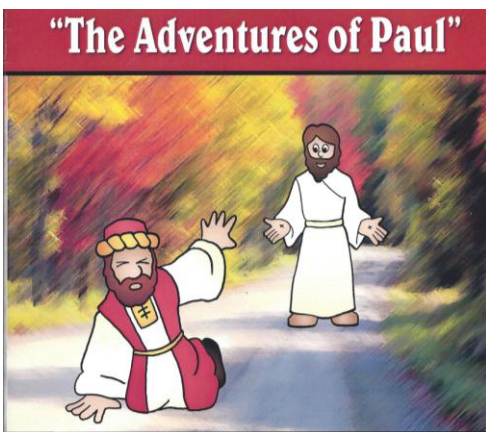


# GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC  
**Volume 218, Number 8** **August 2015**



## ***COME ONE, COME ALL***

Vacation Bible School  
Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> -  
Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 PM - Meal  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Classes  
for ALL AGES

Sign-up sheets are available in the downstairs area outside the Church Office. It will be a fun time learning about "The Adventures of Paul".

## **HOME COMING**

Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> with  
Rev. John Yost, Guest Pastor.



## From the Pastor's Pen...



Dear Disciples at Grace Church,

I have been in the ordained ministry now for 28 years and am embarrassed to admit that I never actually knew the history of Vacation Bible School. When and where did VBS first begin? I found an article in *Christianity Today* and learned a lot about the history of VBS. Apparently it all began in the 1870's when the Methodist Episcopal Church offered "summer Sunday schools that included educational and cultural components" to the people in its community in New York City. Apparently it isn't anything new for churches to notice what other churches are doing and then implement the same type of ministries in their own as it didn't take long for other "Christian groups across the country to begin planning their own summer retreats" - not just for children, but for everyone in the family.

Vacation Bible School began to look more like what we know as VBS when "the Epiphany Baptist Church in New York City noticed large numbers of immigrant children in their neighborhood". In July 1898, the congregation "rented the only place they could find—a saloon—to run a Bible school for six weeks during the summer". Can you imagine any of us renting a saloon for our VBS? Well, one of the teachers, Mrs. Hawes, put together a program of "singing, Bible stories and Scripture memorization, games, crafts, drawing, cooking" . . . sound familiar??!!! . . . and it really caught on: in just three years she directed seven different VBS ministries! From there it grew and spread across the country.

In 1923 Standard Publishing was the first publisher to create a full-scale VBS program and by 1957 millions of children attended VBS programs every year. Standard was the first to develop a single-theme concept and divide the teaching by age levels. They are the ones who fully developed the model we now know as VBS. I still remember the Standard Publishing crafts from the VBS' I attended as a child in the 1960's!

Today VBS is one of the, if not the, primary evangelistic outreach for most churches in this country and around the world! According to church consultant, George Barna, - in his book "Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions" - he says most people make decisions for Jesus before they are 13 years old. This one fact is enough to highlight the importance and need for VBS! In the coming week (August 2-6) at Grace, we will offer VBS - not just for the Grace congregation and not just for Lutherans - but for everyone in the entire Hickory/Newton community. We will eat supper at 5:30, then have a brief opening and then go to our classes to enjoy VBS and what God has for us to learn. I pray that you will invite friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, and acquaintances as we will offer classes for all ages including adults. We will have fun learning about the Adventures of St. Paul and will see how instrumental he was in spreading the Gospel and Christianity throughout the world.

Please plan to join VBS at Grace and invite and tell people you know so they can join in the conversations, and great fellowship and learning! To coin a well-known phrase, A mind is a terrible thing to waste!!

Blessings!

Pastor Gil Gilbert, STS

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR AUGUST**

- ❖ Communion Assistants - Herb & Libby Travis
- ❖ Ushers - Ricky Bivens, James Hall, Don & Nicky Jarrett
- ❖ Greeter - Lynette Momier
- ❖ Altar Preparation - Malinda Leatherman, Joy Heavner
- ❖ Children's Church/Nursery - Pat Dietz

**FLOWER CHART FOR AUGUST**



- 8/02 - Harvey & Helen Leatherman
- 8/09 - OPEN
- 8/16 - Kim Parker
- 8/23 - Grace Church
- 8/30 - Dan & Tricia Panek

Please notify the Church Office of the wording you would like printed for the dedication of the Altar Flowers by 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.

**ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR JUNE/JULY 2015**

	6/28/15	7/5/15	7/12/15	7/19/15
SCS	45	47	31	40
Worship	85	104	93	103
General Offering	1473.00	5014.00	2125.00	1707.00
Sunday School	30.00	38.00	61.00	28.25
Building Fund	190.00	245.00	100.00	72.08
Cemetery Fund	76.65		.64	

*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, August 5<sup>th</sup> at Sardis.

**MEN OF GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST** will NOT be held in August due to the Clean Up Day.

**CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES** August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Anyone willing to help out the choir for Homecoming would be most welcome - children and adults.

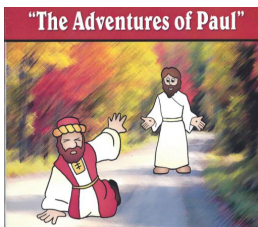
**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.** Each year the Grace Congregation begins preparation in advance for the Annual Grace Homecoming. Two clean up/spruce up days are scheduled this year - Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 AM each day. Volunteers will be needed throughout all the buildings and the grounds. Extend invitations to former members, family and friends to attend this year's Homecoming celebration on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be our 218<sup>th</sup> year of our Grace Family! (JH)

**GRACE'S NEW COOKBOOK** is underway. We hope all of the great cooks in our midst will join in the project. Send your recipes to Karen Gilbert at [mrspasgil@aol.com](mailto:mrspasgil@aol.com). For those that do not have access to a computer, forms are available in the Narthex to submit your recipes. Please be specific as to measurements and cooking times. All recipes must be submitted by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Publication will hopefully be by Christmas. Volunteers are needed to physically assemble the cookbooks. If willing to help with this, please contact Karen Gilbert or Joy Heavner. (KG)

**GOOD CHEER MINISTRY TEAM** will be sending out postcards of cheer to members of the congregation with a need. Postcards will be available from the greeter on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's of each month. Please take a postcard and write a message of cheer, sign your name, and place in the offering plate. The ministry team will take care of mailing all the postcards. (SB)

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - AUGUST 2-6, 2015**

VBS at Grace will be held August 2-6 and the theme will be The Adventures of Paul. VBS classes will be offered for all ages including 2 classes for adults. Sign-up sheets are available in the downstairs area outside the Church Office. Other area Lutheran



congregations have been extended a warm invitation to come to Grace and join the fun of VBS! Supper will be served each evening at 5:30 and classes will begin after a short opening at 6:00. Everyone is encouraged to bring canned goods and non-perishables to worship during the Sunday's leading up to VBS as the youth will be making supper for the Women's Shelter from the food items you bring to worship. Sign up to attend VBS this Sunday! (PG)

**WE EXPRESS CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES** to the family of Barry & Kim Parker upon the death of Barry's mother, Alene Parker. May God comfort all who mourn.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Eric & Jodi Martin on the birth of a son, Mitchell Jarrett Martin, on Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, weighing in at 8 pounds 8 ounces. Mitchell has a big sister, Meredith, proud grandparents, Doug & Jackie Jarrett, and great grandparents, James & Geraldine Jarrett. Everyone is doing well. We give praise to God for this new life.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** is a wonderful ministry to reach out to children around the world and bring them joy and the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Consider packing a shoebox (or two or three) for a needy child. Read of another testimony from Yuliya who received a shoebox at age 9 in a Central Asian country.

When I lifted the lid on my purple plastic shoebox, the first thing I saw was a stuffed dog. I was filled with exuberant joy! I just remember hugging it.



Even though I had toys growing up, the dog was an item you couldn't find in my country. It was really soft and had puppy eyes. It was my new best friend, my newfound treasure.

My second favorite item was bubble gum-flavored toothpaste that came in a pink tube. We didn't know such a thing existed. We would squeeze out a bit the size of the tip of a match so we could get a little bit of flavor and make it last as long as possible. Word traveled fast. My friends would line up in our bathroom and my sister and I would squeeze out a tiny amount on their toothbrushes. I think we made it last about two years.

My third favorite item was an Etch A Sketch. At first we had no idea what it was. We kept pushing down on the buttons and asking, "Why is it not working?" After having it displayed on a shelf for a couple of months, my sister was dusting and she turned the knobs. When she saw the line going up and down on the screen she was so excited. The item we thought was broken was drawing!



The toys were the most important things to me as a 9-year-old but it also stood out that the letter in the box said, "I am praying for you." As time went on, I realized why. With my shoebox, here was someone I'd never met and never seen, yet she was still praying for me.

We became pen pals and she would always close her letters, "I am praying for you." I always wondered, "Why is she praying for me?" The impact hit me more than seven years later after I became a Christian. She was showing me the love of Christ all along, starting with the shoebox and continuing in her prayers.

The shoebox was a seed. That's how the Lord works. He patiently knocks on the door of our heart and waits until we open the door. Sometimes you see fruit right away and other times it takes years for the seed to grow.

I still have my stuffed dog 14 years later. That's a glimpse of how much the shoebox meant to me because it was packed with love and prayer. It wasn't just any dog. I could tell she specifically chose that dog for me and wanted to use it to communicate God's love. (KH)



Thank  
You

.... to everyone for the cards, visits, phone calls, and prayers during my recent surgery and recuperation. I am doing very well. - Lorene Heavner

.... to everyone who helped to make our Rededication of Marriage Vows such a special event. We appreciate the many cards and prayers as well. The day was a great success. - Herb and Libby Travis

.... to the Jo Jarrett family for their gift of a baby changing station, which is now located in the women's restroom in the Fellowship Hall. (JH)

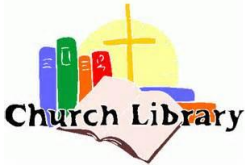
.... to Iris and David Sigmon for sharing their Lutheridge Music Week sheet music and information. They donated an abundance of music pieces that can be used

throughout the year at Grace during services. We hope many of our talented members will volunteer to share their voices in special musical presentations during the next Church Year. (JH)

**WORSHIP TODAY FORMS** are a multipurpose piece of paper. The form is used to record your presence at worship and your partaking of Holy Communion. Voting privileges are based on communion of record and monetary giving of record. Therefore, it is important that you check the appropriate box if you receive Holy Communion at any given service. You do not need a separate form for each member of the family, one form is sufficient. It is helpful if you leave unused forms at the end of your pew or in the Narthex for use another time. We try to be good stewards of our resources and reuse when possible. You do not need to complete the contact information each week, unless there is a correction or change. We do hope visitors will complete all of the contact information. There is a space for any prayer requests and other notes you may want to give to the Church Office or Pastor. (KH)

**COPIES OF NALC NEWS FOR JULY** are available in the narthex or online at <http://thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/News/2015/NALC-July-2015.pdf>. It is very interesting to read about what is happening in the church-at-large of which Grace is a part. (KH)

**NALC SHIRTS** are available to order for \$30.00 each. Samples and order forms are in the narthex. You can also call the Church Office to place an order. Shirts are available in Red or Gray and have the NALC logo on the left front and the name of the church "GRACE" on the right sleeve. Payment must accompany each order. (PG)



## New Items for August



**IT OUT!!!!**

### ADULTS

1. Far from Here by Nicole Baart  
A novel that is an easy read that you will want to finish before you put it down.
2. The Harbinger by Jonathan Cahn  
New York Times Best Seller. "The ancient mystery that holds the secret of America's future."
3. Grace by Max Lucado  
More than we deserve, greater than we imagine.
4. \*The Catawbans by Gary R. Freeze  
Crafters of a North Carolina County
5. \*Life Among the Lutherans by Garrison Keillor

\* = Donated by Steve & Chris Suther

### DVD's

1. Left Behind - Blu Ray PG-13
2. Unconditional - "It's not a dead end if it takes you somewhere you needed to go."

*Please come by and check something out today!*

### MISSION RESOURCES UPDATE FROM THE NALC

July 17, 2015

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

It is a joy to celebrate our partnership in the Gospel together, trusting that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ our Lord! We look forward very much to seeing many of you in Dallas, but I want to take a moment today to specifically share four of the featured resources that we have been developing in the Missions Office. As the NALC strives to be Christ centered, mission driven, traditionally grounded and congregationally focused, we hope and pray these resources will be excellent and helpful tools.

Blessings,



Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba

1. Drops From the Well - *"Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty."* John 4:14

A great gift of our Lord is the chance to drink deep from His living water. Reading the Word of God on a consistent basis is at the heart of our faithful obedience as followers of Jesus. We read His word to know Him better. And yet, for so many, this is a challenging task. Daily readings get lost in the shuffle of life. Welcome to *Drops from the Well*. Utilizing the readings from Sunday morning, *Drops from the Well* can be delivered to your phone (US phone numbers only) via a text message or to your email. More than a verse-a-day, *Drops from the Well* focuses on sending out one key point or Gospel kernel with the hopes that you read and reflect on that drop each day of the week. Every morning at the breakfast table, pray this "drop" together as a family. Every night around the dinner table, use the "drop" as the lens through which you recap your day. You can share highs and lows around this verse, talk about a mistake you made and the way the Living Water, even in this little "drop," helped you through.

To receive a "Drop" from the Well of Living Water every Sunday night:

- Text the word "Drops" to 614-328-5636.
- Or sign up for a weekly email at <http://2hoots.com/users/add/59>. (Be sure to check the box for "Weekly Sunday Message.")

There is a reason this resource is called *Drops from the Well*. This "drop" is not meant to replace reflective devotional reading of Scripture. Rather, it can provide a simple way for people to enter into the Fount of Living Water in a new way. Do you remember singing that wonderful VBS song, *"Deep and Wide,"* as a kid? For too long we have been stuck on the second verse: "hmmm and wide. hmmm and wide..." We have forgotten to go deep - in our relationships and in our reading of Scripture. Perhaps checking in with those we live with around a "Drop from the Well" can help us take a step deeper into the Living Waters of Jesus Christ. For more information or suggestions on how to use a Drop from the Well, please visit <http://thenalc.org/drops-from-the-well>

2. NALC Mission Intensive - "Mission Driven!"

This training event is included in the cost of your registration for Convocation and begins at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, August 12th in Dallas, Texas. The goal of this mission intensive is



to inspire congregations to embrace this key element of the NALC mission statement and begin to make actions plans on how they can become more focused in reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please note: This gathering is not just for pastors. Congregations are encouraged to send several individuals or a team to Convocation to receive this nuts and bolts practical training. For more information, please visit <http://thenalc.org/2015-convocation> or email the Missions Office at [jbrockman@thenalc.org](mailto:jbrockman@thenalc.org)

### 3. NALC Mission Festival - Mission Possible

"Mission Possible" will be held Nov. 5-7 at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church in Hilliard, Ohio, with the main theme focusing on the relationship between discipleship and mission. Bishop John Bradosky, Dr. Gemechis Buba, and Pastor Henry Graf are the featured speakers. The NALC's annual Mission Festival is a training resource for Mission Districts and congregations. This event is designed and planned to maximize the training of our missional leaders, bringing together mission driven leaders for inspirational and motivating speakers, nuts and bolts practical training for discipleship and mission, and breakout sessions led by experts in their fields - grounded in Bible study, worship and prayer. Discounted early-bird registration continues through the end of August. For more information or to register, please visit <http://thenalc.org/mission-festival-2015/>

### 4. Discipleship Moments

"Discipleship Moment" videos by Bishop John Bradosky and other NALC executive staff members and leaders are published weekly on the NALC's website (<http://thenalc.org/discipleship-moment/>). These short videos can be used before worship on Sunday mornings, as an introduction to Sunday school or Bible study times, or for personal use. Reflections on what the word "discipleship" really means, the vision for the NALC, and what it means to be "mission driven" are just a few of the many topics you will hear about. Personal stories from local congregations, international missions and personal ministry experiences will also be featured.

For a full list of resources, please visit <http://thenalc.org/mission-resources/>

**THE 2015 FLOWER CHART** is posted. If you wish to sponsor 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 can also call the church office to have your name listed.

**REGISTRATIONS FOR VIA DE CRISTO WEEKENDS** are now being accepted. For more information or to register for an upcoming weekend, please speak with Sherry Biggerstaff, Sheila Drum, Don or Nicky Jarrett, David or Iris Sigmon, or Pastor Gil or Karen Gilbert.

## FROM THE SOCIETY OF THE HOLY TRINITY

One is reminded of the giftedness of the heart to the Society of The Holy Trinity while exhibiting a high faithfulness to their ordination promises. One is also reminded of the anxieties and difficulties that surround our exercise of the Church's ministry. But, as we pull away from those retreats, we are brimming with the realities of having been plunged into the Holy Trinity's Life, the plunges that strengthen and sustain us.

All of this comes together as preparations are being made for the General Gathering this coming September. Members of the STS will be stepping off into the Society's eighteenth year! This is a remarkable event when we consider this order's origins. Admittedly we were drawn to it because our life and work in the Church's ministry had become quite disheveled (inwardly and outwardly). As we look over the history of the first seventeen years, it is increasingly clear that the Lord has used them to unpack the realities of the ministry to which he called and ordained us while making us more alert and stronger in its practice. The Rule, that brought together the thinking of the Society's formative years, still undergirds everything we do.

It serves to keep us immersed in the Trinity's Life, but this immersion does not occur early. It cuts against the attitude and actions given us at birth so it is not a natural or instinctive process. Thus, there is a great deal of work involved when one subscribes to the Rule and exercises it. It, in fact, reflects the work that goes on in the parishes where we serve. Such work, though, is driven by the actions of the Lord God and gives us a redeeming stubbornness so that we persist in it.

There truly is no question that participation in the Society's life makes a significant difference in the Lutheran-Catholic practice of the Church's ministry. This does not mean that some pastors are better or more gifted than other pastors, but it does mean that we are more fully exposed to the mysterious workings of the Lord's Word. Such exposure is fierce and frightening because it crushes the life given us by birth. In these years together, we have learned that this rough exposure breaks the grip clamped on us by the unholy trio of sin, death and Satan. Such exposure enables the Church to be renewed in each generation. One of our sainted members, **Michael C.D. McDaniel**, was very eloquent in reminding us how such renewal begins with the pastors who let themselves be exposed to the workings of the Word.

At the General Retreat, we will complete the three-year emphasis on sin, death and Satan by focusing on the prince of evil. We will have the opportunity to take part in Confession and Absolution on Wednesday afternoon. Throughout the Retreat we will participate in a pure ecclesiastical ballot as we prayerfully and thoughtfully seek a new Senior for the Society. This will be the seventh time for this ballot. It is a distinctive characteristic of the Society's life because it is remarkably different from the ballots we are accustomed to in the various Lutheran church structures. The Society's ballot is designed to avoid the "politicking" that is imbedded in the various levels of government and gets reflected in the usual Lutheran practices. Every member of the Society is eligible to serve and the balloting is shaped by the workings of the Holy Spirit. This work is mysterious because it steers us from those who desire the office to those who resist it. This ballot goes

against the habits we have accumulated in our own church bodies, but it is a much better one, one that faithfully reflects the Life of the Triune God.

As the General Meeting and Assembly takes place in Mundelein, IL, in September, we will be mindful of the realities that swirl around the practice of the Church's ministry. First, life in the Lutheran church structures appears to be calmer, but there are multiple reasons for that appearance. Arching over that life is the uneasy practice of turning in on one's self or parish or church to make that life more manageable. We have learned enough in these years to realize that such turning in is exactly the wrong move. Turns are called for, but the only redeeming one is the one to the Lord God. This turn is the most difficult. Second, we are still surrounded by the instinctive drive to re-shape the Lord's Life to fit with our thoughts and actions. Thankfully, our continual exposure to the Lord's Scriptures breaks that drive down and settles us into the Lord's thinking and doing and not our own. Third, we are very much aware of the ideologies running amok through the world's life. It is fascinating, on the one hand, to observe how they capture the mind and the work of so many people, an explosion of narcissism. But it is also dispiriting to see how much of this is trapping people and holding them up with solutions that do not really exist.

Still, our task as the Church's pastors is to proclaim, serve and teach the Gospel in the middle of these realities, trusting that the Holy Trinity will cross the lives of people who are disoriented, arrogant and empty. We will leave Mundelein then, confident that what we are called and ordained to do will take place, even if such occurrences are just a glimmer of what the Lord has promised.

Members and visitors at the General Retreat in September will be able to pick up the 2016 Lutheran Liturgical Calendar printed by the Ashby Publishing Co., Erie, PA. We recognize that some of you are already familiar with it, but it is thought that it would be good to increase that familiarity. The calendar has been customized for the Society with the Old Testament Trinity as the artwork and a brief description of the Society's life and work. The Rev'd Dr. Philip H. Pfatteicher serves as the editor for the calendar. The calendars are accurate and comprehensive. They work well in parish communities for pastors, musicians, assisting deacons, altar guild members, elders and leaders. The cost is \$5 each. If you would desire a calendar, please contact Pastor Gilbert prior to his departure for the General Meeting in Mundelein, September 20-25.

**NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE** as events occur, such as illness, surgery, births, weddings, funerals, etc. so that the prayer list can be updated, or information added to the monthly newsletter. All events are important in the life at Grace Church and can easily be shared with friends and neighbors by bulletin, newsletter, and/or phone tree.

**REQUEST FOR MENUS** when hosting meals at the church has been received. Due to dietary restrictions it is helpful to some, if the menu for an event can be published in the newsletter and/or bulletin prior to the event. Thank you for your help in being considerate of others needs.

**YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION** on other organizations within the NALC if you have access to the internet. If you don't have access yourself, maybe a family member would be glad to get information for you.

- North American Lutheran Church - NALC <http://thenalc.org>
- Carolinas Mission District <http://carolinasnalc.org>
- Women of the NALC <http://thenalc.org/congregationally-focused-womans-ministry>
- Read the Carolinas Mission District daily devotions on our free mobile app. The app also includes the ESV Bible, the Small Catechism, sermon audio, a great how-to-find-a-church GPS feature, and much more. Download the free mobile app for your Smartphone and tablet. Go to your app/play store and search NALC. The Carolinas NALC app from WE Maki Solutions will appear for download. The app is available for iPhone, Droid, and Windows mobile devices. It is also available for Kindle Fire (above OS 1.0) on Amazon.
- "Discipleship Moment" videos from Bishop John Bradosky and other executive staff members will be published regularly on the NALC's website (<http://thenalc.org>). These short videos can be used as an introduction to Sunday school or Bible study times, or for personal use. Reflections on what the word "discipleship" really means, the vision for the NALC, and what it means to be "mission-driven" are just a few of the many topics you will hear about. Personal stories from local congregations, international missions and personal ministry experiences will also be featured. As the NALC strives to be Christ centered, mission driven, traditionally grounded and congregationally focused, we hope and pray these resources will be excellent and helpful tools.

### **QUILTING MINISTRY IN THE NEWS**

From left, Linda Stapula, officer Robin Watts, Sue Tarnovich and Lois Reynolds present quilts donated to the Cornelius Police Department. (Courtesy of the Cornelius Police Department)

During times of crisis, Sue Tarnovich wants people to be enveloped in warmth and love. Sue, Lois Reynolds and Linda



Stapula are part of Scraps of Love Quilting Ministry, a nonprofit that makes and donates quilts to people who might need them most. The group is housed out of Point Of Grace Lutheran Church in Cornelius and makes 200-230 quilts annually. The trio recently donated 23 quilts to the Cornelius Police Department to put in each patrol car.

"The quilts will be used by each patrol officer for calls involving families and children in times of need," said Cornelius Police Officer Robin Watts with the Support Services Division. "We are so happy to have these items and appreciate the generous donation made the Scraps of Love Quilting Ministry."

Other recipients of the quilts have been Salisbury Homeless Ministry, Ronald McDonald House, Salisbury's Trinity Oaks Nursing Home, CCM Shelters of Concord, Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Young Memorial Baptist Church for a mission trip, cancer patients and Shriner's Hospital in Greenville, S.C.

"The best part of the whole thing is knowing when children are in a bad situation, an officer can wrap the child up in a blanket to give them a sense they are safe and cared for," Tarnovich said. "That's what it's all about."

Gaston County Social Services sometimes gives kids a duffle bag with a quilt inside. Workers have been told that getting the quilt is the best thing that's happened to them because they have never received something like that before. The homeless people who receive them have shared those sentiments as well. Adults receiving the quilts also get a picture of a frog, representing the acronym "Fully Rely on God," and a poem that says, *"Prayers were said with every stitch, And every knot when tied. That you will feel the Love of God And on Him you can rely. God loves you and so do we!"*

Tarnovich said she had never sewn before or touched needle and thread, but wanted to support Reynolds when the ministry started in 2009 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Concord. (Reynolds) said if you can tie your shoes, you can do this," Tarnovich said. "The first day I tied yarn pieces together and found it was fun. I now have a sewing machine." The quilts are basic squares, sewn together and then tied to the back to make it suitable for everyday use. All of the three women can make the quilts, but they each have specific task they like the best, such as getting the squares ready, sewing the edges or adding the backing. The three meet weekly at 9 a.m. in the back of Point of Grace to tie all of the pieces together.

Since Scraps of Love is a standalone ministry, the group hopes the initiative can be expanded to other churches. **Grace Lutheran Church in Newton** joined the effort in the wake of the Nepal earthquake to send the quilts overseas. They are all-purpose qualities, warm and unique," Tarnovich said. "We want to make them nice because for some of them, it's the nicest thing they've ever been given. It brings smiles to their faces."

(From the Huntersville Herald newspaper which ran this past week.)

**JOB CHOICE:** After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

## LEADERSHIP BOARD NOTES...

July Meeting opened with devotions by Don Jarrett from the Psalms.

Minutes from June meeting were approved with corrections.

### Old Business:

- Constitution (revised) has been distributed to Board members for review. Board will meet in a Called Session on July 26 to approve.

### New Business:

- Rev. John Yost, Retired, to be Guest Pastor for Homecoming on August 23.
- Pastor Gilbert has graciously donated his personal library to Grace Library consisting of over 890 books.
- All doors have been re-keyed with new locks. Any member of Grace desiring a key must make application to the Board. Keys may be checked out with the Church Office with stipulation that they be not copied and returned.
- Praise and Worship: Funds for a new piano have been raised and the goal has been met. Piano to be purchased directly.
- Pew and Carpet Funds will be addressed in that order.
- Outreach: Quilting Ministry has taken off with great excitement

Treasurer's Report received as information.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.



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**"So the question is: 'How to get that 20% to press on to greater achievement?'"**

**Treasurer's Report for  
June  
2015**

**YTD**

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	20,959.43
Deposits	8,332.00
Expenses	12,141.08
Ending Balance	17,150.35
Memorial Fund	
Beginning Balance	25,846.41
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	947.00
Ending Balance	24,899.41
Building Fund	
Beginning Balance	-1,602.55
Deposits	451.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	-1,151.55
Cemetery Fund	
Beginning Balance	140,508.21
Deposits	77.29
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	140,585.50
Union Church Restoration	
Beginning Balance	44,858.88
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	26.77
Ending Balance	44,832.11
Playground Equipment Fund	
Beginning Balance	3,109.52
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	3,109.52
All Funds	
Beginning Balance	233,679.90
Deposits	8,860.29
Expenses	13,114.85
Ending Balance	229,425.34

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	32,617.90
Deposits	62,787.94
Expenses	78,255.49
Ending Balance	17,150.35
Memorial Fund	
Beginning Balance	26,281.90
Deposits	1,335.00
Expenses	2,717.49
Ending Balance	24,899.41
Building Fund	
Beginning Balance	-2,118.08
Deposits	2,653.53
Expenses	1,687.00
Ending Balance	-1,151.55
Cemetery Fund	
Beginning Balance	89,418.20
Deposits	54,369.74
Expenses	3,202.44
Ending Balance	140,585.50
Union Church Restoration	
Beginning Balance	45,013.64
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	181.53
Ending Balance	44,832.11
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	121,146.21
Expenses	86,043.95
Ending Balance	229,425.34

# Grace Notes

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

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly