

Becks Evangelical Lutheran Church  
441 Becks Church Road  
Lexington, NC 27292  
(336) 249-2056

Pastors: Revs. Ray and Ruth Ann Sipe  
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
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## February 2010 Newsletter



Here we are, listening to weather reports about snow, still remembering the Christmas season, and maybe even wondering about this season after Epiphany; but do you realize that it is almost time for Lent to begin? Ash Wednesday is just a few days after Valentines' Day, on February 17. We will soon move from the green of ordinary time to the purple of Lent.

In some parts of the world, Mardi Gras is the celebration of the last day before Lent, but holding to our German heritage, we celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Traditionally, this was the day where all of the foods that we were to give up for Lent were consumed, like butter, sugar, fat and eggs. Pancakes and sausage have become the common symbolic meal for Shrove Tuesday. Something else we give up for Lent is the use of the *Alleluia*. This word is not spoken or sung during Lent, marking the time as a time of simplicity and reflection. For us, this is symbolized by the burying of the alleluias at the end of the Shrove Tuesday meal, not to be seen or heard again until they are 'resurrected' on Easter Sunday.

Some of the principal themes of Lent in Lutheran churches include penitence, baptismal renewal and/or preparation for baptism, prayer, fasting and service, simplicity and preparation. Emphasis during worship will be on confession, and remembering our baptism. Worship will be simplified by removal of the altar flowers, omitting the hymn of praise, and using the Apostles' Creed. We will omit the use of *Alleluia* in spoken or sung liturgy, prayers, hymns, or anthems. Use of the color purple reminds us of somberness and solemnity.

During Lent, it has been the tradition of some to fast, or give up something for those forty days. Some give up chocolate, or sweets, or meat on Fridays, or television, or even Facebook! For others, Lent is a time of reflection and preparation and so a time for renewal of daily devotions or Bible study. There are even devotional e-mails specifically for Lenten reflection.

As we prepare for the Lenten season, we are reminded of the forty years the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness, the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, and the death and resurrection of Jesus on the cross. We reflect, we ask forgiveness, we mourn, and then – on Easter Sunday – we celebrate. May your forty day journey be led by the Holy Spirit, and may you be filled with the Spirit as you journey to the cross.

Pastor Ray & Pastor Ruth Ann

***Becks Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be February 16 at 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes will be 7:00 p.m. on February 17.***



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# LENTEN CALENDAR

*Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association sponsors an ecumenical worship at noon on Wednesdays at First Methodist Church. Lunch is available after worship for \$5.00.*

February 17	Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes	7:00 p.m.
February 24 through March 24	Midweek Supper & Worship on Wednesdays Join us for a refresher course on Luther's Small Catechism Small Catechism as we discuss the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion	6:30 p.m.
February 28	Service of the Word for Healing	4:00 p.m.
March 28	Palm/Passion Sunday	10:30 a.m.
April 1	Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion	7:00 p.m.
April 2	Good Friday Worship	7:00 p.m.
April 4	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service Worship	7:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

*Council Meeting Minutes*  
**December 17, 2009**

**Present:** Kent Beck, Roscoe Walker, Wanda Beck, Cindy Fletcher, Martha Leonard, Ted Dorton, Holly Dorton, Jeannie Harrison, Cathy Blankenship, Ron Lamb, Terry Hedrick, Scott Semonco, Alan Myers, Patti Lovell, Danny Beck, Keith McKenzie, Tom Garrett, Paul Briggs, Pastor Ray Sipe, Pastor Ruth Ann Sipe, Jamie Everhart, David Aldridge, Linda Aldridge, Laurie Stevens

**Unexcused Absence:** Rhonda Gallimore

President of the Council, Paul Briggs opened the meeting and asked the Vice President, Tom Garrett to chair the meeting tonight. Danny Beck gave the devotional thought. The newly elected members to the Council were introduced. Those with a three year term are: Jeannie Harrison, Martha Leonard, Ron Lamb, Alan Myers and David Aldridge. The one year term will be filled by Cathy Blankenship.

**Minutes:** Copies of the minutes were distributed electronically and corrections were made. Terry Hedrick made the motion to accept the minutes of both the November Council meeting and the Congregational meeting held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Wanda Beck seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Treasurer and Financial Committee Reports:** Ted Dorton, Chairman of the Finance Committee, gave the reports of the General Fund and Improvement Fund. Roscoe Walker gave the report of the Building Fund. Paul Briggs, President of the Council presented a letter, dated December 14, 2009 from Ted Dorton, Chair of the Finance Committee stating Ted's formal resignation as Chairman of Becks Lutheran Church Finance Committee, effective January 1, 2010. Ted stated in his letter that: "through serving in this capacity, I have learned more about my faith, and a need to financially support God's mission. This opportunity has helped me to understand the true meaning of giving from my heart. I thank you and the members of Becks Lutheran Church for allowing me the opportunity to understand the true meaning of giving."

**Report from Reconciliation Team:** Keith McKenzie, chair of the Reconciliation Team, reported to Council that the Team has concluded their duties and is providing the Council and Congregation with their notes. Their final meeting was on December 8, 2009. The notes were made by consensus by team members: Laura Aberg, Dave Aldridge, Mittie Jo Cushman, Rebecca Garrett, and Keith McKenzie. Pastors Ray and Ruth Ann were part of the Reconciliation Team but were not part of the development of the statements. Keith reported that Doug Kearney, who assisted the team in their discussions, will be providing his own separate report at a later time.

**Pastor's Report:** Following their report, Pastor Ruth Ann read to the Council a letter from both Pastor Ray and herself stating that: "throughout the entire" reconciliation "process, both of us have remained committed to our call to serve this congregation and the process itself, as we told the council some months ago. But recently, we have both begun to sense that God may be calling us to serve and use our gifts in other settings. Because of this, we intend to make ourselves available for new calls to ministry in other places.... We have faith that God called us to this place and will continue to support our ministry. We intend to continue to fulfill our call to preach, teach, administer the sacraments, and offer pastoral care here at Becks throughout this time of discernment."

**Unfinished and Old Business:**

**Constitution:** Jamie Everhart reported that discussion on the constitution will be tabled until the next meeting of the Council.

**Education:** It was reported that the Christmas program will be held this coming Sunday afternoon, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship:** Wanda Beck reported that we recently finished with the Advent services held on Wednesday evenings before Christmas.

**Stewardship:** Tom Garrett reported that there still remains a need to find some new persons for this committee.

**Youth:** Pastor Ruth Ann reported that they met on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to set up for the Thanksgiving dinner to be held in the Fellowship Hall that evening. There will be a youth lock-in on Friday night, December 18<sup>th</sup> and it will be rescheduled if inclement weather prevents the lock-in.

**New Business:**

**2010 Budget:** At the Congregational Meeting on December 13, 2009, the congregation asked that the budget be reverted back to the Council for revisions. At tonight's meeting, Wanda Beck made the motion for this discussion to be tabled until the new council meets in January. Terry Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Election of 2010 Officers:** For the office of President, Ron Lamb nominated Tom Garrett. David Aldridge seconded the motion. Being no further nominations, nominations for President closed and Tom Garrett was elected as the 2010 Council President. For the office of Vice President, Ron Lamb nominated David Aldridge. Alan Myers seconded the motion. Being no further nominations for Vice President, nominations closed and David Aldridge was elected as Vice President to the Council. For the Office of Secretary, Laurie Stevens nominated Cathy Blankenship, who declined. Others nominated were Jeannie Harrison, Cindy Fletcher, both of who declined. The name of Martha Leonard was nominated, and she was elected by consensus. Martha will serve as Secretary to the Congregational Council for the 2010 term. At this point, Tom Garrett presented a letter he received on December 17<sup>th</sup> from Holly Dorton, Becks Lutheran Church Treasurer. She stated in the letter that she "would like to say thank you for the opportunity to have been Becks Lutheran Church Treasurer for the past 10 years. This letter will serve as my resignation, and would like to recommend that you have a new treasurer that I could train before my last day of January 31, 2010." It was decided by the Council that we will look within the church to fill the position in the coming month and the election of the office of Treasurer will be tabled until the January meeting. Terry Hedrick made the motion for Roscoe Walker to continue as Treasurer of the Building Fund, Betty Jean Disher continue to serve as Treasurer of the Congregational fund, and Dolan Smith continue to serve as Treasurer of the Improvement fund. Ron Lamb seconded the motion. Prior to the motion passing, Tom Garrett said that he will first check with these persons. Roscoe said that he would be willing to serve.

**2010 Council Meetings/Meals/Retreat Schedule:** It was decided by consensus that the regular Council meeting will be held on the second Thursday, January 14, 2010. The Retreat, as it stands now, will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2010. In regards to meals for the monthly Council meetings, the policy is that these will be available only if there are volunteers who agree to do the monthly meals. Pastor Ruth Ann said that they will run an announcement to see if volunteers will come forth.

**Other Business:** Patti Lovell made the statement that she can no longer serve on the Council and is submitting her formal resignation to the Council. Patti's term would then need to be filled. Terry Hedrick made the motion for Tom Garrett to contact the next alternate on the list from the Congregational election. Scott Semonco seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Garrett has received a bill from the Bishop's office for Doug Kearney's expenses in working with the Reconciliation Team. The final bill totaled \$1364.30. Jamie Everhart made the motion to pay the entire bill, seconded by Laurie Stevens. After discussion there was a call for the vote. With nine persons for the motion, motion passed and the bill will be paid in full.

Terry Hedrick made the motion that the meeting adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Stevens, Council Secretary



Please share with us celebrations, recognitions, accomplishments for the newsletter. These might include such things as honor roll, county or district band, scholarships, sports recognition, milestone birthdays or anniversaries, birth or baptism of grandchildren, or other special events that you would like to share with your faith community. Please have these to the church office by noon on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



**Thrivent Financial  
for Lutherans**

**REMINDER:**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans recently provided a list of members of Becks who are Thrivent members, but the list appears to be incomplete. **If you are a Thrivent member, please contact the church office so that an accurate member list can be compiled.** This information will be very important to the congregation as changes in the fraternal benefits take effect for the new year!

**Reminder:**

If you are the treasurer for a Sunday School Class, men or women's group, or any other group in the church, please turn in a year-end report for 2009. Forms are available from the church office. This information is needed to help prepare the 2009 Annual Congregational Report.

**Financial Information for December 2009**

*The Congregational Council decided at their recent retreat to publish this information monthly for the information of the entire congregation.*

Average Worship Attendance Last Month:		104
Budget:	Offering Last Month	\$ 21,058.78
	Actual Monthly Expenses	\$ 22,739.38
Building Fund:	Offering Last Month	\$ 5,271.00
	Actual Monthly Expense	\$ 5,963.50

## *Memorials & Honorariums*

*Given to the budget in honor of Lena Beck by Jamie Whitten*

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Members of the youth groups met Sunday, January 24 to discuss plans for the next few weeks. We will be **Ice Skating** at Joel Coliseum Annex in Winston-Salem, on Sunday afternoon, January 31. Friends are welcome to join us; parents are needed to come along on this trip.



### **Souper Bowl Sunday is next Sunday, February 7th!**

Members of the youth group will be collecting canned goods and financial donations to support local ministries. Imagine how much we can gather if everyone attending worship donates at least \$1!

The North Carolina LYO Convention will be February 19-21 at Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Pastor Ruth Ann will be attending along with five members of the Middle & Senior Youth Group who have registered for this event.

**Our next Youth Group meeting will be Sunday, March 7th** following the Girl Scout Sunday reception. We will be discussing future activities, summer camp info, children's Easter Egg Hunt, and fund-raising ideas.

The Circle of Hope is sponsoring a Paper Products Drive for Family Services. They are asking for donations of ANY paper products but in particular things like toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues. These are used at the shelter, and for counseling and therapy sessions, youth programs, and parent programs. A box has been placed in the FEB hallway near the WELCA table for donations. Contact Jackie Helton with questions, at 249-4749.



A One-Day Lenten Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010, at Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem.

Registration begins at 9:00 A.M. and the Retreat will end at 3:30 P.M. Cost is \$8.00 (includes materials, snacks and lunch). Deadline for registration is February 12. See brochure on the WELCA bulletin board. If you would like to attend, see your Circle Chairperson or Wanda Beck for a registration form.

### **Teeing up the First Annual Lutherans on the Links Open**

The Men of Grace Lutheran Church, Thomasville are interested in coordinating a spring golf event to include all the area Davidson County Lutheran Churches. The **First Annual Lutherans on the Links Open**, not to be confused with LOL – text-ease for laughing out loud, although some of our golfing skills may very well cause out and out loud laughter.

This tournament would serve two purposes:

- 1). Promote fellowship and friendly competition between our County's Lutheran Churches and their guests. While we Lutherans will be sponsoring LOL, this will be an equal golfing opportunity tournament open to all religions, friends, and family members with golfing skills of any level.
- 2). By collecting a nominal entry fee, we will hopefully be able to raise funds for a worthwhile charity which would be determined by a steering and planning committee comprised of members from the ELCA churches in Davidson County.

Grace is hosting a planning meeting on **Sunday afternoon January 31, 2010 at 4:00 PM.** They have asked for 2 or 3 representatives to attend this meeting which will be held at Grace.

*If you are interested in helping with the planning for this event,  
please contact Tom Garrett.*

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***Mark your calendars now for Touching Davidson County with Love 2010!***



A prayer service for this event will be held Thursday, April 29 at First Methodist Church, and the workday will be Saturday, May 1.

Project managers are needed now to help plan and prepare for a wide variety of service projects. ***If you would be interested in serving as a Project Manager, please contact Jamie Everhart as soon as possible at 764-8380.***

***We will be collecting a special love offering on Sunday, February 21 to support this service project!***

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**First Thursdays Lunch In  
for Pastor's Pantry**

As we begin a new year and decade, First Presbyterian invites you, your friends, and colleagues to consider supporting our ***First Thursdays Lunch-In*** program, benefitting the needy senior adult clients of Pastor's Pantry. It's a simple, quick, no-frills series of events, and reasonable.

We invite you to join us for lunch on the first Thursday of any month at First Presbyterian, with the next event being Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Bring your own lunch and beverage and eat IN with us, donating to Pastor's Pantry what you might have spent, had you eaten OUT. You may certainly patronize a restaurant and bring your food in, if you like, or you may simply send a check, made out to Pastor's Pantry, to us at any time during the month, if you're unable to attend (300 S. Main St., Lexington, 27292).

We'd love for you to encourage members of your bridge club, Sunday School class, garden club, exercise class, colleagues at work, or just someone you'd like to share brief time with, while helping others less fortunate at the same time. The doors will be open to the fellowship hall between 11:50 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please consider supporting this effort as often as possible during 2010.

Questions? Call 248-2140, or 249-0025. Thank you!

### FALLING IN LOVE IS EASY!

Being married is a vocation that takes constant, daily care to remind your spouse how much you love them. A Marriage Encounter weekend gives a couple some ways to do just that. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is February 26 -28, 2010 in Myrtle Beach, SC. The registration deadline is February 5, 2010. Visit our website at [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org) to register on-line or see more weekend dates. You may also contact Charles & Billie Roach, by phone at 828-652-2882 or by e-mail at [roachves@charter.net](mailto:roachves@charter.net) for more information




### CONSIDER BECOMING A HOSPICE VOLUNTEER *March Training Scheduled*

Spread the word to everyone who might be interested in becoming a Hospice Volunteer. The first volunteer training of 2010 will be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 3 and 4, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Hospice Home Care Administrative Building, 200 Hospice Way, Lexington. Volunteer opportunities include fundraising, administrative support, Hinkle Hospice House greeters and patient/family support.

Be sure to RSVP to Windy Cole-Hedrick, Volunteer Director, 474-2068.

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

**We receive notices about many other community and church-related events – far too many to publish in the newsletter! Please check out the community bulletin board in the FEB for information about these events!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Sunday Schedule:</b>  <b>8:30 a.m. Breakfast</b>  <b>9:15 a.m. Sunday School</b>  <b>10:30 a.m. Worship</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FEBRUARY</b></p>						
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Exercise Group</p> <p><i>Pastors at First Call</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Circle of Hope  7:00 p.m. Circle of Love  NO BIBLE STUDY</p> <p><i>Retreat (Camp Agape)</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>10:30 a.m. Young at Heart  NO BIBLE STUDY  1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl  Ministry  5:45 p.m. Handbell Practice  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p><i>Pastors on</i></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><i>Vacation</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>7</b> 5th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Kent Beck Team</p> <p><b> Souper Bowl Sunday</b></p> <p>3:00 p.m. Circle of Faith</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Exercise Group</p> <p><i>Pastors' Day Off</i></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>12:00 noon Responsive Prayer  &amp; Bible Study  4:30 p.m. Worship Board  5:45 p.m. Handbell Practice  7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Finance  Committee Meeting  6:30 p.m. Council Supper  7:00 p.m. Council Mtg</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Feed the shelter</p>
<p><b>14</b> Transfiguration of our Lord</p> <p>Gary Fletcher Team</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Exercise Group</p> <p><i>Pastors' Day Off</i></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Shrove  Tuesday Pancake  Supper</p>	<p><b>17</b> </p> <p>12:00 noon Worship &amp; Lunch  @ First UMC  5:30 p.m. Handbell Practice  7:00 p.m. Worship  8:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>March Newsletter  Information Due</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><i>LYO Weekend</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><i>/Greensboro</i></p>
<p><b>21</b> 1st Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Ted Dorton Team</p> <p>12:15 p.m. Youth Board  Men host the shelter</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Exercise Group</p> <p><i>Pastors' Day Off</i></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>12:00 noon Worship &amp; Lunch  @ First UMC  5:30 p.m. Handbell Practice  6:30 p.m. Supper  7:15 p.m. Worship  8:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>28</b> 2nd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Jerry Lovell Team</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Healing Service</p>	<p><b>WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:</b>  <b>Acolyte:</b> Emily Whitehead  <b>Crucifer:</b> Kayla Semonco  <b>Prayers:</b> Brenda Hedrick  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Terry Hedrick &amp; Vickie Whitehead</p> <p><b>Greeters:</b> Terry &amp; Brenda Hedrick  <b>Lector:</b> Martha Leonard  <b>Nursery:</b> Mittie Jo Cushman</p>					