

Becks Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pastors: Revs. Ray and Ruth Ann Sipe
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
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January 2010 Newsletter

When the gifts have been unwrapped; the goodies have been eaten; and we finish putting away the trees and the nativity set; what's left? Here at church, the one decoration we keep out is the Moravian star. This star reminds us of the star that shone brightly in the sky over Bethlehem so long ago. It reminds us of the light that startled the shepherds and guided the wise men on their journey.

Many of the songs that we sang during Christmas or will sing during this season of Epiphany mention the stars. Other songs remind us of the light that came into the world with the birth of Jesus Christ. And so we leave that star up, a little while longer, to remind us that the world has been changed forever by the arrival of the Savior, the light of the world.

We, too, have been forever changed. Perhaps the words of this song say it best:

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

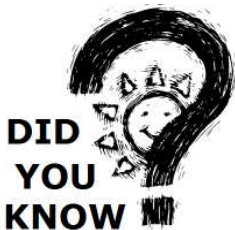
Arise, Your Light Has Come (ELW # 314)

We are called to let our lights shine, to show the glory of God through our words and actions. We are called to change the way we act toward each other. We are called to reach out to each other in love and forgiveness, as a witness to God's great love for us. That is the message of Epiphany. God's love doesn't remain in one place, for one small group of people. It shines for all the world.

If the light of one star is welcome in the darkness of a winter's night, imagine how the glorious light of God's love would be welcomed by those who feel surrounded by the darkness of pain or poverty or injustice or loneliness.

And so, that star still shines in our sanctuary. It shines to remind us of the light of Christ. We have been changed by the arrival of a baby because he is the light of the world. We have been called to shine that light ourselves; to change the world around us, too.

Pastor Ray & Pastor Ruth Ann



Becks Lutheran has been in the news recently! In addition to articles about our activities in the *Religious Notes* and *Holly Grove Notes* in **The Dispatch**, Becks was mentioned in both the December issue of **The Lutheran** for ministry by the youth group through the Giving Tree, and in the January/February issue of **Lutheran Woman Today** for our Prayer Shawl ministry!

Look for copies of these articles on the bulletin board.

**CURRENT REPORTS ON GIVING TO THE BUDGET AND BUILDING FUND
ARE POSTED EACH MONTH ON THE BULLETIN BOARD
BETWEEN THE MAILBOXES IN THE FEB HALLWAY.**

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.

COUNCIL NEWS

Recent council action:

- + Tabled discussion of the 2010 Budget.
- + Received the resignations of Ted Dorton as chair of the Finance Committee; Holly Dorton as treasurer; and Patti Lovell as council member.
- + Elected 2010 Council Officers: Tom Garrett, president; David Aldridge, vice-president; and Martha Leonard, secretary. Council will seek someone to serve as the new treasurer.
- + Approved payment to the Rev. Doug Kearney for his work with the Reconciliation Team.

**Becks Community
News**



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 20th of each month.

Congratulations to Wilma Byerly, who found a surprise in her piece of the Kings' Cake following the Epiphany worship service at New Covenant in Archdale on January 6. Wilma will be one of the kings for next year's service!



**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 Ted Dorton or 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!*

Memorials & Honorariums

Given to the budget in honor of Lama Beck by Mr & Mrs James Alexander

Given to the budget in honor of Wanda Beck by her Heart Sister

Given to the budget in honor of Chris, Teresa, & Carley Vawter by Roger & Mary Vawter

Given to the budget in memory of Dewette Lohr by

Sylvia Beck

Wilma Byerly

Jimmy & Peggy Everhart

Mr & Mrs Don Greer

Marlene P Ix

Mr & Mrs Carhyle Nance, Jr

Dolon & Ruth Smith

Mary S. Underwood

Margaret Walser

Roger & Mary Vawter

Happy Ladies Class

Given to the building fund in memory of Dewette Lohr by

Bob & Paula Applegate

Franklin & Miriam Austin

I H & Martha L Black

Maxine Mull

Velna Vawter

Given to the budget in memory of Robert Jr. Byerly by Wilma Byerly

Given to the budget in memory of Randy Myers by Wilma Byerly

Given to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Dewette Lohr

by Richard & Mittie Jo Cushman

Given to the Becks Youth Program in memory of Dewette Lohr

and Carolyn Ratcliff by Peggy Varner

Given to the budget in memory of Carolyn Ratcliff by

Sylvia Beck

Mr & Mrs Joe Butzbach

Wilma Byerly

Dolon & Ruth Smith

Roger & Mary Vawter

Given to the building fund in memory of Carolyn Ratcliff by

Maxine Mull

Velna Vawter

Given to the budget in memory of Arlin Briggs, Dewette Lohr, & Carolyn Ratcliff

by Phyllis Penry



Thanks to all those who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas with the trees, greenery, wreaths, angels, and nativity scene – and to everyone who helped put those decorations away again earlier this month. Your help is much appreciated!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Members of the youth groups gathered Sunday afternoon, December 20 after the Christmas program. After caroling at Carolina House and a pizza supper, we went shopping for the Giving Tree, and returned to the church for a lock-in.

Plans for January and February are underway - check your e-mail for more information!

Thanks to all those who donated toward this year's Giving Tree project. We were able to provide gifts for 20 children in 7 families!

FLOWER CHART FOR 2010 IS READY!

The flower chart for next year has been posted and is waiting for YOU to sign up! The cost has been adjusted by Becks Florist for a very few of their longtime church customers. As a favor to us, they have agreed to \$25 a bouquet or \$50 for both vases by the altar. You may sign up for one or both vases on a Sunday. Don't forget that when you sign up for flowers you can take them home after church. You might want to be prepared with some sort of container in order to transport them. *If you need to purchase flowers, please consider giving Beck's Florist your business!*



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.



Together, we can fight the flu.

Sunday, January 10 marks the beginning of the annual observance of National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW). This flu season has presented our community with a unique challenge to fight a new type of influenza -- the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.

The H1N1 flu is a serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between mid-April and November 14, 2009, 47 million people in the United States were infected with the 2009 H1N1 flu, more than 200,000 people were hospitalized, and over 9,800 people died.

Influenza is unpredictable and we do not know the likelihood of a future wave of H1N1 flu, but we do know that vaccination is the most important step in protecting against influenza. Protect yourself, your family and your community by getting vaccinated. Visit www.flu.gov to find the closest vaccination clinic and learn more facts about the H1N1 flu. Show your love to your family and our community by keeping yourself and those close to you healthy; get yourself and your family vaccinated.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010

Each year, between the commemorations of the Confession of Peter on January 18 and the Conversion of Paul on January 25, the entire Christian church is asked to pray for the unity of the church. The theme for this year is "*You Are Witnesses of These Things*" from Luke 24:48. Daily scripture and prayer guides are available online from Greymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute at www.geii.org or from the church office.

A New Level of Independence

Turning the key to your first apartment is one of the biggest moments of your life. It is the moment you say goodbye to your parent's house, claim your independence and begin building your future. And for 12 adults that moment is finally within reach.

For people living with developmental disabilities, becoming self-sufficient can be a difficult task. Many have the ability to live on their own with minimal assistance but facilities that can meet their needs while still allowing them to live independently are not always readily available.

Dedicated to helping adults with special needs, The Serving Cup saw first-hand the community need for such a facility and formed a partnership with LFS Carolinas and The Arc of NC to make it a reality. The result was Green Level Homes, six newly built two-bedroom apartments in Cary, NC.

This permanent housing community will provide practical solutions to achieve independent living and economic empowerment for adults with developmental disabilities. Supportive services for residents are offered through the Wake County Human Services Developmental Disabilities Services network of endorsed providers. The community is also within walking distance of an adjacent shopping center, giving residents easy access to the grocery store, the drug store, banks, shops and restaurants.

After years of hard work a dedication ceremony was held on December 3, 2009 to thank the numerous people who Serving Cup Board Member, Eric Vaughn, stated helped bring about the moment when they could stop looking at Green Level as a project and start looking at it as a home.

The first residents have already been selected and are anxiously awaiting their move in day. The group has already bonded and understand that they will have to work together to get the most out of their new living community.

Blake Scott, a future resident of Green Level Homes, attended the dedication with his mother. "This means a whole lot seeing as we're able to function on our own and learn how to be more independent. We can pull together as a team and show others out there if we can do it they can do it too," said Blake.

This move means a lot to the families of the residents as well. During her comments at the dedication ceremony, Sue, mother of future resident John Lamp, expressed her happiness to have a community that could give many parents peace of mind by knowing their children will have the tools to take care of themselves.

An on site program manager will provide aid with transportation, job placement and in the case of emergencies; but residents will be mainly self-sufficient. Residents will be encouraged to take care of their own apartments, find jobs and be active in the community.

"[Green Level Homes] has been an amazing community involvement. In order to receive funding we had to have the support from local agencies and many people stepped up to help," said Dale Tutor, Director of Residential Services with LFS Carolinas, who has also served on the Serving Cup Board since 2001.

Original funding for the project was awarded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with additional funding provided by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, the Town of Cary, Wake County, the Michael Peeler Fund and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

The development team for the living community also included several dedicated businesses, agencies and individuals: Sarver Housing Group; Bell Architecture, PLLC; GARANCO, Inc.; Ted Oliver and Dave Dahl of Manning Fulton P.A.; Hillary's Furnishings; and Wake County Human Services.

"When we talk about walking with people so they can find wholeness, this is where that fits," said Suzanne Wise, President and CEO of LFS Carolinas. "The people that will move in are taking another step towards self-sufficiency. It's letting us live out our mission."

Following the dedication, many of the future residents rushed to show their families and friends which apartment they would soon call their own and where they would start to reach their new level of independence.

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.*



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. If you would like to help with the planning or preparations for this event, please contact Jamie Everhart.

**MARRIED COUPLES – *Have you made the resolution to start the New Year right?*
New romance, deeper communication, feeling even closer to your spouse?**

We can help you keep this resolution.

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 to register on-line or see more weekend dates.

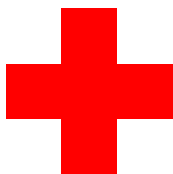
You may also contact Charles & Billie Roach, by phone at 828-652-2882

or by e-mail –roachves@charter.net for more information.



A Weekend of Discovery...
A Lifetime of Love

Lutheran Marriage Encounter



**American
Red Cross**

There is a blood drive on Tuesday,
January 12, 2010 at Central Davidson
Middle School. The hours are from 3:30
until 8pm.

Please make every effort to come and give a life saving pint!

Call the school at 336-357-2310 for an appointment. Call the local Red
Cross office at 336-248-2205 if you have any questions about donating.

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!

Just for KIDS

Unique Creations

It is the New Year and in many places it is cold enough to snow. God created snowflakes that are so unique that no two are alike! It is the same way with people – we are all one-of-a-kind. If God cares so much about how each snowflake is made, imagine how much God cares about you!

Directions: Draw lines to match the two halves of the snowflakes. Write the letters on the numbered blanks to form the words and to complete the verse.

1			7		
2			8		
3			9		
4			10		
5			11		
6			12		

“I _____ I _____
 1 2 3 4 5
 _____ ; _____
 6 7 8 9 10
 _____”
 11 12

Psalm 139:14, NIV

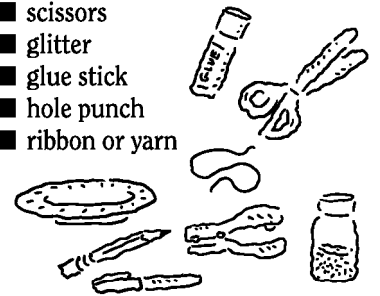
Answer: “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful....”

Fancy Flakes

Make a snowflake as unique and as special as you are in God’s eyes.

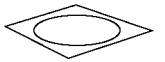
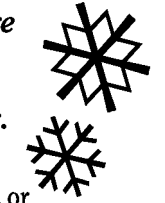
What you need:

- paper (plain white or glittery wrapping paper)
- round plate or saucer (about the size you want your snowflake)
- pencil, crayon or marker
- scissors
- glitter
- glue stick
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn



What you need to do:

1. Draw a circle on a piece of paper by tracing around the plate or saucer.
2. Cut out the circle.
3. Fold the paper in half three times. (If the paper is thick, fold it just twice.)
4. Use your scissors to carefully cut out shapes from the folded paper.
5. Unfold your paper.
6. On one side, write some things that are special about you.
7. Decorate the other side using the glue stick and glitter.
8. When the glitter is dry, punch a hole in the snowflake.
9. Put ribbon or yarn through the hole, and tie it to make a hanger.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship		1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	2 <i>FEB Reserved 1-6 p.m.</i>
3 2nd Sunday of Christmas Ted Dorton Team 3:00 Circle of Faith <i>FEB Reserved 2-6 p.m.</i>	4 6:30 p.m. Circle of Hope 7:00 p.m. Exercise Group <i>Pastors' Day Off</i>	5 7:00 p.m. Circle of Love	6  epiphany 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Epiphany Dinner & Worship at New Covenant/Archdale	7	8	9 Feed the shelter
10 Baptism of our Lord Terry Hedrick Team 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Class	11 7:00 p.m. Exercise Group <i>Pastors' Day Off</i>	12 7:00 p.m. Bible Study and Night Prayer	13 12:00 noon Responsive Prayer & Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Worship Board No Handbell Practice 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	14 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Council Supper 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg	15	16 10:00 a.m. WELCA Board Mtg
17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Robbie Harrison Team	18 <div style="text-align: center;"><i>Week</i></div> 7:00 p.m. Exercise Group <i>Pastors' Day Off</i>	19 <div style="text-align: center;"><i>of Prayer for</i></div> 7:00 p.m. Bible Study and Night Prayer	20 <div style="text-align: center;"><i>Christian Unity</i></div> 12:00 noon Responsive Prayer & Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Handbell Practice 6:00 p.m. Education Board 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	21 <div style="text-align: center;"><i>(Jan 18</i></div> 6:30 p.m. Lutheran Men's Dinner January Newsletter Information Due	22 <div style="text-align: center;"><i>through 25)</i></div>	23 Council Retreat
24 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Bradley Stevens Team	25 7:00 p.m. Exercise Group <i>Pastors' Day Off</i>	26 7:00 p.m. Bible Study and Night Prayer	27 12:00 noon Responsive Prayer & Bible Study	28	29	30
31 4th Sunday after Epiphany David Aldridge Team <i>FEB Reserved 1-6 p.m.</i>	WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS: Acolyte: Lucas Alley Crucifer: Hannah Frey Prayers: Carole Gasque 1/10 & 1/31; Jamie Everhart 1/17 & 1/24 Communion Assistants:					
Greeters: Vickie & Emily Whitehead Lector: Carole Gasque Nursery:						