

## Giving Something Up For Lent

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Beloved UMC of Linden disciples,

In few weeks, we will be joining Christians throughout the world for Lent. Lent is forty days long (From Ash Wednesday –Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> to Palm Sunday-March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015), not counting the Sundays, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day. Forty is a number we regularly meet in the Bible: the number of days Moses spent on Sinai (Exodus 24:18), the days of Elijah walking to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8), the days of rain during the flood (Genesis 7:4); the years the Hebrew people wandered in the desert (Numbers 14:33); the days Jonah told the city of Nineveh they had to repent or be destroyed (Jonah 3:4), the number of days Jesus fasted in the desert after his baptism (Matthew 4:1–2, Mark 1:12–13, Luke 4:1–2).

Lent is the season for the experience of giving your life over -- in each moment, bodily, deliberately, to Christ and to what the Spirit work. Lent is the season for the experience of giving your life over -- in each moment, bodily, deliberately, to Christ and to what the Spirit is showing you. God wants you to surrender yourself, and let the Spirit work in you. Lent is self-discovery of the parts of ourselves we don't want to discover, through prayer, fasting, and other disciplines. Lent is a period of intense preparation for the Easter Season.

In Lent, it's traditional to give up (or '*fast from*') something(s) that we do a lot of and that we find pleasure in. This giving up or fasting is done:

- as a discipline for learning self-control, to free our minds from the chase after material things, to tell ourselves 'no' and make it stick;
- to identify with Christ's sufferings, and remember what the true pleasures are for followers of Christ;
- as an act of sorrow over our wrongdoings and our state of sin.

What are you fasting from or giving up this Lent? Certainly, when we give up something for Lent, we will open ourselves to allow the Holy Spirit to continue to work in us and through us. When we give up something for Lent, the Holy Spirit will continue to give us light to discern what is really in our lives and hearts. What are you fasting from in Lent?

Fast from judgment, Feast on compassion

Fast from greed, Feast on sharing

Fast from scarcity, Feast on abundance

Fast from fear, Feast on peace

Fast from lies, Feast on truth

Fast from gossip, Feast on praise

Fast from anxiety, Feast on patience

Fast from evil, Feast on kindness

Fast from apathy, Feast on engagement

Fast from discontent, Feast on gratitude

Fast from noise, Feast on silence

Fast from discouragement, Feast on hope

Fast from hatred, Feast on love

What will be your fast? What will be your feast?

(By Rt. Rev. Arthur J. Lichtenberg)

I hope and pray that you and your family will join us in the UMC of Linden in fasting from so we may all feast.  
Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Ricardo Ramos-Diaz

Pastor

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

February 1

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111  
I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 8

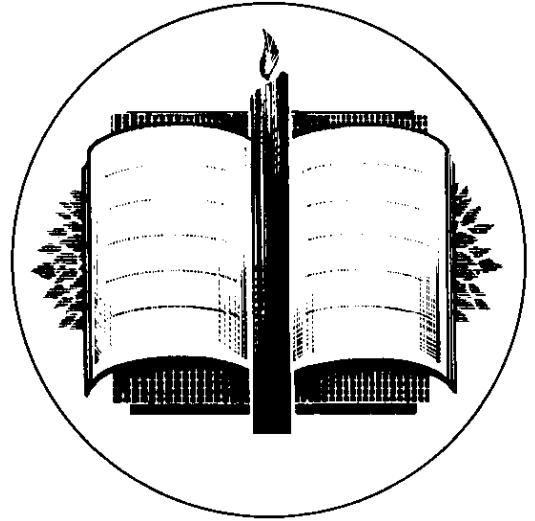
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 15

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 22

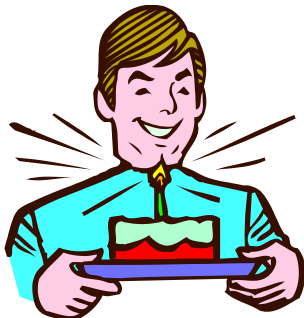
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10  
I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15



BIBLE STUDY GATHERINGS

Every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. the Bible Study will be held in the Youth Room in the Education building. If, because of bad weather during the winter, it becomes necessary to cancel any session you will be notified. We would not want to see any of our members traveling in ice or snow so don't let that stop you from attending Bible Study.

We welcome all those that have been attending in the past and invite any that would like to come and join them.



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Lisa Marcelino</i>	2
<i>Annelie Jeanne Jones</i>	3
<i>William Heinaman</i>	5
<i>Joanne Murphy</i>	6
<i>Thomas Henel</i>	8
<i>John Cammarata</i>	13
<i>Joseph Stamer</i>	14
<i>Alexander Mellor Henelsmith</i>	18
<i>Celina Faye Henelsmith</i>	18
<i>John Henel</i>	19
<i>Mark Halterman</i>	20
<i>Johnson Michael Tan</i>	23
<i>James Stamer</i>	24
<i>Susan Henel</i>	25
<i>Walter Baldwin, Jr.</i>	27

*...and many, many more!!*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*At the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees the following officers were elected for 2015:*

- \ President – Robert Losyk*
- Secretary – Carolyn Franz*

*Most of the repair work outside cannot be done now until the spring. They are concentrating on inside work at this time and some of that was approved by the Church Council at their last meeting. We will keep you posted!*



**CHRISTMAS IN OUR SANCTUARY**

Each Christmas our sanctuary and entrances to the church are beautifully decorated for the season. On Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve the room glows with the lovely poinsettias given by our members and friends in memory or honor of a loved one. If you were not here to see them, we are listing below those that donated the flowers:

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Mary & Dee Dalziel** by MaryJane Koslosky  
& Kathy Curtin

**Albert Henel** by Doris Henel

**Loved Ones** by Ruth Schulte

**Paulo Camilo** by Helia & Deus Mday

**Beloved Parents & In-Laws, Beloved Husband  
Victorino Peralta, & Sister, Estela** by Ida Peralta

**Loved Ones** by Gertrude Baldwin

**Fred & Randy Gmitter** by Kathryn Gmitter

**Bill Forster** by MaryLou Forster Resch

**Loved Ones** by Doris Stamer

**Fussa Bowley** by Fendo Bowley

**Parents, Fred & Irene Messenger** by Bob &  
Lorraine Carhart

**Parents, Norman & Mary Carhart** by  
Bob & Lorraine Carhart

**Nephew, Greg Carhart** by Bob &  
Lorraine Carhart

**Harold Deare & Geoffrey Lashley &  
Loved Ones** by Suzanne & Jamilla Lashley  
**Grandfather, Michael Perona** by  
Megan & Carl Stamer

**IN HONOR OF**

**Their Children, Donna, Diane, Allison, Michael,  
Brian, Nicole, Jeffrey, Mandy &  
Zach** by Bob & Lorraine Carhart  
**Louise Forster** by MaryLou Forster Resch

Thank you for allowing us to enjoy the lovely poinsettias in honor and memory of your loved ones.

And a special “thank you” to Megan Stamer who typed the lovely poinsettia enclosure that was in the church bulletin on Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve.

**PICTURES FROM THIS YEAR’S FAIR  
JUST RECEIVED**

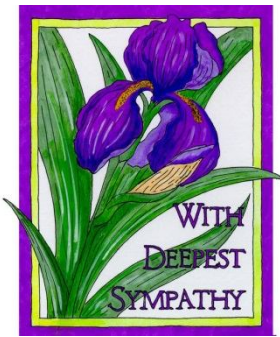


**Kitchen Crew**

Kathy Curtin, MaryJane Koslosky, Bill Jensen (our new choir director/organist)



**L.Carhart,L.Kozar,R.Schulte**



We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Joan Steiniger Lucas at her home, 156 Moore Street, Turkey, N. C. on January 2, 2015.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> in the Clinton Cemetery with Rev. Robert Ray officiating. Joan was born in N. J. in 1946. She was the daughter of Ethel Mayle Steiniger and the late William Steiniger. She graduated from Drew University, University of N. C. at Chapel Hill and Georgetown University. Joan was a Retired Neonatal Nurse Practitioner with Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville, N. C. She was an avid Carolina and Yankee fan and enjoyed gardening, quilting and caring for her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, James Wilson Lucas, her mother Ethel Mayle Steiniger of Linden (who is the longest living member of our church - 78 years!), four sons, Brian Andrew Carr, Pittsboro, Gregory Scott Carr, Clinton, Benjamin Leigh Carr and wife Joanna, New Bern and Patrick Edward Carr, Baltimore, Md., one step-daughter, Jennifer Lucas Thomas and husband, Mark,

Wake Forest, two sisters, Carol Jones of Bayhead, N. J. and Nancy Kielar of Westfield, N.J. and three grandchildren, Cooper Alton Carr, Payne and Blair Thomas.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating blood to your local blood bank. You can also donate to our church Memorial Fund in her name. We know how much Ethel will miss those daily telephone calls from Joan and the many times she would visit her mother for a week or two.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joan's loving family and many friends.



TIME TO ORDER YOUR EASTER LILY

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:30 A.M.

*Each year our sanctuary altar looks lovely with so many beautiful Easter Lilies. We will be taking orders as you order a Lily in memory or honor of a loved one. They will be listed in the church bulletin on Easter Sunday.*

*The cost will be the same as the last few years - \$7.50. Please fill out the form below and put in a pew envelope along with the \$7.50 and put in the offering plate any Sunday. Mark the pew envelope "EASTER FLOWERS" or give it to Doris Stamer or call her at 908-925-0469.*

PLEASE ORDER # \_\_\_\_\_ EASTER LILYS AS FOLLOWS:

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*In Memory of*

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*In Honor of*

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*Given by*

***DON'T FORGET TO ENCLOSE THE \$7.50!***  
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MORE FAIR PICTURERS JUST RECEIVED  
FROM LOURDES KOZAR



AND A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



We will not be meeting in January or February because of the possibility of bad weather. Our next meeting will be the first Tuesday in March (3/3/15) at 11:30 a.m. at the church.

Officers for 2015:

President – Gertrude Baldwin

Secretary – Doris Henel

Treasurer – MaryJane Koslosky

Please join us in March. Bring a sandwich for lunch.

Gertrude Baldwin

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STEWARDSHIP

Many thanks to those who returned their pledge cards promptly.

Thanks also to those who do not pledge but give regularly. There is still a lot we have to do to meet our responsibility in 2015. Our goal is to pay at least 75% of Conference askings.

We are looking forward to the opening of our Building Blocks Day Care, as this will bring financial help to our income. Please keep your giving up-to-date as much as possible.

Boxes of offering envelopes have been mailed – if you did not get yours, please let us know.

We can do this in 2015, with everyone’s help!!



ASH WEDNESDAY – Feb.28<sup>th</sup> in sanctuary

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 2 –  
Communion in our sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY – April 3 – Sanctuary will be open from noon to 4:00 p.m. for prayers, meditation and quiet time

EASTER SUNDAY – April 5 –  
8:30 a.m. - Early ½ hour service in Memorial Garden  
9:00 a.m. – Light buffet breakfast in Aldersgate Hall  
9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 a.m. – Easter Worship service in our sanctuary

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate the Easter season.

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OUTREACH

Carolyn Franz is pleased to announce that \$202.00 was raised from our lovely Christmas Angel tree in the rear of the sanctuary. The money has been sent to the Methodist Homes as a Christmas gift from our church.



**FEBRUARY 2015**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:20 Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	2 <b>7:00 Board of Trustees</b> 4:30-9:30Fencing Sch.	3 <b>10:30 Bible Study</b> <b>NO U. M. W.</b> 4:30-9:30 Fencing Sch.	4	5 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	6 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	7 9:30- 1:30 <u>Fencing School</u>
8 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	9 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	10 <b>10:30- Bible Study</b> 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch.	11 <b>10:30-CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	12 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	13 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	14 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
15 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	16 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	17 4:30-9:30-Fencing School <b>10:30-11:30 BIBLE STUDY</b>	18 <b><u>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – 7:00 PM</u></b>	19 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	20 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	21 9:30-1:30 Fencing School in gym
22 9:30-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Ser. <b>3 PM-Interfaith Lenten study Aldersgate Hall All invited!</b>	23 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	24 <b>IENTEN</b> <b>10:30-Bible Study</b> 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	25 .	26 4:30-Fencing School	27 5:30-8:30 Champion Youth	28 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
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**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE LENTEN INTERFAITH COUNCIL BIBLE STUDY ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEB. 22<sup>ND</sup> AT 3 PM IN ALDERSGATE HALL ALL ARE WELCOME!!**