

Opinions

Guest Column

Harwood Smith

Pastor, St. Matthews Lutheran Church



Meaning Of Lent

The word 'Lent' comes from the old English word for 'Spring.' In our consideration of Lent and its meaning that connection may be as good a place to start as any. Spring stands between winter and summer. It stands between the season of death and the season of life. Spring, then, standing between the bareness of winter and the fullness of summer, is a season of hope and preparation.

Each spring we look forward to the coming harvest. But spring's hope is not an idle hope. Spring is a season to prepare so that the summer's harvest may be realized. In the spring the ground is turned and harrowed. In the spring the seed is planted and sprouts in the dark warming soil, pushing roots deep into the earth to draw from it richness.

And so it is with Lent for the Christians. Lent, too, is a season of hope and preparation. It is a season that marks the transition from death to life. On the one side stand the bleakness of our broken human nature...our sin and its wage--death. On the other side stands the Queen of Christian seasons, Easter...the celebration of the Resurrection and Life.

Lent is a time to look forward in hope the new life that the Resurrection victory of our Lord brings and to the fruits of that new life-love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control.

But, like spring, Lent is not a time of idle hope. It is a time to prepare. It is a time to cultivate and plant. As the soil is turned and harrowed in the spring so, in Lent, the Christian digs, devotionally, beneath the surface of life, turns life over, as it were. Turns life over? Interestingly enough turning over or around is one of the base meanings of the word 'repent.' Lent is a time for repentance, for digging deeply into our souls, understanding our broken natures and turning ourselves over to God in penitent hope.

Lent is also a season for planting. It is a time to receive the Word. Our Lord himself described 'The Word' as seed in the parable of the Sower--seed cast forth by a good and loving God. And so, Lent is a time for special worship and devotion, for hearing, for receiving, the word.

When Lent is used in this way, as a time of preparation, to dig deeply, penitently, into our souls, as a time to receive the Word in worship and devotion, then, nurtured by our loving and caring God, it will produce that new life which is the promise of Easter. It will produce in our lives the fruit of the Spirit, the harvest that befits God's redeemed people.

Lent is a spiritual Spring. It is a time to look forward in hope. It is a time to prepare, to prepare ourselves to embrace the gift of redemption which our Savior extends to us from the cross and the gift of life that is ours in the Resurrection.

Nostalgia Corner



50th ANNIVERSARY OF GROVER CLASS-Members of Grover High School Class of 1941 will celebrate the 50th anniversary reunion March 17 at Kings Mountain Holiday Inn and class members from the Classes of 1942, 1943 and 1944 are also invited to attend. Organizers of the reunion need the names and addresses of alumni from these graduating classes since records were destroyed in a fire at the school, says Lenora Bird Morris, 1251 Lavender Road, Grover, 28073, who is assembling the information. Front row are mascots Bob Herndon and Mary Beth Sheppard. Second row, from left, James Biddix, Paul Rippy, Ruby Montgomery, Dix Hicks, Ethel Bell, Edna Jane Turner, Warren Herndon, and Buford Humphries. Back row, Ben Hardin, Ethel Wells, Lib Nolen, Melba Humphries, Lucille Hambricht, Martha Priester and Anne E. Gray, teacher.

Saddam Hussein must be stopped

Nobody with any brains at all wants war. I cannot think of anything good about war. After all war, reduces to its lowest common denominator, is about death-human beings killing other human beings.

I am adamantly opposed to my country trying to police the entire world, but somebody must stop Saddam Hussein. Think about it for a minute. He has been known to blow the head off one of his generals who disagreed with him, it is documented that he ordered the use of deadly chemicals to destroy thousands of his countrymen, and it is likely he has slaughtered many citizens of Iraq just to be able to point at dead bodies and blame Americans. The man is ruthless. On top of all that, he continues to lob missiles at Israel, who had no part in this war.

The most important reason for taking out Hussein is that, if he could get his hands on nuclear weapons, there is little doubt he would use them and, perhaps, destroy the world.

Not only must this degenerate be stopped, he must be stopped now.

Wars, all wars, have been and will continue to be multi-faceted. There will always be some who oppose war at any cost. During the Viet Nam conflict, in this country they became known as peaceniks. They marched and demonstrated and generally made pests of themselves. Many people grew increasingly angry at the peaceniks and questioned their patriotism. Some of those same demonstrators are involved in protests today.

It is my opinion that those who oppose war aren't necessarily un-patriotic. We should all keep in mind that our Constitution guarantees the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of speech. I know it is hard for some to accept, but this country provides those rights to all citizens. I just look at those folks and see headline seekers. I've always been leery of anyone who cherishes the spotlight.

The protesters need to remember the biblical lesson that says "To everything there is a season." In other words there's a time and place for everything. Returning POW's from the Viet Nam era say their captors made them aware of the protests during the 60's. You can just bet Saddam Hussein will follow suit.

There are other ways to protest war. Noisy demonstrations do little more than cause hard feelings. Frankly, when I see one of those peaceniks parades, I sometimes have to grit my teeth, but I try to remember that they are exercising their rights, no matter how ill-advised.

JIM HEFFNER
Columnist



I am of the opinion that we should all concentrate our efforts on removing Hussein from power and returning our military people to the arms of their loved ones.

THE 900 SCAM

Have you seen all those advertisements urging you to call this or that 900 number? Let the buyer beware. That is the biggest rip-off in this country today.

A good example is the number published daily in this area's largest newspaper that encourages readers to call and get the low-down on airline jobs. "There are good jobs available in the airline industry" it reads. Then the ad goes on the list jobs and high salaries. There are two catches here. The call costs \$15 and those jobs don't really exist. The airline business is in trouble. All airlines lost gobs of money during 1990. One major carrier went out of business and two more are in bankruptcy. USAIR is in the process of a massive layoff and it is virtually certain other airlines will follow suit.

That 900 number is leased by people who will provide you with information you can get for free by doing a little research. At a cost of \$15, the telephone companies might get fifty cents, the rest of the money goes to those who lease the lines.

There are 900 numbers for everything from gardening information to explicit sexual conversation. Some cost as much as \$100 each. Many teenagers call these numbers and run up huge telephone bills. Recently, a fifteen-year-old in Ohio made enough calls at 25 bucks a throw to run up a tab of over \$40,000 in less than two months. His father is refusing to pay. There have been many cases as bad or worse.

Telephone service is controlled by Utility Commissions within each state. Why they haven't put a stop to this devious practice is a mystery. Why telephone companies allow it is another puzzle.

Remember, you can have your telephone company block 900 "service" from your phone, and you do have the power to protest to the N.C. State Utilities Commission. 'Nuf said.

Your Right To Say It

KM Knit employees get letter from Bush

(Ed. Note - Claude Suber and his employees at Kings Mountain Knit Fabrics, Inc. recently wrote a letter to President Bush supporting his decisions on Operation Desert Storm. The President's reply follows).

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your thoughtful message. I was very moved by your heartfelt comments about what we and the international coalition are trying to achieve through Operation Desert Storm.

When Saddam Hussein rejected all diplomatic efforts calling on him to withdraw his occupation forces from Kuwait, I called on our Armed Forces, in cooperation with those of our coalition partners, to restore liberty to the Kuwaiti people. I am grateful that our courageous troops face this historic challenge knowing that they have the support of millions of people around the world and that we are all tremendously proud of the job they are doing.

I am heartened that so many Americans are joining Barbara and me in praying for our brave service men and women and for their families.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,
George Bush

Thanks for support

Dear Editor,

To the people of Kings Mountain and to the surrounding towns, churches, all volunteers, schools, families and employees of Kings Mountain Convalescent Center and White Oak Manor, I want to publicly thank you for your support and understanding during the five years that I have worked in the Activity Department at KMCC. Every time I needed you, you were there for me. You are the greatest people on earth and I know you will continue to support the nursing home. Those precious folk need your support and love.

I have accepted employment at another nursing home in Cherryville and have met some new friends and seen folks I have known for years. It was like having a reunion. Again I say 'thank you' for your support.
JOAN CARROLI

Let board do job

To the editor:

While I am not a resident of Kings Mountain, I have worked here since 1971 and feel I am a part of the community. I would like to address the problem the Kings Mountain School Board and everyone involved is having resolving the elementary schools.

First of all, I would like to say how fortunate Kings Mountain is to have Bob McRae. I truly believe he has the best interest of all the children in Kings Mountain at heart. While my main interest is whether or not my grandson, who lives in Kings Mountain, will have to be moved from the school he is now in, I do feel the quality of education is equally good in all of our schools. I realize that racial balance and "socio-economics" have to be considered, but don't you think the welfare of each of our children is a little more important than whether we have one white child to each black child?

The Kings Mountain School Board was chosen by the people, now let them do the job you chose them to do. And School Board members, please remember, you were chosen to represent all of Kings Mountain. Our children that we are concerned about now are our leaders of tomorrow. Let's at least show them that we, as their leaders now, can settle this kind of matter in a reasonable, lawful way.

Lavon L. Ramsey

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom."
James 3:13

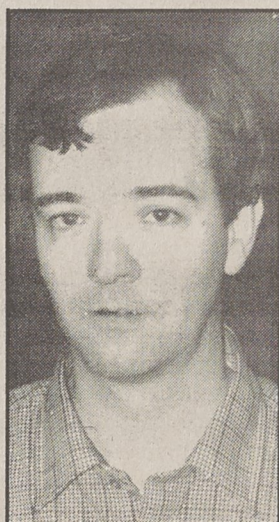


Sidewalk Survey

Would you support an additional tax to help pay for the Gulf War?



MARGARET HOWARD
I'll support it. Anything for my country.



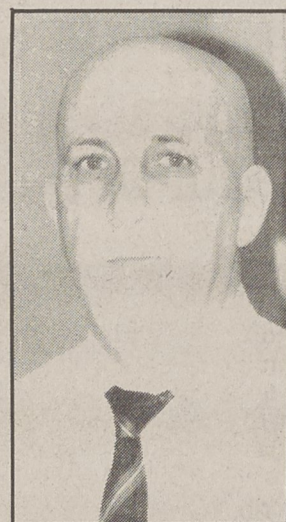
BILL SLOAN
I'm against it.



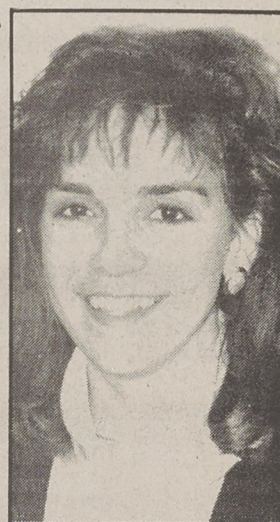
CATHIE TUBBS
No, we're taxed enough.



CYNTHIA HOWARD
If our soldiers go to Saudi Arabia to do their part we should do our part money-wise.



JOHN GREENE
I think it will be necessary. High deficit is what's wrong with the economy.



PAT DAVIS
I think it's essential.

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