Wednesday, March 4, 2015

MEDITATION

your heart,

with fasting,

ing, and with

mourning;

rend your

hearts and not

your clothing.

Return to the

weep-

with

Lord, your God, for he is gra-

cious and merciful, slow to anger,

and abounding in steadfast love,

and relents from punishing. Who

knows whether he will not turn and

relent, and leave a blessing behind

him, a grain offering and a drink

offering for the Lord, your God?

Grace to you and peace from



Josh Tucker Pastor St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Joel 2:12-14

YetevenGod our Father, Jesus Christ thenow, says theSon of God and the Holy Spirit.Lord, returnAmen.to me with allReturn. It's something that God

commands us to do here through the prophet Joel, but it's also a word that is on the lips of many during this time of year as many people anticipate and hope for a tax return. And those who are fortunate enough to get a tax return might ask themselves what are they going to do with their tax return money? Some blow through it on material things they've been wanting for a long time and others go on extravagant vacations; some payoff debt while others purchase a new car; some add on to their home and others put it into savings. But the question remains, "What should you do with your return?"

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Mark's gospel Jesus proclaimed, "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent (return) and believe in the good news." And so, to return in the Biblical sense means to repent. The Greek word for repent, metanoia, literally means to make a full 180° turn from the sinful way we are going so that we may return back to God and his ways of righteousness.

Returning, repentance is a central theme in season of Lent in which we currently find ourselves in the church year. It's clear in this text from Joel and in many other places in Scripture that God calls us to a life of returning and repentance. That is, that we are to acknowledge our sinful ways and seek God's reconciliation and forgiveness. But if we think of the command to return in the same way as our culture begs us to think of the notion of returning, I might ask you "What should you do with your return?"

What should we do with the command from God to return? Should we go out and blow through it or should we take it seriously in this season of Lent? As it is made clear in the prophet's writing we are called to return to the Lord with all our hearts, through sacrifices and even during the trials and tribulations we find ourselves in; we are called to return and give fully of our heats, not our material possessions, to God. And when we do we see how God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.

Breakfast at Patterson Grove

Patterson Grove Baptist Church, 301 Oak Grove Road, will have breakfast Saturday, March 7, from 6:30-10 a.m. The menu is biscuits and gravy, eggs, bacon, sausage, country ham, grits, coffee and juice. The public is invited to the benefit with proceeds going to help establish and support a new missionary family.

Concert Sunday at Westover

"Heart to Heart" will present a concert Sunday, March 8, at 6 p.m. at Westover Baptist Church, 114 westover Drive. Everyone welcome.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Advent Lutheran Church, NALC Member Life Enrichment Center 701 E. Gold St.

Anew Beginning Baptist Church 415 Dixon School Rd. 704-473-1372

Ardent Life Church 420 Branch Street 704-739-7700

Arise Church Kings Mountain YMCA 211 Cleveland Ave.

Bethlehem Baptist Church 1017 Bethlehem Road 704-739-7487

Boyce Memorial ARP Church Edgemont Drive 704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God 310 Long Branch Rd (KM)

Calvary Way Holiness Church 1017 Second Street Pastor Clifton Morgan Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church 246 Range Road 704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church 714 Stone Street

704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain 108 E. Mountain St. (KM Women's Club Bldg.) 704-739-1323

Cornerstone Church Of God 202 Margrace Road 704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist 107 Range Road 704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist 125 Mayberry Lane 704-739-0310

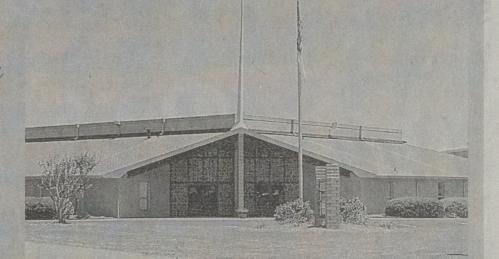
David Baptist Church 2300 David Baptist Church Road 704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church 602 Dixon School Road El Bethel United Methodist Church 122 El-bethel Road 704-739-9174

Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church 602 Canterbury Road 704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church 1128 S. York Road 704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church



East Gold Street Wesleyan 701 E Gold St, Kings Mountain

First Church of the Nazarene 121 Countryside Road 704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church 111 E. King Street 704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church 505 N. Piedmont Avenue 704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist 117 Galilee Church Road 704-739-7011 Grace United Methodist Church 830 Church Street 704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church 144 Ware Road 704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church 101 W. Mountain Street 704-739-2516

