

## CHURCH BRIEFS

### Church needs music director

Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church Music Department is looking for a music director to present devotional as well as worship music for the church service. Multi-talented musicians are welcome. Contact the church secretary at 704-739-1169.

### El Bethel country breakfast

Country breakfast will be served at El Bethel United Methodist church fellowship hall Saturday, Feb. 7 from 6:30-10 a.m. Call 704-739-9174 for takeouts. A bake sale will also be held. The public is invited.

### Lenten services start Feb. 18

Community-wide Lenten services on the theme "Personalities around the Cross" will begin Feb. 18 at noon and continue every Wednesday at noon through March 25 at six churches in the community.

Central United Methodist Church will host the first service on Feb. 18 at 12 noon. Rev. Brian Taule, pastor of David Baptist Church, will speak on the topic, "Judas: the One who betrayed Him" from Matthew 26:14-16.

The host church provides a light meal after the service. An offering will be taken for the Kings Mountain Crisis

Ministry.

The full schedule of services sponsored by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association:

Feb. 25 at noon at First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Marty Ramey, interim pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, Salisbury, "Barabbas: Jesus died in my place."

March 4 at noon at Boyce Memorial ARP Church with Rev. Scott Whitney, pastor of East Gold Wesleyan Church speaking on "Simon of Cyrene: Suffering may lead to blessing".

March 11 at noon at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

### Valentine's Day love feast

Galilee and St. Paul United Methodist Churches will host a Valentine's Day Love Feast on Feb. 14 at noon at Galilee United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 117 Galilee Church Rd. Donations are \$8. For more information call Doris Brown at 704-747-2996.

with Rev. James Lochridge, Jr., pastor of Second Baptist Church, speaking on "Mary, the Mother of Jesus: the depths of a Mother's love."

March 18 at noon at David Baptist Church with Rev. John Houze, pastor of Peoples Baptist Church, speaking on "The thief of the Cross: the way to salvation".

March 25 at noon at East Gold Wesleyan Church, Rev. Moses Neuman, of World Care Ministries of Dallas, speaking on "Joseph of Arimathea: giving our service for Christ."

The public is invited.

### State: school chief tours West School

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gratifying to see that you are looking at your students one child at a time."

Atkinson was joined by her senior policy advisor Mike McLaughlin and Eric Davis, who sits on both the State Board of Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Board of Education. Local school board chair Phillip Glover was also present.

West principal Heather Pagan and a handful of teachers guided their guests on a talking tour of each classroom in the K-4 school.

In between visits and along school halls decorated with colorful educational messages, the group chatted informally about the benefits of the Cleveland County Schools' Parent Portal, end of grade testing and Common Core. The state's school leader also passed out copies of a children's book she authored called "The T-Shirt Named Zee," a cheerful tale emphasizing the importance of de-

termination, resiliency and empathy.

Following the tour Atkinson joined the others in seeing hundreds of students make their way onto buses and into the awaiting cars of parents and grandparents at the end of the school day.

In a talk with West staff members after school hours, Atkinson praised not just West but overall strides made across districts in N.C. schools, noting that the Tar Heel state enjoys an 83.9 percent graduation rate, the highest in the state's history.

She also defended Common Core, shorthand for a sometimes controversial set of high-quality academic standards in mathematics and English language arts and literacy. The learning goals outline what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade.

"The state is not moving away from Common Core," Atkinson told teacher and other education officials at the meeting. "It's unfortunate that the (standard) has been politicized."

Responding to questions about lagging teacher pay in North Carolina, Atkinson said she regrets that teacher salaries are not where she and other state leaders would like to see it. She also said she was not optimistic that the N.C. General Assembly was likely to increase the budget for teaching assistant pay.

The U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named five North Carolina public schools as 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools. West Elementary is among 287 public and 50 private schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvement in closing the achievement gap. West Elementary is among only one other school in the state honored as an Exemplary High Performing School.

The school was honored at a November conference and awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

### YMCA lease: on Council agenda

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Councilman Keith Miller said a longer contract will likely provide the Y with the opportunity to get more money to invest in improvements.

Councilman Curtis Pressley voted in opposition but he expressed his gratitude for all the services the Y has provided over the years.

"I believe we should take ownership of our own recreation department," said Pressley, who campaigned prior to his election on the need for "a lot of kids who can't go to the Y." Pressley said "I just believe at some point we have to quit letting someone else babysit for us and we have to take responsibility ourselves for our own kids to participate in recreational activities."

Pressley also questioned "jumping from a 15 year to a 20 year contract."

The mayor said the city has reviewed all the figures and allowing the YMCA to provide recreational services saves the city money. He said the YMCA can provide more programs and activities than the city would ever be able to provide. Murphrey thanked the YMCA for their partnership over the past 15 years and said he believes the new contract will be a step in the right direction in providing more programs for all ages of citizens. "The Y is great family atmosphere and I strongly support it," he said.

Doyle Campbell, Merimont Ave., also spoke in support of the Y. Diagnosed with a rare aggressive kidney condition over seven

years ago, he was told he would likely need dialysis in seven years. "Due to going to the Y four to five times a week and trying to live a healthy lifestyle, more than seven years have passed and my kidney function has remained stable. My physician credits most of that stability to exercising and I do that at the YMCA," said Campbell.

The city first entered into an agreement with the Cleveland County Family YMCA on Feb. 1, 2005 to provide recreational services at the former community center on Cleveland Avenue. Both the mayor and YMCA officials have said the partnership has been highly successful and participation in the various programs have grown over the years.

### Two weeks left to make application for open seat on Grover Town Council

GROVER- Two more weeks remain for city residents to make application for the seat open on town council.

With the resignation of Rodney Ross, a new member will be elected by board members to serve until the

general election in November when he or she can run for re-election.

Members talked about plans to fill the seat at Monday night's meeting and conferred with Lithia Brooks of L Brooks Consultants on writing policies

for use of a debit card by two department heads and a service contract with Paychex Payroll Company to outsource the payroll for the town of Grover.

Brooks has been hired by council to help develop a budget and financial plan.

### Harper: low bidder for \$11M city project

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gallons per day. Mayor Rick Murphrey said the increase will allow the city to meet future residential and industrial growth.

Construction is expected to begin next month and be

completed March 2016.

Funding for the project is included in the \$34 million state revolving 20-year no interest loan the city received from the state revolving fund for major water/sewer projects.

A new 36-inch water line from Moss Lake to the city is under construction and funds for this project also come from the state loan. The goal for completion of the water line is October 2016.

### Faunce: property rezoned

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were not appropriate for the area and through the site plan included performance standards to mitigate impacts.

The property is at the corner of two arterial roads and the conditional use permit does not allow ingress and egress to Mountain Street. The North Carolina Department of Transportation has issued a permit that would allow access to Phifer Road and King Street. This serves to keep traffic from moving from or to the adjoining residential neighborhood, Killian said.

Helen Hatch, 311 W. Mountain Street, a member of the West Kings Mountain Neighborhood group that has been vocal in support of maintaining West Mountain as historical properties, said there is more that the city can do to protect existing neighborhoods and thereby helping to attract more people to live in Kings Mountain. "This was a compromise situation," she said of the rezoning of the Faunce property. "The planning and zoning board seems to be oblivious to the problem of no new housing in Kings Mountain and Kings Mountain is at the bottom of the list for desirable places to live. This is a serious problem" said Hatch, adding, "You compromise housing for jobs and of course we need jobs."

Mrs. Hatch told the board she knows of many

people who commute from Charlotte to work in Kings Mountain, some of whom could live in Kings Mountain and be five minutes away from their place of employment.

"We need more housing," she said.

In other actions, city council:

+heard a presentation of the 2014 audit from Meg Carter of Martin Starnes & Associates who reported that the city had received a clean audit for the 17th year. Mayor Rick Murphrey took the occasion to commend city staff.

+The mayor recognized KMPD Sgt. Todd McDougal for 10 years of service in the city police department.

+The mayor recognized Dustin Todd Vaughn for completing North Carolina grade I, collections operator program, 24 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of training while performing the duties of a pumps/collections system utility maintenance worker.

+okayed the establishment of a permit/administrative fee for new commercial construction for stormwater review to pay for engineering cost for innovative/sealed plans.

+reappointed Ralph Grindstaff to the ABC board for a second term to expire Jan 31, 2018.

+reappointed Wendy Isbell to the Main Street Advisory board for a second three year term and appointed Paul Ingram, replacing Larry Hamrick Jr.,

for a first three year term. Terms expire Dec. 31, 2018.

+scheduled public hearing for Feb. 24, 2015 for a road name change request by Gilbert Patrick for Benton Express Avenue changing to Innovation Drive.

+scheduled public hearing for Feb. 24, 2015 for request by Heather Kubu for properties located between Cansler Street and the intersection of Hawthorne Road from residential R-10 to RS-6.

+approved proposal to remove trees/ mitigation plan on the control strip of property at Moss Lake owned by Annie Hord, Old Stubbs Road Cherryville.

+approved proposal to remove trees/mitigation plan on control strip of property at Moss Lake owned by Aubrey Hollifield, 120 Ridgecrest Drive, Cherryville.

+approved ordinance ordering the demolition of certain property in the jurisdiction of the city at 915 Church Street.

+received terms of the proposed lease with the YMCA and authorized the advertisement of the terms of the proposed lease with the YMCA. Motions by Butler and Miller, Curtis Pressley voting no. Passed 6-1.

+authorized the mayor to sign an extended lease (from Jan. 31 to Feb. 28) with the YMCA. Motion by Butler, seconded by Miller. The board voted 6-1 with Councilman Pressley casting the no vote.

### Food and clothes giveaway

Rhema Outreach Ministry is holding a food and clothes giveaway on Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 1 to 5 p.m. at 624 E. King St. First come, first served. Food is limited.

The Wil Cote Band will be playing a variety of music at Hounds Campground 114 Raven Circle Kings Mountain on February 14 Admission is Free. For more information call 704-739-4474

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