

'Purpose Driven Life' an answer to prayer

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Close to 80 women are flocking to Christian Freedom Baptist Church every Tuesday morning, eager to find their purpose.

The popular Bible study is based on the bestseller "A Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

Ashley Harris calls the class a "huge answer to my prayers." Harris said she knows God is working in her life through the study. She has watched her own attitude shift.

"I know I'm where I should be," the young mother of three said. "For everybody there is a purpose."

Before this Bible study, Gina Ayscue often read self help books, trying to be a better wife and mother. The study

has changed her focus.

"It wasn't all about me. I had to put it in God's hands," she said.

While Harris and Ayscue are both young, there are several retired women in the class also.

Eva Moss is one of those. Not only has the class been a chance for her to learn, she also gets to watch her granddaughter Ashley Sullens teach.

"She walks what she talks," Moss said.

Despite decades of faith, Moss still gets something from the class.

"I learn more about Jesus every time I'm here," she said.

Moss especially likes the emphasis on doing for others who are less fortunate.

Sullens and her husband Vince Sullens lead the church's discipleship

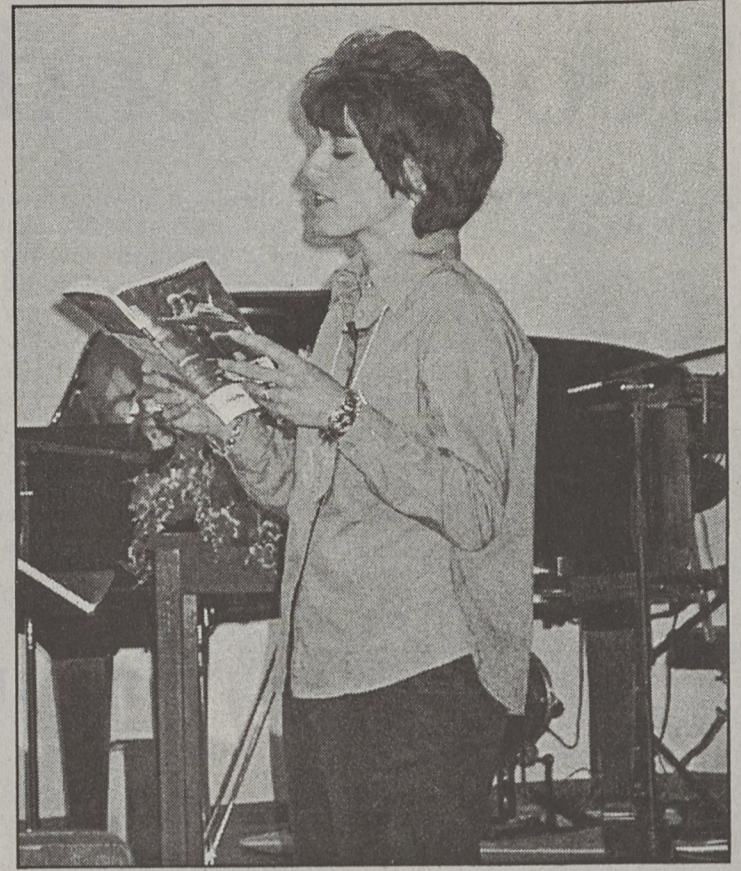
program. They took over that responsibility from Vince's brother Tracy after he was called to the ministry five years ago.

When Pastor Mike Chambers took the pulpit 10 years ago, the church had 40 members. Today, it has around 700. The upsurge in new Christians created a demand for Bible study.

"They needed to be grounded. The only way is to study the word," Ashley Sullens said.

Sullens said she spend around 20 to 25 hours each week preparing and teaching the Bible study. In addition to the class on Tuesday, she meets with small group leaders on Monday mornings to review the upcoming lesson.

Sullens says it's worth her time. She believes women especially need the



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Ashley Sullens teaches a Bible study at Christian Freedom Baptist Church Tuesday morning.

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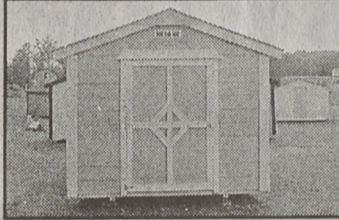
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CHURCH BRIEFS

Central Methodist sets Bethlehem Journey

The Recreation Committee of Central United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain, will set up a meeting for eight weeks of "Journey to Bethlehem."

The meeting will include a walk that will be spiritual and healthy.

The event will take place in the Christian Activities Center and the walk will be around the City of Kings Mountain.

Tripp Hord will be the leader.

For more information call the church office at 739-2471.

Macedonia Baptist sets fall festival

Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground Ave., Kings

Mountain will hold a fall festival October 31 at 7 p.m. Admission is two can food items.

Adults and children are invited. There will be food, games and trunk or treat.

Auction and BBQ at Patterson Grove

Patterson Grove Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will hold an auction and barbecue Saturday, October 25.

Barbecued pork or grilled chicken with trimmings will be sold from 4-7 p.m. The cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

The auction begins at 7 p.m.

For more information call 739-5826.

Family Worship sets special service

"A Week of Prayer and Praise" will be held November 2-7 at 7 p.m. at Family Worship Center Church of God, 1818 Shelby Road, Kings Mountain.

Guest speaker will be Evangelist Kevin White of Garden City, AL.

For more information call 739-7206.

Dixon Presbyterian sets fall BBQ sale

Dixon Presbyterian Church, 603 Dixon School Road, will hold its annual fall barbecue sale Saturday, November 8 beginning at 11 a.m.

Plates, which include two barbecue sandwiches plus trimmings, will be \$6.

Whole Boston Butts will be \$25. Tickets are available from church members.

Fall fest for kids at Dixon Presbyterian

Dixon Presbyterian Church will have a fall fest for children at 5 p.m. Saturday, November 1 at Dixon School, 603 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain.

There will be all types of games and treats. Children are welcome to dress in Halloween costumes or come as you are.

A family night for all ages will begin at 6 p.m.

The public is invited.

Bethlehem Baptist sets fall festival

Bethlehem Baptist Church,

1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain, will hold its annual fall festival Friday, Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

This "alternative" to Halloween will include a hot dog supper, trunk or treat, costume party for pre-k through sixth grade and games.

For more information call 739-7487.

Pisgah ARP to dedicate building

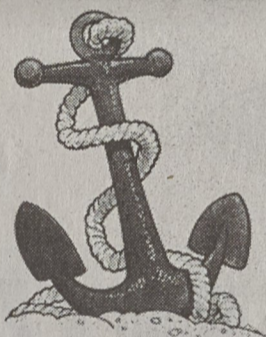
Pisgah Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church will dedicate its new Family Life Outreach Center Sunday, November 2.

An open house and reception is set for 3 p.m., followed by the dedication service at 4 p.m. A nursery will be provided from 3:30-5 p.m.

Dr. John Carson, President of Erskine College, will speak along with Gastonia Mayor Jennie Stultz.

Pisgah ARP Church was established in 1796 and has continually served the southwestern part of Gaston County. Rev. Richard Lewis is pastor.

For more information call 865-7611.



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Grief, Loss Recovery Program

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For those who have lost loved ones and are still coping with your loss, we would like to invite you to participate in our Grief Loss Recovery Program.

The purpose of this program is to help any family member adjust to the loss of a loved one and reckon with any issues that may exist. Many times people simply need to talk with someone or be able to share with others who are or have been going through the same thing.

We have asked Rev. Leonard Bumgardner to serve as our Chaplain and lead the Grief Loss Recovery Program. Chaplain Bumgardner is a part of our community and has served as a church pastor for 36 years. In addition, Chaplain Bumgardner will be working with us in various capacities in order to assist you with your various needs.

The Grief Loss Recovery Program will hold its first meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2003. We will be meeting every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Carpenter's Funeral Home. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to help you in the overall grieving and healing process. If you have any questions, please call us at 704.435.6711 or call Chaplain Leonard Bumgardner at 704.435.9324.

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