

MEDITATION

Relationships, not things, matter most

BY REV. JEFF HENSLEY

Several years ago I was an intern chaplain at a VA Hospital. During our orientation to the hospital each intern was given an opportunity to choose which ward he or she would work in. I chose the one that no one wanted: the terminally ill ward. The patients located there were often quiet, sometimes introspective, and regularly treated for pain of many kinds.

At the end of each day's work the chief of chaplains would lead us through a de-briefing period, which provided us the chance to explore what we were learning and to reflect theologically on our experiences of ministry. In response to one of my comments, he made a remark that I have never forgotten. "All of life is made up of relationships," he said, "and we who minister receive a special gift when people allow us to be included in those relationships."

As I write these words, I have just come from the local hospital, and I am grateful to God for a precious family I met there. Together with many supportive friends, this family was waiting, embracing, and sharing hope for a very special family member. The warmth and love I saw among these good folks reminded me of a little Jewish folktale about two loving brothers.

These two brothers, so the story goes, farmed together. They shared equally in all of the work and split the profits exactly. Each had his own granary. One of the brothers was married and had a large family; the other brother was single.

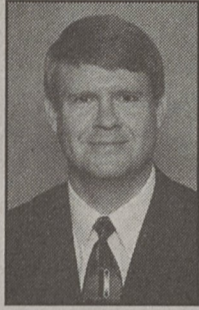
One day the single brother thought to himself, "It's not fair that we divide the grain evenly. My brother has many mouths to feed, while I have but one. I know what I'll do, I will take a sack of grain from my granary each evening and put it in my brother's granary." So, each night after dark, he carefully carried a sack of grain and placed it in his brother's barn.

Meanwhile, the married brother thought to himself, "It's not fair that we divide the grain evenly. I have many children to care for me in my old age, and my brother has none. I know what I'll do, I will take a sack of grain from my granary each evening and put it in my brother's granary." And he did.

Each morning the two brothers were amazed to discover that though they had removed a sack of grain the night before, they had just as many. One night the two brothers met each other halfway between their barns, each carrying a sack of grain. Then they understood the mystery. And they embraced, and loved each other deeply.

This being the season of "Thanksgiving," we would all do well to embrace those special people whom God has given to us, including our family members and our friends because, regardless of what we have, that which matters most to all of us is not our collection of things but our collection of relationships.

Rev. Jeff Hensley is pastor at Kings Mountain Baptist Church.



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

CHURCH BRIEFS

Free concert set at First Presbyterian

Kings Mountain native Miles Mauney and his wife Dorothy will be in recital Friday, November 26 at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 111 East King Street, Kings Mountain.

The recital will feature classical music favorites for violin and piano. The program includes works by Mozart, Rachmaninoff and Kreisler.

The Mauneys are accomplished performers. Miles Mauney toured extensively with his twin brother, Ernest, and taught many years at the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory.

The concert will be in the church sanctuary, which is accessible by wheelchair. Hearing assistance is also available.

There will be a reception after the concert.

For more information call 739-2883.

Community service tonight at First Baptist

Rev. Doug Allen of Penley's Chapel Church will deliver the sermon during the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association's annual Thanksgiving service.

First Baptist Church will host the service which begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday night. The offering will be donated to the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry.

Thanksgiving service at Dixon

Victory Baptist and Dixon Presbyterian churches will hold their annual joint Thanksgiving service Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain.

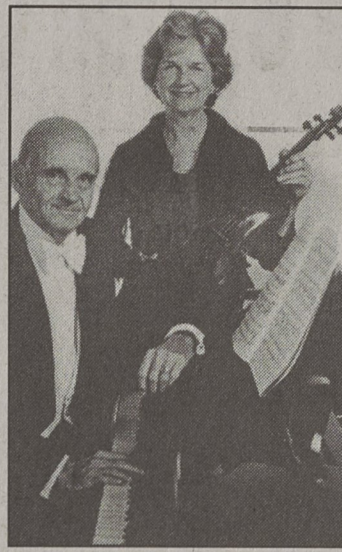
Rev. Dennis Wells, pastor of Victory Baptist, will deliver the message.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

The public is invited.

Thanksgiving meal at Central Methodist

The community kitchen at Central United Methodist Church will serve a free Thanksgiving dinner Thursday from 4 to 5:30



Miles and Dorothy Mauney to perform Friday at First Presbyterian Church

p.m. The church is located on Piedmont Avenue.

Ministerial Assn. to meet Wednesday

The Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will meet Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 11:45 a.m. at Summit Place.

The program will be "New Child Safety Seat Belt Laws."

Fund raisers at Central UMC

Youth of Central United Methodist Church, 113 S. Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, will sponsor fund raisers on November 26 and 27.

A baby sitting service for Christmas shoppers will be held on November 26 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

A gift wrapping service will be held November 27 from 12-5 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit the youth's mission trip to Mexico.

For more information call 739-2471.

Matthews to sing at Shelby church

Kyle Matthews will perform a free concert at First

Baptist in Shelby Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

Matthews has written or co-written "I Cannot Turn Away," "If You Want To Lead Me Jesus," "My Heart Goes Out," and "Inconvenient Christmas" which garnered him a Dove Award nomination.

He was raised in Waco, Texas and Greenville, S.C. Matthews and his wife Susan live in Nashville with their children Emily and Christopher.

The free concert requires tickets which are available at First Baptist in Shelby, Aldersgate United Methodist, Central United Methodist in Shelby, Shelby Presbyterian, Go Fish Christian Book Store, Education Station, Greater Cleveland Baptist Association, Dover YMCA, Kings Mountain YMCA and Boiling Springs YMCA.

For more information, call 704-482-3467 or visit www.fbcshelby.org.

Christmas musical at Eastside Baptist

Eastside Baptist Church, 308 York Road, Kings Mountain, will present the Christmas musical "I Have Seen the Light" Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3-4 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. The public is invited.

Providence to sing at Eastside Baptist

Providence will be in concert Sunday, Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. at Eastside Baptist Church, 308 York Road, Kings Mountain. The public is invited.

Poinsettia sale at Boyce Memorial

The youth group of Boyce Memorial ARP Church, Edgemont Drive, Kings Mountain, will sponsor a poinsettia patch sale Saturday, Nov. 27 from 10

a.m.-2 p.m. Persons can pick out their own Christmas poinsettia in deep red or bright snowy white color. All plants come in 6 1/2 inch pot wrapped and adorned with a bow.

Ruppess to sing at Bethel Baptist

The Ruppess will be in concert Sunday, December 5 at 6 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church, 606 S. Dekalb Street, Shelby.

For more information call the church office at 482-8922.

Blessed Nations to honor pastor

Blessed Nations Church, 820 South Post Road, Shelby, will hold its second pastor appreciation service honoring Pastor Noah Joseph Gingles December 2-5.

On Thursday, Bishop Nathan Anderson of Warriors Armed and Ready Fellowship in Charlotte will speak at 7 p.m.

On Friday, Bishop Donagrat McCluney of Westside Praise & Worship Center of Shelby will speak at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, "I'm Still Standing" fellowship will be held at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, Bishop Randy Borders of Faith Harvest Church of Shelby will speak at 7 p.m.

For more information call 487-7571 or 481-0737.

Thanksgiving hams, turkeys to be sold

Macedonia Baptist Church Brotherhood and Activities Ministry is taking orders for slow-cooked turkeys and hams for Thanksgiving.

The cost is \$25 for ham and \$20 for turkey. Orders may be picked up on Thanksgiving morning from 8-10 a.m.

For more information or to place an order call the church at 739-6811.

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Cleveland Regional Medical Center

Spirit of Women

Holiday Recipes For A

Healthy Life

Tuesday, December 7 — 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
T.R. Harris Center - Cleveland Regional Medical Center

Dessert will be served.
Please register by calling, 704-487-3066.

SPEAKER
Lynn Sullens
Chief Clinical Dietician

Join Lynn as she discusses some quick and healthy ideas for holiday meals.

Spirit of Women

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