

MEDITATION

Parent's love can only be passed on

BY REV. JEFF HENSLEY

As the holidays are arriving, our community is being prepared for a joyful season. With lights in the trees, decorations in shop windows, and large ornaments attached to power poles, Kings Mountain is more festive with each passing day. It's a wonderful time of year.

It's also a time to observe certain customs. Almost every family I know has their own way of celebrating the holidays. Most of them weave their rituals together using their own heritage, religious faith and personal style. Some of their customs have emerged out of a long, and often forgotten, history, while others came into being as a result of some simple need.

There's something powerful about these customs, because when they are absent we feel something missing. But it's not really the customs themselves that are so important; it's really what they represent - a loving, supportive atmosphere in which to grow up safe and secure. We all need that kind of atmosphere, and we need to pass it on.

Let me illustrate the point by sharing with you a little story about a childless couple that raised their orphaned nephew, whose name was David. This story depicts an exchange that took place at a railroad station. David was ready to go off to college and his aunt and uncle were waiting to say good-bye to him as he left home.

While they were waiting, David looked at his aunt and uncle and took note of some features to which he had rarely paid attention. His aunt had hands that were cupped and hard from selling fruit and vegetables outdoors in all kinds of weather. Her face was ruddy and round and invariably smiling, and her heavy body was more accustomed to a half dozen sweaters at one time than a single coat. The hair on her head, once black as the night sky, was the color of moonlight now, but her dark eyes were still shiny and bright.

His uncle was a short man with a wiry body. He, too, was strong but bent from the many years of lifting too many fruit and vegetable crates. His skin was wind-burned and he had a swarthy face that featured a wry mouth. And though his aunt and uncle had reared David since he was seven years of age, they refused to be called Mama and Papa for fear that he would forget his real parents.

Before he boarded the train, David took the rough hands of his aunt and uncle into his own smooth hands. "How can I ever repay you two for what you have done for me," he said. Speaking gently, his uncle replied, "David, there's an old saying, 'The love of parents goes to their children.'" "But that's not so," protested David, "I'll always be trying to..." His aunt then interrupted. "David," she said calmly, "what your uncle means is that a parent's love isn't to be paid back. It can only be passed on."

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



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

CHURCH BRIEFS

Comfort and Joy at First Wesleyan

The choir of First Wesleyan Church, 505 North Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, will present its Christmas cantata "Comfort and Joy" Sunday, December 5 at 6 p.m.

The program is directed by Rob Bazzle.

The public is invited.

The cantata will be repeated on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 10:30 a.m.

East Gold Wesleyan breakfast is Sunday

The young adults of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, 701 E. Gold St., Kings Mountain, will host a breakfast Sunday, Dec. 5 from 8:15-9:15 in the Family Life Center.

Plates are \$ for adults. Proceeds will be used to provide Christmas presents for a needy family.

At 11 a.m. the Children's Choir will present "Three Wise Men and a Star."

Call 739-3215 for more information.

Gospel singing set at Cherokee Baptist

The Melody Trio will be in concert Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at Cherokee Street Baptist Church, 423 Cherokee Street, Kings Mountain.

The public is invited.

Emmanuel Baptist Christmas program

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Kings Mountain will have its Christmas musical and drama "From Christmas to Calvary" Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11-12, at 6 p.m.

Emmanuel Baptist is located behind The Herald and across from the new Senior Center at the east end of Business 74.

The public is invited. For



Eastside Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will present the Christmas musical "I Have Seen the Light" December 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. and December 5 at 6 p.m. Some of the choir members participating are, left to right, Robin Gantt, Todd Starnes, Amber Lawson, Dink Starnes and Don Starnes.

more information call 739-9339.

Children's choir to present musical

The children's choir of First Wesleyan Church, 505 N. Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, will present the Christmas musical drama "Sing a Song of Christmas" Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

The program will be directed by Donna Deaton.

At 6 p.m., the church will gather for a service of "Christmas Memories."

The public is invited.

Ham, turkey sell at Macedonia Baptist

The Brotherhood of Macedonia Baptist Church, 1101 S. Battleground Avenue, Kings Mountain, will sell ham and turkey for Christmas.

A slow cooked ham (dinner ham or shoulder) is \$30

and a turkey is \$20.

Order by December 19.

Orders may be picked up on Christmas Eve between 8-10 a.m.

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

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.

Ruppes to sing at Bethel Baptist

The Ruppes 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.

Church news deadline is noon Monday. Bring it to the Herald, phone 739-7496 or fax 739-0611.



Eastside Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will present the Christmas musical "I Have Seen the Light" December 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. and December 5 at 6 p.m. Some of the choir members participating are, left to right, Larry Rayfield, Joyce Goble, Randy Echols, Juanita Rhea and Jack Rhea.

DSBG and Wachovia of Gaston County Invite You to Celebrate the Holidays at the Garden

Holiday Tree Lighting & GospelfEST
Fri., Dec. 3, 7 p.m.
Featuring The Cockman Family and the St. Stephen's AME Zion Church Cassell Singers
Sponsored by: **WACHOVIA**

Children of the Season
Thurs., Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
Music, gingerbread decorating, ornament making, photos with Santa and a visit from the Sugar Plum Fairy
Sponsored by: **The David Belk Cannon Foundation**

Sounds of the Season
Thurs., Dec. 16, 7 p.m.
Traditional holiday music featuring the Capriccio Strings, Northside Christian

Academy Singers and Gaston Choral Society
Sponsored by: **PSNC ENERGY**
Natural Gas. Experience the Difference.

Traditions of the Season
Thurs., Dec. 23, 7 p.m.
Special reading of A Christmas Carol; other fun Holiday traditions

Enjoy the unique Holiday shopping, sweet treats available for purchase and more than 2,000 luminaries during these evening events. General Garden admission applies - free to Garden members; \$8 adults; \$6.50 seniors 60+; \$4 children 4-12.

DSBG DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDEN
6500 S. New Hope Road
Belmont, NC 28012

For more information, visit www.dsbg.org or call 704-825-4490

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

Cleveland Regional Medical Center
Carolinas HealthCare System
www.clevelandregional.org