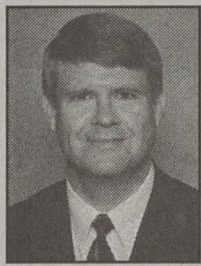


MEDITATION

Sometimes Christians have a hearing problem

BY REV. JEFF HENSLEY

A young man was a teacher in a school that was designed for children suffering from hearing disorders. In most cases the children could actually hear what other people said to them, but their brains could not interpret the words they heard. Working



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

there was very difficult for this young man. He was so touched by the circumstances that he would go to and from work crying.

Eventually he had to leave, but there was one particular child that he remembered for many years afterward. She was just seven years of age and her name was

Heather. She was a beautiful little girl, who loved to play on the playground. One day, just after the Thanksgiving holiday, he was on the playground with the children when he saw Heather playing in the sand. He went over to her, squatted down in front of her, and said, "Heather, what did you eat for Thanksgiving?" Like most of the rest of the children, Heather heard what her teacher said, but his words didn't mean anything to her, so she replied, "My shoes are red."

Sometimes I wonder how many people who participate in the worship of God suffer from a similar sort of hearing problem. The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter mean so very much to me as a Christian, and some of the most enriching worship experiences I have ever had have taken place during these seasons. These

experiences have included occasions when every part of a worship service just seemed to come together. And whether the tools of worship included beautiful music, Chrismon trees and Advent wreaths, or inspiring sermons, they have often left me feeling awed by the presence of God.

Yet, it often seems to me that people sometimes just don't get it. I remember a Good Friday Tenebrae Service I participated in some years ago. As its Latin title describes, this was a service of "darkness." The lighting in the sanctuary vanished slowly as a series of candles, depicting the last words of Jesus on the cross, were extinguished. There was no sermon and the scripture and music caused me to feel enveloped by the tomb, even as Jesus was. Of course, that was the whole point, but it was a point that was missed by one dear man.

Because a Tenebrae service is supposed to cause participants to think about the suffering and death of Jesus, worshippers customarily leave the building in silence. As the pastor, I usually go out first and the remainder of the participants follow when they feel they are ready.

But on this particular occasion, as I was leaving, one man jumped up from his seat, walked outside with me and then turned to me and said, "Well, preacher, how long do you think Mike Krzyzewski will stay at Duke?" I felt a bit like that young teacher must have felt when he talked with Heather on the playground. That man might as well have said, "My shoes are red."

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

CHURCH BRIEFS

Christmas programs at Bethlehem Baptist

Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain, has scheduled two Christmas programs for this month.

The Children's Choir will present "The First Lion: Uncovering the True Meaning of Christmas," Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.

The Adult choir will present "Journey to the Manger: A Search for the True Meaning of Christmas," Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

Both presentations will be in the Church Activities Building. The public is invited.

Comfort and Joy at East Gold Street

The adult choir of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, under the direction of Fred Eaker, will present the Christmas cantata, "Comfort and Joy," Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m.

On Sunday night at 6 p.m. the preschoolers will give their Christmas program, and there will be a special video presentation of the children's activities throughout this past year.

For more information or directions call 739-3215.

Singing Saturday at Midview Baptist

The Good News Quartet of Rock Hill, SC and the Robinsons of Hickory will be in concert Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at Midview Baptist Church, 703 Margrace Road, Kings Mountain.

There will be fellowship and refreshments after the service. A nursery will be

provided if needed.

For more information call Rev. Bob Hope at 739-1290 or Toney King at 739-7051.

Choir anniversary at Antioch Missionary

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 1616 Kings Road, Shelby, will celebrate its choir's 23rd anniversary Sunday, Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.

Dr. James C. Robinson is pastor.

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 12 at 10:30 a.m.

The program is directed by Rob Bazzle. 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 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.

Christmas service set at St. Peter

St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church, 116 Poplar Drive, Grover, will have a Christmas service December 25 at 10 a.m.

The speaker will be Rev. Carolyn Briggs of Westside Praise and Worship Center. 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.

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 program at Chesnut Ridge

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, King Mountain, will present "A Strange Way to Save the World" December 18 and 19 at 6 p.m.

The public is invited.

Deadline for church news is 12 noon Monday. Bring it to the Herald, call 739-7496, fax 739-0611 or e-mail gstewart@kingsmountain-herald.com

Coffee house Friday at Joy

Kings Mountain Little Theatre will sponsor its Lobby Coffee House Friday from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Joy Performance Center.

The theatre will show "Santa Claus, The

Movie" at 10 a.m. December 18.

The organization will hold auditions for "Moon Over Buffalo" January 3 and 4 from 7 to 9 p.m.

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