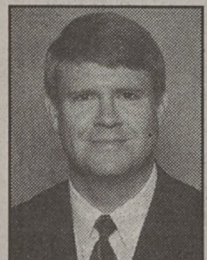


**MEDITATION**

# Sleeping and hearing can be good thing

As a pastor I've heard more jokes about people going to sleep during a sermon than I can count. In fact, I've heard some over and over again. The specifics have always changed, but the heart of each joke has remained the same.



**Jeff Hensley**  
Meditation

Perhaps the idea is that if you change the names it will protect the innocent. But whatever the case may be, it seems that it always lightens the mood of a church gathering to joke about people falling asleep during the sermon.

Now I have to admit that though these jokes are sometimes funny, I can also speak from experience that it's not always easy to know what to do when it happens to you. For example, a friend of mine was telling me about an occasion when she was delivering the morning sermon in her church.

"Right in the middle of my sermon," she exclaimed, "a man sitting on the front pew dropped his head and began to snore loudly." Being taken by surprise, she left the pulpit, walked down to where the man was sitting, shook him with her hand and then looked him straight in the eye and shouted, "Wake up, sir, I'm preaching here!"

Though I admired my friend for her boldness, I didn't think that was the best way to deal with the situation. A better example comes from the pen of Fred Craddock, a popular preacher and author, who told of an experience he had while waiting in an airport. Sitting in the terminal, he

struck up a conversation with a man from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. This learned professor was here in this country working on a book that described the results of his research into how the conversations of doctors and nurses affected surgery patients who were under anesthesia.

The professor had discovered that if the doctors and nurses were upbeat and cheerful, then the patient was euphoric and optimistic after the surgery. But if the doctors and nurses were upbeat and cheerful, then the patient was euphoric and optimistic after the surgery.

When boarding time finally arrived, Craddock thanked his new friend for the conversation.

"Why," the man asked, "are you a doctor?"

"No," replied Craddock, "I'm a preacher, but if it'll work in surgery, it'll work in the sanctuary."

From that time forth, whenever he saw someone sleeping during one of his sermons, Craddock comforted himself with the idea that several days later they might get a little spiritual twitch. "They won't know what caused it," Craddock said, "but I'll know."

The results this professor discovered are not new. For the Bible says, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

And I feel confident that this works in surgery, in the sanctuary, and in the rest of our lives. Though my friend's boldness may have kept her parishioner from sleeping during her sermon, I suspect it also kept him from hearing what she had to say.

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

**CHURCH NEWS DEADLINE**

Deadline for receiving church news is 12 noon Monday. Bring news by The Herald, fax 739-0611, phone 739-7496 or e mail [gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com](mailto:gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com)

**CHURCH NEWS**

# Moore to give Luther monologue Friday at Joy Performance Center

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Area residents can learn more about early Protestant reformer Martin Luther February 11 at 7 p.m. at Joy Performance Center.



**MOORE**

Rev. George Moore, for-

mer pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church, will give a dramatic monologue of Luther. A screening of the 2003 motion picture "Luther" will follow.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans South Bridge Chapter will sponsor the event and Resurrection and St. Matthews Lutheran churches are coordinating.

Rev. Ken Gillikin of Resurrection describes the production as not a Lutheran event but an edu-

cational program for the entire community.

"Martin Luther has had an impact on the whole of western civilization," he said.

Rev. Moore served Resurrection from 1959 to 1965. He has presented monologues for the past 30 years including Judas Iscariot, Pontius Pilate and Joseph of Arimathea.

The February 11 event will deal with Luther leaving law school at the University of Erfurt to join the

Augustinian Order. The monologue will fill in gaps in the film.

"It is an excellent film but there are some omissions critical to Luther's own reformation," Moore said.

Moore has authored two books, "Preaching Is Drama" and "The Scrolls," a novel about John the Baptist.

The event is free, including concessions. An offering will be taken for tsunami relief. For more information about the film, visit [www.lutherthemovie.com](http://www.lutherthemovie.com).

# Lent series begins Wednesday

Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will hold its annual community lenten services each Wednesday at noon from February 16 through March 16.

The services will be held at different churches in the downtown area, and will feature a different speaker each Wednesday.

The service will last from 12-12:20 p.m., followed by a light lunch. A \$3 donation is requested for lunch.

An offering will be received at each service for the Crisis Ministry of Kings Mountain.

The schedule of services is as follows:

February 16 - Central United Methodist; speaker Rev. Roger Woodard; sermon topic "Bread of Life" from John 6:43-51.

February 23 - First Presbyterian Church; Rev. Jody Griffin speaker; sermon topic "Light of the World" from John 8:12.

March 2 - Boyce Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church; Rev. Moses Neuman speaker; sermon topic "Good Shepherd" from John 10:11-18.

March 9 - Resurrection Lutheran Church; Rev. Jamie Billings speaker; sermon topic "The Vine" from John 15:1-8.

March 16 - Bynum Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Rev. Chip Sloan speaker; sermon topic "The Resurrection and

Life" from John 11:17-26. For more information call Rev. Eddie Gray at 739-3215 or 616-8136.

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# Health Awareness at Bynum's Chapel

New Bynum's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 213 North Cansler Street, Kings Mountain, will host a Health Awareness program Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in Family Life Center. J. Warren Holshouser, MD, from The Sanger Clinic,

will speak on "Heart Disease Detection and Prevention."

The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Call 739-9586, 739-2606 or 730-0027 for more information.

# Meal Sunday at Bynum Chapel

Bynum Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Kings Mountain, will celebrate Black History Month with a Soul Food Dinner at the Family Life Center, Sunday, Feb. 13, from 12:30-3 p.m.

The cost is \$7 per plate which includes drink,

fried/baked chicken, chicken & dumplings, potato salad, pinto beans, rice, steamed cabbage, slaw, green beans, yams, cornbread and rolls, assorted desserts. The public is invited. For more information call Gale Hunter at 739-2616.

# Ask A Lawyer

Brought to you by Harris, Ragan, Patterson, & Rodgers

**Q:** I was in a wreck recently and the other driver ran a stop sign and hit my car. When I made a claim with his insurance company they said that the wreck was partially my fault and they wouldn't pay anything. How can this be?

least partially to this wreck. Despite the fact that the other person ran a stop sign, if you were inattentive or perhaps speeding and that contributed to the accident, you can not collect your damages.

**A:** While this may seem like a very clear fact pattern, when someone runs a stop sign and hits another driver on a main traveled roadway, these are cases that can result in the person being hit collecting no damages. North Carolina is one of a few states that still has CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE. What contributory negligence means is that if any party is partially at fault for a wreck even one percent (1%), they cannot collect damages from the other person. The insurance company is claiming that your negligence or failure to follow the standard of due care contributed at

The other aspect of this evaluation is to determine if your negligence was the proximate cause of the collision. There are a number of situations where even though you were negligent it was not the cause of the collision. Remember these are all decisions that ultimately a jury would have to decide if your case is tried. A jury of twelve (12) people can often reach different decisions or conclusions given the same fact pattern. You should have your claim looked into by an attorney so that they can assist you in evaluating your potential for success on this claim.

**Brent Patterson**  
Attorney at Law

**HARRIS RAGAN PATTERSON & RODGERS PLLC**  
Trial Attorneys  
Toll Free: 1-800-858-4808

This column provides general information only and is not a substitute for specific legal advice from a consultation with an attorney. No attorney/client relationship with the column's author or Harris Ragan Patterson and Rodgers is intended or implied.

# In Recognition of Child Passenger Safety Week

## Child Safety Seat Checks

### "Getting Back to Basics"



**Love Your Kids - Check their Car Seats**

**Thursday, February 17**  
3 - 5 p.m.

**Boiling Springs Ingles Market, Inc**

214 North Main Street, Boiling Springs  
Sponsors: Cleveland County SAFE KIDS and Carter Chevrolet

**Friday, February 18**  
3 - 5 p.m.

**Carter Chevrolet**

200 West Dixon Boulevard, Shelby  
Sponsors: Cleveland County SAFE KIDS and Carter Chevrolet

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