MEDITATION

It's time to do good

There is a little fable about a cow and a pig that helps me remember an important truth. This particular cow and pig were out for a walk one day. The pig was very depressed, and the cow inquired what it was that bothered him. The pig admitted to being discouraged and pessimistic about life, and about his place in the unfolding of events.

When pressed for details, the pig spoke of the way he



Jeff Hensley Meditation

was used as a symbol for insult and infamy. The previous week he heard a mother say that her son's bedroom was like a pigsty. He also heard of someone who snored like a pig, and another who ate like one. At no time did he hear any reference to him being used in a laudato-

"It's alright for you," the pig told the cow. "People don't use language like that when they speak of you. They use very polite language."

'But surely," the cow said. "You know the reason for the different way that people speak

about us.' "No, I don't," said the pig. "What's the reason?" "Look at all I give them," said the cow. "I give them milk, butter, cheese and cream."

"But what about me," the annoyed pig replied. "I give them ham, bacon, pork and sausages.

"Ah, but there's a very big difference in the giving," said the cow. "I give it to them while I am still alive, but they have to kill you to get anything from you."

The lesson this little fable teaches is that life is an end in itself. I am very supportive of the idea of preparing for our future. I would never think of driving without insurance or owning a home without covering it with appropriate protection. But on the other hand, I have to admit that it sometimes seems that we become so caught up in dealing with what might be or what could happen that we forget to live.

The only moment that each of us has is the present moment. We certainly hope for much more, but the fact of the matter is that none of us is assured of tomorrow. I know of a corporate executive who had a little sign on his desk that read, "Who if not you and when if not now?"

Procrastination is the thief of time, and one of the most effective ways of never getting around to doing something is to continue to discuss it or think about it. Who of us wants to come to the end of our life on this earth and realize that we almost did something worthwhile, but never actually got around to it? Both the Bible and conventional wisdom remind us that we pass through this life only once, so if there is any good deed we can do or any good word we can say, we would all do well to do or say it now, for we

may never pass this way again. Dr. Jeff Hensley is the pastor of Kings Mountain

Baptist Church.

Pageant meeting set Monday

The Miss Gastonia Scholarship Association, Inc. will hold a meeting on Monday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gaston County Public Library, 1555 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, for girls interested in competing in the 2006 Miss Gastonia's Outstanding Teen Pageant. Potential contestants and their parents/guardians are invited to attend this informational meeting.

The 2006 Miss Gastonia's Outstanding Teen Pageant will be held on Saturday, November 19 at 4 p.m. at the

Cherryville Little Theater, 301 W. Academy St., Cherryville. Girls ages 13-17 who are not high school seniors and live in Gaston, Cleveland, Lincoln, Rutherford or Mecklenburg counties are eligible to enter the pageant.

For more information, call (704) 827-7277.

Temple Baptist Church, 612 N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain, will have homecoming Sunday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served following the service. In addition, the church is seeking a piano and organ player. For more information call Pastor Nile Wilson at 730-

Kings Mountain Gospel Assembly Church will hold a Sisters of Faith fall brunch Saturday at 10 a.m. at King Mountain Country Club. Guest speaker will be Patti Richmond of the Southern Revival singing group. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. RSVP by September 23 by calling 739-0066 or 739-9112.

Concord United

Methodist Church, 2404 Tryon Courthouse Rd. (Highway 274 three-fourths mile south of Tryon Elementary School), will hold revival September 25-28. Rev. Tommy Buchanan, pastor of First Wesleyan Church, Shelby, will be the speaker. Services are at 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Call 629-3571 for more information.

New Bynum's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 213 N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain, will host a health awareness program Tues., Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. John Billinksy, MD, Outpatient Behavioral Health, will speak on suicide. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 739-9586, 739-2606 or 730-

Shiloh Presbyterian Church, 307 Cleveland Avenue, Grover, will hold a fall festival Saturday, September 24 from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be a yard sale, bake sale and drawing for prizes. Biscuits and coffee will be sold.

Harvest Baptist Church, 144 Ware Road, Kings Mountain, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 25. Cross Reference will sing at 11 a.m. and a covered dish lunch will follow. The new pastor is Gary Teague II.

Bethlehem United Methodist Church, 6753 NC Highway 182, four miles east of Fallston, will hold a spaghetti supper Saturday, September 24 from 5-7:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the building fund.

First Wesleyan Church, 505 N. Piedmont Ave., Kings Mountain, will have revival September 25-28. Services are at 10:40 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Rev. Harold Bumby, former pastor of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, will be the speaker. There will be special music each night and a nursery will be provided. The public is invited.

SOCIAL BRIEFS

The Kings Mountain High School Class of 1970 will hold its 35th year reunion October 8 at 2 p.m. at Lake Crawford at Kings Mountain State Park. Take your own goodies.

The 1955 graduates of Bethware High School will hold their 50th reunion at El Bethel Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 29 at 6 p.m. Those who have not received letters are asked to call Lois Blanton, 704-734-1876 for details.

The American Red Cross will have a blood drive September 22 from 1:30-6 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, Cleveland Avenue, Kings Mountain.

Registration for the Miss Kings Mountain pageant will run through Sept. 29. The pageant is Saturday October 1 at the Joy Performance Center. Rehearsal is Thursday, September 29 at 6 p.m. at the center. Contestants ages 1 to 19 may enter in the following categories: Tiny Miss, ages 1 to 3; Wee Miss, ages 4 to 6; Little Miss, ages 7 to 9; Junior Miss, ages 10 to 12; Teen Miss, ages 13 to 15; Miss Kings Mountain, ages 16 to 19. For more information, contact Brenda Lovelace or Cindy Wood at (704) 739-4782.

The annual FII reunion (for all employees and former employees of the Shelby Plant of Fiber Industries, Celanese, Hoechst, Ticona or Kosa) will be held Sat., Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Shelby Plant Rec Club. The event will pay tribute to former Plant Manager Gene LeGrand. There is no fee for

the reunion. A BBQ meal is available for \$12.50 each. Meal tickets must be purchased prior to October 3 by sending checks or money orders to Carl Spangler, 2403 N. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 28150. For more information

call 704-538-0062. **Crowders Mountain State** Park will host "Animals of Crowders Mountain State Park" Sat., Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. The program will include displays and photos of various animals found in the park. A ranger will answer questions and provide information. Meet at the visitor's center. Call 853-5375 for

more information.

Crowders Mountain State Park will host a NC Catch Fishing Clinic Sat., Sept. 24 from 4-6 p.m. The class is for children ages 5-15, but they must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the visitor's center classroom for one hour of instruction, followed by an hour of fishing at the lake. Take tackle if you have it. If not, it will be provided. Call 853-5375 for more infor-

The annual reunion of the descendants of Robert **Barnett and Frances** Watterson Dixon will be Sun., Sept. 25 at the

Christian Ministry Center of First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. Dinner will begin at 1 p.m.

A Medicare Part D seminar will be held Tues., Sept. 27 from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Patrick Center, E. King St. The public is invited. Take a list of prescriptions, dosage and times taken during the day. The seminar is free. Carolyn Bell, the Center's SHIIP counselor, assists seniors with Medicare and insurance questions and is available weekdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. by appointment. Call 734-0447.



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