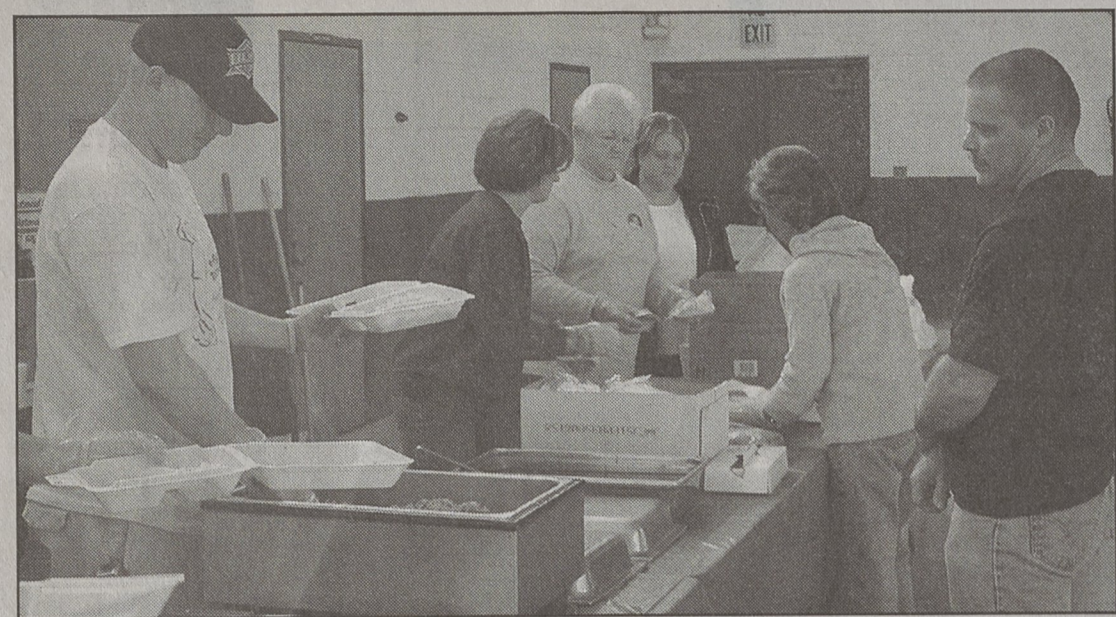


LOCAL



DYLAN LLOYD/HERALD

Father Ken Bachman helps shovel barbeque onto a plate during a benefit for daughter Zoe.

Friday BBQ raises funds for Zoe's medical expenses

DYLAN LLOYD
abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com

A barbeque benefit was held last Friday for Zoe Bachman, the two-year-old Kings Mountain girl who was diagnosed in September 2004 with a rare disease known as Neimann Picks.

Working with a heap of pork barbeque, Sundrop soda and a few side dishes the Bachmans managed a good turnout. The Bachmans, along with Billy and Sherry Malpass, began organizing the event three weeks ago.

The dinner helped raise nearly \$3,600 for Zoe's recent stem cell transplant. Money is also being raised to support the family, whose lives have been derailed in the wake of the illness.

Since young Zoe has been admitted to Duke University Hospital for treatment, her mother April Bachman has quit her job and taken up residency in Durham to be near her daughter. Father Ken Bachman was pulled from his guard unit in Iraq to allow

him to be with his family during their ongoing ordeal.

"I was anticipating to leave Iraq, but I wasn't anticipating to make a decision concerning my daughter's life over the phone," said Bachman. "They said if they didn't do the transplant soon that her condition might be fatal."

Zoe has been hospitalized at Duke since a recent bout with pneumonia. NPJ has also caused Zoe two broken legs. Osteoporosis is common with NPJ, as is peripheral neuropathy, a condition which caused the loss of feeling in her feet.

Last month an MRI revealed white matter on the left side of her brain. The medical team concluded that she needed the transfusion as soon as possible. April hoped they could wait a few months before undergoing a risky stem cell transplant, but doctors were adamant.

Zoe is currently undergoing chemotherapy at Duke. Donations can be sent to Ken or April Bachman at 110 Carlin Dr, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

HYDER

From 1A only 16 percent use of his lungs. His job was downsized in September 2004 and the family had little income for six months before he started receiving disability payments.

That's when his church family and friends started fundraisers and opened a bank account in his name at First Charter Bank in Kings Mountain and continue to encourage contributions specifically to help with funds for a double lung transplant.

Lisa Hyder also affirms that God provides and said her husband is strong in his faith that he can beat the disease.

She said, "This illness has given me a different perspective on life and now I feel that I can listen and feel the emotions of others."

The wife and mother says it's hard to watch their 13-year-old daughter, Amber, struggle to express her feelings.

"People who don't even know us have lifted us up during my illness," said Wayne, as he and his wife sat in lawn chairs at Food Lion on Shelby Road and talked to shoppers who stopped to chat and make a

donation and take home a candy bar. The fundraiser was an idea of Wayne's wife, who is a substitute teacher at Heavenly Kids Day Care and Katie's Small Wonders. Wayne's medicine bills run \$500 a month and after surgery the medicine will cost \$2,500 a month. He has some insurance but it won't cover all the costs of the surgery.

Monday the family returned to Duke Hospital for more tests and evaluation of nodules found in his lungs in December. The results of the test may affect future transplantation.

Doctors say that 28 days of rehabilitation would precede the set of lungs he would receive during a 10-day hospital stay and afterwards there would follow six months of rehabilitation. That schedule for surgery would depend on the progression of his illness.

Wayne has regained the lost weight, looks good and uses the computer to research COPD and its support groups. He is forming a committee in town to be active in COPD Foundation to lead fundraising efforts to help others like him who need transplants and to raise awareness of the disease.

A former smoker, Wayne

followed his doctor's advice and quit smoking. He eats healthy food and three times a week he exercises and takes cardiac rehabilitation in Gastonia where his oxygen is monitored, all under guidelines from Duke Hospital. He is a volunteer in the Relay for Life cancer campaign to be held in Kings Mountain in April and is working in his church on fundraising for that event. There are a number of cancer patients and survivors in his church and they and his family encourage each other. "That's what we're here for," he adds.

Hyder calls his illness an opportunity for blessings. He has never asked the question "why me, Lord?"

BIBLE STUDY AT DIXON

Dixon Presbyterian Church pastor Randy Patterson will lead a four-week Andy Griffith Bible study beginning Sunday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. and continuing each Sunday night at 7 p.m. at Dixon School, 603 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain. The public is invited.

MEDITATION

Reflect God's light

Having been a pastor for a number of years, I have had many opportunities to attend lectures given by important people. Some of these lectures have been by politicians, others by scholars or preachers, and a few by entertainers, but each one has helped me grow in some way.

Robert Fulgham, whose popular book titled *Everything I Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, speaks also of having attended numerous lectures, and he noticed that speakers often conclude by asking, "Are there any questions?" On such occasions Fulgham says that he usually asks the most important question of all: "What is the meaning of life?"

Apparently most folks understand that Fulgham is trying to be funny with his question and assume that it is meant rhetorically, so they all just laugh and begin to gather their materials to leave. But there was one occasion when Fulgham's question brought about a very different result. He was attending a lecture by Alexander Papaderos, who was a gifted Greek philosopher. At the end of the final session, Papaderos asked, "Are there any questions?" So Fulgham chose to pose his familiar query. "Dr. Papaderos," he asked, "What is the meaning of life?" Typical laughter followed Fulgham's question, but then the speaker did something that surprised everyone. He held up his hand, called for everyone to be quiet and said, "I will answer your question."

This was his answer: "When I was a small child, during World War II, I found several broken pieces of a mirror on the road where a soldier's motorcycle had been wrecked. I tried to find all the pieces and put them together, but it was not possible, so I kept only the largest piece. This one. And by scratching it on a stone I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would never shine. It became a game for me and I kept that mirror throughout my growing up. But when I became a man, I came to understand that this was not just a child's game but a metaphor for what I might do with my life. I came to understand that I am not the

light itself or the source of the light, but light is there and it will only shine in dark places if I reflect it."

Papaderos may or may not have been talking about matters of a religious significance, but I think what he said sounds very spiritually sound; after all, isn't that what it means to be a follower of God? Each of us is merely a fragment of a mirror, but with whatever we

have we are able to reflect God's light into the dark places of this world. In this way we help bring about a healthy change where change is needed.

Furthermore, by reflecting God's light we can also see how our lives have purpose.

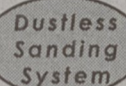
Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.



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E-mail: heraldnews@kingsmountainherald.com

Gary Stewart (gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com).....Editor
Dylan Lloyd.....Staff Writer
Kathy Reynolds.....Circulation/Office Clerk
Janie Ollis.....Receptionist
Nancy Miller.....Advertising Representative
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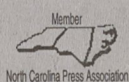
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