

# MEDITATION

## We should be willing to take responsibility for our actions

Most people I know have strong beliefs about something, and religion and politics seem to be the two most divisive issues in our culture because they represent many of these beliefs. Yet, as I listened to another "State of the Union" address, I was reminded of how difficult it must be to be the President of the United States. To be honest with you, I don't think I would ever want that job, for no matter what you try to do there always seems to be so much opposition.



**Jeff Hensley**  
Meditation

Of course, most state of the union addresses I have heard or read have a lot to say about the problems our country faces at any given time, and it seems to me that it is especially difficult for our leaders to know what are the most serious problems. However, I have a suspicion that underneath many of our cultural problems is a spiritual problem, one that we all need to be constantly on our guard against. Furthermore, it is a problem that can't be addressed by a president; instead, it has to be faced with the help of the power and authority of God.

I would describe this problem as the unwillingness to take responsibility for our own actions. Some folks say that this weakness is especially evident among politicians, or maybe even among some preachers, but I really think that all of us have to deal with it at some point in our lives. Let me illustrate what I mean by telling a little story.

There was a man who worked in construction, and every day he would bring his lunch with him to the work site. When lunchtime arrived, he would take his lunch box under his arm and sit down to eat with his workmates. There was a specific ritual he went through every day. He would open his lunchbox, unwrap his sandwiches, take out one sandwich, and then exclaim aloud: "Oh no, not cheese again!"

After having to watch their companion go through this same ritual day after day, the man's fellow workers decided they had had enough, so one man turned to him and said, "Look dummy, if you don't like cheese, then why don't you ask your wife to put something else in your sandwiches?" With a puzzled look on his face, the first man turned to his workmate and said, "What wife? I'm not married." "Then who makes your sandwiches?" the other man asked. "I do," was the reply.

In the New Testament book of Philippians there is a verse that says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, think about such things." Clearly, this text means to suggest that our thoughts somehow affect our reality, and it strikes me that if, in our minds, we are willing to accept responsibility for our actions, then we will make a much better contribution to the society in which we live.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

# CHURCH BRIEFS

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**, 600 Crescent Circle, Kings Mountain, will hold a hot dog sale Friday, Feb. 24 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. to benefit the educational and scholarship fund. A hot dog plate is \$5 and includes two hot dogs and fixings, potato chips, baked beans, dessert and soda. Eat-in and take out orders are available. Orders of five or more plates can be delivered. For more information call 739-5580.

**Saint Paul United Methodist Church**, N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain, will hold its 93rd anniversary and 26th in its present sanctuary on Sun., Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Nathaniel Craig of Walls Memorial Baptist Church. His choir will also sing and members of his congregation will attend. The public is invited. For more information call the church at 739-1256.

**New Bynum's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church**, 212 N. Cansler St., will hold a health awareness program Tues., Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. Lisa Huntsinger, R.N. from Sanger Clinic, will speak on "Cardiovascular Disease - Focus on Women's Health." The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 739-9586.

**Lawndale Baptist Church**, Main St., Lawndale, will host The Songsters Quartet in concert February 16 at 7 p.m. Admission is free but a love offering will be received. For more information call 864-9185.

**Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church**, Kings Mountain, will host a musical festival Sunday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. Featured singers include the Inspirational Choir, the Young Adult Choir and the Children's Choir of Center Grove AME Zion Church, Tobacoville, NC; the Men's Choir of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, and the Bynum Chapel Choir. The event is sponsored by the Life Members Council of Bynum Chapel.

# LOCAL



**DYLAN LLOYD/HERALD**  
Central United Methodist preschoolers pose in front of the "Mitten Tree." Standing are Patsy Walker and Rebecca Lineberger. From left to right are Teacher Christy Kinmon, Madison Kinmon, Nathan Siphanthone, Myla Athitang, and bottom row Dakotah Nichols and Wilson Moore. Not pictured are Chelsi Cooper, Lauren Hullender, and Carson Kinmon.

## CUMC preschool class collects hats, mittens for needy

**DYLAN LLOYD**  
dlloyd@kingsmountainherald.com

The preschool class of Central United Methodist has been collecting mittens and hats for the needy, part of a project they call "The Mitten Tree."

With the help of the Crisis Ministry Center the mittens will be distributed to local needy families, specifically those who have suffered a job loss during the past year.

At the front of the church hallway is a five-foot Frasier Fir adorned with wool hats and gloves. Preschool Director Patsy Walker says the children were very excited about decorating the tree and look forward to other children being able to use

those items. "The joy for me is seeing kids forgetting about themselves and thinking of other children who are less fortunate," said Walker.

The project is based on a prior one called "Pennies For Children" in which they collected, you guessed it, pennies. Although this time, they used a tree.

Along with Walker and preschool teacher Christy Kinmon, the children brought in over 20 pairs of mittens and a dozen hats. Those who participated include Myla Athitang, Chelsi Cooper, Lauren Hullender, Carson Kinmon, Madison Kinmon, Wilson Moore, Dakotah Nichols, and Nathan Siphanthone.

## City awards contract for switching station

**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
Herald Correspondent

The city has awarded a contract of \$187,312 to the low bidder, High Voltage Specialists, for the construction in 90 days of a Delivery 4 electrical outdoor switching station to go up in Southwest Kings Mountain.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the new switching station is needed because of the increased growth in population in the Greater Margrace area. Bids were opened Jan. 4 by city electrical director Nick Hendricks and Progressive Engineering Consultants of

Charlotte. Other bidders were Hunington & Guerry, \$203,750 for project completion in 120 days, Aubrey Silvey, \$211,673 for completion in 120 days; Mastec, \$355,272 for completion in 110 days and Lee Electrical, \$498,300 for completion in 168 days.

**Macedonia Baptist Church**, Kings Mountain, is selling Easter hams for \$40 for a whole ham and \$20 for half a ham. Orders must be placed by April 2 by seeing a church member or calling 739-6811 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Council to enforce 3-minute talk limit

**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
Herald Correspondent

"Sorry, we love you but your three minutes are up," is how City Attorney Mickey Corry, the unofficial parliamentarian for city council meetings, may start admonishing speakers who don't adhere to the recently council-voted public comment policy.

The new policy, adopted by unanimous vote of the seven-member Kings Mountain city council, limits a speaker to three minutes during the 15-minute citizen recognition portion of the agenda at the beginning of the monthly meeting, which convenes the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

A minimum of three participants may address the same subject. The council can extend the time for public comment by majority vote, an additional 15 minutes, for a maximum time limit of 30 minutes for public comment. Individuals who sign up prior to 7 p.m. on meeting night but can't speak because of time constraints will be on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

The policy states, that for clarification the city council may ask the speakers questions and that the council generally won't take action on an item that is presented during citizen recognition but may if there is a consensus to call for a vote.

The policy continues that anyone desiring to address the council on a specific

concern requiring more effective and informed action should contact the city clerk at least two weeks prior to the last Tuesday of the month for the topic to be reviewed for consideration to be placed on the agenda.

Whenever possible staff will address the concern directly, but if staff cannot address the issue it will be placed on the agenda as early as practicable. The policy points out that anyone who does not adhere to the policy or in any way is disruptive to the meeting will be asked to leave.

"It's really good business," says Mayor Rick Murphrey of the resolution prepared by City Manager Greg McGinnis and adopted at the January 30 council meeting.

In other action last week, city council:

-Approved a proposal from Paul and Sherri Weeks to remove trees on the control strip at Moss Lake.

-Rejected bids for water tank repairs at Public Works and Grace Street in order to consider alternate roof materials.

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**The Herald**  
Published every Thursday  
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.  
Postmaster, send address changes to:  
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611  
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