

## Church Women feast and fellowship

### Annual dinner held Thursday night at Central United Methodist Church

EMILY WEAVER

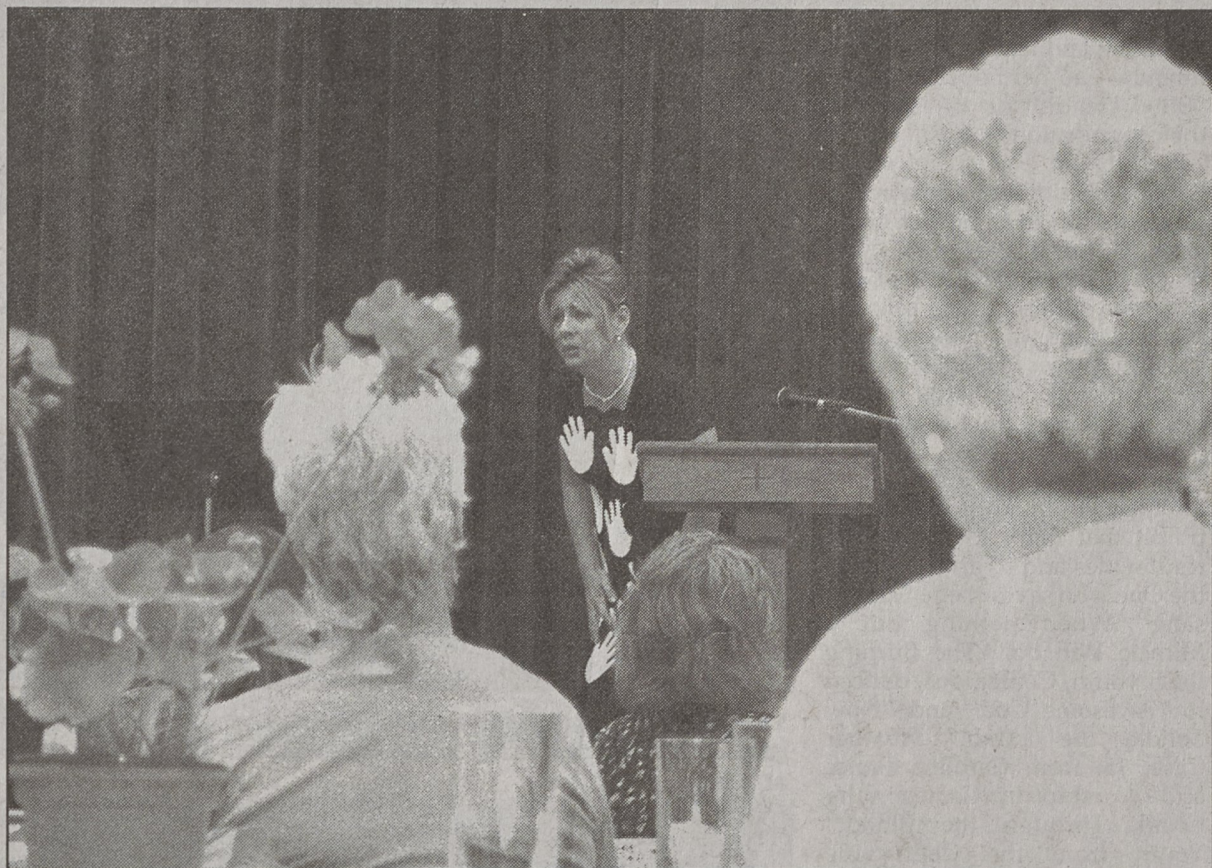
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The Kings Mountain Council of Church Women met for their annual fellowship and dinner at Central United Methodist Church on Thursday, May 3.

Around 150 women gathered in the fellowship hall at the church to enjoy an evening of Christian fellowship and to hear a special message of "God's Hand on the Journey."

Ashley Hartley and Rhonda Freeman were the special guests of the evening. Hartley is a 1986 graduate of the University of Tennessee and teaches Bible studies at Gaston Christian High School. She graduated top of her class, but told the crowd not to get too excited. "I got a degree in communication. Well, I could already talk. It wasn't too hard for me to get up there and graduate top of my class with that degree" she said, as the room filled with laughter.

The program said that she travels the southeast speaking for ladies seminars, conferences and retreats as does Freeman, who leads worship through song. According to the program, "She has been publicly performing since the age of 13 and has



Special dinner guest Ashley Hartley shared a moving testimony with local church women at their annual supper. Her story is about the hand of God on her life. She stuck hands on her dress while she told the story to show how often He has worked in her life.

three professional recordings."

Freeman serenaded the crowd with a few selections of spiritual

music, "God's timing is always perfect. He is seldom early, but He is never late," she said. She

encouraged the congregation to join her in singing "How Great Thou Art," but many fell silent

when her angelic voice reached notes too high to grasp.

Hartley shared her part of her testimony with the ladies, entitled "God's Hand on the Journey." After graduating from college, she moved to North Carolina, opened up a retail bridal store with her mother, had her future mapped out and was happy with her longtime boyfriend, Pete. "I basically thought that I had the world by the tail," she said. "I got to North Carolina and within six short months my entire life imploded."

Pete and her broke up. Doctors found a tumor on her thyroid gland. A couple of weeks after their business opened, her step father told her mother that he no longer loved her and did not want to be married, which hurt the new business they had poured all of their assets into. "I woke up and all of a sudden the world had me by the tail," Hartley said. "I ate carpet. I laid on my face, weeping, not knowing what I was going to do next. And how gracious my Heavenly Father was that day...I suddenly understood what it meant to have a loving Heavenly Father and what it meant to acknowl-

edge his son as my Lord and Savior."

Hartley said that one phrase sums up her testimony - "He is either Lord over all or He is not really Lord at all."

Growing up outside of the influence of church, she stands today a Bible teacher, married to a pastor's son, with three beautiful children. She continued sharing with the congregation all of the amazing things God has done in her life and how He has carried her through some of the most difficult times. While she spoke, she placed a small white paper hand on her black dress for each time God's hand has saved her. The front of her dress was covered in hands by the end of her testimony.

Her final charge to the crowd was: "This life is but a passing vapor and there is a dying world out there that needs to be saved."

The Kings Mountain Council of Church Women is comprised of members from seven local churches: Boyce Memorial ARP, Grace United Methodist, Resurrection Lutheran, St. Matthew's Lutheran, Central United Methodist, First Presbyterian, and Kings Mountain Baptist.

#### CHURCH BRIEFS

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Kings Mountain, will be hosting an etiquette and manners class open to young ladies 7 years old and up.

The class is being formed to restore some of the fading manners and etiquette skills that Christian young ladies should

possess. One does not have to be a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church to attend.

Registration is May 10 at 6:30 p.m. The first class will be May 24 at 6:30 p.m. Classes will meet every other Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. until the class is complete.

For more information call Nickie Paulson, youth director, at 704-730-9793.

David Baptist Church, 2300 David Baptist Church Rd., Kings Mountain, will hold a bake sale and yard sale for Relay for Life Saturday, May 12 from 7 a.m.-12 noon in the church fellowship

hall. Donations and volunteers are needed. Drop off times are May 10 and 11 from 6-8 p.m.

Chapel Grove Baptist Church, 716 Camp Rotary Road, Gastonia, will host the annual "Salute to Mothers" gospel singing Saturday, May 12 at 7 p.m. Featured performers

include the Songsters and the Chapel Grove Quartet. Admission is free but a love offering will be accepted. For more information call 704-864-9185.

Gloryland Missionary Baptist Church, 101 Benfield Rd., Kings Mountain, is having an all day

benefit for its building fund Saturday, May 19, beginning with a yard sale at 7 a.m. Biscuits will also be sold. A hot dog sale will begin at 11 a.m. A singing featuring Cross Reference, the Fletchers and others will be held from 6-9 p.m.

Kings Mountain Hospital presents:

## Healthy You... Healthy Community

A Health Awareness Program

### Dealing with Back Pain?

Thursday, May 17 - 6 p.m.  
The Community Room at Kings Mountain Hospital

If you are dealing with back pain, please join us for an evening of free health education. Kings Mountain Hospital's highly trained physical therapist Bill Chirico, DPT, will teach strategies to prevent and treat back aches and pains.

Give Aways  
Light Refreshments

For additional information contact: 704-730-5193

Free to the public

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## HONOR LOCAL VETERANS

Memorial Day is a time to remember those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. Honor your veteran May 24th by submitting a photo and a message.

Cost is only \$20 per ad.

Mail or drop your photo and message to:

The Belmont & Mt. Holly BannerNews  
P.O. Box 589, Belmont, NC 28012  
611 Central Ave., Belmont

The Kings Mountain Herald  
P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
824-1 East King Street, Kings Mountain

The Cherryville Eagle  
P.O. Box 699, Cherryville, NC 28021  
107 1/2 East Main Street, Cherryville

Your message here.  
(Actual Size Sample)

Questions? Call Us!  
704.739.7496

Deadline is  
May 18th, 2007

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