

Responding to God's call takes courage

It has been argued by some that Alfred Lord Tennyson was the greatest British poet of the nineteenth century. When he published his first book in 1833, it was severely criticized. Tennyson was so hurt by the adverse criticism that it was ten years before he published another. When he finally overcame his fear of criticism and found the courage to publish again, Tennyson started down a path that would ultimately lead him to national fame and to the position of Poet Laureate of England for over forty years.

To do the work of God in the world also takes great courage. This was especially true in the day of Nehemiah, whom God charged with the responsibility of rebuilding the walls of the city of Jerusalem after the people's return from their exile in Babylon. In the biblical book that carries his name, we discover that Nehemiah's effort to accomplish God's plan was met with ridicule, threats of physical violence and internal conflict, but Nehemiah didn't give up. In the face of ridicule, Nehemiah rolled up his sleeves

and built up the city walls so that everyone could see their strength. He responded to the threats of violence by creating a strategic plan of self-defense for the city, and he responded to the internal conflict by chastising his colleagues for their self-serving, calloused treatment of each other and by providing a model of the sort of self-less, sacrificial lifestyle that enables us to serve God with faithfulness.



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

Courage of the sort that Nehemiah expressed demands that we color outside of the lines of our comfort zone. This was the kind of courage that was expressed by a Christian named Francis of Assisi. Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant and he lived during the twelfth century. Though Francis' early life was filled with revelry, he eventually repented and turned to faith in Jesus Christ. Then, renouncing his father's

wealth, as well as his former lifestyle, and falling in love with what he called "lady poverty," Francis decided to spend the rest of his life in service to the poor. From the beginning, however, Francis had a terrible aversion to the disease of leprosy, and he could hardly bring himself to look on a person who was afflicted with it. In fact, he did everything he could to avoid someone who was suffering from that dreaded disease. But one day, as he was riding along, a leper jumped in front of him and called for his help. Francis' first

reaction was to keep on riding, but with a courage that was greater than his own he dismounted and took the person in his arms. As he did, he got his first glimpse of the person's face and saw what he believed was the face of Christ himself. Responding to God's call requires divine courage, but if we are willing to step outside of our comfort zone then we can do great things in the name of God.

Dr. Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

SOCIAL BRIEFS

Mauney Memorial Library Youth Advisory Council is sponsoring a Summer Reading Store Thursday, July 26 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the library, and Friday, July 27 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church. Items may be purchased for cash or Summer Reading Program participants may redeem "library bucks." Items available are canvas tote bags, water bottles, baby bibs and assorted novelty toys. For more information call 704-739-2371.

Hospice & Palliative Care 101 - Answering Your Questions on the differences between hospice care and palliative care - will be held Thursday, Aug. 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Cleveland Regional Medical Center Auditorium (Grover Building, second floor) and Thursday, Aug. 23 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Hospital Community Room. To reserve a spot or for more information call 704-487-0800 ext. 130.

The 110th Old Furnace Picnic will be held Saturday, July 28 at the Old Furnace Picnic Grounds between Kings Mountain and Bessemer City. All Ormands, their relatives and guests are invited to attend. For more information call Betty Thornburg at 704-629-6096 or Email Ormand 223@peoplepc.com.

Kings Mountain High School Class of 1952 will celebrate its 55th class reunion Saturday, Sept. 15 at Central United Methodist Church. There will be Hors D'oeuvre at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. All classmates are also invited to celebrate breakfast together on Saturday morning, Sept. 15 at 8 a.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, Cleveland Avenue. Mayor Rick Murphrey will provide the welcome at dinner and a shadow-box of the 1952 Class' 50th Golden Reunion will be presented to the Kings Mountain History Museum.

The West Lincoln High School Class of 1987 will have its 20th reunion on Nov. 3. Day events for the whole family and a dinner for alumni and guests is planned. To learn more, contact Nicole Thomas Warren at 704-732-4919 or nicoletwarren@yahoo.com.

The Pregnancy Resource Center of Cleveland County will hold its annual Walk for Life Sat., Aug. 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Shelby High School track. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Persons interested in walking or sponsoring a walker should call 704-487-4357. The Pregnancy Resource Center is a non-profit ministry that provides pregnancy care and peer counseling for women and their families with unplanned pregnancies. The Walk for Life is the organization's primary fund raising event for the year.

Gaston County Museum will hold Coffee with the Curator August 1 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Curator Aimee Russell will identify objects and provide preservation assistance on pieces taken to the museum by visitors. If pieces are too large, take photographs. The program is free and open to the public. There is a three-item limit per person. For more information call Jeff Prueett at 704-922-7681 ext. 105.

A dutch treat lunch with Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Graham will be held August 9 at Cleveland County Club, 1360 E. Marion St., Shelby. Lunch will be \$11.50 per person, dutch treat. RSVP to Graham for Governor by calling 919-833-0562 or malay@graham2008.com.

Hospice & Palliative Care of Cleveland County will hold a 12-hour course on services provided on Saturdays, Aug. 11 and 18 at 3 p.m. at Cherryville Missionary Methodist Church, 318 W. Ballard St., Cherryville. To get credit for the entire course, you must attend both classes. There is no charge and no obligation to volunteer. H&PC offers a number of volunteer opportunities, including direct contact with patients and families, assisting in the office, or working at the Wendover inpatient/residential facility in Shelby. For more information call Krista Haynes at 704-487-0800 ext. 129.

Linda Daves, Chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party, will be the guest speaker at the August 13 meeting of the Cleveland County Republican Party at 7 p.m. at the Cleveland County Administration Building, 311 E. Marion St., Shelby. The meeting is open to the public.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Mt. Pisgah to celebrate centennial

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, 273 Tryon School Loop Road, Bessemer City, will hold its centennial year celebration August 11-15.

A Family Day is planned for August 11 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be fun and games and a re-connection to the church's past.

The homecoming worship service will be held at 3 p.m. Speaker will be Rev. Clinton A. Feemster, D.Min., of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

Revival will be held August 13-15. On Monday, the speaker will be Bishop Ellazor Campbell, D.D., Ph.D., pastor Galilean Deliverance Church, Charlotte. On Tuesday, the speaker will be Rev. Ray Lockhart Jr, pastor of Ellis Chapel Baptist Church, Shelby. On Wednesday, the speaker will be Rev. Ryan McCain of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Waco.

All revival services are at 7 p.m. The public is invited. For more information call the church at 704-435-9967.

Sunrise Baptist Church, 208 Mail Road, Kings Mountain, will host Grateful Hearts in concert Saturday, July 28 at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the singing. The public is invited.

Cherokee Street Baptist Church, 423 Cherokee St., Kings Mountain, will host "Master's Singers" in concert Saturday, July 28 at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

Westover Baptist Church, 114 Westover Drive, Kings Mountain, will host The Songsters in concert July 29 at 6 p.m. A love offering will be received and refreshments will be served following the service. Rev. Dale Angel, pastor, invites the public.

The Kings Lighthouse Worship Center, 420 Branch St., Kings Mountain, will hold

Vacation Bible School July 30-August 3 from 6-8:30 p.m. There will be classes for ages five through 19. The church is located across from the Kings Mountain Walking Track, where new construction is underway.

Grace Baptist Church, Gastonia, will have a youth reunion September 29. People that were in the youth department between 1980-1989 are asked to call 704-824-1242 or 704-865-6957 by July 14.

Patterson Grove Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, is registering players for Upward Soccer. Players ages four years through sixth grade are eligible. Deadline for registering is July 31. Evaluation dates are Wednesday, July 18, from 6-7:30, Saturday, July 21 from 10-12 and Tuesday, July 24 from 6-7:30. All players must attend an evaluation. The cost for registration is \$45 and there is a \$10 late registration fee after July 24. Practice begins August 27 and games begin September 8. For more information call the church office at (704) 739-5826 or Mike Harris at (704) 853-1174 day and (704) 739-6023 evening.

South Mountain Baptist Camp, located in Burke County, will be celebrating its 50th year Saturday, August 18. Former staff members, speakers, campers, camp committee members and others who have contributed to the work at SMBC are asked to contact Norma D. Moose at 704-739-5600 or bna14@earthlink.net.

Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, Kings Mountain, will host the Kevin White Camp Meeting July 29-August 3. Services are at 6 p.m. on July 29 and 7 p.m. July 30-Aug. 3. Special musical guests include Church of Cross Worship Team of Reykjavik, Iceland, Sanctuary

Choir of Dilworth Church of God, Dilworth, AL and the River Church Choir of Guntersville, AL. For more information call 739-7206.

8th Street Church of God, Bessemer City, will have a yard sale Saturday, Aug. 4 at 7 a.m. Food will be sold beginning at 11 a.m. There will be a cake walk, dunking booth, face painting and games for children. There will be a cookout at 5 p.m. and a gospel singing at 6 p.m. All proceeds and donations will go to the building fund. For more information call 704-435-8256 or 704-629-9202.

CHURCH BRIEFS DEADLINE
Deadline for church briefs is 12 noon Monday. Bring them by The Herald at 824-1 East King St., call 739-7496, fax 739-0611 or Email gstewart@kingsmountain-herald.com. When space is limited, only the events coming up during the current week will be published.



COMMUNITY KITCHEN WORKERS

Renew your spirit...

Central United Methodist Church
Kings Mountain, NC

This Church opens wide its doors to all who are weary and need rest; to all who mourn and want comfort; to all who sin and need a Savior; and to whomsoever will may come.

Rev. Tony Dowdy



COME SEE WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU

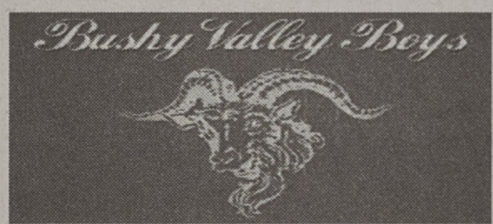
- Dynamic Ministry and Programs—Everyone can find a place at Central United Methodist Church.
- Contemporary Service 8:45 AM
- Traditional Service 10:50 AM
- Special Wednesday Night Family Service
- Full-Time Youth Minister
- Boy Scout Program
- Community Kitchen - (Mon) Lunch, (Thurs) Dinner
- Numerous Bible Studies (Day & Evening Hours)



113 S. Piedmont Ave.
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
704-739-2471

5 ALIVE! CONCERT SERIES

Chill out after five in Patriots Park in Downtown Kings Mountain with the 5 Alive Concert Series. Concerts start at 6:00pm and go until 9pm. Pizza, barbeque, ice cream, and other delights will be available during the concerts!



The Bushy Valley Boys
TONIGHT!!
Thursday, July 26th

Next Month: Tater (Thursday, August 23rd)