

Remember, big or small, we're all sinners

In the second grade, he played baseball with the Pee Wee League. His next door neighbor was the coach. This little boy was fascinated by a stopwatch the coach carried to time plays, and he saw a lot of



**Jeff Hensley
Meditation**

that stopwatch, because he was usually seated next to the coach on the bench.

After practice sessions during the week, the coach and his wife often invited the team into their home to eat ice cream and watch the first television in the neighborhood.

On one of these occasions, the

coach and his wife were called away and asked the little boy to lock up the house when the others had gone. After finishing the ice cream and turning off the television, he noticed the stopwatch on the dining room table, so he went over, picked it up, and began pushing the buttons. The dials went around and around. Then it was time to leave, so he put the stopwatch in his pocket and went home.

Now the only trouble with a stopwatch is that it is a social instrument; one that a person needs to time another person. The little boy kept the watch in his pocket all week long until the baseball game on the next Saturday. Then, in the middle of one of the plays, he pulled the stopwatch out of his pocket to time the action. Because he

was sitting right next to the coach, the boy was exposed as a thief.

That night, the father called the boy in for a talk with him and his own father. He began the talk by saying, "Son, you have ruined your life!" The little boy was only in the second grade, but parents sometimes give us the impression that if we fail then our life is at an end. The father then went on to say, "You might be forgiven once, but if you ever steal again you will be branded a thief for life," and he turned to the grandfa-

ther and said, "You tell him how serious this is."

The grandfather leaned back and said, "It is pretty serious. Of course, it could have been worse, like the time your father stole the Johnsons' boat up at the lake. It took me two days to get him out of jail. Or there was the time your father and his friends were graduating from high school and rented a cottage on the edge of town; they all got drunk, wrecked the place, and landed in jail again. And the third time your father was in jail... The father then

interrupted, saying, "I think we have talked enough about this."

Douglas Adams told this story to illustrate the differing perspectives of children, parents and grandparents, and when I read it I couldn't help but laugh, for we sometimes tend to forget that all of us are sinners and we would do well to remember our own mistakes in life before we decide to condemn others for theirs.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Beulah United Methodist Church, 1534 Stony Point Rd., Shelby, will have a youth fund raiser April 5. A yard sale begins at 7 a.m., and biscuits and coffee will be sold. Lunch will be sold from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Hot dog plates are \$5 (two hot dogs \$6). Plates for children under age 12 are \$3.

Burning Bush House of God, 310 Long Branch Rd., Kings Mountain, will hold revival April 6-8. Shane Calhoun will be the speaker. Services are at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on April 6 and 7 p.m. April 7-8. For more information or directions call 704-739-2877.

The **Ray Bedford 100 Memorial Bike Ride** to benefit

Iron City Ministries will be held Sat., April 12 at 9 a.m. beginning at Iron City Place across from Piggly Wiggly in Blacksburg, SC. There will be a lasagna dinner on Fri., April 11 at 6 p.m. at Blacksburg Primary School. The Christian group "High Calling" will perform. The public is invited to both events. Register for the bike ride at the dinner or call 864-839-9783 for more information.

The **youth of Galilee United Methodist Church** will host a fish and chicken lunch plate sale Friday, April 18. Plates are \$6 each. Orders of 10 or more can be delivered. For more information call the church at 704-739-7011 or 704-747-5594.

Carpenter's Clubhouse Preschool

will have *Open House* April 10 from 5-7 pm. Our preschool operates Monday – Friday from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm for 3 and 4 year old children and offers parents the opportunity to customize their schedule by choosing 3, 4 or 5 days a week.

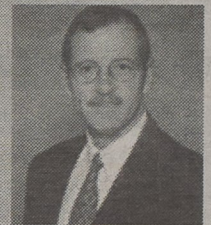
For more information, call 704-739-2471 ext. 12.

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.

**Pastor
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
- The Carpenter's Clubhouse Preschool
- Community Kitchen - (Mon) Lunch, (Thurs) Dinner
- Numerous Bible Studies (Day & Evening Hours)

**113 S. Piedmont Ave.
Kings Mountain, NC 28086**

704-739-2471

**Its Breakfast
time at El Bethel**

**Country Breakfast
& Bake Sale**

**Saturday, April 5
6:30 - 10 am**

El Bethel United Methodist Church
El Bethel Rd., Kings Mountain