

We must keep the faith



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

My congregation recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary. It was a great day and many of our members worked hard to help make it meaningful. It was also one of those occasions when the sanctuary was full and it caused some of our members to remember days when church sanctuaries were, more often than not, filled with people. By contrast, we are living today in times that have been termed "post-modern," and whatever this strange term means; it certainly means that

many churches have more empty pews today than they did a few generations ago, which causes church leaders to wince and wonder: "How can we get people to come back?" I would like to tell my congregation that I have the answer, or even that there is one single answer, but I have to admit that we are facing one of those situations where the answer is beyond our ability. Yet, if we believe what we teach then we know that the ultimate answers for all of life's quandaries are actually in God's hands rather than our own, and we are much better off when we choose to put our lives (and our churches) in God's hands rather than trying to handle things by ourselves. Jesus reminds us that God's power is most evi-

dent when we are willing to have faith, and with faith we do not have to despair, even if we are facing large challenges. Jesus' parable about the mustard seed, for example, is a parable about how even small things that are placed in God's hands can lead to great results. The mustard seed was known for its smallness. In fact, mustard seeds were so small that the naked eye could barely see them, but when permitted to grow they resulted in a tree in which birds could even build nests. This is a parable about faith, and it teaches us that it is not the amount of faith that matters but the object of faith. When our faith is directed toward God instead of toward ourselves, our money, our possessions, or any other earthly re-

sources, then great things can happen. Those of us who are old enough may remember the launch of the Pioneer 10 space probe. It was launched in the early 1970s, with the purpose of traveling to Jupiter and photographing both the planet and its moons. Yet, this little probe not only reached Jupiter; it also passed Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and little Pluto, and by 1997, twenty-five years after its launch, it was more than six billion miles from the sun. The amazing thing; however, is that Pioneer 10 continued to transmit radio signals back to Earth, and even more amazing, those signals were generated by a mere 8-watt transmitter that produced about as much power as a bedroom night light. I am

convinced that sincere faith is like that little transmitter because through faith in God we

can face whatever situation is before us, no matter what that situation may be.

Church Briefs

BOYCE MEMORIAL ARP CHURCH will hold the Christmas pageant Wednesday (tonight) at 6 p.m. Children through college-age students will dress in costume, a narrator will read the scripture and the audience will participate and sing carols. A light supper will be served after the performance. The Carols and Candlelight service will be held Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH Adult Choir will sing a Christmas cantata Sunday at 6 p.m. The Christmas Eve service will be held at 5 p.m. next Wednesday.

GLORYLAND MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 101 Benfield Road, will be hosting the Christmas play "Rapture at Christmas" at 6 p.m. Sunday, December 21, 2008. Folks are asked to bring one can food item per person to help those in need.

EAST GOLD STREET WESLEYAN CHURCH will present the Christmas Cantata, "On This Very Night" Sunday morning during the 11 a.m. worship hour. Breakfast will be served from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Rev. Daryl Lewis, pastor, invites the public.

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week
Central United Methodist Church

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To follow is a list of upcoming Churches of the Week. If your church is listed here and you have a special event that you would like listed on your feature week - please contact Lisa at 704-739-7496 or e-mail ads@kingsmountainherald.com

- 12/24 Dixon Presbyterian
- 1/3 Family Worship Center
- 1/10 First Presbyterian
- 12/17 Bethlehem Baptist Church

- 704-487-7697
- Church Of Kings Mountain**
303 Phifer Road
704-739-1323
- Cornerstone Church Of God**
202 Margrace Road
704-739-3773
- Cornerstone Independent Baptist**
107 Range Road
704-737-0477

- Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.
704-739-1997
- Family Worship Center**
1818 Shelby Road
704-739-7206
- First Baptist Church**
605 W. King Street
704-739-3651
- First Church of the Nazarene**
121 Countryside Road
704-734-1143

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704-739-2591

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- Adams Chapel Ame Zion Church**
212 Lake Montonia Road
704-739-4636
 - Bethlehem Baptist Church**
1017 Bethlehem Road
704-739-7487
 - Boyce Memorial ARP Church**
Edgemont Drive
704-739-4917

- Crowders Mountain Baptist**
125 Mayberry Lane
704-739-0310
- David Baptist Church**
2300 David Baptist Church Road
704-739-4555
- Dixon Presbyterian Church**
602 Dixon School Road
704-739-5536
- East Gold Street Wesleyan Church**
701 E. Gold Street
704-739-3215

- First Presbyterian Church**
111 E. King Street
704-739-8072
- First Wesleyan Church**
505 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-4266
- Galilee United Methodist**
117 Galilee Church Road
704-739-7011
- Gospel Assembly Church**
202 S. Railroad Avenue
704-739-5351

We want your churches photo for our Church Page!
Please email them, along with a contact number to Lisa at ads@kingsmountainherald.com

We support our local churches.
Compliments of
ARNOLD'S
226 S. Washington St. • Shelby

- Burning Bush House of God**
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)
704-739-2877
- Calvary Way Holiness Church**
1017 Second Street
Pastor Clifton Morgan
- Carson Memorial Baptist Church**
262 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-2247
- Central United Methodist Church**
113 S. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-2471

- East Kings Mountain Church of God**
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM Hwy.
704-739-7367
- Eastside Baptist Church**
308 York Road
704-739-8055
- Ebenezer Baptist Church**
1621 County Line Road
704-739-8331
- El Bethel United Methodist Church**
122 El-bethel Road
704-739-9174
- Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church**
602 Canterbury Road
704-739-9939
- Faith Ablaze Church**
1128 S. York Road
704-739-8496
- Faith Baptist Church**
1009 Linwood Road
704-739-8396
- Faith Holiness Church**

- Good Hope Presbyterian Church**
105 N. Cansler Street
704-739-1062
- Grace Fellowship**
144 West Mountain Street
704-481-8888
- Grace United Methodist Church**
830 Church Street
704-739-6000
- Harvest Baptist Church**
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704-739-4015
- Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church**
246 Range Road
704-739-4152
- Christ The King Catholic Church**
714 Stone Street

- Harvest Baptist Church**
144 Ware Road
704-734-0714
- Kings Mountain Baptist Church**
101 W. Mountain Street
704-739-2516
- Kings Lighthouse Worship Center**
420 Branch Street
704-739-7700

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Notice
In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next weeks paper.

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