

Serve God through a relationship with Jesus Christ

At the encouragement of a friend, I recently read a book titled "The Shack." Among the many theological notions depicted in this popular novel is the belief that God is more interested in relationships than rules. I thought this was one of the elements in the book that was profoundly biblical, but I was also disappointed that the book depicts God as suggesting that there is a significant difference between who God really is and how God is depicted in the Christian faith.

Yet, I can also understand why such a thing is an increasingly popular perspective. After all, the organizational structure of churches, conventions, assemblies and denominations tends to lead believers to forget the primary reason for coming to church. Another author, whose name was Dostoevski, also recognized this problem and wrote of it in one of his own stories.

In Dostoevski's story, Jesus returned to earth and visited the cathedral in Seville. A funeral procession for a child was taking place. When the people saw Jesus, they called out to him.

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain Baptist Church

"Please heal this child," they begged. Jesus did heal the child and the crowd was so overjoyed that they began to chant: "He has come. He has come. He has come."

Standing in the shadows of the cathedral was the Grand Inquisitor, the powerful cardinal of the church, and he did not like what he saw. Jesus' arrival was a threat to the Grand Inquisitor's authority, so the cardinal had Jesus arrested and placed in prison. Then, later that night, the cardinal came by himself to visit his prisoner. "Why have you come back?" he asked. "We no longer have any need of you, for we are taking care of things by ourselves and we know how to run it well enough without you." Jesus looked long and lovingly into the empty eyes of the cardinal and then stood up, walked across the

cell and kissed the cardinal lightly on his thin lips. Then Jesus walked out of the cell, leaving the cardinal alone with his great cathedral.

Sometimes I wonder if the average believer really understands why it is that we get up early on Sunday mornings, get ourselves and our children dressed, and go to church week after week. Why do we wear our best clothes, put on our best behavior, try to smile at others as we enter the building, and then sing our hymns, pray our prayers, read the Scriptures, bring our offerings and listen to sermons? Is it because we are preserving buildings, supporting denominations or doing the "business" of the church?

The answer to this question is: "Of course not!" A Christian church is a group of people who believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and we gather together so as to worship God. This means that the purpose of a church is to worship and serve God through a living relationship with Jesus Christ, and to emphasize anything else is to miss the whole point.

Church Briefs

Sign up for spring concert series at Aldersgate UMC

Sign-up Feb. 3-24 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Shelby for the Spring Concert Series of the Cleveland County Choral Society. Practices will be every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. Concert dates are May 2 and May 3 at Malcolm Brown Auditorium at Shelby High School. No auditions are required to join the choral society.

For more information contact Meloni Wray, President of the Choral Society, at 704-482-1519, residence, or at workplace, 704-484-4858 or 704-476-3058.

Consignment sale at Bynum Chapel

The class leaders of Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church will sponsor a consignment sale at Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church Family Life Center on Ellis Street Saturday, Jan. 31, from 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tables can be acquired for a \$5 donation and 40 percent of the sale with proceeds donated

back to the church. Fish sandwiches and drinks will be sold.

For additional information or to reserve a table, contact any class leader: Marcellis Hunter, 704-579-8477; Esther Campbell, 704-739-3352; Rev. Joann McGill, 704-629-1115; and Philip Hager, 704-739-8371.

Souper Bowl party at First Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH will have a Souper Bowl party Feb. 1 at 5 p.m. Sign up at the Welcome Center and indicate if you will participate in the chili cook-off. A Lord's Supper drama will be presented Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.

Kingdom Life Covenant plans Valentine fellowship

Kingdom Life Covenant Ministries, 114 S. Railroad Avenue, is hosting a Christian Singles Valentine Fellowship service with dinner, music and games at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. For more information contact the church at 704-734-0082.

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week
Love Valley Baptist Church

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Gastonia
529 S. New Hope Rd.
704-885-1111

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

- 2/4 Christian Freedom
- 2/11 Westover Baptist Church
- 2/18 David Baptist Church
- 2/25 Christian Freedom Church

KINGS MOUNTAIN

- Bethlehem Baptist Church
1017 Bethlehem Road
704-739-7487
- Boyce Memorial ARP Church
Edgemont Drive
704-739-4917
- 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
- Cherokee St. Baptist Church
421 S. Cherokee Street
704-739-7697
- Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church
618 Chestnut Ridge Road
704-739-4015
- Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church
246 Range Road
704-739-4152
- Christ The King Catholic Church
714 Stone Street
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
- 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
- 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
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
- 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
- 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
144 Ware Road
704-734-0714
- Kings Mountain Baptist Church
101 W. Mountain Street
704-739-2516
- Kings Lighthouse Worship Center
420 Branch Street
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ads@kingsmountainherald.com

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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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