

# Climbing life's mountains

Psalm 22 begins with the words that Jesus quoted on the cross: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

A handful of verses later, the psalmist goes on to explain why he would say such a thing. He writes, "Be not far from me, for trouble is near, for there is none to help. Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round."

Bashan was an area located east of the Sea of Galilee. It was a broad and fertile region that was perfectly suited for agriculture, timber and cattle. The large cattle of Bashan were known to the ancient Israelites who first prayed the words of Psalm 22, and they understood what it means to compare life's threats to the "bulls of Bashan."

Even if we don't know much about the region of Bashan, I think almost all of us know about bulls. I am told that a Rodeo bull weighs somewhere between

one and two thousand pounds, and it must be frightening to see such a beast chasing after you, and the psalmist compared his troubles to these huge creatures.

Of course, the psalmist also knows that God is more powerful than his enemies and hopefully proclaims, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee."

This believer knows by faith that we have something to sing about, even in the midst of life's difficulties, and this something we have to sing about is the Presence and power of God to care for us.

In the film "The Pursuit of Happiness," Will Smith plays Chris Gardner, a down-on-his-luck salesman. Will's real-life son plays Gardner's young son in the movie. After a series of reverses, Chris becomes homeless. He also has custody of his son. Refusing to be dragged down by his

## Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley  
Pastor  
Kings Mountain Baptist Church

parental responsibilities, Chris accepts an unpaid internship with the sales department of a brokerage firm, ingeniously juggling care of his son and his daily search for emergency housing in the midst of the pressure-cooker demands of the training program. All the while, he keeps secret how desperate his personal situation really is.

"I met my father for the first time when I was 28 years old," says Gardner, and "I made up my mind that when I had children, my children were going to know who their father was."

This is his reason for not abandoning Christopher to the foster-care system. In

the end, Gardner is the one intern that the firm's management decides to hire for a permanent job.

One place Gardner goes for shelter is San Francisco's Glide Memorial Church. In a sermon, the church's pastor, speaks these inspiring words: "The important thing about that freedom train is that it's got to climb mountains. We all have to climb mountains, you know - mountains that go way up high, and mountains that go deep down low - and we know those mountains here at Glide, for we sing about them."

## Quartet to sing

The popular Gold City Quartet will return to Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, 618 Chestnut Ridge Rd., for a concert Friday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5 donation at the door and a love offering will be taken.

The public is invited. Rev. Greg Neely is pastor.

## Arts Council to hold first ever Y'Art Sale; donations needed

The Cleveland County Arts Council is having its first annual "Y'Art Sale" and needs donations.

The council is asking the public for any art materials or supplies, pottery, framed prints or paintings, art books or anything else art-related to be donated to the Arts Council for the Y'Art Sale.

Bring items to the Arts Council, 111 S. Washington St., Shelby, between 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday, by Sept. 11.

This will be a fun one day event to benefit the Arts Council. The sale will be held at the center on Saturday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

All proceeds will go towards the Arts Council programs. Donations to the council are tax-deductible. For more information, call 704-484-2787.

## Senior Center September Calendar

In celebration of September's National Senior Center Month the Patrick Senior Center will host the following events and activities:

Sept. 2 - Neal Center Chorus will perform at 10:30 in Conference Room 1

Sept. 10 - Bake sale, 9:30-1 p.m. in lobby

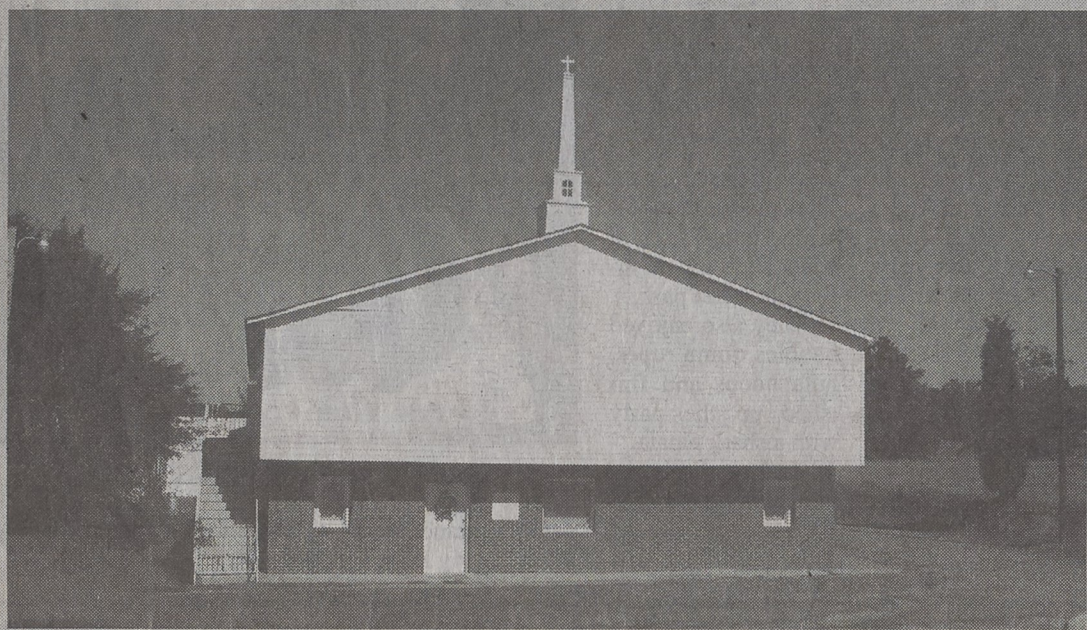
Sept. 15 - Trip to Kings Mountain Arts Center at 10 a.m.; must register in advance, space is limited

Sept. 16 - Capt. Alan Norman from Cleveland County Sheriff's Office will present "What the Sheriff's office offers Cleveland County Seniors", 10:45 a.m., Conference Room 1

Sept. 23 - Mayor Rick Murphrey and City Electric Director Nick Hendricks will present an "Energy Program", 10:45-11:30 a.m., Conference Room 1

Sept. 30 - Mountain Street Pharmacy Pharmacist Alan Propst will present a "Shingles Seminar", 10:45-11:30 a.m., Conference Room 1; information available at front desk

# Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

## New Beginnings Church

- 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  
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- KINGS MOUNTAIN**  
Bethlehem Baptist Church  
1017 Bethlehem Road  
704-739-7487
- Body of Christ Fellowship Center  
405 S. Cherokee St.  
www.bodyofchrist7.com
- 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 at Kings Mountain  
108 E. Mountain St.  
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)  
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

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