



Anew Beginning Baptist Church members stand on the site of their future home.

Anew Beginning Baptist Church in new home

Anew Beginning Baptist Church has a new home - the former residence of the late Mae and Thomas Humphries on Dixon School Road.

"We are so excited," said Leslie Sellers Ramsey, wife of Pastor Doug Ramsey.

In preparation for the 70-member congregation's first worship service Sunday, the youth of the church canceled their mission trip to the beach and instead conducted a paint-up, fix-up project at the home. In addition to renovations, the group cut shrubs, did maintenance work and got the three bedrooms ready for Sunday School classrooms.

The church had been meeting at Jason Falls Insurance Agency for worship on Sunday but the move to the Humphries house will give them space also for Sunday school and other church activities.

New Beginnings is celebrating its first anniversary. Church services will include mid-week prayer service on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday school and worship on Sundays and Sunday evening service at 6 p.m.

After the 10 a.m. service Sunday, the congregation will enjoy a picnic lunch and celebrate its first anniversary.

Littlejohn returns to lead Mt. Zion revival

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 220 N. Waterson St., will be hosting a special homecoming guest during revival, which kicks off Sunday, July 11.

Marion Lamont Littlejohn, Jr., who was ordained in his home church of Mt. Zion Baptist, where he served as youth pastor and assistant pastor, will be returning to preach the revival services. Revival will take place Monday-Thursday at the church, after a homecoming service on Sunday, July 11.

Rev. Littlejohn was born March 6, 1977, at Kings Mountain Hospital to Marion and Jeanette Littlejohn. Pastor Littlejohn married Heather Nicole Parker on September 11, 1999. They have a daughter, L'mia Nicole Littlejohn and a son,

Marion Lamont Littlejohn III.

Pastor Littlejohn was raised in Kings Mountain where he attended Kings Mountain District schools. He graduated from Kings Mountain High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Education from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, and his Master of Divinity degree at the M. Christopher White School of Divinity also at Gardner-Webb University.

Pastor Littlejohn entered the proclamation ministry at the age of 17, and was licensed to preach the gospel in December 1997. He was ordained with his home church, Mount Zion, in June 1999. He served as the youth pastor from 1996 to 1998, and the assistant pastor from

1999 to 2003 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, where the senior pastor is Dr. Clinton A. Feemster.

Pastor Littlejohn served four years as a social studies teacher at Kings Mountain High School. On September 1, 2003, he became the servant pastor/teacher of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Shelby. Currently, he serves as the fourth-vice moderator of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association. He has had the privilege to serve and presently serves on both local and state boards; and has received numerous awards, both from religious organizations and from the North Carolina Public School System.

Pastor Littlejohn has traveled to Kenya, Africa, and has experienced preaching and teaching upon the

African continent in the city of Magori, Kenya. Pastor Littlejohn has also experienced a study tour of the Holy Land in Israel and Egypt. His desire is to be a son of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and his passion is to connect with all types of people and build relationships with those individuals - one soul at a time!

HOUSE

From Page 1

chase of phone or Internet time, customers are allowed to use the machines to play games, like video poker, Keno or Eightliner, to try their luck at sweepstakes prizes.

"This practice preys upon the poor, those who don't know the odds, and those who don't appreciate arithmetic," said House Republican Leader Paul Stam (R-Wake). "It is an unfair trade practice on its face."

Still others, looking at budget shortfalls contend that, if taxed and regulated, the "sweepstakes" industry could bring an extra \$500 million in revenue to the state.

"The state's already in the gaming business. It's called the NC Education Lottery. So it's a flimsy argument to say we're going to sell lottery tickets but shut down video sweepstake centers," said William Thevaos, president of the Entertainment Group of North Carolina, which represents the computer software designers and sweepstakes operators in the video sweepstakes industry. "If the lawmakers really want to clean up the video gaming business, then they need to

regulate it. We are asking for state oversight." Constituents emailing and telephoning their local legislators this week are giving varied opinions on the sweepstakes bill.

House Bill 80 would prohibit electronic machines and other devices used for sweepstakes activities in the state. The bill makes it "unlawful for any person to own, lease, or have possession of and place into operation an electronic machine or device to conduct a sweepstakes or to engage in any process of activity associated with a sweepstakes."

The bill places a "game over" deadline of Dec. 1st.

HB80 is strongly supported by the NC Sheriff's Association, the Family Policy Council, the NC League of Municipalities and the Christian Action League. The Entertainment Group of North Carolina strongly advocates for regulation - not banning video gaming.

The bill targets only the sweepstakes machines. Other marketing sweepstakes games, like those offered at fast food chains, could still be legal.

More than a dozen similar businesses operate in the Kings Mountain and Grover areas.

REPORTS

From Page 3A

INCIDENTS

JUNE 14: Auto Zone, 611 E. King St., reported shoplifting.

JUNE 15: A resident of Redwood Circle reported theft of an automatic transmission, two air compressors and one black tarp valued at \$2630 from his front yard.

JUNE 16: A resident of Longbranch Rd. reported that someone threw an object through her car window doing \$250 damage.

JUNE 17: A resident of Fulton St. reported theft of a heater coil.

JUNE 17: A 26-year-old woman and a 63-year-old man were bitten by a dog and treated at Kings Mountain Hospital.

JUNE 17: A resident of W. King St. reported that she paid for property and didn't receive it.

WRECKS

JUNE 7: Cpl. Mark Butler said that vehicles operated by a 15-year-old female driver and Jason Hilton, 29, of Maiden were involved in a rear-end-type crash, exchanged information and left the scene. The teenager was treated at the hospital. After 1-1/2 hours the teenager filed a report. Hilton did not file a report.

JUNE 13: Cpl. Mark Butler said that James Lee Gantt, 415 Chestnut Rd., driving a 2000 Toyota, failed to reduce speed and rear-ended a 2003 Ford operated by Christopher Eric Blanton of Bessemer City at the stop light at NC 216 and Gold Street. Property damages were estimated at \$3400.

JUNE 15: Officer M.J. Howard charged Ashlyn Jada Baker, 23, 903 Rhodes Ave., with DWI after she lost control of the 1995 Buick she was driving and wrecked on Northwoods Dr. She was transported by Cleveland County EMS to Cleveland Regional Medical Center for treatment.

JUNE 16: Officer F.L.

Whittington said that vehicles operated by Richard Elgin, 103 Lake Montonia Rd., and Justin Todd Frady of Bessemer City hit on S. Battleground Ave. doing \$2150 property damage.

JUNE 17: Cpl. Mark Butler said that a 2000 Chevy operated by Sherri Ruffalo of 709 Linwood Rd. rear-ended a 2007 Toyota operated by Sylvia Morris Neisler, 701 Little Creek Dr. doing \$2700 damage. The accident happened on NC 161.

JUNE 18: Ptl. H.W. Carpenter said that a 2002 Hyundai operated by Sylvia Elliott of Bessemer City, traveling east on Highway 74 Business, failed to reduce speed at a red light and struck a 2009 Ford operated by Barbara Saunders of 806 Landing Street. The Saunders car then hit a 1993 Buick, also stopped at the light, and operated by Jerele Woods Gill of Bessemer City. Damages were minor.

JUNE 18: Ptl. Bryan McGinnis said that vehicles operated by Cassandra Jackson, 1712 Northwoods, and Carl David Melton, 1710 Martin Rd., hit at the intersection of Mountain and Cansler Streets. Property damages were estimated at \$10,000.

JUNE 18: Ptl. H.W. Carpenter said that vehicles operated by Ryan Champion, 5745 Walker Way, and a 17-year-old driver were involved in an accident at Waterson and Goforth streets. Cleveland County EMS transported Champion to Kings Mountain Hospital. Property damages were estimated at \$17,000.

JUNE 19: Ptl. Bryan McGinnis said that Jennifer Lee Owens, 653 Bell Rd, Trailer 2, reported that her car was damaged while parked in the parking lot at 610 E. King St.

JUNE 19: Ptl. H.W. Carpenter said that Troy Dale Marr, 424 Belvedere Circle, operating a 1999 Dodge, was attempting to turn into a parking stall at 1314 Shelby Road and struck the concrete base of a luminary pole doing \$1,000 damage.

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