

Meditation

A Sunday school class gave me a Pastor Appreciation Day card. Now I don't know if this is really a holiday or merely another reason for greeting card companies to make money, but whatever the case may be, I am grateful that my people care about me and that God has given me the opportunity to serve them.

Being a pastor is a unique role and this is clear in a book by E. Brooks Holifield titled "God's Ambassadors: A History of the Christian Clergy in America." Holifield says that preaching was so central to life in the early 18th century that believers might have heard more than 7,000 sermons in a lifetime, and through their printed materials clergy became America's best-selling authors and its first group of intellectuals. By the middle of the 19th century; in fact, clergy had founded most of America's colleges and 90% of college presidents were ministers.

Some clergy, like Reverend Morgan Dix, the Episcopal rector of Trinity Church in New York City, seemed very successful. The Trinity Church had 5,535 members and provided a parish school, a music school, a hospital, a retire-

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

ment home, a medical dispensary, girls' and boys' clubs, women's auxiliaries and men's groups. Most clergy, however, have served – and still serve – small congregations, and the majority worked alone and often took their wages in eggs, bales of tobacco, or other crops.

Many pastors were highly educated, but many more were not, and the role of pastors has often been hard to define. For example, was the authority of the clergy derived from their ordination to an ecclesial office, or did it come from personal charisma or an inner call from God?

Was their function the result of special competencies and knowledge that they possessed, or was it from something that can't be taught in a classroom? And what exactly is it that pastors do? Is it preaching,

baptizing, serving communion, teaching, administering, organizing, raising money, helping the poor, visiting, marrying and burying, or counseling; or is it something else?

According to Holifield, at their best, American clergy have been willing to enlarge their roles according to the needs of the times and places in which they have served. They have paid attention to the needs of their own cultural and geographical context, worked to understand what was really going on in their members' daily lives and in the events that have shaped the nation, and have responded faithfully with pastoral care, but above all they have embodied "hope." Week after week, in conversation after conversation and in sermon after sermon, they have reminded believers that they are not alone or forgotten, and that they are, in fact, part of the people of God.

I suspect that most clergy in our community feel as I do and realize the great legacy we have to live up to, and I pray that during clergy appreciation month all of us will strive to be worthy of the love and respect that our congregations give us.

Briefs

Dover Baptist revival

Dr. Tracy Jessup, minister to Gardner-Webb University, will speak at revival services Oct. 24-27 at Dover Baptist Church, 1501 Polkville Rd., Shelby. Sunday services are at 11 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.; evening services are at 7 p.m. Dr. Bulo Price, pastor, invites the public.

Chicken pie supper

Dover Baptist Church, 1501 Polkville Rd., Shelby, will sponsor a chicken pie supper Sat., Oct. 23, from 5-7 p.m. at the church. Eat-in the church fellowship hall or take-out available. Donations will be accepted. The public is invited.

Benefit Saturday at Dixon Presbyterian

A benefit hamburger, hot dog and bake sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 23 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Dixon Presbyterian Church, 603 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain. Proceeds will go toward the medical expenses of Bill Breakfield, who died last week of cancer. The public is invited to attend.

Peoples choir anniversary

People's Baptist Church Choir will celebrate its first anniversary Sunday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m. at the church, 1010 Groves St. The public is invited.

Macedonia youth rally

Macedonia Baptist Church on Grover Road will hold a youth rally and big talent show Saturday beginning at 2 p.m. with games and music at the ball field followed by a spaghetti and salad supper and talent show. Youth leader Anthony Day will bring the message

See CHURCH on Page 7A

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

Dixon Presbyterian Church

KINGS MOUNTAIN
Bethlehem Baptist Church
1017 Bethlehem Road
704-739-7487

Body of Christ
Fellowship Center
405 S. Cherokee St.
www.bodyofchrist7.com

Cornerstone Church Of God
202 Margrace Road
704-739-3773

Boyce Memorial ARP Church
Edgemont Drive
704-739-4917

Cornerstone Independent
Baptist
107 Range Road
704-737-0477

Burning Bush House of God
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)
704-739-2877

Crowders Mountain Baptist
125 Mayberry Lane
704-739-0310

Calvary Way Holiness
Church
1017 Second Street
Pastor Clifton Morgan

David Baptist Church
2300 David Baptist Church
Road
704-739-4555

Carson Memorial Baptist
Church
262 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-2247

Dixon Presbyterian Church
602 Dixon School Road
dixonpresbyterian.com

Central United Methodist
Church
113 S. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-2471

East Gold Street Wesleyan
Church
701 E. Gold Street
704-739-3215

Cherokee St. Baptist Church
421 S. Cherokee Street
704-739-7697

East Kings Mountain Church
of God
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM
Hwy.
704-739-7367

Chestnut Ridge Baptist
Church
618 Chestnut Ridge Road
704-739-4015

Eastside Baptist Church
308 York Road
704-739-8055

Christian Freedom Southern
Baptist Church
246 Range Road
704-739-4152

Ebenezer Baptist Church
1621 County Line Road
704-739-8331

Christ The King Catholic
Church
714 Stone Street
704-487-7697

El Bethel United Methodist
Church
122 El-bethel Road
704-739-9174

Church at Kings Mountain
108 E. Mountain St.
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)
704-739-1323

Emmanuel Independent Bap-
tist 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

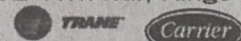
Harvest Baptist Church
144 Ware Road
704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist
Church
101 W. Mountain Street
704-739-2516

Kings Lighthouse Worship
Center
420 Branch Street
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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