



REV. AND MRS. JAMES WILLIAMS

## Rev., Mrs. Williams celebrate 66th wedding anniversary

Rev. James and Virginia Williams celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary August 11 at a luncheon for family and friends hosted by caregiver Christy Whetstone.

The couple was married August 11, 1945 by Rev. Robert Chaney.

The family includes two daughters, Sylvia W. Mason and Carolyn W. Edmiston, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

# MEDITATION

In Psalm 95 we hear this call to worship: "O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep of his hand." With words like these the Bible tells us that we were created by God for fellowship with God. Of course, the Bible also says that humankind has rejected its role in God's creation through deliberate acts and attitudes of disobedience known as "sin."

Yet, the good news is that what we have caused by our sin, God has corrected with his grace. However, while salvation is a free gift, the grace that provides that gift is costly. It cost God his only Son, and for that reason, once we receive the gift of redemption, we need to face an important question. That question is: "How should we respond to the saving grace of God?" In the twenty-second chapter of Matthew's Gospel Jesus gives a two part answer to this question.

In the first part of this answer Jesus says that we need to respond to the grace of God by loving God with all our heart, soul and mind. Each of these words describe specific aspects of an individual's personality or life that need to be given to God and taking notice of these important words



Dr. Jeff Hensley  
Pastor  
Kings Mountain Baptist Church

helps us to appreciate the point Jesus was making.

The word "heart" refers to a person's inner motives, so to love God with all our heart means to say with Joshua, "Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve..."

but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15). Loving God with all our heart thus means being motivated by God's will instead of our will; by God's motives instead of our own motives.

The second word Jesus used is the word "soul," which refers to a person's emotions. To love God with all our soul means to say with the Psalmist, "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God" (Psalm 42:1). Loving God with all our soul means permitting our desires to be God's desires and living in such a way as to seek and show God's abiding presence in our daily lives.

The word "mind" refers to a person's intellect. To love God with all

our mind means to pray as Solomon did, "Give your servant... an understanding mind... that I may discern between good and evil" (1 Kings 3:9). Loving God with all our mind thus means to replace our selfish thoughts with God-inspired and God-directed thoughts.

One important part of our response to God's grace is to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, but although these words describe specific ways we should show our gratitude, the larger point is that we should love God with everything that we are. It is this kind of all-inclusive love that shows genuine gratitude for the grace that God first gave us.

### Chestnut Ridge Baptist anniversary

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church, 618 Chestnut Ridge Rd., will celebrate its 55th anniversary with the annual Homecoming service and covered dish luncheon on Sunday, Aug. 21. Former pastor Rev. Richard Brown will deliver the morning message.

Pastor Rev. Greg Neely extends a welcome to all former and current members and visitors to join in this anniversary celebration.

# Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

## Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

### KINGS MOUNTAIN

Long Creek Presbyterian Church  
701 Long Creek Road  
704-629-4406

Love Valley Baptist Church  
2032 Bethlehem Road  
704-730-0075

Macedonia Baptist Church  
1101 S. Battleground Avenue  
704-739-6811

### Midview Baptist Church

703 Margrace Road  
704-739-6711  
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
220 N. Watterson Street  
704-739-8354

### Mountain View Agape Church

506 Sparrow Springs Road  
704-739-0160

### Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Compact School Road  
704-739-4516

### Mt. Zion Baptist Church

220 N. Watterson Street  
704-739-8354

### New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ

541 Crocker Road  
704-730-9507

### New Bynum Chapel Zion Church

N. Cansler Street  
704-739-2606

### New Camp Creek Baptist Church

863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road  
704-487-7128

### New Life Family Worship Center

428 Oak Grove Road  
704-739-9371

### New Way Missionary Baptist Church

105 Waco Road  
704-724-0414

### Oak Grove Baptist Church

1022 Oak Grove Road  
704-739-4833

### Oak View Baptist Church

### 1517 York Road

704-739-7831

### Pathway Baptist Church

3100 Parkdale Circle  
704-734-0852

### Patterson Grove Baptist Church

301 Oak Grove Road  
704-739-5826

### Peoples Baptist Church

1010 Groves Street  
704-739-0398

### Proclaiming the Word Ministries

7011 Cleveland Avenue

### Progressive Church of Our Lord

1001 Cleveland Avenue  
704-734-1070

### Resurrection Lutheran Church

600 Crescent Circle  
704-739-5580

### Royal Praise Ministries

2055 Shelby Rd.

### Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

201 N. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-7466

### Second Baptist Church

120 Linwood Road  
704-739-4216

### Shady Grove Baptist Church

339 Shady Grove Road  
704-739-8920

### St. Paul United Methodist Church

N. Cansler Street  
704-739-1256

### Solid Rock Baptist Church

1908 Shelby Road  
704-739-4186

### Sunrise Baptist Church

208 Mail Road  
704-692-3007

### Temple Baptist Church

612 N. Cansler Street  
704-739-4716

### The Favor Center Church

602 Slater Street

### True Gospel Holiness Church

1608 Shelby Road  
704-739-6764

### Unity AME Zion Church

948 Unity Church Road  
704-228-0328

### Vestibule AME Zion Church

2175 Vestibule Church Road  
704-739-7961

### Westover Baptist Church

114 Westover Drive  
704-739-2187

### GASTONIA

### Bethesda United Methodist Church

3714 S. New Hope Rd

### Grace Community Advent Christian Church

206 West 3rd Avenue  
704-739-9230

### GROVER

### Bethany Baptist Church

423 Cleveland Avenue  
704-937-3010

### Carolina Praise and Worship Center

201 N. Main Street  
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### First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg

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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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