

We need to be serious about hearing his Word

MEDITATION



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

I preached my first sermon when I was merely twelve years of age. It was a blessing for me that my church was willing to trust a kid with the task of filling the pulpit on "Youth Sunday." In the years that followed, God provided me with many more opportunities to preach, and I soon discovered that I enjoyed it too.

Of course, preaching is a dialogue of sorts, even though most preachers I know don't actually engage in give-and-take discussions with their congregations during Sunday morning sermons. But preaching is still a dialogue, even without the literal discussion, because it combines the active speaking of the preacher with the active listening of a congregation.

Yet, just because we are in church on a Sunday morning does not necessarily mean that we are really listening to the proclamation of the preacher. The fact is that we can be so involved with our circumstances, needs, concerns or per-

sonal lives that a sermon can simply go in one ear and right out the other.

It is a bit like a scene that a friend of mine described. He had gone to see his son play baseball, and there must have been a lull in the action because my friend found himself looking around. On the side of the press box there was a big loud-speaker that was used for announcing the games. In that speaker my friend saw something that surprised him. A small bird had built her nest there and was raising her young. Even though that mother bird surely heard everything that came through that speaker, she obviously had absolutely no interest and was certainly not listening.

I think we sometimes do the same thing in church on Sunday mornings. Although we are there in body, and even though we are immersed in the noise of the worship and preaching, we are not listening to a bit of it. The fact of the matter is that we all listen to those we truly love. When our

spouse speaks, we listen; when our children cry out, we listen. But whomever we listen to, if we are going to truly hear them, we need to work at it. It takes effort.

One young father had a delightful four-year-old daughter, whose name was Katherine, and this little girl had two preschool programs scheduled during the same month. The father was thinking about his busy work and asked his daughter if it was important for him to go to both programs. The little girl shrugged her shoulders and replied, "Um, I don't know." Because this father was putting effort into listening, he realized that the words "Um, I don't know" actually meant "Yes I want you to go to both, because you are my dad!"

Just as we need to listen to the people we love, so we need to listen to God. Putting effort into our listening during services of worship and sermons shows that we love God and that we are serious about hearing his Word preached.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Chicken Pie Lunch

March 3 at El Bethel

El Bethel United Methodist Church will sponsor a chicken pie lunch on Saturday, March 3, from 11-12 noon. Cost is \$8 per plate and proceeds will support United Methodist Women's Mission projects for 2012. Take-out or eat-in. Take-

out plates will be available by calling 704-734-3462 or the church office at 704-739-9174. The menu: chicken pie, green beans, slaw, sweet potato casserole, dessert, sourdough bread, combread, tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Valentine Ball Feb. 18
Bynum Chapel AME

Zion Church will sponsor the 4th annual Red and White Ball, a Valentine's Day celebration, Saturday, Feb. 18, from 7 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at Bynum Chapel Family Center.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Food, dancing, a fashion show and prizes are planned.

The Bynum Chapel

Evangelistic Board and Lincolnton District Home Missions Department are co-sponsors of the extravaganza to which the public is invited.

For more information and ticket information contact Andrew Brown at 704-730-0027 or the church at 704-739-2606.

Souper Bowl Project



Youth of Advent Lutheran Church chose the Community Kitchen of Central United Methodist Church to benefit its Souper Bowl Project. The five youth, above, performed a skit at Advent Lutheran Church and asked the congregation to contribute to the benefit and raised \$120 for the Community Kitchen. From left, Caleb McNeilly, Johnathan Medlin, John Bell, Cheyanne Stirewait and Chase Stirewait.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Advent Lutheran Church, NALC Member
KM Senior Center
909 E. Kings St.

Ardent Life Church
420 Branch Street
704-739-7700

Arise Church
Kings Mountain YMCA
211 Cleveland Ave.

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
dixonpresbyterian.com

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



Featured Church of the Week: El Bethel Church

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

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next weeks paper.

YOUNG RV SALES

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