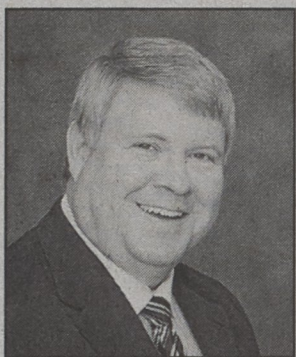


We don't need to pay to live in God's area code



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

212 is the area code for Manhattan and it is the most envied and desirable area code in the world. It screams power and prestige. Now I am told that Vonage will sell us a 212 area code for our use no matter where we live. This area code will work anywhere a broadband connection is available.

That Vonage has a market for such electronic hypocrisy says that we Americans know that to be powerful we need to be connected to the powerful; to be wealthy we need to be connected to the wealthy; to be privileged we need to be connected to privilege, and for those of us who don't

have such connections on our own, we can now get a hand out and a leg up on the competition.

In Exodus 34:29-35 God gave Moses the opportunity to come into God's own area code. It was an invitation to have what people often call "face time" with the Creator of the Universe. There are some interesting things that happened to Moses' in his encounter with God.

First of all, we may notice from that Moses responded to God's invitation. In other words, it was God who initiated the encounter - who asked Moses to step out of his comfort zone and enter into a new spiritual area code. This is the way it is with life-changing encounters with God - God is the one who does the calling and we are the ones who respond.

Secondly, we may notice that Moses' appearance was changed by this encounter. The Bible says that his face shined so brightly that he had to cover it with a veil. We don't know exactly what this looked like, but the theological point is clear. Being close to God changes our appearance, and it seems that this is

an appearance that others can see in us too. The apostle Paul said essentially the same thing when he pointed out that those of us who are followers of Christ are being changed by the Holy Spirit on a daily basis until we reflect the image of Jesus.

Third, we may notice here that Moses only saw God indirectly. A direct face-to-face encounter with God seems to be way too much for us to handle, so God often reveals God's self indirectly. For example, Jesus said he that would be found in the most vulnerable among us; that is, in the hungry, the poor and the suffering, and sometimes we don't see him until after the fact so we need to be looking for him.

The best area code in the country may be 212, but the most powerful area code believers may reside in is God's area code, and that area code is not limited to geography. When we live in God's area code, we can live to be our very best, and the good news is that we don't need to pay any price to live in this area code, for God has already paid the price on Calvary.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Dixon Presbyterian Church - Superior Court Judge Jesse Caldwell of Gastonia will fill the pulpit Sunday at 11 a.m. at Dixon Presbyterian Church of Dixon School Road.

Family Worship Center - The 6th annual Kevin White camp meeting, a week of power and praise, will begin Sunday, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. and continue at 7 p.m. nightly August 13-17 at Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road. The public is invited.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church - 273 Tryon School Loop Road, Bessemer City, will host its annual Homecoming and Revival services Aug. 12-15. Rev. Oscar Cleveland, Pastor Ray of Hope Baptist Church in Roebuck, SC, will be the guest speaker for Homecoming Sunday. Revivalists throughout the week will be

Rev. Michael Glen, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Spartanburg, on Monday, Aug. 13; Rev. James Coleman, pastor of Good Samaritan Baptist Church in Shelby, on Tuesday, Aug. 14; and Rev. Benny Thomas, pastor of Mt. Calvary in Vale, on Wednesday, Aug. 15. Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church is located on the Dallas-Cherryville Highway 279, Bessemer City.

BRIEFS

Grover Town Board to meet Aug. 13

Grover Town Board will meet August 13 at 6 p.m. at Grover Town Hall. The meeting was rescheduled from August 6.

Neill Family Reunion Aug. 12

All descendants, friends and neighbors of James Andrew and Mary Jane Eaker Neill are invited to attend the annual Neill family reunion Sunday, Aug. 12, at Shady Grove Baptist Church's Family Life Center, 3240 Tryon Court-house Road, Cherryville. This

reunion has been a tradition for more than 100 years. Bring a well-filled lunch basket and enjoy a meal at 1 p.m. and an afternoon of fun. For more information, call 704-435-9885 or 704-435-6970.

Woman's Club Attic Sale Sat.

Kings Mountain Woman's Club will hold an attic sale Saturday, Aug. 4, from 7 a.m.-11 a.m. at the Woman's Club, 109 E. Mountain Street. All types of household goods, clothing for women, men and children and much more will be available. The public is invited and proceeds benefit the club's community projects.

Dr. Englert at Life Enrichment Center in Shelby

Neurologist Dr. Danielle Englert will discuss deep brain stimulation surgery to relieve symptoms of Parkinson's Disease Tuesday, Aug. 28 at Life Enrichment Center in Shelby.

Dr. Englert is affiliated with Carolinas Medical Center. The program, which begins at 6 p.m., is free of charge and open to anyone interested in Parkinson's.

The center is located at 110 Life Enrichment Blvd., just off Fallston Road between Teddy and Meekins law office and Cornerstone Dental Associates. For more information, call Linda t 704.484.0405.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

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



Featured Church of the Week: First Presbyterian Church

St. Paul United Methodist Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-1256

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

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
704-937-7541

First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg
205 E. Cherokee St.
Blacksburg, SC704-937-7390864-839-1873

WACO

New Testament Missionary Baptist Church

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.

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