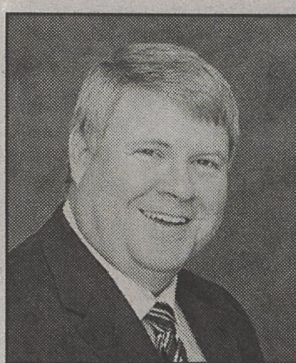


MEDITATION



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

The boy's name was Oscar, and he was the class know-it-all. Oscar was the one who always did the extra credit work and read more than the assignment. The rest of the class resented him and thought his haircut was funny, and they always looked for opportunities to show him up, and then one day they thought they had found one.

Oscar was doing his oral

God chose YOU!

report on an artist and talked about the man's "works." The class giggled at him because they had never heard the word "works" used like that. They were sure that Oscar was wrong about his usage, but totally surprised when their teacher not only proclaimed Oscar correct, but went on to scold the rest of the class for their laughter.

I suspect that Peter may have been a bit like Oscar, and his fellow disciples may have occasionally resented that he often seemed to be the one with the right answer. In Matthew 16:13-20 Jesus asks his disciples about what the crowds think about him. The disciples were honest in pointing out that the people thought Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets, who had returned. But then Jesus asked his followers what they thought

about him, and Peter then uttered his now famous reply: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

You sort of have to wonder if the other disciples then kicked the dust with their sandals and whispered under their breath, "I was going to say that." And when Jesus appeared to elevate Peter to a special place above them, it may have been hard to swallow. Yet the interesting thing is that God is notorious for choosing people not because they have the right answer, but because he means to use frail human beings to work out the divine plan, and many of those choices don't seem to make much sense to us.

In Genesis, for example, God chose an old man to become the father of a new nation, but we wonder if a strong, younger man would not have been a more logical choice. Then there are those

times when God chose the youngest over the oldest, including Jacob, Joseph, and David – all choices that we might not have made. On and on it goes in the pages of Scripture as God makes choices that make perfect sense to God, but are not always clear to human beings.

Then there was that ultimate choice – the choice to take frail human form in order to bring about the salvation of humankind. God's choice to become one of us in Jesus is a choice that reminds us that God has chosen all of us. It is this truth that Jesus reminds us of in John 15:16. "You did not choose me but I chose you," Jesus said. In one way or another, God has chosen and calls all of us, and we can be grateful for the grace that comes with God's choice and calling.

OBITUARIES

Bill D. Babb

KANNAPOLIS – Bill D. Babb, 81, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013. A special Masonic service was held on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at Harris Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Jeanette Watkins Jones

SHELBY – Jeanette Watkins Jones, 74, passed away Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 1 p.m. at First Wesleyan Church, Shelby.

Burial will be at Cleveland Memorial Park.

Louise Smith

KINGS MOUNTAIN – Louise McDaniel Smith, 80, formerly of Forest City, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013 at White Oak Manor in Kings Mountain.

The funeral was held Friday, Jan. 18 at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel.

Interment was at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Clifford Jerry Owens

LAWNDALE – Clifford Jerry Owens, 58, 140 Gateway Dr., passed away Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

The funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 19, at Fallston Baptist Church.

Interment was at Rose Hill Memorial Park in Fallston.

**Thank you
for reading
the Herald!**

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

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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

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
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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 week.

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