

Tucker installed as Pastor of St. Matthew's

Rev. Joshua Adam Tucker, 29, of Indian Land, SC, was installed Sunday at 4 p.m. as Pastor of historical St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, and likes calling Kings Mountain home.

Tucker and his wife, Kristi, are moving into the church parsonage later in the month but already have acclimated themselves in the community. Driving 100 miles round trip every day to minister to the needs of his congregation and also preach on Sunday, "Josh" is enjoying meeting Kings Mountain people. Mrs. Tucker has accepted a part time job at Wells Fargo and is completing her degree in Christian counseling on-line with Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Rev. Hobby Outten, Pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Kings Mountain and Dean of the Gaston Conference in the Lutheran Synod, delivered the message at the installation service Sunday and performed the rite of installation. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was observed with the installed pastor officiating. A reception was hosted by the congregation after the service.

A 2006 graduate of Appalachian State University and a May 2013 graduate of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC., Tucker said he thought God was calling him into the business world in



Rev. Josh Tucker

2006 and he went to work for 2 1/2 years with Hanes Industries in Conover. "I learned that God wanted me in the ministry and I entered seminary," said Tucker. He formerly served at Crossroads Lutheran Church in Indian Land and at Amazing Lutheran Church in Waxhaw.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church was organized in 1876. Sunday School is 9:45 a.m. preceded by coffee and fellowship at 9:15 a.m. Morning worship is at 11 a.m. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is observed first and third Sundays.



Rev. Josh Tucker, kneeling, was installed as the new pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Sunday. From left, Rev. David Drysdale, pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church, Dallas; Rev. Hobby Outten, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran church and Gaston Conference Dean of the NC Synod ELCA, is blessing the pastor; and to their right is Rev. George Rhyne, Pastor of Antioch Lutheran Church in Dallas. Dr. Grady Howard Jr., a member of the church council, in background, also assisted with the installation service.

Photo by Lindsay Suber

Community members enjoy first look at new school offices



Above: Tweet this book. A display in the library of the new Turning Point Academy suggests an intersection between books and social media. Turning Point Academy, the system's alternative school, shares a campus with Cleveland County Schools main administration building.


At left: Cleveland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bruce Boyles greets visitors to the new Central Offices in Shelby during an open house Sunday afternoon. The 140,000 sq. ft. facility is the new administrative headquarters for the school system.

Photos by DAVE BLANTON


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Kings Mountain residents Sarah and Brian Edmonson create unique jewelry through their shop, *bela si boutique*. They carefully handcrafted each piece of eclectic guitar string jewelry with recycled, retired guitar strings.



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MURDER: progress being made in Smoker's Etc. case

From page 1A

said. The sheriff reiterated a plea to the public for information. There is a standing \$2,500 reward for information that helps lead to an arrest in the case. "The

victim's family needs closure," he said. "The community needs closure."

Officials are asking anyone with information on the shooting to call the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department at (704) 484-4822 or Crime Stoppers at (704) 481-8477.

Sheriff's deputies raided the store in the spring and took samples of every questionable product for sale on its shelves. Those samples were then submitted to the FBI lab in Washington, D.C. "That lab is very behind," Norman said. "Those results are still pending, and that case is still pending."

Store already under investigation

Smoker's Etc. had already caught the attention of local law enforcement three months before the crime that left Davis dead. Norman said that the Sheriff's department was investigating the store for the sale and distribution of laced potpourri – or "bath salts" or "synthetic marijuana" as they are commonly referred to. Bath salts produce a high – although often an inconsistent high – that is akin to crystal meth.

Norman declined to say whether investigators think there may be a link between the active bath salts investigation and the murder at the tiny, red-roofed store that came amid a heightened law enforcement crackdown on the so-called bath salts, which Norman and other police officials have called dangerously addictive.

He said the sheriff's department – working in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and sheriff's departments in Spartanburg County and Cherokee County had raided

a similar business on U.S. 74 in Shelby called Smoker's Edge back in the spring, as well.

The multi-jurisdictional investigation in that case led to the arrest of the proprietor and the store being closed down, he said.

The drug – or drugs – at the center of such crackdowns presents somewhat of a moving target, both for lawmakers and police officials who have seen their prevalence spike dramatically in recent years nationwide. That's because manufacturers are periodically tweaking the formula to stay just ahead of new laws that are gradually making more of the individual chemicals within it illegal, according to Norman and other police officials who are working to crackdown on their sale.

The newest version at any given time is still intoxicating, but doesn't violate the letter of the law.

"What's your actually buying is potpourri that's been sprayed with some kind of contraband," he said. "From a law enforcement standpoint, it's highly addictive."

it's sat. Aug 24

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Inspections

Cleveland County Health Department inspected local facilities during the period July 22-Aug. 9.

They included: Chat N Nibble 99; Mi Pueblito, 97.5; Subway, Dixon School Road, 98; Subway, York Road, 98; Patrick Senior Center, 99.5; Taco Bell, York Road, 98.5; The Clubhouse, 94; Three Point Market & Grill 94; and Younguns Sports Bar 94; Eaton Cafeteria, 98; Hardees Kings Mountain, 99; Holiday Inn Express Kings Mountain, 97; McDonalds, I-85 Kings Mountain, 95.5; Little Caesars Kings Mountain, 90.5, and Summit Place, 98.