



Pictured is the cast of "Godspell" which opens Friday night by the Kings Mountain Little Theatre at the Joy Performance Center in Kings Mountain. Back row, from left, Tiffany Carper, Clair Lemke, Dori Medlin, and Jenni Hassler. Trey Ross. Sitting: Cody Jones, who has the role of "Jesus" and standing, front, from left, Loren Radford, Sean Whitworth and Josh Carper. Not pictured: Ryan Dever.

Photo by BRYAN HALLMAN

'Godspell' opens Friday at the Joy Theatre

"Godspell," the musical based on the Gospel of St. Matthew, opens Friday night, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. by the Kings Mountain Little Theatre for the first of two weekends of performances at Joy Performance Center in downtown Kings Mountain. Show dates this weekend are Saturday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 9, at 3 p.m. Other play dates are Friday, March 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Harris Funeral Home is sponsoring the show. Reservations can be made by calling the Joy box office at 704-730-9408 or at tickets@kmlt.org. Tickets are \$10 and reservations, now being accepted, must be made at least 24 hours before the production you wish to at-

tend. No same day reservations will be accepted.

Jon Jones is directing the production and Cathy Baker is music director, choreographer is Tiffany Carper, stage manager is Leslie Brown and accompanist is Michael Sisk with musicians Sam Liss on guitar, Jerre Snow on bass guitar and Andy Neisler, percussionist.

Cody Jones has the role of Jesus and other cast members are Josh Carper as John the Baptist/Judas; Tiffany Carper as Sonia; Loren Radford as Peggy; Dori Medlin as Gilmer; Claire Lemke as Robin; Jenni Hassler as Joanne; Sean Whitworth as Herb; Ryan Dever as Jeff; and Trey Ross as Lamar, a combination of adults and teens.

Based on the Gospel of Matthew, the musical centers on a group of followers who are called together to create a community following a very loving and knowledgeable teacher. By sharing stories about living good lives and singing about love, joy, gratitude, judgment and redemption, the group of disparate individuals band together with a common purpose to face challenges and obstacles as they are tested along the way.

Using clowning, pantomime, charades, acrobatics and vaudeville, "Godspell" is a reflection on the life of Jesus with a message of



Trey Ross, Sean Whitworth, and Josh Carper in a scene from 'Godspell'

kindness, tolerance and love. "Godspell" opened on Broadway May 17, 1971 and played in various touring companies and revivals many times since.

One of its songs, "Day by Day" from the original cast album reached No. 13 on the Billboard Pop singles chart. "Since I was directing a musical this season I wanted to choose something that was different," said director Jon Jones. "The message of love, forgiveness, and building of community inherent in "Godspell" spoke to me, it is an ensemble piece with 10 characters on stage for the entire show. It doesn't have the traditional structure that people may be

used to. It has a contemporary feel; even after 40 plus years I wanted to give Kings Mountain a new experience."

The show is entertaining for all ages. With memorable songs, great upbeat dancing, sketches using pantomime, a talented cast and a band consisting of piano, drums, bass guitar and electric/acoustic guitars right on the stage.

"I'd like the audience to feel they've had an experience. I'd like them to connect with the cast and feel that they've been included in the experience and learned or re-learned something that will stick with them for a while. Most important is that they have fun," said the

director.

The KMLT production of Steven Schwartz's "Godspell" has many loyal fans since it appeared in 1971. And Jones says many people may be more familiar with the musicals "Wicked" and "Pippin." "Many people have a "Godspell" story. If they've seen it or been a part of it, it sticks with them."

Do you want to volunteer to be an usher or help with concessions during "Godspell"? Kings Mountain Little Theatre is looking for volunteers on the following dates and times: March 8 and 15 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 9 at 2 p.m. Contact Jim Cloningier, Teresa Williams or Jeff Grigg.



Cody Jones has the role of Jesus in 'Godspell'

Council approves financing for smart meters

Kings Mountain is the first city in the Carolinas to utilize smart meter technology on natural gas, electric and water meters to track utility cost. City Council last Tuesday set in motion the pilot program available free to citizens this summer by awarding financing bid to BB&T Governmental Fi-

nances for the \$2.3 million program which will serve 50% of water meters and 100% of electric and gas meters.

The city serves 4,500 electric customers, 3,000 water customers and 4,200 gas customers. Last Spring it initiated the program by awarding contract to Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to assist city staff in delivering meters to a selected pilot area consisting of 1,200 meters.

"Smart meters will help us continue to maintain some of the lowest utility rates in the Carolinas and we are excited about what this will mean to our customers," says Mayor Rick Murphrey.

The meters, available at no cost to citizens, will en-

able customers to use their own home computers to check their usage at any time, monitor usage as well as get 12 months of historical data. The city hosted an open house displaying the smart grid pilot program and plans more civic programs to show customers how they can track utility usage and learn what is available from the city.

Proposals for financing the program were sent to 12 financial institutions and three responded, according to finance director Beverly Moschler. The payback over a four year period is based on a 1.18% percent interest rate. Electric smart meters are utilized in many utilities across America, but few utilities have applied smart meter technology to water and natural gas along with electric under one communications technology.

Council voted unanimously to award the financing contract and also a contract with Leidos for a 10 year contract agreement for smart meter services. The annual salary of \$54,000 would be shared by the state, \$30,000; Cleveland County Schools, \$15,000; and City

of Kings Mountain, \$9,000, which would be costs of the two months in the summer when not used by the schools.

Shelby Police Department and Cleveland County Sheriff's Department have already agreed, along with their elected officials, to provide increase in staffing under this same agreement. +Mayor Rick Murphrey and Chief of Police Melvin Proctor presented service weapon and resolution of appreciation to Patrol Sgt. Larry Ware, retiring after 20 years and seven months with the City of Kings Mountain. The mayor also recognized with resolutions the 15 year service of Chris Swink, meter reader, and the 10 year service of Library Director Sharon Stack.

In other actions, Council: +heard a request from Adam Forcade of Bessemer City to set a public hearing for a presentation by a member of the N. C. Family Policy Council on the "facts and resources concerning a proposed casino in Kings Mountain." City Council has gone on record as favoring projects that could bring jobs to the area.

+set the date of March 25, 2014 at 6 p.m. for a public hearing to consider a conditional use rezoning request by Carl Spradley to rezone property located at 125 Grand View Drive, also known as Gaston County parcels 217611, 153199, 153202 and 153205 from Residential 10 to Conditional Use rezoning R-20.

+set the date of March 25, 2014 at 6 p.m. for the first required public hearing to consider future Community Development Block Grant applications.

+set the date of March 25, 2014 at 6 p.m. to consider a text amendment to the zoning ordinance- Article VI schedule of District Regulations - Section 6.16 Overlay Districts- Solar Farm Overlay - case No. Z-1-1-14.

+appointed Planning Director Steve Killian to the Isothermal Planning & Development Commission with term expiring April 2017.

+reappointed Lou Ballew

and appointed Brandon McKee to the board of adjustment with terms expiring Dec. 31, 2016.

+approved concealed weapons class at the Kings Mountain Training Center and Firing Range scheduled for Saturday, March 8.

+authorized Arnold's request to hold a non-charity Saturday Bass Tournament at Moss Lake on Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and to hold a non-charity Thursday Night Bass Tournament and a Fish-Off on October 18, 2014 at Moss Lake.

+continued public hearing until March 25 at 6 p.m. on request for conditional use rezoning by Sarah Mauney Evans and Joseph Evans (O'Reilly Automotive Stores, Inc.) for property located at 1201 Shelby Road from R-10 to Conditional Use general business.

+approved amendment to the Ordinances User's Guide - John H. Moss Reservoir Area, Davidson Lake, City Lake, York road, clarifying control of the control strip.

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