MEDITATION



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as

each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in Ephesians 4: 11-16

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus. Amen.

We all have gifts; spiritual gifts that God has blessed us with. Paul talks about these gifts in the fourth chapter of his letter to the Ephesians. God has given us skills and talents, natural tendencies and abilities that aid us in our life journey, in our work and in our leisure. Some of us are great organizers, some handy carpenters; some of us are well-spoken communicators, some are fervent thinkers. What special gifts from God have you discovered in your life?

God also gifts us with abilities and talents that "equip us for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ." This in important work as we Christians strive to share the gospel with others. Paul writes that God has gifted some with the skills and abilities to be apostles, some to be prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and some teachers. We are called to use these gifts so that the entire body of Christ, that is all of God's creation, may be built up and unified to spiritual maturity and understanding, faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Our skills, our abilities - the gifts God has given us for ministry help to grow the body of Christ and the kingdom of God. Therefore, we act as the fertilizer, the catalyst of God's love for creation. We hear in John's gospel that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son for us so that all who believe in him will not perish but have eternal life. In his great love for us, God has gifted us with so many blessings; why wouldn't we want to faithfully respond to his love? We have important ministry to do so that our gifts made be shared

CHURCH NEWS

HARVEST TIME AS-SEMBLY, 904 2nd St., is holding a fellowship meeting at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 28. Everyone is invited to attend.

LENTEN SERV-ICES - Most people find ways to better themselves during Lent. That was the message of Rev. Rex Gibbs, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, to a large crowd of worshipers Wednesday at noon at Boyce Memorial ARP Church.

Lent is the Christian season of preparation for Easter.

Gibbs said that most

people give up bad things for Lent (to get rid of it) but he suggested, "Why not take up something good for Lent?" The Kings Mountain Ministerial Association is sponsoring a series of noon Lenten services at Kings Mountain churches.

First Presbyterian Church is hosting the service Wednesday (today) at noon with Rev. Josh Tucker, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church as speaker.

Rev. James Lockridge, pastor of Second Baptists Church, will speak at the April 2 noon service at East Gold Wesleyan Church.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

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

Anew Beginning Baptist Church 415 Dixon School Rd. 704-473-1372

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 Boyce Memorial ARP Church

Edgemont Drive 704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God 310 Long Branch Rd (KM) Calvary Way Holiness Church

Pastor Clifton Morgan **Carson Memorial Baptist** 262 Sparrow Springs Road

1017 Second Street

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 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



Featured Church of the Week: Westover Baptist Church

El Bethel United Methodist Church 122 El-bethel Road 704-739-9174

Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church 602 Canterbury Road 704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church 1128 S. York Road 704-739-8496

1009 Linwood Road 704-739-8396 Faith Holiness Church

Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.

Faith Baptist Church

Family Worship Center 1818 Shelby Road 704-739-7206

704-739-1997

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 101 W. Mountain Street 704-739-2516

Life of Worship Ministries 405 S. Cherokee St. 704-777-2927

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 vou're looking for, be sure to check next week.



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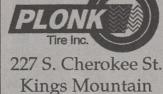
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