

## MEDITATION

It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing. (Galatians 2:20-21)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I used to think that if I were a successful businessman I would have everything I wanted in life. In my understanding, being successful in my career equated to happiness throughout all facets of my life. I was motivated by my work, with the hope that my success in the workplace would allow me to purchase the things I wanted which in turn would make me happy. It's what our society labels as "the American dream" and it motivated me.

Have you ever thought about what motivates you to be a disciple of Jesus; a follower of Christ; a believer of God? What draws you into the faith? What provides you the inspiration to continue day after

day to model your life after Jesus' example in the Scriptures; to make a difference in the lives of others by extending the message of God's never-ending love for his children? The American culture provides for us many things that act as motivators in our lives: money, power, prestige, possessions and social status. These things and others motivate us to work harder, to do more and to further participate in various things in order to get ahead in society or in order to scratch a particular itch in our lives.

In this passage from Paul's letter to the Galatian church, he speaks of that which motivated him to share the message of the gospel with others. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me," Paul writes as he conveys the inspiring force behind his ministry. For Paul, Christ's presence within him motivated him to tell others about Jesus. It is because of his faith in Jesus and because Jesus gave himself through his life, death and resurrection that Paul continued to follow him. Paul's motivation stemmed from his faith in Jesus and

his understanding that Jesus died for his sake and that because of his death, he gives us life eternal. This is what motivated Paul to become a believer and a follower of Christ.

I fear the church today has lost some of the motivating factors that stir up in us the will to continue in the faith. The church has lost some of its inspiration for doing ministry as it becomes more difficult, more time consuming and requires much more effort. We must cling to the motivation that is our faith and that is salvation so that we are never absent from the will to follow Christ. For it is by his love for us that we can even experience the joys and the fruits of our ministry in the first place. Let us hold fast to the motivation that is Christ's love for us this day. Amen.



Josh Tucker  
Pastor  
St. Matthew's  
Lutheran Church

## CHURCH NEWS

### Second Baptist homecoming

Homecoming Sunday Second Baptist Church, 120 Linwood Road, will celebrate Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 21 at a special service at 11 a.m. led by Rev. Joe Riley, pastor of Allen Memorial Baptist Church. Everyone is invited with a special invitation to past members and their families and to any seeking a church home. A covered dish meal will be served after the service. "Take a dish if you are able but plan to have the meal and fellowship with us," said Rev. James Lochridge Jr., pastor.

### Midview Baptist homecoming

Homecoming at Midview Homecoming Day is Sunday, Sept. 21, at Midview Baptist Church on Margrace Road. Rev. Robbie Stinson will speak at the 10 a.m. Worship hour and Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call will present special music beginning at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

### Harvest Baptist homecoming

Homecoming at Harvest Baptist Church, Ware Road, will celebrate Homecoming Day Sunday, Sept. 21 with Sunday School at 10 a.m. and special music by Truly Blessed at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

## 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 AME 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

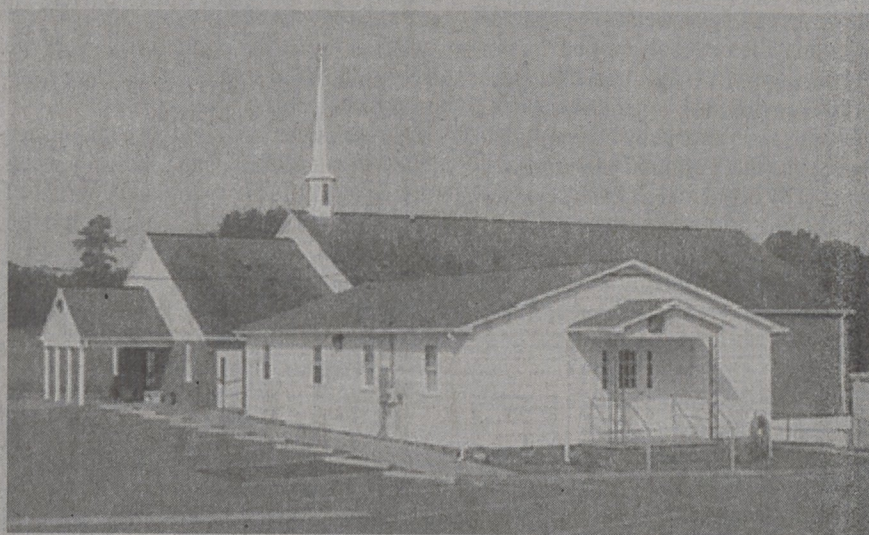
**Shady Grove Baptist Church**  
339 Shady Grove Road  
704-739-8920

**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



### Featured Church of the Week: Christian Freedom Church

**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. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.



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