MEDITATION



Josh Tucker Pastor St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

[Jesus said] "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you

do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him 2) I would be training this new ca-

in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15:12-17

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

I remember in my very first job during high school as a cashier at the local grocery store the customer service manager coming to me with what I thought was a very odd request one day. "Would you be willing to train a new cashier?" she asked me. I had never trained anyone to do a job before, but I had been a cashier for a while and felt like I knew the responsibilities of the job well. As a new cashier in training was assigned to me and the two of us began working together, I remember thinking two very important things: 1) I have a lot to teach this inexperienced cashier and shier to do my job.

In this section of John's gospel Jesus' earthly ministry is coming to an end. We are just a short time away from the Last Supper, from Jesus' betrayal and arrest and just a shot time away from his death and resurrection. I wonder if he had these same two thoughts as he spent his last days with the disciples. I wonder as Jesus walked with the twelve day in and day out if he thought about how much he would need to teach them about being a disciple, about loving God and loving each other. And I wonder if Jesus thought about the fact that he was training the disciples to one day take his job - to go out and preach a message of love, reconciliation and grace. All this time in ministry, Jesus was teaching the disciples to go out and share the good news that our God is a God of love and forgiveness and mercy.

In his final days with his disciples, Jesus chooses these words to share with them: that they love one another just as he has loved them. Jesus goes on to call them chosen friends whom he has appointed to now go out into all the world and bear fruit that will last. And he calls us to do the very same thing when he commands us to go out into the world and make new disciples of every nation. As we go out and make disciples, we must realize two very important things: 1)We have a lot to teach inexperienced Christian disciples; and 2)we are training them to do our job; to go out and make disciples, too. And this is all done to the glory of God through our love for him and for each other. Thanks be to God!

Gospel singing Saturday

Harvest Baptist Church, 144 Ware Road, will sponsor a gospel singing Saturday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. featuring Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call. Pastor Gary Teague II invites the public.

Breakfast Sept. 5

Central United Methodist Church will sponsor a breakfast Saturday, Sept. 5, from 6:30-10 a.m. The "all you can eat" country-style buffet will include eggs, grits, biscuits, toast, bacon, sausage, country ham, livermush and gravy with coffee, juice, milk and soft drinks. The \$6 donation, children 6 and under free, will be applied to the fund for mission trips.

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 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

704-734-1070

Peoples Baptist Church 1010 Groves Street 704-739-0398

Proclaiming the Word Ministries

7011 Cleveland Avenue

Progressive Church of Our Lord 1001 Cleveland Avenue

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



Patterson Grove Baptist

301 Oak Grove Rd., Kings Mountain

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 (704) 739-2187

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, SC 864-839-1873

WACO **New Testament Missionary Baptist Church** 2103 Capernium Rd



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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602 Slater Street

828-381-4777

Church

120 Linwood Road

Shady Grove Baptist Church

339 Shady Grove Road

St. Paul United Methodist

Sunrise Baptist Church

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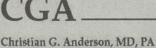


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