

Laurinburg District women reach out in Christmas spirit



TANYA SHAY YOUNG
Special to The News-Journal

Friday, December 19, the Laurinburg District Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary Society celebrated Christmas by hosting the first Laurinburg District Christmas Party.

Churches from across the district, where the Reverend Dr. Milton H. Williams Sr. is the presiding elder, reached out in a show of love and Christmas cheer as needy families were blessed with gifts, food, and friendship.

The project came as a vision to Dr. Gloria G. Williams, Missionary president; "I don't know why God gave this vision. But look at the response."

Each church was asked to turn in the name of a family that would not otherwise have a good Christmas without the help of the church. These names were then re-distributed by matching the size of the family with the size of the churches that participated. The family, its sponsoring church and its provider church were then brought together for the exchange-

ing of gifts at the party. Families came from across the district and ranged in size from one person to eight people.

The program, presided over by Clariace Cromartie, conference director of Missionary Education, opened with a congregational singing of "O come All Ye Faithful." District officers came forward with scripture and prayer and several readings on the Christmas season and its true meaning. Then Drs. Milton H. and Gloria G. Williams guided the gift presentations.

In addition to receiving several gift packages, each family also received a bag of Hale Indian River fruit and a gift certificate to Food Lion to purchase their holiday meal. This, however, was not the end of the relationship.

"This is about more than just Christmas," said Dr. Gloria Williams. "It is for our churches to follow these families today, tomorrow, and the next day. This is about bringing families to Christ."

The party concluded with fellowship and a shared meal by all who were present.



Christian School celebrates birth of Jesus

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The Laurinburg District Christian School held its Christmas chapel program to celebrate the birth of Jesus Friday, December 19. The chapel program was well attended by parents and patrons as the school announced an "everyone is invited to attend" invitation over the local radio station.

Mrs. Cromartie's K4 and K5 classes opened with the pledges to the American and Christian flags and the Bible. They also showed off their newly learned skills of all alphabetical and phonetical sounds.

Miss Bratcher's classes then presented scriptures by spelling the word Christmas with emphasis on the last letter for Savior. Chris Crawford, a third grader, prayed the morning prayer. The Rev. Martin's classes displayed their state projects as a part of their history class. They also portrayed characters from their history studies.

The males presented a rendition of "Silent Night" by The Temptations and featured Spencer Whittington, Lance Hair and Paris Troy as soloists.

The Reverends Dr. Otis T. McMillan, Ray P. Owens and Sarah

Kelly conducted the Christmas Communion service for the school. One-hundred-twenty-five persons participated.

Nelson Corbin, a representative of the public relations department of Mountaire Poultry, was on hand to make a replacement to the school of

computers that were donated by his firm. The presentation was made to Drs. Milton H. and Gloria G. Williams, headmaster and curriculum specialist respectively. Mrs. LaMaurice Crawford, a district officer and parent of the school, coordinated the gift and the presentation.



Raeford Yard of the Month
Raeford Yard of the Month for December chosen by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce belongs to Dale and Mazelle Connell, 109 Magnolia Street.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Editor's note: Items should be submitted for the community calendar by noon Friday before the publication date. You are asked to keep in mind that paste up of the calendar page is done on Monday before publication. Also, if an ongoing item has been discontinued or needs to be changed, you are asked to contact the editor as soon as possible.

December 28

HOKE'S 9TH ANNUAL KWANZAA Celebration is Sunday, December 28 at J. W. Turlington Auditorium. Activities will begin at 3 p.m. and end with a potluck dinner at 6:50 p.m. North Carolina touring artist Obakunle Akimlana will be the showcase performer.

Ongoing events

MILI PRONG HOUSE is open on the first Sunday of each month at 2 to 5 p.m. Guided tours are offered. The historical home is located on Edinburg Road. **HOKE COUNTY YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES** hosts a victim's support group on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 4-5 p.m. at the office located beside the post office on West Elwood Avenue.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS OF THE CAPE FEAR invite playwrights, writers, and actors to join them in a new forum. They meet the first Wednesday at the main library in Fayetteville from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 425-0970.

INT'L. F. & A.M. SONS OF DAVID LODGE meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays at the lodge located at 2606 Laurinburg Road.

RETIRED TEACHERS OF HOKE COUNTY meet at 3 p.m. in the Hoke County Library the third Wednesday of each month.



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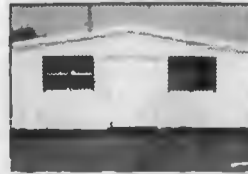
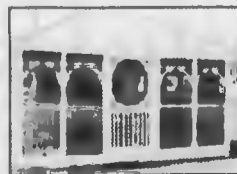
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*WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Hoke Yard of the Month
The home of Linda Brock at 8700 Calloway Road in western Hoke is the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce's choice of Yard of the Month for December.

