



DECORATE CHRISMON TREE - Members of Faith Baptist Church recently decorated their first Chrismon tree. Members of the Woman's Missionary Union and the Acteens participated. Left to right, front row, Kristi Garriepy, Holly Parker, Pearl Parker, Pam Ruppe, and Amber Lyons. Back row, Pat Blanton, Nicole Martin, Paulette Burns, Nell Head and Margaret Dixon.

Obituaries

WOODROW LAUGHTER

Woodrow W. Laughter, 76, of 810 4th Street, Kings Mountain, died December 21, 1992 at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte.

A native of Catawba County, he was the son of the late Christopher and Cora Hull Laughter, and was retired as a system operator for the City of Kings Mountain. He was a member of Eastside Baptist Church where he served as a Sunday School teacher and was a former Deacon.

He is survived by his wife, Pearlne Smith Laughter; three sons, Rev. Jerry Laughter of Winston-Salem, Wayne Laughter of Charlotte and Keith Laughter of Kings Mountain; three brothers, Arvil Laughter of Gastonia, Clyde Laughter of Seabring, Florida and Rev. Harvey Laughter of Hickory; two sisters, Violet Dixon of Kings Mountain and Mamie Lee Stone of Shelby; and six grandchildren.

The funeral will be conducted at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Eastside Baptist Church by the Rev. Dale Thornburg. Burial will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family received friends from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday night at Harris Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Eastside Baptist Church, York Road, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086; or to Hospice of Cleveland County, 201 W. Marion St., Shelby, N.C. 28150.

HAROLD 'LUCO' FALLS

Harold Louis "Luco" Falls, 67, of 808 McGowan Road, Shelby, died December 20, 1992 at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

A native of Kings Mountain, he was the son of the late Marion Chalmers and Ruth Long Falls, and was employed as a Prison Correction Officer for the State of North Carolina. He was a member of Second Baptist Church in Shelby, Past Commander of Otis D. Green Post 155 American Legion, and a member of the N.C. Law Enforcement Association. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Gertrude Scroggs Falls; one son, Greg Falls of Seattle, Washington; two brothers, Marion C. Falls Jr. of Glen Bernie, MD and Clyde Falls of Kings Mountain; and three sisters, Norma Bridges of Kings Mountain, Pratt Falls of Miami, Florida and Lucille Bridges of Lexington.

The funeral will be conducted by Rev. Kenny Ashley Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Second Baptist Church in Shelby. Burial will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family received friends from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at Harris Funeral Home.

SONJA WELCH

Sonja Mae Welch, 53, of 321 Waters St., died December 18, 1992 at home.

A native of Shelby, she was wife of Charles Welch Sr. and daughter of the late John H. Moss and mother of the late Charles Welch Jr. She was a homemaker.

Surviving, in addition to her husband, are one son, Kelly Welch

of Kings Mountain; one daughter, Connie Harrelson of Kings Mountain; her mother, Macie Woody Moss of Shelby; two brothers, Randall Moss of Shelby and Sherrill Moss of Georgia and four grandchildren.

The graveside service was conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. by Dr. Gene Ware and Bill Amos in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

ALBERT HAMBRIGHT

Albert Lee Hambright, 58, of 427 Maple Avenue, Grover, died December 17, 1992 at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

A native of Grover, he was the son of Curtis Lee and Adelia Turner Hambright of Grover. He was employed as a loom fixer at Minette Mills of Grover and was a member of Shiloh Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Beryl Ross Hambright of Grover; one son, Gregory Hambright of Hickory; three daughters, Kim Haney of Grover, Lisa Forrester of Charlotte and Linda Hambright of Chapel Hill; and one brother, Gary Curtis Hambright of Kings Mountain.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. John Bridges and James Sanders Saturday at 3 p.m. at Harris Chapel. Burial was in Grover Cemetery.

BOBBY GENE WEBB

BLACK MOUNTAIN - Bobby Gene Webb, 62, Blue Ridge Road, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 1992, in Hospice Solace Center.

A native of Kings Mountain, he was the son of the late Guy and Katy Hopper Webb of Black Mountain, formerly of Kings Mountain. He was the former owner of Webb's Package Store in Black Mountain and, at the time of his death, he was a machinist at Brisco. He was a member of the National Guard and a member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, Asheville Chapter.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Crain Webb; a daughter, Holly Webb of Leicester; a sister, Pat Iwaniec of Fort Myers, Fla.; a granddaughter; and a great-granddaughter.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at Penland and Sons Funeral Home, Swannanoa chapel. The Rev. Bob Ballard officiated.

Memorials may be made to Mountain Area Hospice, P.O. Box 16, Asheville 28802.

CARD OF THANKS

In memory of Jim Bolin. We wish to express our gratitude to the wonderful people of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County for the many acts of love and compassion shown to us during our grief at losing a loved one.

Many thanks to all of you for the beautiful flowers, wreaths, memorials and cards. May God richly bless each of you and return double measure for your acts of love and compassion. Thank you.

Sincerely, Kathryn, Ken, Esther and Matthew Bolin.

Rev. Collins leaving KM Baptist

"Lord, we don't need a church that big," said Rev. Bob Collins of his first response to a call to pastor the 1200 member Oak Grove Baptist Church of Richmond, VA.

After praying about the call, he said he became enthusiastic about the challenge to lead the 95-year-old church in a building program. He said the Oak Grove Church moved from the Inner City 20 years ago to a community which anticipates tremendous growth by the year 2000.

Collins announced his resignation to Kings Mountain Baptist Church December 13 at the morning worship service in which he told the Christmas story of how the wise men following the star to the baby Jesus. Using the analogy, he told his congregation of 250 members that for nine months he had seen how God was leading him to another church in the Chesterfield Community of Richmond.

The popular Kings Mountain minister is only the fourth pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church in 30 years. He came to Kings Mountain in September 1985 from Fort Worth, Texas, where he had been teacher and director of the Single Adult Ministry and guest supply preacher at Wedgewood Baptist Church for five years. Before that, he was minister of activities and associate pastor of Congress Baptist Church in Austin, and prior to that had served as Minister of Youth at Harwood Terrace Baptist Church in Hurst, at Ross Avenue Baptist Church in Dallas and at Kessler Park Baptist Church, Dallas.

During his tenure here, the youth membership of the church and the children's ministry has grown under his leadership. Children's choirs and RA and GA programs for youth are active organizations. A bus ministry is another vital part of the church growth.

Mrs. Collins, the former Patti Haines, a talented musician, sings in the church choir and has also been active in the community. She has been office manager of AZDEL in Shelby for five years. They have one son, Keith, a student at Gaston College.

"It will take us awhile to adjust going back to a big city," said Collins, who said the small town lifestyle of Kings Mountain pleases the family.

Collins has worn many hats dur-



REV. BOB COLLINS

ing his 25-year ministry. A former professional photographer, he worked his way through college and seminary. As a seminary student he also taught high school mathematics in Arlington, Texas.

After graduating from the University of Texas in 1971 with a degree in psychology, he said he felt the call to the ministry. He graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in May 1974 and earned his Master of Divinity degree in May 1985. He was ordained in Austin, Texas in 1973.

"It's clear that God called us to Kings Mountain," he said, explaining that a former member of his Single Adult Ministry Singles Program moved to Cleveland County from Texas and called him about the vacancy in the pulpit at the local church. Another former member from that same group moved to Virginia and called him about the Oak Grove Church and asked him to come for a visit.

Collins, 46 on Christmas Day, played sports in high school. Six feet five inches tall, he stands out on the volleyball field where he has coached a girls varsity team the past two years. He has also coached high school basketball, football, and softball teams. Besides photography, his hobby is golf.

In Kings Mountain, Collins has been active in the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association and on the KM District School Health Council four years. He was publicity chairman for Cleveland County Project Graduation and lay evangelism

school consultant for the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. He served as chairman of the evangelism committee for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association and currently is the association seminar extension chairman.

Moving to Virginia will take the Collins family further from their relatives. Bob's parents live in Oklahoma City, Okla and he has one brother in Concord and one brother in Tucson, AZ. Mrs. Collins' family resides in Dallas.

Collins will preach his last sermon December 27 and his first sermon in Richmond on January 10.

"We have been blessed to know and work among so many wonderful people," said Collins.

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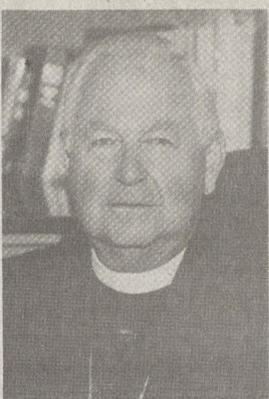
Rev. Edgar Cooper retires after 47 years as minister

"My greatest service is being willing to listen to people," says Kings Mountain native Rev. Edgar M. Cooper, on his retirement after 47 years as pastor of New Hanover Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville, PA.

Cooper, son of the late Vera Mauney and Edgar C. Cooper and brother of Mrs. George Plonk and the late Jacob Cooper, was honored as Pastor Emeritus with a recent retirement testimonial attended by Dr. and Mrs. George Plonk and Mrs. Eleanor Cooper Scharf of Kings Mountain.

The New Hanover church dates back nearly 300 years. Every Saturday evening at 5 p.m. the chimes ring out, singing a memory, harkening back to a time when the population was sparse, ministers were scarce and bells were a means of communication.

Cooper said that in preindustrial times the bells were rung to let parishioners know services would be held on Sunday. If no minister was available, the bells didn't chime. The church bell still rings to celebrate and keep alive the historical traditions of the church.



REV. EDGAR COOPER

Cooper is only the congregation's second pastor this century. At 70, he said the reason is that the church's rich history firmly binds pastors to the site.

"It's a unique and wonderful congregation steeped in history and I've felt the vibrations of the

See Cooper, 3-A

Especially at Holiday Time...

...It's nice to know you're there. A very joyous season to all, along with our thanks.

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