

Religion

Bridges, who helped organize church, looks forward to Eastside homecoming

Woodrow Bridges, 82, said he felt like a child with a new toy 45 years ago when he and four other men from Second Baptist Church and their families organized Eastside Baptist Church.

"I still believe that with faith, prayer and work that anything can be accomplished," said Bridges, who's excited about Eastside's Homecoming Day on Sunday.

On the wall of his home are framed newspaper clippings which show his then 12-year-old son Larry holding hands with Carolyn Alexander, then 13, as they raced from the old frame one-room building to the handsome brick church on York Road for the first service in 1951.

Bridges recalled that one of the first challenges of the preacher that Sunday was that "now that we have a new church let's begin a new habit and start seating from the front back instead of from the back to the front."

"We still have folks to take the back pew but we accepted the challenge that our hardest task would be to let our lives outshine our church," he said.

Bridges and his wife, Vera Sellers Bridges, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary last Friday. They met at Second Baptist Church when she was 15 years old and it was love at first sight, according to Bridges who married her just before her 16th birthday.

Over the years Bridges said he had attended several other churches in the area but his heart was always at Eastside.

Rev. Dale Thornburg, the present pastor, said the community is invited to share in the Homecoming celebration on Sunday, including the 11 a.m. worship hour and lunch in the fellowship hall. Special music will be arranged by Elizabeth Hill and Nellie Hovis.

"They Left The Old for the New" was the caption over the newspaper articles which told of the church's beginnings with Rev. R. L. Chaney as the first pastor in the one-room frame building.

Resurrection teachers honored Sunday morning

Sunday School teachers at Resurrection Lutheran Church were recognized during the morning worship hour Sunday on "Teacher Appreciation Day."

Recognized were Kim DeVane, Dee Dee Gardner, Karen Lineberger, Lynn Witherspoon, Deborah Bridges, Thea Delaney, Annie Smithwick, Barbara Kies, Barbara Tackett, Kathy James, Jan Sabetti, Freida McGinnis, Barbara Bridges, Jane Alexander, Beth Smith, Mike Bennett, Twyla Robinson, Pam Cheshire, Kathy Goforth, Pam McGinnis, Mark Smith, Betty Anne Deal, Essie Marie Foster, Carolyn McGinnis, John McGinnis and Doyle Campbell.

Maxine Bennett, Vickie Rhyne, Retha Blackwell and Connie Bell, nursery workers, were also honored.

Reg Alexander entertained at the Sunday School Rally Day prior to the teacher recognition ceremony.



Woodrow Bridges, who helped found Eastside Baptist Church, is looking forward to the 45th anniversary and Homecoming on Sunday.

Kings Mountain native Bridges, son of the late Giles and Alice Bridges, was reared on a mill village on Walker Street and worked in the mill almost all his life, beginning as a boy of 14 for \$5.56 and then \$12 a week. He lost his right thumb to a shearing machine at a Shelby cloth room and that kept him out of World War II but he did his part at home working in the shipyards.

He retired from Glen Raven Mills but he also formerly worked

at the old Kings Mountain Manufacturing plant and at the Margrace Mill, among others.

"Wood" and his wife raised four boys, William Lawrence Bridges, who died at 17 in a tragic railroad accident; Larry and Darrell Bridges who live near their parents in the Midpines Community; and Gene Bridges of Bessemer City. They also have eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Bridges attended the Little Red Schoolhouse on the Dilling Mill as

a child and the old Central School.

Now that he doesn't drive a car, Bridges still goes to church every Sunday with his family and likes to go to the library. An avid reader of the Bible and other books, he likes to read the good news columns in the daily and weekly newspapers.

He and his wife celebrated their wedding anniversary quietly last week. He bought her a beautiful card.

"In this day and time it's hard to believe that a couple could stay together for 62 years but we love each other more and treasure our time together as the years go by," he said.

Resurrection Luther League organizes

The Luther League of Resurrection Lutheran Church kickoff the new season of activities on Sunday at a cookout after the morning worship hour.

Members from grades 3-6 will welcome Lyndsay Horne, Luke Logan, Michael Sabetti, Katie Smithwick, Donna Tackett and Charlie Witherspoon as new members.

After luncheon, the group will play volleyball.

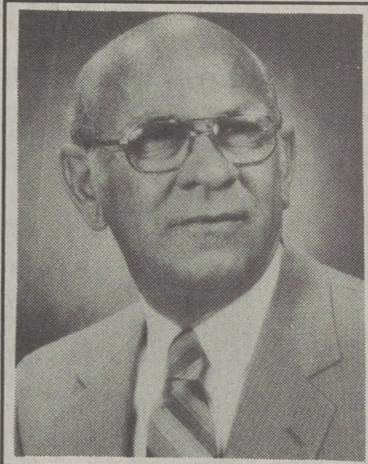


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A message from
JIM CHILDERS
Candidate For
Mayor of Kings Mountain

As the date of the election approaches, I would like to share with you the voter my Platform. My Platform consist of short term and long term projects.

Short Term:

1. Work with City Council to lift the so called gag rule at the city council meetings. Every citizen should have the right to speak if there is a question or concern the citizen has.
2. Clean up and beautify the downtown area and around the entrances into the city. We may need to hire an additional employee or two but it will be worth the cost.
3. Work with the city council, beautification committee and Consortium For Progress, on dressing up the downtown area by way of banners, flower beds, paintings of various city properties including the downtown flag pole. Daily display of the flag, work to take away the sterile look along the concrete bumper wall on the railroad side parking on Battleground Ave. and work within the General Statutes to help the downtown area merchants in the upgrading of the appearance of their properties.
4. Install liner in basin at Pilot Creek Treatment Plant in order to operate plant at full capacity.

I feel these goals can be reached in a reasonably short time, and as your Mayor I will work toward these goals.

Long Term Goals:

1. Study and planning of a Hydro Generating Plant. Once in place this plant can save the city \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year.
2. Additional water transmission line from the treatment plant into the city. At present time there is only one transmission line from the treatment plant into the city that we depend on for our water. If that line goes down what will we do for water? I realize we have storage tanks but once those tanks are empty, how do you refill them during the time the transmission line is out of service?
3. Dye color removable system:
The EPA is in the process of coming out with regulations requiring that color from industrial dye be removed before returning the water to our creeks and streams. We have several industrial dyers within our city that the regulations will effect. Rather than each company having it's own facility, I would urge the city council to approve a special committee to with industry in order for the city to put into place the program and facility to treat the dye color, with the city operating the system and charging industry per gallon for product treated. I feel this will be a long term income for the city.
4. Expand the Gas System:
I feel with increased allocations we can expand the gas system. Without additional allocations I would not be in favor of expansion if it meant taking away from our present customers.
5. Annexation:
I will be in favor of annexation after a complete study is made to where and when.

I know and realize these are long range and expensive projects, I also understand that until the city's financial position improves and the credit rating increases there is not a lot we can do other than begin the studies and planning for these projects, but you never finish a project unless you first plan and start that project.

I am like the average citizen in that at times I am more interested in when my garbage was picked up, if the street light is out of order, if I do not have hot water pressure, and the everyday things I expect from the city. This is the way it should be. The utilities, revenue producing projects, fire protection, police protection and all the other services for the citizen becomes the responsibility of the mayor and the City Council. As your Mayor I will accept my part of the responsibility for the future growth of the city.

Jim Childers

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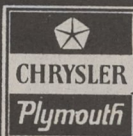
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