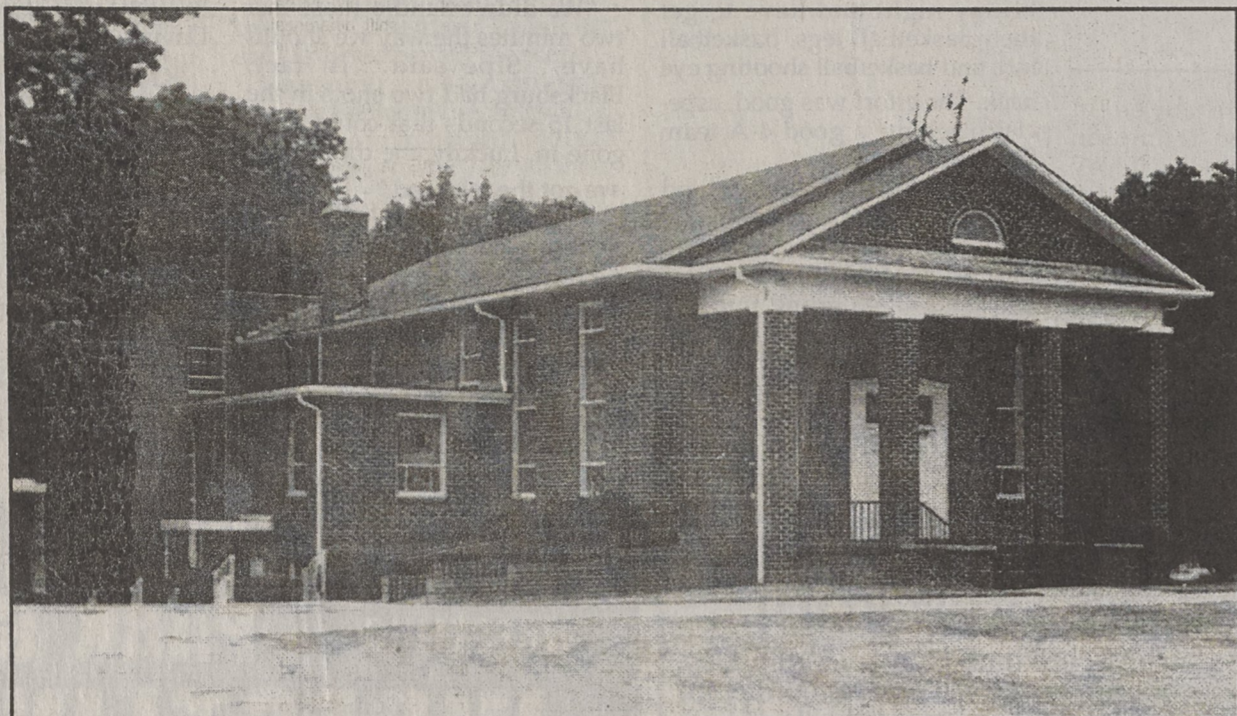


# Visit God's House

THIS WEEKEND



Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain

## Church Briefs

### Special services

■ First Presbyterian Church, annual Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service, 9 p.m. Thursday, December 24. Public invited.

■ The McClendon's of Concord will be in concert Sunday, Dec. 27 at 11 a.m. at East Shelby Church of God, 1921 East Marion Street. Love offering will be received. The church will also have a gospel singing featuring local singers at the 6 p.m. service. For more information, call the church office at 482-2131.

■ East Shelby Church of God will have a Bible study, "Overcoming Hurt Through Forgiveness," each Wednesday at 7 p.m. through February. Outline and study booklets are available. For more information call the church office at 482-2131.

■ Gospel singing Thursday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., West Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, 450 S. Myrtle School Road, Gastonia. Featured singers are The Songsters Quartet, Rex Smith, and others. Call 867-6018 or 864-9185 for information and directions.

■ New Year's Eve celebration, "Way of the Cross," 226 Broad Street, Shelby, December 31, 7 p.m. Preachers Roy Clark and Scott Jestan. Singing by The Dovers, The Fletchers, and New Joy. Public invited.

### Fund raiser

■ Lighthouse Pentecostal Holiness Church, 420 Branch Street, Kings Mountain, is having a can food drive for the Homeless Shelter. Donations will be delivered to the shelter on January 4, 1999. Those wishing to make a donation should take it to the church on Wednesday from 6:15-9 p.m. or Sunday from 9:45-1 p.m. or 5:45-9 p.m. Those who cannot take the food on those days may call the church secretary at 730-1878 or 734-1106 and make arrangements. Coats, jackets and blankets are also needed.



HOTTER THAN HOT - The yoyo craze is upon us again. John's Hobby Shop manager Glenn Harris (left) shows Dustin Walsh the finer points of stringing his new yoyo.

## The yoyo is making a Christmas comeback

By Alan Hodge

models are Sonic Spin, Tiger Shark, and the Spin O Matic.

One of the hottest toys on store shelves this holiday season is also the oldest. Going back a thousand years to China, the yoyo is making its rounds once again. Originally two ivory discs suspended on a silken thread, the yoyos of today feature the latest technology to make them spin for up to 20 seconds per throw.

Using centrifugal force technology, some yoyo models can spin twice as long as the old wooden models. Don't throw those old yoyos away though.

The yoyo was first used as a hunting weapon. Around the year 1500 it made its way to Europe. In the 1920s an American named Donald Duncan turned the yoyo into a toy enjoyed by millions. Duncan YoYos are still one of the top selling brands.

"The yoyos we played with 20 or 30 years ago are collectors items now," said Harris. "Some models are quite valuable."

All of you middle aged folks will probably recall playing with Duncan yoyos back in middle school. Don't look now, but those same school halls are once again seeing flying discs and whirring strings. Cash registers at stores stocking yoyos are ringing like never before.

The new yoyos are pretty pricey too. Though a simple wooden model can still be had for a few dollars, advanced types can go for fifty bucks and up.

"YoYos have been our top selling toy this season," said manager Glenn Harris of John's Toy and Hobby Shop in Gastonia. "We've sold a lot of them to dads who plan on playing with them. Some of the top

Young Dustin Walsh of Gastonia is just one of thousands who've caught the yoyo bug this year.

"I want to learn all the tricks," said Walsh. "I've already torn one yoyo up trying to learn them. It takes a lot of practice."

How long will the yoyo craze hang on? Harris doesn't see it easing up any time soon.

"Yoyos started selling well around Thanksgiving last year," said Harris. "I don't really see a lot of letup in sales even after Christmas."

Like the hula hoop, the yoyo fad is something similar to that old saying, "what goes around, comes around."



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry Director Becky Lineberger (left) presents Carrie Martin with a plaque naming her 1998 Volunteer of the Year. Martin has worked in the food bank for ten years.

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