

ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
The new Family Life Center at St. Peter's Baptist Church in Grover will be the location of the community Thanksgiving dinner on November 28.

Debt-free St. Peter Baptist to provide Thanksgiving meal for needy persons

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The members of St. Peter Baptist Church in Grover finished paying off the debt for their new Family Life Center this November.

Now they want to give back to the community by hosting a Thanksgiving meal for individuals who may not have it otherwise. The meal will include turkey, ham, and all the trimmings.

"We're going to have an open kitchen that will provide for those people who need it," said Mary Accor, the head of special occasions at St. Peter Baptist Church.

"I work in the government," said Accor, who is a County Commissioner. "There are a lot of struggling people. It will take a lot more agencies than just the Department of Social Services to help them. There's something we can do all the time for somebody."

Accor describes her pastor, Rev. William Thompson, as a man with a vision for both the church and the community.

"Our pastor has a vision that our church will be a church that never sleeps," said Accor.

"I don't think the church ought to ever be closed," said Thompson. "It ought to be user friendly to the worshippers. When they want to worship, they should be able to do that."

Thompson expressed a special concern about those people who work second or third shift and get off work at

strange times. He said he would like to give them the option of stopping by the church whenever they get off work instead of going straight home.

"I want to be there when people need me," he said, "Not when I want to be there."

Thompson, who will turn 57 at the end of the year, said that he has always been a bivocational pastor, spending the last 24 years working for the Freightliner Corporation. Although he said he loves his job at Freightliner, he said it has always been his dream to be a full-time pastor. At the end of the year, Thompson says he will retire from his job at Freightliner and finally go into full-time ministry to begin to fulfill his vision at St. Peter's.

"I've been waiting so long to do this," he said. "It's like I've just been called to preach."

Now that the Family Life Center is

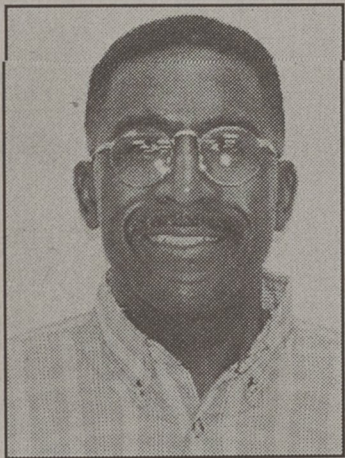
paid off, he said he should be able to spend all of his time concentrating on the people and not the financial situation. The debt of \$800,000 was originally supposed to take approximately five years to pay, but Thompson said it was paid off in a few months.

Since the opening of the Family Life Center, which has a commercial kitchen, classrooms, conference rooms, and a basketball court, in March, the church has hosted several community events. The Youth Explosion drew approximately 600 youth and adults from the surrounding area, said Thompson.

According to Accor, other events have included an "Everybody's Birthday" party, where everyone brought a covered dish and decorations for the table of their birthday month, and an open gym for youth and adults who want to play basketball on Sunday evenings from 4-6:30. "We consider everyone our brothers and sisters," said Accor. "We want to say that we're here for you and we want to help you. Jesus said, 'Come just as you are,' and that's how we accept people, just as they are."

"That's what we've been called to do," she said. The dinner will take place on Thursday, November 28, at 11:30 a.m. The church vans will be available to transport people to and from the church, if necessary.

For more information, contact Rev. William Thompson at 704-734-1122, or call the church at 704-937-9136.



REV. THOMPSON

Preaching Mission slated at Central United Methodist

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Central United Methodist Church of Kings Mountain will be hosting its annual fall Preaching Mission November 15-17. This year's speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Ken Carter of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem.

"He's down home. He tells a good story and gives a good message," said Jim Tate, the chairman of the evangelism committee at Central UMC, of Dr. Carter.

Dr. Carter has written two

books, *The Pastor as Steward* and *The Gifted Pastor*, as well as numerous articles, poems and sermons, which have been published in prestigious publications like the *Upper Room* and *The North Carolina Christian Advocate*.

Dr. Carter will both lead a Bible study on spiritual gifts, from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, and preach at the Sunday evening service at Central UMC this weekend.

Dr. Carter's wife is also a United Methodist minister, as well as an interior designer and the mother of the couple's two teenage daughters, Liz and Abby.

The Preaching Mission will also include a pipe organ and Celtic harp concert on Friday evening and music by the Rogers Sisters for thirty minutes before the Sunday 10:50 a.m. worship service.

According to Tate, last weekend, the Central UMC led an Appalachian Folk Mass, which is a service of prayer and preparation for the preaching mission.

For more information on the preaching mission, call the church at 704-739-2471. A schedule of events is available on the church's website, www.kmcm.org.

BIRTHDAY

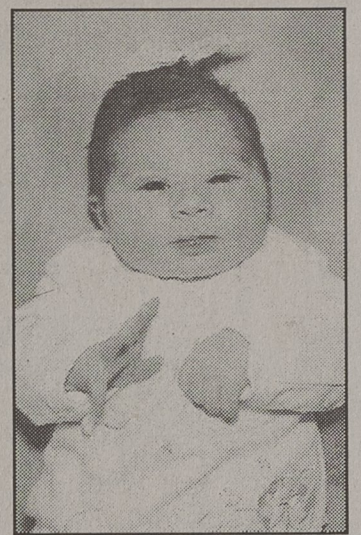
Laura Leigh Dawes born October 11

Laura Leigh Dawes was born October 11, 2002 at Mount Carmel Hospital in Columbus, OH. She weighed seven pounds, three ounces and was 19 inches long.

Parents are Brian and Jada Williams Dawes of Washington Courthouse, OH.

Maternal grandparents are Austin and Donna Williams of Kings Mountain. Paternal grandparents are Robert and Carol Dawes of Ohio.

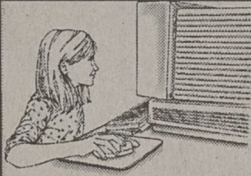
Great-grandparents are Lee and Margaret Payne, and Margaret Williams, all of Kings Mountain.



LAURA DAWES

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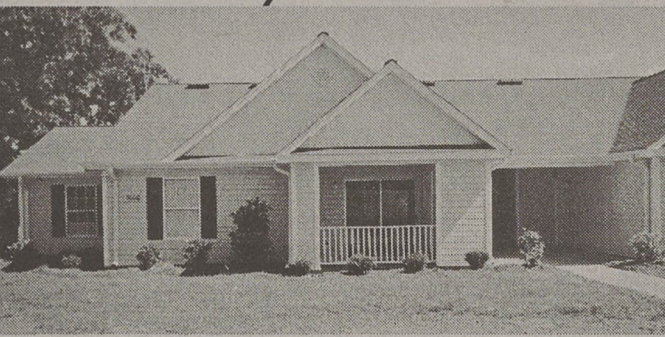
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Fall "Reaching" Mission Central United Methodist Church



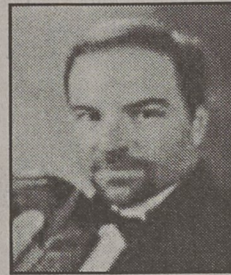
Dr. Ken Carter
The Rogers Sisters



Marc Holcomb
Jay Oden & James Smith



Tom White
Rhett Barnwell



113 S. Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain 28086 704-739-2471

November 15, 16, 17, 2002
November 15, 2002
6:30pm Concert
Celtic Harp and Pipe Organ
Music by Tom White & Rhett Barnwell
7:00pm Service
Dr. Ken Carter
November 16, 2002
10:00am-12:00pm
Bible Study with Dr. Carter
"Spiritual Gifts"
7:00pm Service
Dr. Ken Carter
Special Music by
Marc Holcomb
8:00pm-10:00pm
Youth Concert & Rally
Music by Marc Holcomb
November 17, 2002
8:45am Praise Service
10:30am Concert
Music by The Rogers Sisters
11:00am Service
Dr. Ken Carter
12:00pm Covered Dish Lunch
6:30pm Concert
Piano & Pipe Organ
Jay Oden & James Smith
7:00pm Service Dr. Ken Carter