

## OBITUARIES

**JOHN CALDWELL**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - John Henry Caldwell, 80, 303 El Bethel Road, died February 22, 2006 at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Dewey T. and Leona



Jenkins Caldwell. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Billy Eugene Caldwell, and sister Arilla C.

Hughes

He was a member of Oak View Baptist Church where he served as Trustee, Deacon and Sunday School teacher. He also served as choir director for 38 years and he was a member of the Baptist Men.

He was a graduate of Bethany High School. He was retired from Minette Mills after 14 years of service and he was employed for 37 years at Margrace Mills, Kings Mountain, where he was plant manager.

He served in the United States Army during World War II and was a Prisoner of War. He was drafted at the age of 18 in November 1943. He took basic training at Camp Walters, TX and was stationed at Fort Meade, MD.

He went to Europe where he was assigned to the Anti-Tank Company, 349th Infantry, 88th Division commanded by General W. Clark.

Pvt. Caldwell was captured by the Germans on October 8, 1944 in Northern Italy. He survived Stalag 7A in Mooseburg, Germany by secret prayer meetings held with 49 other captured Americans.

On April 30, 1945 he was liberated as a Prisoner of War. On his 20th birthday June 6, 1945, John Caldwell came home from the war.

He received the P.O.W. medal as well as other honors. He was promoted the Purple Heart but never received it.

John always said it was the Lord who was with him during those difficult days and now he will be forever with the Lord.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred Childers Caldwell of Kings Mountain; sons Johnnie Reed Caldwell and wife Diane of Kings Mountain, and David C. Caldwell and wife Teresa of Kings Mountain; sister Faye Payseur of Kings Mountain; grandchildren Bill "Eddie" Parker and wife Dorene of Kings Mountain, Johnnie Reed Caldwell II of Kings Mountain, Kimberly E. Davis of Ft. Pierce, FL, Rev. Carey Caldwell and wife Amanda of Kings Mountain, Wesley Grant Caldwell of Kings Mountain, and John Hunter Caldwell of Kings Mountain; and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral with full military honors was held Saturday, February 25, 2006 at 11 a.m. at Oak View Baptist Church. Rev. James Billings, Rev. Carey Caldwell and Rev. Curtis Bundy officiated.

Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Oak View Baptist Church "Bus

Fund," 1517 York Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**BRENDA FOSTER**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN -

Brenda McAbee Foster, 63, 805 Second Street, left for her heavenly home after an extended illness on February 25, 2006 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.



She was born in Cleveland County on January 29, 1943. She was the daughter of the late James Russell McAbee and Josephine Beam McAbee. She was also preceded in death by her brother, Tommy McAbee.

She was a retired teacher's assistant after 27 years at North Elementary School, Kings Mountain, and she was a life-long member of Second Baptist Church where she served as the Preschool Children's Church Director for over 20 years.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Bill R. Foster of Kings Mountain; son John Foster and wife Erin of Kings Mountain; daughter Vonda Carpenter and husband George of Kings Mountain; brothers Don McAbee and wife Helen of Kings Mountain, Danny McAbee and wife Wendy of Kings Mountain, and Kenny McAbee of Kings Mountain; sisters Sue Holmes and husband Gene of Cherryville, Cheryl Pearson and husband Ron of Kings Mountain, Wanda Wilson and husband Bill of Kings Mountain, and Wilma Pearson of Kings Mountain; sister-in-law Reba Baucom McAbee of Gastonia; and four grandchildren, Lindsey and Kaitlyn Carpenter and Collin and Caroline Foster.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Eugene Land and Lynn Crouch at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at Second Baptist Church. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a scholarship fund established at First National Bank, 300 W. Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 in the memory of this loving and Christ-like wife, mother and sister. The scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior in need of assistance to attend secondary schooling.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**MARGARET BLACK**  
BLACKSBURG, SC -

Margaret Sansing Black, 90, of Spring Arbor, Rock Hill, SC, formerly of Blacksburg, died February 24, 2006 at Piedmont Medical Center, Rock Hill.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Albert B. Sansing and Gertrude Bratton Sansing. She was wife to the late John H. Black.

She is survived by her sons, Billy R Black and wife Grace of Wateree, SC and Jerry R. Black and wife Sylvia of Blacksburg, SC; brother J.B. Crook Jr. of Blacksburg, SC; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren

and one great-great grandchild.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Vernon Craig at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 26, 2006 at Antioch Baptist Church. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Antioch Baptist Church, 839 Antioch Road, Blacksburg, SC 29702.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**STEVE BLANTON**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN -

Steve Matthew Blanton, 50, 414 Scotland Drive, died February 23, 2006 at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Lawton Matthew Blanton and Sue Ann Sullivan Blanton. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Diane Marlow.

He was a member of World Wide Church of God and a former member of the Kings Mountain Fire Department. He was owner and operator of Affordable Bedding.

He is survived by his wife, Gwen Blanton Blanton of the home; son Brandon Matthew Blanton of Grover; daughter Marissa Danielle Blanton of the home; sisters Joyce Miles of Gastonia, Madeline Ledford of Boiling Springs, Alice Dittman of Kings Mountain, Hilda Holt of Boiling Springs and Linda Haskin of Shelby; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ralph and Selma Blanton of Boiling Springs.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Keith Dixon at 3 p.m. Sunday at Cleveland Funeral Services Chapel. Burial was in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Cleveland Funeral Services to help with funeral expenses, 2518 West Dixon Blvd., Shelby, NC 28152.

Cleveland Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

**MARY JANE ALLISON**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN -

Mary Jane V. Allison, 80, 107 Stowe Acres, died February 27, 2006 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late James Peter and Lether Mae Smith Van Dyke.

She was also preceded in death by brothers John David Van Dyke and Robert Lee Van Dyke, and sister Sarah Ann Warlick. She was a member of Kings Mountain Baptist Church and was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Johnnie Allison of Kings Mountain; brother James Charles Van Dyke and wife Margie of Kings Mountain; sisters Barbara Lovelace and husband Bill of Grover, and Ila Leonhart of Kings Mountain; nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by Dr. Jeff Hensley and Rev. Olin Byrum at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at Kings Mountain Baptist Church. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Kings Mountain Baptist Church, P.O. Box 608, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## LOCAL

# Black History program held at Patrick Senior Center

By HAZELENE ABERNATHY

The annual Black History Program was presented at the Patrick Center last Tuesday.

Carolyn Bell, program coordinator, gave the welcome and prayer.

Hazelene Abernathy, program organizer, traced and implemented historical beginnings from slavery to freedom, contrasting the traditional and present aspects of the program.

She said, not only Africa Americans but all Americans are not so different. "We need to create a world where we can trust one another. Yet, there is hate; there is violence, there is confusion among people. We don't try hard enough to understand each other. We don't seem to realize that we all have the same basic needs.

"No matter who we are or what part of the world we come from, we must understand the differences among one another and celebrate the sameness. We must make the world a place where love and friendship dominate our hearts - respect, equality, compassion, faith and love must guide our actions. Only then will we live peacefully and lovingly and be able to live the life we each choose.

"During this month we celebrate and honor some of the greatest thinkers, dreamers and believers of their time," she added. "Without their accomplishments and contributions to our society our lives would not be nearly as rich or as open-minded. Thus, for their dedication, we give them honor and we salute them for their courage, faith and devoted sacrifices."

Abernathy appealed to the audience to take the lead in bringing about fundamental change through unity by "sharing and becoming doers."

Zenobia Degree is one who is striving for maximum success in her chosen field," Abernathy noted. "She realized early in life that God had given her special talents, and as she grew and developed those talents as an avid, expressive reader and inspirational singer, she is determined to use her talents for God."

"I'll Rise Again" by Maya Angelou was read by Degree, as well as "Gone With Yonder," the song she sang.

Lester Williams, CEO of his electric company, gave a brief description concerning his younger years in Louisiana. He remembered the racial disparity and said he wouldn't want to inflict that on anyone.

"All people are created equal," he said,

"because we are all God's children."

He said he lives by his speech. He recited the memorable speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream."

Rev. Steve Wingate, pastor of Unity AME Zion Church and is currently teaching in South Carolina, spoke on Romans 5.

He said, "we need to look deeply within our hearts and see the issues we stand for, not because of our color but because of what's right. One of the greatest pioneers of Black History was Coretta Scott King, who was continuing her husband's dream. Coretta wanted to bring equality, not only racial equality but social equality and other issues that benefit senior citizens and others. Dignity, elegance, courage, faith-filled are all words that describe Coretta Scott King - a peace activist and civil rights leader. She was the 'first lady' of the civil rights movement and fought tirelessly to keep her husband's legacy alive."

Rev. Wingate described February as a special month, namely Women's Month, Black History, Heart, Fire Fighters (in his school), Valentine's Day, birthdays of presidents Lincoln and Washington, President's Day, and Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History.

Rev. Wingate said "we must go forward to bring better love and hope. Hope for tomorrow is my theme. Faith is our belief. Faith is what we stand for. Faith is our ability to stand for our rights in our ever-changeable global world."

"Love is universal," he added. "God loves us in spite of ourselves and He shared his love abroad in our hearts. Remember to love one another as God first loved us - not because of the color of one's skin but we love one another because Jesus Christ taught us to love one another. Celebration the approbation of our forefathers and others who have paved the way for a better tomorrow through Jesus Christ."

Carolyn Bell, thanked the audience for their attendance and sharing the program with the Patrick Center's 2006 Black History program. She congratulated the participants for their "source of great contributions to make the program a success."

She said, "I am sure we all have some soul searching to do and let's all of us try to go forward and search our souls."

Her ending remarks were, "the greatest asset in this world is not so much as where we are going but what direction we are moving."

## Preregister for preschool

The Carpenter's Clubhouse Preschool at Central United Methodist Church will hold pre-registration for the 2006-2007 school year on March 14 from 5-7 p.m.

The preschool operates Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and has programs for two, three and four year olds with the primary objection being preparing children for kindergarten. The programs utilizes The Highreach Curriculum and focuses on areas such

as ABCs, numbers, language, math, science, writing, Bible lessons, computer introduction and music. Fun activities include arts and crafts, cooking, and outdoor activities including field trips.

The Carpenter's Clubhouse Preschool has over 23 years of experience in education, including certification in CPR and first aid.

All parents of preschool age children are invited to attend the pre-registration. For more infor-

## Nominations sought for County Volunteers of the Year

The Cleveland Association of Volunteer Administrators is seeking nominations for outstanding volunteer service in Cleveland County. Nominations are sought for individuals and groups who volunteer. Categories are individual youth, individual adult, individual education volunteer and group volunteer.

Volunteer service must have been performed in Cleveland

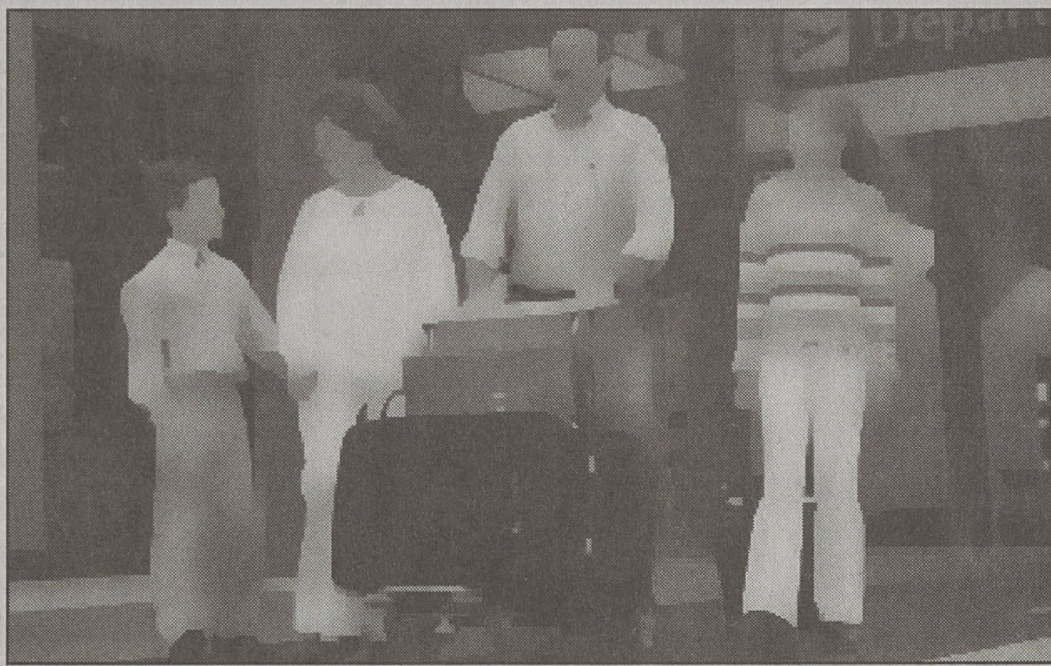
County. The volunteer's organization must serve the community at large. Services must be performed without pay or student course credit. Nominees may not be selected as winners in the same category for two consecutive years.

Awards will be presented Thursday, April 6 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Shelby. All nominees will be invited to the celebration.

Nominees will also be considered for the United Way Volunteer of the Year Award.

Nomination forms are available at libraries, senior centers, the United Way office or by calling 476-8178. Nominations are due by Monday, March 6 at 5 p.m. Return nominations via mail to CAVA, P.O. Box 594, Shelby, NC 28151-0594 or to the United Way office at 132 West Graham St., Shelby.

## Is your life a blur? Lost Your way?



This is a personal invitation for you to come and visit and let the Peace of God help you find your way!

## Central United Methodist Church Kings Mountain, NC

Activities

### Sunday Morning

8:45 Praise and Worship Service  
9:30 Sunday Morning Fellowship  
9:45 Sunday School  
10:50 Traditional Services

### Wednesday Evening

5:15 to 5:45 Children's Choir Practice-  
Preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> gr.  
7:00 Adult Choir Practice

### Sunday Evening

Children's Activities: Ages 4 to High School  
Snack supper and Bible Related Activities  
5:00 to 5:30 Children's Choir-  
Preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> gr.  
5:30 to 7:15 Kids for Christ-  
5<sup>th</sup> gr. and younger  
5:30 to 7:15 United Methodist Youth-  
6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> gr.

### Thursday Evening

7:00 Over 40's Basketball

### Community Kitchen

Serving our 11,000 meals in 2005  
Monday- 11:30AM to 1:00PM  
Thursday- 5:00PM to 6:00PM

### Preschool

Ages 2 to 4 years  
Monday - Friday 8:30AM to 12:30PM

www.kmcumc.org

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