



## Christmas is 'Sew Soon' for senior citizens

by ELIZABETH STEWART  
staff writer

Christmas is sew soon for Dora Bridges, 77, the proprietor of the Gift Shop at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center.

Obviously Bridges loves what she does and does what she loves. She doesn't sew as much as she used to do but she can tell immediately if handwork is perfect and she shows off the handiwork of seniors who make some extra cash by offering their baby gift items and holiday gift items to the shopping public at the senior center.

Seniors are busy with their Christmas gift stitching and ceramic making and the gift shop is also stocked with other reasonably-priced items purchased at shows and also on consignment by a variety of vendors. Popular handbags, jewelry, stained glass, wood flowers, quilts, musical jewelry boxes, kids jewelry, and many more beautiful items are on the shelves.

Bridges, who has worked part time at the gift shop for five years, brings to her job over 40 years in experience in pattern making and sewing.

Her passion in pattern making started at the former Mr. Sweet (Sweetree Mills) sewing samples and then making patterns for the garment industry for Lincolnton Knit Sew and then Clearnet in Clover, SC where she was product development manager fitting shirts for Polo and LandsEnd.

She took her industrial machine, her cutting table, etc. to Plonk Brothers Department Store and worked for a year hemming pants and doing alterations before Plonk's closed downtown.



photo by LIB STEWART  
Dora Bridges shows some of the gift items displayed by senior citizens in the gift shop at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center.

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## That ride at Disney World won't keep her off the dance floor long

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor, Kings Mountain Herald

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Guynetha Warren barely looks a day over 50 and when she smiles her face glows with youthful vigor. But she has lived a full life...really lived.

The mother of four children, who raised seven, is still very active even after a hip replacement surgery in May. She has not made it back onto the dance floor yet or dived back into the swimming pool - places she regularly frequented before her hip gave out - but she plans to soon.

Her hip started acting up after a ride at Disney World. She took her grandchildren and great grandchildren to the Orlando theme park last year. The ride looked fun. She had to try it. She finally talked one of the kids into riding it with her and off they went.

"He said he didn't want to. I should have listened," she laughed.

Warren has been to a lot of places over the years. Family road trips, bus excursions and other get-a-ways have taken her to Texas, Canada, California, New York, New Jersey, St. Louis, Mo.; Atlanta, Ga.; Washington, D.C.; Maryland, New Orleans, La.; West Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia and other states.

"I've worn Florida out," she laughed,

thinking about all of the different cities she has traveled to there. "I haven't gotten to Alaska yet, but I'm working on it."

"I've been to a lot of places and seen a lot of interesting things," she said.

Some of those sights were eye-openers that still make her tear up to this day. In a trip to New Orleans she was taken back by the sight of so many homeless people. She made it

there years before Hurricane Katrina did, but devastation still existed. It was written on some of the faces she saw.

Remembering the homeless in New Orleans and Washington, D.C., still brings tears to her eyes. "We don't realize how lucky we are, how good we have it," she said.

Warren works in the kitchen at the Patrick Senior Center

ter serving up meals and feeding 32-45 people from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each weekday.

"I love my seniors to death," she said with a grin. "They said they missed me when I was out and I sure did miss them."

She started volunteering at the center in 2002 after retiring from working 22 years at Copeland Corporation, a manufacturing plant in Shelby. Retirement and the back surgery that spurred it didn't slow her down then either. She is very active at the center.

She started line dancing there about four years ago and now heads the nutrition department, working in the kitchen with five other volunteers: Roberta Brown, Dorothy Humphries, Mary Jamerson, Wilma Robbins and Margaret Evens.

A lifelong resident of Kings Mountain, Warren is a member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where she sings in the choir, serves as usher and acts on the history and nominating committees.

She gave birth to four children: Samuel Falls, Jr., Tony Falls, Felicia Falls, Mapple Falls and has raised three others over the years. She has seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

"I really have enjoyed my life," she said.



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