

LIFESTYLES

Delores retires after lifetime of service tickling the ivories

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

"It's easy to sing when someone cares," is one of many gift plaques and mementos of musically-talented Delores White, who is retiring from a Christian music ministry of a lifetime.

Decreased vision slows her ability to read music, but White can still sit at her piano and tickle the ivories with familiar hymns.

"Dee," as she is affectionately called, said that God had big plans for her life after she graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1960. "I wanted to take a secretarial course but God wanted me in the church," she said.

Reminiscing with friends at a birthday/retirement party hosted by Bethlehem Baptist Church, Delores recalled that she sang her first solo, "Jesus Loves Me" at age 5 at her home church, Macedonia Baptist, and started playing the church organ as a senior in high school. She soon became hooked on music and serving in the church.

Her parents, the late C. O. and Florence Ellison White, encouraged her and the late Dr. Gene Poston, an

interim pastor at Macedonia, was so impressed with her singing voice and love of music he encouraged her to enroll at Gardner-Webb College for two years. While she was in college she played for services at Kings Mountain's Second Baptist Church and in 1964 received her B.S. degree in Business Education from Appalachian State University. For a year afterwards, she was a social worker in Mecklenburg County.

"God was still calling me and changed my mind again and I went to Southeastern Seminary and received my Master of Divinity Degree in 1968," she said. It was in seminary that a professor encouraged her as a student to take a job at Roseville Baptist Church near Raleigh.

After graduation she accepted her first full time position with Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Lincoln as Youth and Music Education Director for over four years. Then it was back to her home church, Macedonia, where she was Minister of Music, Education and Youth for 15 years.

During the past 20 years Delores has enjoyed the best of two careers, retiring as administrative assistant at



Delores White, tickling the ivories, shares her music with others. photo by LIB STEWART

Bethlehem Baptist Church, where she served 20 years and during that period also served as part time music director at Oak View Baptist Church (14 years). The past four years she has served as pianist at New Camp Creek Baptist Church.

Honored on her 20th anniversary at Bethlehem, she received a plaque inscribed with "A True Proverbs 31

Woman."

Thirty-four people, including relatives, "roasted" White at the recent retirement and birthday dinner at Mountain View Restaurant. Her pastor, Rev. Steve Taylor, remarked that "Dee" celebrated her birthday, Feb. 2 on Groundhog day, and both he and former pastor, Rev. David Blanton, spoke of her dedication to local

churches in using her talents.

"I feel very humble and grateful for all the friends in the churches I have served and thankful that God used me in His work," said Delores, who added that Ruth McDaniel Sanders has been filling in for her at the piano at New Camp Creek Church. Due to health issues, she misses singing and

playing piano for services but asks for prayer that she can continue to tickle the ivories and sing familiar songs like "Jesus Loves Me."

Friends at her retirement party called her an "inspiration." Delores gives God the credit for her life and her love of music she has shared unselfishly with others.



SHERI DESHAZO

DeShazo continues to lead KM Hospital into the new year Fitch named as chief nurse

Sheri DeShazo came to Kings Mountain Hospital in November 2004. For the past three years she has worked double duty as the hospital's chief operating officer and chief nurse.

Now, with her second daughter newly born and with the hospital excelling by state and national standards, she is stepping back. DeShazo will continue to lead Kings Mountain Hospital as its full-time chief operating officer, but she has named Charlene Fitch as the new chief nurse executive.

"I get to take one hat off," DeShazo said in her office recently. "This is a great opportunity for her and me. This is a great opportunity for Kings Mountain Hospital to have full-time focus on its growth and continued performance improvement."

When she first came to KMH she briefly studied under former chief nurse Regina Greg, who was loved and admired by many for the work she did at the hospital. Greg has since passed away and although, DeShazo said, she cannot be replaced, her important role must be filled.

The chief nurse oversees the entire nursing staff—an integral part of a quality health care institution. She added that Fitch, who has worked in nursing at Cleveland Regional Medical Center for 15 years, should be a great nurse leader.

DeShazo's background has also been in nursing. "I'm a nurse first and always," she said.

And perhaps it's that special nurturing, patient and compassionate side of a nurse that makes a great healthcare leader. A few years ago DeShazo told the story of a man who came across thousands of starfish stranded on a beach. He picked up the starfish, one at a time, and tossed them back into the ocean.

Another man saw him and asked, "Why bother? There

See DeSHAZO, 7A

On the air with Scott Neisler

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Former Mayor Scott Neisler sees a turnaround in the economy as more firms and individuals diversify.

He has practiced that philosophy and invested in Radio Station WGNC 1450 on your dial simulcast from his studio at WOHS Shelby, a block from his business office at Dicey Fabrics where he is active in textile sales in the Neisler family-owned business.

Politics, money and home life are the major topics on the talk radio show 24-7 but Neisler's love is sports reporting, a hobby he started with the late Jonas Bridges on WKMT, announcing play by play Kings Mountain High School football games until 1997. For a dozen years he has been covering Winthrop University baseball, 56 games every season from the Rock Hill, SC campus.

His 1000 watt station picks up listeners from Kings Mountain, Shelby, Gastonia, Cliffside, Newton, York, SC and the Charlotte area of the International Airport.

Calvin Hastings is on the air from 6-9 a.m. with informational news and weather alerts and a syndicated show featuring Glenn Beck, Christian financial counselor, and Dr. Laura, a psychologist, among others. Callers to the station add popularity to the programs.

Neisler said that UNC basketball and Washington-Redskins football games are popular broadcast features. Carolina Panthers football was also popular with listeners tuning in to get play by play and results of big games.

"I grew up listening to baseball games and I love to promote Kings Mountain High baseball, football and basketball on the airwaves," said Neisler, who is a Kings Mountain native, son of Charles and Mary Neisler and a graduate of Florida Southern College with a degree in Health and Physical Education. He served three terms as mayor of Kings Mountain (1991-99) and before that was on city



photo by LIB STEWART
Scott Neisler at Talk Radio WGNC 1450 on your dial.

council two years. He is an Elder and sings in the Choir at First Presbyterian Church and also does the children's sermon at Good Hope Presbyterian Church at the 9 a.m. service on Sunday mornings.

The July 4th fireworks show which draws huge crowds to Kings Mountain every year was launched by Neisler some years ago in collaboration with WKMT's Jonas Bridges and complete

with music. He was also instrumental in the broadcasting live on WKMT of the monthly city council meetings from Kings Mountain City Hall. Neisler promotes Kings Mountain Little Theatre and Gastonia Little Theatre on the air, promoting WGNC, which he purchased last June, as a community radio station.

Red Clay Tuesday will be launched soon with Jeff Ward and Joe Sellers on Fri-

day nights which will feature dirt track racing in a partnership with Carolina and East Lincoln Speedways.

Neisler, who wed Dawn Olson Nov. 11, 2009 in a ceremony in Kings Mountain's First Presbyterian Church, has two children: Wendy Neisler and Garrett Neisler and four stepchildren: Alex, Avan and Ashton Fields and Allen Card.

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