

**LIFESTYLES**

**Working Women's Conference to raise money for Senior Center**  
*Saturday event to deal with challenges from becoming an entrepreneur to uncluttering life*

By **EMILY WEAVER**  
 Editor

Four talented guest speakers, presenting programs on making a bold career move, rising from employee to entrepreneur, selling yourself in today's job market, and uncluttering the cluttered lifestyle, will headline the "Working Women's Conference" at the Patrick Senior Center Saturday.

The 10 a.m.-2 p.m. conference will also feature a fashion show by Emmie's Consignment, door prizes, lunch from McAlister's Deli, vendors, entertainment and networking opportunities.

Tickets for the conference for \$25 each can be purchased at the Patrick Senior Center, 909 E. King St., and online at <http://kwmomensconference.ticketleap.com/fundraise>. For more information, call

704-734-0447.

The event is sponsored by "Annie's Girls" and will be held in memory of Annie Lee Blair Mitchem. Proceeds will benefit the senior center - one of Mitchem's favorite places. She volunteered at the center and participated in many of its programs and activities.

"She loved that place and loved the people there," said Mitchem's daughter Katherine Hardy Pendergrass.

After Mitchem passed away in a tragic car accident on Oct. 23, 2008, Pendergrass wanted to find a way to honor her mother and the place she so loved. Last October, she held her first fundraiser at the center, presenting a program on some of the lessons she learned from her mother - lessons she put into a book she authored.

She signed copies of the book, "Words to the Wise

about...Money; A Collection of True Stories", at the event. The light-hearted manual was dedicated to Pendergrass' mother, "who always said, 'It ain't how much you bring in; it's how much you let out.'"

Keeping the spirit of her mother's kind heart and giving nature alive, the second annual fundraiser this Saturday will offer even more lessons geared especially toward women.

Caroline Rogers, who is pursuing a master's in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty University, will present a program on "Time for Change: Making a Bold Career Move". This Spartanburg mother of two, who has been married to her "best friend for 16 years", said that several years ago she felt God calling her into the ministry. She chose teaching instead.

"Even though I closed my



Holly Sweat



Caroline Rogers



Nancy Abasiekong

ears to God's will concerning His plans He still blessed my choice to teach immensely," Rogers said. "I found great success within my classroom and enjoyed the close proximity of being on the same campus as my children.

"However, after five years I couldn't close my ears any longer. I knew something was missing and it was then that I stepped out into the unknown, surrendering my plans to Him," she said. "I quit my

teaching job and have spent the past year digging my heels into graduate level Bible and counseling classes, all of which have stretched me to lengths I never dreamed possible."

Rogers said that she plans to become a counselor in the pastoral ministry, "equipping those in crisis with tools to overcome their obstacles."

Patsy Turner, owner of Good Things Consignment and More, will present a program on how she went "From Employee to Entrepreneur". She resides in Clover.

Holly Sweat, director of Workforce and Career Development at Cleveland Community College, will present a program on "Selling Yourself in Today's Job Market".

Sweat's professional career led her down interesting paths - as executive director of The Center for Professional and Personal Growth in Atlanta, Ga., as leader of a successful private practice in Atlanta for six years, as a clinician for an Employee Assistance Program, as director of Career Services at Gardner-Webb University for 11 years, as a psychotherapist and as a director at CCC.

She has 23 years of successful experience supporting individuals to actively manage their career directions and personal choices through customized development plans.

Sweat has presented several programs at local, state and regional conferences on various topics such as leadership and management development, communication skills, professional presentation skills, resume and interviewing skills, etiquette and more. Sweat resides in

Shelby.

Nancy Abasiekong, also of Shelby, will lead a program on how to "Un-clutter the Cluttered Lifestyle". She is an extension agent, working with family and consumer sciences, at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension office in Cleveland County.

She joined the Cleveland County Cooperative Extension staff over 30 years ago from the Mecklenburg County Cooperative Extension office where she worked as a community resource development agent.

Abasiekong earned her Gerontology Certificate from Western Carolina University, her Master's degree in Home Economics from UNC-Greensboro, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics Education from Berea College in Berea, Ken.

As an extension agent, she handles housing and environmental issues, human development and aging, family resource management, and community and volunteer development.

She is married to Aniedi Abasiekong and has two grown children: Stacie and Michael.

"We hope this conference is the beginning of an annual event for women," Pendergrass said.

For those who cannot attend, donations and contributions can still be made to the senior center, a non-profit institution. All donations are tax deductible.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church was another favorite place for the late Ms. Mitchem. Pendergrass said that they hope to also do something in honor of their mother for the church.

**Fall Festival planned for Oct. 20**



Good food, homemade jellies and jams, yummy baked goods, and crafts that will delight festival-goers are sure to please Kings Mountain area citizens attending the annual Fall Festival at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club today (Wednesday).

Doors open at the clubhouse on E. Mountain St. at 11:30 a.m. for lunch in the dining room and for the bazaar, children's art exhibits, and much more on the first floor of the clubhouse. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and supper will be served from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. at \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. The menu will feature turkey or ham with all the trimmings, dessert, tea coffee.

The Fall Festival attracts

photos by **EMILY WEAVER/HERALD**  
 Sue McCluney, left, and Nancy Ross check out the table displays at last year's KM Woman's Club Fall Festival. The display they stand at was done by Suzy B's, who took third place.

At right: Gloria Summers gets some homemade bread from the indoor bazaar at last year's Fall Festival.

a large crowd each year and festival-goers say it's the place to meet and greet old friends and new friends.

The Woman's Club Fall Festival, known as the Floral Fair in earlier years, showcases the talents of many volunteers and is probably the oldest continuing event in the history of the city.



**Judgement House**

Final showings this weekend at FBC-KM

Members of Kings Mountain's First Baptist Church are approaching the second and final weekend of this year's presentation of Judgement House.

The Judgement House series of dramatic presentations demonstrates life and death issues that resonate with today's headlines. The focus of the presentations is life beyond the grave, and how the decisions we make in everyday life can have eternal consequences, said Reg Alexander, of Regal Adventures Creative Ministries, who helps put on the program each year.

More than 125 volunteers

See Judgement House, 5A

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- \* Husband Calling Contest
- \* Taste Tests
- \* Cooking Demonstrations

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**Shelby Fall Festival October 23**

Children's & Pet Events begin at 10:00 am.

- \* Pumpkin Painting
- \* Pet Parade - 10:30 am
- \* Children's Costume Parade - 11:30 am

**Uptown Shelby Association Uptown Shelby.org**

**October 21-23**  
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