

**BUSINESS**

# Tastings propel KM's new wine shop

**DAVE BLANTON**  
dave.kmherald@gmail.com

Grapes in a Glass, Kings Mountain's first wine shop, has quickly established itself as a cozy café where folks can drop in after work, have a glass of wine and chat, or surf the web.

The small establishment on E. Gold St. has five tables, free wi-fi and an inventory of wines that spans the globe and micro-brewed beer that hails from Asheville to New York State. It also sells a host of accessories, like bottle stoppers, candles, mulling spices, gift baskets large and small, cordless wine openers and decorative containers that are for used wine corks.

For owner Kenny Richardson, running the business that he opened in November feels less like a job than a dream come true.

"It's about teaching people," he said about educating customers about the sometimes complicated world of wine. "I love that aspect of it."

Richardson spent a career with the Coca-Cola Company (146,000 employees), where he worked as a district manager in the Char-

lotte area. Now he's happy to run a small wine shop (two employees) in a small town.

The shop offers a wine tasting every Friday evening. Those typically draw 30-40 people in to see what's new in the wine market and to find out what excites their taste buds. On Saturdays come the beer tastings, which have also been a hit.

"That is where the customers educate me," he said, confessing that he's still learning about the increasing number of small brewers that are popping up in North Carolina and elsewhere.

"The response has been strong, and I'm really happy about that," said Richardson, whose wife Angie pitches in at the store as much as her busy schedule as a nurse allows. "I'm really getting to know a lot of people in town quickly."

He said sales have been strong. In the week before Christmas he was sold out of the famous high-end French Champagne Dom Perignon and gift cards. Richardson said his vendors have been "amazed" at what he's been able to do in such a small market. He also hasn't done much advertising,



Kenny Richardson and his wife Angie (not pictured) opened their wine shop in November, and already the tastings have become popular.

but instead has let word of mouth and the twice-weekly tastings speak for themselves.

Richardson has a deep understanding of wine — what's hot, what's not, and why.

After he left Coca-Cola,

he worked for a wine distributor for about a year to learn the business and help him get on the inside track. Then he poured his savings into Grapes in a Glass and is tending to his investment with an eye toward the future.

He said he observed a young couple come into his store one evening a week or so before Christmas. They connected their tablets to the wi-fi, sipped from a bottle of his wine and knocked out all their holiday shopping.

"I thought it was encour-

aging — they turned Christmas shopping into something fun and relaxing," he said.

Grapes in a Glass offers wine by the glass or the bottle. Customers are free to bring in food from other places.



**WINNER** — Susan Shuford of Lincoln won the \$3,250 diamond ring given away at the Corks & Taps for Hospice Fall fundraiser at the LeGrand Center in Shelby. The event included a wine tasting from area wineries, food, entertainment and a live and silent auction.

## Carter pens book 'Conversations with the God of Abraham'

Kings Mountain native Sharon "Sherry" Goins Carter has a book which has been published by Crossroads Publishing Co., a publishing arm of Life Way Publications, the Baptist Church's material publisher.

The book entitled, "Conversations with the God of Abraham," can be used for group or individual study and is filled with exciting and interesting stories of the many ways and times that God has revealed Himself to Ms. Carter. From physical healings to her insights on the stories of David, Daniel, Joshua and especially Abraham, the book is filled with encouragement for Christians and non-Christians to

learn more about the God of the universe.

Ms. Carter is the Women's Chaplain at the Union County Jail in Monroe, NC, and in January 2011 began the ministry "Hope for Healing Hearts," dedicated to helping female ex-offenders transition back into society. It is her belief that Christ cannot be limited and that we are just to take the Word at its word and apply it to our lives today. She feels that the same power that was alive and available to the apostles, and that was a major part of the development of the church, is available to us today.

Sharon is a 1960 gradu-

ate of Kings Mountain High School where the senior prophecy for her was that she would write a best seller. She hopes this comes true as she also has written a novel, "The Heritage," which she hopes to have published next year.

In 2011 Ms. Carter was published in "The Lyricist," Campbell University's annual poetry anthology. In previous years, she has won and published poetry nationally in various anthologies and magazines.

Sharon is the daughter of the late William and Ola Goins of Kings Mountain and wife of the late Don Carter who died in 2003. They were married 41 years and had three daughters, Donna, Tracey and Kelly. The family also includes four grandchildren and three sons-in-law. She is sister of



Sharon Goins Carter

the late Connie Putnam of Kings Mountain, Richard Goins of Shelby, Tony Goins of Clemmons, Renee Sandford of Raleigh, and Mel Newton of Kings Mountain. Among her nieces and nephews are Jeff Putnam and Donna Butler of Kings Mountain.

### Start your New Year with Us!

Open New Years Day 10:30am-2:30pm!

Enjoy your choice of Meats: Pork Chops, Baked Ham or Meatloaf; and Vegetables: Black Eye-Peas, Collards, Mac-N-Cheese, Green Beans, Fried Okra, or Potato Salad

### New Hours for 2014!

Beginning January 2nd

Mon, Tues, Weds • 6am-2pm

Thursday • 6am-8pm

Friday & Saturday • 6am-9pm

Sunday 11am-2pm



238 Cherokee St.  
Kings Mountain  
704.750.3090

happy new year!

The Kings Mountain Herald  
**WILL BE CLOSED**  
January 1, 2014  
in observance of New Years Day  
and will re-open with regular hours on Thursday, Jan. 2

**CAROLINA COTTON COMPANY**

Happy New Year!

365 days to collect more fabric!

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am til 5pm • Sat 10am til 3pm  
227 S. Battleground Ave., Kings Mountain  
704-750-4164 • www.carolinacottoncompany.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11		12		13		14		15		
		16		17		18		19	20	
21	22		23	24	25			26		
		27		28	29		30	31		
32			33		34	35		36	37	
38		39	40			41	42		43	
	44			45	46					
47				48		49		50	51	
52	53			54		55	56	57		
	58		59		60		61		62	63
64		65	66		67		68	69		
70	71	72			73	74	75			
	76	77		78		79			80	
81		82			83			84		

\*\*\* ACROSS \*\*\*

1 Bard of Avon  
9 voice  
11 Intelligence quotient: abbr.  
12 tool with a heavy metal blade on the end of a long handle  
13 mercury  
14 rounded object which comes out of a female bird, snake, etc.  
16 Albert's nickname  
17 company  
18 Revised Version  
19 vegetable like the onion but with a long white fleshy stem  
21 fierce feeling of displeasure  
24 shore patrol  
26 railway  
27 inch  
28 covering of dark cloth spread over a coffin  
30 extrasensory perception

32 strongly moving air  
33 chapter  
34 pull hard with force or much effort  
36 object for children to play with  
38 computer graphics  
39 shore patrol  
41 railway  
42 covering of dark cloth spread over a coffin  
44 extrasensory perception  
46 pull hard with force or much effort  
48 object for children to play with  
50 test by use and experience  
52 Puerto Rico  
53 radium  
56 living in natural conditions  
58 trinitrotoluene  
60 district attorney  
61 church  
62 Authorized Version  
63 thank you

65 iridium  
66 piece of writing expressing in imaginative language some deep thought, feeling, or human experience  
68 yes  
70 mini disc  
71 corporate identity  
72 perceive  
74 one of the two edges of the mouth  
84 National Hockey League

7 leftist  
8 for example  
10 having too many people  
15 attach  
16 silver  
20 Kentucky  
22 people living in a small area within a larger place such as a town  
23 registered nurse  
25 public-address system  
29 lieutenant  
31 Saint  
32 water closet  
33 corporate identity  
35 Greek  
37 your  
40 lieutenant  
42 Iowa  
44 sign that something is going to happen in the future  
46 extrasensory perception  
50 Alabama

\*\*\* DOWN \*\*\*

1 Destroyer  
2 high quality  
3 tube fitted at one end with mirrors and pieces of colored glass which shows many colored patterns when turned  
4 example  
5 giving off light with little or no heat  
6 for example

**Answers on page 14**