Crismon tree symbols tell the real Christmas story

By Alan Hodge

Celebrating Christmas in a way whose roots go back over forty years, Cherokee Street Baptist Church in Kings Mountain decorated a Chrismon tree at a special service December 6 in the church sanctuary.

Utilizing religious symbols from the Bible called Chrismons instead of more commercialized decorations, the people at Cherokee Street Baptist Church celebrated their second Chrismon tree decorating just as the first one held in Danville, Virginia in 1957 was done.

Composed of white and gold materials, the Chrismon decorations symbolize Christ's purity and perfection. The green of the tree represents everlasting life, while the tiny white lights point to Christ as the light of the world.

One of the 18 original founders of Cherokee Street Baptist Church, which dates back to 1956, Mary King explained the ceremony.

“We have Biblical symbols such as the Alpha or Omega sign crafted into ornaments,” said King. “Then we give each member of the congregation an ornament. When our pastor Gene Leigh reads a verse in the Bible corresponding with a particular symbol, then that person comes up and places the ornament on the tree.”

The idea to incorporate the Chrismon tree into Cherokee Street's service came after King saw a similar tree at a Methodist church in Charlotte.

“We decided we wanted to put more Christ in Christmas,” said King. “The Chrismon tree is especially good for the children and gives them something more special to remember Christmas by than just toys.”

Happy to share their knowledge of the Chrismon tree and its tradition, or to help anyone who wants to do a Chrismon tree of their own, Cherokee Street Baptist Church may be reached at P.O. Box 1415, Kings Mountain, 28086.

CHURCH STAFF - Leadership staff of the New Life Family Worship Center are, left to right, Rev. Myron Cheek, youth pastor, who is a graduate of East Coast Bible College; Rev. Lonnie Fox, Outreach Minister who is a graduate of Jacksonville Theological Seminary; Rev. Jack Fox, D.D., ThD, PhD, Associate Pastor; and Rev. Robert Eng, ThD, PhD, Senior Pastor.