The Good Time Puppets of Calvary Baptist Church, under the direction of Margaret Twiford, along with the cast and crew, performed to a full house recently at the church.

Puppet performance proves pleasant

By Audrey Huston
Pasquotank County Correspondent

A most creative performance by the Good Time Puppets of Calvary Baptist Church was enjoyed by a full house on the evening of Saturday, May 30. The show was repeated on the following night to another capacity audience in the sanctuary of the church on Riverside Avenue.

Director, Margaret Twiford, along with the cast and crew, created a very believable performance and there was no doubt in the viewers minds that they were in the imaginary town of Ants-Hillvania as they watched the antics of Anthony, who wanted to go out into the world to find fame and fortune, much against the advice of his father, the Command-Ant. Along the way, he meets many new friends; Mr. Worm, Millicent Millipede, Flowers, Weeds, and the arch-villian Dragon-Fly, better known as D.F., who lures Anthony into a giant spider web. That scene was skillfully played under black light. Luckily, Anthony escapes and returns home to his father. It was a delightful story of the prodigal son and was filled with toe tapping songs.

Puppeteers included Mackie Pritchard, Kim Druelinger, Tracy Twiford, Sue Amaral, Tracey Cosgrove, Charlotte Davis, Johnny Burgess, Nikki Davis and production assistants Louis Twiford and Ella Cosgrove.
Calvary Baptist revival set

Revival services begin Sunday morning at Calvary Baptist Church on Riverside Avenue and will run through Thursday, April 20.

Guest speaker for the week will be the Rev. Ralph Cannon of Winston-Salem, N.C., director of development and public relations for the North Carolina Baptist Homes for the Aging.

Cannon is a native of Stanley, N.C. and is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Services Monday through Thursday nights will begin at 7:30 p.m. and a nursery will be provided each night.
Roderick E. Snead, who considers Calvary Baptist Church in Elizabeth City as his home church, has received the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Snead is the son of Rodney E. and Lynnwood Snead of Danville, Va. He is married to the former Eileen Elizabeth Pfister. Southwestern is one of six seminaries affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.
Spring Revival

Calvary Baptist Church, 801 Riverside Ave., will begin its spring revival Sunday with services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Services will continue each night through April 22.

The Rev. Burke Holland, director of Chaplaincy and Language Ministries, Department of the North Carolina Baptist Convention will be the guest speaker.

The Rev. Mr. Holland is the former pastor of Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem and a graduate of Wake Forest College and Southeastern Seminary.

Special music and periods of sharing will be offered each evening. Guests include Dr. Fred Moncla who will participate in Monday night’s service and Woody Copeland of Edenton who is scheduled to appear Thursday night.

A nursery will be provided for all services.
Puppets come in all shapes and sizes - and speak to young and old alike.

The Good Time Puppets have attended workshops at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, and Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, to perfect their skills and have performed for many churches, Camp Joy, the Ocean Beach Campground, Senior Citizen groups and 4-H banquets. One church performance was made memorable when the electricity was lost and the group gamely carried on by lamplight. These dedicated youngsters work hard and the only pay they ask is the chance to entertain and to bring messages of Christian principals to their audiences.

Another active puppet group in Elizabeth City is the “Cann Puppeteers” who attend Cann Memorial Presbyterian Church on Main Street. This group consists of eighteen young people from seventh grade through high school. Advisors for the group are Sue Dunn and Sonya Hibbard.

Shortly after they were organized, the Cann group decided to carry their ministry to other churches and through the efforts of their pastor, Rick Tatum, an itinerary of a 5,000 mile trip from Elizabeth City to Larado, Texas and back was planned. The teenagers worked about a year earning money for the trip by doing odd jobs and having garage sales. In the summer of 1982, the Cann Puppeteers began their trip which took them to churches, nursing homes and pre-school performances from Arkansas to Texas. They performed at the Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and in a Spanish speaking church in Larado. The trip took three weeks and while on the road, the puppeteers slept in churches and meals were provided at the host churches. It was an experience that brought happiness to the entire group and one that the young travelers will always remember.

The Cann Puppeteers have delighted audiences at King's Daughters Hospital in Norfolk, Virginia and locally at nursing homes, civic clubs, and many churches.

Reverend Tatum stated that the puppets are a wonderful way to give young people their own ministry. It builds their self-esteem, teaches them discipline and it is a vehicle where cooperation is of the utmost importance.

Lovable, laughable puppets speak to people through happy tunes and comical dialogue, quickly leading to a point.
Teens let puppets do the talking

By AUDREY HUSTON

Puppets come in three sizes – small, large and appealing. They command attention wherever they appear and appeal to young and old alike. For hundreds of years, puppets have amused and entertained all over the world, but it has been only lately that they have appeared in churches as a form of bringing the gospel message in a new and entertaining way.

Calvary Baptist Church on Riverside Avenue is the home of the “Good Time Puppets.” This puppet team is composed of ten teenagers and their director, Margaret Ann Twiford. When this group was formed three years ago Mrs. Twiford journeyed to a workshop in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to learn all she could about puppetry from “how to make a puppet” to “how to work them.”

A behind the scenes look will show that she has taught her young people very well. Each is assigned a specific job, such as setting up the portable stage, collecting props, scripts, and taking care of the puppets themselves. Technical assistance is given by Louis Twiford, and Fred and Pat Davis, adult advisors.

The group practices once a week and many long hours are needed before a show is ready to be presented.

Each puppet is controlled by two teenagers. One works the head and body while the other separately controls the hands which work together with the body to appear as one puppet. The young people not only learn from the messages that they present but they learn teamwork.

(See PUPPETS, page 2A)

Behind the scenes can get a little crowded when teenagers, puppets, and props have to work together.

James Elliott works one of the Good Time Puppets from Calvary Baptist Church.
Calvary Baptist

Calvary Baptist Church on Riverside Avenue will have a Missions Revival beginning Dec. 7. Several speakers are scheduled. Dr. Allen Gaines, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Newport News, Va., will speak Dec. 7. He is a member of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Durham Sun
Elizabeth City Advance
Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville Times
Gastonia Gazette
Goldsboro: News-Argus
Greensboro Daily News

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Calvary Baptist Church will conduct revival services Sunday through Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. each day. The Rev. Don Wagner, pastor of Rocky Hock Baptist Church, will be the guest evangelist. The public is invited.
Seminar set for church leaders

A "Doctrine of the Holy Spirit" Seminar for church leaders will be held Monday, February 13 from 7-9:15 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church on Riverside Avenue in Elizabeth City.

This seminar is being sponsored by the Church Training Department of the Baptist State Convention and is designed to train local adult leaders to teach the doctrinal study material. The program is not for children.

Seminar leaders are Dr. Donald E. Cook, Professor of New Testament, Southeastern Seminary; Reverend Bruce Moore from Hayes-Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh; Mrs. Janie Stansbury from Wilroy Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va. and Mrs. Garland Moore, a Special Worker of the General Baptist Association of Virginia.
New pastor at Calvary

Calvary Baptist Church on Riverside Avenue has a new pastor, the Rev. Mike Willard.

Rev. Willard graduated from Tilghman High School in Paducah, Ky. He graduated from Wake Forest University in 1973 and received his Master of Divinity Degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1976.

Prior to beginning his ministry at Calvary, Rev. Willard served as associate pastor for Signal Mountain Baptist Church in Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Rev. Willard attended the National Evangelistic Leadership Conference; Sunday School, Youth, and Training Union Conferences at Ridgecrest; School of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital; and Youth Evangelism Conference.

He also was a guidance counselor and tutor in the public schools.

Rev. Willard is married to the former Myra Estes. They have one daughter, Melissa Joy, and reside at 913 Woodruff Ave.
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Anniversary celebrations coming for local church, pastor

Calvary Baptist Church, located on the corners of Third and Walnut streets, will celebrate its 65th Anniversary and the 7th anniversary of the pastor, the Rev. Joseph P. Gregory starting Sunday through Jan. 27. Elder Richard Lewis will deliver the message at 3 p.m., Sunday, followed by a musical program by the Southern Hummingbirds Quartet of Suffolk, Va. at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Johnny E. Williams will deliver the message, Jan. 13, at 1:30 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. that afternoon, the Bishop Eugene Edwards of Suffolk, Va., will deliver the message. The Royal Airs Quartet and the Mighty Clouds of Faith will render a musical program.

The Rev. Franklin J. Owens will deliver the message at 3 p.m. He will be followed by Elder Jimmy Woodard, Jan. 20, at 3 p.m.

The anniversary observance will close Jan. 27. The Rev. John Savage of Portsmouth, Va. will deliver the message, at 3 p.m. The Rev. Linwood Johnson of Suffolk, Va., delivering the message at 4 p.m. with the Starlight Quartet and the Bowe Singers will render a musical program, at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

The Coffey Evangelistic Team from Reed City, Mich., will conduct an Evangelistic Crusade at the Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church Tuesday, Jan. 8 through Sunday, Jan. 13. Services each evening will be at 7:30 p.m.. Sunday services will be at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Rev. John A. Coffey is a graduate of Marion College in Marion, Ind. and now serves on the Commission of Evangelism and as a general evangelist in the Wesleyan Church. The nightly program consists of musical presentations and an inspirational Bible message.

**Digest**

A special service for the Installation of Church and Auxiliary officers will be held by candlelight at Corner Stone Missionary Baptist Church, Sunday at 5 p.m. The guest speaker will be Willie H. Spence, chairman of board of deacons of Shiloh Baptist Church and the assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs at Elizabeth City State University. Special music will be rendered by the Senior Choir. The public is invited.

Elder Quinton Jordan will preach at the Ellis Temple Baptist Church Sunday at 1 p.m. Music will be by the Popular Run Senior Choir. The trustee’s will be in charge.

The Elizabeth City Area Ministers Association will meet at Western Steak Steak house on Tuesday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m. Fellowship time will precede the meeting.

Father Charles Walton will present a program on conflict management. Area clergy are invited.

Roy Morris and The Singing Sons of Elizabeth City, the Perquimans County Male Chorus of Hertford will be singing at the Christian Advocate Baptist Church at Perth, Sunday at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The Rev. Dwight Steele, his choir, ushers, and congregation from Olive Branch will render services at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church Sunday at 5 p.m. The program is in celebration of the pastor’s 50th anniversary. The public is invited to attend.

An Adult Education Course open to the public will be taught at the First Baptist Church of Elizabeth City. The course will be about the second half of the New Testament and will be entitled “When the Church Was Young – Apostles and Epistles.” It will be taught by Dr. B.E. White Jr. The course may be taken on Tuesday and Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:10. Registration will take place in Room 119 at First Baptist on Jan. 8 or 10 and will remain open until Jan. 15 or 18.

Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. The Lighthouse will present Linda Mason Vastardis, contemporary Christian recording artist. Linda is a musical instrument through which God speaks. Her songs can be heard on radio across the nation. Join us at 505 E. Church St., Elizabeth City.

ALPHA Evangelistic Ministries Singer and the Spiritual Sensations, the Samuel Chapel Adult Choir will sing Sunday at 6 p.m. at Samuel Chapel Baptist Church. The public is invited to attend.

The Rev. G.S. Robinson will be preaching at the St. James AME Zion Church on Park Street, Elizabeth City Sunday at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Dr. Nathaniel Hollis of Saginaw, Mich. is the guest speaker Tuesday, Jan. 7 through Friday Jan. 11 at Eastern Star Church of God in Christ. Services begin at 8 p.m. each night.