

Pastor Enjoying Tackling Church's Youth Program

BY HARVEY HARRIS
Daily News Religion Writer

Football fans here, if they push their memories, may recall the way Ricky Kidd led his fellow gridiron warriors at Greensboro Senior High School in 1946 to an undefeated season and the state championship.

And one of the most knowledgeable of football fans here, Coach Bob Jamieson, recalls the 1946 team as "probably our best team of all" and says "Ricky did it all, running, passing and everything to lead that team to the state championship."

Jamieson, retired after 40 years coaching the local high school gridders, said Kidd was the team's quarterback, "a real fine person and a good leader." He ran the team from the double wing formation used by Greensboro's high school football teams in those days.

Kidd, now known as the Rev. T. Rick Kidd, has returned to Greensboro after many years as pastor of churches in Columbia, S.C. and Corpus Christi, Tex., to become pastor of this city's Calvary Baptist Church.

Laughing about the memories local fans have of him as a speedy scatback, Kidd said, "I was smaller than everybody else and scared, so I ran pretty fast."

He's not running scared now, but Kidd speeds around his church and surrounding communities with determination to rebuild a congregation he feels has experienced some bad days and to develop a strong program for youth.

"I'm very anxious to build the church back to its numerical strength of former years," he said of ambitions leading him to return to his hometown.

"I think the church is very strong spiritually, but I need to try to do some things to en-



Rev. T. Rick Kidd

hance our youth program, making it strong," he added.

Groups of teens and younger persons coming to see Kidd at Calvary Baptist Church, chatting with him in the hallways, Sunday School rooms, ball fields and recreation areas, as well as coming to his office for counseling, give a hint that his youth program is on its way to realization of Kidd's ambitions for it.

Kidd describes his return to Greensboro as "a great reunion" and his first days as a local pastor found him "running into many friends from school days and surprisingly finding folks haven't changed much and are still recognizable."

One of his biggest challenges at his new pastorate is caused by community changes, said Kidd. "Our church is in a transitional community, so we've become a commuter church and Calvary isn't a community church any more." The church is located at 3701 Heath St. off East Market Street.

Most of the church's members "live some distance from the church" and his plans for the ministry call for balancing this fact with community ministries "still maintained by the church."

The 48-year-old Baptist minister was pastor for seven years in Corpus Christi, Tex., before coming home to assume the pastorate of Calvary Church and the church's members are relying on him to lead a building program which will include relocating to a site on Knox Road, just across I-85 from Western Electric.

He and his wife, Marie, have four children divided evenly between boys and girls, with a married daughter living in South Carolina.

Trying to recall the old days, Jamieson said he believes Greensboro Senior High School's football teams were undefeated during Kidd's gridiron career. The Greensboro squads played for state championships in 1942 and 1944, but it was in 1946 that Kidd led them to the state championship.

Kidd doesn't spend much time thinking about the old days or relishing memories of gridiron glory. "Playing golf is about all I do sportswise," he explains.

But the "dedicated, determined and gutsy leadership" Kidd learned and demonstrated on the gridiron in the 1940s probably was an excellent preparation for successful pastorates, Jamieson believes.

PROFILE

Richard Kidd has had two main callings in life: architecture and the ministry

Master planner

■ After 50 years of experience with projects all over the country, Kidd returned to his hometown.

by Genie Carr

GREENSBORO — Richard Kidd once designed a hospital for mentally ill people who were also terminally ill. He found the building to be one of the most challenging projects he's ever done, and one of the most satisfying.

"I felt as if I were doing something that really counts," he said. Every building "counts," but here was one for people who truly needed exactly what he could give them.

That building was in South Carolina, in the 1960s. Kidd, 69, is now an architect with the firm of Moser Mayer Phoenix Associates in Greensboro. After years of designing a wide variety of buildings around the country, he returned in 1990 to the town where he grew up and first decided on the work he wanted to do.

Architecture, he said, has become like medicine and law: highly specialized. His long-time experience in designing all sorts of buildings means he can provide advice and assistance to his younger colleagues. The firm has 35 architects and engineers and does work all over the country, Kidd said.

Compactly built, with thick white hair and blue eyes, Kidd is a talkative man who leans toward self-deprecating humor while taking his profession seriously. He's worked very hard at it for 50 years.

He once designed a house for a client who wanted an exact replica of a historic Williamsburg house. He cheated just a little: he included modern plumbing. He also designed a huge project, twin glass-encased towers atop a shopping center-transportation terminus complex, that, alas, never got built. He still has the thick pad of blueprints handy in his office, though.

Recently, he directed the restoration of the 1932 Wright Brothers Memorial at Kitty Hawk. "They're planning to build a wonderful new visitors' center," he said. "They're looking for money for it."

A 20th-century architect

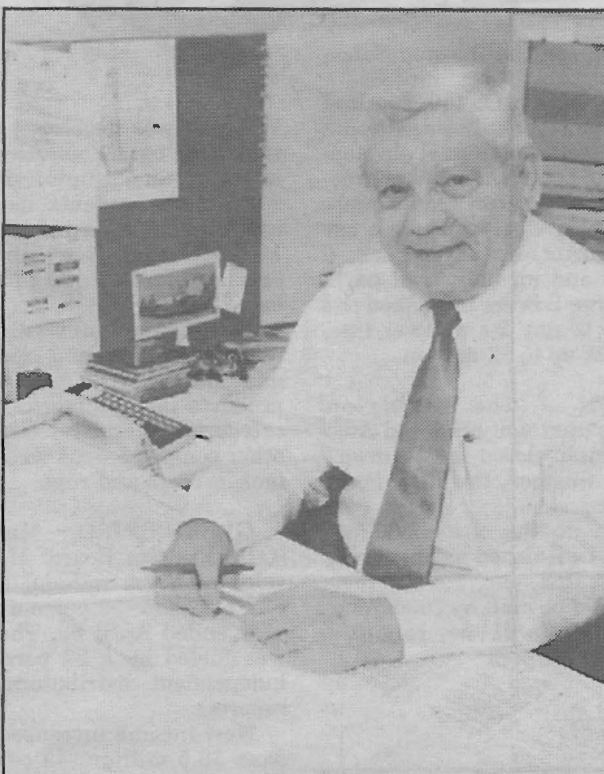
Kidd and his wife, Marie, live in a condominium, but the family has lived in a couple of houses of his own making. Their design? "Modern," he said. He hastened to add, "I appreciate a lot of the old things."

But, in fact, he is a 20th-century architect. He once designed an ultramodern house in Irving Park for a client who was delighted with it; but, Kidd said, with a twinkle in his eye, he was asked while it was going up if it was going to be "a Shell station."

Kidd said he was in high school when he chose architecture as his future. "I used to piddle around with things in art class," he said. "I wasn't good at drawing people and animals — if it didn't have a straight line, it wasn't for me."

Other straight lines that drew his attention at Greensboro High School were the uprights and crossbars on the football field. He was the quarterback in 1946 and 1947. "If you look at old newspapers, you'll see my name in the sports pages a lot," he said.

Born in West Virginia, Kidd moved with his parents to Greensboro when he was four, in 1932. After high school, he enrolled in the School of Design at North Carolina State University. "I spent a year there," he



PHOTOS BY TONI WINTER

said. He and Marie had married, and when a baby came along, he left school so she wouldn't be burdened with the family's entire support.

He didn't drop out of architecture, though. He went to work for the architect Edward Loewenstein in Greensboro and began his own education.

"I worked hard," he said. "I was determined to become a licensed architect. I was a voracious reader, and I took classes wherever I could find them. I would talk to anybody who would talk to me."

Getting experience, license

In the 1960s, he and his family moved to Columbia, S.C., and he went to work for Lyles Bissett Carlisle Wolff. "They were the premiere architectural firm in the South," he said. "They were the eighth largest firm in the country at that time."

He continued his drive toward being licensed. Licensing laws for architects varied across the country, he said. In South Carolina, he became eligible to take the licensing exam when he had 11 years of experience doing architectural work. In 1965, he took the national exam and could work anywhere in the United States.

With the license in hand, he opened a solo practice in Columbia. "I had that until three of the large developers I was doing work for went bankrupt — all three of them, within 72 hours — owing me a large amount of money," he said.

He had been working 16 hours a day, and to lose it all ("and more") in the space of three days was a considerable blow.

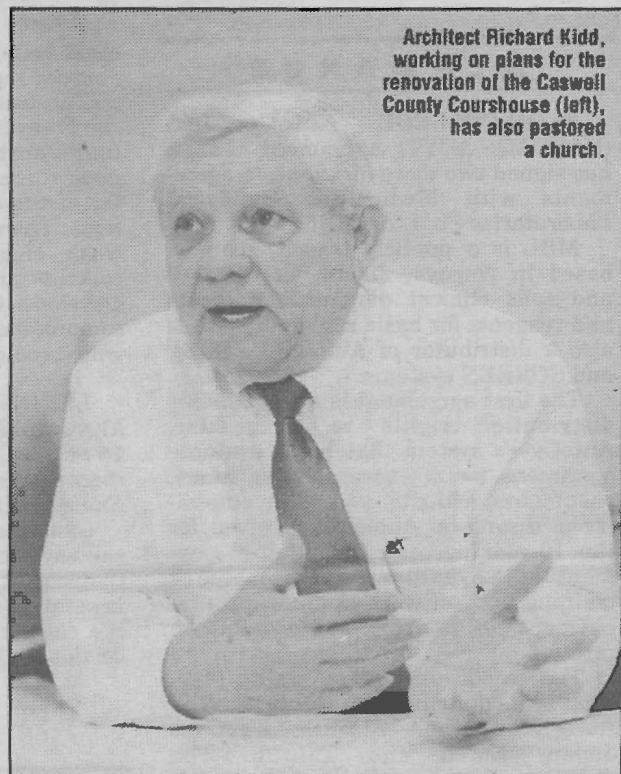
That was in 1971. Not to be deterred for long, he got a job in Houston. However, the hospital project he was assigned to wasn't ready for him, so the firm asked if he would help an architect friend in Corpus Christi.

"He had a high-rise (to design), and no experience with high-rises," Kidd said. Like hospitals, those buildings were in Kidd's portfolio; so, off to Corpus Christi he went.

"When we got there, they had just had this huge hurricane, and glass was all over the streets," he said. Despite that, he said, "we fell in love with Corpus Christi. After the high-rise was done, I stayed on."

He designed houses, did some work for the U.S. Navy, as he had done in South Carolina, and taught at Delmar University.

But he began feeling dissatisfied with his design projects. Besides, "an unusual occurrence" was hap-



Architect Richard Kidd, working on plans for the renovation of the Caswell County Courthouse (left), has also pastored a church.

pening, Kidd said. "I felt drawn to the Lord. I felt that He wanted me to do something more than what I was doing. I knew that although I had lost a lot in Columbia, it was just stuff. I still had my family and my health. So I surrendered to preach."

Ordained as a minister

He took courses at several universities and eventually was ordained as a Southern Baptist minister. He preached and was a pastor of churches in Texas for five years. Calvary Baptist Church, then in Bessemer, N.C., and now in McLeansville, issued a call. It wanted a pastor and it planned to change locations. Kidd's architectural experience helped with the building, and his knowledge and contacts allowed for good stewardship of funds.

After nearly six years at Calvary Baptist, Kidd resigned from his pastorate to devote time to caring for his wife, who had health problems. Deciding after some time to return to architecture, he was offered work — back in Corpus Christi.

"On the way," he said, "we stopped overnight in Dallas. The next morning, I was looking at the newspaper and saw an ad by an architectural firm named Fusch-Serold. Out of curiosity, I called them, and went to talk to them."

"We hit it off from the word go," he said. "They offered me the job and asked me when I could start, and I said, 'I'll start in the morning.'" He said goodbye to Corpus Christi before he even said hello again.

In 1988, the Kidds moved back east, to Washington, D.C., where he worked for a Chinese architect, Alfred Liu. "He did a lot of work for the government," Kidd said. "He had people from all over the world in that office — Asia, Europe, South America. He needed somebody there to 'Westernize' the place, to give the contractors a more comfortable feeling."

Two years later, both of Kidd's parents became ill, and he knew it was time to return to Greensboro — again. William D. Moser, the president of Moser Mayer Phoenix, was "gracious" and hired him, Kidd said. "The Lord worked it all out," he said matter-of-factly.

Now, in his narrow, shipshape office on the 12th floor of Renaissance Plaza, Kidd works on varied projects, advising colleagues and helping build things that matter. He will turn 70 on Christmas Eve, but is not considering retiring. He wouldn't say no, though, to pastoring a church, or preaching; he steps into a pulpit occasionally when asked to fill in for a regular preacher.

On his desk as he looks over a blueprint of a colleague's project, a screensaver scrolls across the light-blue background of his computer screen. It says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I want for nothing." **TEN**