

Rev. Billy L. Hicks, former area pastor, dies at age 58

NEBO - The Rev. Billy Leroy Hicks, 58, of Highway 226 East, died Thursday, Sept. 17, in a McDowell County hospital. 1992

A native of Pelzer, S.C., Hicks had lived in Black Mountain for 10 years before moving to McDowell County in 1989. While in Black Mountain, he was pastor at Wilkey Baptist Church for two years. He also pastored at Mt. Hill Baptist Church in Pelzer for two years. He was a volunteer chaplain at V.A. Medical Center as well. He was a member of Gospel Baptist Church in Woodfin.

He is survived by his wife, Gatha Garrett Hicks; two daughters, Deborah Brooks and Sandra Riggins, both of Williamston, S.C.; three step-daughters, Rebecca Harrell of Woodfin, Donna Cagle and Laree Rich, both of Asheville; one step-son, Andy Murray of Guam in the South Pacific; five sisters, Avalene Stone, Janice Stevens and Edith Gentry, all of Pelzer, and Ruth Bond of Williamston and Joey Burgess of Belton, S.C.; three brothers, Charles Hicks of Pelzer, Jerry Hicks of Williamston and Eddie Hicks of Liberty, S.C.; 14 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Gospel Baptist Church. The Revs. Homer Edwards, Dallas James and Bill Bryant will officiate. Burial will be in Mountain View Memorial Park in Black Mountain.

The family will receive friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday at Miller Funeral Home in Black Mountain.

Carolina

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