



Signs of Progress. Heavy machinery sits on a tract in Owings between the ZF Transmissions building (background) and the land where Uniscite has broken ground for its Laurens County location. Its proximity to the Greenville-Spartanburg I-85 Corridor is making the Gray Court, Owings, Fountain Inn area of northern Laurens County attractive to investors and to the SC Department of Commerce for sites visits by potential manufacturing partners. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

Working

**The Clinton Chronicle's 2012
Citizen of the Year is Rev. Mims Camm
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**Harry Agnew Page 6
at Laurens County Chamber of Commerce
banquet with Miss SC Ali Rogers**

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Rev. Mims Camm, Citizen of the Year

By Vic MacDonald

Horizons 2013

The formula is simple. A young black man sees his mom struggling with the family finances. He wants to help.

An older - not much, just a little older - man offers him \$50 just to “help out.” The boy takes it, puts it in the family finances, it does help out.

Next time, it’s \$100. Just for whistling if a police officer comes near the street corner. Pretty soon, the “arrangement” has evolved into a car, a girlfriend and street credibility. Some of his friends take the same route; one of his friends falls away, goes a different route.

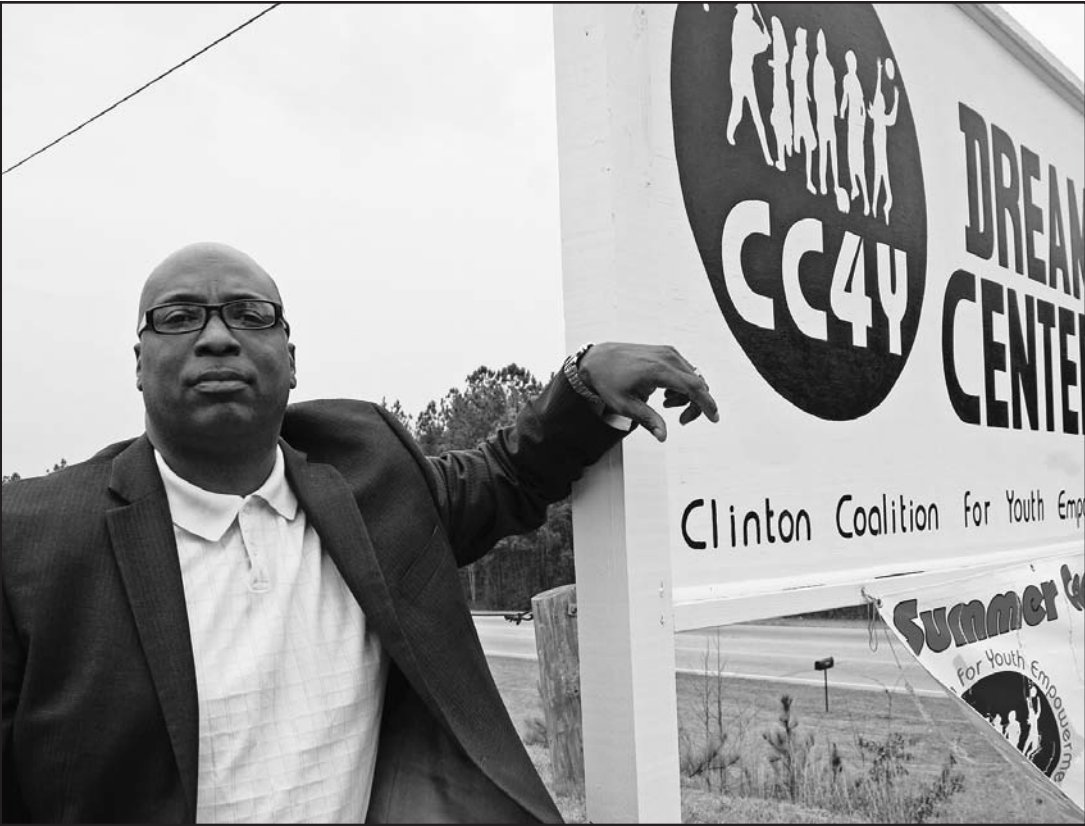
The “look-out” sees his life get stuck - still in the neighborhood, working for the somewhat older man, more likely stuck in prison. The friend’s life “goes up” on the success scale - college education, dedicated wife, great kids and pretty soon grand-kids, a church family to which he is dedicated.

“More of my friends,” Rev. Mims Camm says, “are incarcerated, than graduated from college.”

Camm is The Clinton Chronicle’s Citizen of the Year for 2013.

He uses his hands during this “demonstration” - the young men he has seen “get stuck” in their lives, after accepting that initial \$50, are at this level (low); his life, by contrast, is at this level (high).

You have just had the “where is your life going” talk with one of the men



I have a dream, too. The late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., known worldwide for his “I Have a Dream” speech, would feel right at home at the location of Rev. Mims Camm’s dream, a community center for the children of Clinton. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

responsible for The Dream Center, a fledgling community center that has been Mims Camm’s vision for the past three years. Literally, his vision.

He says that three years ago, he drove by a former restaurant building sitting on a hill near where the bypass goes around Clinton, and it was placed on his heart, “That’s the place.”

Finances, roadblocks, not the right timing - whatever - did not allow The Dream Center to happen until now.

“It’s God’s time,” Camm says.

Mims Camm, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, out from Clinton just a short way, is Horizon’s Citizen of the Year.

He is honored, but humbled - he places himself in the company of Sherrill Green, Larry Murrell and Don Peake, all local ministers, as the quartet responsible for The Dream Center, and the Clinton Coalition 4 Youth Empowerment & Education that has made it possible.

And not just “made it possible” - “over 300 kids have come through our program since the summer camp,” Camm says of the 2012 summer experience that brought local youth to First Pentecostal Holiness Church in Clinton for daily life enhancements.

They weren’t really sure how they were going to get them fed every day. School District 56 got a federal

grant that allowed Clinton Elementary to be opened as a feeding site.

They weren’t really sure how they were going to get the kids to a water park for a summer afternoon outing. Henderson charter bus company did it - twice - for \$50.

They weren’t really sure how they would pay for all this, utilities to have a building open during the daytime, etc. First Pentecostal’s board said, “We’ll take care of that.”

Mims Camm just shakes his head. “God’s time.”

“It’s the need,” he says, reflecting on that first summer camp while sitting inside The Dream Center during a dreary winter’s day. The kids will

be pouring in here in just a little while.

Green, Murrell and Peake have all been here. Green took out the trash. Camm is going to spend a little time getting the place ready for the afternoon’s after-school activities.

“We want every one of our kids to be successful. We want them to be doctors and lawyers. We do push our kids - a lot of them come from single parents, incarceration, home issues. We ask them to pay \$20 - you come, you pay when you’re able.”

The Clinton Rotary Club has kicked in \$1,000. People have walked in the door and dropped down \$20, \$100. About 30 Clinton-area businesses have donated to The Dream Center.

“We’ve had some bumps along the way,” Camm says, “but, overall, it’s going well.”

Camm was nurtured

growing up in Greenville at the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center. His extended family of educators, ministers and social workers “made me who I am today,” he says.

He’s married to his high school sweetheart, who works for IBM, and they have two daughters and four grandchildren. He has served Springfield Baptist Church for five years - the first Sunday this March will be his five-year anniversary.

He has run a successful business - a staffing agency - and worked with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

At one point in his young life, he was that young man offered that \$50.

His wife, Erica, reads novels, he reads theology and sports. They have a

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The Chronicle’s Citizens of the Year

- 1996 Jim Roberts
- 1997 Joel Evans
- 1998 Josh and Ella Savage
- 1999 Pat Neal
- 2000 Ted Hunter
- 2001 David Peden
- 2002 Bailey Dixon
- 2003 Jimmy Revis
- 2004 Dr. Jerman Disasa
- 2005 Wayne Deitz
- 2006 Lumus Byrd and Russ Emerson
- 2007 Cynde O’Rear
- 2008 Dr. Bud Marchant
- 2009 Norman Scarborough
- 2010 Ruth Sharpe
- 2011 Ron and Nancy Dove
- 2012 Norman Pigeon
- 2013 Rev. Mims Camm



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Adair Rogers

By Vic MacDonald
Horizons 2013

Since the third grade, Adair Rogers has known Clinton, Laurens, the rolling hills of Laurens County, and the steel blue waters of Lake Greenwood as her home.

The extended “village” that raised her, taught her skill at and love for interpreting music, and now provides her the chance to keep learning from its “elders” has given her an even greater gift than personal achievement.

This extended community has nurtured her children.

“This has been a wonderful place to grow up,” said Rogers, the minister

of music and now director of senior activities for First Baptist Church, Laurens. “Alex and I feel even more blessed to have raised our children here. They have had a wonderful education, friends and their church family. It has meant the world to us.”

While Adair’s daughter, 21-year-old Ali Rogers as Miss South Carolina is the new, fresh face of modern day South Carolina, Adair Rogers could be considered the “ambassador extraordinaire” of the state’s rural landscape. “It’s a very well-kept secret,” she says of up-and-coming Laurens County.

Rogers has been the minister of music at First Baptist, Laurens, for 18 years, and just last year

she added to her responsibilities. “As minister of music, I work with all age groups, but I wanted to work with the senior adults because I almost is one,” she said. “They have so many life stories, and they are so appreciative.

“They like to go.” And that get-up-and-travel aspect to her job could pose a problem for Rogers - she’s already at the church in uptown Laurens many nights until 8 - 8:30 supervising a music program that includes six children’s choirs, youth, adult and senior choirs, and handbells.

Asked to play the piano in the First Baptist sanctuary for a photography to accompany this article, Rogers said, “You know, I don’t play the piano in church. ... I miss it.”

She played - expertly - “How Great Thou Art.”

A music education graduate from Furman University, Rogers knew she wanted to do something in music, but wasn’t quite sure what. “Doors opened for me,” and her involvement with church music was born. She obtained her seminary degree, from Erskine Theological Seminary; she was ordained in the church she now serves.

“I saw my father and mother (Dr. Russell and Helen Dean) work in the church,” she said. “It became part of who I am.”

She remains incredibly active with the music of First Baptist Church, Laurens, but her new challenge also occupies her thoughts. “We have an active church of all ages and families,” Rogers said, “but



Feeling right at home. Adair Rogers sits right down and plays “How Great Thou Art” on the sanctuary piano at First Baptist Church, Laurens, where she is the Minister of Music. “I miss it,” she says of having only a rare opportunity to play the piano for her congregation.

- Photo by Vic MacDonald



My favorite girl. Ali and Adair Rogers share a mom-daughter moment in Las Vegas, where Ali Rogers competed for the title of Miss America. “People were so loving and affirming and supportive of us,” Adair says of Ali’s first runner-up win at the pageant. - Becki Owens Photography

senior adults are the backbone of the church. We can learn so much from them. We want them to know they are never forgotten; even when their health does not allow them to attend, we want them to know they are as important as they ever were.

“We want to nurture a sense of belonging.

“They feel like this a place they belong. This is a great church. I have a wonderful job.”

Rogers credits long-time Clinton piano teacher Eva Land for her interest in and skill at the piano. “She was a great inspiration to me,” she said. “I spent many hours in her home. You never had a half-hour lesson with Miss Eva. You came and you

stayed until she thought you were ready to leave.”

Piano was her instrument of choice in college, but at Furman she also learned how to play the organ and says, “I love to play.” She says she never felt much of Furman’s legendary music competitiveness, a legacy which has produced some of the state’s most accomplished musicians and teachers. “The vocal performance majors really felt more of it,” Rogers said. “I never had the desire to go to New York City.”

Away from the church, Adair Rogers loves spending time with her family. Brother Phillip, the principal at Laurens Elementary, wife Tara and their three boys are especially close to the Rogers’s chil-

dren, Dean and Ali. Her brother Russ and wife Amy live in Charlotte, where they both are pastors.

As Miss South Carolina, Ali Rogers will be making her NASCAR debut at the Charlotte Motor Speedway’s Acceleration Weekend. “Gonna be pretty disappointed if I don’t get to meet Jimmie Johnson,” Ali Rogers tweeted of the five-time champion.

Husband Alex’s family lives all along A.B. Jacks Road between Clinton and Laurens, so there are plenty of opportunities - as in every official holiday and some just plain family celebrations - to get together.

And then, there’s the

Rogers, Page 10



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Amanda Munyan

By Jack Warren
Horizons 2013

By growing up in Laurens, Amanda Munyan never thought she would be living and working there. The only time she lived outside of Laurens is when she went to college in Greenville. During her final year at Greenville Tech she lived in Laurens. Now she wears many hats for her part time job as communication and marketing specialist at the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce. This job suits her very well, because she knows the community and what the community likes to see.

She loves when she spends an hour in the grocery store, due to the conversations she has with community friends. These are of course attributes of living in any a small town. Yet, attributes that Munyan takes very much pride in.

An active Laurens County is one of the Chamber of Commerce's main goals that they must maintain. The Chamber of Commerce handles about 500 businesses and strives to increase that number and maintain a relationship with each business. This is where the Chamber's four employees come into play.

Munyan harped on the idea that, "We do everything here as a team, take our responsibility, and work close together."

She is mainly in charge of organizing ribbon cuttings for new, re-opening, or new management businesses. She also helps or-



A rare moment. As communication and marketing specialist for the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce, Amanda Munyan is an on-the-go person. Catching her sitting at her desk in the Chamber's Professional Park office is rare. - Photo by Jack Warren

ganize the Annual Oyster Roast, January Dinner, Sip-n-Stroll, Shop Laurens County First, and Business After Hours, which is a gathering that happens once a month for Laurens County businesses.

In preparation for these events she helps construct the flyers, decide on locations, and email businesses. Munyan has about 1,000 email addresses that she uses for residents and businesses to stay active in the com-

munity.

When asked to explain her normal day, Munyan replied, "I never have a normal day," but she gets through it with the help of her team." Her job would be much more difficult if Laurens County was not so willing to stay active. She says, "Laurens County citizens all work together to better the county."

She finds joy in advertising and supporting Laurens County businesses, because she knows how

difficult maintaining a business can be. Munyan managed a children's boutique, Pixie Dust, for five years until she bought it in 2006. Unfortunately, it closed in July of 2011.

When reminiscing about Pixie Dust, Munyan appeared sad about not having the store. Yet, she has the opportunity to help so many more businesses stay alive and strong by having them in the Chamber. This gives Munyan so much determination to help businesses that may be struggling.



The door prize queen. Give-aways are part of every Shop Laurens County First event and generally Munyan is the person doing the prize-awarding, as she is doing as the WattsNu All-tel event in Laurens. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

Before Pixie Dust closed, Munyan was already working at the Chamber for one year.

Munyan is married to Drew Munyan and they reside in Laurens with their two children, Reese, 7, and Trent, 4. Drew is from Troy, Montana, a place that Amanda has yet to but looks forward to visiting. She loves the fact that her children are able to grow up in a small town and they are in their comfort zone.

Munyan said, "I love driving through Laurens with my children when they point out their Nana's house and their church." This warms Munyan's heart and makes Laurens feel like the best place for her family to live. Amanda and her family are also active members of her church.

Here she helps in the operations of Kids for Christ (KFC).

Munyan keeps her family and herself very involved in the community. Thus, making herself that much better at her job. By staying involved she is able to see what functions, parties, and businesses are working or progressing.

Like all of America, Laurens County was hit by the 2008 economic crisis. Munyan has seen businesses come and go, but feels Laurens County is moving in the right direction.

She states, "New and fresh things are coming to Laurens County and everybody should be a part of them. To stay strong we need to think and shop Laurens County first."

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Living here, working here. "I love driving through Laurens with my children when they point out their Nana's house and their church," Munyan says of the Laurens community where she has grown up. - Photo by Jack Warren



Whatever it takes. Amanda Munyan, along with Sandra Alexander, do pretty much whatever it takes to keep Laurens County Chamber of Commerce events moving smoothly - here, they are helping people dish up their hot-off-the-grill lunches at a Shop Laurens County First event at Badcock Home Furnishings in Clinton. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

Harry Agnew

By Larry Franklin
Horizons 2013

Harry Agnew has lived in Laurens County since 1993. He doesn't plan to leave. "I'm going to live here and I'm going to die here," Agnew, 55, said. That's good news for Laurens County – that's he's going to live here, not that he's going to die – because Agnew has gained a well-deserved reputation of someone who can get things done. Take beautification as an example. One day in 2009, as he was driving to work to his office in Laurens, Agnew was struck by the amount of litter near his home on Lake Greenwood.

He decided to do something about it and Beautify Laurens County was given birth through the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce. Since then, 50 tons of trash and litter have been hauled away from the roadsides in Laurens County.

"Harry told me he was sick and tired of hearing about how ugly and cluttered with trash Laurens County was," Chamber CEO Greg Alexander said. "He said, 'let's stop complaining and let's roll up our sleeves and let's do something about it.'" Beautify Laurens County holds quarterly Pick-up Saturdays that involve hundreds of volunteers. The first pick-up was held May, 2011. The group was recognized as the Outstanding State Group of the Year by the S.C. Adopt-a-Highway pro-



Love of his life: Harry Agnew, with daughter Bella, is shown outside Phase II of Highland Park Apartments on Musgrove Street in Clinton. Phase III is under construction. The first two phases are completely occupied, mainly by students in the Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy. -- Photo by Larry Franklin

gram of the SCDOT in 2011. On the day the award was announced, Agnew got emotional at a news conference. "I am so proud of Beautify Laurens County," he said recently. "That is one of the most important things I contribute to." And he's not content to rest of the laurels the group has received. An education component will be added to Beautify Laurens County this year. It will kick off with all fourth graders in the county

gathering at the Joe Adair Outdoor Education Center. "And we're going to step up our trash pick-up this year," he said. "We're going to concentrate on certain zones (on pick-up Saturdays) with a task force or a SWAT team picking up different areas of the county." The next pickup is March 9. Agnew is not just a volunteer. As the owner of Agnew Development in Laurens, he has developed numerous pieces of property in the county, from commercial shopping cen-

ters and residential rental property to a 50-acre campground on Lake Greenwood and Highland Park Apartments in Clinton. The occupancy of his retail space has remained steady through the recent bad economy. "I've been lucky," he said. But he sees room for more growth and development, particularly in Clinton. "You have two major interstate highways intersecting there and you're halfway between Columbia

and Greenville/Spartanburg," Agnew said. He thinks the new frontage road – if it ever opens – will be a magnet for retail development. Agnew was born in Anderson and graduated from T.L. Hanna High School. He is the middle of the five children of Circuit Court Judge Harry and Frances Agnew, both deceased. Youngest brother David is a senior advisor to President Obama. Another brother, Paul, just retired from the S.C. General As-

sembly and is an attorney in Abbeville. Parker is a Presbyterian minister in Perry, Ga., and Trish, the only girl, is an administrator in the Culinary Institute of America at Trident Technical College in Charleston. Hugh is deceased. After graduating high school and attending USC "for awhile," Harry Agnew was elected to the S.C. House of Representatives at age 23. He was elected chairman of the freshman caucus but didn't run for re-election after his first term. He opened an insurance business in Anderson and then, a restaurant. In 1991, he sold the Blue Top Grill.

He moved to Clinton two years later to manage the Holiday Inn (now Howard Johnson's) on Hwy. 56. "That was the best thing that ever happened to me," he says now. "That was the turning point in my life." At the time, he didn't own a car, so he lived at the Holiday Inn and spent most of his time there. "I fell in love with Clinton and I've grown to love Laurens," Agnew said. In 1994, he opened Harry's Old Fashioned Hamburgers on Willard Road in Clinton, which was also his first real estate purchase (Congressman Jeff Duncan, then a banker, loaned him the money). He ran the restaurant for two-and-a-half years before leasing it out so he could concentrate on expanding his video poker machine business.

Agnew, Page 10

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Joey Meadors

By Christopher Hall
Horizons 2013

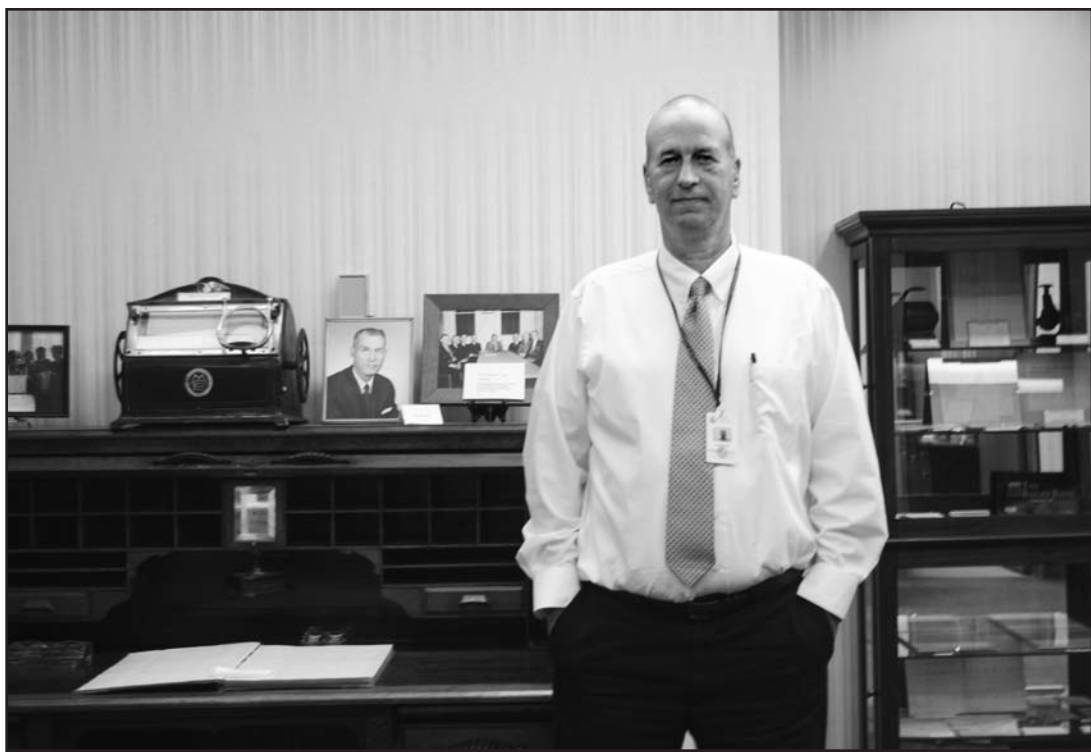
Often in small towns such as Clinton, you come across individuals who were born, reared and end up living their entire life in their hometown. That story may prove to be true for Joey Meadors. Meadors grew up in Clinton and never left.

“I’ve been here all my life. I attended Hampton Avenue through the fifth grade, after that I went to Florida Street Junior High School then Bell Street. I’ve pretty much been to every school in town except Martha Dendy.”

After receiving his diploma, Meadors attend college at Piedmont Tech where he graduated with a degree in engineering graphics. He then spent a year at Clemson University. After completing his college education, Meadors married Laurens native Nancy Bryan Meadors. Nancy attended high school at Thornwell and graduated from Lander University. She returned from Greenwood to teach at Clinton High School in the business department, a job she still holds today.

Joey Meadors works for the City of Clinton in the M.S. Bailey Municipal Center in downtown Clinton. In September of this year, City Manager Frank Stovall appointed him director of administrative services.

Meadors has worked for the City of Clinton for over 30 years. During this time he has served not only on



Proud Native-Joey Meadors was born and raised in Clinton, South Carolina and is happy to still call Clinton home after many years. -- Photos by Christopher Hall

the administrative level but as a draftsman, filter plant operator, warehouse clerk, procurement officer, he has also managed the city’s vehicle maintenance program, directed the city’s utility billing and customer service operation and most recently, served as a physical operation specialist; all of which with the City of Clinton. He is currently attending South Carolina Economic Development’s School.

Today, Meadors works a busy schedule and services all the utility customers in Clinton. “My days are usually pretty hectic. I arrive at the office around 6:45 a.m. every day and by 8 a.m., I typically already have customers calling in to speak with me about their bills

in some form or fashion. Municipal court is also incorporated into my job so I’m responsible for about 80 employees,” he said.

Along with his wife, Meadors has three children. Bryan, the oldest of his children, lives in Duncan and works for UPS. Bryan is married and has three children aged 2, 13, and 16.

Russell, the middle son lives in Simpsonville. He too is married and just recently welcomed home his newborn son. Katherine, the youngest of the children, lives with Joey and Nancy in Clinton and attends USC-Upstate. She plans to graduate in May with a degree in early childhood education. After graduation she hopes to find a teaching job in the area and coach girls’

lacrosse. She just had her first child.

When you live in a small town like Clinton your entire life you are able to see all the changes and trends the town undergoes through the years. For the most part, the Clinton native feels not much has changed since the days when he was growing up.

“Not much has changed. The physical size is about the same as it was but of course we’ve added some areas to the city limits since then,” said Meadors. “It’s changed some with time, but a lot of things are still the same.”

“We still have the railroad tracks running through the middle of town. It’s always been a problem, always will be.”




Dynamic Duo-Joey Meadors, right, is pictured with working partner, Kevin Hawkins, in the lobby of M.S. Bailey Municipal Center. Hawkins also works with the City of Clinton in billing and utilities with Meadors.

But he takes the downside of the railroad in stride and is happy he has been able to stay in Clinton all his life.

“Clinton is a great place to live,” he said. “We have Thornwell and Presbyterian College and they really add a lot to the community.” People notice Thornwell and PC when they visit or move to Clinton and they enjoy the small family feel Clinton










provides.

When he’s not in the office or handing work out-of-town, Meadors likes to spend time playing and watching golf. Along with his love for golf, Meadors enjoys spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren. The Meadors are a very active in the community and attend church at First Baptist Church, where he has served as a deacon.




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Melvin Bailey

By Grace Aldridge
Horizons 2013

Melvin Bailey is a Clinton man, through and through. Born and raised in Clinton, he has lived here all his life. He and his wife, Judy, a Joanna native, both attended Clinton High School. Mr. Bailey says that Judy “caught my eyes as a cheerleader, and I said, hey, that’s what I’m looking for right there.” They started dating in tenth grade, got married after they both graduated, and have been married for nearly 51 years. Bailey and his wife are members of First Baptist Church of Clinton, where he is a deacon and a trustee. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Bailey worked at Torrington Company of Clinton for 41 years before retiring in 2002. After retiring, Bailey was looking for something to do after “six months of doing nothing” and began volunteering at United Ministries in 2003 when it was relatively new. UM was formed as a collaborative effort of local churches after the closing of Clinton Mill in 2002 in order to provide assistance to community members, especially those who had just lost their jobs, by helping them pay their utility bills.

Although UM was formed to answer a specific need in the community, their mission also stems from scripture. Jeremiah 58:10 provided direction for the organization: “and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”

UM was, after all, the brainchild of local churches, but Bailey assures that their criteria for helping people are never based on religious affiliation.

The mission of United Ministries is to “provide crisis assistance to those in need” and to “pray with and for our neighbors in need and work to identify on-going concerns and all resources to help them spiritually, emotionally, and physically.” UM fulfills this mission through a variety of programs designed to address some of the most basic needs of the community.

One of UM’s most successful and extensive programs is providing food to the community. One of the food services UM provides is a “snack pack” program, through which 148 children in the public school system receive food from UM every Friday during the school year. Each of these students is on free or reduced lunch.

The administration selects the recipients, and UM provides the packs and food, which consist of two breakfasts, two lunches, and healthy snack food. United Ministries started this program in 2012 because they worried that the children were sometimes being left out when they help families through the food bank. Teachers report that these children “are always at school on Friday to get their snack pack.” The kids take the packs filled with food home with them and bring the empty packs back on Monday. Bailey says “the teachers think the snack pack students seem a little



Keeping us fed. Melvin Bailey examines food items on hand at Samaritan's Corner, Clinton, constantly checking to see if there are enough donations to meet demands of a growing number of people who need some basic assistance. - Photos by Grace Aldridge

more eager to get back to school on Monday because sometimes they don’t get enough food at home.” He also explains that through this program, they will provide 4700 packs this school year, a number that indicates the huge impact this program has on the children of Laurens County.

The most basic food service UM provides is a food bank located on the premises. Each Tuesday and Thursday between the hours of one and three, UM offers food to the needy in the county.

One of the other basic services UM provides is financial assistance, primarily with paying utility bills, a service that continues from UM’s formation in 2002. Bailey calculates the huge number of individuals that United Ministries has impacted in the year 2012 through these basic services.

“In 2012, United Ministries helped 9700 families. If you assume that the average family is 3.5 people, then we’ve probably helped nearly 30,000 individuals in one year alone.”

The huge impact that UM has on the Clinton community specifically and the people of Laurens County in general is obvious from these numbers. Bailey, whose primary job as director of United Ministries is to raise awareness of and support for UM, is understandably enthusiastic about these numbers. UM’s effectiveness is undeniable, and the scope of UM’s effectiveness is growing.

Bailey says they are beginning to offer GED classes in February to community members interested in furthering their

education. And there are other exciting new opportunities on the horizon for UM. Palmetto Bank, for instance, has expressed interest in partnering with United Ministries in their federal home loan program.

The Bank helps repair homes that are in need of new roofs, windows, etc. and is hoping that UM can help identify potential clients for this endeavor. At certain times, UM has also offered first month’s rent to people who need this important financial assistance to break out of a poor living situation.

United Ministries is unique in that it is not merely a food bank, of which there are six or seven in Laurens County. Rather, UM directly cares for a combination of the most essential human needs: food, shelter (both through partnering with Palmetto Banks’s program and through the financial assistance UM provides), and something more intangible, but no less important—a sort of wholistic rehabilitation.

Bailey explains that although their mission is to provide help in “crisis situations,” the goal is not just to patch up a crisis. More importantly, UM wants to facilitate a lifestyle change in the people they serve. Which is why, Bailey explains, UM offers services such as money saving and basic budgeting classes. In fact, after UM has helped a “client” with financial assistance once, he or she must attend this class before UM will provide assistance a second time. United Ministries and the people who volunteer certainly have a passion for helping those in need of

assistance in the short term, but their ultimate goal is to help them in the long run.

Bailey said while he was working at Torrington full time, he was largely unaware of the need in Laurens County. Because he went to work every day, he simply did not see it. After retiring and beginning to volunteer at United Ministries, however, the need became apparent to him.

He took the director position at UM because it is a passion of his “to help the needy. That’s what the Lord tells us to do.” For Bailey and the 45 other UM volunteers, what they do “is all about healing the people in our community.”

And, Bailey says, “no doubt about it, we’re being effective. If we weren’t doing what we do, I don’t

know what would happen to these people. If you want to help people, United Ministries is the place to be.”

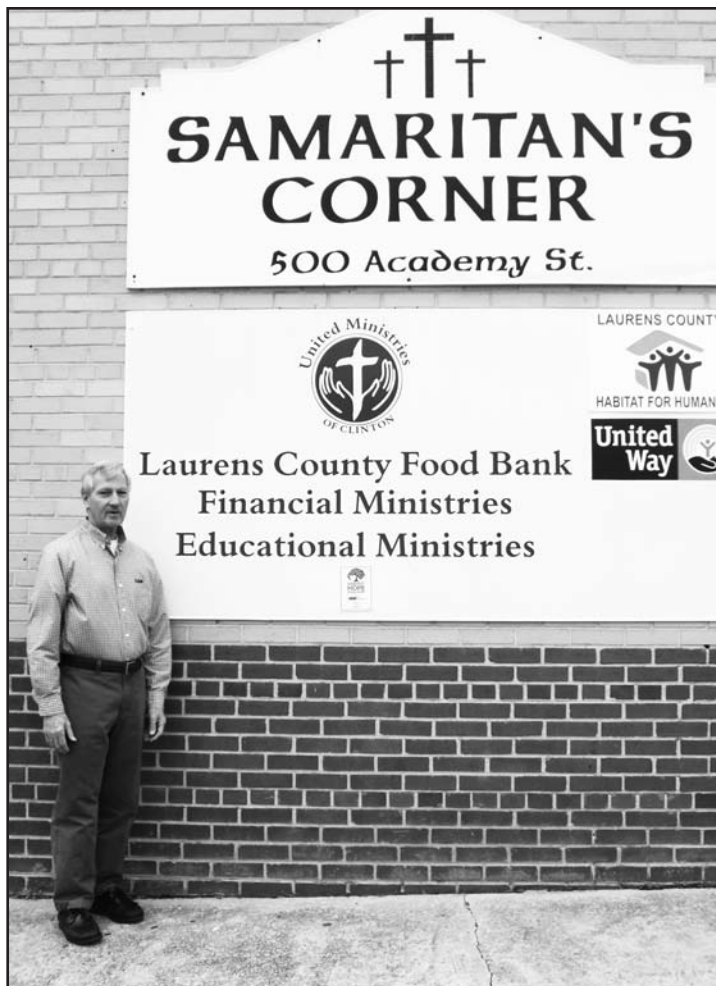
Bailey says that although the volunteers who work with UM on a regular basis are incredible, more volunteers and donations of food and finance are needed.

Bailey’s message to the community? “The need in our community is greater than it has ever been.”

At the root of the issue is the fact that there are fewer available jobs in Lau-

rens County than in the past, with the closing of huge employers like Clinton Mill and Torrington in the past decade.

Without jobs and thus without incomes, people in the community cannot keep up with inflation and fall behind. People like Bailey, who devote their time, energy, and passion to helping the less fortunate in our area are making a huge difference, but their mission is not one that has an end.



Never-ending ministry. In the shadow of a closed textile mill, Samaritan's Corner is, literally, on a corner of intersecting streets in Clinton, offering not only food but helpful listening and advice for people getting back on their feet.

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When the shelves start getting bare ... Melvin Bailey and United Ministries volunteers remind themselves of Jeremiah 58:10 - “And if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”

Stephen Taylor

By Christopher Hall
Horizons 2013

To be successful in today’s world, you can’t limit yourself to one specific area of work and have to be open to expanding your capabilities; Stephen Taylor, the City of Clinton’s first Director of Economic Development is a great example of this.

Taylor, a native of Calhoun Falls and 1995 graduate of Calhoun Falls High School, has done just about everything from serving in the Coast Guard to working as a game warden. After graduating from high school, he joined the United States Coast Guard in 1996 and served for four years before moving back to Greenwood.

After leaving the Coast Guard, Taylor worked in an arbitration program for kids during which time he also attended Piedmont Technical College. Ready for a change in 2002, he transferred to the University of South Carolina in Columbia. At USC, Taylor earned a degree in political science while he also worked for the South Carolina Republican Party state headquarters in a part-time position.

With a degree in hand, Taylor accepted a job at West Carolina Communications in 2004 as a consultant. “I worked on a digital entertainment system, which is basically just cable and oversaw product development, handled contracts with ABC, ESPN, etc as well as accommodating patron complaints in customer service,” said Taylor.

Ready to add more experience to his arsenal, Taylor left West Carolina Communications after about four years and became a game warden. “It was something I had always wanted to do especially after spending four years in the Coast Guard,” he said. “I wanted to be a



Transacting business. Steven Taylor joins in conversation at a Laurens County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event hosted by the Clinton Presbyterian Community. Receiving new ideas about Clinton and fielding questions is part of Taylor’s responsibilities as director of economic development. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

game warden and took a chance with it and ended up enjoying it.”

He spent five years working as a game warden in which time he also went back to school at Southern Wesleyan University and earned his MBA. “I thought getting my MBA would be more versatile for what I wanted to do with my career. After about a year of graduating and I knew I wanted to work in public administration,” said Taylor.

Once he received his MBA, he found himself working as an intern for the City of Clinton from November of 2011 until June of 2012. After gaining more knowledge and experience in public administration, Taylor found a full-time job with the city of Clinton working as the Director of Economic Development.

One of the main concerns for Taylor on a day-to-day basis right now is working as a zoning administrator and planner. He handles the requirements and restrictions on anyone who wants to remodel or build a new

building to ensure that any changes made enhances the community.

He also oversees public information for any events or city news and provides this information to the local media. If this doesn’t keep him busy enough, he also works as a grant writer.

As for a goal and ongoing project, the City of Clinton is working with the Laurens County Development Corporation. They hope this relationship will help increase the number of their current corporate parks from three to four. Corporate parks are areas that are set aside for development whether it is retail or industrial.

When he’s not busy with work, Taylor loves spending time outdoors—hunting, fishing and just enjoying nature in general. He’s also a big family guy and devotes as much time as possible to his wife and children.

Taylor is married to Lander graduate and Greenwood native, Andrea Taylor. She teaches at North Side Middle School in Greenwood and has a

strong passion for teaching and education. She has worked at North Side for 12 years and worked in an AVID Program that helps push kids to work hard in school and attend college. The program is enriched and has a great turnout rate with many of the kids furthering their education after high school that are a part of the program.

The Taylors have two daughters. The oldest is Kate Taylor who is six years old and the youngest is Alivia, who is seven months old.

As a Gamecock alum and surrounded by fellow Carolina alumni with his dad and brothers, Taylor also enjoys watching Carolina football though he points out that over the years there has been too much emphasis on football.

“I’m from a small rural town in South Carolina where football is everything. We need to become more focused on education and our children’s future,” he said. “People care more about the color of your jersey than education and



Stephen Taylor, left, and Clinton City Manager Frank Stovall are shown in the P.S. Bailey Council Chambers of the M.S. Bailey Municipal Center in Clinton.

that needs to change.”

Outside of football, family, hunting and fishing, Taylor also enjoys hiking though he hasn’t been able to do much of it lately. “I’d love to do more hiking but I haven’t been on my bike in about two years. My main goals and concerns right now is to make sure I’m in line with council and with the city manager, Frank Stovall.”

Taylor pointed out that along with working hard and living an enjoyable life, it’s also nice to have a job you love. Many people in today’s world dread going into work every day but Taylor is the minority of people that has had the opportunity to pursue a career and not just a job.

“I was fortunate enough to be a game warden, which was something I always wanted to do.” And even though his days as a warden are over he still has a job in which he is doing something he enjoys. “I put in a lot of hours

here but it is what I enjoy doing and I like having my weekends off. I want to see good things happen in Clinton. We want people to feel like this is great place and a place of quality.”

Taylor loves his job and believes great things are in store for Clinton in large part due to the great leadership of the city. “Our mayor, Randy Randall, and City Manager Frank Stovall and the council have great focus on where they want to lead Clinton. We want to work with PC as well and believe it’s a great asset to the city.”

“Clinton has done really well for itself and has proved outsiders wrong. In 2001, The Charlotte Observer wrote a story on us and basically said Clinton would become ‘dust in the wind’ but we’re still here and thriving. Of course, there is always room for improvement but I’m proud with where we are,” said Taylor.

Camm

From Page 3

date night every first Friday. They walk the dog, Arthur, in Cleveland Park near where they live in Greenville. They visit with family - Erica has six siblings, his mom has 12 brothers and sisters.

Mims and Erica attended competing high schools - he, Eastside; she, Southside - and they were not allowed to attend the same college.

They met at a March of Dimes walk-a-thon. Their relationship survived Mim “burning up the road” between Columbia where he was attending Benedict and Greenwood where Erica was attending Lander. He made the drive in a car with tires that could blow out any minute; he climbed into windows back at his campus well after curfew.

Along the way he somehow managed to obtain a bachelor’s in social work from Limestone College and a master’s in ministry from Anderson University. They traveled with Erica’s job; they “came back home” and settled in.

“My passion comes from a family of educators, nurses, social workers - they served on county councils. We always had a ‘give back’ atmosphere. They pushed me to give back,” Camm said. He was



We believe the children are our future. Rev. Mims Camm takes the podium to declare the purpose of The Dream Center during the facility’s dedication ceremony. The center’s after-school program, growing out of a CC4Y summer camp, came about “in God’s time,” Camm said. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

Youth ministry, Boy

Scouts and organized sports came his way through his church and the Phyllis Wheatley center. Camm is firmly convinced the young people of Clinton have got to have a place similar to the place

that nurtured him - and thousands more like him.

In 2008 he came to Springfield Baptist in Clinton, a church, he says, with “a lot of heart, a lot of love, not a lot of youth environment.” He and

church members knocked on doors in the neighborhoods, slowly building a youth ministry.

“Springfield is a church of families. I convinced them that to make an impact we need to get involved in the community. I had seen the need, through DJJ and on campuses with my work with law enforcement and in Head Start. At Springfield, we have a heart for the community.”

Camm ministered at The Open Door in Clinton. He had worked previously with Greenville Rescue Mission. He had experience with incarcerated men, and what they face after release. His first sermon was delivered inside the walls of a jail.

Meanwhile, youth explosions, poetry night and concerts kept drawing in young people from the West Chase and Countryside neighborhoods. From the back of a bus filled with young people he was transporting to a youth event - “I remember it just like it was yesterday,” Camm says - came a suggestion regarding an older white minister who was offering kids in the neighborhood rides to his church’s Wednesday night activities, “You should work with him.”

Ministers Mims Camm and Sherrill Green talked

on the phone - Camm has no trouble calling up anyone, asking for anything - and shared “what was on our hearts.”

An initial summer camp, now The Dream Center, and soon plans for the second summer camp are the results of that conversation. “I’m so proud of the community here,” Camm says of people who have stepped up to help - Schools District 56, the City of Clinton and City Manager Frank Stovall and his staff, the Clinton Family YMCA, Dr. Patsy Sadler, Walter Hughes Sr. and Jr., businesses, churches, civic clubs and organizations.

The Clinton Coalition 4 Youth Education & Empowerment - “We wanted a name to represent our city,” Camm says - is moving unstopably forward toward its second, eight-week summer camp.

“We’ve got to get those flyers out,” Camm tells Green during a break in his Horizon interview. “People are bugging me to death about that summer camp.”

The Chronicle’s Citizen of the Year is a great believer in “God’s time” - “God’s timing is not by mistake,” he says - and, apparently, for the Clinton Coalition, the time is right now.

Erin Frost

By Vic MacDonald
Horizons 2013

Erin Frost has no choice. She is going to have to do something. Her “full ride” scholarship to Wofford College in Spartanburg obligates her to a Senior Capstone.

The new Miss Laurens County, sometime well before she graduates in a May ceremony on the campus side of the stately, and renovated, Old Main classroom building, is going to have to organize and execute a community service project.

She wants it to be a basketball camp.

Careful to emphasize that she will be checking out, and fully complying with, NCAA regulations, Frost wants to bring middle school students from throughout Upstate South Carolina to Benjamin Johnson Arena on the Wofford campus.

She wants them to have a full-day, full-immersion experience with basketball. She wants proceeds from a small fee to benefit McCarthy Teszler School for special needs individuals and Children’s Miracle Network.

McCarthy Teszler because she volunteers there, and special needs advocacy is her Miss South Carolina platform.

Children’s Miracle Network because it is the signature charity of the Miss America Organization.

Erin Frost is on a course that could land her in Atlantic City competing for the Miss America crown. Her journey for the 2014 national competition started Feb. 2 in Clinton.

Frost was crowned Miss Laurens County in the local pageant at Presbyterian College. With the title comes a year of work on behalf of and appearances



Wofford girls wear pearls. Wofford College, Spartanburg, senior Erin Frost pauses beside The Wofford Terrier, a gift from The Class of 1956, at the student center. Inside the building is Benjamin Johnson Arena, where the new Miss Laurens County is wrapping up her third season on the Wofford women’s basketball team. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

in and around Laurens County, before she goes in July to the Miss South Carolina Pageant.

She will be aiming to be the successor to Ali Rogers, Laurens native who went from Miss LDHS to Miss South Carolina Teen to Miss Laurens County to Miss South Carolina titles on her way to becoming First Runner-up Miss America.

True to her “organizing” nature, Frost had the Wofford basketball teams - women and men - in her on-campus apartment watching Miss America.

They watched as Ali Rogers and Mallory Hagan, an Alabama transplant

named Miss New York, stood holding hands on the Vegas stage (Miss America 2014 will be crowned in September as the pageant returns to Atlantic City, New Jersey).

Rogers has come back to South Carolina for a raft of scheduled appearances. As her last act as Miss Laurens County, Ali Rogers crowned Erin Frost on Feb. 2 as her successor.

Now, it’s Frost who carries on the work of being “the face” of Laurens County, even while Rogers carries on as the face of South Carolina.

Both are highly accomplished high school athletes - Rogers in softball

and golf; Frost as a five-time letter winner in basketball and four-time letter winner in volleyball, two-time best defensive player, basketball MVP in 2009 and a 1,000-point scorer.

Both are talented - Rogers is a pianist, Frost is a clogger. Frost wasn’t the talent winner at Miss Laurens County - that honor went to Clinton High senior and first runner-up Sofie Keyes, a vocalist - but that might have had something to do with the fact that Frost had just one rehearsal on the Belk Auditorium stage right before the curtain rose on the local pageant.

She couldn’t miss her Wofford team’s shoot-around - she didn’t even ask to miss. After all, she had gone to her coach three seasons ago asking for a spot on the Wofford team even as the coach wondered, “Do even know what you’re asking for?” He told her, finally, at the very end of try-outs, “I’ll see you tomorrow (for practice).”

“I competed in Miss South Carolina last year. I did teen six years ago,” Frost said. “A week after basketball season, I won Miss Upstate. I’m going to win (Miss South Carolina) - that’s my goal.

“I won (the Laurens County title) a month and a half earlier (than Miss Upstate). Laurens County wants to support (its queen). As a teen I went by myself, no directors. Last year, I had good directors. (This year) it’s amazing how much the Laurens County group supports their pageant.”

They’ve lined up a photo shoot for Frost - on St. Patrick’s Day. The Laurens County group staged a local Miss SC Teen pageant Feb. 23, and Frost was juggling her basketball schedule, with practice and a home game that afternoon,

to see if she could get there for the crowning.

When basketball season ends - her last home game is March 2 against Furman, last regular season game is March 4 against UNC-Greensboro, then the Southern Conference tournament (Wofford women are 7-14 overall, 2-11 in SoCon as of Feb. 15) - Frost will seriously start working out for Miss South Carolina.

She will have a family celebration thrown into the mix, with parents Mike and Terry Frost, brother Jon-Michael, a Byrnes High football player and pole vaulter for the track team, and sister Rebekah, a nursing student. She will have Miss Laurens County duties.

“My training will be different,” Frost says of her upcoming physical regime - strength vs. lean muscle tone. “Right now we’re still doing weight training and a whole lot of sprints. For Miss South Carolina I will do a whole lot of cardio and my diet will change. I’m not going to be a stick (figure) - I’m not that small - even if I wanted to.”

She plays to carry a basketball lesson onto her Miss South Carolina workouts - time to recuperate.

“We run - a lot. The pre-season is definitely a slap in the face. We practice strong throughout the season, but we have access to trainers and ice baths. They teach us time to recuperate.”

Living close to Wofford, in Duncan, has been a good experience for Frost. Her parents attend her basketball games; she can go back over to Byrnes, one of the nation’s premier football schools, where she was student body president and offered the prayers before football games, and where she can work out with “the girls”. She is able to keep

up with her work at Middle Tyger Community Center where she has been a volunteer since age 10 and, of course, get over to McCarthy-Teszler to work in the art room.

McCarthy Teszler is a combination of two schools - one, McCarthy, for children with physical and mental challenges; the other for children with emotional and learning challenges.

“I do a camp (at Middle Tyger Community Center) in the summer. We want children of different backgrounds to come,” Frost said. “This will be my third year. Being director of a camp is more than I ever thought of.”

But it has given her a vision for that Senior Capstone project she is obligated to complete.

Frost plans to capitalize on every coach, every team, and every community around her that she can interest in coming to be part of her basketball camp at Wofford. She wants middle school students (having high schoolers especially if they are athletes might count as a NCAA recruiting visit) to come to Wofford and experience a full-blown basketball experience.

“We will accept donations and the kids will pay a small fee,” she envisions. “We will have 3-point contests, a dunk contest for our teams, a basketball clinic. We will have a guest speaker stressing the importance to education. I’m looking at late April.”

Before a summer and fall schedule of Miss Laurens County appearances - “I will be working with a new community, that’s awesome. It’s close enough for me to get there, and the pageant support is awesome,” she says. “Laurens County is on the map right now.”

Agnew

From Page 6

About then, he started buying more real estate.

He thinks it was a mistake to outlaw video poker. “The state sure does need that income now,” he said. When the South Carolina video poker market closed, Agnew moved his machines to Georgia and Texas. He has sold most of his machines, but still has some in Texas.

Agnew Development is ready to begin construction on the third phase of Highland Park Apartments in Clinton, which have been developed mostly for students in the School of Pharmacy at Presbyterian College.

Phase III will be ready

for the fourth class enters this fall, Agnew said. The first two phases of Highland Park are full.

“The city has been a great partner in this,” he said. After Phase III is complete, Agnew will have put \$4 million into the apartment complex.

Agnew is leaving the lake and moving to Clinton next month. Daughter Bella (Isabella) is getting involved in activities and the family wants to be closer to them. She will be four in March.

Agnew and his wife Amanda have been married eight years. She is from Atlanta and is an artist.

They met at The Clinton House when she was

working as a model for Ducks Unlimited. Amanda has fallen in love with Laurens County, too, he said. “How can you not love Laurens County?”

Next, Agnew wants to open an auction house in Laurens County and has already bought a building.

“There’s a lot of opportunity here,” he said. “And I have a lot of ideas. Some of them work, some don’t.”

Anyone who knows Agnew knows that Bella is the light of his life. When he’s not working, he’s spending time with her.

He also is involved in the Laurens Rotary Club, the chamber of commerce -- he’s the 2013 board chairman -- and his church, The Rock, which

was begun this summer at Mansville Park, his campground on Lake Greenwood (142 permanent spaces).

He’s also a big Gamecock fan and is on the Board of Visitors at USC.

“And I love politics. I love being involved in the political arena,” he said.

He also loves music and said he has attended hundreds of concerts and hundreds of Broadway shows in the past 10 years.

But it’s hard for the businessman to relax.

“I’m always thinking about the next deal,” he said. “That keeps me motivated. I hope I never stop. It’s not about the financial gain. It’s the creative part that I enjoy.”



Harry Agnew manages all his investment property from his office in The Oaks Shopping Center in Laurens. --Photo by Larry Franklin

Rogers

From Page 4

lake.

“We love spending time at the lake,” Adair Rogers says of her parents’ Lake Greenwood house. “Some of our happiest memories are at the lake.”

The extended family’s waterskiing contest is now at 11 as the largest number of skiers ever pulled at one time. “I doubt that record will ever be broken,” Rogers said, “because everybody is bigger now.”

“We feel blessed to have such a close-knit family,”

she said. “It’s unusual to be as big as we are to be as close as we are.”

The family - actually more like the “extended” family, up to about 300 - had one of their biggest reunions yet in Las Vegas. Competing as Miss South Carolina, a title she won in July as Miss Laurens County (she previous had served as Miss Laurens County Teen and Miss South Carolina Teen), Ali Rogers set the internet on fire as she was named First Runner-up in the Miss America Pageant.

“It was a wonderful time,” Adair Rogers said,

“a wonderful experience. People were so loving and affirming and supportive of us.”

Then, she grows reflective.

“I want to say thank you to our church family. When she was playing the piano on the Miss America stage, I thought back to all those times Ali had the chance to play at church, to play at Laurens District 55 High School, and all those speaking opportunities she had.

“Our church family, our community deserves as much credit as we do (for Ali Rogers’ success),”

Adair Rogers said. “Our church has been so supportive of both our children.”

Looking to the future, Rogers says she would be perfectly “happy and content” to retire from First Baptist, Laurens, but not without facing a challenge first.

“Church music is a complicated thing these days,” she said. “Many people say The Church has got to embrace contemporary music or the church is going to die. Some people favor contemporary music, some classical, some favor

church music. I try to be open to all styles of music.

“I’m a traditional church music kind of person, but we try to have a variety. The style is not important, we choose the music that supports the spoken word.”

Taking the minister’s sermon topic and its supporting scripture, tailoring music that opens the hearts and minds of the congregation to receive the messages - these are the components of worship most important to Adair Rogers.

“We support the text and the scripture. If not,

we miss the point of church, we miss the point of worship - when we argue about musical styles. We make everything revolve around the theme of the day.”

On Feb. 10, five first-graders of First Baptist Church, Laurens, led the scripture readings, and one led the morning prayer. The lesson to the children, Rogers said, and to the church as a whole is, “THEY ARE an important part of the church, they can lead worship just as well as an adult can.”



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