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POLICE CHIEF SINGS FOR HIS SUPPER

By M.B. Dillon



Senior citizens at Canton's Calvary Baptist Church gave thanks Tuesday not only for sumptuous early Thanksgiving potluck, but post-lunch entertainment compliments of gospel-singing trio comprised of Plymouth Police chief Robert Scoggins (BOBBY CRUMPLER), Joe Calderoni and the Rev. Robert Leatherwood.

After feasting on turkey, dressing, green beans, stir fry, jello, bread, coffee and cupcakes, the Fireside Room gathering was entertained in style.

Calderoni, a baritone, is minister of music at Gideon Baptist Church in Warren. Leatherwood, a second tenor, is minister of music at First Baptist of Canton.

The trio was invited to sing after Calvary Baptist Church members heard Scoggins sing at a recent prayer breakfast hosted by the Canton Ministerial Association.

"It was my first time out doing that sort of program," said Scoggins, who has professionally recorded his gospel music. "I kind of stopped doing it because of my busy schedule. I've tried to get back out more and do a little bit more of this. It's my feeling that it's my calling to do that."

The trio sang over recorded instrumentals, with Scoggins, a first tenor, featured on "The King Came Down," "In Stormy Weather," and "New Wine."

A member for the First Baptist Church of Canton, Scoggins was part of a gospel-singing group called the Chapels that he disbanded after his promotion to police chief.

"I have, in the past, turned down a lot of requests. When I got promoted, I became too busy. But I just feel that's what the Lord wants me doing; singing in that capacity and ministering to other people and other churches. I've been able to adjust my schedule somewhat.

It's enjoyable for me. I especially enjoy going to churches in the local area, because I know a number of people here. We got a nice response from this particular program. For the first time out, it felt good."

Scoggins' father, the late Denver Crumpler of Arkansas, was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1973. He died at the peak of his popularity when his son was just 9 years old. Scoggins was adopted by the man his widowed mother later married.

"Dad sang with the Statesmen Quartet," said Scoggins. "He passed away at the height of his career and the height of his popularity."

Scoggins is doing some more recording of original tunes.

"Currently, I'm doing a project I hope to have out before Christmas, called PUT CHRIST BACK INTO CHRISTMAS".

