

**Rev. W. LeGrand Kelly**

On Wednesday, January 23, 2019, Rev. W. LeGrand Kelly, 64, heard his Lord and Savior say to him, "well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." His family rejoices in a life well-lived in service to God and others. Rev. Kelly had recently battled a brief sickness and was at home with his wife when he went home to meet his Savior.

A service of worship was held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 11:00 a.m., the Sunday morning worship hour, at Living Praise Church of God in Monroe, with Rev. Mike White leading as family and friends celebrated the life of Rev. Kelly in worship to the Lord. A private family interment followed at Forest Lawn East Cemetery in Weddington.

Rev. Kelly was born May 10, 1954, in Anson County, and was the only child of the late Willie Rufus Kelly and the late Glennie Johnson Kelly. He was a graduate of Bowman High School in Wadesboro and Lee College in Cleveland, TN with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music.

Following graduation from Lee College, he returned to Wadesboro to live his dream of teaching music in Anson County Schools, becoming Band Director at Anson High School.

Having deep roots in the Wadesboro Church of God, it was there he served as music director for many years and later accepted God's calling into ministry and became the Pastor of New Life Church of God in Monroe and later, Living Praise Church of God in Monroe where he was Pastor at the time of his homegoing.

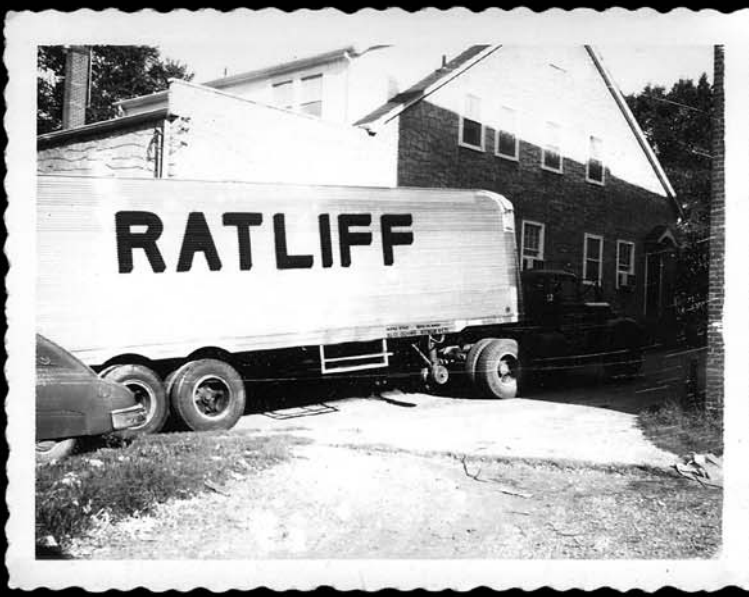
Rev. Kelly found great satisfaction in serving God in pastoral ministry along with his wife, daughters and son-in-law. He was always happiest when helping others. And he never met a stranger. He also loved the many cats over the years that were his daily companions.

Surviving are his wife of 43 years, Freida Bellomy Kelly; his daughters and son-in-law, Starr and Brian Haigler of Mint Hill and Joy Kelly of Lee University in Cleveland, TN; his grandchildren, Kayla, Kylie and Brock Haigler; his sisters-in-law, Debra Peddicord and Annette Hart both of Rockwood, TN; his aunts and uncles, Wayne and Linda Kelly of Morven, Betty Jo and Julian Deese and Rochelle Williams of Wadesboro, Julie and Barry Grooms and Arthur Johnson of Lilesville and Shirley Williams of Charlotte; his nieces, nephews, cousins and their families and his church family.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Living Praise Church of God Building Fund, P.O. Box 2628, Indian Trail, NC 28079.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at [www.leavittfh.com](http://www.leavittfh.com).

*Remembering.....  
By Ed McBride*



**Ratliff & Ratliff, Inc.**

Among the first big trucks and trailers that I lettered were those of Ratliff & Ratliff, Inc. The year was about 1946 that I began lettering "big" trucks for Steele Ratliff - usually White, Mack, International, etc. - but, always red!

Steele stayed in the long distance hauling while brother Lawrence developed a great business of earth moving, grading and the like. Brother Charles organized Morven Freight Lines, competing with rail freight and Railway Express.

Each of the above fellows could be a story in his own right.

Back to the trailer in the picture - even though this to me was a very big piece of equipment, it would be a small unit as compared to trailers of today. I painted the trailer above in 1956 - with red 34 inch letters and black 2 inch shadow (Steele's favorite colors). (Of course the colors do not show up in the picture - because I was using a very

early Polaroid 95 camera and color film wasn't ready at the time.)

The letters were painted on the stainless steel corrugated body - the corrugations were a half inch apart and a half inch deep. Now those jobs were the ones that required hours and hours - sometimes days to do, even though I used (later on) an air brush on the big side letters, and a regular sign brush on the smooth stainless skirting (where we painted the company name, address and permit/unit numbers).

Some North and South Carolina granite was trucked all the way to California by Ratliff - and when I asked about what kind of price to haul "rock" to California, Steele would grin and say, "Oh, about \$25 added to the average tombstone!" Would you even dare to compare those hauling costs to this day and time's rates?!

Steele died some years back with his trucking company.

**Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?**

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They distribute coats to those in need as well as to schools in Anson County. Blankets for the elderly are also available.

Gumbys on Highway 74 in Lilesville is a drop off site for donations, or a pick up point for those who need a coat. Just call to schedule it.

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

**Space Heater Safety Tips**

Portable electric space heaters can be a convenient source of supplemental heat for your home in cold weather. Unfortunately, they can pose significant fire and electric shock hazards if not used properly. Fire and electrical hazards can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in.

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. These fire result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage.

Safety should always be a top consideration when using space heaters. Here are some tips for keeping your home safe and warm when it's cold outside:

- Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month.
- Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.

Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard. Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater. Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture, or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire. Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.

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