



Special to The Daily Dispatch

From left are Kittrell Community Watch board members Jill Floyd and Mary Jo Floyd, guest speaker Quon Bridges, Kittrell Community Watch President Edward Woodlief, Crime Stoppers Board Member Kevin Bullock and Vance County Sheriff's Deputy Craig Thorpe.

Bridges discusses crime reduction at Community Watch meeting

KITTRELL COMMUNITY WATCH

The Kittrell Community Watch met at the Kittrell Community House on Jan. 21 for an update on local issues and a presentation on reducing future crime.

Kittrell Community Watch President Edward Woodlief called the meeting to order and the Rev. Carolyn Roy, of Plank Chapel, delivered the invocation.

Vance County Sheriff's Deputy Craig Thorpe told how a Crime Stoppers tip resulted in an arrest in a recent armed

robbery. He then described several current scams and gave advice on how to avoid them. In response to an audience question, Thorpe said pay differential, compared with other counties, creates a police manpower shortfall in Vance County.

The featured speaker for the evening was attorney Quon Bridges, 9th Judicial District judge from 2007 to 2012. Bridges delivered a rousing presentation on causes of and solutions to criminal behavior of youth and young adults. He used examples from his experience as public defend-

er, assistant district attorney and judge, as well as his personal life. He described some of the social factors that drive crime, such as "babies having babies." Bridges said prison is one answer but not the only answer. He said interventions like Big Brother and Teen Court can, in some cases, change the course of a young person's life. The audience gave Bridges a spirited ovation before and after the question-and-answer session.

The next Kittrell Community Watch meeting is scheduled for March 17.

