



From left, Edward Woodlief, president of Kittrell Community Watch, and Granville County Sheriff Brindle Wilkins pose for a photograph following the August Kittrell Community Watch meeting.

The Kittrell Community Watch met Aug. 16 in the fellowship hall of Union Chapel United Methodist Church on Raleigh Road in Kittrell. President Edward Woodlief welcomed residents of the area and officer, Craig Thorpe, opened the meeting with prayer.

After receiving reports from residents about recent incidents, guest speaker, Brindle Wilkins, sheriff of Granville County spoke to the group about his job as sheriff. He indicated that the job is to serve and protect the citizens and uphold the laws of the

state of North Carolina. He reported about crime in his county and how his department is working to handle the situation. He spoke about how all counties in the state are having to deal with the opioid drug problem, breaking and entering and thieves to support the drug habit, the mental health situation and the shortage of mental health beds often keeping his deputies tied up for hours with people who are in need of crisis intervention. He outlined some programs that he has in place to work with the pawn shops for stolen goods and a phone tree to alert businesses in local areas when crimes have taken place. He has an open door policy where the citizens can talk, one on one with him. He has instituted a program where a staff of five chaplains can come to talk with people who are incarcerated and his staff also has access to the chaplains should the need arise.

Sheriff Wilkins then reported on the latest scams that are hitting his area. He detailed a church safety program that is available to Granville County churches. He ended the presentation by outlining how important the community watches are in his county and if an area of your community doesn't have one, it is advantageous to organize one. He encouraged all citizens to be vigilant and "if you see something, say something". A question and answer session followed the sheriff's presentation.

The next meeting for the Kittrell Community Watch will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 and all are welcome to attend even if you reside outside the Kittrell area.