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Jazz funeral planned during Southern Baptist Convention

Soulforce to mourn Gay Baptists

by Laura Montgomery Rutt
Special to Q-Notes

NEW ORLEANS — Soulforce has announced specific plans regarding their presence in New Orleans to protest the anti-gay teachings of the Southern Baptist Convention, at their annual meeting June 12-13. More than 10,000 Southern Baptist messengers gathering for their annual convention at the Superdome will be met by Soulforce supporters holding vigils and non-violent protests at the same location.

Soulforce, an interfaith network of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender individuals and their families, friends and allies, is committed to applying the principles of nonviolent resistance as taught

by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., to the liberation of sexual and gender minorities.

The culmination of two days of vigils will be an "historic jazz funeral," followed by a press conference and planned civil disobedience and arrests. The Jazz Funeral is set to begin at 11:30 am on Wednesday, June 13 at the North End of the Superdome entry ramp, marching around the Superdome until approximately 12:30 pm. A Press Conference will be held in front of the main entrance at 12:45 pm "to draw attention to the anti-gay teachings of the Southern Baptists."

"Southern Baptist teachings are a primary source of misinformation about sexual and gender minorities," declared Rev. Mel White, co-founder and Executive Director of Soulforce. "Their teachings lead to discrimination, suffering, and even death. That's why our Soulforce Direct Action in New Orleans includes an historic 'jazz funeral.' Because Southern Baptist teachings turn even our friends and families against us, we weep when their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children are born."

"We are thrilled to have Soulforce coming to New Orleans to challenge the anti-gay teachings of the Southern Baptists," said Rev. Dexter Brecht, pastor of MCC of Greater New Orleans and Co-chair of the Soulforce Host Committee. "We are confident that residents of New Orleans will open their hearts and their homes to Soulforce, and join with them in the non-violent protests against the anti-gay teachings that leads to suffering and death." ▼

[For more information on Soulforce, the Jazz Funeral and New Orleans events, see www.soulforce.org.]

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Correction

In the Bank of America shareholder story in our last issue, the name of local minister Rev. Tonyia Rawls was misspelled. Rev. Rawls is pastor of Unity Fellowship Church, Charlotte. Q-Notes regrets the error.

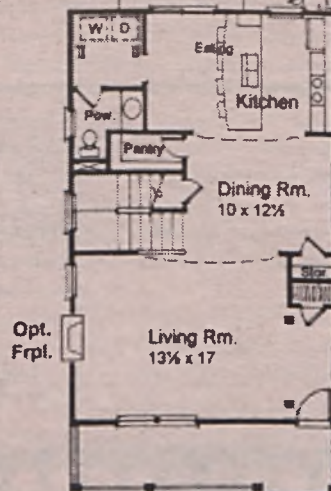
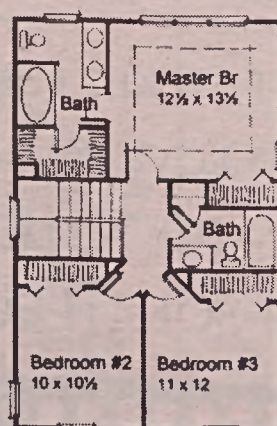
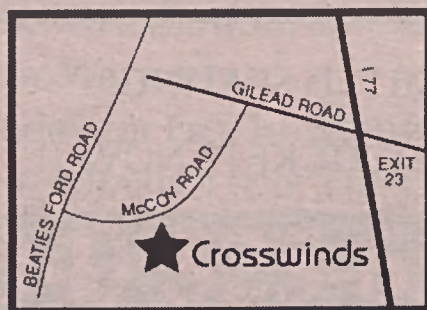
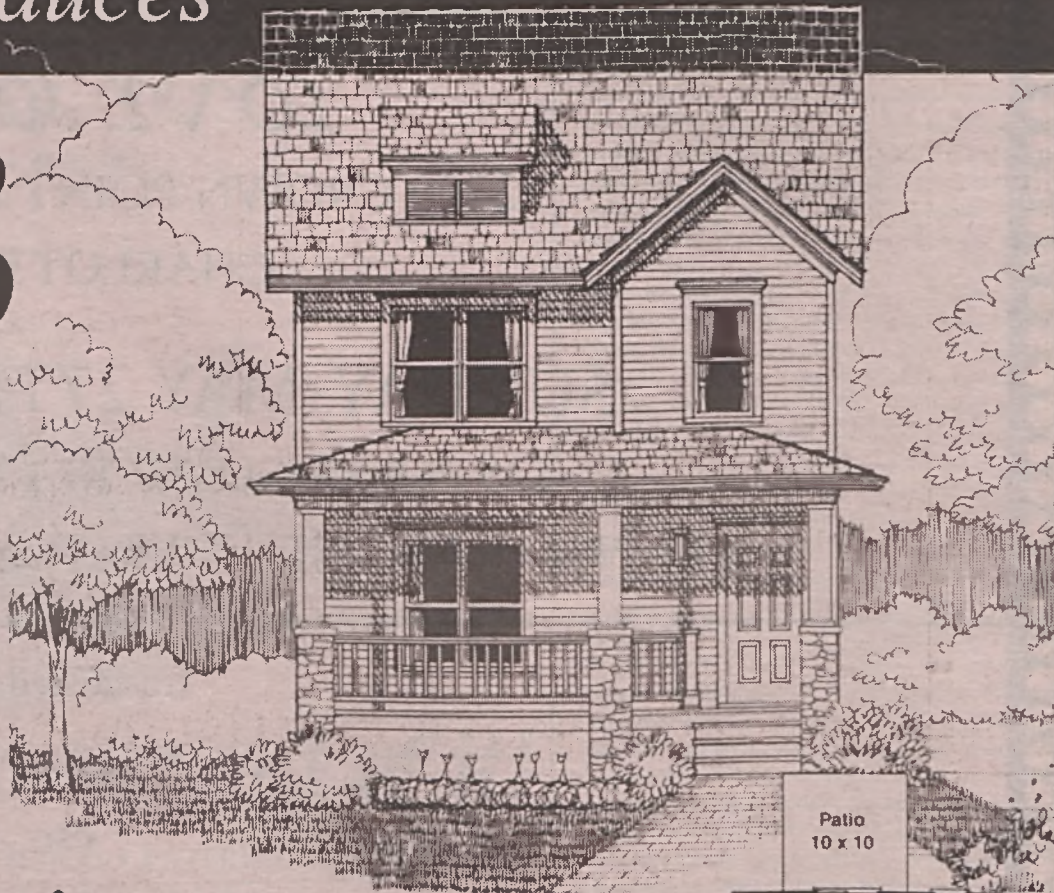
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