

# religion

News, Features, Calendar, Obituaries

## Focus On Religion

### Live Nativity Scene Is Tradition

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

If it snows, it snows. A little bit of precipitation has yet to stop the annual live nativity scene at First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue.

For 20 years, members of the church and the Women's Progressive Club have braved rain, snow and cold on the front lawn of the church to recreate the birth of Jesus Christ.

"It's tradition," says Louise Smith, an active member of the Progressive Club and other auxiliaries in the church. "We are the only black church in Winston-Salem that does a live nativity scene. We just started it and nobody else followed."

North Carolina weather officials say a cold wave will sweep through the state this week, leaving much of the Piedmont with freezing temperatures and maybe snow. However, Smith, who has worked behind the scenes with the nativity project, doesn't blink an eye because nothing has stopped participants of the re-enactment before, she says.

"They'll be warm," she says. "Under those costumes they have on all their clothes. You would be surprised to know just how much they do have on."

Starting at 7 p.m. and lasting until 9 p.m. tonight and Friday, 75 members of the church will participate in the nativity scene.

Smith says the large number of people is needed for the

scene change every 20 minutes throughout the two hours. "They don't bat an eye," she says. "They just pantomime the movements. The only folk who really move around around are the shepherds."

Every door of the church will be used as entrances and exits for the scene changes, while coffee, hot chocolate and doughnuts will be handy for nativity participants coming out of the cold. A recorded tape of Dr. David Hegley, pastor emeritus, and combined choirs of the church will accompany the scene with music and

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-- Louise Smith

Christmas messages.

Smith, a retired educator, who says she was "born and raised in First Baptist," has witnessed all of the nativity scenes at the church since the first one was presented 20 years ago. "That's right," she says. "I've been to every one of the nativity scenes at First Baptist and it has been most receptive in our community."

"It is important that we have the nativity scene because in it is a message that has been given to us from the Bible that says there is a Messiah," she says.

Smith says before urban development moved into the



The real reason for Christmas as presented by members of First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue (photo by James Parker).

Highland Avenue neighborhood, attendance at the re-enactment was at a peak.

"I would say the attendance is much smaller now than it was 20 years ago because the neighborhood is less populous," she says. "After urban renewal came through, a lot of families moved out. There were just

houses all up and down the street where parking lots are now."

But Smith says that many people from the old neighborhood do make it a point to return to watch the nativity scene, whether they just ride by or stop and look a while.

## Deaths And Funerals

### Mr. Alexander Cobb, Member Of Antioch Baptist Church, Passes

Mr. Alexander Cobb

Mr. Alexander Cobb, of Aureole St., died Dec. 11 at the Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

He was a native of Phoenix, N.C., the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cobb, a member of the Antioch Baptist Church and a member of the Deacon Board.

Surviving as his sister, Mrs. Beatrice Jones of Brooklyn, N.Y.; one brother, Mr. James W. Cobb of Wilmington, N.C.; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Ruth Bee and Mrs. Daisy Bee; one brother-in-law, Mr. Enstrom Bee and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted Dec. 17 at noon at the Antioch Baptist Church with the Rev. R.C. Wilkins officiating.

Interment followed in the Piedmont Memorial Gardens.

Hooper Funeral Directors took charge of services.

Mrs. Mattie Jones

Mrs. Mattie Jones, of 1405 Douglas St., died Dec. 13 at the Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

She was a native of Chester, S.C., had resided in this city for the past 60 years, was a member of the Mt. Zion church, a leader of the Dorcus Missionary Group, a Sunday School member, a B.T.U. member, the Hattie Files

Club, a member of the Dreamland Park Senior Citizens Club, the Alvesta Flower Club and a retired employee of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Harriet Tobe and Mrs. Evelyn J. McDuffie, both of this city; one son, Mr. Clenzo M. Jones; a foster son, Mr. Johnny Bibb; five grandchildren; a devoted cousin, Mrs. Katie Dawkins of Brooklyn, N.Y. and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted Dec. 16 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church with Dr. Kelly O.P. Goodwin officiating.

Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Hooper Funeral Directors took charge of services.

Mr. Landson Robert Blackburn

Funeral services held for Mr. Landson Robert Blackburn, of 1607 Harrison Avenue, were held on Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. in Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home with the Rev. W. M. Owens officiating.

The remains did repose in the funeral home until the funeral hour. The family did assemble and leave from the residence at 1:30 p.m. enroute to the funeral home for the service.

Interment was in the Bethlehem AME Zion Church Cemetery in Pfafftown, N.C.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home took charge of services.

Mrs. Helen Heath Shields

Funeral services for Mrs. Helen Heath Shields, of 2812 Drewry Lane, were held on Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. in Mercy Seat Holy Church, Bishop T. R. Rice, pastor and Bishop Joseph H. Adams, officiating.

The remains did repose in the funeral home until 1 p.m. at which time it was placed in state in the church until the funeral hour. The family did assemble and leave from the residence at 1:30 p.m. enroute to the church for the funeral.

Interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home took charge of services.

Mr. James Vander Mathis

Funeral services for Mr. James Vander Mathis, of 901 West 25th St., were held on Dec. 10 at 1:30 p.m. in Clark

S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home with Dr. David R. Hedgley officiating.

The remains did repose in the funeral home until the funeral hour. The family did assemble and leave from his residence at 12:40 p.m. enroute to the funeral home for the services.

Interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home took charge of services.

Mrs. Mae Troy Kendrick

Mrs. Mae Troy Kendrick, of 828 Gray Avenue, died on Dec. 14 enroute to Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

She was a native of Commerce, Ga., and had lived in this city for 61 years and was a member of Union Baptist Church where she served on the Pastor's Aid.

Surviving are her husband, Mr. Ransom Kendrick of the home; two sisters, Mrs. Francine Peters of this city and Mrs. Lutreal Johnson of Queens, N.Y.; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home took charge of the services.

Mrs. Ruby Flower Deas

Mrs. Ruby Folwer Deas, of 2526 No. Patterson Ave., died Dec. 15 at Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

She was a native of this city, had attended the local public schools, received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, her Master's Degree in Library Science, a graduate of McIver High School, enrolled in N.C. Central University in Durham, a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a member of the First Baptist Church, the Happy Hilly Sr. Citizens Club, Happy Hill Serving Club, Favorite Ceramics Club, was a teacher and librarian in the school system of Goldboro and Lillington, N.C., she later served as a member of the Library staff at Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C. and Winston-Salem State University.

Surviving are four sisters, Mrs. Eleanor F. Small, Mrs. Sadie F. Rainey, Mrs. Lois F. Clyburn, all of this city, and Mrs. Dorothy R. Edmonds of Littleton, N.C.; five nieces, one nephew, two brothers-in-law, several other relatives and friends.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home took charge of services.

Mrs. Pauline Butler Brown

Mrs. Pauline Butler Brown, of 3800 Bellvedere Ave., Baltimore, Md., died Dec. 16 at her home.

Born in Longtown, S.C., Fairfield County to the late Daniel and Bertha Williams Butler, she received her education at William Penn High School in High Point, N.C., was a member of the Eastern Star, Court of Calathe, Household of Ruth, the Elks and Unity Progressive Social Club, all of Baltimore, a devoted member of Whitestone Baptist Church where she worked faithfully with the Nurse's Unit and Pastor's Aid, wife of the late Richard A. Brown who died in May 1966.

Surviving are one son, Mr. David Butler of Baltimore; six daughters, Mrs. Pauline Boone and Mrs. Pensacola Byrd, both of Baltimore, Mrs. Geneva Hoover and Mrs. Alberta Lewis, both of Thomasville, N.C., Mrs. Dorothy Williams of Charlotte and Mrs. Octavia Johnson of Greensboro; 27 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren, two sisters, Mrs. Irene Bunch and Mrs. Jessie Lee Butler, both of Philadelphia, Pa.

Funeral services will be held Dec. 23 at 10 a.m. at Whiteston Baptist Church in Baltimore with the Rev. Thompson officiating.

The family will receive friends the evening of Dec. 22, from 7 until 8 p.m. at Marshall Jones Funeral Home, 401 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore, Md.

This has been a courtesy of Forsyth Funeral Home rendering service with sincerity.

Mrs. Warnie Campbell Cuthrell

Mrs. Warnie Campbell Cuthrell died Dec. 14 at N.C. Baptist Hospital.

She was born in this city, lived here all of her life, and was a member of Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church.

Surviving are two sons, Mr. Lonnie Allred and Mr. Rayvon Cuthrell, both of this city; one sister, Mrs. Lavonia Clement of Washington, D.C.; one brother, Mr. Bruce Campbell of this city; three grandchildren; two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Mary Ann Allred and Mrs. Gloria Cuthrell, all of this city; one sister-in-law, Mrs. Melzetta Campbell of this city; several nieces, nephews, cousins, other members of the family and friends.

Funeral Services were conducted on Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at Johnson's Home of Memory Chapel with the Rev. J.R. Bridges officiating.

Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Johnson's Home of Memory Funeral Directors took charge of services and arrangements.

## Church Notes

### Dr. King's Banquet Features Towns

U.S. Rep. Ed Towns, D-N.Y., will be the featured speaker for the General Baptist State Convention's Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet on Jan. 13 in Raleigh.

The annual celebration of Dr. King's birthday renews the memory of the slain civil rights leader among Baptists in the state and provides funding for the convention's Christian missions and ministries. The banquet begins at 7 p.m. in the Raleigh Civic Center, 500 Fayetteville Street Mall.

Towns, a North Carolina native, was born in Chadbourne in 1934 and graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in 1956. The son of a minister, he believes America must uphold the dream of Dr. King and rise up to face the great challenge of the present decade.

"We must tap the reservoir of strength in the talents and spirit of the American people," he said recently, "and go forth with the hope and confidence that ... we can make America's future days its greatest days."

Dr. King died outside his motel room in Memphis,

Tenn., from an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968. He had gone to the city in support of a sanitation workers strike. King was 39 years old.

A Baptist minister, King won the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35.

"We're especially pleased to sponsor the banquet this year because our nation has designated King's birthday as a national holiday," said Dr. C.C. Craig, executive secretary-treasurer of the convention, which represents 1,700 North Carolina churches and more than 400,000 Missionary Baptists. "Dr. King was among the world's greatest men of the 20th century and was a symbol of hope for millions of people from every race, creed, color and religious persuasion."

Proceeds from the event will support Shaw University and the Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, Central Orphanage in Oxford, foreign and state missions. Tickets may be purchased from the Baptist Headquarters, 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, for \$15 each.

## CALENDAR

Compiled By Lucile Douthit

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

The Piper's Filter Union Hall will have a covered dish supper and program at 7 p.m. Evangelist Linda Smith is in charge of the program.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Department of Christian Education and the Sunday School Department of St. John CME Church, 650 Crawford Place, will hold their annual Christmas program at 4 p.m. The Rev. John L. Adams is the pastor.

Bernard Thacker will be the special guest at the 11 a.m. worship service at Phillips Chapel Baptist Church. The Rev. Charles Leake is the pastor.

New Bethel Baptist, Union Baptist, St. John CME and Emmanuel Baptist churches will hold a Union Service at 7 p.m. at St. John CME. The Rev. John Mendez and members from Emmanuel Baptist Church are in charge of the service.

May the spirit of this holy season remain with you all year and may you continue to read our church announcements and attend the church of your choice regularly in 1984.

-- Lucile H. Douthit

The Chronicle welcomes church calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should also include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Church Calendar, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The deadline for announcements is Mondays at 5:30.

We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And To All A Good New Year

P.H. Rose  
Northside Shopping Center