

Religion

Focus On Religion

Non-profit service needs group support

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Over 100 physically handicapped Winston-Salem residents have received aid from the Bill Kiser Memorial Equipment Service. Of those who have been loaned wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, hospital beds or had had ramps built to their homes, 90 percent are black.

But volunteers from the black community are almost none, says Ed Miller, president of the service.

"We need contributions of equipment from the black community and group support from organizations to help us build the ramps," says Miller. "This is a worthwhile community effort, especially for the black churches."

The non-profit service, which began in 1978 by members of the all-white Experimental Church, was prompted by Bill Kiser, a quadriplegic who died in 1978. He was voted the 1975 Handicapped American of the Year and urged his fellow worshippers of the church not to ignore the needs of the handicapped. He also authored a book titled "New Light of Hope."

"Bill Kiser definitely felt that Christ was the center of hope," says Agnes David, publicity chairperson for the service, "and he lived his life as a Christian."

"Through this service," she says, "we're kindling the light through Christian action that Kiser talked about in his book."

The service makes available temporary use of equipment for disabled residents in Forsyth and Stokes County.

"Our group only provides for used equipment," says Miller, "and a wheel chair or walker in somebody's closet or basement doesn't do anybody any good."

The only charge for the use of medical equip-

"The Kiser Equipment Service was a blessing for me because I used to have to be carried out of my house ..."

— Bertha Vinson

ment is a deposit ranging from \$1 for crutches and walkers to \$10 for beds. However, regardless of ability to pay, the service will provide necessary equipment for those who ask for assistance.

"You don't have to qualify your need," says David. "You don't have to be indigent. Just need it and we loan it to you."

Last summer, the service built a ramp on the front porch of 84-year-old Bertha Vinson's home on West Sedgfield after members of her

community sought out resources to help the once active grandmother. One of her legs had to be amputated as a result of diabetes.

"The Kiser Equipment Service was a blessing for me," she says, "because I used to have to be carried out of my house. Now I can wheel my chair down the ramp by myself."

"These people came out of the clear blue sky and they're just a blessing," says Vinson. "If you're not able to pay them anything, it doesn't matter; they help you anyway."

Both Miller and David say donations and manpower from the black community would be greatly appreciated and that Boy Scout troops are welcomed, also.

"We really need volunteers from the black community," says Miller, "and I'm sure the Boy Scouts and the other organizations would have come to us to volunteer their time a long time ago, if they had just known about us."

Receipts are given to those who donate equipment of any kind that would aid the disabled. Repairs are made to any of the equipment, which is stored at the Forsyth County Industrial Systems. Tax deductible cash donations are also welcomed even though the service is self-sustaining, says David.

For those who are in need of the service or would like to donate equipment, call Firstline at 727-8100.



Thanks to a ramp donated by Bill Kiser Memorial Equipment Service, Bertha Vinson can move in and out of her house without help (photo by James Parker).

CALENDAR

Compiled by Lucille Douthit

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

•Elder Hilton Stone Jr. of Kimberly Park Holiness Church at 417 Burton St. will hold a worship service with members of the Mt. Sinai Church of God at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

•The Department of Christian Education of St. John CME Church at 650 Crawford Place will host an all-day bake sale at the Farmer's Market to raise funds for the Twelve Tribes program.

•St. James AME Church at 1501 Patterson Ave. will host an African Cultural Workshop for educational and historical interest at the church today through next Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon for the first section and 3-5 p.m. for the second section.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

•The Young Adult Choir of St. Mark Baptist Church at 1100 Manly St. will present, "Family and Friend Night" at the church at 7 p.m. The Rev. E. Tyndall of Friendship Baptist Church will be the guest speaker.

•The Deaconesses of First Calvary Baptist Church at 401 N. Woodland Ave. will observe their anniversary at the church at 4 p.m. The Rev. James A. Gilliam of First Thessalonians Baptist Church will be the guest speaker.

•The Senior and Young People's Usher Boards of Emmanuel Baptist Church will celebrate their anniversary at the church at 4 p.m. The Rev. K.O.P. Goodwin will be the guest speaker.

•The Skylandite Community Club will celebrate its 34th anniversary with a tea in the fellowship hall of Metropolitan Baptist Church from 3-5 p.m. Louise Wilson, executive director of the Experiment in Self-Reliance will be the guest speaker.

•The Rev. Robert Smith of Mayo Missionary Baptist Church in Ridgeway, Va., will be the Youth Day guest speaker at Fellowship United Holy Church at 3 p.m.

•The Young Adult Choir of Kimberly Park Holiness Church will celebrate its 31st anniversary at the church at 3 p.m.

•The Salemairs of Midway will celebrate their ninth anniversary at Phillips Chapel Baptist Church at 2341 Patterson Ave. at 6 p.m.

•The Hospitality Club will sponsor the Twin City Choristers in concert, under the direction of Dr. Permillia Dunston at Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church at Fourth Street and Dunleith Avenue at 6 p.m.

•The Addie C. Morris Club will sponsor the Men's Chorus of First Baptist Church at North Highland Avenue under the direction of Dan Andrews, minister of music at the church, in its first concert in the fellowship hall of the church at 4 p.m.

•St. Stephen Baptist Church will observe its church and pastor's anniversaries at the morning worship service. Dr. George Brooks of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro will be the guest speaker. Dr. Jerry Drayton of New Bethel Baptist Church will be the 3 p.m. guest speaker.

Church Notes

Homecoming to be celebrated

The educational committee of the Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church will host its homecoming celebration March 17-18.

Funds raised for the celebration will go towards the Ephesus Junior Academy for grades K-10, which is supported by the church.

Elder E.E. Cleveland, a world-renowned evangelist, will be the speaker for the two-day event. A native of Huntsville, Ala., and formerly a minister in Winston-Salem, Cleveland serves as an adjunct professor at Andrews University, as director of church missions and an instructor of evangelism at Oakwood College in Huntsville, where he received a degree in theology in 1941.

An evangelist since 1942, the Seventh Day Adventist minister, who was ordained four years later, has baptized 11,000 people, including George Juko, crown prince of Uganda. Cleveland has also conducted evangelistic



The Rev. E.E. Cleveland

services in such cities as Birmingham, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Warsaw, Helsinki, Bombay, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Sydney, Australia.

Some of Cleveland's numerous literary works include "Mine Eyes Have

Seen," "Living Soul," "Come Unto Me" and "Free At Last."

He and his wife Celia have one son, Edward Earl Clifford Jr.

Services Friday night will begin at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday at 9:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Galilee celebrates 29th anniversary

On Sunday, March 18, the Rev. Dr. Wernie C. Hay and members of Galilee Baptist Church at 575 Claremont Ave. will celebrate the church's 29th anniversary.

The guest speaker for the morning worship service will be the Rev. R.E. Devoe, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Shelby.

An educator in the South Carolina public schools, Devoe is a graduate of Benedict College and the J.J. Stocks School of Theology in Columbia, S.C., where he received both his bachelor of science and bachelor of divinity degrees. He also received his master of arts degree from Atlanta University.

Devoe is a moderator of the Ebenezer Baptist Association, with 40 or more churches under his administration. He is also a member of the executive board of the Shelby NAACP, the Cleveland County Task Force and the Cleveland County Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

He and his wife Odessa have three children, Pamela, Drusilla and Robert.

At the 3 p.m. service, the Rev. David L. Thompson, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Badin, will be the guest speaker.

Thompson attended Benedict College and the J.J. Stocks School of Theology in Columbia. He, his wife and their four daughters live in Winston-Salem.



The Rev. R.E. Devoe

Diggs to speak at church

The Rev. William P. Diggs, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, S.C., will be the next pastoral candidate to speak at the Sunday morning worship service at First Baptist Church at 700 N. Highland Ave.

Diggs received his

undergraduate degree at Morehouse College in Atlanta and his master of divinity degree from the Colgate-Rochester School of Theology in Rochester, N.Y.

His civic affiliations include a membership with

the local NAACP in Florence and his role as vice president of the Congress of Christian Education of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. Diggs is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Morehouse School of Religion.

Youth publish first newsletter

The Youth Department of the Kimberly Park Holiness Church at 417 Burton St. has published the first edition of its monthly newsletter, "Whats Happening at K.P.H.C."

John L. Tanner Jr. serves

as chairman and Mrs. Margretta Tanner supervised the newsletter's production.

The newsletter details calendar events, promotions, achievements and up-

dates on members away from home.

Reporters for the newsletter are Lillie Stone and Pam Hall. Vanessa Duren and Patsy Jamison are the editors.

Funerals

Funeral services held for Mrs. Mitchell

Mrs. Alice Eccles Mitchell—

Funeral services for Mrs. Alice Eccles Mitchell, of Rt. 4, East Bend, N.C., were held on Saturday, March 3, 1984 at 4:00 p.m. in Benbow Chapel AME Zion Church with Rev. Lawson Means officiating. The remains did repose in Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home until 3:00 p.m. Saturday at which time it was placed in state in the church until the funeral hour. Interment was in the Benbow Chapel AME Zion Church Cemetery, East Bend, N.C.

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

Mrs. Bertha Overby

Funeral services for Mrs. Bertha Overby, of 801 Gray Avenue, were conducted Thursday, March 8th at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Hooper Funeral Home with Rev. Victor Clark officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Mrs. Overby was a native of Anderson, S.C. and had lived in this city for the past fifty years. Mrs. Overby was of the Baptist faith and was a retired employee of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Ephonia Smith and Mrs. Lovonia Hairston, both of the city; eight grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mr. George Alexander

Graveside services for Mr. George Alexander, of 1515 E. 10th Street, were conducted Wednesday, March 7, at 11:00 a.m. in the Evergreen Cemetery. He was a native of Alexandria, Va., and had lived in this city for the past fifteen years. Mr. Alexander was a retired employee of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and was of the Baptist

faith. Surviving are a niece, Mrs. Delphine Davis, of the home, and other relatives.

Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mrs. Lillie Mae Thomas Wright

Funeral services for Mrs. Lillie Mae Thomas Wright, of 2921 New Walkertown Rd., were conducted Thursday, March 8, at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Hooper Home with Rev. S. L. Hodges officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Mrs. Wright was a native of Union County, S.C. and had lived in this city for several years. Surviving are a niece, Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, of Painter, Va. and other relatives.

Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Miss Charlotte F. Peebles

Miss Charlotte F. Peebles, of Route 3, Advance, N.C., died Thursday, March 8 at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital. She was a native of Advance, N.C. and member of Mt. Sinai AME Zion Church. Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Ruth P. Dulin, of the home, and Mrs. Pat Carson, of Mocksville, N.C.; one brother, Mr. J. V. Peebles, of the home; one uncle, Mr. Madison Peebles, an aunt, Mrs. Ola Peebles; several nieces and nephews, and other relatives. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Mt. Sinai AME Zion Church in Advance, N.C. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mr. Vernon Hunter

Mr. Vernon Hunter, of 1732 Harrison Avenue, died Wednesday, March 7 at the Veterans' Administration

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