

Religion

Church Calendar, Focus On Religion, Church Notes, Obituaries

Focus On Religion

Rev. Lester had faith when others didn't

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Last winter, a lot of people gave up on the Rev. Anna Carter Lester's chances of surviving pneumonia, including her own doctor.

Despite a grim outlook, the 74-year-old Lester -- founder of the Wayside Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on Carver Road, the City of God Pentecostal Church of Deliverance and the Citadel of Hope Bible Academy, both on 23rd Street -- is back in service and as good as ever.

"I didn't think I was going to die," she says in her calm voice. "I had been in the hospital for two days before I realized where I was ... But no, my number wasn't called, so I survived."

At 12, the Bracey, Va., native moved to Providence, R.I., after her mother's death to live with a sister 22 years her senior.

The daughter of an Episcopalian Bible minister, Lester earned a degree in Christian education from the Manhattan Bible Institute in New York and finally settled in Montclair, N.J., where she was a teacher and registrar at the renowned Rev. Auturo Skinner's Newark Deliverance Institute in Newark, N.J.

In 1951, by invitation of a cousin, she moved to Winston-Salem for 10 months and began the

formation of a Bible mission on 16th Street.

Lester and two elderly people ran the mission on 16th Street, but participation was low. That's when she says she took it upon herself to go door to door and ask parents to let their children attend her Sunday School.

"The first Sunday I had six children," says Lester, "and then it built from there and for 10 months I worked with those children until I received notice to go to Africa."

"For people who don't have a ministry and don't have anywhere to preach, they can come to the City of God."

-- The Rev. Anna Carter Lester

Before she left in 1952, Lester says 35 children had become eager and ready members of her Fisherman's Club, which rewarded each child for bringing additional students to Sunday School with them.

As a missionary sent by the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ to the West African country of Liberia, where she spent two years, Lester continued her work as a teacher of the Bible and home economics to teen-age Liberian girls.

"I kept putting it off," says Lester, "but I was afraid not to go to Africa because I had a

definite call."

Her excuses for staying in America were her two sisters who were ill, she says, but they both soon died -- six days apart. Then her husband became her reason for remaining in the states until he died the following year. Soon after, she received an itinerary from her church, \$5,000, and she was off to Liberia.

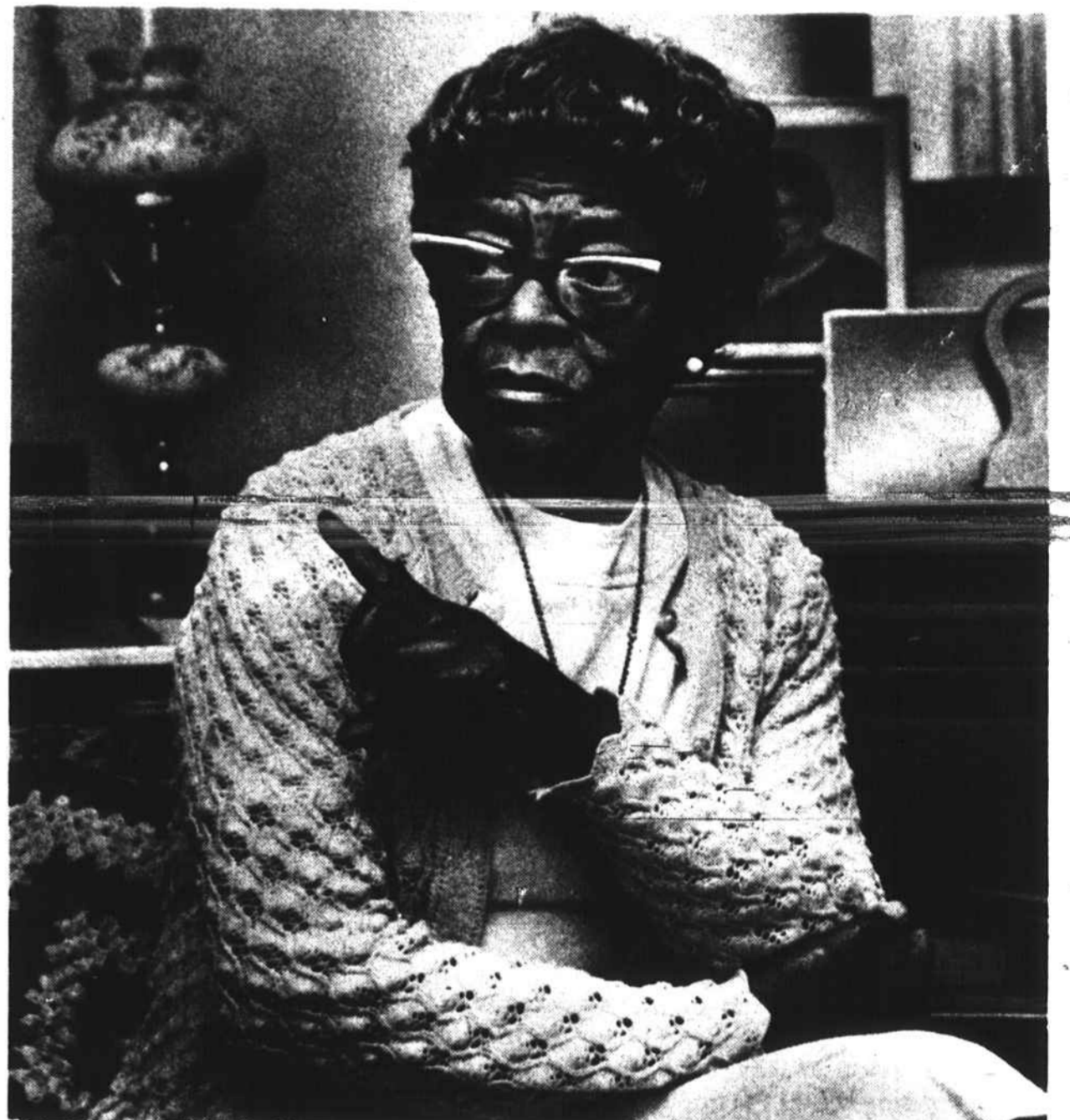
"I went on then," she says. "There were no more excuses."

After leaving Africa, Lester returned to New Jersey to continue her missionary work, and it wasn't until 10 years later that she would once again make the Twin City her home. Now, 30 years later, she still speaks fondly of Africa and the City of God Pentecostal Church of Deliverance's role in helping her to aid those plagued by famine on another continent.

It was Lester's affiliation with the Methodist Church, which came about as the result of her marrying a Methodist who, she says, gave her much encouragement in the founding of Wayside.

The City of God was also founded to let those who have been called to preach have a place to carry out their ministry, says Lester. However, her efforts have just begun to get underway, she says, due to her untimely illness that postponed the grand opening originally

Please see page B9



A desire to give other ministers a place to preach was the force that drove the Rev. Anna Carter Lester to establish Wayside CME Church (photo by James Parker).

Church Notes

Services honoring Sarah Rowdy, assistant pastor, to be held

Appreciation services will be held for Evangelist Sarah C. Rowdy, the assistant pastor of J.A. Coleman Memorial Chapel at 614 Patterson Ave. on June 6-8. Rowdy has been the assistant pastor for the past five years.

Through the years, she has worked closely with the pastor of the church, Evangelist Essie C. McCullough, to organize the church and promote the gospel. She has been a valuable organizer in many of the church's auxiliaries.

Rowdy is a counselor for Family Planning at the Reynolds Health Center. She is a mother of six and grandmother of four. She was ordained to preach by Bishop T.R. Rice and has been preaching for 17 years. Her personal motto is "God has a due season for me."

The guest speaker June 6 will be Elder Joseph Lowery, pastor of St. Matthews Apostolic Church. On June 7, the Rev. Ricky Hickman, associate minister of Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, will be the speaker, and on June



Sarah C. Rowdy

8, the Rev. Claude Thomas, youth minister of St. Peter's Church of God Apostolic Church, will render services. Services will begin nightly at 7:30.

Church sponsors services

Fellowship services will begin Friday night, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the City of God Prayer Fellowship at 220 23rd St.

On the opening night of prayer service, Elder Lewis Hunter, Sister Rona Burns and Brother Anthony L. Hines will conduct the services.

Evangelist Mary Horne, the Rev. Larry Gordon and

the Rev. Charlie Clemons will be the guest speakers Saturday, June 2.

On Sunday, the Rev. Larry Butler will be the speaker at the 11 a.m. worship service, and on Sunday night, the speakers will be Evangelists Annie Wince, Lee Faye Mack and Annette Thompson.

The Rev. Annie Carter Lester is the pastor.

Missionary circle presents musical

The Susie Hawkins Missionary Circle No. 5 of Hanes Memorial CME Church at 819 Highland Ave. will present "Sound Spectrum," an evening of entertainment, June 3 at 5 p.m.

The program will consist of music, drama, poetry and songs.

Program participants will include Alderman Larry Womble, Kamara and

Shondus Parker, Pat Reid, Inez Byrd, James Funches, Richard Radar, Adrian Swygert, Wandalee Starks, Ann Webb, Aquilla Y. Hairston, The Rev. George Bell Jr., Preston Starks and Piccola Morrow.

The Rev. Anzo Montgomery is the church pastor and Mrs. Ester Miller is the chairman of the missionary circle.

Wentz spring Sunday School closed

Climaxing spring quarter of the Sunday School at Wentz Memorial United Church of Christ on Sunday morning were presentations given by the five classes.

The primary class gave a presentation titled "Praise the Lord;" the intermediate class presented "Ruth's Loyalty;" the youth class presented "A Basket Full of Love;" the young adults presented "A Choral Reading of Psalms 95," and the adult class presented "Do All The Good You Can."

Dr. Marion R. Blair is the

pastor and Mrs. Bessie Allen is the Sunday School superintendent.

Training Union hosts discussion

The public is invited to attend and participate in an unusual panel audience interaction discussion titled "What's On Your Mind? -- Let's Talk".

This discussion is part two of the Baptist Training Union starting at 4:45 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church at 916 E. 12th St.

Panelists are Isaiah Todd Jr., Arnice Wall, James

League holds prayer breakfast

The Laymen's League of Shiloh Baptist Church Prayer Breakfast is being held quarterly during the 1984 year on the second Sundays in June, September and December. The third Prayer Breakfast for 1984 will be on Sunday, June 10, at 8 a.m.

Mr. Richard Glover, executive director of the Patterson Avenue YMCA, will be the guest speaker.

All men of Shiloh Baptist Church are laymen. Every man is asked to attend this breakfast and please bring a male relative or friend.

For additional information, call 724-9263.

Davis Jr., Bernese Sullivan, Chris Astrop, Barbara Shankle and Louise Archie.

Consultants are Ms. Bobby Stewart, the Rev. Otis Donaldson and Dr. J. Ray Butler.

G. Henderson Webb Sr. is the Baptist Training Union director, Ms. Bobby Stewart is the program director and Dr. Butler is the church pastor.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

*The Soul Saving Club will meet at noon at Union Mission Holy Church at 125 Graham Ave. Elder Hal Royster is the pastor.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

*The first anniversary of the Rev. Dennis Bishop, pastor of Waughtown Baptist Church at 838 Moravia St., will be observed at 4 p.m. The Rev. John Mendez and the congregation of Emmanuel Baptist Church will be the guests.

*"What's On Your Mind? Let's Talk," a panel discussion, will be sponsored by the Baptist Training Union at 4:45 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist at 916 East 12th St. Mr. Bobby Stewart, the Rev. Otis Donaldson and Dr. J. Ray Butler, the church's pastor, are the consultants.

*The Susie Hawkins Missionary Circle No. 5 will present "Sound Spectrum," a religious evening of entertainment consisting of music, drama, poetry and songs, at 5 p.m. at Hanes Memorial C.M.E. Church located at 918 Highland Ave. The program is free. The Rev. Anzo Montgomery is the pastor.

*The Senior Usher Boards of Zion Memorial Baptist Church will celebrate their anniversary at 4 p.m. Ms. Jacqueline Grace of the church will be the guest speaker and the combined choirs of the church will provide the music. The church is located at 101 Dunleith Ave. The Rev. Joseph Jones is the pastor.

*The Deaconess Board of Union Baptist Church will present a pageant titled "Reflection of Signs of His Coming" at 5 p.m. at the church, which is located at 406 Northwest Blvd. The program is part of the Deaconess Board's 31st Anniversary. The Rev. ... is the pastor.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you need prayer or counseling, call Deliverance Prayer Tower at 723-4075 or 723-3066. The service is open 24 hours a day. For more information, contact the Rev. Charles Beasley at 725-0539.

*The Atkins High School Class of 1934 will meet in the auditorium of Atkins on Saturday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m. for a brief meeting and a group picture. For further information, contact Minnie Davis Hanes at 723-8162, Evelyn Sides Sloan at 724-3222, Alma Lowe Amos at 722-2892 or Mary Brown Mason at 725-6505.

*A Marine Environment Workshop will be held August 5-10 for teen-agers 14-18. For further information, contact the 4-H office for an application. The program's total cost is \$125. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.

Funerals

Mayfield Harris, 101, faithful member of Central Methodist Church, passes

Mr. Mayfield Harris

Mr. Mayfield Harris, age 101 of Davidson Nursing Ctr., Thomasville, died May 23 at the Nursing home after a extended period of illness.

He was a native of Randolph County but had spent his entire life in the Thomasville Community and was a faithful member of Central United Methodist Church.

Surviving relatives are one son, Mr. Fred Harris of Midway; one sister, Mrs. Kattie Rogers of this city; thirteen grandchildren, twenty-three great-grandchildren, twenty-five great-great-grandchildren and one great-great-great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2:00 pm at Central United Methodist Church with Rev. Harvey L. Johnson officiating. Interment followed in the Thomasville City Cemetery.

Forsyth Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Sarah Roberts

Mrs. Sarah Roberts, of 3711 Leigh St., Walkertown died Sunday Evening at her home. She was a native of Rockingham Co., a faithful member of Hayes Chapel Bapt. Church, member of Rose Mc. Cloud Chapter of Order of Eastern Star no. 608 and a member of the Shrine Masonic Credit Union.

Surviving relatives are her husband Mr. Marchrow Roberts of the home; three sisters, Mrs. Grace Clark of

this city, Mrs. Gertrude Todd of Lobato W. Va., and Mrs. Lillie Smith of Madison, NC; one brother Mr. Frank Linville of Lobato W. Va.; a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives. Funeral plans are incomplete at this time.

Arrangements entrusted to and services will be conducted by Gilmore Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Agness Chisholm

Mrs. Agness Chisholm, of 11 Warren St., Dover, NJ died in that city Friday. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. The body is expected to arrive in this city Wednesday.

Surviving relatives are one son Mr. William Chisholm of this city; one daughter-in-law Mrs. Almeta A. Chisholm of this city; four grandchildren, one great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

Local arrangements entrusted to and services will be conducted by your loving friends, Gilmore's.

Mr. Burney Lee Thomas

Funeral services for Mr. Burney Lee Thomas, of Atlanta, Ga., were conducted at 2 p.m. from the Righteous Church of God in the Midway Community, with interment in the family plot of the Church Cemetery.

The body remained at Gilmore's until 3:00 pm until the funeral services.

Arrangements entrusted to and services will be conducted by your loving friends, Gilmore's.

Mrs. Alice Davis Cuthrell

Funeral services for Mrs. Alice Davis Cuthrell, age 100 of 113 Arcadia Street were conducted Monday at 2 pm from the Goodwill Baptist Church with R.Q. Allen officiating and interment in the family plot of the Church Cemetery.

The body remained at Gilmore's until 1 pm at which time it was taken to the Church until the funeral hour, and was not viewed after the Eulogy. The family received friends at Gilmore's from 7 until 8 pm.

Arrangements entrusted to and services will be conducted by your loving friends, Gilmore's.

Mr. Eugene Haney, Jr.

Funeral services for Mr. Eugene Haney, Jr. of Philadelphia, Pa were conducted May 21st at 2:00 at the Union Mission Holy Church, with Elder Joseph Lowery officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Surviving relatives are his wife, Mrs. Burnetta Haney, of the home; his father and step-mother Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Haney Sr. of this city; two brothers Mr. Ronald Haney and Mr. Emmanuel Haney; two sisters, Ms. Bertha Haney and Mrs. Maxine Simon; mother-in-law and

Please see page B7