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Focus On Religion

His place in life is the ministry

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Before the Rev. Dr. Serenus Churn came South to visit Mt. Zion Baptist Church, he says he first thought there wouldn't be anything in particular that would convince him to leave Messiah Baptist Church in Yonkers, N.Y., where he had been the pastor for almost 19 years.

"Before I came to see the church," Churn says, "I didn't think I would have any particular interest, but once I saw the church, and saw Winston-Salem, I became impressed with the quality of life here."

An active community advocate, who served two terms as Yonkers NAACP president and as a past second vice president of the Empire, N.Y., Baptist State Convention, the 44-year-old minister and the congregation of 1,890 members raised the needed funds and constructed 130 housing units in the city. Churn, who jokingly calls himself an "agitator," says during his reign as NAACP president, the first school named after a black man was due in part to his concern and others to see more youth identify with Martin Luther King Jr.

Now that Churn has been pastor of 95-year-old Mt. Zion Baptist here in Winston since the end of April (the installation date is tentative), priorities he has placed at the top of the list include the church's growth spiritually and physically, he says.

Once completed, the church complex at the corner of Ninth and File streets will house recreational facilities, a chapel, meeting and child care rooms, he says.

Named for the Latin word *serene*, Churn will replace the Rev. Gilbert G. Campbell Jr., who served as Mt. Zion's pastor for three years.

Licensed to preach at 15, the Camden, N.J., native had his first pastorate as assistant to his father, the Rev. Dr. C.H. Churn, at Union Temple Baptist Church in Baltimore. Although he comes from a long line of ministers, his final decision to pursue the ministry was his own and God's call, he says.

"I believe everyone is born to fulfill a specific function in life," Churn says, "and I believe my place in life is the ministry."

"I became convinced of that at age seven," he says. "... I'm not sure my lineage has anything to do with my

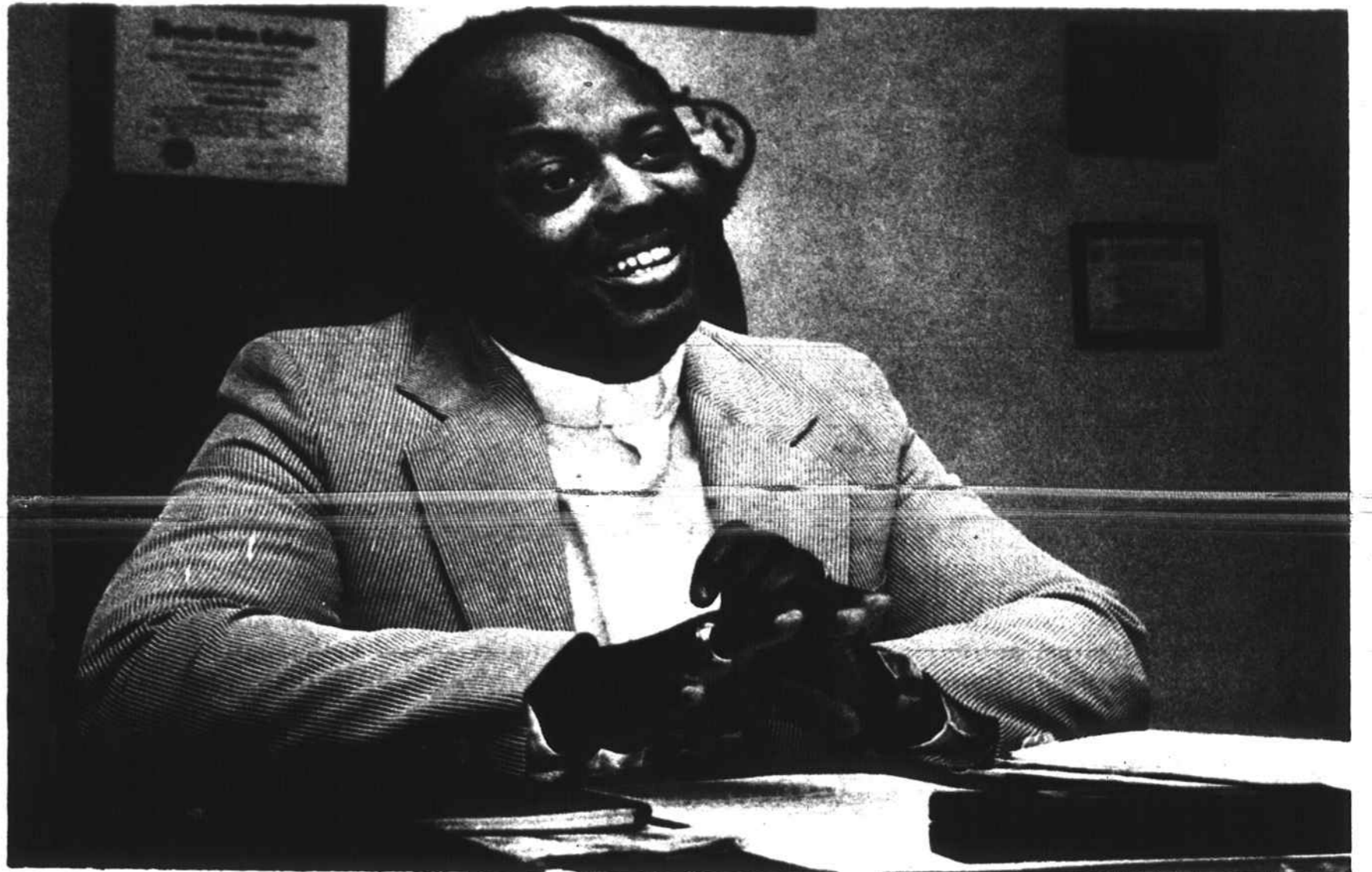
"I believe everyone is born to fulfill a specific function in life and I believe my place in life is the ministry."

-- the Rev. Dr. Serenus Churn

vocation ... but I am convinced that the call of God is real and urgent."

His wife, Shirley, presently serves as executive secretary of the Housing Appeal Board in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., and is also a civil service employee there. They are the parents of two children, Serenus Jr., 17, who will enroll at Winston-Salem State University as a freshman next fall, and 15-year-old Starling Timothy, who will be a 10th-grader at Parkland Senior High School.

Still commuting from Yonkers, Churn arrives in Winston-Salem each weekend and returns to New York on Tuesdays. The pastor's office is filled with certificates, plaques, diplomas and other memorabilia of



The Rev. Serenus Churn says he was not only impressed by Mt. Zion's progressiveness, but also by the quality of life in Winston-Salem (photo by James Parker).

Churn's academic accomplishments at Morgan State, Howard and Drew universities.

"Parting is always sweet sorrow," says Churn. But the opportunity to become part of a progressive community, possibly do a little "agitating," and lead an ever-growing and responsive church helped make leaving Yonkers easier, he says.

"I see Mt. Zion as a real challenge," he says, "... ef-

fective in allowing me to have a creative ministry and be involved in the community. I have a history of community involvement. I like the style of living here. It's a good place to raise a family.

"I'm also led to believe that the people here (at Mt. Zion) are very devoted to their church," Churn says, "and that they are sincerely interested in their communi-ty."

Church Notes

Guild sponsors tea

The eighth annual "Calendar Tea" sponsored by the Pulpit and Floral Guild was held Sunday, May 24, in the fellowship hall of Macedonia True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church of God Inc.

The theme for the occasion was "I Can Do All Things Through Christ, Who Strengthened Me."

Geraldine Marshall served as mistress of ceremonies; Barbara

Wardlow led the prayer; Loleane Williams read the scripture; Kay Smith gave the welcome address, and Patrice Lowery sang a solo.

Smith also won first prize for the best decorated table for the month of May. Winnie White and Barbara Wardlow won second place for the best decorated table.

The prize for the most guests went to Kay Smith. Loleane Williams reported the most money. Sally Bethea is president.

Young Adults hold retreat

The Young Adult Department of the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C. held its second retreat, Saturday, June 2, at the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly in Laurel Hill.

Approximately 150 young men and women from across the state attended the retreat.

The retreat was opened with devotion by Mrs. Sharon Bishop. Mrs. Jewel Dunn, Mrs. Sarah Mendez and Mrs. Bronnie Daniels led the praise and song session. Greetings were heard from Mrs. Thelma Horton,

treasurer; Mrs. Phylisa Kelly, president of the Young Adult Department, and the Rev. Theodore Breeden, superintendent.

Mrs. Bronnie Daniels, state young adult director, presented the consultants and their topics for class sessions. The consultants and the topics were Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, "Ways to Talk to the Unsaved;" Mrs. Julia McDonald, "Christian Mothers and Wives Working Under Stress," and Mrs. Colene Stanley, "The Effects of Rock and Roll Music on Our Lives."

Kinchen singers to perform

The James Kinchen Singers will present their second concert of the year Friday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Wentz Memorial United Church of Christ at 3435 Carver Road.

The program will include music by Palestrina Gibbons, Jacob French,

Katherine Davis, Randall Thompson, James Kinchen and arrangements of spirituals by William Dawson, John Work and Marshall Bartholomew.

The choral group is based at the Delta Arts Center and is directed by James Kinchen.

Fellowship service to be held

The City of God Prayer Fellowship at 2201 23rd St., N.E., will hold fellowship services beginning Friday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Elder Ashley Thompson, Elder Charlie Clemons and Evangelist Barbara Nash will lead the service.

On Saturday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m., Ronnie Nowlin, Evangelist Annette Thomp-

son and Evangelist Lewis Hunter will lead the service.

At the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 9, the Rev. Anna Carter Lester will be the guest speaker and at the 7:30 p.m. service, the guest speakers will be Elder Larry Butler, Evangelist Rosa Pepper and Elder Conrad Douthit.



Della Shouse

Shouse is honored

Mrs. Della Shouse was recently honored at Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church with plaques from the church for her loyal and dedicated service to the church.

She was also presented with a bouquet of flowers by her great-granddaughter, Keia Smith. LaTonja Powell, another great-granddaughter, recited a poem. Mrs. Shouse's son, William Eugene, sang a solo, accompanied on the organ by his sister, Evelyn. Mrs. Bessie Philson also presented her sister with a gift.

Family and friends attending the celebration in Mrs. Shouse's honor were her daughter-in-law, Emma

Shouse and her two granddaughters, Mrs. Patricia Smith and Constance Powell.

Others attending were Mr. and Mrs. Max Fultz of Greensboro, Mrs. L.E. Stauber Sr. of Rural Hall, the Rev. L.B. Speas, former pastor of Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church, the Rev. Robert Bailey, pastor of Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church and the Rev. L.V. Lassiter, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church.

Remarks were given by the pastor of Bethania, the Rev. Bobby Smith, and Mrs. Macie B. Shore, who coordinated the program.

A reception followed in the lower auditorium of the church.

Funerals

Mrs. Alice Lou Davis Cuthrell passes

Mrs. Alice Lou Davis Cuthrell

Mrs. Alice Lou Davis Cuthrell was born May 6, 1884 in Clemmons, North Carolina to the late Carolina Melissa Oliver and John Anderson Davis. She departed this life May 24, 1984 at Forsyth County Hospital. She was educated in Forsyth and accepted Christ at Warners Chapel now Capernaum Church of Christ. She was married to the late George Washington Cuthrell. To this union born twelve children.

She leaves to cherish fond memories six children: three daughters, Mrs. Ethel King of Detroit, Mich., Ms. Edith Cuthrell of the home, and Mrs. Juanita Brown of Mocksville, N. C.; three sons, George Cuthrell of Midway, Claude Cuthrell of Welcome, N. C. and Odell Cuthrell of the city; twenty-seven grandchildren; eighty-six great grandchildren; fifty great, great grandchildren; six daughters-in-law, Mrs. Clara Cuthrell and Mrs. Cara Cuthrell, both of Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Betty Cuthrell of Michigan, Mrs. Barbara Cuthrell of Midway, Mrs. Bernice Cuthrell of Welcome, and Mrs. Beulah Cuthrell of the city; one son-in-law, Mr. Odell Brown of Mocksville, N. C.; a brother-in-law, Mr. Charlie Cuthrell of the city; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Gilmore Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mrs. Julia Shoffner

Mrs. Julia Shoffner of 837 N. Jackson Avenue, died Thursday, May 31st, at her residence. She was a native of Virginia and had lived in this city for the past seventy-one years. Mrs. Shoffner was a retired employee of the



Alice Davis Cuthrell

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and was of the Baptist faith. Surviving are a daughter, Mr. Adrinna Dansby, of the home; and other relatives.

Funeral Services were conducted Tuesday, June 5th at 4:30 P.M. at the Gospel Tabernacle Holiness Church. Internment followed in the Piedmont Memorial Gardens. Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mr. Robert Jordan

Mr. Robert Jordan, 422 W. 25th St., died Sunday at his home. He was a native of Winston-Salem. He was educated in the local public schools and was a graduate of Winston-Salem State University. He was a retired teacher in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System. Mr. Jordan was a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. He was a member of B.T.U. and former recording technician for radio broadcasts. He leaves to cherish his memory a wife, Mrs. Shirley Wesley Jordan; of the home; two sons, Therman Andrew and Stephan Anderson Jordan; one daughter, Miss Angel Lee Jordan; one foster daughter, Miss Katrina Smith; one grandson, John Coleman and one foster grandson, Kedrick Lamont Smith, all of Winston-Salem; one sister, Mrs. Mary E. Willis, Winston-Salem; two brothers, Johnnie Jordan, Bridgeport, Conn. and George Jordan, Winston-Salem; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Fields; one daughter-in-law, Mrs. Deborah Jordan and two brothers-in-law, Paul France and Billy Ray Wesley, all of Winston-Salem and other relatives. Funeral services will be 5 p.m. Thursday at St. Stephens Baptist Church.



Robert Jordan

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CALENDAR

Compiled by Lucille Douthit

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

*Straight Company, an acapella gospel group from Louisville, Ky., will perform from 2-4 p.m. at Ropers Hall Recreation Center at 1501 Mt. Zion Place. Eastside Church of Christ is sponsoring the event, which is open and free to the public.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

*The Senior Usher Board to Goler Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church at 1435 E. Fourth St. will celebrate its 43rd anniversary at 4:30 p.m. at the church with an old-fashioned revival hour. Dr. Horace C. Walser will be the guest speaker. The Rev. Jerry A. Quick is the pastor.

*The Church of Christ at 536 Barbara Jane Ave. will hold a "Gospel Meeting," which will begin today and run through June 15. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. If transportation is needed, call 252-2083. The Rev. William Baker will be the guest speaker. The Rev. N.E. Sizemore is the resident evangelist.

*The Youth Department of Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church will sponsor Elder Edward L. Moore at the 11 a.m. service. The church is located at 149 N. Wheeler St. The Rev. Carl H. Gill is the pastor.

*The Willing Workers Club of Union Baptist Church will celebrate its anniversary at 4 p.m. The program will be in the form of a music-a-rama and special guests will be Mrs. Eva Hill and the Rev. John Heath. Also featured will be the Union Baptist Male Chorus, the A.H. McDaniel Amazing Grace Choir, the Della Johnston Choir and the Intermediate Singing Choir. The Rev. B.F. Daniels is the pastor.

*Evangelist Mary Ervin Abbot will be the Women's Day speaker at Stewards Chapel A.M.E. Zion Methodist Church in Rural Hall at 3 p.m. The Rev. Melvin Peay is the pastor.

*Red Bank Baptist Church on Baux Mountain Road in Germantown will celebrate Men's Day during the 11 a.m. service. The speaker will be the Rev. M.S. Durham. The 3 p.m. service will be conducted by the Rev. Isaac Carter and members of New Zion Baptist Church. The Rev. J.J. Clyburn is the pastor.

MONDAY, JUNE 11

*Revival services will be held beginning this evening at Red Bank Baptist Church in Germantown. The evangelist for the week will be the Rev. J.D. Ballard, pastor of United Metropolitan Baptist Church. The Rev. J.J. Clyburn is the pastor.

*Zion Memorial Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School today through June 15 and from June 18-22. Classes will be held each evening from 6-8 p.m. The Rev. Joseph Jones is the pastor.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the Women's Fellowship will meet at the Central YMCA. Please see page B7