

Religion

Church Calendar, Focus On Religion, Church Notes, Obituaries

Focus On Religion

New Bethel's Drayton has his day

By AUDREY WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Mayor Wayne Corpening proclaimed June 10, 1984, "Jerry Drayton Day" while his colleagues and congregation lauded him for his steadfastness and involvement in the church and community.

In an anniversary tribute to Drayton for his 40 years of service as pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, which also celebrated its 94th anniversary last Sunday, four of the five choirs he founded at the church honored him in song. Baritone soloist Daniel Andrews also paid tribute to the minister.

Between songs of praise for Drayton, the outspoken civic leader, who came to New Bethel in 1944 fresh out of Howard University with divinity degree in hand, listened with his wife, Susie, their son, Jerry Jr., along with his wife, Norma, and their two children as acquaintances, colleagues and friends praised him and his 1000-member church.

"We are gathered here today to honor a Christian man..." said Mrs. Clara Hayes, the anniversary celebration's mistress of ceremonies and general chairperson. "When Dr. Drayton first spoke of political action," she said, "some people said he ought to preach the gospel and leave the dirty politics alone. Today, voter registration has increased and all leaders are emphasizing the value of voting."

A letter from Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., who appointed Drayton chairman of the North Carolina Human Relations Council, commended Drayton, who has an

undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, for his active role in state politics.

"... I want to personally congratulate you on your forty years," the letter stated. "North Carolina is fortunate to have people with the leadership ability and character you possess.... The members of New Bethel Baptist Church are to be commended for making such a wise choice 40 years ago."

In 1944, while still a divinity student at Howard University, the Savannah, Ga., native began to fill in on a regular basis for the late Rev. J.C. Gilmore, who was ill. Members of New Bethel and their Deacon Board later recommended that Drayton become the church's full-time minister. By January of 1945, Drayton assumed the position after it was apparent that Gilmore could no longer carry on as head of the church.

Dr. Kelly O.P. Goodwin, pastor emeritus of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, also came to Winston-Salem as a young minister willing to lead a congregation older than himself. Along with many others, he too paid tribute to Drayton, who took a seat in the church pews with his family.

"All of us have been blessed by your energy and your intelligence," Goodwin said.

Dr. Warnie Hay, pastor of Galilee Baptist Church has worked with Drayton for the past 25 years. Their involvement with the General Baptist State Convention and its Political Action and Social Committee, of which Drayton served as chairman, has produced a lasting friendship between the two.

"... I have enjoyed these 40 years working with your great pastor," Hay said. "This man has put something in this community that will last for generations."

Hay added the following, which drew laughter and a



Dr. Jerry Drayton: He's been at the forefront for 40 years (photo by James Parker).

thunderous round of applause: "He has done more than Michael Jackson because he has been a servant of the people."

Drayton, who makes weekly deliveries of food to the Crisis Control Ministry from offerings members bring during Sunday service, is well-known throughout the state for his civil rights activism and holds the honor of being appointed the first black to head the Winston-Salem Urban League and the first black to become president of the North Carolina Baptist Interracial

Fellowship. He serves on numerous boards, some of which include the board of directors for Wachovia Bank and Trust Co., Morehouse College and the Theological Center in Atlanta.

"A number of bright young men were coming to Winston-Salem forty years ago," said the Rev. Kenneth R. Williams, chancellor emeritus of Winston-Salem State University, also a Morehouse alumnus and a member of New Bethel. "And all of them have done well. Please see page B7

Church Notes

Men's Day slated

On Sunday, June 17, the church choir. Men's Day will be observed at the 11 a.m. worship service at Bethlehem AME Zion Church in Pfafftown.

The guest speaker will be Larry Turner, a member of the church. He serves on the Stewards Board and sings in the church choir. He is employed as a sales programs administrator for Westinghouse Corp. He and his wife, Lena, have one daughter, Melody.

Mt. Calvary presents concert

The members of Mt. Calvary Holy Church of America Inc. will present a "Praise To God In Sing Concert," featuring soloist Cynthia Horton, also known as "Sweetie Pie."

The program is scheduled for Sunday, June 17, at the church at 930 E. 14th St. at 8 p.m.

Funerals

Margaretta Gray, a member of Spencer Memorial Church, passes

Mrs. Margaretta H. Gray
Mrs. Margaretta H. Gray of 416 E. 16th Street expired Sunday, June 10, 1984 at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. She was a native of Winston-Salem, N.C. She was a member of Spencer Memorial Christian Church where she was a member of the Spiritual and Senior Choir, a member of the Sunday School and 16th Street Flower Club. She was a retired employee of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. Whitaker Park Division.

Survivors include: Two daughters, Mrs. Mary A. Crowell of the city, Mrs. Carolyn G. Mundy of the city, one son, Benjamin C. Gray of the city, one sister Mrs. Onetta Scott of the city, ten grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, one devoted niece, Mrs. Juanita S. Wilson of the city a host of other relatives and friends.

The body is at Johnson's Home Of Memory pending the completion of funeral arrangements.

Mr. William Parker
Funeral services for Mr. William Parker of 1408 E. 19th St., were conducted Sunday, June 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at the First Calvary Baptist Church, with Dr. W. L. Wilson officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mollie Plowden Parker, of the home; two sons, Charles Plowden and William Parker, Jr; eight grandchildren; and other relatives.
Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mrs. Julia Shoffner
Funeral services for Mrs. Julia Shoffner of 837 N. Jackson Avenue, were conducted Tuesday, June 5th at 4:30 at the Gospel Tabernacle Holiness Church, with Rev. Samuel Cornelius and Rev. James Moses officiating. Interment followed in the Piedmont Memorial Gardens. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Adrina Dansby, of the home; two granddaughters, Mrs. Patricia Harvey and Mrs. Flavella M. Brown; one grandson, Robert Prince, all of this city; fourteen great-



Henry S. Lewis Jr.

Rev. Lewis featured

The United Methodist Men will observe Father's Day on Sunday, June 17, during the morning worship service. The Rev. Henry S. Lewis Jr. will be the featured speaker. Acie McGhee Jr., president, will preside.

Lewis, a native of Chester County, S.C., studied at Winston-Salem State University, Andover Newton Theological School, Wake Forest University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the School for Pastoral Care at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. He is the former pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, served as university chaplain at WSSU and as a part-time instructor in the Department of Religion at Wake Forest. Currently, Lewis is pastoral counselor at R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc.

He is listed in Who's Who In Black America and Who's Who in Religion. In 1974, Lewis was named an Underwood Fellow by the Danforth Foundation.

Co-chairmen of the program are James Orange and W.E. McKoy Sr. The Rev. Belvin Jessup is the pastor.

Prior to the morning service, the United Methodist Men and guests will gather for a special Father's Day breakfast in the church dining hall. Five of the organization's past presidents will be honored. They are Donald Rush, Williams E. McKoy Sr., Verdell Michaux, Lucius Nesmith and Joseph Daniels. Presenters who will give a brief summary of services rendered include Dr. William Rice, William Mason, Lonnie Nesmith, R.O. Black and the Rev. James Gwyn Sr.

grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mrs. Eather Boyd Miller

Funeral services for Mrs. Eather Boyd Miller, known to many as "Tootie" of 1729 N. Jackson Avenue were conducted Wednesday, June 6th at the United Progressive Baptist Church, with Dr. Quincy A. Caldwell officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Surviving are her mother, Mrs. Cora M. Boyd, of this city; one son, Ricardo Renar Miller, of the home; one sister, Miss Helen Boyd, of New York City; one brother, Carvin Boyd, Sr., of Gastonia, N.C.; one grandchild, and other relatives.

Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mr. James M. Vance

Mr. James M. Vance of 2613 Ansonia St. died Tuesday, June 5th at the N. C. Baptist Hospital. He was a native of Spartanburg, S. C. and a veteran of World War II. Mr. Vance was a retired employee of the McLean Trucking Co. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Cleo Dean Vance, of the home; one daughter, Ms. Pearl Vance; one brother, William Vance and sister-in-law, Mrs. Fannie Vance, and other relatives. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, June 9th at 1:00 p.m. at the St. Stephen's Baptist Church, with Rev. J. R. Samuels officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery.
Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mrs. Catherine Penn Smith

Mrs. Catherine Penn Smith of 310 N. Woodland Avenue, died Thursday, June 7th, at her residence. She was a native of this city and a member of the Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church, where she served on the Nurses Board, Missionary Board, and the Pastor's Aide Board. Surviving are two cousins, Mrs. Helen Hanks, of this city and Jim Penn, of New York City; one aunt, Mrs. Viola Taylor, of Richmond, Va.; several foster children, in-

cluding Ronetta LeGrand, Norman Morrison, Samuel Morrison, Doretha LeGrand, Clester Morrison, Mrs. Henretta Hawkins, and Mrs. Marie Wilson, a devoted friend, Mrs. Juanita Williams, of this city and other relatives.

Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mr. James Baker Young

Mr. James Baker Young of 2901 New Walkertown Road, Apt. C, died Sunday, June 10th, at the N. C. Baptist Hospital. He was a native of Florida and was of the Baptist faith. Mr. Young was a retired tailor. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Susie Cowan and Mrs. Ida Steel; one son, Thomas Steele; one step-daughter, Mrs. Martha Smith; a devoted daughter-in-law, Mrs. Helen Steel, and other relatives.
Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge

Mrs. Betty Jean Benson Roberts

Mrs. Betty Jean Benson Roberts of 1719 Thurmond Street passed on Monday morning in Forsyth Memorial Hospital. Her remains were removed to Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home. She was a native of Winston-Salem and attended the local public schools, Winston-Salem State University and was a graduate of Atkins High School Class of 1956. She was a member of Friendship Baptist Church. Her survivors are her husband, Mr. Eric G. Roberts of the city, one daughter, Miss Stephanie Benson of Durham, N. C., one son, Mr. Timothy Roberts of the home, her mother, Mrs. Jessie Lineberger Benson and her father Mr. Harry J. Benson both of the home; five aunts, Miss Hildred Lineberger, Mrs. Mildred McKenzie, Miss Mabel Lineberger all of the city; two uncles, Mr. Council Lineberger and Mr. Raymond Lineberger both of the city. Several other relatives and friends.

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

CALENDAR

Compiled by Lucille Douthett

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

White Rock Baptist Church Annual Youth Revival will be held through June 15. Services will begin each night at 7:00. The church is located at 1233 E. 14th Street. The guest evangelists will be the Rev. Dennis Brown of Wauwatown Baptist Church. The Rev. J.S. Wilson is the host pastor.

The annual youth revival at White Rock Baptist Church at 1233 East St., will continue through Friday beginning at 7 p.m. The Rev. Dennis Brown of the Wauwatown Baptist Church is the guest evangelist.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

The Youth Department of Kimberley Park Holiness Church will sponsor a Christian Jamboree at 7:30 p.m. Please wear 1950's and 1960's style dress or church dress. Women, please don't wear pants. There will be plenty to eat after the program. The church is located at 417 Burton St.

The Rev. Billy Ray Smith, associate minister of Mount Airy Baptist Church in Mount Airy, will be the guest speaker at Zion Hill Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m. He will be accompanied by the choir and congregation. The Rev. Oscar B. Cook is the pastor.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

A big yard sale in the parking lot of Woodland Avenue Christian Church from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale is sponsored by the Capital Fund Group of the church, which is located at 945 N. Woodland Ave.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

The Senior Usher Board of Union Baptist Church at 408 Northwest Boulevard will hold its annual Senior Board Tea at 4 p.m.

The Fulton-Matthews Family Reunion will be held at the Calvary Primitive Baptist Church in Kernersville at 1 p.m. Dinner will follow the service.

The Chronicle welcomes church calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly handwritten. They should also include the day, time, location and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be sent to the Winston-Salem Chronicle, Attention: Church Calendar, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27157. The deadline for announcements is 11:30 a.m. the day before.