

# Religion

Church Calendar, Focus On Religion, Church Notes, Obituaries

## Focus On Religion

### Minister brings spiritual fervor

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Unless you were old enough to know just what civil rights meant during the '60s, then it's possible the Rev. Arthur A. Robinson's name doesn't ring a bell.

Robinson, 56, is known widely in the civil rights arena for his crusading and organizing in Arkansas, Mississippi and in his home state of Louisiana. He says he has all intentions of bringing the same kind of intensity the turbulent '60s held to Saints Home United Methodist Church on Thurmond Street, only this time the fervor will be on a spiritual level.

Robinson was appointed in June. He replaced the retiring Rev. James T. Jones, after he simultaneously pastored for four years at Scotts Chapel United Methodist Church in Statesville and Philadelphia United Methodist Church in Stony Point. Maintaining a similar schedule here, Robinson has also taken on the pastorate at Saint James United Methodist Church in Rural Hall.

"I'm an evangelistic minister," Robinson says. "I believe profoundly in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 'I don't believe in a dead church,' he says. 'I believe in a live-wire church.'"

To prove himself a man of his word, Robinson, who was once an AME Zion Church presiding elder and founder and pastor of a Baptist church, has revived a tradition long since gone in the United Methodist Church. He says members of Saints Home are eagerly taking advantage of the weekly prayer services now being held at the church. Much of his activism began in the AME Zion and Baptist

churches, both denominations known for openly organizing protests and marches against racism during the '60s.

The son of a politically active Methodist minister and a white mother, Robinson was born in Napoleonville, La., and was raised in the culturally and racially mixed city of New Orleans. At age 13, he says, after becoming fed up with the racism he and his family faced daily, Robinson tried to join the Navy but was turned down. Two years later, however, he was admitted.

"I wanted a trade," Robinson says. "I wanted to prepare myself. I just had a mind of my own and I wanted to go out and help America, but I soon

*"I don't believe in a dead church. I believe in a live-wire church."*

*-- The Rev. Arthur A. Robinson*

realized a black man was a black man wherever he went."

The racism Robinson says he faced in the Navy and while growing up, especially after having watched his father slip out church backdoors because of his mother, sparked his interest in civil rights. And when Robinson was 32, he kept a vow he had made to himself and returned to the Navy as an officer.

"Black people were not treated the same, even in the Navy," he says. "You fought side by side with the whites, but later on you had to sling hash for them."

A father of ten children, Robinson has lived in so



The Rev. Arthur A. Robinson says he's ready to put the fire back in the church (photo by James Parker).

many Southern towns and cities since he left New Orleans that he often wanders back and forth, haphazardly remembering racial incidents that he was involved in or marches he led or his days as a co-worker and friend to the late A.D. King, the brother of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In Pine Bluff, Ark., while he was a minister at the black United Methodist Church there, he says the church was fire-bombed by the Ku Klux Klan because he allowed teachers and other civil rights organizers to meet at the church.

After graduating from Dillard University in New Orleans, Robinson became active vocally and politically in the marches for freedom and equality.

In California, where he once served as a social worker, Robinson helped to defend whites who had been wrongly accused of criminal charges. He marched side by side with Mexican-American farm workers, who were waging a battle for better wages. Robinson also led a successful lunch counter sit-in in Pine Bluff, Ark., and was the organizer of a Martin Luther King Memorial March in Indio, Calif.

"I really felt as though men of the churches had preached about human relations and race relations long enough," Robinson says, explaining his involvement. "It had all become stagnant. They had

Please see page B10

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

•Fellowship services will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the City of God Prayer Fellowship at 2201 N.E. 23rd St. The Rev. Ashley Thompson, Charlie Clemons and the Rev. Joseph Parks will lead the service. Evangelist Lillie Butler, Lewis Hunter and Earnestine Miller will lead the 7:30 p.m. service on Saturday, Aug. 11.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

•Elder Reginald Elderidge will be the guest speaker at the outdoor Reach Out For Jesus Christ Crusade at the corner lot of Derry and 14th streets at 6 p.m.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

•The New Hope AME Zion Church will celebrate its annual homecoming and revival services through Aug. 17 at the church on 7080 Shallowford Road in Lewisville. The speaker for the morning service will be the Rev. Paul Thombs. The 3 p.m. speaker will be the Rev. James French of Goler Memorial AME Zion Church.

•The Goler Metropolitan Young Adult Choir will have its first celebration at the church at Fourth Street and Dunleith Avenue at 4 p.m. D'Arcy Weathers will be the guest mistress of ceremony.

•The Rev. Anna Carter Lester will lead the 11 a.m. worship service at the City of God Prayer Fellowship at 2201 N.E. 23rd Street. The Rev. Larry Cutler, Larry Butler and Annie Wince will lead the 7:30 p.m. service.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 14

•The Winston-Salem day chapter of the Women's Aglow Fellowship will meet at the Central YMCA from 9:30-11:30 a.m. with fellowship beginning at 9 a.m. Marilyn Ludolf of Winston-Salem will speak on the "Healing of Our Emotions -- The Joy of Inner Healing."

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.

## Sims marks 19th year

Two services will be held Saturday, Aug. 11 and Sunday, Aug. 12 in celebration of Eddie (Sonny) Sims Jr.'s 19th anniversary as pianist for the Hallelujah Gospel Singers, the St. Stephen Baptist Church Spiritual Choir and the S.L. Hodges Inspirational Choir of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Saturday's celebration will be held at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church at the corner of Cleveland Avenue N.E. and 18th Street at 7 p.m. On Sunday, the

anniversary observance will be held at St. Stephen Baptist Church at 2:15 p.m.

Sims, a native of Spartanburg, S.C., has served as recording and financial secretary, assistant booking agent and manager of the Hallelujah Choir for the past 19 years. He has worked with the St. Stephen Choir for 15 years and the New Hope Choir for four and a half years.

Others scheduled to appear at the celebration will be singers. Please see page B10

## Church Notes

### The Rev. Johnson heads seminars

The Rev. Suzan D. Johnson, senior minister of Mariners' Temple Baptist Church in New York City, will become the first woman ever to conduct the annual Christian education seminar at First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue, beginning Sunday, Aug. 12 through Tuesday, Aug. 14.

To get the seminar underway, Johnson will preach the Sunday morning sermon. Small and large workshop sessions, which are geared toward church officers, leaders and members, will be held from 6-8 p.m., with emphasis on "The Biblical Understanding of the Nature and Purpose of the Church."

In October 1983, when Rev. Johnson was elected pastor of

Mariners' Temple, she became the first black woman ever in a Baptist church in New York state and the nation to hold a senior pastorate position. She had served six months prior to her election as interim pastor.

Rev. Johnson also holds another first by being the first woman to be both licensed and ordained in the Christian ministry as minister of youth at Union Bethel Baptist Church in New York.

Active in community affairs, she has served as regional chairperson for Convocation '78 and "Behold the Woman," both international Christian ministries. In addition, the Rev. Johnson served as media coordinator in 1978 for her brother,

former New York Assemblyman Charles R. Johnson. In 1979, she received the Outstanding Young Woman of America award and the Against All Odds award in 1983.

At 19, Rev. Johnson became the youngest graduate of Emerson College in Boston, where she received a degree with honors in communication and speech. The next year, she completed her master's at the Columbia University Teacher's College and has completed coursework toward a doctorate degree in divinity and communications at Howard University.

She has also worked as a television producer, actress and host on WCBS in New York, WJLA in Washington, WBZ in Boston



Dr. Suzan D. Johnson

and WPLC in Miami.

An extensive traveler, Rev. Johnson has made two pilgrimages to the Holy Land, where she was baptized in the Jordan River. She has lived throughout the world as a volunteer, student and communications consultant.

## Funerals

### Mrs. Juanita Elizabeth 'Tootsie' Hines buried

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

Mrs. Juanita Elizabeth (Tootsie) Hughes Hines

Mrs. Juanita Elizabeth (Tootsie) Hughes Hines of 3734 Apomatox Dr., passed on Monday evening in North Carolina Baptist 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 and was a member of St. Paul Apostolic Church of Christ where she served on the Missionary Board, the Sunday School, the J.B.U. Gospel Choir, the Willing Workers Auxillary and she was employed at the Winston-Salem Chronicle Newspaper. Her survivors are her husband, Mr. Alphonso V. Hines of the home, two daughters, Miss Alisha Hines and Miss Juanita Hines both of the home, her father, Mr. Milton W. Hines of the city, seven sisters, Mrs. Melvenia H. Baity, Mrs. Rosetta H. Farris, Mrs. Melinda H. Gentry, Mrs. Alice H. Little, Mrs. Mary Ella H. McLaurin, Mrs. Martha H. Sims, Miss Magdalene Hughes all of the city. Ten brothers, Mr. Willie Hughes, Mr. Marshall Hughes, Mr. Amos Hughes, Mr. Melvin Hughes, Mr. Samuel Hughes, Mr. Mylon Hughes, Mr. Maurice Hughes, Mr. Manda Hughes, Mr. Wilbert Hughes and Mr. Miles Hughes all of the city. Her grandmother, Mrs. Martha Miller of the city. Six brothers-in-law, five sisters-in-law all of the city. Several aunts, uncles, cousins other relatives and many friends.

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

Mr. Ed Gaston Brannon

Mr. Ed Gaston Brannon of 1444 North Cherry St., passed on Friday evening in Forsyth Memorial Hospital. His remains were removed to Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home. He was a native of Belmont, N.C. and has lived in Winston-Salem for 75 years. He was a retired employee of Brewer Coal Company and a former member of Friendship Baptist Church. His survivors are his wife, Mrs. Kathleen Bennett Brannon of the home, two daughters, Mrs. Frances L. Mitchell and Mrs. Cassandra B. Banner both of the city, four sons, Mr. Eddie D. Brannon Jr. of the city, Mr. Theodore R. Brannon of Rock Hill, S.C., Mr. Alphonso B. Brannon, Mr. Theron T. Brannon both of the city, eleven grandchildren, two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Frieta Brannon of Rock Hill, S.C., and Mrs. Lula Mae Brannon of the city, two sons-in-law, Mr. Clifton Norman Mitchell and Mr. Raymond Banner both of the city. Several relatives and friends.

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

Mr. P. Solomon (Sol) Venable

Mr. P. Solomon (Sol) Venable of 321 Southgate Ave., Virginia Beach, Va. passed on Monday in Portsmouth Navy Hospital. He was a native of Winston-Salem and attended the local public schools and Lincoln University and was retired from the Navy. Local survivors are one sister, Mrs. Hattie B. Penn of 3171 Woodfin Place, one brother, Mr. Quentin H. Venable of 901 Haywood St., two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Mariam Venable and Mrs. Catherine Berry, one brother-in-law, Mr. W. Claybrook Penn and several other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. in Christ Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, Va. Interment was there.

Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home in charge of services. This is a courtesy of Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home.

Mr. Marion L. Ragins

In loving memory of Mr. Marion Lawson Ragins, age 57, of 2812 Teresa Avenue, who passed on Sunday, July 29th at the For-

Please see page B9