

St. Paul United Methodist Church Named As A Historical Landmark

When it comes to laying down roots, Sarah Friende Hamlin comes from a long line of descendants who firmly planted their early seeds in the town of Kernersville.

Because of Hamlin's efforts, generations of family memories have been preserved in a little Gothic church in Kernersville. And after two years of digging in yellowed papers, asking a lot of questions and doing tons of research, Hamlin has succeeded in her efforts to have St. Paul United Methodist Church in Kernersville named as a historical landmark.

On Jan. 5, the Kernersville Board of Aldermen made a unanimous vote approving the church at the corner of New and Church streets a historic property.

But Hamlin's dream of having the church named as a historical landmark began long before that.

"I've always been aware of the importance the church played in the town's development," Hamlin says. "And in 1984 the United Methodist Church (as a whole) celebrated 200 years of Methodism. I just did not want this part of the history to be lost, because this was a period in history that was really different."

Hamlin, who was baptized as an infant in the church, says what makes the church's history so important was that it was the third church established in the town of Kernersville.

"St. Paul developed from the original Methodist Episcopal Church in Kernersville, which was a white church, built in 1837," Hamlin says. "But blacks were allowed to attend. But back then they wouldn't allow blacks to become ordained ministers, so the Negroes started their own church. So in 1873, the original log church was moved to a new site exclusively for Negroes. St. Paul was established as a black arm of the Methodist Episcopal church."

"We worshipped there until a time between 1886 and 1889, when the church moved to its current location, where the land was secured by my great-grandparents, George and

Sarah Elizabeth Taylor." Hamlin's mother, Leone Friende, was the church organist for nearly 70 years. She says her mother's active presence in the church was part of her motivation to push for its historical recognition.

"My mother was the church historian before her death, so I learned a lot from her," Hamlin says. "She helped me do a lot of the research."

And although Hamlin was able to get a lot of useful information from her mother, she says pulling together the hard evidence of the history of the church in order to get it named as a historical landmark was a tedious process.

"I went to the Historical Property Commission of North Carolina and got an application. Then I had to gather all the deeds, showing the time the building was built to prove the age of the building and the dimensions of the lot," Hamlin says. "But another part of the process was to show that the church has a cultural and historic impact on the entire community."

Hamlin says she explained to the commission that Bennett College, a Methodist school, was established the same year. She says at that time, the black and white Methodists had a good relationship through the church only.

"At that time, pastors gave excellent leadership in the Methodist Church," Hamlin says. "They encouraged young people to go to school, and Bennett College was nearby. Even if students didn't have anything, they would help them go anyway. So when the conference was established in 1870, the Methodists also established a school of higher education everywhere a church was established."

So after two years of providing the necessary paperwork, the commission finally approved the recognition. Hamlin says then the hardest part was over. Getting the Board of Alderman's approval was the final step.

Hamlin says the Gothic-style church hasn't changed much over



Sarah Friende Hamlin is proud to have her church named as a historical landmark.

the years. The sanctuary still has its original pews, "wains coat" paneling and plaster, and the tall ceilings are still in tact. Although the choir loft was added in 1915, Hamlin says each of the first choir members bought their own chairs to sit in. She says the same chairs remain in the choir loft today. The arched windows have remained, and the only changes to the exterior of the building are new front steps and the addition of a fellowship hall in 1987 that

sits next to the building. The church received a bronze plaque in honor of its being named a historic landmark and it is already listed in a book compiled with early architectures in Forsyth County. And Hamlin says although an old church membership roll once listed 50 blood relatives who were active members, the church's current membership has now dwindled. "It was once a thriving church," she says. "The church never really

recovered after the Depression," Hamlin says. "People were out of their jobs and they left town." But Hamlin says she hopes having the church listed as a historical landmark will preserve its history.

"If the church should ever close, at least it will be a part of history that will never be lost," she says. She says her next project is to get the church's original graveyard cleaned and restored.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16
7 p.m. — The St. Matthew Apostolic Church, 3640 New Walkertown Rd., is proud to have the recording artists, The Yancy Brothers from Newark, N.J., as their special guests. The pastor is Bishop Joseph Lowery.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17
11 a.m. — The congregation of Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church, 2110 Bethania-Rural Hall Rd., will conduct a memorial service of worship in memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Donald C. Holness Sr., pastor, will preach on the subject, "The Freedom March is not Over." The public is invited.

4 p.m. — The St. Matthew Apostolic Church Junior Missionaries will be having "Joy Night" with Evangelist Debra Kelly, Evangelist Camille Cuthrel, and Elder Deshea Cuthrell as special guests. The events will be held at the church, 3640 New Walkertown Rd. Come on out and take part in this joyous celebration.

4 p.m. — The Home Missions Department of Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church, 2110 Bethania-Rural Hall Rd., invites you to a concert, featuring the junior and tots-choirs, along with a Yester-Year Baby Contest. A reception will follow the program. Shirley Holness is president of the Home Missions Department. Dr. Donald C. Holness Sr. is pastor.

5 p.m. — The Voices of Winston-Salem Community Faith Choir Booster Club presents "Pentecost Night" at the Ritz Community Auditorium, 2014 Greenway Ave. The program features eight ministers from various denominations preaching on Pentecost. Speakers will be: the Rev. Mildred Sprinkle of Center Grove AME Zion Church; Elder Paul Jeter of Cappadocia Holiness Church of God of Deliverance; Evangelist Alice Mitchell of Beulah Baptist Church; the Rev. James Wright of St. Stephen Baptist Church; Evangelist Alberta Stancel of Macedonia True Vine Church; Elder Howard Daniels of Living Water Nondenominational Church; Evangelist Shirley Johnson of St. Matthew Apostolic Church; and Minister Toby Wise of Macedonia Church of God. All faiths are welcome. For information, call 785-9861 or 724-6322.



Community EVENTS CALENDAR January

How to Schedule Your Events: Send your information, concisely and neatly printed or typed, to the *Chronicle* Calendar, 617 N. Liberty St., Winston-Salem, NC 27102, before 5:00 p.m., the Monday preceding the week in which your event will occur. Our FAX number is (919) 723-9173.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14
12 p.m. — The Forsyth County Juvenile Justice Council will hold a meeting in the assembly room of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, on the corner of Summit and Pilot View streets. Earl Dunlap, executive director of the National Juvenile Detention Association, will discuss "High Management Treatment Study."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15
6 p.m. — The Arts Council will hold an opening reception presenting works of the 1991 Emerging Artist Fellowship Recipients in the Milton Rhodes Gallery, Sawtooth Building, 226 N. Marshall St. The fellowship recipients for visual art are Mark C. Mileston, paintings and sculpture; Glenda Wharton-Little, mixed media; Margaret Shearin, paintings; and Tenley, Shewmake, graphics and installation. Musicians awarded with fellowships are Amadi Hummings, violinist; Steve Pollack, saxophone; and Janet K. Rabe, opera. The exhibit runs through Feb. 6. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information, call 722-2585.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16
8 a.m. — The Northwest North Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Dr., is holding a community CPR course until 5 p.m. Participants must register and pay prior to the date of the course. The fee is \$30. For information, call 724-0511 and ask for the Office of Health Services.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17
2:30 p.m. — The Winston-Triad Lupus Chapter will meet at Highland Presbyterian

Church activity building, 2329 Cloverdale Ave. Anne Murray, Ph.D., clinic psychologist at Forsyth Memorial Hospital, will speak on "Coping with lupus and other chronic illnesses." Free and open to the public.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18
1 p.m. — The Northwest North Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive until 6 p.m. at the Triad Blood Center, 650 Coliseum Dr. WJMH radio (102 JAMZ) and the Winston-Salem Chronicle are co-sponsoring the blood drive. Special food and prizes will be given to donors. Donors are encouraged to make an appointment to donate blood by calling 724-0511 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19
7:30 a.m. — The Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce will hold a small business breakfast forum in the board room, the Chamber Building, 601 W. Fourth St. The forum topic is "1993 State of the Chamber and the Community." Free admission. Call Tracy Meroney at 725-2361 for more information.

12 p.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services Office invites you to attend a jewelry-making class led by Jo Ann Falls of the Forsyth County Cooperative Extension Service. For information, call 727-2975.

1 p.m. — Salem College will offer the seminar "I Have a Dream" at the Salem Commons lounge. Dr. James C. Cox Jr., associate professor of communications, will speak on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech. For information, call 721-2702.

6 p.m. — The Northwest North Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Dr., is holding an infant/child CPR course on Tuesday, Jan. 19, until 10 p.m., and on Thursday, Jan. 21, until 9 p.m. Participants must register and pay prior to the date of the course they plan to attend. The course fee is \$28. For more information, call 724-0511 and ask for the Office of Health Services.

6:15 p.m. — The American Lung Association of North Carolina is offering a stop-smoking clinic, as part of a three-part clinic. The second and third sessions are Tuesday, Feb. 2, and Thursday, Feb. 4. The cost for the clinic is \$50. All sessions will meet at the Lung Association office, 112 Fayette St. Advance registration is required. Space is limited, so call early and be smoke free in '93. Call 723-3395 for information.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20
4 p.m. — The Executive Dialogue Group I of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce will meet in the Chamber board room, 601 W. Fourth St. Call Tracy Meroney at 725-2361 for more information.

ONGOING EVENTS
• The Winston-Salem Community Band is looking for experienced wind or percussion instrument players. The band meets once a week from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Reynolds High School, 301 N. Hawthorne Rd. For information, call the Elms at 727-2505.
• The Convention Center/Coliseum Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 19, is canceled and will meet Monday, Jan. 25, at 12:15 p.m. in the Benton Convention Center.

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