

# Church congregation looking for new home after controversy

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Grace Baptist Church is once again without a place to call home.

The small congregation heard its last sermon preached at 927 Cameron Ave. on Dec. 31. Last Sunday, and for indefinite Sundays to come, the congregation will meet at off-hours in the sanctuaries of other churches to worship.

Founded less than two years ago, Grace moved into the large brick house on Cameron. The church had a short honeymoon in the residential area. When some neighbors saw a pulpit and pews being moved into the house rather than bedroom sets and sofas, they voiced concern to local news organizations and to the owner of the house, Frank Stafford.

The Rev. gloria gerald (she does not capitalize her name) has been embroiled in a court battle with Stafford for more than two months now. She claims that her landlord wanted her out of the house once neigh-

bors started to complain. According to gerald, the church has fought to keep its home, while Stafford fought to evict them on the grounds that he did not know that he was renting to a church, a charge that gerald vigorously denies.

Calls to Stafford's residence in Winston-Salem were not returned.

Although city officials recently confirmed that the property was zoned for small churches, gerald gave up her fight somewhat last week. During a court hearing she turned over the keys. The church's organ and other items now sit in the living room of her apartment. She now says she will sue Stafford because she lost ministry and members because of the controversy and because needed repairs were not made to the structure.

"Some members were afraid to worship in there with the dispute because they did not know what would happen," gerald said.

If it wasn't for what gerald calls a faulty heating system in

the house and other repair issues, the Grace family would still be worshipping in the house, gerald said. "Right" is on the church's side, she added.

"I believe in right and I will fight for right," she said.

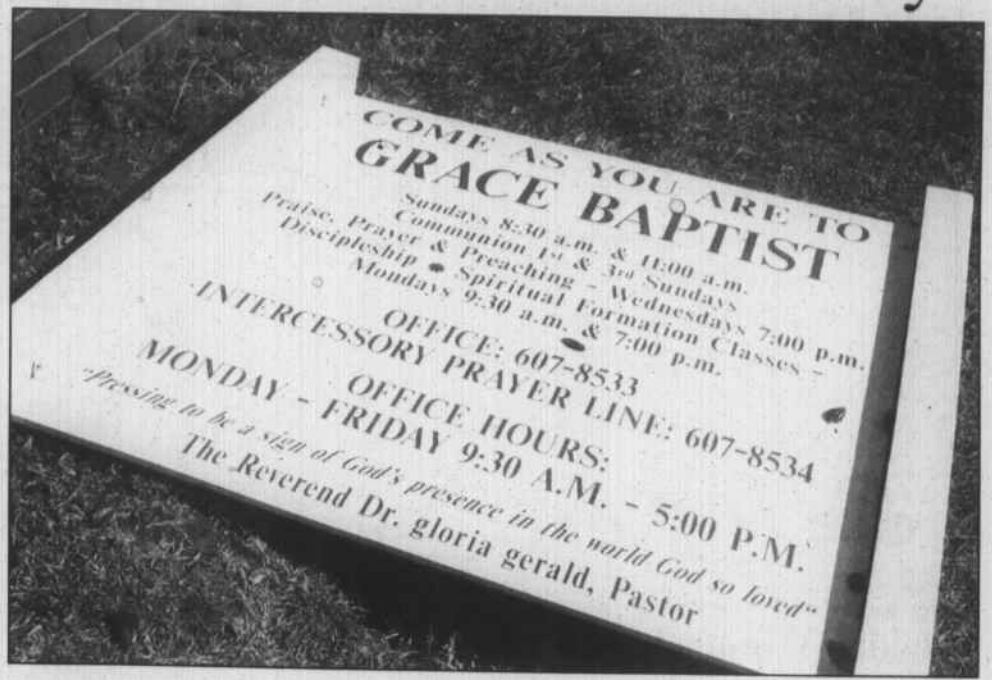
She said many neighbors were sad to see the church leave. The perception that all the neighbors wanted the church gone is a false one, gerald said.

"One lady did not want the church close to her house...and she, of course, had supporters," gerald explained. "It only takes one person to yell 'fire' and you have people running."

Most of the neighbors, gerald said, were glad to see a church in the community. They called the church, gerald said, to welcome the congregation to the neighborhood and some even donated money to the church to show their support.

Grace will not move into another property that it does not own, gerald said. She hopes that the church will finally have a home of its own by this summer.

"Nothing compares to having your own," gerald said.



The sign that stood in front of Grace Baptist Church has been taken down.

Photo by Kevin Walker

# Former chief justice joins Greensboro law firm

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

**GREENSBORO** - Former N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Henry E. Frye has

joined one of North Carolina's oldest and most prominent law firms, Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP, with offices in Greensboro and Raleigh.

"Henry Frye is one of the nation's most respected jurists and leaders of the bar, and we are truly honored to have him join our firm," said Brooks Pierce partner Hugh Humphrey. "Justice Frye has a distinguished record of service to North Carolina as a practicing attorney, as a businessman, as a member of the General Assembly, and as a justice and chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court," Humphrey added.

Frye, who will become Of Counsel to the firm, said, "I've known and respected many of the lawyers in the Brooks firm for a long time, both professionally and through civic involvement. I am excited about joining the firm, and I look forward to a mutually rewarding association."

In 1983, Frye became the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and in 1999 he was appointed by Gov. Jim Hunt to serve as chief justice. In 1968, he became the first African American to serve in the N.C. House of Representatives in the 20th century, serving six terms as a representative of Guilford

## Program

from page A4

a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and holds master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard.

In his distinguished 27-year career at Harvard, he has served as director of the Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies, chair of the Committee on the Core Curriculum at Harvard College, and chair of the Committee on the Study of Religion.

Recognized internationally as a leader in his field, Graham is author of "Beyond the Written Word: Oral Aspects of Scripture in the History of Religion" and "Divine Word and Prophetic Word in Early Islam." In addition, he has written 43 articles in major academic publications and serves as associate editor of "Encyclopedia of the Qur'an."

In addition to teaching ethics at Howard, Sanders serves as senior pastor at Third Street Church of God. She holds the master of divinity degree from Howard and the doctor of theology degree from Harvard. She is the author of five books: "Ministry at the Margins, The Prophetic Mis-

County. He later served in the N.C. Senate.

A native of Ellerbe, in Richmond County, Frye graduated summa cum laude from N.C. A&T State University. He graduated with honors from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law, where he served on the board of editors of The N.C. Law Review. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, rising to the rank of captain. He served as a munitions officer in Japan and Korea.

Frye practiced law in Greensboro for 21 years. During that period, he organized and served as the first president of Greensboro National Bank.

Frye received honorary doctor of laws degrees from Shaw University, N.C. A&T State University, Fayetteville State University and Livingstone College. He is the recipient of the Charles D. McIver Medal from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1986, he was named Lawyer of the Year by the Association of Black Lawyers and later received the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers' Appellate Judge Award.

In 1983, the National Bankers Association gave Frye the R.R. Wright Leadership Award for community leadership. The National Conference of Christians and Jews presented its coveted Brotherhood Award to Justice and Mrs. Frye, and the N.C. NAACP chose Frye to receive the Kelly M. Alexander Humanitarian Award. He has also been active in national judicial and professional organizations and served as chair of The American Judicature Society.

While chief justice, Frye estab-

lished the Chief Justice's Forum on the Media and the Courts and completed the organization of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

Frye and his wife, Shirley Taylor Frye, who is vice president of WFMY-TV, have two sons, Superior Court Judge Henry E. Frye Jr. and Harlan E. Frye, and three granddaughters.

Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard was established in 1897 and is one of the state's larger law firms with some 70 lawyers in Greensboro and Raleigh. The firm has a diverse national and regional practice, representing individuals, businesses, and public and private institutions. The firm's lawyers have a history of active involvement in the public, political and civic life of the state.

sions of Women, Youth and the Poor," "Saints in Exile," "Living The Intersection: Womanism and Afrocentrism in Theology," "Empowerment and Ethics for a Liberated People," and "Slavery and Conversion."

A stimulating and widely respected preacher, Sanders will fill the university's Hayworth Chapel pulpit on several occasions and deliver the Finch Lecture during her residency in spring 2002. Her sermons appear in several published collections, including "Prophetic Voices: Black Preachers Speak on Behalf of Children."

Parks, who will lead the seminar in 2003, is best known as co-author of "Common Fire: Lives of Commitment in a Complex World," which focuses on the lives of more than 100 people with long-term commitments to the common good. Her latest book, "Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose and Faith," is slated for publication next year.

She is also author of "The Critical Years: The Young Adult Search for a Faith to Live By." She co-wrote "To Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly: An Agenda for Ministers" and "Can Ethics Be Taught?"

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## MLK celebration planned

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration will held Jan. 12 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther

King Jr. Community Center, 2001 Pittsburg Ave. in the Kimberly Park community. Refreshments will be served after the program. For more information call 727-2740.

# THE CHRONICLE

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Service Awards

### Submit your candidates Today!

THE CHRONICLE invites you to help in the selection of this year's recipients for the "Man and Woman of the Year," "Community Service Award" and the "Lifetime Achievement Awards." Recipients will be chosen by THE CHRONICLE staff and advisory team. Judging will be based as follows: "Man and Woman of the Year" will be persons who have demonstrated outstanding character and serve as role models for others. The man or woman of the year should be someone who has triumphed over a personal tragedy or someone who has helped an individual to overcome an obstacle in order to obtain a better standard of living. The occurrences should have taken place during the past year. The recipients of the "Community Service Award" will be judged based on contributions to the African American community. The individual must have demonstrated a commitment through affiliation with community-service agencies, community-oriented projects or community institutions, schools, churches, etc. The recipients of the "Lifetime Achievement Awards" will be a long-time Stewart in the African American community. He or she will be someone who has, over the years, epitomized what "role model" means. Nominees should be Piedmont Triad residents. The winners will be recognized in February 2001 Community Awards Special Edition. The recipients will receive commemorative plaques at the 18th Annual Awards Banquet in March. Please print legibly and be as specific as possible in describing your nominees' accomplishments. Use additional paper if necessary.

Nominations must be received by **THE CHRONICLE** no later than **5:30pm** on **Friday, January 19, 2001**. Deliver your form to: **THE CHRONICLE**, 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101, 336-722-8624

MAN OF THE YEAR       COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD  
 WOMAN OF THE YEAR       LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nominee's Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Activities, memberships, affiliations \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please explain briefly your candidate's community service achievements. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Work) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_



MAIL YOUR NOMINATIONS TODAY