

RELIGION

Dynamic speakers to address conference

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Lindy M. Pilgrim and Dennis Paul Kimbro are scheduled to be among the featured speakers at the Success Strategies for the 21st Century conference that will be held at St. Peter's World Outreach Center April 23-26.

Pilgrim, better known as "Buddy," is the founder and chief executive officer of the Integrity Leadership Institute Inc., a newly formed non-profit ministry created for the purpose of teaching biblical business and success principles for application in the workplace. The ministry is founded on the principle that everything you need to know about business management and leadership can be found in the Bible, and that we cannot separate our business life from our spiritual life.

He will be releasing his first two books soon and is developing a series of seminars and audio and video tapes to support his teaching.

Pilgrim is also the founder and president of Integrity Management Services Inc., a management and business strategy consulting firm. He was previ-

ously president and chief operating officer of Pilgrim's Pride Corp., the nation's fourth largest poultry company.

Since 1985, Dennis Paul Kimbro has combed the country interviewing many of black America's most notable achievers.

In 1984, Dr. Kimbro began to examine this question: How can impoverished black Americans pull themselves out of their poverty and reach their full potential? To broaden and enhance the scope of the project, Kimbro studied the research methods of Napoleon Hill, author of the phenomenal best seller "Think and Grow Rich." Using "Think and Grow Rich" as a reference, Kimbro developed a survey to use among peak performing black Americans.

He has appeared on "The Today Show," "Larry King Live," "Sonya Live!," CNN, and has been featured in Success, Black Enterprise, Ebony and Essence magazines. On many occasions he has shared keys to success and achievement with the New York Times and USA Today.



Photo courtesy of Wake Forest

The Wake Forest University Divinity School's first graduating class.

Divinity school to graduate first class

VANESSA WILLIS
WFU NEWS SERVICE

Twenty students will make history May 20 when they become the first class to graduate from the Wake Forest University Divinity School. Like many theological school graduates, most of the students will seek ordination, and several hope to become congregational ministers. But the class is extraordinary because its members represent seven different denomina-

"Christian by tradition, ecumenical in outlook, and Baptist in heritage" is the Divinity School's motto. When the school opened in 1999, it was the first university-related divinity school to open without an official denominational tie.

The Divinity School's ecumenical approach and intensive vocational development program are designed to prepare students for the ministry and related careers, said Bill J. Leonard, dean of the Divinity School.

"Our first students have invested themselves extensively in shaping the school," Leonard said. "They have been partners with us in affirming and assessing who we are and where we want to be."

The Divinity School has 70 students from 11 different denominations studying full-time to earn the master of divinity degree. The program lasts three years and includes summer study. This spring's graduates entered the school in the fall of 1999.

Kristin Gerner, a third-year student from Salisbury, N.C., says being part of the first class was exciting and frightening. She is a member of the United Church of Christ.

"People sometimes forget that we're like any other professional students - law students, medical students - except that our education is in who you want to be as much as what you want to be," Gerner said. "So you take an even greater risk at a new

school, especially one that is ecumenical."

Leonard says the Divinity School's ecumenical approach equips students with the ability to function in a world where old denominational systems are changing. Now that several Protestant denominations officially recognize each other's ordinations, theological graduates have even more flexibility when looking for jobs, he said, but that comes with the added responsibility of knowing about different faith traditions.

David Brown, a Baptist third-year student from Marietta, S.C., agrees.

"As denominational walls are falling in America, there is no better place to prepare for the ministry than in a school that is a microcosm of that world," said Brown.

The Divinity School's ecumenical approach also allows students to explore their religious identity, Leonard said.

"In order to claim myself as a Baptist, I had to examine that tradition by holding it up

to other traditions," said Elizabeth Parker, a third-year student from Winston-Salem. "Now I can truly, fully claim myself as a Baptist, and I could not do that before."

The Divinity School curriculum includes instruction in traditional seminary subjects such as biblical studies, church history, theology, homiletics (the art of preaching), spirituality and pastoral care taught by full-time Divinity School faculty. Because the school is set within the larger context of the university, students are also able to study under other Wake Forest faculty. Divinity students have taken courses in the religion and classics departments, at the School of Law and in Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center's clinical pastoral education program.

To complement the traditional curriculum, the Divinity School also offers a unique vocational development component that requires intensive

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Congratulations, Winners!



File photo
Grammy-Award winning artist and gospel legend Yolanda Adams sang a song especially written for Creme of Nature Wedding Wish Contest winners Jia and Gladston Taylor at their beach-front wedding.

Upcoming Church Events

April 8-12

Oak Grove Baptist will hold revival

Oak Grove Baptist Church, 3978 Pine Hall Road in Walkertown, will hold revival services April 8-12 at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Cornelius Battle, senior pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church of Durham, will be the speaker for the week. Rev. I.L. Anthony is the pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Antioch Baptist will celebrate its 100th church anniversary

Antioch Baptist will celebrate its 100th church anniversary April 8-12 at 7:30 nightly. Speakers for the week are: April 8, Rev. James Gilliam, pastor of Antioch Christian Church; April 9, Rev. Donald Salley, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church; April 10, Rev. John Jackson, pastor of Goodwill First Baptist Church in Madison; April 11, Rev. Ray L. Watlington, pastor of Christian Fountain Church; and April 12, Rev. Darryl E. McConnell, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Gibsonville.

Rev. J.L. Montgomery is the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. The public is invited.

For more information, call the church at (336) 744-1213.

April 13

Association will hold mid-year session

The High Point Educational and Missionary Baptist Association's mid-year session will convene Saturday, April 13, at Phillips Chapel Baptist Church. There will be workshops and lectures for the different ministries. Representatives of the General Baptist will be present. All churches are expected to attend. The church is at 132 S. Glenn Ave.

April 13 and 14

Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance will celebrate anniversary

Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance will celebrate its 22nd anniversary on Saturday, April 13, and Sunday, April 14. Bishop Gray of Greater Holy Temple of Statesville will speak Saturday at 7 p.m. Members of Tabernacle of Faith Church in Winston-Salem will be guests for the service at 4 p.m. Sunday, Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance is at 4951 Manning Street in Winston-

Salem. Bishop Claude C. Turner is the pastor. For more information, call (336) 721-3290.

April 14-21

God's Glory will hold Spiritual Feast Week Celebration

God's Glory Pentecostal Holiness Church of God In Jesus Christ Assemblies Inc. will present Spiritual Feast Week Celebration April 14-21. The program will be at 4 and 7 p.m. on Sundays, April 14 and 21. On April 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 (Monday-Friday) the program will be at 7 p.m. On Saturday, April 20, the program will be from 1 to 5 p.m. There will be various speakers, a picnic, singers and testimonies. The speaker for the week will be Bishop Rozetta Hughes Farris.

The public is invited. For information, call the church at 727-0151. The church is at 1014 Ivy Ave.

April 14

Rev. Franklin Powell will be guest minister at church in Siler City

Rev. Franklin Powell will be the guest minister at First Missionary Baptist Church,

914 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City, on April 14 at the 11 a.m. worship service.

Powell

Come out and be blessed.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Spiritual Choir will celebrate anniversary

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Spiritual Choir will celebrate its anniversary on April 14 at 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend. The church is at 1301 E. Belews Street. Rev. Charles E. Gray is the pastor.

J.R. Samuels Ensemble will celebrate anniversary

The J.R. Samuels Ensemble will celebrate its sixth anniversary on April 14 at 4 p.m. at St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church. The public is invited. The church is at 5000 Noble Street. Rev. J.R. Samuels is the host pastor.

Forsyth County United Usher Board will hold Rainbow Tea

The Forsyth County United Usher Board will hold its annual Rainbow Tea at St. Stephen's Baptist Church at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 14. For information contact Rodney McCormick at 788-1664.

John Wesley AME Zion will observe Family and Friends Day

John Wesley AME Zion Church will observe Family and Friends Day April 14. The speaker will be Rev. Denise Scott of Center Grove AME Zion Church. Dinner will be served after the service. Rev. James Gaskins is the host pastor. The public is invited. The church is at 1800 E. 25th Street.

Ambassadors for Christ Choir will hold concert

Join David L. Allen and the Ambassadors for Christ Choir on Sunday, April 14, at 6 p.m. as they celebrate A Symphony to God in Song - the 36th Anniversary Celebration Concert. Ambassador Cathedral is at 1500 Harriet Tubman Drive in Winston-Salem. Bishop Frederick D. Patterson is the host pastor. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 725-

0901.

Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church Youth Choir will observe anniversary

Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church Youth Choir will observe its anniversary on Sunday, April 14, at 4 p.m. Youth choirs from churches throughout the city will be guests. Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church is at 4715 Indiana Ave. Dr. James F. Linville is the pastor.

April 15, 16, 17

St. James AME will hold spring revival

St. James AME Church will hold spring revival April 15, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. Rev. Sheldon McCarter, pastor of Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, will be the guest minister. The public is invited. St. James AME Church is at 1501 N. Patterson Ave.

April 18, 25

New Hope Missionary Baptist will sponsor Joy Night services

New Hope Missionary

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