

# Mt. Zion honors more than 50 local Christian women

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Nearly 400 people packed the banquet hall at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Saturday for the church's first-ever Women's Day Awards Luncheon.

A church committee began making plans last May to honor local women who have made indelible marks in fields such as religious and community service and business. The result of the committee's months of hard work and planning was the noon luncheon, where 54 women were honored. Some of the women are well-known but most are unsung heroines.

"There are so many women in our city who deserve this honor, but you had to start somewhere," said Annie R. Hairston, chairwoman of the Women's Day committee. Hairston said the committee came up with a list of more than 100 local "Christian women with a mission." The list was dwindled down to nearly half. But organizers say that if a similar awards ceremony is held next year, they already have a built-in list of potential honorees.

Hairston is the president and

curator of Pan African Imagery, an African art business. The committee selected her as one of the honorees for her work in the business world.

Many of the honorees are members of Mt. Zion. But the committee also looked outside of



Hairston

the church for strong women. The result is a list of diverse honorees that included Alderwomen Vivian Burke and Joycelyn Johnson, R.J. Reynolds executive Janet Wheeler and singer Janice Price Hinton.

The committee also honored two young women as a way to show that excellence comes in all forms.

Tashekia Davis was one of the youth honorees.

"My reaction was that I have not done anything to be honored, but I guess I have," said Davis, a UNC-Greensboro senior and an active Mt. Zion member. "Some-

body saw something in me that I did not see."

The committee cited Davis' devotion to her church and others. In between studies, Davis finds time to direct the church's children's choir and take part in the prison ministry.

Jeannette Lewis was honored for her work with the National Women of Achievement (Lewis is the Southeast regional director) and with local young people.

"This honor really means a lot to me because a lot of times you do a lot in the community and it goes unnoticed," Lewis said. "It is just an honor to be honored. I will long remember this day."

Evelyn Sanders, co-chair of the Women's Day committee, was also one of the honorees. She was lauded for her work with the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Sanders said when it comes to strong, committed Christian women, Winston-Salem is in good hands.

"These women set an example and have shown that all things are possible," Sanders said.

The other women honored were: Maya Angelou, Carrie Barnett, Daisy Chambers, Lovie Cooper, Helen Wilson Falls, Betty



Janice Price Hinton was one of the 54 women honored for their Christian service over the weekend at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Above, she performs at the awards luncheon.

Gregg, Jerrye Griffin, Joyce Hash, Burthel Hoffer, Myrtle Harper Jones, Sarah Mendez, Mildred Peppers, Helen Graham Peters, Inez S. Shaw, Daisy B. Staten, Rev. Juanita Tatum, Gwen Thompson, Pollye G. Bailey, Christine Cropps, Denise S. Harts-

field, Verdell Hayes, Annie Brown Kennedy, Juanita B. Penn, Dr. Barbara Phillips, Marilyn Richards, Louise Smith, Cleopatra Solomon, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, Wanda Starke, Evelyn Terry, Tawana Wellman, Ella Whitworth, Evelyn Acree, Mosé Bel-

ton-Brown, Brenda Diggs, Sandra Miller Jones, Earline Sutton, Clara Owens Cloud, Velma H. Friende, Addie Hymes, Dr. Constance Johnson, Dr. Felecia P. McMullan, Dr. Dolly McPherson, Vera Stepp, Dr. Marie Williamson and Francheria Burrell.

## 'Corapeake'

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not so much the differences."

The multimedia exhibit features Messick's black-and-white photographs accompanied by a soundtrack of original music composed for the project by blues artist John Hammond. Scenes from the town and its people and quotations from the folks are interspersed with collages of photographs, old newspaper clippings and Messick's handwritten notes. The film adaptation of the exhibit, recently named best documentary at the Cinevue Film Festival in Florida, is also being shown.

The multimedia exhibit has 43 pieces.

"Gladiolas," for example is a photograph of two older women dressed in their Sunday best and holding gladiolas. A quotation from Sarah Eure next to the photo says: "The older people used to scare me 'cause they'd say, 'My eyes jumpin'; somebody's gonna die.' And it seemed to me every time my eyes jumped, somebody would."

"Effie Mae Testifying" is a photograph of a white-haired woman with her hands raised as she testifies. A quotation from Effie Mae Eure says: "See the Holy Spirit is an angel. If you are saved, you are gonna feel the Holy Spirit!"

"Godsend" is a photograph of a woman wearing an African print skirt and standing in a field. Mary Ann Chapman is quoted as saying: "I had to tie them bags around me and be in there picking early in the morning. I picked 150 pounds a day - cotton."

Other photographs include "Grace," in which a family mourns a loved one at a military funeral; "Carlton," a boy wearing a sports coat and tie slightly askew; "Homecoming," four smiling men at a church celebration; "Miss Bernice," a smiling woman wearing sunglasses, a hat and

a bead necklace; "Posting Attendance," a girl sitting on a pew in church preparing to post attendance; "Finery," two girls wearing dresses with lace and bows; "Choirboy," a boy singing with adult choir members; "Sunboy," a man wearing a hat, head-downcast, and sitting on a porch; "Forgotten Ford," an old truck in overgrown brush; "Metaphor," old coats in a closet; several hunting photos, including "Extremities," cut-off deer legs; a basket of fish; kids on swings; a man standing outside a screen porch and looking in; a Corapeake sign; the Great Dismal Swamp; folded hands; a child in a cornfield; a closeup of Aunt Sarah with a pensive expression; a woman wearing a fur coat and a hat with two large feathers.

The project was inspired by a friendship by Messick, who is white, and Brenda Parker-Hunt, a Corapeake native who is African-American. They became friends in the 1980s when they were students at Wake Forest University. Messick, who grew up in Delaware but had family in North Carolina, said Parker-Hunt's descriptions of her tiny hometown reminded him of her grandfather's stories about growing up in the South.

Messick, who graduated from Wake Forest in 1987, spent several years in telecommunications sales and management. After taking some night classes in photography, he started hosting shows to exhibit his work and began to sell his photographs. The part-time hobby soon became a full-time job.

He made his first trip with Parker-Hunt to Corapeake in 1995 and shot more than 25 rolls of film photographing her aging relatives and their neighbors. Messick and Parker-Hunt returned to Corapeake a number of times over the next three or four years, which yielded a lot of photographs and tape recordings of older people of Corapeake

telling their stories.

"What people (who have seen Messick's work) have consistently said is, 'I've managed to capture the dignity of people,'" Messick said.

A writer at the Chicago Tribune has called it one of the best portraits of American small town life he had seen in years.

The Hanes Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free. For more information, call 758-5585. The "Corapeake" exhibit will run through Nov. 13.



Photo courtesy of Kendall Messick

Kendall Messick, right, poses with Brenda Parker-Hunt on the day she graduated from Wake Forest University. Parker-Hunt inspired Messick, also a Wake graduate, to do the "Corapeake" project.

## You've Heard A Lot Of Talk About Bill Schatzman, Now Please Take A Minute To Read A Message From Him

Over the last few weeks there has been a lot of talk about who I am and what our campaign represents. Let me respectfully say to those who are trying to divide our community, I am running for Sheriff to bring better law enforcement to all citizens and more professionalism to the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department.

### What does that mean?

1. I will strengthen our school resource officer program to make our public schools safer for our children.
2. I will find new ways to work with all law enforcement agencies to shut down the flow of drugs that is destroying the lives of so many of our young people.
3. I will put more deputies on patrol to prevent crime and protect our neighborhoods.
4. I will demand that our department be respectful of every citizen and strive to build effective partnerships across our diverse community.
5. And I will restore a level playing field for hiring and promotion so every deputy, administrative assistant and staff employee has the opportunity to advance in the department based on qualifications and performance.

I hope you share the goals I've stated above and will help me bring new ideas and leadership to the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department. If you will allow me the opportunity, I am confident that together we can make a good sheriff's department even better.

*Bill Schatzman*

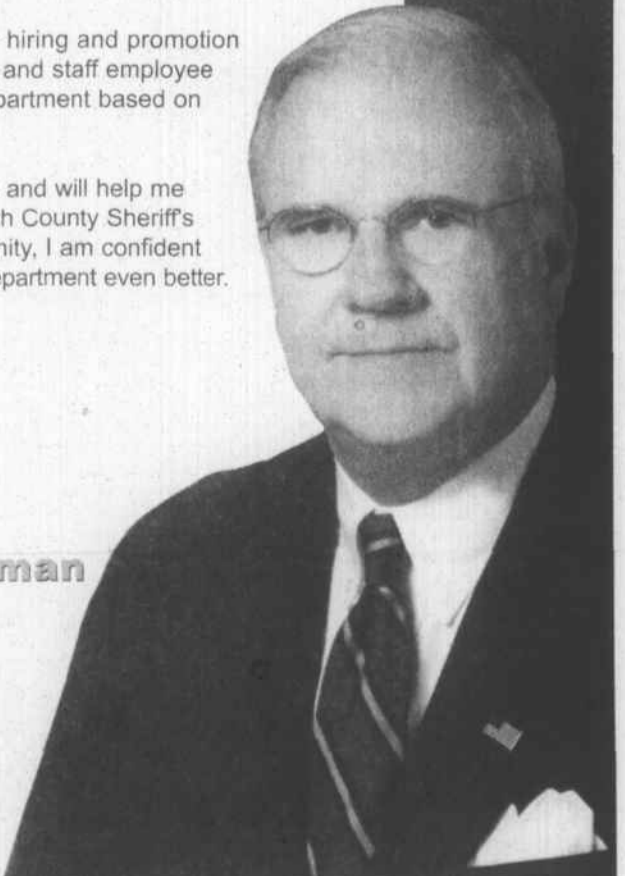
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