



Honorees recognized for their "religious emphasis" prepare to make their entrance.

Photos by Felicia McMillan

# Women with a mission honored

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN, PH.D.  
THE CHRONICLE

The honorees entered to the tune of "Amazing Grace." There was standing room only at the second annual Women With a Mission Women's Day Luncheon Saturday at Mount Zion Baptist Church. Last year's celebration also drew a full house.

According to Janet Atkinson, floor manager, "This event sold out early. It was such a success last year."

The celebration was crowned with the sound of music, featuring Freddie Dixon on piano, Bianca R. James on steel drums, and soloist Gloria Green.

Annie Hairston and Evelyn Sanders served as co-chairpersons of the Luncheon Committee. Denise Hartsfield, District Court judge, served as the mistress of ceremonies. The Mighty Men of Mount Zion served as waiters for all of the tables. The keynote speaker for the occasion was Joyce Hash, co-pastor St. Peter's World Outreach Center.

Hash reminded the women: "We are taking off our high heels and putting on our work clothes and going into the community. Do you know who you are in Christ Jesus? We are right in the middle of a mission field. It is time for us to get together in this community."

"We come from many different churches, but the common denominator is how much we love Jesus. I am a woman on a mission."

Co-chairperson Evelyn Sanders offered a description of the occasion based on "faith, fellowship, and fidelity."

Hartsfield compared the program with Tom Joyner's shout-out sessions. "We are going to do some shout-outs today for women who have excelled in the areas of religion, education, community affairs, business ventures, a youth representative and alumni," Hartsfield said.

Sharon G. Correll, chairperson of the Women's Day Committee, thanked all of the women for being present at the gathering. She recognized their contributions to the city and to their families.

Verdell Irene Hayes paid tribute to the honorees with a speech titled "Not in Anyone Else's Shadow." According to Hayes, the women included in the 2003 edition of Women With a Mission have always been "workers and strivers and dreamers... They are leading their own companies and advising the CEOs of other enterprises. They are working to end poverty, injustice, and disease."

Hayes said: "There is no shadow of comparison of these honored women with those who preceded them, nor those who will follow them...."



Maurice Horsey, one of the Mighty Men of Mount Zion, serves as a waiter.

Each of the women received a plaque, and their awards were named after deceased women of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Honorees in the segment "religious emphasis" included: Laura Hayes Allen, Alice Houston Banks, Marian Anderson Hairston, Cheryl Harry, Addie Jabbar, Tanya Johnson, Veronica Gaither Jones, Co-Pastor Joyce McCarter, Mattie M. McClendon, Susie Nance, the Rev. Mary F. Peterson and Annette Banks Squire. Diedra Stewart presented these awards.

Honorees from the area of education included: Geneva Brown, Norma E. Corley, Dr. Sylvia A. Flack, Johnetta Moore Huntley, Elvenia D. Johnson and Dr. Ganesse "Gigi" Moultry-Gloster. Delores Graham presented these awards.

Those honored for community affairs included: Dr. Minnie Friday Benson, VirNessa D. Benson, Joan Cardwell, RaVonda Dalton-Rand, Valerie Sneed Falls Harris, Barbara Hayes, Bessie M. Henderson, Doris S. Herrell, Judy Horsey, Brenda Humphrey, Maurice Pitts Johnson, Artanzia Richardson Jones, Naomi W. Jones, Doris B. Kimbrough, Wilhelmina Bell Lawrence Long, attorney Davida Martin, Mable H. Stevenson and Mattie Young. Brenda Amason presented these awards.

Those honored in the area of business were: Chandra G. Irvin, Miriam McCarter, Sandra Wilder, and Theldora Small-Williams. Blanche Robinson passed out these awards.

The youth representative honoree was Diana Victoria Hines. Jennifer Atkinson recognized Hines.

Alumni honorees included Dr. Loretta M. Braxton, attorney Jean

Burkins Cureton, Bernice Sanders, Holly Elaine Stepp and Sharnay Torrance. Mildred Tuttle recognized these people.

Rev. Serenus Churn paid homage to the women's special contributions in the church. He recognized them as "the virtuous, vivacious and victorious, daughters of Mount Zion."

"If the women decided to

leave the church, we men would leave along with them. When I see you, I think of the words of the poet who wrote: 'She walks in beauty....' When I think of African-American women, I am so impressed by the way you patch the wounds of a child, keep the school going, keep the community going," Churn said. "You are so beautiful to me."

# City native shocks many by winning primary for Greensboro City Council

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

T. Dianne Bellamy-Small sent tiny tremors through the Greensboro political establishment two weeks ago.

Bellamy-Small, a political novice with scant funds in her campaign coffers, got the best of incumbent Belvin Jessup in the primary for the District 1 seat on the Greensboro City Council. She garnered nearly 100 more votes than Jessup in the four-person, nonpartisan race. The two will now duke it out Nov. 4 in the general election.

"You can feed the multitudes with two fish and five loaves," Bellamy-Small said last week. "I had less than \$1,500, and I beat the incumbent."

Bellamy-Small was born and raised in Winston-Salem. Her parents, William and Reather Bellamy, made sure she kept her nose in books at East Winston Library and that she never missed services at Mount Zion Baptist Church. She and her husband, Andrew Small Sr., moved to Greensboro nearly three decades ago, but she remains close to the city. She said although her friends in Winston-Salem won't be able to cast ballots for her in what is expected to be a close race, she is still thankful for the support she has received.

"People in (Winston-Salem) are helping me by praying for me," she said.

Bellamy-Small is a woman of many talents. She has gained acclaim as a singer, whose powerful pipes are known for making Negro spirituals come to life, and storyteller. She works as a parent educator and staff development trainer for the Exceptional Children Assistance Center. Bellamy-Small also runs TDBSmall Enterprises, which provides Afrocentric learning materials and consulting.

Making the leap into politics wasn't a big jump for her. For more than 20 years, she has worked in her precinct, holding several positions. Bellamy-Small said she always had her eye on the City Council but held

back because of her family. But now, her youngest son is a few months away from turning 18 and college.

"My family was at a point when I would not have to be such a hands-on mother," she said. "It was the most advantageous time for me to do this."

Bellamy-Small said she has campaigned the way she lives - taking time to talk to everyone about issues that are important. Her platform concentrates on four main issues: economic development, equity of services, empowering communities to do for themselves and programs for seniors.

Bellamy-Small said economic development is a concern for District 1 (East Greensboro) residents.

"We have watched West Greensboro grow at a phenomenal rate, while East Greensboro has not hardly grown at all," Bellamy-Small said. She said she is also concerned that other areas in the city seem to be getting the lion's share of city amenities such as parks and recreation facilities.

Bellamy-Small has no real political experience, but she said she has enough people experience to make up for that.

"I think I have done enough and I have seen enough to do this job," she said.

Bellamy-Small, who has adopted the campaign slogan "There is no concern too big or too Small," is confident about her chances for victory. She has already made the political machine stand up and take notice. Now she wants to finish by winning next month. She vows that she will be the people's council member.

"People will find an approachable me," she said. "I am not going to change who I am."



Bellamy-Small



Educator Doris Herrell and cosmetologist Bessie Henderson were recognized for their contributions to community affairs.

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