

# RELIGION

## CALENDAR

Dec. 20

### Live Nativity

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church will sponsor Live Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 6 – 8 p.m. The public is invited to come and see and pet the many animals that will be on hand. There will also be treats for children. The church is at 1210 Bolton Street (near Forsyth Tech – West Campus). For information, contact the church office at 336-765-8331.

Dec. 21

### Christmas play

The Exodus United Baptist Church Drama Ministry will present the play, "Speaking to Your Storm" on Sunday, Dec. 21. It is a Christmas-themed drama about the challenges facing today's families. The one-hour play features Charles Thomas as Uncle James; Jillian Stowe as Bishop Thomas; Jonathan Stowe as Steven and Jerome;



Min. Walker

Nicole Burton as Veronica; Meka Shepherd as Pam; LaTasha Oglesby as Big Girl; and Minister Ronee Walker as Mother Blackwell. The play is free and open to the public. For more information, call 336-650-1002. The church is located at 2000 Wilbur Street.

### Holiday events at Mt. Olive

On Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m., Mount Olive Baptist Church will celebrate Christmas with the Birth of Christ in song and dance. On Dec. 24, from 7 – 8 p.m. a Pre-Birthday Celebration for Jesus will be held, and on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 10 p.m., the church will hold its Watch Night Service with singing and dancing. The public is cordially invited to attend any and all of these events.

The host pastor is Dr. Charles E. Gray. The church is at 1301 C. E. Gray Drive.

### Talent showcase

Goler Memorial AME Zion Church will present its first annual Gospel Talent Showcase on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. at the Goler Enrichment Center, 630 N. Patterson Avenue. Regional and local talents are invited to participate. Tim Jackson Jr, announcer on Gospel Cyberflyte Radio Show, will be the Master of Ceremonies. Headlining the show will be K and J Productions, a Christian jazz group from Greenville, N.C. Those wishing to participate can call the Goler church office at 336-724-9411 by Wednesday, Dec. 17. The best talents will receive awards.

### VIP Banquet

Life Changing Transformation Church Ministries will hold its 3rd annual VIP Banquet on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Hawthorne Inn, 420 High Street. For tickets, contact Pastor Alice Mitchell at 336-995-3516 or Brenda Chadwick at 336-391-7153.

Dec. 24

### Advent Season 2008

St. Mark Lutheran Church is sponsoring Advent Season 2008 on Dec. 24, at 7 p.m.. The theme for this year's Advent Season is "Dreams of Christmas – Joseph's Dreams." The public is cordially invited to join the celebration. The church is at 1151 E. 14th Street.

Dec. 31

### Glory Invasion

St. Peter's World Outreach New Year's Eve "Glory Invasion" celebration will feature drama, dance, comedy and musical productions. The event begins at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31. Bishop James C. and Mrs. Joyce Hash, host pastors, are inviting the public to attend the free event. St. Peter's is located at 3683 Old Lexington Road. For more information, call 336-650-0200.



The Hashes

## Church will offer free, faith-based mortgage help

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Goler Memorial AME Zion Church is responding to the current mortgage crisis by offering a free class to help residents avoid foreclosures.

The Goler Economic Education and Home Ownership Program Inc.'s faith-based mortgage foreclosure prevention program includes education, counseling and prevention strategies.

The program not only deals with the mortgage issue, but also the shame, disappointment and helplessness that goes along with foreclosure.

Goler believes that its program will provide those in need with



spiritual healing through faith and prayer.

Partnering with the church for the program are Eddie Long of Credit Enhancement Services and financial institutions such as Truliant Federal Credit Union, Wells Fargo Mortgage, BB&T and RBC Centura Bank.

These institutions have millions of dollars available to help with mortgages for those who qualify.

Pre-registering is requested for the free classes, which will start on Jan. 3, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the Goler Family Enrichment Center, 630 North Patterson Ave.

For more information or to register, contact the Rev. Dr. Seth O. Lartey at 336-724-9411.



## Church will honor late author

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

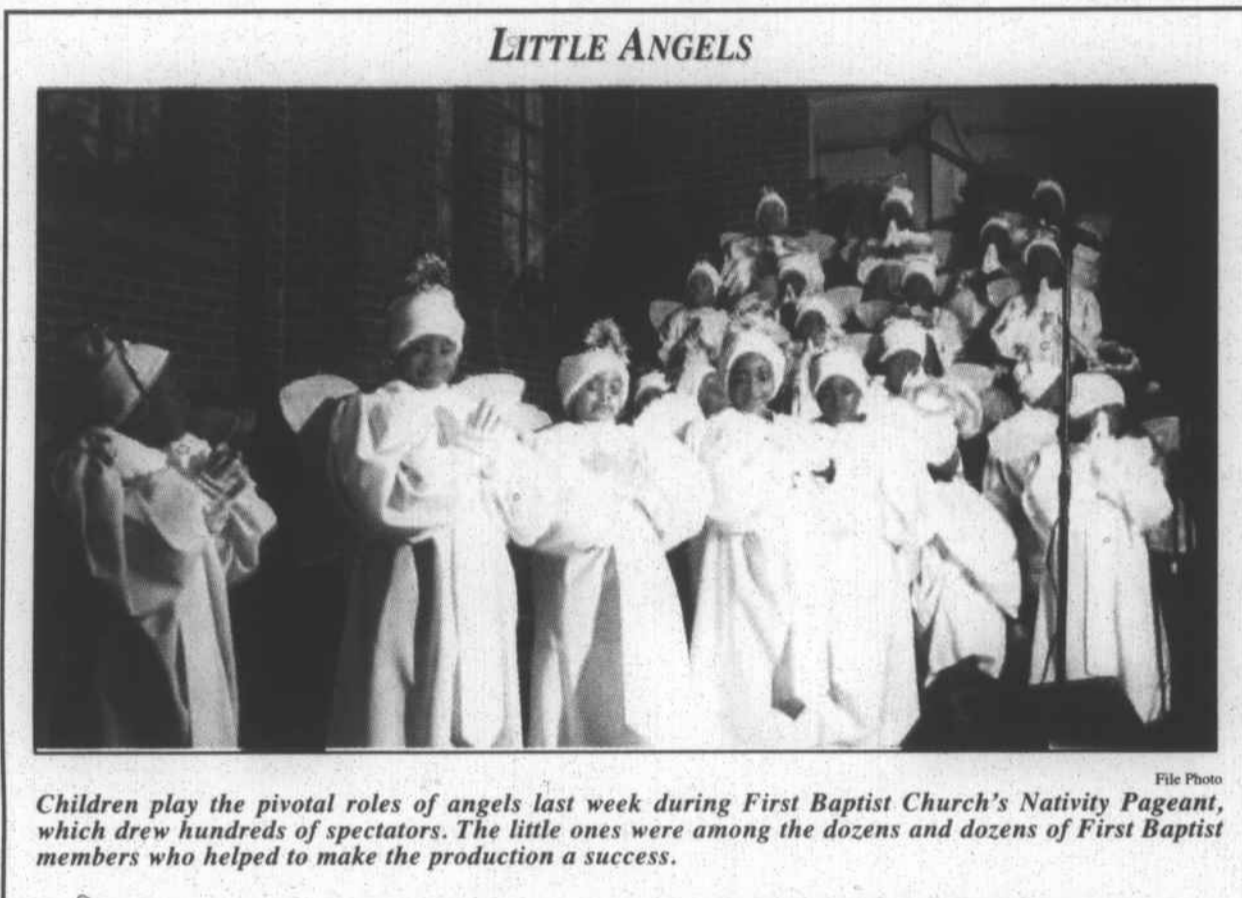
A sales campaign effort for an inspiring book by a deceased man of faith is set to kick off on Sunday, Dec. 21 at Greensboro's Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1301 Alamance Church Rd. The church's 10 a.m. service will pay homage to Gregory Allen Patterson and highlight the book he completed before his death on Nov. 21, 2005.

"What Lies Within" tells Patterson's real-life struggle of coping with the challenges of life after he became the victim of a drive-by shooting. The unprovoked tragic event occurred in 1995 when Patterson was 19 and visiting Washington D.C., with two of his classmates from N.C. A&T State University.

The book details how Patterson began to ask, "why me," after the shooting, but after discovering the true peace that lies within, he began asking, "Why not me?"

Proceeds from the book will go to support The Patterson Outreach Fatherhood Initiative, which seeks to provide young fathers with instruction to assist with the transition into responsible parenthood and adulthood. Before his death, the Patterson Outreach Ministries was also founded by Gregory Patterson as a means of sharing his message of hope with others. Patterson's intent was to inspire others to overcome life's adversities.

The book is available at [Trafford.com](http://Trafford.com), [Barnes & Noble.com](http://Barnes&Noble.com), and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and soon at [PattersonOutreach.org](http://PattersonOutreach.org).



LITTLE ANGELS

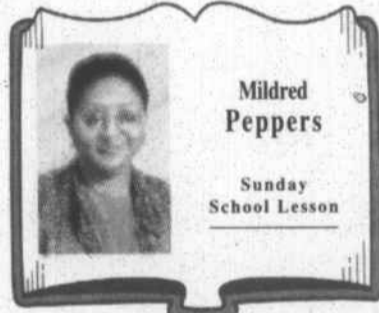
Children play the pivotal roles of angels last week during First Baptist Church's Nativity Pageant, which drew hundreds of spectators. The little ones were among the dozens and dozens of First Baptist members who helped to make the production a success.

## GOD'S CALLING: ANSWER!

Lesson Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

**Lesson Aims:** To recognize that God uses everyone; to summarize the exchange between the shepherds and the angels, and to be committed to God's Call on our lives.

**Background:** When God calls us, we are expected to respond as His committed followers. His Call isn't based on any of our earthly accomplishments, for we've seen quite often how He touches anyone from the greatest to the least of these. Mary and Elizabeth serve as



good examples of God's indiscriminate use of individuals. In the Old Testament, He did the same thing.

At times, prominent people were used as well as those whose names are lost in time. The major point here is to answer and to see it through. Every Call by God is an important one! Don't allow yourself to get caught up in "what is most important." It doesn't matter if people shout your name from the roof tops or if they don't remember your name. What is vitally important is your answer to the Call and your depth of commitment to see the task done.

Shepherding a flock was one of

See Peppers on B11



Sis. Valeria Smith with some of the performers.

## Dance concert benefits food pantry program

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

On Sunday, Dec. 7, Holy Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church hosted its biannual dance concert, under the theme, "How Great is Our God."

Several of Holy Trinity's dance ministries performed, including Majestic (Adults); the MIME Ministry; (A&A) Anointed & Appointed (High School); (ABC) Anointed By Christ (Middle School); (JAM) Jesus And Me (Elementary) and POST Dancers (Youth - hip-hop).

The heavily-attended event was emceed by Sis. Valeria Smith. Before each group gave individual per-

formances, all the dancers opened the show with a joint performance to Bishop Neil Ellis "Celebration Medley."

During intermission, Smith encouraged everyone in the sanctuary to greet one another. The second half of the show featured more extraordinary dance numbers performed to gospel hits such as John P. Kee's "Right Now Praise" and Kirk Franklin's "Now Behold The Lamb."

The event helped to replenish the shelves of the church's food pantry. Attendees were asked to bring along canned-goods to contribute to the popular pantry program.

## Ephesus honors youth of Pathfinders

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist Church recently honored members of the Pathfinders, a well-respected youth program of the Adventist Church.

With members around the world, more than two million youngsters between the ages of 10 and 16 take part in Pathfinders, which empowers them to make a difference in their communities.

Ephesus Pastor Godwin Mitchell presented a message from Proverbs to inspire the young Pathfinder members. He encouraged them to overcome obstacles, learn how to trust God and to have the same spirit that Caleb had in trusting the Lord.



Rev. Mitchell