

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Dec. 28

Afternoon Service

St. James African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church will hold a 4 p.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 28, featuring the Rev. Minnie Bryant of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church of Hickory. St. James A.M.E. Church is located at 1501 N. Patterson Avenue where the Rev. Benjamin F. Huimprhey, Jr. is the Pastor.

Beginning Dec. 31

Revival

Salvation and Praise will hold revival on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Dec. 31 service will begin at 9 p.m. The Jan. 1, 2, 3 services will be 7 p.m. nightly. The final service will be held Jan. 4 at 2:30 p.m. All services will be held at Kernersville Community Club House, 405 Salisbury Street in Kernersville. The public is cordially invited to attend any and all of these services. The host pastor is Ellen Hunt.

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.

Watch Night at Pilgrim Rest

The Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church Family will have its Annual Watch Night Service on Dec. 31 starting at 10:45 p.m. There will be old-fashioned testimonies and singing. Pastor Paul Hart will bring in the New Year preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. The event is free and open to the public. The church is located at 1905 N. Jackson Avenue. For more information contact Pastor Paul W. Hart or First Lady Sandra D. Hart at 336-761-1351.



The Stars of Joy

Watch Night at Goodwill

Goodwill Baptist Church's Watch Night Service will start at 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 31. The music will be provided by the Stars of Joy, also known as the Leak Brothers. The church is located at 548 Goodwill Road in Clemmons, just off Hwy 150, in Arcadia. For more information, call the church at 336-764-3930.

Watch Night at Love Fellowship

Love Fellowship Outreach Church will have Watch Night services Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend. The church is at 1354 Trade Street. The host pastor is Bishop Antonio L. Johnson.

Watch Night at United Progressive

On Wednesday, December 31, United Progressive Baptist Church will celebrate the End of the year with a Watch Night service at 10 pm. The men of the church will be in charge of this service. A special message will be preached by the Pastor Lewis E. Devlin. All are welcome to attend the church, which is located at 1122 Quincy Caldwell Circle.

For more information or transportation call 336-724-1266.

Watch Night at Friendship

Friendship Baptist Church will have its Watch Night Service on Dec. 31 at 10 p.m. The church is located at 1317 N. Cherry St. Breakfast will be served immediately after the service. For more information, call 336-723-6105.

Zion Memorial Watch Night

Zion Memorial Baptist Church will have its Watch Night Service on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 10 p.m. Dr. Joseph Jones is pastor. The church is located at 101 North Dunleith Avenue.

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Women's Day celebrated at Goler Metropolitan AME

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Pauline Jackson was crowned queen of the recent 42nd Women's Day Celebration at Goler Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church.

This year's theme was "New Beginnings-New Vision, Destined to Prosper." Carol Henry and her daughter-in-law, Tiffany Henry, were the co-chairwomen. Other Women's Day Captains were Katie Boulware, Bernice Howard Davenport, and Dr. Nita Dewberry, Associate Dean for Curriculum and Student Affairs of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University.

Other contestants for the crown included Bernice Howard Davenport, a former educator and the church's organist and pianist; Brandi Little, a Winston-Salem State University graduate who has worked at 102 JAMZ; Crystal Nichole Scott, a member of the Union Usher Board and Chairperson of Young Adult Missionary Society; and Bre Ida Riddick, who has received honorable mention for her 4.0 on the End of Grade Test.

Winner Jackson has been a delegate to many organizations at Goler and is active in her community and in the Democratic Party.



Pauline Jackson sports her crown.

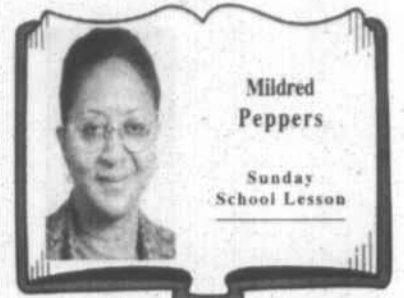
During the program, the Rev. Jackie Phillips gave the call to worship and the Morning Prayer. Announcements and the welcome were by Michelle Denning, while Brandi Little gave the scripture. The Women's Choir was directed and accompanied by Julie Hunter. Shirelle Reddick introduced the guest speaker, Mercedes Miller.

Ingrid Hackett presided over the Women's Day Sunday service, where the Apostle's Creed was led by Michelle Denning. Announcements and welcome were presented by Annette Wilson and Paulette Stokes reminded us of our "deceased members." The Goler Liturgical Dancers performed a special number, while Brenda Simmons offered the morning prayer; Janet Swann introduced the speaker after Carol P. Henry acknowledged the Women's Day Captains.

Other Committee Members were: Michelle Denning, Brandi Little, Tiffany Henry and Carol Henry, Georgia Topping, Marie Mathews, Sophia Black, Rhonda Johnson, Jackie Phillips, Brandi Little, Bernice Davenport, Olivia Morgan, Dorothy Wyncoff, Marie Mathews and Mary Carter.

The Rev. Dr. Roy A. Swann, pastor of the church, also gave congratulatory remarks to the women who put together the program.

Up Your Commitment to the Lord



Lesson Scripture: Luke 3:7-18

Lesson Aims: To summarize today's lesson, to demonstrate true repentance; and to deepen our level of commitment.

Background: Our study continues to focus on the theme of commitment. When the angel encountered Zechariah in the Holy of Holies (section of the Temple), he was told about his child (name and ministry). His disbelief left him mute. In lesson two we saw Mary rushing to visit her relative, Elizabeth who was also with child. Mary greeted Elizabeth. The child in Elizabeth's womb leaped while she rejoiced calling Mary blessed among women. Luke also told us that Mary remained with her relative for about three months, however Mary was not present when Elizabeth gave birth. Upon the eighth day after the birth it was time to circumcise and name the boy baby. While he was called out by God, Luke included him within the Hebrew culture. The neighbors and other relatives came rejoicing that God was gracious toward Elizabeth. They also took part in the ritual. Following tradition, they assumed that the baby's name would be Zechariah after his father. Elizabeth said no. They turned to Zechariah and asked him for the name. He told them that John is the baby's name. Fear came over them as they pondered what the future held for this infant. The chapter ended with Zechariah's canticle (hymn "taken from the words in the Scriptures). John was the immediate forerunner of Christ, sent by God to prepare the way. He was of priestly descent from both of his parents. Very little was known about his childhood. Raised as a Nazirite (Numbers 6), some believe that John was an Essene, but there is no clear indication of this. John didn't go into the cities; instead he preached in the wilderness of the Jordan River. Wilderness means deserted countryside, not an actual desert. His first public appearance came in Luke 3 around AD 27. The people had been anticipating the coming of Messiah for several hundred years. John's message declared that the messianic age was approaching and that they needed spiritual preparation. People were curious but his words weren't what the Jewish hierarchy expected; however the common people flocked to hear his message of repentance and baptism. Baptism wasn't new to them for they baptized Gentile converts. John the Baptist called for the Jews to be baptized also that was different.

Lesson: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate is governor of Judea

See Lesson on B10

BET WINNER TO RELEASE FIRST CD

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The winner of the popular BET show, "Sunday Best," will release her debut CD on Jan. 13 on the Zomba Gospel label.

On the self-titled CD, Crystal Aikin will show what made her the fan favorite on the "American Idol"-style show, which she won nearly a year ago.

Produced by PAJAM, Dre & Vidal and Asaph A. Ward, and with a special guest appearance by Natalie Grant, the CD is a unique combination of Contemporary Gospel music sprinkled with a little jazz and rock.

Crystal says, "It's a potpourri of musical sounds and we've got something on it for everyone. I couldn't help but make sure that a variety of music was captured on my album."

The 10-track CD of moving songs that speak of faith and hope showcases Aikin's enormous voice.

"I am a worship conductor and singing for me has so much purpose," says Aikin. "I don't play around with it. We all have gifts and talents. Sometimes we take them places we shouldn't. But for me, it is so important to honor my gift and to use it wisely. I believe that God has put a spiritual anointing on my voice to awaken the spiritually asleep and for deliverance and healing."

The first single, "I Desire More," is produced by Asaph A. Ward. A powerful ballad that urges

See Aikens on B10



Zomba Records Photo

Crystal Aikin will release her debut disc in January.

Students to cross over at Emmanuel Baptist

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Students of The Whole Village Rites of Programs at Emmanuel Baptist Church and Carter G. Woodson High School can now say that they received an African name and finished the requirements to "cross-over" into manhood or womanhood.

Last week, the students that completed the requirements of the Emmanuel Baptist program were honored by their classmates at Carter G.

Woodson. Canila "Kai" Gist, Edward "Ekindu" McCoy and Austin "Nanjyiah" Holiday will join nine other students this Saturday afternoon at Emmanuel to participate in the Citywide Kwanzaa event, "The Crossing Over Celebration of OSRUM TABONO."



Mendez

This name for the Rites of Passage group means, "African Children of OSRUM (faith, patience & determination) who are guided thru life with TABONO (oars of

See Rites on B10



Carter G. Woodson students take part in the recent ceremony in the school's gymnasium.