

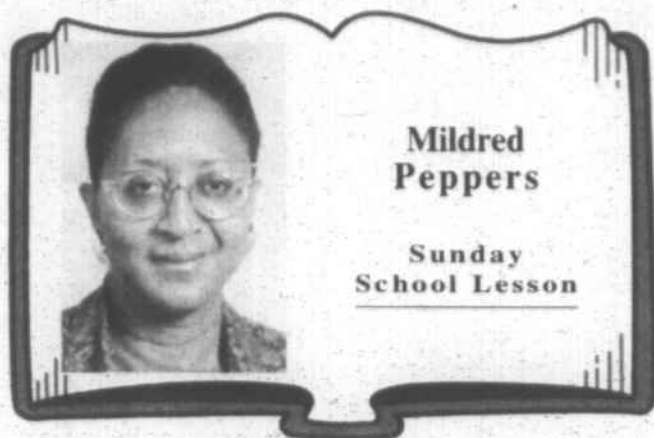
When God Calls, Answer Immediately

Lesson Scripture:
Exodus 3:1-12

Lesson Aims: To summarize the call on Moses' life as a deliverer; to understand that God prepares you for His Work; and to realize that He calls us today and that we are to answer without delay.

Background: Ascribed to Moses, this book chronicled his life and the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom. In the first book of the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament) God was revealed as Creator and Judge who established a relationship (covenant) with the patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Exodus, God exhibited more of His Character Traits (Holiness, Omnipotence, and Faithfulness) to the Covenant People. The Pentateuch was oral at first, thereby making it difficult to date. Exodus' basic theme is Redemption (Deliverance) through faith in the efficacy (effectiveness) of shed blood. This Redemption makes it possible to follow-

ship with God once again. The theme for the final quarter of this year is "Call Sealed With Promise" that highlights Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Our study begins with the call of Moses for June. The Israelites have been in Egypt some 430 years (12:40-41). At first they were guests during a great famine. The people were very fruitful over time as they filled the region of Goshen. Eventually Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob died, and a new pharaoh came to power in Egypt that didn't know the history of Joseph and his people. Feeling threatened by their numbers, he ordered their enslavement. His aim was to control them and possibly wipe them out as a people. His plan didn't work! Chapter 2 recorded the birth of Moses and his flight to Midian. At the time of his departure from Egypt, Moses was 40 years old. He met the daughters of Jethro (priest of Midian), married the oldest one, and became a shepherd for his



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

father-in-law.

Lesson: Like all of the others called by God to complete a task, Moses wasn't perfect. Now 80 years old, he continues to shepherd Jethro's flock when God gets his attention from the mountain (Sinai). Upon gazing at the burning bush that isn't consumed, the shepherd investigates. God calls him from the bush and commands him to come closer. Moses has to remove his sandals because he

is on holy ground. "In many parts of the world, people still remove their footwear before entering a house because they do not want to dirty the home of a respected host" (Echoes Adult Teacher Commentary). God identifies Himself as the God of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses falls prostrate (laying face down) on the ground in fear (reverence) and humility before His Holy Presence. The Lord acknowledges hearing the cries of His People in

Egypt. He is now ready to act on their behalf by sending Moses to lead them out of bondage. Like most of us, the shepherd is reluctant. Think for a moment, he doesn't hesitate to lead the animals. God assures Moses that there is no need to fear for He will be with him. As a sign for the shepherd, once the people leave Egypt, he is to bring them to this mountain to worship Him. Even after this promise, Moses continues to offer excuses why he isn't the one (see 3:13; 4:1, 10, 13).

Application: At various times in our lives, we too have been called to do marvelous work for God. We hesitate, complain, and may possibly run or hide from God. Can we

really accomplish that feat? When God calls, stop focusing on our shortcomings or the lack of resources - instead have faith. He knows exactly what He's doing. We may not recognize it but God has prepared us for the task. If we aren't completely ready, He continues to get us ready!! The one thing that we can not forget is His Promise never to leave us alone! He responds to human suffering in His time, not ours. Because God is God, He isn't bound by time, circumstances, governments, or any other element in this creation. After all, He created everything! When God calls you, be reverent, humble and confident that He is there with you!

Hunt Project Grant will help 'Homecomers'

The Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice has received a \$44,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. The grant will be used to support the Project's ongoing efforts to assist ex-offenders in their successful transition back to life in the community after they have been released.

"We are very grateful to the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust not only for their financial support, but for their acknowledgment that the audience we serve is an important one," said Pam Peoples-Joyner, executive director of

the Project. "A successful transition for our constituents helps prevent them from returning to a life of crime and adds to the rolls of productive, tax-paying citizens in Forsyth County."

The Project's re-entry effort is called the Homecomers Program.

The name homecomers is a positive alternative to "ex-offender," the description most often given to people who have been formerly incarcerated.

ed. "People who are rejoining their communities after serving their sentences deserve a

second chance to change and become productive citizens," Darryl Hunt said. "That change begins with the label we give them. Words are not neutral, and the term 'ex-offender' continues to follow them in a negative way, even while they are trying to turn their lives around."

The Homecomers Program

offers an array of services, including job skills training; counseling for psychological, family and substance abuse issues; job placement; and assistance with housing, food, clothing and other needs until they can obtain jobs and afford these things on their own. A 2008 study by Wake Forest University found that only 3 percent of the "homecomers" the Project has assisted have been re-incarcerated, compared to an average of 42 percent for all North Carolina homecomers, according to a 2002 study by the N.C. Department of Corrections.



Peoples-Joyner

Calendar

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vited to gas up and take part. Registration is \$20 per person or \$15 each for groups of 5 or more riders. Proceeds will help send students to a week-long summer sleep-away camp. For more information, sponsorships or donations, contact Katisha Blackwell at 336-714-3205 or kdblackwell@charlottediocese.org.

Yard sale
Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church in Pfafftown will sponsor a yard sale and fish fry on Saturday, June 6 from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tables can be rented for \$10.

Beginning June 7

Anniversary events
Revelations of Faith Church, 3710 Maverick St., where the pastor is the Rev. Sarah C. Hauser, will celebrate Hauser's 43rd Ministerial and 24th Pastoral Anniversary beginning on Sunday, June 7 at 11 a.m. with guest Prophetess Debra Sibley, of New Covenant Christian Center of Greensboro. The other guest will be Pastor Essie McCullough of New Direction Movement Cathedral Church at 4 p.m. on June 7, and Bishop A.W. Brown of Smith Chapel Church of Cleveland, N.C. will speak on June 14 at 4 p.m. Evangelist Barbara Bush and Sister Vicky Tillman are in charge of the services. Call 336-777-8092 or 336-782-2794 for questions.

June 7

Church Anniversary
Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church, 3010 Carver School Road, will be celebrating its 22nd Anniversary, on Sunday June 7 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Waymon L. Monroe Jr. and at 4 p.m. with Pastor William C. Brown of Rising Ebenezer Baptist church.

Voices of God's Children performance

The Chancel Choir of Mount Zion Baptist Church is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. As part of the celebration, The Voices of God's Children, under the direction of James Smith, will perform on June 7 at 4 p.m. Cornelia Joyce Forbes will be the guest pianist. She is a native of Winston-Salem and currently the pianist of Saint Paul United Methodist Church.

Usher Board anniversary

The St. Matthew Apostolic Temple Church of Jesus Christ Usher Board will celebrate its anniversary on Sunday, June 7 at 4 p.m. The church is at 3640 New Walkertown Road. Elder Jerome Betts and his congregation from St. Luke Apostle Church of South Boston, Va., will be the special guests. Bishop Joseph Lowery is the pastor. Call 336-724-1780 for more information.

Women's Day

Piney Grove United Methodist Church, 376 Underpass Road, in Advance, will celebrate Women's Day on Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Roberta Brown, wife of the late Elmer Brown, the mother of three and grandma of several grandchildren. She holds a B.S. degree from Winston-Salem State University and is employed by Forsyth County Health Center as a registered nurse. She is a faithful member of Phillips Chapel Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. All are welcome to attend. The host pastor is the Rev. Lenore C. Refro.

Appreciation Day for Pastor

New Hope AME Zion Church will have an "Appreciation Day" for Pastor Louis Hunter Jr. and his family. The grand event will be June 7. There will be guest speakers at services at 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at 1:30 p.m.

The church is located at 7000 Shallowford Road in Lewisville. The public is invited.

'Practicing Resurrection'

Augusta Johnson will facilitate a discussion on "Practicing Resurrection" at Green Street Church, 639 S. Green St., at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 7.

In the class's video segments, religious thinkers such as Winnie Varghese, Tex Sample, and sister Helen Prejean discuss the influence of the resurrection on Christians' facing each day as an entry into new life. For more information, call 336-722-8379 or e-mail grnst.admin@gmail.org.



Johnson

June 13

Community cookout

On Saturday, June 13, Mt. Olive Baptist Church will have a Community Day Cookout from 12 noon - 3 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend. The church is at 1301 C. E. Gray Drive. Dr. Charles E. Gray is the pastor.

Beginning June 14

Vacation Bible School at First Waightown

First Waightown Baptist Church, 838 Moravia Street, will conduct Vacation Bible School June 14 - 19. There will be classes and activities for ages pre-kindergarten to adult. The theme for the week is "The Jesus Chronicles," using instructional materials from Urban Ministries. In addition to Bible instruction and craft sessions, refreshments will be served each night. Transportation will be available by calling Ronnie Wiggins at least one day in advance at 336-213-3348. Pastor Dennis W. Bishop is senior pastor at First Waightown Baptist Church.

June 14

Choir anniversary

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Youth Choir will celebrate its 30th Anniversary on June 14 at 4 p.m. The church is located at 1301 C. E. Gray Drive. The host pastor is Dr. C. E. Gray.

Birthday celebration

Sunday, June 14 there will be a daylong birthday celebration at St. Matthew Apostolic Temple Church of Jesus Christ, 3640 New Walkertown Road., for the church's pastor, Bishop Joseph P. Lowery. At 4 p.m., the special guests will be Bishop Mark Price and his congregation from Greater New Bethel Apostle Church of Martinsville, Va. Call 336-724-1780 for more information.

Men and Women's Day

Red Bank Baptist Church will be celebrating Men and Women's Day on Sunday, June 14 with guest speaker the Rev. Juanita Tatum, Pastor Emerita of Mount Moriah of



Rev. Tatum

Pinnacle. She will speak at 11 a.m.

The guest speaker for the 3 p.m. service will be the Rev. Bernard Adams, Pastor of Salem Baptist Church of Lexington. The church is located at 6405 Red Bank Road in Germantown. The chairpersons for the program are Deacon Avon and Sister Delois Harding. The pastor is the Rev. James R. Clyburn Sr. Everyone is invited to attend.

Beginning June 15

VBS

Mt. Olive Baptist Church will have its annual Vacation Bible School from June 15 - 19 at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 1301 C.E. Gray Drive.

June 20

F.I.G.H.T. Night

On June 20 at 5 p.m., St. John CME Church will host F.I.G.H.T. Night II Praise & Worship Experience. Special guest performers will include Daughters of Miriam; comedian Carlos Massey; Phillips Chapel's Kingdom Bound Steppers and Interpreters of Praise. This program is free to the public, but canned food donations are welcomed. The church is located at 350 N. Crawford Place. For more information, call the church office at 336-725-3968.

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Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
M.Y.P.U 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Services
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1301 C.E. Gray Drive
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101
Pastor, Dr. C. E. Gray

Neighborhood Cook Out

Saturday, June 13, 2009
Time: 12 Noon - 3 p.m.

Games, Prizes, Food, Fun!

Shopping Spree Drawing:
\$100 Food Lion Shopping Spree
\$200 Wal-Mart Shopping Spree

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