

# RELIGION

## CALENDAR

### Happening Now

#### Homecoming

Pastor Billy Ray Smith of Rock Hill Baptist Church will speak tonight at 7 p.m. at Piney Grove Baptist Church, 4715 Indiana Ave., for the church's Homecoming. The 7 p.m. speaker tomorrow is Pastor S.T. Green of New Hope Holiness Church of Lexington. Call 336-744-5759 for more information.

#### Food pantry opens

St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 1840 Butler St., has opened a food pantry. It will be open on Mondays only, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Anyone needing assistance should call the church at 336-788-3421 and leave a name and telephone number, or come by the church during the pantry's hours. The Food Pantry will not be open when a holiday falls on a Monday.

#### Substance abuse support

The Ordered by God Outreach Center of House of Faith Outreach, 1384 W. Sedgfield Dr., offers substance abuse support programs every Friday at 3 p.m. and prayer at 1 p.m. For more information, call 336-986-7725.

#### Tent Revival

Mountain View Baptist Church, in association with Freedom Crusade Ministry in Winston-Salem and His Laboring Few Ministries in Thomasville, will host an outdoor Community Outreach, Sept. 13-19. The tent will be located on Hwy. 8 in the Southmont area and will begin each evening at 7 p.m. with guest evangelist Jerry McGee, a former drug dealer and an associate of a notorious outlaw biker organization. McGee was powerfully saved and delivered from that lifestyle by God. For more information, call 336-689-0285.

#### Watts at Faith Unity Revival

Faith Unity Missionary Church will hold its 4th Church Revival Sept. 16-18, at 7 p.m. The guest minister is the Rev. Richard K. Watts Jr., pastor of Rickard's Chapel AME Zion Church of Wilkesboro. Watts is also the principal of Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy. Everyone is cordially invited. The church is located in the chapel of the Masonic Lodge Prince Hall, at 1025 E. 14th St. The pastor is Nathaniel P. J. Williams Jr. and associate pastor is Wanda H. Williams.

#### Starting Today

#### Anniversary services

Mount Calvary Holy Church, 930 East 14th St., will celebrate its 80th anniversary with 7 p.m. services, starting this evening (Sept. 17), with special guest Pastor Kelvin Shouse of Calvary Covenant Fellowship of High Point. He will be followed on Friday, Sept. 18 by Co-Pastor Sonia Wiggins of Mount Calvary Living Word of Mebane. At 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20, Bishop Elvin Mickens of Mount Calvary Family Worship Center of Concord will speak. Pastor Tejado Hanchell, Co-Pastor Victoria Hanchell and the Mount Calvary Holy Church invite the community to take part.

#### Starting Sept. 18

**Pastoral and church anniversaries**  
Abundant Life Christian Ministries, 6860 Highway 311 North in Walkertown, will celebrate its 17th Church and Pastoral Anniversary, Sept. 18-20. The anniversary itinerary is as follows: Friday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m., Bishop Langeston McCarther of Living Word of God Apostle; Saturday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m., Pastor Gregory Hairston of Rising Star Baptist Church; Sunday, Sept. 20 at 11:15 a.m., Elder Raymond Patrick; and Sept. 20 at 4 p.m., Pastor William Brame of Newness of Life Family Worship.

#### Men's Convocation

Mount Sinai Full Gospel Deliverance Center, 2721 Manchester St., will hold its Men's Convocation, Sept. 18-20, with a theme of "The King in Me Speaks to the King in You: the Manifestation

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## Goler Metro welcomes new pastor

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church, 1435 E. Fourth St., has welcomed its new pastor and first lady: the Rev. Johnny Ruff and Jamesine T. Ruff.

Ruff was appointed pastor at the 119th session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, which was held recently at the Benton Convention Center. He received his undergraduate education from Johnson C. Smith University and earned a Masters of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary. He has been pastor at several churches, including Patterson Grove AME Zion, Denny Grove AME Zion, New Hope AME Zion, and Bethania AME Zion.

Ruff retired from the Social Security Administration in 2004 after 34 years of service. First Lady Ruff retired from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company as a senior finance manager. She had worked at the company for 23 years. The couple has two sons, John Christopher and Jason Lewis; two daughters-in-law, Vilaysak and Jennifer, and three granddaughters, Jayla, Elana and Jayme.

Pastor Ruff says he believes that the church and the family are the two most important unions in our society. Through life's experiences, Ruff says he has learned that in whatsoever state he is in, to be content and faithful.



Rev. and First Lady Ruff

## Abba Father's to welcome several anniversary speakers

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Abba Father's Ministries, 3980 N. Liberty St., will celebrate the 10th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Scottie I. White Sr. and Co-Pastor Earline White from Sept. 16-20, 2009.

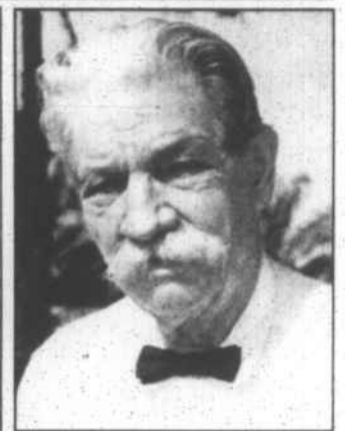
Services are as follows: Thursday, Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m., Pastor RaaShaun Payne of God's Glory Church of Deliverance; Friday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m., Pastor David Parks of Faith Deliverance Outreach Church of Greenwood, S.C.; Saturday, Sept. 19, 2 p.m., Pastor Ray Watlington; and Sunday, Sept. 20 at 11 a.m., Dr. Bishop James E. Hudson of Steppingstone Holiness Church of Timmonsville, S.C.

Pastor White Sr. and Co-Pastor Earline White have five children: Joyel, Converse, Shanita, Chazman and Scottie Jr., and 12 grandchildren. Pastor White is also president of a mentoring program, I.C.A.R.E. (Individuals Caring About Rehabilitation & Education), which helps youth, senior citizens, and former inmates become productive members of society.

He is the district elder and assistant-overseer of the Steppingstone Holiness Churches, which are led by Overseer Dr. Bishop James E. Hudson. White received a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies from the International Overcoming College of Religion at James DeSault University in Columbia, S.C. and is currently a student at Steppingstone Bible Institution, working toward a master's degree in pastoral counseling.



Pastor Scottie I. White Sr. and Co-Pastor Earline White



Albert Schweitzer

## Program to examine life of Schweitzer

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University will host a symposium, "Revisiting the Legacy of Albert Schweitzer: Reverence for Life in a Global Context," from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 22 in Wait Chapel.

The event, sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and the School of Divinity, is free and open to the public.

Predrag Cicovacki, professor of philosophy at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., and an internationally known authority on Schweitzer's life and thought, will deliver the keynote address, "Teaching Reverence for Life." Cicovacki's most recent books include "Albert Schweitzer's Ethical Vision: A Sourcebook," and "Dostoevsky and the Affirmation of Life."

Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) was a theologian, philosopher, musician, physician and missionary whose work shaped multiple disciplines throughout the 20th century. His ethic of "Reverence for Life" is an important theme for approaching his significant contribution to multiple disciplines.

After his address, Cicovacki will participate in a panel discussion with Wake Forest faculty members Simeon Ilesanmi, Washington M. Wingate Professor of Religion; Christian Miller, Zachary T. Smith Faculty Fellow and associate professor of philosophy; Kevin Jung, assistant professor of Christian ethics in the School of Divinity; and Nancy King, professor of social science and health policy at the School of Medicine and co-director of Wake Forest's Center for Bioethics, Health and Society.

A reception will follow the symposium in Reynolda Hall's first-floor main lounge.

For more information, call 336-758-5359 or 336-758-5121.

## Confronting Sin Head-on

Lesson Scripture: Ezra 9: 5-11, 15

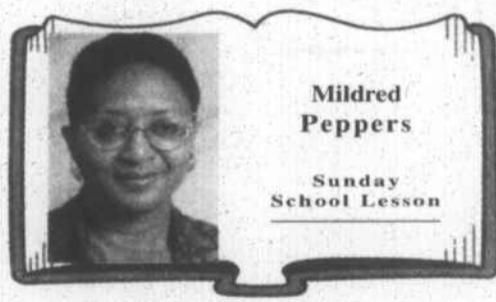
**Lesson Aims:** To summarize Ezra's reactions to the people's sin; to understand that God's leaders confront sin even if they are alone; and to approach God with a broken and contrite heart.

**Background:** More than 700 years passed between the leadership of Gideon and Ezra. The Israelites had ups and downs in their relationship with God. Please note that He was always faithful to them! Priests and prophets were sent to warn the people, but for the most part, the warnings were ignored. Eventually,

their sinful ways forced God to bring judgment. He allowed foreign invaders to capture the land and scatter the people.

Judgment came to Israel, the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC. Judah didn't learn from their brothers, so in 605 BC, the Babylonians seized the land and deported them. Read II Kings 10-17 for Israel's demise, and II Kings 18-25 for Judah. Does their behavior sound familiar? God ordained the priesthood in Exodus as intercessors for the people. They identified with the people, offered sacrifices to and petitioned God on their behalf. The priests were to have a deep, abiding love for the people. Jesus of course is the

See Peppers on B4



## Bethlehem to hold family conference

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

On Friday, Sept. 18 and concluding on Saturday, Sept. 19, Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1711 N. Claremont Ave., will sponsor its "Relationships that Bind: Love Never Fails" family conference.

Pastor Dwight Hash says the conference will focus on strengthening families.

"Families matter to all of us," he said.

Debra Macbeth, a Bethlehem member who helped to plan the event, states, "Nothing has been under any more furious attack than the Christian concept of the family. We believe that it is time for a reminder and discussion about the importance of the family unit. We know love is the greatest gift of all."

The conference will feature keynote speakers, a Saturday prayer breakfast, a luncheon, and numerous breakout sessions focusing on relevant topics for the entire family. Keynote speakers will include Bishop J.C. Hash of Saint Peters World Outreach Center; Minister Cheryl Jefferies of Love and Faith Christian Fellowship; and Co-pastor Joyce McCarter of Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church.

Workshop presenters include: John Gladman (Salvation Army); Florence



Judge Roland Hayes and his wife, Barbara.

Corpening (YWCA); Judge Roland Hayes and his wife, Barbara Hayes; Denise Scott Johnson (City of Winston-Salem); Patrick Merrill (Forsyth County Sheriff's Department); Kenneth Simington (WS/FCS); Velvet Simington (WS/FCS); Rev. Michael Steele (New Life Baptist Church,

Concord); Deacon Danny Wood (Rising Star Baptist Church); and Toni Parker (Liberty Home Care).

For more information about the conference, including scheduling, call the church at 336-723-1297.