



The Rev. Charlie Davis came dressed for the occasion.

# Peace-minded crowd prays for war-less world

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Leaders from various faiths observed the International Day of Peace on Monday, with a service filled with prayer and song at Green Street United Methodist Church.

Peace Day events have been held around the world since it was first established by the United Nations in 1981. In observance of the day, the UN asks that young people take part in a minute of silence and that warring factions call a ceasefire for at least 24 hours.

"The idea is if we can have one day of peace, we can expand on that," said Linda Winikoff, a member of the Triad Interfaith Peace Witness, which organizes local Peace Day events.

This was the third year that an interfaith religious Peace Day service has been held in the city, and Green Street's first time playing host.

"We believe all our traditions, our cultural traditions, have taught ways of peace that have all too often been ignored," said the Rev. Kelly Carpenter, the church's pastor.

Green Street's ceremony drew a small, but diverse crowd of various faiths. The service opened with the group Sabbath Indigo's rousing performance of "Down by the Riverside" and hand clapping and foot stomping that were so strong that they shook the small sanctuary. Then, a series of people took to the pulpit to advocate for peace in their own ways. Nissan Micha, a Christian from Iraq, recited a Christian prayer in Arabic. Arci Edwards gave a Hindu prayer in the ancient Indian language, Sanskrit. James R. Jones talked about finding peace and spirituality in nature and Native American traditions. The Rev. Charlie Davis, pastor of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem, donned a tie-dyed, peace-sign t-shirt as he sang of peace while playing a



Rabbi Strauss-Cohn

guitar. Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn of Temple Emmanuel told the story of how Jerusalem got its name, which means "city of peace." Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, has not always lived up to its name, having seen its share of violence between Jews and Muslims.

"It is our eternal hope that we can live in a world where brothers and sisters, people can come together, no matter what their background, their age, their heritage, their people - that we can work together to make...a city that is filled with peace," said Strauss-Cohn.

Fleming El-Amin gave an Islamic prayer in Arabic. He talked about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was not only a non-violence champion of civil rights but strong opponent of the Vietnam War and war in general.

"It takes courage to be a peacemaker," said El-Amin. The crowd sang "Let There be Peace on Earth" before leaving the church to try and make that a reality.

Locally, Augsburg Lutheran Church also held a Peace Day service featuring an address by Archbishop Elias Chacour. The City of Winston-Salem has honored Peace Day since 2003. A ceremony was held at noon on Monday on the steps of City Hall. It began with a minute of silence followed by the reading of a Peace Day proclamation by Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke and musical performances by children from local schools. A moment of silence was also observed in local schools.

A screening of "As We Forgive," a movie about forgiveness and reconciliation in Rwanda, will be shown as part of Peace Day at Winston-Salem Friends Meeting, 3151 Reynolda Road, tonight at 7 p.m.

## Daniels

from page A7

responsibilities include overseeing all branch operations for the Fulton Family YMCA, including programming, membership, staff and board development and community relationship development. He will also oversee the branch's annual Partner with Youth campaign, which provides need-based scholarship funds for youth, families and seniors.



Hazelbaker

roles, I have always had a passion for members and working deep into the community to serve others," Daniels said. "I will bring that to the Fulton Family YMCA, too. I am excited about my new role. The staff and the atmosphere at this branch have a great energy and the members and staff are connected to each other. There's opportunity for growth and a strong staff to work with."

To contact Daniels, call him at 336-661-1093 or email him at [t.daniels@ymcanwnc.org](mailto:t.daniels@ymcanwnc.org).

"Throughout my different

## Ball

from page A1

city instead of at The Tree. The first one was held in 1960 at the old Patterson Avenue Armory. It was featured in Jet magazine, which hailed the ball as one of the top social events of the year. The balls drew hundreds of attendees from around the country and around the world. Many recall the year that civil rights icon Fannie Lou Hamer showed up.

"Everybody in the country has heard of the Black and White Ball," said William Simmons, the current president of Les Arbres Club.

Judging from Friday's crowd, the ball is still popular. Attendees ate, laughed and danced to the sounds of the Dlanious Two. State Rep. Larry Womble and Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke were among them.

Burke opened the ball by reading and presenting a proclamation celebrating the 50th anniversary of Les Arbres. Burke's ties to The Tree go back decades. She held campaign meetings at the club for her initial successful bid for City Council in 1977. She said she has always been welcome there.

"It's a welcome place; it's a happy place, the atmosphere has just been warm," said Burke.

Though Les Arbres is a lit-



Photos by Todd Luck

Members (from left) William Simmons, Brick Johnson (owner), Oscar Wilkins, Odell Isom, Richard Glymph, Michael Williams and Charles Eaton.

Right: Eleanor Williams holds the mic as Dr. Burke makes remarks.



tle less active than it was in its heyday, it still hosts regular meetings, live music and charitable events. The club has always been selective in its membership, frequently recruiting doctors and lawyers and local businessmen. Membership has dwindled over the years, to only nine active members, and most of them are older, long-time members. Simmons said that the club is always looking for new members and hopes to find a new generation to keep

the Les Arbres tradition going strong for years to come. Membership applications are available through current club members.

Fifty-five-year-old Michael Williams is currently the youngest member of the club. Like his late father, Abraham, and his uncle, J.T., he considers it a privilege. The

club looks to him for new ideas, and he hopes he can help Les Arbres become more active in the community again.

"I feel like I'm part of a great history," said Williams. "It's a wonderful group of guys and women who know how to entertain and know how to take care of each other and love one another."



Get back to business faster with SunTrust Online Payroll and Online 401k.

Save time, money and unnecessary hassles when you get both SunTrust Online Payroll and Online 401k. With a convenient setup and easy access for you and your employees, your business will have everything it needs online to manage payroll processing, employee record updates and more. To learn more about how SunTrust business solutions can help you get back to business, call 866.587.1780 or speak to your SunTrust banker.

Visit [suntrust.com/business](http://suntrust.com/business) to learn more about the wealth of online educational resources available to you, including webinars, advice, business solutions and more.



Cash Management Financing Solutions Retirement Solutions

Deposit products and services are offered through SunTrust Bank, Member FDIC.

Securities and Insurance Products and Services: Are not FDIC or any other Government Agency Insured - Are not Bank Guaranteed - May Lose Value SunTrust Banks, Inc. and its affiliates and the directors, officers, employees and agents of its affiliates (collectively, "SunTrust") are not permitted to give legal or tax advice. Clients of SunTrust should consult with their legal and tax advisors prior to entering into any financial transaction.

©2009 SunTrust Banks, Inc. SunTrust and Live Solid, Bank Solid, are federally registered service marks of SunTrust Banks, Inc. SunTrust Online 401k is a service mark of SunTrust Banks, Inc. SunTrust Online 401k is offered in conjunction with ePlan Services, Inc. ePlan Services, Inc. is not an affiliate of SunTrust Banks, Inc.