



Photos by Todd Luck

Nicholas Brown dazzles the crowd with his voice.

St. Philips

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ended. Aaron imagined the great celebration that must have taken place that day as blacks learned that "the devil had been handcuffed and heaven was in charge."

He said he could still feel the jubilation of that day. "I can still feel the presence of the power of the people in this place," said Aaron. "Their power, their presence and their spirits are still standing strong after a 150 years."

Rev. Prince Rivers of United Metropolitan Missionary Church talked about an expansion that took place at the church in 1890 that added space for Sunday School classes. The space was also used to teach reading, writing and arithmetic. Just a few decades earlier, education would've been forbidden for blacks.



Rev. Donald Jenkins speaks.

"Education became a powerful tool to liberate the minds of those whose bodies were shackled," said Rivers.

Rev. Donald Jenkins of St. Paul United Methodist Church addressed the congregation's tough decision to leave the Old Salem site in 1952, as they faced an aging building and declining membership.

"The church chose to be a movement rather than a monument," Jenkins said.

Dr. Cedric Rodney, who was pastor at St. Philips from 1968-1976 and again from 1984-2003, was honored during the ceremony. Rodney was the church's first ordained pastor of African descent.

Dr. Patricia Bailey-Jones, founder of Master's Touch Ministries International, gave the Descendant's Charge. Bailey-Jones can trace her roots back to St. Philips for more than a century. Her ancestor Wesley Fries was baptized as a member of the church in 1845.

"Every last opportunity that I had, every footstep, everywhere I touch began right in this place," said Bailey-Jones, who wrote about her ancestors in her book, "Our Unclaimed Inheritance."

Mayor Allen Joines and Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke also spoke during the service, and Mary Brunson, Sophia Feaster and 11-year-old Nicholas Brown amazed attendees with their vocal powers. The floor of the church shook mightily as attendees clapped and stomped to a performance by the Emmanuel Baptist Church Spiritual Choir.

For more information about St Philips, visit www.oldsalem.org.



Dr. Patricia Bailey-Jones with her aunt, Alberta Black.



Mary Brunson and Sophia Feaster sing at last week's service.

'White Southerner' writes about working with SNCC in the '60s

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Davidson College alumnus Joseph Howell has done many things in his life, but few experiences have been as memorable as what occurred in the summer of 1966.

That summer, he and his wife Embry, the daughter of former Davidson College President Grier Martin, spent three months in rural Georgia working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as supporters of the Civil Rights Movement.

"You have an experience like that, it affects who you are as a person," said Howell, a native of Nashville, Tenn. "It also affects your world view and that fact that we're all fundamentally the same."

Howell, who lived with an African American family and worked with the Head Start Program, chronicled the life-changing experience in his recently-released book, "Civil Rights Journey: The History of a White Southerner Coming of Age During the Civil Rights Revolution."

Part diary, part memoir, "Civil Rights Journey," is a work that the author describes as "naive and politically incorrect, but honest and genuine." According to the Washington, D.C. resident, the book, which is available on Amazon.com, provides a look at the Movement from a very different perspective than is traditionally heard.

"I would like many people to read it," said Howell, whose first book, "Hard Living on Clay Street: Portraits of Blue Collar Families," has been in continuous print since 1973. "It's not only about the Civil Rights Movement; there are universal themes about coming of age and dealing with injustice."

Howell, who has spent the bulk of his career in the



Submitted Photo

Joseph and Embry Howell

affordable housing sector, said he was "thrust into the center" of the Movement in the early 1960s when he and several fellow fraternity leaders from Davidson attended a meeting hosted by Movement leaders in Philadelphia. Following the gathering, and the black leaders' impassioned plea for white partnership in the Movement, Howell decided to take a stand. He organized a march in Charlotte in support of the pending Civil Rights Act of 1964 that received considerable media attention. From there, Howell went on to divinity school in New York City, where he was taken under the wing of the late Allard K. Lowenstein, a civil rights activist. Lowenstein, who represented New York's Fifth District for one term in the US House of Representatives, encouraged Howell to travel to the South to help SNCC leaders.

"To be a part of the Civil

Rights Movement was an extraordinary privilege," declared Howell, a father of two. "We felt connected, a part of history. We were so lucky."

The son of a bank president, Howell said his life was "immeasurably enriched" by the lessons he learned that sweltering summer. He says it inspired him to fight for justice and equality in the housing sector.

White faces weren't always welcomed among Movement leaders and many of their colleagues of both races faced grave danger for their involvement, Howell said. He admits he spent a lot of time soul searching and questioning whether his presence was making a difference, though in hindsight he believes it did.

"The stakes were very high; the emotions were very

high," Howell recalled. "There was enormous push-back."

Embry Howell, his wife of more than four decades, is responsible for the publication of the book. She uncovered the diary several years ago in the couple's attic and encouraged her husband to share his story.

"I'm proud of what we did and I'm glad we did it," remarked Mrs. Howell, a health policy researcher at the Urban Institute. "I think this is sort of the white civil rights workers' perspective which ... is another-view of the Movement that's important to have out there."

"Civil Rights Journey" sells for \$15 and is available on Amazon.com and Authorhouse.com. A Kindle/ereader version is also available for sale.

Visit dwsp.org for dates & info

City Tree Lighting & Parade
The Nutcracker
The Classic Movie "It's a Wonderful Life"
One-of-a-Kind Shopping
The Arts District
Great Restaurants
Carriage Rides
Festive Nightlife
Holiday Performances & Decorations

Piedmont
FEDERAL
SAVINGS BANK

And the Magical Spirit of the Holidays Downtown

Informational Sessions for Rooming House Occupants and Landlords

Hanes Hosiery Community Center

501 Reynolds Blvd
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Date: Thursday, January 5, 2012
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Sprague Street Community Recreation Center

1350 East Sprague Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

Date: Thursday, January 12, 2012
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Representatives from various agencies that provide services for displaced individuals will be onsite.

From more information contact Stephanie Stimpson at 336-734-1272 or stephans@cityofws.org



The City of Winston-Salem Community and Business Development Department