

# RELIGION

## CALENDAR

### Happening Now

#### Piney Grove VBS

Piney Grove Baptist Church will continue hosting Vacation Bible School at the PGBC Family Life Center, 4633 Grove Garden Drive, Thursday, June 27 (today) and Friday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m. nightly. This year's theme is "Reaching the Reachable and Teaching the Teachable at the Cost of the Gospel of Christ." A light dinner will be served from 5:15-6 p.m. All ages are invited to attend. Call 336-744-5759 for more information.

#### Morning Star VBS

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Fitch St., will continue hosting Vacation Bible School on Thursday, June 27 (today) and Friday, June 28 from 5:30-8 p.m. nightly. This year's theme is "Jesus' Family Reunion" from Joshua



Leach

24:15. The public is invited to attend. There are classes for everyone. Call the church office at 336-748-0265 for more information. Dr. Dennis Leach Sr. is the host pastor.

#### First Calvary event

First Calvary Baptist Church, 401 N. Woodland Ave., will continue hosting "Jesus' Family Reunion" on Thursday, June 27 (today) and Friday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m. nightly. The public is invited to attend. Call 336-724-2611 for more information and/or transportation.

#### Oak Grove VBS

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 3978 Pine Hall Rd. in Walkertown, will continue hosting Vacation Bible School on Thursday, June 27 (today) from 6-9 p.m. This year's theme is "Kingdom Rock, Where Kids Stand Strong for God." The public is invited to attend. Call the church at 336-595-4851 for more information or if transportation is needed.

#### New Light VBS

New Light Missionary Baptist Church, 1535 E. 15th St., will continue hosting Vacation Bible School on Thursday, June 27 and Friday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m. nightly. This year's theme is "Jesus' Family Reunion: The Remix."



Hickerson

Students will discover and explore their spiritual and natural family values. The public is invited to attend. Rev. Sam P. L. Hickerson is the host senior pastor.

#### Ministers Conference Revival

The Minister's Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity will continue hosting its Second Annual City Wide Revival at Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, 5095 Lansing Drive on Thursday, June 27 (today) with Bishop Sheldon M. McCarter, the host pastor, preaching at 7:30 p.m.

#### United Progressive VBS

United Progressive Baptist Church, 1122 Quincy Caldwell Cir., will continue hosting Vacation Bible School on Thursday, June 27 (today) and Friday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m. nightly. This year's theme is "Jesus' Family Reunion — The Remix." The scriptural reference is Joshua 24:15 — "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." There will be classes for all ages, arts and crafts, snacks, skits and prayer. Call the church office at 336-724-1266 for more information.

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Elder Roger L. and Doris Hunter

## Elder Hunter retiring

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Elder Roger L. Hunter Sr. is retiring June 30 after serving the United Methodist Church for 36 years.

Over the years, he has been a minister at 13 churches — Hayes Chapel, Oak Grove and St. Stephens in Rockingham County; Withers Chapel in Stokes County; Harpers Chapel and Smith Memorial in Lenoir; Durham and Philadelphia UMC in Shelby; St. Mark in Charlotte; Hartzell Memorial in Hickory; and McQueen's Chapel in Conover. He is currently the pastor of St. Paul UMC and Wesley Chapel UMC in Reidsville.

He has been married to Doris Maddox Hunter for 46 years. Their love story began when the two were in high school. They have four children — Annette Moore (Keith) of Salisbury; Michelle Wilkins (Stefan) of Winston-Salem; Amy Caitlin (Carlos) of Charlotte; and Roger L. Hunter II of Lawndale — and seven grandchildren.

After Elder Hunter's retirement, the couple will reside in Charlotte, where they plan to travel, golf and praise God.



Mischael Goldsmith and SOULOUT will be among the performers Sunday.

## Exciting weekend to mark pastor's 25th anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

In celebration of the 25th pastoral anniversary of Bishop Sheldon M. McCarter, Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church will hold the "It's A Family Affair Weekend" from June 28-30.

Events begin on Friday, June 28 with 3T (The Teen Takeover), a social event for young people that will be held from 7-9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Attendees are asked to wear neon colors.

On Saturday, June 29, the church will host Community Day, which will include a yard sale from 8 a.m. — 12 p.m.; free health screenings provided by Winston-Salem State



Bishop Sheldon M. McCarter

University (10 a.m.—1 p.m.); and a grill-off (11 a.m.—3 p.m.). The entrance fee for the grilling event is \$50. The win-

ner will receive \$100. There will be vendors and games for the children all day.

A Musical Extravaganza will be held Sunday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m., featuring local musical groups such as Willie Mason and Friends, Dionn Owen and Renaissance, Dr. George Pass and N.E.W., Mischael Goldsmith and SOULOUT, the GCACC Anointed High Praisers, the GCACC Mass Choir and other dance ministries from throughout the Triad.

All activities will take place at the church, 5095 Lansing Drive, and are open to the public. For more information, call the church at 336-661-0226.

## GREENSBORO CHURCH TURNS 100

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A gospel music legend and pillars of the Greensboro community will be at the forefront to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. James Baptist Church (SJBC), 536 West Florida St. in Greensboro.

Luther Barnes, lead singer of Luther Barnes and the Sunset Jubilaires, will be the guest psalmist during the Founders Day Banquet on Friday, July 26 at 7 p.m. at the Koury Convention Center. Dr. Howard Chubbs, pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Greensboro, will give the keynote speech.

The three-day celebration will also include the "All Choir Day Celebration" on Saturday, July 27 at 4 p.m. at the church. A number of SJBC groups will perform. On Sunday, July 28, SJBC will host



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## Heartfelt Worship



Devotional Reading: Psalm 95:1-7

Lesson Scripture: Ezra 3:1-7

Lesson Aims: To summarize the lesson; recognize the significance of their feast days in light of their return home; and to seek ways that will prevent worship from becoming a mere ritual.

**Background:** Originally Ezra and Nehemiah (August lessons) was one book that picked up at the end of II Chronicles. "It was Origin, an African Church Father (AD 185-253) who began to refer to the work as I and II Ezra (Zondervan's NIV Study Bible). The author — simply called the chronicler — also penned the two books of Chronicles and Nehemiah. Ezra and Nehemiah recorded the events that took place after the exiles returned from Captivity. Like their three stage deportation (605, 597 and 586 BC), the Jews went back to Jerusalem in three stages (538, 458, and 444 BC). The books have several themes woven into the accounts — Their restoration and protection were all God's doing; the community was repatriated (renewed); and they were a chastened people who oftentimes would stray again. In Ezra, the chronicler told what happened when the first two groups returned while Nehemiah covered the third group.

The first returnees, led by Sheshbazzar (shesh BAZ ur) and Zerubbabel (zuh RUHB uh buhl), were to rebuild the Temple that the Babylonians destroyed. Cyrus, the Persian leader who toppled Babylon, gave the returning exiles all of the Temple treasures (5,400) as well. See chapter 1. In chapter

See Peppers on B5

## Faith leaders push for immigration bill

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Evangelical Immigration Table, which includes a number of faith-based groups, has launched its newest and largest paid-media campaign to reach evangelicals on the issue of immigration. The effort includes radio ads in North Carolina and a billboard in Raleigh. The radio ad features Rev. Alex Cosio of Apex (N.C.) Baptist Church.

The ad campaign further increases the Evangelical Immigration Table's support for bipartisan, common-sense immigration reform and builds on the 92-day "Pray for Reform" campaign. The call took place as small groups of Christians in at least 20 states gathered in their communities to pray for immigrants and for Congress as part of the Pray for Reform campaign.

The national ads on Christian and talk radio stations feature Dr. Russell Moore, president-elect of the Ethics and Religious

Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Lynne Hybels, co-founder of Willow Creek Community Church. In addition, ads featuring local pastors are airing on stations in Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Pray for Reform billboards will appear in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.



Cosio

"Evangelicals understand that our broken system is a moral issue; this isn't just a legal issue, it isn't a political issue or an economic issue only," said Moore. "It's a moral issue and it's been a stain on our country for too long. Now is the time for the country to come together for an immigration system that respects the God-given human dignity of every person."

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are currently trying to hash out an immigration bill. Their efforts have been stifled by policy disagreements.

