

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Happening Now

Greater Hope pastoral anniversary
Greater Hope of Glory Missionary Baptist Church, 414 Mason St., will continue hosting its 16th Pastoral Anniversary for Bishop Waddell Cockerham on Thursday, July 11 and Friday, July 12. Guest speakers include Pastor Anthony Johnson, New Life Community Church; Elder John Bailey, Fresh Fire Worship Center; Apostle Corey Simmons and Co-Pastor Michelle McCormick. The public is invited to attend. Call 336-749-9595 or 336-986-4586 for more information.



Cockerham

True Temple pastoral anniversary
True Temple Holiness Church of God will celebrate the 37th Pastoral Anniversary of Apostle Wallace Gaither and Evangelist Shirley Gaither each Sunday in July at 4 p.m. Services will be held at Mineral Springs Baptist Church, Akron Drive. The guest speakers include Pastor Anthony Wilson, Cathedral of Refuge Deliverance (July 14); Bishop John Heath, Higher Ground Ministries (July 21); and Bishop Joseph Lowery, St. Matthew Apostolic Temple (July 28).

St. Stephen's VBS
Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, 810 N. Highland Ave., will continue hosting its annual Vacation Bible School on Thursday, July 11 and Friday, July 12 from 6-8 p.m. nightly. This year's theme is "Jesus' Family Reunion." There will be classes for all ages, arts and crafts, snacks, skits and prayer. The public is invited to attend. Rev. Hector Sintim is the host priest-in-charge. Call the church office at 336-724-2614 for more information.

Union Bethel VBS
Union Bethel AME Church, 1716 Richard Allen Lane, will continue hosting Vacation Bible School on Thursday, July 11 and Friday, July 12 from 5-8 p.m. There will be food, fun and learning about God's word.

Piney Grove Youth Conference
Piney Grove Baptist Church, 4715 Indiana Ave., will host its 8th Annual Youth Conference on Thursday, July 11 and Friday, July 12. Thursday's speaker will be Rev. Stephen A. Tyndall, Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church. Friday's speaker will be the church's own, Minister Lové Lemon. There will be a workshop each night at 6 p.m., and services begin at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Call 336-744-5759 for more information.

Gethsemane Hope show/contest
The Pastor's Aid Club of Gethsemane Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 4361 Carrie Ave., will host a workshop, "Sowing Seeds," on Thursday, July 11 at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Minister Savalas Squire. On Saturday, July 13 at 4 p.m., the "No Dress Code" Fashion Show and Baby Contest will be presented. Those interested in modeling should contact Mary Smith at 336-748-1013. The public is invited to attend both events. Pastor Earnest McLaurin is the host pastor.



Squire

Beginning July 12
Union Baptist First Friday
First Friday of Union Baptist Church, 1200 N. Trade St., will stage the play, "How To Make A

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EMMANUEL DUO TRAVELS TO UGANDA

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

During the week of June 3-9, Emmanuel Baptist Church Pastor Dr. John Mendez and Deacon Jerry Lee Dodd joined Dr. Tyrone Pitts, general secretary emeritus of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, as delegates to the All Africa Conference of Churches' 10th Jubilee Assembly in Kampala, Uganda.

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is a fellowship of churches in Africa, which accounts for more than 120 million Christians across the continent. Emmanuel Baptist Church became affiliated with the AACC when it hosted a high-ranking delegation of AACC leaders, including the general secretary, in Winston-Salem. Dr. Mendez was later invited the following year to address the AACC General Board in Madagascar in 1987, making him the first pastor of an African American church and denomination to address the board. At the opening of the 10th General Jubilee Assembly in 2013, Dr. Mendez preached the opening sermon in Uganda.



Mendez

Guided by the conference theme for the 10th Jubilee General Assembly, "God of Life, Lead Africa to Peace, Justice and Dignity," the conference addressed many issues facing Africa in various workshops, including human trafficking, climate justice, the challenge of ethnicity in Africa, theology inclusion and disability, land issues in Africa, peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims in Africa and beyond, gender based violence, the rights of children and the challenges of HIV-AIDS and other diseases.

Delegates representing the Diaspora submitted several recommendations and resolutions concerning collaborative efforts between African churches within the AACC and churches in this country and around the world to, among other things, develop strategies, projects and programs that allow theologies of liberation to trickle down to the local churches.

Dr. Mendez and Deacon Dodd left Africa and the AACC reaffirming that dignity is a human right and that full freedom and dignity is far from over on both sides of the Atlantic.

"I am convinced that our collaborative efforts in the spirit of Pan African cooperation can and will make a difference," Mendez said. "Together in ministry, we can achieve justice, peace and dignity for all people by opposing and resisting the enemies of life at home and abroad."

Church to honor graduates

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Education Department of Kimberly Park Holiness Church will host its 19th Annual Graduate Award and Recognition Service on Sunday, July 14 at 4 p.m. Elder Anthony J. Bell, associate Minister of Miracle at Mt. Carmel Holiness Church of God (HCOG), will deliver the message. The theme for the service is, "Giving up the good to go for the great."

The Education Department will recognize and honor students who are graduating from all levels of education. The 2013 graduates include Darrell Blue Jr., the son of Betty Sales and Darrell Blue Sr. and a recent graduate of Glenn High School; Louis Morris, the son of Louis and Tanya Morris and a graduate of North Forsyth High School; Star Kenya Glenn, the daughter of Randy and Gwendolyn C. Glenn and a graduate of N.C. A&T State University (BA in speech pathology/audiology); and Fannetta H. Gore a recent graduate of Forsyth Tech Community College (A.A.S. degree in medical office administration).

Young people will have charge of the service and the Youth Choir, directed by Theresa and Cydnee Hymes, will render the music. Tamera Lowrey will perform a liturgical dance.

Bell is the son of Carlton E. and Ida O. (Thomas) Bell of Welch, W. Va. and a graduate of Bluefield State College, where he earned a degree in criminal justice. He is employed as an assistant general manager at Quality Hotel and Conference Center and serves on the board of several non-profit and for-profit organizations.

He holds many positions in the HCOG, Inc., including secretary of the Sunday School and Church, corresponding secretary for the Virginia and West Virginia District and secretary of the HCOG, Inc. Young Peoples Holiness Association.

Everyone is invited to attend. The church is located at 1640 S.M. Caesar Drive. Elder Robert R. Edmond is the pastor.

For additional information, contact Evangelist Dr. Vanessa Duren-Winfield, president of the Education Department KPHC at 336-724-1277.



Chief Patricia Norris accepts award from Ephesus leaders (from left) Livingstone Mawutor, Attorney R. Lewis Ray and Pastor Godwin Mitchell.

Ephesus honors Norris

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Each year, Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist Church publicly recognizes the outstanding service of a Winston-Salem citizen. This year, the honor went to Patricia D. Norris, chief of Winston-Salem State University police, and a lifelong resident of the city.

The 500-member Ephesus congregation saluted Chief Norris for her legacy of dedicated public service. She was selected because of her more than three decades of exemplary leadership in Winston-Salem.

Before joining WSSU, Norris was the city's first African American police

chief. The church believes that her vision and interest in improving police-community relations have left an indelible mark on the city.

The trailblazer and community servant accepted the award with her characteristic humility.

For more than 110 years, Ephesus has been part of the Winston-Salem community, for 25 of those years the church has sat at its current North Cleveland Avenue location. The parishioners have seen significant change during that time and applaud Chief Norris and those like her who commit themselves to meaningful civic leadership.

Opposition. Construction. Celebration.

Devotional Reading: Ezra 5

Lesson Scripture: Ezra 6:13-22

Lesson Aims: To recognize that God uses anyone to carry out His plan; give God your best at all times; and to celebrate all of His blessings!

Background: A meeting place for the Israelites (Jews) has been important ever since they left Egypt after 400 years of enslavement. They began with the portable sanctuary called the Tabernacle (only one). Also called the Tent of Meeting, it was constructed during their journey to the Promised Land. God gave specific details to Moses, their mediator, on Mount Sinai. See Exodus 24-31.

This was to be the place where God would meet them. Each time they moved, the Levites and the priests were responsible for breaking down and setting up the Tabernacle. The sanctuary was where they worshipped, sacrificed, and heard from God. It was for the people, because no structure could house God! Some 300 years later, Solomon built the first permanent structure (the Temple) in Jerusalem. It took about 40 years to complete. The magnificent structure lasted until the Babylonians destroyed it in 586 BC.

The Temple didn't save them but served symbolically as a reminder of God's presence; their covenant relationship with Him; and a pathway to salvation - their sacrifices covered their sins. Jesus' blood will cleanse their sins once and for all.

Lesson: Praises to God go up when the Temple foundation is laid. The people are on one accord and focused. Their neighbors (called Samaritans in the New Testament) offer their assistance. These are the people (pagans) who intermarried with the Jews that the Assyrians left in Israel after 722 BC. The Jews in the south (Judah) rejected them because they were not direct descendants of Abraham. These semi-pagan people use rumors and the Persian officials to disrupt the building project (chapter 4). From the devotional reading and the first part of chapter 6, we also

See Peppers on B5



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

Barber accepts national honor

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina NAACP President Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II received the prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Award from the National Education Association (NEA) at its Human and Civil Rights Awards Banquet last week in Atlanta. Others receiving awards included former President Jimmy Carter.

The NEA cited Barber, who is also pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, for his "powerful advocacy with purposeful action."

The National Education Association (NEA) is the nation's largest professional employee organization with three million members. Its North Carolina affiliate is the North Carolina Education Association (NCAE).



Dr. William Barber heads the NC NAACP.

Upon notification of the award, Dr. Barber said: "Awards like this do not pay tribute to one person but to the movement that day in and day out continues the fight for education and justice for all. It is the combined 'WE' that makes movements possible. I accepted this award on behalf of all our NAACP branches in North Carolina and our coalition partners, and will keep working with all people of goodwill to fulfill the promises of our deepest and most sacred moral and constitutional values."