



Front row, from left: Annie McBowell, Christine Bethea, Gloria McDonald, Mary Wilson, Cora Atkins and (back row, from left) Marilyn Embrice, Dorothy Raeford, Brenda Scott and Elanor Reynolds of Fayetteville's District II.

Photos by Layla Garnis

Senior citizens assemble at the Ramada Plaza last week for the conference.



## Seniors

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nice friends."

At home in Asheville, Dixon, a former NCASCC state queen, keeps herself busy with a variety of social obligations. In addition to the seniors' club, Dixon belongs to three other social organizations. Despite her busy schedule, Dixon says she always makes time for the NCASCC annual meeting, an event she anticipates all year long.

"Old as I am, I don't like a lot of drinking," the retired hospital employee said of her motivation to attend the conference, which will be held in her hometown next year. "I like clean fun, always have. That's the reason why I'm 90 years old."

Larn Dillard, a Winston-Salem resident who serves as president of the NCASCC, said being involved in the organization has kept her young.

"It's kept me active, and look at me — no one believes my age," declared Dillard, who is 83 years young. "I always go to the fair and win prizes (in the age-guessing contests)."

Dillard first got involved in senior clubs through her mother, who was a member of the Skyland Senior Citizens Club, one of the city's oldest seniors' groups. When she retired as a school counselor in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district after 38 years of service, Dillard became involved in earnest. This year's conference featured a sampling of information sessions on issues that affect seniors — from creating a living will to preventing falls.

"We get information about how to take care of ourselves, how to protect ourselves ... we get all kinds of information that seniors will need," Dillard noted. "It's helpful hints for seniors."

The conference also offered plenty of opportunities for participants to relax, have fun and simply enjoy each other's company. Highlights of the Twin



Larn Dillard (left) with Pearl Mae Dixon.



Phillips

City event included a line dancing session, several movie screenings, a 21st century fashion show and a scrapbooking competition, where Winston-Salem's own Carver Senior Citizens Club took second place this year. The seniors were also encouraged to shop and explore the city on their own.

"The main thing I want them to do is just come to Winston-Salem and get a feel of the hospitality here," said District V Advisor Dorinda Phillips, supervisor of the Rupert Bell Neighborhood Center and one of the conference's organizers.

City leaders welcomed visitors to the city during the Nov. 6 opening session.

"There are few things that you can't buy; you can't buy health and you can't buy experience," said Tim Grant, director of the city's Recreation and Parks Department, whose facilities are home to several local seniors' clubs. "What I would implore all of you to do is value the experience that you have gained in life and find someone younger than you to share it

with ... this is what we need from you all, is to bring value to our community."

Mayor Allen Joines also spoke to attendees.

Renita Thompkins Linville, a local attorney and the first lady of Piney Grove Baptist Church, delivered an impassioned keynote address, expounding upon the conference's theme, "Building Harmony, Inspiration and Peace."

"Our builder and our maker is God. Everything that is built on that rock will stand," she told the group. "If you, as willing vessels, allow Him to use you to be builders of harmony, inspiration and peace, not only will it permeate your families, your communities, your cities and your state, it will permeate the world."

Linville encouraged those present to work together, with each member using his or her unique gifts to help the organization live up to the lofty goals established by the conference's theme.

"You have the power to influence generations to come — this is your legacy and this is their inheritance," she intoned. "You should plant the seeds of harmony, inspiration and peace everywhere you go."

Following the conclusion of the conference on Friday, Dixon headed home to begin collecting her spare change in a jar — her reserve for next year's event — already anticipating

# Todd Bridges speaking at Union Baptist on Sunday

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

"Diff'rent Strokes" actor Todd Bridges will keynote the Union Baptist Church's 10th Annual Corner 2 Corner (C2C) Drug Dealers and Street Life Conference on Sunday, Nov. 17. Bridges, who himself has overcome addiction, will speak at the 8:30 a.m. worship service.

C2C will be held from Nov. 14-17 and will include workshops, testimonies from former drug dealers and families, luncheons and community worship services. All the sessions will be attended by local residents looking to turn their lives around.

The Corner 2 Corner Conference will open today with registration and a continental breakfast. Participants can also register tomorrow morning. Workshops will begin each day at 9:15 a.m. and conclude with lunch at 1 p.m. Workshop presenters will include Union Pastor Dr. Sir Walter Mack Jr. and Judge Denise Hartsfield. Participants will be given certificates of completion on Sunday during both the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services.

Bishop Neil Ellis, senior pastor of Nassau, Bahamas' Mount Tabor Full Gospel Baptist Church, will be the speaker at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday.

Bridges believes that his life's calling is to encourage others who face difficult life challenges, including alcohol and drug addiction. His career was brought to a standstill for nearly 10 years due to his drug addiction. In 2011, he celebrated 18 years of sobriety and today, he is a committed activist against drug and alcohol abuse.

Bishop Ellis organized Mount Tabor Union Baptist Church in February of 1987 with 13 members. Now Full Gospel Baptist Church, it is one of the fastest growing churches in The Bahamas.

Union Baptist is located at 1200 N. Trade St. The worship services are open to the public. For more information about registering for the conference, go to [www.unionbaptistwsnc.org](http://www.unionbaptistwsnc.org).



Bridges



Ellis



Grant

another reunion with her comrades.

"The people are so friendly," she declared. "I look forward to seeing them next year."

## ANNOUNCING EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS

Holiday Hours Nov 17<sup>th</sup> - Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

Mon-Fri: 8am - 7:30pm

Sat: 9am - 5pm

Sun: Noon - 5pm

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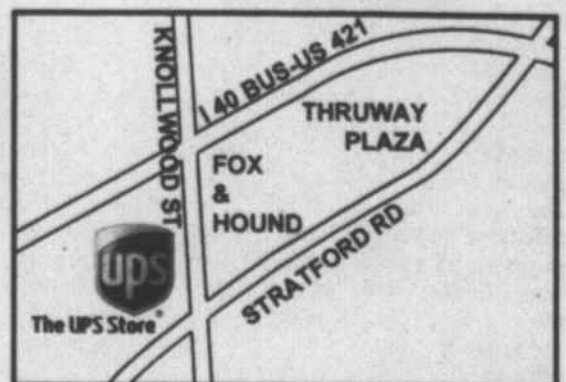
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Renita Linville addresses attendees at the opening session.

