

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Happening Now

Spring Revival

Gospel legend Luther Barnes will take part in the Diggs Memorial United Holy Church's Spring Revival at 7 p.m. this evening (April 24) and tomorrow (Friday, April 25). Several other performers will also take part on both evenings. The church is located at 125 N. Graham Ave. The host pastor is Elder Lamonte Williams.



Barnes

Life Changing Revival

Life Changing Transformation Church Ministries, 2001 E. 25th St., is holding its Leadership Revival from April 23 - 25 at 7:30 p.m. each evening. Arthur J. Barnes of Portland, Va. is the speaker. The host pastor is Rev. Alice Mitchell.

Spring Revival

Middlefork Christian Church, 2216 E. First St., is holding Spring Revival from Wednesday, April 23 through Friday, April 25. Dr. Joseph Jones, pastor of Zion Memorial Baptist Church, is the speaker. Rev. Robert Coleman is the host pastor.

Anniversary

Abba Father's Ministries, 4014 N. Cherry St., is marking its 15th anniversary with services at 7:30 p.m. from Wednesday, April 23 - Friday, April 25. Friends and Family Day is on Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m. and on Sunday, April 27 during the 11 a.m. service. The theme is "The Year of the Increase," and the host pastors are Scottie I. White Sr. and Earline D. White.

McCullough anniversary

The 35th Pastoral Anniversary celebration for New Direction Movement Cathedral Pastor Essie C. McCullough will be held on April 24, 25 and 27. Evangelist Mary Alexander will speak at 7:30 p.m. on April 24. Pastor Clyde L. Lindsay will speak on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. The closing ceremony will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. Pastor Emeritus Sarah Hauser will speak. The church is located at 3300 Overdale Rd. For more information, call 336-771-2111.

Beginning April 25

Symposium

Mount Sinai Full Gospel Deliverance Center, 2721 Manchester St., will host the Ministers/Leadership Empowerment Symposium from April 25-26. Pastor Peris J. Lester of St. John CME Church will be the keynote speaker at 7:30 p.m. on April 25. The Ministerial Roundtable, facilitated by Mount Sinai Pastor Yvonne H. Hines, will be held April 26 from 10 a.m. - noon. Registration is free. Reserve space by calling 366-722-2624 or emailing msfgdc@bell-south.net.



Lester

Beginning April 26

New Hope AME events

New Hope AME Zion Church, 7000 Shallowford Rd. in Lewisville, will have its annual Family and Friends Day on Saturday, April 26 at 4 p.m. with "Chopped Kitchen," featuring four great chefs. The cost is \$7. On Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m., the church will honor "Great Women of the Past." The speaker will be Rev. Robert Kelley Jr. of St. Peters AME Zion Church of New Bern. For further info, contact Catherine Hawkins-Speller at 336-407-6415 or the church at 336-945-9083.

HTGFC events

Holy Trinity Full Gospel Fellowship Center, 5307 Peters Creek Parkway, will have Family & Friends Day on Saturday, April 26 beginning at 10 a.m. at Bolton P 1590 Bolton St. On Sunday, April 27 at 4 p.m., Dr. James Linville and

See Religion on B5

From Suffering to Glory



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

Devotional Reading: John 1:10-18

Lesson Scripture: Isaiah 53:5-8; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47

Lesson Aims: To recognize that the Old Testament prophecies had to be fulfilled, connect Jesus to those prophecies and deepen our trust in Him as Savior and Redeemer for all people.

Background: After Jesus died on the cross, some of His followers scattered throughout Judea (Judah) and Galilee. They were confused, disappointed and afraid. Trying to make sense out of the past week had left them in a state of shock! Jesus entered Jerusalem with all of the pomp and circumstance that poor people could muster. He entered the Temple, drove out the merchants, which put the Jewish hierarchy on their heels. He refused to address the issue of His authority with them.

Instead, He asked them to explain how the Christ (Anointed One) could be David's descendant and Lord at the same time. His followers remained upbeat because they felt that Messiah (also means Anointed One) was going to set things right by freeing them from Roman domination and oppression. Every trap laid by the Jewish leaders was avoided. At times, people are oppressed by their own folk. That too will be fixed!

The Passover meal (their freedom celebration) approached and their enthusiasm grew. At the meal, Jesus gave new meaning to the bread and wine. Again this suggested that something was about to happen! When the 11 followed Him to the Mount of Olives (Matthew's Gethsemane), the situation began to reverse. After His arrest and several trials, Jesus was crucified and buried in a borrowed tomb. However, on the first day of the week, some women discovered that the body was missing. That wasn't what they expected! Now two of the disciples were traveling to Emmaus as they attempted to understand what had happened.

Lesson: Isaiah paints a vivid picture of Messiah as the "Suffering Servant." Often called the Servant Songs, they can be found in Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-6; 50:4-16; and 52:13-53:12. The prophet tells the Messiah's role as a servant and then shares how He will become the Sovereign Lord. It is this passage that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading. We cannot forget that the Jews are anticipating freedom from Rome and the re-establishment of David's kingdom.

Their view is a narrow one (we do it too!). God sends this Servant to fulfill His covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). They see the glory but somehow miss the suffering! The Servant comes to serve God by redeeming humanity. It will take awhile before this vision can be understood. The mere words create a sense of suffering - pierced, crushed, wounded, oppressed, afflicted and cut off implies both physical and mental pain. This is done for the sins of humanity!

Back on the road to Emmaus, the two discuss all of the previous week's events. Joined by a Fellow Traveler, they bring Him up to date since He doesn't know. The Stranger's words are comforting because He uses Scripture to remind them that the suffering was a prerequisite for Messiah's glory. When their eyes are opened, they rush back to Jerusalem! Jesus then appears in the room where the disciples are hiding. He assures them that He isn't a ghost and then begins to teach one more time. Where they were puzzled; now they understand!

Application: I can't help but jump to Revelation 5:1-14, where the apostle John is crying in heaven because no one is worthy to open the scroll. One of the "twenty and four" elders say to him: "Look up the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has triumphed; stop crying, for He is Worthy. You see, the great suffering and pain endured on earth for humanity has made Him worthy to open the scroll. As we study God's Word, don't forget that God's plan is inclusive of all people! His love is there for us, but not us only! What an awesome God we serve!

CWU's Friendship Day

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Church Women United will hold their next Friendship Day on Friday, May 2 at New Philadelphia Moravian Church, 4440 Country Club Rd.

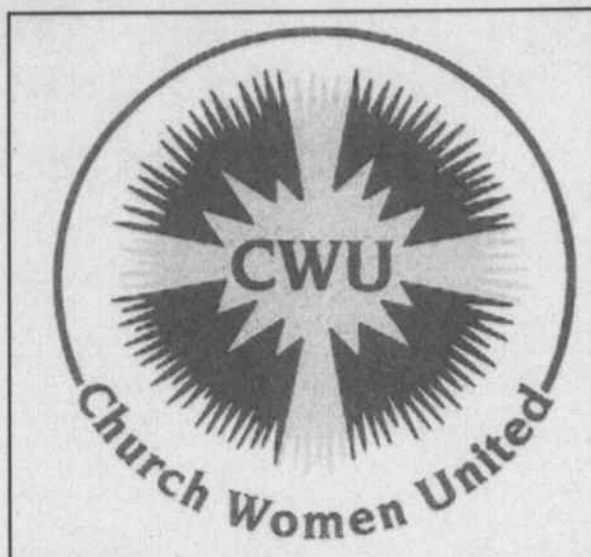
The "Through God Our Hands Can Serve" Bible study will be led by Clyde Manning at 11:30 a.m. A worship service will follow. "The Fellowship of the Least Coin" will be collected along with the regular offering. The least coins are put together, along with prayers offered by members throughout the world, and become a strong force in bringing about justice, reconciliation and peace.

The goal of the least coins project is to teach believers to be humble, value the least and to trust that nothing is impossible for God, who can do great things.

Lunch will follow the worship celebration.

Church Women United held its Human Rights Celebration on March 14. Sunnyside Ministries and the Bethlehem Community Center were honored. Tom Cole accepted Sunnyside's award. Patricia Shouse, who has been the executive director at the Bethlehem Center for 40 years, accepted Bethlehem's award.

Church Women United is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women's movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy and action for peace with justice in the world.



TURNING 12



Submitted Photo

Dionn Owen & Renaissance will hold their 12th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, April 26 at 6 p.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, 1317 NW Cherry St. The event's theme is "Renaissance Diversified" and radio personality Anita "Boss Lady" Dean will serve as emcee. Learn more about the popular gospel group and/or the upcoming performance at Facebook.com/DionnO or by calling 336-918-9437.

St. James holding anniversary programs

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1501 N. Patterson Ave., will celebrate its 132nd Anniversary beginning on Saturday, April 26 with a 9 a.m. prayer breakfast featuring Nikki Walker Lyons, the church's first lady and the president of the Western North Carolina Conference Branch of the Women's Missionary Society.

Music will be provided by Rev. Dr. Shirley W. Hines, an AME Church itinerant elder, and admission is a donation of \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

Lyons was elected branch president on May 21 and has since led under the theme, "A New Vision for a New Season: Transforming Lives Through Service and Witness." In addition to leading St. James, she and her husband, Pastor

Steven L. Lyons, run the Steven L. Lyons Funeral Home in Raleigh.



Lyons

The celebration will continue on Sunday, April 27 at 10 a.m., when Rev. Barbara J. Barbour, a retired AME itinerant elder, will preach. Barbour has the distinction of being the first female pastor in the 130-year history of Enfield's White Cross AME Church. She was also the first woman to start a church - Adams Inspirational AME Church in Clinton, Md. - in the Washington, D.C. area AME Conference.

At 4 p.m., Rev. Peris J. Lester I, pastor of St. John Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, will speak. Since accepting the call to ministry in his home church, Carter Temple CME Church in Chicago, Lester has pastored in CME churches in California, Missouri, Tennessee and Georgia.

Youngsters shine in artistic showcase

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Nearly 50 young people showcased their talents during the Third Annual Music and Arts Seminar at First Waightown Baptist Church on Sunday, March 30. Their performances capped a three-day symposium that featured workshops and seminars on everything from church etiquette to praise dancing.

Winners were chosen in a number of performing arts categories. The Performing Arts winners were I'zaah Gray (dance), Shandi McDaniel (singing) and Terrell Robinson Jr. (drum solo), respectively. The top Oratory finisher was Shandi McDaniel. The Creative Writing winners were Jada Hall, Shamara Boston and Kayla Turner, respectively. The top Original Artwork finishers were Jon-Michael Hall II Jaidon Craft and Jada Hall (tie) and Kelcy Craft, respectively. All participants received monetary awards.

The kids were judged by Glynis W. Bell, founder and



Submitted Photo

(Front row, from left) Gabrielle Roman, Kai Rhinehardt, Krisalin Coleman-Simon, Jnaria Thompson and Syncere Blackwell perform with (back row) Tristian Scott-Jacobs and Cameron Rogers.

executive director of Dress for Success Winston-Salem; Dr. Felecia Piggott-Long, a performing artist and an English teacher at Carver High School; Dr. Soncerey Montgomery, associate professor of speech and director of the Honors Program at Winston-Salem State University; and Elder Rick Wood, an associate minister at New Hope Missionary

Baptist Church. H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Eat), a non-profit, interfaith effort to provide nutritious meals to young people in Winston-Salem, provided food after the program, which was coordinated by Minster Tamara Moore and other First Waightown youth leaders and advisors. Rev. Dennis W. Bishop is the church's senior pastor.