

# RELIGION

## CALENDAR

### Happening Now

**Center Grove Homecoming/Revival**  
Center Grove AME Zion Church, 7001 Zion Church Rd. in Tobaccoville, is holding its Homecoming/ Fall Revival. Tonight (Thursday, Oct. 2) at 7 p.m. Rev. Ronald E. Spease of New Jerusalem Baptist Church will speak.

**Phillips Chapel events**  
Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 132 N. Glenn Ave., is holding its Fall Revival. Dr. Peter M. Wherry, pastor of Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte, is speaking this evening (Thursday, Oct. 2) at 7 p.m. Transportation will be provided. For more information, call 336-723-9451.

**Screening**  
TEEM - Temple Emanuel's Environmental Movement -will screen "Shored Up" and discuss rising sea levels on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 7-9 p.m. at Temple Emanuel, 201 Oakwood Drive.

**Middlefork anniversary**  
Middlefork Christian Church, 2216 East 1st St., is celebrating its 115th Church Anniversary at 7 p.m. this evening (Thursday, Oct. 2). Members of Providence Baptist Church of Kernersville will be the guests. On Friday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m., Rev. C. E. Crawford of White Rock Baptist Church will speak. On Sunday, Oct. 5 at 10:45 a.m., Rev. Larry Ponds will speak. Rev. Robert L. Coleman is host pastor.

### Beginning Oct. 3

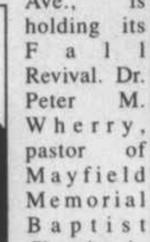
**Koger birthday celebration**  
Ministries of Truth Church Family will celebrate the 77th birthday of Bishop William E. Koger next month under the theme, "A Weekend of Celebration and Praise." At 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 3, Elder William Koger and Life Flow Kingdom Ministries will be the guests and the Vision of Praise Community Choir will perform. On Sunday, Oct. 5 at 11 a.m., Daniel Rosa of St. Matthew Apostolic Church will speak. At 4 p.m., Elder Ed Lowery and Bethlehem Holiness Apostolic Church will be the guests. For more information, call Faye Fields at 336-287-7458.

### Beginning Oct. 4

**Anniversary services**  
Greater Tabernacle Worship Center, 1410 Attucks St., will celebrate the 14th anniversary of Apostle BJ McCloud beginning on Saturday, Oct. 4 with a Rainbow Tea at 5 p.m. at West Salem Square, 1001 S. Marshall St. At the church on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m., Bishop T. Hanchell of Mt Calvary Holy Church will speak; Apostle John Heath of Greater Higher Ground will speak Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.; Bishop Freddie Marshall, of Christ Cathedral Church of Deliverance will speak on Friday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. A Pastor's Appreciation Service led by the youth will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. On Sunday, Oct. 19 at 4 p.m., Overseer John Ford of Healing House of God will speak. Call 336-777-1113 for more information.

### Beginning Oct. 5

**Family Month 2014**  
Salvation and Praise



Wherry

## Holiness Church of God holding Assembly

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The 97th General Assembly of the Holiness Church of God, Inc. is convening this week at Kimberly Park Holiness Church, 1640 S.M. Caesar Drive, where Elder Robert R. Edmond Jr., is the pastor. General Bishop Arnie H. Joyce is presiding with the assistance of Vice-Bishop Theodore R. Rice, Vice-Bishop James Ijames and the Elders Board.

This year's theme is Psalms 121:1-2: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help, my help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

The opening session was Monday and included the presentation of reports by the Elder Board, assembly secretaries and district overseers. Overseer Benjamin Brogdon Jr. delivered the message at the evening session.

Tuesday's highlights included a workshop led by Overseer David Terry; speeches by Minister Vickie Sumpter and Ruling Elder Carolyn Lazenby; and an evening session led by Overseer Eugene Kirby Jr.

Yesterday, the Elder Board met with all pastors and ordained ministers and speakers included Ruling Elder Izalliar Dalton, Sumpter and Overseer David Terry.

Today (Thursday, Oct. 2) at 10 a.m., Rules and Regulations Committee will meet and messages will be delivered at 11:30 a.m. by Overseer Roy Alston; 2 p.m. by Overseer Jonathan Shuler; and 7:30 p.m. by Vice-Bishop Ijames.

Tomorrow at 10 a.m., the Ordination Committee will meet and the speakers will be Pastor Kay Lawson at 10:30 a.m.; Overseer Eugene Paramore at 2 p.m.; and Vice-Bishop Rice at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, there will be an Ordination Service followed by an Alter Service beginning at 9:30 a.m. A series of sermonettes will be given by various speakers beginning at 11 a.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 5, General Bishop Joyce will close out the Assembly with at 10 a.m.

The General Assembly choir is providing music for all services throughout the session.



Joyce



## Council encourages voting

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Faith-based organizations have a key role to play in helping their members navigate changes in North Carolina's election laws that could make voting more difficult for some citizens, says the N.C. Council of Churches.

In an appeal sent to leaders of its member church bodies, to people of faith statewide, and to other allies, the Council argues that broad voter participation is a core principle of American democracy. It urges them to act now to make sure that congregants are properly registered to vote for the Nov. 4 election and that they understand the new rules, which include a restriction on early voting.

When some voters face undue and unnecessary inconvenience, the appeal points out, their voices can be muffled and their views disregarded by those in power. The concept of social justice - basic to the Christian tradition - hinges on fair treatment of people at all social levels.

"Of course there must be rules keeping elections orderly and honest," the Council says. "But the aim should be to increase voter participation, not to limit it. That is how more members of society, including the poor and powerless, can have a say in picking their elected officials and thus in shaping the policies by which their community, their state and their nation will be run."

The Council is mindful that religious bodies

must remain nonpartisan in any political activities, but says that leaves plenty of room for them to make sure members are up to speed on voting requirements - including a critical change in registration rules.

Formerly, voters could register and cast their ballots on the same day during a 17-day early voting period. Now, the period has been cut to 10 days and no "same-day" registration is allowed. The deadline to register this fall is Oct. 10.

Starting in 2016, voters will have to produce an official photo ID. Poll officials this year will ask voters whether they have the necessary documents, but no ID is required in order to vote this November. Churches can help dispel potential confusion that could deter some voters this fall from showing up.

The Council's appeal to church leaders goes into more detail as to what faith organizations can and should do to make sure eligible voters know how to work within the system to cast their ballots.

"The N.C. Council of Churches favors public policies that give every North Carolinian a fair chance to realize his or her dreams," says the appeal. "As to which candidates are best suited to develop and pursue those policies, that's for the voters to decide. The Council's article of faith is that the more voters take part in those decisions, the better public interests are served."

## Leach anniversary celebration underway

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church kicked off Fifth Pastoral Anniversary events for Rev. Dr. Dennis Leach Sr. yesterday with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Kenneth Moore of Stoneville's Sharon Baptist Church.

This evening (Thursday, Oct. 2) at 7 p.m., Rev. Dr. Paul Lowe, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, will be the guest preacher. On Friday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m., Rev. Dr. Serenus Churn, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, will be the guest.

At the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Oct. 5, Rev. John Mason, Pastor Emeritus of New Bethel Baptist Church of High Point, will deliver the preached Word. Rev. Dr. James Cook, pastor of St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church, will serve as the guest preacher during the 3 p.m. service.

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church is located at 1400 Fitch St. The community is invited to attend. Call the church office at 336-748-0216 for more information.



Rev. Dr. Dennis Leach Sr.



Churn



Koger



Leonard



Rakes



Hash



Hines



Carpenter

## Conservative, Liberal Christians to talk

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Interfaith Winston-Salem is hoping to help narrow the gap between conservative and liberal churchgoers.

The organization is hosting "Ties That Bind: Christians in Conversation" on Sunday, Oct. 12 from 4 - 6:30 p.m. at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, 450 Metropolitan Drive. Clergy and laity, ranging from high school seniors to senior citizens, will come together for the discussion.

"We believe the ties that bind us can be far stronger than the differences that divide us," says Bill Leonard, Dunn Professor of Baptist Studies and Church History at the School of Divinity at Wake Forest University. "The ties will be more enduring when they're shared across a table top than differences that are shouted

from across the room."

Leonard will moderate the initial discussion, which will include panelists Mike Rakes of Winston-Salem First Assembly, Yvonne Hines of Mount Sinai Full Gospel Church, James C. Hash Jr. of St. Peter's Church and World Outreach Center and Kelly Carpenter of Green Street United Methodist Church. The conversation will focus on two topics: "My most profound experience of God" and "How the Jesus story touches my life."

Following the clergy discussion, others attending will have an opportunity to discuss those topics during small group discussions. Participants will be assigned to tables to ensure that there is a diversity of theological perspectives and churches represented. At the conclusion, participants will be asked to help determine the next steps in bridging the gap between

liberal and conservative Protestants.

Rev. Tasha Gibson of United Metropolitan says she is looking forward to the event. "What if Christian congregations from across our city were able to show the world a different way of being united, not in uniformity, but together nonetheless? A conversation like this may be a good beginning for people, from different expressions of Christ's church, to do just that," she said.

"Ties That Bind: Protestants in Conversation" is sponsored by Interfaith Winston-Salem, which received The Winston-Salem Foundation's 2014 ECHO Award for building social capital.

It is free to the public. Childcare will be available, but advance registration is required. Online registration is available at <http://tiesthatbindws.eventbrite.com>.