

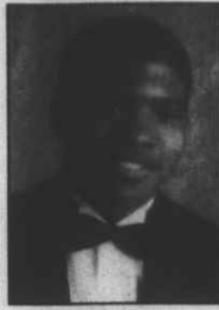
United Metropolitan attendee gains early admission to college

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Michael C. Baker, who attends United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, has received early admission into Western Carolina University, where he plans to major in Criminal Justice, his family has announced. Baker serves as a youth usher.

Michael works part time for Bojangles' Restaurant. He is a senior at Glenn High School, and a dual enrollment student at Forsyth Technical Community College. Michael is an honor roll student and a member of Crosby Scholars. He participates in numerous volunteer activities in his community and at school. Some of his activities

include: vice president of the Winston-Salem Chapter of Youth Achievers, Glenn High School's Varsity Track Team his sophomore year, Glenn High School's Varsity Football his junior and senior years, and the Winston-Salem Police Department's Explorers Program. He is the son of Michael and Charmon Baker of Kernersville.



Baker

St. Paul UMC holds Women's Weekend

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The United Methodist Women of St. Paul UMC will host their annual spring Women's weekend April 25-26. The public is invited to attend.

All activities will take place at the church, which is at 2400 Dellabrook Road.

The celebrations begin on Saturday, April 25 with a clothing giveaway for community members from 9 to 11 a.m. in the church's lower parking lot.

The weekend culminates with the Women's Day service on Sunday, April 26. Sunday's ceremony will feature St. Paul's very own Charlene Curtis as the speaker.

Curtis serves as the coordinator of officials for women's basketball programs for the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). She is native of Roanoke, Virginia, who earned, with honors, a Bachelor of Science degree from Radford College and a Master of Education distinction from The University of Virginia.

She is the former Division I head coach at Radford, Temple, and Wake Forest universities, and was an assistant coach with the WNBA's Charlotte Sting.

After leaving coaching, Curtis spent five years as a game and studio analyst for women's college basketball with the ACC, Fox Sports South, and ESPNU.

Curtis is involved in both church and community activities, as she has served on numerous community and professional boards and committees, including the



Curtis

Radford University Board of Visitors, Radford University Alumni Council (President), the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Board of Directors, and the Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters Services of Forsyth County.

She works with several professional committees that directly impact collegiate women's basketball. She has previously assisted with the St. Paul UMC's Middle School Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. At present, she serves on the Staff Parish Relations Committee as well as the Grief Share Ministry.

For more information on Women's Day, contact Leslie Feaster at l_feaster@yahoo.com.

Established in 1869, United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women, with about 800,000 members whose mission is spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice.

"Stand for those who cannot stand for themselves" is the mantra for St. Paul's United Methodist Women's committee. Led this year by President Leslie Feaster, they've vowed to develop a creative, supportive, fellowship and to expand the concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The food pantry and clothing mission is open each Wednesday beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday school at the church starts at 9:30 a.m.; regular worship service starts at 11 a.m. Bible Study is on Wednesday at noon and 7 p.m.

Prayer requests can be sent to the office by email at office@stpaulumcws.org or by calling 336-723-4531.

Taylor

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tive with his words, he has done his job in the Spirit. We have lost a master preacher," Miller said.

The Rev. Roy L. Dennis was a student of Taylor's at Shaw University in 2004. Dennis is currently a religion professor at Apex School of Theology in Durham. The character value that stands out most to him about Dr. Taylor is his humility. He also considers Taylor a powerful preacher. He recalls that Taylor was a featured speaker at the Proctor conference at Shaw University in Raleigh in 2008.

"Dr. Taylor has been invited to speak at Ivy League schools and in places of honor all over the world, but he would also go to small, country churches if he was invited. He was an humble man," Dennis said. "He had a way with words. He drew you into his preaching. He painted a picture with his words, and as you listened, you knew

that you were a part of the story."

More than 2,000 of Taylor's sermons are archived in various collections. He preached the pre-inauguration sermon in January 1993 for the then President-elect Bill Clinton at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. Taylor taught homiletics at Harvard Divinity School, and he was the author of a six-volume series "The Words of Gardner Taylor: 50 years of Timeless Treasures" and co-author of "Perfecting the Pastor's Art." He has delivered lectures and sermons in South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, Denmark, England, Scotland, Australia, China and Japan.

During his interview with Minister Rashad D. L. Cartwright for the American Preachers Series in 2013, Dr. Taylor provided a gem of wisdom for ministers and pastors today who carry the Word of God. He recalled an article that he published in the "African American Pulpit" called, "Is Our Preaching Christian?" According to

Taylor, many ministers tend to leave Jesus out of their messages.

"This makes our preaching warped and twisted. There is no way of understanding God without that presence. He that has seen me has seen the Father. This type of preaching makes the message murky, opaque, and unclear ... This is a great lack in

our gospel today. I call it candy gospel. You can feed a child candy morning, night and day, and the child will enjoy it. But soon, the child will have no teeth and eventually, you will have no child. Candy will not sustain us. I like candy, but I know we need some vegetables and above all the meat of the Word" Taylor said.

Peppers

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meet in her home. Either way, they are believers who practice God's principles. He goes on to say that love and truth binds them together forever. The initial blessing is commonplace for that age. John is full of joy due to their consistent lifestyle of love, truth and obedience. This is not new but a re-emphasis to keep them on their toes in the face of deception. He gently warns them to be aware of the false teachers who proclaim a different doctrine. Those who do not walk in love and truth can be persuaded to follow the deceivers. John cautions them to not turn away from the truth but to stay the course. John calls the Gnostics the antichrist. "Don't take them into your homes," he says because that may tempt you and give others the wrong impression. If they are welcomed into the believers' homes, they become as wicked as the false teachers. Stay away from them, he declares! He sends an apology for the shortness of the letter but hopes to visit them soon where a

face-to-face conversation will be more rewarding.

Life's Application: For believers not to be fooled, they must first know exactly what they believe. This means that one has to study the Word of God personally and corporately. You need both. Personal study strengthens you but can lead to tunnel vision unless you hear how God has revealed Himself to others. Not only must believers "know the truth," they must live it daily not once a week. John gives guidelines to test the new ideas. "First, what does the teacher say about the nature of Christ? Secondly, does the teacher water down love, truth, and obedience? Finally, does the teacher add to or subtract from Christ's teachings?" (David C. Cooks Echoes Adult Teachers Commentary). As believers, we are to practice love and truth that leads to obedience. Preachers and politicians, you are included as well. Deception occurs either by ignorance or a willingness to follow what sounds pleasing to the ears. May God strengthen us to remain true to His standards!

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