



Photos by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle.

**Maria McMiller smiles as she leaves the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission Thrift Store with her free cup of butter pecan Blue Ridge Ice Cream and cookies.**



**Ronald Watson, left, enjoys a free cup of "very berry" Blue Ridge Ice Cream, a cool and refreshing treat provided free of charge by Scott Burwell and Dewey's Bakery at The Winston-Salem Rescue Mission's Thrift Store. After hearing about the conditions of The Mission's thrift store, operating in an old warehouse on Oak Street without any air conditioning, Burwell generously donated and served Blue Ridge Ice Cream on Thursday afternoon in efforts to "bless the workers and support the efforts of the entire Winston-Salem Rescue Mission organization."**

**Gift**

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"Pat on the back goes so far; ice cream in the hand goes a lot sweeter," Burwell said. "Being able to do this is a super opportunity." Burwell believes in giving back 100 percent, for he feels that is why God put him here. Burwell said they would donate and come out as many times as Garms needs them to.

The thrift store manager, Kathy Taylor said water, fans, a break room with an air conditioner, and push pops are often used to help cool off the work-

ers. "Many of the men that work here live at the Rescue Mission for various reasons such as loss of their job, addiction, or even prison, which is why they come to the Rescue Mission and are put into the Work-Therapy program: to help them learn valuable work skills that can help them get back into the work force," Taylor said.

Taylor said the proceeds gained from the store goes back to the Rescue Mission to help fund projects such as the Work-Therapy program.

Ronald Watson, who is one of the workers who just got out

of prison said, he enjoys working at the thrift store, for he used to cook in prison. This is his first time working doing manual labor, such as moving heavy items and sorting through the donated items. When asked how he copes with the heat, Watson said, "Once you start working and moving around, the heat don't really bother you, for I'm glad to give back."

Another worker, Rashad Bitting, who came from an office background, says he realized that working at the thrift store is uncharted territory, but is enjoying it. Bitting said, "I had strayed from my path, but am

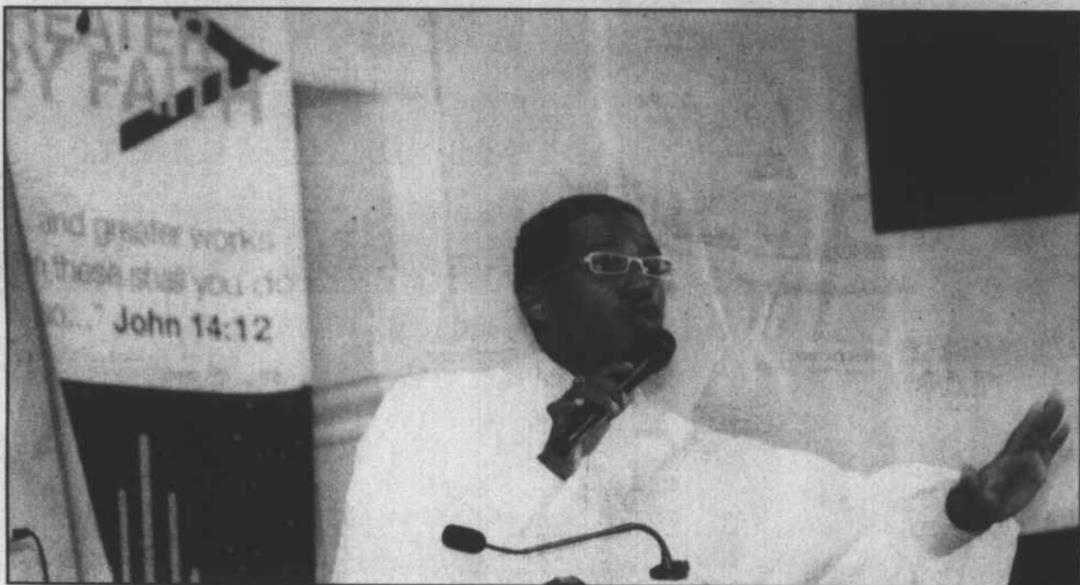
now working with the Mission program to get things together and priorities straight to get back on track."

Zollie Williams, another worker who completed the Work-Therapy program and will be graduating from the program on Sept. 25 at the Center Grove Baptist Church, calls himself an advocate for seniors. Williams, who says he is 90 days over drinking, doesn't have many trade skills besides the eight years in janitorial service. He said he wants to do well and have faith one day at a time.

Williams, who was brought to Christ through the program on

Jan. 9, wants to continue to connect with the program and show older people to not quit. Williams has already moved on to the next step in the program and can't wait to see what new life has to offer.

For more information on the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission thrift store contact 336-723-1848, ext. 100. For questions about the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission Work-Therapy program, contact Cecil Gatling at 336-723-1848 ext. 109 or visit [cecil.gatling@wsrescue.org](mailto:cecil.gatling@wsrescue.org).



Photos by Tevin Simson

**The Rev. Derwin Montgomery delivers the morning sermon on Sunday July 5, at First Calvary Baptist**

**Pulpit**

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you pastor live," he said. "There's a statement in many pastor and ministerial circles that pastors in developing their sermons, must in one hand have a Bible and in the other hand have a newspaper, in the sense of making relevant what is being preached and taught within the church."

In September, he also became the director of the Bethesda Center for the Homeless, which provides a day and night shelter for homeless men and women. He said his job, church and appearances as a City Council member keep him busy, but they all coincide with his faith and goal of helping people.

"It's a task, to say the least, but the thing for me that has made it worthwhile and not as strenuous as it may look, is that they align, in my opinion, on my values and my passions," he said.

He said he still meets all his responsibilities as a pastor, preaching every Sunday, and says he's supported by a great team at the church. As a pastor, Montgomery is hoping to see his church grow in its

outreach to the community. As a City Council member, Montgomery said he took pride in the passage of a requirement for all city employees to be paid at least \$10.10, which he said sets an example he hopes businesses follow to pay a livable wage. He said he expects his constituents and the rest of the city will see big improvements with the bond projects that will soon be starting. He's also hoping to pass a mandate that businesses that receive city dollars for housing projects must make some of their units affordable housing.

N.C. Sen. Paul Lowe Jr., who represents the 32nd District, is also a pastor, having led Shiloh Baptist Church for more than two decades and can still be found in the pulpit there every Sunday. The long-time activist and volunteer in the Democratic Party has been a senator for six months. He said his service as both preacher and politi-



Lowe

cian come from the same place.

"For me, it was a sense of calling and a sense of duty," he said. "To me, politics is an extension of that."

He said African-American pastors have a long history of public service, including Adam Clayton Powell Jr., a Baptist pastor who was a U.S. Representative for Harlem, in New York City, and Andrew Young, a pastor who served as mayor of Atlanta, a U.S. representative and United States ambassador to the United Nations.

Today, pastors like Lowe and Garland Pierce, a Baptist pastor who represents the 48th district in the N.C. House and chairs the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus, can be found in the General Assembly.

"You're still serving people, just in a different capacity," said Lowe of being a lawmaker. "I see it as an extension of ministry; the only thing I don't do is preach a sermon."

During his short tenure as senator, Lowe has already co-sponsored a bill to study the effects of autonomous (driverless) vehicles on the state's

roads and highways that passed the Senate and is now in the House.

He's currently focused on the prolonged battle to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the state budget in committee. Lowe described the two versions as "worlds apart" and said he is hoping to restore teacher assistant jobs and support to museums, including local ones, that were cut in the Senate version.

Lowe was elected by his fellow local Democrats in late January to replace then-State Sen. Earline Parmon when she stepped down to take a job as U.S. Rep. Alma Adams' director of outreach. Parmon, too, serves at her church. She has been an associate minister at Exodus United Baptist Church for 12 years. As a minister, she assists the pastor in worship and teaches Bible school and new member classes. She said during her time as lawmaker, she was able to make most church functions, and she also said her faith and elected duties went hand-in-hand.

"In public service, you're serving the people, and that's what we're called to do as Christians:



**The Rev. Derwin Montgomery greets members and guest after morning service on Sunday, July 5, at First Calvary Baptist Church.**

to serve people by providing for their needs, providing assistance in many different ways, and public service is just one of them," Parmon said.

The death of Pinckney made national headlines last month when a gunman attacked people at his church, leaving him and eight others dead on June 17. President Barack

Obama delivered a powerful eulogy for Pinckney during a June 26 service. Montgomery said he didn't believe something like that could happen at his church, but said that his congregation, like many congregations across the country, is discussing safety issues after the shooting.

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