

**Carson**

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Dr. Ronnie L. Baity, pastor and founder of Berean Baptist Church, said he was looking forward to the visit from the Carson campaign.



E. Ellison

Thomasville Road.

"We are honored to host them here," he said. "It's not an endorsement; it's an opportunity for people to hear him and make up their own mind. It's a time for him to meet the people and for the people to meet him."

Baity said it was Return America, an organization he founded in 2006 to "stand up for Judeo-Christian values," that caught the attention of the Carson campaign when they contacted his church months ago. Return America has been active against efforts to stop Christian prayer in county commissioner meetings and to support the state's amendment to ban gay

marriage, which has since been deemed unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Berean is no small church. It has its own radio station, WPIP 880 AM, and a K-12 Christian School. But it's had so many people reserve seats for the Carson visit that it surpasses the church's capacity to seat 1,200-1,500. The church will use a screen and speakers for an overflow crowd outside the church, for those who bring their own lawn chairs.

"I think Ben Carson is popular, along with some other candidates, because they're outsiders," said Baity. "I think America is tired of the inside politics that specializes in getting nothing done."

Baity felt Carson's comments on Muslims were taken out of context.

"He clarified unless the person could embrace our Constitution and follow our Constitution, whether it be a Muslim or whether it be a Christian, he couldn't support them."

Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, on Monday, Sept. 21, said on Fox News that he was referring to Muslims who had not rejected Islamic Sharia law.

"We don't put people at the head of our country whose faith might interfere with them carrying out the

duties of the Constitution," he told Fox News' Sean Hannity. "If you're a Christian and you're running for president and you want to make this [country] into a theocracy, I'm not going to support you. I'm not going to advocate you being the president."

"Now, if someone has a Muslim background, and they're willing to reject

constitutional law are at odds with each other. There's no way they can co-exist, and that's what he was saying," he said. "When women are told by the Sharia law that they can't get out of their house unless they have a male escort and when they're treated like slaves and secondhand citizens, that's not American. And for a

Sharia is a moral code and religious laws taken from the Quran and the example of the Prophet Muhammad in the Sunnah. Panelists like Imam Khalid Griggs of the Community Mosque said that it doesn't justify terrorist attacks or extremism practiced by radicals like Al Qaeda and ISIS. They said laws in North Carolina and around the country designed to ban Sharia to "protect" the Constitution is stoking fear and false stereotypes of Muslims. Such laws have been opposed by the American Civil Liberty Union and the American Bar Association, among others.

Fulton said that for Carson to make those statements as a presidential candidate "says that he would not be fair to Muslim Americans. And if we can't trust him to be fair to Muslim Americans, we can't trust him to be fair to African-Americans."

Eric Ellison, president of the Forsyth County Democratic Party, is Kevin Ellison's brother. He said Carson's comments show "his unfitness to be president of the United States."

"Freedom of religion is who we are," Eric Ellison said. "We should be allowed to live the American Dream."

He said there should

not be a litmus test for a candidate based on religion, race or other such factors.

"Once we start putting a litmus test on people, it just works against them," Eric Ellison said.

Eric Ellison said his brother has gone on to do a great job as a representative from Minnesota.

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, who was out of the country on Tuesday, left a message on his Facebook page to Carson and fellow Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who also has an issue with a Muslim president:

"The freedom of religion is a founding principle of our nation. Our Constitution gives this right to all Americans — including elected officials. For Ben Carson, Donald Trump, or any other Republican politician to suggest that someone of any faith is unfit for office is out of touch with who we are as a people. It's unimaginable that the leading GOP presidential candidates are resorting to fear mongering to benefit their campaigns, and every American should be disturbed that these national figures are engaging in and tolerating blatant acts of religious bigotry."

**"I think Ben Carson is popular, along with some other candidates, because they're outsiders."**

—Dr. Ronnie L. Baity, pastor and founder of Berean Baptist Church,

those tenets and to accept the way of life that we have, and clearly will swear to place our Constitution above their religion, then of course they will be considered infidels and heretics, but at least I would then be quite willing to support them," Carson added.

Baity said he did agree with Carson that Sharia was against the Constitution.

"But Sharia law and

Muslim to become president and uphold the Sharia law, which decries America itself, the person would be at odds with himself if he believed in Sharia law because Sharia law calls us the infidels and they want to destroy us along with Israel."

At a forum held earlier this year on Sharia, local Muslims said Sharia was not incompatible with the United States or its laws.

**Organizers say 'Amen' to diversity at Gospel Fest**

BY MAYEESA MITCHELL FOR THE CHRONICLE

Gospel entertainment will not remain in church on two Sundays in October. It will also be at the Dixie Classic Fair.

The annual Gospel Fest at will be from 3 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 4 and Oct. 11.

The Chronicle again will sponsor Gospel Fest.

In years past, hundreds have gathered at the Clock Tower Stage with emcees Debra Terry and Carmen Russell for the concert, and this year is expected to be no different.

For years, the concert at the Dixie Classic Fair has catered to those who enjoy listening to gospel music while exposing many to a new genre.

Within the last two years, the Gospel Fest has continued to represent the gospel genre by adding praise team and mime ministry performances in an effort to diversify the talent featured and incorporate young people into the event.

In addition to the diversified acts, there are also diverse performers.

"There are performers

from all backgrounds and ethnicities," said Terry. "It is a melting pot celebration of gospel."

Those who attend can expect an "awesome display of gospel music, not just singing and great music, but actual ministry," according to Terry.

The Oct. 4 line up (not in performance order) will include St. Paul Mass Choir, Central Triad Church Praise Team, Dionn Owens & Renaissance, Anointed Expressions, JH Heath Mass Choir, Raymond & Kim Larkin, Big Four

Choir and Bishop Grosjean L. Stephens with Nu Sound.

The acts scheduled to perform on Oct. 11 include Bryon Strickland, Peace of Mind, Walter Johnson, Matrimony Mime, Pastor Todd Curry with St. Peter United Church of God Choir, Love & Faith Mass Choir, Saxophonist Gregory Amos and Bishop Christopher Brinson.

Terry, who is event coordinator as well as co-emcee, said these choirs and ministries were required to submit a DVD or link of their performanc-

es, a bio and photograph in August before they were selected.

"It is important to keep gospel music at the forefront," said Terry, who has been coordinating the event for the last six years. "Other genres are represented at the fair, why not gospel? The Gospel Fest makes sure there is something for everyone."

The concert is included in the price of admission for the Dixie Classic Fair. Get tickets now through Oct. 1 for the Fair. For advance purchase, the cost is \$8 for adults, \$3 for chil-

dren ages 6-11, and free for children 5 and under and seniors ages 65 and older. Go to The Chronicle's website, [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com) and look for the Dixie Classic Fair advertisement.

After Oct. 1, the prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-11. The other prices remain free. Parking is available at the LJV Coliseum lot and Groves stadium to be determined by Wake Forest University.

For additional information, call 336-727-2236 or visit [www.dcfair.com](http://www.dcfair.com).



Davis

**Emmy win**

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She and her husband, Julius Tennon, have started a production company to try to continue erasing that line.

"My story doesn't end here," Davis said. "There is so much work that needs to be done in so many areas in the business with actors of color, so many narratives that need to be seen by people, so many stories that need to be seen and felt."

Davis' friend and peer Taraji P. Henson was also nominated in the same category for her performance in "Empire." The competition between the two was only on paper, though. As Davis walked up to accept the award, she and Henson hugged and exchanged words of support.

"We whispered to each other: 'Whoever gets it, it's great, it's wonderful and I love you,'" said Davis.

Other black winners were: Uzo Aduba for outstanding supporting actress in a drama series in "Orange is the New Black," and Regina King for outstanding supporting actress in a miniseries or movie in "American Crime." HBO's "Bessie," which starred Emmy nominated Queen Latifah and Oscar winner Mo'Nique, won outstanding television movie.

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**FEAST ON THE FAIR**

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