

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Happening Now Quarterly meeting

The North Carolina Area of the Northwestern District of the Holiness Church of God Inc., Quarterly will continue its meeting at Kimberly Park Holiness Church today (Dec. 3), through Sunday, Dec. 6 at 417 Burton St. The theme for the session is from Matthew 2:5-6. A Bible discussion and business meeting will begin at noon on Saturday, Dec. 5, at Kimberly Park Holiness Church. Weeknight services starts at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday service begins at 4 p.m. For more information, call 336-723-8001.

Beginning Dec. 4 Women's conference

The women of Brooks Temple United Methodist Church, 136 Ralph Craver Road in Lexington, are having its second annual women's conference beginning Friday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Dec. 6. The theme is: "Watch God Move." The Dec. 4 service will begin at 7 p.m., and the Dec. 5-6 services will begin at 9 a.m. Guest speakers will be as follows: Minister Keisha Chapman of St. James Home of Fresh Start; Lady Hope Williams of Goodwill Baptist Church; and Lady Leah McNair of Emmanuel Baptist Church. For more information, contact Minister Sherise Lindsay at 336-692-8674.

Dec. 4 Holiday sock sale

Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, 630 N. Patterson Ave., will have its second annual Holiday Sock Sale, sponsored by Goler Memorial Parent Body Missionary Society, on Friday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All socks are \$1 a pair. Special discounts for multiple quantities purchased. Proceeds will go towards charitable work in the community. For more information, call 336-529-2928 or email gphifer@roycetoo.com.

Dec. 5 Planning meeting

The Forsyth County Missionary Union will have its planning meeting on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral on University Parkway. For more information call 336-817-8424.

Dec. 5 Fish fry fundraiser

Solely for Christ Ministries will have its fish fry fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1010 Hutton St. This will benefit the Homeless Outreach Ministry. Plates are \$7 and sandwiches are \$5. Delivery is available for five orders or more. For more information, call 336-995-9759, contact Tanisha Taylor at 336-471-1431 or email contactus@solely-forchrist.org.

Dec. 5 Feed My Sheep Day

The Missionary Department of First Waughtown Baptist Church is sponsoring a "Feed my Sheep Day" event on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 838 Moravia St. It was scheduled for Nov. 21. This is "a ministry to the homeless and downtrodden." This will be a day to reach out to the homeless by providing a hot meal, new and used clothing, and giving out gift bags with hat, gloves, socks and toiletry items. The church vans will pick up anyone from various locations and shelters in the city. For more information, call 336-345-4968.

Dec. 6 Installation of pastor

New Gospel Tabernacle will be installing the Rev. Steve Johnson as pastor on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. at 206 N. Laura Wall Blvd. The Rev. Dr. James Fulwood will conduct the installation and the St. Mark Baptist Church will be in charge of the service. The public is cordially invited to attend. For more information, call 336-723-8000.

Dec. 6 Birth of Christ program

The Ministers of Grater Tabernacle Worship Center will have their "Birth of Christ" program on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. at 1410 Attucks St. For more information, contact the church at 336-777-1113.

Dec. 6 "A light in the darkness"

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4055 Robinhood Road, will have its service on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The Rev. Lisa Schwartz will speak about "A light in the darkness: the story of Hanukkah." At the 9:15 a.m. forum, Elizabeth Freeze, director of philanthropy for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, will address the topic, "increasing access to the most effective forms of contraception." For more information, visit uufws.org.

Dec. 6 Birthday celebration

Dr. R. L. Wise Sr., will have his 80th birthday celebration on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. at the Macedonia Holiness Church of God of the Apostolic Faith, 4111 Whitfield Road. For more information, contact the church at 336-767-3700.



Wise

Dec. 6 Christmas songs

The Born Again Free Church adult choir and band will have an evening of Christmas songs in Thomasville. Bishop Barbara G. Adams is pas-

See Religion on B6

College Fair set for Saturday at St. Stephen Baptist

SPECIAL TO
THE CHRONICLE

St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, 5000 Noble St., will hold a College Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All students who are interested in furthering their studies are welcome to attend (middle school-adult).

The purpose of the event is to provide information regarding various colleges, financial options, and additional questions



Gibson-Dixon

that may arise.

The fair is intended to make all more knowledgeable about how to strategi-

cally prepare for college and the application process.

The speaker for the event will be Dr. Karrie Gibson-Dixon. Dr. Karrie Gibson-Dixon serves as the Vice President for Academic and Student Success at the 17-campus University of North Carolina. Dixon works closely with campus vice chancellors for student affairs, university committees, and work groups focusing on community college transfers, minimum admission requirements,

and academic and student policies.

Student-related programs under her oversight include financial aid, CFNC Pathways, NC State Approving Agency, and UNC Summer Bridge Academic and Retention Program.

James E. Cook is pastor of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church.

For more information, contact the church office at 336-744-7303 or iststephenmiss@triad.rr.com.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

Mt. Zion members sing a hymn at start of the Advent revival at the church on Monday, Nov. 30.

Mt. Zion Baptist, friends mark beginning of the Advent season

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
FOR THE CHRONICLE

With Thanksgiving now over, the start of the Christmas season has now begun. For many Christian churches like Mt. Zion Baptist Church at 950 File St., it marks the beginning of the Advent season. Advent is the time of year in the Christian calendar that begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

The theme for this year's Advent season at Mt. Zion is "Messiah Comes to Free Us," which speaks of God's promise that he would give us a redeemer to save us from the power of sin and death.

"We want our parishioners and the community to remember that this is the celebration of the birth of Christ and when the word of God became flesh in the form of Jesus, and when he comes he brings liberation, social justice, salvation and peace," said Mt. Zion pastor Dr. Serenus T. Churn when asked about this Advent season.

"This is the time I celebrate the Lord and everything he has done for me and my family and thank him for bringing us through," said Evelyn R. Moore, a member of Mt. Zion Baptist. "Advent season gives us hope because we know a lot is going on in the world, so we have hope for

the future by believing that Jesus came to save us."

Mt. Zion was joined by Jerusalem Baptist Church from Spencer, N.C. at Monday night's gathering. The sermon was led by Jerusalem Baptist's pastor, Dr. David L. Bracken. Pastor Bracken's message revolved around the fall of man and the Bible verse Genesis 3:16 which comes from a conversation in the Garden of Eden between God, Adam, Eve and the serpent who misled her into eating the forbidden fruit and then ultimately enticing Adam, who consumed the fruit as well.

Bracken went on to speak about sometimes in order to appreciate what has been provided for us, we have to understand where we came from and sometimes in order to gain insight as to what God is trying to tell us, we have to go back and look at what he has done for us in our lives. He also expressed to the congregation that even though the time of Advent is seasonal, what God has provided for us cannot be taken away from us.

When asked about why he decided to participate in the revival, Bracken said, "Dr. Churn and I are friends, and he invited me to come and share a word for such a joyous time of the season such as this, and we try to come together and share God's message and encourage others."

When asked what inspired his sermon Monday night, Bracken said, "I see a lot of people who seem like they have lost hope and have given up and they forget the real reason to celebrate Christmas, which is Christ and what has been provided to us through Christ, and I want people to get the message they don't have to go through life feeling sad or down but can rely on what has been provided for us and it's enough to sustain us."

Churn closed by saying, "It's more than simply a time for parties, celebration, toys, and trees. It is a holy time of the year."

Mt. Zion has been having the Advent revival for over 30 years. Churn said that Mt. Zion likes to follow the liturgical calendar and celebrate the great festivals of faith.

The church was joined by other guest revivalists: Bishop Sherwood T. Davis Sr. of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Michal Long of Zion Baptist Church and the Rev. Donald Jenkins of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

"It's a great time to share the story of Christ and of Jesus coming and what it means and to celebrate that," replied Jenkins when asked what he looked forward to during this Advent season at Mt. Zion. "It's also a great time to get together, fellowship and be with Pastor Churn again."

Observing The Lord's Day

Lesson Scripture:
Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-16

*By the end of this lesson we should:

*See how and why a day of rest was established

*See that an order of life prescribed by God has multiple rewards, benefits and cautions

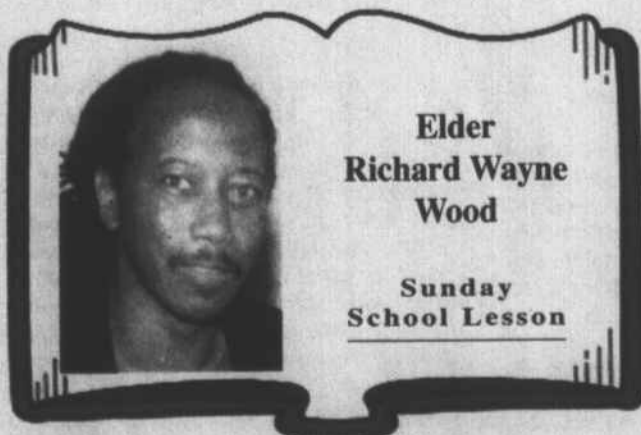
*Recognize our need to be habitual in honoring God's Word and ways, including the Sabbath

Background: The

Lord gave the Ten Commandments, and the command to honor or observe the Sabbath was the fourth of those 10. The creation story in Genesis points to God Himself resting on the "seventh day" from His creation work. Jump forward to wilderness days for Israel, and God gives Moses instructions to observe the Sabbath even as the tab-

ernacle is being constructed. In their zeal to complete the tabernacle, God was adamant that they not violate the command to observe the Sabbath.

Lesson: Sabbath means "rest" in Hebrew. Since God made man, He realizes our ability to be overwhelmed and engrossed with our daily lives and things around us, so we are given instructions to rest and observe the Sabbath as



Elder
Richard Wayne
Wood

Sunday
School Lesson

See Lesson on B6