

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Dec. 11

Goler Memorial AME Zion Church, 620 N. Patterson Ave., is holding a Blowout Holiday Sock Sale on Friday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Huge selection of packaged first quality socks. All socks are \$1 a pair - Dickies, Dockers, Saucony, Nautica, etc. Special discounts for multiple quantities purchased. Sponsored by Goler Memorial Parent Body Missionary Society and the Women's Ministry. All proceeds are to help with charitable work in the community. For more information, call 336-529-2928 or e-mail gphifer@roycetoo.com.

Dec. 12

Surviving the Holidays

GriefShare support group will have its session, "Surviving the Holidays" on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 a.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, located at 2400 Dellabrook Road. Refreshments, "Surviving the Holiday" books and other support materials will be available. For more information, call either 336-723-4531 or 336-722-5517.

Dec. 12

Community clothes closet

SJ's Boutique, a community clothes closet at St. James AME Church, will be open Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Snacks will be distributed as long as supplies last. St. James is located at 1501 N. Patterson Avenue across from the US Post Office. The Reverend Steven L. Lyons is the Pastor. All are welcome.

Dec. 13

Christmas play

The New Birth Worship Center church is having its Christmas play on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. at 1033 Newbirth Drive in East Bend. The title is "The Key to Life is Jesus." Dr. James L.E. Hunt, pastor, will speak at 10 a.m. For more information, call 336-699-3583 or visit www.newbirthworshipcenter.org.

Dec. 13

Men's day program

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 1201 New Hope Lane, will hold the annual "Men of Integrity" day service on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4 pm. The guest speaker will be Elder Robbins of St. Matthew Apostolic Church. The program leader is Clayton C. Rice. Bishop John C. Parks is the host pastor.

Dec. 13

Concert series

The Concert Series committee of Grace Presbyterian Church will sponsor the Big 4 Choir in concert on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. at 3901 Carver School Road. This will be the last concert of the season for the committee. Will "EJ" Furches (Minister of Mime) will be the guest performer. There will be a reception following the concert. The general public is invited to attend. Rudolph V. Boone Sr. is the chairman of the committee. Rev. Toure' C. Marshall is senior pastor. For more information, call 336-767-7530.

Dec. 13

Christmas concert

The Music Ministry of Mount Sinai Full Gospel Deliverance Center, 2721 Manchester St., will host a concert entitled "Joyful Sounds of Christmas" on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. The talented artists and musicians will present a harmonic experience featuring Christmas musical and dramatic renditions of varying styles. For additional information, contact the church office at 336-722-2624 or msfgdc@bellsouth.net. The Reverend Yvonne H. Hines is Senior Pastor.

Dec. 13

GTWC events

Greater Tabernacle Worship Center, 1410 Attucks Street, will have a program presented by the Visual Arts and the Music Department on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. There will be a play sponsored by the youth of Greater Tabernacle Worship Center on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015 at 4 p.m. On Tuesday, Dec. 22 there will be a fruit bag giveaway at 4 p.m. Host Pastor: Apostle BJ McCloud. For additional information contact Greater Tabernacle Worship Center at 336-777-1113.

Now to Dec. 13

Christmas bake sale

St. James A.M.E. Church is taking orders for its annual Christmas Bake Sale now through Dec. 13. Valerie's Bakery is providing homemade sweet potato pies and tarts. Verne's Bakery offers homemade cakes (pound, pineapple, red velvet, red velvet cheesecake, German chocolate). Orders must be placed by Dec. 13 (absolute deadline) for delivery on Dec. 19 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Cakes must be picked up (no delivery). St. James is 1501 N. Patterson Avenue across from the U.S. postal Office. The Rev. Steven L. Lyons is Pastor. For more information or to place an order, call 336-724-3865.

Dec. 16

Advent program

The Choir of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 810 N. Highland Ave., will present An Advent Service of Lessons, Reflections and Carols on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Soloist Karen Berger and other guests from throughout the community will participate. A reception will follow. All are welcome to this free program. The Rev. Dr. Hector Sintim is priest-in-charge. For more information call 336-724-2614.

See Religion on B6

Emmanuel ushers in Christmas season with candlelight service

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1075 Shalimar Dr., will hold its sixth annual Christmas Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary at 1075 Shalimar Drive. Rev. Dr. John Mendez is pastor.

The sacred candlelight service refocuses the emphasis from commercialism to the true meaning of Christmas and the miracle of Christ's birth. The candlelight service will consist of selected Bible readings and dramatizations.

The service will feature special guest vocalist Elliott D. Lowery, founder of the Winston-Salem Performing Arts Alliance and the Christian Theatre Alliance.

Lowery is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University and Jackson State University in Mississippi where he received a BS and Master's degree in Music. He is an accomplished vocalist, choreographer and playwright and has performed extensively locally, nationally and internationally.

During his distinguished musical career, he toured with New York Stage Originals and in Europe with Glory of Gospel and served as the Assistant Director for the European tour of Mahalia. In television,



Submitted photo

Guest vocalist Elliott D. Lowery

Lowery played the role of Hermance in the PBS movie "Shift." As a director and choreographer, he has directed and choreographed productions for Melinda's Magic Show in Las Vegas, as well as performances of "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Godspell."

He has written the musical "Building God's House," the Reuben K. Mildred T. Hash Story. Lowery has been an educator for the past 22 years in schools in Las Vegas, Nev. and Bronx, New York. Currently he teaches music for the WS/FC Schools

system.

The MBVC String Quartet will also serve as special guests for the candlelight service. The group consists of four UNC School of the Arts high school students: Violet Huang (viola), Bella Ward (violin), Michele Zimmerman (violin), and Christina Kim (cello). They are from Chapel Hill, Durham, and Fayetteville.

Praise dance will be performed by Tayllor Shereese Miles, a senior at West Forsyth, where she is a member of the National Dance Honor Society. Tayllor is a member of the Positive Image Performing Arts Dance Studio's senior competitive team. She was chosen to dance for the Royal Expressions Ballet Company in Greensboro.

The Emmanuel Drama Ministry will dramatize scenes of Christ's birth and the Tots Choir will render musical selections. The service will also feature a musical selection by the Emmanuel Hand Bell Ministry.

In the Emmanuel tradition, this ceremony of music, dance, readings and dramatizations create a worship experience with an inspirational message of hope, healing, blessing and joy.

For more information, call 336-788-7023.



Chronicle File Photo

"Black Nativity" shows the birth of Christ through an all-black cast.

'Black Nativity' keeps tradition as director plans retirement

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY FOR THE CHRONICLE

Soulful singing, engaging dialogue and eye-popping choreography were some of the few things the crowd was blessed with Friday, Dec. 4, at the North Carolina Black Repertory Company's rendition of Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity."

It has been presented by the N.C. Black Rep as Christmas tradition for the past 16 years.

This will be the last one with Artistic Director Mabel Robinson calling the shots.

At the end of the year, Robinson will be retiring. While she will still be

around the facility, she will not be around on a day-in day-out basis.

The show is a musical that illuminates the birth of Christ and showcases an all black cast. Mabel Robinson, director and choreographer since the inception of the show in 2001, said she likes to change things up every year so that the show doesn't become stale and uses the cast to elicit new ideas for the show. She also said that even though many people reprise their roles from last year, she likes to have open auditions to bring new life to the show.

One audience member said she has been coming

to the show since 2009 and really appreciates the differences in the music and choreography year after year.

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company was founded in 1979 by Larry Leon Hamlin and was the first professional black theatre company in the state. Hamlin passed away in June 2007.

The evening started with the cast running down the aisle from the rear of the auditorium to the stage and singing "Hallelu Aye" which excited everyone in the audience from the onset of the show. Throughout the performance, the cast interacted with the audi-

ence, which kept everyone engaged.

The performance integrated traditional church hymns, Christmas music, and even forms of popular culture. Another audience member who came with a group of friends said she would definitely recommend this show to all of her friends and enjoyed it from start to finish.

The musical will continue with performance dates on Dec. 11, 12 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 12 and 13 at 3 p.m. Call 336-723-2266 for ticket purchases and more information. Call for ticket availability for the Saturday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m. performance.

Acceptable Offerings

Lesson Scripture: Leviticus 22:17-25, 31-33

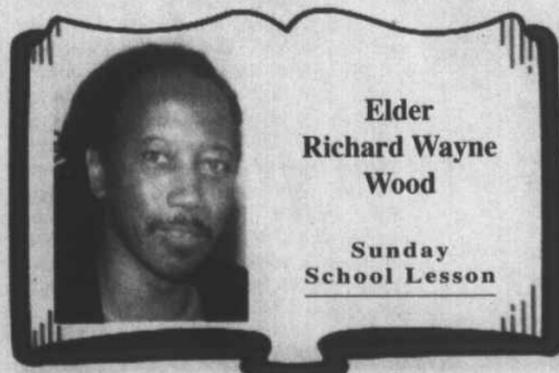
By the end of this lesson we should:

*See the instructions for giving and the principles behind those instructions.

*Recognize that when we comply with God's instructions and expressed principles, we are obeying Him and owning Him as our God.

*Want to arrange our thinking and actions so that when we do give, we will do it as He instructed, not as we think best.

Background: Israel has been delivered from Egypt after four hundred years of bondage, crossed the Red Sea and been given the Ten Commandments. They now have



Elder
Richard Wayne
Wood

Sunday
School Lesson

built the tabernacle following God's instructions to the minutest details. God is particular about His dwelling place. Also given are instructions for the construction of the priest's attire. After being chosen as God's people, they must present sacrifices that please Him.

Lesson: God is giving, through Moses, strict instructions concerning offerings that will be pleasing, satisfactory, agreeable and welcome,

which is the meaning of acceptable, to Him. Knowing there would be those who would try to offer less than required, God instructs with clarity what is acceptable. God wants the best and He wants it whole, not in pieces or

See Lesson on B6