

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Beginning March 12 Church Anniversary

Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 495 NW Crawford Place, will celebrate its 124th Church Anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13. Dr. Ernie Wade and cast will perform the Civil Rights drama "Words From The Trail" on Saturday, March 12, at 5:30 p.m. The drama is free and open to the public. It will be followed by a "Chicken & Waffle" dinner in the church's fellowship hall for a donation of \$8.00 per person. On Sunday morning, March 13, at 11 a.m., the celebration continues with guest minister Dr. Serenus T. Churn, Sr., pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, bringing the message. The worship service will conclude with a free potluck dinner. Bishop Sherwood T. Davis, Sr. is the host pastor.

March 12 Feast of Salads

The Missionary Society of Reynolds Temple C.M.E. Church, 2935 N. Glenn Ave. will sponsor its annual Feast of Salads on March 12 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. There will be a variety of salads for a donation of \$7 each. The public is invited to attend. The pastor and co-pastor are Nathaniel Williams Jr. and Wanda Williams.

March 13 Voices of God's Children

Grace Presbyterian Church (USA) will host the Voices of God's Children on Sunday, March 13 at 4 p.m. to open the 2016 season of the concert series. The Voices of God's Children is a volunteer group founded by the late James D. Smith, former director of music and organist at Grace Presbyterian Church. The Voices of God's Children are now in their eighth year and are currently under the direction of Dr. Deborah T. Daniels. The public is cordially invited to attend. Rev. Toure C. Marshall is the senior pastor of Grace.

March 13 Pastor's first-year anniversary

The New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1212 N. Dunleith Ave., will celebrate the first year anniversary of their pastor, the Rev. Ronald E. Speas, on Sunday, March 13 at 3 p.m. Guests for the celebratory service will be Rev. Samuel Hickerson and members of New Light Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Speas has used as a theme his first year, "Recognizing Your Purpose." The congregation is also enjoying getting to know their new pastor and dynamic first lady, Dr. Soncerey M. Speas, as well as the rest of the Speas family. On Jan. 1, 2016, Speas retired from the N.C. State Highway Patrol Department, following 30 years of dedicated service. The public is cordially invited to attend this service.

Beginning March 16 Spring Revival

Messiah Community Christian Church, 2651 Belews Creek Road, will hold a Spring Revival March 16-18 at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will be Rev. Louis Threatt of Messiah Community Christian Church on Wednesday; Rev. Dr. Byron Battle, Little Bethlehem Christian Church, Eden, on Thursday; and Rev. Valerie Melvin, First Christian Church, Reidsville, on Friday. Music Ministries nightly and refreshments will be served. For more information, visit www.messiahchristianchurch.com.

March 24 Holy Thursday Service

Holy Thursday service will be held jointly with Goler Metropolitan at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion, 630 N. Patterson Ave. beginning at 7 p.m. The Rev. Johnny Ruff will be the messenger and Holy Communion will be administered.

March 25 Good Friday Service

The Winston Salem District will sponsor the annual Good Friday Service on March 25 at 7 p.m. at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, 630 N. Patterson Ave., where the Rev. Dr. George C. Banks is the Pastor and the Rev. Dr. Calvin L. Miller is the Presiding Elder.

March 27 Easter Sunrise Service

Easter Sunrise Service will be held jointly with Goler Metropolitan at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion, 630 N. Patterson Ave., at 6 a.m. Our own pastor, the Rev. Dr. George C. Banks, will be the messenger. After the service breakfast will be served.

April 10 A Night to Honor Israel

On Sunday, April 10 at 7 p.m., Agape Faith Church, 2101 Lewisville-Clemmons Rd., Clemmons, will hold "A Night to Honor Israel," together with Christians United for Israel (CUFI), the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States. Guest speakers include: Pastor Victor Styrsky, Gary Bauer, the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Rabbi Mark Cohn from Temple Emanuel, Jeff Epstein and other representatives from our local and national government. The night will feature a performance by Violinist and Dove Award Nominee LaDonna Taylor. This night is a night to honor the nation of Israel, the Jewish faith, and the people of Israel. Join us as we take a united stand for Israel. This is a free event and everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare ages birth to 6th grade will be available. For more information please contact the church office at 336-766-9188.

St. Stephen's Episcopal to celebrate Saint Augustine's University Day

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 810 N. Highland Ave., will celebrate Saint Augustine's University Day on March 13 at 11:00 a.m. Everett B. Ward, the president of the school, will be the speaker. The University Choir under the direction of Kimberly Dunn will perform. Lunch will follow.

Dr. Everett B. Ward, president of Saint Augustine's University, Raleigh, was named the eleventh president on April 10, 2015. He is the third alumnus to hold the post in the 149-year history of Saint Augustine's University.

Dr. Ward was appointed by the Saint Augustine's University Board of trustees on April 23, 2014 as interim president. During his appoint-



Dr. Ward

ment, Ward put forth an aggressive agenda focused primarily on three key areas: (1) returning the institution to financial stability; (2) strengthening the faith of students, employees

and alumni in the viability of the institution; and (3) engaging the community and corporate stakeholders for mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations. Transparency, shared governance and collaboration are the cornerstone of his administration.

Prior to his appointment as interim president, Dr. Ward served as the director of the Historically Black Colleges and University Minority Institutions of Higher Education program for the N.C. Department of Transportation.

As a dedicated servant leader, Dr. Ward serves on several national, regional and statewide boards to advance opportunities for citizens throughout the nation. In 1983, Ward was named special assistant to the

See Day on B6

Documentary confronts being black and gay in church



Photos by Timothy Ramsey
Clay Cane answers questions during the Q&A session after the showing of his film Saturday, March 5 at Salem College.

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY FOR THE CHRONICLE

With the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community gaining acceptance all over the world, there are still places where homosexuality remains somewhat taboo.

To shed light on the subject, the documentary "Holler If You Hear Me: Black and Gay in the Church," written and created by Clay Cane, shows the reality that LGBT youth often face while assessing their role in the church. "This is an unapologetic black gay film," Cane stated frankly about his work.

The groundbreaking documentary filmed in Atlanta was shown on the campus of Salem College on Saturday, March 5, with creator Clay Cane in attendance to introduce the film, along with a Q&A session afterward that turned intense.

"For me, with this film I wanted to push the narrative beyond same sex mar-



Love Skylar Lemon, a graduate of Salem College and a graduate of Wake Forest School of Divinity, asks documentary creator Clay Cane question about his film on the campus of Salem College on Saturday, March 5.

riage, beyond don't ask don't tell, because there still is so much work to do, and wanted people to acknowledge theological and spiritual violence is just as damaging as physical and emotional abuse,"

said Cane of what he wanted to accomplish from this film.

The documentary opens with the story of an engaged lesbian couple, who met in the church, on the verge of their wedding

day and how their respective families do not approve of their nuptials. The film then transitions to a young woman who was kicked out of her home by

See Gay on B6

Simple Faith

Lesson Scripture: Mark 10:17-31

By the end of this lesson, we will

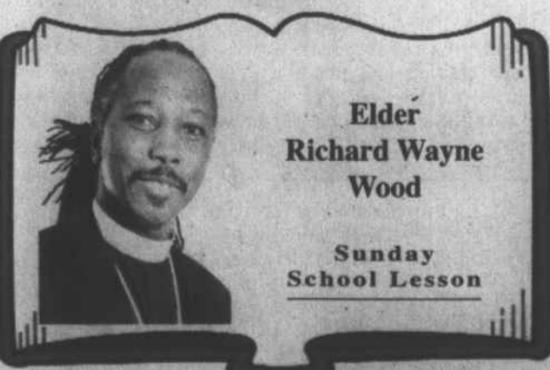
*Know the facts of the rich young man's encounter with Jesus

*Celebrate the direct link between making sacrifices and receiving God's salvation

*Commit to making greater sacrifices in the name of Jesus Christ

Background: The story this week is told in three gospels, Matthew,

Mark and Luke, and is preceded in each by the encounter with the children and the disciples rebuking them and trying to send them away. Jesus of course uses this as a teachable moment and bids the disciples to allow the children to come to Him. He proceeds to explain how that the spirit of the children is the example of the spirit needed to enter into heaven. The children are needy, trusting, full of



Elder Richard Wayne Wood

Sunday School Lesson

faith and dependent upon those with more power and authority. Looking at the young ruler and the way he presents himself to Christ by kneeling and asking questions would present a childlike stance, but as conversation grows, his heart's true nature is revealed - a staunch difference from the innocence and willingness to give of the children. He no doubt thought he was willing to take up the cross until he found its true weight.

Lesson: A young rich ruler poses a question to Jesus. We might conclude that by his question the rich ruler assumed that salvation and righteousness would come by works. He addresses Jesus as "good" and asks what must

See Lesson on B6