

Issue

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said Parmon gave tireless effort to school systems around the state to ensure that students received an education that will prepare them for the future. Carlisle also thanked the NCLBC for taking on Parmon's fight.

"This is a great initiative that has been set forth. I can't think of a better way to honor Senator Parmon," he said.

Throughout the press conference held at the Historic Emmanuel Baptist Church, countless local and state elected officials talked about the fight to change the track record of suspensions and dropouts in the black community.

Rep. Evelyn Terry noted that education is under arrest and it's time that residents become more



Rep. Evelyn Terry

serious about the task at hand. Rep. Edward Hanes Jr. urged all community organizations and leaders in Winston-Salem to join the effort as well.

"We have to take control of education," said Hanes. "We all have to

agree that we have a serious problem here in North Carolina. When we take control of our issues, we won't have to worry about these issues."

A number of Earline Parmon's relatives spoke during the press conference as well. Tracy Parmon, daughter of the former senator, said she was grateful for everything the NCLBC was doing to honor her mother.

Parmon's brother James White said, although his sister is no longer with us, she will continue to live on through initiatives like this one.

"She was the type of person who was always looking out for others," he said. "I know she's smiling down on us today because this is what she was all about."



Photos by Terin Stinson

Rep. Garland E. Pierce, chairman of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus, talks about the fact-finding tour on the dropout and suspension rates of minorities during a press conference at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 5.

Centers

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Ellis. As director, Kimbrough personally secures Bishop Ellis and more than 180 other nationally known bishops from all over the world and the prime minister of the Bahamas. He has also been called to provide security detail for dozens of celebrities and entertainers, such as CiCi Winans and Chris Tucker.

"While we pray to our God, we also need to stand guard," Kimbrough said this week.

"I tell people all the time, if the security at the White House can be breached, then the security at your church can be breached,"

With the recent hike in the number of violent crimes taking place inside churches and other places of worship, faith ministries across the nation are looking at ways to improve security.

It's no secret that churches are generally open environments and therefore much more vulnerable to violent crimes than other controlled workplaces and institutions.

Every year about 60 people are killed in U.S. churches. Since 1999, over 622 violent deaths have occurred on church and faith-based properties.

Just last month in Dayton, Ohio, the Rev. William Schooler, pastor of St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church, was gunned down by his own

brother Daniel Schooler inside an office inside the church.

The Charleston Massacre, which happened last year in Charleston, S.C., provides a case of violence involving a stranger coming to a place of worship. Nine people were killed as a result.

Even with that said, most places of worship in America are not prepared to deal with issues such as an active gunman. Many churches don't even know where to begin when starting a security ministry.

On April 16, Kimbrough will host a

workshop that will address maintaining security in the worship place. The conference will touch on a number of topics, including current trends in church violence, dealing with disorderly and suspicious people, planning ahead for emergencies, planning for likely incidents and threats from predators.

Those who attend will also learn the team approach to security, how to communicate with other ministries and how to create emergency evacuation

plans.

Kimbrough said he decided to host the conference because before he retired, he wanted to use his expertise to make a difference in the worship place.

During an interview with *The Chronicle* this week, Kimbrough noted that in the black community, the church is often regarded as the cornerstone and most powerful entity.

"If it is the most powerful entity in our community and it doesn't have any security, what does that say about us?"

"We talk about safe streets, but what about safe churches and safe wor-

ship?" he continued. "That's what this conference is all about: protecting our most powerful entity."

"Plan, Prepare & Protect": Safety and Security in the Place of Worship

The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 16, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1325 Creekshire Way. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets for the event can be purchased at www.plan-prepare-and-protect.eventbrite.com. For more information, call Debra Smith at 888-239-4775.



Kimbrough

Honors

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tors at WSSU. She manages the day-to-day operation of the chancellor's office. She has previously been employed as a school teacher, as well as served on the boards of several non-profit organizations.

While working at RAI, Caldwell has been involved with many charitable works such as youth-based organizations conducting youth tobacco prevention programs, as well as RAI's donations of over \$1 million to the United Way of Forsyth County.

Other members of the community will be presented with awards.

They include:

*The Paulette Lewis-Moore Community Service Award: Suzanne Reynolds, the Rev. Kelly Carpenter, Bishop Todd Fulton, Professor Omari Simmons and Elizabeth Speight. Paulette Lewis-Moore is a longtime *Chronicle* employee who also serves the community.

*Church of the Year: Union Baptist Church

*Organization of the Year: Winston-Salem Urban League and Innocence Project

*Special Tribute: Ronny Bell and Larry Little

*In Memoriam: Senator Emeritus Earline Parmon, Mr. Carl Russell Jr., Mr.



Caldwell



Dalton-Rann

Darryl Hunt, Attorney H. Glenn Davis, Delores Huntley and Mr. Carl Matthews

*Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Francene Hash, Hazel Mack and Benjamin Harris

"The example that they set are real guidelines that others can follow and emulate," Pitt said. "We have also found that these are the kind of people that encourage others, and *The Chronicle* is extremely proud to have done this now for more than 25 years. The only requirement is concern for people and the willingness to help."

The gala will be held at 6 p.m. on April 23 at the Dr. Donald Reaves Cultural Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Tickets are \$30 and include a six-month subscription or six-month extension for current subscribers. For tickets, contact *The Chronicle*, 617 N. Liberty St. Winston-Salem, NC 27101, phone 336-722-8624; or email plewis@wschronicle.com.

Davis

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for her role as Aibileen Clark in "The Help." The film details the lives of African-American maids during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Davis said, although she enjoyed working on the film, she didn't like the movie itself because it was "watered down."

"It wouldn't have been the movie I made," noted Davis. "It was supposed to be from the maid's point of view, and if it was, it would be rife with more anger and way more pain."

Although the film wasn't her favorite, after "The Help," Davis expected her career to skyrocket to new heights, but that didn't happen. Davis said, even as a well-known actor she still was only offered roles that were common for women

of color.

Davis decided she wanted to change that narrative, not only for herself but for all women of color.

With the help of her husband Julius Tennon, Davis has started to produce independent film and TV projects through a production company called JuVee Productions. The company's website is <http://www.juveeproductions.com/>.

"I denounce everything this industry and bad narratives have told us we are as women," said Davis. "A hero takes possession of

the treasure, and the treasure was that I wanted to be part of changing the narrative for people specifically women of color."

Before leaving the stage in heroic fashion to the sound of a standing ovation, Davis encouraged students to follow their dreams and not to fear failure.

"To overcome whatever obstacles you may be facing, you've got to dare to fail greatly," continued Davis. "You have to dare to strip your heart away and show the world who you really are."

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