

CHURCH NEWS

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2000 Milton Road. Classes will begin Sept. 23. For more information, call the Rev. Fred Gibson, 532-6228.

**•Jerusalem House of God
1704 West Trade**

The church will honor the late Bishop Matthew Brown and Mother Lillie Mae Brown during Founders Week Sept. 15-22. Pastors and evangelists from across the state have been invited to speak. For more information, contact Pastor Betty Jones at 377-9571.

**•Bethany Baptist
4700 Willard St.**

On Sunday, the missionary department will celebrate its anniversary. The speaker for the morning service will be

Sister Claudette King. At 3 p.m. the Rev. Vernell Lyles, associate pastor of New St. John Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker.

On Saturday the missionary department will sponsor a fish fry at the church. Dinners are \$5.

**•Rockwell AME Zion
6301 Rockwell Church Road**

The church will hold its annual "Four Days in Zion" program Sept. 18-21. All services will begin at 7 p.m. Guest evangelists will render services nightly.

The church will also sponsor chicken dinner, Sept. 19-20 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. To place orders for delivery or pickup, call 596-8279. All dinners are \$6, sandwiches, \$3.

**•East Coast Bible College
6900 Wilkinson Blvd.**

Larnell Harris, Babbie Mason, and Helen Baylor will perform Sept. 22 at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. For more information, call 377-2241. Proceeds will benefit the Berean Junior Academy.

**•Brian Mayes & True
Heavenbound**

will celebrate their third anniversary on Sept. 22 at West Charlotte High School, 2219 Senior Drive at 4 p.m. The program will feature Robert Blair & the Fantastic Violinaires of Detroit, Jay Caldwell & the Gospel Ambassadors of Wilmington, Del. The Singing Angels of Charlotte and the Redemption of the Carolinas will round out the program.

Church destruction in Wilmington

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Earl of Wilmington.

Historic markers commemorating every conflict from the French and Indian War to World War II were twisted and wrenched by the storm.

"There's a sadness associated with this that if you see one of the stately oaks or the spire off the church down, it's different than seeing a power line down," said Bill Clontz, a Wilmington resident and spokesman for New Hanover County.

Don Betz, mayor of Wilmington, stood in front of the wreckage and marveled

that his town escaped without fatalities while it was directly in the path of Fran and, in July, Hurricane Bertha.

"To have two hurricanes pass over this community within 60 days and have no fatalities is a miracle," he said on NBC's Today Show.

A decade of historic renovation in the city was almost complete, said resident Laurie Kaiser, whose home still has roof damage to be repaired from Bertha.

"It was almost back in pristine condition," she said. "These last two storms have chewed it up."

Wilmington also was home

to Anna McNiell Whistler, the subject of the Whistler's Mother portrait crafted by her son James. Her home, which burned down some time ago, was restored in its same style and stood up fine to Fran.

Only a three-century old oak tree out front was toppled, said Allen Walker, who lives in the Whistler house.

Walker said he had successfully opposed past removal of the tree, known locally as the "Keebler Elf tree" because of its resemblance to the home of the cookie-baking elves.

"I am not going to appeal it this time," he said. "Obviously, it was time to go."

EYE ON GOSPEL

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forced to take out a loan. Church leaders borrowed \$70,000 from the Church Development Fund. The conditions were that they sign over the deed to the property (valued at \$2 million), and remain a Christian church. Six months later, the CDF rescinded the deal charging that Lockhaven's worshipping in tongues did not fall within

their definition of Christian practices.

However, Lockhaven countered that speaking in tongues or exercising the gift of the Holy Spirit is well within the realm of the Christian church and is a widely practiced custom. But because the deed was placed into an irrevocable trust, the lender retained sole discretion for termination of the agreement. Judges ruled in favor of the CDF in a law-

suit and subsequent appeal brought by the church. Adding insult to injury, the CDF offered to sell the church back in 1992 for \$1.5 million. The church declined the offer.

Briefly: John P. Kee is hoping to usher the holiday spirit in early with the release of his next project, "A Special Christmas Gift," on Sept. 17. The album will feature Kee's renditions of such classics as "Joy To The World."



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