

CHURCH NEWS

•China Grove AME Zion
9401 Old Pineville Road
 The Ministers Wives and Widows Relief Fund will host a founder's day observance Saturday.

•First Mount Calvary Baptist
209 West 28th St.
 The church will install officers Sunday at 3 p.m. The guest speaker for the event is the Rev. Sonny B. Turner, pastor of Clement Memorial AME Zion Church.

•Shiloh Institutional Baptist
2400 Greenleaf Ave.
 Anniversary services for the Rev. Clinton Caesar continue through Sunday. Today at 7 p.m., the Rev. Anthony Jinwright of Salem Baptist Church will be the featured speaker. Saturday an anniversary banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn Woodlawn Road. Tickets are \$25. Services end Sunday at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. M.H. Newton of Jehovah Missionary Baptist.

•Gethsemane Baptist
2670 Dr. Carver Road
 The church will install officers Sunday at 4 p.m. The Rev. L.D.

Parker of St. Luke Baptist Church will be the guest speaker.

•United Missionary Baptist
3748 Beatties Ford Road
 The church will hold "Kinfolks Day," Sunday at 11 a.m.

•Greater Hopewell AME Zion
11333 Beatties Ford Road
 The annual trustee program will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. The guest evangelist will be the Rev. Daniel Joseph of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

•Shepherd's Fold AME Zion
428 West Blvd.
 The church will install ministry leaders on Sunday at 5 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. James Samuel, pastor of Little Rock AME Zion.

•New St. John Baptist
2000 St. John's Church Rd.
 The Rev. Ronnie Gilliam will deliver the message at 8 a.m. At 11 a.m., the Rev. Robert Leak will deliver the message, "Prescription for a Great Church: You must have a solid Foundation."

•Mayfield Memorial

Baptist
700 Sugar Creek Road
 Deacons and deaconess day will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Robert Leak, pastor of New St. John Baptist Church.

Dilworth United Methodist Church
 The church will host a Martin Luther King observance Saturday at 10 a.m. The Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, will be the guest speaker.

Upcoming Events
•New St. John Baptist
2000 St. John Church Road
 The combined choirs will be in concert Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. and Jan 26 at 4 p.m.

•Our Lady of Consolation
2301 Statesville Ave.
 Father George Clements, founder of the Washington D.C. based One Church-One Addict, will be the keynote speaker for a two-day revival held by the Ministry of Recovery and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Drug and Alcohol Fighting Back Project, Jan. 24 and 25 at 7 p.m.

•C.N. Jenkins Memorial

Presbyterian
1421 Statesville Ave.
 The church presents "God's Trombones," a tribute to James Weldon Johnson Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Performances will be held at 7:45 p.m. Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 and 4 p.m. Feb. 2.

•The Urban League will present Winter Gospel Showcase Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. at Spirit Square.

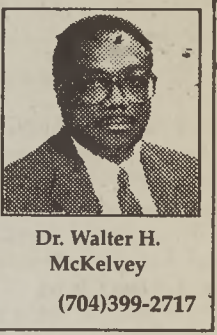
Our spirit stands

Interested in rebuilding burned churches? Two artists from South Carolina have produced a limited edition print that will benefit churches damaged by arson and vandalism.

Artist Lynn Greer, created "Our Spirit Stands." Her work was augmented by pot Glenis Redmond Sherer of Greenville. A portion of the sale of each \$20 print will go directly to churches. The program is sponsored by Atlantic Healthplans. To order, please send money orders to: *Our Spirit Stands* c/o Lynn Greer 118 Montclair Ave. Greenville, SC 29609

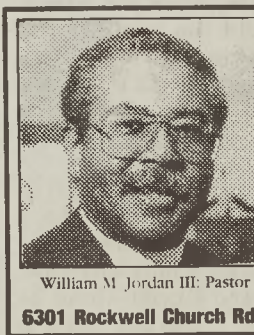
SIMPSON - GILLESPIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dr. Walter McKelvey, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30a.m.
 Sunday Worship 11:00a.m.
 3545 Beatties Ford Road
 (704)399-2717



GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. F.A. Griffin, PASTOR
 Sunday School 9:45a.m.
 Sunday Worship 11:00a.m.
 Sunday School Study - Wed. 7pm
 Prayer Service - 8pm
 2933 Shady Lane • Charlotte, NC 28208 333-0810



ROCKWELL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

"Celebrating 128 Years of Christianity"
 - WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS -
 Sunday School-9:45a.m. Sunday Worship-11:00a.m.
 Tuesday "Youth in Action"...7-9p.m.
 Wednesday - Prayer Service/Bible Study... 6p.m.
 Tutorial Prog. Tue. & Thur. all ages 4:00-6:00P.M.
 6301 Rockwell Church Rd. • Charlotte, NC 28269 596-8279

Virginia church destroyed by fire

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
 SCOTTSVILLE, Va. - An historic Baptist church in rural Buckingham County has burned to the ground in what authorities said could have been arson. Glenmore Fire Chief Pete Agee said last Friday he requested an arson specialist from the state police to investigate the cause of the blaze that burned Ridgeway Baptist

Church, which has a predominantly black congregation, in the rural community of Centenary. When firefighters arrived minutes after the 2:15 a.m. alarm, the church had already burned most of the way to the ground, Agee said. "How did it burn up that fast in that short a time period?" he said. "All the pews were burnt out and the roof had

already collapsed. It really doesn't add up." The church, which dates back to 1867, was recently vandalized, said church caretaker Russell Woodson. Two weeks ago, a window was broken in an apparent attempt to enter the church, he said. A rock and a few cigarettes were found just inside the window. Between 75 and 100 people attended the church on an

average Sunday. All that remains of the church is two cinder block chimneys and a charred heap of metal roofing. "If someone did do this, I can't believe how they could do it," said church member Terry Jones, who drove to the church to look at its remains. "What's sad is that it was a church, a house of God. Now it's nothing."

Local playwright spurred by Miracle

Sharyn Lucas-Parker
 THE ROCK HILL HERALD
 CHESTER, - It wouldn't be uncouth to let out an occasional "amen" during one of Sheila Culp's plays or inappropriate to fall to your knees after the curtain call and plead for forgiveness. Culp, 45, is a different kind of playwright. Her goal isn't just to entertain, but also to "save" souls.

"I hope people will receive some deliverance," Ms. Culp said. "That's our No. 1 goal." The Chester County nurse has always had a passion for writing poems and scripts, but it wasn't until the death of her baby daughter, Miracle, that she began using the stage as a pulpit. Miracle, who was stillborn seven years ago, is the inspiration for Culp's traveling

ensemble known as the Miracle Drama Ministry. "It takes awhile to accept something like this and in the spiritual realm, the number seven means complete," she said, referring to the anniversary of her baby's death. "It's like Miracle's death is a finalization in the natural sense, yet she lives on - through this ministry." Culp, the mother of two,

developed an interest in theater as a child. She remembers being in several school plays, but never having a speaking role. Culp ends the performances by inviting the audience to the front of the stage for an altar call. "We let them know this is the main purpose," she said. "This is the real reason we are here."

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 Pastor Anthony Jinwright
 Salem Baptist Church
 Sunday 8:30 - 9:30 A.M.

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Our new funeral home stands as a sign of our commitment to the families of Charlotte. This community has been very supportive during the construction and opening of our home. We want you to be as comfortable when visiting as you are in your own home. That is why we offer a formal chapel with an organ, stained glass window, beautifully decorated gathering rooms, skylights and a custom music system.

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League Winter Gospel Showcase

A Musical Celebration of African-American History
 Saturday, February 1, 1997
 6:00pm - 9:00pm
 Spirit Square

DOOR PRIZES

TURNER'S BLESSING ATOYA & COMPANY
 "BLACK & WHITE US" SINGERS ONE ACCORD OF CHARLOTTE
 LIFT HIM UP LITURGICAL DANCERS NICOLE HUNT
 VOICES OF ROCKWELL CERULEAN (Comedian)
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 CHRIST SENT FELLOWSHIP GOSPEL CHOIR MYRA LAND
 THE MAYES BROTHERS SONNY TURNER & THE WARRIORS

♦ Individuals (13 yrs. & up) - \$15.00
 ♦ Senior Citizens & Groups (min.10) - \$12.50
 ♦ Children (6-12yrs.) - \$5.00; Children (5 & under) - FREE
 ♦ All Tickets: \$17.50 at the door

For More Information Call: 704/376-9834 or 0-Plus Line 704/377-4444 ext.1997 or ext.5401 - 5450 (African-American History Lines)