

CHURCH NEWS

News of note

Hampton University will host its 83rd Minister's Conference, June 2-6. This year's theme will be "The Future of the Black Church: Where Are We Going and How Do We Get There?" Invited speakers and panelists include, Bishop John Hurst Adams, Bishop Cecil Bishop, Bishop Nathaniel Linsey and Dr. Henry Lyons. For more information, call (757)727-5255.

The Catholic Diocese of Charlotte recently purchased a new facility on Church Street. The new building will house 95 diocese employees now scattered throughout Charlotte at five different locations. Employees will move into the building by fall. The 46 county Diocese serves nearly 100,000 Catholics in western North Carolina.

Thursday

•South Tryon Presbyterian
831 Wilann Drive

The church will continue its second annual "Conference on the Spirit" through Saturday. Workshop topics: The Holy Spirit's Role in Prayer, Knowing the Heartbeat of God, and The Spirit In You begin at 9 a.m. Evening speaker in the Rev. Loran Livingston, Central Church of God, 7 p.m. Registration \$20. One day fee, \$5.

•University Park Baptist

Keller Avenue and Senior Drive
Revival services continue through Friday at 7 p.m. Guest speaker, the Rev. Walter S. Thomas of New Psalmist Baptist in Baltimore, Md.

Friday

•J. B. Ministries
2300 Statesville Ave.

Anniversary service at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, 13-year old Ned Barnes.

•Faith Community Independent Church
701 Hovis Road

Choir concert featuring Faithful Travel singers at 7:30 p.m. Services continue Saturday at 7 p.m.

•First Mayfield Memorial Baptist
901 Oaklawn Ave.

Tenth annual Family Fellowship Celebration through Sunday. Tonight: Gospel singing featuring Temple Baptist Church Choir, Love Centered Choir, Reeder Memorial Baptist, 7 p.m.

•South Tryon Presbyterian
831 Wilann Drive

Workshop topics - The Mechanics of Prayer, Prayer Without Ceasing, How and When God Answers Prayer, 9 p.m. Evening speaker is the Rev. Dwight Bryant of Mount Carmel Baptist

Church in Winston-Salem, 7 p.m.

•Bethany Baptist Church
4700 Willard St.

Pastoral anniversary banquet, McDonald Cafeteria, 2812 Beatties Ford Road. Speaker, the Rev. Robert Leak of New St. John Baptist. Tickets, \$20. For more information, contact Claudette King at 333-5874.

Saturday

•South Tryon Presbyterian
831 Wilann Drive

Conference speaker is the Rev. Anthony Jinwright of Salem Baptist Church, 6 p.m.

•First Mayfield Memorial Baptist
901 Oaklawn Ave.

Fish fry and picnic, noon-5 p.m.

•Noah's Ark Outreach Ministry will host the Transit Singers of Charlotte, the Voyager Trio of Gastonia at the Radisson Grand Hotel, Dogwood Room 1. Services begin at 1 p.m. Keynote speaker is the Rev. James Milsap of Knoxgrove Baptist Church.

•University Park Baptist
2400 Keller Ave.

District III Usher's Meeting 10 a.m.

Sunday

•Trinity Park Baptist Church
9115 Trinity Road

Concert featuring Anson High School Gospel Choir, 4 p.m.

•First Mount Calvary Baptist
209 W. 28th St.

Deacon and Deaconess Program, 3 p.m. Speaker is the Rev. William Richardson of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church.

•Greater Mount Zion Baptist
2311 Crescent Lane

Gastonia
Twelve Tribe rally, 3 p.m.
•Shepherd's Fold AME Zion
426 West Blvd.
Family and Friends Day, 11 a.m.

•East Stonewall AME Zion
1729 Griers Grove Road

Men's Choir concert, sponsored by Deaconess Board, 3 p.m.

•Silver Mount Baptist
501 West Arrowood Road

Young People's Choir Concert, 6 p.m.

•New St. John Baptist
2000 St. John's Church Road

11 a.m. message, "Be Ye Also Reader: It's Up to You."

•St. Paul Baptist
1401 Allen St.

Monthly NAACP Religious Emphasis Service, 6 p.m. Speaker is the Rev.

James Ephraim of McClintock Presbyterian Church.

4630 or (888)599-4630.

•Nazareth Primitive Baptist
2230 Bancroft St.

120th church anniversary, 4 p.m.

•Clement Memorial AME Zion
2207 Newland Road

Choir concert featuring the Turner Family, 3 p.m.

Wednesday

•Zion's Renaissance Expo '97 through May 31 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. For more information, call 599-

•Steele Creek AME Zion
1500 Shopton Road

Choir Concert 5 p.m. featuring the Steele Creek Gospel Choir.

Upcoming Events

•Little Rock AME Zion
401 N. McDowell St.

"Legacies of Courage," May 30-31 at 6:30 p.m. Written and directed by Cheryl "Sparkle" Mosley. For more information, call 334-3782.

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

SIMPSON-GILLESPIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dr. Carl Arrington, Senior Pastor

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study, Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.

3545 Beatties Ford Rd. • (704) 399-2717


Dr. Carl Arrington

Marker of bishop and shiner found

Continued from 11A

"It was owned by a white family by the name of Misenheimer," McCarroll said. "In later years, I think a group of African Americans purchased it."

A partially obscured marker at Bruce's grave reads "First President of the Cedar Grove Cemetery."

McCarroll, who has spent more than 60 years in the funeral business, remembers the cemetery well. He also remembers who is buried there.

At one point it was a veritable Who's Who in black Charlotte.

"There are some Nelsons, some Averys, Bishop Bruce, the Reids and Browns out there," McCarroll said. "The Rev. L.B. West, a minister at Brooklyn Presbyterian is buried out there, too."

McCarroll said the cemetery changed hands again in the '40s or '50s. It was bought by John S. Davidson, owner of Davidson Brothers Funeral Home. Davidson renamed the cemetery Cedar Hill.

It was meticulously maintained for years by two men known only as "Mr. Johnson" and after Johnson's death, "Mr. Dixon." They mowed the lawns and kept up the white plastic fences, chains and bricks borders that separated plots.

Johnson lived in a house where University Park Elementary School sits now.

Longtime neighbors remember a neat house with horses and a caretaker who worked the grounds daily.

McCarroll was left in charge of maintenance in the '60s when an aging Davidson moved to Tennessee to live with his daughter.

"I kept it up as long as Mr. Davidson lived," McCarroll said. "After he died none of his daughters could take it. They tried to give it to the city, but no one wanted it. That's when it grew over."

McCarroll estimates more than 1,000 people are buried at the cemetery.

"There are graves out there without markers," McCarroll said. "There are graves out there underneath the road that goes around the cemetery. There are a lot of people out there."

Tiny purple flowers

Over the years, the once-proud cemetery deteriorated.

Prostitutes and derelicts made their homes among the markers. Mattresses and beer bottles lined that pathways that cut around the graves. Markers were covered with dirt. In places, the remains of pine boxes were exposed by water erosion.

Saturday's clean-up yielded dozens of boxes of beer bottles

and trash.

"It was horrible," Roberts said. "People were afraid to walk out there. And it's so close to the school. Drug users and dealers were all that you saw."

Even people who had relatives buried there were afraid to visit.

That all began to change two years ago.

Roberts, head of the Taylor/LaSalle Community Watch Program, began a campaign to clean up Cedar Grove a couple of years ago.

For some of the volunteers, Saturday's effort had special meaning.

Patricia Ferguson's mother and five other relatives are buried at Cedar Grove. She looks forward to the day when she can come out to the cemetery alone and not have to watch for danger.

"This used to be a beautiful cemetery years ago when I was a younger girl," Ferguson said. "Nothing but greenery. We had a caretaker that took care of the graves. Once Mr. Johnson passed, individual families took care of their own plots. But I guess people have just moved away and loved ones have been forgotten."

Saturday was just the first of many clean-up days at the cemetery.

Mixed in with the trash were



Above, Bruce's granite and marble marker. Volunteers found the fallen marker Saturday.

the remains of hundreds of plastic and silk flowers left over the years by relatives.

Small faded purple flowers sit atop the grave of Virginia Dare Reid.

A wreath of bright red flowers sits near Jannie Brice's grave.

For Roberts, cleaning the cemetery up is just the beginning. She already has her sights set on the vacant lot across the street.

"We're going to clean it up," Roberts said as she gestured to the piles of trash. "It's going to be nice again. We just need for the families to come out to help."

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