• New Life University is enrolling students for the fall semester. The school offers 30 degree programs in Christian and religious education. For more information, call 566-9200.

•Full Gospel Christian Academy, a private Christian elementary school, is accepting applications for the fall for grades K-3. For more information, call 563-3383.

 Minister Ava Muhammad will speak at Powerhouse Bookstore, 2405 West Blvd, 6 p.m. Muhammad is the attorney and legal counsel for Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. For more information, call 377-6937

> •Union Bethel AME Zion Catawba Ave. Cornelius

Gocpel at the Lake concert featuring the Redemption of the Carolinas, Gethsemane Gospel Singers, Chosen Voices and others. For more information, call (704) 892-6249. Free.

> • Walls Memorial AME Zion 2722 Bancroft St.

"Tarry and Praise Service," 7:30 p.m. Speaker: the Rev. Sheldon Shipman. Sponsor: Charlotte District Mass Choir.

Saturday

•Marvin AME Zion Waxhaw

Live gospel recording, 6 p.m.

 Mecklenburg **Baptist Association Ushers** Auxiliary will meet at 5 p.m. at New Life Baptist Church, 1413 Anderson St. For more information, call 535-1908 or 372-5338.

Sunday

• East Stonewall AME Zion 1729 Griers Grove Road Church anniversary, 3 p.m.

 McClintock Presbyterian 14008 Ervin Road

Women's day, 11 a.m. Guest speaker: Evenlena Thompson. Service theme – "Surrounded by

•First Mayfield Memorial 901 Oaklawn Ave.

Spiritual Choir anniversary, 3

•Steele Creek AME Zion 1500 Shopton Road Charlotte District Mass Choir

concert, 5 p.m. •Shepherd's Fold AME Zion

S. Tryon St. Dedication service for church vans, 10 a.m.

•Greater Bethel AME 201 Grandin Road

Guest speaker, 7:45 a.m. the Rev. Thomas Z. Clarke, Presiding Elder of the Monrovia District, Liberia. Baptismal service, 11 a.m. Guest speaker: the Rev. Brent Edwards, of St. Stephen AME Church, Mt. Gilead, N.C.

Wednesday

•Agape Covenant Temple Quality Inn, Crown Point Fellowship meeting, 7:30 p.m.

•Clanton Presbyterian 335 Freeland Lane

"Back to School Rally," 6 p.m. Guest speaker: the Rev. Garland

•New St. John Baptist 2000 St. John Church Road Concert, 7 p.m. featuring Union Temple Baptist Church, Bridgeton, N.J.

Revival services

•Mount Moriah AME Zion Richburg, S.C.
Opening services, Sunday, 3

p.m. Guest speaker: the Rev. Retoy Gaston, Clinton Chapel AME Zion. Services continue Monday-Friday, 7 p.m. Guest speaker: the Rev. C. David Stackhouse, Shepherd's Fold AME Zion.

•Torrence Chapel AME Zion Cornelius

Homecoming service, Sunday, 3 p.m. Guest speaker, the Rev. Clifton Griffa, of Caldwell AME Zion Church, Mourne, N.C. Revival services, Monday - Friday, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, the Rev. David Baker, Gethsemane AME Zion.

Matthews Murkland Presbyterian

7001 Old Providence Road Revival Services, Monday through Friday, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker: the Rev. Timothy Bowman of Orangeburg, S.C.

Upcoming events

 Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist 3545 Beatties Ford Road

August 17 – Gospel concert, 3



Michael Jones

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Interracial/Interdenominational Christian Programming for The Carolinas



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

The Prophet's Column

This is a paid advertisement by J.M. Little

THE PROPHET'S COLUMN, INC. 9626 FELDBANK DRIVE CHARLOTTE, NC, 28216

> NEWSLETTER JULY 1997 PART II

He remembers every day we worked together. All his blasphemous life is being paraded before him in box car letters. And written on the sides of Hell is "FOREVER." Now he knows just what a fool he was. In time he called me crazy. He even said to me one time, "I used to

believe all that too." No, he never did believe and know the truth because if he had he would have been broken at the Feet of my Lord. Now he is looking back in regret. And perhaps the most awful thing about Hell is memory. You will remember all the space God gave you to repent but you refused the call! This man thought he was smarter than God, every natural heart does.

But what grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy when God reaches down into the vortex of Hell and saves a hell-deserving sinner like me. But for the grace of God I would

have been in this man's place. The Lord has allowed me to outlive many of my enemies. And He has enabled me to see and know that I am no better than they.

Years ago, when I was working at the General Mail Facility, a man and I were sitting in the cafeteria eating, and I said to him; "there is only one difference between my nature and that of a drunk in the gutter. I paused, and he looked up at me in such surprise, and then I finished my statement; "the only difference is the grace of God. " Have you ever seen that, my friend? Yes, the grace of God is the only difference.

His distinguishing grace makes the difference! That's why the believer is always praising the Lord. God could have passed me by as He did the great multitudes. But He didn't, He chose me in Christ (Ephesians 1:6). Now, I leave the story of two men with you, one who was ordained to condemnation (Jude 1:4), and the other one who was chesen in Christ, this writer, before the foundation of the (Ephesians 1:4).

Which are you in? Your Gospel Editor and Teacher, J.M. Little

Alter Prayer & Worship Service - 11:00am Y.P.W.W. - Sun. 6:30pm

Sunday School - 9:30am

Bible Study - Tue. 7:30pm Evangelistic Service - Sun 8:00pm • Fri. 7:30pm

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Baptist leader to end relationship

Continued from page 12A

provider of choice." In exchange, Loewen agreed to contribute 11 percent of its net sales to the denomination every time one of its members buys a "pre-need" funeral plot at a Loewen ceme-

NBC leaders and black funeral home owners balked against the idea which allowed Loewen, which is white owned, an inroad into the traditionally closed black funeral home business.

According to the a Loewen would train a representative from each NBC congregation to be Loewen salespeople and give a discount to all customers who are members of those churches.

The arrangement is being tried on a trial basis in Washington, D.C., Detroit and St. Petersburg.

Edwards and Lyons still own the Tierra Verde home and a time share in a luxury condominium in Lake Tahoe, Nev.

Lyons and Edwards also have held a joint checking account, and Edwards shares the title to a \$135,000 Mercedes-Benz with Lyons' church. State revenue officials are examining whether the purchase of the Mercedes violated

Lyons was elected president of the 8.5-million member National Baptist Convention in 1994, the year Edwards was sentenced for embezzling from a school she operated in Milwaukee.

While Lyons has not discussed his future with NBC, some ministers at the local and national level of the Nashville, Tenn.-based National Baptist Convention USA believe Lyons should resign,

at least until the questions about his conduct are answered.

"It's reached a boiling point," said the Rev. Raymond Bowman, a Nashville pastor who heads a local assembly of the group's min-

"Whenever it has to do with money - the money of parishioners who give in good faith – it's hard to tiptoe around it.

According to Lyons' attorney, Grady Irvin, the organization gives the president unlimited authority to spend convention funds, which for some members is a problem

"As best I can tell, the president of the Baptist convention has no written limitations in the constitution or bylaws of that organization which limit his spending authority," Irvin told the St.

Petersburg Times in a story published Wednesday.

Bowman expects Lyons to relinquish his post during the 8 million-member denomination's national convention in Denver on Sept. 1.

The Rev. A.L. Owens, a Cleveland, Ohio, pastor and the organization's second vice-president, told the St. Petersburg Times last week that Lyons could consider stepping down, but Lyons' attorney said his client has no such plans.

The group's officers had planned to meet last Saturday to discuss forming their own committee to look into Lyons' conduct and finances, but Bowman said that meeting was postponed.

Jeri Young of The Charlotte Post also contributed to this article.

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Colorblind service

Continued from page 12A

Ellerbe said that for church unity to work effectively, the biggest thing blacks and whites will have to work through is the feeling that African American shave to compromise their roots and traditional services, that are filled with emotion.

"You should not have to compromise yourself as an individual," she said. "People can recognize whether you are being reserved or not. If they perceive you being partial, then they will not be inclined to receive you as easy in their environ-

Ellerbe said that ultimately it is up to the pastors to organize

interracial, church unity. "Pastors have to create a bal-anced worship service," she

said. "It will not merge unless the pastor makes the atmosphere conducive for an interracial fellowship. The church, historically, follows the shepherd, so they dictate how the service should be inside the church

Lee says this was not a onetime effort and Ellerbe as well as other ministers of different races will certainly be returning to preach and share at the Salisbury Christian Center.

"Since she preached here, we have already had three more African American ministers at the church," Lee said. "And, the congregation has been more than hospitable to them all. This is about worship, not about color and we need to get this through our heads."

Coalition ruling

Continued from page 12A

amendment's equal-protection guarantees.

The June ruling said the 1993 law breached the separation of powers between the federal government's legislative and judicial branches, and also usurped power from the states.

The ruling, Walker says, "relegated what used to be our 'first freedom' to the rear of the constitutional bus."

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