

# Both sides in gay marriage debate fight

By Steve LeBlanc  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON—Wearing clerical robes, clutching rosary beads and quoting chapter and verse from the Bible, protesters on both sides of the gay marriage debate said Monday that God was on their side.

As Massachusetts lawmakers delved back into the contentious issue, opponents of same-sex marriage tried to claim the religious high ground as they have in the past, waving signs that said "no to gay marriage, yes to Jesus," and "straight and narrow is the way to heaven, homosexuality is evil."

But supporters of gay marriage refused to cede religion to their opponents, toting signs that read "stop using the Bible as an excuse to hate," and "people of faith support equal marriage for all."

Irving Cummings, pastor of the Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Cambridge, said his church has been celebrating the relationships of same-sex couples for two decades.

He said nothing in the Bible specifically condemns homosexuality, and questioned why many religious organizations are focused on gay marriage at the exclusion of other issues.

"There are possibly five passages in the scripture that talk about something that we might call homosexuality," said Cummings, 52. "There are over 900 that talk about poverty and the relationship of wealth to poverty. Why aren't all these people out here protesting what's going on in terms of budget cuts to the poor?"

Lawmakers took several votes to approve an amendment to the state constitution that would ban gay marriages while legalizing civil unions. If passed during two consecutive sessions of the state Legislature, the measure would go before voters in November 2006.

Meanwhile, the nation's first state-sanctioned gay marriages are scheduled to begin in mid-May, as ordered by a November ruling of the state's Supreme Judicial

Court. Gay marriage opponents said they found support for their position in their religious beliefs.

Mary Anne Letourneau, a 49-year-old homemaker from New Bedford, prayed with a small group of friends under a sign that said "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we pray you keep the family holy" on the sidewalk outside the Statehouse.

Letourneau said she saw no clash between church and state in her opposition to the state recognizing gay marriage.

"We have a constitution based on the natural law, both the Massachusetts and the U.S. Constitution," she

said. "Natural law consists of the law of nature and nature's God. We know what God's plan is."

Inside the building, the religious battle lines were every bit as sharp.

After each intonation of "Jesus" by gay rights advocates, gay rights opponents tacked on "loves us." The two opposing sides then shouted "Jesus Christ" and "equal rights" simultaneously, blending into a single, indistinguishable chant.

"I'm just here to support Christ," said Olivia Long, 32, of Boston, a parishioner at New Covenant Christian Church. "We love all people, but we want to keep it like it was in the beginning."

## The "Humor for Ministries" CD



by  
**Dr. C.V. Owens**

Can be purchased at

**First Mt. Zion Baptist Church**  
1515 Remount Road, Charlotte, NC

For more information Call: 704-332-8335

**April 7-9, 2004**  
7:00 pm Nightly

Bishop Anthony L. Jinwright, Senior Pastor  
Elder Harriet Porter-Jinwright, Co-Pastor

**April 7, 2004**  
Pastor Glenn Gerald  
Gethsemane Baptist Church  
Charlotte, NC

**April 8-9, 2004**  
Bishop Joseph Walker  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
Nashville, TN

For more information call 704.399.5448 or visit www.greatersalem.org

### ADVERTISEMENT

**THE PROPHET'S COLUMN INC.**  
3112 MAURY STREET  
CHARLOTTE, NC, 28216-2131  
"GOD REPROBATING A SINNER" - PART TEN  
J. M. LITTLE - TEACHER

In the second Chapter of Revelation, we have another case of God reprobating a sinner, a woman who usurped the authority of her husband who was pastor of a church. "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou suffereest that woman JEZEBEL, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach, and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication, and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds." (Rev. 20:20-22). Now, you women who have usurped the authority of men and have taken places of authority had better read this and weep. God gave this woman whom He called "Jezebel" space to repent. But Jezebel willed not to repent. She had usurped authority from her husband who was pastor of the church. And she led others in her rebellion to live in sin. Who did the Lord say of her further? "Behold, I WILL cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. AND I WILL KILL HER CHILDREN WITH DEATH...." (Rev. 20:22,23). Since Jezebel willed not to repent of her rebellion, the Lord said He would cast her into a bed, and kill her children with death. This is an example of God reprobating a rebellious sinner. In this case it was the pastor's wife. How many of you pastors are allowing your wives to "usurp" your authority as pastor? I want to make a statement; "any preacher, pastor, or religious organization that ordains a woman to a position of authority over men, (GET IT), is an abomination in the sight of God!! And you are being reprobated!

## "Don't Settle for Anything Less Than the Best."



Dr. Anthony L. and Harriet P. Jinwright



We know how important it is to keep funeral costs within the budget of every family.

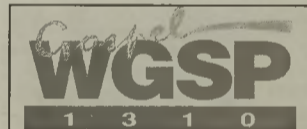
Certainly quality, comfortable facilities and professional, personal services are important, but so is price. A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service has consistently provided families with dignified funeral services at the best possible price.

The best doesn't have to cost you more. In fact, it may cost you less. Call A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service today for more information.

**Funeral packages to suit every budget.**

4300 Statesville Rd • Charlotte • (704) 599-5994 • www.aljinwrightfuneralservice.com

### NEW OUTREACH/WGSP 1310 AM PRODUCTIONS



## GOSPEL RECOGNITION AWARDS

HELP US LOCATE THE UNSUNG HERO'S

In the following categories  
MUSIC DANCE EDUCATION And PUBLISHING  
Submit names of choirs, musicians, pastors, bishops, youth ministers, comedians,  
ALL that are involved in the work of the GOSPEL.

**Criteria:** Contestants of all ages may enter. Submit an essay of 30 words or less on why the nominee is especially blessed in their chosen field of Gospel. Mail to: New Outreach Christian Center, 3900 Gossett Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28208 by April 6, 2004

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ESSAY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Join Us For The Recognition Awards Ceremony

Sunday, April 11, 2004 • 4pm

New Outreach Christian Center  
3900 Gossett Avenue • Charlotte, NC 28208 • 704-398-1777

- Sponsors:**
- Emory Law Firm • New Outreach Christian Center • Gospel Connection
  - WGSP 1310 AM • Pizza Hut - Independence • Community Food Rescue
  - The Charlotte Post Newspaper • Dorothy Music Network
  - Evangelistic Newspaper

- Performing:**
- Pastor A. Thomas and The Bright Stars • Sweet Singing Harmonettes
  - Carl Blair and The Family Circle, and
  - The House of David, a Gospel Reggae Group

**Thursday Night Live**  
BRAND NEW! \$200.00 in Cash and Prizes!  
Every Thursday Starting May 11, 2004  
SKATE WORLD  
CALL FOR FREE TICKETS

## EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

### Easter Worship Schedule

6am - "Sunrise Service" @ Greater Mt. Sinai • 1234 West Boulevard  
Held Jointly with Chappell Memorial, Greater Mt. Sinai & St. Paul Community Baptist Churches

Rev. Norman Kerry Pastor, Chappell Memorial  
Dr. George Cooke Pastor, Greater Mt. Sinai  
Rev. Daryal Mayfield Pastor, St. Paul Community

8:30am - Church School and 10am - Easter Worship  
@ Ebenezer • 2020 W. Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28262,  
Located 1/2 mile north of I-85, Exit # 41

• 704-598-2219 • FAX: 704-598-8774  
Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch Pastor, Ebenezer