

# Pool of able rural pastors dropping

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Small rural Protestant churches are finding it increasingly difficult to fill full-time pastor jobs, as the ranks of qualified pastors shrink.

The new challenge for these churches is that those called to be pastors are unwilling or unable to live on the smaller salaries paid by out-of-the-way churches.

"If we could distribute our clergy, we'd have enough," said Bishop James Stuck, the leader of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America. Stuck is struggling to fill 12 vacancies in small churches in Indiana and Kentucky with about four available ministers.

"But distribution is a problem because of where folks need to locate," Stuck said.

Protestant church officials cite many factors for why people choose not to go into ministry, including more interest in high-paying professions; the cost of attending seminary; a failure by churches to recruit; and a growing secular mindset in society.

In the Presbyterian Church

(USA), which is based in Louisville, one in three churches is without a permanent pastor and are forced to rely on substitutes or lay leaders.

In at least two other denominations — the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Reformed Church in America — one in five congregations lacks a permanent pastor, The Courier-Journal reported in Sunday's editions.

The problem primarily affects "mainline" Protestant

denominations — Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans and others — rather than their more conservative counterparts, such as Southern Baptists and Pentecostals.

Larger churches in cities and suburbs can find pastors, church leaders say. But smaller churches in out-of-the-way places have a harder time — and nearly three quarters of the nation's religious congregations have less than 100 active adult participants, a recent survey found.

## Religion documentary

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endured for so long, Jennings said. ABC distributed a list of 24 biblical scholars quoted in the three-hour special. Fewer voices were heard during "In Search of Jesus," and Jennings was criticized for being too reliant on a liberal interpretation of biblical history.

"We did not consciously try to widen our net," Jennings said. "It's just as you go along, you meet more people and hear more opinions."

Jennings, who scuba-dived in the Mediterranean Sea and walked the ruins of ancient Rome for the documentary, interviewed tourists near the Vatican to ask what they knew about Paul. Most were stumped.

"You knew Paul only as this slightly abstract writer of letters when I was growing up," he said. "I never knew him as a personality, his struggle as a person to take this religion beyond the Jewish world."

Jennings discovers three different tourist traps that claim to be where Paul allegedly saw the spirit of Jesus and began preaching his message. It also details how Christianity spread in large part because Paul said followers did not have to follow Jewish laws — meaning men did not have to be circumcised.

### Greater Providence Baptist Church

"Learning to Seek God First"  
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Hour of Power 12 Noon - Wednesdays  
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### Present Day Ministries of Jesus Christ Church

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website: www.parkwoodme.com  
Radio Broadcast: Sat. 8AM WGIV 1600AM  
Sunday Worship: 8AM and 11AM  
Sunday Breakfast: 8:45AM  
Sunday Church School: 9:45AM  
Bible Study: Wed. 12 Noon and Thur. 6:30PM



"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is Lord of All."

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

### Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church

Rev. Dr. Walter V. Howard, Jr. Pastor  
201 Grandin Rd. - Charlotte, NC 28208  
Phone: 704-376-4345 • Fax 704-376-4350

EASTER ACTIVITIES  
Friday, April 9, 2004 - 12:00 Noon  
Seven Last Words Service  
Friday, 7:00 PM  
The Harding University Cultural Ensemble  
Sunday, April 11, 2004  
6:00AM Easter Sunrise Service  
7:30-8:30 - Continental Breakfast  
8:30 - 9:30 - Sunday School  
10:00AM - Joint Worship Service



Dr. Walter V. Howard, Jr. Pastor & Mrs. Howard

Come Share the Vision and Share the Journey

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 am and 10:45 am  
Sunday School 9:30am

Reeder Memorial Baptist Church  
3725 Beatties Ford Road  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216  
704 398-2814

### MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH

"Pastor and People Prevailing Together"  
Mission Statement: "Celebrating Christ to reach, teach and equip people for the service of Christ"

Sunday Worship at 8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.  
Sunday School Ministry at 9:30 A.M.  
Children (4-11 yrs.), Youth (12-17 yrs.) & Nursery: 11:30 A.M.  
Small Groups and Married Couple's: 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday: Praise Worship & Bible Study, 7 P.M.  
Youth and Children's Ministry

3201 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, NC 28208-3357  
Office: 704-394-3525 Fax: 704-394-8836  
Website: www.mcnc.org  
The Reverend Dr. Casey R. Kimbrough, I, Senior Pastor

### St. Paul Baptist Church

Our Purpose: "To convince the unconvinced to be convinced and make disciples"

Sunday Worship at 7:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Breakfast 8:45 A.M.  
Sunday School at 9:25 A.M. - 10:25 A.M.  
Radio Broadcast Sunday 11:00 A.M. (1370 A.M. Dial)  
Bible Study Wed. 12 Noon - 6:45 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
Youth Church 2nd & 3rd Sunday 10:30 A.M.

Gregory K. Moss Sr. Pastor

"The Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord" - Exodus 20:10

### Northeast SDA Church

827 Tom Hunter Rd. • P.O. Box 560647  
Charlotte, NC 28256  
(704)394-5615 Office • (704)596-9767 Fax  
Frank L. Harrell, Sr. - Pastor



Sabbath School..... 9:15a.m.  
Sabbath Service..... 11:00a.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service..... 7:00p.m.

silver Mount Baptist Church  
"Continuing the Legacy - By Fulfilling the Vision"  
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Morning Worship Service 9:45am Children's Church  
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www.silvermount.org  
email: smbc501@bellsouth.net

Dr. Lincoln C. Lee, Pastor

### Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church

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Worship Services: 8AM & 11AM  
Sunday School: 9:30AM  
Bible Study: Wed. 10:30AM & 7PM  
Daycare & Afterschool Available



The Reverend Calvin L. Miller - Pastor  
Reverend Karen Roberts Miller - Spouse  
E-mail: gamez531@bellsouth.net

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Sunday School.....9:45am  
Wednesday.....Noon Day Worship Study..12:00  
Evening Worship Study.....7:00pm

Rev. Clifford Matthews, Jr., Pastor • 375-9650  
1600 Norris Ave. • Charlotte, NC 28206 • FAX: 375-8397

### SIMPSON-GILLESPIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JOIN US FOR SERVICE  
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Wednesday: Bible Study, 7pm  
Saturday: "Contemporary Worship," 6pm... "Wear Your Jeans"

- Dr. Andrew Brown, Pastor -  
3545 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216 • 704-399-2717  
"We can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Us"

### Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church

"A Church Putting Love Into Action"  
700 SUGAR CREEK ROAD, WEST CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28213

Sunday Church School 9:30a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00a.m. and 6:00p.m.  
Baptist Training Union 5:00p.m.  
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Wednesdays 7:30pm  
Office (704)596-7935 • Fax (704)596-1204  
Residence (704)597-1249



## Obituaries

A.L. Jinwright  
Mrs. Geraldine Boyles of 4814 Lyerly Drive died at the age of 67 March 29. Funeral service was held April 1 at HO Graham Metropolitan Presbyterian Church.

Mr. James H. Argrett, Sr. of 1166 West 9th Street in Jacksonville, FL 32209 died at the age of 95 March 31.

Mr. Johnny R. Hunter of 3613 Bardot Drive died at the age of 45 March 27.

Alexander Funeral Home  
Thomas Alexander died March 12 at CMC-Main. Funeral service was held March 20 at Victory Christian center Campus #3. Burial service was held at York Memorial Park.

James Clark died at March 13. Funeral service was held at Zechariah Alexander Sr. memorial Chapel. Burial service was held at York Memorial Park.

Baby Boy Kaden Lynah died March 14 at Presbyterian Hospital. Graveside service was held March 19 at York Memorial Park.

Joseph Straite died March 21 at his residence. Funeral service was held March 27 at Silver Mount Baptist Church. Burial service was held at the church cemetery.

Mamie Thompson died March 22 at CMC-Main. Funeral service was held March 27 at Mount Carmel Baptist Church. Burial was at York Memorial Park.

Desoto Ellison died March 23 at his residence. Funeral service was held March 27 at Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church. Burial was

held at Ellison Family Cemetery, Marlboro, SC.

Hattie Craig died March 24 at Charlotte Health Care Center. Funeral service was held March 28 at Greater Galilee Baptist Church. Burial service was held at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

Rosa Boyce died March 25 at Zechariah Alexander Sr. Memorial Chapel. Burial service was held at Gethsemane Memorial Gardens.

Elizabeth Miller died March 27 at CMC-Main. Funeral service was held at United House of Prayer-Mother House. Burial service was held at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

Steve Cosar died April 2 at his residence. Funeral service was held at United House of Prayer-Third Ward Mission. Burial service will be held at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

Mamie Shipman died March 29 at Wesley Nursing Center. Funeral service was held April 5 at Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church. Burial service was held at 9th Street Pinewood.

Jimmy Dunlap, Sr. died March 30 at Presbyterian. Funeral service was held April 6 at United House of Prayer-Mother House. Burial service was held at York Memorial Park.

Mary Elizabeth Streater died April 1 at CMC-University. Funeral service was held at University Park Baptist Church. Burial service was held at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.



"Come Let Us Worship Together"  
The Friendliest Church in the City of Charlotte"

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church  
517 Baldwin Ave. • Charlotte, NC 28204  
(704)376-1201 Office • (704)376-3344 Fax  
Rev. J.A. Cuthbertson - Pastor

Sunday School..... 9:30a.m.  
Praise & Worship..... 10:45am  
Worship Service..... 11:00am  
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00pm  
Wednesday Prayer Service.. 8:00pm

Rev. Cuthbertson

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Sunday Morning Worship - 10 AM  
Wednesday Evening: Prayer, Anointing and Bible Enrichment - 7 PM  
Saturday Morning Broadcast: Rejoice Radio 1370 & 1490 - 11:30 AM

Rev. Van Dyke & First Lady Davonia Freeman

PRAYER FOR THE SICK IN EVERY SERVICE COME EXPECTING A MIRACLE!

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SUNDAY  
Christian Education School.....10:00 a.m.  
Worship.....7:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Youth Church 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th.....11a.m.

WEDNESDAY  
"Hour of Power" Midday Worship 12 Noon  
Prayer & Praise: 6:00 p.m. • WOW Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

TV. BROADCAST MINISTRY:  
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### St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

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Rev. Wendel Phillips, Pastor

### First Mt. Zion Baptist Church

1515 Remount Rd. • (Tel.)332-8335 (Fax)372-7548  
28208

Sunday Morning Worship Services... 8:30 - 9:30 - 11:00am  
Sunday School..... 9:45 - 10:45am  
Singles Ministries (Mon.)..... 6:30 - 7:30pm  
Senior Citizens (Mon.)..... 10:30 - 4:00pm

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm  
You are cordially invited to worship with us!

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Instead of listening to someone else's soul maybe it's time you started listening to your own. Come join us this Sunday in the worship and fellowship of Jesus Christ

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Senior & Founding Pastor C. David Stackhouse & First Lady Heneé