

200 years of history at Greensboro church

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 1771 to spread Methodism. From then until his death in 1816, Asbury rode horseback 270,000 miles, preaching 16,500 sermons.
 He visited Guilford County at least six times from 1783 to 1805, preaching in Pleasant Garden in 1798 and 1800.
 Blackwood and previous church historians believe area residents—their names included Hodgins, Kirkman, Lewis, Millis, Ryan and Short—heard Asbury at Pleasant Garden and were inspired to start Rehobeth. Their descendants still

attend.
 Outdoor worship services may have started as early as 1800, but it was 1806 when Rehobeth built a log church and opened a cemetery on 2 acres bought from Shadrack Otwell for what Blackwood believes was \$2.50.
 After the log church burned in 1838, destroying all church records, a new log building replaced it. A wood-frame church was built in 1898, and today's brick church came in 1955. The 1898 wood church survives as a rental house on nearby Glendale Road. A man bought it from the church and moved it there.

The cemetery is the church's one constant.
 "It's a most interesting place because it has Indians, black people and white people buried there," Blackwood said.
 She quotes a previous historian who said, "They all sleep peacefully together."
 Blackwood says the American Indians stayed behind when their tribe left after white settlers arrived. The black people were slaves and freedmen on nearby farms. They and whites who didn't belong to the church buried their dead in the cemetery without asking the church,

which didn't protest.
 At one point, a split rail fence separated white burial sites from the others.
 "All split rail fences rot down," Blackwood said.
 Now nothing separates the white, black and American Indian dead.
 In modern times, when women started becoming ministers of mainstream churches, Rehobeth's old-timers probably stood on the lawn after Sunday services grousing about a woman's place being in the home, not the pulpit.

But in 2004, when the Methodist conference assigned the Rev. Susan Pillsbury as Rehobeth's new senior minister, not a peep of protest was heard, Blackwood said. One of the oldest members, she said, gave a thumbs up on his deathbed when asked about the new minister.
 "She's a delightful lady," Blackwood said.
 Pillsbury lives in the eight-room parsonage between the church and its recreational field.
 The church is buzzing about another celebration later this year. After years as a single

woman, Pillsbury will marry in June — in the church.
 Blackwood says children who grew up in Rehobeth have become doctors, lawyers and businesspeople. Blackwood's, niece, Beth Underwood, who works on the 72nd floor of a Chicago high-rise, keeps her Rehobeth membership.
 The church has sent two members to the state legislature: Jonathan Parker, who spent 16 years in Raleigh in the 1800s, and Marcus Short, in the House on and off between 1964 and 1978.

China Grove choir marks anniversary

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 The Charlotte Section of the National Council of Negro Women will host its annual Brotherhood/Sisterhood Banquet at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church-West, 1801 Oaklawn Ave. The cost is \$25 per person. For information, call (704) 376-9955.
March 12
 The Inspiration Choir of China Grove will celebrate its fourth anniversary at 3 p.m. The church is located at 9401 Old Pineville Road.
 • New Shiloh Baptist Church will celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the Rev. C.M. Booker at 11 a.m.
 • The Mighty Voices of Reeder, the choir from Reeder Memorial Baptist Church, will celebrate their anniversary at 3 p.m. at the church, located at 3725 Beatties Ford Road.
March 17

Plaza Baptist Church, 3321 The Plaza, will hold a three-day revival through Sunday. Friday and Saturday night service will be held at 7 p.m. and the Sunday services will be at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. The theme of the revival is "Running from God."
 For more information call the church at (704) 334-3913.
 •Chappell Memorial Baptist Church E.A.G.L.E.S. Women's Ministry will host its 2006 "Women of Worship: Changed from Water to Wine" conference, beginning Friday.
 A pre-conference praise party will start at 7 p.m. with guest speaker Phyllis Frazier. The conference will begin Saturday morning at 8 a.m. and will present several speakers. The \$15 fee includes breakfast and lunch. Child care provided for \$5.
 To pre-register, contact the

church office at (704) 394-5615.
 The church is located at 110 Bradford Drive.
March 19
 The Trustee Board of Clement Memorial AME Zion Church will host its annual 12 Tribes Rally at 4 p.m.
 The speaker will be the Rev. Carnell Thompson, pastor of China Grove AME Zion Church. Clement Memorial is located at 2207 Newland Road.
March 20
 The Temple of Deliverance International Fellowship, 5521 Cannon Drive, Suite 104 in Monroe, will host its annual spring revival through Wednesday. Services start each night at 7:30 p.m. The guest pastor is the Rev. Franklin L. Clark of First Institute Family Worship Center in Gastonia.


Tea drug

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 much, a "zero tolerance approach."
 The Bush administration had argued that the drug in the tea used by a small congregation in Santa Fe, N.M., not only violates a federal narcotics law, but a treaty in which the U.S. promised to block the importation of drugs including dimethyltryptamine, also known as DMT.
 "The government did not even submit evidence addressing the international consequences of granting an exemption for the (church)," Roberts wrote.
 The justices sent the case back to a federal appeals court, which could consider more evidence.
 Roberts, writing his second opinion since joining the court, said religious freedom cases can be difficult "but Congress has determined that courts should strike sensible balances."

Way to freedom


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 brought Jesus back to life. Sin, death and the flesh were defeated. Thought to remember: Jesus gave up His glory and put on flesh so that we could conquer flesh and share in His glory.
 become the starting point for sin (as we have done). His perfection qualified him to become the sacrifice at the cross for those who had sinned (all humanity). Thus God condemned our sin in the flesh of Jesus. Then God

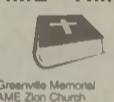
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