

New Life MCC holds homecoming

by Nancy Campbell
Special to Q-Notes

CHARLOTTE—New Life MCC will celebrate its 8th Anniversary January 25-26, 1992, and invites all former members, friends and visitors to join in the festivities.

The weekend will begin with a catered, sit-down dinner on Saturday, January 25 at the Unitarian Church of Charlotte, 234 N. Sharon Amity Road. The Rev. Delores P. Berry, a dynamic evangelist with the UFMCC (and former Christian Methodist Episcopal Ordained Minister), will be the keynote speaker at the special revival and reward ceremony following the dinner. Dinner tickets are \$6.00, and may be reserved by calling 704/343-9070.

In 1978, she was one of the co-founders of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. She assisted in organizing the first Gay and Lesbian March on Washington, D.C., and assisted in organizing the first People of Color Gay and Lesbian White House Conference, both held in 1979.

Rev. Berry has served as District Coordinator of the Mid-Atlantic District and Assistant Pastor of MCC Baltimore. As Pastor of both Good Samaritan MCC and MCC Peninsula, both in Virginia, she facilitated the merger of the two congregations and thus became the Pastor of the New Life MCC, Norfolk. Her last pastorate was with MCC Portland, Oregon.

She has been a full-time Evangelist with UFMCC since 1987, and the Delores P. Berry Evangelistic Ministries is a Special Work of the Mid-Atlantic District. She resides in Norfolk, Virginia with her spouse, Judy Kiser, and her mother, Inez.

In addition to a great time with old friends, the gathering will feature the awarding of plaques to all who have contributed significantly to the Church's life this past year. There will also be a memorial moment for those who have passed away. The grand piece de resistance will be a command performance by Madame Callas—don't miss it!

Gay message still not ready

by Dan Kirsch
Q-Notes Staff

At their December meeting, over 20 members of the Charlotte Gay/Lesbian Leadership Coalition listened attentively to the taped message about homosexuality that is currently running on a teen Helpline in Miami. The message was rejected for inclusion in the new "Straight Talk" hotline, which began in Charlotte on October 1, until revisions were made by the University of Wisconsin Healthline Program, creators of the message.

According to Ann Whitaker, Manager of the Healthline Program at UW-Madison, 8-10 tapes were sent back to the University by The Relatives and Southern Bell, sponsors of the Charlotte hotline. The messages had been reviewed and rejected by a "Blue Ribbon Panel," assembled by The Relatives and Southern Bell.

Whitaker said the homosexuality tape is a priority, but that the professional people on campus who help develop these messages do so on a volunteer basis. Therefore, it has taken longer than anticipated to return the tapes to The Relatives. Whitaker stressed that the volunteers are all very respected in their fields, but declined to name any persons involved.

She commented that the revisions made to the homosexuality message will be more in style than in content. For example, where one part of the message may allude to a fact, the message may be softened to something like "in the state of being studied." Specific objections sent to her by the Blue Ribbon Panel and the changes made were not available at press time.

Whitaker hopes to have the tapes back to The Relatives by the end of January. In the meantime, some local gay activists are making plans to contact The Relatives, Southern Bell, and members of the Blue Ribbon Panel expressing their concern that the message is still not available on the hotline. Whitaker said The Relatives could accept the revised tape, go back to the first tape, or reject both and create their own.

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SUN. 1-19

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WED. 1-15

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