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## News notes: sc

from the palmetto state

by Donald Miller

### Conservative considered for court?

STATEWIDE — Following Harriet Myers recent decision to withdraw as a nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court multiple names have popped up on the radar as potential replacements. Among those is Karen Williams (pictured), a S.C. native and known to be one of the most conservative judges on the nation's most conservative Federal Appeals Court, the 4th Circuit, based in Richmond.



A former trial lawyer, in 1999, Williams, 54, wrote the 4th Circuit opinion that would have paved the way for overturning the landmark 1966 decision in *Miranda* that outlines the rights read to criminal suspects. The Supreme Court voted 7-2 to let it stand. At press time no announcement had been made by President George W. Bush as to who his nominee would be.

Local LGBT activists are giving a thumbs-down on Williams.

### Anti-gay group meets to plan strategy

GREENVILLE — The militant anti-gay Christian Exodus (CE) movement met Oct. 9 in Greenville, S.C. According to CE's website, the movement is coordinating the move of thousands of Christians to South Carolina for the express purpose of "re-establishing *Godly*, constitutional government. It is evident that the U.S. Constitution has been abandoned under our current federal system and the efforts of Christian activism to restore our *Godly* republic have proven futile over the past three decades. The time has come for Christians to withdraw our consent from the current federal government and re-introduce the Christian principles once so predominant in America to a sovereign State like South Carolina."

Fewer than 100 people attended the event. "Christian Exodus" organizers say they want to have 70,000 people relocated to the state by 2016. With those numbers, they say, like-minded people could take over the government.

The movement's founder — Cory Burnell — said at the meeting that such a new state government could require people to own property before they could vote and could determine whether various amendments to the U.S.

Constitution were "ratified properly, and if not, put them up for proper ratification."

The amendments in question guarantee voting and civil rights for freed slaves, establish the income tax system and call for popular election of the U.S. Senate.

Burnell said he chose South Carolina for the first phase of his movement because there already were many people here likely to agree with his organization's goals.

So far, he said, 14 adults and 20 children have relocated to Christian Exodus' two target counties.

"In 2008, we'd like to complete our first phase and what we'd consider a success there is a majority on the county councils and county sheriff," Burnell said. "City council would be a bonus. School boards would be a bonus. If we felt we had enough support, we'd move on to another phase where we'd select another county."

### S.C. Baptists mend split

ROCK HILL — Last March a controversy erupted at the Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill, S.C., when the Rev. Robert Shrum spoke against a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would ban same-sex marriage. He said the state already bans it, so an amendment would just beat up on a marginalized group.

In his original statement to South Carolina's Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on March 31, Shrum said:

"Do not use the Constitution of our beloved state to marginalize a segment of our citizenry. Do not listen to the fear-mongers. They have always been among us throughout our history trying to scare us with their doomsday scenarios, trying to marginalize one segment of society and then another. And, they have always been proven wrong at the end of the day."

Following that statement the York Baptist Association (YBA) launched an investigation after two unnamed pastors claimed Shrum made anti-biblical statements by telling a senator that homosexual members of his church are free to participate in the church and in leadership positions.

see next page >



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#### WEDNESDAYS

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#### THURSDAYS

Thirsty Thursday  
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Disco Diva Show at 12 Midnight

#### FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

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Strictly Men - Male Entertainers  
Sat., November 5  
Raven Simone and Stephanie Scott

Fri., November 11  
Dymond Cartier

Sat., November 12  
Dana St. James

Fri., November 18  
Brooklyn Dior and Kasey King

Sat., November 19  
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### Metropolitan Community Church of the Upstate

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Phone: 864.439.5080

E-Mail: mccgreenville@bellsouth.net

Rev. Donna Stroud, M.Div.

Website: mccgreenvillesc.com

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 pm / Choir Practice: 4:45 pm

