

# A.M.E. honors founding

REV. PHILLIP COUSINS

February marks the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which began in 1787. It was organized by Richard Allen, a former slave who was forced into the realization that his people, people of color, needed to be able to worship God in an atmosphere untainted by the presence of segregation and discrimination.

The organization of the A.M.E. Church came about as a result of an incident that occurred in St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. During a worship service, several Black people were forcefully pulled to their feet while praying at the altar. Among these individuals was Allen, who was an ordained preacher in the Methodist Church. They immediately left the service, and after much tribulation succeeded in organizing their own Methodist denomination.

The theology and ideology of the A.M.E. Church is embodied in its creedal: "God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Man our Brother." To the present day the A.M.E. Church lives to the truth of this statement, as it attempts to make all Black people aware of the richness of their heritage. We should also realize that every social advance our people have made has been possible because of the Black Church; it

has been, and is the guardian of the hopes and dreams of Black people the world over.

As we look to celebrate our history this month, we should look to the Church. Through the medium of our worship has come the faith to believe that God is on the side of the oppressed, working in and through history for liberation. It was brave men like Richard Allen, Denmark Vesey, and Daniel Payne — all good African Methodists — that made possible the kind of preserving spirit of Black people that accounts for our survival to this day.

This month, as the spirit of our ancestors compels us to learn of them, let us realize that their spirits found strength in the Church. It gave them the courage to believe that with God, all things are truly possible. The Black Church still gives strength and inspiration to Black people who aspire to effect a lasting change upon a social order that still denies us our rightful place. So for those of us who want to change society, we must understand that first God must change us. We can do the right, when we have been made instruments of the right. Only God can do that. Let us therefore resolve to meet Him at the altar, that we, like our ancestors, may be empowered to work for Him to bring a better day to our descendants.

Rev. Phillip Cousins is pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Chapel Hill.

## Fellowship Notes

Bible Study will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Upendo.

Male discussion group will meet Thursday at 6 p.m., fifth floor E-Haus concerning "The Troubled Trinity: Black Christian Male".

Instrumental Ensemble will practice at 5 p.m. Friday in Upendo.

UCF Choir Rehearsal will be Friday at 6:30 p.m. in Upendo.

Praise Service will be at 7:30 a.m. in Ruffin Lounge on Monday.

Follow-Up for new and interested Christians will be Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Upendo.

The Joint-Black Christian Fellowship Conference will hold its annual retreat on Friday and Saturday, February 13 and 14, 1981. For more information contact Robin Thompson at 933-4541.

The UCF Choir will sing at Mt. Bright Baptist Church in Hillsboro, N.C. on Sunday, February 22, 1981. The choir will meet in Upendo at 4 p.m.

The BSM Gospel Choir will render music for Sunday morning service in Upendo on Sunday, February 22, 1981.

UCF will present, in concert, Ms. Daniebelle Hall, formerly of Andrae Crouch and the Disciples, at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 12, 1981. Tickets for \$6.00. For more information call Beryl McLaughlin at 933-4191 or Mary Davis at 933-2790.

Tickets for the annual Spring Banquet sponsored by UCF are now on sale. Prices are \$8.00/person and \$15.00/couple. For further information call Perry Green at 933-4798 or Geneva Beamon at 933-3218.

## UCF men start rap session

By ALLEN DAVIS  
Staff Writer

"The Troubled Trinity: Black, Christian, Male" is the theme of a series of rap session/Bible studies presently being sponsored by the brothers of the United Christian Fellowship. The loosely structured sessions are led by Kurt Garrett, Upendo manager, and a UCF member. Garrett said that the meetings are open to all who meet the criteria set forth in the theme. It is not necessary to be a UCF member to attend.

Special emphasis will be placed on freeing the Black Christian Male of the myths about God, Christianity, and racism which has kept many in bondage for so long. Topics to be discussed will include sexuality and intimate relationships, controversial aspects of social life, and dealing directly

with racism and prejudice.

Rev. Dundee Holt, UCF minister, hopes that the sessions will provide continuity and harmony of the "whole" person. "We need to learn to deal with our racial and sexual identities within the Christian context, but also the Christian identity within the racial context," he said.

Garrett sees the series of discussion/studies as serving a three-fold purpose. "I think the sessions will be good. Brothers can open up and really get to know themselves, other brothers, and the Lord," he said.

"The Troubled Trinity" group will meet on alternating Thursdays at various locations on campus. The next session will be Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in fifth floor Ehringhaus Lounge. For further information, contact Kenneth Simmington at 933-5358 or Maurice Elliott at 933-3121.

## It's coming up

Wednesday, Feb. 11 — SPECIAL EVENTS — entry deadline for first annual "Valentine's Couple Competition" event to be held Sun., Feb. 15.

Monday, Feb. 16 — Badminton clinic, Woollen Gym, 6-8 p.m., deadline for registering for self-defense clinic.

Tuesday, Feb. 17 — University Placement Services sponsors a series of job-seeking workshops with the first session resume design at 3 p.m. in 210 Hanes Hall.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 — Second of a series of a job-seeking workshop, practice interviews.

Thursday, Feb. 19 — Third of a series of a job-seeking workshop, interviewing tactics in 210 Hanes Hall at 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20 — Last session of the job-jumping, skills workshops sponsored by the Orange County Women's Center. The first session began Feb. 9, call the Women's Center at 968-4646 for information.

Monday, Feb. 23 — "The Man-Woman Connection" sponsored by the Carolina Union will be held Feb. 23-26. The programs consist of workshops, films and speakers to allow students to discuss information relating to current or future relationships.

### Ongoing Events

The School of Social Work will sponsor a workshop on the Black Experience Feb. 27, in the Carolina Union. The registration fee is \$10 for students and \$20 for others. Contact Audrey E. Johnson at the School of Social Work (919) 933-1225 for more information.

The National Endowment for the Humanities will sponsor a workshop for minority scholars from any North Carolina college or university Feb. 27-28 in Research Triangle Park. Scholars in the

humanities may contact for applications Kent Mullikin, National Humanities Center, P.O. Box 12256, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709.

A countywide survey about women's concerns sponsored primarily by the Orange County Women's Center will be conducted this month. The face-to-face interview will last 30 minutes. To volunteer or ask any questions call Gail Henderson at the Women's Center, 968-4646.

The MISS BLACK GALAXY OF NORTH CAROLINA PAGEANT of Raleigh, will be sponsored by Sparkles Productions. Contestants must be between 18 and 26 years old and of exceptional character. For information of sponsorship regulations and fees contact Walter Brown at (919) 821-4622 or Mike Akins at (919) 828-1318.

Tickets for the Spring Season of the Triangle Dance Guild are on sale now with the Phyllis Lamhut Dance Company, Feb. 21: the Arthur Hall Afro-American Dance Ensemble, Mar. 18; and the Ohio Ballet, Mar. 28. Tickets are \$10 for students and Union Privilege Card Holders, \$15 for others available at the Carolina Union Box Office after noon six weekdays or call (919) 933-1449.

The fourth annual A&T State University Mass Communications Conference will be held Mar. 27-28 in Greensboro. The registration fee is \$3 for students and \$7.50 for others. The theme is "Minority Training, Hiring, Retention and Promotion in the Media: Challenges for the 1980's" and for more information call Donna Whitaker at 933-4868.

Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc., a non-profit organization focusing on international development and education exchange, actively seeks faculty, professionals and students to participate in 8-week summer team projects in Africa. Contact Donna C. Allen at P-2 Kingswood Apts., 967-9438 for more information.

## New 'Sanford' lacks humor

By JOHN SLADE  
Staff Writer

Unlike my cultured college peers, (who spend their free time reading Eliot, Pound, and Yeats), I admit that I watch television. And I like to watch TV — so much that I'll watch anything at least twice. But, I must also admit that my open-mindedness wastes a lot of my time, which is exactly the case with Redd Foxx's revamped series, *Sanford*.

This new version of *Sanford and Son* still contains ill-tempered Fred the junkman and the original set, but that's as far as the similarities go. Instead of yelling at Lamont and his sister-in-law Esther, Fred now hurls his verbal abuse at his new partner, Cal and his giddy nephew, Cliff. Along with these major cast changes is the absence of Fred's refreshing and comical buddies, most notably Grady and Bubba.

Not surprisingly, the changes do not work; Fred's new sidekicks just aren't funny. The only comic talent that I can see in Dennis Burkley, who plays Cal, is his ever-present chuckle. I'll give the benefit of the doubt to Clinton Derricks-Carroll, cast as the nephew, and blame his mundane presence on the writers. Neither of these characters serves as a source of laughter like previous characters Cal and Cliff merely serve as "dumb" targets for Fred's abusive tongue.

Redd Foxx himself doesn't generate any of that "old man" humor that made *Sanford and Son* successful. The premiere indicated a show similar to the old one, especially since it brought back LaWanda Page as the bible totin' Aunt Esther. But, instead of providing the viewers with what worked in the past, we get a stupid plot, which has Fred accidentally married to his sister-in-law. The plot is farfetched and dull as well.

In the second episode, Fred finally has "the big one" (the heart attack he has faked for years), which turned into one big flop. Most of this episode takes place in an emergency room full of incompetent doc-

tors and nurses, where an ailing Fred has to wait in line to be treated for his heart attack. Real funny stuff, huh?

This episode points to the show's real problem: the scripts. *Sanford's* staff of writers are either uninspired or untalented. Of the two episodes I watched, the funniest line I noted (which isn't all that funny) was Cal's comforting explanation to Fred that "There're people dying ahead of you, Fred."

This show will not last much longer, because it just doesn't deliver. So don't watch *Sanford* expecting to laugh — unless you plan to sit tight at the set during the commercials.

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