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The AC Phoenix

More Than a Newspaper. A Community Institution

NEWS
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In Our 30th Year

Issue No. 2003

September 2013

Associate Consultants

Serving the Triad

FREE

Sixty Years of Divine Sweet Love

By John Raye



Bishop and Mother Davis

How many married couples do you know who have been together for ten years? How about 20 years? How about 40 years or even 50 years? Take it a step further and let's settle on 60 years of marital bliss!

Well, there is one Winston-Salem couple who reign supreme as members of an ultra-exclusive club where membership is limited to those who have been married for 60 or more years.

And this couple could very well be the club's only established members who have stayed the course for sixty, wonderful, eventful years.

They don't hug, kiss or hold hands every hour on the hour. They don't write love notes to each other. They are not often found in the same place at the same time, but you can bet this much: this still-young-at-heart couple will never be caught standing in Judge Judy's divorce court!

It's been sixty years since Bishop Willie Davis, Jr., took the hands of his young bride in holy matrimony, sixty years since he made real the sacred promise; "to have and to hold, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part".

"We just believe that the good Lord bought us together for a reason and we were blessed to be around elders who taught us the right things, and the right way to treat and respect one another," said Bishop Davis, the visionary preacher, teacher, leader and guide at Christ Rescue Temple Apostolic Church, since 1982.

Sixty years ago, Willie and Betty, were two, fresh face teenagers, each just 17 years old, when they found a Justice of the Peace who went on to declare them husband and wife.

"Yes, we were young, and people married young back in those days, so we had the blessings of our families and other respected elders in our small town", he said.

Instead of a big fancy church wedding, the young couple opted for a less formal wedding, largely out of necessity. Their money was funny.

"We didn't have any money for a big wedding. We were young and just getting started, so we went that route because it didn't cost up any money. Some things you just have to be practical about and use common sense," Bishop Davis said.

Practical application, godly patience, strong family values backed by rock solid faith, has led this common sense man to blaze a path littered with uncommon and near miraculous achievements.

"He is a leader among leaders, a man of extraordinary talents and achievements", says Elder Thorton Howard, III, noted author of "Going FOURward" a book of positive four letter words, and one of the many pillars of the church he joined more than 30 years ago.

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Malcolm Pharr

I Have Never Been A Journalist

By Malcolm Pharr

This is the second of two parts of my contribution in the 30th year celebration of the AC Phoenix. In the August issue of the monthly publication I went on an emotional ride through memory lane. The ride continues and the emotions are riveting.

Jimi Hendrix babbled and played the guitar masterfully, while Elvis Presley made the nation's majority swoon. The two, with different sounds from a different world, must have known the magic of "Blue Suede Shoes". I guess you had to have a pair to understand.

I got a hold of a pair before graduating from West Charlotte High School in 1978. They were my pride... my joy... my entrance into many conversations. (They felt good too) Between 1978 and 1985 a great deal of mileage were put on those shoes, not to mention numerous visits to shoe repair stores for new soles.

When I think of those early years of the Phoenix these shoes come to mind. As an

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Transition Network, Inc. Calls for Community Support



Transition Network, Inc., Ex-Offender Reentry Program

Imagine you did something that negatively impacted the rest of your life, would you want a second chance? Transition Network, Inc. is a light of hope for those who have been incarcerated. "The focus of Transition Network, Inc. is to serve as a clearing-house for services by quickly connecting ex-offenders with the resources needed to become productive citizens", said Raymond Trapp, Chairman of the agency's Board of Directors.

Since opening its doors in February 2012, Transition Network, Inc. has served 110 clients with case management, service referrals, advocacy and support. The majority of the clients are males ranging from 20-49 years of age. 42% of clients have received employment referrals with 60% of those referrals successfully leading to full-time

Everyday is an
Opportunity to Learn

employment. A survey and ongoing feedback reveal that clients are satisfied with the services they receive from the agency. Leveraging community partnerships, Transition Network's approach includes both pre-release and transitional services for those offenders returning to Guilford County. During 2012, that population was at 1,258 offenders of which 50% were projected to return to prison within three years. The work of Transition Network, Inc. is needed for more favorable outcomes for individuals and the community as a whole.

Transition Network, Inc. continues to seek monetary and in-kind donations and volunteer support to sustain existing services and fulfill the future vision. The agency is calling on the faith-community with the hopes that many would look to expand their existing prison ministry to include critical post-release support. For additional information, please call 336-833-1499 or visit the website: www.transitionnet.org.

Fall Into a Vanpool Share the Ride - Clean the Air - Rake in the Savings



On any given morning, the members of vanpool #6882 wake up with peace of mind knowing that their 145 mile roundtrip commute to Mooresville will be stress-free and productive. Opting to preserve their personal vehicles, vanpoolers depart the park and ride lot around 6:50 AM enjoying one another's company, catching up on work, knitting, doing crossword puzzles and sometimes even [continued on page 12]

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