

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Asheville, NC

Serving the Southern Appalachian Gay/Lesbian Community

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Asheville Gay and Lesbian

Information Line:

253-2971

A project of the Asheville Gay and Lesbian  
Community Council

Gay and Lesbian Youth Hotline:

1-800-347-TEEN

Thurs.-Sun. 7 p.m.-12 a.m.

To report anti-gay/HIV+  
discrimination/violence:

Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council:

253-1656 / 252-4713

U.S. Department of Justice toll-free:

1-800-347-HATE

## NC Pride Wins Fight

Organizers of North Carolina's Pride celebration have beaten back a campaign by a local church to deny them a permit for their June 5 parade and rally.

The city of Charlotte's parade committee unanimously approved the permit on February 3, despite the objections of the First Baptist Church, which is located next door to the rally site in Marshall Park. The City Council could overrule the committee, but even opponents of the march think that is unlikely because of concerns such action would violate the First Amendment.

Church members objected to the permit on the grounds that the march, originally planned for noon, would interfere with church services. The parade committee received more than 30 complaints, and Mayor Richard Vinroot announced his opposition to the Pride event. Some 600 members of another Baptist church in Charlotte also signed a petition opposing plans for a march on Sunday.

"We've got some concerns they are going to have it in our back yard on a Sunday afternoon when we're

having activities," said Jim Cashwell, minister of students at First Baptist. "We feel this is a sin, the lifestyle. For them to have it on the Lord's Day is just a disgrace."

Charles Page, the church's senior minister and one of the state's most influential Baptist leaders, said, "The location encroaches on our church... We're just opposed to it. We don't think it represents the values system of our community." Page helped lead protests in 1992 that persuaded the City Council to kill a proposed anti-bias ordinance outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"We're not trying to interfere with anyone's right to worship," said Sue Henry of Charlotte, co-chair of NC Pride 1994, which agreed to move the parade to 1 p.m. to insure that the event wouldn't interfere with church activities.

North Carolina's statewide Pride celebration is coming to Charlotte for the first time, and the weekend-long event is expected to draw 4,000 people.--Associated Press

## Health Study Addresses Sexual Orientation

WASHINGTON, DC--The Nurse's Health Study, an on-going study of post-menopausal women nurses, will include questions on the sexual orientation of its participants, announced the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). The questions for the Nurse's study are being revised and will now collect information on the health of lesbians in the nursing profession.

The decision to include the questions came as a result of an extensive letter writing campaign organized by

a coalition of lesbian and gay health and civil rights organizations, including the HRCF, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Recent studies point to some very disturbing indicators for the health status of lesbians. Among the indicators are: High rate of nulliparity (non-childbearing); a reportedly higher likelihood of smoking; and the suggestion that lesbians get fewer Pap smears, mammogram and office visits than heterosexual women do.

## ARNGLE Presents Second Annual Symposium

The Asheville Religious Network for Gay and Lesbian Equality (ARNGLE) will present Jane Adams Spahr as keynote speaker at a symposium to be held on Saturday, March 19 at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville. Her theme will be Sexuality and Spirituality.

Dr. Spahr, a lesbian Presbyterian minister, was called to serve the Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY as one of the church's co-pastors. Her call was challenged but upheld by the next two higher church courts. Finally, her call was declared invalid by the supreme court of the Presbyterian Church.

The church in Rochester responded by creating a position for Janie, which enables her to travel the nation to speak about the need for gay/lesbian/bisexual equality in civil rights, as well as church rights.

There will be two opportunities to be with Janie; a meeting at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church on Thursday, March 17 from 7:30-9:30 p.m., and at the symposium, which is from 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. on March 19. The cost for the symposium is \$12.50, which includes a catered lunch. Checks should be sent to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 789 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC 28804 and made payable to ARNGLE. The



(Dr. Jane Spahr (pictured above), a lesbian minister, is a keynote speaker at a symposium to be held on Saturday, March 19 at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.)

church is across from the Asheville Federal Bank on the corner of Gracelyn Rd. and Merrimon.

The symposium will include worship, a panel discussion of her theme, a sharing of some of our stories and plenty of opportunity for dialogue with Janie and other participants.

Questions concerning the symposium should be addressed to Joan Marshall of All Souls Episcopal Church at 277-7815.



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