

holiday greetings

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Kadesh members plan to return to church site

Ministry will go on

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Members of Kadesh A.M.E. Zion Church plan to return to their church grounds early next year after several months of worshipping off-site.

Officials from the historic African-American church on East Gale Street received approval Dec. 8 from the Edenton Preservation Commission to erect a modular building on Kadesh property. Rev. Edna Lawrence told the

commission that the church suffered about \$1 million in damage from Hurricane Isabel in September.

"It may take two or three years," Lawrence said, "or longer," before the sanctuary — in the town's historic district — is repaired.

Unfortunately, she added, problems with the church's damaged roof continue and the bell towers still leak. Church members are anxious to return to "Kadesh grounds" for worship, she said.

"We're very, very proud to be a part of the (historic) district," Lawrence said, "but we also have a need to do the ministry."



The historic Kadesh AME Zion Church in Edenton sustained heavy damage during Hurricane Isabel. Church officials estimate it could be years before all the damage is repaired. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

The 120-member congregation has been meeting on Sundays at the Chowan Life Center since the Sept. 18 hurricane. Kadesh was established in 1897.

The commission unanimously approved a certificate of appropriateness for the modular meeting facility. The only condition for the project was for landscaping to be done at the site in line with historic district guidelines.

Lawrence said work on the new building isn't expected to begin until at least January. The structure will be put together on-site, she said, and will match-up with historic district and Kadesh appearances. Matching

stained-glass windows with the sanctuary's existing design is one example of compatibility efforts, she said.

Edenton-Chowan Planning Director Elizabeth Bryant said building inspectors have deemed Kadesh's sanctuary "unsafe for people to go in."

"They are in need of another place to hold their services," Bryant said.

Commission members expressed hopes to see Kadesh restored to its pre-hurricane condition.

"It's a beautiful building," Brenda Spruill, a commission member, said, "inside and out."

Lawrence said current plans for the future are to just hold special services

in the main sanctuary. She said the church is in the process of obtaining a Small Business Administration Loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Church officials are also waiting to hear from insurers. Private donations are also being accepted, Lawrence added.

Future plans also include turning the parsonage into an African-American museum and cultural arts center. The parsonage is located on church property on Albemarle Street, behind the sanctuary building.

"Right now," Lawrence said, "we're looking forward to something new."

Operation Santa brings joy to kids

BY ROBBIE LAUGHTON
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Dec. 20 the old D. F. Walker gym was a winter wonderland for approximately 330 local children. Santa and his elves descended on Edenton in fine fashion bringing loads of toys and goodies for the annual Operation Santa Program. This marked the

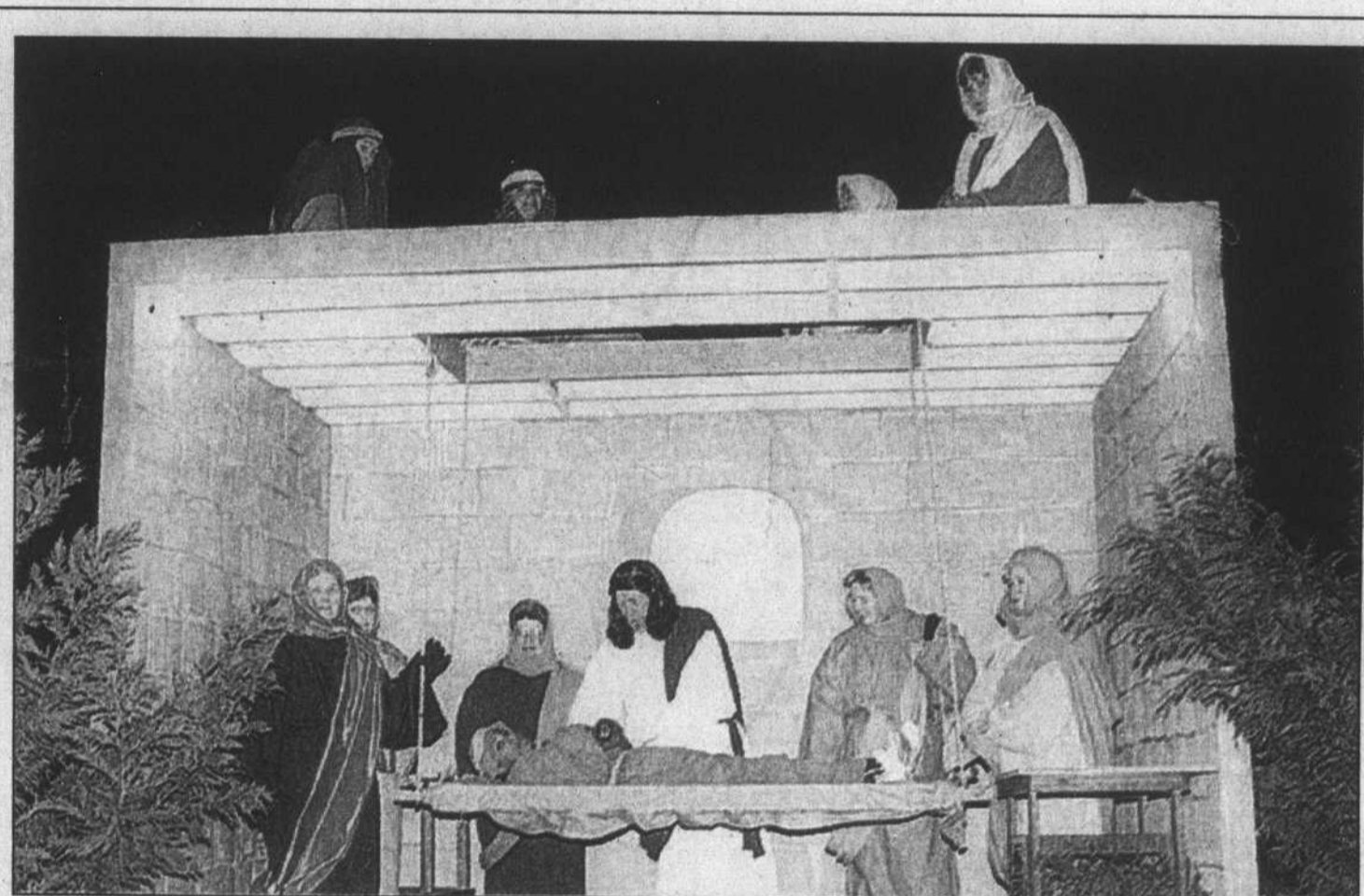
sixth year the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department and its volunteer helpers have organized this gift to the community.

Gwen Brown, Project Coordinator, and her volunteer staff worked countless hours since early September making sure all the children in

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Old Saint Nick listens to one little girl's Christmas wishes during the Operation Santa party. (Bud Weagly photo)



Above, Jesus, center, heals a paralytic during "The Greatest Gift" panorama at Center Hill Baptist Church in Tyner on Sunday night. The three-night event involved 165 performers and drew an estimated 800 vehicles. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

Panorama spreads message of love

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

TYNER — Cars packed a dark country road while a

long-haired, bearded man took part in everything from healing a man to dining with friends to re-enacting his own death.

Jesus was in most of the eight scenes behind Center Hill Baptist Church here over the weekend. But his life was the focus of "The Greatest

Gift" and it took eight actors to get him where he needed to be for the free three-night

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Holiday schedule

The Chowan Herald business office will be closed all day Wednesday, Dec. 24 (today) and Thursday, Dec. 25 (tomorrow).

Anyone submitting news, photos or ads for the New Year's edition is encouraged to have them in our office by this Friday afternoon.

The Herald will observe regular business hours next Monday and Tuesday. The office will close all day on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

'Rockin' event benefits children

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Peter Boehling didn't know any Christmas songs to play, but he helped rock the night away at Acoustic Coffee for a Friday night gift drive for needy children.

Coffee shop owners Glen and Anita Anderson opened the night with playful versions of "Blue Christmas" to more than a dozen listeners.

But the audience did more than just listen to tunes. They delivered gifts for the chance to listen to the folksy music.

Dee Spruce, an accounting



Glen and Anita Andersen perform Friday night

manager with Classic Hits 104.9, said a stack of presents and a shiny blue bicycle proved the holiday spirit was alive and well in Edenton. The station, which recently changed its format from Christian music to classic rock, played a role in that spirit, Spruce said.

"The station wanted to do something here in the community," the Rocky Hock resident said of the choice to co-sponsor "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

Gifts will be distributed by the Edenton-Chowan Recre-

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Christmas Eve at St. Paul's
101 West Church Street
5:30 p.m. - Children's Service
11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
And St. John's Episcopal Church
INVITE YOU TO THEIR CHRISTMAS SERVICES:
COME AND CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S BIRTH

Christmas Day at St. John's
212 East Church Street • 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Morning • Holy Communion