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Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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Church experiences outstanding growth

by Yvonne Barnes Dial

Under the leadership of Rev. Jerry Lowry, First United Methodist Church of Pembroke, NC has accomplished tremendous growth.

Rev. Lowry has organized several committees, such as the administrative council, nature and membership care, committee on nominations, personnel, pastor parish relations, Thursday ministries, Sunday school teachers, visitation team, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Outreach Ministries, Trustees, finance, parsonage, auditors, youth ministries, childrens ministries and communications. Through these committees, he along with the administrative council, have selected chairpersons and assistants to organize and implement goals and objectives for the church.

From the pastor's report for 1990: "The church has accomplished the following: 20 professions of faith and numerous commitments and rededications, continuous increase in church school and worship participation, 13 persons were baptized and 26 persons were received in full membership, spiritual growth in weekly Bible study, with an average of 35 persons, for youth and childrens ministries, there is offered United Methodist Youth, Vacation Bible School, Bible Study, Cultural events, fellowship, activities, missions and choirs.

United Methodist Women are actively involved in the church, the district and annual conferences, sources for the needy and outreach. United Methodist Men are involved in monthly breakfasts, fellowship and giving. An effective church school, a young adult class has been organized and 16 members, an Adult Singles Ministry and Girl Scout Unit continues to function, a Creative Health Ministry for chemically dependent persons, a tape ministry, over \$5000 was given to local missions, hosted a work camp from Alabama and gave \$1300 to the Robeson County Church and Community Center, a gift to UMCOR, World Vision, \$1410 to conference missions, projects and \$650 plus to national world mission projects, an almost 50 percent increase in giving over 1988 and 20 percent over 1989, purchasing new carpet, replaced interior walls, painted fellowship hall and sanctuary.

Through Rev. Lowry's guidance, First Church has done remarkably well. With continued guidance, prayer, love,

God and total commitment, this church shall continue to grow and meet the needs of the local community, the nation and the world.

YOUTH AND CHILDRENS MINISTRIES CAN BE INSPIRING

First United Methodist Church of Pembroke's Youth and Childrens Ministries are only two of the church's greatest inspirations. Being actively involved and organized for approximately two years, not only does these ministries just attend church on Sundays, but they are actively involved in services and missions.

Both ministries stress extreme interests in the education of Christianity, giving, and servicing people. They are exposed to Bible study, Vacation Bible School Choirs, activities, fundraising, and fellowship. During Bible study, children learn various Bible stories and biblical characters. To understand these stories, children listen to stories being read, play games, dramatize, create art, watch videos, etc.

Some activities the youth and children participate in include sleepovers at the church, beach retreats, ski retreats, eating out, bowling, roller skating, ice skating, putt putt, swimming, camping, and parties.

Providing services for the needy is shared by the youth and children. They have worked diligently to provide money, supplies, food and other items to the alcohol and drug abuse center in Washington D.C., Christian Care Center, Robeson Church and Community Center and to needy families. They have also provided gifts, cards, and visits to senior citizens, shut-ins, and nurseries, and raised money to purchase or assist in pavement of essentials for the church.

Every second Sunday the youth conduct worship service. This provides an opportunity for each youth to learn the essentials of the church and learn leadership qualities. These offerings to the youth and children attribute to fun, excitement, sharing, love and pride within the ministry. The children reveal and inspiration to provide their time and talents in the church. Thanks to the pastor, congregation and the local community who have graciously supported these ministries to assist in providing such wonderful opportunities for these children.

Local Happenings

ROBESON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILDRENS DEPARTMENT TO RESUME STORYTIME PROGRAM

The Children's Department of the Robeson County Public Library is pleased to announce the return after a brief winter hiatus of the library's highly successful storytime program, a half-hour-long trip to storyland for 3-5 year old children in the county.

Beginning Feb. 5, the program will be presented each Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Rowland Public Library and at 11 a.m. at the Hector McLean Public Library in Fairmont. Each Wednesday, the program will be offered at 10 a.m. in the Gilbert Patterson Memorial Library in Maxton and at 3:30 p.m. in the St. Pauls Public Library. Each Thursday at 10 a.m., the program will again be offered in the Osterneck Auditorium in Lumberton.

The last program in the series will be presented May 30.

Children's Librarian Kathy Blake will introduce children to the fun and excitement of reading through books, films, puppets and other activities during each Storytime presentation.

PSU CHAPTER I MEETING PLANNED

The Pembroke State University Chapter I meeting will be held at the James B. Chavis Center on January 31st at 7 p.m. All PSU graduates are urged to attend. For further information, please call 521-4801 or 521-4214, ext. 218.

DIAL TO BE SWORN IN

Newly-elected Representative will be sworn in on Sunday, January 27 at 3 p.m. at the Lumberton Courthouse, Courtroom # 2. The Honorable Dexter Brooks, Superior Court Judge will administer the oath. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The North Carolina General Assembly will convene on Wednesday, January 30, at 12 noon in Raleigh.

N.C. FEDERATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS SPONSOR RECEPTION FOR NEWLY ELEGISLATOR DR. ADOLPH DIAL

The United Federation of American Indians will hold a reception for Adolph Dial, newly elected legislator from Robeson County, on Friday, January 18, 1991, at the Cary Best Western, Cary, North Carolina. The Federation was organized in 1989 for the purpose of increasing Indian participation in the political process, throughout North Carolina. The Federation is a non partisan political interest organization and expects a broad cross section of Indian and non Indian leaders to attend the reception.

Contact Hal Cummings at 919-460-1270 for more information regarding the reception or membership to the N.C. Federal of American Indians.

PEMBROKE KIWANIS REPORT

Program Chairman Buddy Bell presented Miss Danielle Brooks, Drug and Alcohol Contact Person for the newly in place pilot program at Purnell Sweet High School.

Miss Brooks is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Dalton Brooks of the PSU Research Department. She is a 1990 graduate of PSU and a graduate of West Robeson High School.

The Dare Program for Alcohol and Drug Abuse is a state wide program and also includes the annual all night graduation celebration program for Robeson County high school students. The program requires students to abstain from alcohol and drugs and remain all night at the CHavis Center on the PSU campus. The main objective of the program is prevention of abuse and to save lives over the acute graduation celebration time.

Miss Brooks comes in direct contact with students suffering from the disease. Her role comes from the administrators, the teachers, coaches, friends and parents of the afflicted student in an effort to prevent

addiction. Miss Brooks said, "If we can save just one student, my efforts are worth it. But we save many. Boys seem to be more affected than girls, but we work with all students in the education process, including the use of video equipment, trips to the Drug Prevention Clinic recently started in the county. We work closely with the parents and confidentiality is a key word of the program. Over 9,000 students died in the U.S. in drug related accidents in 1989. And over 200,000 injuries. A

staggering amount of deaths and injuries to our young people. So we strated these alcohol and drug free programs with great success." Miss Brooks said films showing the many games, dancing, refreshments being enjoyed by the students in their annual graduation party in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Presiding-Mitch Lowry; Invocation-Clay Maynor; Song Leader-Ed Teets; Program-Buddy Bell. Reporter-Ken Johnson.

Twelve lieutenants from PSU's Army ROTC program are in or heading for Saudi Arabia



Capt. Marshall Fite...Lieutenants from his Army ROTC program at PSU are in Saudi Arabia.

by Gene Warren
PSU Public Information Director

Twelve Army lieutenants who earned commissions through PSU's Army ROTC program are either in Saudi Arabia or will be there in the next month.

So says Capt. Marshall P. Fite, a native of Ft. Worth, Tex., who is in his fourth year as director of the Army ROTC program at PSU.

"They are over there, and I should be with them," said the 33-year-old Fite, who is married and the father of one child with another expected in February.

"I feel responsible for them," continued Fite. "I say this because I recruited them, led them through out training program, and commissioned them for active duty."

His desire to be with them was in his eyes as he expressed his feelings about the Iraqi situation on the eve of the Jan. 15 deadline that the United Nations has imposed for Iraqi forces to get out of Kuwait.

Fite realizes he has an important job in training the 60 cadets in PSU's Army ROTC program this semester for future service, but his heart goes out to the men he has already commissioned and are "over there."

"My brother, who is also in the Army, is on the way to Saudi Arabia," said Fite. He has been told he will leave this week. He is 29 years old, married and has one child.

In talking about the danger of war, Fite responded: "My brother is doing what he feels he should. When you join the Army, you know what the risks are. I did."

Fite speaks about the resolve of Israel as war threatens. "The Israelis are doing what they believe is right. Whether it is right or wrong I don't know. I know the U.S. has chosen a course of action, and we shouldn't back away from that area because we are afraid of the

consequences," he said.

Speaking of the threat of terrorism, Fite added: "Terrorism should have no impact on doing what is right and what is wrong."

He told about the U.S. senator who lost in the vote on Saturday on whether to allow President Bush to do what is necessary in the Middle East. "That senator lost the vote, but he said he will support President Bush and the troops all the way," Fite added.

The Army captain wanted to emphasize he is not against dissent. "The citizens of this country absolutely have the right to dissent," he emphasized. "If not, half of our political powers are down the tube." He said he is very much for peace in the Middle East if there is a way.

For those now enrolled in PSU's Army ROTC program, Fite said it is unlikely that any will be called up "unless they are in the Army Reserve or National Guard and their unit is called up. It is up to the unit to decide whether the student should leave school or not."

Fite pointed out that when students enter the Army ROTC program at PSU, they do not become cadets "under contract" until they reach their junior year. "There is a provision under the contract whereby cadets could be called to active duty, but it is extremely unlikely," he said.

Fite believes that if the U.S. becomes involved in a war with Iraq, Army ROTC programs will continue on college campuses because personnel from those programs will be needed "down the road," he said.

On the other hand, if a global war breaks out (involving, for example, such countries as Russia and China), he believes the draft will be instigated first.

New book about Lumbee Methodists now available

A new book about the pilgrimage of the Lumbee United Methodist Churches from their beginnings, including stories about their ministries, missions, struggles and achievements in Robeson County and beyond is now available. The book was published by the Commission on Archives and History, N.C. Conference, the United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 10955, Raleigh, NC 27605.

The book may be purchased from the Archives and History, N.C. Conference, The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 10955, Raleigh, NC 27605. The price is \$14.95 hardcover and \$8.95 soft cover. It may also be purchased through a local Lumbee United Methodist Church.

Robeson Defense receives Grant

Pembroke, NC-Robeson Defense was recently awarded a grant from the Peace Development Fund, Amherst, Massachusetts, for its community work in support of peace.

"We are delighted to be able to support the important work the Defense Committee is doing in Robeson County and North Carolina," said Margaret Gage, Executive Director of the Peace Development Fund. "In fact, we have been astounded by the high quality of community education and organizing going on in hundreds of cities and towns all over the country. We are pleased to be able to provide some financial assistance to encourage this important work."

Lumbees receive support from The National Presbyterian Committee for Lumbee recognition

The Lumbee Regional Development Association has been notified by the National Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People that a \$30,000 grant has been approved for the tribe to support its 1991 efforts to achieve Federal Recognition.

In the grant award notice Mr. Fredric Walls, Director of the Committee stated, "We are excited that you (LRDA) have asked us to enter into this partnership and pleased that we could respond."

The grant will be used to support staff to implement the tribe's local and national objectives for Federal Recognition in 1991.

Local support for the tribe to receive this grant began with the work of Helen Locklear, Director, Pembroke Presbyterian Ministry, and Reverend John Robinson who formerly held Mrs. Locklear's current post.

Mrs. Locklear and Rev. Robinson met with the LRDA board of directors with a representative from the Louisville, Kentucky-based committee and received a briefing on what this project proposes to accomplish and

The Peace Development Fund is a 9 year old public foundation that raises money from hundreds of contributors who support community-based efforts to end the nuclear arms race and to encourage nonviolence.

Since the Fund began in 1981, it has raised over \$3 million dollars and has awarded well over 750 grants to groups in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. For more information about the Peace Development Fund, write to the Peace Development Fund, Post Office Box 270, Amherst, MA 01004. For more information about Robeson Defense Committee, please contact Carnell Locklear or Thelma Clark, P.O. Box 1389, Pembroke, NC 28372, 919-521-0593.

why the Committee's financial support is needed. The Presbyterian Committee is a funding source for projects aimed at the self-employment of people to control their own destiny and self determination.

There are no Federal or State government sources available to assist with the financial needs of tribes in the U.S. seeking recognition outside the Bureau of Indian Affairs structure as the Lumbee are.

LRDA in 1988-89 received financial support from the U.S. Methodist Commission on Religion and Race and are now proud to have gained the support of the national Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development.

In receiving notice of the grant award LRDA Chairman Adolph Blue stated that, "LRDA is committed to this partnership with the Presbyterian Committee and that when Federal Recognition is achieved all of those many friends and supporters who have supported this cause locally, and at the national and state levels, will know that their investment of money or time, was a wise investment for all of Robeson and adjoining counties."

OUR MEN IN UNIFORM

DWAYNE K. BULLARD

Navy Seaman Recruit Dwayne K. Bullard, son of Aubrey L. and Norma Bullard of Pembroke, has completed recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Fla.

During Bullard's eight-week training cycle, he studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on the job training in one of the

Navy's 85 basic fields. His studies included seamanship, close order drill, Naval history and first aid. Personnel who complete this course of instruction are eligible for three hours of college credit in physical education and hygiene.

A 1986 graduate of West Robeson High School, he joined the Navy in September 1990.