

A Closer Look at AIMI

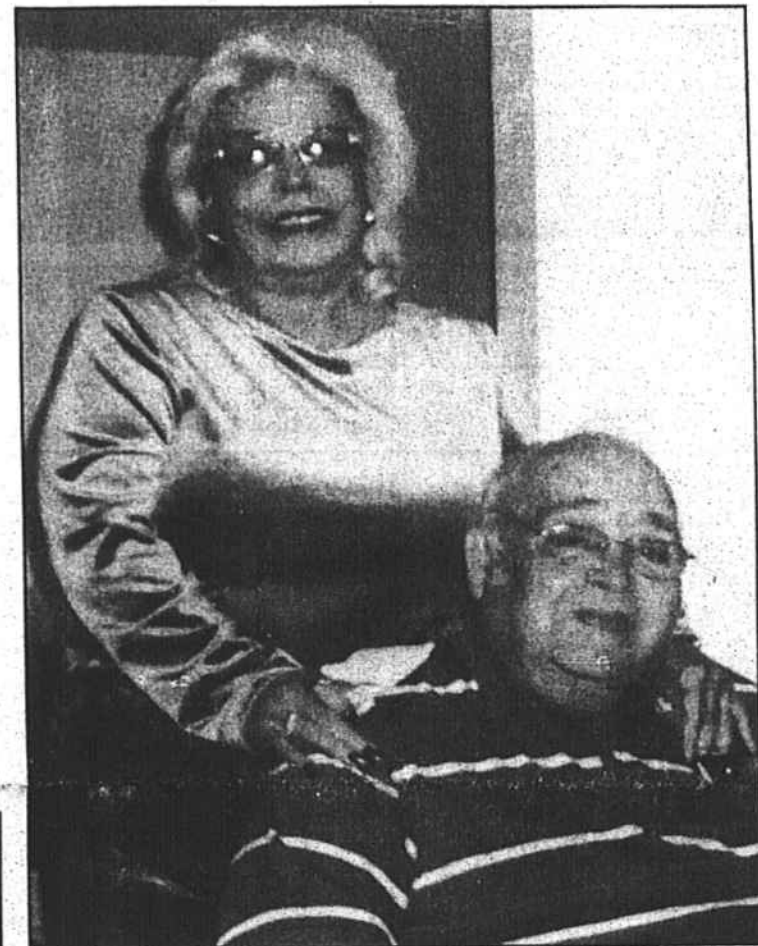
by *Mary Barton Largent*
We don't have to look too hard in our community or neighborhood to find some of the factors that keep our families from becoming successful. We see drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, more and more. I would like to call your attention to a group of hard working dedicated women who are trying to offset and help with these problems. A group that offer family counseling, health services, spiritual awakening, pregnancy, nutrition and parenting classes, substance abuse, prevention classes, family support and job training. I happened to drop by for their Wednesday morning breakfast a couple of weeks ago. This breakfast is served every Wednesday morning at 9 am for anyone in need of a good hearty breakfast. Rosette Jacobs, the Breakfast Manager certainly served up a wonderful breakfast consisting of home made biscuits, freshly made sausage, "pudding," grits, eggs, grape "hulls" and canned peaches. We were honored with the presence of Rev. Montana Locklear, who happened to stop by and share the breakfast with us. He says, "I will recommend this program to anyone, and I am going to learn more about it and encourage others to do so." He heartily recommends that if you have some spare time to volunteer for this worthy organization, it would be very much appreciated, whether it is time you spend helping out, or money. This breakfast was attended by 10 people, with the average, weekly,

3 to 8 people. Beverly Collins-Hall is the Executive Director of American Indian mothers, Inc. Mrs. Ruth Dial-Woods is an Ambassador for AIMI. Mrs. Hall's Indian name is "Wind In Her Hair," and a very appropriate name it is! She runs like the wind attending to all the activities and programs going on! Her plate is well filled! You are encouraged to sign up for the cultural classes that will begin Dec 18 and be held every Thursday night 7-9. This enrichment class is to teach ceremonial traditions, the making of regalia, pottery, beadwork, basketry and survival hunters and planters. To join this class, please call Penny Jacobs or Matthew Chavis at 843-9911. There is a Food Bank that takes care of emergency needs for families. An estimated 2000 families are helped yearly through this program. With all the programs offered, I'm sure we can find one that we can fit in and either volunteer our talents or help financially. The AIMI has Sons and Daughters of the first people. Adopt an Elder Program. After School Programs, Traditional teachings, Adult education. The annual programs are the Sunrise Festival, held in March, the planting season. This Spring, AIMI has 4 acres of land that they will use to plant gardens to raise food for the needy. In May the Mothers Hall of Fame will take place with a banquet and scholarship drive.

In September will be the Sunset Festival the harvest season. And November is Indian Heritage Month and the Harvest Celebration. The Ms. IM Indian Princess, Ms. Harvest-Multi-culture and the Art Expo. The American Indian Mothers are filling in the gaps and giving services in the rural communities to the ones in need of health services, family counseling, substance abuse, family support and job training. What can we give back to this program? It's sad to say, but someone broke into their place in November and stole their computer and VCR and telephone, along with Indian dolls and artifacts that had been collected and put in a show case. All of this is gone. Is this how we repay these hard working people for their services and contributions to our community by stealing their equipment? I would like to quote Beverly Collins-Hall: "The course you go in life requires restitution." So, whether we do right or wrong, somewhere down the trail we will have to answer for our actions. Let our actions speak for us by supporting a worthy cause. If we have only one hour per day to volunteer our time and work, just imagine how it would total up if 8 people volunteered an hour per day 5 days a week! This program is open to all colors and creeds because we are all of God's creation and honor him by giving back because he was the greatest gift giver of all eternity!



Beverly Collins-Hall, Executive Director, AIMI



Rev. Montana Locklear visiting with his Aunt Mary Barton Largent

Christmas program at New Hope

What a Christmas Program entitled "The Gift of My Heart" will be presented at New Hope Church, located on College Road, Pembroke on Sunday, December 14 at 6 p.m. The pastor, Rev. Simmie Barton and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.



Sylvia Blue

Sylvia Blue selected as Woman of the Year by BPW

The Pembroke Business and Professional Women's Organization selected Sylvia Blue as "Woman of the Year." Mrs. Blue serves as the media specialist for Magnolia School. She holds the office of Secretary for the organization.

Chavis-Harris receives National Certification



Pembroke-- Phoebe Marie Chavis-Harris, a third grade teacher at Union Chapel Elementary School recently achieved National Board Certification. Chavis-Harris is among 8,195 teachers nationwide to earn national certification this year according to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She has a BS and a MA in early childhood and is currently seeking a degree in Educational Administration at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Phoebe's mother and sister are both National Board Certified teachers with the Public Schools of Robeson County. Chavis-Harris is the daughter of Robert and Jane Chavis. She is married to Harold Harris and have two sons, Cole and Connor and a daughter, Carrington.

Prospect UMC to present Christmas Musical Drama



The Music Ministries of Prospect United Methodist Church (Prospect UMC) will present a Christmas Musical Drama, "Bethlehem Morning" on Saturday and Sunday evenings, December 20th and 21st at 7 p.m. and on Sunday morning, December 28th at 10:30 a.m. during the worship service at Prospect UMC. Using both the spoken and sung word of God, this presentation will involve the children, youth, and adults to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This Christmas musical drama is under the direction of the Reverend Harold D. Jacobs while Mr. David Oxendine serves as the narrator. With creative movements, special lighting, sound effects, and a 15 piece orchestra, "Bethlehem Morning" will be a spiritual experience that you do not want to miss. Therefore, you are invited to come worship Jesus the Christ as Prospect UMC celebrates His birthday, the Birthday of a King. Prospect United Methodist Church is located at 3929 Missouri Road, Maxton, NC (across from Prospect School), about five miles Northwest of Pembroke, six miles South of Red Springs and seven miles Northeast of Maxton. The Pastor, the Reverend Bill James Locklear and the congregation of Prospect UMC want you to join them for this Christmas celebration. For more information, you may call Prospect UMC and talk with Mr. Chris Boutselis at 910-521-2111 (8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Lt. Nelson Locklear visits Robeson for holidays

First Lieutenant Nelson Locklear, U.S. Army, visited his native Robeson County over the Thanksgiving Holidays. He is the son of Bundy Ross and Cheryl Locklear of Pembroke. Lt. Locklear is a Registered Nurse and part of the Army Nurse Corp., stationed at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. This is the hospital used by the military for those wounded overseas. When military personnel are wounded in Europe, they are sent immediately to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center where they are given medical attention. When they are stabilized, they are sent back to the United States. Lt. Locklear has been stationed in Germany since September, 2000. He expects to remain there until the summer of 2005. He enlisted in the United States Army in September, 1999. He lacked one class having his degree in nursing when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. While serving in the military, he completed his Bachelor's degree, while a Private. He then returned to Raleigh, NC to take his

nursing boards. After becoming a registered nurse, Locklear was commissioned as a First Lieutenant. He is expecting to make the rank of Captain by the summer. While serving at the hospital, Lt. Locklear has witnessed many war casualties. He was there and helped treat victims of the NATO bombing in Iraq. He was also on hand when Jessica Lynch was brought in. There are only three hospitals for military personnel in Europe and Lt. Locklear is stationed at the largest one. While Lt. Locklear's field of expertise is pediatrics, he is often called upon to assist with incoming wounded. Only one child, he says, has been injured and brought to his hospital during the Iraq War. Lt. Locklear is a 1994 graduate of Purnell Swett High School. He received his nursing training at North Carolina Central University in Durham. He has also received two years of training at East Carolina in Greensboro. Among other career plans, Lt. Locklear will pursue a Master's Degree in Public Health while stationed in Germany. He will request a tenure in Korea for one year as well as one year of service in Hawaii. If this transfer is granted, he will be allowed to work in the civilian world as a Community Health Nurse. "It will be an oppor-



Shown are some of the participants in the AIMI free breakfast program held every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the headquarters in Shannon.



tunity for be to teaching and talking to units," he said. To obtain this goal, Lt. Locklear will be sent to San Antonio, Texas for three months for training after which he will return to Germany. In speaking of his military career and especially his tour of duty in Germany, Locklear stated, "I am having fun, traveling a lot, meeting a lot of people and doing a great deal of listening. People, I have found, are basically the same, wherever you go. But Pembroke, you know, is home." Visiting during the holidays was a made Thanksgiving special for his mother and father and numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, extended family and friends. Lt. Locklear said that eventually, maybe upon retirement from the U.S. Army, desires to go into the Indian Health Service, and of course, eventually return home to his Lumbee roots.

Chestnut Street UMC to present Christmas Program Dec. 14

Chestnut Street United Methodist Church will present their Christmas program on Sunday, December 14, 2003 at 7:00 PM. The program, "Lumberton Candlelight Christmas" will contain music that has been arranged or written by musicians with a Lumberton connection. These musicians are David Hines, Larry Arnold, Mark Frazier and his brother, Jim. Clay Price, Pat Lykins and Zollene Reissner. The program will be done in complete candlelight. The public is cordially invited to attend. There will be a reception after the program in Asbury Hall. A nursery will be provided. Chestnut Street Church is located on the corner of Chestnut and East Eight Streets. Mark Frazier is the Director of Music Ministries and Rev. Jimmie Tatum is the pastor.

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