



**BEN RUFFIN GETS PLAQUE**—The nineteenth Annual Men's Day Celebration was held at Morehead Avenue Baptist Church, Sunday March 16. The main address was delivered by Representative Joy J. Johnson, who is also pastor of The First Baptist Church of Fairmont. At the Men's Day service, Benjamin Ruffin was presented a plaque for his outstanding service and leadership in civic affairs and as a Trustee of Morehead Avenue Baptist Church. Mr. Ruffin was born and reared in the West End Community, and he grew up in the Morehead Avenue Baptist Church. With Mr. Ruffin is his mother, Mrs. Catherine Ruffin and Deacon Garland Jones, Chairman of the Men's Day celebration. Dr. Benjamin A. Mack is pastor of Morehead Avenue Baptist.

**Sun. School Superintendent Given Recognition**

On Sunday, March 23, a special tribute of recognition was given to Mrs. Mercedes B. Thompson, superintendent of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Sunday School, located on Fayetteville Street. Mrs. Thompson has served in this position during two periods, the first for approximately four years, the present position, over seven years. Other positions she has held are: teacher, Director of religious education, trustee, president and committee member of organizations.

Mrs. Tom Davis, teacher at Hillside High School and assistant teacher of the Fuller Bible Class in the Church made the tribute. His theme was, "I know Something Good About You." A brief history of Mrs. Thompson's life revealed that she is one of the thirteen children of the late William Barnes and Mrs. Louise Barnes formally of Middlesex. Mrs. Barnes now resides in Wilson County.

Mrs. Thompson graduated from the Richard B. Harrison High School in Selma, Valectorian of her class. It was pointed out that she made two grades in one year, combining the 8th and 9th grades.

Mrs. Thompson received her undergraduate education at Shaw University on a

scholarship for two years where she received a Merit Award for religious education. She then transferred to North Carolina College at Durham where she received an A.B. degree in Art Education as a major and Music as a minor. She graduated with highest scholastic award in Art in 1953. She was the first black art student to receive a first place in painting at the N.C. State Fair in 1952, for the University.

Mrs. Thompson received her Masters of Teaching Degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1970. In 1974 she received an Advanced Certificate in Supervision. Her Thesis emphasized "The Role of the Art Supervisor in Creative

Supervision in the Durham City Schools grades K-9."

Mrs. Thompson was recently promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor at the North Carolina Central University, where she has worked for the past four years, as Art Instructor. She previously worked for four years as Art Supervisor in the Clinton City Schools system and thirteen years as teacher of Art, one at Hillside High and the other at the Whitted Junior High School in the Durham City School System.

She is a member of the Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zeta Court 41 and numerous civic and professional organizations.

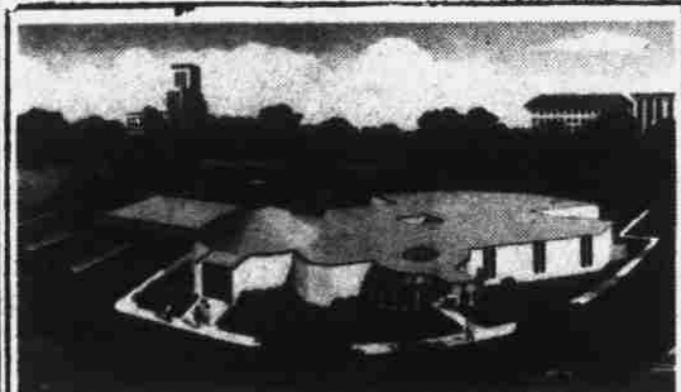
**Recognition-Fellowship Banquet Set**

The Weaver McLean American Legion Post 175 and the Ladies Auxiliary will present a Recognition-Fellowship Banquet Friday April 25, at 7:00 p.m.

The occasion will be a gala affair two ladies from the Ladies Auxiliary will be honored. Mrs. Mattie Lee and Mrs. Savater Evans. Also all Veterans of World War I will be honored.

Featured on the program will be a Duet by the Wombie twins, now Mrs. Rosetta Southerland and Mrs. Arnetta Barnes, and "THE SPIRITUAL ECHOES," a group of Pentecostal Holiness Students from North Carolina Central University along with The Young People Choir of the White Rock Baptist Church.

Mr. A.R. Thompson is Post Commander. Mrs. Cora Brown is president of the Ladies Auxiliary. Tickets are on sale and the public is invited.



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**Local Pastor Honored On His Birthday**

The members of the Mount Zion Baptist Church and congregation honored its pastor, Dr. William H. Fuller, on Sunday, March 23, on his birthday. His actual birthday anniversary is March 26.

The Pastor's Aid Club of the church gave its annual birthday party on Tuesday, March 25, at the church.

Dr. William H. Fuller has served for the church, located at 2315 Fayetteville Street, for 46 years. Dr. Fuller is a devout pastor, is active in all organizations of the church, holds active membership in many civic organizations and participates in numerous community activities. He is also an expert in Baptist Polity.

The idea for the surprise celebration was conceived by Mrs. Hazel G. Weeks. Mrs. Weeks is Director and Announcer of the Weekly Church News and Hospitality.

In order to surprise the pastor printed leaflets were circulated through the assistance of the congregation on Sunday morning, who deposited their contributions in designated baskets as they left the services.

Immediately following the weekly announcements, Mrs. Weeks, borrowing from the idea of the T.V. Treasure Hunt concept, selected Dr. Fuller from the audience. He was the lucky contestant. His number was 26, the date of his birthday. The box with the gifts bore the number also....

Mrs. Weeks stated: "Dr. Fuller, we are sending you on a treasure hunt...we are cognizant of the fact that the Pastor's Aid Club gives to you an annual birthday party; but we wanted to do something here on Sunday morning where you preach and serve the overall congregation. In this way, we can show our appreciation also."

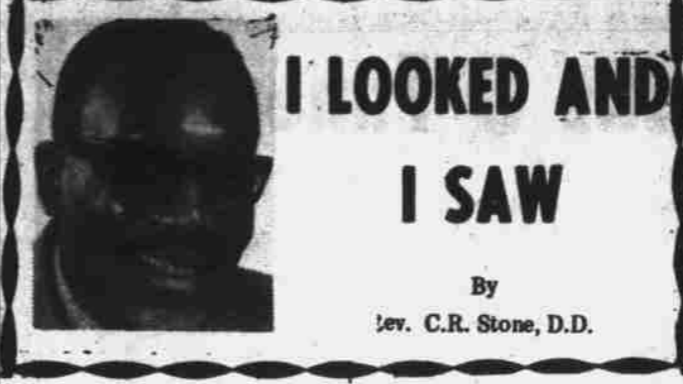
Then Mrs. Weeks reached into the big box and pulled out a fourteen inch silver tree which was beautifully decorated with green bills. The second time Mrs. Weeks withdrew from the box an envelope. Enclosed she found a card with a lovely verse and more green bills taped to the card. The card was signed from the congregation of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. Back into the box a third time and Mrs. Weeks found a smaller box decorated like the big one. This box contained the late contributions by friends and acquaintances of the pastor. This effort was spearheaded by Mrs. Louise Burroughs.

"No birthday is a birthday without a cake, stated Mrs. Weeks. A cake was withdrawn from a box. Mrs. Weeks topped the cake with one tiny green candle, lit it, and asked Dr. Fuller to make one wish and then to blow out the candle.

Dr. Fuller stated: "I would like to have many more celebrations like this." Mrs. Weeks commented that she wished that he would have many more and many more years of service.

Then the entire congregation stood and sang happy birthday to the pastor. At the end of the first stanza - youthful voices could be heard singing a second stanza - "How old are you-?"

After moments of song,



**I LOOKED AND I SAW**

By Rev. C.R. Stone, D.D.

**"LOVE AT ITS BEST"**

Men who really know God may best view Him as a Spirit of Love. We can see our God as one who makes His affection available to fallen man in being responsible to one's needs. For example, although man disobeyed the Father through a divine point of instruction in the beginning. He reacted with divine love in showing His concern. Again, we are able to observe that true love, as demonstrated by the Father carries an element of responsibility. Further, our maker showed to no limited degree, as found in the Word that the helpless needed help.

Because man fell from the grace of the sustaining power of God, the Father was immediately grieved. Yet, the Father was not grieved so much that He had no plan to restore man. As a matter of consideration, God has never been caught by a surprised move on man's part to do evil or righteousness. In fact, God knows man's desires and intentions well in advance but it was the Father's wish to thrust man into His framework of glory. Man could have lived in joy eternally within the beauty of the Father's paradise. Since man did not choose this course of glory, thus falling into temptation, God expressed His divine love plan of salvation.

Love at its best hinges on the responsibility of giving as set forth by our God. As a matter of fact, who among us can come close to demonstrating a perfect love likened unto our God? Further, the Greater laid a foundation of love beneath fallen man who had no help within his own power. Love at its best came to man in the likeness of another man who entered the world as a Holy Child. The child may appear to others as being no different than any other sinful child, but He is the Son of God thus bringing good news from heaven to all men.

The perfect Son lived and immediately grew in stature with God's favor. At an early age He was seen among many scholars answering questions which they could not provide. Further, the Son demonstrated to others around Him that He belonged to the heavenly storehouse of love because He showed great compassion for those whom He met along the true way of life. As the Son was eager to exhibit love at its best for men, men did not always respond to Him nor to others with loving concern. In fact, men allowed a period in biblical history to be written called Easter because many would-be followers of the Son helped crucify our loveable mediator. Although our loveable Saviour was crucified and buried, love at its best was not exhausted by no means. The same God who instituted love at its best raised His favorite Son to eternal glory.

He who hath ears to hear—let him hear.



Some of the members of the Baha'i community and their guests who attended the Baha'i New Year celebration, Thursday evening (March 20).

**Baha'i Community Celebrates New Year**

On Thursday, March 20, the Baha'i community of Durham held a celebration of Baha'i New Year at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bentz, 1614 Cheek Road. The Baha'i Faith has a calendar that begins on the first day of spring, March 21. The Baha'i era began on the day of the religion's birth, May 23, 1844. Hence this New Year festival begins the 132nd year of the Baha'i era.

The New Year (called Naw-Ruz by the Baha'is) celebration included a pot luck dinner followed by the showing of a movie, "Step by Step," which traces the development of the Baha'i Faith in several Latin American countries.

There are no churches or clergy in the Baha'i Faith, hence no ritual to the meetings that are held. The reason for this, Baha'is say, is that the Founder of their Faith Baha'u'llah, characterized the age as that of man's spiritual maturity, in which every person is responsible for his or her own moral, ethical, and spiritual development. The Baha'is of Durham, like their coreligionists around the world, believe that Baha'u'llah, a religious personage who was active in Persia during the latter half of the 19th century, developed a religious system that will enable mankind to overcome its inherent divisiveness and achieve a long-awaited unification and harmony of purpose.

"That which the Lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith," said Baha'u'llah, whose Persian title translated means the Glory of God.

That Baha'is believe that Baha'u'llah is the most recent revealer of God's will for men. Among the other divien educators they list Jesus, Muhammad, Buddha, and Zoroaster. Baha'u'llah, who was born to a powerful Persian family, was jailed and tortured because of what the leaders believed was an audacious and dangerous claim. He was a captive of Muslim governments for almost 40 years. He died in exile in Palestine in 1892, at his home near the present World Center of the Baha'i Faith which is situated in Haifa, Israel, on the slopes of Mount Carmel.

In the extensive Baha'i writings, many volumes are in the hand of Baha'u'llah himself the urgent needs for social reform - as well as spiritual regeneration are stressed.

Hence Baha'is, such as those of Durham, believe in the equality of men and women, the harmony of science and religion, the need for the elimination of all forms of prejudice, for universal compulsory education, an international auxiliary language, and a uniform monetary system throughout the world.

One of the ways, the importance of the Baha'i Faith was emphasized by its Founders was through the introduction of a new calendar, which they called the Badi calendar, the Baha'is explain. Baha'is believe this new calendar may provide an important alternative to the existing calendars used throughout the world when the nations undertake to standardize the system of measuring time in

(Continued On Page 7)

**"Seven Last Words Of Christ" Good Friday Choral Offering**

The sacred cantata "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by French composer Theodore Dubois has become as traditional in its local church setting at the hands of the White Rock Baptist Church choir as Duke Chapel Christmas presentations of Handel's "Messiah".

This year for the first time, the White Rock Choir will perform the Dubois work in Duke Chapel, accompanied by an instrumental ensemble from Hillside High School and directed by John H. Gattis, the choir's conductor.

Assisting in the 7:30 p.m. performance will be Mrs. Lavinia Parker at the organ and

**MT. CALVARY UCC TO HOST COOPERATIVE MINISTRY ON SUN.**

The fifth Sunday services of the Community Cooperative Ministry will be held at the Mount Calvary United Church of Christ on Athens Street Easter Sunday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. Bell-Yeager Church will be host. The public is invited to join in with these services. Those churches that have buses are asked to make bus pick-ups in order that anyone who desires to attend may have transportation.

comments and meditation, the pastor shared with the congregation a memorable sermon - "A Beautiful Church" Scripture Reference: Songs of Solomon 4:3.

**SUNRISE SERVICE TO BE HELD SUN. AT PEACE BAPTIST**

On Easter Sunday morning a Sunrise Service will be held at the Peace Missionary Baptist Church, 1212 East Main Street at 6:00 o'clock. The program will feature a pageant entitled "The Cup And The Cross" in music and narration, followed with "The Service of Communion." The music will be rendered by the combined choirs of the church under the direction of Miss Mary Ann Hawkins.

Following the program breakfast will be served for member and guests. The pastor is W.E. Daye. The public is invited to attend.

**REVIVAL MINISTER**

Rev. Julius Scipio, pastor of the Bunton Institutional C.M.E. Church of Spartansburg, S.C., served as revival minister at the Russell Memorial C.M.E. Church March 24-28.

The services began each night at 7:00 p.m.

**MILK PRODUCTION**

North Carolina dairy cows produced 10,992 pounds of milk each last year, up 446 pounds from the previous year. Average production in some of the state's leading dairies runs 15,000 to 17,000 pounds per cow and higher.



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**White Rock Baptist Church**

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Lorenzo A. Lynch, Pastor

Sunday - March 30, 1975  
Easter Sunday

9:30 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL  
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

SERMON The Pastor  
"On Carrying the cross of Christ (Part V) - Too Good Too late." (Matthew 27:54 Luke 23:47)

Senior Choir - leading the singing, Mr. John Gattis, Director

The Junior Ushers - Ushering.