

A POTPOURRI OF RECENT EVENTS

George B. Russ

The 12th Anniversary salute to Dr. Grady Demus Davis, (1964-1976), theme: "The Small Man with the Lion's Voice" - Foster R. Ize, began its 8-day celebration, Sunday, January 4th, 11 o'clock, a.m. with Deacon James Pointer presiding. Pulpit associates were: Deacons Clarence Jones, Claude Walker, Rev. Lottie B. Kee, Rev. Foster R. Ize, Dr. Grady D. Davis, Deacon McKinly Cates, Sr.

Music was under the direction of Grover Wilson/Mrs. Vera Farmer; the Senior Choir sang. The message, Dr. Grady D. Davis, "The Pursuit of Happiness-1976." Text: Psalms 146:5, Matthew 5:1-12.

"My Profile of Dr. Grady D. Davis" by chairman of Deacon Board, Jake Sowell: "I served as chairman of the pulpit committee when the time came for us to find a pastor for this church. We, the pulpit committee interviewed a lot of preachers during the

time of our short search. All of them fine, well-qualified ministers, but none of them really appealed to me as the preacher for pastoring this congregation. Then, Dr. William H. Fuller, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, suggested that we contact Dr. Grady D. Davis, pastor of Oberlin Baptist Church. We made the contact: Dr. Davis kept us supplied with a list of prospective pastors, but he turned down our



Foster R. Ize

invitations to fill a preaching engagement. After awhile, Dr. William H. Fuller persuaded him to accept an invitation to preach for us one Sunday. He came, I immediately liked the little man. he was easy to talk with, friendly a family man; well-trained. I was sold on this one. To my thinking, he was just the man we needed for this church and I heartily endorsed him and readily, for the first time recommended a preacher to the committee." Sowell paused in introductory remarks, nodded his neatly trimmed head in the direction of the listening honoree, then he added, "Dr. Davis will listen to what one has to say. He listened to our pleas, but he wouldn't say, 'yes.' Between Dr. Fuller and the Pulpit Committee, we persuaded him in October of 1963 to say he would consider the pastorate at Union. He had promised that he would accept our proposal. I was satisfied that he would

keep his word; Dr. Davis makes it a point to keep the promises he makes. We don't always see eye to eye, but we work close together just fine. I have enjoyed working with him during the past 12 years; he is a smart man, a busy man; and, I am sure I speak the sentiments of this congregation when I say, he has done much for the growth and progress of this great church. The Hospitality Committee's Annual New Year's Party was held, for the first time "across the tracks," in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Partin, 1009 Delray Street, Riddle Heights. The covered dish affair was artistically arranged into a beautiful buffet-supper served in the colorful dining area of the Partin's spacious, well-appointed home; Chopped collard greens, black eye peas, barbecue ribs within easy reach. Other gourmet specialties included baked ham, fried chicken, chicken 'n dumplings, sliced

tomatoes, fresh green peas - cakes, pies and Fruit Punch.

The evening progressed with riotous fun 'n frolic. Mrs. Pauline Boxley, chairperson of the Hospitality Committee, coordinated the games; "I'm Going to Hattie P. Partin's House to a Party," performing stunts. Mrs. Elaine Pratt passed out New Year's gifts, a swinging Santa Claus was among the gifts passed out. Guests: Ms. Annie M. Dunigan, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pratt, Dean-Na Marie, Frank junior and Miss Sharron Pratt, Mrs. Annie E. Daniels, Mr. and Mrs. Lennis Cooper, George B./Stattie H. Russ, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Peace, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Taylor, Mrs. Lugenia Shaw, Miss Cathy Parrish, Mrs. Geraldine Day, Mr. and Mrs. Abner Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Winston Maddock, Miss Shelia Mason, Abner Mason, Jr., Mrs. Pauline Boxley, Mrs. Elnora Ransom, and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Edwards.

WRITERS FORUM

by George B. Russ

One of the finest musical programs of the winter season, at Union Baptist Church, was the Grady Davis Choir's Concert, Sunday, December 28, 1975; a memorial in honor of the late Mrs. Dorcas Croom Reaves.

"Go Preach My Gospel" opened the two-part concert featuring the songs Mrs. Reaves loved most: "Blessed Assurance, King of Glory, Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled, Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho" and "Fare You Well, Fare You Well."

All renditions bore the Dorcas Reaves' mark of perfection in "4-part harmony."

The amiable Mrs. Georgette Parker, was soloist for "Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled".

The swiny, joyous melody of the heaven-bound spiritual "Fare you Well, Fare you Well" was heightened by a duet arrangement featuring the tenor voice of Grover Wilson, Jr., and the second soprano voice of Mrs. Marianne Taylor.

All of the music was under the direction of Grover Wilson, Jr., minister of music. During intermission, the offertory



WILLIAM REAVES

service was conducted by the husbands of the wives appearing in the concert; also, reports of the "Count Your Blessings Drive" were made by members of the choir.

The dedication service for the Dorcas Croom Reaves Memorial Fund was conducted by the members of the Coordination Committee of the Christian Board of Education; Chairman, Robert L. Perry, Secretary of C. B. of E., Mrs. Bernadette Cooper, Chairm of Deacon Board, Jake Sowell, Church-secretary, Mrs. Eloise Edwards, George B. Russ, Church-historian.

"I'm A Transient Pilgrim," sung by Mrs.

Luvenia Long, a long time friend of Mrs. Reaves; Mrs Long is a retired veteran singer of the Senior Choir, opened the dedication service. A brief history of "Why a Dorcas Croom Reaves Memorial Fund" was read by Mrs. Bernadette Cooper, "The Validity Status" of the Dorcas C. Reaves



MRS. DORCAS C. REAVES

Memorial Fund was read by Mrs. Eloise Edwards; A Roll Call of Board of Directors was executed by Robert L. Perry. The prayer of dedication was conducted by Mrs. Annie M. Dunigan. Certificates of Confirmation were presented to the Reaves family; William Reaves, husband, Mrs. Blanche



REV. THOMAS GRISWELL

Griswell, sister; Rev. Thomas C. Griswell, brother-in-law. Dr. Grady D. Davis accepted the certificate in behalf of the church. The presentations were made by church-historian, George B. Russ.

The cathedral aspect projected by the Grady Davis Choir in Part-I was changed to the expression of a Girls Finishing School's Choral Presentation. The sobriety of the marron/white robes was replaced by elegant dusty rose evening gowns.

Part-II opened with the melliflous "Beautiful Garden of Prayer". A fine trio, Mrs. Eloise Edwards, Mrs. Blanche Griswell and

Mrs. Joanne Jones, enhanced the beauty of the perennially popular spiritual, "Heavenly Father's Children". The choir also included the Baptist Sunday School's favorite, "What a Friend". Grover Wilson was soloist in "My God Can Do Anything." Mrs. Shawn Person and Essex Fields,



MRS. BLANCHE C. GRISWELL

Jr., orbited the concert when they led the choir in "God Specializes". A bevy of beautiful people carried the trio section in "God Makes a Way For His Children". Mrs. Bernadette Cooper, Mrs. Luvenia Shaw and Essex Fields, Jr. "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus," with Wilson See WRITERS FORUM page