

church and religion

He Inspires With His Music

By ROBIN ADAMS
Staff Writer

Raymond L. Couthen Sr. is a very calm, unassuming man who would probably be comfortable anywhere he goes.

But sit Couthen in front of a piano and he comes to life.

Couthen, 42, has been playing the piano since he was six or seven -- he can't remember exactly when. "One day I just went up to the piano and started playing it. Then it didn't make a big impact on my life. It was something that I just did," he says.

"I get inspiration and enjoyment from playing both the piano and organ," Couthen adds. "It just makes you feel good."

As Couthen sits down at the piano, his fingers, which are uncharacteristically short for a pianist's, glide easily over the black and white keys.

His favorite song: "I Can Depend On Jesus."

"The words to the song are just a testimony of my life," Couthen says. "That song also represents my philosophy. I know that when I am down and out, the Lord is always nearby."

Although Couthen enjoys playing and listening to gospel music alone, he is also the organizer, arranger and writer for the St. Stephen Baptist Church Youth Choir, the Voices of Faith Ensemble, The Saints from St. John CME Church and the Winston-Salem Interdenominational Mass Choir.

He attended Winston-Salem State University, where he studied music, and is a graduate of the Roger Williams Music Studio. In addition, Couthen is a songwriter and arranger for Broadcast Music Inc., a music company in Atlanta, and has been involved in the production of five albums.

But that's not all. Between arranging and choir practices, Couthen is a choir robe dealer, works third shift for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and is married and the father of six children.

His family is involved in music, too. His wife Gail, sings with the St. Stephen Youth Choir and three of his sons (one a singer, the second a drummer and the third a bongo player) and a daughter who sings are musically inclined as well and members of several of the choirs Couthen works



Playing inspirational songs on the piano is Raymond L. Couthen's way of expressing his relationship with God (photo by James Parker).

with. How does one man manage so many activities? "To do all that I do, I would say that I have to be a dedicated person who has a little talent and a whole lot of interest," Couthen says. He adds, "My work is a little easier because I believe in the goodness of the

Lord." "You can't sing gospel music unless you know what you are singing about. You must be saved to sing gospel," Couthen says. "A minister couldn't preach unless he knows about God. Although there are some in the ministry who don't know that much about God, they are not

reaching people with what they are saying." But Couthen realizes that what he is doing is not easy work and takes a lot of patience. "You have to learn how to be patient," he says. "When you are working with choirs, you deal with so many different people. Folks don't want to come to practice and do what they

have to do in order to produce the product they want to produce." He adds, "If I wanted to, I could just sit at home and sing to myself. But I measure my success by the number of people I reach with my singing. And everybody wants to be a success, so I just keep at it and keep trying harder."

Church Calendar

LUCILE DOUTHIT

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

•A special Lenten service will be held at the Ambassador Cathedral at 1500 English St. at noon. Bishop F.D. Patterson will be delivering the sermon. Lenten service will also be held March 18, at midnight, with Patterson as the host pastor. All are welcome to attend.

•Today is the registration deadline for the YWCA's March 19 religious seminar. Call Marilyn Truesdale at 722-5138 for information. Reservations must be made in advance.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

•The 15th anniversary of the Apostolic Church of Christ Spiritual Chorus will be held at the church at 2044 Stadium Drive. Services will be held at 7:30 p.m. and on March 19. Services will also be held at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. on March 20. The anniversary will feature the Inspirational Jubilee Singers from Philadelphia, Penn. as special guests and it will also include other gospel groups.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

•The United Methodist Women of St. James United Methodist Church of Rural Hall will observe Womens' Day at 4 p.m. at the church. The speaker will be Gennie Britt from the Crisis Control Ministry. The Rev. J.T. Jones is pastor of the church.

•The Christian Education Department of the Winston-Salem District AME Zion Church is sponsoring an evening of gospel entertainment at 5 p.m. at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Design at 226 N. Marshall St.

•Mrs. Dottie Butler of the Rape Line will be the guest speaker during Shiloh Baptist Church's Baptist Training Union Period, which begins at 4:45 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

•The Senior Missionary Department of Zion Memorial Baptist Church will have its annual tea from 4 - 6 p.m. at the church. Talent will be provided by each table represented. The tea will center around St. Patrick's Day. The Rev. Joseph Jones and congregation cordially invite everyone to attend.

•The 39th anniversary of St. Stephen Baptist Church and the 26th anniversary of its pastor, the Rev. J.R. Samuels will feature the Rev. J.C. Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Statesville, as the 11 a.m. speaker. At 3 p.m., the Rev. Jerry Drayton, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, and his church congregation will be the guests.

Please see page 21

Moore Named Mission Secretary

Dr. Jerry A. Moore Jr. was appointed corresponding secretary of the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. by convention President Theodore Jemison at the mid-winter board meeting held Jan. 19 and 20.

In making the appointment, Jemison said, "Dr. Moore is highly qualified to carry on this work for the convention." He also urged the convention to give Moore their full support.

Moore has served as the chaplain for Baptist students at Howard Univer-

sity since 1948, a project supported by the Home Mission Board. Moore is pastor of the historic Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, founded in 1839 in Washington. His church has been a leading supporter of Home Missions for a number of years. In addition, Moore is president of the Baptist Convention of the District of Columbia and vicinity.

Among the projects the board will undertake is a Christian voter registration drive. Jemison emphasized his desire for the convention to register 3,000,000

new voters. Each state and association president was urged to solicit the cooperation of the pastors in their groups to lead their members to register to vote. State presidents, associa-

tion presidents and pastors will make reports in September at the annual session in Los Angeles. Moore's mailing address is Box 706, Washington, D.C., 20004.



Jerry A. Moore Jr.

Williams To Speak At Dellabrook

Dr. Kenneth R. Williams will be the speaker for the 11 a.m. worship service at Dellabrook Presbyterian Church on Sunday. The following outgoing officers will be recognized for their

outstanding service to the church: Betty Hannon, Clifton O. Matthews, Anne Penn and Hazel Sumlers, Rachel Crosby, Jesse Scarborough, Irma B. Spigner, Elisa Thompkins, Billie

Matthews, Valjeanne S. Smith and Joe Hannon. Mrs. Matthews served as church treasurer and is being replaced by Sarah J. Boone. Mrs. Smith was secretary of the diaconate.

Hannon, who served as the church bookkeeper and vice chairman of the diaconate, has been elected chairman of the diaconate. She replaces Fred Terry. The public is invited.

Freedom Baptist Gets New Church

The members and pastor of Freedom Baptist Church recently moved into a new building on 1222 E. 14th St.

The old church was located in the old fire sta-

tion at 214 N. Dunleith Ave. The Rev. Waldo S. Hauser said, "While in the fire station, God truly blessed us. The church has grown in membership and

in the grace of God, and now, God has seen fit to bless us even further."

Hauser added, "I was content with what God had already given us and we us-

ed that to praise his name. Now he has given us even more, but we'll still praise him as before -- just in a new home."

Pilgrim Rest Baptist To Honor Edwards

The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church will sponsor an appreciation service at the church in honor of former deacon board chairman Sam Edwards on Sunday, March 20, at 3 p.m.

Edwards, who lives at 1512 E. 22nd St., has served as chairman of the deacon board since the church was organized 23 years ago. The guest speaker will be Clark S. Brown, owner and operator of Clark S. Brown and Sons Funeral Home.



Sam Edwards

Women's Day Slated

Hanes Memorial CME Church will celebrate its annual Women's Day Celebration on March 19 and 20 at the church.

On Saturday, a Feast of Salads will be held at 5 p.m. at the church. A biblical drama entitled, "New Testament Women Whose Work Speaks For Them Today" will be presented.

On Sunday at 9:30 a.m., all Sunday school classes will be taught by the church women. At the 11 a.m. worship service, the speaker

will be Alderman Vivian Burke. The Women's Chorus of Hanes Memorial CME Church will provide the music.

At 6 p.m., a candle light service and "One Hundred Women in White," a religious program, will be held.

Women's Day chairpersons are Ms. Daisy Montgomery, feast of salads; Mrs. Dorothy Archie, program; Mrs. Annie Morman, publicity and Mrs. Georgia Smith, women's day.

WSMX

1500 AM RADIO
10,000 WATTS

Sales Division (919) 761-1545

the VOICE
of
BLACK
WINSTON-SALEM

& the people
listen

1703-A Link Road
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103

WINSTON-SALEM'S MOST POWERFUL
AM STATION

THE SOURCE OF ★ THE WORD

- ★ GOSPEL MUSIC
- ★ GOOD PREACHING
- ★ INFORMATION

with a loyal audience tuning into news, weather, sports, features and the most exciting giveaways (the key to winning is simply listening) in the northwest Piedmont, western North Carolina, including parts of Virginia, Tennessee and West Virginia.

THE ULTIMATE IN MESSAGE MUSIC
Total Community Involvement