

religion

News, Features, Calendar, Obituaries

CALENDAR

Compiled By Lucile Douthit

THURSDAY, JULY 28

•The Rev. Ira McCullough, associate minister at St. John Baptist Church, will speak at Crystal Towers at West Sixth Street at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

•Hot dogs, hamburgers, cakes and pies will be on sale at John Apostle Church at 1131 E. 21st St. from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The sale is sponsored by the church's Usher Board, Missionaries and Brotherhood auxiliaries.

•Greater Faith Chapel Church of God in Christ will have a bake sale at the East Winston Shopping Center.

SUNDAY, JULY 31

•The Pulpit Aid Club of St. John Baptist Church at 1200 N. Cleveland Ave. will have a fellowship tea from 5-6 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mrs. Levitha Mack.

•The Spiritual Choir of Zion Hill Baptist Church will celebrate its fourth anniversary at the church at 3 p.m. The church is at 2920 N. Greenway Ave.

•The Gospel Supremes of Emmanuel Baptist Church will be in concert at the church at 1075 Shalimar Drive at 5 p.m.

•The quarterly program of the Joint Missionary Society of Shiloh Baptist Church will be held at the church at 6:15 p.m. with the theme "Praise God, The Lord is Using Me."

The Chronicle welcomes church calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should also include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Church Calendar, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The deadline for announcements is Mondays at 5:30.

Focus On Religion

The pastor's role when death strikes

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

When death strikes, it is often traumatic. Between arranging the funeral and handling sympathetic friends, family members need special, strong reinforcement to help them through the ordeal. That reinforcement often comes from the minister.

"The moment I'm informed about the death of a member (in his congregation), I go to see the family," says the Rev. Jerry Drayton, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church.

"I go to the bedside of the person who is dying to let the person understand that God is a God of comfort."

-- The Rev. J. Ray Butler

Drayton, who says he pastors a church that has a high number of deaths -- up to 35 per year -- because he has a large congregation and a large number of sick and elderly members, says the pastor can perform many duties when a church member dies.

Comforting the family and letting them know that death is an "inevitable part of the human experience" is one service the minister provides, says Drayton, who took pastoral counseling at Bowman Gray School of Medicine to help him properly handle such situations. "And I try to get them to rely on their faith to sustain them," he says.

Drayton says the minister can also be faced with other problems that are associated with death in the family, such as property squabbles. "I deal with it if asked," he says. "I try to get the facts. If, for example, daughter A shares all the responsibilities (for caring for the person and property), then in all fairness, this person is entitled. "We provide help in the preparation of the program,



The Rev. J. Ray Butler, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, says the black minister helps prepare his congregation members for the Hereafter (photo by James Parker).

such as securing flower girls, and we have a bereavement committee to prepare food for the family before and after the funeral," Drayton says.

For the person who knows he or she is dying, Drayton says the minister's role can be different.

"Most of them accept that fact, and we try to strengthen them with the Christian faith," says Drayton.

The Rev. J. Ray Butler, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, which also has a large congregation and frequent funerals, says blacks church members tend to accept death easier, whether it's a family member or themselves.

"Black folk have been reared to come through their trials, even before slavery time, and we're not hung up on material things," Butler says. "For the most part, blacks are prepared for their own death. What we (ministers) have to do is prepare the family members. The black preacher has constantly pointed to the eternal world."

Butler says he not only consoles the family, but "I go to the bedside of the person who is dying to let the person understand that God is a God of comfort. I do that with

all parishioners, even if they are just in the hospital and it is not terminal."

The Rev. Rhodford Anderson, pastor of Union Chapel Baptist Church, says he also helps the family in many ways, ranging from giving business advice in making funeral arrangements to helping children in the family cope with the trauma.

"I think that we have to be careful about the songs that are sung at the funeral," Anderson says. "A funeral can be made sad. The preacher shouldn't preach very long and should ask the family to remember the positive things that happened during the person's lifetime."

Although Anderson says he hasn't had a lot of situations in his church where a person was dying and needed counseling, he recalls one family that had a loved one on a life-support system and needed advice.

"At one point, I was asked a question as to whether to take a member off a life-support machine," Anderson says.

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Church Notes

First Baptist Church hosts combined church choir concert

Dellabrook Presbyterian, First Baptist, Mt. Zion Baptist, New Bethel Baptist, St. Paul United Methodist and United Metropolitan Baptist churches recently hosted a joint church choir concert at First Baptist Church.

Approximately 300 people attended the concert and 99 performers from numerous individual choirs presented a repertoire of hymns, gospel, anthem and spiritual songs.

Choir directors were Evon Reid, Robert Hunt, Rudolph V. Boone Sr., Dollye Mack, Harry D. Wheeler and Dan W. Andrews. Accompanists were K.W. Chavis, Cornelia J. Forbes, Mozelle H. Johnson, Wanda Starks, Martha S. Atkins and Dollye Mack.

Other participants on the program were Dr. David R. Hedgley, the Rev. Belvin J. Jessup and the Rev. William S. Epps.

The idea for the joint choir concert was started by First Baptist Church. Mrs. Louise Smith and Andrews coordinated the program with the help of the other directors. The combined choirs have been invited to make

special appearances at several other churches in September and October.

Group Sponsors Meeting in Durham

The North Carolina Committee for the Removal of all Images That Attempt to Portray the Divine (CRAID) Coalition recently hosted a Regional "Interfaith Appeal and Community Dialogue" in Durham.

The purpose of the appeal was to continue the call for the removal of all images that attempt to portray the divine and to promote interfaith unity and co-operation among the religions.

The regional appeal brought together CRAID Ambassadors representing Al-Islam, Christianity and Judaism from CRAID committees in New York, New Jersey, Washington, Virginia, Baltimore, Delaware, Philadelphia and throughout North Carolina.

Activities included a prayer breakfast, a press conference, community lectures, a mass rally, an educational workshop on "The Psychological Dangers of Racial Imagery," and entertainment was provided by Yusef and Friends, Bus Brown, and the Healing Force.

Since 1977, CRAID, under the leadership of Iman Warith Deen Muhammad, has spoken on behalf of more than one billion Muslims about the psychological and social ills which result from worshipping idolatrous and pagan images. As a result, hundreds of ministers and their congregation have removed images from their churches and are actively supporting the CRAID movement as members and sympathizers.

For additional information on CRAID, contact Nashid A. Rahman at 724-0258.

Church Sponsors Prison Ministry

The Freedom Road Evangelist Ministry, conducted by

seven different churches, recently held a baptism and Holy Communion service at Danbury Corrections Center in Stokes County.

The baptism service was conducted in the Danbury River by the Rev. Samuel Cornelius, pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church. Three inmates and one female prisoner were baptized.

The group also held the 4th annual jubilee at the prison. Many churches from around the area participated in the jubilee and 129 inmates participated in the service.

The Rev. Richard Lowery, pastor of Pine Hall Baptist Church, was the speaker for the service. The two recent services, sponsored by the Freedom Road Evangelist Ministry, are only a sample of the many services and programs the group have sponsored at the prison.

For additional information, call Cornelius at 723-4825 or Mother Adams at 725-7749.

Deaths And Funerals

Mr. Manassa Joseph Goolsby passes

Mr. Manassa Joseph Goolsby was born in Pine Hall, N.C., on Jan. 31, 1906; a son of the late George Early and Emma Reid Goolsby. He died Tuesday night, July 19, 1983, in Forsyth Memorial Hospital. Mr. Goolsby spent his early and middle years in Pine Hall until he came to Winston-Salem to assume the position of funeral director and manager of Forsyth Funeral Home Inc. He and his wife later became permanent residents. Goolsby was affiliated with Wither's Chapel United Methodist Church, where he was a member of the choir, church school superintendent, church treasurer and youth group worker. He was licensed by the N.C. State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors in 1949 to practice the art of funeral directing, which he continued until his health declined. He also worked for Pine Hall Brick and Pipe Company and Washington Mills Company, Mayodan, N.C. Goolsby held membership in the N.C. Embalmers and Funeral Directors Association, Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, Salem Lodge No. 139 and the Knights of Pythias. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Lacy Mae Malloy Goolsby; three daughters, Mrs. Helen Louise G. Hairston, Ms. Lavanuel Morrow G. Lang of Winston-Salem and Ms. Yvonne Quenetta G. Spencer of Philadelphia, Pa.; two grandsons, Thurmond Maurice Spencer and William Gregory Spencer of Philadelphia; his son-in-law, Marshall Carl Hairston of the city; four brothers, Charles Henry and Wray Douglas Goolsby of Walnut Cove, the Rev. Norman Mitchell Goolsby of Arnold, Md., and Earl Coy Goolsby of Milwaukee, Wis.; two sisters, Mrs. Alicia Geraldine G. Miller of the city

and Mrs. Anna Jewell G. Watkins of Walkertown; his aunt, Mrs. Pearl Reid Enoch of the city; four sisters-in-law, Catherine, Elizabeth, Marion and Lessie Goolsby; two brothers-in-law, Howard Miller and James Watkins; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 23, 1983, at St. Paul United Methodist Church by the Rev. Belvin J. Jessup. Interment followed in Garden of Memory Cemetery with Masonic Fraternal Rites performed by Salem Lodge No. 139. Haizlip Funeral Home Inc. of High Point, N.C., was in charge of services.

Mrs. Sallie Cobbs Ligons, of 400 - 24 1/2 St., N.W., died Thursday, July 21, 1983, at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. She was a native of Greenwood County, S.C., and had lived in this city for over 45 years. Mrs. Ligons was a member of New Bethel Baptist Church and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center Senior Citizens Club. Survivors include her daughter, Mrs. Lucille Posey; her son-in-law, Howard Posey, both of the home; three cousins, Mrs. Willie Mae Brooks of Tampa, Fla., Booker Rapley of Spartanburg, S.C., and J.L. Wilson of this city, other relatives and friends. Funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 23, in the Chapel of the Funeral Home by the Rev. Dr. Jerry Drayton. Interment followed in Lincoln Memorial Gardens, Spartanburg, S.C. Hooper Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mr. Odell Floyd Gist, of 1216 E. 21st St., died Wednesday, July 20, 1983, in N.C. Baptist Hospital. He was

born in Spartanburg, S.C., and had lived in this city for over 20 years. Mr. Gist was a retired factory worker and a Baptist by faith. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Tommie Gist of the city, several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Monday, July 25, in the Chapel of the Funeral Home by the Rev. W.R. Brewington. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Johnson's Home of Memory Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mr. Willie Bubber Fuller, of 2414 Patterson Ave., died Tuesday, July 12, 1983, en route to N.C. Baptist Hospital. He was born in Florence, S.C., and had lived in this city for over 32 years. Mr. Fuller was a veteran of World War I. He was a construction worker and a Baptist by faith. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Bessie Neal Fuller of the city; a very devoted friend, Mrs. Ira LeWideman of the city, several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, July 16, in the Chapel of the Funeral Home by the Rev. W.R. Brewington. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Johnson's Home of Memory Funeral Directors were in charge of services.

Mr. Robert Brown Miller, of 2940 N. Patterson Ave., died Monday, July 18, 1983, in Forsyth Memorial Hospital. He was a native of this city and had lived here for 57 years. Mr. Miller attended the local public schools, was a tobacco worker and a member of Mt. Pleasant. Please see page B7



Manassa Joseph Goolsby