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Focus On Religion

Chaplain Never Closes His Door

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

One of the first things you notice about the Rev. Cedric Rodney's office is that he never closes his door, unless, of course, your business with him is confidential.

"I never close my door," he says, "because if it should be closed, the individual or student should close it."

As chaplain for Winston-Salem State University, Rodney, whose office is in the K. R. Williams Auditorium, serves as a counselor to students and faculty, as well to the community.

"I'm more or less the person who prays for the university," he says with a chuckle.

There are no crucifixes or illustrations of the Last Supper or any other sacred depictions displayed in his office, but hand-carved African pieces and a charcoal drawing of black women called "Women do get weary," are a part of his office decor. And then there are the many books of varying subjects on religion.

Rodney came to the University in 1969 as acting chaplain while the permanent one was studying for his master's at Wake Forest University.

It was later discovered that Rodney held a master's degree and he was offered a teaching position. Once established in the community, he became pastor of St. Phillips Moravian Church. Although no longer the pastor there, he says he remains a devout member.

In 1978, Rodney was granted the position as chaplain, and he has since been the wearer of numerous hats.

"As chaplain, or more correctly," he says, "head of the James A. Gray Professor of Religion Fund, I have to secure, from time to time, the service of prominent lecturers and ministers in the field of religion."

Rodney also heads the Interdenominational Youth for Christ, the Youth for Christ Choir, Campus Outreach

and various other religious arms of the university and the community.

Rodney is a visible figure on the WSSU campus, and he makes no bones about getting out meeting and greeting the students as often as his busy schedule will permit.

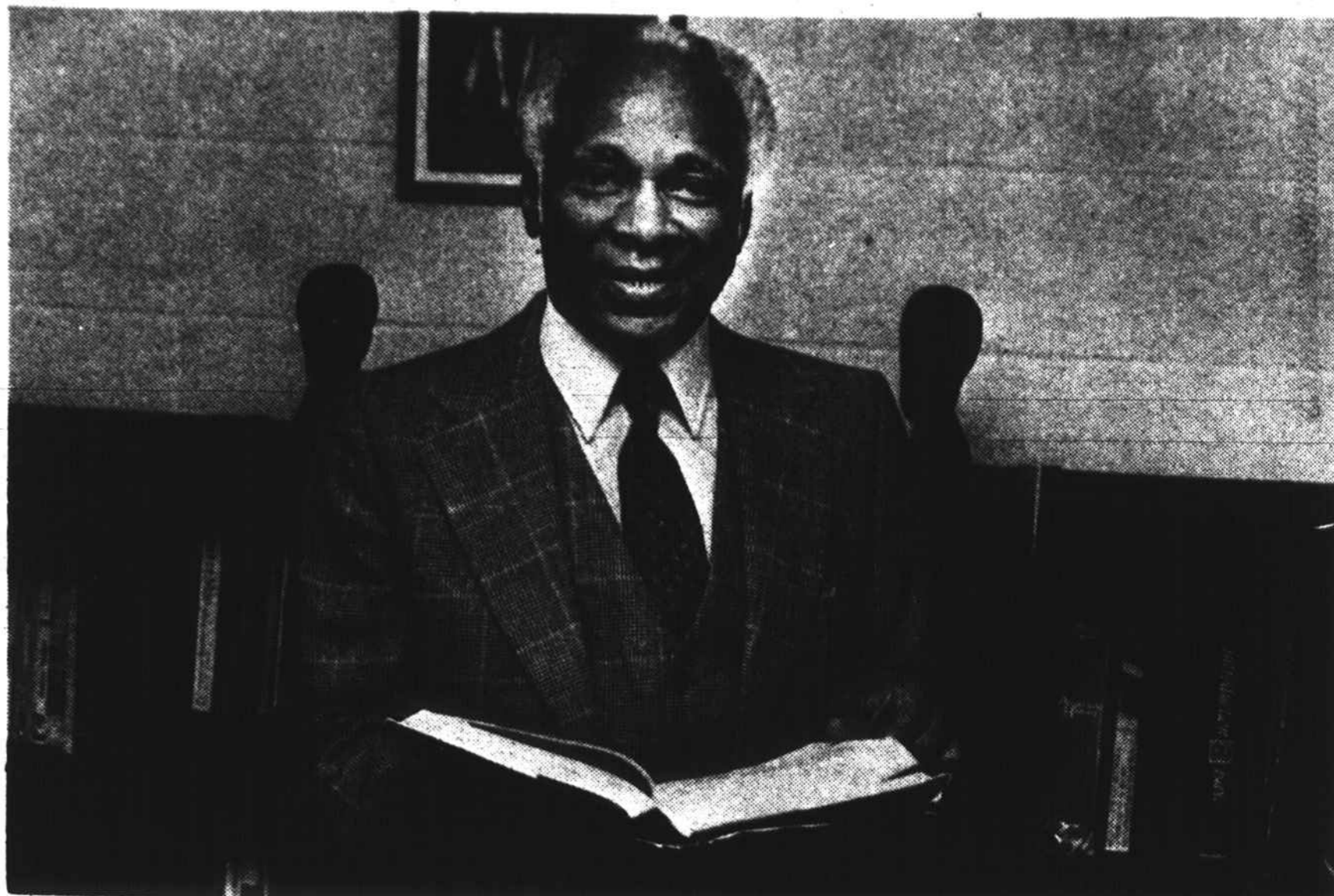
"I stop students and talk with them," he says. "I make myself available by trying not to be aloof. I want them to feel as though I'm one of the fellows or like a father to them. I touch them and hold them."

If there is an athletic activity or a campus function that requires an invocation, Rodney will be there.

Rodney is still teaching, and one of the classes he teaches in alternate semesters is the history of the black church.

"It's surprising, but a lot of people attend black churches and don't know how they got started. The black church is everything to us."

-- The Rev. Cedric Rodney



The Rev. Cedric Rodney, chaplain at Winston-Salem State University, never closes his door to students or faculty. He's always ready to offer condolences or a pat on the back (photo by James Parker).

"I told my students not to bring the text to class," he says. "We really use it as a common denominator only if we're stumped."

"It's surprising, but a lot of people attend black churches and don't know how they got started," he says. "The black church is everything to us."

He lists the names of Mordicah Wilson, Richard Allen and Carter G. Woodson as the "giants" of the black churches, and he says that in his classes he tries to get across just how important they were to the black church.

"We talk about the black colleges that came out of the church," he says. "Then, black colleges were the only forum of discussion for us."

Rodney, born in Georgetown, Guyana, has traveled extensively throughout the world. He speaks French, Latin and Spanish.

As a ham operator, he recently spoke with some of the people of Grenada about the American invasion, and he says he has communicated with almost every country in the world except China. Next week, however, will offer him every opportunity to speak with the Chinese.

Rodney and other members of the Friendship Force,

an international missionary organization, will leave for China this week for an 11-day stay.

In his Guyanese accent, Rodney says: "I do everything any chaplain would do and I try to be effective. I visit the sick and counsel. I don't give sight to the blind. I only encourage people to have faith."

"Jesus didn't heal the sick himself, it was the power of the Father and faith."

CALENDAR

Compiled By Lucile Douthitt

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

•Saints Home United Methodist Church will be holding a Poor Man's Dinner, Hobby Day and Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church.

•Wentz United Church of Christ will sponsor a rummage sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot of East Winston Shopping Center.

•The United Methodist Women of Trinity United Methodist Church will hold their Annual Bazaar at the church on Dalton Road in King from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The dining area will open at 9 a.m. with sausage biscuits and sugar cake for sale.

•The Brotherhood Department of Ishi Pentecostal Temple will be holding a "Saturday Night Special" service at 7 p.m. at the church.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

•The United Methodist Women of Saints Home United Methodist Church will hold a meeting, pledge service and World Thanks Offering at 4 p.m. at the church on 1390 Thurmond St.

•Evangelist Mary Ervin Abbott will be the guest speaker for the foreign mission at Ishi Pentecostal Temple, 1319 Excelsior St., at 3 p.m.

•Miracle Temple Holiness Church, 1160 E. 14th St., will begin their revival today. The Rev. John Sligh from World Mission Church, 1235 Alton St., will be the guest speaker. The revival concludes on Nov. 18.

•The Sunday School Department of Emmanuel Baptist Church will celebrate its 27th anniversary at 11 a.m. The Rev. J.C. Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Statesville, will be the guest speaker.

•Zion Hill Baptist Church will celebrate its fourth annual homecoming. The Rev. John E. Davis, pastor of First Baptist of Mebane, will be the guest speaker.

•The Shanta-Malia Choral will be in concert at Goler Memorial AME Zion Church, on Seventh Street and Patterson Avenue, at 4 p.m. The program is sponsored by the Home Mission and Don't Be Idle societies.

•Dreamland Park Baptist Church Gospel Choir will be celebrating its second anniversary at the church on 2340 Dunbar St. at 4 p.m. The Gospel Emotions will be the guest singers.

•The Senior Choir of Mt. Zion Baptist Church will celebrate its anniversary with a special performance of the mass choirs from Mt. Zion, New Bethel, First Baptist and United Metropolitan Baptist churches, Dellabrook Presbyterian Church and St. Paul United Methodist Church.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

•Zion Hill Baptist Church will begin its fall revival at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Freddie Brown, pastor of Mt. Gildeon Baptist Church of Cleveland, will be the guest speaker each night. The revival will conclude on Nov. 18.

Church Notes

Survival Crusade Held

Evangelist Shirley Caesar Williams will be in concert at a three-night Survival Crusade Revival at 7:40 p.m. nightly beginning Wednesday at Mt. Calvary Holy Church at 930 E. 14th Street.

Caesar is a renowned gospel artist, who has traveled extensively, is more recently known for her release "Jesus I Love Calling Your Name."

Caesar recently wedded Bishop H.I. Williams of Mt. Calvary Holy Church of America Inc. here in Winston-Salem. He is also chief executive of the church.

Other choirs and soloists will also be featured in the services.

The services will also mark the beginning of the local chapter of the Evangelist Shirley Caesar Outreach Crusades. Melvina Parker is founder of the local organization and that will serve as an extension of Caesar's office in Durham.

Funerals

Services Held For Mr. S. Bonner

Mr. Sylvester Bonner

Funeral service for Mr. Sylvester Bonner of 519 West 8th Street were held on Oct. 28 at 4 p.m. in Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home, with the Rev. B.F. Daniles and the Rev. J.L. McDaniels, officiating.

The remains did repose in the funeral home until the funeral hour.

Interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home took charge of services.

Mr. Ollie Cathel Watson

Funeral services for Mr. Ollie Cathel Watson of 2927 Bon Air Avenue were held on Oct. 31 at 4 p.m. in New

Bethel Baptist Church with Dr. Jerry Drayton officiating.

The remains did repose in the Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home until 3 p.m. at which time it was placed in state in the church until the funeral hour, and was not viewed after the eulogy.

The family did assemble and leave from the residence at 3:30 p.m. Monday enroute to the Church for the funeral services.

Interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery with Masonic Rites given by Ionic Lodge No. 72, Prince Hall Masons.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home took charge of services.

Frye To Speak For Race Progress Day

Justice Henry E. Frye, associate Justice of the State Supreme Court, will be the featured speaker at the 32nd annual Race Progress Day Celebration at 3 p.m. Sunday at New Bethel.

The celebration is being held in observance of the 59th anniversary of the Effort Club.

Frye, a native of Ellerbe, is an honors graduate of North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University and received the Juris Doctorate Degree, with honors from the University of North Carolina Law School at Chapel Hill.

Frye's work include service as an assistant U.S. At-

torney for the state's middle district, professor of law at North Carolina Central University, organizer and president of Greensboro National Bank, 12 years in the state House of Representatives and two years in the state Senate. Other affiliations include member of the Board of Directors of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and a member of the N.C. Advisory Commission.

Mrs. Audrey Easter and Mrs. Susan Hanes are chairpersons of the program planning and Mrs. Susie Drayton and Mrs. Betty Williams are committee members.

Rev. Mzimella Speaks At St. Stephen's

The Rev. Sipo Mzimella, South African National-Exile, Episcopalian priest, author and educator will speak at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Mzimella will discuss the apartheid regime in South Africa.

At 8 a.m. Thursday, he will address area ministers over breakfast at the Holiday Inn North.

Mzimella was born in South Africa. Most of his life evolved around education, either going to school or teaching.

While in South Africa, he was a nonviolent African National Congress activist. He joined the congress while training to be a teacher, but after the Sharpesville massacres in 1960, where scores of blacks were killed by the government, he left South Africa.

Mzimella traveled and lived throughout Africa and came to the United States from West Germany in 1974, at which time he studied for the Holy Orders. He received his Ph.D. from New York University and was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1976.

He will be addressing the issue of South Africa from the religious perspective. Mzimella's doctoral dissertation is a comparison of apartheid and Nazism and is the foundation of his recently published book, "Apartheid: South African Nazism."

His 27-city tour is sponsored and organized by the American Friends Service Committee's Peace Education

Committee. Mzimella's North Carolina appearances were organized by the North Carolina office of the Friends Service Committee.



Sipo E. Mzimella



Lee B. Nicklos

Men-Women-Youth Day Held At Shiloh Baptist

The 47th Annual Men-Women-Youth Day Occasion of Shiloh Baptist Church will be held on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 11 a.m. and at the 6:15 p.m. service. The program is sponsored by the President's Union, Layman's League and Advisory Council of the Youth Department.

Ms. Lee B. Nicklos, assistant director of personnel in Pittsburgh, will be the guest speaker. The women of the church and youth choir will provide the music.

The Youth Department will be in charge of the 6:15 p.m. service. Finals of the Men-Women-Youth Day financial report with the grand march of captains and co-captains and the crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Shiloh and Mr. and Miss Youth Shiloh will be held following the program.

The leaders for this occasion are Mrs. Faye Carter, women, and Mr. Charles Hall, men.