

# Religion

## Focus On Religion

### She loves to preach and sing

By AUDREY WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

On the national gospel music charts, the Myrna Summers album "You Are My Miracle" is holding its ground in the top 10. Adding to the LP's success is a single by Winston-Salem native and evangelist D'Arcy Weathers.

Weathers' single, "You Can Depend On God," was written for her by David Allen, who serves as minister of music for the Ambassadors For Christ Cathedral in Winston-Salem, where Weathers has been a member since her teen years.

Gospel radio disc jockey Paul Johnson of WSMX-AM radio says the single has done exceptionally well locally. Recorded live at the Cathedral with Summers, a Washington, D.C., native, and the Ambassadors for Christ Choir in 1980, the album wasn't released until 1983 on the Savoy label.

"Around here," he says, "D'Arcy Weathers' single is very popular. That song was number one for six or seven weeks and we still get calls on the request line for it."

Even with the exposure and the local fame her talented voice has brought her, Weathers isn't at all preoccupied with the attention she gets. Nor does she actually believe her voice is as good as people say it is.

"I do okay," says Weathers while spooning a small container of cottage cheese. "But there are a lot of other people in the world who are singing and they do it well."

"I just tried out for a song in the Ambassadors and I guess David thought I had a good voice," she says.

At 16, Weathers began her gospel singing career at St. Stephen Baptist Church on Bowen Boulevard and recorded an album with the choir there, where she was featured as a soloist. She later joined the Cathedral and has been singing with the choir there since then. But her ministry comes first, she says.

"I love singing," she says, "but I love preaching as well. I was called to preach before I was called to sing."

"God gave me a twofold gift and I'm grateful to him for that," Weathers says.

Her gratitude also extends to numerous people in her life who instilled the gospel in her and gave her support.

As if receiving an award, Weathers rolls off names like Bishop Fredrick D. Patterson, who she says is often mistaken for her father, her mother, Francis Jackson, and her husband, Glenn Weathers, for all the support she says they gave her when she first became an evangelist.

"My family is very supportive of me," she says, "...and every one of them has played an important part in my life."

Being of local celebrity status in the church community demands much of Weathers' time.

"People invite me to come to their churches to sing or speak," she says, "and I don't come shuckin' either because there are people who are really in need of the word."

"...I would really like to be on stage and sing to the whole wide world and tell the people about God's salvation ..."

-- D'Arcy Weathers

word.

"You know what I'd really like to do?" Weathers says. "I would really like to be on stage and sing to the whole wide world and tell the people about God's salvation. It seems impossible, but I'd like to do it. First, I would sing then I would preach."

Because the gospel singer says she believes smiles are an important part of her life, it is rare to find her without one. Her co-workers at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, where she works as a reservationist in admissions, are not only admiring fans of her religious work and her commitment toward it, but they also respect her as a person.

"D'Arcy has the respect of everyone on staff, from the administrators on down," says Brenda Moser, Weathers'



D'Arcy Weathers has a twofold talent: one for singing the gospel and the other preaching it (photo by James Parker).

co-worker. "I respect her wholeheartedly, especially for her work in the gospel and I appreciate the uplift she gives me daily."

What people may detect as a lack of confidence in Weathers is really a genuine display of shyness, which is the reason she prefers to take her lunch in the office conference room.

"I am very shy," she says. "But people seem to think just because you go out on stage and sing with all you've got, that you're not, and they also expect you to be just like that person on stage all the time -- and I'm not."

"But I am real with people," Weathers says.

Of her pet peeves, the one that annoys her the most

periodically overshadows the interview, as if she just must get her point across.

"I've seen so many people in the field doing the Lord's work who are so unreal," she says. "They play and fake and do things that are pretentious. I know my ministry or my singing would not work if I were false."

Her idol is the famed gospel singer Tramaine Hawkins, and she says her ultimate goal is to record her own solo album on whatever label that will allow the opportunity. Until then, she will continue her work as an evangelist and gospel singer.

"The fact that the devil is doing his job makes me all the more determined to do my job for Christ," she says.

## Church Notes

### Bedinger honored

Freedom Road Prison Ministry is a prison outreach ministry sponsored by religious leaders and lay people of various denominations in the Piedmont.

Since 1973, ministry participants have met each Saturday for worship and counseling sessions at the Stokes

County Prison Unit.

Recently, the ministry recognized nine individuals and institutions who supported the ministry during the holiday seasons.

County Commissioner Neil Bedinger was recognized for gifts he donated in 1983 and 1984.

The awards ceremony was held in the meeting room of the Hall of Justice prior to the regular scheduled business meeting.

The presenters included Eldress Ruth P. Adams and the Elder Irvin Hines.

Faithfulness."

Program participants were welcomed by the program chairman, James Orange, and Verdell Michaux led the dinner in prayer. Mrs. Peggy Lanier presented an overview of Scouting for Pack 801, which is sponsored by the church and supported by the church men.

Joseph and Gail Anderson of the Healing Force provided musical entertainment. Acie McGhee Jr., president of the men's group, spoke on the purpose of the program and presented certificates to the 50-year members. William McKoy also assisted the chairman in preparing the program and dinner.

Receiving certificates were Miss Anna M. Cooke, Mrs. Estelle J. Cropps, Mrs. Sadie R. Daniels, Mrs. Ellen A. Davis, Mrs. Creola Foote, Mrs. Sarah Fulp, Mrs. Ruth C. Glenn, Mrs. Doris N. Hartsfield, Mrs. Beulah W. Hickerson, Mrs. Lula H. Jenkins, Mrs. Thelma R. Lewis, Mrs. Leona B. McKnight, Mrs. Lillian O. Moore, Mrs. Juanita S. Penn, Mrs. Annie Roberts, Mrs. Annette S. Robinson, Mrs. Hilda H. Rogers, Mrs. Maggie S. Rucker, Mrs. Pattie H. Scales, Mrs. Madeline Smoot, Mrs. Mary Springs, Mrs. Lottie Thompson, Mrs. Elizabeth F. Wade, Mrs. Clara H. Walker, Mrs. Marian W. Wallace, Mrs. Gaynel H. Ward, Mrs. Jessie R. Watson, Mrs. Lizzie M. White, Mrs. Kathleen J. Williamson, Mrs. Marian B. Wooten, Mrs. Grace Knox, Mrs. Geneva Vestal and Mrs. Carrie Mayfield.



Eldress Ruth Adams, center, and Elder Irvin Hines, left, present County Commissioner Neil Bedinger with a plaque for his contributions to the Freedom Road Prison Ministry program (photo by James Parker).

## Men honor church women

The United Methodist Men of St. Paul Methodist Church recently held a 50-year service awards dinner in tribute of the wives of members and other ladies of the church who have been members for 50 years or more.

The theme for the program was "Great Is Thy

## Funerals

### Mrs. Lucille Abrams, of Winston, passes

Mrs. Lucille Abrams

Mrs. Lucille Abrams, of 747 Colton Street, died March 5th at N.C. Baptist Hospital. She was a resident of Winston-Salem and was of the Baptist faith.

Surviving relatives are six cousins, Mrs. Diana Carpenter of the home, Mrs. Annie Jones, Mrs. Madge Hanes, Mrs. Mable Brown, Mr. Charles Howell, Pattie Hunt all of the city.

The body remains at Johnson's Home Of Memory pending the completion of Funeral and Burial arrangements.

Johnson's Home Of Memory is in charge of all services and arrangements.

Mrs. Theoline Benjamin

Funeral services for Mrs. Theoline Benjamin, of 636 Green Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. were held on Feb. 25 at 3:00 pm in Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home with Brother Columbus Covington officiating.

The body remained in the funeral home until the funeral hour. Interment was followed in the Evergreen Cemetery.

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

Rev. James Emmet Huntley

Funeral services for Rev. James Emmet Huntley, of Rt. 9, Box 344, Midway Section, were held Feb. 23rd at 4:00 pm in Waughtown Baptist Church with Rev. Dennis Bishop officiating. The body remained in Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home until 3:00 pm pending the funeral hour.

Interment was followed in the Evergreen Cemetery with Masonic rites given by James H. Young Memorial lodge, no. 670, Prince Hall Masons.

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

Mr. Monroe Ervin Dobson

Funeral services for Mr. Monroe Ervin Dobson, of 2342 Montrose Ave., were held Feb. 29 at 4:00 pm in St. John CME Church with Rev. W.H. Iverson officiating, assisted by Rev. M. Durham & Rev. Wilbur Hines.

The body remained in Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home until 2:00 pm pending the funeral hour. Interment was followed in the Evergreen Cemetery.

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

Honorable H. M. Thompson

Honorable H. M. Thompson, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Jurisdiction of Miss., and Lieutenant Commander of the Supreme Council of Prince Hall Masons, died Feb. 27, in Jackson, Miss.

Funeral services were held March 1st at 1:00 pm in the Thompson Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Temple, 1072 John H. Lynch St., Jackson, Miss.

This is a Courtesy of the Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home.

Mr. Alphonso Evans

Mr. Alphonso Evans, of 2803 Old Greensboro Rd., died Feb. 28, at N.C. Baptist Hospital. The body remained in the Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home. He was a native of this city, attended the local public schools, was a construction worker, employed at Piedmont Leaf Tobacco Co. and was of the Baptist Faith.

Surviving relatives are his wife, Mrs. Evelyn H. Evans of the city; five daughters, Mrs. Sharon Wright, of Chapel Hill, N.C., Miss Nadine Evans, Miss. Gloria Evans, Miss. Charlotte Hough all of the city, and Mrs. Moniece Crumpton of Jacksonville, N.C.; two sons, Mr. Nicholas Wright of Richmond, Va., and Sgt. Ernest Hough of Ft. Sills, Oklahoma; his mother, Mrs. Gertrude B. Evans of the home, one sister, Mrs. Mary E. Smith of the city; three brothers, Mr. Robert Evans, Mr. Julius Evans, Mr. Richard Evans all of the city, seven grandchildren, one aunt, one uncle and several other relatives and friends.

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

Mrs. Alice Eccles Mitchell

Mrs. Alice Eccles Mitchell, of Rt. 4, East Bend died March 1st at Pelicare Nursing Facility. The body was

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## CALENDAR

Compiled by Lucille Douthitt

### THURSDAY, MARCH 8

\*Choir rehearsals for the Chancel Choir of Delahanty Presbyterian Church's presentation of Johannes Brahms, "A German Requiem," April 13 will begin at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Interested persons may call 767-4087 or the Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley

\*The Rev. Claude Thomas, associate minister at St. Peters Church, is conducting a Youth Revival tonight through Friday at I.A.C. Memorial Chapel Church at 614 N. Patterson Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

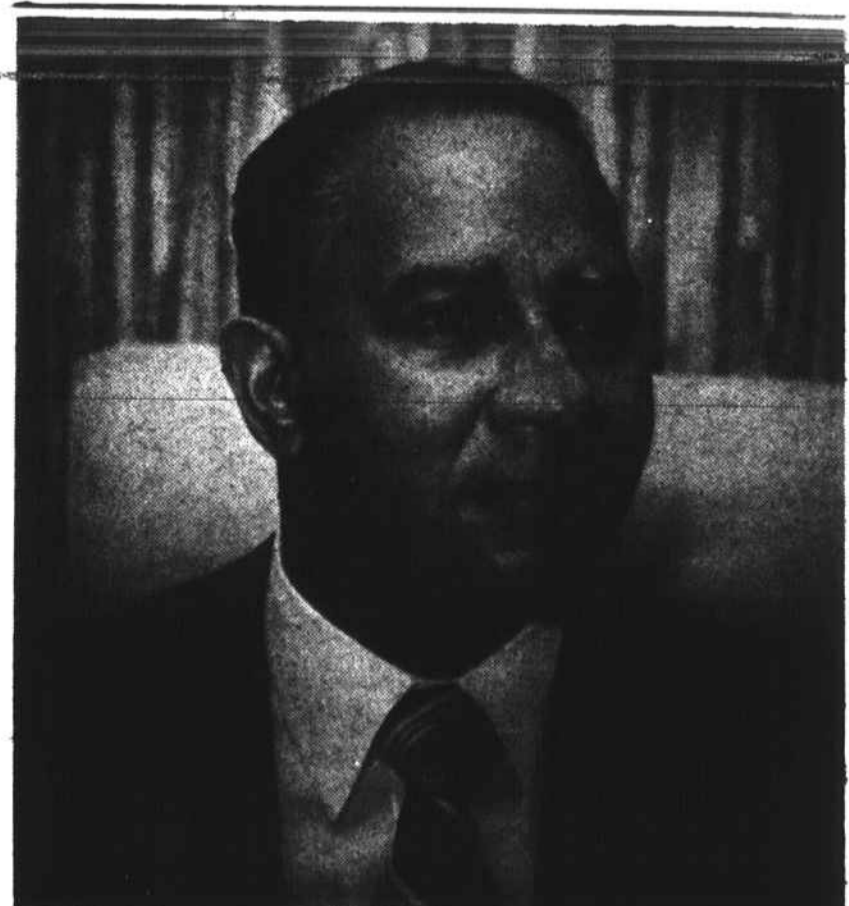
\*As a part of its annual Easter presentation, the Chancel Choir of Hanes CME Church on Highland Avenue will present Theodore DuBois' "The Seven Last Words." The choir will sell chicken and fish dinners today and Saturday at the church from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Free delivery will be made for orders of two or more dinners. For more information call 724-7151.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

\*The Deacons Union of Forsyth County will present an appreciation service for the Rev. J.C. Copeland of Newberry, S.C., at New Bethel Baptist Church at 1016 N. Trade St. at 3 p.m.

\*The Laymen's League of Shiloh Baptist Church will sponsor its quarterly Prayer Breakfast at the church at 8 a.m. C.P. Booker, manager of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company will be the guest speaker. All men of the church are urged to be present. For more information call 724-9263.

\*Denise Franklin, news co-anchor with WKII-TV will speak on "Handling The Tasks" at the Pro-Please see page B9



Dr. S.W. Mack

### Mack tributes slated

Emmanuel Baptist Church at 1075 Shalimar Drive will pay tribute to the memory of the late Dr. S.W. Mack with two special services.

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