

People

Community Calendar, Close-Up, Social Notes, Community News

Close-Up

Love made her job easier

By SUSAN HUNT
Chronicle Staff Writer

The value of music to a church service is often underestimated. It creates an atmosphere which can make a congregation more receptive to a minister's spiritual message.

Understandably, the musician whose talents and sensitivities create that atmosphere is a highly valued member of the church's congregation.

That was never more apparent than at First Baptist Church, which honored its retiring organist of 40 years, Mrs. Martha S. Atkins, with a reception on Sunday afternoon.

Attended by relatives, friends and a host of local dignitaries, the reception was an indication of just what those 40 years as church organist have meant to her friends. As one friend put it, "Martha Atkins represents love of all things good."

Mrs. Atkins first came to Winston-Salem in 1934, when she accompanied a violinist on a concert tour. She applied for and was offered a position at Winston-Salem Teacher's College (now Winston-Salem State University). She accepted the position as piano teacher and later accepted a marriage proposal from the president of the college, the late Dr. Francis L. Atkins.

After joining First Baptist Church, she assisted the organist whenever needed. Eventually, she was appointed the church's full time organist, playing at all church functions, including weddings, funerals

and the congregation's annual performance of Handel's "Messiah."

"Cooperation and love from church members has made my job easier," she said. "We were striving for the best church music and we wanted it sung right. All my hard work paid off, because the congregation appreciated the beautiful music."

Among those who gathered to show their appreciation were her daughter, Mrs. Eleanor Atkins Smith, of Sicklerville, N.J.; other members of the

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-- Mrs. Martha S. Atkins

Atkins family, newly-appointed District Judge Roland Hayes, state Representatives Annie Brown Kennedy and Dr. C.B. Hauser, Dr. David R. Hedgley, First Baptist's pastor; and members of The Moles Club and The Links Club. City Fire Chief Lester Ervin was master of ceremonies for the event.

Mrs. Atkins was serenaded by the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, but only after they insisted that she accompany them on the piano. Dr. P. Ahmed Williams, retired chairman of the Music Department of West Virginia State College, sang that school's alma mater, which Mrs. Atkins wrote when she was a student there.

Not one group wanted to miss the opportunity show their appreciation for the way that Mrs.



Her love of music has made Martha Atkins' 40 years as organist for First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue seem very short (photo by James Parker).

Atkins touched their lives with her beautiful way with music. A large money-tree, adorned with gifts from all who wanted to say how much they loved Mrs. Atkins, was the most prominent decoration in the fellowship hall.

Her friends said the phrase "music is my life" appropriately characterizes Mrs. Atkins' continued

and genuine concern for others, her love of music and the vitality which she radiates.

Mrs. Atkins said she plans to remain an active member of First Baptist Church and will continue to assist whenever needed at the organ.

"We can't do without her," said one church member.

Social Notes

Local Negro Women host membership tea

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women recently held its annual International and Membership Tea at First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue.

The mistress of ceremonies was Winston-Salem newcomer Daisy Montgomery. The festivities were started with an inspirational prayer by Mrs. Marie F. Clyburn and greetings by Mrs. Mabel Johnson.

The membership was divided into groups and represented various countries. Not only did the ladies dress in native costumes, but they also decorated tables with ornaments from the countries, prepared original food dishes and made a two-minute presentation about the country and its people. The two-minute presentation by the group representing Jamaica was especially interesting, since Mrs. Minnie Ervin performed a Jamaican dance.

The countries represented and the captains were Jamaica, Mrs. Minnie Ervin and Paulette Crawford; Spain, Virginia McCullough and Sue Porter; China, Mabel Johnson and Alease Loggins; France, Annie Alexander and Ethel Brim; United States, Barbara Goodwin, Janice Heath; Mexico, Viola Stuckey and Katie Riley; and Nigeria, Clementine Shaw and Minnie Webb.

Certificates and ribbons were presented to winners in the following categories: Best Decorative Table, Membership and Finance, and Attendance. The last two categories were the easiest to award. However, judges Rea Hayes, Camille Allen and Sallie Byrd went into over-



Minnie Ervin strikes a pretty pose and winning smile behind her winning table representing Jamaica. Mrs. Ervin's group won the award for Best Decorative Table during the National Council of Negro Women International and Membership Tea.

time trying to select the Best Decorative Table. The Jamaican table won the honor. The China Table won the award for Membership and Finance.

Spain won the Attendance Award, with honorable mention going to China. The moment was tense as Joan Cardwell, the award presenter, announced Jamaica as the winner of the Best Decorative Table award and Spain won an honorable mention. Members responsible for decorating the Jamaican table were Mrs. Minnie Ervin, Mrs.

Ann Dew, Ms. Paulette Crawford, Mrs. Inez Davis and Mrs. Willie Davidson.

Council members responsible for organizing the tea included

Mrs. Martha Jones, Mrs. Daisy Montgomery, Mrs. Joan Cardwell, Mrs. Barbara Hayes, Mrs. Savannah Johnson and Dr. Manderline Scales.

Twins celebrate birthday

"Just For You" was the theme of a birthday celebration for twins Chareba and Charlita Cardwell, who became 11 years old recently.

The birthday party was held in the Glade Street YWCA. Returning from an engagement at the Winston Square Park, where they performed in the Winston-Salem Symphony's "Concert for Kids Carnival" with Suzuki violin students from Salem College, Chareba and Charlita donned two-piece bikini swimsuits of yellow, pink and purple, and greeted over 50 guests on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Party-goers from St. Leo's School and other schools around the country came to swim to the best of Michael Jackson and Prince, while others enjoyed the

occasion by lying on the Y's deck.

After the swimmers were thoroughly "waterlogged," they adjourned to the mezzanine, where tunes from Michael Jackson and Prince continued. Retreating for just a moment, the twins and their mother returned dressed as a coordinated trio. The twins wore one-piece, white, net swimsuits. Mrs. Cardwell wore a shimmering, white, hostess gown with long dolman sleeves.

The guests enjoyed refreshments prepared and served by hostesses who assisted the twin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell Jr. of Greenway Avenue.

As the guests gathered around them, Chareba and Charlita opened gifts which had been presented to them by their guests

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

•The United African-American Network (UAAN) will meet at 7 p.m. at the Greenway Auditorium to discuss "The Sykes Murder Case -- Is This A Racial Issue?" and "Fair Housing -- How Will The Funds Be Allocated?" The UAAN is now accepting new members. For more information, contact Marion Martin at 727-9263.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

•The Downtown Church Center will sponsor a luncheon from 12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. at Mountcastle Forum in the Sawtooth Building at Winston Square. Dr. Marianne Triplett, associate professor of Sociology at Salem College, will speak on the topic, "Community Dynamics in Working for the Community Good." Everyone is welcome. The cost of the meal is \$3.00.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

•The Nature Science Center, in conjunction with the Winston-Salem Radio Control Club, will have "Those Marvelous Miniatures," a distinctive model airplane collection, on exhibit. These radio-controlled aircraft are miniature replicas of their larger counterparts and they can perform as the big planes do. Along with the two day exhibition, there will be slides, lectures, and films presented by the Winston-Salem Radio Control Club. Weather permitting, there will also be an air show featuring these marvelous minatures. Call 727-2202 for more information.

•The Carver precinct will hold a voter registration drive today at two locations. Registrars will be at Carver School on Carver School Road and at Northampton Community Center at Butterfield and Oak Ridge Drive. The registrars will be available from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Persons living in these communities are urged to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in this election.

•The 1929 Class of Columbia Heights High School will hold its 55th year class reunion. A banquet will be held on the spot where the high school was located in 1929, the present-day campus of Winston-Salem State University. For more information, contact Edwin L. Patterson at 724-7169.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

•The Twin City Chapter of the N.C. A&T State University Alumni Association will hold its monthly business meeting at the Grenadier Club (formerly the Cosmopolite) on Old Greensboro Road at 7:30 p.m. For further information, contact Velma Simmons at 767-6948.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

•The 14th St. Recreation Center is now offering classes in beginner, intermediate and advanced ladies' tennis, co-ed weight-lifting, rope skipping, jogging and ceramics. For more information, call the 14th St. Recreation Center at 727-2891.

People On The Move

Glover gets new post

John Glover has been appointed statewide food solicitor for the N.C. Association of Food Banks' six food banks.

Glover's responsibilities will be to procure donations of food from manufacturers, wholesalers, farmers and merchants to be redistributed throughout the state to agencies feeding the needy. Over 600 such non-profit agencies and churches

presently are served by the association, which has food banks in Raleigh, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Winston-Salem, Charlotte and Asheville.

Glover, a graduate of N.C. State University, comes to food banking with experience in business, non-profit organizations and fund-raising. His office is located in the Raleigh Food Bank.