

# Religion

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## Focus On Religion

### Swindell: A minister and barber but she likes the simple life

By SUSAN HUNT  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Most people in Winston-Salem probably aren't aware that the Beneath The Elms Barber and Style Shop adjacent to the Hyatt House is black-owned. The owner is also a female, Julia Swindell. Even more unusual is the fact that she happens to be a Baptist minister, The Rev. Swindell.

As unusual as her situation is, Rev. Swindell does not feel that she is in any way out of the ordinary. The combination of her vocation and her ministry is just "second-nature" to her now, she says.

Swindell has been an ordained Baptist minister for 10 years, a licensed barber for five of those 10 years, and she loves the combination. "You have to like people to be a minister or a barber, and I like people," she says. "I have a genuine interest in people. Quite simply, being able to relate to people is a large part of my success."

However, if faced with a choice between the two professions, she would have to choose her ministry, "because there is such need in the world."

Julia Swindell traces her spiritual awakening back to when she was nine years old -- when she was first called to the ministry.

Julia Swindell has owned the Beneath The Elms Barber and Style Shop for almost four years now. But, probably due to its location, the shop has not been very well publicized. Contrary to what you might think, the shop does not cater strictly to a black clientele.

She employs one white stylist and one black stylist, besides herself. Many of her customers are long-time customers and not all of them are black. They all are used to being greeted with Swindell's

cheery smile and optimistic nature. That, along with expert service, has kept many customers coming back.

Swindell likes to rephrase an old saying so it reads, "Behind every good woman, there's a man." Her husband, Jesse Swindell, is a deacon at Emmanuel Baptist Church and her source of encouragement. She says of him, "He always encouraged me when I doubted myself and my mission. He is a very important part of my life and ministry."

In addition to her ministry and the barber shop,

*"I have a genuine interest in people"*  
-- Rev. Julia Swindell

Swindell has been successful in other endeavors. She is a loving mother and serves as an associate pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, where she fills in wherever needed. She says she "enjoys missionary work, because there is more to church work than just singing and preaching."

In 1975, she received the "Scroll of Honor" awarded by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. In 1956, she was selected to appear in the memorial edition of "Community Leaders & Noteworthy Americans." Locally, she serves on the Forsyth County Zoning Board of Adjustments and has served as voting judge for the Southeast District for four years. She also is a licensed notary public.



Julia Swindell's winning smile welcomes customers to the Beneath The Elms Barber and Style Shop (photo by James Parker).

Black business woman, barber, minister, public servant -- in spite of the long list of accomplishments, Julia Swindell is not a complicated person.

*He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?*

She says, "If everyone would learn to do this, we would live in a better world."

Her motto for life is simple, found in Micah 6:8:

## Church Notes

### Pastor notes 25th year

The Rev. James O. Williams will celebrate his 25th year of ordination to the Christian ministry on Sat., Oct. 6, at the Holiday Inn North on Cherry St.

Rev. Williams is the pastor of the Cleveland Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He was born in Kinston, N.C., the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Williams. He received his education in the public schools of Lenoir County and is a 1951 graduate of Atkins High School. He holds a bachelor of theology degree from Shaw

Divinity School at Shaw University in Raleigh. He is currently a graduate student at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Ky.

Rev. Williams is a member of the Forsyth Clergy Association and has served as its vice-president and president. He has volunteered services with Crisis Control, Contact, Court Volunteers and the Human Relations Commission. For banquet information, call the church office at 722-8866.



Rev. J.O. Williams

### Revival begins at Bethlehem

The Rev. W.F. Lawrence Jr. invites the public to attend annual revival services to be held at the Bethlehem AME Zion Church. Services will begin on Sunday, Oct. 7, with the Rev. William M. Conrad, assistant pastor of Smith Grove AME Zion Church. Services will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 8 through Oct. 10. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Bernard H. Sullivan Jr., pastor at East Stone Wall AME Zion Church in Charlotte, N.C. Rev. Sullivan is from Massillon, Ohio, is married and has two children.

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## CHURCH CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

The Keystone Club, affiliated with the Boy's Club of Winston-Salem, will begin a fund-raising drive today to help send its members to the club's national convention in Atlanta, Ga. The club will be selling peanut brittle.

Fellowship services will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the City of God Prayer Fellowship. Evangelist Nancy Hunter will be the speaker.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Fellowship services will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the City of God Prayer Fellowship. Guest speaker will be Evangelist Karen Ginyard. Gloria Samuels and Lillie Mae Butler also will speak.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

The Youth Department of Zion Memorial Baptist Church will present a "Pageant of States" program at 5 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church will hold dedication services and observe "Homecoming Day" beginning with church school at 9:45 a.m. Dr. L. Bevel Jones III will conduct the dedication service at 11 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Evangelist Sarah Coleman Rowdy and the congregation of Revelations of Faith will worship with Pleasant Abyssinia Baptist Church at 414 Mason St. at 3 p.m.

The women of Group No. 2 of First Calvary Baptist Church are sponsoring a "\$1,000 Wedding" at 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The United Progressive Baptist Church will conclude its "On One Accord Day" at 3 p.m. The Rev. B.J. Milton, pastor of Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church, will be the guest speaker. At 7 p.m., there will be a musical festival with the Gospel Carriers of Stoneville, N.C.

The Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, will discuss and present slides from the "Fact Finding Mission" he made recently to El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua at 5 p.m. in Emmanuel Baptist Church at 1075 Shalimar Dr. The public is invited.

Homecoming and Revival services will begin at 3 p.m. in Bethlehem Baptist Church. Guests will be the Rev. E.J. Williams and members of Piney Fork Baptist Church from Eden, N.C. Nightly services will be held at 7:30 p.m. with Rev. J.W. Flake as the evangelist.

Pastor Anna Lester of The City of God Prayer Fellowship will hold services at 11 a.m. Services will resume at 7:30 p.m., featuring Larry Cutler, Mattie Young and Lewis Hunter.

## Area Deaths And Funerals

### Percival W. Grant

Mr. Percival W. Grant died Monday, Sept. 23, in Winston-Salem. He was a member of Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church and attended the Winston-Salem public schools.

Mr. Grant is survived by two sons, Harold W. Grant of Windsor and Horace C. Grant of Hillsborough; one daughter, Gloria A. Grant of Bethesda, Md.; seven grandchildren, one sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary C. Grant of Durham; two nieces, Joyce Grant of Atlanta and Carolyn Grant of Durham; one nephew, Milton Grant of Detroit, Mich.; and two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Ella L. Grant of Windsor and Mrs. Mary Louise Grant of Hillsborough.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29, at Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Johnson's Home of Memory was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

### Luritha Oliver

Mrs. Luritha Oliver, of 1541 E. 23rd St., died Friday, Sept. 28, at Baptist Hospital. She was a native of Winston-Salem and a member of the Greater United Progressive Baptist Church.

Mrs. Oliver is survived by her mother, Mrs. Bessie Sue Oliver, of the home; four sisters, Mrs. Sandra Segers, Mrs. Iceola Powers and Ms. Rudena Oliver, all of the city, and Mrs. Cora Hooper, of Camden, N.J.; one brother, Robert Oliver of Washington, D.C.; one aunt, Mrs. Cora Coleman of West Columbia, S.C., and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at the Greater United Progressive Baptist Church. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Hooper Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

### Mack Miles

Mr. Mack Miles, of 811 Skeet Club Road in High Point, died Friday, Sept. 28, at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. He was a native of Spartanburg, S.C., and lived in Winston-Salem most of his life.

Mr. Miles was a member of the St. John Masonic Lodge No. 19 in High Point, having served many years as treasurer. He was a

### Baptist.

He is survived by a son, Johnnie Kirkpatrick of Baltimore, Md., a devoted friend, Mrs. Saludie W. Barney, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 2, in the chapel of the Hooper Funeral Home. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Hooper Funeral Home was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

### John Henry Spencer

Mr. John Henry Spencer, of 3722 Prospect Drive, died Sunday, Sept. 30, at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. He was a native Winston-Salem and a retired carpenter.

Mr. Spencer is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Boston Spencer, of the home; eight sons, Johnny Boston, Reginald Boston, Timothy Boston, Victor Boston, Hildred Boston, Larry Boston, John Henry Caesar and Arturia Caesar; five daughters, Mrs. Cynthia Jeter, Mrs. Mattie Boston, Mrs. Kestine Boston, Ms. Terri Boston and Ms. Bridgett Boston; one brother, Hildred Spencer; two sisters, Mrs. Louise Cash and Mrs. Mattie Hill, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; 17 grandchildren, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 2, in the chapel of the Hooper Funeral Home. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Hooper Funeral Home was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

### Ivo Williams

Mr. Ivo Williams, of 431 25th St., died Saturday, Sept. 29. He was born in Lancaster, S.C.

He was a member of New Bethel Baptist Church and had retired from Western Electric Co.

Mr. Williams was a veteran of World War II and a member of Salem Lodge No. 139, P.H.A. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Betty C. Williams, of the home; one daughter, Mrs. Maxine W. McNeill of Winston-Salem; one son, Raymond A. Williams of Valencia, Calif.; three grandchildren, Dolores R. McNeill of Winston-Salem and Lawrence and Debra Williams of Valencia, Calif.; one sister, Mrs.

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