

Focus On Religion

Teacher hopes piano talent rubs off

By BRENDA ROBERTSON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Bessie Allen, a Sunday school teacher, hopes that a little talent on the piano rubbed off on some of her students recently.

After all, Wentz Memorial United Church of Christ could use a little help at the keyboard. They've been looking for a pianist for the church for six months and a pianist for the Sunday school

"Piano is the basis to all music. If they (the students) have piano, they can go to any other musical instrument."

-- Virginia K. Bright

for five years.

So, when Virginia K. Bright's Studio held its recital for voice and piano students at Wentz Memorial, the Sunday school teacher and the piano instructor were both hopeful of some new recruits out there in the audience.

They had looked for a pianist for so long that it seemed as if no one were playing the instrument anymore. Allen and her class eagerly invited the student musicians.

"I hope by this to encourage them (youth) to take music," says Allen.

She says she also invited other youth from different churches to attend.

"I hope that this will interest them in piano, music and voice," says Allen.

Bright often speaks of the joy of teaching music to students.

She has been teaching the piano and giving voice lessons for 35 years. After a year at Fisk University, a bachelor's degree in music at Howard University and further study at New York University and the Juilliard School of Music in New York, she was ready to share her talents with young people in North Carolina.

"I get a lot of parents interested in their children taking music," says Bright. "They call me and if I have an opening, I let them in."

Bright says she stresses the fundamentals of music; then the students can put all the theory into practice.

That's why she has a recital every two years, Bright says. That's when she says most students are ready to perform all that they've learned.

"Piano is the basis to all music," she says. "If they (the students) have piano, they can go to any other musical instrument."

Bright says her students range from age 6 to adult.

Believing that the students have to have a strong



Vivian K. Bright believes that the piano is the basis of all other music, and she teaches that basis to two of her students. From left to right, Bright, Tonya Davenport and Derrick Lawrence (photo by James Parker).

interest in the piano to stick with it, she says she recommends that they practice one hour each day.

"You have got to want to do it," she says. "All are not going to be musicians, but it's the appreciation for the music (that counts)."

And Bright says that with the program at the church on Sunday, she "just hopes to create interest."

Bright says she has received calls from several. Please see page B14

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

• Men's Day services will be held in St. Stephen Baptist Church, 2071 Bowen Blvd., at 11 a.m. The speaker will be the Rev. Woodrow Jones of Greensboro.

• Men's Day will be observed in St. John CME Church, 650 N.W. Crawford Place, with two services. The 11 a.m. speaker will be the Rev. W.H. Iverson, retired minister of St. John CME Church, and the 4 p.m. speaker will be the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

• The male chorus of Galilee Baptist Church, 575 Claremont Ave., will celebrate its third anniversary at 5 p.m. Male groups from Winston-Salem and the surrounding area will be guests. Dr. Warnie C. Hay is the host pastor.

• Second Calvary Baptist Church will share fellowship with New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 1212 N. Dunleith Ave., at 4 p.m. The program is sponsored by the pastor's aid committee. The Rev. Samuel J. Cornelius is pastor of New Jerusalem and the Rev. D.S. Stone is pastor of Second Calvary.

• White Rock Baptist Church will celebrate its annual Men's Day at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Benjamin Dunlap of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

• First Calvary Baptist Church will observe Father's Day at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be Carl T. Hicks Jr., a student at North Carolina Central University.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

• Vacation Bible school classes will be held at Zion Memorial Baptist Church, 101 N. Dunleith Ave., through Friday, June 21, from 6 to 8 p.m.

• The Calvary Hill Apostolic Church, 2411 Urban St., will hold vacation Bible school classes through Friday, June 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For transportation information, call 725-9679.

• The Senior Usher Board of Calvary Hill Apostolic Church, located at 2411 Urban St., will present a Father's Day program at 4 p.m. The speaker will be the Rev. Lenard Lewis of Beulah Baptist Church.

• Vacation Bible School begins at Spencer Memorial Christian Church at 1410 Douglas St. Classes will continue through Friday, June 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. The Rev. Kenneth Davis is pastor. For transportation, call 725-1712.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

• Mid-week prayer services are continuously being held at Spencer Memorial Christian Church at 1410 Douglas St. each Wednesday at noon. Various ministers from the area deliver the messages. For transportation, call 788-0503. The Rev. Kenneth Davis is pastor.

The Chronicle welcomes Church Calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should 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 Monday at 5:30 p.m.

Church Notes

Tiny Tim Kindergarten crowns king and queen

The Tiny Tim Kindergarten held its graduation exercises Sunday, June 9, at First Calvary Baptist Church, where the Rev. W.L. Wilson is pastor.

The graduates marched in white caps and gowns; the caps had tassels with "'85" on them.

The invocation was given by the Rev. Philemon Samuels and followed by a welcome from graduates Ryan Wilson and Vincent Wilkins.

The two 4-year-olds also sang two songs.

The graduates sang songs, recited poems and counted, repeated the days of the week and the months in Spanish.

Katrina Elaine Jones, a 1971 graduate of Tiny Tim, and a 1985 graduate of Leon's Beauty School in Greensboro, presented the diplomas to the graduates.

Vincent Wilkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Wilkins, was crowned king. Kimberly Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Howard, was crowned queen. They were crowned by Eric Puryear, 1984 king, and Valencia Watson, 1984 queen.

Each received a \$100 savings bond and a trophy. Howard was also given a bouquet of white flowers. Frazier McCollum and Tameka McMoore were first runners up, and they each received a \$75 savings bond. McMoore also received a bouquet of white flowers.

Jason Cooper and Kimberly Cox were second runners up. They each received \$50 savings

bonds. Cox also received a bouquet of white flowers.

Shadrienne Woodard was honored with a bouquet of white flowers for the money she raised.

Harriet Keku presented a Bible to each graduate in honor of her aunt, the late Frances Pickard Murray, a teacher in the city-county schools for 30 years.

William Butler, out-going PTA president, presented Keku a plaque in memory of her aunt. He also presented Alice Carter, pianist, a plaque for her many years of service and musical devotion to the kindergarten.

Butler also presented Hattie McLavrin a plaque for her dedication to the kindergarten.

The PTA presented checks to staff members Debra McCollum Elaine Robinson and Heather Fant.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Nichols, the owners of the kindergarten, were presented a special donation for their long service.

Annie Howard, representing her husband, Thomas Howard, the in-coming president, presented Butler with a plaque in appreciation for his service as PTA president from 1980 to 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas gave each graduate a trophy with his or her name inscribed on it.

Mr. and Mrs. Ishman Woodard also gave each graduate a book bag from the PTA.

Alderman Vivian H. Burke spoke to the graduates and their parents on striving for excellence.

The Rev. John Jackson gave the benediction.



Vincent Wilkins and Kimberly Howard were crowned king and queen of the Tiny Tim Kindergarten.

Area Deaths and Funerals

Beatrice Reid Clark

Mrs. Beatrice Reid Clark, 90, of 3415 Cumberland Road died Monday, June 2. She was born on Aug. 7, 1895, and was the 12th child of the Rev. Jesse Reid and Mrs. Elizabeth Brown Reid of Kernersville. She was married to the late Rev. Charles W. Clark.

Mrs. Clark was a member of St. James A.M.E. Church, where she was a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the church, former member of the Gay Forty-Niners and the Senior Citizens Club, which she organized. She was a retired employee of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Mrs. Clark was responsible for bringing Shirley Chisholm, the first black Presidential candidate, to Winston-Salem. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Cornelia Clark Matthews of the home; one son, Mr. George Madison Clark of Boston, Mass.; a grandson, Mr. Carl M. Matthews of Winston-Salem; 16 grandchildren; six cousins; two nieces; other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, at St. James A.M.E. Church, with the Rev. Philip R. Cousin Jr. officiating. He was assisted by Dr. J.T. McMillan. Burial followed in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Russell Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

LeRoy Abernathy

Mr. LeRoy Abernathy, formerly of 1201 E. Ninth St., died Wednesday, June 5, at the Pelicare Nursing Home. He was a native of Gastonia and had lived in Winston-Salem for most of his life.

Mr. Abernathy was a member of Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church and was employed as a bricklayer. He was a veteran of World War I. He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Zettie Friday, of Dallas; 11 nieces, including Mrs. Gladys Thompson, Mrs. Odessa Davis, Mrs. Flossie Williams and Mrs. Almeta Coleman, all of this city, and Mrs. Thelma Anthony of Greensboro; eight nephews; 23 great-nieces; 23 great-nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, with the Rev. James French officiating. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. Hooper Funeral Directors was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Kinnie Joyner Hash

Mrs. Kinnie Joyner Hash of Sparta died Friday, June 7, at the Knollwood Hall Nursing Home. She was a native of Sparta and Please see page B13