

RELIGION



Levone Tobin Scott



Frank Mitchell



Cliff Wells



Dina Foy

First Baptist Church to Host Christmas Concert

The Senior Choir of First Baptist Church on Highland Ave. will be singing its 50th rendition of G.F. Handel's MESSIAH, probably the most beloved of Christmas Oratorios.

D'Walla Simmons-Burke will direct the Mass Choir consisting of First Baptist members and many visiting local church choir members. Alfonza Williamson will accompany the choir as organist.

During the fifty years it has been tradition for family groups to sing with the choir. Families of the past include Christian, Redd, Lewis, Davis, Banks, Atkins, Hedgley, Ross, Bohannon, Gwyn, Cockerham, Quick, and Roberts. This year's families will include Sadie Daniels and daughter, Deborah; Mr. and Mrs. John Young and daughter; Linda Pompey and daughter, Temika; the Rev. and Mrs. Miller Allen, D'Walla Burke and step-daughter, Dorothy Haney and sister; Emma Gerald and Jeanette Carter and daughter, Jordans.

During this year, as the choir sings, thoughts will reflect back to James A. Dillard, who introduced MESSIAH to the choir while he was church minister of music.

This year's director, D'Walla Simmons-Burke, is a native of Fort Valley, Ga. She was educated in the public school of Peach County; Hampton Institute (University) of Hampton, Va. She has studied at the University of Illinois of Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, the University of South Carolina and is now enrolled in program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The choir will be accompanied by the String Ensemble and a Brass ensemble.

The choir will be assisted by four guest soloists: Frank B. Mitchell III, Basso, a musical virtuoso, is a former member of the All Philadelphia Boys Choir where he toured in Africa, Belgium, Japan, France, England and Thailand. In the States, he has performed on Broadway and them toured with the Tony Award winning play "Shenandoah" starring John Ratt. He also played Gabriel in the Civic Light Opera production of "Shenandoah" in Pittsburgh, Penn. at Heinz Hall. Frank has appeared on The Mike Douglas Show, The Johnny Carson Show and at Disneyland. He also performed at the White House for President Gerald Ford.

A frequent oratorio and cantata

soloist in the Delaware Valley and on the Eastern Seaboard, he made his debut at Carnegie Hall, New York City, in May of 1992 and is currently preparing for a concert in London.

Clifford L. Wells, tenor, has performed widely throughout Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. ranging from principle roles with dinner theaters to resident artist with the Virginia Opera Association. He has frequently been quest soloist for the Virginia Wesley College Church music seminars and guest soloist with the Cantata Chorus of Norfolk. He is currently tenor soloist with Trinity Episcopal Church of Portsmouth.

Levone Tobin Scott, mezzo-soprano, is an instructor of vocal studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her solo performances include appearances with the South Carolina Symphony and the Florence Symphony. Maestro Robert Shaw conducting; the Greensboro Symphony; Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony and the Tallahassee Symphony. She has appeared as soprano and mezzo-soprano soloist in the Mendelssohn Elijah, Verdi Messa da Requiem, Beethoven Symphony No. 9, Rossini Stabat Mater, Handel Messiah and Vivaldi Gloria.

Equally at the home as a recitalist, Scott has performed in conjunction with the Northeast Music Series, the Nassau (Bahamas) Cultural Arts Series, and in Atlanta, she performed for President Jimmy Carter. Scott is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Music degree in Voice Performance at Florida State University.

Dina Cancryn Foy, soprano, has performed Mozart's Requiem, Handel's Messiah, and Poulenc's Gloria. Her stage credits include the title role in Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor with Nashville Opera. Berta in Rossini's The Barber of Seville, with Aspen Opera Theatre, and Gilda in Verdi's Rigoletta again with Aspen Opera Theatre. Foy is also a member of the Stones River Chamber Players and has performed many pieces by 20th Century composers in addition to the works of Bach, Handel and Schubert. Most recently, she was featured in recital with pianist/coach Arlene Shrut. Currently, Foy is instructor of voice at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Church Sponsors Day of Fellowship

Union Chapel Baptist Church Missionary and Sunday School Department will be sponsoring a day of fellowship and dinner on Sunday, Dec. 12.

The speaker for the occasion will be Rashmi Luther of Winston-Salem. The theme is "To All People."

Rashmi Luther was born in Kenya, of a Indian immigrant parents, in the early 1930's. She is the youngest of three children and the only daughter. From a very early

age, she fell in love with art. So that by the time she went to high school, her mind was already set on art.

In August 1974, Luther arrived in the United States and enrolled at TWU. She received a bachelors degree in art in 1976. She specializing in weaving, printing and dyeing textiles.

Luther has been in the United States for the past 19 years. She has completed her B.A., B.S., and M.F.A. in painting and textile. She was a teacher in Kenya. She taught

for almost five years in elementary and high school before moving to America. Luther speaks Swahili, native language of Kenya, Hindi and Pungabi language.

Rashmi Luther is working for Group Home of Forsyth and also teaches art in Forsyth County School System.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

The church is located at 300 W. 25th Street.

The Rev. Konnie C. Robinson is the host pastor.



Rashmi Luther



Front Row: Deacon Bernard Witherspoon; Prof. Jack Nelson, Founder and President; Back Row: Sister Deloise Nelson, treasurer; Sister Jennifer Jordan; and Sister Diane Pressley, secretary. Missing Love Fellowship Members not pictured: Evangelist Alice Mitchell; Evangelist Mamie Rennick; Sister Darleen Transou and Brother Leroy Collins.

Love Alliance to Celebrate 12th Annual Fellowship Banquet

The "Love Fellowship Alliance" will be celebrating its 12th Annual Fellowship Banquet on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at

the Anderson Center, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The theme for this banquet is: "Lord, I Won't Complain." The Master of Ceremo-

ny will be Elder John Heath, instrumentalist Brother Kenny Wayne Anderson and the quest speaker will be Elder Clifton Sawyer of

Greensboro. For ticket information call 595-4823 or 922-4197.



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Church to Celebrate Pastor Anniversary

United Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating its 3rd Pastor/Church anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 12 during the 11 a.m. and the 3:30 p.m. services.

The Rev. Peter C. Holland, Jr. and the First Baptist Church of Kannapolis will be the guest for both services.

Dinner will be served and the public is invited.