

Welcome
General Baptist
State Convention



Baptist Assembly to attract nearly 5,000 to Winston-Salem

From Chronicle Staff Reports

The All Baptist Assembly will convene at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem from Sunday, July 28 to Thursday, Aug. 1, attracting 3,000 to 5,000 visitors to the city, event organizers say. The theme of the event is "From Maintenance to Ministry to Preparing for the 21st Century With the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Inc. and its Auxiliaries."

The General Baptist State Convention, which was founded by African Americans in North Carolina in 1866, is sponsoring the All Baptist Assembly.

The public is invited. A registration fee of \$6 will be charged at the door. Advance registration is \$5.

Dr. C.C. Craig, executive secretary/treasurer of the convention, will direct the assembly. Dr. C.A. Jones is the president of the convention.

The convention represents more than 450,000 African-American Baptists in North Carolina from 18,000 churches in the state.

"We want all the people to come and enjoy Winston-Salem," said Norman Sanders, chairman of the Deacon Board at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. "The members and auxiliaries of our church have been working diligently to make this the best Baptist Assembly ever held."

Mt. Zion Baptist Church is the host church for the event. Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr., pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist, will serve as the host pastor.

Churn is also a board member of the convention.

The four-day event features music, scripture, prayer, speeches and sermons from Baptist ministers.

The visitors are expected to generate up to \$1.5 million for the local economy.

But Camille Roddy, manager of convention sales for the Winston-Salem Visitors and Convention Bureau, predicted that the assembly would only attract up to 3,000 visitors who will spend \$972,820 in local hotels, restaurants, and stores.

"This will impact us tremendously," Roddy said. "It is a significant boost to the local economy."

About 2,000 attended the 1992 All Baptist Assembly in Winston-Salem.

Assembly participants will be directed to restaurants and black-owned businesses in East Winston, Sanders said.

Sanders has encouraged black businesses to advertise in the assembly's souvenir booklet for added exposure among the partici-



Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr.

pants.

Members of the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary, Congress of Christian Education, the Ushers Convention, and the Layman's League will also gather during the assembly.

The event begins at 7 p.m. Sunday, July 28 with a pre-convention musical at Benton Convention Center. The performance will

feature 250 choir members from local African American Baptist churches.

"They have been practicing every Thursday night for two hours for the past two months to get ready for this pre-convention musical," Sanders said. Eddie Bines of Shiloh Baptist Church and Pete Thomas of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church will direct the performance.

A prayer hour will be held from 6 to 7 a.m. Monday, July 29 through Thursday Aug. 1 in the Adam's Mark Ballroom.

Dr. Clifford Jones will preside over the opening assembly at 9:15 a.m. on Monday in the Convention Center. The Rev. Ronald Maxwell will deliver a sermon at 11:30 a.m. on Monday in the Convention Center.

U.S. Rep. Eva Clayton, D-N.C., will be the keynote speaker at the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Banquet from 6 to 9 p.m. on Monday at the North Main Hall in the Convention Center.

Clayton, a former Warren County Commissioner, represents the First District in Congress.

The Rev. John Wilkins will preach at the evangelistic services at Mt. Zion Baptist Church at 10 p.m. on Monday. The church is located at 950 File St. in Winston-Salem.

Dr. C.T. Bullock will preside over the opening assembly at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30. The Rev. Clinton Caesar will deliver a sermon at noon on Tuesday in the Convention Center.

Felton Pendergrass presides over the assembly from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Dr. E.B. Turner will conduct a workshop, and the Rev. Sherwood Davis will deliver a sermon.

A concert and talent presentation will be held during the all-youth session at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the North Exhibit Hall at the Convention Center.

The Rev. Churn will deliver a sermon at the assembly at 7 p.m. on Tuesday after the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Choir performs.

The Rev. Billy Houze will preach a sermon at evangelistic services at Mt. Zion at 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

Performances by the Conventional Mass Choir highlights the assembly from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31.

Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, president of Shaw University and the Shaw Divinity School, will greet the assembly at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Dr. A.L. Imwright will be the keynote speaker at the General Baptist President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday in North Main Hall in the Convention Center.

Dr. G.K. Moss will preach at the evangelistic services at Mt. Zion at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. The Rev. F.A. Davis will deliver a sermon at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1 in the Convention Center.