

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Stephen, "Take a Stand"

◆ **Lesson Scripture:** Acts 6: 8-15; 7: 54-60
 ◆ **Lesson Aims:** Understand Stephen's ministry and affirm the work of the Holy Spirit.
 ◆ **Background:** The followers of Jesus have been growing in number since signifying that they will hear no more. They cast him out of the city and stone him. Stephen then cries out to Jesus to receive his spirit and not to charge their crimes to them. He dies. There is no formal trial nor verdict; the mob has killed him!



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By MILDRED PEPPERS

the Ascension. By this time, the apostles need help in carrying out all of the ministries. In Acts 6: 1-17, The servants (deacons or stewards) are called. All of them were Hellenists (Greek). Their responsibilities are to minister to the widows and serve tables. Stephen is one of the seven called.

◆ **The Lesson:** The scripture opens with good confronting evil when Stephen, a man full of faith and power, is doing great works and miracles for the Lord. These were always signs of God's grace and power being with people. The Jews do not like Stephen because of his power. There arises envy and jealousy among them. The Jews are doing all that they can to stop the growth of this new group (followers of Jesus). Stephen is apprehended and brought to the Sanhedrin (Jewish court with no real power). There are false witnesses who accuse Stephen of blasphemy (speaking lightly or carelessly about God). As the council members hear the accusation, they look at him. His face is like Moses' after he came down from the mountain.

Stephen offers his defense as he looks toward heaven. The council members begin to yell and scream, closing their ears,

◆ **Application:** As present day servants, we are confronted with situations where a stand must be taken. If we analyze the lesson, Stephen was falsely accused, then stoned, and he asked that the people not be charged with their crime. Powerful! We too will be falsely accused, trapped and attacked by the mob (from outside and within the church). What response are we to make?

Like Stephen, we are to "do the right thing." Even when the consequences are grave, we must see it through. In the face of opposition, do we lose sight of our aim? Do we quit? No, with the love of Jesus, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we stand. We stand because God will hold us accountable. We stand because of Jesus' redeeming blood. We stand because we are committed. We Stand!! Even unto death.

(Mildred S. Peppers is currently teaching at Robert B. Glenn High School. At Emmanuel Baptist Church, she teaches the intermediate class of students, ages 13-16. These lessons are based on the Urban Ministries Publications.)

Active church member of 42 years preaches initial sermon

Brenda G. Sales will preach her initial sermon at the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church Feb. 9 at 4 p.m.

Sales is a native of Winston-Salem, where she graduated from Atkins High School. She attended Forsyth Technical Institute and Rutledge College and has completed several ministry classes through the continuing education program of the Virginia Union University. Sales is presently attending Shaw University, where she is majoring in philosophy and religion.

Sales has been an active member of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church for 42 years and has served in many capacities in the religious works of the

church. Her church ministry has included being vice president of the Evangelism Ministry, president of the Library Ministry, a teacher with the Orientation Ministry, as well as a member of the Prison Ministry, the Senior Choir, the Spiritual Choir, and the Hostess Ministry.

Sales said she is answering God's charge to her, which is, "Get the Word out."

The Rev. Robert L. McGowens Sr. is the pastor of Galilee, which is located at 575 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. in Winston-Salem. The public is cordially invited to attend. For additional information call the church office at (910) 724-3857.



First Lady of New Faith Chapel Brenda Hairston Tate, stands with her husband, Dr. Lawrence Samuel Tate.

First Lady of New Faith Chapel to be honored

The New Faith Chapel will honor Brenda Hairston Tate, the first lady of the church and organization. The celebration will be held Feb. 9 at 4 p.m.

Tate is the wife of Dr. Lawrence Samuel Tate. She has 2 sisters, Ernestine Richardson and Carolyn Hairston. she is a resident of Winston-Salem, having graduated from Atkins High School. She attended Winston-Salem State University, where she studied early childhood edu-

cation. Tate is actively involved in her church. She works with the Missionary Department, the L.S. Tate Gospel Choir, the Sunday School Department and the Banquet Committee of the church.

Guest speaker for the annual service is minister Delores Duren, associate minister of Power House of Deliverance in Greensboro, N.C.

The public is invited to attend.

SciWorks to celebrate Black History Day

SciWorks will celebrate Black History Day on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The day is free for all families to enjoy.

Attractions for the day will include the following.

Lorraine Johnson-Coleman, an African-American folk culture specialist and preservationist, will perform a one-woman play on Madame C.J. Walker.

Michael Jordan donated his basketball shoes to be included in our Black Scientists and Inventors exhibit to complement the Shoe Lasting Machine invented by Jan E. Matzeliger.

RJR chemists will be in the

classroom conducting experiments throughout the day.

Kente cloth demonstrations will be given on colors, a wedding dress, and head gear.

Gospel choirs from area churches will perform.

There will be a **recipe and cooking contest**. Contestants are invited to bring a favorite recipe to be drawn for a prize, or bring a prepared dish to be judged for a cash prize and enough for everyone to have a little sample.

Free planetarium shows will feature the Drinking Gourd and African skies.

(There is a minimal fee for the Giant Insect exhibit.)

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