

National Baptists' Lyons denounced by Greensboro minister

By WILLIAM H. TURNER
Special to THE CHRONICLE

The Rev. Dr. Matthew V. Johnson, founder and pastor of Manasseh Baptist Church in Greensboro, holds a bachelor's degree in history and philosophy from time-honored Morehouse College — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s alma mater. Johnson, a Virginian, also earned a doctorate degree in philosophical theology from the distinguished University of Chicago.

The young pastor and his wife, Arnetta, hold tight to their family, as the parents of five children. He is separate

and apart from many young men his age, for his educational attainments, his family situation, and especially for his deeply held beliefs.

More importantly, right now, Johnson holds an unusual position as one of the few voices to speak out against the Rev. Henry J. Lyons, the leader of America's largest black religious body.

Though in a guarded and professional tone — yet with a measure of contempt that belies his quiet manner — Jones spoke candidly at length in an exclusive Chronicle interview. He reflected on his nearly 15-year association with Lyons.

Johnson bemoaned Lyons, for "what he has done to the integrity of the church."

Lyons, head of the 9 million-member National Baptist Convention, USA, has "categorically denied" that he has been having an affair with a woman who works for the convention. Bernice Edwards, public relations director for corporate affairs of the convention, is also listed as co-owner of a \$700,000 house with the married Lyons.

Lyons' wife, Deborah, brought what Johnson calls the "long-standing fissures in the character and philosophical fault lines of Rev. Lyons" to the public's attention.

Two weeks ago, Mrs. Lyons was arrested and charged with burglary after allegedly breaking into the luxury seaside house, which she told police, her husband shared with Edwards. In 1994, according to the "New York Times," Edwards was convicted of conspiring to embezzle \$60,000 from a Milwaukee alternative school. Just prior to becoming head of the convention, Lyons himself paid \$85,000 in restitution for federal bank fraud in his home state of Florida.

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The Rev. Dr. Matthew V. Johnson

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Patients rally around Dr. Wall

By BRIDGET EVARTS
THE CHRONICLE Staff Writer

Some former patients of a local physician who recently resigned from East Forsyth Medical Associates are looking for answers.

The patients, mostly elderly women, are concerned that Dr. Ralph Wall was forced out of his contract with Carolina Medicorp Inc. (CMI). CMI recently merged with Presbyterian Health Care System of Charlotte to form Novant Health Inc.

Wall has taken out an ad in *The Chronicle* to explain his departure to his patients. Novant received a copy of the ad, but was not able to comment by press time.

Wall was in the midst of a move from his Cleveland Avenue offices to a primary care practice on New Walkertown Road when he handed in his resignation July 9. Wall had

See Patients on A9

Robert C. Weaver, first black Cabinet member, dead at 89

By FRANK ELTMAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert C. Weaver, the nation's first black Cabinet member, has died.

Called by some a "master builder of the Great Society," Weaver was appointed the first secretary of the then-newly created Department of Housing and Urban Development by President Johnson in 1965.

Current HUD secretary Andrew Cuomo said in a statement late Friday that Weaver "put the bricks and mortar on President Johnson's blueprint for a great society."

"Robert Weaver got real urban legislation on the books and nurtured our country's first commitment to improve the

See Weaver on A9



New vision reveals

By BRIDGET EVARTS
THE CHRONICLE Staff Writer

Marie Roseboro

challenged

Winston-Salem

(HAWA)

Kimberly Park

Housing authority

meetings to learn

opinions on the com-

and potential.

Roseboro noted,

and made

changes.

"Kimberly Park is

different from when I moved in 20

years ago," or "I've stayed in

Kimberly since 1970, and the neighborhood hasn't changed that

much."

She was amazed at how

the long-term tenants had been

showing up.

It could not be a coincidence, Roseboro. "Our

community is self-sufficient."

There's no lie say that quite a few

tenants were taking care of business.

Home owners pay over \$600 a

month in rent; many have no idea

about the home ownership pro-

grams available to them.

Currently, there are almost 900

people on the waiting list for HAWS

houses. With an average of 500

newcomers yearly on the 2,100-unit

housing coordinator.

There's an adequate number of

apartments.

But even if public housing members

and applicants to

the waiting list still need

housing, to try and trim the list.

Roseboro will keep track on how

many of the current residents have

been in public housing for 10 years

or more.

During her six-month stint as

interim director, Roseboro found

that few at HAWS ever questioned

the arrangement. It was simply

assumed that tenants should stay as

long as they paid rent.

But the presence of long-term

tenants affects the next generation.

Many of the young people seek-

ing head-of-household status in

today's complex grew up in public

housing.

"A lot of young people seek pub-

lic housing apartments, they say,

'I'm going to get me an apartment'

— and that's as high as they strive,"

said Roseboro. Now that she has

been hired as permanent director of

HAWS, Roseboro intends to help

guide those long-term tenants into

houses of their own.

But even if public housing was

never meant as a last stop, long-

term tenants can be an anchor for

the housing community. Many of

the tenants who have been in

Kimberly Park or other housing

communities for a decade or more

feel a responsibility toward their

neighborhoods. And most real

estate agents would verify that the

more transient a neighborhood's

population, the more likely it is to

have a high turnover rate.

See Vision on A9

More than 2,000 attend Happy Hill Community

"Happy Hill is love. You are love. Keep love alive. Keep hope alive in Happy Hill."

— James Melvin McDuffie

By FELEcia P. McMillan
Special to THE CHRONICLE

"The Happy Hill Community is art, music and expression," said Ben Piggott, center supervisor of the William C. Sims Recreation Center. In keeping with this idea, Piggott and William "Rock" Bitting, the founders of the Happy Hill Community Reunion, and the City of Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department sponsored the fourth annual celebration during the weekend of July 17-20.

More than 2,000 attended the parade, reunion and field events on Saturday. The

Opening Gala was held Thursday, Friday night was designated as the community service award night, and various contributors to the community were recognized. Sunday morning brought the community family to St. Philips Moravian Church, which was established in the community in 1822, 175 years ago.

On the night of the opening gala, Alderman Nelson Malloy read a proclamation from the City of Winston-Salem in recognition of the annual event. Local artists displayed their works for the community. Jerry Hanes completed his collection of 50 paintings about the history of African Americans in Winston-Salem. This was the first time he has exhibited this collection. The Hanes family settled in the area in 1918 and lived on Willow Street. "This was a great place to start, at home with the foundation. Everything

that was black in Winston-Salem started here. Now I can go anywhere else because I bought it back home first," Hanes said.

His collection is entitled "The Winston Legacy," and it included such places and artifacts as the Harris Cab Company, the Big House Gaines Bowling Alley, the Jitney, the Safe Bus Company, the shotgun houses, the boarding houses, the black fire station, Slater Normal Hospital of 1910, Columbia Heights Elementary, Diggs Elementary, Kate Bitting Hospital, Mama Chris's grill, Jackie's Place, Mary's Grill, WAAA of 1930 with Daddy-O on the Patio, Forsyth Savings and Trust Bank of 1907, the Salem tea kettle, and the St. Philips Moravian Church.

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(left to right) Artist Kayyum Allah and reunion organizers Ben Piggott and William "Rock" Bitting stand with Joe Robinson after the unveiling of the new Happy Hill reunion T-shirt design that Allah created, based on the theme of the arts.