

Harvard chaplain to tell stories of slavery in address at Wake Forest

The Rev. Claudia Ann Highbaugh, chaplain and associate director of ministerial studies at Harvard Divinity School, will speak Wednesday, Nov. 5, at Wake Forest University.

Highbaugh will present a lecture titled "The Stories of Our Lives" at 8 p.m. in the Scales Fine Arts Center, Room 102. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Based on stories about slavery, Highbaugh's lecture will explore themes of survival, hope, spirituality, community and more. The stories are intended to help young people understand their past while building their futures.

"What I'm going to do is a presentation to the community that will help them look at stories as a way to articulate legend, myth and history," she said. "It is my thesis that one way to teach children history is to really give them true history in the form of stories."

Highbaugh will also present a lecture

titled "Our Journey of Faith: The Power of Prayer" at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, in the third-floor rotunda of Wake Forest's Benson University Center, as part of its "Discovery Series" of lunchtime lectures.

As a child growing up in inner-city Chicago, Highbaugh said that her own historical education largely ignored slavery. "Now there are true histories that cite what really happened," she said. "The children's stories highlight and give black children tools for building their own futures and for understanding their own historical backgrounds."

Highbaugh, an ordained minister of the Christian Church (United Disciples of Christ), is visiting Wake Forest University as one of its resident scholars for the university's 1997-98 Year of Religion in American Life.

She is known as an advocate for children's rights and the need for youth to



The Rev. Claudia Ann Highbaugh

form a strong spiritual basis for their faith, leadership and service to their communities. She has served as a delegate to the National Council of Churches Governing Board, a founding member and co-chair of the Caucus for Disciple Women Clergy, a member of the General Board and Administrative Committee of the Christian Church, and a member of the Commission on Ministry in both the Pacific Southwest and in the Northeast regions of the Christian Church.

Highbaugh is also a board member of the Boston Area United Ministries in Higher Education, the Women's Theological Center, and the Association for Religion and Intellectual Life.

She received her bachelor's degree in English from Hiram College in 1972 and her master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees in 1978 and 1985 from the School of Theology at Claremont.

WSSU trustee to give Founder's Day address tomorrow

By ENGLISH BRADSHAW
The Chronicle Staff Writer

The Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones Sr. will keynote the Founder's Day Convocation at 9:45 a.m. Friday, Oct. 31, at Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium. Jones is pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte and a member of the Winston-Salem State University trustee board.

The day will begin with the wreath-placing ceremony in the courtyard of Williams Auditorium at 8:45 a.m. and a processional march of faculty and staff.

This annual event will honor the school's founder, Dr. Simon Green Atkins, who started the school in 1892 because he sensed the need for an educational institution of higher learning for blacks. In a rousing speech delivered at the Ecumenical Council in 1901, Simon encouraged his audience "...to antagonize the idea that the Negro is to be prepared only for a field hand."

The school began as the Slater Industrial Academy in a one-frame structure with 25 students and one teacher. In 1897 it was chartered by the state as the Slater Industrial and State Normal School. In 1925, its name was changed to Winston-Salem Teachers College, thus making it the first Negro institution in the nation to grant degrees for teaching in elementary schools.

In 1953, the Nursing School was established. The name was changed to Winston-Salem State University in 1969, as it became a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina.

The Founder's Day observance will be part of a day-long sequence of activities that will kickoff the university's homecoming festivities. Included in the celebrations will be a noonday Alumnae Achiever's Luncheon at the Thompson Center, a pep rally and finally, the Homecoming Ball at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

HOMEcoming

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their money in east Greensboro. The majority of that money will be spent outside of the East Market Street Area," says Keith Bryant, who operates a mobile vending cart business. Bryant, who is also running for a seat on the Greensboro City Council, says more black businesses must be created if money from such events is going to remain in the black community.

William Brown, a city resident, shares the concern. He's miffed by popular spending habits and points out that, as popular as chitterlings are, there's no black distributor for them.

"Stores sell out every year, but even the chitlins are sold by white people," Brown said after listening to an A&T radio broadcast touting the economic benefits of the school's homecoming.

One reason blacks don't benefit from

such events could be related to the nature of their businesses. For example, Fernell DeLoatch's business didn't increase with homecoming activities. He didn't expect that it would. DeLoatch Transportation is an express courier that makes deliveries.

Party-goers would have to travel to Kernersville to use a black-owned banquet room. That could explain why Shoney's was packed Saturday during brunch.

Because black businesses in Greensboro are scattered in different parts of town, it is difficult for people with money in their pockets to spend it within the African-American community. It's been that way since urban redevelopment of the 1960s came through east Greensboro and uprooted about 80 businesses, most of them along East Market Street across from A&T.

John Harris owns Harris' Curb Market. He did not make money on the A&T homecoming, but is hesitant to say

so publicly.

"If we don't support black businesses, they're doomed to fail. And that ain't nothing but the truth," says Harris. He added, "When you're black and tell the truth about things like that, people ostracize you. But if I'm honest, I have to say that anytime there's a major event in town, I don't get the results. People on this end of town go over to the other side of Greensboro."

He's right, to some extent. Much of the money generated by homecoming was spent on hotel rooms. There are no black-owned hotels in Greensboro. There are black churches, but the annual homecoming worship service was not held at one. Instead it was held at the Koury Convention Center near Four Seasons Mall.

Harris, who is also seeking a seat on the city council, last week reproved black people for not supporting their own. Since then, he's been put on notice; such talk

could cost him votes.

Not all businesses experienced the absence of customers that Harris saw.

"Homecoming made a big difference," said Ray Fullwood, who owns Ocean Fresh Seafood Market on Bessemer Avenue. Fullwood graduated from A&T in 1965 with a degree in accounting, and the business he opened in 1982 thrives each year when homecoming brings an increase in traffic and sales.

Alwyn Gentles, owner of Paradise Restaurant, said homecoming also brought more people in for the Jamaican cuisine served at his eatery on Randleman Road. He said he benefited from homecoming without having to run special advertisements or go out of his way to compete for the business.

Morrison, however, believes it's time for black people to know exactly how much they benefit from this major event held in the heart of the black community.

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