

Meadowview breaks ground, 'building for the 21st century'

About 300 people stood outside withstanding cold winds to participate in the ground breaking ceremony for the future worship center of Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church on Odell Owen Road adjacent to the connection of Highway 52 and Business I-85. Just beyond the sign that reads, "Building for the 21st Century," Pastor Gary R. Cox presided over the outdoor service, ground breaking and dedication ceremony.

This is the church's first building program since the erection of its present facility at 204 Beethoven Ave., in 1962. In spiritual preparation for the event, Cox delivered a series of messages from the book of Joshua with a recent focus on the Israelites crossing of the Jordan River to inherit the Promised Land.

Once safely on the other side, Joshua commanded representatives from each tribe to place a stone commemorating the miraculous event, according to Joshua 4:1-9, and as a memorial for future generations.

Several weeks prior to the ground breaking event, Associate Pastor Ron Coleman asked each member of the congregation to bring a large stone inscribed with their family name and favorite scripture verse. On Sunday, individuals and families carried their rocks to a designated corner of the building site to commemorate "the grace of God's victory in having brought the congregation this far by faith, and for the harvest of souls to be won in the 21st century." Afterward, selected members prayed, dedicating the use of the future facilities for the glory of God.

With soft strains of Celtic Christian music in the background, reminiscent of the strong Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church, hard hats and be-ribboned shovels were distributed to the following individuals: Gary Cox, as senior pastor; Randy Wiig, sales manager with Morton Buildings Inc. representing the general

contractor; Carl Jones of Lexington State Bank; Jeff Goins, CPA, denoting the church financial term; Kyle Mitchell of the church building team; Randy Everhart, standing for the elders; Andy Clemmer, representing the deacons; Betty Ann Everhart, of the Women in the Church; Brandi Hames, a student at Central High School, representing the young people of the church; and Alma Owen, representing the Charter Members of Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church from its inception in 1949.

In the center of the future worship center, with members forming a line around the outside perimeter, the ground was officially broken. Construction will begin immediately. It is estimated that the worship center, which will seat 400, and the educational wings will take approximately 12 months to complete. A Christian Academy is also in the initial stages of planning and will utilize the new campus.

Forsyth Tech holds community forum at Carver High on new Woodruff Center

Approximately 30 interested community members gathered in the media center at Carver High School to get an update on the progress of the Woodruff Center. The center is a combined facility of Forsyth Technical Community College and the Winston-Salem public library. The center, at the corner of Lansing Drive and Carver School Road, is scheduled to be completed in May 1998.

Officials from the college and the library that met with the group

said that the facilities, which include a 30,000-square-foot classroom building and a 10,000-square-foot library, will open in the summer of 1998. The classroom building will contain 18 classrooms, including three computer labs, and a distance learning classroom.

Desna Wallin, president of Forsyth Tech, said the college plans to offer a limited schedule of courses during its summer session and a full schedule of courses beginning fall 1998.

Bill Roberts from the Winston-Salem Library said that the library at the center would be a full-service library with two professional librarians on the staff. He stated that there would be a substantial collection of books and materials, both for adults and for children, and that one of the main efforts would be to provide a strong children's program. Roberts said that the library would have computers with Internet access and word processing software.

St. Paul Church presents Christmas musical

St. Paul United Methodist Church will present the Christmas musical *A Family Christmas* Sunday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m.

Adults, teens and children of St. Paul will sing and ring hand bells as they perform beautiful arrangements of traditional Christmas carols and contemporary original Christmas songs written by Dennis and Nan Alien.

The principal musicians include Gloria Allen, director; Cornelia Forbes, organist; and Janet Dixon, pianist. Ron Fisher and Wanda Starke will be the narrators.

St. Paul is at 2400 Dellabrook Rd. in Winston-Salem. The Rev. Donald Jenkins is the pastor. The public is invited to attend.



The Rev. Donald Jenkins

Society of young achievers to begin in spring

National Urban League President Hugh Price, in partnership with the Congress of National Black Churches, recently announced the launching of a National Achievers Society recognizing young people who are achieving in their schools and communities. General Colin Powell will preside over the Achievers Society's first induction ceremony next spring. The society is one component of the Campaign for African-American Achievement, a coalition of African-American organizations — whose combined membership

totals over 25 million — mobilized to rally communities and develop policies that promote academic achievement among African-American youth.

Price will also announce a nationwide Achievers Month beginning next September. An outgrowth of the Urban League's Sept. 20 "Doing the Right Thing" event, honoring young people, the Achievers Month will dedicate September to a variety of programs designed to celebrate and foster achievement. More than 38,000 young people across the country participated in the Sept.

20 event.

Two additional features of the campaign will also be announced at the press conference:

- a media campaign, Achievement Matters, that targets the black media, made possible through the generous support of State Farm Life Insurance Companies

- advocacy, which includes education, one-on-one meetings, and high-stakes negotiation utilizing the resources and opportunities that local businesses and community stake holders can provide.

Ernest Dickerson
Filmmaker

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Powell stands affirmative

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired Gen. Colin Powell reaffirmed his support for controversial affirmative action programs Monday, saying they help reduce racial barriers to equal opportunity.

Powell, a former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman and a Republican, told the annual National Council of Negro Women conference that such programs are far better than what went before.

Many Republicans oppose affirmative action, which gives preference to minority races in hiring or schooling to correct discriminatory actions of the past which have decreased minority representation. One argument is that such programs discriminate against the majority race.

"We have seen what the preference system that had been in place for 250 years has done to us," Powell said, referring to a system that gave preference to whites.

Powell has differed often with the more conservative members in his party over the need for affirmative action programs.

The military provides the best example of how affirmative action programs can broaden a pool of applicants in jobs and education, Powell said. West Point, for example, tries to attain various minority goals in its cadet population each year. Powell said such efforts help promote minority participation for children.

"It is not inappropriate for us to use affirmative action to get our youngsters in the pool," he said.

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