

First Baptist Church holds family conference

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

The women's and men's ministries of First Baptist Church collaborated on sponsoring the church's first Family Conference May 28-30. The theme for the conference was "As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord," from Joshua 24: 15. According to the Rev. Wendell A. Johnson, the pastor, all of the church ministries focus on building the body of Christ, enabling each member, and equipping the entire body for holistic ministry.

The Women's Ministry coordinator, Deacon Shirley F. Manigault, said, "We have to minister to families, equip them in the word of God so they can be strong." Although this is the first conference focused on the family, church members are already making plans for the next one. "We really think the issues were timely, and many of the sessions will be repeated," Manigault said.

Trustee Benjamin Carson, the Men's Ministry coordinator, welcomed the audience to the First Baptist 1999 Family Conference. "Our hope is that you will be touched by God's word, enlightened by our workshops, and encouraged by the spirit of community - all of which will nurture our souls for Christ," he said.

According to Manigault, the bold statement of theme that Joshua puts forth is "a bold statement of faith in God, born of his fear of God and his knowledge of Him. Today, on the verge of a new century and a new millennium and in a time when the family is under severe attack, we too must stand and boldly confess, 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.'"

Johnson opened his first session, titled "Family Issues - Facing a New Millennium," following the singing of the theme song "The Family Prayer Song," recorded by singer Morris Chapman. His workshop was very interactive, as he called upon various persons in the audience to give a definition of family. Johnson

focused on the different configurations of the family.

"When we think of family, we must not be limited to only the nuclear family comprised of mother, father and children," he said. Johnson said the current church must be able to meet the needs of single parents and grandparents who head families and other extended family structures that may be present in the church body.

Johnson did not pass judgment on which configuration is best, but he identified some of the issues all families confront such as financial difficulties, divorce, stress, drugs and raising children. Serving the Lord and studying his work can offer guidance in facing any of these issues, he noted.

The focus of Session II was "Health and Wellness in the African American Church." The Rev. Edwin Hamilton, M.D., D.D., the minister of health and wellness at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., conducted this workshop. He practices general surgery and medicine in the Ft. Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, Fla., areas. He has received numerous awards for workshops on topics such as "Spirituality and Medicine: A Physician's/Theologian's Perspective," "Faith and Medicine" and "Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer."

During the convention, Hamilton drew a parallel between the human body and a sacred temple. His focus was on prostate cancer and breast cancer, two maladies that tend to afflict African Americans. "We should all be careful about what we put into our bodies. We need to stay away from red meat or only eat it in moderation because the fat from it causes hypertension and other ailments," he said. He encouraged the listeners to "eat foods that come from the earth such as leafy vegetables and fruits." He tied this discussion to the diet described in the book of Deuteronomy, which corroborates this kind of diet.

Regarding prostate cancer, he encouraged men over 40 to add the

PCA test and the rectal exam to their overall physicals each year. Regarding breast cancer, he encouraged all women over 35 to begin getting a baseline mammogram and those 40 and over to get a mammogram each year in addition to a complete physical. Hamilton also admonished churches to work in collaboration with the American Cancer Society and the local health department to have health resources to draw upon. His slide presentation included statistics about cancer, and he used a video that highlighted women with cancer.

Another workshop that generated a great deal of discussion during Session III was "Building, Buying & Real Estate" by Clement Little and James Allison. Little is the general manager of East Pointe Developers, LLC and East Pointe Realty Group, LLC, overseeing the daily operations for the company. East Pointe is owned by partners Ernie Pitt and Tom Trollinger. Little pointed out various developments around the city that he has helped to build such as the new development near Carver Glen called Lansing Ridge, a subdivision that will consist of 41 new homes. They held open house this past Sunday.

Allison is the broker and owner of Millennium Brokerage & Investment Group. His company provides real estate consulting services primarily to buyers and sellers in the sales market in Winston-Salem and the surrounding Triad area. He spoke about how an individual can build credit in order to secure a loan. He pointed out common mistakes that home buyers make when they are trying to secure a loan.

Many of them fail to make plans about the type of home they want to invest in and the price they can afford. They often carry a lot of baggage when they invest in "high ticket items" such as cars, living room furniture and the like at the same time they want to buy a home. Allison warned buyers to wait until they have secured a loan before they take on more debt. He

admonished buyers to build credit options by paying their debts on time. When a person pays bills 30-60 days late, this can work against his or her securing a loan.

Minnie Lucas and Annie Dorris attended this workshop. They both found it to be very informative.

Two other workshops took place during Session III. Rev-

erends Frederick Davis and Edwin Hamilton spoke on "Empowering the Black Male." Davis is the pastor of First Calvary Baptist Church in Durham. The discussion leaders noted that the empowerment of the black male starts with the family. The Rev. Carla Lightfoot spoke about "Youth Empowerment." She is the assistant to the pastor and youth min-

ister at Moore Street Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.

More than 90 people attended the first annual family conference at First Baptist Church. Minnie Lucas, a member of the church, said, "I really enjoyed the conference. Even the worship services were very sacred. I particularly learned a lot from the health workshop. It was really good."

THE CHRONICLE
The deadline for news is 5 p.m. every Monday



COMMUNITY CONNECTION CALENDAR

Culture Jam of 1999

Coca-Cola and the City of Winston-Salem Parks & Recreation will present its first "Culture Jam" of 1999

SATURDAY ••• 4:00 PM ••• JUNE 12TH
BELVIEW RECREATION CENTER

This event is FREE and open to the public. We will kick off the summer with fun, games, music & talent. Local talent auditions to be held. Come out and show what you've got!! All performances must be clean and participants must provide their own music.

Always in the Community, Always Coca-Cola

JUNE DRESS EVENT

LESLIE FAY
2 pc. dress. Comp. to \$79. Ten-button scalloped top with pleated skirt. Bright teal multi print, missy 8-18, petites' 6-16. \$59

\$59

A. RABBIT RABBIT RABBIT
sleeveless sheath. Comp. to \$90. Sheer sleeveless dress in royal blue with border print. Fully lined, missy 6-16. \$59

B. POSITIVE ATTITUDE
sheer dress. Comp. to \$100. Sheer tank dress with empire waist and tunic length flyaway shrug. Black multi, missy 6-16, petites' 4-14. \$69

Leslie Fay, Misses', Women's Petite Dresses

\$69

KARIN STEVENS
sleeveless tank dress. Comp. to \$90. Tank dress with one button shrug. Teal multi, missy 6-16. \$69

POSITIVE ATTITUDE
pleated sheath dress. Comp. to \$90. Inverted pleat sheath dress with border print. Orange multi, missy 6-16. \$69

LESLIE FAY
belted shirtdress. Comp. to \$69. Bright floral belted shirtdress with pleated skirt. Purple multi, missy 8-18, petites' 6-16. \$59

MATCH
button front shirtdress. Comp. to \$80. Button front linen shirtdress with side slits. Bubble gum, missy 6-16. \$59

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POSITIVE ATTITUDE
women's flyaway dress. Comp. to \$90. Six-button flyaway dress in black. Dillard's woman petites' 14-24WP. \$69