

# RELIGION/OBITUARY

**HOOPER**  
Funeral Home  
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**INGRAM**

Robert Marshall Ingram, 1210 E. 25th Street, Winston-Salem, died June 22 at his residence.

He was born April 13, 1922, in Winston-Salem to the late Major and Bessie Ingram. He was a lifelong resident of the city, where he was a former employee of Salem Leasing Corp. He was of the Baptist faith.

He is survived by five sisters, Doris Anderson of Winston-Salem, Dallie Mae Crosby of Newark, N.J., Helen (John) Brown of Palmer Park, Md., Annie Searcy of Englewood, Calif., and Willie Jean (Clarence) Simpson of Los Bonos, Calif.; one brother Fred (Barbara) Ingram of Winston-Salem; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

A graveside service was held June 26 at 11 a.m. at Evergreen Cemetery with the Rev. Otto Gaither Sr. officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Hooper Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

**Russell**  
Funeral Home  
822 Carl Russell Ave.  
722-3459

**EPPELSON**

Shawn Kelly Epperson, 2719 Teresa Ave., Winston-Salem, died June 21 at Forsyth Medical Center.

He was born on Jan. 28, 1966, in Winston-Salem. He attended the local schools and graduated from East Forsyth High School, Class of 1984. He was employed by Dewey's Bakery. He was a member of the Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church, where he was director of the Christian edu-

cation department, director of the Inspirational Choir, past superintendent of the church Sunday school. He was district director of the youth and adult Christian ministry for the Winston-Salem District of the A.M.E. Zion Church. He was a member of the Steward Board, the Male Chorus, Youth Adult Choir, Brothers Beloved and the Kitchen Committee. His mother, Marie Lash Epperson, preceded Shawn in death.

He is survived by his father, John W. Epperson of the home; two sisters, Susan L. Epperson of the home and Kim M. Epperson of Temple Hills, Md.; two brothers, Steven W. Epperson of Butner and K. Keith (Vaughn) Epperson of Axton, Va.; two nieces, devoted niece Sidonna N. Brown of Winston-Salem and Kandice Shipman of Temple Hills, Md.; two nephews, Brandon K. Epperson of the home and Keenan W. Cuthrell of Temple Hills, Md.; one godchild, Brittani McKnight of Winston-Salem; three aunts, Julia (James) Crutchfield of Bethania, devoted aunt Melinda Lash of Winston-Salem and Frances L. (Swandell) Clout of Winston-Salem; devoted friends Tanya H. Martin, Keith Davis, Mr. and Mrs. James Henry Jr. and Virginia Lash and several other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held June 25 at 2 p.m. at Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church with the Rev. Alvin E. Damon officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

**MASON**

James Pearl Mason, 916 New Hope Lane, Winston-Salem, died June 23 at Kate Bitting Reynolds Hospice Home.

He was a native of Laurinburg, born on July 30, 1908, to the late William and Aggie Nora Dockery Mason. He was a faithful member of Mount Olive Baptist Church and was a retired employee of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

He is survived by his wife, Julia McRae Mason of the home; two daughters, Julia Mason McCloud (Thomas) of Winston-Salem and Mildred Brown of the home; two sons, James P. Mason Jr. (Jessie) and John Reader, all of Winston-Salem; 13 grandchildren, Thomas McCloud III (Tomeka), Anthony McCloud (Billie), Darrinder Fulp (Tyrone), George McCrae, Ada Moton (Craig), James Brown (Valeria), Larry Brown (Shirley), James Mason III (Selena), Aletra Mason, Catherine Johnson (Ervin), Trivette Reader, Anthony Reader and Lamont Reader; 32 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; four sisters, Willie C. Samuels, Gertrude Blue, Elnora Truzell, all of Laurinburg, and Maggie Tarver of Brooklyn, N.Y.; a

host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held June 28 at 1 p.m. at Mount Olive Baptist Church with the Rev. Charles E. Gray officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

**RICE**

Willie Edward Rice, known to family and friends as "Doc," 928 Thurmond St., Winston-Salem, died June 24 at Wake Forest University/Baptist Medical Center.

He was born on Dec. 19, 1950, in Forsyth County to Inez A. Rice and the late Willie E. Smith. He attended Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

He is survived by two daughters, Sheree Eldridge of Durham and Janet Eldridge of Cairo, Egypt; one son, Kerchief of Winston-Salem; three grandchildren; his mother, Inez Rice; his stepmother, Lois Russell Smith; two sisters, Gladys R. Hall and Cassandra Thomas; three brothers, Clevester Rice, Glasco Rice (Anita) and James Smith, all of Winston-Salem; six aunts; two uncles; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

A memorial service was held June 29 at 4 p.m. at the chapel of Russell Funeral Home with Elder Moses Seat officiating. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

**WALKER**

Nancy Ada Hairston Cobb Walker, formerly of 2109 East 24th St., Winston-Salem, died June 25 at Kate Bitting Reynolds Hospice Home.

She was a native of Walnut Cove, born on July 16, 1914, to the late Travis and Nancy C. Hairston. Mrs. Walker spent her childhood in Walnut Cove and North Wilkesboro before moving to Winston-Salem. She married the late William R. Cobb and became affiliated with Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, serving in the church choir. She briefly worked for R.J. Reynolds, leaving due to illness. In 1967 she met and married Fred B. Walker and after 16 years of marriage was again widowed in 1983.

She is survived by a sister, Alice Mitchell of Walnut Cove; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held June 30 at 11 a.m. at the chapel of Russell Funeral Home with Dr. James M. Sloan officiating. Burial followed at Piedmont Memorial Gardens. Russell Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

**JULY 2**

**Whole Life Church to host Excellence in Ministry Conference**

Whole Life Community Church will have an Excellence in Ministry Conference July 2-4. Speakers will include: Bishop Olive C. Brown of Richmond, Va., July 2 at 8 p.m.; Pastor

Sharon Bellinger of Philadelphia, Pa., July 3 at noon; and Pastor Andrew Ford of Philadelphia July 3 at 8 p.m. A midnight musical will be held Friday night. Guest choirs in and out of the city are expected to attend. James "Rudy" Brown, pastor of Whole Life Community Church, will close the conference July 4 at 11 a.m. All services will be held on the campus

of High Point University in the campus auditorium. For more information, please call the church at (336) 886-6228. The church is at 1104 Cleveland St., High Point.

**JULY 4**

**Rev. Carol Foltz will lead worship celebration at Green Street Church**

On July 4 the Rev. Carol Foltz will lead the 11 a.m. worship celebration at Green Street Methodist Church. She grew up in Winston-Salem and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the Moravian Seminary. She has served in the Moravian ministry in various parts of North Carolina. She was active in Church Women United in

Wilmington. She is now in the clinical pastoral education program at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, where she plans to specialize in geriatric services. Green Street Methodist Church is at the corner of Green and West streets in West Salem. For information call 722-8379.

**JULY 11**

**Phillips Chapel Baptist to celebrate 58th anniversary**

Phillips Chapel Baptist will celebrate its 58th church anniversary July 11 at 3 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Ronnie Middlebrooks, pastor of Anderson Grove Baptist Church in Greensboro. The public is invited. The church is at 132 N. Glenn Ave. in Winston-Salem.

## God calls Abram to faithfulness; not knowing the destination Abram obeys



**Mildred Peppers**  
Sunday School Lesson

**Lesson scripture: Genesis 11:31-12:9**

**Lesson aims:** To be familiar with facts about Abram (Abraham), to understand that faith isn't based on sight and to answer God's call in our lives.

**Background:** "Richard's Complete Bible Handbook" says that the "book of beginnings" is divided into two large sections. The first, chapters 1-11, deals with creation, sin, human suffering, death and hope. These experiences reveal a loving and merciful God, who brought judgment to humanity. This powerful God is also personal. The period of time extended over many thousands of years.

The second portion of the book begins with the call to Abram and covers a little less than 200 years. These chapters show God working with a single family as His "chosen" people. As a matter of fact, the remainder of the Old Testament is about

the same family. Several mature civilizations existed during the time of Abram - the Egyptians, the Hittites in Asia Minor and the Hurrians, east of the Hittites' Mesopotamia. Abram's birthplace was probably the most advanced. It had learning centers, running water in many homes, sewers, and a well developed legal system. Abram's homeland wasn't as primitive as we often think. All of the people were polytheistic (worshipping many gods). Because of this, they felt that the gods created them as pawns, and therefore they had no hope.

Chapter 10 is the Table of Nations from Noah's sons to Shem. Genesis 11: 1-9 recorded the failure of the Tower of Babel. The remainder of the chapter recorded the genealogy from Shem to Abram.

**Lesson:** Terah, Abram's father, leaves the city of Ur (southern Mesopotamia) and begins to journey towards Canaan. He takes the clan with him but stops in Haran and settles there. (Urban Ministries Inc.) suggests that Terah has an adventurous spirit, and it's passed down to Abram.

Terah dies before reaching his destination.

The Lord calls Abram and instructs him to leave the city. Tren C. Butler makes it simple. "God called, Abram journeyed, trouble beckoned, the land was occupied." God promises him greatness, a large nation and protection (Abrahamic Covenant). An interesting point here is Abram doesn't worship God! At the time of his departure from Haran, Abram is 75 years old. He is instructed to move the entire family also. Not knowing the destination, Abram is obedient. The journey leads him to Sicham (Shechem), where the Lord appears and tells him that this land is his. Abram built an altar there and pitched his tent at Bethel. This faithful and obedient man moves farther south in the land of Canaan. The chapter ends with a famine and Abram's faith wavering.

**Application:** When God calls, very often it interrupts the comfort zone. Our lives have some order and it appears that we can handle most things. Then God calls. The calling has a purpose, and it also teaches us to depend more on God. Like

Abram we are called, not because of our status or accomplishments. God chooses us. We ought to be humble and grateful. Again, like Abram, our faith will be strong at one time, and it wavers the next. God is patient.

A key component for our understanding faith is there may not be any physical evidence. Looking back over our lives we can remember answering the call when family and friends questioned our actions. Without our full understanding we obey the voice of God. This grows our faith and compels us to seek more of Him. Without a doubt cost is involved.

With the Almighty what we think is a loss is turned into a blessing. Have You answered your call? Faith also leads us to worship. It is important to acknowledge God's faithfulness toward us. He never

reneges or forgets! The worship of Him isn't an empty gesture to pay back but a means by which to recognize His greatness and to thank Him. How many times have we emerged from trouble to realize that our blessing is much greater.

God has a calling (purpose) for each of us. Have you responded? He keeps taking us higher and higher if we let Him. Answer your call today. It is an adventure!



**Grantham Johnson**  
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Since 1946  
1415 East 14th St.  
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(336) 724-1561

**Macedonia Holiness Church Of God Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.**



**Bishop R. L. Wise, Sr.**  
D.D.; S.T.D. - Pastor

**Sunday Services**  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Radio Broadcast (WAAA 980) ... 2:00 p.m.  
M.Y.P.U. .... 6:30 p.m.  
Evangelistic ..... 7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday Services**  
Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:30 p.m.  
4111 Whitfield Drive \* Telephone: 767-3700

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