

# Historic black log church to be honored in Old Salem Saturday

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

On an anniversary Saturday in late September - in 1999 it falls on Sept. 25 - a symbolic version of the log raising that created an African American place of worship in 1823 will take place on the same site along Church Street in the Old Salem historic district.

Old Salem has set its schedule for ceremonies and a partial hand raising of logs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 25. Visitors may also watch progress

toward the completion of construction during the afternoon hours, weather permitting. There is no charge to attend any of the events.

Scheduled to participate in the hand raising are five Winston-Salem lodges of the Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliate, 30th District: Olympic, Ionic, Bivouac, Salem and James H. Young. The Olympic lodge was founded on Happy Hill, the home of many 19th century members of St. Philips.

Members of Winston-Salem's modern congregation of St. Philips Moravian Church and the ONUWA chapter of Salem College will also be vitally involved, along with the Provincial Elders Conference of the Moravian Church.

The log raising will be coordinated by Blue Ridge Timberwrights, who oversaw the cutting, hewing and construction of the log frame for the church.

It was on Sept. 27, 1823, that the first logs were laid on this

site to establish what was called the "Negro" or "African" church - a place where African American Moravians, and others, would worship and practice their faith for nearly 40 years.

On an adjacent site in 1861, a brick church (later known as St. Philips Moravian) - now the oldest standing African American church structure in North Carolina - took the place of this humble "log church."

The work on the "log church," which will measure about 40 feet by 28 feet, based

on the construction records of 1823, began in earnest this spring.

The planned schedule for the construction event includes: opening ceremony, 9 to 9:25 a.m.; hand raising of logs, 9:30 a.m. to noon; closing ceremony, 12:15 to 12:30 p.m. Residents and visitors are encouraged to observe the reconstruction of the church throughout the day. The 1861 brick church will also be open, and refreshments will

be served.

A capital campaign that is under way at Old Salem is supporting the reconstruction and restoration of the two churches. The capital campaign has bypassed the halfway mark toward its \$25 million goal. Donations can be made by contacting the Old Salem development office at (336) 721-7327. For information on the log raising events, call (336) 721-7300 or visit the Old Salem web site ([www.oldsalem.org](http://www.oldsalem.org)).

## Violence

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their homes, communities and schools are safe. The fact that children don't feel they have resources is what causes a great deal of frustration."

The conference was the first of a three-part series of live video conferences that will continue throughout the fall.

Maya Angelou Institute interim director Frankie Denise Powell said the institute decided to join the ever-widening debate about violence in schools after a shooting that left more than a dozen students and one teacher dead at Columbine High School last spring. The shooting, orchestrated by two students with ties to racist organizations, was the most violent school incident in the nation's history and forced school officials around the nation to rethink school safety issues.

Violence had long been considered a problem in inner-city schools, but the suburban

Columbine shooting and shootings in several rural high schools have garnered the spotlight and given rise to a new debate on which students are more likely to commit violent acts.

"We had talked about the need for the institute to be able to say something given the Columbine incident," Powell said. "It made us think about what we're doing in Winston-Salem today and how we can be more responsive."

Local leaders had a chance to view programs in other school systems that have helped curb school violence, including a program in Henderson, Ky., that encourages police officers to "adopt" schools in their patrol areas. The officers use the school's library and hallways to complete paperwork. Henderson school officials say the informal relationship makes it easier for students with problems to go to officers.

Panelists also discussed the growing debate over the use of technology to monitor students

in classrooms and during class changes.

Actors also performed role plays that ranged from students being bullied to near-fights in school hallways to encourage dialogue on issues facing teachers and administrators at schools.

"Anything that has to do with safety - safety of my staff, safety of my students - I want to be involved in," Peay said. "We have done safety forums and will do them again in the future. It's A1 on my mind that we have to make schools safer for students and teachers and parents."

After the video conference, participants held a 30-minute brainstorming session on what needs to be done to increase community participation in the program and alert parents and educators on the warning signs of students who may possibly become violent.

"I thought maybe the dialogue would be more reactive to the video," Powell said. "But (our) dialogue was much closer to the heart of issues - people

talking about that they brought to the table and looking around out of sheer concern for what we need to do for our kids and asking what can we do better."

The next teleconference will be held Oct. 19 at 4 p.m. at Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Center. Philo Middle School will hold a discussion of school safety Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.

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## Churches to take donations for Eastern North Carolina Sunday

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Sunday, churches throughout Winston-Salem take up donations for victims of the flood in eastern North Carolina.

The effort will be coordinated by The Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity.

The Rev. Serenus T. Churn Sr., pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, said that the Ministers Conference has proclaimed Sunday as a day of offering at local churches.

The group hopes to raise at least \$20,000 for flood victims.

Group members are also collecting sealed bottled water.

Elder Loyd Johnson, pastor of Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist, is a certified expert in disaster relief and is helping to shape the Winston-Salem response. Johnson and other interested clergy met Tuesday at Grace Community Church to plan the strategy for Winston-Salem's efforts.

For more information or to donate money or clean-up materials, call Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, 725-4274.

## High waters

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were hunkered down in five shelters across the county, including a former topless bar and a church. The Jones County Civic Center just outside Trenton looked like a military base, with green helicopters kicking up dust and soldiers in camouflage toting garbage bags of food.

Rachel Storer, 14, sat on the center's floor munching cheese puffs and drinking lemonade with her mother, Fakita, and her brother Ryan, 12. She went to sleep Thursday night after telling her journal about how much fun it was riding her bike in the watery streets.

"I never imagined it could get this bad ... nothing ever happens in Trenton," she said. "The only exciting thing that ever happened was the mayor and everything that happened with that. But other than that, no one's ever heard of Trenton before."

She got her journals, took her three cats upstairs, gave each a hug and a kiss, and left.

Though black people and white people live in separate neighborhoods in town, on Friday they were sleeping, eating and commiserating together in the shelters.

"I think this storm has done something to help the situation," said County Sheriff Robert Mason. "I've been seeing black people and white people working together. I believe that's the only good thing that'll come out of it."

When Ina Ray Weeks went to bed Thursday night, the water was 3 inches deep around her home at the Quaker Neck Country Club, where husband Max is superintendent. By Friday afternoon, she was climbing into the shovel of an end-loader with her quaking Chihuahua, Dusty.

"We're 28 feet above sea level," Weeks, 57, said. "We offered our home as a refuge to people. We said, 'Come on! We're safe! We're so high up there's never going to be any water here.' And then we had to be rescued."

County Manager Larry Meadows said the water had swamped hundreds of houses, drowned livestock and even collapsed the steeple of the St. Matthews AME Zion Church.

People waiting to evacuate gathered at the county courthouse, one

## An Opportunity To Serve Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education is accepting applications and nominations for people to serve on its Equity Committee. This advisory board provides valuable feedback on issues regarding instruction, staffing, and resources among our 50 zone schools.

If you are interested in being considered for the committee, or if you know someone who could make positive contributions to our schools, contact Amanda Bell, Assistant Superintendent, at 727-2787, for an application and more information. Application deadline is October 15.

WSFCS Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

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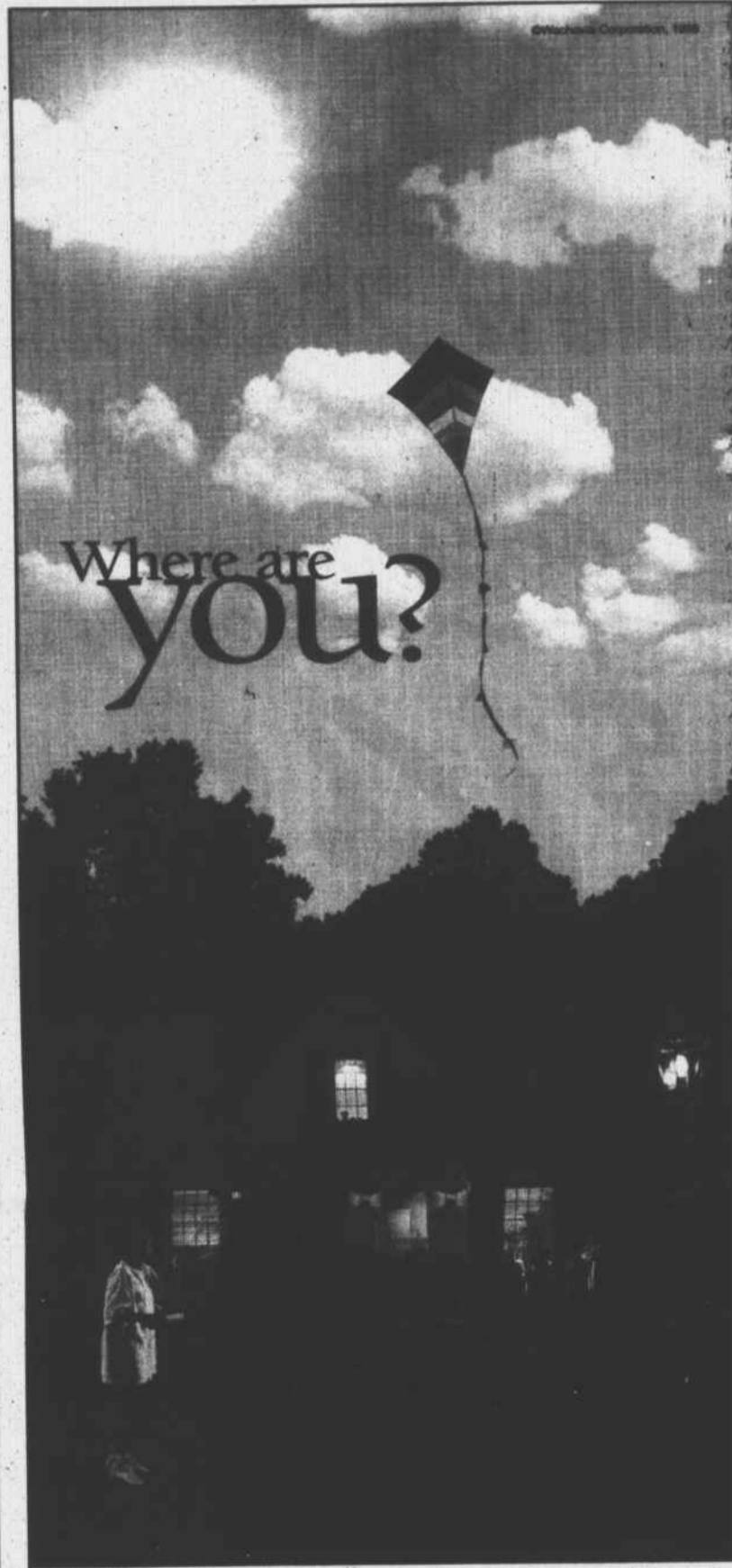
And while you're here, experience the town that young Sarah Childress Polk knew while attending Salem Female Academy. Experience the daily interpretation of the Moravian life in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries that we call Old Salem -- including the site of the oldest standing African American church in the state. The St. Philips Moravian Church of the 1860s will soon be renovated, and the log church of the 1820s will be reconstructed in the coming year. Take a walk through the history of Southern decorative arts at MESDA. Enjoy the magic of The Children's Museum at Old Salem for ages 4 to 9.

Come visit. For the first time, or to see it all again.

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For more information, call 1-888-328-5361 or visit [www.oldsalem.org](http://www.oldsalem.org)

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