

Longtime pastor of Mount Calvary to co-pastor with wife

BY JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

'Highwayman' finally gives up traveling

New Year's Eve will be bitter-sweet for Bishop Harold Ivory Williams.

As hundreds gather at Mount Calvary Holy Church to mark the end of the millennium with a spirited Watch Night service, Williams will mark the end of a major portion of a ministry that's spanned more than 50 years and thousands of miles.

For 27 years, Williams has presided over the large flock at Mount Calvary Holy Church - commuting first from Baltimore to lead services at the East Winston church and later from the home he shares in Durham with his wife, acclaimed gospel singer and evangelist Shirley Caesar.

Dec. 31, Williams will attend his final service at Mount Calvary before heading off to the Triangle permanently. There he will share a pulpit as well as a home with his wife. The couple will serve as co-pastors of the rapidly expanding Mount Calvary Word of Faith Center.

But before he leaves for Raleigh, he somehow has to make it through Dec. 31.

Williams admits that last service will be hard.

"Try as one may, there is a part of us that tends to hold on and not let go," he said. "If you take what these people here have meant to me, then I wouldn't be a whole person. Words cannot express my indebtedness to the members of this church."

During an emotional service at the church two weeks ago, hundreds of church members and denomination officials paid tribute to Williams.

For nearly four hours, Williams' pastorship was lauded with emotional and spirit-filled singing and tokens of thanks that ranged from elaborate paintings to plaques thanking him for his years of service.

One of the most touching tributes came from church member Mark Jones. For two years, Jones would bang out tunes on the piano and Williams, a piano technician and tuner, would correct him.

"I'd play a note and I hear him yell from his office, 'That's not it,'" Jones said with a chuckle. "That's how I learned what notes went where."

It was stories like these that caused Williams' eyes to well up during the ceremony.

One by one, pastors he had trained as well as members whose weddings he'd presided over came forward to say thank you.

"He's the only pastor I've ever known," said one member. "I don't know what I'm going to do without him."

Williams began his long career in the ministry in Baltimore, Md. He graduated from Coppin State College, earned a master's degree and doctorate at Howard University and began pastoring in 1951.

After 20 years of pastoring in Maryland and Washington, D.C., Williams was eventually named presiding bishop of the Mount Calvary Holy Churches of America.

With that title came the pastoring of the local church.

"The founder who I succeeded as founder of the church, built this church," Williams said. "I had to take it. I had no one else to take it."

In 1972, Williams says he became "roving pastor." Each weekend, he would fly into Winston-Salem to lead church services and return home on Sunday night or Monday morning.



Bishop Harold I. Williams shares a laugh with Pastor Daniel Russell. After 27 years of leading the congregation at Mount Calvary Holy Church, Williams is leaving to co-pastor a Raleigh church, with his wife gospel singer Shirley Caesar.

"I was still working full time at the that time," he said. "At first, I flew all the time, then I tried riding the bus. Then I started driving, but that didn't work

out that well." Williams said the long commute made it hard to lead the church. "That commuting pastor is

not easy," he said. "You're not here during the week. Members can't reach you. You can't get your hands on everything."

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Millennium watch night service

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem District of the Western North Carolina Conference of the African Episcopal Zion Churches will observe Watch Night on Friday, Dec. 31, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

This will be the first time that the district has held a joint service. In previous years each church in the district did its own individual service.

The Evangelism Ministry of the district sponsors the event. Rev. Dr. George Erwin is the chairman of that board. Members include Rev. Conita A. Hunt, associate at Goler Memorial; Rev. Frank Cornelius, pastor of Union Chapel; Rev. Marcus Farmer, associate at Bethlehem; Rev. Dairl Scott, pastor of Hickory Grove;

Rev. Louis Hunter Jr., pastor of Benbow Chapel; and Rev. Beverly W. McMillian, pastor of Steward Chapel.

Proceeds from this service will be earmarked for a charitable organization such as Crisis Control, AIDS Ministry or the flood victims of Princeville. It is a way to give back to the community.

The theme for this occasion is "Charged to serve this present age."

The event will be held at Goler Memorial AME Zion Church, 630 North Patterson, and the pastor, Rev. Dr. Seth O. Lartey, will deliver the message for the evening. Various choirs from the district will present the music.

This promises to be an august celebration. Everyone is invited to attend. Breakfast will be served

immediately following the service.

Rev. Dr. Horace C. Walser is the presiding elder of the Winston-Salem District. The district is made up of 21 churches in Winston-Salem, Lexington, Tobaccoville, East Bend and Wilkesboro.

Come join us as we bring in this new millennium with the Lord. In a time where there are so many uncertainties, one thing remains constant: God is in control and He has all power. "If we acknowledge Him in all our ways He will direct our path." So we don't have to fear the new millennium; only give it all to God and let Him work out all the details.

For more information you may contact: Rev. Hunt, 760-3514; or Goler Memorial, 724-9411, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Grace United

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on Friday, Dec. 31, beginning at 10 p.m. The service this year will be held at Spencer Memorial Christian Church, 1410 Douglas Street.

These churches come together throughout the year for various worship fellowships and the final worship service culminates with the Watch Night service. This year's service will be slightly different

and will include millennium games, refreshments and horn blowers and streamers at the stroke of midnight. The fellowship will certainly be one that can be enjoyed by both young and the young at heart.

The Watch Night sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Joseph B. Parks, pastor of Grace United Community Church. Other pastors of the participating churches are: Rev. Sandy Witherspoon, Spencer Memorial; Rev. Leonard Lewis, St. John; and Rev. William

Purvis, Greater St. Matthew. Grace United Church Choirs along with the choirs from the participating churches will come together to form a Millennium Choir under the direction of the music ministers of each church.

Everyone is invited to come and be a part of this special event. For transportation or additional information, contact the church office at 722-2500.

Remember, Grace United is Y2K ready! We are Yielding to the King!

For the Children



Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Burke was one of the guests of honor at an outdoor Christmas party held by a local business owner for children in the Patterson Avenue area. The event took place last week at A-Z Patterson Grocery, a store owned by Azza "Aly" Amer.

Such parties have become regular events for Amer, who has held similar parties at grocery stores he has owned in the past, many of which have been attended by Burke and other city leaders. Amer has even received a resolution from the city for his work with children.

Kids and parents attended the party in droves, braving constant chilly winds. They were treated to music and soft drinks by Coca-Cola and healthy snacks like apples and bananas. Each child was also presented with a Coca-Cola T-shirt. Amer, a native of Egypt, worked the crowd as well, hugging children and engaging in playful tussling with them. He said children are angels on Earth and that he'll continue to do whatever he can to help them.

EXPLORE YOUR POTENTIAL



Being involved for many years in my own business, my time was dominated by the development and expansion of my company. As the business began to grow and prosper, I was allowed the time and financial freedom to continue my education. At Salem College, the professors and students welcomed me with open arms. The small classes created an intimate atmosphere where forming friendships was almost automatic. I have taken a broad range of classes and studied in Spain, Mexico and France. At Salem, I have expanded my educational background and formed friendships that will last a lifetime.

- Shirley Shouse
President, Winston Personnel Group

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One Nation Under God - a New Year's Eve celebration

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Statue of Liberty once stood proud and tall proclaiming, "Give me your tired, your poor and your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shores. Send these the homeless, the tempted, tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door." Her words were penned by Emma Lazarus because of her trust in a nation that promised "one nation under God with liberty and justice for all."

Liberty does not stand so proud anymore as the millennium saw the demise of this nation's stand with hatred and racial injustices. Somewhere we lost the vision.

But Y2K will see the rebirth of a nation, "One Nation Under God"! The King of kings and Lord of lords is on His way back and He is coming back to gather one nation under God.

Come join us in a place where the nations will come together to usher in the new millennium and the rebirth of "One Nation Under God." Join our grand celebration at St. Peter's World Outreach Center, 3683 Old Lexington Road in Winston-Salem. The celebration will begin at 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Featured guests will be: Alianza Cristiana Praise Singers, The Mmanywas from East Africa, contemporary Christian recording artist Exalt, the St. Peter's World Outreach Center Music Ministry, Southern gospel recording artists Sisters in Christ, and Tribe of Praise Community Choir.

There will be something for everyone. Come and be a part of "One Nation Under God" New Year's Eve Celebration.

Dr. James C. and Sister Joyce Hash pastor St. Peter's World Outreach Center. For more information call 650-0200.

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