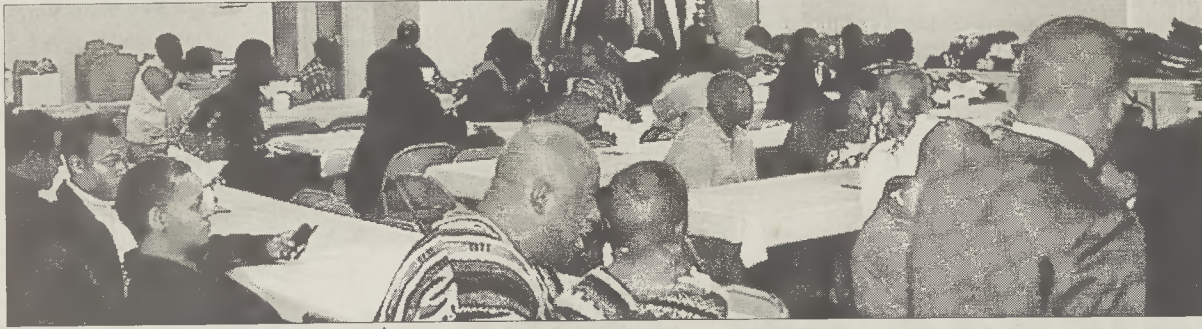


# RELIGION

## Phillips Chapel Baptist Church touches lives at Christmas



Phillips Chapel Baptist Church held a Christmas program and reception for some of the homeless and unfortunate people who live in the area.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Christmas can be a lonely time for many during the holidays. Living on the streets, no family around can be a solemn time for many. But for Phillips Chapel Baptist Church we decided that it didn't have to be for some of the homeless and unfortunate who live in our area.

The congregation got together and loaded many of the residents onto its van and brought them to our Christmas program.

The Sunday school department, under the direction of Debra Littlejohn, along with Shirley Miller and the Senior Choir presented a dramatic presentation of "Immanuel, God is With Us." The homeless also enjoyed interpretive dance selections by the Praise Dancers.

After the program ended, a reception was held for the homeless in the church's fellowship hall, where there was plenty of food, clothes, coats, shoes to choose from and gifts for every-

one. Residents listened attentively to Thomasine Jenkins Boyd, who until recently spent 23 years living on the streets herself. She is so thankful to God for getting her off the streets that she now encourages and motivates others to do the same.

The congregation and the members were so overjoyed to be able to brighten the lives of so many who have so little. We look forward to making this an annual event.



### CALENDAR

#### Help with homework

Need help with your homework? Come to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1301 E. Belevs Street, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call 721-1959. Classes are offered in math, English, computers and speech therapy. Rev. C.E. Gray is pastor.

#### After-school program

Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church announces its after-school program for children in grades kindergarten through eight. The hours of operation are 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The after-school program location is at the old church location, 945 Cleveland Ave. For more information, contact the church office at 661-0226.

Dec. 21

#### The Longest Night: A service of faith and consolidation

For families who have lost loved ones within the past year - and for others who have unresolved issues of loss and grief - Green Street Church is holding a Longest Night Service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, the winter solstice. Just as days lengthen after the solstice, the light of hope can begin its re-entry into lives darkened by the pain of death and separation. The worship service offers a way to acknowledge both sadness and faith and to work toward appropriate resolution of feelings.

In addition to death, there are many causes of grief in every life. Loss of a job, a relationship, physical fitness, a longtime home even the loss of a pet, each can be emotionally devastating. Parish nurse B.J. Ellender invites the community to bring wounds and fears of any kind to this program sponsored by the church's health and healing ministry.

The Longest Night Service is open to all. Green Street Church is a United Methodist congregation at 639 S. Green Street. The church reflects the diversity of the West Salem community, both in its membership and in its staff, and all are invited to take part in its ministries of worship and service. For more information, call Pastor Kelly Carpenter, 722-8379.

Dec. 24

#### Christmas program

Stewards Chapel AME Zion Church, 198 Anderson Road in Rural Hall, will hold its annual Christmas program on Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Rev. Beverly McMillian is the pastor.

#### "The Christmas Meditations and Annunciation"

The combined choirs of Saints

Home United Methodist Church will present "The Christmas Meditations and Annunciation." It is based on an organ score as arranged by Murray C. Bradshaw. The score has a contemporary sound. This arrangement has the choirs singing mainly the same carols in the traditional version. This complete Christmas story will be given Dec. 24 at 11 a.m.

#### Christmas Lovefeast and Candle Service

St. Philips Moravian Church, 3002 Bon Air Ave., will hold its annual Christmas Lovefeast and Candle Service at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve). Special music will be provided by a mixed choir under the direction of Evon Reid. The public is invited.

Dec. 28, 29, 31

#### "Healing and Deliverance" Revival

There will be a "Healing and Deliverance" Revival at Revelations of Faith Church Inc., 3710 Mavrick Street in the Oldtown section of Winston-Salem. On Thursday, Dec. 28, and Friday, Dec. 29, at 7:30, Apostle Barry Spates of Calvary Ministries will conduct the services. On Sunday, Dec. 31, at 11 a.m., the minister will be Prophetess Maria Earl. On Sunday night at 7:30, Spates will give the New Year's Eve message. The public is invited. For directions to Revelations of Faith Church, call 336-777-8092.

#### Other

#### Classes

Houston Graduate School of Theology's North Carolina branch campus, located at John Wesley College in High Point, will begin its spring semester A, on Monday, Jan. 8. Classes to be offered include: Introduction to Christian Theology, Leadership Development, Biblical Archaeology, Counseling of Individuals, The Pentateuch, History of American Christianity, Introduction to Local Church Evangelism, Apocalyptic Literature, History of the Black Church in America, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew, and the Corinthian Epistles.

The seminary offers two degree options to students: the master of theological studies and the master of divinity. Saturday classes and an entire degree program, which can be completed at night, are also available. Houston Graduate School of Theology is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada. For more information, call Dr. Frank Scurry, at 336-889-2262 (office) or 800-987-8442 (home). E-mail him at hgstnc@gamewood.net or fscurry@johnwesley.edu.

## Don't forget to evaluate your commitment to



Mildred Peppers

#### Sunday School Lesson

Lesson Scripture: Luke 2:4-20

**Lesson Aims:** to recount the events surrounding the birth of Christ, to appreciate God's way of doing things and to deepen our commitment to Him.

**Background:** The journey to Bethlehem was quite difficult for me. You see, I'm heavy with child and my husband had to go there for tax purposes. Caesar Augustus had decreed census throughout the Roman Empire. We were not alone because everyone had to go to his own town. Where will we stay? What if the child comes? We continued to press on. As we journeyed, my mind went back to all of the teachings of my ancestors.

It's been 400 years since my people had a prophet and a word from God. During the days of Malachi, the people lost their excitement for God. Once again, the people drifted from their commitment to Him. The prophet taught them how to rekindle the fire. Some in the community feared (reverenced) God and shared with one another. The Lord heard them. The majority of my people continued to remain dull to God's Word. Malachi's message ended with an exhortation "to remember the law while heaven is silent" ("Richard's Complete Bible Handbook").

Great empires rose and fell, as God's plan worked itself out. After the Persian Empire fell, Alexander The Great conquered the land and established a unified kingdom. This unity was based on the Greek language. Alexander died and the empire was divided among his four generals.

For 122 years, my people were dominated by the Ptolemies (one of the generals and his family). A Syrian named Jason took Palestine and tried to force the people to become Greek. Jason's aim was to wipe out Judaism! Mattathias and his five sons led my people's resistance movement. This family was best known by their nickname, the "Maccabees" (the Hammer).

This revolt was also a war between those committed to God and those who weren't. They did great things but the people remained divided. The Sadducees, descendants of the Maccabees, were religious conservatives and their opponents were the Pharisees. Rome eventually conquered the land.

When Rome came, my people had fought many wars, survived

rebellions, plots and feuds. Rome instituted her "pax" (peace). Rome's pax was the invading army of Pompey. Anitpater (a descendant of Esau) made an alliance with the Romans and managed to get his son, Herod, appointed king of the Jews. Like his father, the people hated him. Though a good administrator, he was brutal. My people had been through a lot so it wasn't difficult to understand their desire for another David.

**Lesson:** God's plan is unstoppable! We are in Bethlehem and my time has come. Joseph has found a place for us in a manger. My first-born son is wrapped in swaddling clothes (strips of cloth used to wrap around the baby to keep its arms and legs straight). We will be here for a while.

God in His infinite wisdom announces the birth to the shepherds. Why them? Why not to Herod or the priests? God sends angels to the meek and lowly; the downtrodden and despised. They are told that my child is the Savior, Christ the Lord. I'm sure that they were afraid but the angel calms them and the heavenly hosts sing God's praises.

The shepherds immediately came to the manger to worship the child. It's a moment that I will never forget! This handmaiden of God has given birth to the Messiah and the outcasts of society come first to adore Him. Straightway they left us to spread the Good News of Great Joy. The skeptics doubt, some believe and I ponder all of these things in my heart.

**Application:** So much has happened since then. You know the story but I drop by this season to remind you of God's goodness. My people felt abandoned yet God never leaves us alone. My firstborn didn't come to the palace or the

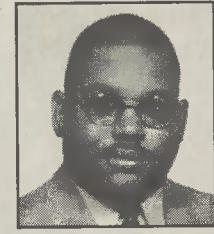
mansion. He didn't come to the rich or the famous. Instead, He came through the back door of history to change humanity forever! Isn't our God awesome? He chooses the unexpected to announce that the Christ child is born.

Now I'm very proud of any son but what can I say about God! I magnify Him! So should you. Wherever you are in society, whatever problems you are confronted with, Jesus is for you! He is the re-

son for the season mercy are open to the Anointed One (Savior) us and forevermore.

Hallelujah, the you celebrate, don't ate your comm omnipresent, on omnipotent God Have a Merry Chri mother to all of yo

### Pentecostal Lighthouse Baptist Church of



Dr. A. Thomas Griffey, III  
Pastor/Teacher

4349 Kernersville Rd  
Kernersville, NC 272  
336-650-0033

#### Schedule of Worship Services

Sunday Morning Worship.....  
Sunday Evening Worship.....  
Monday Study Class.....  
Tuesday Bible Study.....  
Wednesday Children's Choir Rehearsal.....  
Thursday: Bible Study and Preach Night.....

"To Love, To Know, To Serve and To Grow God's"

### Mt. Olive Baptist



Pastor & Mrs. C. E. Gray

1301 E. Belevs Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 272  
336-724-5842 or 721-19

#### Listing of Services

Sunday School 9:30  
Worship Service 11:15  
Wednesday 12:00  
Bible Study 7:00

"Let God Be God"

### Macedonia Holiness Church Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc



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

#### Sunday Services

Sunday School .....  
Morning Worship .....  
Radio Broadcast (WAAA 980) .....  
M.Y.P.U. ....  
Evangelistic .....  
Wednesday Services

Prayer & Bible Study .....  
4111 Whitfield Drive \*Teleph

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with Nigel Alston

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