

# Jesus comes alive in play

BY PAUL COLLINS  
THE CHRONICLE

Mount Olive Baptist Church's production of the Easter play "The Upper Room to Calvary" had a number of touching and powerful moments Saturday night at Carver High School Auditorium.

Like when Sandra Scales' (Mary, the mother of Jesus') eyes filled with tears when she sang heartfelt songs about Jesus Christ. And when Jesus (portrayed by Michael Gray) walked down the aisle carrying a wooden cross as guards shouted at Him. Or the sight of Jesus in agonizing pain on the cross at Calvary, as Mary and others grieved.

Another highlight was when what appeared to be mist filled the stage and a Resurrected Jesus emerged from his tomb with arms outstretched. He wore a white, hooded robe and a red overgarment, symbolizing His purity and the blood He shed so that others might live.

The cast and chorus (Mount Olive Mass Choir) celebrated the Resurrection through song and heartfelt emotions. Some cried. Some raised their hands and prayed aloud. One cast member, overcome with emotion, walked across the stage, praising God.

"The Upper Room to Calvary" was written by Rev. Charles E. Gray, pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, and was directed by Rev. Gray and Mrs. Eula H. Gray. It was presented by Snoot Productions.

Some 300 to 400 people attended, according to one estimate.

Doors opened at 5:30 p.m. St. Stephens' Combination Chorale presented a concert from 6-7 p.m., which was followed by the two-hour play.

In scene 1, an angel appears and tells Mary that she has conceived God's son. Scene 2 dealt with the ministry of Jesus; Scene 3, going to the Upper Room; Scene 4, Garden of Gethsemane; Scene 5, Calvary; Scene VI, at the cross; Scene 7, Resurrection; and finally, "Hallelujah."

Along the way, the cast acted out such events as Mary and Joseph searching for Boy Jesus

and finding him in the temple; John the Baptist, baptizing Jesus; Jesus healing the sick and the demon-possessed; Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper; Jesus praying at the Garden of Gethsemane; Judas betraying Jesus and later Judas hanging himself; the capture, trial and Crucifixion of Jesus; the women finding the empty tomb; and the Resurrection.

The musical numbers were pleasing to hear, inspiring, heartfelt - tear-jerking at times, uplifting at others. Soloists included Sandra Scales, Arthur Wright (who was also keyboardist and choir director) and Paulette Lewis. Shannon Propst, Christie Brown and Wright sang

one song together. There were about a dozen musical selections in all, including "Lamb of God"; "Magnify Him"; "I Find No Fault"; "The Old Rugged Cross"; "I'll Rise Again"; "That's My Son"; "Out There on Calvary"; "Lord, P'l Go"; "Jesus Is a Miracle Man"; and "In the Upper Room."

A small band performed with the choir. The costumes were colorful and seemed appropriate for the time period.

The audience left with the feeling that Jesus Christ is alive. Wright sang in one solo: "Go ahead, drive the nails in my hands. I rise again. Death can't keep me in the ground."



Wesley Chapman sings about Jesus healing a sick woman after she touched the hem of His garment.



Sandra Scales sings "Lamb of God" in her performance of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ.



Jesus Christ (portrayed by Michael Gray) carries his cross down the aisle as guards shout at him.

## McCoy

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Linda Davis, who served as an assistant chief with McCoy before the city manager pegged her for the top spot. Some in the department feel that McCoy, a well respected department official with a folksy personality, was snubbed for the position. Supporters of McCoy are still quietly fuming over the way Davis got the job. She was appointed to the position but did not apply or go through the interview process like other candidates.

McCoy said he is fond of the Winston-Salem department and the men and women who keep it running. He said it was a hard decision to even apply for the job.

"Even though I was not made chief here, I love Winston-Salem and I love this Police Department," he said. "I have lots of great friends and co-workers here."

The Wilson job would take McCoy closer to his family, many of whom live in nearby Rocky

Mount. McCoy was born in Winston-Salem but moved to Rocky Mount as a child. His brother is a captain in the Rocky Mount Police Department. McCoy's wife, Denise, is a popular curriculum coordinator at Konnoak Elementary School. The Wilson assessment process is designed to gauge the skills and thinking patterns of potential candidates. Results of the process will be evaluated by the city manager, police chief, community leaders and members of Wilson's leadership team. Residents of the city and city personnel will also be involved in the final process. No deadline for the process has been specified.

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**Quotables:**

*"I had to make my own living and my own opportunity... Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come; you have to get up and make them."*

- Madame C.J. Walker, 1914

**Author to lead book discussion, sign books**

Literary Voices Bookclub will present author Donna Hill - book discussion led by the author and book signing to immediately follow - on Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m. at The Artistic Studio, 202 W. Fourth Street, Winston-Salem. The event is free. Refreshments will be provided. Special Occasions Bookstore will provide books. For information, call 722-3742.

**NOTICE OF A CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGES ON US 52 OVER LIBERTY STREET (SR 2456) AND THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD IN WINSTON-SALEM**

Project 8.1622802 U-2826A Forsyth County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will hold an informal Citizens Informational Workshop on the subject project on Monday, April 30, 2001 in Auditorium B of the Forsyth County Agricultural Building, located at 1450 Fairchild Drive in Winston-Salem. The Workshop will be held between the hours of 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

This will be an open house meeting. Interested citizens may attend at their convenience during the above hours. Department of Transportation representatives will be present to answer questions and receive comments concerning the project. Information presented at this workshop will be general in nature, since detailed plans have not been prepared for the project.

The project proposes to replace Bridge Numbers 256 and 257 on US 52 in Winston-Salem. These bridges carry US 52 over Liberty Street (SR 2456) and the Norfolk Southern Railroad. This project will also include installation of several cameras, fiber optic cable, and a variable message sign as part of an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) along US 52. In addition, improvements to the 25th Street/Liberty Street interchange (including widening along Liberty Street), and possible permanent ramp closures are also being studied. Acquisition of new right of way and/or business and residential relocations may be required for the project.

A temporary detour structure will be required to maintain traffic along US 52 during construction of the new bridges. Temporary ramp closures may also be necessary.

Anyone desiring additional information regarding the project may contact Alethia Raynor, Project Development Engineer, at the NC Department of Transportation, 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1548 or at (919) 733-7844, extension 247.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons who wish to participate in this workshop to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To receive special services, please contact Mrs. Raynor at the above number or by fax of (919) 733-9794 to give adequate notice prior to the date of the workshop. In addition, transportation has been set up through the Winston-Salem Transportation Center. Anyone seeking transportation to attend the workshop should call 336-727-2000 and ask for the Information Specialist to make transportation arrangements.

The Chronicle: April 19, 26, 2001

**The Power Of Human Connections.**

**North Carolina's electric cooperatives**

**Touchstone Energy**

8:32 PM, Harmony, NC. Whether the day is beginning or drawing to a close, our story is the same. We understand the importance of being there for the folks who depend on us - the way you're there for ones who depend on you. That's why your local Touchstone Energy cooperatives are always working to make sure you have the power you need to make all your human connections - which is what our connection to you is all about.