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The Rev. Cedric Rodney stands among the wooden pews inside St. Phillips Moravian Church in Old Salem. The church was built in the 1860s.

Historic church restored to former glory



Construction workers install the church's steeple Tuesday afternoon.

Historic church will become part of Old Salem tour after rededication

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN, PH.D.
THE CHRONICLE

The oldest standing African-American church in the state has been given a makeover and will soon open its doors for all to marvel at its newly-restored greatness. The rededication of St. Phillips Moravian Church will kick off a full slate of activities at Old Salem early next month. St. Phillips Moravian Church was established in 1822 by the women of Home Moravian Church. The original site for the church was constructed by worshippers on Dec. 28, 1823. The simple log church still sits in Old Salem. It was renovated several years ago. The brick structure to which worshippers relocated in 1861 has now been restored with money from Old Salem's \$25 million capital campaign. The Rev. Cedric Rodney, pastor of St. Phillips, which moved to a site on Bon Air Avenue years ago, said the church will be able to use the restored edifice for special events and services. According to historical records, it was from the pulpit of the storied brick church that the chaplain of the 10th

Black chair hopes to increase awareness

Cook using position as first black head on breast cancer race to reach out to community

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

African-American women continue to have the highest breast cancer mortality rate of any ethnic group in the United States, according to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Michelle Cook is hoping to spread the importance of breast health even further into the black community as the first African-American chairperson of the Triad Race for the Cure. The Komen Race for the Cure has become the largest series of 5K runs in the country, occurring annually in 114 cities. Seventy-five percent of the funds raised by the Komen N.C. Triad Affiliate will remain in the local community to fund breast cancer education, screening and treatment. Around 7,000 people are expected to participate in this year's race, scheduled for May 3 at Old Salem. Since the first Triad Race for the Cure in 2000, more than 12,000 people have raised \$1.1 million for breast cancer.



Cook

See Race on A10

Cook's full-time job is as a capital campaign coordinator for Winston-Salem State University. She served as a co-chair of the Triad Race for the Cure last year.

"As an African-American woman, I have an opportunity to talk to women who look like me about the importance of breast health," said Cook, who says that many women of color she encounters consider breast cancer to be a "white woman's disease." Statistics show that more black women, despite lower incidence rates, are dying from breast cancer than white women in this country.



Davis

Roundtable gets answers about closing of school

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the Black Leadership Roundtable were cautiously optimistic last Thursday night after Schools Superintendent Don Martin assured them that suspended and expelled students would not fall through the cracks now that the alternative school that many such students attended has been shut down temporarily. After months of discussions, the School Board decided to close Independence High School for at least a semester. The school had been used as a site to educate students who had discipline problems at traditional schools. The school is expected to be given a complete makeover during the shut-down - from renovations to a revamping of the school's programs - but Martin told the roundtable that money was the main reason for the decision. Like last year, the school system is expected to be



Martin

See School on A10

Planting seeds

Elementary children get visit from professionals

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Leprecious Baldwin and her fellow classmates were the first group of students at Cook Elementary School that got access to more than a dozen professionals who came to the school for a career fair Monday. Firefighters, nurses and business people were among those scattered



Leon Witherspoon Jr. hands out literature about the city's Fire Department.

around the school's media center. Most were standing near eye-catching props that depicted some aspects of their careers. But Leprecious had only one destination on her mind: the front table where two cosmetologists from J.C. Penney had set up shop. After Leprecious announced that she already knew how to braid hair, the cosmetologists - Brandi Williams and Sharon Black - put Leprecious to the test, giving her free rein over one of two mannequin heads in order to see the girl's braiding magic. "That looks great... You are doing a great job," one of the women said as Leprecious transformed once straight hair into a row of braids. Cook has held the career fair for several years as a way to expose young people to the vast number of career opportunities available to them. Brett Pesce, a guidance counselor at the school who organized the fair, said it is not too early for elementary-aged students to start thinking about their careers. "It is really important that you plant seeds early," she

See Cook on A4



Brandi Williams watches as Leprecious Baldwin works.

Photos by Kevin Walker