

God's word offers life, hope

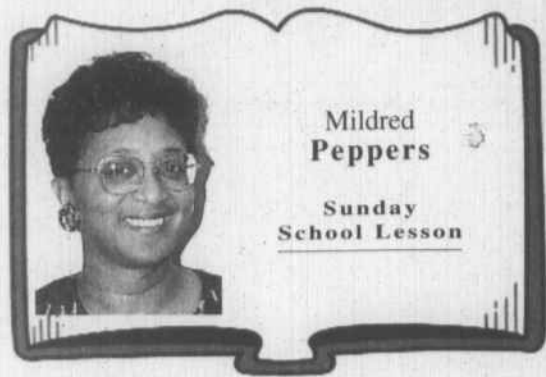
Lesson Scripture:
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-12.

Lesson aims: to recognize that true revival comes from the word of God, to always revere God's word, and to demonstrate the value of His word in our lives.

Background: The consequences for their sins led them into captivity by the Babylonians. They didn't heed the prophets, so God allowed that to happen. The final deportation occurred in 586 B.C. It was punishment for abandoning God. While it wasn't marked by any unusual suffering (except Daniel and the Hebrew boys), they were not at home and that was punishment enough.

Once the 70-year exile period ended, Cyrus allowed the first group to return to Judah. Led by Zerubbabel and Jeshua in 538 B.C., they were to rebuild the temple. It took some motivation from Haggai and Zechariah, but they finally accomplished their aim. Ezra, a priest and scribe, led the second group home in 458 B.C. They were strengthened but couldn't rebuild the wall around the city.

Nehemiah brought the third group of exiles back in 444 B.C. to rebuild that wall. Despite external opposition and internal strife, the wall was rebuilt in 52 days! As governor, Nehemiah re-established order in the land politically and religiously (Chapter 7).



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

Ezra led an earlier revival before Nehemiah came. Now the Israelites find themselves lacking and the lesson begins.

Lesson: When the Bible refers to months, we must remember that their calendar begins in March/April. The seventh month, September/October (Tishri), the people assemble to hear the word of God. Gathering at the water gate on the east side of the city wall, they want a revival!

"This gate is so named because the people bring water from a spring outside the wall" ("NIV Standard Lesson Commentary").

Spiritually they are thirsty and in a desert. You see, the slightest obstacle discourages, their zeal to do God's will quickly fizzles, and they fall easily to sin. They've come to quench their dry places

because only God's word can bring life and hope.

Preparations are made and Ezra opens the book (scroll). The people stand out of respect for God's word as Ezra begins to read. Praises go up to a great God; people lift their hands and bow their heads.

The Levites (13 of them) instruct the people. We must remember that the Hebrew language has changed in a thousand years and most of them speak Aramaic. The Levites help them understand. If all else fails, remember "The Canterbury Tales" in Old English? God's word not only gives life and hope but it also convicts. Upon understanding the word, the people weep as they acknowledge their shortcomings.

Nehemiah and Ezra tell them not to grieve because the day is sacred and the joy of the Lord is their strength. Instruc-

tion gives people confidence (joy) to face life's journey. They are further told to celebrate their understanding. Verses 13-18 record the restoration of the Feast of Tabernacles (relives the time of travel through the wilderness).

The revival is going full steam ahead!

Application: We are in need of a revival! As an individual, an ethnic group, and the nation, we are in dry places. Our deserts exist because of sinfulness. We have few morals left. Our children don't know who they are, and the government is corrupt and arrogant. Even our allies don't like us unless there is money involved! Yes, I'd say that a revival is in order.

While we may not stand as one man to hear God's word, we can make a difference. II Chronicles 7:14 says it all! Understanding God's word is key to change. Misunderstanding and/or intentional misrepresentation only leads to further destruction. Do we reverence or trample God's word? Reverence leads to repentance and a deeper relationship with God. The latter maintains the status quo. Worship should be real, not entertainment. It should be life-altering, not just emotional.

Humbly bow down and repent because there is life and hope in God's word. There are people in the desert who need to be revived!



Leonard Stimpson Hodge

Happy 58th Birthday In Heaven
July 14, 1945 - October 27, 2002
A Day Doesn't Go By That I Don't Think About You
Your Wife, Denise C. Hodge and Family

Pentecostal Lighthouse Baptist Church of W-S, Inc.

317 Jefferson St.
Kernersville, NC 27284
(336) 992-0011

Schedule of Worship Services

Sunday Morning Worship	8:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Thursday Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:30 p.m.

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

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

1301 E. Belews Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
"Let God Be God"
724-5842 or 721-1959
Sunday Morning Broadcast 6 - 6:30 A.M. WUPN 48
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday 12:00 Noon
Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
www.letgodbegod.org

Macedonia Holiness Church Of God Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.

Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
M.Y.P.U 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Services
Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
4111 Whitfield Drive
Phone: 336-767-3700
Fax: 336-767-7006

Mount Olive Baptist will hold men's luncheon

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Mt. Olive Baptist Church will sponsor a men's luncheon July 26 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the church, 1301 E. Belews Street. The guest speaker will be Pastor Frank H. Smith of Mt. Olive Full Gospel Baptist Church, Salisbury, N.C. The theme is "Nehemiah 2:18 - Men We Will Rise!"

Door prizes will be given. You must have a ticket to attend. Call 721-1959 or 767-4738 for your free ticket.

Smith is a resident of Winston-Salem and received his formal education in the Forsyth County School System and later at Winston-Salem State University.

He joined St. Stephen Baptist Church in 1970 and while there held various positions,



Pastor Frank Smith

including youth activities director, departmental superintendent of Sunday school, chorister of the Gospel Choir, deacon and associate minister. He accepted God's call to

the ministry and was licensed by Rev. J.R. Samuels in 1986. In 1988 he was installed as pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Salisbury, later to become Mt. Olive Full Gospel Baptist due to the pastor and church's affiliation with the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International.

He was honored as Pastor of the Year in 2002 by the N.C. Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship. He currently serves as first assistant to the overseer of the Northwest District.

Smith and his wife of 33 years, Belinda S. Smith, share in ministry as pastor and co-pastor. He has five children.

Time, experience and his unflinching love for God have caused his roots to grow deep in his commitment to spread the Gospel. His method of

preaching a "now word" backed by life experiences while using biblical principles has helped set many a captive free.

Rev. C.E. Gray is host pastor.

Church Yard Sale

Solid Rock Baptist Church
3010 Carver School Rd
Saturday, July 19
7:00 AM until

United Progressive Baptist Church

PASTOR LEWIS E. DEVLIN
Home Tel: (336) 767-7825
Office Tel: (336) 724-1266
At E. 12th & Jackson Avenue
1122 Quincy Caldwell Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Friendship Baptist Church will hold youth revival



Rev. Richardson

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Friendship Baptist Church will hold its annual youth revival, beginning Sunday, July 20, at the 11 a.m. worship service, and continuing Monday through Thursday nights with services beginning at 7.

The Rev. Walter T.

Richardson, pastor of Sweet Home Baptist Church in Perrine, Fla., will be the guest evangelist for the week.

Richardson is a professor of religion at St. Thomas University, professor of religion at South Florida Center for Theological Studies and chaplain for the Metro-Dade Police Department.

He holds memberships and is affiliated with these organizations: West Perrine Christian Association, NAACP (life member), American Society of Personnel Administration, American Association of Christian Counseling (charter member). He has received numerous awards, including: Outstanding Services, NAACP, 1993; Outstanding Contribution to Gospel Music Award, Dade County Federation of Black Employees, 1992; Outstanding Service in Religion, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, 1993; and the list goes on.

Richardson has emerged in recent years as a leading voice

in the South Dade community for social justice. His ability to equate the black religious experience with the social concerns of the black community has been recognized as a needed methodology for change.

Sweet Home Baptist Church is involved in holistic healing for the family in that it offers ministries involving singles, marriage and peer counseling at all levels.

He is also nationally known for his musical talent, having recorded with several choirs and artists, including the Florida Mass Choir as a vocalist and musician.

He has been a great evangelist at Friendship Baptist Church in past years.

He is married and has two children and several grandchildren.

Friendship Baptist Church is at 1317 N. Cherry Street. The Rev. S.E. Tyndall is the pastor.

The public is invited.

She attended Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., and is currently pursuing a degree in nursing.

Hicks is thankful to be the wife of Anderson Hicks III and mother of Christshon, Justin and Mitchell Hicks. She obtained a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Winston-Salem State University.

She is a faithful member of Morning Star Baptist Church,

where she has received teacher and counselor training, as well as attended child evangelism fellowship and MACEA workshops.

She serves as a teacher in Sunday school, Good News Club and vacation Bible school. She is a deaconess, counselor and an Intercourse Prayer Warrior.

For more information call 748-0216. Rev. Donald L. Salley is the pastor.

Sermons

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youth worker.

The Lord led her to Abyssinia Christ Centered Ministries in Detroit, Mich., where she was taught under the leadership of Bishop Dr. Iona Locke for several years. While under the leadership of Locke, Leavens was a member of the Reach Out Ministry and the College of Priests.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
PASTOR C. E. GRAY

Men's Luncheon

FREE

FREE

PASTOR C. E. GRAY

PASTOR FRANK SMITH

THEME: NEHEMIAH 2:18
MEN WE WILL RISE!
DOOR PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN

SAT. JULY 26, 2003 11:00 AM TIL 2:30 PM
AT: MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
1301 E. BELEWS STREET
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

FOR YOUR FREE TICKET
CALL (336) 721-1959 OR (336) 767-4738
(YOU MUST HAVE A TICKET TO ATTEND)
SPEAKER: PASTOR FRANK SMITH
MT. OLIVE FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN
SALISBURY, NC

E-mail us at news@wschronicle.com