



File Photo
Some of the scholarship recipients from the last Emancipation Association event are recognized during the program.

Emancipation event is Jan. 1

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association will have its annual celebration of the 1863 signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005. The event will be at Grace Presbyterian Church (3901 Carver School Road) at 11 a.m.

Rev. William Stephen Fails, pastor of Greater First United Baptist Church in High Point, will be the keynote speaker.

Fails was called to preach in 1968 but did not enter the ministry until late 1969. He was licensed to preach in 1969 at Cleaves Memorial CME Church in Oklahoma City.

In 1980 he entered the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Ga. While matriculating at ITC, he pastored Clifford Temple CME Church in Thomasville, Ga. After studying at ITC for two years, he transferred to Howard University School of Divinity. He was then transferred to Washington, D.C., to pastor Lane Memorial CME Church.

In 1986 he was assigned to Hanes Memorial CME Church in Winston-Salem, where he served until 1989. In May of

1986 he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree.

In 1989 he was transferred to Anderson, S.C., to serve as pastor of Mount Carmel CME Church. The next assignment for him was in 1990 to Statesville, N.C., where he pastored Holsey CME Church.

In the summer of 1991, the Lord moved in a mysterious way and Fails was called to be the pastor of First United Baptist Church of High Point (now Greater First United Baptist Church), where he currently serves.

Fails is a member of the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity, the Ministers Conference of High Point, NAACP, Citizens United for Justice, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and Prince Hall Lodge. He has received many honors and awards. He is a founder of Crossing 52.

Several scholarships will be awarded during the Emancipation Celebration.

Finalists who do not receive scholarships will be given monetary awards and

recognition. Contributions by individuals and organizations, plus all offering at the annual celebration, provide money for scholarships.

Other participants on the program will include: Mayor Allen Joines, Judge Roland Hayes, Board of Education member Victor Johnson, Rev.

Sandra Thigpin, Josephine Jones, attorney Kathleen Quinn DuBois, Rev./Dr. John Mendez, attorney Harvey L. Kennedy, Rev./Dr. J. Ray Butler, Rev./Dr. Samuel Stevenson, Alma Barber, and association president Robert W. Long. Evalena Clay-

born is the program chairperson.

Music for the celebration will be provided by A. Louisa L. Foy, Ronald E. Hughes (tenor soloist), the United Voices of Greater First United Baptist Church of High Point, and the Chancel Choir of Grace Presbyterian Church.

The general public is invited to come and join this historic and educational celebration.



Fails

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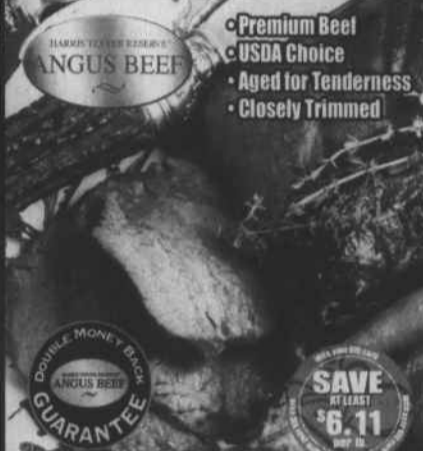
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