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THE CHRONICLE

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Step out on Faith

HOMETOWN COLUMN

By Dr. Maya Angelou



Many things continue to amaze me, even well into the seventh decade of my life. I'm startled or taken aback when people walk up to me and tell me they are Christians. My first response is the question "Already?" It seems to me a lifelong endeavor to try to live the life of a Christian. I believe that is also true for the Buddhist, for the Muslim, for the Jainist, for the Jew and for the Taoist who try to live their belief. The idyllic condition cannot be arrived at and held on to eternally. It is in the search itself that one finds the ecstasy.

One of my earliest memories of Mamma, of my grandmother, is a glimpse of a tall cinnamon-colored woman with a deep, soft voice, standing thousands of feet up in the air on nothing visible. That incredible vision was a result of what my imagination would do each time Mamma drew herself up to her full six feet, clasped her hands behind her back, looked up into the distant sky, and said, "I will step out on the word of God."

The Depression, which was difficult for everyone, especially so for a single black woman in the South tending to her crippled son



Dr. Angelou is a proud member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

and two grandchildren, caused her to make the statement of faith often.

She would look up as if she could will herself into the heavens, and tell her family in particular and the world in general, "I will step out on the word of God. I will step out on the word of God." Immediately I could see

her flung into space, moons at her feet and stars at her head, comets swirling around her. Naturally, since Mamma stood out on the word of God, and Mamma was over six feet tall, it wasn't difficult for me to have faith. I grew up knowing that the word of God had power.

I am a member of Mt. Zion

Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. and Glide Methodist Church in San Francisco, Calif. My ministers have tried to discourage me from joining any other churches saying that I was fully covered on both East and West coast. However, I

See Angelou on A11



Last year's Woman of the Year, Judge Denise Hartsfield, gives her remarks.

Nominations sought for service awards

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Next month, The Chronicle will honor local men and women who have contributed significantly to our community.

The Chronicle Community Awards Banquet, to be held March 10, will continue a tradition that was started more than two decades ago. Since its inception, some of the city's best-known community leaders have been honored for their work and good deeds.

Nominations are now being sought for this year's awards, which will be held at the Embassy Suites' Grand Pavilion at 6:30 p.m.

More than a dozen awards will be presented that evening, including the top prizes, Man of the Year and Woman of the Year. These awards will go to individuals who have made significant and far-reaching impacts on our community through their service, especially within the last 12 months. Recent winners of these awards include Judge Denise Hartsfield, Community Activist Linda Sutton, Mayor Allen Joines and Jim Shaw, who heads the effort to revitalize Liberty Street.

Lifetime Achievement Awards will also be presented to those who have a long and distinguished record of service. The Special Recognition Award will honor those who have made noteworthy contributions to the community. The awards often go to those who have contributed greatly but whose deeds have gone unsung. The memory of community giants who have passed away in the last year will also be honored at the banquet with the Special Tribute Award.

The community is encouraged to submit nominations for any or all of the categories. A nomination form is included in this week's issue on page A12. Nominations can be mailed, dropped off at our office or e-mailed to news@wschronicle.com. The nomination period will end next week. All nominations will be reviewed by a panel of past award winners. This year's honorees will be featured in a special section that will appear in The Chronicle prior to the banquet. Please help us honor those who have done good deeds.

DADDY'S GIRL



Young Robyn Tate grabs onto of her father's leg during a youth basketball league practice session at the Winston Lake YMCA earlier this week.

Locals asked to ride to Raleigh for Feb. 10 march

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP, along with the Black Leadership Roundtable, are planning a trip to Raleigh on Sat. Feb. 10, for the HK on J (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) March, demanding that the State Legislature address the 14 points outlined in what is known as "The People's Agenda."

"One of the reasons (we're marching) is to draw attention to those kinds of issues and those kinds of concerns that affect African Americans in particular, but all people generally ... early in the legislative process," said Rep. Larry Womble. "We're having it on Saturday because most people can come. We're asking them to bring their children too, so the children can be a part, and witness this great event."

The local initiative is called "Get on the Bus." Organizers are trying to get as many local people as possible to travel to the state capital.

"Anything that affects my people, anything that affects my constituents ... I am supposed to be a part of that, to make sure their voice is heard," Womble said of his motivation to participate. "It's an enhancement of what I should be doing all the time and any other legislator should

be doing. It's helping to address and bring (constituents') concerns to the forefront of the legislature."

Among the chief complaints detailed in the agenda are the lack of livable wages, healthcare for all people and affordable housing within North Carolina.

Other demands include the abolishment of neighborhood schools, and the death penalty - which is described by the NAACP as being "racially biased" - and bolstering support of HBCUs and Civil Rights organizations.

"We are at the crossroads - minorities, and blacks in particular," said Stephen Hairston, president of the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP. "They are rolling the clock back on us on every major issue that we have fought for in the past. We need to show up and speak out about issues that are important to the minority community."

The local NAACP has chartered two buses for the trip. Transportation will be offered to anyone who wishes to participate at no cost. Hairston says the local branch of the NAACP hopes to have about 100 people sign up to take the trip.

"This historical march is going to get thousands of people coming together to march



Hood

See March on A10

Church members spend night helping

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

A young church reached out to the homeless last Friday as volunteers from Whole Man Ministries spent the night helping out at Samaritan Inn, a local homeless shelter.

Whole Man Ministries, located at 1410 Douglas St., is a new church, which just started holding services in February of last year. Rev. Barry Washington, the church's pastor and founder, said the church currently has 25 members with church services getting as many as 50 to 75 attendees.

"We may be small in number but we're great in love and action," said Washington.

Eight men, including Washington and Minister Reginald Sims, came to Samaritan Inn last Friday evening to prepare and serve dinner for the men staying there. The men stayed the night, and in the



Photo provided by Whole Man Ministries

See Ministries on A12 The Rev. Barry Washington acts as a server last week.



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