



Deacons plan game to honor late Yow

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New eatery is based in faith

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Gospel star will perform in G'boro

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North Carolina Room Forsyth County Public Library 660 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

# THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, February 5, 2009

## Historic Bishop: erase 'isms'

HINES KEYNOTES CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN HERITAGE



Bishop Mildred Hines speaks from the pulpit in Wait Chapel.

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

On the heels of a celebratory January, where the Inauguration of the nation's first black president and the birthday of one of its best known Civil Rights heroes were marked with innumerable occasions and affairs, the Wake Forest University School of Divinity took time to look back on a period in American history that isn't so fondly regarded by most.

A diverse assemblage of students, alumni and faculty members from the Divinity School came together with members of the community Tuesday morning,

to honor the struggle of African slaves in America and the legacy they left behind.

The observance, held at Wait Chapel, was led by the Akoni student group, which means "valiant ancestors" in Yoruba.

The group was formed in response to then-Divinity School faculty member Brad Braxton's transformative trip to Benin, West Africa. Braxton, who now serves as senior minister of New York City's famous Riverside Church, was so moved by what he had seen in Africa that he implored the African American students to find a meaningful way to honor



Leonard

See Bishop on A4

## MAMA POWER

Group vows to speak out against injustice in the city

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

An attempt to reach out to Calvin Michael Smith's family has turned into a crusade to help all collateral victims of crime, with the formation of the group Mothers for Justice.

Mothers founder and chair Lyn Warmath-Boyd said it all began when she saw Shejla LaGrande, Smith's mother, speaking on television about her incarcerated son, who was convicted of the beating of

Jill Marker. Smith has served nearly 12 years for the crime that he, and many in the community, say he didn't commit.

Warmath-Boyd said she sympathized with LaGrande's frustration and contacted her. The two women talked. Warmath-Boyd, who was an early board member of the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice, got some inspiration on what to do next from Hunt himself.

Hunt spent 20 years in jail for a murder he didn't commit and now helps ex-offenders and the wrongly accused through his Project. He suggested that Warmath-Boyd form a group of women to champion justice because he says men have a hard time looking a woman in the eye if they're doing something wrong.

"As mothers, there is a natural accountability that a lot of people feel (to us) and we just began to use that, not in a confrontational way but in constructive way," said Warmath-Boyd.

The mission of Mothers for Justice, now just over year old, is to help the collateral victims of crime - the families that suffer when they lose



Warmath-Boyd

See Talent on A7

See Mothers on A7

## TWIN CITY IDOLS COMPETE FOR MEAC STARDOM

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Local singers and performers had a chance to show their stuff Saturday, at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

More than 40 individuals and groups participated in the "Got Talent?" auditions, vying for a chance to perform at the MEAC (Mid-Eastern Athletic Competition) Basketball Tournament next month.

The tournament is slated to make its Winston-Salem debut March 10-14 at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The NCAA Division I tournament is expected to remain in the Twin City through 2011.

Talented ball players are a given when it comes to the MEAC, says Sonja Stills, assistant commissioner for Administration and Compliance. She wants the entertainment to be equally captivating.

"We have a great basketball tournament but we also want to bring that (great) entertainment into it," she commented. "We're looking



Kennisha Williams sings her heart out before a panel of judges.

for the best of the best."

MEAC officials have sought out local talent in nearly all the cities where the tournament has been

held.

"It's a good way for somebody to ... get their name out there and it's a good way for the MEAC to

bring the community into the tournament itself," she explained.

Stills was impressed by the quantity and the quality

of those who auditioned.

"It's been very well received ... Winston-Salem

See Talent on A7

## Film prompts talk about Bible, sexuality



The Rev. David Poteat, Pastor Roger Hayes and the Rev. Carlton Eversley sit on the panel.

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Homosexuality and the Bible.

They are two things that many believe have no place in the same sentence, let alone the same life. But many LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people beg to differ, maintaining that their sexual preference has nothing to do with their religious beliefs.

Winston-Salem State University's GSSA (Gay / Straight Student Alliance) examined the issue head-on last week with a screening of "The Bible Tells Me So." Founded late last year, the GSSA student organization is home to more than 100 members.

"The Bible Tells Me So," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007, explores the perceived dichotomy between homosexuality and Christianity. The documentary chronicles the experiences of five American families as they struggle to come to terms

See Film on A12

## USHERING IN THE NEW YEAR



Amaria Walls waits patiently as a volunteer at the weekend New Year celebration writes her name in Chinese. Read more about the event on B5.

Photo by Todd Luck



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