

What We do Affects Others

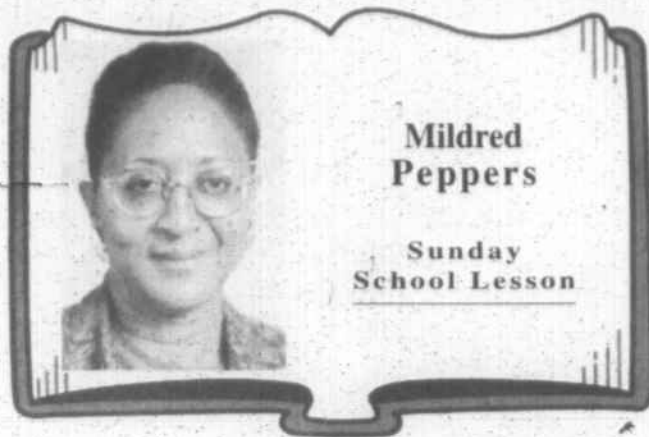
Lesson Scripture: II Samuel 12:1-7, 13-15

Lesson Aims: To retell the story of Nathan's rebuke of David; to recognize different ways of confronting sin; and to be aware of the impact of our behavior on others.

Background: For this week's lesson, we jumped back in time to the days of David. Samuel (the last judge, a priest and prophet) anointed David as Israel's next king in I Samuel 16:1-13 while Saul was alive. When Saul died, the tribe of Judah crowned him as their king. To fully appreciate David's rise, you must read I Chronicles along with II Samuel. King David was a warrior along with his "mighty men," who gradually gained control of the land (Canaan) and outlying areas,

It was David who recovered the Ark from the Philistines and brought it to Jerusalem. He led them in worship; organized a powerful military machine; and created government administration. The fighting in the back drop of today's lesson is with the Ammonites. The military organization was so good that the king remained in Jerusalem. Having napped on the roof top of the palace, David saw Bathsheba performing a ritual bath. Her father, Eliah, was one of his "mighty men" (II Samuel, 23:34). Nonetheless, there was lust in his heart and he acted on it (chapter 11).

Lesson: Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, is dead. After she mourns for him, David marries her. A boy child is born. No doubt, he feels quite smug in that his



Mildred Peppers
Sunday School Lesson

subjects don't know the truth. David is guilty of covetousness, adultery and murder. Like all of us he forgets that God is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent! The Lord sends the prophet Nathan to confront David's sins. Once again, the prophet faces the king with some unpleasant news (see II Samuel 7:1-17 for the first

one). He realizes that the king can have him killed, but he carries out God's command. Instead of just pointing the finger in the king's face, he tells a story. As soon as David hears it, he declares that the rich man should die and the lamb should be restored four fold. Nathan points out to the king that he is the rich man!

Omitted from the lesson are verses 8-12, which specifically state God's blessing toward him and part of his punishment for the sins committed.

How would you respond if someone pointed out your sins? David models what all of us are to do when sin has occurred. The king admits his sin to Nathan and before God. Note that his response to sin (remorseful) is quite different from Saul's (blaming) in I Samuel 15:24. His sins are forgiven, but his household will be plagued with violence. When Nathan leaves the king, the child becomes ill. By all means finish the chapter!

Application: David is one of the giants in the Bible who commands attention. Nathan can easily be lost, but his commitment to God is the major focus here. This

powerful king who conquered land, reestablished worship and organized the government is guilty of sin. Nathan must confront this king no matter what. He is obedient! What does that say about us? First of all a "holier-than-thou" attitude is not the correct approach. We must be genuinely sincere about the person.

We must decide based on what is right and not what is convenient or comfortable. Surely one's comfort isn't more important than another's soul. We are to prayerfully consult God and follow His lead. I am by no means suggesting that you attack like a calvary.

The aim is, can you help someone see where they are going wrong. Another important point to remember is "How would you want to be approached?"

New Year

from page B5

celebration even added a costumed mascot, a panda bear called Mei Mei. The mascot's name was chosen by this year's attendees.

The performances included the lion dance,

where two dancers in a colorful lion costume move to a drum beat. There was also a dragon dance with a group of performers carrying a colorful flying dragon through the air. Both dances were performed by the Hung Gar Kung Fu Academy of Mooresville and are New

Year's traditions that supposedly bring good luck. Youngsters performed with yo-yos and fans with long, flowing silk banners.

Wake Forest students took part in a fashion show, modeling elaborate outfits worn by various Chinese Dynasties.

Temple Walls brought her daughters to the festival. They were all impressed with the sights and sounds of the event.

"I've always been interested in the culture and the colors," said Walls. "It's phenomenal. I love it."

Jay Cochrane and his family have now been to three Chinese New Year celebrations. Cochrane and his wife have four children, two of whom they adopted from China. His was one of the many local families with adopted Chinese children at the event.

"It's just a little taste of China here in Winston," Cochrane said.

Children are a main emphasis of the event. Yu originally organized it so her own children, who were born in this country, could experience their Chinese culture. Yu's children, Rae-Yao Lee, 16, and Rae-Ling Lee, 14, participated in the event by giving a martial arts performance set to the song "Kung Fu Fighting."

Dozens of other volunteers made the celebration possible. Sharon Jiang, 15, manned a booth where attendees could take a Chinese New Year quiz. She said the

festival was truly a community effort.

"It doesn't feel like volunteering; it feels like helping your family and friends," said Jiang.

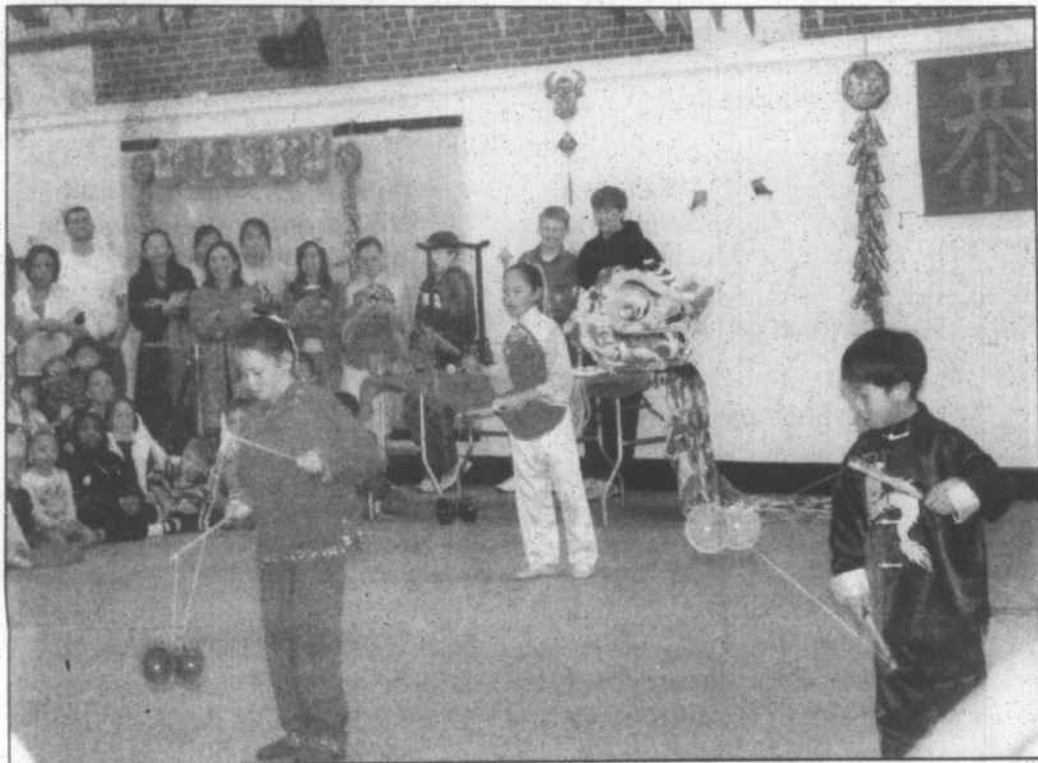


Photo by Todd Luck

Kids entertain the crowd with a yo-yo performance.

Calendar

from page B8

from 7 - 10 p.m. There will be lots of food, fun and activities for all ages. For more information, contact the church office at 336-744-9293.

Feb. 14

Agape Ball
St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church will hold its first Agape Ball on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 6 - 10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church. The theme for this special occasion is "Celebration of Godly Love." Tickets are \$20

per person and the dress is semi-formal. Contact the church office for ticket information by calling 336-744-7303. St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church is located at 5000 Noble St. The Rev. James E. Cook is pastor.

Feb. 20

Religious show
The Sanctuary, Greensboro's center for spirituality and creativity, will open its second full-scale musical, "Children of Eden" by Stephen Schwartz and John Caird, on Feb. 20. It is from the composer of "Godspell," "Pippin" and "Wicked." The

production is a musical adaptation of the Book of Genesis that tells the story of parents, their children and the defining choices they make on the journey to reclaim lost innocence. This family-friendly show plays Feb. 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee on Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.

All performances are at The Sanctuary, 900 Sixteenth St. Tickets are available through the Carolina Theatre box office at 336-333-2605 and online at www.carolinatheatre.com. For information, call 336-621-1514 or email info@thesanctuarygso.org.

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ORCHESTRAL HEADLINERS

The musicians of the Winston-Salem Symphony are the stars of this exciting all-orchestra program. You'll be dazzled by the artistry of our featured artists in works by Vivaldi and Mozart, and the entire orchestra steals the spotlight for the Bartók Concerto for Orchestra.

Vivaldi Concerto for Two Trumpets in C Major, RV 537	Mozart Sinfonia concertante, K. 297b	Bartók Concerto for Orchestra
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Featured Artists:
Anita Cirba, trumpet
Kenneth Wilmot, trumpet
Kathryn Levy, flute
Amanda Gerfin, oboe
Saxton Rose, bassoon
Robert Campbell, horn

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