

# RELIGION

## CALENDAR

### Happening Now

**After school program registration**  
Piney Grove Baptist Church After School Care Program will offer homework assistance, creative arts and crafts, a computer lab and afternoon snacks. Contact Audrey Warren at 336-923-2860 or Karen Oliver at 336-744-5759 for cost and/or other information.

### Fine Arts Camp

Covenant Presbyterian Church will host a Fine Arts Camp for grades 5-12 from Monday, July 6 - Thursday, Aug. 13 (on Mondays - Thursdays only). The camp, which will offer piano, voice, strings, drawing/painting and photography, will be from 9 a.m. to noon. The church is located at 3627 Konnoak Drive. There are no fees for the camp, and lunch will be provided. Call 336-788-7511 for more information.

### Anniversary events

Elder Robert Edmond Jr. of Kimberly Park Holiness Church, 1640 SM Caesar Drive, will wrap up his 23rd minister's anniversary and his 15th pastoral anniversary today (Thursday, Aug. 6) at 7:30 p.m. with Bishop James Ijames, pastor of Mt. Zion Holiness Church of Mocksville and Vice Bishop of the Holiness Churches of God, Inc., as the guest speaker.

### Back-to-school events

Holy Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church, 651 Akron Drive, will host a Youth Conference and Back To School Jam, August 6 - 7 at 6:30 p.m. each evening. A Block Party is planned for Saturday, Aug. 8 at 11 a.m., and on Sunday, Aug. 9 at 10:30 a.m., free bookbags and supplies will be given to the first 100 students who arrive. For more information, call the office at 336-744-9293.

### Beginning Aug. 7

#### Youth Summit

Mount Sinai Full Gospel Deliverance Center, 2721 Manchester St., will host a Youth Summit, Aug. 7-9, 2009. This event will begin on Friday at 7:30 p.m.; on Saturday at noon; and on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Guest participants include Elder Charles Johnson of The Well Church of Raleigh and Minister Isaiah D. Thomas and Elements of Praise of Fort Washington, Md. All sessions are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact the church office at 336-722-2624. The Rev. Yvonne H. Hines is the church's senior pastor.

### Aug. 7

#### Dillard concert

Singer Ricky Dillard will be in concert on Friday, Aug. 7 at 10 p.m. at Macedonia Worship Center, 500 Kinard Drive. The Daughters of Miriam and Dionn Owen & Renaissance will also perform. Those interested in being in the Dillard workshop choir should attend rehearsals on Saturday, Aug. 1 at 4 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 2 at 8 p.m. For more information, call Bishop Tim Jackson at 336-725-2190 or Dionn Owen at 336-918-9437.

### Aug. 8

#### Awards program

The Steward Board of Reynolds Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is sponsoring an Awards Ceremony on Aug. 8 at the St. John CME Church Life Center, 650 Crawford Place. The ceremony will recognize women who have made outstanding accomplishments within the community. A buffet dinner will be served and musical entertainment will be provided. An invitation is extended to family and all friends. Tickets are available for \$20 each. Contact Ruth Oree at 336-650-9144 for more information.

**Back-to-School Giveaway**  
Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, 5095 Lansing Drive, will have a Back to School

See Calendar on B5

## First Lady Michelle Obama inspires church to grow garden

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Whole Man Ministries started a garden earlier this year, answering a call from First Lady Michelle Obama, who encouraged Americans to grow gardens as a way to beautify communities and provide healthy, nutritious food.



The Washingtons

Pastor Barry Washington said of the First Lady's garden challenge.

The church cut out a plot of 6.5 acres and designed and designated it for a community-based garden. Church member Keith Stamper headed the venture.

"Being in the garden is the closest things to being with God," Stamper says.

The church's garden has sprouted corn, squash, cucumbers, green peas, okra, watermelons, cantaloupes, onions and tomatoes. Whole Man Ministries says that it has fed more than 1,000 families with food from the garden, and each Sunday, churchgoers are given fresh produce.

"This has been a golden opportunity to minister by providing food for the hungry, homeless, and elderly, as well as Church members," said Washington. "The good thing about planting a garden, it continues to reproduce itself, thus providing harvest well into the month of September."



Keith Stamper holds some of the 'fruits' of the garden.

Co-Pastor Camilla Washington wrote First Lady Obama to thank her for inspiring the church to start the garden. Co-Pastor Washington is praying that one day the First Lady herself will come to visit the garden.

"I know it's a long shot, but you have not, because you ask not, and we have asked, and our faith is expecting her to come," she said.

Whole Man Ministries will be presenting an outreach event, Aug. 21-23. For more information, call 336-785-2080.

## McCarter receives new appointment

Greater Cleveland Avenue pastor also set to celebrate his anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Bishop Sheldon M. McCarter, the senior pastor of Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, is the newly appointed assistant presiding bishop of the United Covenant Churches of Christ International.

UCCC is a non-denominational fellowship of churches throughout the United States, the Bahamas, Africa and India with a primary agenda to "declare the name of Jesus, restore the historical nature of the church, lead the church back to unrestrained praise, and loose the women who have a call of Christ."

A conclave of bishops with affiliations to UCCC met recently in Florida to set a new agenda for this fellowship, now led by Bishop Eric Garnes of Brooklyn, New York. It was Bishop Garnes who selected Bishop McCarter to hold the number two position in UCCC, which he will hold for seven years.

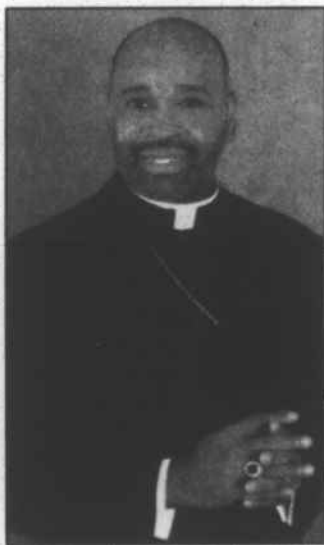
In this position, Bishop McCarter will be responsible for overseeing all of the churches in the reformation and assisting Bishop Garnes in carrying out the duties related to the fellowship. Bishop McCarter will be officially ordained into his new position on Friday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. at The Elm International Fellowship in Brooklyn, New York.

For those who will not be able to travel to Brooklyn to witness this sacred event, a ceremony will be held at Greater Cleveland on Nov. 3.

Bishop McCarter is a visionary who considers himself a teacher/preacher. Because of his reputation, he has preached all over this nation. Under his leadership, Greater Cleveland has increased its membership to more than 3,000 members. Earlier this year, Mayor Allen Joiner recognized Bishop McCarter for his contributions to the city by renaming a portion of Lansing Drive, including the block where the church is located, as S. M. McCarter Drive.

McCarter will celebrate his 21st year as senior pastor of Greater Cleveland Avenue from Aug. 8 - 16. On Saturday, Aug. 8, the church will supply school supplies to children in the community. On Sunday, Aug. 9, two of McCarter's siblings will preach. Pastor Audrey McCarter Hedgepeth of Greater Love Christian Center in Rocky Mount, will preach at the 9 a.m. service, and Pastor Tiffin McCarter of Greater Joy Baptist Church of Durham will preach at the 11:30 a.m. service.

Other 7 p.m. guests will be: Bishop J. C. Hash, senior pastor of St. Peter's World Outreach Center, who will preach on Monday, Aug. 10; Tuesday, Aug. 11, Pastor Tezano Hanchell of Mt. Calvary Holy



Bishop McCarter

See McCarter on B5

## Complain Less; Thank God More

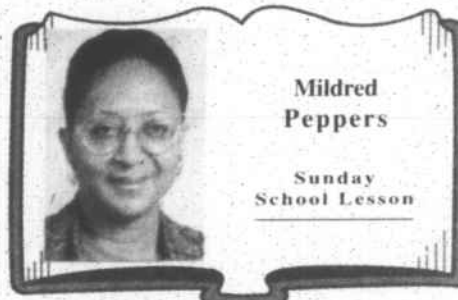
Lesson Scripture: Numbers 14:1-12

**Lesson Aims:** To examine the causes of complaining and grumbling; to recognize that they lead to rebellion; and to always thank God for His blessings and be confident.

**Background:** The lesson today records a turning point in the Israelites' desert experience. Chapters 13 and 14 go together in that they chronicled the people's rejection of God and Moses. They left Egypt two years ago. They were in Kadesh Barnea, just south of Canaan when God told Moses to choose 12 men (one from each tribe) to explore the land and give a report. The scouts penetrated the

land for 40 days and brought back samples of rich produce. All twelve agreed that the land flowed with milk and honey. Ten of the scouts however felt that the people were giants and couldn't be defeated. They discounted the power and faithfulness of God. The other two spies (Joshua and Caleb) disagreed by telling them that they could take the land. Notice that they don't deny the size of the people in Canaan but their faith led them to believe that conquest was possible through God. The people ignored Joshua and Caleb and chose to be fearful based on the report of the ten.

See Peppers on B10



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

## Kentucky pastor to speak at Shiloh Baptist

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Shiloh Baptist Church, which is led by Pastor Paul A. Lowe Jr., will begin its 117th Anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 10 a.m. with a picnic at Little Creek Park. Worship Services will be held on Sunday, Aug. 9 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. featuring the Rev. A. Russell Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church of Louisville, Ky.



Rev. Awkard

Awkard has been the pastor of New Zion Baptist for

more than 36 years. Prior to moving to Louisville, he served four years as Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church of Fredericksburg, Va., where he was a member of the city's school board. Several months before he came to New Zion, the church's sanctuary was destroyed by fire.

Upon his arrival, Rev. Awkard led the congregation to erect a new building and to liquidate the mortgage in five years. In

1986, an expansion project enlarged the educational space of the facility. New Zion's services have been televised locally for 30 years.

Awkard grew up in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. He attended Howard University, Wesley Theological Seminary and Virginia Union University's School of Theology. In 1984, he married the former Ann Long Benboe. He has two daughters, Alicia and Alma; a stepson, Clarence Benboe (Venita), and four grandchildren.

## Big crowd attends Mt. Pleasant cookout

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Bishop S. T. Davis Sr. and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church hosted a Community Day Cookout last Saturday, drawing a crowd of more than 500 people.

The crowd filled the church's parking lot to enjoy a menu of fish, barbecue, burgers, hot dogs and assorted desserts. Among the highlights was the distribution of more than 200 bags filled with school supplies for area children. There were also free screenings for diabetes, cholesterol and high blood pressure. Attendees also took part



Kids enjoy the day of fun.

in a Meet and Greet with candidates running for City Council. Mt. Pleasant coordinated the event as an out-

reach to re-connect and re-establish a greater relationship between the church and community.