

Roseboro-Harris-White Family comes together for 55th time

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Roseboro-Harris-White family recently celebrated its 55th reunion.

The tradition is the realization of a dream of patriarch Earl Roseboro, who envisioned his family coming together to fellowship. His vision became a reality in 1954, when the first Roseboro-Harris-White family reunion was held.

This year's reunion, coordinated by Mildred R. Griffin, kicked off Aug. 7 with a number of activities, including a youth bus trip to Dan Nichols State Park in Salisbury for a picnic and swimming. The outing attracted more than 80 young people and was led by advisors Robbie R. Allen, Charlene Roseboro, Elaine Roseboro, Ashley Roseboro and Vanessa Vinson.

The Roseboro women hosted a formal dinner at the Friendship Baptist Church Fellowship Hall during the reunion weekend. Program participants included Vanessa Vinson, Viola P. Roseboro, Shirley Davis, Kenisha Roseboro, Elaine Roseboro, Robbie Allen, Mildred R. Griffin and Alice M. Roseboro.



James and Azalee R. Vinson

Events ended with a cookout at the Anderson Recreation Center. The event was hosted by the men of the family and attended by more than 300 people. James Griffin, Cleve Roseboro, Curtis Roseboro, Eugene Roseboro and Grant Vinson led the effort.

The family motto bears



Mildred R. Griffin

the words "Leadership, Scholarship, Caring and Sharing," so the family always takes time to acknowledge the academic achievements of its youngest members. This year, 25 students received recognition for being either Honor Roll students or "Outstanding Academic Achievers." The Roseboro-Harris-White Scholarship Awards are spearheaded by Curtis W. Roseboro, Azalee Vinson and Sandra Myers.

Since the last reunion, the many events occurred within the family, including the 50th wedding anniversary of James and Azalee R. Vinson and the birth of 10 new family members. There

really connected to a specific church, the group has been extended favor, with many opened doors for choir rehearsals," said Mason. "I am extremely grateful to Reverend L. Bruce Ford and the members of Beulah Baptist Church for serving as the main location for our group's weekly rehearsals for choir and musicians."

He also thanked the following for supporting the group since its inception: the Rev. L. Dwight Hash and Bethlehem Missionary Baptist; Dr. Kendall D. Jones Sr. and New Bethel Baptist Church; Bishop Andrea Miller-Nash and Ministry for Christ Church, Inc., and Bishop Freddie B. Marshall and the Christ Cathedral Church of Deliverance.

Friends' mission in this endeavor is to make a difference in music ministry wherever they have an opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ through song. Mason believes that the Lord has great things in store for this new music entity.

"Since the ministry is not

were also four marriages. Digitalus Roseboro was honored as the Family Member of the Year. The family was blessed to have no deaths within the last year.

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Concert

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bers and friends who were visible in the dream," said Mason, who serves as the group's director. "It was more important for me that family members and friends did not join just because I asked them to. I wanted them to pray fervently with me to know that this is something God desired for them to do."

The dream became a reality on Friday, June 5 at 6:15 p.m., when the founding members of Willie Mason and Friends held their first rehearsal. In addition to Mason and Gwyn, others at that rehearsal were Kim Barr, Joi Edwards, Linda Feemster, Justin Glaspie, Paula Imes, Jamina Johnson-Zodi, Kenya Little, Tonya McAdoo, Camille Wilson, Derek Wilson and musician Cory Jones.

The next day, the group gave its first performance at New Bethel Baptist Church for its 119th anniversary, where they performed "We Offer Praise," "Holy, Holy, Holy" (led by McAdoo); "My

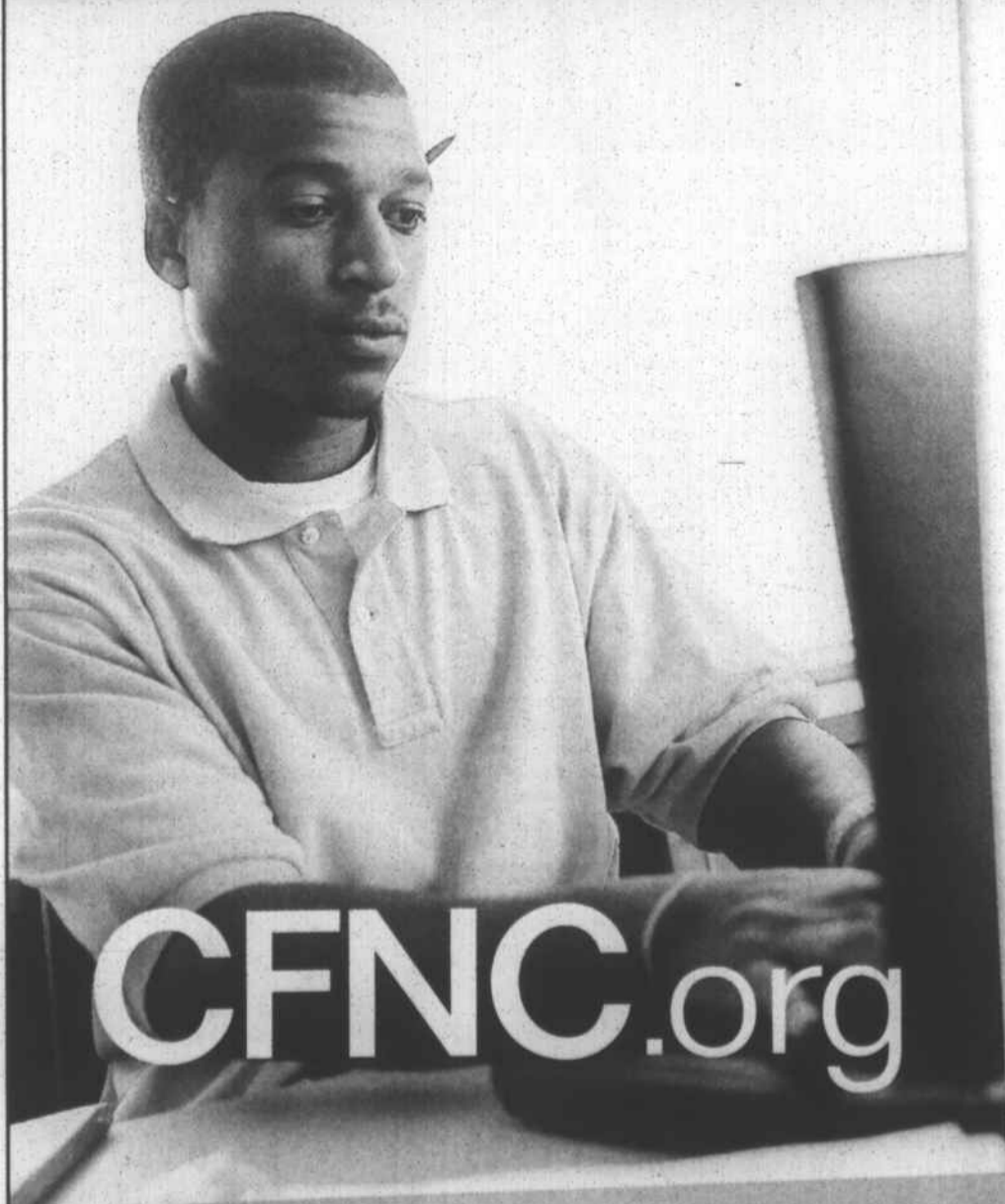
Name Is Victory" (led by Glaspie); and "I Am Souled Out."

After that, the group grew. Today, Willie Mason and Friends includes eight sopranos, five tenors, seven altos and a music director - the Rev. Savalas Squire. The group's musicians now include Joe Shepard (organ/keyboard) and percussionists Christopher Thomas and Levonzy James.

The group has given highly-praised performances at a number of churches, including New Bethel Baptist, Christ Cathedral Church of Deliverance, Phillips Chapel Baptist, Greater First United Baptist Church of High Point, Macedonia Worship Center, Evangelical Saints Church of Eden. They also performed at the New Jerusalem International Christian Ministries Holy Convocation in Richmond, Va. Performances here in Winston-Salem, High Point, Thomasville and Atlanta are currently on the group's schedule.

"Since the ministry is not

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