

Former High Point elected official to speak

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Rev. Dr. David R. Baker, a former High Point City Councilman and former pastor of St. Stephen A.M.E. Zion Church, will return to High Point on Sunday, Dec. 13.

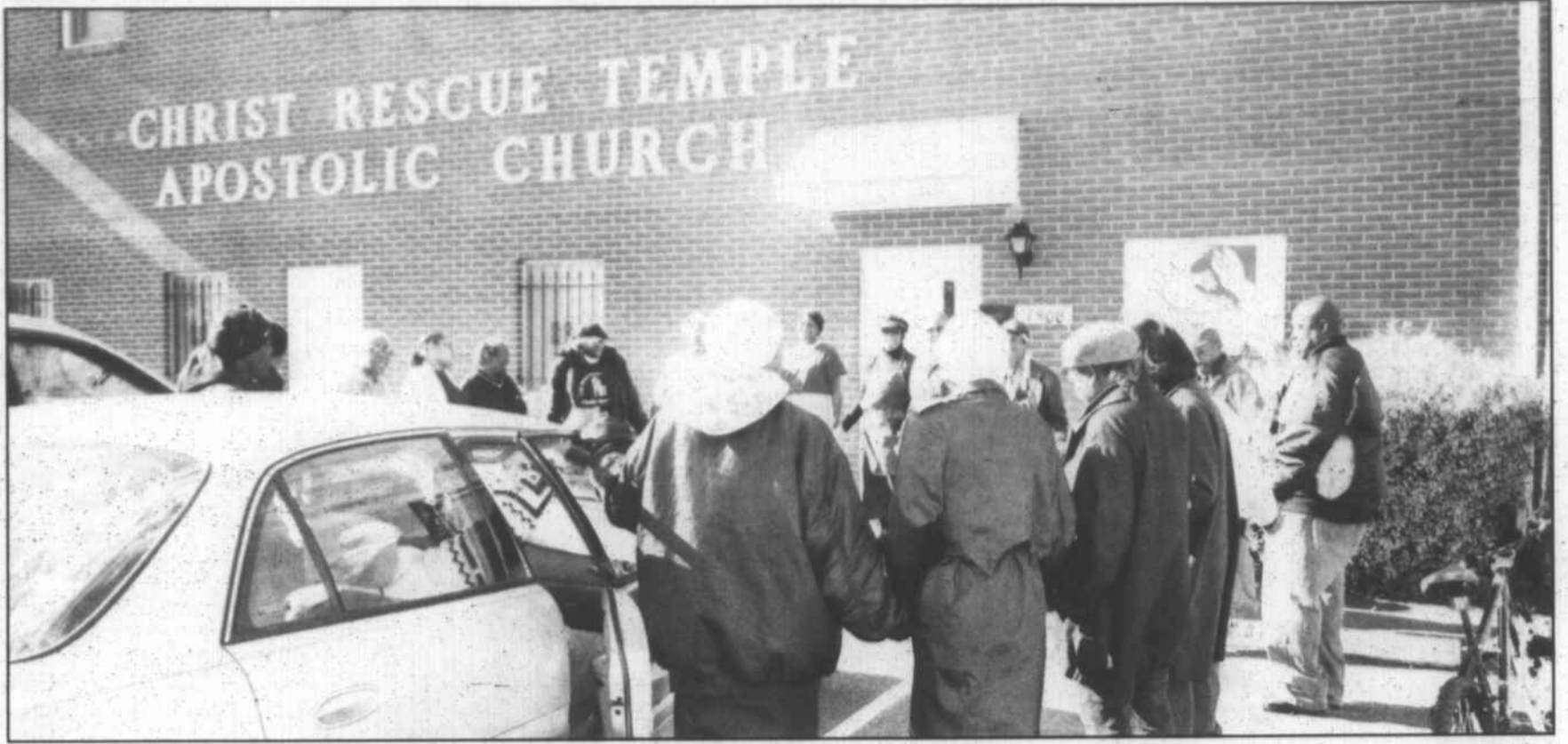


Rev. Baker

Dr. Baker will be the guest preacher at St. Stephen Church's Homecoming-2009 celebration. The service begins at 11 a.m. St. Stephen A.M.E. Zion Church was founded in High Point in 1901. Dr. Baker served as the pastor from 1984-1992.

Dr. Baker is the Presiding Elder of the Statesville District of the A.M.E.'s Western NC Conference. He also manages the A.M.E. Zion Publishing House, located at the A.M.E. Zion Corporate Headquarters in Charlotte, N.C.

All are invited to attend this worship service and celebration. There will also be a fellowship meal after the worship service. The church is located at 1012 Leonard Ave. in High Point. The Rev. Dr. William M. White is the current pastor.



Photos by Todd Luck

Diners and church leaders pray before lunch is served.

Meals

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dogs. It was whipped up in the church kitchen from five pounds of ground beef. The onions on the dogs were chopped by hand too.

Volunteers begin preparing the meals at around 9 a.m. There is always a flurry of activity in the modest-sized kitchen, as Mercina Adams cooks and prepares the food with the assistance of a small team of volunteers.

Adams said she loves food and loves cooking. She's said she's proud to lend her culinary skills to a good cause.

"Myself, I'm fortunate to have food ... but some people are not fortunate to have it," she said.

Volunteers like Rose McCrea usually assemble the lunches in carryout containers. McCrea said she loves to see the smiles on people's faces as they get their meals.

"Every Thursday, I look forward to being here to help feed people," said McCrea. "I love meeting the people, and I think it's a really great thing that's going on."

At noon, Adams goes outside to greet those who have been waiting for the food. She joins hands with



Volunteer Joe Watts helps out in the kitchen.

them for a prayer before they open the doors. The people then come in to help themselves to the meals. Volunteers help carry boxes for those who are taking food for their family members or loved ones.

Those who enjoy the lunches are as varied as the community itself. The elderly and the young, families and single people - all make their

way (some walk, some drive) to the church for the lunch. Some don't even make it out of the parking lot before opening their boxes to dig in.

Two members of the Golden Crowns Senior Adult Club, which was meeting at the 14th Street Recreation Center on Thursday, took 30 boxes back to club members. It's become a Thursday ritual for the

senior group to get food from the church. They've showed their gratitude with a thank you card and a donation.

The meal ministry was the vision of Bishop Davis, who said times had been tough for many who live in the area long before the recession.

"In this area ... you find quite a bit of people who are in need, which is one of the reasons we do what we do," said Bishop Davis, who founded Christ Rescue Temple Apostolic Church in 1982, after the merger of Christ Temple and Rescue Temple Apostolic churches.

Though it is a relatively small church with only about 190 members, Christ Rescue Temple has been credited with transforming the community around it. The church owns an adjacent apartment complex, day-care and nursing home.

The church also owns a 40-acre farm in another part of town, where it grows produce that residents at the nursing home enjoy.

"We try to serve the whole man - from the babies all the way up to the senior citizen," said Bishop Davis. "We just believe the church should be a factor in the community; that's what we have done, and that's what we plan to do in the future."

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