

Drayton

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of the Interracial Forsyth Ministers Fellowship, the Winston-Salem Interracial Urban League Board of Directors and the North Carolina Interracial Fellowship, and the first African American chairman of the North Carolina Humans Relations Council.

Drayton's commitment to community service was evident as a parade of resolutions from various groups and agencies were presented. Rev. Artis Smith read a resolution from the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity.

"We were impressed by his leadership at New Bethel Baptist Church and in the broader community, where he served with distinction," Smith said. "He was one of the city's foremost African American bona fide Christian scholars."

New Bethel Deacon Carolyn Crosby spoke about the attributes of Drayton's personality, from his penchant for punctuality and attention to detail to the wisdom of his extensive world experience.

"He displayed a unique combination of old fashioned values, contemporary understanding and progressive ideas," Crosby commented. "...He enjoyed talking to people, and you could learn a lot of history if you sat down with him."

Mayor Allen Joines called Drayton a friend and mentor. He credited the longtime pastor with quietly pushing for positive changes within the city and helping to integrate many important departments and organizations.

"He was a giant among giants, he was a leader among leaders, and he was, most importantly, a Christian among Christians," the mayor said.



Dr. Jerry Drayton with the love of his life, his wife, Susie.

"...The city is a much better place for all of us, be it black or white, because of Dr. Jerry Drayton. We will miss him, but we will never forget him."

Rev. Dr. Kendall Jones, New Bethel's current pastor, said Drayton left behind big shoes to fill. He told the congregation he was proud to be a part of the legacy that Drayton helped to create at New Bethel.

"I am blessed because I stand now on his shoulders," Jones said. "I am thankful that Dr. Drayton took time with me, to encourage me."

In a resounding eulogy that brought the audience to their feet, Rev. Dr. J. Donald Ballard, pastor emeritus of United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, drew on his personal experiences with Drayton to illustrate his longtime friend's many admirable qualities. Ballard based his remarks on Mark 8:34, where Jesus proclaims, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

The passage has special meaning for him, Ballard said.

"I have chosen a Scripture that is central to the ministry of Jesus

Christ," he intoned. "...and it is central to the relationship that I had with the deceased for almost 54 years."

The two men first met in August 1958, when Drayton preached what Ballard remembers as "one of of the most powerful sermons I've ever heard" during Ballard's ordination service.

"Dr. Drayton challenged us would-be pastors ... to take our calling seriously and to fulfill our ministry faithfully," Ballard recalled. "His text that night was the same as my text today."

That was the beginning of a lifetime of respect and admiration that Ballard held for Drayton, whom he characterized as a "phenomenal preacher," a "passionate pastor" and a "prodigious person."

"Jerry Drayton's feet were firmly planted on Earth, but his head and heart were fixed on 'Heaven,'" Ballard said. "He spent 84 years preaching, teaching and telling men and women about Christ. All of those 84 years, Jerry Drayton stood firm, held fast and boldly put forth the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Dr. Drayton is survived by his longtime wife, Susie Jones Drayton, son, Jerry A. (Wilma) Drayton Jr. of Atlanta, and a host of other relatives and friends.

IN WITH THE NEW

St. Stephen starting new Boy Scouts troop less than a year after terminating charter of old unit

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Less than a year after an unceremonious parting of the ways with Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 815, St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church is recruiting young men for its new Troop and Pack 912.

"They wanted to reorganize the pack and troop, despite all the difficulties that happened there," explained Joe Knight, district executive for the Boy Scouts of America's Piedmont District, which boasts the largest membership of the Old Hickory Council's districts. "They have some new people coming on board that wanted to get involved. We're trying to get youth involved in that part of town, and people have been real receptive to them."

Troop and Pack 815 has been in limbo since St. Stephen's embattled pastor, Rev. James Cook, refused to renew its charter with the Boy Scouts of America last summer. The unit was once an active organization, home to more than 70 scouts. Tensions between Troop Leaders Emmanuel and Anna Mickens and Cook were reportedly behind the pastor's decision to unload the scouts. The Mickenses are among a group of former St. Stephen members who have been involved in a very public spat with Cook and his supporters at the church. Some of the disagreements between the two sides have made their way all the way into the courtroom.

Left without a home, Troop 815 was salted to begin meeting at American Legion Post 220 on Liberty Street. Anna Mickens said



Joe Knight



Pastor Cook

last year that she had hoped that the Post would become the unit's new sponsor, but a partnership never materialized.

The Mickenses declined to comment about the church's effort to launch a new Troop. Last year, Anna Mickens told the Chronicle that disagreements between adults should not be taken out on children.

"We love them and we're devoted to (the Scouts)," she said. "Whatever you do, do it to us, but leave the boys alone. They have not done anything."

St. Stephen leaders could not be reached for comment, but Knight, who moved to the Twin City last year after the dispute was well underway, said the church is well within its rights to instate a new unit at any time, and can even charter several units with the proper support.

"The church charter has the right to remove the leaders if they see fit," Knight stated. "The church actually owns that unit."

Knight said he has avoided getting involved in the dispute itself, but has maintained a singular focus on the boys who are impacted by it.

"My job was not to necessarily be the mediator, but to figure out a solution," said the Detroit native. "...My biggest concern at the end of the day was making sure that this program was available to those boys who needed it and who wanted to be a part of the program."

St. Stephen is currently recruiting boys ages 6-18 to join the unit, which will be led by Scoutmaster Handy Douglas, former assistant scoutmaster of Troop 815, according to the church's Web site.

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

Forsyth County Public Library

LIBRARY PAGE

Updated listing of all Library News & Events: www.forsythlibrary.org

Start Summer Reading Off With A Rousing... BIG, BANG, BOOM!

Summer Reading Kick-Off

Friday, June 8th • 6:30pm-8:30pm

Central Library (5th Street Entrance)

You know them, you love them and your kids just can't get enough of them. We're speaking of the headliner for our big summer reading kick-off, **Big, Bang, Boom!** Bring the family for a high-energy performance that will leave you swaying to the sounds of the liveliest music around. Arrive early to watch your favorite book characters walk the red carpet.



Hey kids...
Dream Big
Read!

In addition to storytellers, magicians, and animals this year's system-wide entertainment will be Bright Star Touring Theatre who will perform "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." And don't miss children's authors Lynn Salsi and her reading of Appalachian Jack Tales and John Claude Bemis author of The Nine Pound Hammer.



Hey Teens...
Own
The
Night!

Try a few of these programs on for size. **Monster Make-Up Artist** (Learn how to apply your own monstrous make-up.) **Teen Murder Mystery** (Try to find out whodunnit?) **Vampires vs. Werewolves Party** (Need we say more?) **What App is That?** (Get the latest on the coolest new apps for your phone.)

For the Grown Ups!
Mystery, excitement and thrills await when you go...

"Between
the Covers"

Programming for adults includes events such as a workshop for recording personal memoirs, downloading e-books, and many visits by local authors. And what better time than summer to join one of our many book clubs - check www.forsythlibrary.org for the one that suits you best.

Visit www.forsythlibrary.org for a complete list of summer reading events and activities.

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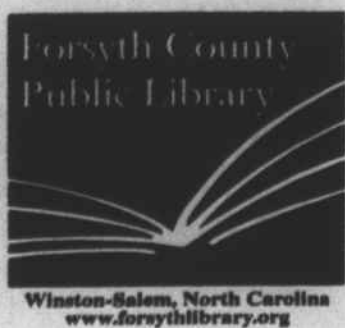
Locations:

Central Library 703-2665
Adult Outreach: 703-2903
Children's Outreach: 703-2950
Spanish-speaking Services: 703-2907
Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center: 703-2950
YOUTH/MINI LIBRARIES:
Best Choice Center
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club
Carver School Road: 703-2910
Clemmons: 703-2920
Kernersville: 703-2930
Lewisville: 703-2940
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