

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Dec. 14

Christmas Benefit Concert
Life Changing Transformation Church Ministries, 2001 E. 25th St., will hold its annual Christmas Benefit Concert on Friday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. The senior pastor is Rev. Alice Mitchell.

Dec. 15

Zion Memorial Christmas Musical
The Sunday Church School Ministry of Zion Memorial



Missionary Baptist Church, 101 N. Dunleith Ave., will present the Mass Choir in "Worship in Song" on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. Call the church at 336-725-7390 for more information. Dr. Joseph Jones is the pastor.

Antioch Old Fashioned Christmas
Sister Lavada Danzy of Antioch Christian Church, 1432 Underwood Ave., will present an old fashioned Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. Contact the program committee at antioch1432@gmail.com for more information.

Dec. 16

"Scrooge" at Dreamland Park
The Youth Department of Dreamland Park Missionary Baptist Church, 2340 Dunbar St., will present "Scrooge" on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Rev. Ronald C. Fisher Sr. is the pastor.

Mt. Olive celebrates The Birth of Christ

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1301 C. E. Gray Drive, will perform The Birth of Christ in song and dance on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Free toys and fruit will be given away. There will also be a drawing to give away 12 turkey baskets. Dr. Charles E. Gray is pastor.

New Hope presents Christmas Extravaganza

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 1201 New Hope Lane, will hold its Christmas Extravaganza on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. Bishop John C. Parks is pastor.

St. Mark Hosts Concert

St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1151 East 14th St., will present "The Voices of God's Children, Inc." in concert on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. The theme of the program is "Joy To The World!"

UUFWS Services

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem will hear the Rev. Lisa Schwartz speak on "A Very UU, Social Justice, Non-Commercial Christmas" at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16. At the 9 a.m. pre-service forum Fred Swan will review "Bull by the Horns" by former banking regulator Sheila Bair. The fellowship is at 4055 Robinhood Road. For more information, see www.uufws.org or call 659-0331.

Beginning Dec. 17

Whole Man Ministries Events

Whole Man Ministries, 3916 Old Lexington Rd., will have an outreach service at Azules Terrace on Monday, Dec. 17 from 5-6 p.m.; volunteering at the Benton Convention Center for Christmas in the City on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 3-5 p.m.; outreach service at Somerset Court on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Winston-Salem Street School Christmas lunch on Thursday, Dec. 20 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

'Character' grants go to theology-centered projects

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

To better understand virtue and vice and how to define good character, The Character Project at Wake Forest University has granted funding to theologians and philosophers from around the world.

The Character Project, a three-year, multi-million dollar program, awarded 16 grants, totaling nearly \$1 million to scholars seeking new insights into the nature of character.

Eight projects on the philosophy of character and eight projects on the theology of character were selected. In total, 170 proposals were submitted.

Christián Miller, director of The Character Project and associate professor of philosophy at Wake Forest, oversaw the review process for the philosophy awards.

"We were thrilled with the quality of the submissions," Miller said. "Those selected should contribute many new and far-reaching insights into our understanding of morality and character."

Angela Knobel, associate professor of philosophy at The Catholic University of America, oversaw the review process for the theology awards.

"These projects, which focus on forgiveness, grace, humility and other theological aspects of character, will do much to advance an underexplored aspect of research into moral character," Knobel said.

The awards complement the many other Character Project initiatives, including a major conference held during the summer.

The Character Project is supported by a \$4.2 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation with the goal of fostering new advances in the study of character in psychology, philosophy and theology. Because of the quality of the research proposals, Miller also received a grant of \$417,759 from the foundation to be able to fund all 16 of these projects. In 2011, the Character Project granted \$2 million in funding to researchers focused on the psychology of character.



Miller



Knobel

Unity and Maturity in Christ

Devotional Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Lesson Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

Lesson Aims: To understand that the church is people, not a building; to appreciate God's gifts that unite and mature us; and to celebrate oneness in Christ.

Background: Paul continued to remind the church about its doctrine in chapter three. He spoke about the "mystery" of the church. Mystery here did not mean having some secret knowledge like the Gnostics. "Information communicated by revelation from God" (Richards' Complete Bible Handbook) defines the term best.

The church is the new revelation that God kept to Himself in the Old Testament. To understand the church, you have to rely on the New Testament, which is inclusive as opposed to the first covenant. God's greater purpose for humanity was more than simply choosing a group of people to be His. Don't forget that God made everything and everyone! His new revelation is complex yet simple, personal yet public. Actually, the church is an intimate relationship between the believers and God, along with one another, in the body.

Lesson: Paul moves from doctrine to practical application in chapter four. He declares that each believer should live as a worthy example of being a "child of God." What is said and done must



Mildred Peppers



Christmas for the City is Dec. 19

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

This year's "Christmas for the City" will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 3-9 p.m. at the Benton Convention Center. It is free and open to the public.

Now in its fifth year, the event brings together local churches, businesses, nonprofits and the city's vibrant arts community for a massive holiday celebration that features live music and art demonstrations, food, activities for kids and a cameo by Santa Claus. The activities will take place in multiple rooms throughout the Convention Center.

"Christmas for the City" attendees are also encouraged to learn about the various nonprofit agencies that will be on hand. In the past, nonprofits have gained legions of

volunteers through the event. According to the event's web site, several dozen churches are taking part in this year's celebration, including Emmanuel Baptist Church, Genesis Victory Outreach Center, Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Macedonia Worship Center, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, St. Peter's World Outreach Center, St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, Union Baptist Church, United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, Whole Man Ministries and Winston-Salem First, which is spearheading the project.

Learn more at <http://christmas-forthecity.com>.

Up for Grammy Gold



Marvin Sapp's name was mentioned several times last week as the nominations for the 55th Annual Grammy Awards were announced. The Verity Gospel Music Group artist is up for three awards, including the Best Gospel Album Grammy, where his "I Win" will compete against James Fortune & FIYA's "Identity," "Jesus At The Center Live" by Israel & New Breed; Lecrae's "Gravity;" and "Worship Soul" by Anita Wilson. The Grammys will air on Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. on CBS.

Budding gospel couple appearing in reality show

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Latice Crawford, who wowed judges week after week during Season Two of BET's hit gospel music competition "Sunday Best," is now a reality show star.

The Centric network is featuring Crawford and Jeff Spain in "Almost Married," a show that will chronicle the budding relationship between the pair - who met while taping "Sunday Best."

Episodes air on Saturdays at 9 and 9:30 p.m. through the show's finale on January 12, 2013.

Stanley Brown, who was music director for "Sunday Best" during Crawford's season and is now head of A&R for the Verity gospel label, is currently in the studio with Crawford recording songs for her soon-to-be released CD.

"Latice has one of the most unique voices in Gospel music," Brown says. "We have worked hard to get the right songs for her, songs that reflect her vocal styling and that inspire a rekindling of faith and an empowering of the human spirit."

The disc will provide a taste of what Latice Crawford has to offer Gospel music, and her debut CD will be released later in the year.



Latice Crawford



Spain