

RELIGION

St. Matthew Apostolic to host anniversary services

CALENDAR

Ongoing

Gethsemane Hope fish dinner sale
Gethsemane Hope Baptist Church, 4364 Carrie Ave., will host fish dinner sales every Friday and Saturday in February from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. to raise funds for renovation of an employment training lab. Plates cost \$7.50. Sandwiches cost \$6. Call Sandra Sherrill-Oliver at 336-986-1987 or Michelle Powers at 336-624-4992 for all orders.

Feb. 3

UUFOWS presents "Claiming Control by Letting Go"
The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem, 4055 Robinhood Rd., will hear Seth Carrier speak on "Claiming Control by Letting Go" this Sunday, Feb. 3 at 10:30 a.m. Michael Hughes will speak on "Civil Disobedience: Expression of or Threat to Democracy?" at the 9 a.m. pre-service forum. Call 336-659-0331 or visit www.uufws.org for more information.

Goler Memorial 10 a.m. service
Goler Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 630 N. Patterson Ave., will begin combining its 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services into a 10 a.m. service on the first Sunday of each month beginning on Feb. 3. This Sunday, the church will hold its Church Family Reunion Celebration and Reception. Pastor George Banks will preach.



Banks

Feb. 4

Bible study
A community Bible study, "Galatians, Lesson 1," will be held at Knollwood Baptist Church, 330 Knollwood St., on Monday, Feb. 4, from 7-8:30 p.m. All are welcome. Attendees should enter from the back entrance.

Beginning Feb. 8

Uniting the Torch Conference
Rev. Segried Barrows will host the second annual Uniting the Torch Conference in High Point from Friday, Feb. 8-Sunday, Feb. 10 at the High Point Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 135 S. Main St. There will be workshops, exhibits, religious services, ministry information, children's choir performances and a special speaker each evening at 7 p.m. Holocaust Survivor Peter Loth will conclude the conference.

Feb. 9

Hickory Grove presents "Why We Sing"
Hickory Grove AME Zion Church, 3791 Harper Rd. in Clemmons, will hold a teaching session titled "Why We Sing" on Saturday, Feb. 9 beginning at 12 noon. Rev. Donna Maree is the host pastor.

Feb. 15

Friendship hosts couples affair
The Couples and Marriage Ministry of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 1317 NW Cherry St., presents "A Night of Love and Elegance" for couples (unmarried or married) on Friday, Feb. 15 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Attire is semi-formal and attendees should wear red and white. Admission is \$10 per couple.

Feb. 16

Greensboro Prayer Walk
North Eugene Street Prayer Walk will meet at the corner of North Eugene St. and Bellemeade St. in Greensboro on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. with the mission of praying for revival and citywide transformation, along with other requests. Contact 336-377-2750 for more information.

Feb. 24

St. Stephen's celebrates Absalom Jones' Life
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 810 N. Highland Ave., and The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina present the Annual Celebration of the Life of Absalom Jones, the First African American Priest of the Episcopal Church, on Sunday, Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry will be the Celebrant.



Bishop and First Lady Lowery

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. Matthew Apostolic Temple Church of Jesus Christ, 3640 New Walkertown Rd., will mark its 32nd anniversary beginning on Sunday, Feb. 3 with a 4 p.m. service featuring Bishop Claude Turner of Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance.

Special services will be held throughout the month of February to magnify the anniversary theme - "Divine Increase In Grace, Knowledge and Faith," 2 Peter 3:17-18.

On Sunday, Feb. 10, Apostle Wallace Gaither of True Temple Holiness Church will be the guest. Bishop James C. Richardson Jr., presiding Bishop of the ACCG and pastor of Martinsville, Va.'s Mt.



Richardson

Sinai Apostle Church of Christ in God, will speak at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17. On Sunday, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m., Pastor Anthony B. Wilson and members of the Cathedral of Refuge Church of Deliverance will be the guests.

St. Matthew was founded and organized in January 1981 by Bishop Joseph Preston Lowery and First Lady Josephine Elizabeth Lowery. Members say the Lowerys are highly-favored by God and dedicated to spreading the Gospel. The couple have four children, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and three godsons.

For further information, contact the church at 336-724-1780, 336-723-4479 or via email at smatinc@att.net.

Continuing to Dream



From left: Dr. Christine King Farris, the sister of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Rev. Bernice A. King, the daughter of Dr. King; and Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference; and Elder DeLeice Drane of First Kingdom Management join hands as they sing "We Shall Overcome" during the recent MLK birthday celebration at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. Rodriguez gave the keynote address at the event, which drew a crowd of hundreds.

Photo by Caselove, LLC/First Kingdom Management

Fresh Fire to host prayer breakfast

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

First Lady Michelle McCloud and the Women's Department of Fresh Fire Worship Center, 4306-A Kernersville Rd. in Kernersville, will kick off their annual women's conference with a prayer breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 2 from 9-11 a.m.

Rev. Emma B. White, pastor of Gospel Lighthouse Ministries, will speak. White leads Gospel Light, which has operations in Sanford, Wadesboro and Rockingham, with her husband, Apostle Reginald White. The suggested donation for breakfast is \$10 for adults and \$3 for non-working age youth.

The Women of Unity Conference will be held March 14-17 under the theme, "This Time,"



McCloud



White

inspired by Hebrews 11:6. The guest speakers and guests will include Co-Pastor Rita Wilson of Cathedral of Refuge Church; Apostle Janice Thomas of His Kingdom Ministries of Durham; First Lady Leah McNair of Emmanuel Baptist Church of

Thomasville; Pastor Cassandra Elliott; and recording artists Lecresia Campbell and Kelly McGlenn.

For more information, contact Lady Michelle McCloud at 336-833-4208.



Voss Roberts

Professor to give interfaith lectures

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Michelle Voss Roberts will begin a three-lecture "Interfaith Appreciation" series on Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at Centenary United Methodist Church, 646 West Fifth St. The sessions will be held in the church's Memorial Auditorium. Attendees should enter the building from Fourth-and-a-half Street. The event is free and open to the public.

The first lecture is "The Finger and the Moon: Learning From Buddhism." Dr. Voss Roberts will speak on "The Family of the Book: Learning from Islam" on Feb. 12 and on "Three Paths: Learning from Hinduism" on Feb. 19.

Voss Roberts is assistant professor of theology and culture at the School of Divinity at Wake Forest University.

Call 336-397-1343 to reserve free tickets.

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

Devotional Reading: John 1: 1-18

Lesson Scripture: Colossians 1: 15-20

Lesson Aims: To explain Jesus' supremacy, to accept that the Good News doesn't need any additions, and to appreciate our redemption through Jesus alone.

Background: At one time in history, Colosse (Colossae) was an important city along the east-west trade route from the east to the Aegean Sea. By the first century AD, its importance had diminished to simply a market town. Paul on his third missionary journey spent three years in Ephesus, converting a few Jews and many Gentiles. This was significant because many of those converts went to other places to share the Word. Epaphras (EP uh frass) was one of them who journeyed to Colosse and started the church there (1:7-8). This early church, like the others, faced the rise of false doctrines. When these false teachings bombarded this church, Epaphras sought Paul's help. He visited the apostle (still under house arrest) in Rome. That visit was the catalyst for the epistle.

The false teachings were a mixture of Legalism and Gnosticism. Both teachings "added other tenets" to the Good News. Jews spread the idea that certain laws from the Mosaic Law had to be followed or the believers couldn't have a solid relationship with God. The Gnostics' ideology was a little more complex. Their premise was some "secret knowledge" was needed along

with the notion that the spirit was good while the physical was evil. Simply put, God was spirit and Jesus was human, therefore Jesus could not be the son of God because He was human. This doctrine became more organized during the second century. Paul's letter refutes both claims!

Lesson: The traditional greeting is given as Paul declares their (his and Timothy's) blessings for understanding and wisdom from God. Growth in knowledge is understanding God's will for them. Wisdom, the practical application of knowledge, is seen in a believer's daily life. Paul's discourse can be divided into three parts. Paul asserts that Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. Humans have this need "to see." There are many instances in Scripture where people ask "to see." They believe seeing is believing. Read John 14: 8-9. Jesus is divine and human at the

same time! Because God is Spirit, Jesus gives humanity the opportunity to see the invisible God and believe. Jesus is the firstborn over all creation. This is not order but rank. This means that He was present at creation not that He was created first.

The creation cannot be greater than the Creator. "He made the universe and maintains its order through grace and mercy" (David C. Cook's Echoes Adult Teacher Commentary). Jesus alone is superior to creation! Secondly, Paul declares that Jesus is the Head of His Body, the church. He alone reconciled humanity to God. Obeying the Law and having secret knowledge couldn't do it. The



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson