

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Happening Now

Piney Grove conference
Piney Grove Baptist Church, 4715 Indiana Ave., will hold its 19th annual "Woman to Woman" conference from through Friday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. each night. The New Jerusalem Baptist Church Male Chorus were the guest on the opening evening. Events on Thursday, Nov. 21 will

include a praise and testimony session from 6-6:45 p.m. The guest speaker will be First Lady Wyvondalynn Scovens of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. On Friday, Nov. 22, Minister Gwendolyn Dervin of St. Peters World Outreach Center will be the speaker. For more information, call 336-744-5759.

Beginning Nov. 22

Women's Conference
The Women's Ministry of Abba Father's Ministries Inc. will hold its Women's Conference from Nov. 22-24, at 4014 North Cherry St. The theme is "You Are Not Alone." Various workshops will be held. Registration is \$10. Contact Earline White at 336-816-0571 for more information.

Nov. 23

Holiday stress relief
Carolyn Burns-Speller, chairperson of the Howard Thurman Counseling Center at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1075 Shalimar Drive, will lead a seminar to help people "Maintain Peace and Joy During the Holiday Season" on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. It is for anyone who is experiencing anxiety, sadness, depression or other stresses. Dr. John Mendez is the host pastor.

Obamacare info
Shiloh Baptist Church, 916 E. 12th St., will host an "Obamacare Information Session" on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 1-3 p.m. Presenters will include representatives from Blue Bridge Benefits and Health Care and the Downtown Health Plaza. Since November is Diabetes Awareness Month, representatives will be on hand to discuss diabetes and other health issues. Rev. Paul Lowe Jr. is the host pastor. For additional info, contact Williette Carter at 336-575-2916 or williettecarter@gmail.com.

Zumba at St. Paul
Zumba classes will be held every other Saturday at St. Paul UMC, 2400 Dellabrook Rd. The next session is Nov. 23 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sessions are \$5 each. RSVP to Michelle Wilkins at 404-573-1861.

Nov. 24

Family and Friends Day
Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church, 2120 Bethania-Rural Hall Road, will hold Family and Friends Day on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 3:30 p.m. Rev. Dr. Anthony J. Freeman of Sandy Ridge A.M.E. Zion Church of Landis will be the guest speaker. Rev. Karen Roberts Miller is the host pastor. The public is invited to attend.

UUF services
The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4055 Robinhood Rd., will hear the Rev. Lisa Schwartz speak on "Thanks Giving" at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24 at the 9 a.m. pre-service forum. Gus Preschle, Grant Renier and Jane Towns will discuss various aspects of environmental change. Find more information at uufws.org.

Nov. 26

See Religion on B5



Rev. Renée Griffin

Wentz to mark Griffin's anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Rev. Renée Gilliard Griffin will mark her 10th anniversary as pastor of Wentz Memorial Congregational United Church of Christ, 3435 Carver School Rd., on Sunday, Nov. 24 during the 11 a.m. morning worship service.

Rev. Craig Schaub, pastor of Parkway United Church of Christ, will be the guest speaker. Following the worship service, the celebration will continue with a reception in the Fellowship Hall. The public is invited to share in this momentous occasion.

Griffin, who resides in Greensboro, was installed as the first female pastor of Wentz on Nov. 23, 2003. She is a graduate of the University of Dayton, where she received a BS degree in electrical engineering in 1985. After her graduation, Griffin worked as a development engineer for Honeywell, Inc.

In 1988, she relocated to Richmond, Va., to attend the School of Theology at Virginia Union University, where she earned the Master of Divinity degree. She received a MA degree in Christian education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 1992.

In 1997, Griffin and her family relocated to Greensboro, where her husband, the Rev. Eric Griffin, was called to become pastor of St. Stephen United Church of Christ. She served as youth minister there until accepting the call at Wentz. The couple has two children - Chloe Noel and Eric "Ricky" Jr.



Schaub



Lay Council Members (from left) Glenda Cornell, Linda Sutton, Pastor Dr. George Banks, Jerry McCombs, Mosé Belton and Betty Bowman.

Goler celebrates rich AME Zion legacy

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Goler Memorial AME Zion Church, 630 North Patterson Ave., celebrated its legacy as a "Freedom Church" last month during a special service that featured State Sen. Earline Parmon and Jerry McCombs, president of the Western North Carolina Lay Council of the AME Zion Church.

Chartered in October 1796, the AME Zion Church was created as a place to worship God without discrimination. James Varick, considered a forerunner of the AME Zion Church, was elected its first bishop in 1822. The house that he and other AME Zion leaders rented in New York was often referred to as "The Liberator and the Freedom Church" and was a frequent stop on the Underground Railroad. The AME Zion Church has been home to Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth - all of whom preached freedom and pleaded for the cause of justice for all during the days of slavery and the women's suffrage.



Atkins

Many local residents played key roles in the church's development. Dr. Simon Green Atkins, the founder of the school that would become Winston-Salem State University, was the first elected general secretary of education of the AME Zion Church. History recalls Dr. Atkins as "a man of deep, pure consciousness, keen scholarship, eloquent and exhaustive in speech, constructive and economic in educational spheres."

Last month's service at Goler also celebrated the church's 132nd anniversary. Founded in 1881 as Winston Tabernacle A.M.E. Church, Goler held its first worship service in the Forsyth County Courthouse. Canadian Dr. William H. Goler was a pastor of Goler Memorial. He later became the second president of Livingstone College, a school in Salisbury founded by the church. In 1886, he donated the land where Goler Memorial now stands.

Today, there are 3,000 AME Zion congregations serving more than a million members.

Pair to perform concert on Sunday

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Emerging tenor Kyle Bielfield and pianist Lachlan Glen, both graduates of The Juilliard School, will perform on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 5 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem, 4055 Robinhood Rd.

Together, they deliver a beautifully-performed and emotion-laden array of art songs and classic Americana by the finest American composers and songwriters, past and present. They will be performing selections from their recently released CD, "Stopping By." The performance is free, but donations will be accepted.

Bielfield, whose gorgeous, silvery lyric tenor voice has been highly praised, has a career that has spanned from opera to art songs. He has performed in such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and



Kyle Bielfield



Lachlan Glen

Alice Tully Hall. A graduate of The Juilliard School, and New York University, Bielfield currently lives in New York City and is a member of The American Guild of Musical Artists.

Glen, an Australian, has played at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York. A recent graduate of The Juilliard School, he has worked with conductors such as James

Cancer awareness spokesperson loses dad to disease

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Gospel star Desmond Pringle has been in headlines recently for his Top 20 hit "Can't Even Imagine."

A year ago, he would have never imagined becoming a celebrity spokesman for Cancer Treatment Centers of America and spearheading its "Our Journey of Hope" concert series to create awareness of cancer prevention/treatment among the faith community.

Even more unimaginable is that cancer would suddenly touch Pringle's family. Last month, his father, Bishop Lavern Pringle Sr. went to the hospital for what he thought was a severe case of constipation. It turned out to be a malignant mass, and he was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer.

"We've got to herald the message of early detection, treatment and the need for African Americans in particular to be proactively engaged in self care, because my father was tending to everyone but himself," Pringle says. "He's from that generation that doesn't go to doctors."

The elder Pringle died five days later. "We're in a state of shock," Pringle said. "This was totally unexpected because he was just diagnosed Thursday and passed on Monday. He didn't seem sick on the outside and was doing all of his regular things until this past week. He's representative of the husband, the father, the brother, the uncle, the son and friend who are being diagnosed too late in the game. It's horrible because he didn't have to die. So, a few days before my last Cancer Treatment Center concert of the year, I get this news and I'm going to push this message so that my father's death is not in vain."

Pringle headlined the Cancer Treatment Centers of America "A Night of Hope & Inspiration" concert on Friday, Oct. 18 at West Angeles Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles, with a mass choir and the Victory Praise Dancers backing him. After the concert, he flew to Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston, S.C. for his father's funeral.



Desmond Pringle with his late father, Bishop Lavern Pringle Sr.