

RELIGION

CALENDAR

Happening Now

Poetry series

Centenary United Methodist Church's Music and the Arts Ministry will host "Poetry as Prayer, Prayer as Poetry: The struggle for faith in the poems of John Donne and Gerard Manley Hopkins," a discussion by Anthony "Tony" Abbott, at 7 p.m. on March 10, 17 and 24 (with 31 as a bad weather date) in Centenary's Memorial Auditorium, 646 W. Fifth St. Winston-Salem (use the 4 1/2 Street entrance). Abbott, who is a retired Davidson College English professor, former department chair, poet, novelist and Pulitzer Prize nominee, will examine the extraordinary lives of these two poet priests, Donne as an Anglican and Hopkins a Roman Catholic, and then examine how each used poetry, particularly the sonnet, to speak openly and intimately to God out of their deep spiritual needs. Handouts will be available at all lectures. Abbott will recite poems at the beginning of each session. Weekly topics include: March 24-Gerard Manley Hopkins, The Welsh Sonnets and the "Terrible" Sonnets. The event is free.

Career Fair

Genesis Baptist Church, 2812 East Bessemer Ave. in Greensboro, will be hosting a two-day Career Fair on Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., respectively. NC Joblink and NC Works are partners. Day one of the event is dedicated to preparation. A series of seminars, symposiums and breakout sessions will be conducted, all designed to help people to get started. Day two is dedicated to job placement. Representatives from a variety of local employers will be on hand to meet prospects, conduct on-site interviews and in many cases make on the spot offers of employment. Contact careerfair@genesisbaptistchurch.com or visit the website at genesiscareerfair.com. For additional information, or to participate in the Career Fair contact Minister Price at jamesvprices@yahoo.com.

March 20

Job fair

Love Community Development Corp., 3980 N. Liberty St., will hold a Job Fair on Friday, March 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. People who need help creating or updating a resume are welcome to use the Job Link and get help Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interested people should sign up at the front desk.

March 21

Gospel Showcase & Soul Food

Saturday, March 21 at 6 p.m., the Worship and Arts Ministry of Exodus United Baptist Church, 2000 Wilbur Street, near the old Boys and Girls Club on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., will sponsor a Sylvia's of Harlem, N.Y., style Sunday Gospel Showcase & Soul Food event, with \$7 specials. They include, one entrée, two sides, one drink, extra items and dessert for additional cost. There will be live entertainment and great fellowship. Pastor Alvin Carlisle is senior pastor. For more information contact: Ronee Walker at 336-422-3259 or Elder Ron Wilds at 336-926-5191.

Millionaires seminar

On Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Genesis Baptist Church, 2812 Bessemer Ave. in Greensboro, will host a seminar called "Building Millionaires for a Higher Purpose." It's free and open to the public. The church is on a mission with a purpose to make "2015 a life-changing experience of growth." The Financial Literacy Ministry is sponsoring the program. The three program facilitators and topics include: Todd Leverette (a young adult entrepreneur): "Entrepreneurship: Turning Your Dream into Your Job"; Jackie King: "Making Sense of Investing"; Joe Dudley Jr.: "Discover Your Entrepreneurial Personality."

Uptown Saturday Night

Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, 630 N. Patterson Ave., will have Uptown Saturday Night on Saturday, March 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. Donation is \$15, which includes dinner and entertainment. This event is sponsored by Parent Body Missionaries.

College readiness workshop

The College Connection Ministry at Emmanuel Baptist Church will host a seminar titled "Straight Talk: A College Readiness Workshop for High School Students" on Saturday, March 21, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the church, 1075 Shalimar Dr. The topics that will be discussed include: selecting appropriate high school courses, FAFSA process, saving money, scholarships, importance of extra-curriculum activities, essay writing and living as a college students. The facilitators for these session are Whitney McLaughlin, Karen Harris, Rachel King and Carolyn Burns-Speller. Pastor Dr. John Mendez and Jamie Woodyard will facilitate separate sessions for the male and female participants on importance social issues. The workshop is open to all high school students. To register for the workshop or obtain more information, please email ebccollegeconn@gmail.com.

Starting on March 22

Men's Revival

Life Changing Transformation Church Ministry, 2001 N.E. 25th St. (corner of Ansonia and 25th), will be having Men's Revival starting Sunday, March 22. The theme is "From Boys to Men, Man UP!" The guest speakers are as following:

Sunday, March 22, Bishop Preston Mack from Jesus Resurrection Power will be speaking at 5 p.m.; Thursday, March 26, Pastor Johnny Johnson from United Deliverance Church of God will be speak at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 27, Apostle Edward Allen of Ambassador Cathedral will be speaking at 7 p.m. Doors will open early.

See Religion on B5

Pastors discuss race at forum

BY ERIN MIZELLE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

On the night of Tuesday, March 10, in a building that perhaps many Winston-Salem residents drive by without ever paying it much attention, a conversation was had, and it was one for all.

Housed at the Enterprise Center on Martin Luther King Drive for all to gather, this community dialogue was held to explore "faith community pathways" to ensuring an impartial and thriving city of Winston-Salem for all those who call it home.

Titled "Community Conversation for the Good of Our City," the community faith-based dialogue was sponsored by the Institute for Dismantling Racism (IDR) and was hosted by a panel of clergy from churches in the Forsyth County area. Occurrences of racial injustice in Staten Island and Ferguson, in particular, were to blame for the sense of urgency behind the night's communal dialogue.

"When we began to talk about our community and what it could be, the thing that became very clear is that we couldn't have what we wanted — what we deserved — unless the vast majority of the people in the community began to work together. And the first step to that is to at least talk to, (then) hear and finally begin to understand one another," said the Rev. Willard Bass as he opened the night's special event.

"This is IDR's effort to start that conversation," said Bass, who is director of IDR. The organization has held a previous discussion session.

The conversation between the panelist of local pastors and the people of Winston-Salem addressed three specific questions, and started a dialogue that will continue for weeks and months to come:

1. What does a vision of the future of our city look like in which all communities flourish?
2. What are the obstacles for realizing this vision and the options for overcoming them?
3. How will we negotiate these obstacles successfully?

"We have to be ashamed of ourselves and we have to take personal responsibility because there was a time when we couldn't," said Pastor Nathan Scovens. "And we have to accept that personal responsibility to make things better for everyone."

The event was open to the public, allowing the conversation to be a "collaborative and continuous improvement project with the help of the community's involvement," as IDR had publicly hoped it would be. Moderated by journalist and minister Dr. Bryan Williams, IDR made every attempt to relay the national conversation about racial discrimination and injustices to the future of "our" Winston-



Panelists give their opening remarks.

Photos by Erin Mizelle



Schwartz



Scovens

Salem, or so it was referred on this night, time and time again. "All of you that are here (in attendance) — your willingness to be here — is a statement about the kind of Winston-Salem you want to see. And I commend you all for taking your time to be here," Williams said, in opening the evening's session.

"While religion has been a tool of oppression, giving legitimacy to the systems and institutions an unjust misuse of power, it has also served as sustenance and inspiration for those suffering from racism. Tonight, we seek all forms and traditions that will deepen commitment to the work that we are all here to do."

Throughout the two-and-a-half hour event, one point rang clear — regardless of race — as each speaker stood to take the microphone and address all in attendance: In order for changes to occur in Winston-Salem and across the nation, these issues of social justice, and the lack thereof, must first be brought to the forefront of every citizen's conversation.

"We will remain vulnerable to each other, knowing that racism has taught us to be deceptive to self and others and that we need one another for accountability and integrity. But here, our work begins with empathy for those who have been destroyed and wounded by the pathology of racism and with seeking the healing of the systems and institutions so that they might provide quality of access and equity in the distribution of power and resources," Williams said.

March 10 was the second attempt to do just that. "Healing takes time. Miracles take time. And what we are asking for is healing," Scovens softly remarked as



Attendee Jay Harris gives his opinion.

he and the panel beside him began to close out the evening's discussion. "It does not — and it will not — happen overnight, but we will not lose sight of what could be."

A third "Community Conversation for the Good of Our City" is already planned to happen in the near future.

Panelists were Rev. Darryl Aaron, Pastor, First Baptist Church; Rev. Steve Angle, Pastor, Southside Community Church; Rev. Tembila Covington, Cross the Red Sea Ministry of Rockingham County; Rev. Nathan Parrish, Pastor, Peace Haven Baptist Church; Rev. Nathan Scovens, Pastor, Galilee Baptist Church; Rev. Lisa Schwartz, Pastor, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; Bishop Todd Fulton, Pastor, Moriah Outreach Center of Kernersville; and Rev. Chuck Spong, Senior Pastor, WS First.

St. Peter's presents program to help strengthen families

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. Peter's Church and World Outreach Center launched a six-month program to strengthen families in the Winston-Salem and surrounding communities.

The Strong Family Movement kicked off on March 1 with Bishop Dale C. Bronner, founder/senior pastor of Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral near Atlanta.

Bishop Bronner delivered a dynamic message that challenged families to reframe their thinking and reach God's best for their lives.

The Strong Family Movement continues. St. Peter's will hold informational sessions on relevant family

topics on the third Wednesday of each month and fun family outings on the fourth Wednesday of each month from March through August. The current itinerary is as follows:

- March 18, topic: "We Are Family"
- March 25, topic: "Family, Food and Fun Night"
- April 15, topic: "Balancing Life And Family Part 1"
- April 22, topic: "Balancing Life And Family Part 2"
- May 20, topic: "Healthy Sex Education For The Family Part 1"
- May 27, topic: "Healthy Sex Education For The Family Part 2"
- June 17, topic: "Effective Parenting At Every Age Part 1"

• June 24, topic: "Effective Parenting At Every Age Part 2"

• July 15, topic: "The Wealthy Family Part 1"

• July 22, topic: "The Wealthy Family Part 2"

• July 26, topic: "Fatherless Generation, Motherless Generation"

• Aug. 2, topic: "Strong Family Movement Culmination & Family Fun Day"

Learn more about The Strong Family Movement by visiting www.SPWOC.com/TheMovement.

Dr. James C. and Joyce Hash Sr. are senior pastors of St. Peter's Church and World Outreach Center (www.spwoc.com). Services are held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Lesson Scripture: John 20:19-23
By the end of this lesson, we should:

- Understand the significance of Jesus' appearances
- Recognize the calm that Jesus brings
- Deepen our commitment to Him

Background: The women reported, "The tomb is empty!" The disciples ran to see. Mary Magdalene talked with the Risen Lord and reported that conversation to the 10 (Thomas was absent). They didn't understand as their fear, grief, chaos and doubts mounted. They were confused at the Last Supper and now words couldn't express their feelings. Jesus' teachings over the last three years were running through their minds as they attempted to make sense of everything. There was no earthly kingdom as they envisioned. They made spectacles of themselves



parading around with Jesus. Not only were the Pharisees out to get them for making a mockery of the Law but the Romans couldn't be far behind! At this point, they were replaying the events that took place among themselves, but no resolution came.

Lesson: On the evening of Resurrection Day, Jesus visits the hiding disciples behind locked doors. He greets them in the usual manner, "Peace be with you" (Hebrew "shalom"). I'm sure they were star-

tled and probably more afraid than ever. They recognize Him as He shows them His hands (wrists) and His side. The Gospel of Luke records in 24:36-49 that He ate fish with them. Jesus' appearance proves that His body was not stolen and that He is alive! This is visible proof that Jesus is not a ghost. While they do not fully understand, their burden has been lifted! The 10 are now calm and encouraged because Jesus is with them. Verse 21 reminds them of their ministry. What Jesus says really isn't new to them. You see, God sent His Son into a dying world (sinful) to redeem humanity back to Him. Sometimes we forget the real mission. The miracles were the signs of His authenticity and authority. Through the highs and lows of Christ's earthly life, He endures it all to fulfill His mission to save! He depended on His Father to complete that mission. Therefore Jesus sends

See Peppers on B5