



Photos by Timothy Ramsey
Goler Metropolitan Senior Pastor Johnny L. Ruff, far right, is joined by Mayor Allen Joines, middle; the Rev. Dr. Paul Lowe, a state senator, second row left; and County Commissioner Fleming El-Amin, second row right.

The congregation was full of people old and young for the Wreath Laying Ceremony commemorating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic visit in 1964.

MLK

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who were present the night Dr. King spoke in 1964. "To have the honor of hearing Dr. King speak and then be able to celebrate that during our anniversary is phenomenal," said Frances Steward, who was present the night King spoke. "Dr. King was a great man and my philosophy has always been you cannot reap a harvest of love where the seeds of hate are sown." There were several elected officials present for the celebration, such as Mayor Allen Joines, County Commissioner Fleming El-Amin and the Rev. Dr. Paul

Lowe, a state senator. Anniversary Committee Chairwoman Annette M. Wilson was very happy with the turnout of the Saturday afternoon event. She says it was a great collaborative effort to put everything together and she thanks all that were involved. "We are elated, and when you think about the tone of things happening in our country, it's more important for us to come together," she said. "The NAACP used to meet at Goler Metropolitan, and I remember that as a child, so for us to come full circle and know we have to be involved to help make things better is just uplifting." Toward the end of the service, the church played an

excerpt from King's speech at Goler Metropolitan in '64. The Rev. Johnny L. Ruff, senior pastor of Goler Metropolitan, says it's important for us, especially the younger generation, to remember the legacy of Dr. King because of what he stood for. "As we see the political arena changing, attitudes and perceptions of what is correct change, but the reality is that where we came from is a battle we are still meeting and fighting," said Ruff. "It's important to remind ourselves from time to time that we still have some work to do."

Goodbye

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Metropolitan. He says he is ready for the transition to

Metropolitan," Rivers said. "Reverend Hammond's desire has always been to retire and not stay longer than he needs to stay. The church is much larger than



Rev. Rivers

Union Baptist. He says he did not seek out this new position at Union Baptist. He says Hammond did not want to stay too long at the church and wanted to have a succession plan once he decided to step down as senior pastor. After Hammond suggested Rivers' name to the congregation, a nomination process began and he was asked to consider it. After several months of prayer and discussion, he decided to accept the offer. "Part of what made the choice difficult on my side was how much I love the people here at United

when he came and he felt that the best way to provide stability, continuity and leadership was for them to do a succession plan." There were well over 100 people in attendance at the going away celebration for Rivers. Everyone had the chance to speak with Rivers and say their final goodbyes to the Rivers family. The Rev. Yvette Lovett Martin says she understands following God's guidance to move to a new assignment, as that was what brought her to the city of Winston-Salem herself. "I understand what ministry entails in that God



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

Those in attendance were treated to delicious food and snacks for Rev. Rivers' going away celebration.

can send us to different places," Lovett Martin said. "He [Rivers] was faithful in service here for 11½ years and we feel like this is God's doing. We are certainly happy for him but sad to see him go because once you build relationships and are connected with someone, you're not so quick to let go. We are grateful for the time he had here."

Amid the food and drinks, there was a mixture of happy feelings for the new opportunity for Rivers as well as sad feelings that he is leaving after almost 12 years as senior pastor. Elwillie Jarrett, a United Metropolitan church member, said, "He has meant a lot to this church and he will be missed. He is a lot like my son and he is very funny.

He is an all-around kind of guy and he will be missed so much but we are happy for this opportunity for him." Rivers said the transition to the city of Durham will take some adjusting for his children, Prince Corbett and Julienne, who at the age of 12 and 7 have only lived in the city of Winston-Salem. He says one good thing about the

move is his wife, Monica Corbett Rivers, has a sister in Raleigh, so their children will have first cousins in close proximity to play with. He says he will miss the city of Winston-Salem and the people of his church community. He says he plans to return because there are many family and friends to visit.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey
People from different faiths and denominations gathered at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church for the Faith Build Kickoff Breakfast last week.

Kickoff

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together to build homes, community and hope," he said. "Whether they are Jewish, Muslim or Christian, the point is for us to all pull together to show support in Winston-Salem of solidarity, strength and being united. It gives us the chance to change the lives of those in the community that are in need." Campbell believes that the Faith Builds allow the HFH to reach out to many congregations around the Forsyth County area, along with expanding their footprint and reach to help more in need. In attendance at the Faith Build was Timothy D. Rhodes, a former HFH home recipient. He says he was actually denied twice before finally being approved for the HFH home. He has even trav-



Campbell

eled to Nicaragua to assist in building homes there after his home was completed. "When I found out I was going to receive a home, I was overwhelmed and it was a great feeling," Rhodes said. "God opened the door for me, so it was time for me to stand up and once I got into the program, I just went 100 percent. I tell everyone about Habitat for Humanity because it's the best thing going for potential homeowners." United Metropolitan had a number of representatives from its congregation at the breakfast. The Rev. Yvette Lovett Martin says United Metropolitan

is involved in a number of efforts throughout the community. She said they love hosting the breakfast at their church. "Our pastor, Prince Rivers, has been instrumental in getting out into the community and serving and getting the congregation involved," she said. "The Faith Builds are a great way to give back to the community and teaches the young people of the church about community service and giving back. Also with the meetings, we are able to learn so much about different faith communities." There are currently 32 families that are in line waiting for HFH homes to begin construction. Any person or church interested in volunteering for a Faith Build or with HFH, contact Mike Campbell at 336-306-8253 or visit habitatforsyth.org.

Lesson

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was their only solution. He said, "Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea" (verse 12). Because of their regard for human life, the men attempted an alternative to sacrifice and tried work "the men rowed hard." God however, was unimpressed with their rowing and continued to make the sea violent against them (verse 13). Now desperate, the sailors prayed to Jonah's God, who they now knew controlled the sea. They didn't want to be held responsible for Jonah's death, but were willing to do as God

required as long as it was Him and not them that was responsible for the outcome. With no resistance from Jonah, and to save everyone else, they tossed him into the sea (verse 15). God immediately calmed the sea and the totally impressed sailors made sacrifice to God for His awesome power. God covering all bases, saved the crew and passengers, chastised and redirected Jonah. God made provision of a fish large enough to swallow Jonah, house him for three days and deliver him to his appointed destination. The fish was God's tool ... not Jonah's punishment.

For Your Consideration: Jonah was inside the fish for three days. Compare his three days to that of Jesus and Paul ... how are they alike?

Life's Application: Obedience is better than sacrifice ... we have to be obedient to God's commands even when we don't like the task He has for us. Our disobedience could hurt not only us, but those around us. It's also necessary for us to repent and pray knowing that God will hear us and have compassion (UMI Annual Commentary 2016-2017).

Rel. Cal.

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4th Tuesday Providing hope through teaching
 Join Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance Inc., from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Bethesda Center, 930 North Patterson Ave., where we provide hope through teaching and preaching presented by Calvary Hill's ministerial staff. For more information contact the church at 336-744-3012.

Saturdays
 Join the H.O.P.E. Project at Mt Olive Baptist Church on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. to enjoy free lunches for kids. Parents will receive vegetables. All

kids in the East Winston area are welcome. Be a part of a movement making sure that fewer children are hungry in our community. Mt. Olive is at 1301 C.E. Gray, Winston-Salem. Call 336-721-1959 for any question or concerns. Also visit hopews.org to learn more about the H.O.P.E. Project. The pastor is Dr. Charles E. Gray.

Food program
 First Baptist Church Children's Center, 501 West Fifth St., is participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture funded Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals will be available at no separate charge to enrolled participants. Children who are TANF recipients or who are members of SNAP or FDPIR households or are

Head Start participants are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits. Adult participants who are members of food stamp or FDPIR households or who are SSI or Medicaid participants are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits. For more information, call 336-723-7071.

2nd Saturday Food, clothes available
 Every second Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance Inc. invites anyone who is in need of food and clothes. The food pantry and clothes closet is at 4951 Manning St. Direct all questions to Missionary Tammy Orr at 336-744-3012.