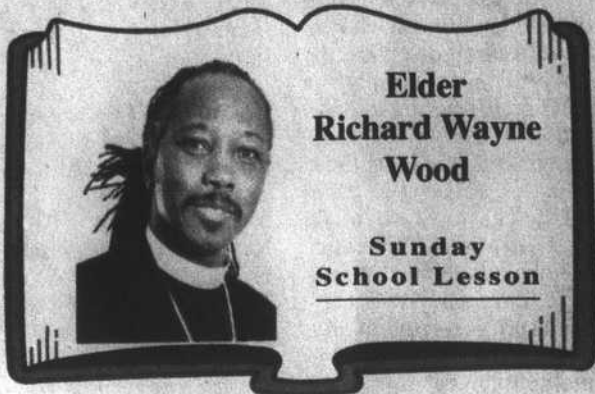


RELIGION



**Elder
Richard Wayne
Wood**

Sunday
School Lesson

Unjust Leaders

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 23:1-8, 23-26

By the end of this lesson, we will

*Know the difference between just and unjust actions.

*Understand that God's attitude toward hypocritical religion has not changed and never will.

*Resolve never to enter into the sins of selfishness or hypocrisy.

Background: The time is A.D. 30 and the place is Jerusalem. The "seat of Moses" represented religious authority and was historically known as a place where Pharisees and Scribes sat upon when they gathered together. In the sermon of the lesson, Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites six times. His anger is revealed in the language He used. "Woe to you" precedes each reference as hypocrite. Jesus chided the Pharisees in each instance for saying one thing and doing another.

Lesson: Jesus starts out saying that because the scribes and Pharisees are the religious authorities, their instructions regarding the Jewish traditions and laws should be obeyed, but their actions should not be followed because they are hypocrites, in every sense of the word (verses 1-3). Jesus condemns their hypocrisy in the following verses. He says they put on a religious show, dressing themselves to look spiritually superior (look up phylacteries - two black leather boxes containing parchment Scriptures, and the tassels they made long to gain attention)(verses 4-6). They were also guilty of self-exaltation (verse 7). These inconsistencies are pointed out as an indictment against them. Verse 8 is a warning to Christian leaders to shun titles which may be inconsistent with Christ teachings of humility and equality. They are to remember they are all brothers, who are all subject to the authority of Christ. Jesus condemns the Pharisees in verses 23-24 for their lack of justice, mercy and faith. Their close attention to tithing is useful and needful, but they let it overshadow the greater need for compassion. One should not replace the other (verse 23). To drive the point home, Jesus says they pay attention to the smallest things that defile and overlook the large things that defile (verse 24). The lesson concludes by saying the Pharisees do the less important thing to the neglect of the more important. They appear to be righteous, but inside they are full of extortion and intemperance. They are clean on the outside, but impure on the inside. Work on the inside first (verses 27-28). (The MacArthur Study Bible, NIV Leadership Bible, UMI, UGP, and the Oxford Bible Commentary.)

For Your Consideration: We don't wear little leather boxes on our foreheads or arms and neither do we parade in blue and white tasseled shawls. So what external symbolisms do we focus on that may separate us from God?

Life's Application: This week's lesson deals with ethics, morality and integrity. When we claim to be Christians, we make an ethical statement, which says we live by Biblical standards. We commit to a certain

See Lesson on B5



Photos by Andrea Tate
Margaret Johnson, news anchor and reporter for WXII News 12, was the featured speaker for Pivot Ministry's graduation ceremony.



Left to right, Pivot Ministry class participants are Teresa Coble, Kathryn Walden, Diamond Murphy, Ann (Marcum) Russell, Lisa Carr, and Sheri Waters. Executive Director Carol Polk is in the red jacket.

Pivot Ministry celebrates 1st graduating class

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A new ministry has sprouted in Winston-Salem.

Six women in Pivot Ministry's first graduating class received their achievement certificates on Saturday, June 23, at Ardmore Baptist Church, 501 Miller St. in Winston-Salem. Margaret Johnson, news anchor and reporter for WXII News 12, was the featured speaker, and Eddie Bines

was the featured singer.

Envisioned in 2015 and initially funded by Ardmore Baptist Church, Pivot Ministry is a new organization in Forsyth County that is based on the successful 20-year-old model of Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps. Pivot's objective is to empower low-income women for better life and income-producing opportunities through classes in life and job skills

and Bible study, supported and sponsored by local community resources.

The ministry launched its first class with seven women on March 1, 2018. They met as a small group one day each week for classes and a shared meal for the 16-week semester. Each of the 16 program days was broken up into three to five sessions that varied from week to week.

See Class on B5



Photo by Timothy Ramsey
Winston-Salem Police Chief Catrina Thompson gave the young people an inspiring message about never forgetting where you come from and to always give back.

"I believe the young people of our community are truly our future."

Ministers' Conference awards 11 scholarships

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

For years the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity (MCWSV) has been sowing into the lives of the young people of Forsyth County. On June 28, the organization held its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship awards banquet at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, awarding 11 young people scholarships to further their education.

To date the conference has donated well over \$200,000 in scholarships throughout the years.

The Chronicle has donated funds from its Martin Luther King Jr. Day breakfast for the scholarships at least the last three years.

Bishop Todd Fulton, chairman of the MLK Jr. Scholarship board, says it is inspiring to see all of the young people going on to bigger and better things.

The 11 scholarship award winners are: Alvin Eugene Carlise, Nyhanna Elaine Covington, Darren Sanchez Crump, Maya Jamil Futrell, Tiara Mone't Jarrett, Caniah D'avion Lentz, Rodaysha Leunna McCallum, Jewel Emmanuel Moser, Autumn Denise Peppers, Venay Essense Wilkins and Gretia Jamilah Yancey.

The speaker for the evening was Catrina Thompson, chief of police of Winston-Salem, who spoke to the young people about her humble beginnings along with the "village" of people that helped her along the way. Tears began to roll for Thompson as she touched on all of the people that helped her along the way.

"I believe the young people of our community are truly our future," said Thompson. "My inspiration comes from my background because I had a praying grandmother and an uneducated grandfather who understood the value of education."

See Scholarships on B5

CALENDAR

July 6-7 Women's Conference

Rev. Dr. James L.E. Hunt, the Women of New Birth Worship Center (NBWC), 1033 Newbirth Dr. East Bend, N.C. invites every woman to a Two-Day Women's Conference July 6-7. The speaker on both dates will be Annette Kelly, co-pastor of Central Triad Church, Winston-Salem. On Friday, July 6, praise and worship will be led by NBWC praise and worship leaders; service begins at 7 p.m. On Saturday, July 7, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. come for a spirit-filled message, liturgical dance, and more. (Lunch will be served.) The theme is "God's Word vs. Our Works." This is a free event. Bring a non-perishable food item to support the Food Pantry.

July 8 Worship Services

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem, 4055 Robinhood Road, will have services on July 8. At the 10:30 a.m. traditional worship, the Rev. Lisa Schwartz will speak about the recent UUA General Assembly in a sermon titled "Gather the Spirit, Harvest the Power." At the Forum, 9:15 a.m., Elisabeth Motsinger will speak on "The Political Long Game." At Explorations, 9:15 a.m., Dr. Gloria Fitzgibbon will speak on "Jung's Phenomenology of the Self." For more information, visit UUFWS.org.

July 8 86th Choir Anniversary

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Leach Sr., pastor of Morning

Star Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Fitch St., invite the community to attend the Spiritual Choir's 86th Anniversary on Sunday, July 8 at 4 p.m. Pastor Ronald E. Speas and the members of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Winston Salem will serve as the honored guests. For more information, call the church office at (336) 418-2003.

July 8 Prayer Circle

There will be a prayer circle for police and first responders on July 8 from 3-4 p.m. The event will be held rain or shine and located at 725 N. Cherry St.

July 8, 15 & 29 13th Church and Pastoral Anniversary

See Rel. Cal. on B5