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"The Voice Of The Black Community"

Volume 10, Number 24

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, November 22, 1984

Price: 40 Cents

Charlotte Churches To Celebrate Thanksgiving With Special Services

By Audrey C. Lodato
and Teresa Simmons
Post Staff Writers

Thanksgiving has its roots deep in the early religious history of this country. The Pilgrims, history books tell us, fled England in search of religious freedom and, finding it, remembered to give thanks to the God in whom they trusted. The Indian partakers of that first Thanksgiving feast, too, were mindful of a Creator.

To this day, that tradition continues for many Americans. Here in Charlotte, churches celebrate the holiday with special services and many help needy families as a way of saying "thanks."

Following is a partial listing of what area churches are doing to help the poor this Thanksgiving, as well as a listing of some of the special services that are planned.

The United House of Prayer plans to give away 50 dinner baskets to needy families, mostly in the community surrounding the church on Beatties Ford Road, according to Al Cloud, director of the church's Coalition of Concerned Citizens in the Community. Cloud noted that local grocery stores have helped tremendously by donating food for the baskets. "What we didn't get from the stores, we contributed ourselves," Cloud added. Each box or basket of food will include a turkey, dressing, greens, sweet potatoes, rolls, celery, cranberry sauce, and possibly pumpkin pie. In addition to the donated food baskets, the church is hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for its senior citizen members following the 11 a.m. service Thanksgiving Day.

The missionaries at Greater Bethel AME Zion will be giving away food baskets to the needy in the community. Spokeswoman Sarah Scofield noted that the church members average 15 to 20 baskets each Thanksgiving. In addition, some checks are sent out, as well as greeting cards to shut-ins.

The Greenville Memorial AME Zion Day Care Center is giving two baskets, made up of food brought in



Rev. Dr. George E. Battle Jr.
.....Helps needy families

by the children who attend the center.

According to Rev. Preston Pendergrass, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, a special collection will be taken up at the Wednesday evening service on the 21st. This collection will go to Central Orphanage Home in Oxford, N.C.

Gethsemane AME Zion is putting together boxes of food for needy families in the community. Gethsemane's pastor, Rev. Dr. George E. Battle Jr., explained, "We try to make their Thanksgiving one of thanks and, in so doing, feel good ourselves." Pastor Battle indicated that the congregation normally helps 10-12 families during the Thanksgiving season. They've been doing this for about 10 years.

Members of First Baptist-West traditionally bring food bundles to the Wednesday service the night before Thanksgiving, and then distributes the food to sick and



Rev. William Lee
Conducts Thanksgiving services

shut-ins that they know of, not only in the church but also in the neighborhood.

Vada Kearns, moderator of the deacon board at First United Presbyterian Church, related that her church is giving fruit baskets and cards to members who are sick, shut-in, or hospitalized.

Silver Mount Baptist Church will hold its Pre-Annual Thanksgiving Service, November 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Willie Crank, pastor of First Corinthians Baptist Church, will deliver the sermon. Music will be rendered by the choir of First Corinthians as well as other choruses and choirs.

Fully baked turkeys with all the trimmings will be given away. A repeat will be served free to all at the close of service.

Rev. William Lee Jr. is pastor of Silver Mount, located on Old Pineville Rd.

There will be a pre-Thanksgiving

and Baptismal service November 21 at Faith Memorial Baptist Church, 211 Lakewood Ave.

Those services will be sponsored by the Deaconess and Mission Group No. 2. Services will begin at 7 p.m. Rev. W. H. Caldwell, pastor.

There will be an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Wednesday, November 21, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 West Trade St., beginning at 7:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews in cooperation with the Charlotte Area Clergy Association. Some of the denominations participating in the service include: Baha'i, Friends, Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Sufi, Jewish, Unitarian, Lutheran, Baptist and AME Zion. Mayor Harvey Gantt will present Charlotte's Proclamation for Thanksgiving. The public is cordially invited to attend. There will be a reception following the service.

Also Temple Chapel will observe Family Day with a Thanksgiving Breakfast to be served at 7 a.m. Rev. J. T. Scott will be the 8 a.m. speaker. The entire family is invited. Temple Chapel, pastored by Rev. Gene E. Gilmore, is located at 900 September Lane. Call 393-5113 for more information.

Kilgo United Methodist Church and Belmont Park United Methodist Church joined for a Thanksgiving Service at Kilgo United Methodist Church, 2101 Belvedere Ave., Tuesday, November 20. Rev. Dale G. Groh was the speaker.

The Ethyle T. Haynes Missionary Society of Adams-Metropolitan AME Church presented "A Celebration of Thanksgiving" at Greater Bethel AME Church, November 18.

November 30 Is Deadline To Apply For Energy Assistance Program

Special To The Post
Raleigh - The North Carolina Department of Human Resources

reminds citizens that November 30 is the deadline to apply for the federal Low-Income Energy Assist-

ance Program.

The program provides a one-time payment to help eligible low-income households pay their heating bills this winter. It is not designed to pay all of a household's heating bills, but to provide some relief from the high cost of energy.

It is estimated that some 180,000 low-income households across the state are eligible for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program this year, according to Bonnie Cramer, assistant director for program administration in the Division of Social Services.

"With the application period more than half complete, we feel there are eligible people, including the elderly and disabled, who have not yet applied," she pointed out. "I hope families will apply as soon as possible at their county department of social services."

Cramer said that elderly or handicapped individuals may send a representative to apply for them or call their county department of social services to make other arrangements.

To be eligible for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, households must need help with their heating bills, have incomes at or below the 1981 poverty level, and have financial resources of \$2,200 or less.

The size of the payment a family receives will depend upon the number of people in the household, their combined incomes, the region of the state where they live, and the type of heating fuel they use.

Cramer said a one-time payment will be made in early February after all low-income households have applied and eligibility has been determined.

Local residents may apply for the Energy Assistance Program at the following locations: the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council, 1318 Clay Ave. off Tuckaseegee Rd. (the old Enderly School); Gethsemane AME Zion Church, 531 Campus St.; and the Belmont Regional Center, 700 Parkwood Ave.



Sheila Whitaker
.....Legal secretary

Sheila Whitaker Likes Living In Charlotte

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

"I never thought I'd be a legal secretary or any type of secretary," confesses Sheila Whitaker. "Because I initially thought secretaries just type, type, type all day."

However, since Sheila has become a legal secretary for the law offices of Donnie Hoover and Roshia McGill, she's found the position entails much more. "There are a variety of things to do and I oversee some major responsibilities which makes me feel important," she states. "I've also met a lot of people and learned a lot about legal matters."

A native of Enfield, N.C., Sheila came to Charlotte in 1980 to pursue an education. She attended Central Piedmont Community College and received an Associate degree in the Bookkeeping and Clerical program. She learned about her current job through the On-The-Job-Training program of the Urban League.

It's sufficient to say Sheila likes her job. "It's a good job and I have two wonderful bosses," she admits.

Her work is one of the reasons that Sheila has grown to like living in Charlotte. She recalls that when she first arrived here, coming from a "small, rural" town, she thought the city was too large. "But after five years I've met a lot of good, natural, down-to-earth people," she tells. Sheila has come to call Charlotte home.

Finding friends was no hard task for this 26-year-old beauty who describes herself as "congenial." "I'm an all around people person," she tells. "It is this trait that Sheila hopes will help her in her long range goal of becoming a psychologist-counselor."

"I just like people so much and I am a big talker," says Sheila. "I've always had an interest in what makes people who they are," she adds, referring to why she'd like to go into psychology one day.

Other interests include reading, music and writing poetry. "I write down my thoughts and sometimes they turn out to be a poem," Sheila smiles. She also enjoys cooking. Sheila claims she experiments with natural foods.

Since leaving her hometown church, Mt. Calvary Baptist in Enfield, Sheila conducts independent bible study in her home inviting friends over to read along with her.

She is the mother of a nine year old son, Marvin. To be a single parent is sometimes hard, admits Sheila, but she says Marvin has grown up to be a very good child. "He's independent," she reports. "It's a lot like he's raising me sometimes. He takes the daddy position," she laughs.

Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church To Accept Applications For Apartment Complex

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor

Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church's dream of building a 60-apartment structure for senior citizens and physically handicapped has materialized. Applications will be taken for occupancy November 26 and 29 at the Mayfield Church, located at 700 Sugar Creek Rd. West, corner of Argyle from noon until 8 p.m.

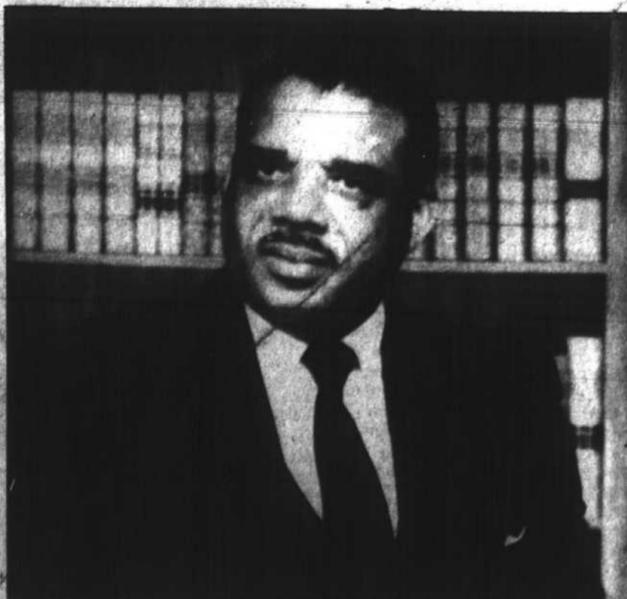
The church, in cooperation with Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will offer 34 apartments for senior citizens, age 62 and over and six apartments for the handicapped of any age.

Rev. Dr. H. S. Diggs, pastor of the Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church (sponsors of the complex), stated, "I am quite elated...this is one of the things our church is interested in... helping the elderly."

"At our church we don't have many senior citizens. One of our slogans, however, is to help children and senior citizens."

About 20 months ago Rev. Diggs and his church presented a plan to Housing and Urban Development. Only 10 programs in North Carolina were accepted. "Acceptance was mainly on how our church had dealt in the past with helping the community and how we have dealt with other agencies that we had to do with business."

A ground-level structure, the apartments will be located on Oneida Rd., off North Graham St. The church has hired the Phoenix Management Services, Inc. of Raleigh as the Managing Agent



Dr. H.S. Diggs
.....Dreams come true

for the complex. H. Scott Neely, Property Manager, will be aided by an assistant in accepting applications for the apartment November 26 and 29.

Subsidized by HUD, apartment dwellers in the Mayfield Memorial Apartments, Inc. will pay no more than 30 percent of their incomes towards rent. Water will be included in the rent.

The apartments are structured for energy efficiency and will be ready for occupancy by the latter part of January, 1985, according to Rev. Diggs.

"I can't stress enough that residents must be capable of independent survival," Neely pronounced. "The apartment will not be a nursing home and residents must maintain an independent living style."

DATE-TALK



The best way to cheer yourself up is to try and cheer somebody else up.