

Opinions On The Street

Mayor Gantt Is Best Man For The Job

By Jonathan Fritz
Special To The Post
Our recorders and cameras made their way to Uptown Charlotte on Saturday, September 28; the traveling-reporter asked voters to comment on the citywide elections held days earlier.



Harvey Gantt
.....'Decent man'



Dave Berryhill
.....Gantt's challenger

Twenty persons were interviewed. About half-11-said they did not vote because they "already knew who was going to win." Only one person said Mayor Gantt should not have run because "he's doing too much of a good job in office...he should quit while he's ahead."

Nevertheless, everyone interviewed placed the most attention on three candidates: Harvey Gantt, the Democratic incumbent; Dave Berryhill, his Republican challenger, in the November general election, and Sue Myrick, Gantt's second Republican challenger who lost in the primary races. James Baldwin, Gantt's Democratic challenger, was never mentioned by those interviewed.

Reflecting the attitudes of the 20 registered voters were two young adults and a middle-aged man. All three said they were not surprised the mayoral race had happened as expected.

"I think the primary went as planned, really....the people who were supposed to win won," said Charles Gill, age 40. Gill, a Gantt supporter, believes the mayor is the best man for the job. "There were

good races, especially on the Republican side, but the Democrats came out, which is good for the city," he added.

JoAnne Keene, 29, said: "I will vote for Harvey Gantt to be reelected. I think he's doing a good job. I just didn't see there was any strong competition for him in this primary." However, she noted that she did not vote because she "felt it wasn't an important primary."

"Harvey's a decent candidate-but I supported Sue Myrick," said

Rodney Stewart, who has lived in Charlotte for seven years. "I like Myrick because she has some of the same views I have. Unfortunately, she was a bit too aggressive-that could have turned off a few voters," he added. Stewart, like Keene, said he did not vote this time because the primary results met his expectations.

On Tuesday, November 5, Harvey Gantt, the incumbent mayor, will face his Republican challenger Dave Berryhill.

Sunday School Lesson

By Beate Wilbur

INTRODUCTION

Most Christians know that Jesus prayed fervently for His people "that they may be one." Most Christians agree that "there is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Then how can it be that "one body" be divided into 250 denominations? Paul put his finger neatly on one reason for divisions within the church. He said the Christians in Corinth were carnal and babes in Christ (1 Cor. 3:1-4).

LESSON BACKGROUND

On Paul's second missionary journey he came to Corinth, a city famous for its wickedness. Many Corinthians became Christians, however. Paul stayed a year and a half or more before he left to attend a Jewish feast at Jerusalem (Acts 18:1-21). Perhaps it was about a year later when Paul came to Ephesus on his third journey. He began to hear about the church in Corinth, and the news was both good and bad. The Christians there were rich in utterance and knowledge and spiritual gifts but their faults were appalling.

They were blandly tolerating immorality among themselves (1 Cor. 5). They were taking their disputes before heathen judges (Chapter 6). They had problems about love and marriage (Chapter 7). They were unsettled about their relation to the idolatry about them (Chapter 8). Their own worship was disorderly (Chapter 11). The spiritual gifts that enriched them had also produced pride and envy (Chapter 12-14). Some of them were so ignorant of the basic facts of Christianity that they denied the resurrection (Chapter 15). Paul chose to attach the problem of division first.

THE LESSON

"By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I appeal to all of you, my brothers, to agree in what you say, so that there will be no divisions among you. Be completely united, with only one thought and one purpose. For some people from Chloe's family have told me quite plainly, my brothers, that there are quarrels among you. Let me put it this way: if one of you says something different. One says, 'I follow Paul,' another, 'I follow Peter,' and another, 'I follow Christ.' Christ has been divided into groups! Was it Paul who died on the cross for you? Were you baptized as Paul's disciples? I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius. No one can say men, that you were baptized as by disciples," (1 Corinthians 1:5-15).

Swiss Paul Marshall's three powerful arguments against division in the church: (a) Christ is only one. The church is His body, and so it should be only one. (b) Christ is the only Savior. No one else died to redeem you, and so you should not put anyone else on the same level with Christ. (c) You were baptized into Christ, accepting Him as your only Savior. To honor someone else as much as Christ is to be untrue to your confession.

Paul had baptized only a few of the Corinthians, and now he was glad. If he had baptized all those he had unto Christ, they might imagine that they were somehow ahead of those baptized by Apollos, who was not an apostle. No one in Corinth could preach as Paul could; but others could baptize just as well, and Paul let them do it.

"After all who is Apollos? And who is Paul? We are simply God's servants, by whom you were led to believe. Each one of us does the work which the Lord gave him to do: I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow. The one who plants and the one who waters really do not matter. It is God who matters, because He makes the plant grow. There is no difference between the man who plants and the man who waters; God will reward each one according to the work He has done. For we are partners working together for God, and you are God's field. You are also God's building. Using the gift that God gave me, I did the work of an expert builder and laid the foundation, and another man is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds. For God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation, and no other foundation can be laid," (1 Corinthians 3:5-11).

The divisions in Corinth were not due to any disputes between Paul and Apollos, or a lack of harmony between Cephas and Christ. The cause of division lay in the Corinthians themselves. It was their mental and emotional condition. In the opening verses of chapter 3 Paul describes them in two ways: (a) They were carnal. Literally the word means fleshy. They were concerned about the physical body with its wants and its pleasures rather than with the welfare of the spirit. But carnal means more than physical. There is a carnal mind as well as a carnal body. The carnal person is characterized by pride and selfishness. Some say they were of Paul, but their secret wish was not so much to honor him as to honor themselves. They found importance and prestige in being associated with the great apostle. Others had known Paul, but they took pride in being associated with Apollos, the eloquent orator who had stirred the congregation and the city more recently, and, (b) The divisive Christians in Corinth were babes in Christ. They needed to grow up. As Christians mature, selfishness and pride are replaced by lowliness, meekness, forbearance.

Paul was first to bring the gospel to Corinth. Thus he planted the seed and started the church to growing. Apollos came later and watered the growing church with encouragement and guidance. But with all the planting and irrigating that can be done, it is God who makes the crop grow. He puts life in the seed; He puts nourishment in the soil and air; He provides energy in the sunlight. And though Paul planted and Apollos watered, God gave both of them their message and the ability to deliver it well. Yes, God gave the increase.

Examination day is coming for all of us disciples in the school of Christ. The fire will test us and our work. A wise student gets ready for the exam by diligent review. Now is the time for us to be reviewing.

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