

Serving Gaston County

Paula Larke Performs At Isothermal Community College

Paula Larke's "FIRST STEPS, Fear to Faith: One Woman's Journey" will be presented on Friday evening, April 28 at 8 p.m. in the library auditorium at Isothermal Community College. This musical drama details the hardships encountered by a black woman and artist growing up in the segregated South.

Ms. Larke's presentation will be historically enlightening, spiritually uplifting, as well as entertaining for both the young and old alike. Parents are encouraged to come and bring their children/teens for an unforgettable performance.

Larke, who writes her own material and many of the songs she uses, has produced, directed, and performed her own musical acts in concerts across the United States.

A Winston-Salem native, she received her training in professional theater on the touring and Broadway stage with the New York Shakespeare Festival. She sang, danced, and acted in "Hair", "Two Gentlemen of Verona", "Agamemnon", and "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When The Rainbow Is Enuf".

Most recently, Larke performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. before a very select audience which included former Governor Bob Scott and



Paula Larke

Governor Jim Martin who commended her personally on her presentation.

This event, which is sponsored by the Afro-American Club, is free to the public.

Church News Briefs

Maggie Ingram Joins Wisdom

ALLIANCE CHURCH NEWS
By Sonya A. White
"Be still and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:10)

MAGGIE INGRAM COMES TO GASTON AND CLEVELAND

The public is cordially invited to enjoy a weekend of praise and celebration as gospel great, Maggie Ingram joins Gastonia gospel group, WISDOM to celebrate their fifth anniversary.

Gospel lovers everywhere know the name of Maggie Ingram, who will be WISDOM's special anniversary guest. On Saturday, April 22 WISDOM will host a black tie banquet at the Powell Recreation Center in King's Mountain. The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. Maggie Ingram will be the speaker. Tickets are \$8 in advance.

On Sunday, April 23, the celebration concert will begin at 4 p.m. in the Malcolm Brown Civic Auditorium of Shelby High School. Come early, and come expecting a blessing! Special guests will include the Gospel Crusaders of Kings Mountain, Paul McCluney and the Jerusalem Mass Choir of Shelby, and as a treat, the nationally known Gospel I.Q.'s with Rev. Billy Houze of Lawndale and Reverend Bobby Houze of Gaffney, will be back together again for this special occasion. Also, for the first time in Shelby, Maggie Ingram and the Ingrams of Richmond, Va. will be on the program. Tickets will be \$8 through Saturday and \$10 at the door Sunday.

For reservations, tickets and further information call Georgia McNeil at 867-1280 or Roger Mason at 864-2063.

FIRST MT. CALVARY

Reverend Vernon Worthy, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Gastonia, will be the special guest speaker at First Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Charlotte on Sunday, April 23. The Male Choir of Tabernacle under the leadership of Terry Chisolm will accompany Rev. Worthy. The public is invited to the program which will start at 3 p.m. The church is located at 209 West 28th Street in Charlotte. Rev. James Hawthorne is the pastor.

MT. PLEASANT

The Youth Sunday Service at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church will be held on April 30. Rev. Charles Epps of Columbia, S.C. will be the guest minister. He will be accompanied by Rev. W.D. Scott, pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia. The service will begin at 11 a.m. Young and old alike are invited to attend the worship service. Dr. Eric White is the pastor of Mt. Pleasant, which is located at the corner of East Avenue and South Street in Belmont.

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL

The Greenville Winston-Salem District Conference was held at C.M.E. of Gastonia on April 13,14, and 15. At the conference, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Gastonia, located at 909 Shannon Bradley Road, was designated as the conference and retreat center for North and South Carolina districts of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop, Dr. Oree Broomfield and Presiding Elder Willie Chambers of the Greenville Winston-Salem district hosted the conference along with all ministers, delegates and laity of the district.

Reverend Ramond Williams, pastor of C.M.E. of Gastonia will return from the annual conference in the Caribbean on April 21 and will preach the 11 a.m. message on Sunday, April 23. Bible study begins at 9:45 each Sunday. Rev. George Floyd, superintendent, invites all to come to Sunday School and all C.M.E. services. C.M.E. offers John 5:30 for your meditation this week. "I can of myself do nothing; as I hear, I judge and my judgement is righteous because I do not seek my own will but the will of the Father who sent me."

CRUSADE

Mark the week of May 1 through May 5 on your calendar and plan for a spiritual revival! The Gaston County Baptist Association will host the annual Evangelistic Crusade during that week. Rev. Theodore Armstrong, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church in Stanley, is the association moderator. Special guest evangelist for the crusade will be Dr. William Augustus Jones, well known minister of the gospel and author. Dr. Jones is pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. Music will be provided by the Gaston County Baptist Association Mass Choir. The Mass Choir is under the direction of Rev. Jerry Friday, pastor of New Canaan Baptist Church in Gastonia, and Donald Lawrence, musical director. Read the Alliance for more on the Crusade next week.

If you would like for your church related news to be included in the Alliance Church News Column, send information and announcements to Sonya A. White 609 East Avenue in Belmont, N.C. 28012. Deadline for May 4, Alliance is April 26.

The Charlotte Post Alliance

Advisory Council To Be Installed

Seventy-three of the area's most influential people in the religious, political, business, and educational arenas will become advisors to Gaston College's liberal arts and sciences division.

Installation ceremonies for the Arts and Sciences Advisory Council will be April 28 from 4-6 p.m. in the Lena Sue Beam auditorium of Gaston College.

The council, brainchild of liberal arts dean Dr. Willie Kimmons, will meet four times per year. Their purpose, according to Kimmons, is to serve as a sup-

port group to ensure that the community is aware of the programs in the division, and conversely, that the division is aware of the needs of the community.

Each of the four meetings will feature a guest speaker. Dr. E.K. Fretwell, chancellor of the University of North Carolina Charlotte, will be the speaker at the first meeting on May 25.

The members of the council were chosen by Dr. Kimmons. As he asked for referrals from the community, 80 percent of the time, the same names were

mentioned as the most influential people in the community, he said.

"I want a cross-sectional representation of male and female, white and black," he said.

Peggy Ferguson, principal of Carr Elementary School, and David Hoyle, president of Commercial Ventures Associates, will serve as co-chairs of the council. Gaston College officials Wayne Scott, Jimmie Babb, and Kimmons will serve as ex-officio members.

Black Blood Donors Needed For Sickle Cell

By MILLICENT LINK
Alliance Staff Writer

Due to the severe shortage of black blood donors, the Cleveland County Professional Business Association (C.C.P.B.A.) was called on by the American Red Cross to sponsor a blood drive to aid patients with sickle cell anemia.

Sickle cell anemia is a serious and life threatening disease, which occurs primarily in individuals of African American ancestry.

One out of every 500 black Americans has sickle cell anemia. They have inherited two abnormal HbS genes, one from each parent. And one out of every 10 black Americans has the sickle cell anemia trait. They carry one gene for the abnormal Hemoglobin S (HbS). Individuals who are positive for the trait do not have the disease.

However, two people positive for the trait have a one in four chance with each pregnancy of having a child with the disease.

Ron Harrill, chairman of the blood drive, says, "During the last few years, there has been a severe drop in the number of black donors. This is primarily because of the AIDS scare."

"When a sickle cell patient develops antibodies it is often difficult to find compatible blood if they possess one or more specific blood group markers. Certain blood group markers occur almost exclusively in one race or another and the black population is no exception. Once a sickle cell anemia patient with one of these specific blood group markers develops antibodies, the only place to find compatible blood is in the black community," stated in a recent study by the American Red Cross.

"It was very eye opening to find out there was a difference in the group markers," said Harrill.

Harrill said the best way to combat this problem is for more members of the black community to donate blood on a regular basis. "It's all about taking care of our own," says Harrill.

To inform the community of the need for black blood donors, representatives from the CCPBA contacted neighboring churches, civic organizations, and citizens of the community. CCPBA was successful in receiving 52 pints of blood.

"The Cleveland County Red Cross was very please that we took on the project. It was an event that everyone could participate in," says Harrill.

Fifty percent of the black population has type O blood. Type O blood is used in medical emergencies where there is no time to determine the patients blood type. Anyone can receive type O blood.

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WGSP

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Rev. Darryl L. Shelton is the Program Director and The (Morning Inspirational) announcer on WGSP. He is married, and has two children.

Darryl has 5 years of experience in Broadcasting. He got his start at WNAA of N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro, NC

He is the pastor of The Church of God of Prophecy, at 2900 Clyde Drive in Charlotte.

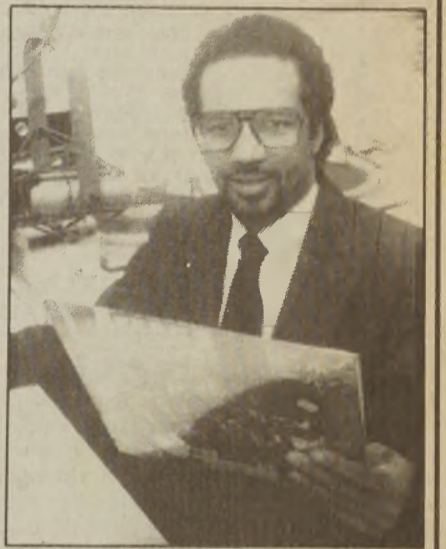
"As Program Director, I believe it is very important that WGSP

remains the people's choice for inspiration. Our music crosses over to all ages; we play the best Gospel, Traditional, or Contemporary, Choir or Quartet; we have such a wide listening audience, young, old, teen's black and white, that's why its so important for us to keep our music mix balanced, that's why we are your No. 1 Inspirational leader.

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Call 375-1310

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Wisdom Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

By Sonya A. White
Alliance Church News

Five years ago Roger Mason had a dream. It was a dream of a dynamic group of young people who would create beautiful music for the Lord. The popular Gastonia gospel group WISDOM, born in the spirit of Mason, has become a real blessing and a rising star in gospel music locally and nationally. This weekend, Wisdom celebrates their fifth anniversary.

Members of WISDOM include Roger Mason who is also the manager, Irvin Vernón Mason,

Leroy Burris, Isreal Barnette, musical director, James Sadler, James Mason, Michelle Mason, Trimitra Mason, Anthony Mason, and the youngest member, 10 year-old George Albert Mason.

WISDOM combines a contemporary style with a unique blend of old time gospel in a way that has inspired hearts near and far.

Their wonderful spectrum of talents range from exceptional vocal abilities and musical skill on a vast array of electrical in-

strumentation, songwriting, musical scoring, and acting.

WISDOM has appeared with such greats as The Singing Americans, The Winans, The Jackson Southernaires, The Williams Brothers, Teddy Huffman and The Gems, The Perrys, Luther Barnes and the Redbudd Choir, The Sunset Jubilaires, and many others.

Locally, they have earned the love and respect of those who know them best. Gaston County churches are both proud and blessed that WISDOM calls Gastonia home.

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