

CHURCH NEWS

First Baptist Church-West
1801 Oaklawn Ave.
The Emancipation Proclamation Worship Service will be held Jan. 1 at 11 a.m. The keynote

speaker will be the Rev. Samuel D. Proctor, pastor emeritus of Abyssinian Baptist Church. A reception will follow in J. B. Humphrey Memorial Fellowship Hall. For more

information, call 372-1075.

Greenville Memorial AME Zion
6116 Montieith Drive
Watch night services will

begin at 11 p.m.

New St. John Baptist
2000 St. John Church Road
Watch services will be held Dec. 31 at 10:30 p.m.

Floyd saves lives, hope in Philly

Continued from 11A

In the summer of 1968, Floyd found himself in the middle of a deadly gang war.

"Eight killings in one week. Un-heard-of in the city. Everybody was shocked to the rafters.

"My wife said, 'Melvin what are you going to do about it?' What can I do about this thing? Whah?! Huh? Two weeks went by and that woman stayed on my case: 'You got to do something. These kids are killing each other, it isn't right.'"

So, on his own time, Floyd went from street corner to street corner and talked to the kids with the guns and knives.

"Remember, they kill each other like flies out there. So I prayed. I said, 'Lord, now you got to give me the right method how to reach them.' And a voice - like the heavens opened up - the voice said, 'Touch 'em. Put your hands on them and touch them.'"

"I remember the first time I went up to a corner to touch a kid. The kid jumped; he went for it (his gun). 'What are you doing, mistah?' You don't touch these kids. You don't touch 'em.

"But I stood there, and slowly I worked my hand, and I put it on a shoulder, and they didn't jerk it away. I touched these kids and the touching ... it broke something in them. And I could talk to them."

Floyd eventually fostered a peace that held. A front-page picture from The Philadelphia Inquirer shows a smiling Floyd, gap tooth and all, between two rival gang leaders - shaking hands.

In the years since Floyd left the police force in 1972 and started Neighborhood Crusades Inc., the reverend has continued to visit those same street corners.

Armed with a small table, a projector and a megaphone, Floyd presents a slide show of blood and guts. He figures if the kids see a gunshot wound, a knife wound, death - they might think twice about selling drugs.

This past summer, his Street Corner Preaching Ministry, as he calls it, began visiting Philadelphia suburbs and even drove out to Ohio for a meeting.

"They need it, too," Floyd said. He has been teaching his "Relationship Enrichment Courses" to standing-room-only crowds in his basement chapel for several years. Part storytelling, part preaching, part comic stand-up routine, the classes are one more way for Floyd to try to affect what he sees as growing levels of crime around him.

Laverne Hardin, 25, dragged in her boyfriend, Donald Bullock, 30, six weeks ago and the couple is now a staple on Thursday nights.

"He enlightens you," Hardin said. "A lot of things I thought were right aren't nowhere near right. He makes it real and that's what brings people back."

Floyd explains the need for his classes by quoting a statistic: Seven of 10 black homes in the city are led by a single woman. ... Strengthen relationships, make people understand the pitfalls and the ways out and increase the numbers of whole families.

"These classes ... it affects those I teach. And if I only reach the burglar, he won't steal no more. And if I only reach the holdup man, he won't take no more. And if I only keep at this thing, maybe things can get better."

The Rev. Floyd waits for laughter to subside from his last witticism. It's time to throw some religion into this get-together.

"Rejection by someone else is not as bad as rejection of oneself," he said. "Now is the time to get to know yourself, read your scriptures, your psalms."

And then the reverend said,

"Someone say 'Amen.'"

Everyone did.

The Post is looking for ministers to write for "The Pastor's Study." To participate, please submit an essay on the religious topic of your choice to PO Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230



Rev. F.A. Griffin

2933 Shady Lane • Charlotte, NC 28208

333-0810

GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. F.A. Griffin, PASTOR

Sunday School 9:45a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00a.m.
Sunday School Study - Wed. 7pm
Prayer Service - 8pm



William M. Jordan III, Pastor

6301 Rockwell Church Rd. • Charlotte, NC 28269

596-8279

ROCKWELL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

"Celebrating 128 Years of Christianity"

- WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS -
Sunday School-9:45a.m. Sunday Worship-11:00a.m.
Tuesday "Youth in Action"...7-9p.m.
Wednesday - Prayer Service/Bible Study... 6p.m.
Tutorial Prog. Tue. & Thur. all ages 4:00-6:00P.M.

SIMPSON - GILLESPIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dr. Walter McKelvey, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00a.m.

3545 Beatties Ford Road



Dr. Walter H. McKelvey

(704)399-2717

HAMMOND® ORGANS NEW & USED

CALL OUR TALENTED SALES PERSONS

KINGS MOUNTAIN - DOUG BOYCE.....(704)394-6436 & CHARLOTTE

CONCORD - LARRY FRITZ.....(704)785-8673

MOORESVILLE - GENE DAVIS.....(704)663-7007

ALL PONTS.....(800)331-0768

This Exciting Lease/Purchase Plan Available From Orix Credit Alliance

Celebration



Shawna Alexander

Alexander-Ford

Shawna Alexander and Wilson Ford were united in holy matrimony Nov. 30, 1996 at Clanton Presbyterian Church. The reception was held at The Senior Center.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Tina Dean and Mr. Larry Alexander. She is a graduate of West mecklenburg High School and Johnson C. Smith University. She is currently employed with First Union National Bank as a cash management coordinator.

The groom is the son of Carolyn and Wilson Ford and a graduate of South Mecklenburg High School and Johnson C. Smith University. He is employed with Hannaford Food and Drug.

The Maid of Honor was Kathryn Goins. Bridesmaids were Cheryl Bennett, Carmen Benson, Angel Manago, Harriet Simmons and Cynthia Wilson. Junior brides maids were Ashley Alexander, Temeka Alexander and Kyla Alexander. The flower girls were Shaina and Samira Ford.

The Bestman was Antoine Ford. Groomsmen were Reggie Ford, James Harris, William Ford, Wilson Davis and Clarence Ford. Junior groomsmen were John Mahatha, Remington Simmons and Marc Simmons. The ringbearer was Master Cameron Alexander.

Hostesses were Chanel Howard, Lydia McCullough, Audrey Foggie. Ushers were Darryl Simmons and Cedric Simmons.

The couple honeymooned on Hilton Head Island, S.C. and will reside in Charlotte.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

WNOW
AM 1030

P.O. Box 23509
Charlotte, NC 28227
704-332-8764 Bus. Line
704-882-9669 Studio Line
704-882-1330 Fax

Interracial Interdenominational Christian Programming for The Carolinas

"Randall Terry Live"

Monday - Friday
3:00 - 4:00PM

RANDALL TERRY

THE SALEM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Proudly Announces Its Second Semester On Tuesday January 21, 1997
REGISTRATION NOW IN PROGRESS

The Salem Christian Academy Will Offer Before And After-School Care For Your Convenience. All Are Encouraged To register Your Child Now. For Additional Information Contact.

Salem Christian Academy
5318 Salem Church Rd.
Academy 394-4429 • Church 399-5448

Seasons Greetings



Jeff Orr, Willie Ashford, Catherine Strong, Bobby Strong, Sharon Siabury, Wayne D. Russell, Harriet Porter-Jinwright & Rev. A.L. Jinwright

A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service

May Your Holidays Be Filled with Blessings Now and Through the New Year



Our new funeral home stands as a sign of our commitment to the families of Charlotte. This community has been very supportive during the construction and opening of our home. We want you to be as comfortable when visiting as you are in your own home. That is why we offer a formal chapel with an organ, stained glass window, beautifully decorated gathering rooms, skylights and a custom music system.

We hope you will visit us any time for a personal tour and allow our staff to answer any questions you may have.

We would like to take this opportunity to pledge our commitment to providing comfort, understanding and professional service for many years to come.

4300 Statesville Road
Charlotte, NC 28269



599-5994