

Advocacy group calls for response to church burnings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA —Several pastors of burned Southern churches came together Friday to call on President Bush to make the issue of church burning a national priority.

The recent fires that have damaged or destroyed 10 rural Alabama churches highlight a serious problem that is hardly new, said Rose Johnson-Mackey, program director for the National Coalition of Burned Churches and Community Empowerment. She noted there have been 59

church fires in Alabama in the last five years—an average of about one a month.

“Until President Bush denounces the church burnings in Alabama, it is not a national priority. Then the resources will flow. The nation needs those resources to be brought to bear,” she said.

The Charleston, S.C.-based coalition, which claims 200 member churches, was established in 1997 following a series of church arsons.

“We knew churches would

continue to burn across this country and somebody needed to be there to help them recover,” said the Rev. Terrance G. Mackey, Sr., president and executive director of the coalition.

It was at the ruins of Mackey's charred church, Mount Zion A.M.E. in Greeleyville, S.C., in 1996 that former President Clinton condemned church burnings and made their investigation and prosecution a priority. Clinton established a church burning task force and pushed for fed-

eral legislation against church arsons.

Race was found to be the motivation in a relatively small number of arson cases during a period in the mid-1990s in which arson increased at both black and white churches.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference spokesman Dexter Wimbish said every American citizen should be allowed to worship without

fear or intimidation. He added that church burnings should qualify as hate crimes.

Five Alabama churches were burned on Feb. 3, and four more were burned on Feb. 7. Another was burned Feb. 11. Investigators have said they don't know a motive, but there is no racial pattern. Five of the churches had white congregations and five black. All were Baptist, the dominant faith in the region.

The Rev. Glenn Harris of Spring Valley Baptist Church in Gainesville, Ala.—one of the four burned Feb. 7—said those who burned his church's sanctuary have not discouraged the congregation that has worshipped there since 1876.

“You have failed in that effort,” he said at a news conference Friday. “We are determined to rebuild. We are praying for the perpetrators.”

TV's portrayal of Christians

Canceled 'Book' prompts debate

Continued from page 5B

as wealthy snobs or, in one instance, racist. The black maid was a thief. Priest and parishioners took the Lord's name in vain.

With “Daniel,” reactions of particular interest appeared on two Web sites:

- www.blogofdaniel.com, operated by the liberal Washington, D.C., Episcopal diocese.

- www.titusonenine.classicalanglican.net, a must-read blog for church insiders from conservative priest Kendall Harmon. (The title refers to biblical Titus 1:9, which says bishops must “hold firm” to “sound doctrine” and “confute those who contradict it.”)

Episcopalians smirked about NBC's gaffes in attire, terminology and other church details. Apparently, television exerts little effort on religious accuracy.

More significant, there was a striking religious divide over the program's device of having Jesus materialize regularly to chat with Daniel. Conservatives complained

that NBC's Jesus was offensive fiction, unrelated to the morally commanding figure in the four Gospels. Liberals tended to enjoy Jesus' boys-will-be-boys, nonjudgmental attitude.

Some of the Daniel chatter from titusonenine:

“It was as if the character of Christ was there for comic relief. — It's all a gospel of self-help.”

Jesus “acts like a wacky Dr. Phil.”

“Jesus is nothing but a reflection of (Daniel's) own ego.”

“This is how people see us: The Episcopal Church—just trying to get by with a cool and groovy ‘relevant’ Jesus.”

“My wife and I think it portrays (the Episcopal Church and its) Jesus very truthfully, and unfortunately.”

“Nothing about Jesus bearing our pain, shame, sin.”

“I was amazed at the lack of respect or reverence for the holy Son of God. He is portrayed as if he were an old college pal. ... To portray Jesus in this comedy as unable to heal, and tolerant to sin, is wrong.”

Among the postings sent to the Washington diocese:

“I, for one, want to believe in a Jesus to whom I can talk and relate — just like the Jesus on this superb TV show.”

“For all we know (Jesus)

was the warm, loving, forgiving person portrayed in the show.”

“I loved the Christ figure with his advice. I didn't find him at all namby pamby.”

“Everything that Jesus said, I can imagine Jesus saying.”

“The portrayal of Christ was the best thing about the show. He is shown as a Friend, a Confidant, an Adviser.”

“If Jesus were too perfect and untouchable the conversations between him and Daniel wouldn't work as well.”

“Jesus is a perfect listener.”

“Jesus did seem a little dull, but maybe that's the point.”

Christians are named for “a man whose single most important message was DO NOT JUDGE. Shame on you.”

From an Episcopal priest: Jesus was “inclusive and loving,” which “will drive the Fundies crazy.”

But then there was this: “As a Muslim, I am offended by this movie's depiction of our beloved Jesus Christ, may God's peace be upon him.”

On the Net: NBC “Daniel” publicity: http://www.nbc.com/The_Book_of_Daniel

ADVERTISEMENT

The Prophet's Column, Inc.
9626 Feldbank Drive
Charlotte, NC 28216-2131

The Saddest Day In All The World - Part III
J.M. Little, Teacher

And let me pause here to say that when we brought those studies on this subject back in the 70's, many were here that are no longer here. My wife and dad are no longer here with us. Many others in the family are no longer here. Many I worked with at the office are no longer here. They have gone out into eternity. And most of them are now in the presence of the God they never desired nor loved. Oh, the sadness of it all! Then, during those years, in the 70's and 80's, they were here just like you. But now they are gone to never return to this earth, unless they died in Christ. Will you die in Christ? Now, you may ask the question: “Brother teacher, why will the earth and heaven flee away?” My friend, do you not know that sin can't stand in the presence of God? This earth and the heaven immediately above it are defiled with sin, just like you if you are not redeemed by the Blood of Christ. Therefore, they have to be destroyed. Read II Peter 3 to see the destruction of this earth and heaven. The vast majority of you live for this earth only. And that is true of every soul born of woman if you are not in Christ. You may be a preacher, teacher, deacon, bishop or just a member in the church pew. But if you are not in Christ, you live for this world only. But the born-again believer says: “I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20) My cousin said to me sometime back: “You are putting your name in the Bible as if this is real to you.” Yes, Christ is real to me. That is why I can put my name here. And if you are ever saved, you'll be able to put your name here also. The trouble is you don't want Christ. But you are going to come to Christ here in your life and be broken at His Feet in repentance, or come before Him at the Great White Throne to be judged by Him. Now, which is it going to be? Now you answer that question. You'll come to Christ here or there!

Trinity Park Baptist Church

“The Church where Prayer is Essential and Application is the Key.”
We are doers of the Word and not hearers only.
Revelation based on James 1:22

9115 Trinity Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216
704.393.0130

Sunday School..... 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship..... 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 PM



Rev. Eric R. Miller, Pastor

Weeping Willow AME Zion Church

“Moving From Salvation To Discipleship”
2220 Mithun Rd. • Charlotte, North Carolina 28215

Morning Worship: 8:00 AM
11:00 AM
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Wed. Praise & Prayer: 7:00 PM

(704)532-9125

“THE CHURCH THAT CARES”



Pastor Wendell H. Hester, Jr. at Weeping Willow

Greenville Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church

“A Teaching Ministry Making Spiritual Disciples”
Sunday Worship Service 10A.M. Sunday School 9A.M.
Bible Study: Tuesday 7 P.M. & Wednesday 12 Noon
Child Development Center
6116 Monticelli Dr. Charlotte, NC 28213
(Ph) 704-596-4742 (Fax) 704-597-8314

“A Word of Hope” Television Ministry
Wednesdays @ 8 p.m. Channell 21 (Public Access TV)
Rev. Dr. Sheldon R. Shipman, Senior Pastor



MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH of CHARLOTTE, INC.

Dr. John H. Walker, Pastor & Minister, Rosie Walker

New Sunday 10am Worship Experience
“Family First Worship”
“As For Me and My House We Shall Worship The Lord”

SUNDAY
* Physical Food - (serving breakfast)..... 8 a.m.
* Spiritual Food - Christian Education School..... 9 a.m.
* Main Course - “Family First Worship”..... 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
“Hour of Power” Midday Worship..... 12 Noon
W.O.W. - Word On Wednesday Bible Study..... 6:30 p.m.
TV and RADIO BROADCAST MINISTRY:
CMPAC 21 - 11:15 am • Rejoice Radio 1370am • Wed. 10:45a

704-392-8496 • 1300 Hatteras Ave. • www.macedoniaofcharlotte.org



First Mt. Zion Baptist Church

1515 Remount Rd. • (Tel.)332-8335 (Fax)372-7548
28208



Dr. C.V. Owens

Sunday Morning Worship Services... 8:30 - 9:30 - 11:00am
Sunday School..... 9:45 - 10:45am
Singles Ministries (Mon.)..... 6:30 - 7:30pm
Senior Citizens (Mon.)..... 10:30 - 4:00pm

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm
You are cordially invited to worship with us!

Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church

“The Church with the Community at Heart”
531 Campus Street • Charlotte, NC 28216
(704)375-3900 - Fax 372-0614

Worship Service 11:00AM
Sunday School: 9:30AM
Bible Study: Wed. 10:30AM & 7PM
Daycare & Afterschool Available

The Reverend Calvin L. Miller - Pastor
Reverend Karen Roberts Miller - Spouse
E-mail: gamez531@bellsouth.net



SIMPSON-GILLESPIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”
- Join Us For Service -
Sunday School, 9:30am • Sunday Worship, 11am
Wednesday: Bible Study, 7pm
1st & 3rd Saturday: “Contemporary Worship,” 6pm... “Jeans Allowed”

Rev. Walter Pegues, Pastor
3545 Beatties Fd Rd, Char., NC 28216 • 704-399-2717 • Van Ministry
“We Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Us”



Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church

“A Church Putting Love Into Action”
700 SUGAR CREEK ROAD, WEST CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28213

Sunday Church School 9:30a.m.
Worship Service 11:00a.m. and 6:00p.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Wednesdays 7:30pm
Office (704)596-7935 • Fax (704)596-1204
Residence (704)597-1249



GREATER MYERS CHAPEL PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

- You're Invited to Worship With Us -
Intercessory Prayer.....8:30am
Victory in The Word.....9:15am
Worship.....10:30am
Sunday Evening Total Praise.....7:00pm
Hour of Power/Tutorial avail. Wed....7:00pm
Bishop, Nathan J. Anderson, Pastor
Visit our WebSite: www.greatermyerschapel.org
600 Jordan Place, Charlotte, NC 28205 For Van Ministry
“WAR Fellowship Ministry Covenant Partner” 704-377-1799



St. Luke MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

His last commandment is our first assignment.
www.stlukembc.org
Sunday Worship Services.....8:00am • 11:00am • 6:20pm
Sunday School.....9:45am
Wednesday.....Neon Day Worship Study.....12:00-7:00pm
Evening Worship Study.....7:00pm
Rev. Clifford Matthews, Jr., Pastor • 375-0650
1600 Norris Ave. • Charlotte, NC 28206 • FAX: 375-8397



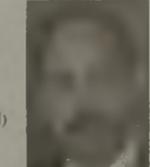
PARKWOOD INSTITUTIONAL

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
802 Tom Hunter Road • Charlotte, NC 28213
704-921-4915 (Ph) • 704-921-4917 (Fax)
Website: www.parkwoodcme.com
Sunday Worship 8:00 & 11:00 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Bible Study
Wednesday 12 Noon Thursday 6:30 PM
TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE
Roderick D. Lewis, Sr. Pastor



St. Paul Baptist Church

Our Purpose: “To convince the unconvinced to be convinced and make disciples”
Sunday Worship at 7:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Breakfast 8:45 A.M.
Sunday School at 9:25 A.M. - 10:25 A.M.
Radio Broadcast Sunday 11:00 A.M. (1370 A.M. Dial)
Bible Study Wed. 12 Noon - 6:45 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Youth Church 2nd & 3rd Sunday 10:30 A.M.
1401 North Allen Street, Charlotte, NC 28205
Office: 704-334-5309
Gregory K. Moss, Sr. Pastor



To advertise your church, call 704 376 0496