

# 5B

# RELIGION

Life 1B

## From the ashes, a new sanctuary



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Members of New Shiloh Baptist Church, led by Pastor C.M. Booker, march up to their sanctuary after fire gutted the building more than two years ago. Last Sunday was the first service at the church, located at 2600 Elmin St., since August 9, 2004. "We have struggled for over two years since the fire, but finally victory has come," said Booker. The church has 150 members who have stuck with New Shiloh as they rebuilt and had to meet in other places for Sunday services. The church held two services to announce its return on Sunday.



## Varner solid in debut

Kevin Vasser  
So Glad  
Kevin Vasser,  
producer  
EMI Gospel



You could easily mistake newcomer Kevin Vasser for Marvin Sapp, which is not a bad thing at all.

Like Sapp, Vasser has an elastic tenor that can twist, turn and nearly jump through hoops. He got his start with Youth Edition, a Chicago group which included his brother and cousins.

Vasser makes his solo debut with "So Glad," an eclectic mix of traditional gospel, praise and worship and contemporary styles. Such a diverse mix can sometimes cause a mess, but Vasser keeps everything clean and uncluttered. His voice comes across as honest and true.

Vasser opens with "One Touch," a rousing testimony of Christ's healing power. It's followed by the title song, an R&B-sounding song of praise. "Show Us The Way" and "My Best Praise" are two of the better praise and worship songs of the last couple years.

Vasser proves his versatility by getting churchy on "Pray For Me," a bluesy plea to be included on the lips of those who know the word of prayer. It's a simple song, steeped in the tradition of the old church that allows Vasser to show his roots are deep in gospel.

Vasser recorded this project live at Fellowship Baptist Church in Chicago long before he was signed to a deal. He is a charismatic live singer, one who knows who to work crowd. It's no wonder EMI signed him to a deal.

## Muslims to urged to take on extremists

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Moderate Muslims must take a stand against extremists, speakers said Saturday at a conference marking a year since the publication of Prophet Muhammad cartoons that led to violent demonstrations in Muslim countries.

The 12 drawings, first published in the Danish daily Jyllands-Posten in September, were reprinted in several European countries four months later, prompting angry mobs to attack Western embassies in countries including Lebanon, Iran and Indonesia.

The cartoons, which included a drawing of the prophet with a bomb-shaped turban, were seen as highly insulting by many followers of Islam, which is interpreted as barring even respectful images of Muhammad for fear of promoting idolatry.

Mona Eltahawy, an Egyptian-born journalist and commentator based in New York City, urged moderate Muslims to speak up against violent reactions like the massive protests and riots in late January and February.

Syrian-born psychologist Wafa Sultan said moderate Muslims have always struggled to make their voice heard even within their own religion, but that the cartoon uproar gave them a platform.

## Pulpit Fashion Plates

Area pastors took part in the 100 Black Men of Charlotte's Men of the Cloth Fashion show at Nordstrom's in South Park Mall. The event was held Sunday evening.



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

## Virginia chapel built by newly freed slaves

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KEEZLETOWN, Va. — Al Jenkins propped a small ladder against the crumbling stone columns that hold up Longs Chapel, stepped carefully up the rungs and climbed into the old wooden structure.

Inside, Jenkins' voice echoed

off the stark walls and barren space that once served as a church and a schoolhouse for Zenda, a former community in northern Rockingham County that was established by newly freed slaves in the mid to late 1800s. He pointed out markings on the walls where the original pews once

stood, and he explained the dignity of the building and the people who constructed it.

"They went from being property to owning property," said Jenkins, talking about the freed slaves who, with the help of the United Brethren Church and a contractor named Jacob Long, built

Longs Chapel between 1869 and 1871. "And as soon as they were able to, they built their own church. That was a major accomplishment."

Now, some 130 years after it was built, Longs Chapel is a shell. Sunlight shines through holes in the church's

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Ratings	
Classic	★★★★★
Excellent	★★★★
Good	★★★
Fair	★★
Why?	★
No stars - A mess	

## CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements is noon on Fridays. Fax your announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail chers.hodges@thecharlottepost.com. Please put "church news" in the subject line.

### Ongoing

We Empower Women For Life At Women of The Harvest Bible Study Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at 6636 Suite L Hickory Grove Business Park.

•Steele Creek AME Zion Church, located at 1500 Shopton Road, will have noon day Bible

study from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

### October 7

University Memorial Baptist Church will host a Fall Festival cookout from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The event is free

### October 8

Myers Tabernacle AME Zion Church, 509 Cherry St., will host homecoming. This year's theme is "Building and Equipping a Contagious Church through Prayer, Witnessing, Authentic Praise and Worship, Steadfast Faith

and Christian Living." Services run through Oct. 12 and services begin nightly at 7 p.m.

### October 9

University Memorial Baptist Church will host its fall revival through Friday. Services begin at 7:30 p.m.

### October 15

Trustee Day at Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church, 8 p.m. In Concert - The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church.

### October 20

Myers Park Baptist Church will host author Harvey Cox through Oct. 22. Cox is author of "When Jesus Came to Harvard."

• Women of New Horizons Morning Star Baptist Church, 5623 Phillips St., will host a conference titled "Running Your Race." The opening service begins at 7:30 p.m. with guest speaker Pastor Regina Fairey. On Saturday, the general session begins at 8:30 a.m., with

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