

By Fran Farrer-Nash
THE CHARLOTTE POST

"You can run, but you can not hide" is an old adage that could easily be placed on a living epitaph for Rev. Stephanie D. Wilson. When asked what she did when God called her to the ministry, Rev. Wilson said "I ran." Often stories of people seeing visions while driving that cause them to pull off to the side of the road, slap their own face to make sure they're alive only happens in the movies. For Wilson, it was true. Visions appearing and re-appearing of herself preaching were so strong they brought tears to her eyes, but she continued to run.

Running in one sense, but returning to Charlotte from living in Atlanta working at and attending churches with awesome congregations like Ben Hill United Methodist Church, to work in her home church, Rock Hill United Methodist in Stanley. She rededicated her life to God. Embraced by, and under the guidance of her pastor, Rev. Dr. Theodore Powell, she worked as Worship chairperson. God truly starting

speaking to her then and she became president of the Young Adult Choir, chairperson of Religion and Race, church secretary, Charge Conference secretary, taught an adult Sunday school class, and was on the Board of Trustees. That was just the beginning. Wilson was elected to the finance committee, N.C. Christian Advocate and District Mission Society representative, was communication coordinator, president of United Methodist Women, and a certified Lay Speaker.

This went on for nine years, a lonesome period of feeling a major void. An unhappy period. Life even threw her a few bad blows before she finally had that surge - a jolt from head to toe. God was sending the message this time like a raging storm, so much so Wilson shared it with yet another pastor. His only comment was in the form of a question, "you know what that means, don't you?" She asked what would you do, and he said, "If I were you, I would not run."

Realizing the void was there, Wilson had to pray and say, "God if you ever call me again, I will not run." The Lord appeared in a dream, to which she said, "Yes Lord, Yes!" Awake at last, she called her pastor and district superintendent to say, "I'm ready to answer the call."

Wilson's first appointment was at Morning Star United Methodist Church, a cross-racial appointment. She is currently the pastor of Morrow's Chapel United Methodist Church where she's been for three years.

Always in the mode of touching lives, Wilson serves as president of the Ministerial Alliance of Mooresville, Church and Society committee for Western North Carolina Conference, as well as sitting on the design teams Christian Education and African American Pastor's Convocation. Wilson also served as director of Lay Speaking for the Charlotte District, chairperson of the Charlotte District Committee on Advocacy, District Mission Society, and Conference Level Race and Religion committee.

A native of Charlotte, Wilson is the middle child of the late Adolphus Lorenzo Chisolm Jr., and Mrs. Mary Ham. She has three sisters; Angela, Joyce and Shirley, and one brother, Roderick. In 1973, the family relocated to Atlanta where Wilson attended Turner High School. After returning to Charlotte, she took courses at Central Piedmont Community College and Gaston College, and is currently enrolled at Belmont Abbey College, where she majors in liberal studies and minors in theology.

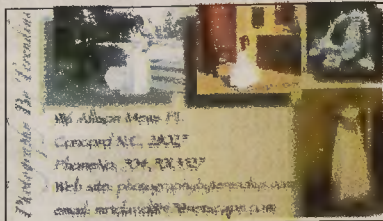
Wilson's career path incorporates 13 years with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and six years with Wachovia.

Wilson was raised by a mother who though she struggled in life, taught her children that all things are possible if you believe in God. Even though her mother is a strong black woman, she endured many hardships in life, but always made sure her children were at Rock Hill UMC every Sunday. Because of her upbringing, Wilson contributes her call to the ministry as one in which she has to reach somebody, because somebody reached her.

While at Morrow's Chapel, Rev. Wilson hopes to continue reaching out to people who are hurting and lost, and to keep the membership mindful of their mission: Luke 4: 18-19

*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
to preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

Join Stephanie for Sunday worship at Morrow's Chapel UMC, 1536 Brawley School Road, Mooresville, NC 28115, 704-664-2646



Re-UPHOLSTERY At It's Best

- Since 1980 -

Preserving Your Memories



• FREE ESTIMATES

• Bonded and Insured

2092 W. Davidson Ave., Gastonia, NC
(Exit off I-85 Between Exits 14 & 17)

Call: 704-629-3578

"Our Craftsmanship Speaks for Itself"

Spa atmosphere, spa treatments without spa prices

Offering

- Manicures •
- Pedicures •
- Massages •

Providing relaxation for the bride and groom Wedding Packages Available

126 West Boulevard
Historic South End District • 704.333.9572

...life to your nails, mind and spirit

Waller's Essential Home Care
- Specializing in Private Care -

Providing personal care and companionship for seniors, to include sitting, meal preparation, medication, reminders, light housekeeping, appointments, errands and more.

Over 25 years experience!
Call 704-562-6285
n.mcwaller@yahoo.com

Norma D. Waller
Certified CNA, and
Phys. Therapy Tech,
CPR Certification

Mecklenburg County Women's Commission
Hal Marshall Services Center
700 North Tryon St.
Suite 206
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704)336-3210
FAX(704)336-4198

Essence Music Festival
Wednesday July 4 - Sunday July 8, 2007
New Orleans, LA

Travel packages (transportation & Hotel) starting at \$386.00 per person

9-Day Eastern Caribbean Cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Saturday, Jan. 5 - Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008
San Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Antigua, Tortola and Nassau

Travel Packages (transportation & cruise) starting at \$920.00 per person

Deposit due NOW to reserve your space

For details call Stinson Charters 704.536.0641
or Fantastic Charters 704.531.0540

The Charlotte Post
Can be delivered to
your house
Call 704 376 0496
today

To Advertise Please Call
704.376.0496

LET THE HEALING CONTINUE!!!

9th Annual Charlotte Black Heritage TourSM and Pilgrimage

- ✓ Visit three existing Slave cemeteries!
- ✓ Sit in the balcony of a former Slave church!
- ✓ Listen to African Drumming!

- ✓ Drive by a home bombed during the Civil Rights era!
- ✓ Get a free Souvenir snack bag filled with goodies!

Plus! Over 45 Other Sites of African-American and Charlotte History!

Tours Depart At:
10 AM and 1:30 PM
Saturday February 10th, 17th, and 24th, 2007

All Tours Leave From The Levine Museum of the New South
200 E. 7th St.
Corner of E. 7th and N. College/Uptown

Tickets: \$16 - \$30
Group Rates Available for 10 or More!
Limited Seating
Advance Reservations Suggested!

Purchase Tickets:
www.queencitytours.com
pilgrimage@queencitytours.com
704-566-0104

Presented by...
QUEEN CITY TOURS
1500 W. 7th Street, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28202
Copyright 1993-2007 Queen City Tours, Charlotte, NC. All rights reserved.
All designs are the property of Queen City Tours.

Sponsored by...
Levine Museum of the New South
The Charlotte Post
TREND MAGAZINE The Triangle Tribune