Weeping Willow AME Zion will host a back to school workshop

Continued from page 5B

Continued from page SB Milton Road, will host a back to school workshop for parents and students. There will be representatives from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police and the church to share information on gangs, health and community challenges. Registration is preferred. For more information, call (704) 532-9125.

Walls Memorial AME Zion Church, 2722 Bancroft St., will host its second annual Evangelistic Back to School Block Party at 12 p.m. For more information, call (704) 375-5361.

Bethel AME Zion, 5400 Barnsdale Lane, will host its Back of School Bonanza at 1 p.m. The church will distribute free chool supplies to all who attend.

August 19

Rowsphouse Ministries of Charlotte will hold its dedication.

Powerhouse Ministries of Charlotte will hold its dedication ervices at 4 p.m. The church is located at 8101 Fallsdale

August 24
The Freedom Christian Center, 4020 Freedom Drive, will host a "Set Free to Dance" conference through Saturday. The event begins Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

For more information call (704) 399-8437.

August 26
Waddell Chapel AME Zion Church will celebrate its home-coming at 3 p.m. The church is located at 314 Buffalo St. in Shelby.

August 25
Thrift Baptist Church, 8415 Moore's Chapel Road, will host its first Community Praise and Worship Fest at 6 p.m. Performers include James Jackson and Atlanta Praise with special appearance by national recording artist Brandon Newsome. For more information call (704) 399-8437.

Holy Hip Hop challenges Christian tradition, not the message

Continued from page 5B

ago during a church youth event in her hometown of Hickory. She had lost inter-est in secular rap, which she found distasteful and full of lyrics that disrespected women. Her CD collection needed something new and positive

women. Her CD collection needed something new and positive.

Now, she plays Christian rappers like the Grits, LeCrae and D.A. Truth in her car and at home.

"They're really real with it," she said. "They mean what they say and they live what they say and they live what they say."

Allred said youth need to hear the gospel in a way they can understand it. As a church youth leader, she encourages churches to allow young members to express themselves through rap, if that's how they choose to deliver their testimony. "Do not shun rap as this completely horrible thing," she said. "God can take anything and make it his."

That's a testimony Nakia Hamilton, 31, a Take Back Ministry rapper who goes by Crazy Redd, shares with others.

Crazy Redd, Shares With others.

Hamilton's mother introduced him to hip-hop at age 7. He spent years as a secular rapper, opening for rap groups like Outkast and Wu-Tang. But, the writer, producer and performer said doing two to three shows a week and releasing underground albums still made him feel like he wasn't going anywhere.

"I gave up all that I had for Christ," he said. "I got saved. I truly meant it. From

back."
At a July group rehearsal
for Wilmington's Freedom
Fest, Take Back Ministry
turned the Lord's Church on
South Fifth Avenue into a
high-energy praise party.
The group's members raced
back and forth in front of

the wooden pulpit screaming, "Get live for Christ"
Grant two-stepped to the beat. Jay James, 22, known as Minista Payne, pointed to the sky as he spit his verse.
Take Back Ministry has sometimes showcased its spiritual gifts during Sunday services at Union Mis-

sionary Baptist Church. Teresa Huffman, the church's youth pastor, said the first time the group min-istered at Union, some older members' body language and facial expressions showed they weren't feeling the music. "It wasn't what they wanted to hear at that

time," she said.

The second time the group appeared, they came with a more mellow tune and rapped about how God channed their lives.

and rapped to the changed their lives.

"The older folks that Sunday were up and out of their seats," Huffman said.
"Some were running around

the church."

Now more kids at Union are putting their writing skills to use and coming up with spiritual raps of their

"It encourages them that they can still be in the church and have a good time," Huffman said.

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Guest Speakers
Date/Time
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Rev. Amy Cice

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Rev. Dr. Rita Twigg



Trinity Park Baptist Church 9115 Trinity Rd. Charlotte, NC

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The Prophet's Column, Inc 6183 NC 109 South Wadesboro N C 28170-9327 The Effectual Call Of God (Part V)

When the Holy Spirit calls you, He shows you your lost, helpless, hapless, and hopeless condition as a sinner far off from God. I was talking to a sinner just the other night. And I went on to tell her; "you thoughly you were so close to God, didn't you?" Well, if you were close to the Lord, Lord pily the rest of them. Now, you are seeing somewhat of your lost condition, and the great gulf between you and God. My dear friend, will you allow me to pass on a great truth to you?" When I was under conviction, I was visiting in New Orleans that time, And I said to a godly woman and her husband; "it seems like the gulf gets wider." Hold your seats now! That godly woman said to me; "it's been there all the time, you just didn't know it." My dear sister, that great gulf has been there all the time; you just didn't know it." My dear sister, that great gulf has been there all the time; you just didn't know it But every sinner is going to come to know that great gulf that separates you from a thrice Holy God before the Holy Spirit brings you to Christ! I'll stake the destiny of my soul on that truth. If you have never seen this great gulf between you and the thrice Holy God, you are not saved! How about it, my teacher friend? Floyd? Have you seen this great gulf? And you are going to know the reality of your lost, helpless, hapless, and hopeless condition to be so real before the Holy Spirit reveals Christ to your heart! After you are wakened by the Spirit of God, He shows you that you can't come to Christ on your own. Did you ever see that? That's right. You can't bring yourself one hair's breath toward Christ. You read the Word. There is a promise that you think you believe. And then it all caves in under you. And you are back down in the slough of despond. Yes, you burn your brains out trying to believe God and His Word but find you cannot. You have no strength to believe God onr His Word. You may be up all night trying to believe God and His Word but find you cannot. Have you ever been there? I have.

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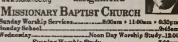
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