

Deaths **And Funerals**

Alfred Bray

Alfred G. (Jack) Bray, 65, died

The funeral was conducted Saturday afternoon in Raeford Pres-byterian Church by Dr. John C. Ropp. Burial was in Raeford

Cemetery. Surviving are his daughter, Jacquelyn Bray of Charlotte; his brothers, Wilton and Paul Bray of Ramseur, and Bernard Bray of Raeford; and his sister, Mrs. Nell Cordell of Orangeburg, S.C.

Powell Funeral Home of Southern Pines was in charge of the

Correction

George Baker was listed erroneously in last week's News Journal as a brother of George E. Baker, Jr. The only George Baker among the survivors is the father of

The News-Journal regrets the



Act 6: 1 through 8:4 Devotional Reading: Phillipians: 1:19 through 26

Stephen had every right to be

angry. He was simply trying to do his job as a follower of Jesus Christ. It was not his intention to become involved in a dispute of any kind. He had been chosen to help in distributing equitably the goods to the whole congregation of Christ's disciples. He also spent much of his time as a teacher of "The Way," as Christianity was called in those days

But, as so often happens in life, But, as so often happens in life, some people, it appears, had taken a disliking to him. For one thing, when they disputed with him about Christ, Stephen always prevailed in his point of view. The writer of Acts tells us: "they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke." Worst of all, as they saw it, this upstart was a Greek. Where did he get all his authority to teach the Gospel? So, they determined to get him out of their hair. Having failed to best him to his face, they chose to

best him to his face, they chose to plot behind his back, starting plot behind his back, starting rumors that eventually would finish him. If the plot sounds somewhat familiar, it is just because so much of the affairs of life are conducted on that same level. They did not like him and they were determined to "get" him. Who could blame Stephen if he had been bitter or even outraged?

had been bitter or even outraged? After all, it hadn't been the first time he had been insulted. Even when he had been chosen for special work in the Christian special work in the Christian community, there was some im-pression that the Apostles consid-ered the work he was to perform as beneath them: "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables." How should Stephen react to all of this? You and I might counsel him to get back at his enemies in

him to get back at his enemies in some way, to try to embarrass them or start a rumor campaign about them. Somehow, Stephen needs to find a way to get even.

But Stephen wasn't looking to get "even" with his enemies. Instead of hitting back at them, he realized that, if he was to be faithful to Christ, he would have to rise above vindictiveness. Although he had every right to "blast" his critics and turn the tables on

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