They're Up And Learning At—My Gosh—6:30 A.M.!

It's 6:30 a.m. on a weekday. Most of the people in Shallotte are beginning their daily routine of preparing for school or work, listening to their alarms sound, or still sleeping

But in a small room in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on River Road and Mintz Street, a visitor would find a handful of teenagers kneeling in prayer, then stretching as they stand up and fall into their seats.

They students are participants in "seminary, a worldwide program of-fered by the Mormon Church."

Unlike many religious seminary students who go to institutes of higher learning to prepare to be church ministers, these students will not be ministers in the traditional sense because there are no paid ministers in the Mormon Church.

These local teens meet every mor-ning before school to study. Every Mormon youth is encouraged to attend, according to church spokesman

Preachers rarely like to admit

Most Christians would rather avoid

facing this painful sociological fact of

our times. Even in the Bible Belt, it's

truth is becoming increasingly evi-

It's a painful fact of our times: We

no longer live in a church culture. By

church culture, I mean a society where a majority of the people par-

ticipate and are influenced by the life

In his new book, "Twelve Keys To

An Effective Church," Ken Callahan

observes that today 50 percent of

America's population is unchurched.

This means we can no longer assume

that most people share the values of the Judeo-Christian tradition since

they may not even know what they

Often within the church, leaders

look back to the '50s as the "good old

days" when church attendance peak-

ed, when the formation of new con-

gregations was a top priority and

when people lived by the values and

ethics of the church and synagogue.

Callahan says that those days are

Instead, today all churches must

view themselves as on the mission

field. Our society and culture no

longer seeks or even expects the

church to guide and influence policy.

Denominational loyalty is passe.

With half our population unchurched.

the church can no longer assume that

if it only has a good program, people

will come flocking to its doors

what they know in their gut.

To what am I referring?

dent.

of the church.

Our Churches Must Reach Out

Carolynn Skipper of Leland. Those that do find the effort wor-

thwhile. "I go because I know that it is the right thing to do," said Cindy Skip-

per, a freshman at West Brunswick High School. "It has helped my testimony of the Church to grow." The course follows a four-year cy-

cle paralleling the four years the teens spend in regular high school. Each year various books important to the faith are studied.

One year it is the "Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Jesus Christ," followed in succeeding years by the "History of the Old Testa-ment," a study of the "New Testaa study of the "New Testament" and a year of studying the history of the Church. The cycle is then repeated.

Once the class is assembled, a teacher is needed who is willing to face a room of sleepy-eyed teenagers every day before work. Such people are rare, and to even the most saintly

Rather, for many people today who

are unchurched, their first contact

comes through visitation or some ex-

pression of outreach in the com-

munity-not at Sunday worship or

Church members need to unders-

tand the difference all this makes in

its ministry if today's church is to be

able to help people with their hurts

worked in a church culture will not

necessarily transfer to a world where

the church needs to function like a

How can our church today learn to

serve the unchurched? What can we

learn from the mission field about

serving people of different values

and orientations? How can the

church continually rethink its

assumptions about ministry to a mis-

sion field culture? These questions

My friend Paul Lowder rightly

observes that "if the church does not

learn to serve people on the mission

field instead of in a church culture.

(Dr. Stan Smith is the minister of

Come to...

4705 Wrightsville Ave.

Camp United Methodist Church in

the church will fail in its mission."

I believe the church can learn.

hopes. In other words, what

church school.

missionary.

must be addressed.

Shallotte.)

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Friday, May 13, 10 AM to 2 PM

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Sales & Service

Stan

Smith

of Mormons it is not easy.

"My biggest challenge is showing the kids how the events of the Old Testament relate to their lives," said Virginia Gore, the seminary teacher in Shallotte. "I have to show them that the people in the Scriptures faced problems and overcame them.

They have to realize that even though they were born in the latter days, the trials and challenges faced by earlier people are similar to the ones they face today."

Last month a seminary bowl was held in Wilmington. This was a twopart competition between all seminaries in the same area or "stake" of the church. The first part was a Scripture chase over the 40 passages of focus for the year as chosen by leaders of the Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. The second was a bowl competition consisting of questions covered in class and in personal reading.

Natasha Gore, another freshman

at West Brunswick, says she finds the knowledge she has gained through seminary study an advantage for facing the problems in her life. She calls seminary an "uplifting and knowledgable experience."

Matthew Mintz, a sophomore at West Brunswick, says seminary has been very helpful to him, particularly in developing self-discipline. Getting up at 5:30 a.m. every day is not easy

But the students find Scripture to back their commitment, including this verse from the Book of Mormon, "I know that the Lord given no commandment to the children of men save He prepare a way that they may accomplish the thing which he has commanded them."

These teens are gaining perspective in facing life's problems through a study of the Scriptures. It seems to have given them not only guidance, but a positive attitude toward life and a new assurance.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Town Creek Marks WMU Date

Town Creek Baptist Church at Win- county's needy residents. nabow will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Women's Missionary Union during its 11 a.m. service on

Centennial Chairman Shelby Eason said those women who have helped shape the history of Town Creek Baptist Church will be recognized.

Invited to attend are all past members of the WMU organizations, including Sunbeams, GAs, Mission Friends, Young Baptist Women and Baptist Women.

The service will include a brief memorial to those past members who are deceased, as well as anticipated dedication service for a baby girl-the youngest newborn member of the WMU's Mission Friends.

After the service, the church will hold an old-fashioned chicken bog dinner for members and guests.

Mrs. Eason asked that former members of WMU organizations contact either her, at Route 2, Box 482-A, Leland, NC 28451 (253-5544) or Jessie Best, Route 2, Box 490-A, Leland, NC

Sow and Reap

The WMU at Shallotte First Baptist Church is challenging church members and other churches to grow an extra row of vegetables this summer and donate the harvest to Home

Missions in Bolivia. Mrs. Dean Carroll, Mission Action chairman, said harvested vegetables could be donated fresh from the garden or canned or frozen for later use by the Mission's clientele, the

Revival Begins

Spring revival at Shallotte First Baptist Church in Shallotte begins May 22, with a message in song by The Crossbearers, a trio from Wilmington that includes two Brunswick County natives.

Rev. Landis Lancaster, pastor, said revival will continue Monday and through the week with Rev Steve Pennington, formerly of Shallotte, as the guest evangelist.

All services are at 7:30 p.m., and each will feature special music. The public is invited.

Sets BBQ Dinner

New Britton Baptist Church in Ash will hold a barbecue dinner on Saturday, May 21, starting at 11 a.m. and continuing through the supper hour.

Each plate will include homecooked pork barbecue, candied yams, coleslaw and hushpuppies. Cost will be \$3.50 per plate.

Proceeds wil benefit the building fund, said spokesman Olive King.

Revival To Begin

Revival at Letties Grove Church north of Shallotte begins Sunday, May 15, and continues through Friday, May 20, with services at 7:30

Featured speakers will be Bill Ellis, Don Sauls and Herbert Carter, while special music is planed by the Letties Grove Adult, Junior and Children's choirs, Bobby Lewis and B.L.E.S.S., the St. Andrews Church Choir and Visions

Everyone is invited.

NCAE Leader To Speak Locally

45,000-member North Carolina Association of May 15, at the Day Celebration Little

Macedonia Bap-

The program will begin at 3:30

Foreign Mission Circles. The speaker's topic will be "Education, Politics and Our Community."

Mrs. Graves, who holds an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Shaw University, is serving her second term as president of NCAE. She makes her home in Greensboro when not serving NCAE in Raleigh. She teaches grades four and five and is a gifted and talented resource teacher.

public is invited.

Gladys Graves, president of the

Educators, will speak on Sunday, first Woman's tist Church in

Graves

p.m., according to Odell Hankins, president of the Woman's Home and

The church is located on Little

Macedonia Road, located two miles off N.C. 211 north of Supply. The

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CEDAR GROVE AREA NEWS

Two Attend State Workshop

BY BARBARA T. HEWETT Rev. M.C. Herring and James H.

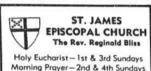


tist Convention's Moderators and One-Day Session held May 4 and 5 at High Point's Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist The two have

wholesome information that will be used as a resource in meeting Associational objectives. They tell of an inspirational, informative fellowship.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Anne Johnson, Thaddus Davis, Ada Ruth Vereen, Alma Stanley, Hattie F. Chapman, Retha H. Bryant, Earnie Burney, Tiffany Rogers, L. Hodges Morgans, Norvin Grissett, Carl Parker, George



10:00 AM Hwy. 17, Shallotte Mercer, Marcus Bernard, Robert Bellamy, Rosa Douglas, Rachelle Douglas, Marie Brittain, Brian and Joyce McAllister.

Tune In

Be sure to listen to WVCB Radio (1410 AM) in Shallotte at 3 p.m. Thursday and 10:15 a.m. Saturday for the Cedar Grove Area News.

Listen on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. for the Moments of Inspiration gospel music program.

Weekly Scripture

The Scripture for the week comes from Psalms 68:4, "Sing praises to the Lord! Raise your voice in song to him who rides upon the clouds! Jehovah is his name. Oh rejoice in his presence.'

> You Are Invited To Worship With Us

East Side Assembly

NON-DENOMINATIONAL Sunday, 10 AM, 7 PM Wednesday, 7 PM Village Rd., across

from Shallotte Dry Cleaners Pastor, Bobby Causey

You are invited to a FREE Blood Glucose and Cholesterol Screening May 20, 1988, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at



Supply, N.C.

across from the Brunswick Hospital sponsored by Brunswick Health Call Lifescan Brunswick County Health Department Becton Dickinson

Important Call 754-8160 or come by Brunswick Professional Pharmacy to obtain necessary information for proper diet for the test

Personnel to be present RPH, RN, LPN, Lab Tech. Take care of yourself, you're important to us.

SERIES 3 OF 12

Seeing Well As You Grow Older

A Special 12-Part Series About Our Changing Eyesight
Sponsored By Carolina Eye Associates, P.A.
Centers located in Pinehurst, Laurinburg, Brunswick County, Raleigh, & Louisburg NC



After Age 55: Can Your Vision Be Improved? By Robert G. Martin, M.D.

Studies indicate most people who have poor vision often are unaware of the problem. This is especially true for adults over age 55. Senior adults have ten times the number of eye problems as younger-aged adults.

in order to perform most of the daily tasks of living. Over 90% of the skills to drive an automobile are visual. Preparing food, participating in most hobbies and sports. and navigating a stairway require good vision. Yet older adults frequently ignore early signs of visual problems, accepting them as inevitable.

Then there is the false notion that sight can, in some way, be used up. Thus reading or watch-ing TV may be reduced or abandoned. Some people feel that their poor vision is the result of reading in poor light in youth. Many older patients see their complaints about their eyes as relatively trivial and something not worth bothering their doctor about.

A new study indicates

the single factor that prevents older adults from improving their vision is that they are overwhelmed with other health problems. When their poor vision is the major and only handi-cap, only then is an effort made to seek help.

Can our vision be improved? In many instances the answer is yes. A complete eye examination will give you an answer to that question for your eyes.

If you are having prob-lems with your eyes, come to our free commu-SightSaver screening, celebrating the grand opening of Carolina Eye Associates NEW Brunswick County Eye Center in Supply. North Carolina. The eye screening will be held on Saturday, May 21st. Join us for complimentary refreshments and get a free SightSaver Eye Kit to take home with you.

To sign up for the free eye screening, or to get more information abouteye problems, call SightLine, our toll-free information service at 1-800-