

## Council Of Churches Asks Lawmakers Consider Issues

The N.C. General Assembly will face a long list of social concerns during the 1989 legislative session.

And the N.C. Council of Churches is urging lawmakers to consider two issues that affect sweeping segments of the state's population: equity and tax reform and expansion of the Medicaid program in North Carolina.

Members of the NCCC House of Delegates have studied the complexities of each of the issues before offering policy statements and recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

Equity and tax reform recommendations:

- Create a non-tax for the state income tax so that families of various sizes with incomes below appropriate poverty levels are no longer required to pay income taxes;

- Add a higher (eight, nine or 10 percent) rate of taxable incomes in excess of \$50,000 to make up the revenue loss;

- Merge the lowest four income tax brackets into a single five percent tax rate on taxable income below \$10,000.

Rationale: In 1986, Congress enacted tax reform legislation which among other things removed the working poor from the federal income tax rolls. Many believe that

North Carolina's system of taxes is similarly in need of updating.

In the past, much of the NCCC

concern was focused on the portion of sales tax that falls on food. The General Assembly in 1985 exempted food-stamp purchases from the N.C. sales tax, which is now five percent. However, since the sales tax on food generates a significant amount of local government revenue, it is even less likely to be repealed.

Expanding Medicaid program recommendations:

The NCCC supports the recommendations of the Indigent Health Care Study Commission of the General Assembly for expanding the Medicaid program:

- Increase Medicaid income guidelines for pregnant women and infants and increase prenatal care and early childhood services;

- Increase Medicaid eligibility for children under eight years of age, providing increased preventative care;

- Increase the Medicaid income guidelines, thereby reducing the deductible paid by many low-income families and increasing cash assistance to some families;

- Provide for additional eligibility worker funds;

- Increase the Medicaid income guidelines for the elderly and disabled;

- Provide money for transportation of Medicaid recipients;

- Increase income guidelines for children with spiral inpatient treatment needs.

Rationale: About 30 percent of all North Carolinians lack the financial ability to pay for needed health care. These are primarily families of the working poor, with little or no health insurance.

Proponents of change say current income guidelines of the Medicaid program limit assistance to those who are extremely poor.

While the recommendations will cost the state and counties money, proponents say they will draw down proportionately more monies from the federal government and generate additional state and local dollars.



NOTED SENIOR—Though a senior citizen, Rev. Lee Jones (left) has chosen to pursue further studies in Theology at Raleigh's own Shaw Divinity School. Rev. Jones was cited at the schools recent Heritage Festival, and expressed his thanks to the Divinity School on the occasion.

## Prestige Club Meets At Home Of Mamie Bailey

The Prestige Club of Raleigh met on Thursday, Feb. 16, at the home of Mamie Bailey.

Ruth Woodson, during the devotional period, stressed the proper attitude of gratitude shown by children could and should be taught by parents in their early childhood.

Hostess Bailey served a lavish luncheon buffet-style.

During the relaxation and less serious period, a prize was offered to the first person who could correctly

give the address, street and number, of the hostess. President Capehart emerged victorious. Each member received a beautifully wrapped gift, and was given a long-stemmed red rose as they departed.

Members present were Ms. Mamie Bailey (hostess), Ms. Rosia Butler, Ms. Margaret Capehart, Ms. Mary Carter, Ms. Minnetta Eaton, Ms. Dorothy Goodson, Ms. Nellie Harris, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. L. Hope Jones, Ms. Thelma Keck, Ms. Nora Lockhart, Ms. Ruby McKinney, Ms. Jessie R. Mebane, Ms. Katie Poole, Ms. Ernestine Saunders, Ms. Nettie Thompson and Ms. Ruth Woodson.

## To Share With You!

BY BISHOP MILDRED RUFFIN  
Lord Jesus, thank You for Your goodness. Thank You for the snow, also for the rain. Truly You are a good God. Help us to keep a mind on You. The carnal mind is enmity against God. Help us today and forever not to be against You. Help the sick and shut-in everywhere. Yes, Jesus, we need You every day and every hour. All that You were to Your disciples, I know You desire to be that to us today. Jesus prayed for us, and He asked that we might be one with Him, even as He is one with the Father. I love You, Jesus. In Your name, amen.

Always read The CAROLINIAN news. You'll be glad you did.

## Attend Church

## Baptists Meet To Develop Shaw U. Fundraising Plan

An ad hoc committee composed of representatives from the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, and the Shaw-University Board of Trustees and university staff, met last Dec. 7 to develop a strategy to raise \$1 million for the university's endowment fund. Dr. C.R. Edwards, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fayetteville and legislator in the North Carolina General Assembly, is serving as chair of the committee. Dr. Priscilla A. Brodie, executive secretary of the Woman's Baptist Missionary Convention, is co-chair.

The committee has proposed a statewide "Shaw University Endowment Fund Sunday" for the month of March 1989, preferably March 19, to be held in every General Baptist Convention church. Each church member is being asked to contribute at least \$10 to the Shaw endowment fund. These donations will enable the university to reach or exceed its \$1 million goal which will be matched by \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Education by June. The committee is confident that its goal will be reached.

Dr. J. Ray Butler, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, and moderator of the prestigious Rowan Baptist Association, presented a personal contribution of \$1,300 to President Talbert O. Shaw. Dr. Butler, also a member of the ad hoc committee, has been instrumental in formulating strategy for the effort. Dr. Butler initiated the idea of larger, sacrificial contributions from pastors. The committee was an outgrowth of the "New Visions" conference held at Shaw in October 1988, with Dr. Leon Riddick, pastor of Charlotte's Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and Dr. George Ballentine, pastor of Raleigh's Hayes Barton Baptist Church, as speakers.

Both leaders addressed the vital issues of raising a new level of consciousness and preparing new leadership in colleges, especially North Carolina's black Baptist college, Shaw University. In order to strengthen the relationship between Baptist churches, black and predominantly white churches, and Shaw University, a strong sense of involvement and "ownership" was urged.

In addition, the State Baptist Convention of North Carolina sent appeals to all of its pastors through the state requesting participation through its cooperative program.

## Consecration Of Female Episcopal Bishop Lauded

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Consecration Feb. 11 of the first woman bishop in the Episcopal Church has been welcomed by her sisters in the United Methodist episcopacy as evidencing God's movement in the church.

Retired Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly, along with Bishop Barbara C. Harris, the first black woman named to the episcopacy in their respective churches, said the choice of the Philadelphia priest is "a godly movement" of the whole church and "not just a women's movement." Bishop Kelly said Bishop Harris told her that Bishop Kelly was a role model as she prepared for new duties in the Diocese of Massachusetts. The United Methodist Church has elected five women to the episcopacy, beginning with the late Marjorie Swank Matthews in 1980.

## Come Let's Think

BY EVAL PERRY

God Himself has blessed His saints with an abundance of whatever we need. We will receive from Him according to what we can believe. "As your faith is, so it is with you." Think about your faith—what is the measure of your faith?

God loves you, and He has prepared the way of faith by which you must travel through life. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen." This faith works by love. God's will, even in these modern times, is that you have continual daily provisions—right in the midst of adversity. We should never doubt God's written promises—if God said it, He will do it! Be sure to believe God's word, and act on it, so you can receive all of your blessings that are set apart for saints here. The blood of Jesus was shed that we might have a breakthrough experience on earth, and eternal life in heaven later. Think seriously about this.

"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." Oh, yes, our God is fully able to supply our every need according to His riches in glory. Stop a minute to think about "His riches in glory." How rich is He?

His riches are now ours because we belong to Him. We are heirs and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. God's storehouse is inexhaustible. Regardless of all the financial needs you have—regardless of all the needs of all of God's people, there is more than enough to supply all those needs, with a vast surplus. God's supply is never diminished. He is truly the source of all blessings. Regardless of how many times you may draw from His storehouse, there is always more in store. Glory be to God!

Every good and perfect gift is in store, especially for God's people. The rich supply includes grace, love, forgiveness, salvation, health, spiritual gifts, deliverance, protection, strength, security, peace, mercy and everything else that we need—both material and spiritual. His plan for us is complete victory over the adverse circumstances in this life. Jesus Christ defeated the devil for us, and now we must learn how to live, move and have our being in this victory. We must fight the good fight of faith—never give up—we are winners. Be sure you are right, and then move on to victory. If God be for us, who can be against us? Victory—victory.

Read your Bible prayerfully and think!

## Anti-Apartheid Campaign To Launch May 14th

NEW YORK, N.Y.—A campaign to build support for South African churches opposing apartheid in that country will be launched on Pentecost, May 14, within the U.S. religious community, and continue through Soweto Days, June 16-17.

The effort will include Bible stories, prayer groups and educational events directed toward local worshipping communities, and the drafting and signing of a covenant with the persecuted churches in South Africa. The "From Pentecost to Soweto" campaign is being coordinated by a broadly ecumenical group representing mainline, Roman Catholic and evangelical church bodies in cooperation with the national and world councils of churches.

## Apartheid System In South Africa To Be Discussed

The Men's Council of Davie Street Presbyterian Church USA concludes Black History Month observance with an open forum on the apartheid system in South Africa Sunday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m.

It is hoped that this candid and open discussion will clarify some of the oftentimes conflicting and demoralizing statements initiated by the media. John W. Fleming is the discussion leader.

J.B. Allen is president of the Council of Presbyterian Men. Willis E. Daniels is vice president, Frederick Craven is secretary, Wilbur Floyd, treasurer; Collins (Joe) Hinton is chairman of the Black History Observance Committee; and JW Brown is pastor.

## Lenten Season Christian Time Of Reflection

As the Lenten season begins, we slow our pace to allow time and space for reflecting on where we have traveled. We are called to enter into a healing process, one that will illuminate the pilgrim path we journey.

For the Christian, life is a journey of love. And as a pilgrim community, we are called to be Christ in the world. We are the body of Christ—hands, feet, arms and voice. Lent, then, is a call to a new understanding of the meaning and cost of discipleship. Christ called ordinary people, ordinary workers with ordinary abilities, to His discipleship.

Our conversion to a life of love may not be the explosion of faith that it was for St. Paul, our mature faith may lead us to conclude that faith is first, and that good workers will follow us as the outward sign of our love.

And so during this reflective time, we quiet ourselves to hear the call, and pray for a mature faith to lead us to discipleship and mission.

The practical side of this exercise of faith brings us to accept personal responsibility for living the life of a disciple. It could begin with a self-evaluation. What are my gifts? How might I perfect them? How might they bear fruit for Christ?

Each parish offers a variety of possibilities for individuals to enter into ministry. Pastors rely on people to help transform the local church by bringing their secular expertise to the parish council or finance committee. A typical weekly parish bulletin contains several invitations to be part of a ministry.



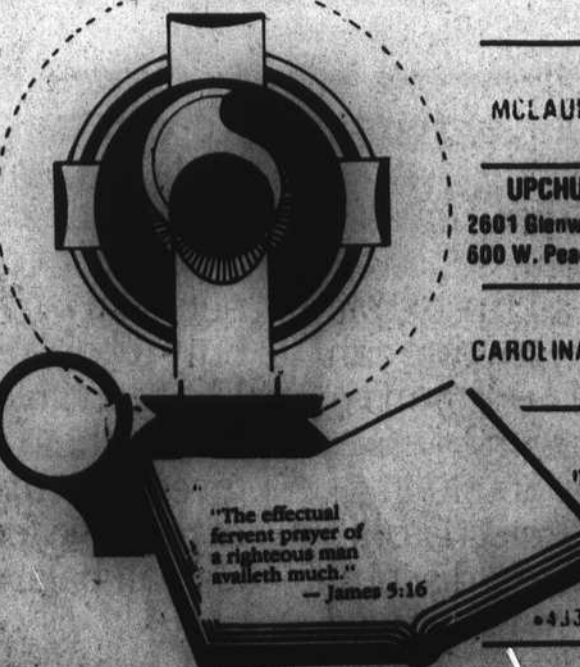
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Throughout the Bible and in the teachings at our House of Worship we are continually told to put our trust in the Lord, but that is just what we fail to do when we say our prayers as though we were giving God a shopping list. Some of our requests are indeed genuine needs, but all too many of them tend to be frivolous and unnecessary, and occasionally even harmful. Therefore, we should not feel any disappointment when these trivial wishes are not granted. We should remember that the Lord knows what we really need without our having to tell Him, and our prayers to Him should simply acknowledge that fact and reaffirm our trust in His superior judgment, which enables Him to grant the right things. He knows far better than we do what is best for us and so whenever we pray, let us tell Him so. That's what prayer is all about.

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