

church

Dunn Chapel Recognizes Black Roots

BY EVA M. MINTER
Contributing Writer

With the theme, "African Roots: Explore New Worlds, Pre-Columbus to the Space Age," the Senior Choir of Dunn Chapel Freewill Baptist Church sponsored a Black History Month celebration Feb. 16. The affair was held in the church fellowship hall.

The group sang "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

Deacon Herbert Langston of New Jerusalem offered prayer.

Ms. Mary Bell Brooker, Senior Choir president, extended words of welcome. Ms. Blanche Moore portrayed facts about the institution of slavery. Ms. Cleo McKay portrayed Harriett Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

Ms. Bryant, a student at Fayetteville State University, spoke on the life and work of Mary McLeod Bethune.

Ms. Geraldine Cameron briefed the members on the life of Alex Haley, writer of the epic *Roots*, who died recently. She also spoke of the life and work of Shirley A. Chisholm, the first woman, white or black, to make a serious bid for the presidency.

Chris Ray, a student at the Dunn Middle School, introduced the speaker of the hour, Elder Ron Spears of Dunn. Chris labeled the speaker as a "home-grown boy."

Elder Spears delivered a dynamic and powerful address from the topic, "Seeking and Finding a New Freedom." He asked his listeners to continue supporting the black church, for it caused us to make progress above all others. He asked his listeners to go back to the basics, love, sharing, discipline in the home, church and community.

Ms. Eva Mae McGuire, lay leader of the Cape Fear A Conference, made a fitting response. Remarks were made by Bishop M.N. McLean, pastor; Ms. Mary Johnson, and Evangelist Lettie Bryant. Ms. Pauline Graham served as chief marshal.

The Hospitality Committee, under the direction of Ms. Mary Grady and her helpers, served dinner.

Baptist Women Present Mid-Winter Session

The General Women's Department of the United American Free-will Baptist Church held its mid-winter session recently at the Headquarters Building, located on University Street in Kinston.

Ms. Mattie Thompson of La Grange is president of the organization. She began with a prayer.

Elder Shirley Williams had charge of the morning worship.

The sermon was delivered by Elder Helena A. Rouse. Music was presented by the North East B Division Choir with Bro. C.C. Thomas at the organ.

The presidents of various conventions solicited the offering.

Bishop J.E. Reddick addressed the body with a message, urging his constituents to move forward in these times. He said that he proposed to operate the church on the truth, which is the Word of God. He said he deplores "tricks" and "gangs" in the church.

He declared March as Bible College Day in the denomination and asked his members to adhere to the cause. He also said, "In this age, there is still hope."

In the afternoon, a special workshop, "Healthy Youths for the 21st Century," under the direction of Ms. Ellen Berry and Ms. Reba Wilkes, was held.

Several young people participated. Ms. Dorothy Williams, nursing instructor in the East Carolina University School of Medicine, Greenville, was the clinician.

She called on the church to rise up and help combat problems of health, school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, drugs, poverty and others. She called for positive role models. Bishop Reddick and Ms. Thompson responded.

The next meeting will be the annual homecoming, to be held in July in Kinston.

Ms. Eva M. Minter is general recorder for the Women's Department.

WORD OF GOD

As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

Proverbs 26:11



DR. E. EDWARD JONES

Baptist Group Launches National Voter Project

SHREVEPORT, La.—A massive effort to increase African-American voter registration nationally in time for the 1992 presidential election has been launched by Dr. E. Edward Jones, president of the 4.5 million-member National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.

Dr. Jones, who joined state religious leaders in a united effort to defeat David Duke in the recent Louisiana gubernatorial race, said the plan to increase voter registration is part of a New South Coalition blueprint initiated, in part, when the Rev. Jesse Jackson appeared in Shreveport at a December summit of African-American leaders.

The church will be the focal point of this unique voter drive effort. Dr. Jones said he believes the plan will work best through clergymen and through the church because both, traditionally, have been bastions of unity in the African-American community.

Supporting this effort are distinguished church heads and clergymen from various denominations nationally, including Rev. Jackson and other high-profile African-American leaders.

Dr. Jones expressed confidence that the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.; National Missionary Baptist Convention of America; Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.; African Methodist Episcopal Church; Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; Church of God in Christ and the Congress of National Black Churches will become partners in the crusade.

"Communication is taking place between partners and constituents," Jones said.

Registering to vote must become a commitment, a movement in every church, a rallying cry and a mission, he stated in outlining his plans.

"Our goal is to have all eligible

African-American church members in the country, representing all denominations, registered to vote in time for the 1992 general election. Upward of five million new names can be added to voter rolls."

To get the movement started, he issued a directive from his office to all NBCA churches to initiate registration drives, immediately, to secure 100 percent compliance.

Dr. Jones said there are millions of persons of color who have not registered to vote. "Splintered efforts to increase voter registration have not met with the desired success," he said. The NBCA president feels that registration efforts stemming from the various churches, with their great membership, will be tremendously successful, an endeavor whose benefits will endure for years to come.

While the initial focus is on church members, a similar effort will be launched on African-American college campuses and with businesses, clubs and organizations.

The objective is registration of all eligible college students, plus massive registration of other groups.

"It is the best way to cure many of the social and political ills that have plagued the nation's African-American communities for years."

Unless we vote en masse in November, we face the prospect of continuous erosion and a rollback of civil rights gains, he lamented. "Further," he added, "we must register massive numbers of new voters to stem the tide of racial polarization and the entry of David Duke into national politics."

"Religious leaders have a spiritual and moral obligation to continue the fight for equal opportunity and to help the disenfranchised and the downtrodden to gain a full measure of opportunity in this country," he concluded.

Family Reunions Help Strengthen Ancestral Ties In Black Community

BY EMMA J. WISDOM
Special To The CAROLINIAN

Betty's family is having a reunion. It's going to be the first one for her.

She decided to attend merely days ago, succumbing to the constant cajoling of her cousin Trudy. Since it was to be only a one-day picnic affair, she'd thought she could tolerate being there for a few hours among a group of people, many of whom she'd never met and a few she'd remember only vaguely from her childhood.

The family reunion was going to be held at the old homestead place where her uncle Otis lived and which had been in the family more than 200 years. Thinking back, Betty recalls one wonderful summer (at age 10) spent there with Trudy and several other city-dwelling relatives about her age. Betty hadn't had any yearnings to return since her adulthood, however. That summer had happened more than 20 years ago. She decides, reluctantly, to go to the reunion anyway.

Betty arrives to find hordes of strange people already spread across the lawn—close to 100 was her guess—young and old. She stops to take in the scene about her, as that summer of many years ago begins to rise to her conscious awareness. Trudy and two others are at Betty's side within moments after she steps out of her car. She later learns that the three were a part of the reunion welcoming team.

"I'm so glad you could come," Trudy says, all bubbly and full of

hugs and kisses. "You remember Cathy and Michael, don't you?"

"Of course," she responds, but she hadn't until Trudy related that they, too, had spent the same summer with the two of them on their uncle Otis' farm. Betty cordially greets them as they lead her toward the rest of the family where activities are already in progress.

Then, in a few brief hours, all too soon, the day was over, and it had been wonderful beyond her imagination. She'd been kissed, hugged, returned an equal number of her own, and had eaten far too much, but with no regrets at the time. Betty had heard stories about the family—their antics, their bad and good times, but was especially touched to hear the love in their voices when relatives spoke about her deceased mother.

Her uncle Otis had revealed in the course of reminiscing that when he saw how much Betty reminded him of his sister and Betty's mother, Molly, "I would have picked you out in a crowd anywhere. You look so much like your sweet mother. I really miss her. And her letters were just the best. Why, when we received one, we'd share it with the entire family. She kept us in touch with her life and family wherever she lived. She loved this place as much as I do."

Others also had said as much as Betty mingled with family members throughout the day, playing horseshoes with a couple of senior members, wading in the brook with

NAACP Recalls 83rd Birthday In Celebration

GREENSBORO—Mary L. Peeler, executive director of the North Carolina NAACP, announced that the NAACP celebrated its 83rd birthday on Feb. 12. In celebration of this milestone and to highlight the important role the NAACP has played in the history of this country and in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of African-Americans, a national celebration was kicked off on Feb. 11 and will continue through May 17 (the 38th anniversary of the famous Brown Supreme Court decision).

In honor of this birthday celebration, James G. Martin, governor of the State of North Carolina, issued a proclamation on Feb. 12, proclaiming Feb. 12-May 17 as "The NAACP Official Birthday Celebration Period" and urged all citizens to recognize the many achievements of this great organization. The proclamation states in part:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded on Feb. 12, 1909. This year we are celebrating the organization's 83rd birthday, commemorating 83 years of dedication, struggle and achievement to further the cause of fair play, justice, and equal opportunity for minorities... The significant gains achieved for minorities in quality education, equal employment and equal housing are largely due to the persistence and determined efforts of the NAACP's leadership and membership.

Peeler noted that the history of the NAACP's founding in 1909 was vividly recorded by Mary White Ovington and should be emphasized during this national birthday celebration period.

The North Carolina NAACP will culminate its 83rd birthday celebration with special activities during the North Carolina NAACP's annual Mother of the Year and Youth of the Year programs on May 16 at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center in Raleigh.

Gospel Music Workshop Strives To Maintain Excellence, Commitment

BY ALLEAVIOUS HILL
Contributing Writer

The Raleigh/Triangle Area Chapter has been conducting gospel music workshops since 1987. In March 1991, its membership joined the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc., founded by the late Rev. James Cleveland. With membership over 20,000, headquarters in Detroit, Mich.

Phyllis McLeod, Phillip Langston, and Ron Gilliam serve as chapter representative and assistant chapter representatives, respectively. Twenty-two area church coordinators assist in fulfilling the chapter's mission.

In ensuring that Rev. Cleveland's vision becomes a reality, chapters

RALEIDOSCOPE

BY RUTH HEINER

"Forgive? Will I forgive, you cry. But what is the gift, the favor? You would lift me from my poor place to stand beside the Savior. You would have me see with His eyes, smile, and with Him reach out to salve a sorrowing heart—for one small moment to share in Christ's great act. Will I forgive, you cry. Oh, may I... May I?"

—Carol Lynn Pearson

One cannot hold grudges and unkind feelings without harming himself. He becomes bitter, his vision is distorted, and his soul becomes cankered.

Harsh and sharp words can leave a sting behind, a pang of unhappiness and regret in the heart and conscience of the offender.

A person who holds grudges hurts himself more than he does his enemy. Little vicious minds abound with hate and revenge and are incapable of feeling the pleasure of forgiving their enemies.

"Let not the sun go down on your wrath," Ephesians 4:26. To forgive a person once or twice may not be too difficult, but to continue to forgive many times when one has been wronged may become a real test of character.

One of the most vital qualities of the principle of repentance is forgiveness. Unless each of us can learn to forgive others for the real or imagined trespasses against us, we cannot properly repent.

Someone has said, "Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another."

The Savior always taught that we should be ready and "willing" to forgive. Can you imagine how hard it is to repent if we are not willing? When the Savior was teaching men how to pray, and specifically His disciples, He instructed them to

petition the Father: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." What He gave to His disciples then, He also means for us in our day and time.

A person holding grudges hurts himself more than he does his enemy. On one occasion when Jesus was teaching His disciples, Peter approached Him and posed this question: "Lord how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" The Savior's answer was, "I say not until seven times, but until seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21-22).

Thus we know that the Savior meant that we should forgive without number.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints are taught that we must forgive to be forgiven of our own trespasses. We have to overcome our faults to return back to our Heavenly Father. We have to make an offense right if we are to be forgiven our faults.

Repentance is not a one-time thing, it's a way of life. We are counseled to bear one another's burdens and not add to them.

If God forgives us our trespasses, and often daily, we have to forgive our fellow men theirs. "Revenge is about the most expensive luxury known to man."

"A sharp tongue severs a good many friendships in this world." One man has said that a sharp tongue and a dull mind are often found in the same head.

"When tempted to answer and speak your mind, smile and forget it and just be kind. When angry and weary mistakes you can find, O remember we're human and just be kind."

As we seek forgiveness of others, we need to remember that Christ forgave without number or limit, and so must we!

LIFE

Living is determined not so much by what life brings to you, as by the attitude you bring to life, not so much as to what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens.

John H. Miller



RALEIGH NATIVE HONORED—Congratulations to Ulysses Jones, Jr., on being elected to serve as the illustrious Potentate of Pyramid Temple No. 1 (Philadelphia, Pa.) during 1992. Born and reared in Raleigh, N.C., the new Potentate is a Korean War veteran. He credits his success in achieving this honor to hard work; the support of his "brothers" in Pyramid Temple No. 1; the encouragement of his family; and the inspiration provided by hometown friends in Kabala Temple No. 177 (Raleigh, N.C.), particularly J.B. Allen, Basil Butler, the late J.C. Collins (all Past Potentates), and Noble James E. Norris.

I am the way

John 14:6