



# BAPTIST INFORMER

January 2012

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Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.



### GBSC THEME

**"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"**

Matthew 28:19-20

## PRESIDENT ATTENDS "NBC Day" at The White House

Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, recently attended a White House briefing with 100 other top Baptist leaders from across the country. The group gathered to discuss issues that impact the faith communities in which they serve and to explore ways to partner with various government departments. Dr. L. B. West, host pastor (Mt. Airy Baptist Church in Washington) and chairman of the Board of Directors for the NBCUSA, Inc., presided over the day-long session held Dec. 1-2.



Dr. Howard W. Parker  
GBSC President

### Topics discussed included:

- 2012 Voter Suppression, Voter Registration and the Voter Turn Out
- The American Jobs Act and how it benefits the African American Community
- Education: Equitable Funding and the Student Recovery Initiative
- Healthcare: The Importance of Community Wellness Centers and other means of addressing health disparities in the African American Communities
- Veterans and Military Families: Family Reintegration after extensive battlefield experience
- Efficiencies on the Foreign mission field: Effective collaboration

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The One-Day Session of the Congress of Christian Education Auxiliary of the GBSC of N.C., Inc. will present classes and seminars for many church ministries.

### WHEN:

Saturday,  
February 11, 2012.  
Registration begins  
at 8 a.m.

### WHERE:

**Friendship Missionary Baptist Church**

3400 Beatties Ford Road  
Charlotte, NC  
Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Pastor

Dr. Frank Byrd, President of the GBSC's Congress of Christian Education Auxiliary, or Dr. A. Jamale Johnson, Dean. For additional details, please contact Baptist Headquarters in Raleigh, N.C. at (919) 821-7466.

## Opinion: A Healthier Pastor's Search Process?

From Wire Reports

(ABP) -- An increasing part of my life is spent advising and coaching pastor search committees. A healthy search process requires great patience, spiritual maturity and hard work.



Done well, it can lead to a season of hope and health for a church and its pastor. Done poorly, it can lead to disaster.

The free-call system can be baffling. My pastor friend recently described a conversation with a parishioner who found out he was leaving for another church. According to this layperson, the Baptist search process for a new pastor is quite unseemly. In fact, he argues, it

brings out the worst in everybody.

"First," he says, "you have to start coveting somebody else's pastor. And according to my Bible, coveting is one of the Big 10 things you're not supposed to do.

"Then the search committee must master the art of seduction, because nobody wants a pastor who is unhappy or unemployed and wants to move. They come after somebody like you, who is perfectly happy where he or she is.

"Then, without anybody at

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**NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS:  
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**Let There be Peace  
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Begin With Me**

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**Panel: Churches  
Should Lead in  
Race Relations**  
From Wire Reports



Dr. Julius Scruggs, President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., also appointed individuals from the Convention to partner with the following federal departments:

- Dept. Of Homeland Security
- Dept. Of Education
- Dept. Of Commerce
- Dept. Of Labor
- Dept. Of Justice
- Dept. Of Housing & Urban Development
- Dept. Of Veteran Affairs
- U. S. Agency for International Development
- White House Logistics

- Dr. Randy Vaughn
- Dr. Carol Mitchell
- Dr. Raymond Bowman
- Dr. Jerry McAfee
- Dr. Amos Brown
- Dr. Willie Gable
- Dr. Be Louis Colleton
- Dr. John Rhodes
- Dr. Alvin Love

From 2003 through 2011, nearly 200 pastors participated in a three-year development program called Lott Carey's Pastoral Excellence Program (PEP). The Lilly Endowment Inc. provided a generous grant through its Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Initiative which enabled us to invite pastors on a



Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D. Lott Carey

journey from orientation through disorientation toward reorientation.

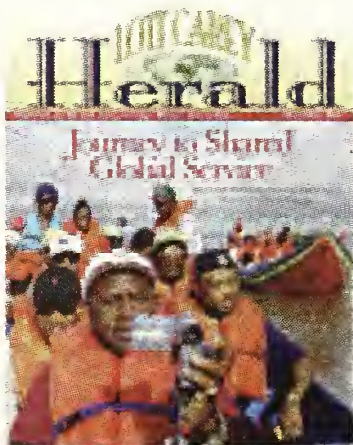
The purpose of this program was to transform the ministry visions and magnify the pastoral impacts of pastors through multiple international service-learning ministry immersions with consistent peer groups for mentoring and networking. The positive relationship between breadth of vision and depth of impact is affirmed time and again by pastors and churches connected with Lott Carey. Pastors who have personally experienced and engaged in ministry alongside international peers in various cultural contexts through Lott Carey travel opportunities testify to transformation and reinvigoration.

The Convocation for the 2011 graduates of PEP was held in Durham, North Carolina with the Covenant Ceremony in the Goodson Chapel at Duke University Divinity School. We were inspired by the testimonies of pastors who talked about

how PEP had helped to broaden their visions, build networks of support, and deepen pastoral impacts. Some even shared how the experience was healing for wounds from life and ministry.

We rejoice in the scores of pastors and churches that have been enriched by the Pastoral Excellence Program, and we pray for the resources

needed to continuing to nurture healthy pastors who can lead healthy churches to build healthy communities.



See reflections and examples of transformation experienced by recent Pastoral Excellence Program teams by clicking the picture below.

Also, read a Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Spotlight on Lott

Carey's innovative Pastoral Excellence Program in the Faith & Leadership online magazine published by Leadership Education at Duke University here.

Thanks for your partnership in this ministry!

Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D. Lott Carey

## MINISTRY BRIEFS

### Reverend Dr. John Ruffin Manley Retires



grew physically and spiritually and added an educational wing, parking lots, a parsonage and elevator. He was active in the community, including serving as Moderator of the Lott Carey Convention and the New Hope Association. Reverend Manley was the visionary responsible for planning and developing First Baptist and Manley Estates, an award-winning living facility for senior citizens.

The Hertford County native holds a Divinity Degree from Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., a master's degree in Theology from Duke University and a certificate in Chaplaincy from UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, NC. Reverend Manley attributes his long and active life to "a mature faith that covers the mind, body and soul."

The Reverend Dr. John Ruffin Manley recently retired from the pastorate of First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C.

During his 65-year tenure at First Baptist, the church

our end having the opportunity to make a counter offer or otherwise talk you out of it, the 'pastor snatchers' -- that's what he calls the search committee, the 'pastor snatchers' -- "invite the candidate into an intricate game of intrigue and deception. And the pastor's unsuspecting congregation doesn't know a thing until the whole sorry deal is done!

"And here's the worst part," he says still fuming, "We're about to turn around and do it to somebody else!"

On the heels of many such conversations, I jotted down some random thoughts that, considered at the outset of the search, promote a healthy process. I hope they are helpful.

• This is a spiritual discernment process. The sooner you understand that, the better. Pray. This is more drama than documentary. Pray. More a dance than a march. Pray. Everyone needs to get his/her prayer life in order. One more time: pray.

• Your committee needs to experience true community. Work at that. If you approach

this deliberately and prayerfully, the many hours you spend together will grow you very close to one another. Hopefully, this will turn out to be one of the spiritual highlights of your adult life.

• Own your agendas. Everyone has them. Identify them and do your best to set them aside in lieu of a divine agenda. That's a lot harder than it sounds.

• Remember that you represent the congregation in this process. Your personal agenda or wishes are secondary, at best.

• Be honest with yourselves and the candidates you talk with when it comes to your church. No church is perfect. (You'll soon discover that is also true about clergy.)

• Confidentiality is essential. No exceptions.

• What you think you know can hurt you. This is not an executive search; it is not like filling a position at your company or school system or non-profit. Take all your prior experiences and put them aside. What you are about to do is unlike

anything you have ever done.

• What worked for the last search committee probably won't work this time. Things have changed, dramatically, in recent years. Please don't keep talking about last time.

• Your success or failure will likely be determined by the work you do as a committee prior to ever having a conversation with a candidate. Please take this part of your task seriously. Seriously.

• The profile your congregation has produced of itself and of your next pastor (hopefully you did this) must be adhered to ruthlessly.

• The more confident in yourselves that you are, the more likely you are to make a wrong turn. Humility is your friend.

• Think like a recruiter rather than an HR professional who posts a job and then waits for résumés to arrive.

• You will have to convince your best candidates just to have a brief conversation with you. You are inviting them to introduce spiritual discord into their life, not doing them a favor by considering them.

• It's the small things that will make or break your search. Don't take shortcuts. Pray hard. Be considerate. Don't make promises you won't keep. Practice the Golden Rule with your candidates even when no one is looking.

• Beware of becoming enamored by one good sermon. Everyone can preach one good sermon. Beware of over-valuing sermons in general. Most of what goes awry with pastors takes place between Sundays.

• Hold out for consensus agreement. That doesn't mean everyone is equally excited about the candidate, just that you can all stand before the congregation and present a united front with integrity.

• Be patient. With a healthy search process, fast is slow, and slow is fast.

- Bill Wilson is president of the Center for Congregational Health in Winston-Salem, N.C.

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.

## NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS: An Attitude of Anticipation

"Happy New Year" is a very familiar phrase repeatedly used beginning with the Christmas season throughout the month of January. Those who are expressing themselves in this fashion usually display a vibrant and happy countenance to support their expression "Happy New Year." We hear such phrases as "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" or "May you have a happy and prosperous New



Dr. Linda W. Bryan  
Executive Secretary-  
Treasurer

Year." We invest in greetings cards and send them with hopes of encouraging others to anticipate, with joy and excitement, the possibilities that lie in holding for the coming year.

The old year has passed and behold a New Year is dawning with all of its possibilities. New Year's Eve is usually full of Watch Night services of worship, celebration, parties, fireworks, and

"Auld Lang Syne" or the "Good Old Days." In many cases, some days were not so good. The New Year's Eve celebration might have been not just a welcome and hello to the incoming New Year but good bye to some good days and some not so

good days. Whatever hand your year dealt you in 2011, if you are reading this column, you can shout because you "made it". The songwriter phrased it this way "They said I wouldn't make it, they said I wouldn't be here today..." but you made it and now a "Happy New Year" lies in front of you awaiting your arrival.

We have entered a new dispensation - 2012. Did you enter the New Year bringing with you the baggage of last year? Did you enter the New Year thinking nothing will change for you? Did you embrace the New Year with an attitude of great expectation or with a lack of faith?

What does 2012 mean for you? The New Year is pregnant with new possibilities. The Apostle

Paul said to the church at Philippi, "...forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the mark for the prize of the high call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are mature, have this attitude..." The Apostle Paul is teaching us to prepare for what lies ahead.

According to Paul, there are at least three issues we must address to prepare ourselves for what lies ahead:

1. Forget those things behind you that does not contribute to your development to Christian maturity. There are some things you will have to let go. Only you and God can identify what those things are.
2. Reach forward to what lies

(Continued on next page)

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ahead. This is both eschatological and for the present moment. The blessings awaiting you in 2012 require your faithfulness and consistency in commitment to the things of God as you progress forward in this Christian journey.

3. Press your way towards the goal. Something worth having can be costly and can require an additional investment of time, talent, and effort. It could require ministry in unsuspecting places to unsuspecting people. Pressing your way could mean embracing God in ways you never thought possible. Pressing your way could mean praying and studying God's word even when you don't feel like it.

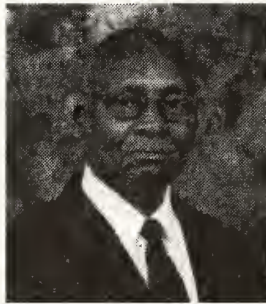
These three areas are constants, there is no end. As you accept the challenge inherent in these three areas, expect to experience great things from a great God in 2012.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## Watch Night: A Tradition Born on "Freedom's Eve" in 1863

A lot of prayer and anticipation is associated with 'Watch Night Services. Many of you who live or grew up in Black communities in the United States have probably heard of "Watch Night Services," the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve.

The services usually begin anywhere from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year. Some folks come to church first, before going out to celebrate. For others, church is the only New Year's Eve event. Like many others, I always



Mr. Charles Dunn  
GBSC Ushers  
Auxiliary

assumed that Watch Night was a fairly standard Christian religious service -- made a bit more Afro-

centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the Black Church. Still, it seemed that predominately White Christian churches did not include Watch Night services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve programs.

In fact, there were instances where clergy wondered aloud about not propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve. However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve services in African American congregations.

The Watch Night Services in Black communities that we celebrate today can be traced back to gatherings on

December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve." On that night, Blacks came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law. Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863, and all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free.

When the news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God. Black folks have gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve ever since, praising God for bringing us safely through another year.

It's been 149 years since that first Freedom's Eve and many of us were never taught the African American history of Watch Night, but tradition still brings us together at this time every year to celebrate "how we got over."

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## Let There be Peace On Earth And Let It Begin With Me

Peace is given to us by Our Heavenly Father. This peace means completeness, whereby nothing is lacking. Peace is all that is necessary to make life truly life. This also includes hope for the future. The opposite of peace is not only lack of harmony, but evil in all of its forms.

- Peace is sincere harmony.
- Peace is wholeness.
- It is soundness
- It is well being
- Peace is also success in all areas of life.

This peace can be observed as wholeness and harmony in our relationship with each other. It can be found both inside and outside of the home. In Proverbs 17:1 and 1 Corinthians 7:15, peace can be free from anxiety and we can find it in our soul—especially with God. When God created the heavens and the earth, He created a world of

peace. Everything was good and very good. Disruption of peace started in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit. As we enter into this season, let us be careful not to eat or listen to voices of serpents. When this occurs we will experience

guilt and shame before the King of Kings. This will lead us into a loss of inner peace.

The art of disobedience introduces sin and disrupts harmony. When God discussed Adam and Eve's sin, Adam blamed Eve and God pronounced that strife would continue between man and woman, nations against nations.

This was the beginning of social conflicts that is a part of our human predicaments in today's culture. This causes arguments and violence in the home, and international conflicts — wars. The whole creation struggles and groans for lack of unity. Paul speaks of a threefold groaning of creation, of believers and

of the Holy Spirit. But, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. There will be a restoration of all things, according to God's will when God's faithful children receive their full inheritance. God's plan is to restore peace.

Many Old Testament promises were made concerning the coming victory and peace. Read Psalm 2:8-9 and Revelation 2:26-28. David prophesied that the Son of God would rule the nation. In Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would reign as the Prince of Peace. In Ezekiel 34:25, 37:26, Ezekiel predicted that the New Covenant God planned to establish through the Messiah would be a covenant of Peace. There are three facts that constitutes the true story of man's peace:

1. His past is filled with sin.
2. His present is overflowing with sorrow.
3. The certainty of death faces him in the future.

We are living in crucial times. God promised that whosoever will, may come and receive His Son of peace. Micah 5:5 states that Jesus shall be our peace. Jesus came to break down all

barriers of conflicts that are a part of our lives. Ephesians 2:12-17, states that this makes for peace. Jesus gave His disciples peace, as a lasting legacy before He went to the cross. Read John 14:27, 16:33. Colossians 1:20, 2:14-15 and Isaiah 53:4-5 readily states that by His death and resurrection, He disarmed the hostile principalities and power. This made peace possible.

Romans 5:1 states when we believe in Christ Jesus, we are justified by faith and peace with God. As we approach this season, please be reminded that God has structured the human conscience. There will never be real peace as long as we sin. Our lives will be like the troubled seas, full of turmoil. In Leviticus 26:3-6, please be reminded that we must walk in obedience to His commandments in order to live in peace. We must pray for peace and let peace rule in our hearts. We must seek peace and pursue it. We must do our best to be at peace with others.

*Happy New Year!*

## The LAYMEN OUTLOOK: Becoming Mature, Devoted Disciples

It seems fitting to close out the year 2011 with the final discussion on the Laymen's sub-theme - Spiritual Men in Solidarity with the Savior - by opening the new year by discussing our purpose of "transforming Christian men into mature, devoted Disciples of Jesus Christ" through intentional discipleship training.

The year 2011 did not indicate that the Laymen made much progress in their objective of Deploying Men with Christ if we

use representation and participation as a way of measuring progress. We will not make any progress until we close the Discipleship Gap in our churches.

In one of our study guides published by the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, Dr. George Waddles, Sr. states that: "Even with Church Buildings on nearly every corner in major cities, Decadence and Debauchery march onward, seemingly unchallenged.

Our streets are unsafe, violence is increasing and our schools are no longer places of refuge for our children. Could it be that, we, the church, are out of touch with our main purpose?" Further, he asks, "In this post-modern world, have we missed the mission of the church in our

preaching and teaching? Have we taught the followers of Christ that going, rather than gathering, is to be the central fundamental priority of the church?"

Many of us go to church every Sunday, and we become enthusiastic over the services, but we do not, in most cases, follow it up with personal obedience. Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. It remains an abstract idea. To fulfill our purpose to: Transform Christians(men) into mature devoted disciples of Jesus Christ through intentional discipleship training, we will have to assess the gap between where we are and we want to go.

If we were to choose one word to summarize the state of discipleship today, that word would be - superficial. There appears to be a general lack of understanding among many who claim

Jesus as Savior. Cal Thomas, a social commentator, calls Christians to look at the quality of our discipleship instead of directing our indignation at the moral decay.

He writes, "The problem in our culture is the undisciplined, disobedient, and Biblically ignorant Church of Jesus Christ." Jesus taught that a student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher"(Luke 6:40). Later He taught, "But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation.

In conclusion, we must remember that to transform men into mature devoted disciples, we must become mature devoted disciples. Resolution 2012: "Where He Leads We will follow!"



President  
Audrey Battle



Bro. Richmond  
Turner GBSC  
Laymen

# Shaw University Divinity School



Save the Date

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## Challenging Misconceptions about Hunger and Poverty

It may be a new year, but many of the challenges hungry and poor people faced in 2011 persist. The programs they depend on to support their families remain on the chopping block as Congress works to reduce the federal deficit. Some lawmakers may act on misconceptions about hunger and poverty as they push for legislation that would negatively impact vulnerable people. As advocates, it is important that we understand these misconceptions so we can effectively fight hunger and poverty. Here are some we confront frequently at Bread for the World.

"Hunger and poverty don't exist in the United States." While hunger and poverty often appear less extreme in the United States than in developing countries, they are nonetheless real—and there are alarming disparities between people of color and whites in this country. At 27.4 percent, the African-American poverty rate is nearly double the U.S. poverty rate of 15.1 percent, according to U.S. Census Bureau data released last September. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also recently reported that 25.1 percent of African-American households suffered from food insecurity in 2010—more than double the rate of non-Hispanic white households.

"If you live above the federal poverty line, you're doing just fine." \$23,000 a year is too low for most two-person households to live comfortably in America—let alone a family of four—and

having a job doesn't mean you've made it out of poverty. In fact, working full-time at minimum wage only earns you \$14,000 a year. But there are also millions of Americans living



just above the federal poverty line who are struggling to make ends meet. In fact, if it weren't for federally funded safety-net programs, more families would be living in poverty.

"You can't be malnourished and overweight." The United States has some of the world's highest obesity rates—and African-Americans are more than twice as likely to be obese than the general U.S. population. So it may appear that we don't have any hungry people in this country. But consider this: In some of the most vulnerable neighborhoods all over this country, it is often easier and less expensive to find a bag of chips and a can of soda than it is to get fresh fruits, vegetables, and grains. These options offer no nutritional value, and constantly consuming them can lead to malnutrition and obesity.

"So-called 'safety-net' programs cost American taxpayers money, but they aren't that effective." Neither the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits nor the Earned Income Tax Credit

(EITC) are included in the U.S. Census bureau's annual poverty figures. If they were, the data would show that SNAP lifted 3.9 million people above the poverty line in 2010, and the EITC raised 5.4 million people above the poverty line in 2010.

African-Americans have a higher likelihood of participating in nutrition assistance programs. In 2010, African-Americans made up 12.4 percent of the population but 19.6 percent of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) participants. Ninety percent of African-American children will receive SNAP benefits at some point before age 20, compared to 49 percent of all U.S. children. Safety-net programs help keep hunger at bay in tough times. Without them, many more African-American households would be suffering. Not to mention, every dollar in SNAP benefits generates nearly twice that amount in local communities.

It's extremely important to understand these misconceptions because decisions made at the local, state, and federal levels will impact millions of hungry and poor people around the country. As you work to maintain some of your personal resolutions this New Year, also resolve to challenge misconceptions in the fight to end hunger and poverty.

- Bishop Don DiXon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World, and sits on the board of bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, MD.

## Host an International Student

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) is looking for families to host international students from one semester to one year.

Host families are eligible to claim a monthly charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

The students, aged 15-18, are from countries such as Germany, the Former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Korea, Mexico and China. They are English-speaking, have their own money, carry accident and health insurance and want to share their cultural experiences with their new American families.

P.I.E. is designated by the U.S. Department of State. For more information, please call 1-866-546-1402.

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## Panel: Churches Should Lead in Race Relations

From Wire Reports

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (ABP) -- Churches too often have trailed society at large in terms of embracing racial and ethnic diversity, a multiethnic panel told a regional New Baptist Covenant II gathering in San Antonio.

"I believe what we see on this stage is what our future must look like," Victor Rodriguez, pastor of South San Filadelfia Baptist Church in San Antonio, said while glancing at three other panelists -- another Hispanic, an African-American and an Anglo.

Rodriguez, immediate past president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, told a group at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio that Christians in various ethnic groups "must begin to think of church in different ways."

Children who grow up attending multiethnic schools

and laity who work alongside co-workers from varied cultures often understand racial and ethnic diversity better than the church does, said Jesse Rincones, pastor of Alliance Church, a multiethnic congregation in Lubbock.

"How does the church play catch-up?" he asked.

In part, churches can enter into true partnerships across racial and ethnic lines, he noted. But collaborative partnerships among churches need to be full partnerships of equals, he emphasized.

"In the New Testament, we don't see junior partners or senior partners. We see partners," Rincones said.

Love is the hardest thing God commanded, because it forces people to step outside their comfort zones and embrace people who are different, said Michael Brown, pastor of True Vision Church in San Antonio.

"Love does not mean we are blind to race and color or that we deny our cultural differences. Love is not about erasing those things. It is about coming

together with our differences and learning from each other," Brown said.

Unfortunately, what society has learned from Baptists has not always been positive. Too many Baptists have modeled for the world how Christian who disagree with each other fuss and fight, said Les Hollon, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio.

"But we have the opportunity to model what it means to have unity of heart in the midst of racial diversity," he said. "It will mean we need to see the world as Christ sees the world."

Churches also can model what it means to be forces for reconciliation and centers for recovery, Hollon added, as well as examples of integrity in a culture that craves them.

In order for churches to model restoration and reconciliation in a culture that fails to understand the power of redemption, Christians must move beyond predetermined notions regarding politics and ideology, Rincones said.

Christians learn how to move beyond barriers when

they look ex-offenders, undocumented immigrants and other outcasts as individuals rather than categories, he added.

"We only dream of setting captives free when we know a captive or a captive's child. We only desire to bind up the broken-hearted when we know someone who is broken-hearted," he said.

Churches can expand opportunities for understanding by engaging in ministries that push them to cross barriers and experience different cultures, Hollon said.

"We can give people experiences of seeing that which they fear," he said.

- Ken Camp is managing editor of the Baptist Standard.

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## Public transit investments will benefit all, report says

From Press Reports

RALEIGH (Nov. 2, 2011) -- Investments in public transit improve life for North Carolinians by creating jobs, enhancing mobility and connecting our communities. But transit plans must be integrated with equitable housing policies and measures that will benefit the entire community, regardless of income bracket, a new report says.

Investments in public transportation create enormous opportunities for community development, said a report released this morning by the North Carolina Budget & Tax Center. However, research has

also shown that building transit stations in neighborhoods can create higher housing costs, gentrification, and tends to attract high-income residents, creating a challenge for the many low-income residents who rely on public transit to commute to work.

As North Carolina's policymakers move forward with plans to upgrade and extend public-transit options -- such as high-speed rail, light rail, and bus rapid transit -- they must also consider the individuals that most rely on public transit. Last year, the report said, 60 percent of North Carolinians traveling to work via public transit had incomes under \$25,000.

"Investing in public transit is critical for North Carolina's future," said report author Tazra Mitchell, a public policy fellow with the NC Budget & Tax Center. "To maximize the bene-

fits of public transportation, though, we have to be sure it benefits all segments of our communities."

Housing and transportation account for 55.1 percent of expenditures for the average lower-income household in the U.S., the report said. While living near a bus or train stop could in fact free up many of these transportation expenses, the reverse can happen for housing costs.

Neighborhoods surrounding new transit stations are often dominated by renters and tend to experience increased housing costs and gentrification within the first few years of the transit service. Ultimately, the individuals living closest to the transportation hubs pre-transit service are at risk of being "priced out" of their neighborhood.

In order to ensure that transit investments benefit all citizens, the report said, transit plans

need components such as affordable housing measures. Local policymakers could establish a housing trust fund to publicly finance existing and new affordable housing units near planned transit hubs, or establish an acquisition fund that would purchase property near stations, where affordable housing could be preserved or produced.

"Transit plans that are not integrated with housing policies can lead to inequitable effects on lower-income and transit-dependent residents, straining rather than enhancing vulnerable communities' connectivity to jobs and services," Mitchell said. "Policymakers can require that transit plans include affordable-housing measures in order to achieve greater transportation equity and access for North Carolinians at all income levels."

## What Lies Within?

By Linda Gil,  
Guest Columnist  
for Baptist  
Informer



I recently read a portion of an article by Darrell Scott that highlighted a message he delivered on May 27, 1999 before the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Judiciary Committee. His daughter, Rachel Scott, was a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado. His message included the following poem:

Your laws ignore our deepest needs,  
Your words are empty air.  
You've stripped away our heritage,

You've outlawed simple prayer.  
Now gunshots fill our classrooms,  
And precious children die. You seek for answers everywhere,  
And ask the question "Why?" You regulate restrictive laws,  
Through legislative creed. And yet you fail to understand,  
That God is what we need!

Mr. Scott continued to expound on the need for fewer restrictive laws to control society but more examination of the good and evil within each human. Whether we agree with his commentary on the reason for the shooting at Columbine is not the issue. The real issue, I believe, is the need for us to examine our own hearts and see what lies within.

Scott stated that "since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the hearts of men and women, and we all con-

tain those seeds." Surely this is a non-disputed biblical statement based on a reading of Genesis 3.

Even a quick glance at the history books that chronicle the acts and deeds of mankind throughout the generations support the presence of good and evil in the hearts of men and women. It remains true that even in our present age many of the problems we face are due to the enduring and perpetual battle of good and evil. So what lies within our own hearts?

It is in God and his Word that we find the "absolute" in how we are to live. Malachi 3:6 reads "I am the LORD, I change not." In Matthew 24:35, the Lord Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." The Word of God provides the measuring stick, the compass that gives insight into the status of

our heart.

In Colossians 1:9, 10, the Apostle Paul states "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God".

Knowing God and following His plan assure good fruit that lasts. Isn't this what we read in Ecclesiastes 12: 13, 14: "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or evil." What lies within your own heart?

## From the desk of the Vice President-at-large (Jan. '12)

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Galatians 1:3-5, NIV).

The New Year provides opportunities for new commitments, new goals, new objectives, new lessons, new experiences, new challenges, and new victories. The Christian

community must be equipped and empowered to embrace our opportunities, confront the challenges, overcome the obstacles, cultivate our gifts, learn from the lessons, and celebrate our victories with renewed energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and enlightenment.



Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II  
Vice President-at-Large-GBSC-NC

The Christian life involves a vertical line from the believer to God, and a horizontal line from the believer to others. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:8 puts it this way: "God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others" (CEV). Consequently, prophetic ministry must match our pro-

claimed mission. Our congregational in-reach and community outreach must always lead to a God-honoring up-reach that glorifies God and edifies others. Our claim of inner grace must be interlocked with our outward show of goodness toward others.

Beloved, let us faithfully pledge to fulfill our spiritual and financial support to the General Baptist State Convention objectives. Our time, talents, treasures, and prayers are needed, encouraged, welcomed, and appreciated. The convention and the local ministries we serve are gifts from God that God has entrusted to us as faithful stewards. I can think of no better way to glorify God and edify others than through your generous and cheerful contributions to your General Baptist

State Convention and its objectives.

The harvest is ripe for a prophetic ministry that preaches good news, and proclaims freedom, restoration, release, and the year of the Lord's favor (from Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4: 18-19). God's peace be with you all for a joyous, fruitful, fulfilling, and Holy Spirit-filled New Year as we increase our commitment to missions with generous and ongoing support.

To God be the Glory  
and "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the  
fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit be  
with you all"  
(2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV).

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Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

E.O. Johnson, Interim Managing Editor

Rev. Anthonette Wright, Advertising Editor

## Is "Occupy" Movement Coming to Churches?

From Wire Reports

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (ABP) — As the Occupy protest movement spreads into cities across the United States and around the world, one North Carolina Baptist congregation says it is time to occupy the church.

A November Occupy Church "protest" helped energize youth at Park Road Baptist Church.

A sign in front of the church urges passersby on heavily traveled Park Road to "Occupy Church! Give Sundays their due!" On Nov. 18 church members camped on the church lawn in a whimsical "protest" message to the congregation and community that church is important.

Russ Dean, co-pastor of Park Road Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., said he got the idea for "Occupy Church" one

day while driving to work after reading the morning news.

The message to the community was intended as "a conversation starter," he said, and a reminder that Park Road Baptist Church



is open to anyone, according to its website, "regardless of race, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or theological belief."

Dean said the Occupy Church slogan hasn't prompted much conversation within the

church about aims of the Occupy Wall Street — and other cities — resistance movement against corporate greed and corruption, but that might happen in the future.

Christians are divided in their support of the movement, which uses civil-disobedience tactics borrowed from the revolutionary Arab Spring.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said he believes Jesus would be alongside protesters being

arrested for refusing eviction from encampments on public grounds.

"The Jesus we meet in the Bible is somebody who constantly asks awkward questions — especially questions addressed to religious people,

moral people and rich people," the leader of 78 million Anglicans worldwide wrote for the Christmas issue of Radio Times.

"What would Jesus do?" Williams asked. "He'd first of all be there: sharing the risks, not just taking sides but steadily changing the entire atmosphere by the questions he asks of everybody involved, rich and poor, capitalist and protester and cleric."

However, the Rev. Jesse Jackson has compared the Occupy protests to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, in which he served alongside Martin Luther King. Jackson showed up Dec. 1 to encourage a fledgling Occupy Phoenix protest, the day before five people were treated for pepper spray injuries suffered while handing out Occupy literature at a popular art walk in downtown Phoenix.

- Bob Allen is managing editor of Associated Baptist Press.

### Piney Grove East Missionary Baptist Church

1708 Ansonville Road  
Marshville, NC 28103

Mailing Address  
Piney Grove East Missionary Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 3388  
Wingate, NC 27174  
Telephone: 704-233-4117

Piney Grove East Missionary Baptist Church is seeking resumes for the position of Pastor. The cut-off date for resumes acceptance is **February 29, 2012**.

Applicant must have the following qualification:

- Born again
- Licensed and ordained in the Missionary Baptist Church
- A Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate in Religion, Theology or Divinity
- Pastoral Experience preferred
- Be willing and qualified to teach Bible Class and BTU Training Classes
- Good oral communication skills
- Good written communication skills
- Strong church administrative ability
- Expected to preach, counsel, perform marriage ceremonies, visit the sick, conduct funerals
- Represent the church in meetings of the association, local, state and national convention
- Family oriented — Husband of one wife

### New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of northeast Chatham County, Apex, North Carolina (near Research Triangle Park) is seeking a Pastor to lead the congregation in a growing community.

All interested candidates should possess the following:

- A born-again believer in Jesus Christ and trained in the Baptist faith
- Licensed and ordained with a clean record in and outside of the church
- Must have five years pastoral/ministry experience
- Must have graduated from an accredited bible college/seminary
- Must have proven excellent leadership abilities
- Must be able to teach as well as preach God's word
- Must have good administrative skills and be technologically savvy

All interested candidates should mail their resume to:

Pastoral Search Committee  
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
P O Box 947, Apex, NC 27502

or

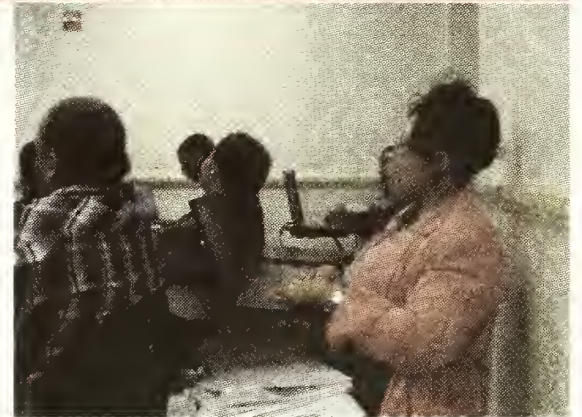
Submit their resume via email to [NHMBCPastoralSearch@gmail.com](mailto:NHMBCPastoralSearch@gmail.com)

All resumes must be postmarked or submitted via email by January 31, 2012

All candidates must submit to a criminal background and credit check.

**Resumes submitted prior to December 1, 2011 must be resubmitted**

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BAPTIST

INFORMER



February 2012

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.



GBSC THEME

"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"

Matthew 28:19-20

### 2012 MLK Jr. Banquet Honors Civic and Religious "Kamikazes for Justice"

Staff Reports



Dr. Howard W. Parker  
GBSC President

#### Save the Children: Let's Fight Hunger Everyday

This article is a follow up from my sharing with you in January about my trip to the White House on December 1 & 2, 2011. During the two-day meeting in Washington, we discussed various ways to help stop the crippling wave of hunger in our beloved communities.

More than 22 million children receive free or reduced price lunch during the school year, but only three million receive a meal through USDA programs during the summer months. Many houses of worship and community groups host programs for kids, but too many children still go without



(Continued on Page 2)



(Photo by the Reverend William Parker)

Honorees at the 2012 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet pictured here include Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, representing his father Honoree Dr. Nilous M. Avery, Sr.; Dr. Clarence E. Gray, Mr. Rodger A. McLean, Dr. George E. Battle and Mr. John Manley, representing his father, Honoree Dr. J.R. Manley.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet, held on January 6 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Conference Center in Durham, attracted more than 800 pastors, Conference leaders, officers, ministers and laypersons from across the state. The guest preacher was the Reverend Dr. Mack King Carter, the Pastor Emeritus of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

His 40-minute message addressed the slow evolution of Civil Rights from the post-

He referred to Dr. King, who was slain in April 1968 in Memphis, Tenn., and others in the movement as "Kamikazes for Justice" who were dealing with the "residue of involuntary servitude."

"Martin Luther King was a great man and we all owe him," Dr. Carter said. "Forty years

(Continued on Page 3)

**P2** THE 2012 MLK, Jr. MEMORIAL BANQUET

**P8**



**59th ANNUAL ONE DAY SESSION**  
of the Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C.

(Continued on Page 1)



meals when school is out.

Did you know that you can partner with

USDA to provide free, nutritious meals during these times?

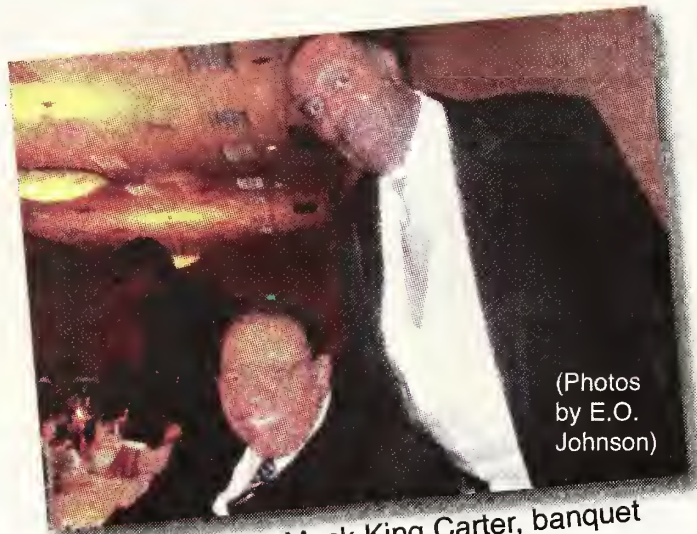
There are two ways your congregation or community organization can help feed kids when they are out of school. One way is to become a sponsor "of a feeding site" for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). SFSP reimburses approved sponsors for serving meals that meet federal nutritional guidelines.

Sponsors prepare or procure meals and receive payments from USDA, through their state agencies, based on the number of meals they serve. Sites are the actual places where the meals are served free to eligible children. Visit [www.summerfood.usda.gov](http://www.summerfood.usda.gov) for additional information.

A second way you can help is to provide a nutritious meal or snack through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in your afterschool program, childcare center, emergency shelter, or daycare home. Thanks to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act becoming law, participants in every state can now serve supper to at-risk youth through the same program.

Visit [www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care) to learn more. For more information on how to get started in applying for these programs, please contact the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at USDA at [collaborate@usda.gov](mailto:collaborate@usda.gov) or by calling 202-720-2032.

# THE 2012 MLK, JR. MEMORIAL BANQUET



(Photos by E.O. Johnson)

Reverend Dr. Mack King Carter, banquet speaker, and Dr. Parker, President of the GBSC-NC, joined more than 800 other Baptist clergy, laypersons and guests.



Baptists from across North Carolina joined hands in singing the old spiritual, "We Shall Overcome," at the closing of the banquet.



(Photo by the Reverend William Parker)

**HONORED GUEST:** The Reverend Dr. Mack King Carter, Pastor Emeritus of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Florida, spoke to more than 800 attendees at the MLK, Jr. Memorial Banquet on January 6 in Durham. His message chronicled social, political, economic and historical milestones that helped define African Americans as he highlighted the enduring legacy of the late Reverend Dr. King, Jr., who would have celebrated his 83rd birthday on Jan. 15, 2012.

(Continued from Page 1)

ago, we could not have been in this banquet hall unless we were cleaning up. President Barack Obama is president because Martin Luther King gave his life. Obama did not get there because of his brilliance. [King] paid with his life."

Dr. Carter, the author of various books including "A Quest for Freedom" and "To Calvary and Beyond," also said that today's leaders need more "courage, character, commitment" to help the ills of modern society, including a struggling education system that is failing to "teach our children."

"There are too many poor people in the land of plenty. Ten percent of the people control 90 percent of the wealth." He added, "You're sitting at God's table, eating God's food and you don't have manners to send food to the other end of the table. What we need in this country is a spirit that says, let's pass the bread."

Honorees receiving the 2012 President's Award of Distinction included Dr. Nilous M. Avery, Sr., Pastor Emeritus of Hill Street Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C.; the Reverend George E. Battle, Sr., Pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, N.C.; Dr. Clarence B. Gray, Moderator of the Old Eastern Baptist Association in N.C.; Dr. John R. Manley, former Pastor of First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C.; and Mr. Rodger A. McLean, former Mayor of Elizabeth City, N.C.

## MINISTRY BRIEFS

### NC GOVERNOR at MSBC

North Carolina Governor Beverly Purdue attended morning services at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., where the Reverend Dr. Earl C. Johnson is pastor, on



(photo taken by Horace Smith)

Sunday, January 15, 2012. Gov. Perdue gave a 10-minute presentation to the congregation as part of the MLK, Jr. annual observances.

### HKonJ6 MARCH

The 6th Annual HKonJ March will be held Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012. Marchers will assemble at 9:30 a.m. at Estey Hall on the campus of Shaw University, South Street in

Raleigh, N.C. (The march will begin at 10:30 a.m.) Guest speakers will include the Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, II, president of the North Carolina Conference of the NAACP. For details, please call 1-855-373-3213 or visit [www.HKonJ.com](http://www.HKonJ.com) to learn more about the Historic Thousands on Jones Street March.

### MID-YEAR SESSION

The Wake Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. will hold its Mid-Year Session on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at Juniper Level Baptist Church, 9104 Sauls Road, Raleigh, NC 27603. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by devotion at 9:15 a.m. Delegates are asked to register before 9:30 a.m. For more information, please contact the Reverend Dr. William T. Newkirk, Sr., Moderator, at (919) 839-5869.

## NEWS AROUND THE STATE

### AARP North Carolina Recruiting

AARP North Carolina is committed to working for the passage of state and federal legislation which makes life better for our members and the citizens of our State. A goal is to have at least one AARP Legislative Contact for each of the 120 State House districts. As a part of our plan to increase the number of Key Legislative Contacts, additional volunteers are being recruited for the program. Those trained as Key Legislative Contacts will maintain contact with their elected State House and Senate officials as well as federal Senators and Representative on a routine basis to share information about AARP issues and as requested by AARP North Carolina's state office. This contact may be in person, by phone, or in writing as dictated by the situation and as can be arranged by the Key Legislative Contact. Key Contacts are expected to work with elected officials in a nonpartisan manner. Those interested in being a Key Legislative Contact should contact Mary Bethel, Associate State Director for Advocacy with AARP North Carolina at [mbethel@aarp.org](mailto:mbethel@aarp.org) or (919) 508-0297.

### Changes to Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The North Carolina Division of Social Services has evaluated and updated the application process and eligibility requirements for the state's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) in accordance with changes mandated by the General Assembly.

Citizens interested in receiving assistance with their heating costs during the cold-weather months need to be aware of these changes to the application process and the eligibility requirements for the LIEAP benefit.

In the past, applications were taken in November of each year and payments were sent directly to program recipients in February. Households participating in the Food and Nutrition Services Program (formerly called Food Stamps) were automatically approved. That is no longer the case. Under the program changes, ALL households must meet income and resource eligibility requirements and must apply for LIEAP funds; there are no longer automatic approvals. In addition, at the direction of the General Assembly, energy payments will now be made directly to the service provider, such as power, gas, or oil companies during the month of application.

If funds remain available after January 31, 2012, any other eligible households

(Continued on next page)

may apply during February through the end of March. For more information, please contact your local county department of social services. A list of these offices and contact information is available at [www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/local/](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/local/).

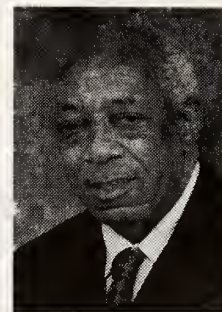
### Health - Help for The Uninsured

Hearing you've been denied for health insurance due to a medical condition is devastating. When you are sick, the security of health coverage is most critical. Now North Carolinians with pre-existing medical conditions have an affordable option through Inclusive Health which provides affordable health insurance to individuals with pre-existing medical conditions.

Inclusive Health - Federal Option targets individuals who have been without insurance for at least six months. You qualify for Inclusive Health - Federal Option if you can answer YES to at least one of these questions:

- \* You have been without coverage for at least six months.
- \* Your medical condition makes you "uninsurable".
- \* You have been refused or denied coverage for health reasons.
- \* You have been offered coverage by an insurer with a conditional rider limiting coverage.
- \* You have one of the Inclusive Health - Federal Options presumptive conditions which allows automatic enrollment.

## LAYMEN OUTLOOK : A New Beginning in 2012



Bro. Richmond Turner GBSC Laymen

I am disturbed by a statement quoted in the Laymen's previous outlook by Bonhoeffer that states: "An abstract Christology - render discipleship superfluous." Why disturbed? It disturbs me because I realized that most of my Christian experience was conceptual rather than practical. More talk. No walk.

However, I do pray to grow spiritually each year.

Until year 2011, I read the Holy Bible in its entirety for five years. In 2011, I began reading a daily meditation with scripture references every day. This year, I am reading "My Daily Appointment With God," a meditation for each day of the month.

Certainly the N. C. Laymen will be experiencing new beginnings in 2012.

If the Laymen are to impact our state and the world and reach our objective of "Deploying Men with Christ," we have to make some radical changes in our understanding of discipleship. We know that men

respond to more action-oriented activity, so we plan to sponsor more activity that will appeal to men.

As Christ began to call men into ministry, he said: "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of Men."

As we consider ways to involve more men in fellowship and ministry, we invite moderators and pastors to join with us in ministering and recruiting more men in service with our Lord. Let's make a new beginning in 2012.

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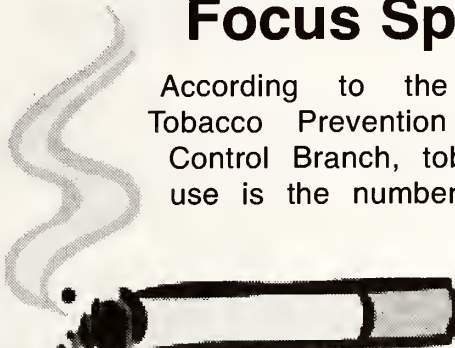
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# The Baptist Informer's Health Focus Spotlight: Smoking



According to the NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, tobacco use is the number one

effective June 30, 2011. Funding was transferred to the NC Division of Public Health's Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch to continue the Trust's tobacco and obesity initiatives this fiscal year.

Pam Diggs works as Youth Tobacco Use Prevention Program Coordinator for the Orange County Health Department, where she manages the Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation (TTUPC) program in collaboration with Orange County Schools and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. This program, funded through the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, aims to prevent youth initiation of tobacco use, promote tobacco use cessation among youth, eliminate youth exposure to secondhand smoke, and reduce tobacco-related disparities among priority population youth.



Pam Diggs

Diggs is tasked with coordinating local Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered. (TRU) clubs in each of the five high schools in Orange County. TRU is North Carolina's statewide movement for teens, by teens, to stay tobacco-free. "I recruit, train, and engage teens to become peer educators who teach their peers and community about the dangers of tobacco. We also advocate for tobacco-free policies, promote resources to help tobacco users quit, and help schools enforce the 100% Tobacco-Free Schools policy" says Diggs.

"My work helps youth develop leadership and advocacy skills. They get the opportunity to make a difference in their schools and community by promoting tobacco-free messages and grow as youth advocates at the same time" says Diggs, who is a graduate UNC-Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health with a Masters Degree

in Public Health. "My concentration was health behavior and health education. I love working with youth and promoting health so this was the best of both worlds for me. I've always been interested in cancer prevention as well. Tobacco use is the leading cause of lung cancer. According to the CDC, more people die from lung cancer than any other type of cancer." Diggs has also worked with Union Baptist Church in Durham, NC and the Center for Health and Healing, with their teen tobacco prevention efforts in the past.

Mrs. Diggs also offered information about common myths regarding other tobacco products. "There are lots of misconceptions about tobacco use. One of them is that other tobacco products besides cigarettes such as little cigars like 'Black & Mild' are safer. Cigars actually have more nicotine in them than cigarettes."

On a boarder scale, Diggs thinks there is a definite need for continued funding and support for teen tobacco prevention efforts, programs, and policies, such as 100% tobacco-free workplaces and tobacco-free parks, in order to further protect youth and citizens from secondhand smoke. "The funds that pay for these programs are scheduled to run out at the end of June, 2012 unless state legislators keep funding in the state budget for teen tobacco prevention. People can take action by calling their state representatives or visiting [ncforhealth.org](http://ncforhealth.org)"

For more information on how to get involved, visit the TRU website at [www.realityunfiltered.com](http://www.realityunfiltered.com) to find local TRU representatives. To get involved in Orange County, contact Mrs. Pam Diggs at [pdiggs@co.orange.nc.us](mailto:pdiggs@co.orange.nc.us)

For information about stopping smoking/tobacco use, visit [QuitlineNC.com](http://QuitlineNC.com) or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

- Health Focus Spotlight by Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing, a non-profit affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information about the Center and its programs, visit [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-972-6374



Cornell P. Wright, MPA  
Agency Programs  
Manager

cause of preventable death in the United States, killing more than 440,000 Americans each year. It is also the leading cause of preventable death in North Carolina, and is primarily responsible for numerous deadly cancers and debilitating illnesses.

In 2003, the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund began funding teen tobacco use prevention and cessation efforts. Middle and High School smoking has since decreased, translating to 53,000 fewer teen smokers since 2003 and the lowest cigarette use rate for middle and high school



students ever in North Carolina. Due to recent legislation passed by the North Carolina General Assembly, the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund was abolished

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## Last Year's Success Sets Pace for 2012 Work

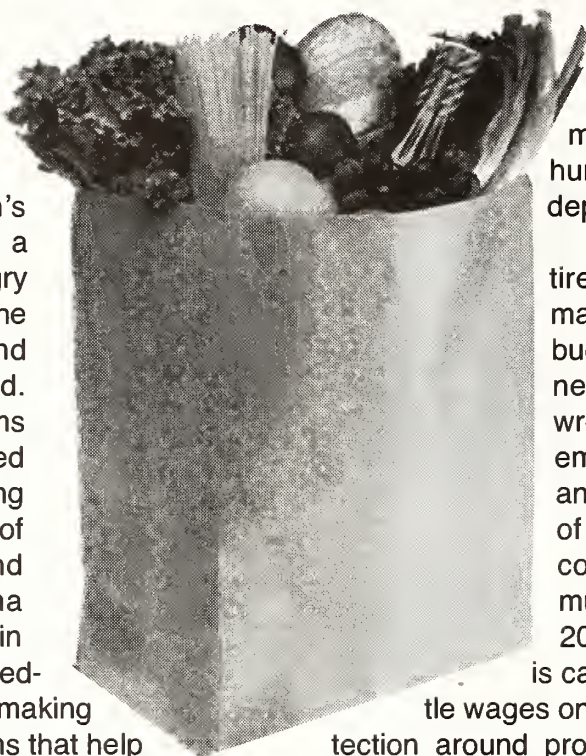
Press Reports

As Congress worked last year to reduce the federal deficit and balance our nation's budget, 2011 was a volatile year for hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world. Many of the programs they depend on faced potentially devastating cuts. By the grace of God, Congress and President Obama passed legislation in 2011 that reduced federal deficits without making deep cuts to programs that help families in need. Here's a look at what was at stake:

Funding for domestic safety-net programs. At a time when one in five U.S. households with children struggles to put food on the table—including an alarming 32.9 percent of African-American households—lawmakers were considering dangerous cuts to programs that help families make ends meet. However, Congress and President Obama agreed to protect funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), and for a program that provides food assistance to poor senior citizens.

Funding for international aid programs. Proposed legislation by the House of Representatives would have eliminated food aid rations for 14 million of the world's most vulnerable people. Fortunately, lawmakers passed bills that made no significant cuts to international aid programs that help save lives and reduce poverty.

Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance benefits. Congress finished the year in another standoff, threatening to raise payroll taxes for all working Americans and reduce unemployment insurance for nearly 2 million people. Shortly before Christmas, Congress extended unemployment benefits for two additional months and did not raise payroll taxes—preventing millions of Americans from being pushed into poverty.



In 2011, Congress and the president agreed on the Budget Control Act, which mandates across-the-board spending cuts of \$2 trillion over 10 years—but, remarkably, spared some of the main programs on which hungry and poor people depend.

People of faith worked tirelessly to ensure lawmakers didn't balance the budget on the backs of vulnerable people. They wrote personal letters and emails, made phone calls, and visited their members of Congress to make their concerns heard. There is much work to be done in 2012, but success in 2011 is cause for hope as the bat-

tle wages on to create a circle of protection around programs that support the poorest people in the poorest places.

Thousands of churches representing nearly 50 diverse religious denominations throughout the United States will participate in Bread for the World's 2012 Offering of Letters campaign. As part of a worship service or Mass, Christians will write letters to their members of Congress in support of legislation that will benefit hungry and poor people. Instead of money, these letters are placed in the offering plates and dedicated



to God. Bread for the World members generate hundreds of thousands of letters to Congress every year.

*Bishop Don Dixon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World, and sits on the board of bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, MD.*

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.

## The Danger of Business As Usual

*President Parker, Vice Presidents and Convention and Auxiliary Leaders, Moderators, Pastors and Members of our Baptist family. Happy New Year.*

We recently gathered at the 38th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet. Each



**Dr. Haywood T. Gray/  
Executive Secretary-  
Treasurer/GBSC-NC**

year since 1974, our Convention has come together – in the spirit of Martin Luther King – to christen the new year and begin a new voyage of faith. It is good for us to be here.

But the celebration of regularly recurring events and especially events that have taken place for decades can be dangerous. If we see this year's gathering as nothing more than just "more of the same" and we do not use this time to renew and re-commit, I am afraid our gathering could actually be in vain. There is a "danger in business as usual."

The Gospel of Luke tells us of a frustrated Peter who has been fishing all night, but caught nothing. He is good at the craft; he knows the waters; he is no novice – but his efforts this time have been fruitless. His problem is that it has become mere repetition of the same old thing – same water, same nets, same strategy. Peter is just doing business as usual.

We live in times that require not only our best but also some new efforts. The pervasiveness of technology puts new demands on us. The political climate that has turned against the poor and needy in a carefully plotted plan to make the rich even richer demands a new energy in voter education and voter engagement. The economic stress facing our Churches and communities give us no alternative but to find new and creative ways to do more with less. This is not the time for business as usual.

Jesus understood this to be Peter's problem and our imminent danger. He calls us out of business as usual and challenges us to launch out into the deep.

(Continued on next page)

The call to go to deep places is frightening because it stretches our strength and our imagination. Deep places call for more: more work, more thought, more planning, more prayer. One cannot do business as usual once the location has changed from the familiar to the deep.

2012 calls our Baptist family to do more than business as usual. New strategies beckon, new challenges await, new opportunities abound. And there is always the chance that we might miss something just doing business as usual.

Doing business as usual might mean we miss our mission. Peter was content to be a fisherman – succeeding or failing, but

Peter's true mission was to be a fisher of men. I pray God will clarify and illumine our mission as we launch out into the deep.

Doing business as usual might mean that we miss our miracle. More fish that he could ever imagine found their way into his nets because he was willing to do something differently. I pray God will show us the miracles that are possible if we are bold enough to do ministry in deep places.

Doing business as usual might mean that we miss the Master's magnificent mandate. After the miracle and before the mission, the formerly frustrated Peter is trembling and shaking in his boots. "Depart from me," says Peter, "because I am a sinful

man." But hear the welcome voice of Jesus say "Fear not."

That is the Master's mandate for our scary times in deep places.

"Fear not" because I have overcome the world.

"Fear not" because I will not leave you nor forsake you.

"Fear not" because I've got the whole world in my hands.

"Fear not" because no weapon formed against you will prosper.

"Fear not" because I am with you even until the end of the world.

## Goatley: The Fight Continues on Second Anniversary of Haitian Earthquake

A few weeks ago, a brother asked, "Are we still doing anything in Haiti?"

My answer was an emphatic, "Yes we are!" On this second anniversary of the January 2010 earthquake, I invite you to remember those who perished, to remember those who struggle, to rejoice in our service, and to recommit to helping Haiti rise again.



Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D. Lott Carey

The world will never be the same again for hundreds of thousands of Haitians.

The devastating earthquake that destroyed lives, livelihoods, and land two years ago today continues to shape the realities of most Haitians.

Those who lived at epicenter of the quake near Leogane, where Lott Carey has a church, lost nearly all of their housing and infrastructure. Those who lived around the overly populated capitol city of Port-au-Prince found themselves living in and around homelessness, unsanitary tent cities, and disarray in every sense of the word. The sights and sounds during my visit to Haiti a few weeks after the quake are still vivid to me. My emo-

tions still stir when I remember the destruction all around.

The Lott Carey family, like many other networks, responded with generosity to the tragedy. We sponsored first-responders, supported displaced families, gave food grants, gave cash grants, bought goods from farmers, paid caterers, fed hospital patients, recruited medical volunteers, funded youth camps for displaced young people, provided counseling and coaching for pastors and their spouses, and continued to support our network of churches of the Strategic Union of Baptist Churches in Haiti.

Additionally, we are participating in integral ways in two unprecedented partnerships. First, we are the administrative partner for the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration in which the four historic National Baptist denominations and Lott Carey are partnering to amplify our impact in Haiti. We understood that we can do more together than any of us can do alone.

• During 2010, we pledged and paid a one million dollar (\$1,000,000) grant in less than nine months to Habitat for Humanity International to invest in transitional and permanent housing solutions.

• During 2011 more than 1800 families received transitional housing solutions, 150 families received permanent housing solutions, scores of individuals

received construction training and employment, and more families accessed counseling to strengthen their economic

viability.

• During 2012, we are expanding our efforts to create more housing units using volunteer teams from the United States and to increase the capacity of hospitals and clinics (through financial support and medical volunteers) to provide quality preventive, reproductive, and restorative health care for Haitians.

Second, we are the administrative coordinator for the Haitian Diaspora/African-American Christian Advocacy Coalition which has brought together Haitians in America, Haitian-Americans, and African-American Christians in traditional African-American denominations and in traditional European-American denominations to influence United States policy that supports a safe, strong, and sustainable Haiti. Our principal areas of work are:

1. To advocate for fair and humane immigration policies that favor family reunification;
2. To advocate for investment in agriculture for economic vitality to benefit all levels of the agriculture sector (including the small scale farmers); and
3. To advocate for transparency and inclusion of Haitians and African-Americans in reconstruction contracts and grants to ensure capacity building and cultural competence in rebuilding the country.

We will be calling on you during the year to help advance this important agenda with policy makers who represent you.

Are we still doing anything in Haiti? Yes we are! And yes we will!



# 59TH ANNUAL ONE DAY SESSION

of the Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C.



More than 1200 people attended the WBHFMC's One Day Session held on January 7, 2012 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in Durham, N.C. Guests included the Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, II, President of the NC Conference of the NAACP, pictured here with Dr. Audrey Battle, President of the Woman's Convention.

DVDs Available. Copies of Reverend Dr. William Barber's sermon presented at the 59th Annual One Day Session of the Woman Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C. are available. Those interested in a DVD should contact the WBHFMC office at (919) 833-4823.



Photos by Chris Hinson



## How Deep Is Your Love?

What is the depth, length, and width of your love?

We pause today in this complex society to express our love affair with our Savior and with our fellow man.

Dear Lord, bring us together. In this New Year, we pray that You will guide us in each new day in paths that are pleasing to You. Lord, the New Year will give us another chance to:

- A) Rededicate our lives to you
- B) Study your word to show ourselves approved
- C) Act in accordance with your commands



**Mrs. Audrey Battle**  
President,  
Woman's Baptist  
Home & Foreign  
Missionary  
Convention of NC

Thank you, God, for the sense of direction, purpose and peace we get when we align our lives with Your Holy will. We pray for the strength and the will to obey You every day of this New Year. Put a little love in our hearts and help us to work together. Lord, when we fail, we pray for Your mercy, compassion, love and forgiveness. Help us in this New Year to be Your faithful servants and bless us as we move forward. Amen

Love is required as we live together, for we must show love for every one. God wants us to follow His ways. What God is asking for is devoted love. This love requires an attitude of the heart where God is.

It requires high values, a longing for his fellowship while striving to obey him and sincerely care for his honor and will here on earth.

As believers, if we truly love God and our fellow man, we will desire to share his suffering, promote his kingdom, and love for his honor and righteous standards. Our love must be a whole hearted and dominating love. A love inspired by His love to us. He gave His son for our sake.

Love to God includes: 1) A personal attachment an allegiance and loyalty to him, 2) Faith in him to whom we are united, 2) Faithfulness to our pledge and commitment to him, 4) heartfelt devotion expressed in our dedication to Gods righteous standards in the midst of a God rejecting world, and 5) a desire for Gods presence and fellowship.

As believers, we are required to love all people including our enemies (Gal. 6:10, 2) and all true born again Christians in a special way (John 11:13). This love must be controlled and directed by His love and devotion to God.

Love to God is the first commandment. The holiness of God, His desire for purity, and His will and standards as revealed in scripture must never be compromised in our practice of love to all people.

Romans 13:9 states "...you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love is positive, yet sometimes negative. We must turn from sin and cease to bring harm and sorrow to others. Because of His love for us, what shall we render unto Him for all of His benefits. Gratitude should flow from our hearts and we should express it by our love, our loyalty, our righteous living, our thanksgiving and a resolve to obey. We are reminded in I Corinthians 16:22b by

the Apostle Paul that all professing believers that who claim to be believers yet love not the Lord is to be cursed or doomed. To love not the Lord means to fail to have a heartfelt love toward Him. John 14:21 tells us "He who has My commandments and obeys them, he it is who loves Me..."

According to Ephesians 4:15, our love must be based on active love. By speaking truth in love, we are able to resolve problems and reconcile differences by mutual loyalty and obedience to Christ and his word. Let us love one another, be concerned about others, and help others in need

We must demonstrate love for three reasons says 1st John 4:7:

- 1) Love is the very nature of God, which He showed by giving His own son for us.
- 2) We share His nature because we are born of Him.
- 3) God loves us and we who have experienced His love, His forgiveness, and His help are under obligation to help others even at great personal cost.

If we love one another, God continues to dwell in US and His love is perfected in us. When we are born of God, the Holy Spirit pours forth the true love of God into our Hearts. What God requires is that we demonstrate both love for his truth and love for others. We must show togetherness and speak the truth in love. When was the last time you did something good out of love for Jesus?

Look around. Is there someone whose life needs your touch? What can I render?

# Shaw University Divinity School



Save the Date

**The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Shaw University Divinity School**

**Alexander/Pegues Minister's Conference**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

**Conference Preacher: Dr. Charles Booth**

**Conference Lecturer: Dr. John Kinney**

**And more...**

**Register Now!**

**Early Bird Registration - \$100**

**After February 29<sup>th</sup> - \$135 On-Site**

**All Seminary & College Students \$50 (On-Site Only)**

**(Must show a valid student ID or proof of registration)**

## Highlights of the Usher's Workshop in Salisbury, N.C.

Staff Reports

The General Baptist State Convention Usher's Workshop was held in November 2011 at Gethsemane Baptist Church in Salisbury, North Carolina. Highlights included Dean Marvin T. Clowney's adult workshop titled, "How Would You Sum Up Your Life's Work in One Sentence?"

Dean Clowney asked the question: "What is our purpose for being here?" When we leave here, what did you do? "What did you do to fulfill your purpose?" Don't be concern about what is on your tombstone. Your purpose speaks for you. We live to please God and not worry about other folk.

"We all have messed up but we pray and study the Word. Paul wrote, "To live is Christ but to die is gain." We ran when we were young but when we got older, we didn't care. Fame and fortune isn't even enough to say that one has lived a full life. Many famous and rich people still take their lives or live on the reckless side of life because they are bored with life."

Additionally, the Assistant Dean Rodney McCormick presented a President's session called "Presidents Committed to the Work of the Ministry." He used Ephesians 4:11-12 as the reference scripture. He told members of the workshop that usher presidents must "provide leadership, oversight, guidance and administration" to a specific organization.

"Your responsibilities are many and you are always on duty," he said. "Many people are holding you accountable. You must be able to deal with criticisms and complaints.



The president may not receive pats on the back from man but for divine commendation from the Master himself. The president should be humble, resilient, a person of integrity, credible, passionate and committed."

Sister Hazel Kennedy featured a Youth Workshop and highlighted "The Ten Commandments of Ushering." They included:

1. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.
  - a. Jealousy can be positive or negative.
2. Thou shalt pray for humility and guidance.
  - a. We pray to gain strength to face the challenges of ushering.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
  - a. Refusing his fellowship and his help.
4. Remember the Usher Rules and apply them effectively.
  - a. Learn rules and procedures for all phases of usher duties.
5. Honor thy church leaders and respect thy fellow ushers.
  - a. Respect the unique personalities of others.
6. Thou shalt not close thy mind to new ideas.
  - a. Dull effect of closed mind.
7. Thou shalt not commit showboating, favoritism, nor vengeance.
  - a. Vengeance, do not do evil for evil.
8. Thou shalt not steal time or reputation.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy fellow ushers, nor anyone.
  - a. Do not allow truth decay to poison your organization.
  - a. Thou shalt not use the word "can't." It is self defeating.



## PLANS FOR EASTER?

The Baptist Informer is compiling a listing of Easter programs around the state.

Please mail in information about church concerts, plays, cantatas and other special events in observance of Holy Week, Good Friday, Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday/Easter (April 8th) to GBSC Headquarters, 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, N.C. 27601 or email them (preferred) to [informeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:informeditor@yahoo.com) by April 15, 2012. The lists will appear in the March issue of the Baptist Informer. Details: (919) 821-7466.

## HELPFUL CONTACTS

**General Baptist State Conv. of NC:**  
919-821-7466

**FEMA (federal aid):**  
1-800-621-3362

**NC Hotline (state aid):**  
1-888-835-9966

**NC Division of Emergency Management**  
[www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org)

**NC Cooperative Extension**  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster)

**State Dept. of Health/Human Services**  
[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm)

## Music Director Needed

Union Baptist Church, 110 Lincoln Avenue Lexington, North Carolina is seeking a Christian individual who is willing to assume the responsibilities of the Music Ministry for the entire church. Interested person should contact the church at (336) 243-1648.

If no response, please leave your contact information, your call will be returned.

Pastoral Vacancy  
New Bethel Baptist Church  
Morganton, NC 28655

Requirements:

- Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
- Minimum high school graduate prefer some college
- Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination
- Prefers 1-3 years of pastoral/ministry experience
- Strong communication skills (ability to deal with people with tact and discretion)
- Visit the sick & shut ins (hospitalized, home, nursing home, etc.)
- Willing to become affiliate of the Mountain & Catawba
- Missionary Baptist Association
- Willing to support all church programs including
- Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer meetings, etc.
- Effective in working with all groups in the church
- and expected to teach, preach and counsel in word
- and deed to all age groups in the church
- Implement polices fairly, consistently, respect
- Individual needs and abilities

CRIMINAL & CREDIT CHECK REQUIRED  
REFERENCES REQUIRED

(Please include resume, copy of pastoral license & ordination papers)

**\*\*Position is Bivocational (Part Time)\*\***

The ending date to receive applications is April 30, 2012.

Please forward all correspondence to:

Attn.: Pastor Search Committee  
New Bethel Baptist Church  
Post Office Box 3870  
Morganton, NC 28680-3870

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, a progressive ministry in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, seeks an experienced, inspiring and visionary part-time Music Director (approximately 20 hours/week) with proficiency in playing the organ and piano.

The ideal candidate will have a wide knowledge of music including contemporary, gospel, hymns and blended styles. The candidate desired for this position must be saved, a team player and exemplify the characteristics of the fruit of the spirit, self-motivation and organization. Two Sunday services and special services, plus weekly evening and designated Saturday rehearsals.

Proficiency in recruiting and training musicians of all ages. Ability to interact with senior pastor, Minister of Worship and Arts, church staff in planning and presenting music for worship, as well as other congregational needs. Salary negotiated by Pastor and Minister of Worship and Arts.

Please submit a cover letter, current resume and the names and contact information for three professional references by February 7.

Submit application materials to:  
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church  
Music Director Search Committee  
4129 Northampton Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of northeast Chatham County, Apex, North Carolina (near Research Triangle Park) is seeking a Pastor to lead the congregation in a growing community.

All interested candidates should possess the following:

- A born-again believer in Jesus Christ and trained in the Baptist faith
- Licensed and ordained with a clean record in and outside of the church
- Must have five years pastoral/ministry experience
- Must have graduated from an accredited bible college/seminary
- Must have proven excellent leadership abilities
- Must be able to teach as well as preach the word
- Must have good administrative skills and be technologically savvy

All interested candidates should mail their resume to:

Pastoral Search Committee  
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
P O Box 947, Apex, NC 27502

or

Submit their resume via email to [NHMBCPastoralSearch@gmail.com](mailto:NHMBCPastoralSearch@gmail.com)

All resumes must be postmarked or submitted via email by January 31, 2012

All candidates must submit to a criminal background and credit check.

Resumes submitted prior to December 1, 2011 must be resubmitted

PULPIT VACANCY

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1604 White Plains Church Road  
Clarkton, NC 28433  
(Lisbon Community)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a pastor. Our Worship Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a licensed and ordained Missionary Baptist Minister
- Born again Christian as evidenced by ones character and dedication
- Ability to effectively preach and teach the Word (HOLY BIBLE)
- Willing to follow Baptist Doctrine, Policies and Practices
- Public relation and administrative skills
- Ability and desire to work with all age groups and auxiliaries of the church
- Educational training above high school level
- Married and living with spouse (preferred)

REQUEST: A resume, copy of ministerial license, ordination certificate and three (3) character references

Please send resume and inquiries to:

Pastor Search Committee Chairperson  
c/o Sis. Floretta Jones  
146 Henry Jones Road  
Council, NC 28434  
or  
email to: [florettajones61@yahoo.com](mailto:florettajones61@yahoo.com)

## Keep the Winter Blues Away: Proper Car Care is Critical

Press Reports

The thought of a breakdown, an engine not starting or otherwise being stranded is scary as it is, but those things happening in freezing winter weather add another level of fear. So, when the weather outside is frightful, a little advance preparation can make winter driving more delightful. An investment of an hour or so to have your vehicle



checked can help you avoid being stranded in severe winter weather:

- Check the battery and charging system for optimum performance. Cold weather is hard on batteries.
- Clean, flush and put new antifreeze in the cooling system. As a general rule of

thumb, this should be done every two years.

- Make sure heaters, defrosters and wipers work properly. Consider winter wiper blades and use cold weather washer fluid. Typically, wiper blades should be replaced every six months.

- If you're due for a tune-up, have it done before winter sets in. Winter magnifies existing problems such as pings, hard starts, sluggish performance or rough idling.
- Check the tire tread depth and tire pressure. If snow and ice are a problem in your area, consider special tires designed to grip slick roads. During winter, tire pressure should be checked weekly.

- Check the brakes. The braking system is the vehicle's most important safety component.

- Inspect the exhaust system for carbon monoxide leaks, which can be especially dangerous during cold weather driving when windows are closed.

- Check to see that exterior and interior lights work and headlights are properly

aimed.

- Be diligent about changing the oil at recommended intervals as dirty oil can spell trouble in winter. Consider changing to "winter weight" oil if you live in a cold climate. Check the fuel, air and transmission filters at the same time.



Motorists should keep the gas tank at least half full at all times to decrease the chances of moisture forming in the gas lines and possibly freezing. Drivers should

also check the tire pressure of the spare in the trunk and stock an emergency kit with an ice scraper and snowbrush, jumper cables, flashlight, flares, blanket, extra clothes, candles/matches, bottled water, dry food snacks and needed medication.

For more helpful information, visit [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org) and check out the free digital Car Care Guide.

## With Sympathy

### Walker Funeral

Mrs. Retha Thorne Walker, the mother of Dr. Thomas L. Walker, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, was remembered at a service on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the church, located at 652 Raleigh Road, Rocky Mount, N.C. Condolences may be sent to Dr. Thomas L. Walker, Ebenezer Baptist Church, 652 Raleigh Road, Rocky Mount, NC 27803-2617

### Avery Funeral

Mrs. Christine Watson Avery, wife of Dr. Nilous M. Avery, Sr., retired Pastor, Hill Street Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C. and mother of Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, Vice President-at-Large, General Baptist State Convention, was remembered in two services: Monday, January 2, 2012 Hill Street Baptist Church, in Asheville and on Thursday, January 5, 2012 at Lee's Crossroad Baptist Church, 525 Lake Wendell Road, Wendell, NC 27591. Condolences may be sent to Dr. Nilous M. Avery, Sr. 5220 Bridget Drive, Raleigh, NC 27603

### Pastor Vacancy

### First Baptist Church of Kannapolis

The First Baptist Church of Kannapolis Pastor Search Team officially announces the launch of a Pastoral Search. Subsequent to much prayer and devotion First Baptist Church is ready to accept resumes from persons interested in serving as Senior Pastor. First Baptist Church has a strong foundation established in 1915.

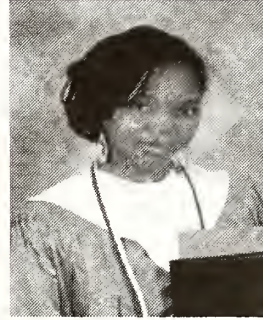
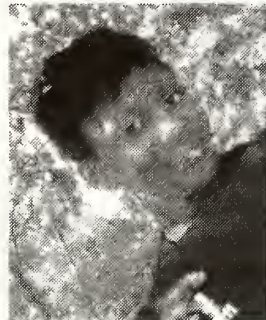
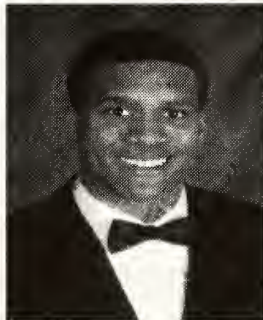
The candidate regarding education and experience, must first be a candidate who is anointed by the Holy Spirit, teaches the Word of God; a candidate with a vision; that can provide pastoral care, guide, minister, edify and unify the body of Christ. The candidate should be an ordained minister and have previous experience as a Missionary Baptist Clergy.

If you would like to be considered for the Pastorate of First Baptist Church please mail your resume to the following address: the closing date May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

### First Baptist Church of Kannapolis

ATTN: Pastor Search Team  
Post Office Box 368  
Kannapolis, NC 28082-0368

## Morning Star Baptist Church Awards Scholarships: SOWING SEEDS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



The Rev. Dennis W. Leach, Sr. and the members of Morning Star Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. awarded four college students the James Shedrick Reeves Scholarship in January. They include:

- **Ms. Teyara Hudson**, a freshman at North Carolina State University and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tirrell & Michelle Hudson.
- **Mr. Kwone Ingram**, a junior at Morehouse College and the son of Ms. Jane Ingram.

• **Ms. Desiree Porter**, a freshman at Elon University and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan & Denise Porter.

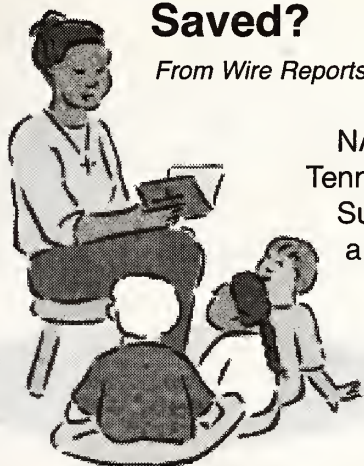
• **Mr. Christian Settle**, a sophomore at Virginia State University and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chad & Lakisha Simmons.

The Reeves Scholarship, organized about a year ago, honors the life and legacy of the late educator and Morning Star Baptist Church member, Mr. James

Shedrick Reeves. Recipients with cumulative GPAs of 2.5-2.9 qualified for partial scholarships; applicants with cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher qualified for full scholarships. The Reeves Scholarship is an on-going initiative of MSMBC and is managed by the Christian Education Ministry of the church, under the direction of Dr. Soncerey L. Montgomery. Brother Kenneth Dodd and Sister Deborah E. Smith are the scholarship committee co-chairs.

### A Vital Question: Can Sunday School Be Saved?

From Wire Reports



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) -- Sunday school, a staple of Protestant church life in the United States in the 20th

century, is in decline, prompting some scholars to question whether the institution has a future.

One effect is what used to be common knowledge about Christianity is unknown to a large and growing share of Americans, especially young adults. Barna Group studies in 2010, for example, showed that while most people regard Easter as a religious holiday, only a minority of adults associate Easter with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Even seminary professors report occasional reminders from students who did not grow up studying the Bible and who don't always catch the meaning of phrases like "prodigal son" or "woman at the well."

A 2005 Barna study found 95 percent of Protestant churches offer "a Sunday school in which people receive some form of planned or systematic Bible instruction in a class setting."

While Sunday school remains one of the most widely embraced ministry programs, the study said, it is undergoing change.

Just 15 percent of senior pastors in 2005 considered Sunday school to be their church's highest priority, a significant drop from previous years.

More churches are dropping Sunday school programs for their youngest and oldest children. Three out of four churches offered programming for children under 2, down six percentage points from 1997. Churches were less likely to offer Sunday school for junior high (dropping from 93 percent to 86 percent) and high school students (moving from 86 percent to 80 percent.)

In a column last September, church historian Bill Leonard listed symptoms that reveal Sunday school's influence is waning in churches, both large and small:

- Declines in overall attendance by children and adults.
- Intermittent participation by some of the most regular participants.

- Multiple worship services that may affect traditional Sunday school schedules.

- Difficulty finding teachers whose calendars support consistent involvement.

- Decisions by some congregations to close Sunday school programs for certain age groups.

- Complex family calendars that require weekend travel, employment, caregiving or recreational responsibilities.

- Concerns about an increasing biblical illiteracy evident among a growing number of Protestants.

- Deterioration of fellowship and pastoral care offered through the community life of the class.

Amid such challenges, Leonard posed the question, "Can Sunday school remain an effective vehicle for addressing the escalating biblical illiteracy evident among American Protestants?"

Mike Harton, an educational consultant and coach in Richmond, Va., said there was a time when Sunday school was for Bible study, and teachers were trained and certified for the task. In Baptist life, he

(Continued on next page)

said, the focus of Bible study transitioned to outreach. Classes appointed outreach directors and kept lists of prospects.

"Today, Sunday school is largely about fellowship," Harton said. "It is the primary small group which attracts and holds new members." That is important, he said, because unless new members attach to a small group and create relationships, they won't stick around.

"In that regard, I continue to aver that 'Sunday school is the glue that makes people stick to a church,'" Harton said. "But it is not the Bible study, nor the outreach—it is the social opportunity."

Ken Meyers, minister of Christian formation and education at Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., said the question is larger than the program of Sunday school.

"To make Christian education and spiritual formation offerings viable, we must understand our culture," Meyers said. Past approaches were based on a "propositional" methodology, where new members were expected to regurgitate church propositions before entry into the congregation, he added.

Today's approach to faith formation, Meyers said, must be founded on a "connectional" methodology that invites people "into conversations that connect their diverse stories with the common quest toward finding purposeful lives."

During a recent sabbatical, Meyers developed a new education project for the



church titled "Stories from the Vineyard" integrating a "head-and-heart" approach for spiritual development of congregation members while opening up conversations with the larger community.

The culture of society is quite different than when the Sunday school movement reached its apex in the 1960s, Meyers said, but many churches continue to use

old approaches that no longer are effective. The result is plateaued and declining churches.

"Our church culture assumes that people will come to us, that the church is central to society, and that our faith formation is about propositions," Meyers wrote in a church newsletter article introducing the plan.

The new approach would better position the congregation to be in conversation with the community at large, Meyers asserted.

"Such connections will spur not only our life stories, but they will elicit the stories of others seeking meaning and purpose in life," he said. "This approach allows for the postmodern or emerging church realities. Such connections of our human stories will inspire our approach to faith and, in turn, inspire the needed conversations with people beyond our membership walls."

-Bob Allen is managing editor of Associated Baptist Press.

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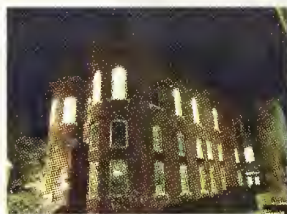


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# BAPTIST INFORMER

March 2012

Volume 135, No. 3

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

### GBSC THEME

**"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"**  
Matthew 28:19-20

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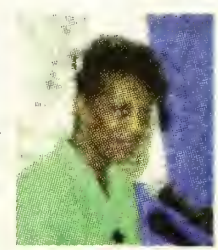
## Shaw Names New Head Football Coach

Press Reports

**RALEIGH, NC** - Shaw University recently named defensive coordinator Robert Massey as its new head football coach. Massey has served on the Shaw coaching staff for five years, the last two as defensive coordinator. In his first year as defensive coordinator, the Bears won the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) championship, in large part because of Massey's "bend don't break" defense.

"Coach Massey has proven himself as a coach and a loyal member of the Shaw family," said Shaw President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy. "This promotion is well earned and a sign that our strong tradition of football at Shaw continues." Prior to coming to Shaw, Massey

(Continued on Page 2)



Dr. Linda Bryan  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

## In Celebration of Women's History Month THE SHOULDERS WE STAND ON...

brave women on whose shoulders we now stand.

Before the 1970s, women's history was largely missing from general public consciousness. To address this void, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978 and chose the week of March 8 to coincide with International Women's Day.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. In 1981, Congress followed suit by passing a resolution establishing March 8 as National Women's History Week. In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the celebration to the entire month of March. Since that time, the National Women's History

Women's History Month is a celebration of the contributions of women to history, culture, education, politics and society as a whole. We join others in celebrating our history and remembering the

Month has been observed annually. The last twenty years has proven to be an historical moment in time for women in leadership. For the first time in history, Raleigh colleges elected women to lead them as president and for a period of time, Dr. Talbert Shaw, then President of Shaw University, was the only male president in the area. I recall him stating



"I am outnumbered". Dr. Dianne Broadley Suber continues as President of St. Augustine's College and Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy continues as President of Shaw University. For the first time a woman, who happens to be African American, now serves as President of the prestigious Brown University.

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<b>P2</b> Gray Speaks at Founder's Day Celebration in Salisbury, N.C.	<b>P6</b> Franklin Graham's Comments Questioning Obama's Faith Condemned by Church Leaders	<b>P8</b> The Religious Roots Of North Carolina Central University By Carolyn Green Boone, J.D.
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(Continued on Page 1)

served as the interim head football coach at Livingstone College and as assistant coach, receivers coach and defensive back coach for his alma mater, North Carolina Central University (NCCU). During his collegiate career at NCCU, Massey won several honors, including Black Collegiate All American, All CIAA 1st team and All CIAA Defensive Back.

He began his coaching career with the New York Giants as an assistant defensive back coach before moving to Hillside High School in Durham, N.C. where he served as both assistant and head football coach.

"This is a dream job for me," said Massey. "I'm devoted to the Shaw program and I'm proud that Shaw had the faith in me to continue what we've started here. There is a tradition of not just winning, but of winning championships, and that's something I'm dedicated to continuing."

Before coaching, Massey completed ten

years as a successful defensive back in the National Football League (NFL). He was drafted in 1989 in the second round (46th pick overall) by the New Orleans Saints. That season he was named to the NFL All-Rookie Team and was the Saints' Rookie of the Year.

He then moved to the Phoenix Cardinals, where he was named to the 1992 NFC Pro Bowl Team. He also played for the Detroit Lions, Jacksonville Jaguars and New York Giants, where he completed his NFL career. He then assumed the position of assistant defensive back coach with the Giants.

Massey takes the helm from Darrell Asberry, who accepted the head coaching position at Division I Texas Southern. The Bears won the 2010 CIAA Championship, but finished last season with a 3-7 record.

The Bears open play in 2012 with a trip to Charleston, W.Va., to take on the University of Charleston on August 30.

For more information on Shaw athletics, visit [www.shawbears.com](http://www.shawbears.com).

Shaw University was founded in 1865 and is the first historically black university in the south. Shaw University is a private, co-educational liberal arts University, that awards degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The primary mission of Shaw University is teaching with the commitment to maintain excellence in research and academic programs that foster intellectual enhancement and technological skills. The Shaw University athletic department has a long history of success, including back-to-back CIAA Football Championships (2007 and 2008), four straight women's basketball championships (2002/03 – 2005/06), and the reigning seven-time men's tennis champions. In the 2010-2011 academic year, Shaw also won "the big three," bringing home CIAA Championships in football and both men's and women's basketball.

## INTO THE DEEP WATER GBSC Secretary-Treasurer Gray Speaks at Founder's Day Celebration in Salisbury, N.C.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

People shouldn't be afraid to go into deep places – even if it means getting away



After his address, Dr. Gray (pictured left) received a Presidential Award from Livingstone College President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr.

from that with which they're familiar.

So said the Rev. Dr. Haywood T. Gray when he delivered the keynote address last month during Livingstone College's Annual Founder's Day ceremony, which celebrates the life of Dr. Joseph Charles Price. Price, who was born in Elizabeth City, N.C., in 1854, was president of Livingstone College for 10 years and was known as a brilliant

scholar, great gospel preacher, world famous orator and advocate for the common man.

Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., gave a rousing address that was more like a sermon and was peppered with applause and shouts of "Amen." When he finished speaking, the Varick Auditorium audience rose to its feet.

Gray spoke of not being afraid to go into deep places after quoting Luke 5:5, when Jesus instructed Simon Peter and other fishermen to go deeper into the water in search of fish – despite the fact that they'd just spent all night fishing but caught nothing.

"Notice the instructions The Lord gave the frustrated fisherman," Gray said. "Go out in the deep water. You've been too long in the familiar waters. Go out into the deep."

Then Gray asked the audience whether they could relate.

"How familiar is Peter's dilemma to you?" Gray asked. "Have you ever given something the best of your effort and the best of your effort wasn't good enough? Have you ever had your dreams crashing before your eyes and your hopes dashed into 1,000 pieces? Have you ever tried to be an agent of change and progress but been beaten back by the status quo? We do not like deep places because deep places frighten us. We would much rather hang around in the shallow places because they are

familiar to us."

Being willing to tread into deep places can have favorable consequences, Gray said.

"You may find your miracle in deep places," he said. "After Jesus instructed them to go into deep waters the first time they cast their net they pulled in a great draw of fish. If you're afraid to go into deep places you might well miss your mission. Also, you may find your message in deep places. If you're afraid to venture into deep places ... young people, you might miss the miracle of being the first in your family, or your neighborhood or your community to graduate."

During his address, Gray shared a poignant story about a single mother of three who worked two jobs but struggled to make ends meet. Two of her children had sickle cell anemia, and one of them eventually was hospitalized. Gray sometimes visited him so his mother could work. During one visit the boy was in immense pain, and



(Continued on Next Page)

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For the first time:

- A woman serves as Governor of the State of North Carolina, Governor Beverly Purdue.
- An African American woman serves as First Lady of this Country, Mrs. Michele Obama.
- Women serve as pastors of two historically Black Baptist churches – the Reverend Sherrie Arnold Graham, Pastor of the historic Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh and the Reverend LaTanya Agard, Pastor of historic Bazzel Creek Baptist Church in Fuquay.

As I reflect on the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, I am mindful of the brave women on whose shoulders we now stand. It was in 1884 when a group of women felt the call to mission beyond the pew and met with the late Reverend Henry Martin Tupper and formed the Woman's Convention. Among the founders were Mrs. N.F. Roberts, Mrs. Hattie E. Shepard, Miss Helen Jackson, Mrs. Sallie A. Mial, and Mrs. B. E. Green. (Source: Missionary Guide and Handbook)

Our living leg-  
ends who contin-  
ued the work of  
these brave  
women include  
Dr. Eva  
Johnson, Dr.  
Shirley Bullock,  
Dr. Maggie  
White, Dr. Julias  
McDonald, Dr.



Bronnie Daniels, and Dr. Priscilla Brodie and our current President, Dr. Audrey Battle. Under their leadership, we have continued to stand the test of time.

We celebrate the contributions of women across denominational and cultural lines. Even in the present state of our churches and of our country, we are as great as we are because of the investment God has made in women to enable us to fulfill our calling.

There are many women on whose shoulders we now stand from Sojourner Truth to Mary McCloud Bethune to Barbara Jordan to Vashti McKenzie to Michele Obama, just to name a few.

During this month of celebrating women's history, remember the women on whose shoulders you now stand, who invested in you to help make you the special person that you are.

(Continued from Page 3)

when Gray asked what he could do to ease his suffering the boy asked for some cookies.

Gray, who has been preaching for 36 years and given an estimated 3,900 sermons, drew laughter as he spoke of burning two batches of cookies before finally baking some that were edible.

"A great and wonderful smile came upon

his face when he smelled the cookies," Gray said. "Sometimes you find your mission, your purpose in deep places. Fear not. You won't hear that message in shallow places. I know sometimes you want to give up, but fear not. But fear not needs a foundation. Fear not needs some pillars upon which it can rest. Fear not needs a leaning post upon which to lean. Fear not needs something to undergird it with strength and truth and power."



Bishops, President Jenkins and others listened to the Rev. Dr. Haywood H. Gray as he addressed faculty and students during the Annual Founder's Day Celebration at Livingstone Stone College in Salisbury, N.C.

## HEADS UP: Online Sunday School is Coming

*From Press Reports*

**RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) --** On a recent Sunday morning at First Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., conversation was lively as members of a Bible study class explored the day's Scripture passage from the Gospel of Luke.

But of the 15 people who responded to comments from the class's facilitator, only about half actually were in the room. The rest were scattered across the country, viewing a live stream on the Internet and offering opinions by e-mail.

The 3-month-old webcast Sunday school class is the church's first foray into real-time, Internet-based Bible studies, although First Baptist has live streamed its two Sunday morning worship services more than three years.

"We recognize that some people are interested in exploring spiritual matters but will not or cannot come into this or any other church building," said David Powers,

the church's associate pastor for communications. "So, a big part of what we're trying to do is provide an opportunity and channel for that. We want to provide an easy-access Bible study opportunity."

The class also offers a "nonthreatening" environment to engage Bible study, said Steve Booth, associate pastor of Christian formation at First Baptist.

"It's a safe place for people to receive and ask honest questions emerging from dialogue around a biblical text," Booth said. "With the guidance of a thoughtful and sensitive facilitator, the student is encouraged to question and reflect theologically on how one moves from awareness of God to belief in Christ to a living faith evidenced in behavior and choices."

On average, Powers said, about 20 people participate in the class via the Internet, while another eight attend in person, joining the facilitator in a studio equipped with cameras, microphones and computers.

"We've had folks from as far away as Tulsa (Okla.) and all around Richmond and in-between," said Mike Harton, a retired

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from Page 3)

Christian educator who is one of the facilitators.

Harton and Phyllis Rodgerson Pleasants, a former church history professor who also facilitates the class, craft each week's lesson from lectionary readings on which First Baptist Pastor Jim Somerville preaches the same Sunday. Harton and Rodgerson Pleasants—both members of First Baptist—enhance their teaching with an iPad, whose images are transmitted wirelessly to a wide screen for those in the studio and streamed to the Internet audience.

"What's excited me about this project is that First Baptist is going to where people are rather than only focusing on bringing people into the building," Rodgerson Pleasants said.

First Baptist's Internet class is a natural evolution in the church's electronic media experience, Powers said. The congregation began broadcasting its

worship services on a local television affiliate in 1986, began posting podcasts and video clips of sermons and music on its website in 2007 and started live streaming worship services in 2008.

About a year ago, Somerville initiated what he called "microchurch," encouraging people to form faith communities in homes and apartments using the televised and web-cast worship services, as well as other resources posted on First Baptist's website.

"The Web class fits in well with the idea of microchurch," Harton said.

But despite extensive media experience,

Powers acknowledged there's been a big learning curve for him and his crew of trained volunteers, all members of First

Baptist.

"Part of the challenge is that we can't find anyone else who's doing this kind of thing, so we don't have anybody's technology or pedagogy to pattern," he said. "We've been working at it for three months and still have a long way to go. All of this is new—not only for the volunteers but also for us paid staff and for all the outside experts and vendors we've talked with.

"We're all trying to figure it out as we go along—and not only on the tech side but also the content side. We want to teach and lead in such a way that Web participants are engaged and actually learn something."

The next step—live audio/video interaction capability for Web participants, Powers said.

"It would work like a video chat or a Web-conference," he said. "We still have some technical issues to resolve, but we believe we can do it."

- Robert Dilday is managing editor of the Religious Herald.



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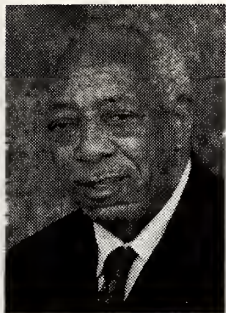
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## Upcoming Events for Laymen

This year's Outlook emphasizes the Laymen's Purpose: "To Transform Christian Men into Mature Devoted Disciples of Jesus Christ through intentional discipleship training." As we preview the Laymen's approach for 2012, I would like to highlight various programs.



Bro. Richmond Turner GBSC Laymen

Laymen Study Commission in Hickory The Western Region Study Commission will meet on Saturday, March 10 at the Morning

Star Missionary Baptist Church, 126 4th Ave. S.W. in Hickory, N.C., where the Rev. David E Roberts III, will be host Pastor.

Workshops will focus on the church families. Registration is \$7.00 and will cover lunch. The mission activity will involve lunch for the area homeless individuals. Laymen are asked to bring donations to support this effort.

All churches are asked to bring a minimum of \$100.00 to go toward the State Laymen's \$400.00 yearly assessment. Tickets for the Distinguished Service Awards Banquet are \$25.00 in advance (\$30.00 at the door). For more information, please call 828-327-2067.

### Annual Banquet

The Mid-Annual Banquet is planned for April 20, 2012 at Genesis Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina – Rowan Association.

The Mid-Annual Session will be April 21, 2012. Second Vice President - Anthony Hagans needs to have nominees for the Layman of the Year on the Local, State and Association level by April 6, 2012.

For more information, please contact Second Vice President – Anthony Hagans at 252-813-6543 or reach him via email at Achagans@suddenlink.net).

## From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large

Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.



"To the [General Baptist Family] of God in [North Carolina], to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ...Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:2-3, NIV).

Jesus declared to His disciples in Matthew 5:14: "You are the light of the world." Jesus also promised His disciples they would receive God's power to accomplish what no other power on earth could do (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8). Through them, God's power would provide light to a world that was bound by the darkness of lesser powers. Through them, God's light would enlighten, equip, and empower them to be witnesses of the Christ, even "to the ends of the earth." The oppressive power of Roman imperialism was no match for the promised power the disciples would receive in order to serve as "the light of the world."

The same is true today. My sisters and brothers in the Lord, YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD! This is the promise of the Christ from the Christ to all who trust and follow Jesus our Lord. No wonder the Apostle Paul could exclaim with confidence: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, NIV).

We receive this world-illuminating

power from God through an intimate companionship and communion with the once crucified, but now risen Christ!

### With this power:

- we overcome weakness because God's power works through human weakness;
- we are rescued and healed; thus, we become rescuers and healers because God's power rescues and heals those who are handcuffed in the ruins of destructive experiences;
- we become a Christian community which reaches out to the least, the lost, those who are left out, looked over, and let down because God's power strengthens Christian communities.

The work our convention is "light-shining" work. Missions is what we do. We do it through your support of the following objectives: Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School, Central Children's Home of North Carolina, J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention, and State Missions. We have done this since 1867! Under the leadership and insight of our President Dr. Howard W. Parker, and Executive-Secretary Dr. Haywood T. Gray, we must continue to empower and equip God's people to glorify God and edify others.

Thank you General Baptists for shining your light, and the opportunity to serve God and humanity. We need your gifts. We appreciate your support. We cherish your prayers. Please support the kingdom work of your convention with your generous and cheerful gifts of total stewardship. "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen." (1 Corinthians 16:23-23, NIV).

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## Franklin Graham's Comments Questioning Obama's Faith Condemned by Church Leaders

**WASHINGTON (ABP)** – Heads of four historically black Baptist denominations joined other faith leaders Feb. 28 in an open letter condemning recent comments by Franklin Graham questioning whether President Obama is a Christian.

Signed by leaders of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention USA, National Baptist Convention of America and Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, the letter accused the son of evangelist Billy Graham of joining those who “use faith as a weapon of political division” during a recent interview on MSNBC.

The faith leaders said Graham's com-

ments on the Feb. 21 Morning Joe program that he doesn't know if Obama is a Christian and could not rule out the possibility that he is a Muslim “could have enormous negative effects for America and are especially harmful to the Christian witness.”

“Many of us are working around the world now to advance the cause of peace and religious tolerance, and we believe that statements like Rev. Graham's have potentially dangerous consequences domestically and internationally,” the letter said. “The world is looking to America's faith leaders to help build bridges of understanding and mutual respect, not to further erect barriers of doubt and mistrust. It is unsettling and counter-productive to American values and interests to engage in this kind of misleading rhetoric cloaked in religion that divides our nation and international neighbors over matters of religion and faith.”

The leaders said people can disagree about what it means to be a Christian engaged in politics but that Christians “should not bear false witness.” They also voiced concern that Graham's words might

be used to promote racism.

“We urge him to be mindful of the unprecedented verbal attacks on President Obama based on his race and be careful not to allow his own voice to be used to help drive such hateful words,” the leaders said.

Signers included Carroll Baltimore, president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention; Julius Scruggs, president of the National Baptist Convention USA; Stephen Thurston, president of the National Baptist Convention of America; and David Emmanuel Goatley, executive secretary-treasurer of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

Other signers represented the NAACP, as well as Disciples of Christ, Methodist and Episcopal Christian traditions. One signer, Frederick Haynes III, a member of NAACP Religious Affairs Committee, is pastor at Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas.

- Bob Allen is managing editor of Associated Baptist Press.

## Shaw University Names Director of Alumni Relations

**RALEIGH, NC** – Shaw University recently named Sedrick T. Hill as its Director of Alumni Relations to manage the university's overall alumni outreach effort, including comprehensive planning and implementation of strategies for the cultivation and solicitation of the university's alumni.

Prior to his arrival at Shaw, Hill served as the Director of Alumni Affairs/Development at Talladega College, where he managed alumni programming, recruited and trained alumni volunteers and increased alumni donations by more than 13%.

He also served as an Admissions Counselor at Talladega, a liaison to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and is a member of a variety of professional and civic organizations, including the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Hill obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Talladega College and a Master of Public Administration from Jacksonville State University.

## MINISTRY BRIEFS

### NEW PASTOR



The Reverend Curt L. Cummings, a native of Tarboro, was installed as the pastor of New Shepherd Baptist Church in Cooleemee, N.C. on January 15. Guest preacher for the installation was his father-in-law, the Reverend Melvin E. Kesler, Pastor Emeritus at New Shepherd.

### AUTHOR RECEIVES AWARD



Dr. Soncerey L. Montgomery recently received the 2012 MLK, Jr. “Building the Dream” Award from Morning Star Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. The assistant professor and interim director of the Honors Program at Winston Salem State University is also the author of *The Heart of a Student: Success Principles for College Students*. In this, her first book, Dr. Montgomery outlines twelve essential principles designed to help young people achieve in college.

### SERVICE AWARD

Portia H. Brandon of the Wake Missionary Baptist Association recently received the 2012 Leo Williams Educational Leadership Award during the Congress of Christian Education in Charlotte.

# Women's Convention UPCOMING EVENTS



- March 17**      **Central Regional Summit (Districts IV, VII)**  
**First Calvary Baptist Church, Sanford**
- April 14**      **Statewide Leader's Workshop**  
**St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte**
- June 3-7**      **Leadership Training Workshop**  
**Shaw University, Raleigh, NC**
- June 10-15**    **Youth Bible Camp**  
**Camp Dixie, Fayetteville, NC**

## Lott Carey Spring Executive Board Meeting

The Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention's Spring Mission Conference will convene, Thursday and Friday, April 26-27, 2012, at the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, Virginia. The church is located at 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, Virginia. Dr. Eugene Johnson will serve as the Host Pastor. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Spring Hill Suites in Centreville, Virginia.



**Rev. David  
Emmanuel Goatley,  
Ph.D.  
Lott Carey**

To make hotel reservations, visit [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org) and click on the "Annual Gatherings" tab or call 1.888.236.2427 to make your reservation by phone. Remember to use the code LCLCSA and mention "Lott Carey Spring Meeting Group" when making reservations to receive the Lott Carey rate.

The Lott Carey rate is available through April 4, 2012. Conference attendees will participate in worship, missional planning and strategic visioning. The registration fee is \$35.00 per person. For more information, call (202) 543.3200.

## Weigh the difference: Switching to Water Can Tip the Scale

*From Press Reports*

Making a simple substitution of water or diet soft drinks for drinks with calories can help people lose 4 to 5 pounds, a new University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill study shows.

The study, published online and scheduled to appear in the March 2012 print issue of *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, compared weight loss for 318 overweight or obese people, who were divided into three groups: those who switched from calorie-laden beverages to diet soft drinks; those who switched to water; and those who were not counseled to change beverages but received general information about healthy choices that could lead to weight loss. All three groups attended monthly group sessions and had access to a group-specific website for 6 months.

"Substituting noncaloric beverages - whether it's water, diet soft drinks or something else - can be a clear and simple change for people who want to lose or maintain weight," said study author Deborah Tate, Ph.D., associate professor of

nutrition and of health behavior at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and member of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. "If this were done on a large scale, it could significantly reduce the increasing public health problem of obesity."

Tate and colleagues undertook the study to provide scientific evidence of whether eliminating calories from beverages is an effective weight loss tool that health-care providers and nutritional counselors could recommend. The study, known as CHOICE, or Choosing Healthy Options Consciously Everyday, is believed to be the first randomized controlled trial using noncaloric beverage substitution alone as the primary weight loss strategy in overweight adults.

"It does help," Tate said. "We learned that both water and diet sodas have some benefits, but they

may be different. People who really like the sweet flavor or carbonation or caffeine of sodas may be more likely to stick with the change if they are drinking diet sodas as opposed to water only, but drinking water was associated with some other important

health improvements like reduced blood sugar."

All three groups experienced small reductions in weight and waist circumference during the 6-month study.

However, people who switched to calorie-free beverages were twice as likely to lose 5 percent or more of their body weight than those who were not counseled to change beverages. People in the group who drank mostly water had lower fasting glucose levels and better hydration levels than the control group.

Tate said that that percentage of weight loss and lower blood sugar levels were important because they are associated with clinical improvements in risk factors for obesity-related chronic diseases.

The study also noted that while participants' weight loss was less than reductions observed in more intensive, clinic-based behavioral lifestyle modification programs, the UNC study required minimal self-monitoring and prompted people to change just one aspect of their diets (beverages) - an approach consistent with other findings recommending small but potentially more sustainable lifestyle changes that people can make to improve their health.

"Substituting specific foods or beverages that provide a substantial portion of daily calories may be a useful strategy for modest weight loss or weight gain prevention," Tate said. "Beverages may be ideal targets, but keep in mind, the strategy will only work if the person doesn't make up for the lost calories some other way."



# The Religious Roots Of North Carolina Central University

By Carolyn Green Boone, J.D.  
Guest Columnist/The Baptist Informer



The history of the National Religious Training School & Chautauqua, now known as North Carolina Central University, is documented in numerous accounts. This version focuses on the motives that inspired Dr. James

Edward Shepard to form a religious institution as a young adult.

Dr. Shepard's earliest and primary influences were his parents who were college educated and provided a strong Baptist upbringing for him. His father, Rev. Dr. Augustus Shepard was the pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, N.C. for 21 years. He previously was the pastor of several churches, established a secondary Baptist school and co-founded the historic Central Children's Home. Dr. Shepard's mother, Mrs. Hattie Whitted Shepard, served in many leadership and service-oriented capacities at White Rock for over forty years.

Amazingly, Dr. Shepard was only 34 years old when he founded the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua. Prior to that, he achieved numerous accomplishments. Dr. Shepard earned the equivalent of a Ph.D in Pharmacy from Shaw University, became the second "Negro" pharmacist in the state of North Carolina and co-founded Durham's first African American drug store. He received two high-ranking federal appointments: Comparer of Deeds in the Recorder's Office in Washington, D.C. and Deputy Collector for the United States Department of Internal Revenue in Raleigh, N.C. Dr. Shepard was also one of the original founding fathers of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and Mechanics and Farmers Bank.

The next phase of Dr. Shepard's career induced his idea to form a non-denominational religious institution to uplift his race. In 1905, he began working with the International Sunday School Convention (I.S.S.C.) whose mission was to promote a standard Christian education curriculum across denominational lines. Dr. Shepard established Sabbath Schools nationally and was the only "Negro" speaker at the World's Sunday School Convention in Rome, Italy.

During his tenure with the I.S.S.C., Dr. Shepard worked closely with numerous



ministers of color. He discovered that some of them could preach the Word, but could not read or write it. He wrote in an I.S.S.C. publication: For the next 100 years the Negro ministers will be the most powerful leaders of the race. In many instances they are untrained... The rallying cry of the race, above everything else, should be change the man, and as he is changed, he will attempt to change others, and thus the process of lifting will go on. In its' initial year, the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua hosted instructional summer programs for missionaries, ministers, teachers and others.

The stated purpose of Dr. Shepard's school was "the development in young men and women of...fine character, and

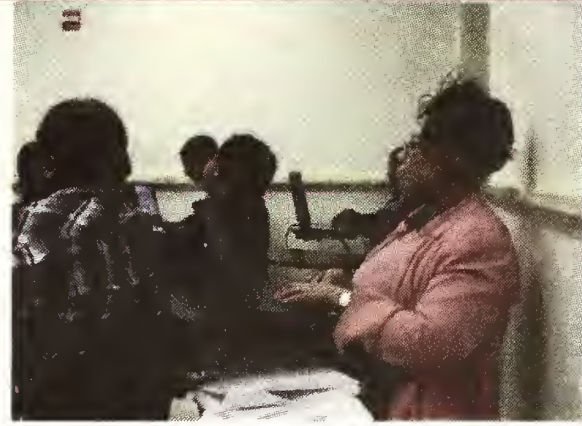
sound academic training requisite for real service to the nation." In a 1908 I.S.S.C. speech he said: I appeal to you for the religious education of the Black man in the South...Industrial education has done a great deal for them. I do not believe that a penny given to higher education has been wasted. But, neither[alone]...will lift the race and cause it to stand... Religious education is essential to the Negro not only for salvation, but to help him live as a man, to develop the best in him...

Dr. Shepard traveled the country in perilous and dangerous times to garner support for the school. His demeanor, disposition and dedication commanded respect and support from many people, including President Theodore Roosevelt. He and his wife, Mrs. Annie Day Robinson, made many financial and personal sacrifices including: lending students their personal money, creating small jobs and even mortgaging their own home. Mrs. Shepard was a very humble and loyal supporter of her husband's dream who cooked for the students early on, among many other acts of selfless service.

Dr. Shepard faced numerous hardships in maintaining the school including: World War I, the Great Depression, World War II and two massive fires which suspiciously occurred during the weekly vesper services. Yet, none of the challenges Dr. Shepard faced in the formative or subsequent years of the school, deterred him from pursuing his God ordained initiative. Under Dr. Shepard's leadership, North Carolina Central University became the first African American, state-supported, liberal arts institution in America.

Freelance journalist Carolyn Green Boone, J.D. is the great-granddaughter of Dr. James E. Shepard. Through her historic preservation fund, The Shepard Alliance for Enlightenment of the Triangle Community Foundation, she established the first African American residential historic district in Durham, North Carolina on the National Register of Historic Places. Reach her at [TheSAFEfund@aol.com](mailto:TheSAFEfund@aol.com).

# Shaw University Divinity School



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Please contact our office today to setup your tour and to get more information. The number is (919) 546-8570.

**“The Vow” -- The Book Behind the Movie  
-- Now a New York Times  
No. 1 Best Seller  
FROM WIRE REPORTS**

*'The Vow' Joins Three Other Faith-Based Books such as  
“The Resolution for Men,” “The Resolution for Women,”  
and “The Love Dare”*

NASHVILLE/Christian Newswire/ -- The Vow, Kim and Krickitt Carpenter's amazing, true story of faith and commitment and the inspiration behind the No. 1 movie in the country, topped the New York Times non-fiction best-seller list in its first week of re-release.

The Vow traces actual events from the 1990s, when Kim and Krickitt Carpenter met, fell in love and married. Just 10 weeks later, the couple survived a terrible car wreck with Krickitt awakening in the hospital married to a stranger. The accident had claimed 18 months of her memories, including all recollection of Kim.

With Kim committed to his marriage vows and Krickitt maintaining her strong Christian faith, even if recent memories were gone, the couple began the long road to a rebuilt relationship, choosing to fall in love again and capping that with a second wedding ceremony and renewal of their vows almost three years later.

Their story inspired the No. 1 movie in the country, THE VOW starring Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams, which took in over \$40 million its opening weekend. The Vow book, in addition to its No. 1 rank on the Times non-fiction best-seller list, also earned the No. 7 spot for combined non-fiction print and e-books. The book, originally released in 2000, launched again Feb. 10 with an additional chapter and photos updating the Carpenter's story.



**GBSC OF N.C. LAYMEN'S LEAGUE  
2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- March 10, 2012 - Study Commission - Morning Star MBC Hickory, NC ,Western Region
- April 20, 2012 - Mid Annual Banquet - Genesis MBC, Rowan Association, Greensboro, NC
- April 21, 2012 - One Day Session - Genesis MBC, Rowan Association, Greensboro, NC
- May 19, 2012 - Open Date
- June 9, 2012 - Study Commission - Roanoke Salem MBC N. Hampton Association Eastern Region, Garysburg, NC
- July 7-8, 2012 - Men and Boys Retreat - Mt. Pisquah MBC Raeford, NC
- July 2012 - Annual Session (GBSC) TBA
- August 16-20, 2012 - Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention Annual Session TBA
- August 2012 - Scouting Camperee – Pending
- Sept. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Flag Branch MBC Monroe, NC - Piedmont Region
- Sept. 21-22, 2012 - Walter Cade, Jr. - Regional Workshop – TBA
- Dec. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Henderson Grove MBC Durham, NC - Central Region

**NEWS FROM  
ACROSS THE STATE**

**LATIN COALITION**

The Latin American Coalition recently conducted a free U.S. Citizenship Workshop as part of an ongoing naturalization initiative undertaken by the New Americans Citizenship Collaboration.. The goal of the workshop was to help legal permanent residents to assess their eligibility and apply for citizenship, a vital step in the process of immigrant integration into U.S. society. For more information, contact Melina Monita-Pacheco, Latin American Coalition, at 704-941-2552 or reach her at gmmonita@latinamericancoalition.org .

**CERVICAL CANCER SCREENINGS**

A new directory helps connect low-income women to cervical cancer services through the North Carolina Cervical Cancer Resource Directory ([www.ccreourcedirectory.org](http://www.ccreourcedirectory.org)) that includes county-specific information on where uninsured or underinsured women can go to find screening, or Pap test, services. The site also has information on HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination, answers to frequently asked questions and additional resources.

The directory - available in both English and Spanish - was developed by Cervical Cancer-Free NC, an initiative based at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The program is working to eliminate or substantially reduce cervical cancer in North Carolina.

Each year, more than 12,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 4,000 die from the disease in the United States. In 2011, almost 400 women in North Carolina received cervical cancer diagnoses and more than 100 died. Healthcare experts say a majority of these deaths could be avoided through regular cervical cancer screenings, commonly known as Pap tests, and timely HPV vaccination.

African-American and Latina women, who are less likely than others to be screened, are twice as likely as white women to die from cervical cancer. Research has shown that one reason for the disparity is that, in North Carolina, African-Americans and Latinos are more likely to be uninsured or underinsured. For more information, contact [www.ccreourcedirectory.org](http://www.ccreourcedirectory.org) or email [info@ccfnc.org](mailto:info@ccfnc.org).

# THE BAPTIST INFORMER SPOTLIGHT...

## The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

By Crystal Kimpson Roberts

Helping Daniele.

That's what the postcard I received via email read. It had been sent in an effort to touch the core value of the recipients and solicit a donation. The card referred to a 29-year-old single mother of two young children who had lost her life to a torturous disease called connective tissue disorder. I grieved, particularly because I had met



Daniele and her mother, Gie, less than a year earlier at a local coffee shop in Garner, North Carolina to hear of her courageous battle and the duo's fight to get the expensive treatment she needed to stay alive. Daniele had been diagnosed with Mixed Connective Tissue Disorder, an autoimmune disease of unknown origin that causes your immune system to mistakenly attack healthy connective tissue. The disease creates scar tissue, which had claimed nearly 75% of Daniele's lung capacity. As a result, it caused labored breathing and joint pain.

She also had symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis which attacks the lungs as well. So when I met this beautiful, model-like woman—once able to run laps around a track—she was only able to muster enough strength each day to dress and take her two children to school each morning then climb into bed for the rest of the day. Congenial, with bright almond-shaped hazel eyes framed by lashes that nearly brush her cheeks, Daniele's wide smile was practically imprisoned by the oxygen tubes leading from the oxygen tank into her nostrils and snaking around her jawbone. Her only hope was for the strength "to do for myself and my children," something that could easily be taken for granted.

But Daniele passed away on January 13, 2012. Now her daughter and son are with grandparents, and though I know that

our lives are individually and divinely appointed, I wonder if more could have been done here on earth. While some seem to live their heavens here on earth with all of the material possessions that money can buy, others like Daniele are struggling merely to stay alive. Why wouldn't the donations have poured in, enough to extend this young woman's life?

It's not like the money's not out there. Perhaps the prayers and the work to make her story known did extend her life a bit, but it all boiled down to Daniele's need to finance treatment and a double-lung transplant. Gie researched a doctor in Sweden who uses biological medicine to treat patients like Daniele. So she scraped up just enough for several treatments—about \$20,000— and to their delight, Daniele's body responded positively to it.

The new healthcare reform law, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, may have helped Daniele, because it addresses the need for people with pre-existing conditions to have healthcare. The law is certainly helping tens of thousands in North Carolina, and millions throughout the nation. It provides protections for those with pre-existing conditions; prohibits higher premiums for women just because they are female; lowers costs for Medicare beneficiaries; provides free preventative care for Seniors; and lifts the cap on lifetime limits on coverage, among other numerous benefits.

That Gie paid out of pocket speaks to the fact that health insurance wasn't an option. Again, I ask why? Unfortunately, many are unaware of the benefits of the Affordable Care Act and the fact that it prohibits insurance companies from placing lifetime caps on insurance.

"It's unnatural for me to bury her and I can't let time go by and wonder if I did all that I could do...I just want to see things unfold," said Gisele.

*Editor's Note: Crystal K. Roberts is Communications Lead for Know Your Care-NC. For additional details about the Health Care Reform Law, please visit [www.knowyourcare.org](http://www.knowyourcare.org) or [www.health-care.gov](http://www.health-care.gov)*



## General Baptist State Convention – NC SAVE THE DATES

March 19-22, 2012 -  
Shaw Ministers Conference

April 20-21, 2012 -  
Laymen's Mid Year Session

May 15-16, 2012 -  
GBSC Mid Year Session

June 3-8, 2012 -  
Hampton Ministers Conference

June 18-22, 2012 -  
National Baptist Congress of  
Christian Education

June 25-27, 2012 -Congress  
Oratorical Contest

July 22-26, 2012 -  
All Baptist Assembly

August 6-10, 2012 - Progressive  
National Baptist Convention  
Annual Session

August 13-17, 2012 - Lott Carey  
Annual Session

September 3-7, 2012 - National  
Baptist Convention  
Annual Session

October 29-31, 2012-  
GBSC Annual Session

### HELPFUL CONTACTS

General Baptist State Conv.  
of NC: 919-821-7466 FEMA  
(federal aid):  
1-800-621-3362

NC Hotline (state aid):  
1-888-835-9966

NC Division of Emergency  
Management [www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org)

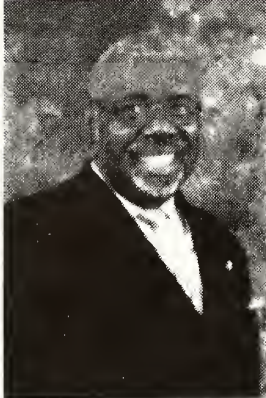
NC Cooperative Extension  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster)

State Dept. of Health/  
Human Services  
[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm)

# HOLY FIRE: A Mountaintop Experience

Exodus : 13-17

Although Israel in Egypt apparently did not always remember the God of their fathers, God remembered them. They not only were the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to whom he had made promises, but they also were the people of His plan and the medium of His purpose. Even when they did not recognize Him, He was with them.



**Dr. Ricky L. Banks**  
Second VP,  
GBSC-NC

Our first glimpse of Moses on the mountain of God does not present us with the figure of an heroic leader. He was minding his father-in-law's sheep, scrambling up the mountainside with them in search of something to graze. We probably would not have thought of him as up to such a dangerous and demanding task as leading an exodus. But his preparation was nearly finished, and God only had to give him his orders and his authority for

carrying them out.

The sight that attracted Moses was the Holy fire of theophany. When Moses turned aside to see the bush in which it was manifested, he heard the voice of God calling his name and giving him instructions. Then God announced to Moses His identity. The voice he had heard was the voice of none other than the God of Moses' father and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob before him.

God then proceeded to describe the plight of His people. When God announced His intention to deliver them and bring them into a good and wide land, he designated Moses as the one to lead this exodus. Moses raised a question about his qualification.

In effect, he asked, "how can I do that?" God answered, "because I AM with you!" God first said to Moses, I AM that is what I AM. The saying connotes action in process, "is-ing." God said to Moses, I really AM or I AM the is-ing one. Thus, God gave Moses this answer for the people's question he had raised: Say this to

the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.

Exodus 3-4 thus is an extremely important passage for understanding much of the Old Testament. It describes the call of Moses and gives us in his experience an important preview of what is to be Israel's experience and our experience at the mountain of God. Its greatest significance lies in the fact that it gives us not only an account of the revelation of the special name Yahweh but also the only direct and deliberate explanation of the entire Old Testament. And what it tells us is what Genesis 1 has told us to begin with, GOD IS. His name can be "I AM" because the reality of his existence is His fundamental action on our behalf.



**WANTED:**  
**MINISTER OF MUSIC**  
**MT. PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**339 W. BLACK ST., ROCK HILL SC**  
**SUBMIT RESUME TO ADDRESS OR E-MAIL:**  
**[mtprospectbc@comporium.net](mailto:mtprospectbc@comporium.net)**

## Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church

### Seeking Church Organist/Pianist

The Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Durham, NC seeks a talented individual to serve as a Staff Musician. The ideal candidate should be experienced and familiar with a genre of music to include traditional hymns, contemporary gospel and other African-American music. The Staff Musician will work under the direction of the Minister of Music and provide support to the music ministry. Primary duties are to provide organ, piano and keyboard accompaniment, work with other musicians within the ministry and give suggestions to enhance the music department.

The individual is required to serve at two services each Sunday, attend weekly rehearsals, as well as other engagements outside of Sunday worship services. Good attitude, patience and personality are a plus! Salary will commensurate with skills and abilities of the individual. If interested, please send letter of interest and credentials to Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Attn: Minister of Music, 505 East End Avenue, Durham, NC 27703.

EEOC.

## Pastoral Vacancy

### Calvary Baptist Church High Point, NC 27261

Calvary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a senior pastor. All interested candidates should possess the following:

- License and ordination by the Baptist denomination
- Trained in the Baptist faith
- Minimum of a high school diploma, prefers some college
- Minimum of 3-5 years of pastoral/ministry experience (preferred)
- Willingness to support all church programs (i.e., Sunday School, Bible study, etc.)
- Effective in working with all groups in the church
- Active involvement in community affairs
- Effective leadership abilities
- Strong communication skills
- Good administrative skills
- Position is Bi-vocational

All applicants should submit a resume, copy of pastoral license, ordination certificate, and contact information for three (3) character references to:

Pastoral Search Committee  
Calvary Baptist Church  
PO Box 682  
High Point, NC 27261

All resumes must be submitted to the Pastoral Search Committee by **March 31, 2012** to be considered.999

## PULPIT VACANCY

### NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1604 White Plains Church Road  
Clarkton, NC 28433  
(Lisbon Community)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a pastor. Our Worship Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a licensed and ordained Missionary Baptist Minister
- Born again Christian as evidenced by ones character and dedication
- Ability to effectively preach and teach GOD's Word (HOLY BIBLE)
- Willing to follow Baptist Doctrine, Policies and Practices
- Public relation and administrative skills
- Ability and desire to work with all age groups and auxiliaries of the church
- Educational training above high school level
- Married and living with spouse (preferred)

**REQUEST:** A resume, copy of ministerial license, ordination certificate and three (3) character references

Please send resume and inquiries to:

Pastor Search Committee Chairperson  
c/o Sis. Floretta Jones  
146 Henry Jones Road  
Council, NC 28434  
or  
email to: florettajones61@yahoo.com

Pastoral Vacancy  
New Bethel Baptist Church  
Morganton, NC 28655

#### Requirements:

- Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
- Minimum high school graduate prefer some college
- Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination
- Prefers 1-3 years of pastoral/ministry experience
- Strong communication skills (ability to deal with people with tact and discretion)
- Visit the sick & shut ins (hospitalized, home, nursing home, etc.)
- Willing to become affiliate of the Mountain & Catawba Missionary Baptist Association
- Willing to support all church programs including Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer meetings, etc.
- Effective in working with all groups in the church and expected to teach, preach and counsel in word and deed to all age groups in the church
- Implement polices fairly, consistently, respect Individual's needs and abilities

**CRIMINAL & CREDIT CHECK REQUIRED  
REFERENCES REQUIRED**

(Please include resume, copy of pastoral license & ordination papers)

**\*\*Position is Bivocational (Part Time)\*\***

The ending date to receive applications is April 30, 2012.

Please forward all correspondence to:

Attn.: Pastor Search Committee  
New Bethel Baptist Church  
Post Office Box 3870  
Morganton, NC 28680-3870

## PASTORAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Christian Faith Baptist Church is a mid-size congregation located in Raleigh, North Carolina. The church has strong emphasis on missions, service and discipleship. The Church has historically been involved in social justice issues with a prophetic preaching ministry. Education and training has been hallmarks of the Church over her 21-year history.

The Church is seeking a spiritual leader who desires God's vision for the church, to preach the word of God, to serve as teacher and shepherd of the congregation and as the administrator of church operations. The church desires a pastor who can lead by example through Christ-like character, personal integrity, and individual discipleship.

**Principal Responsibilities:** teaching and preaching; leadership within the context of a congregational style of Church governance; leading the professional and volunteer staff of the Church; evaluation of existing ministries and development of new ministries; and leadership and coordination of support for missions and outreach on local, national and international levels.

#### **Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Preference will be given to persons with a Masters of Divinity degree or its equivalent.
- Minimum of three years of successful experience as a pastor, as an assistant pastor, as a staff pastor, or some combination of pastoral and staff experience.
- Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Church and is aligned with and committed to the tenants of the Missionary Baptist Church.

To be considered for this position, a candidate must submit a complete package which includes the following: Cover letter, current resume and a biographical sketch that includes photo (not to exceed two typewritten (2) pages).

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE MUST BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

Chairperson, Pastoral Search Committee  
Christian Faith Baptist Church  
Post Office Box 14938  
Raleigh, NC 27610

Deadline for submitting materials is April 25, 2012.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**  
**Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary**  
**Convention of NC**

**Position Description**

High level of competence, proven skills in written and verbal communications, ability to multitask and work under pressure. Have good organizational skills, can manage time well, can lead by example, is self motivated and willing to accept responsibility. Have capacity to be a team player and leader, works well with others, have respect for self and others. Willing to give of self for the cause of the Woman's Convention. Must be mission-minded with a record reflecting such. Confidentiality and trustworthiness are essential. Must be flexible and able to work weekends.

**EDUCATION:** Minimum Bachelor's Degree, experienced in office management, bookkeeping, use of technology, including accounting software, excel, publishing, etc. Have some supervisory experience. Have a minimum of 4 years experience as an executive assistant, administrative assistant, bookkeeper and/or office manager.

**DUTIES:** Manage and coordinate logistics associated with the calendar of events throughout the year in a timely manner. Coordinate planning meetings and participate as necessary, schedule appointments, make travel arrangements, communicate and collaborate with officials, pastors, and other leaders in a professional manner, assist with proofreading, report writing and letter writing as needed. Must be available for office management in the absence of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer (EST).

Responsible for developing reporting systems that will provide accurate and up-to-date access to data. Collaborate with EST on updated financial reports on a regular basis such that reports are readily available as needed. Responsible for accurately receipting all income and preparing daily report of income. Must be able to do bank reconciliations, balance sheets, and create various budget reporting formats. Assist with planning and preparation for Executive Committee, Executive Board and various committee meetings and retreats. Other duties deemed necessary by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer (EST). Reports directly to the EST.

Those interested should submit resumes to the Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, WBHFMC-NC, P.O. Box 1818, Raleigh, NC 27602.

**Advertise in Your**  
***Baptist Informer***

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & CHURCHES:**

	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	ONE YEAR
Full Page	\$350.00	\$875.00	\$1,650.00	\$3,000.00
1/2 Page	\$200.00	\$525.00	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
1/4 Page	\$125.00	\$300.00	\$475.00	\$800.00
1/8 Page	\$80.00	\$195.00	\$325.00	\$540.00

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Full Page	\$500.00	\$1,275.00	\$2,250.00	\$3,900.00
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Insertion orders are due by the 10th of the previous month before ad is to appear in the *Baptist Informer*.

Advertising copy or questions may be e-mailed to  
 General Baptist State Convention  
 at [Nwrightgbsc@aol.com](mailto:Nwrightgbsc@aol.com).

**WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME**  
**AND FOREIGN**  
**MISSIONARY CONVENTION**  
**OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**42nd ANNUAL STATE-WIDE**  
**LEADERS' WORKSHOP**

**APRIL 14, 2012**

**ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NOTE: PLEASE COMPLETE THE PRE-REGISTRATION BELOW FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP. DUPLICATE THIS FORM, IF NEEDED. RETURN FORM(S) WITH REGISTRATION FEE OF \$10.00 PER PERSON TO WOMAN'S BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION, POST OFFICE BOX 1818, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27602. DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION IS MARCH 30, 2012. ON-SITE REGISTRATION IS \$11.00 PER PERSON.

Contact Person and/or Pre-Registrant

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Dr., \_\_\_\_\_ Rev., \_\_\_\_\_ Dr., \_\_\_\_\_ Mr., \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs., \_\_\_\_\_ Ms.  
 Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
 Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Church, Union, Woman's Auxiliary or District Conference)

Pre-Registrant(s) - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Dr., \_\_\_\_\_ Rev., \_\_\_\_\_ Dr., \_\_\_\_\_ Mr., \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs., \_\_\_\_\_ Ms.  
 Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

2. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Dr., \_\_\_\_\_ Rev., \_\_\_\_\_ Dr., \_\_\_\_\_ Mr., \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs., \_\_\_\_\_ Ms.  
 Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Shaw University Divinity School

### The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Shaw University Divinity School Alexander/Pegues Minister's Conference March 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

**Opening Conference Preacher: Rev. Dr. Clifford Jones**

**Conference Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles Booth**

**Conference Lecturer: Rev. Dr. John Kinney**

**Distinguished Alumni Preacher: Rev. Janet Jones**

**Wednesday Morning Preacher: Rev. Dr. Linda Bryan**

**Thursday Morning Preacher: Rev. Dr. James D. Ballard**

**Tuesday Morning Workshop: Rev. Anthonette Wright, M.Div.**

**Wednesday Morning Workshop: Dr. James McPherson**

**Wednesday Afternoon Workshop: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan**

**Thursday Morning Workshop: Mrs. Lori Gibbs**

**Thursday Afternoon Workshop: Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady**

**Tuesday Late Night Preacher: Rev. Eddie Spencer, IV**

**Wednesday Late Night Preacher: Rev. Kenneth Cooper**

**Register Now!**

**Early Bird Registration - \$100**

**After February 29<sup>th</sup> - \$135 On-Site**

**All Seminary & College Students \$50 (On-Site Only)**

**(Must show a valid student ID or proof of registration)**

**WBHFMC  
LEADERSHIP  
WORKSHOP PLANNED**

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, Auxiliary to GBSC, Inc., will hold its 42nd Annual Statewide Leaders' Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on April 14, 2012 at St. Paul Baptist Church, 1401 Allen Street, Charlotte, NC 28205 where the Reverend Dr. Gregory Moss is Pastor.



President  
Audrey Battle

The Statewide Leaders' Workshop provides a platform for fellowship, training and exposure to new ideas for leaders of all ages – seniors, youth and

young adults – to come together from across the State of North Carolina and beyond.

"Remember that iron sharpens iron, therefore, we of the Christian faith come together to learn from one another as we engage the scriptures," said Dr. Linda Bryan, Secretary-Treasurer for the WBHFMC-NC.

"How unique is our Christian faith? It is one that requires study, learning and application which yields spiritual growth. Spiritual growth makes space for surrender, selflessness and modeling who we are as children of God."

Dr. Bryan added that "President Audrey Battle's theme for 2012 is "Call to Spiritual Integrity in Unity and Cohesiveness."

The scriptural reference is Psalm 133:1- "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

**42nd STATEWIDE  
LEADERS'  
WORKSHOP**

**April 14, 2012  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**St. Paul Baptist Church  
1401 Allen Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205**

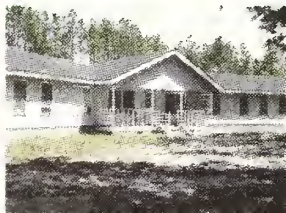
**Registration - \$10.00**

Registration Form on Page 14

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Volume 135, No. 4

# BAPTIST INFORMER



April 2012

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

### GBSC THEME

**"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"**  
Matthew 28:19-20



## Easter Passion Pageant Returns on Good Friday

By E.O. Johnson/The Baptist Informer

First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C. will present its 15th Annual Easter Pageant beginning at 7 p.m. on Good Friday, April 6, 2012.

More than 60 church members will portray the roles of Jesus the Christ, the disciples, soldiers, priests, elders and the multitude of town's people in ancient Jerusalem in the Bible-based script that features scenes of the Passion, including the attack on Jesus, the Crucifixion and an earthquake. Mime, liturgical dancers and musicians will also perform in the 75-minute program presented at First Cosmopolitan, located at 1515 Crosslink Road in Raleigh where the Reverend Dr. W.B. Lewis is Pastor.

alive dates back more than 30 years when he saw the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany.

The Oberammergau Passion Play, which is now performed every 10 years, was first done in 1634 as a tradition by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany. According to historical reports, the town's residents vowed that if God spared them from the effects of the bubonic plague ravaging the region, they would produce a play every ten years thereafter for all time depicting the life and death of Jesus.



The Raleigh pageant is open to the public at no charge.

"To understand what Jesus wants us to do, we must first understand what he did," according to Constance Peebles, who works with Pageant Director, Bettie Branch. "When you leave, you will not be the same as when you arrived. You'll have a renewed spirit and you'll be ready to celebrate Easter and the great gift that Christ gave us, which was His life."

For more information, please call the church at (919) 833-3283.

## Stroke Awareness Month: Knowledge is Power

Gladys Lundy is fully recovered after two strokes and a heart attack had initially left her partially paralyzed, with stuttered speech, and eventually depressed—all before the age of 46. She says prayer and faith have brought her back to normalcy, and she has dedicated her life's work to building awareness and ambassadorship around the issue of women's health—particularly as it relates to the signs of a stroke.



Crystal Kimpson Roberts

Lundy is Founder and President of the Raleigh-based Minority Women's Health Project, a non-profit organization that addresses health issues affecting women of color. She says she ignored the symptoms of her first stroke because she was too

(Continued on Page 2)

## First Baptist Church of Raleigh Celebrates 200 Years of Ministry

Press Reports



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
*Bicentennial*

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Raleigh's oldest church, First Baptist, located at 101 South Wilmington Street. Over the past two centuries, the historic red brick edifice, located across from the state capital, has served an integral part of the rich spiritual and cultural history of both African-Americans and North Carolinians alike.

(Continued on Page 3)

**P3** Dr. Cornwall Receives Highest NC Honor

**P6** J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Planned June 25-27

**P8** Setting the Record: Voter Registration Facts vs. Myths Dr. Howard Parker/President

(Continued on Page 1)

busy to stop and take care of herself. It was a lack of knowledge, she admits. Now that she knows the warning signs, she can tell others what they are and how important it is to pay close attention.

The month of May has been designated as Stroke Awareness Month, a time that Lundy capitalizes on to ensure that more women are in the know. The annual educational campaign provides facts about strokes, their impact on women, and how healthful living can save your life. According to the National Stroke Association's website, the purpose of the observance is to increase public awareness of stroke in an effort to conquer it.

"It's a matter of life and death, and directly impacts your quality of life," says Lundy of the importance of awareness.

Her message for Stroke Awareness Month is to call 911 immediately if you experience any of the symptoms of a stroke:

sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance, or coordination; sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

"I want to help others and save lives by telling my story," says Lundy, who convenes the committee monthly, sits on community boards, and takes her message across the state to expand her reach.

Know Your Care wants North Carolinians to know how the law—which turned two on March 23, 2012—makes quality healthcare more affordable and accessible. Wellness checks, for example, are now free for seniors, and women can no longer be discriminated against with higher premiums just because they are women.

There's even a provision for seniors on Medicare Part D, that rebates your pre-

scription drug payments when you reach the infamous 'donut hole' which is "not very sweet," says Nicole Dozier, Assistant Director of the Raleigh-based NC Justice Center's Health Access Coalition. Dozier travels the state informing seniors of their rights and empowering them with the information they need to maintain a quality of life. The NC Justice Center is the state's leading progressive advocacy and research organization that works to ensure that every household has access to the resources, services, and fair treatment it needs to achieve economic security.

Again, information is power.

**For more information, please visit [www.knowyourcare.org](http://www.knowyourcare.org). For details about stroke awareness, visit [www.thecarolinascenter.org](http://www.thecarolinascenter.org).**

## Theology of the Dandelion: Spreading Seeds that Bear Fruit in Ministry

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus had a knack for glorifying common things and common people. He defended the



Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D.Min. Vice President-at-large

defenseless, healed the afflicted, received outcasts, ate with sinners, delivered the downtrodden, elevated the oppressed, gave worth to women, loved the lepers --- you name it, Jesus did it. He shook up the foundation of political correctness and religious self-piety.

Thanks to Jesus, many insignificant things took on new significance: light, salt, sparrows, lilies, bread and wine, a crown of thorns, an old rugged cross, and a borrowed tomb. Nothing was too small and nobody was too insignificant to merit the attention of our Lord and Savior. This truth is manifested as spring begins to break forth in its divinely ordained splendor. New life appears in all of its colorful glory. The handiwork of God once again provides a

marvelous array of greenery, pageantry, and imagery.

In all of this, the seemingly insignificant common dandelion will make its presence felt. The dandelion is interesting. It will grow where nothing else will. It is not prejudice, picky, nor persnickety about where it will grow. It will grow in the yard of the rich or the poor. The dandelion is not concerned about the race, religion, culture, creed, or political preference of the yard's owner. It will grow wherever it can take root.



The amazing thing about the dandelion is its ability to persevere --- to rise above its surroundings. No matter how high the grass grows or how dry the ground becomes, it perseveres. The dandelion, much to the dismay of many gardeners, will rise above it all!

Some people are like that. They rise above it all. In the midst of discouragement and troubles, they RISE!

- Distress and criticism? They RISE!
- Limited resources and a succession of failures? They RISE!
- Red seas in front, pharaohs in the back, mountains on the side? They RISE!
- Hungry lions, flaming furnaces, high walls, ungrateful murmurers? They RISE!

They rise above it all because, like the

dandelion, they understand nothing can keep them down when they reach up for God's sunshine. They refuse to be smothered and bound by circumstances. The dandelion not only adds color to the drab places of earth. It eventually scatters seeds, and the seeds eventually bear fruit.

Our convention is similar to the dandelion. It has been able to RISE ABOVE IT ALL. Its fruitful ministry through the support of missions and objectives has often been overlooked and unappreciated. But through it all, the fruit of our convention's labor has provided color in drab places for many who are outcast and undernourished.

Through it all, our convention continues to scatter seeds that bear fruit for ministry

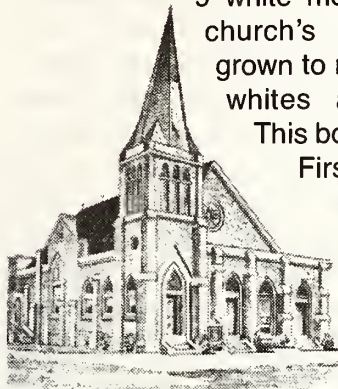


through Christian Education, Missions, and Benevolence. Through it all, our convention scatters seeds that bear fruit for ministry through Preaching...Teaching...Reaching

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Page 3)

First Baptist was founded in 1812 with an integrated membership of 14 slaves and 9 white men. By 1859, the church's membership had grown to more than 400 (228 whites and 208 blacks).



This body gave birth to the First Colored Baptist Church when a delegation of approximately 200 blacks asked for letters of dismissal from the integrated Church

to worship as a separate body under the leadership of a black pastor. Members remaining with the original church body later left to organize the other First Baptist Church in Raleigh currently located on Salisbury Street.

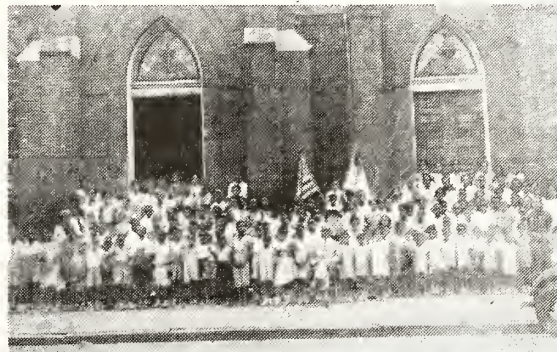
For the past 200 years, the members of First Baptist have worked tirelessly to carve out permanent places in the cornerstone of Raleigh's history. The Church played a key role in the Civil Rights movement. Throughout its history, it has also worked to help shape educational, political and social policies affecting the citizens of North Carolina. Since its founding, all of the Church's 22 senior pastors have been equally dedicated to serving the Raleigh community through ministry and community outreach.

Current pastor, Dr. Dumas Alexander Harshaw, Jr., has led the congregation since 1996 and escorted the church into the next century of ministry and service, as it works to fulfill the vision of being the community's "Point of Contact for the Kingdom of God." Dr. Harshaw's ministry stresses discipleship, evangelism, edifying worship, prayer and mission for the city of Raleigh, the state of North Carolina, the nation and the world.

First Baptist kicked off its Bicentennial in late January with a prayer breakfast. Members and their guests prayed for God's blessing through the year and for the next century, as First Baptist continues to evangelize and edify the Gospel.

The church has planned additional free and paid events to mark the 200th Anniversary celebration and extends an

invitation to the local and regional community and beyond to join them as they celebrate their Bicentennial.



**HISTORIC ERA** - First Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. marks its beginning in 1812 when 23 people met in the State House to organized a "Gospel Church" known as the Raleigh Baptist Church. The early congregation began with an integrated membership of 14 slaves of African descent and 9 free men, presumably of European descent. By 1868, Henry Jett and a delegation of about 200 blacks asked for a letter of dismissal from the integrated church to worship as a separate body under the name of the First Colored Baptist Church. Thus began the era of First Baptist Church, as it is known today, and the tradition of black pastors. The Reverend Dr. Dumas Alexander Harshaw, Jr. has been its pastor since 1996.

(Continued from Page 2)

(Matt. 28:19-20). Your prayers and support through the years have made this possible. Like the dandelion, our convention continues to RISE ABOVE IT ALL!

Please continue to be good stewards of the convention and its auxiliaries. Rise above the tendency to assume that all is well. Refuse to be smothered by daily routines and "busyness" that may not always glorify God & edify others. Abhor the rumors that seek to pronounce the death sentence on a heritage and legacy that has stood the test of time.

Put off the fabric of being a spectator and put on the garment of being a participator. Experience and reflect the power of Jesus' resurrection even when the death sentence has been pronounced. Nothing and nobody will keep us down because we serve God who is able, willing, and available to lift us up. And if God be for us ...!

Encourage your church, ministry, association, and community to support GBSC, missions, and the objectives. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing from you soon. You may reach Dr. Avery at AveryRevKin@aol.com.

## Dr. Cornwall Receives Highest NC Honor

*From Press Reports*

**Raleigh, NC** -Dr. Loñieta Aurora Thompson Cornwall, a professor in Shaw University's Visual & Performing Arts department, recently received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award from North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue.



**Dr. Loñieta Aurora Thompson Cornwall**

"Dr. Cornwall and her accomplishments further prove what capable faculty we have here at Shaw University," said President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy. "Furthermore, Dr. Cornwall's recent award is a great example of her continued success and we are blessed to have her as part of the Shaw University family."

Dr. Cornwall also serves as Director of Choral Studies and teaches courses

in music theory, conducting, and piano.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award the highest honor a North Carolina governor can bestow upon on a North Carolina citizen. Created in 1965, more than 13,000 people have received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award. Notable recipients include Maya Angelou, Billy Graham, Michael Jordan and Dan Blue.

"I am truly humbled by this experience. It is such an honor to be recognized for doing the things I deeply enjoy," Dr. Cornwall said of her award. "I am truly amazed every day that I get to do the things I am most passionate about and others seem to enjoy my work. That is an accolade in itself."

*She has earned both a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music in New York. In addition, she earned a second Master of Music degree from Union Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Education from the Teacher's College at Columbia University.*

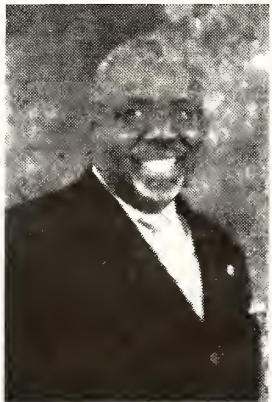
### Upcoming Anniversary Events

**Golf Tournament:**  
Heddingham Golf Course  
April 28, 8:00 am • \$75  
**Gospel Concert**  
First Baptist Church  
April 29, 4:00 pm • Free

## "WHEN IT WAS TIME" Galatians 4:4,5

No one in the New Testament world was more equipped than was Paul to recognize the reality and the relief of the event of the birth of Christ. As Saul of Tarsus, he had been a Pharisee and a student of the greatest scholar of the law of the time. Paul had been the supreme advocate of a legalism that destroyed the intention and the spirit of the law of Moses by idolizing it as an end in itself. Paul had become, indeed, public enemy number one of the Church, claiming as his authority the revelation given by the Father whose idea the Church also was.

Only God would have had the imagination and the audacity to choose such a fellow to be the great emissary of that same Church and to the Gentile peoples at that. But God did choose Paul; and when the



Dr. Ricky L. Banks  
Second VP,  
GBSC-NC

great and mistaken burden under which Paul had been struggling and falling was lifted, he knew the meaning of the fulness of time. He wrote to the Galatians about this relief because he longed for them also to have it. He thought that they did have it. The news reached him, however, that they had been thrown into an uproar by the presence among them of some who were discrediting his teaching.

Paul wrote in Galatians 3-4 that the law had been and remained a gift of God too. But it was a means to the end of God's purpose, not an end in itself, and certainly not an agent of salvation (3:10-11). Like the descendants Israel of old, the descendants of the Church is one of faith (vv.6-9). The law was given as a guide to the life in covenant and as a map for the way of faith.

Paul went on to argue, however, that God was continually moving forward toward something greater, and when his preparations were completed, the time for waiting had run its course. The time was full (Galatians 4:4).

And so "God sent forth His Son" (v.4) to redeem all who had fallen under bondage to the law and to provide the means of adoption into the family of God (v. 5). For Jesus, life was a gift, and the law was one means of aiding in the use of that gift. And in Jesus,

we can experience liberation from two great imprisonments of this life. That, indeed, is what makes Jesus a time of joy. Jesus marks the conclusion of God's great preparations for us and the beginning of our new life of hope. In Christ, we are saved from ourselves and made sons of God for the sake of others. No wonder we have to find ways to let our Jesus joy out. Otherwise, we would burst. You may reach Bro. Banks at [Pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com](mailto:Pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com)

### HELPFUL CONTACTS

**General Baptist State Conv.  
of NC: 919-821-7466 FEMA  
(federal aid):  
1-800-621-3362**

**NC Hotline (state aid):  
1-888-835-9966**

**NC Division of Emergency  
Management [www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org)**

**NC Cooperative Extension  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster)**

**State Dept. of Health/  
Human Services  
[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricane.htm)**

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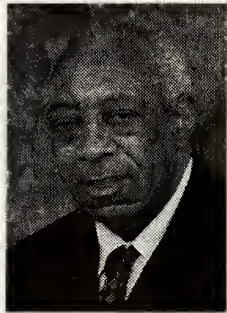
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## LAYMEN OUTLOOK: Tracing One's Theological Footsteps

Last month, I came face to face with the reality that I was brought up in a church culture that had largely accepted the idea of non-discipleship Christianity: People can be Christian without making any effort to submit to and follow Christ.



Bro. Richmond  
Turner GBSC  
Laymen

The fact that we've developed this two-tier form of Christianity forces one to retrace their theological footsteps back to the actual message we proclaim.

The question has to be asked - does non-Discipleship Christianity make Disciples? Does it create spiritually reborn disciples of Jesus committed to the Great Commission, or does it create consumers of religious goods and services? Unfortunately the gospel we teach has become drenched in American culture.

The American gospel is predominantly activist rather than contemplative and usually moves toward individualism rather than community. Our altered gospel message contains some negative characteristics.

One would be that our gospel limits grace to forgiveness of sin.

We place the focus of grace on conversion instead of the whole journey. The authors of the book: UN-Christian stated: "Many modern day Christians have lost touch with the all-encompassing gospel that goes beyond personal salvation and reaches every corner of society. "When conversion growth is the single measure of success the hard work discipleship gets ignored." So we must work to restore the grace of God that is active, powerful, and transforming to the way we proclaim the gospel.

Another negative characteristic is that our gospel separates justification from sanctification. Separating these two theological terms gives the impression that being a Christian means obtaining a protected status before God. We've taught that this act of justification settle the issue—"come in where it's safe and secure"—rather than teaching that a call to believe in Christ should also compel following Him. In other words, the point of salvation (justification) isn't the finish line; instead it's the starting line for a life-long journey (sanctification).

Yet another negative is that our gospel teaches that faith equals agreement with a set of religious facts. Believing in Jesus has no meaning if we don't follow Him in discipleship. Believing without discipleship isn't believing, it's agreeing to a set of facts

about a religious figure.

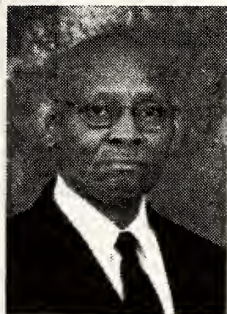
The problem we face is that we have created and taught a faith that does not transform people. We've made the test for salvation doctrinal (abstract) rather than behavioral. Maybe we have made it so easy to get into "the life" that we have made nearly impossible for people "to live" the life.

The life that Jesus calls us to—a life of following Him—a life of humility, sacrifice, submission, and obedience.

To believe means to follow Jesus daily. The gospel requires us to make disciples who learn to obey everything Christ taught. The evidence of salvation is living a life of transformation. Not the earning of salvation but the proof of salvation.

Keep in mind, that Discipleship is not a program, not a ministry, it is a life long commitment to a life-style. It is a process. We call this process spiritual transformation. The word transformation comes from "trans" (Greek, meta) meaning to move something from one place to another; and "formation" (morphé) meaning to change (Romans 12:2, Gal. 4:19). In spiritual transformation, we move from the person we are and continue to change by degree into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:16-18).

- Reach Bro. Turner via email at ITURN60@aol.com



Bro. Charles Dunn  
Ushers'  
President, GBSC

**Highlights of the General Baptist State Usher's Convention One-Day Session included various programs and workshop designed to help ensure health and spiritual vitality to our membership.**

A health session by Sister Delores Blue included a discussion of the human heart and health. She said, "Black women age 55 years old and men age 45 years old should take an aspirin a day to prevent strokes." We need to focus on Cardiovascular Heart Disease and how we can control it. We should manage our stress, watch our blood pressure, and "know your numbers," she said. "We need to check our body for instances: the feet for diabetes, headaches for high blood pressure, facial expression for tiredness, or in pain and your eyes if they are clear or red."

The Adult Workshop was by Dean Marvin Clowney. His subject was, "Be a

Super Servant" and the text was taken from Romans 8:31-37. You've heard "just a spoon full of sugar makes the medicine go down." "Just a sweetener in life situations will make life go better!" God is never a part of a cover up. A true life of faith does not need to be sweetened. Jesus never sweetened the requirements for service in the kingdom of God. Anyone who wishes to be a disciple of Christ must first count the cost and follow Him. Faith is the key to being a super servant, he said.

The Youth Workshop was by Assistant Dean Rodney McCormick and his subject was "Whatever it Takes—Keep on—You are Making a Difference!!" The text was from 1 Corinthians 15:58. Paul wrote this letter of encouragement and gave instructions to the Corinthian Church. He told them not to quit but remain faithful. He pointed out that working for the Lord is not problem-free, but it's worth it all.

### Highlights of Youth in Action:

- Sister Tyrelia Mercer gave a presentation on "Why a Good Usher Should Never

### Complain?

- Brother Mikala Kilpatrick's presentation was "What A Good Usher Should do?"
- Sister Marissa Gamboa's presentation was "Why a Good Usher Should have a Good Attitude."
- Sister Jamie Whitfield's presentation was "Why Ushers Should be God's Servant?"
- Brother Brett Muldrow's presentation was "Why a Good Usher Should Have a New attitude."
- Brother Langston Hines' presentation was "The Fruits of a Good Usher."

The Reverend Kenneth Hammond, pastor Union Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., presented a sermon, "Make It Move," and the scripture was taken from Mathew 21:21-22. He said, "We need to have faith and say mountain get out of my way, be Thy removed. We need to learn how to move our own mountains. Mountain faith will put you in contact with God."

- Reach Bro. Dunn at justicem@bell-south.net

## Baptist Informer Health Spotlight: "Healthy Girls Save the World"



**Cornell P. Wright, MPA**  
Agency Programs Manager

With Healthy Girls Save the World (HGSW), Camille McGirt is trying to build a healthier America and uplift girls to realize their potential physically and mentally. HGSW promotes healthy minds, bodies, and relationships.

"We see ourselves as having childhood obesity as our main

focus, with healthy minds and healthy relationships as coexisting principles of our program" explains McGirt, a junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Girls have less muscle and carry more fat than men. Hence, they burn fewer calories. Also, girls are less consistently prodded to be physically active compared to their male counterparts."

Camille, who's always had an interest within science, medicine, and health care, developed Healthy Girls Save the World

with her younger sister, Rachel. It recently received a grant through UNC APPLES, Assisting People in Planning Learning Experiences in Service. It is a student-led, staff-supported program that builds sustainable, service-learning partnerships among students, faculty and communities in North Carolina and beyond. By engaging all partners in an enriched, community-based curriculum, APPLES experiential programs foster socially aware and civically involved students.

"There are a lot of well branded public health preventative programs like "Let's Move" and "Healthy People 2020," but they are national and it's very hard for them to become tangible on local levels, McGirt said.



"I have always had a deep passion for health services and uplifting the health of my community and the nation," she said. "We spend the most money (per capita) on health care compared to other countries, but we have some of the worst health outcomes compared to other places around the world.

Health Care Reform is addressing this problem by mandating health insurance but medical spending will likely still be fairly high.

"Americans need to be more accountable for their health, and adverse health prevention education is a vital for this to take place. If girls are able to learn healthy lifestyles while they are young, then they are likely to carry out and continue those lifestyles as they grow older. These girls will grow into women and may potentially have families. They will likely teach these principles to their families and eventually create a healthier America."

Camille McGirt, a native of Durham, NC and a junior at UNC Chapel Hill, is studying Health Policy and Management at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. Prior to becoming a Tar Heel, McGirt attended Hampton University as a full scholarship NCAA Division I athlete in women's basketball. After leaving Hampton she took a gap year and lived in Washington, DC, interning at The White House in the Office of Presidential Personnel in the fall of 2010.

To learn more about Healthy Girls Save the World and their upcoming events, please email: [healthygirlssavetheworld@gmail.com](mailto:healthygirlssavetheworld@gmail.com)

Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing, a non-profit affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information, visit their website at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call 1-866-972-6374.

## Annual Oratorical Contest

### J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Planned June 25-27

*Staff Reports*

The 2012 J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest of the GBSC Congress of Christian Education will return on June 25-27 to Martin Street Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1001 E. Martin Street, Raleigh, where the Rev. Dr. Earl C. Johnson is pastor.

The Wertz Oratorical Contest is open to all young people in grades 6-12 in the year that the Contest is conducted. For example, a contestant must be entering the sixth

grade as of July 1, 2012. Seniors who have graduated from high school as of July 1, 2012 are not eligible.

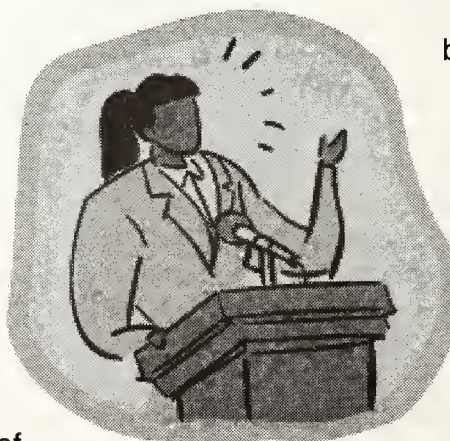
Contestants are not required to pay a registration fee.

Individual registration is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for youth. Pre-registrations are encouraged to avoid long lines upon arrival. Funds should be sent to The Baptist Headquarters, 603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2338. (Note: No forms are required, but write your information on paper and mail it in.)

Churches and Associations are reminded of an annual assessment of \$400 during the fiscal year to support the work of the Congress of Christian Education. Churches and Associations may pay the annual assessment in full or in part,

any time from now until July 31, 2012.

The late D. James F. Wertz served as the first Director of Religious Education for the State Sunday School Convention. The Wertz Oratorical Contest is named in his honor. The Contest is conducted in four stages.



First, the contest begins at the local Church. One representative for each category is selected from the local Church.

Second, the contestants compete on the District (or Association) level.

Third, the winning contestants on the District (Association) level compete at the state level. Fourth, the winner from

the Senior Division at the state level competition goes on to represent North Carolina

(Continued on next page)

Bridges Pointe Foundation/Duke  
Sickle Cell Center

## Sickle Cell Mission of Caring – A Faith Based Initiative

By Elaine Whitworth  
For The Baptist Informer

We can greatly enhance the quality of life of persons who are now living with sickle cell disease into old age through improved community awareness and social support. The unique prominence of the church in our community provides access to a broad base contingency that may be unaware of their risk for the disease or trait.

In collaboration with the Center for Health and Healing, our objectives are:

1. To increase awareness of sickle cell disease and trait
2. To build a constituency of advocates and volunteers
3. To identify the needs of persons and to the families who are living with the disease
4. To identify resources already available to them

Sickle cell disease, an inherited disorder, is a life threatening, debilitating, painful, and incurable disease. Sickle cell trait, long thought to be harmless, has resurfaced as one of the contributing factors in some recent incidents of sudden death in high school and college athletes. Therefore, everyone is encouraged to know their sickle cell status to be aware of the incidence of sickle cell disease and their personal risks.

Churches can assist their congregations by educating and providing information about access to healthcare services and needed medical and social resources. To learn more about this initiative and to register for future training, please contact Elaine Whitworth at 684-0677 or by email at whitw002@mc.duke.edu.

(Continued from page 6)

at the National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education the following year.

Contestants who come to the state level competition are representatives of their associations, not their home Churches. Therefore, all contestants competing on the state level must be affiliated with an association. Each Association is allowed one representative for each category: Preparatory, Junior, Senior Divisions.

All churches may bring youth who are not Oratorical Contestant participants. Each youth would be required to pay the \$5 registration fee. They would be able to

join in the rehearsal with the GBSC Youth choir on Monday night and Tuesday night. The concert is Wednesday morning (black bottoms and white tops required for concert), they would also participate in the youth classes on Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning. Lodging for the 2012 Wertz Oratorical Contest will again be at the Clarion State Capital Hotel in downtown Raleigh. For more information, please contact Mrs. Ruth Johnson, J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Director, at rccake@ec.rr.com or call 910-259-5753.

Pastoral Vacancy  
New Bethel Baptist Church  
Morganton, NC 28655

Requirements:

- Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
- Minimum high school graduate prefer some college
- Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination
- Prefers 1-3 years of pastoral/ministry experience
- Strong communication skills (ability to deal with people with tact and discretion)
- Visit the sick & shut ins (hospitalized, home, nursing home, etc.)
- Willing to become affiliate of the Mountain & Catawba
- Missionary Baptist Association
- Willing to support all church programs including
- Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer meetings, etc.
- Effective in working with all groups in the church
- and expected to teach, preach and counsel in word
- and deed to all age groups in the church
- Implement polices fairly, consistently, respect
- Individual's needs and abilities

CRIMINAL & CREDIT CHECK REQUIRED  
REFERENCES REQUIRED

(Please include resume, copy of pastoral license & ordination papers)

**\*\*Position is Bivocational (Part Time)\*\***

The ending date to receive applications is April 30, 2012.

Please forward all correspondence to:

Attn.: Pastor Search Committee  
New Bethel Baptist Church  
Post Office Box 3870  
Morganton, NC 28680-3870

### Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., Voice of 500,000 Baptists

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Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-  
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E.O. Johnson, Interim Managing Editor

Rev. Anthonette Wright, Advertising Editor

## Setting the Record: Voter Registration Facts vs. Myths

As our state and nation prepares for a general election in November, I wanted to share some interesting facts about voting laws. Over the next few months I will share additional information as it relates to the voting process to help and encourage everyone to vote on **November 6, 2012**. First, let's look at some facts versus myths circulating about the voting process:



Dr. Howard  
Parker/President,  
GBSC-NC

• **You have to be 18 years old to register to vote.** **Myth.** North Carolina allows residents as young as 16 to register to vote. Early registration is encouraged for residents who will be 18 years old before or on the day of the upcoming election.

• **I have to have a driver's license to vote.** **Myth.** Although the Voter Registration form requests a driver's license number, it also allows residents to use the last four digits of their Social Security number as

proof of identity. Everyone is encouraged to give either their driver's license number or their Social Security number to ensure accurate identification prior to the election.

### • **Ex-Felons Can't Vote.**

**Myth.** Ex-Felons can register to vote in the State of North Carolina. Once a felon has completed his/her sentence, including parole or probation, they can vote. If they were registered before incarceration, they will have to re-register. (Persons convicted of a misdemeanor never lose their right to vote. They can even vote while in jail by requesting an Absentee Ballot from the Board of Elections.)

• **Homeless Can't Vote.** **Myth.** They should draw a map showing where they sleep and provide a mailing address where they 'intend to return to.' Homeless individuals can use a church, shelter, or community center as a mailing address. Please ask

them to provide a phone number.

• **What to Expect after Registration:** Once the county Board of Elections receives a completed form, the registrant should receive a Voting Card in the mail. The Voting Card provides information on polling location, election districts and party affiliation. If a registrant does not receive a card within 3 weeks or something is incorrect on the card, they should contact their county Board of Elections immediately. (Note: The Board of Elections is holding new Registration Cards until all districts and precincts have been finalized because of redistricting).



*O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
for His lovingkindness is everlasting.  
1 Chronicles 16:34 NASB*

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

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college students

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the office by calling (919) 833-4823 or  
downloaded from the website at

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Application deadline – May 30, 2012

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

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June 3-7, 2012

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## Higher Poverty Rates in North Carolina

Wire Reports

**RALEIGH** – The concentrated poverty rate in North Carolina more than doubled from 2000 to 2006-2010, according to a recent report, with 100 areas of concentrated poverty across the state.

In 2006-2010, 143,445 North Carolinians who were poor lived in concentrated poverty, according to a new report by the Budget and Tax Center – a project of the NC Justice Center – with the state's overall concentrated poverty rate standing at 10.2 percent. During this period, both the number of concentrated-poverty neighborhoods across the state nearly tripled and the number of individuals living in these neighborhoods who were poor more than tripled.

The report defines areas of concentrated poverty as census tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more, based on the federal poverty level. The 100 concentrated-poverty neighborhoods were located in 30 of North Carolina's 100 counties, with the largest share in Guilford and Mecklenburg counties. Of the 100 neighborhoods, 63 were in urban counties and 37 were in rural counties.

The report finds that African-Americans

and Latinos who were poor were more likely to live in concentrated poverty in 2006-2010 than their white counterparts, and 10.4 percent of North Carolina's impoverished children lived in concentrated-poverty neighborhoods. Regardless of family income, children in these neighborhoods have less access to quality education opportunities and social networks that foster healthy development, the report said.

Place and well-being are deeply connected, said Alexandra Forter Sirota, director of BTC. The disadvantage of being poor and residing in a poor neighborhood creates a concept known as the "double burden." Residents of concentrated-poverty neighborhoods

face restricted access to jobs, education, and networks that can improve their financial situation, the report finds. Patterns of concentrated poverty are in-part rooted in government policies such as public-housing location decisions, interstate subsidies, and deterioration of local services.

"Living in areas of concentrated disadvantage while being poor can undermine one's economic and health opportunities," Sirota said. "It is important to focus on investments and policies that support the extension of opportunity to all communities in the state in order to build prosperous communities and a more prosperous North Carolina."



## NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

### UNC Study Explores Cervical Cancer

A study of cervical cancer incidence and mortality in North Carolina has revealed areas where rates are unusually high.

The findings indicate that education, screening, and vaccination programs in those places could be particularly useful, according to public health researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who authored the report.

"In general the rates of incidence and



mortality in North Carolina are consistent with national averages," said Jennifer S. Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of epidemiology at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and an author of the study published recently online in the journal Preventive Medicine.

"However we do see pockets where the rates are among the highest for any of the 50 states. These are the areas where we need to focus our efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, this highly preventable disease."

UNC researchers examined data from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry on all cervical cancer cases reported in the state from 1998 to 2007. In total, there were

### GBSC OF N.C. LAYMEN'S LEAGUE 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 20, 2012 - Mid Annual Banquet - Genesis MBC, Rowan Association, Greensboro, NC

April 21, 2012 - One Day Session - Genesis MBC, Rowan Association, Greensboro, NC

May 19, 2012 - Open Date

June 9, 2012 - Study Commission - Roanoke Salem MBC N. Hampton Association Eastern Region, Garysburg, NC

July 7-8, 2012 - Men and Boys Retreat - Mt. Pisquah MBC Raeford, NC

July 2012 - Annual Session (GBSC) TBA

August 16-20, 2012 - Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention Annual Session TBA

August 2012 - Scouting Campereë - Pending

Sept. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Flag Branch MBC Monroe, NC - Piedmont Region

Sept. 21-22, 2012 - Walter Cade, Jr. - Regional Workshop - TBA

Dec. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Henderson Grove MBC Durham, NC - Central Region

3,652 cases of invasive cervical cancer and 1,208 deaths in that period.

The study found cervical cancer incidence and death rates varied greatly by county, with less affluent counties having higher rates. While most cases and deaths were among white women (65 percent and 64 percent, respectively), Hispanic women had the highest incidence rate (18.3 cases per 100,000 women). The rates for African American and white females were 10.6 cases per 100,000 women and 7.3 cases per 100,000 women, respectively.

A greater proportion of African American women died from cervical cancer than other races. The mortality rate was 4.5 deaths per 100,000 women, compared to 2.2 deaths per 100,000 white women and 2.0 deaths per 100,000 Hispanic women.

## Hiding emotions may exacerbate depression among African American men, study shows

Wire Reports

Enduring subtle, insidious acts of racial discrimination is enough to depress anyone, but African-American men who believe that they should respond to stress with stoicism and emotional control experience more depression symptoms, according to new findings from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The study, "Taking It Like a Man: Masculine Role Norms as Moderators of the Racial Discrimination-Depressive Symptoms Association Among African-American Men," was published online in March in the American Journal of Public Health.

"We know that traditional role expectations are that men will restrict their emotions - 'or 'take stress like a man,'" said study author Wisdom Powell Hammond, Ph.D., assistant professor of health behavior in UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health. "However, the more tightly some men cling to these traditional role norms, the more likely they are to be depressed.

"It also is clear that adherence to traditional role norms is not always harmful to men," Hammond said. "But we don't know a lot about how these norms shape how African-American men confront stressors, especially those that are race-related."

Hammond studied the phenomenon researchers call everyday racism, which is marked not so much by magnitude or how egregious the prejudice and torment were, but by persistence and subtlety.

"It chips away at people's sense of humanity and very likely at their hope and optimism," Hammond said. "We know these daily hassles have consequences for men's mental health, but we don't know why some men experience depression while others do not."

Hammond studied data collected from surveys of 674 African-American men, aged 18 and older, carried out at barber shops in



four U.S. regions between 2003 and 2010.

She found that everyday racial discrimination was associated with depression across all age groups. Younger men (aged under 40) were more depressed, experienced more discrimination and had a stronger allegiance to norms encouraging them to restrict their emotions than men over 40 years old. Furthermore, some men who embraced norms encouraging more self-reliance reported less depression.

The results showed associations, not necessarily causation, Hammond noted.

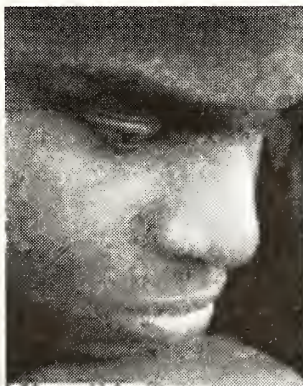
The data also showed that when men felt strongly about the need to shut down their emotions, then the negative effect of discrimination on their mental health was amplified. The association was particularly apparent for men aged 30 years and older.

"It seems as though there may be a cumulative burden or long-term consequences of suffering such persistent discriminatory slights and hassles in silence," Hammond said. "Our next task is to determine when embracing traditional role norms are harmful or helpful to African American men's mental health."

The information will help target future interventions to subgroups of men, rather than try to reach all men with one general approach.

"African-American men are not all alike, just as all people in any group are not alike," Hammond said. "The way they feel, respond and react changes over time as they normally develop. The slings and

arrows of everyday racism still exist, and we need to find targeted ways to help men defend against them while also working to address the policy structures that project them."



## Women's UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14  
Statewide Leader's Workshop  
St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte

June 3-7  
Leadership Training Workshop  
Shaw University, Raleigh, NC

June 10-15  
Youth Bible Camp  
Camp Dixie, Fayetteville, NC

## General Baptist State Convention – NC SAVE THE DATES

April 20-21, 2012 -  
Laymen's Mid Year Session

May 15-16, 2012 -  
GBSC Mid Year Session

June 3-8, 2012 -  
Hampton Ministers Conference

June 18-22, 2012 -  
National Baptist Congress of  
Christian Education

June 25-27, 2012 -Congress  
Oratorical Contest

July 22-26, 2012 -  
All Baptist Assembly

August 6-10, 2012 - Progressive  
National Baptist Convention  
Annual Session

August 13-17, 2012 - Lott Carey  
Annual Session

September 3-7, 2012 - National  
Baptist Convention  
Annual Session

October 29-31, 2012-  
GBSC Annual Session

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Fellowship of the Woman's Baptist Home &  
Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C.**

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**Download registration form from website**

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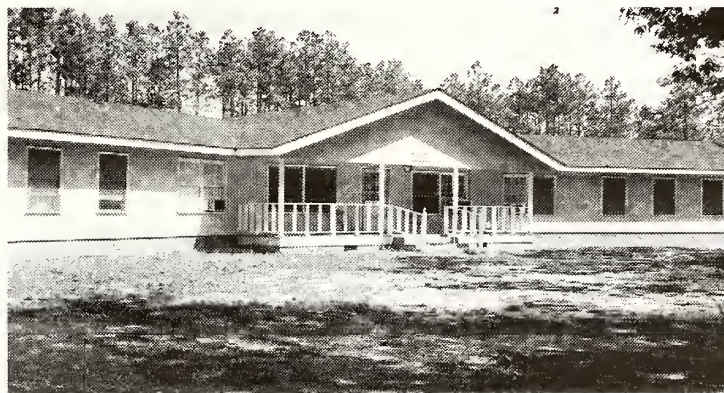
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**Pre-Opening The All Baptist Assembly  
July 22–25, 2012  
J. J. Johnson Benefit Concert  
July 22, 2012 at 6:30 pm**

**Raleigh Convention Center,  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

This concert is a collaborative effort to raise funds for the rebuilding of the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Site in Laurel Hill, North Carolina. Our goal is to raise \$10,000

Admission is free but a generous donation to the offering will be requested. Please bring 3 canned goods to be donated to the Food Bank of North Carolina



**YOUTH (ALL AGES), YOUNG ADULTS, ADULTS (MALE AND FEMALE)  
Singers/Choirs/Musicians/Directors  
Liturgical Dancers, Christian Step Teams  
Flaggers, Artists and other are still needed**

NOTE: If you are interested in working on a committee to assist with this effort (Fundraising, program, publicity, technology, performing, creative and/or visual arts), please contact any of the following persons: Ms. Jewyl Dunn, Youth Supervisor -919-612-2727, Ms. Jewelyn Dunn, Young Adult President – 919-601-0639, Dr. Mary B-Hall, Young Adult Director –704-214-1034 or the Baptist Headquarters at (919) 833-4823

***Sponsored by  
The Youth and Young Adult Department  
Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Of North Carolina  
Auxiliary to The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.***

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1/4 Page	\$125.00	\$300.00	\$475.00	\$800.00
1/8 Page	\$80.00	\$195.00	\$325.00	\$540.00

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*Advertising copy or questions may be e-mailed to*

**General Baptist State Convention**

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## Keeping Hunger at Bay When School's Out



Swimming pools, summer camp, ice cream, beaches, water-slides, dragonflies, pop-sicles—these are some of the images that come to mind when I think of summer. However, for many children, hunger may top that list. This is because many low-income children don't have access to the school feeding programs that help keep them fed during the school year. The School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program provide free and reduced-price meals to more than 21 million students every year.

Hunger has much bigger implications for children than a few stomach pains. Children who don't receive adequate nutrition during the summer are often set up for poor performance once school starts in the fall. Improper nutrition can also lead to illness down the road.

Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture features a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) designed to fill this gap and provide nutritious meals to children that are at risk of hunger during the summer—and you can help! Faith-based, community, and private nonprofit organizations are all eligible and encouraged to serve SFSP meals.

The SFSP reaches only a fraction of the children in need—mainly because there aren't enough feeding sites. Only about one-tenth of those who receive free and reduced-priced meals during the school year participate in summer feeding programs. Your churches and organizations can play a tremendous role in ensuring that low-income kids don't go hungry this summer. If a program sponsor exists in your area, you may be able to participate as a site under their sponsorship. Just be sure to register your site with the National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3-Hungry or [www.why-hunger.org/findfood](http://www.why-hunger.org/findfood).

If you're unable to open a feeding site, you can also help by simply spreading the word about the feeding sites in your area. You can find a comprehensive national list of sites by calling the National Hunger Hotline.

It's important to note that the most successful summer feeding programs offer activities for kids. Children are much more likely to come out for a meal when there is an activity, such as Vacation Bible School, to keep them there. Churches are vital to many needy children, offering safe and familiar environments to gather during months when school is closed.

For more information about childhood hunger, I encourage you to visit Bread for the World's website, [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org). You can also learn more about the SFSP or participate in one of USDA's free webinar sessions on opportunities to provide summer meals at [www.summerfood.usda.gov](http://www.summerfood.usda.gov).



Together we can continue to tackle childhood hunger and ensure kids receive the nutritious meals they need all year round. Children should enjoy their summer vacations—not worry about being hungry.

- Bishop Don DiXon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World, and sits on the board of bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, MD.

# YOUTH BIBLE CAMP JUNE 10-15, 2012



## CAMP DIXIE

373 W. Bladen Union Church Road,  
Fayetteville, NC 28306

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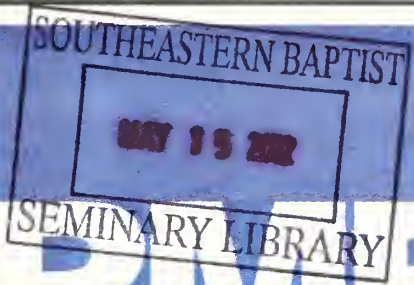
The General Baptist State Convention supporting  
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Volume 135, No. 5

# BAPTIST INFORMER



May 2012

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

### GBSC THEME

**"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"**

Matthew 28:19-20



## Happy Memorial Day

May 28th

## Shaw University Open House

Staff Reports

Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. recently held a ribbon-cutting to officially re-open the Willie E. Gary Student Center, the building most damaged by a deadly tornado that left a path of destruction across the Capital City.



The tornado affected 27 buildings on the campus of Shaw University, a historic college complex located in Southeast Raleigh. Damages totaled \$3.7 million and the school suspended its spring semester classes.

RE-OPENING - Officials attending the commemoration event included Shaw's President Dorothy Cowser Yancy, Raleigh City Councilman Eugene Weeks, Congressman David Price, Carol Holloway, president of Shaw University's Raleigh-Wake Alumni Chapter. The public was invited to tour buildings that have been repaired through various funding sources, including \$318,000 in donations, including those from churches affiliated with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

However, roofs were either fully or partially replaced on six buildings, including Estey Hall, Dimple Newsome Residence Hall, Fleming-Kee Residence Hall, Tupper Hall and Spaulding Gymnasium over the past year. Other damaged buildings included the Talbert O. Shaw men's and women's residence halls, the Roberts Science Hall and the Cheek Learning Resource Center.

Aiding in the repair efforts, the university received more \$1.1 million from FEMA and \$318,000 in donations from various groups and individuals, including the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The remainder

(Continued on Page 2)

### Annual Oratorical Contest

## J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Planned June 25-27

Staff Reports

The 2012 J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest of the GBSC Congress of Christian Education will be held on June 25-27 at Martin Street Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1001 E. Martin Street, Raleigh.



The contest is open to young people in grades 6-12 in the year that the Contest is conducted.

For example, a contestant must be entering the sixth grade as of July 1, 2012. Seniors who have graduated from high school as of July 1, 2012 are not eligible.

Contestants are not required to pay a registration fee.

(Continued on Page 2)



## A CALL TO ARMS

More than 1,500 women attended the Leaders' Conference presented by the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina in mid-April at St. Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., where the Reverend Gregory Moss is pastor. The workshop focused on training and fellowship centered around President Audrey Battle's 2012 theme: "A Call to Spiritual Integrity in Unity and Cohesiveness." (See more photos inside the Informer)

**P3** Lott Carey Youth Seminar

**P8** Trusting God: A Sure And Firm Foundation by Audrey Battle

**P13** July 22-25, 2012 J.J. Johnson Benefit Concert

(Oratorical contest, continued on Page 1)

Individual registration is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for youth. Pre-registrations are encouraged to avoid long lines upon arrival. Funds should be sent to The Baptist Headquarters, 603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2338. (Note: No forms are required, but write your information on paper and mail it in.)

Churches and Associations are reminded of an annual assessment of \$400 during the fiscal year to support the work of the Congress of Christian Education. Churches and Associations may pay the annual assessment in full or in part, any time from now until July 31, 2012.

The late D. James F. Wertz served as the first Director of Religious Education for the State Sunday School Convention. The Wertz Oratorical Contest is named in his honor. The Contest is conducted in four stages.

First, the contest begins at the local

church. One representative for each category is selected from the local church. Second, the contestants compete on the District (or Association) level. Third, the winning contestants on the District (Association) level compete at the state level. Fourth, the winner from the Senior Division at the state level competition goes on to represent North Carolina at the National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education the following year.



Contestants who come to the state level competition are representatives of their associations, not their home Churches. Therefore, all contestants competing on the state level must be affiliated with an association. Each Association is allowed one representative

for each category: Preparatory, Junior, Senior Divisions.

All churches may bring youth who are not Oratorical Contestant participants. Each youth would be required to pay the \$5 registration fee. They would be able to join in the rehearsal with the GBSC Youth choir on Monday night and Tuesday night.

The concert is Wednesday morning (black bottoms and white tops required for concert). Youth will also participate in classes on Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning.

Lodging for the 2012 Wertz Oratorical Contest will be at the Clarion State Capital Hotel in downtown Raleigh. For more information, please contact Mrs. Ruth Johnson, J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Director, at rccake@ec.rr.com or call 910-259-5753.

## General Baptist State Convention – NC SAVE THE DATES

**May 15-16, 2012**

General Baptist State Convention Mid Year Session

**June 3-8, 2012**

Hampton Ministers Conference, Hampton University, Va.

**June 18-22, 2012**

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, St. Louis, MO.

**June 25-27, 2012**

Congress Oratorical Contest,  
Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C.

**July 22-26, 2012**

All Baptist Assembly

**August 6-10, 2012**

Progressive National Baptist Convention Annual Session

**August 13-17, 2012**

Lott Carey Annual Session

**September 3-7, 2012**

National Baptist Convention Annual Session

**October 29-31, 2012- GBSC Annual Session**

(continued from Page 1; Shaw University Open House)



Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, President of Shaw University, addressed students, faculty and members of the public during the re-opening ceremony of Willie E. Gary Student Center.



Dr. Jeffrey Smith, vice president of Student Affairs and Administration at Shaw University

of the repairs was covered by insurance.

Across the state, the tornado left a path of destruction and the federal government declared 10 counties in North Carolina as disaster areas, allowing residents and business owners to apply for federal recovery assistance, including grants for temporary housing and home repairs and low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses.

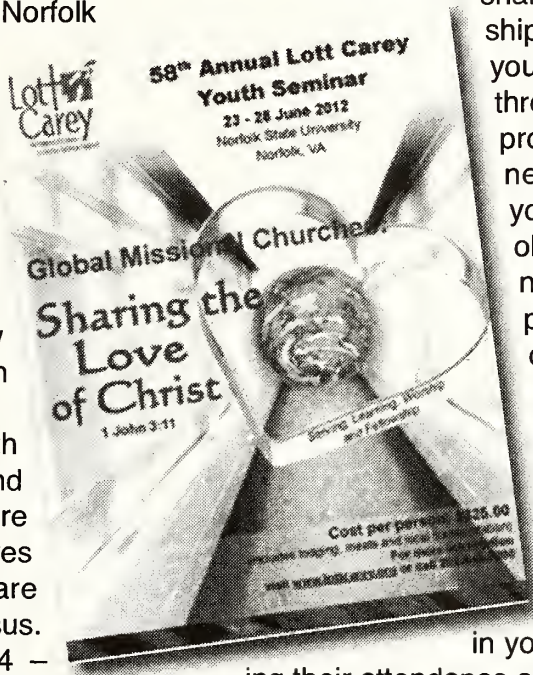
Shaw University's enrollment for graduates and undergraduates was 2,405 last fall, down slightly from 2,722 in fall 2010 before the tornado.

## Lott Carey Youth Seminar

In eight weeks, nearly 500 youth will gather on the campus of Norfolk State University for the 58th Annual Lott Carey Youth Seminar. One of the key ways that Lott Carey helps churches extend the Christian witness to the ends of the earth is by supporting churches to nurture new generations of Christian leaders for the world.

The Lott Carey Youth Seminar is an exciting and effective way to help nurture the missional spirit in the lives of young people who are growing as disciples of Jesus. Young Christians, ages 14 – 21 spend a week together serving, learning, in worship, and in fellowship. This week is a exhilarating time in my year. Seeing young people deploy in the mornings to touch lives with the transforming love of Christ; hearing the buzz of con-

versation and insight around learning biblical truths about the priority of missions in the Christian life and the Christian Church; sharing in energizing worship experiences led by youth and young adults through worship arts and proclamation; and witnessing the joy of young people meeting old friends and making new friends – all in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit – makes the seminar week a highlight for me.



I hope you will invest in the missional nurture of your young people in your church by supporting their attendance at the Lott Carey Youth Seminar 23 – 28 June 2012. Registration is available through “Youth Development” at [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org).

Register soon while space is still available.

**YOUNG ADULT  
RETREAT  
JUNE 2, 2012,  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
MOUNT EPREW  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
ROPER, NC  
Call 919-833-4823  
for more information**

**YOUTH  
BIBLE  
CAMP**

**JUNE 10-15, 2012**



## CAMP DIXIE

373 W. Bladen Union Church Road,  
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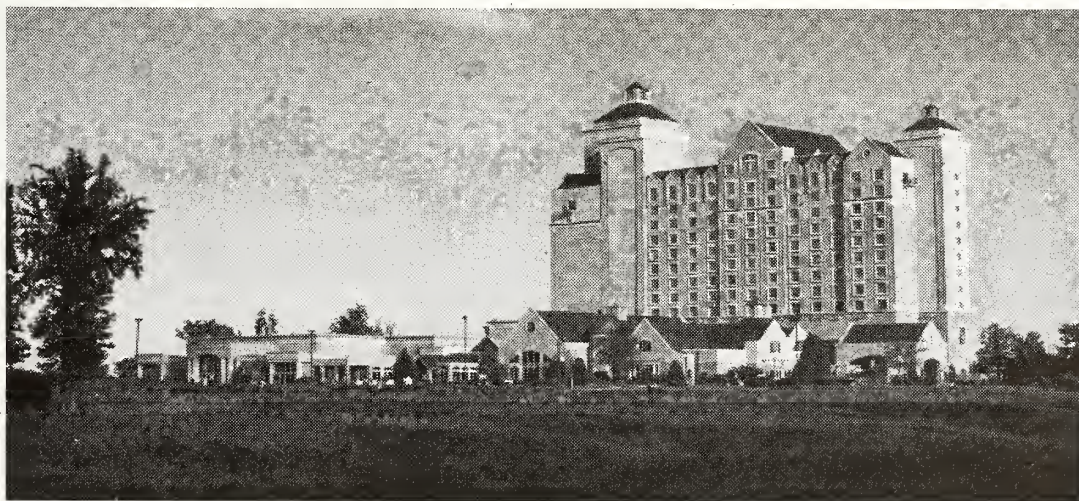
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Woman's Baptist State Convention for  
an application or download from the  
website at [www.wbhfm.org](http://www.wbhfm.org)

## 2012 Mid Year Session

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.  
May 15-16, 2012



**Grandover Resort and Conference Center**  
1000 Club Road, Greensboro, North Carolina

**Reservations Call 336-294-1800**

**Ask for GENBAP Rate**

**\$149.00 for Kings and Doubles**

**\$179.00 for Suites**

## This Same Jesus: The King of Glory Acts 1: 9-11

Imagine this scene: Christ had ascended to Heaven. The disciples had beheld the cloud that received Him. The same Jesus who had walked and talked and prayed with them; who had broken bread with them; who had been with them in their boats on the lake; and who had that very day toiled with them up the ascent of Olivet, the same Jesus had gone to share His Father's throne. And the angels had assured them that the very One whom they had seen go up into heaven, would come again even as He had ascended.

He will come "with clouds and every eye shall see Him." This will be fulfilled because it was the Lord's promise to His disciples: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come



Dr. Ricky L. Banks  
Second VP,  
GBSC-NC

again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3. The disciples no longer had any distrust of the future. They knew that Jesus was in heaven, and that His sympathies were with them. They knew that they had a friend at the throne of God, and they were eager to present their requests to the Father, in the name of Jesus.

All heaven was waiting to welcome the Savior to the celestial courts. As He ascended, He led the way, and the multitude of captives set free at His resurrection followed. The heavenly host, with shouts and acclamations of praise and celestial song, attended the joyous train.

As they drew near to the city of God, the challenge was given by the escorting angels, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; And be ye lift up ye everlasting doors; And the King of glory shall come in." Joyfully, the waiting sentinels responded, "Who is this King of glory?"

They said this because they would hear the answer of exalted praise, "The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O ye gates; Even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; And the King of glory shall come in."

Again is heard the challenge, "Who is this King of glory?" For the angels never

grew weary of hearing His name exalted. The escorting angels make reply, "The Lord of host; He is the King of glory." Psalms 24:7-10.

Reach Pastor Banks at [pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com)

## PRAYER DAY

Prayer Day will be  
observed on June  
23, 2012.

We are asking every disciple across the state to PRAY that the needs of God's people will be met. To obtain Prayer Day material, please send in a request to P.O. Box 1818, Raleigh, N.C. 27602 or visit us online at [wbh-fmc.org](http://wbh-fmc.org). For more information, call (919) 833-4823.

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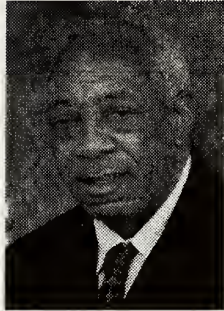
800.647.2114

[www.ncmutuallife.com](http://www.ncmutuallife.com)

## A Faith that Embraces Discipleship

In his book, *The Complete Book of Discipleship*, Bill Hull coined this term:

"Exploring a faith that embraces discipleship." It implies that a faith exists that doesn't embrace discipleship." We discussed this kind of faith in our last discussion; one that results in non-discipleship Christianity. This kind of faith does not require the development of character to take action.



Bro. Richmond Turner GBSC Laymen

Recently, I participated in a forum where we discussed the reasons why

men were inactive in church. It became clear that we were attempting secular solutions to a divine situation. (ex. Pastor and men get together and attend a football

game or play pool, etc.). What can a football game or a pool table teach us about following Christ?

Let's briefly explore the faith that requires disciples "to follow" Jesus. The book of Hebrews discusses the active pursuit of a faith that embraces discipleship. Hebrews 11: 4-38, speaks of "a great cloud of witnesses" that taught us faith. It was with their actions we learned what it means to believe. The lesson is clear: Faith that doesn't result in action is not faith, but something less. "Faith that is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2: 14-17).

Characteristics of a faith that embraces discipleship include:

(1) A faith that embraces discipleship is only real when we actively obey it.

(2) A faith that embraces discipleship was defined historically by people who took action

(3) A faith that embraces discipleship distinguishes itself from mere agreement with demonstrated proof.

(4) Jesus distinguished a faith that embraced discipleship as thoughtful obedience instead of religious words.

The Christian faith and following Jesus are irrevocably linked. You can't have one without the other. Jesus taught that faith meant to follow Him (Luke 9: 23-25). Anything less is—a wish, a desire or a good intention. But it's not faith, because faith means to follow. Participation in the Great Commission doesn't require great learning or ability, but it does require regeneration—being a transformed person. Only the habitation of God in a disciple enables one to answer the call to follow Christ.

Reach Bro. Turner at [ITURN60@aol.com](mailto:ITURN60@aol.com)

## Needed: Able Ushers and Willing Souls to Follow Christ



Bro. Charles Dunn Ushers' President, GBSC

As I travel across the great state of North Carolina, I find that ushers are doing a great job, but we also need more who are willing to take up the cross and follow Jesus.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go

ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching

them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo: I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:18-20).

We must continue to go out and minister to those who are lost, which is our duty to save souls. The mission of an usher is to go out into the highways and byways and compel men and women to come to Christ. Before you go out, you must have the right attitude toward this work and remember that you are representatives of Jesus Christ.

We should all realize that we are not ourselves, but have been bought with a price. Jesus said to his followers in the Sermon on the Mount, "Whoso shall compel thee to go a mile, go with them twain." Are you willing to go?

Church ushering is important and there are many responsibilities. First, ushers should attend meetings. You cannot be a

good usher if you have not been trained. Second, ushers need to attend all workshops and Association Unions and Conventions. Lastly, it is important for ushers, especially young people, to attend Bible study and Sunday school. This is one of our missions. The Bible teaches us to "train a child when he/she is young and when they are old, they will not depart."

Our mission begins with Jesus who was sent to earth to reveal the Father (John 1:18 (4:9) to glorify Him) 13:31 and 14:13 and 17:1); to bring the Kingdom of God on earth and to make God's love and mercy known to a lost world. Be blessed in the Lord.

Reach Bro. Dunn at [justicem@bellsouth.net](mailto:justicem@bellsouth.net)

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## From the desk of the Vice President-at-large

The recent commemoration of Jesus' crucifixion and celebration of His resurrection reminds us of God's unconditional love and unending promise for new life. With the newness of springtime and the reality and power of the Resurrection come new opportunities for new commitments, new goals, new objectives, new lessons, new experiences, new challenges, and new victories.



Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II

The Christian community must be equipped and empowered to embrace our opportunities, confront the challenges, overcome the obstacles, cultivate our gifts, learn from the lessons, and celebrate our victories with renewed energy, enthusiasm,

excitement, and enlightenment.

The Christian life involves a vertical line from the believer to God, and a horizontal line from the believer to others. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:8 puts it this way: "God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others" (CEV). Consequently, prophetic ministry must match our proclaimed mission.

Our congregational IN-REACH and community OUTREACH must always lead to a God-honoring UP-REACH that glorifies God and edifies others. Our claim of inner grace must be interlocked with our outward show of goodness toward others.

Beloved, let us faithfully pledge to fulfill our spiritual and financial support to the General Baptist State Convention objectives. Our time, talents, treasures, and prayers are needed, encouraged, welcomed, and appreciated. The convention and the local ministries we serve are gifts from God, which God has entrusted to us as

faithful stewards. I can think of no better way to glorify God and edify others than through your generous and cheerful contributions to missions.

Missions is what we do and we do it through our General Baptist State Convention. We do it by supporting: State Missions, Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School, Central Children's Home of N.C., J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, and Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention. The harvest is ripe for a prophetic ministry that preaches ongoing good news, and proclaims freedom, restoration, release, and the year of the Lord's favor (from Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4: 18-19). Let us not be weary laborers, but willing workers in kingdom building.

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV). Amen.

You may contact Dr. Avery at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com)

# Baptist Informer Health Spotlight:

## Alzheimer's Disease: Catching It Early, Knowing the Signs

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disease of the brain that leads to dementia. Many think that Alzheimer's disease and dementia are the same thing, but Alzheimer's is actually the most common cause of dementia. While everyone who has Alzheimer's develops dementia, not everyone who develops dementia has Alzheimer's disease.

A person's memory often changes as you age but memory loss that disrupts daily life is not a usual component of aging. Dementia is a group of brain disorders that cause progressive loss of intellectual and social skills, severe enough to interfere with day-to-day life. In Alzheimer's disease, brain cells degenerate and die, causing a

steady decline in memory and mental function. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, but dementia can also be caused by strokes, Parkinson's disease, head injury, or a host of other conditions.

Most people dismiss the warning signs of Alzheimer's, believing that these symptoms are a part of normal aging. They are diagnosed too late and miss the opportunity to get the best care possible. There is even greater concern for African-Americans, who are more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than whites. African-Americans have a higher rate of vascular disease, which are diseases involving blood vessels, including heart attack and stroke. These issues are suspected risk factors of Alzheimer's disease.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, the following list can help you recognize the signs of Alzheimer's:

- Memory loss that can disrupt daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing

familiar tasks

- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood and personality

Knowing the differences in Alzheimer's/Dementia and typical age-related changes, can be the difference of life



(Continued on next page)

and death. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the listed warning signs, contact a physician or health care provider to find out the cause. Early detection and diagnosis allows someone to seek treatment and plan for the future.

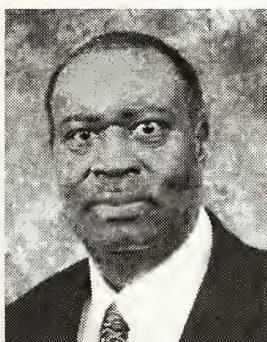
For more information about the Alzheimer's Association, go to [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or call 1-800-272-3900.

Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing, a non-profit affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information about the Center and its programs, visit its website at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-972-6374.



## Setting the Record: Voter Registration Facts vs. Myths

As our state and nation prepares for a general election in November, I wanted to share some interesting facts about voting laws. Over the next few months I will share additional information as it relates to the voting process to help and encourage everyone to vote on **November 6, 2012**. First, let's look at some facts versus myths circulating about the voting process:



Dr. Howard Parker/President, GBSC-NC

• **You have to be 18 years old to register to vote.** Myth. North Carolina allows residents as young as 16 to register to vote. Early registration is encouraged for residents who will be 18 years old before or on the day of the upcoming election.

• **I have to have a driver's license to vote.** Myth. Although the Voter Registration form requests a driver's license number, it also allows residents to use the last four digits of their Social Security number as

proof of identity. Everyone is encouraged to give either their driver's license number or their Social Security number to ensure accurate identification prior to the election.

### • Ex-Felons Can't Vote.

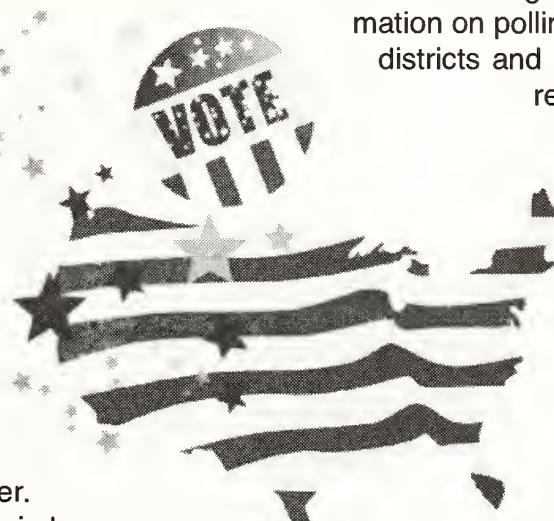
Myth. Ex-Felons can register to vote in the State of North Carolina. Once a felon has completed his/her sentence, including parole or probation, they can vote. If they were registered before incarceration, they will have to re-register. (Persons convicted of a misdemeanor never lose their right to vote. They can even vote while in jail by requesting an Absentee Ballot from the Board of Elections.)

• **Homeless Can't Vote.** Myth. They should draw a map showing where they sleep and provide a mailing address where they 'intend to return to.' Homeless individuals can use a church, shelter, or community center as a mailing address. Please ask

them to provide a phone number.

### • What to Expect after Registration:

Once the county Board of Elections receives a completed form, the registrant should receive a Voting Card in the mail. The Voting Card provides information on polling location, election districts and party affiliation. If a registrant does not receive a card within 3 weeks \* or something is incorrect on the card, they should contact their county Board of Elections immediately. (Note: The Board of Elections is holding new Registration Cards until all districts and precincts have been finalized because of redistricting).



*O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.*

**1 Chronicles 16:34 NASB**

## Trusting God: A Sure And Firm Foundation

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3

In times of trouble we must continually strive to keep our minds turned to the Lord in prayer, trust, and hope. We must keep our focus on Him and place our trust in Him



President  
Audrey Battle

because he is a rock who endures forever. He is a sure and firm foundation.

We are in a world that is filled with trouble and strife. It seems that the more diligently we seek peace, the more difficult it is to find peace. More energy and money has been

spent to secure agreements of peace among nations. Yet, we stand on the brink of international conflict.

In America our medical, health, and drug care has never been better but drug abuse is one of our major health problems. Suicide is one of the most prevalent causes of death. Many agencies and churches

offer services to help preserve our homes but the divorce rate has reached epidemic proportions. Men and women, boys and girls are experimenting with just about everything that appears to offer peace but unable to find peace. This situation is similar to Judah in the days of Jeremiah who challenged the people for crying peace, peace when there was no peace.

The main reason for failure in the search for peace is that some are looking to the wrong source in the wrong places and reaping wrong solutions. True peace is found only in Jesus Christ. He is the one who said to His disciples "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, purchased our peace at great cost. The sins of the whole world were cast on Him. He did not shrink from the death that faced Him. He counted the cost and freely sacrificed Himself for us. His final prayer to His Father in Gethsemane was "...if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." (Matt. 26:42) Despite the agony of the cross, He suffered and died with the perfect peace that He had when He lived and taught here on earth.

On the evening of His resurrection,

Jesus appeared in the midst of His disciples and said "Peace be unto you". His appearing changed their fear into courage and their trouble into peace. His peace is our peace. His victory is our victory. Because He overcame, we can overcome. Paul said of the resurrection – "Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ". (2 Cor. 15:57)

Finally, the peace of Christ is the peace that we make with others. As disciples of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers. Matthew records "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God". (Matt. 5:9)

### Hear the words of St. Frances of Assisi:

*"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon, where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."*

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF NC SCHOLARSHIPS

Available for seniors and  
college students

Applications may be requested from  
the office by calling (919) 833-4823 or  
downloaded from the website at

[www.wbhfmc.org](http://www.wbhfmc.org)

Application deadline – May 30, 2012

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE Sponsored by the WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF NC

June 3-7, 2012

On the campus of  
Shaw University in Raleigh, NC  
For further information please call

**(919) 833-4823**

### A NOTE OF GRATITUDE ...

Reverend Battle and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayer and concern during our loss to fire on March 2. We lost everything and you responded with great kindness. Thank you for your love and your support. I pray God's richest blessings upon each one of you for your generosity.

Reverend George and Dr. Audrey Battle

# The 42nd Annual Leader's Workshop

held in St. Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., presented in April by the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina



**PULPIT SCENE-** Pictured are Chairperson Ida Dunston, Dr. Mary Swain, President Audrey Battle (standing at pulpit), Dr. Mary Byers Hall and Mrs. Hilda Smith.



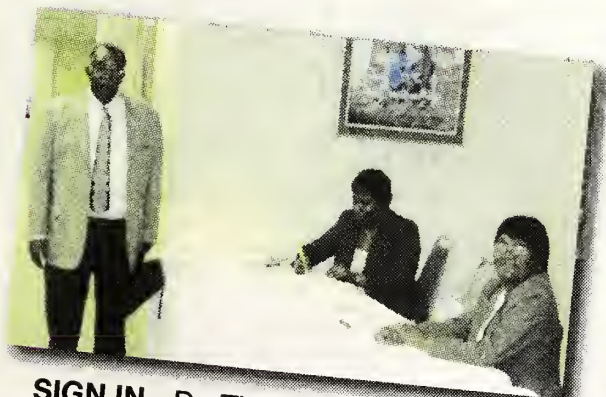
**NEW GENERATION -** A teen class at the Leadership Workshop



**LEARNING TOGETHER -** A youth class and instructors



**POWER SESSION -** Ms. Jewyl Dunn facilitating a young adult class during the workshop at St. Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte.



**SIGN IN -** Dr. Thomas McCuller and pre-registration participants



**BOOK ENDS -** Mrs. Geraldine Mason and Mrs. Minnie Gainey at the workshop's literature table

## Women's UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 3-7**  
Leadership Training Workshop  
Shaw University,  
Raleigh, NC

**June 10-15**  
Youth Bible Camp  
Camp Dixie, Fayetteville, NC



**HOLY IMAGE** – A scene from the 15th Annual Good Friday Pageant held in April at First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. More than 60 church members portrayed the role of Jesus, the disciples, soldiers and others in the pageant, based on the famous Oberammergau Passion Play held every 10 years in Germany.

## NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

### Football-related brain injuries rise, study finds

*Wire Reports*

Catastrophic brain injuries associated with full-contact football appear to be rising, especially among high school students, according to a new report.

The increase is alarming and indicates more coaches and athletic trainers should change how they teach the fundamental skills of the game, according to researchers based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Until recently, the number of football-related brain injuries with permanent disability in high school had remained in the

single digits since 1984. However, the tally rose to 10 injuries in 2008 and 2009, and there were 13 in 2011, according to the latest catastrophic football injury research annual report from the UNC-based National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research.

"These 2011 numbers are the highest since we began collecting catastrophic brain injury data," said Fred Mueller, Ph.D., the report's lead author, director of the center and professor emeritus of exercise and sports science in the College of Arts and Sciences. "This is a major problem."

About 4.2 million football players compete nationwide, including 1.1 million high schoolers.

## GBSC OF N.C. LAYMEN'S LEAGUE 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 19, 2012 - Open Date

June 9, 2012 - Study Commission - Roanoke Salem MBC N. Hampton Association Eastern Region, Garysburg, NC

July 7-8, 2012 - Men and Boys Retreat - Mt. Pisquah MBC Raeford, NC

July 2012 - Annual Session (GBSC) TBA

August 16-20, 2012 - Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention Annual Session TBA

August 2012 - Scouting Camperee – Pending

Sept. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Flag Branch MBC Monroe, NC - Piedmont Region

Sept. 21-22, 2012 - Walter Cade, Jr. - Regional Workshop – TBA

Dec. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Henderson Grove MBC Durham, NC - Central Region

## MINISTRY BRIEFS

### NEW PASTOR

The Reverend Raymond J. Gardin was installed Sunday, March 25, 2012 as the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, N.C. He is a graduate of Gardner Webb University where he received his degree in Business Administration and is currently pursuing a

Master's of Divinity degree at the M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner Webb University.

### HIGH HONOR

Deacon Rosa A. Brodie of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, N.C. recently received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue.

A native of Parmele, N.C., she has

served 36 years in public education and be active in various organizations, including WBH&FM and Lott Carey. The award was presented by Rep. Angela Bryant, D-Nash at the Nash Health Care Systems Board of Commissioners meeting where Deacon Brodie serves as Secretary of the Board.

## Speak Out: Let's Stop the Move toward Privatizing State Prisons

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) recently sent a letter to 48 US Governors announcing the "Investment Initiative," a new plan to spend up to \$250 million to buy prisons from state, local, and federal government entities on conditions of a minimum commitment of 20 years for the facility and maintaining 90% capacity over the twenty year period.



Dr. David E. Goatley  
Lott Carey, USA

Over 35 national faith organizations, along with 30 other organizations, urged the governors to decline this dangerous and costly invitation.

Many people of faith are joining together to urge our Governors to publicly commit to decline Corrections Corporation of America offer to buy up and privatize state prisons.

Call your State Governor ask him/her to make a public commitment before June 1, 2012 to decline CCA's offer to privatize prisons.

You can find the following claims that Corrections Corporation of America's makes about itself on its web site:

"Corrections Corporation of America is the nation's largest owner and operator of privatized correctional and detention facilities and one of the largest prison operators in the United States, behind only the federal government and three states. CCA currently owns and operates more than 60 facilities including 44 company-owned facilities, with a design capacity of more than 85,000 beds in 19 states and the District of Columbia."

"Since its inception, CCA has maintained its market leadership position in private corrections, managing more than 50 percent of all beds under contract with such providers in the United States. The company joined the New York Stock Exchange in 1994 and now trades under the ticker symbol CXW."

"The company has been named among "America's Best Big Companies" by Forbes magazine and ranked number one in the publication's "Business Services and Supplies" category. G.I. Jobs magazine also

named CCA as a "Top 50 Military-Friendly Employer."

According to the International Centre for Prison Studies ([www.prisonstudies.org](http://www.prisonstudies.org)) the United States of America imprisons a greater number of citizens per 100,000 than any other country.

The more that people are imprisoned in the United States, the more money Corrections Corporation of America makes. People of color (black and brown) and poor people are incarcerated far beyond their proportion of the population in the United States. Additionally, while black and brown people are arrested for drug crimes far more than their white counterparts, black and brown people do not use illegal drugs more than their white counterparts. State and federal laws are being written in ways the cause more people of color and more poor people to get sentenced.

For additional information, contact Tiauna Boyd at [tboyd@ctsichicago.edu](mailto:tboyd@ctsichicago.edu) who is the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference contact person.

### PASTORAL VACANCY

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Seaboard, North Carolina



Mount Zion Baptist Church is searching for a Pastor with the following criteria.

- Missionary Baptist Background
- 5 years experience licensed and ordained
- Live within a 100 mile radius

Our worship services are held on 2nd Sunday at 11:30 a.m. and 4th Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Resumes with a letter of interest will be accepted until May 31, 2012

Send Resumes to

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Post Office Box 88  
Seaboard, North Carolina 27876  
Attention: Geraldine Langford, Clerk

### Minister of Music Search POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

4/17/2012

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC is seeking an experienced Minister of Music who desires to serve others in the excellence of Christ. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church is a growing, dynamic church committed to reaching the lost for Jesus Christ.

The church offers an 11:00 am traditional service, as well as Wednesday evening services. The Minister of Music will serve as worship leader for the 11:00 traditional service, and will direct and/or oversee all aspects of a comprehensive music program for adults, youth, and children, including all choirs, and other vocal and instrumental groups.

#### Qualifications:

Interested candidates must have a minimum of four years' experience playing both hymns and gospel music for a church choir; a bachelor's degree is preferred in music and experience as a music/worship leader. Training from an accredited college or seminary is highly desirable.

#### Other required qualifications include:

- A passion for God and His kingdom's work
- Willingness to embrace the Baptist Faith and Message
- Commitment to serving as an minister of music in the excellence of Christ
- Ability to lead choirs and to direct or oversee other musical groups
- Strong vocal ability and competence in playing piano, key board or other instruments
- A desire to be creative and innovative to inspire authentic, passionate worship
- A desire to utilize blended/traditional music for worship services
- Ability to arrange various elements of worship to complement the pastor's message
- Excellent organizational skills
- Strong leadership skills
- Ability to relate well to all ages
- Ability to work in cooperation with a large staff and in support of the vision of the Senior Pastor
- References

#### How to Apply

Interested candidates must submit a cover letter and a resume that demonstrate the applicant's ability to meet the required qualifications. Resumes will be reviewed as they are received. The cover letter and resume may be submitted by mail or by e-mail to:

**Mount Pleasant Baptist Church**  
10720 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh, NC 27614  
919-847-8567  
[mt816@bellsouth.net](mailto:mt816@bellsouth.net) or [fjustice@nc.rr.com](mailto:fjustice@nc.rr.com)

## Brown New Calvary Baptist Church

200 Doak Street  
Thomasville, NC 27360  
(336) 476-6514  
(336) 688-7012

Brown New Calvary Baptist Church is seeking someone a bi-vocational position as Pastor. All interested persons should send resume to address listed above: Attention Deacon Ministry.

Applicant must have the following qualifications:

- Born again
- Licensed and ordained in the Baptist Church
- Pastoral Experience preferred
- Be willing and qualified to teach and preach God's work
- Must have good people skills
- Support Sunday School and Bible Study
- Strong church administrative ability
- Expected to preach, counsel, visit the sick
- Meet qualifications outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7

All candidates must submit to criminal background and credit check.

## PASTORAL VACANCY

The First Baptist Church, Apple Street, Burlington, North Carolina is seeking a Senior Pastor. The following is a description of the pastor we are seeking.

The chief responsibility of the Senior Pastor is leading the church to accomplish the mission of loving God, loving others and making disciples.

### Education/Experience Expectations.

- Preferably a minimum of a master's degree in divinity from an accredited seminary (II Timothy 2:15).
- Preference given to candidates with a minimum of 5 years work experience as a Senior Pastor along with additional years of church leadership experience.
- The senior pastor should meet the requirements listed for an overseer in I Timothy 3:1-13 and I Peter 5:1-8.

The senior pastor must have a sound Christian vision and strive to unify the church body toward sharing and embracing that vision so that it will become a reality.

The senior pastor must be licensed to preach, ordained as a minister of the gospel, and must be willing to follow the ordinances and doctrines of the Missionary Baptist church.

Character qualities should include being: humble, self-controlled, joyful, action and goal oriented, caring, approachable, trustworthy, faithful, of ethical/strong moral character, willing to grow, devoted to his marriage/family and willing to persevere in God's work.

### Qualifications

The senior pastor should lead by word and example guiding the church to accomplish the work of Christ and the mission of the church. The pastor must be capable of proclaiming God's Word, teaching, leading, equipping leaders, role modeling the church's mission, devoted to prayer, assuring care and mobilizing resources.

Send your inquiry to the address below by June 30, 2012.

Deacon George Byrd, Jr., Chairman  
Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 1244  
Burlington, North Carolina 27216

## Pastoral Vacancy First Baptist Church Hamlet, NC

### Skills and Qualifications Desired:

- Licensed / Ordained Missionary Baptist Minister
- Spirit-filled, led by God and full of compassion
- Ability to effectively preach and teach GOD's Word (HOLY BIBLE)
- Visions to promote Church growth and spirit
- Strong administrative skills to work with Church Officers
- Ability and desire to work with all age groups and within the Church
- Compassionate and loving spirit in all areas of Church Ministries and dealing with members
- Leader whose character demonstrates: Commitment, Punctuality, Integrity and Dedication in Church affairs
- Willingness to implement policies fairly, consistently with respect to all individuals based on needs and abilities
- Involvement with Church Associations / Conventions
- Effective communication skills and willingness to have open dialogue to reduce confusion
- Willingness to visit sick and shut-in members
- 2 – 5 years Prior Ministerial as Lead Pastor experience or as an Assistant to the lead Pastor
- Willingness to have criminal, character and credit background checks as defined in Church Bylaws
- 2 years minimum education from an accredited school. Bachelor's degree preferred from an accredited divinity College
- Married preferred

Please submit evidence of past experience, certificates of licensure and ordination, proof of educational seminary training and transcripts along with three letters of recommendation to:

First Baptist Church  
Attn: Pastoral Search Committee  
329 West Avenue  
Hamlet, NC 28345

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**Pre-Opening The All Baptist Assembly**  
**July 22–25, 2012**  
**J. J. Johnson Benefit Concert**  
**July 22, 2012 at 6:30 pm**

**Raleigh Convention Center,  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

This concert is a collaborative effort to raise funds for the rebuilding of the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly Site in Laurel Hill, North Carolina. Our goal is to raise \$10,000

Admission is free but a generous donation to the offering will be requested. Please bring 3 canned goods to be donated to the Food Bank of North Carolina



**YOUTH (ALL AGES), YOUNG ADULTS, ADULTS (MALE AND FEMALE)**  
**Singers/Choirs/Musicians/Directors**  
**Liturgical Dancers, Christian Step Teams**  
**Flaggers, Artists and other are still needed**

NOTE: If you are interested in working on a committee to assist with this effort (Fundraising, program, publicity, technology, performing, creative and/or visual arts), please contact any of the following persons: Ms. Jewyl Dunn, Youth Supervisor -919-612-2727, Ms. Jewelyn Dunn, Young Adult President – 919-601-0639, Dr. Mary B-Hall, Young Adult Director –704-214-1034 or the Baptist Headquarters at (919) 833-4823

***Sponsored by***  
***The Youth and Young Adult Department***  
***Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention Of North Carolina***  
***Auxiliary to The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.***

# BAPTIST INFORMER

## Renewal / Subscription Form

Your subscription expiration date will be listed on your mailing label. Please make a note of this date so that you will know when it is time to renew your subscription. The *Baptist Informer* is produced and mailed around the first of each month.

Subscriptions are \$20.00 per year.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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I am enclosing:  Check  Money Order

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ M.O. # \_\_\_\_\_

In the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF SUBSCRIPTION (Check one)

New Subscriber  Renewal Subscriber

### SUBSCRIPTION TERM (Check one)

1 Year  2 Years  3 Years  4 Years

FOR ADDRESS CHANGE, ATTACH OLD MAILING LABEL

## Advertise in Your *Baptist Informer*

### NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & CHURCHES:

	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	ONE YEAR
Full Page	\$350.00	\$875.00	\$1,650.00	\$3,000.00
1/2 Page	\$200.00	\$525.00	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
1/4 Page	\$125.00	\$300.00	\$475.00	\$800.00
1/8 Page	\$80.00	\$195.00	\$325.00	\$540.00

### FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES:

	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	ONE YEAR
Full Page	\$500.00	\$1,275.00	\$2,250.00	\$3,900.00
1/2 Page	\$325.00	\$825.00	\$1,350.00	\$2,100.00
1/4 Page	\$200.00	\$510.00	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
1/8 Page	\$150.00	\$375.00	\$600.00	\$900.00

### AD SPECIFICATIONS:

Full Page 10.5" x 12.5"

Half Page 10.5" x 6.25"

Quarter Page 5.25" x 6.25"

Eighth Page 5.25" x 3.125"

**All ads must be prepaid before published.**

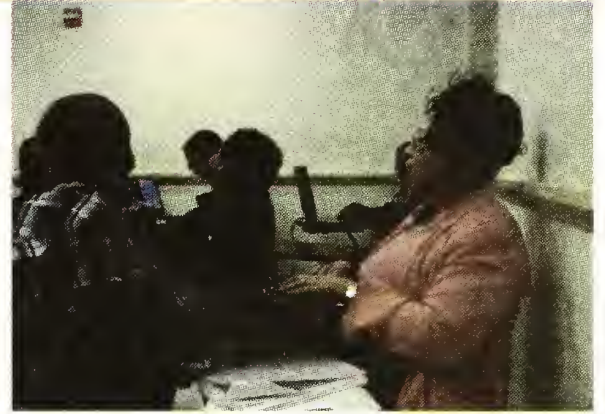
Insertion orders are due by the 10th of the previous month before ad is to appear in the *Baptist Informer*.

Advertising copy or questions may be e-mailed to

**General Baptist State Convention**

at [Nwrightgbsc@aol.com](mailto:Nwrightgbsc@aol.com).

# Shaw University Divinity School



Many are called, but few are chosen. Are you called to lead God's people in the 21st Century? We can help you be better equipped.

Earn up to 1/3 of Your Degree On-line

Night and Weekend Classes

Two Campuses: Raleigh and High Point, North Carolina

Accredited by ATS for Over a Decade

High Quality Ministry Preparation

Master of Divinity Degree

Master of Religious Education

Please contact our office today to setup your tour and to get more information. The number is (919) 546-8570.



# THE ALL BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 2012 COMING IN JULY

**WHEN:** July 22-26, 2012

**WHERE:** The Raleigh Convention Center, downtown Raleigh.

**TIME:** The session begins with a free concert on Sunday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Raleigh Convention Center.

**REGISTRATION:** Monday (July 23, 2012) at 8:00 a.m.

**OPENING :** Monday (July 23, 2012) at 10:00 a.m.

**BANQUET:** The Johnnie Blunt McLester Banquet, Monday evening, 6:00 p.m.

**HOTELS:** MARRIOTT CITY CENTER HOTEL 500 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh. You may visit [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) to make reservation online. You must mention the Woman's Baptist State Convention when making reservations in order to receive this rate. The rates are \$124.00 plus tax for double/king. Call (800) 228-9290 or (919) 833-1120.

SHERATON RALEIGH HOTEL, 421 S. Salisbury St., Raleigh. You may visit [www.Sheraton.com](http://www.Sheraton.com) to make reservation on line.

You must mention the Woman's Baptist State Convention when making reservations in order to receive this rate.

The rate is \$124 plus tax for double/king. Call (800) 325-3535 or (919) 834-9900.

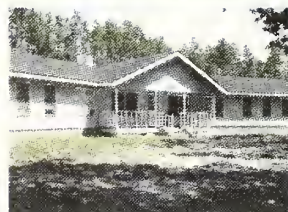
**Reminder:** Please remember to get a hotel confirmation number once your reservation is made and have it with you at check-in.

# BAPTIST INFORMER



603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

USPS 042-680



## MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!

The General Baptist State Convention supporting  
Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School,  
Central Children's Home of North Carolina,  
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly,  
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention  
and State Missions since 1867.



SE Baptist Theo Seminary S11 P22  
114 N Wingate St  
Wake Forest NC 27587-2553



# FATHER'S DAY

Numbers 6:24: The LORD bless thee, and keep thee. (KJV)

June 2012

# BAPTIST INFORMER

Volume 135, No. 6

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.



## MID YEAR SESSION

Baptists from across the Tar Heel State convened in Greensboro on May 15-16 to energize, equip and encourage thousands of ecclesiastical foot soldiers associated with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, an umbrella organization encompassing more than 1,500 churches under the leadership of President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.

(See additional photos and story inside your Baptist Informer Newspaper).



GBSC President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. addressed the delegation on various issues affecting the state's Baptists.



A moment of prayer and praise during a session



The Reverend Ricky Banks looked on as the Rev. LaMont Johnson led worship before an enthusiastic Baptist delegation during the session held at the Grandover Resort & Conference Center in Greensboro.

### How I Got Over: Black religious songs really do help

*However, music not being passed to younger folks, study shows*

Press Reports

New research from the

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Nursing has shown that older African-Americans use religious songs in a personal way to cope with stressful life events. Songs long have been an important way for religious African-Americans to express their beliefs and faith, and the study provided evidence that reli-

gious songs are linked to the mental health of older African-Americans.

Jill Hamilton, Ph.D., R.N., an assistant professor at the School of Nursing, led the study, which appears online in *The Gerontologist*, a bimonthly journal that provides a multidisciplinary perspective on human aging through

(Continued on Page 2)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Beginning in July, the Baptist Informer will explore the world of **FEMALE PASTORS**. Don't miss this in-depth and provocative series about changing gender roles in churches from the perspective of pastors, seminarians and other theologians.

<b>P3</b> Shaw University Women's Basketball Wins...	<b>P10</b> North Carolina Laymen Receive Honors	<b>P13</b> The 39th Alexander Pegues Ministers' Conference
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(Continued on Page 1)

research and analysis in gerontology.

The research findings could help improve the cultural relevance of mental health programs and achieve better communication between older African-Americans and health-care providers. For example, a health-care provider could ask about a favorite song to help a patient feel more comfortable talking about mental health problems.



Although other studies have examined the collective mental health benefits of religious songs to a group, such as in a church service, this is one of the first studies to examine how African-Americans use religious songs and the personal meanings associated with them.

The study grew out of Hamilton's desire to document religious songs that older African-Americans knew but that were no longer being taught to younger generations. "As I gathered song titles and lyrics, people would tell me about the personal meaning of the songs," she said. "I realized that they were using religious songs to support their mental health in their day-to-day lives."

The study included 65 African-American older adults living in the southeastern United States. They said that during times of stress, religious songs helped them feel comforted, strengthened, uplifted, able to endure and able to find peace. Of the five types of religious songs studied, Hamilton found that those evoking thanksgiving and praise were most often

used to cope with stress. "They were praising God even during difficult times," she said. "These songs were reminders that God had brought them through hard times before and would do it again."



Many study participants told Hamilton they learned songs at a young age and that their older relatives taught them that a song could get them through a stressful situation. "I don't know that this form of intergenerational support is still taking place today," she said. "It would be interesting to see if younger African-Americans use the same religious coping mechanisms as older African-Americans, especially since other studies have shown that younger African-Americans are more at risk for depression than older African-Americans."

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## Allow Your Gifts to Make Your Convention a Blessing to Others

### From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large

Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.

To the beloved saints of the General Baptist family and all who love the Lord, the work, witness, worship, ministry, and mission of the Lord: "Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus the Christ our Lord." (1 Timothy 1:2b, NKJV)

The late Reverend Dr. Edward Victor Hill who served as pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Los Angeles, California, was noted for often saying there were three books the church needed to carry out its kingdom mandate: the good book (Bible), the hymn book, and the pocketbook.

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus used parables to illustrate the kingdom of God. Jesus emphasized the stewardship of material possessions in 16 of the 38 parables in the Gospels. The importance of stewardship and its faithful, generous practice in kingdom building is replete throughout the Scriptures. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:11 reminded us that we are enriched by our generous and gracious God in order to be free and liberal givers. Liberality and generosity in giving

are not optional; they are kingdom responsibilities.

John Maxwell notes the scriptures challenge us to be liberal and generous in giving (Stewardship Strategies). Maxwell says we must support the ministry of God's kingdom building because:

- **Giving is Kingdom-focused (Matthew 6:33).**
- **Giving responds to needs (Romans 12).**
- **Giving is consistent and deliberate (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).**
- **Giving enriches and benefits others (2 Corinthians 8:9).**

General Baptists, MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO! Missions is Kingdom-focused, responsive to needs, constant and deliberate, and enriches and benefits the lives of others. God has blessed us so we can bless our convention through cheerful and generous giving. As you give, your convention will be blessed to become a blessing through you, to you, and others. My brothers and sisters, we are blessed to become blessings. We are recipients of God's grace and generosity in order to become gracious and generous givers.

The biblical example of the

Macedonians is a great model for kingdom ministry and stewardship. They weren't rich, but they were willing. God enhanced and empowered their willing spirit in a mighty way. As a result, God blessed them in order to be blessings for God. They were enriched by their willingness and generosity.

Please encourage your church, ministries, association, and community to support the convention and its objectives: State Missions, Central Children's Home, Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School, J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, and Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention.

Remember, MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO! Let us do it with faithful and fruitful contributions. Please send your generous and liberal support (financially, prayerfully) today! I am looking forward to seeing you all and hearing from you soon. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (Philippians 4:23, NKJV)

- Send thoughts and comments to Dr. Avery at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com)

## GBSC THEME

**"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"**  
Matthew 28:19-20

## Usher: Prayed Up and Prepared for Service



Bro. Charles Dunn  
Ushers'  
President, GBSC

Ushers, how prepared are you for service? The work of the usher begins long before the call to worship. Part of our work means to be prepared spiritually, physically, personally and emotionally.

Has there been private time in meditation and communion with God?

Has the usher had an opportunity to allow God to speak through the study of His word? Has the usher consistently prayed? The usher who had no time to prepare their spirit prior to worship, will make a poor offering of him or herself at the time of worship

because they have to be mindful of personal devotion time.

The usher needs to keep physically fit. They understand the need for proper rest prior to worship service. A long Saturday night will make for a hard Sunday morning. A tired body will not respond quickly to the needs of the Pastor or congregation. After all, we represent more than just ourselves. Ushers are representatives of the Lord, the church and their families. Therefore they should be clean, neat and well-groomed.

And finally, the usher should be emotionally ready to serve and approach their work in a holy manner. A proper attitude is essential and an usher should seek to have the mind of Christ. For it is written, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

- Send thoughts and comments to Bro. Dunn at [justice@bellsouth.net](mailto:justice@bellsouth.net)

## Shaw University Elects New Board Chair, Officers

Dr. Joseph N. Bell, Jr. was recently elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Shaw University, succeeding Dr. Willie E. Gary, who was re-elected as a board member.

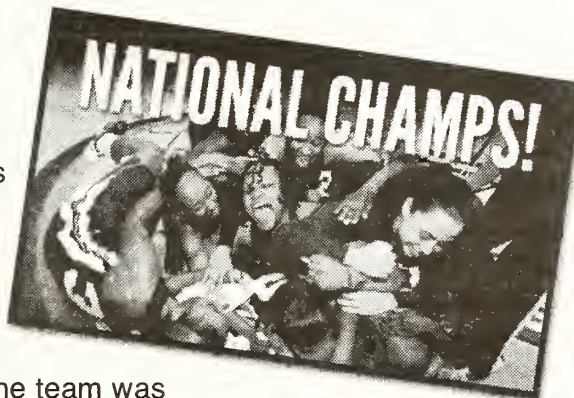
In addition, Dr. Lorenzo Williams was elected vice-chairman and Dr. H. Donell Lewis was elected secretary. Each officer will serve a two-year term effective July 1, 2012.

Dr. Bell, a Shaw alumnus, now serves as vice-chair of the Board and holds several board positions, including vice chair of the Executive Committee; chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee; chair of the Trusteeship Committee; member of the Investment Committee and member of the Property Acquisition and Business Development Committee. He has also served as chair of two Transition Committees during changes in administrations.

After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Shaw University in 1970, Dr. Bell established himself in the banking industry, having served as Executive Vice President of Carver State Bank in Savannah, GA. His wife, Carolyn Hodges Bell, a 1971 Shaw graduate, was recently elected Alderman-at-Large for the Savannah City Council. In addition, Dr. Bell served as Executive Director of the Chatham Association of Educators, an affiliate of the Georgia Association of Educators and the National Education Association, for almost 25 years.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Shaw University Women's Basketball team won its first Division II National Women's Basketball Championship on March 17 by beating Ashland 88-82 in overtime. The then-unranked Lady Bears defeated four top ten teams on its way to the title and were voted number one in the final USA Today/ESPN Division II Women's Basketball Poll. In April, the team was welcomed to the North Carolina Governor's Mansion by Governor Bev Perdue, who declared April 18 as "Shaw Lady Bears Basketball Day." Head coach Jacques Curtis was also named 2012 Schelde North America/Women's Division II Bulletin Coach of the Year.



(Photos courtesy of Shaw University)

## MINISTRY BRIEF

### Degree Holder

The Reverend M. Andrew Davis of Concord, N.C. earned a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in Pastoral Theology from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC, on May 12, 2012. Rev. Davis is the Pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Ansonville, N.C.

## Shaw Student Lands NASA Internship

By Andrea Williams '12

Upon meeting Shaw University Athletic Training and Sports Medicine student Akeem Banks for the first time, he admits, "I wasn't always the scholar I am today." Since enrolling at Shaw, Banks has found himself on the path to obtaining better grades, studying habits and taking full advantage of Shaw's challenging curriculum by becoming a member of the University's Honors College -- to which he attributes most of his undergraduate success.

Wanting to enhance his academic experience, Banks was encouraged to apply for the NASA internship through the University's Center for Experiential Learning and Career Development. "I chose this particular internship because of its uniqueness and diversity, said Banks. It was unlike anything

I've ever experienced before. I was able to work with people who are involved with the development of the human race beyond earth."

Over the 15-week fall session spent at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, Banks worked on a countermeasures project for human behavior and performance risks in long-duration spaceflights. Under the supervision of the Director of Space Life Sciences, Banks analyzed spaceflight incidents discussed in astronaut autobiographies, archived the information in a database, and examined exercise countermeasures for negative mood states and disturbances to the body's biological clock system.

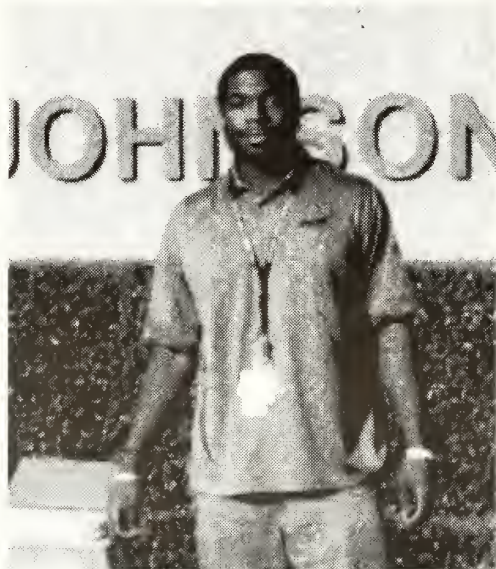
In addition, he analyzed statistical data on previous astronaut's behavioral (or psychological) health issues, team cohesion/training issues, and human perform-

ance/sleep deprivation issues based on exposure to space, crew member size; food, and several other categorical areas while they were on board the international space shuttles or on lunar missions.

Aside from learning about the everyday functions of astronauts in space and the endurance of the human body, Banks said the life lessons he learned from this experience were even more valuable. "I learned a lot about how to continuously set goals in life and to always strive for greatness and growth."

After graduation, Banks plans on attending graduate school to earn a Master's degree in Exercise Physiology and a doctorate in Neuromechanics or possibly attend medical school. In addition, he was offered an opportunity to go back to NASA for another internship and plans to take it in the near future. Banks is grateful for the skills he has learned at Shaw, and would like to remind his peers that "no matter the obstacles and trials in life you face, always keep striving for the best, because you never know until you try!"

*Wire Report / Reprinted By Permission of Shaw University*



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**HIGHLIGHTS of the  
2012 Minister's Wives and Widows' Retreat  
"2012 MW&W: Upward Bound Bonding"**

*Submitted by Sister Annie Hewett, Chairperson*

The 2012 Minister's Wives and Widows Retreat on May 4-5 at the Ridge Crest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C. presented the theme - "Upward Bound Bonding" - and focused on moving the membership to "higher ground in the spiritual realm."

Workshop presenters were the Reverend Adrienne Johnson ("Shaking up the Church House with Prayer"), Minister Mary Cherry ("Becoming One in the Body of Christ") and Sister Mattie Breeden ("Women Gone Wise in a World Gone Wild") who helped to enlighten the MW&W on how to come together in unity in the Body

of Christ.

The Reverend Tonia Bonner, the daughter of Minister Magdalene Leach, delivered the keynote address for Retreat. Her inspiring message was a "great move of God's Holy Spirit that was enriched by the anointed Word."

Attendees included WBH&FMC-NC President of North Carolina Mrs. Audrey Battle; third Vice President Mrs. Ellender W. LeMay; Fourth Vice President Mrs. Lena Johnson; and the Reverend Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

(Photos submitted by Rev. Dr. Linda Bryan)



President Audrey Battle, Vice Chair Shelby Foy and First Lady Laverne Parker joined into the workshop discussions that focused on issues affecting clergy wives and all women in the body of Christ.



VP Ellender LeMay, Mrs. Magdalene Leach, Mrs. Mattie Breeden, Mrs. Robbie Diggs and Mrs. Shelby Foy and other participants attending workshops presented during the Minister's Wives & Widows Retreat in May.



Retreat participants Mrs. Magdalene Leach, Mrs. Mamie Smith and Mrs. Shelby Foy

## J. F. Wertz Oratorical Contest Planned June 25-27

Dozens of young people from across Tar Heel State will display their oratorical gifts and prowess when the Congress of Christian Education's James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest returns to the Martin Street Baptist Church in downtown Raleigh.

During the three-day event, Dean Jamale Johnson and Assistant Dean James Lewis have classes planned for youth and adults beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, June 26-27. Youth will also present a mini-concert on Wednesday beginning at 10:30 a.m. under the direction of David Eggleston, Music Director, at the church, located at 1001 E.

Martin St. where the Rev. Dr. Earl C. Johnson is pastor.

Churches and associations are encour-



Ruth Johnson, Oratorical Director, and Mary Irving, Assistant Oratorical Director

aged to pay annual assessments of \$400 to support the work of the Congress. The Baptist Headquarters is encouraging pre-registrations at \$10 adults and \$5.00 youth. Attendees may simply write their names on a sheet of paper and send in checks or money orders made payable to the GBSC.

Hotel accommodations are again available at the Clarion State Capital Hotel, 320 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, N.C. For reservations: call (919) 832-0501. The GBSC rate of \$75 for doubles and singles (plus tax) for a limited number of rooms, so early registrations are encouraged.

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## A TRANSFORMED PERSON CAN CHANGE THE WORLD



Bro. Richmond Turner GBSC Laymen

During the recent Mid-Year Session (GBSC) in Greensboro, two important comments were made that relate to the Laymen's key purpose:

From the evening Worship: Dr. A Lincoln James, Jr., commented that: "The Black church is short on discipleship and long on

membership."

• Rev. Bert A Lattaker, III, commented that: "We have a whole generation of folk who come to church out of routine."

These comments emphasize the claim that transformation in our churches must take place (A Call for Radical Discipleship) as we continue our focus on the Laymen's purpose: To transform Christian Men into mature devoted disciples of Jesus Christ through intentional discipleship training.

We alluded to the thought, in our last article, that participation in the Great Commission requires regeneration. Being a transformed person, two acts of submission flows out of this regeneration:

(1) To be baptized—to go public. Although baptism is still significant today. It lacks the risk and courage it required in the first century. Baptism means going public as a disciple. It was never meant to be a private ritual that takes place inside church walls. For Christianity to flourish, disciples must start out public and remain public. A single disciple creates light and the community of disciples shines like a city on a hill. Keeping your light hidden is not an option (Matthew 5:14-16).

(2) To be taught to obey everything Christ Commanded—to submit to transformation. There are many voices tugging at Christians today; Catholics—tradition and Scripture. Anglicans—Scripture, tradition, and reason. Protestant—Scripture alone. With these differences clouding church history, can we hope to extract what's most important? Before any of these voices existed, Jesus provided the process to follow: All disciples were to be taught to obey everything He commanded. Jesus summed up 212 commandments into three

statements: (a) Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. (b) Love your neighbor as yourself. (c) Love your enemies.

### HOW DO WE OBEY?

(A) As disciples, we need a vision to inspire us. Vision provides hope, and hope fuels our efforts as we walk into the future. Disciples should dream to be like Christ. Our goal should be to absorb the example of Christ into our lives by studying, and meditating on the characteristics of His life. The core character trait of Jesus is humility, that's the place to begin. This vision can pull us into the future, inspiring us for all of life.

(B) As disciples, we need accountability to receive training. Training involves constant repetition, it requires discipline. Consistent self-discipline is rare, we need others to hold us accountable. We submit to accountability when we have a passion to please God, to avoid moral failure, or to avoid wasting away the years through neglect and sloth. Accountability means submitting ourselves to at least one other person. That individual has permission to ask

any questions and keep us honest about life.

(C) As disciples, we need structure to empower us. Structure is about designing life for success. A structure should simply compel us to take action, setting into motion the Holy Spirit's action to reshape us. As disciples, we need relationships where we experience love. True community means living in submission to each other. It requires the work of the Holy Spirit to submit to others and allow others to play a meaningful part in our growth. As disciples, our character develops in a faith community where we feel loved, affirmed, and safe enough to trust other members of the community.

The Reverend Dr. A. Lincoln James said in his keynote address at the Mid Year Session: "the Black Church does not understand what discipleship means." In subsequent articles, we will attempt at reviewing the meaning of key terms in discipleship. I will close with the old adage: "God didn't call members. He called disciples."

- Send thoughts and comments to Bro. Turner at [ITURN60@aol.com](mailto:ITURN60@aol.com)

## General Baptist State Convention – NC SAVE THE DATES

**June 16, 2012**

Central Children's Home Day Celebration (Oxford, NC)

**June 18-22, 2012**

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, St. Louis, MO.

**June 25-27, 2012**

Congress Oratorical Contest,

Martin Street Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C.

**July 22-26, 2012**

All Baptist Assembly (Raleigh Conv. Center, Raleigh, NC)

**August 6-10, 2012**

Progressive National Baptist Convention Annual Session

**August 13-17, 2012**

Lott Carey Annual Session

**September 3-7, 2012**

National Baptist Convention Annual Session

**October 29-31, 2012- GBSC Annual Session**

For details, call Baptist Headquarters - (919) 821-7466

## Sickle Cell Disease: A Change is Overdue

By Elaine Whitworth



Health care providers in the Sickle Cell Network hear this scenario too often: Another young couple, unaware of their risk and their sickle cell trait status, has been told that their beautiful, new baby

has Sickle Cell Disease.

Unbelievably, this story could have been avoided if the parents had been screened and educated on their risks for passing on sickle cell disease.

Risk usually means that there is a way around the inevitable. In this case, it is very true and the way is simply to know your status and to know what it means so that informed decisions can be made. This change is overdue

Today, sickle cell disease is not a death sentence. Many persons who have the disease now live well into old age. Our oldest patient is 77 years old. However, sickle cell disease does not leave anyone unaffected. Bouts of pain, the most common symptom, are shared by most patients. Other complications as they age range from hearing loss to neurological damage via strokes, as well, as other common chronic conditions. Even

when the family has medical insurance, a financial burden that soars into the thousands of dollars is not uncommon. Patients, their partners, and their families are at risk for the social and emotional strain of unpredictable episodes of illness that interrupt life events across the life cycle.

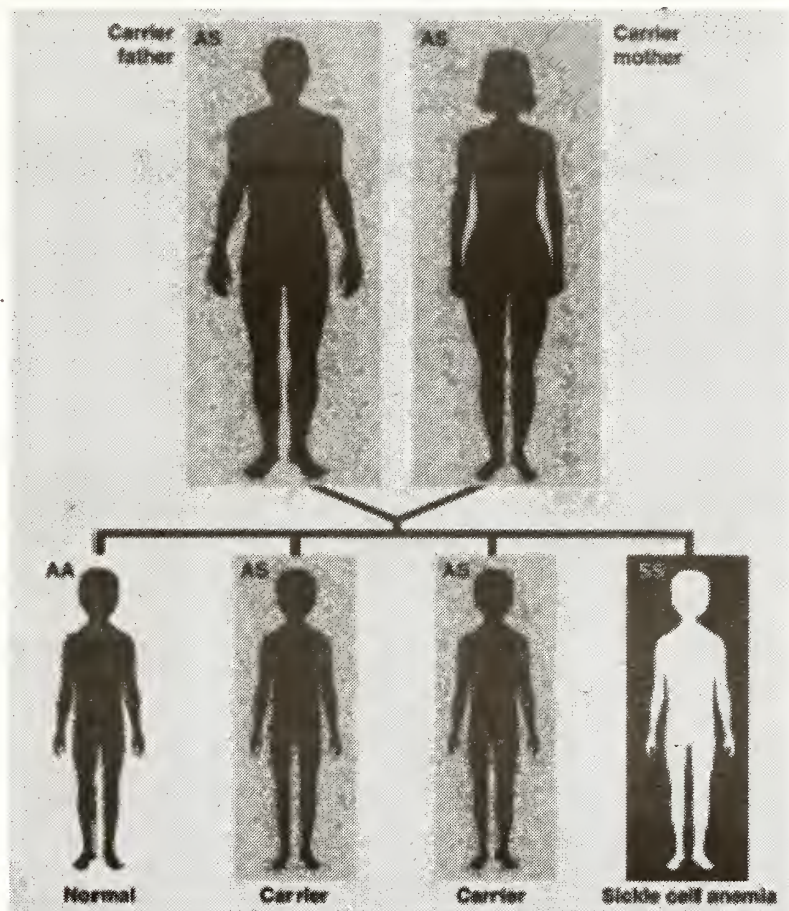
The Faith Based Initiative, Missions of Caring, being sponsored by Bridges Sickle Cell Foundation and Duke Sickle Cell Center, is aimed at wiping out this story. Local congregations can help to eradicate this lack of knowledge by getting involved in education of their members in their health ministries.

This may be better understood where young adults can be in the midst of trusted family, friends and spiritual advisers. We can make sure young adults in their child bearing years are well of aware of their risks and understand the consequences of these risks. Knowledge is surely power in this situation. We can change this scenario.

To get involved in this remedy, ministers are

being contacted and urged to assist with this initiative. There are resources, educational materials, experts who will willingly come to your church to offer education, training and assistance with planning your congregational initiative.

- Contact Elaine Whitworth at (919) 684-0677 or email whitw002@mc.duke.edu.



## Multiple Ways to Observe Good Health

Every month of every year has some type of observance. While hearing about it may bring awareness, doing something about it is even more powerful.



Crystal Kimpson  
Roberts

So here's a call to action. What did you do during National Women's Health Week, Women's Health Check-Up Day, Stroke Awareness Week last month?

If you gave to one or more of those causes, participated in a health fair or walk, or made an appointment for a wellness check, good for you. Now that

June is here, how will you recognize the observances that resonate with you?

- **June 3, National Cancer Survivors Day**
- **June 11-17, Men's Health Week**
- **June 19, World Sickle Cell Day (African American)**
- **June 27, National HIV testing Day**
- **June 17, Father's Day**

While I have been indirectly affected by the illnesses listed above, the observance that most resonates with me is Father's Day. My darling father and best friend, Joseph Elvin Kimpson, is God's gift to me, and he and his siblings are a blessed quartet that has suffered from hypertension, diabetes, and stroke. As their blood runs through my veins, I walk by faith and believe in the substance of things unseen.

This month, I believe that the Supreme Court will make the right choice and allow

this law to stay on the books so that quality and affordable health care will remain accessible.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a provision of the law includes Consumer Assistance Program to help people enroll in health coverage and learn about their rights and responsibilities as health care consumers. Additionally, the law has a Patient's "Bill of Rights" that outlines consumer protections and gives you the knowledge you need to make informed choices about your health. I encourage you to do something: share this information. There are still many who are unaware.

- Mrs. Roberts is Communications Lead with Knows Your Care-NC. Visit [www.knowyourcare.org](http://www.knowyourcare.org) to get information on health care and insurance.

# MID YEAR SESSION

From the 2012 Mid Year Session in Greensboro, N.C.

Host Church was Oak Ridge First Baptist Church, where the Rev. Dr. James A. Webster is Pastor

Photos by Taniko Williamson



Dr. Peter M. Wherry, Moderator of United Missionary Baptist Association, greets the Mid-Year Session Keynote Preacher, Dr. A. Lincoln James, Jr.



Sister Clydia Hill, Watts Chapel, Raleigh and other worshippers enjoy a session



Dr. A. Lincoln James, Jr. (right), Mid Year Session Keynote Preacher and the Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., greets former GBSC President Dr. Charles W. Bullock



The Rev. Timothy Edwards focuses on the program



Jubilation Praise Dancers from Host Church, Oak Ridge First Baptist Church, Greensboro, performed during the Mid Year Session



Pastor F.O. Bass, Jr., Mount Vernon Baptist Church, and Pastor Frank Thomas, Mount Zion Baptist Church, both in High Point, NC



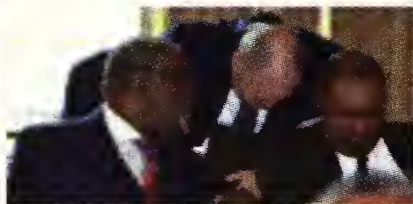
The Rev. Wayne Hines, join the Rev. and Mrs. William Lucas



The Rev. Theodore Breeden, the Rev. Marvin T. Clowney, Dr. James A. Webster, and the Rev. Ronnie McLaughlin



Dr. Howard Parker, GBSC President, Dr. Haywood T. Gray, GBSC Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Ricky Banks and other Baptist pastors and leaders share a moment of fellowship during the session



**Lott Carey**

## Lott Carey Returns to Norfolk State

The 58th Annual Lott Carey Youth Seminar will be held June 23 – 28, 2012 on

the campus of Norfolk State University.

More than 500 young people from across the country are expected to attend the event that focuses on supporting churches to nurture new generations of Christian leaders for the world. Young Christians, ages 14 – 21 spend a week together serving, learning, in worship, and in fellowship.

The Rev. Lott Carey was one of the first American and Baptist missionaries to West Africa. Born enslaved in 1780 in Charles City County, Virginia, Lott Carey purchased

his freedom in 1813. He led a pioneering missionary team to Liberia in 1821 that engaged in evangelism, education, and health care. Rev. Carey became a well-respected and gifted governmental leader as well as missionary until his death in 1828. He was also the organizing pastor for the first Baptist church in Liberia – the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia. Registration is available through “Youth Development” at [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org).

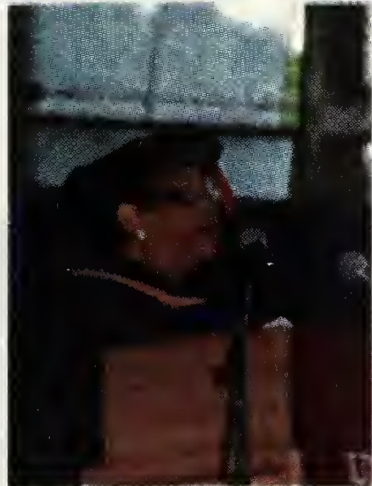
**Register soon while space is still available.**



**Shaw University awarded 371 degrees at its Spring Commencement ceremony on May 12, 2012 in J.S. Dorton Arena in Raleigh.**

Thomas Dortch, Jr., an entrepreneur, community activist and chairman emeritus of 100 Black Men of America, Inc., delivered the commencement address.

An honorary degree was awarded posthumously to Dr. Fred J. Long, Sr., who graduated from Shaw in 1968 and was an all-conference baseball and football player and is featured in the school's athletic Hall of Fame. Founded in 1865, Shaw was the first historically black college in the South.



The Commencement procession enjoyed the applause of faculty and family. The school now has 371 new alumni.

**Jerusalem Baptist Church**

Presents

Men's Day 2012

Sunday, June 24th

3:00 PM

*Theme: Men! True to Discipleship*

1570 North Long St.  
Spencer, North Carolina 28159  
Rev. Dr. David L. Bracken



**Guest Speaker**

**Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch**  
**Ebenezer Baptist Church**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**

**Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch**

**Recipient of**

Doctor of Ministry  
United Theo. Seminary  
Master of Divinity  
Duke Divinity School  
Bachelor of Arts  
UNC at Greensboro

**Currently Serving**

1st Vice President  
GBSC of NC

**Serving On**

Executive Board  
General Board  
Evangelism Committee  
Chairman  
Committee on  
Home Missions

Member NBC, USA

**Serving**

Instructor for  
Congress of  
Christian Education

**PRAYER DAY**

*Prayer Day will be observed on  
June 23, 2012.*

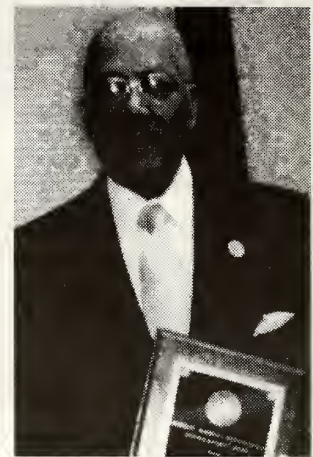
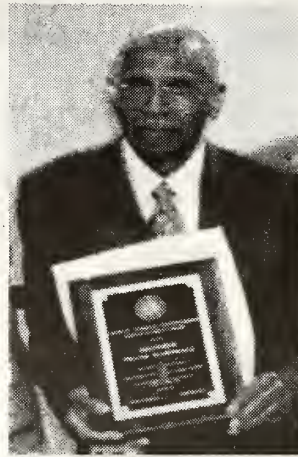
*We are asking every disciple across  
the state to PRAY that the needs of  
God's people will be met.*

# North Carolina Laymen Receive Honors

The First Annual Marshall-Morgan Distinguished Service Awards Banquet and Session recognized the dedication and service of North Carolina Laymen during the program at Genesis Baptist Church in Greensboro, where the Rev. Gregory T. Headen is Pastor.



Dr. Cliff Bell (center), Third Vice President-NCLL, received the Local Laymen of the Year Award. He is pictured with Bro. Richmond Turner, Laymen's State President (left), and Deacon Anthony Hagans (right).



Deacons Frank Marshall of Asheville (left) and Deacon Jarvis Morgan of Raleigh both received awards for distinguished "trailblazing work" with the Laymen's League through the years. Deacon Marshall is a former State President of the League.



Bro. Keith Lipscomb (left), State Secretary, received the 2012 Laymen of the Year Award. He received another award for his church, Temple Memorial Baptist Church, and its outstanding work in hosting the Walter Cade Jr. Southeast Regional Workshop. Bro. Lipscomb is pictured here with Deacon Anthony Hagans (right).



President Donald Bryant of the Johnston District Association received the Association of the Year Award.

## In other Laymen's News:

The Rev. Linwood Carver, an associate of Genesis Missionary Baptist Church, spoke to the Laymen's League during the 2012 Mid Year Session in Greensboro. His scripture was taken from Hebrews 12:1 and was titled, "Partly Cloudy with a Chance of Reign."



Also, Bro. Dallas Foster presented a workshop on "Christian Men Under Construction Achieving Solidarity with the Savior." He declared that black laymen are

"either under construction or they are under destruction."

He added, "They are either moving towards solidarity with the Savior as spiritual men or they are moving toward unity with the world as lost souls. Christian men must have a clear and careful "blueprint" if their manhood is to be outstanding and excellent. And that "blueprint" is the very WORD of God, the Bible."

The Rev. Anthonette Wright spoke on "Ministering to Families in Crisis" to the women during the women's session. The youth workshop topic dealt with forgiveness.

- Submitted by Bro. Roger Battle, Jr., Secretary

## GBSC OF N.C. LAYMEN'S LEAGUE 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 7-8, 2012 - Men and Boys Retreat - Mt. Pisquah MBC Raeford, NC

July 2012 - Annual Session (GBSC) TBA

August 16-20, 2012 - Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention Annual Session TBA

August 2012 - Scouting Camperee - Pending

Sept. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Flag Branch MBC Monroe, NC - Piedmont Region

Sept. 21-22, 2012 - Walter Cade, Jr. - Regional Workshop - TBA

Dec. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Henderson Grove MBC Durham, NC - Central Region

## NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

### Hiring Job Fair

Martin Street Baptist Church will present a Job Fair from Noon to 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2012 in the Family Life Center at the church, located at 1001 E. Martin Street, Raleigh. Companies expected to include IBM, Car Quest and others. High school, college students and the long-term unemployed are invited to attend. For details, call (919) 833-9756.

### ACLU Names Legal Director



The ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation (ACLU-NCLF) recently named Christopher Brook to lead its legal department upon the upcoming departure of legal director, Katy Parker.

Brook, a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Law, has worked as an associate at the Raleigh law firm of Cranfill Sumner &

Hartzog for three years before joining the newly formed Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ) in 2008 as a Staff Attorney. From 2007 – 2011, Brook also taught in the legal research/writing program at the UNC School of Law as an adjunct professor.

NC Health Professions Diversity Conference

The North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program and Winston-Salem State University School of Health Sciences will co-host the 2012 NC Health Professions Diversity Conference August 29-30 at the Grandover Hotel and Conference Center in Greensboro, N.C. It will focus on creating networks with others to create equity in the health workforce. For more information, call (704) 512-6596.

### Needed: Blood donors

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood.

To fill that need, more than 38,000 blood donations are needed daily, according to

the American Red Cross. Volunteers and donors are needed. For more information on need, eligibility and donating, visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>.

### Free Citizenship Workshop in Charlotte

The Latin American Coalition will conduct a free U.S. Citizenship Workshop as part of an ongoing naturalization initiative undertaken by the New Americans Collaboration, on June 16, 2012 in Charlotte.

Individuals who are at least 18 years of age, and who have been Lawful Permanent Residents for at least 5 years (or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen), who are able to read, write, speak and understand basic English, have basic knowledge of U.S. History and government, and who are of good moral character may pre-register for these workshops only by calling the NALEO Hotline at 1-888-839-8682.

### Brown New Calvary Baptist Church

200 Doak Street  
Thomasville, NC 27360  
(336) 476-6514  
(336) 688-7012

Brown New Calvary Baptist Church is seeking someone a bi-vocational position as Pastor. All interested persons should send resume to address listed above: Attention Deacon Ministry.

Applicant must have the following qualifications:

- Born again
- Licensed and ordained in the Baptist Church
- Pastoral Experience preferred
- Be willing and qualified to teach and preach God's work
- Must have good people skills
- Support Sunday School and Bible Study
- Strong church administrative ability
- Expected to preach, counsel, visit the sick
- Meet qualifications outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7

All candidates must submit to criminal background and credit check.

### PASTORAL VACANCY

The First Baptist Church, Apple Street, Burlington, North Carolina is seeking a Senior Pastor. The following is a description of the pastor we are seeking.

The chief responsibility of the Senior Pastor is leading the church to accomplish the mission of loving God, loving others and making disciples.

#### Education/Experience Expectations.

- Preferably a minimum of a master's degree in divinity from an accredited seminary (II Timothy 2:15).
- Preference given to candidates with a minimum of 5 years work experience as a Senior Pastor along with additional years of church leadership experience.
- The senior pastor should meet the requirements listed for an overseer in I Timothy 3:1-13 and I Peter 5:1-8.

The senior pastor must have a sound Christian vision and strive to unify the church body toward sharing and embracing that vision so that it will become a reality.

The senior pastor must be licensed to preach, ordained as a minister of the gospel, and must be willing to follow the ordinances and doctrines of the Missionary Baptist church.

Character qualities should include being: humble, self-controlled, joyful, action and goal oriented, caring, approachable, trustworthy, faithful, of ethical/strong moral character, willing to grow, devoted to his marriage/family and willing to persevere in God's work.

#### Qualifications

The senior pastor should lead by word and example guiding the church to accomplish the work of Christ and the mission of the church. The pastor must be capable of proclaiming God's Word, teaching, leading, equipping leaders, role modeling the church's mission, devoted to prayer, assuring care and mobilizing resources.

Send your inquiry to the address below by June 30, 2012.

Deacon George Byrd, Jr., Chairman  
Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 1244  
Burlington, North Carolina 27216

*"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."*

*Isaiah 64:8*

In celebration of Father's Day, I would like to introduce myself to our readership by sharing a few memories from my "reporter's notebook" and by affirming my belief that Godly fathers, like Godly mothers, are essential to the health and heritage of children of all ages. My father and grandfather showed me how gloriously imperfect men can point the way to God's perfect will right here on earth.



Ophelia Davis Johnson, M.F.A.

They also set the bar for my own husband. To them and the Godly men in your lives, Happy Father's Day!

**My late GRANDFATHER taught me that:**

1. Gardens are good. In his 80s, we planted a family vegetable garden. He dug up the earth and set out the seedlings. We harvested together.
2. Walking is best. He stopped driving before I was born and took to walking everywhere he needed to go. His pace was slow but steady and he always got where he was going.
3. A good, straw hat is essential. He wore his slanted to the side.
4. Men can handle a straightening comb. He pressed my hair with a hot comb and a jar of grease. He never pulled the kinks too hard.
5. Baths need not be daily. He took a Saturday

night bath and got ready for church on Sunday morning.

6. Corn fritters are delicious and healthy. He served them hot with molasses.
7. Grocery bags aren't needed. It's just as easy to put your groceries in a box and carry them home on your shoulder.
8. Picking a fried fish takes skill. He liked fish (all kinds) and could "pick" one in the twilight of the day, sitting on the porch, and not get choked.
9. Smoking cigarettes is fun, but bad. One night, he had a bad dream about them and stopped cold turkey.
10. You don't need to spank. He once threatened when I "ran away" or drifted away from the front yard one Sunday morning, but he just held it and never hit me. Not once.
11. Stop rushing. It causes pain.
12. I am smart. He always marveled at how well I, even in grade school, figured out the plots for his favorite episodes of "Gunsmoke."
13. Always have a story to tell. With his large, brown hands folded over his chest, he'd tell us stories on the front porch, usually at night, with his eyes fixed on some faraway place that we couldn't see.

**MY DAD (Ben Davis Sr.) taught me:**

1. Go to work - on time - every day. Now retired, he was religious about going to work and being dedicated to his job.
2. Cutting up white potatoes is good. For years, he'd cut up fresh potatoes and make

French fries.

3. Making donuts is easy. He could make gourmet donuts from a can of refrigerator biscuits.
4. Playing softball is important. You don't need a field. All you need is a bat and glove. The street will work just fine.
5. Making a bed takes practice, skill. He taught me to make a bed with military precision --- the sheets crisply folded.
6. Drawing takes time, courage. He could draw any animal for any science project. He once drew an elephant in a minute.
7. Decorate for Christmas and all holidays. For years, he's brought our house to life with stringed lights in all the trees. He can create a star from the lights, too.
8. College is important. He went back to school when he was in his '30s with a family. He sacrificed, along with my mother, to earn a degree, the first in his family.
9. Smoking cigarettes is bad. "Listen to your granddaddy."
10. Trace your family roots. He collects names, dates, places, pictures and saves them on his genealogical chart. He is tireless in his efforts.
11. Laughter is medicine. Things are not always a bad as they seem.
12. Old songs are important. He sings well and can harmonize with anyone.
13. Treat your mother nice. Always. Go see her often and run errands, even when you don't have "time." Do it anyway.

*-Reach me at [informereditor@yahoo.com](mailto:informereditor@yahoo.com)*

**Message from Congress:  
Come Up with \$50,000  
More**

*Wire Reports*

Does your church have an extra \$50,000 lying around? It's safe to say most churches don't. If Congress approves proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), congregations around the country may have to provide additional services to support people in need. That is, on top of community service initiatives, charities, and mission work already in place!

The House of Representatives recently proposed to cut more than \$169 billion from SNAP. Some members even claimed that feeding hungry people is really the work of the churches. With 335,000 churches in America, each church on average would need to come up with an extra \$50,000 dedicated to feeding people every year for the next 10 years to make up for

these cuts.

Bread for the World believes in reducing the federal deficit and balancing our nation's budget—but not on the backs of vulnerable people. Given increased unemployment brought on by the recent economic recession, churches are already responding to unprecedented need. The burden of raising thousands of dollars to take on more responsibility is more than they can bear.

We believe Congress should protect and strengthen the programs that help hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world. For the past few weeks, Bread for the World has worked to encourage pastors and religious leaders to speak out against these cuts. SNAP has prevented our nation's economic crisis from becoming a hunger crisis. More than 46 million Americans depend on it every day to help put food on their tables! Congress must not turn its back on our nation's most vulnerable people.

Your voice matters. You can play a huge role in helping to prevent Congress from passing

harmful cuts to SNAP—as well as cuts to programs that support hungry and poor people around the world. If you too find this proposition outrageous and would like to sign the petition, I encourage you to visit [www.bread.org/snap-works](http://www.bread.org/snap-works). I also invite you to contact your member of Congress and let him or her know that you strongly disagree with the notion that hungry and poor people should have to bear the burden of our nation's deficit-reduction efforts.

*- Bishop Don Dixon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World, and sits on the board of bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, MD.*

**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.

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# “Preaching With Clarity in an Age of Uncertainty”

The 39th Alexander Pegues Ministers' Conference attracted dozens of pastors, ministers, clergy and musicians for academic, social and spiritual development to the week-long conference in March. Keynote speakers included the Reverend Dr. Charles Booth, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Columbus, OH and the Reverend Dr. John Kinney, dean of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology in Richmond, Va.

Workshops on “Effective Christian Leadership” by Dr. James McPherson and “Writing in Ministry for Publications” led by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan were featured during the conference, held in Boyd Chapel on the historic campus of Shaw University.



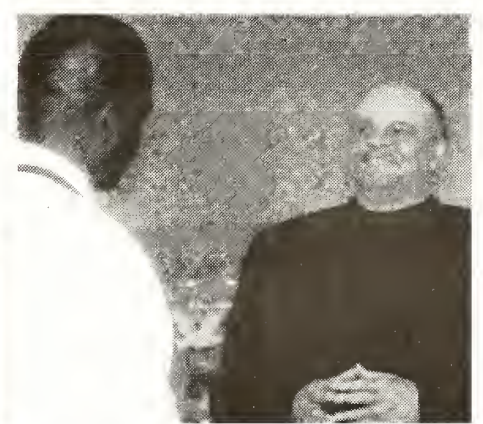
The annual conference honors the Rev. Dr. James Z. Alexander, a former Shaw Divinity School dean and former chair of the university's philosophy and languages department, and the Rev. Dr. Albert W. Pegues, a legendary 19th century scholar, preacher, orator and philosopher.



Dr. John Kinney used a rhetorical blend of theology, humor and homespun wisdom speaking to pastors during an afternoon lecture in the chapel.



Dr. Bruce C. Grady, Dean of the Shaw University Divinity School, listens during a workshop



Dr. John Kenny, dean of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology in Richmond, Virginia, lectured and spoke with pastors and ministers during the week.

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## The JJ Johnson Benefit Concert

will begin at 6:30 p.m. on July 22 at the Raleigh Convention Center. Admission is free, but a donation to the offering will be requested. Bring 3 canned goods to be donated to the Food Bank of NC.

***For details, please call (919) 833-4823.***

# BAPTIST INFORMER

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## THE ALL BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 2012 COMING IN JULY

**July 22-26, 2012**

**The Raleigh Convention Center, downtown Raleigh.**

**TIME:** The session begins with a free concert on Sunday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Raleigh Convention Center.

**REGISTRATION:** Monday (July 23, 2012) at 8:00 a.m.  
**OPENING :** Monday (July 23, 2012) at 10:00 a.m.  
**BANQUET:** The Johnnie Blunt McLester Banquet, Monday evening, 6:00 p.m.

**HOTELS:** MARRIOTT CITY CENTER HOTEL 500 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh. You may visit [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) to make reservation online. You must mention the Woman's Baptist State Convention when making reservations in order to receive this rate. Call (800) 228-9290 or (919) 833-1120.

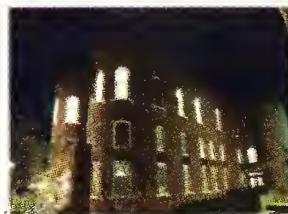
SHERATON RALEIGH HOTEL, 421 S. Salisbury St., Raleigh. You may visit [www.Sheraton.com](http://www.Sheraton.com) to make reservation on line. You must mention the Woman's Baptist State Convention when making reservations in order to receive this rate. Call (800) 325-3535 or (919) 834-9900.

**Reminder:** Please remember to get a hotel confirmation number once your reservation is made and have it with you at check-in.

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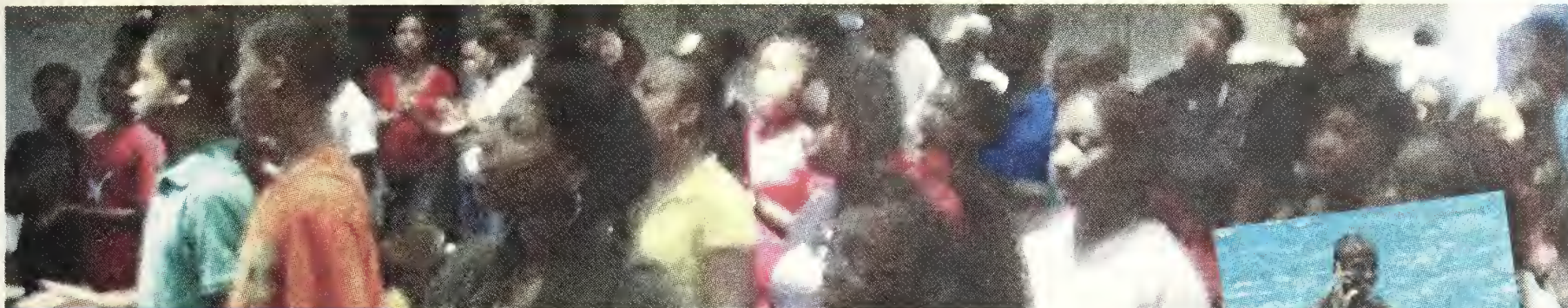
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Volume 135, No. 7

# BAPTIST INFORMER

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.



## General Baptist State Convention – NC SAVE THE DATES

- July 22-26  
All Baptist Assembly  
(Raleigh Convention Center)
- August 6-10  
Progressive National Baptist Conv. Annual Session
- August 13-17  
Lott Carey Annual Session, New Orleans, La.
- September 3-7  
National Baptist Convention Annual Session
- October 29-31  
GBSC Annual Session

For details, call Baptist Headquarters - (919) 821-7466

# Camp Dixie

more pics inside...



## 2012 Theme: "Call to Spiritual Integrity"

"Children gave their lives to Christ ... this camp made a difference in the lives of our children. They worshipped, made new friends and reconnected with old friends."  
- the Rev. Dr. Linda Bryan, Executive Secretary of WBH&FMC.

## WINDS OF CHANGE: Evolving Gender Roles in N.C.'s Baptist Churches

By Ophelia Johnson



Rev. Susan Knight Brooks

### PART ONE

When it comes to the Baptist church and its rich history and sound traditions, few understand or love it as deeply as the Reverend Susan Knight Brooks.

The Sanford native has been in the spiritual trenches all her 62 years, she said, but when "the Lord called me into ministry" in 1996, she still recalls some of the off-handed, and often

insulting, comments she received about her decision to follow in the footsteps of her Lord.

Some even boldly asked her, "are you sure you've been called?"

She forged ahead and more than a decade later, she's evolved from a licensed minister to ordained seminary graduate to the Moderator of the Deep River Association in North Carolina, a historic umbrella organization formed in 1916 that covers 26 churches in such counties as Lee, Harnett, Cumberland, Chatham and Guilford County. She was the fourth women to be ordained by Deep River Association, which does not have any females serving as pastors.

Since she respects its traditions, the Shaw Divinity School graduate is hopeful - and watchful - that Baptist churches will continue to evolve and embrace more women in its pastoral and

(Continued on page 3)



# HAVE A BLESSED FOURTH OF JULY!

# P9

Q&A: By Ophelia Johnson/  
The Baptist Informer



Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch, Host Pastor  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President GBSC



Ebenezer Baptist Church  
Charlotte, NC

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## Associate Ministers' Conference ~ Sept. 21-22, 2012

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### **GBSC THEME**

**"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"**  
Matthew 28:19-20

associational ranks, she said.

"I would like to see more women in pastor positions," she said. "I love the Baptists, but in my 62 years, I think they have not widely accepted women pastors, as other denominations such as the AME [African Methodist Episcopal Zion] and the holiness churches. We have women now who are able to pastor."

But being "called to pastor a church," she said, is still a challenge.

While some Baptist churches in North Carolina are still unwilling to look at women as pastors and in many cases, deacons or other leaders, the trend is evolving, according to many clergy. Two historically black Baptist churches made decisions to call women as pastors to pulpits in 2011. They are the Reverend Sherri Arnold Graham, pastor of Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh, and the Reverend LaTonya Agard, pastor of Bazzel Creek Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina.

Dr. Grady Smith, dean and associate professor of religious studies at Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, said more Baptist churches may eventually call women to pulpits, especially as more women pursue theological training and apply for open pulpits across the state. The Divinity School has 140 students pursuing the Master of Divinity degree and the gender percentage is about "fifty-fifty."

"I think this is impressive and the percentage of women enrolled is a strong indication that God's spirit is being poured out on all flesh," he said.

"I do not intend to suggest that the academy always knows what is best, but in the



Dr. Grady Smith

case of African American women who need affirmation of their call and their gifts, Shaw Divinity School courageously leads the way."

In North Carolina, there are various institutions that also offer theological training, including Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, Shaw Divinity School at Shaw University in Raleigh, and Duke Divinity School at Duke University in Durham.

Moving females from the classrooms to the pulpits of many churches, is still a problem for many older members who are uncomfortable with having a woman in charge of the entire church. For years, many churches used the Apostle Paul's words in 1 Timothy 3:2 to justify having a male shepherd, Grady said. The passage refers to a that bishop/overseer is to be the husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:2) who manages his household well and has a good reputation (1 Timothy 3:4-5).

However, Dr. Grady added that the Bible gives "credence to the call, gifting and ordination of women as well as men."

"The issues of power, class, race and gender are not new for the Christian community. The Apostle Paul's apostleship was questioned, even challenged, because of his commitment to extend the gospel, not only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles."

Rev. Brooks, who graduated from Shaw

Divinity School in 1996, remembers classes at Shaw Divinity School were "filled with women," yet many of them have yet to assume the pastoral ranks. She blames deeply entrenched prejudices and misinterpretations.

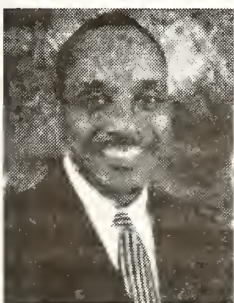
"You see a lot of women ministers, but they are not pastors," she said. "I have seen women who I knew were qualified to be pastors, but the church would select a man who was less qualified. Maybe it's tradition that the Baptist church does not accept women as pastors. Maybe it's just the tradition of hearing the male's voice from the pulpit."

While she doesn't feel "that God has called her to pastor," she's worked as a chaplain and worked for the University of North Carolina for about a year. She performs weddings, funerals and counseling duties and it is not often that she encounters anyone who's uncomfortable with a female performing her duties. She also receives support from both male and females, including members of the General Baptist State Convention's leadership, she said.

"There are some who'll try to get over on you as a woman, but I think I'm well accepted and anytime I need anything, they are right there," she said, referring to the GBSC leadership. With any minister, I tell them is make sure of your calling and prepare to equip yourself. Even though you're called, we are living in an age where we must be prepared."

**NEXT IN THE SERIES — "Biblical interpretations and challenges for women pastors."**

To my brothers and sisters in the General Baptist "tie" that binds our hearts in



**From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.**

Christian love: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with

the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV).

What a wonderful thought to know with assurance that God is merciful. God blesses us so through us, others will be blessed. The writer in Ecclesiastes noted that some

things do change. There is a season for "every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1b). Change occurs frequently: from being born to dying ... from planting to uprooting ... from killing to healing ... from tearing down to building up ... from crying to laughing ... from loving to hating ... and so on. Some things do change.

For many who have seen a number of "getting ups and lying downs," dramatic changes have taken place. Many conveniences we take for granted today were nonexistent at the beginning of the 20th and 21st centuries. Change is constant. Some things do change! A time traveler from the early 1900's or 2000 would not recognize the world as it exists today.

And yet, some things do not change. When a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it on His head, Jesus' disciples

became angry and complained (Matthew 26). They concluded the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus said the poor would always be around.

Some things do not change! We need food because we get hungry. We need comforting because we experience grief. We need guidance because we get confused. We need compassion and companionship because we get lonely. We need forgiveness and a Savior because we all sin. We need hope because at some point, we all die.

Some things do not change! God's grace, mercy, and love do not change. In Jesus, God's image is not stained and God's power is not weak. God is immutable. In darkness, God is light. In

## UNC, Duke researchers partner to improve family child-care homes

*From Press Reports*

A new \$3.3 million project to simultaneously combat childhood obesity and help home-based child care owners adopt healthy practices will be undertaken by a partnership between researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University.

Led by Dianne Ward, Ed.D., of UNC and Truls Ostbye, M.D., of Duke, the Healthy You, Healthy Home, Healthy Business, or H-3, project, will be based in family child-care homes, small business where providers care for children out of their own homes. Ward is a professor of nutrition at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and research fellow at the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Ostbye is a professor in the Duke University Department of Community and Family Medicine and Duke Global Health Institute.

The H-3 intervention will help child-care providers become healthy role mod-

els and create family home child-care environments that support healthy nutrition and physical activity and adopt good business practices. The program includes group workshops, site visits, coaching phone calls and educational toolkits.

Family child-care homes participating in the study will be randomly selected either to receive the services of the program or to be in a control group. The study, funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health, will enroll 150 family child-care homes within 100 miles of the two study offices. Enrollment will begin in 2013. The project is funded through 2017.

Ward and Ostbye each have led several projects focusing on improving nutrition and physical activity for young children, but this is the first time their teams have worked together on a project focused on family child-care homes.

"While a large number of children spend many hours in family day-care homes each day, to date very little has been done improve healthy eating and increase physical activity in these settings," Ostbye said. "Given how hard it is to treat obesity once it is established, it is

essential to focus on prevention and to start very early in life."

The H-3 intervention will be based on previous research done at UNC on nutrition and physical activity at child-care centers, adapted to the family child-care environment. "Family child-care homes provide important out-of-home child care for families with young children," Ward said. "We are excited to be collaborating with colleagues at Duke to develop and test a program for family home care providers that is designed to enhance their own health, create healthy home environments and add value to their businesses."

The H-3 project acknowledges the challenges facing all small businesses, especially limited profitability in family child-care homes. The project will include strategies for overcoming economic challenges while striving to improve the health of children and the caregivers at the centers.

**UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention contact:**  
**Amber Vaughn, (919) 843-0900,**  
**avaughn@email.unc.edu**

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(Continued from page 3)

chaos, God is truth. In weakness, God is strength. In death, God is eternal life! Some things do change. God does not! As disciples of Jesus the Christ who strive daily to give thanks and live thankfully, our methods may change, but the goal is still the same: "Preaching, Reaching, and Teaching." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Are we helpers or hindrances to the cause of Jesus the Christ? Our convention equips and empowers us to be helpers. Some things do not change: Our General Baptist State Convention needs your financial support and prayers, NOW! I believe the people of God in the General Baptist family will rise up to meet every challenge, every lion's den, every Red Sea, every flaming furnace, every wall, every stronghold that attempts to thwart the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. **PLEASE SEND YOUR SUPPORT TO STATE HEAD-QUARTERS TODAY!**

*"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (II Corinthians 13:14, NIV). Amen.*

## Ministry Briefs

### NEW PASTOR

The Rev. Timothy W. Bridges, Sr. was installed at Shady Grove Baptist Church in East Spencer, on Sunday, June 10, 2012 as its eleventh minister in the history of the church founded in 1890. Rev. Bridges, Leading Lady Dwana Howie Bridges, family members, and the congregation were joined by other well wishers. Pastor Darrick Leak, minister of Popular Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Polkton, presided over the installation and Pastor John N. Leazer, Jr. of Macedonia Baptist Church of Concord was the honored speaker.

### RETIREMENT HONOR

The Rev. Elbert Lee, Jr. was honored at a Retirement Banquet on April 20 at the Gateway Convention Center in Rocky Mount, celebrating his 55 years in the pastorate at North End Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Lee, a native of Smithfield, had a long and fruitful career in religious and civic life, including being Moderator of the United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association and president of the Rocky Mount Branch of the NAACP.

### GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. David E. Goatley was a lecturer at the 98th Annual Hampton University Ministers Conference on June 5-7. His lectures are available on the 2012 Ministers' Conference Recordings set. He was also a recent panelist on the NPR radio show, "To the Point" to discuss the

election of the first African-American to serve as President of the Southern Baptist Convention. Hear the show at [http://www.kcrw.com/news/programs/tp/tp120619southern\\_baptist\\_con](http://www.kcrw.com/news/programs/tp/tp120619southern_baptist_con).

### DEGREE AWARDED

The Rev. Dr. Portia W. Rochelle of Raleigh graduated in May from Drew University Theological School in Madison, N.J. with a Doctor of Ministry degree. She is founding Pastor of Word For Transformation Church And Outreach Center, Inc., Raleigh, and President of the Raleigh-Apex NAACP Branch #5436.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Maggie M. White of Shelby, past President of the Women's Auxiliary, celebrated her 92nd birthday on June 26. To God be the Glory!

### NEW PRESIDENT

Olu Menjay, has been elected president of Liberian Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, the youngest ever to be elected to this position. He holds a master of divinity from Duke University and a Ph.D. through International Baptist Theological Seminary.

### SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

One hundred sixty-seven years after forming over the right to appoint slaveholders as missionaries and 17 years after apologizing for the denomination's racist past, the Southern Baptist Convention elected its first African-American president, the Rev. Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

## All Baptist Assembly: Available For Christ, Missions

One of the real issues facing African-American Christians today is the sense of the many competing interests that claim our time and attention. The demands of work, family, civic duties and simply keeping up with this fast paced, highly technological age is a daunting challenge. Most of us have difficulty keeping things in balance and juggling all these competing interests. If we are not careful, we will become workaholics or, alternatively, we are so overwhelmed that we retreat into a state of "do-nothingness." Or perhaps in our efforts to keep up with the world, we begin to major in minor matters. We may fail to be faithful to our individual and collective Christian responsibilities. The sad reality is that too many Baptist Christians — so caught up in the various demands of the time — are simply not available to heed and hear the Lord's call to service.

There is a fascinating text in the New Testament canon. It is found in John 6:67-69: "Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter an-

swered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."

With a decline in popularity and "followship" from those who had previously followed Him, Jesus poses that question to His disciples: "Will you also go away?" In some sense, that may be an issue facing our Convention and our missions priority. As our most dependable supporters age and move from the scene, the next generations seem uninterested and uninvolved. However, Peter seems to have a stirring and faithful answer. Peter seems to be saying (as I understand the text) without regard to what others do, I am available to you because no one else has the words of eternal life.

Available. That, to me, seems to be the key idea of the text and the key to understanding how we can reinforce our missions work in North Carolina. We have to encourage our member Churches and Associations and membership to make themselves, their prayers, their monies, their service, their support, and their gifts available to be used.

To that end, as our Baptist family gathers in Raleigh on July 22-26, 2012 for our



quadrennial All Baptist Assembly, we will unite under this idea of being available and celebrate the theme: "Available to Christ, Available for Missions."

### ALL BAPTIST ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

#### SUNDAY

- 2 p.m. - Exec. Board Meeting (Estey Hall, Shaw University)
- 4 p.m. - General Board Meeting (same location)
- 6:30 p.m. - Concert (Convention Center)

#### MONDAY

- 8 a.m. - Registration (Convention Center)
- 10 a.m. - Opening Session (same location)
- 6:30 p.m. - Banquet (same location)

#### TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. - Young Adult Prayer Breakfast (Convention Center)
- 8 a.m. - Study Classes



**DOCTORAL HONORS**  
 (from left) Drs. Anderson, Bracken, Leach, Dennis, Aaron, Lemons and Johnson

## General Baptist State Convention Pastors Receive Doctor of Ministry Degrees

Pastors representing six churches under the General Baptist State Convention recently received Doctor of Ministry Degrees from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. They included: The Rev. Darryl Aaron, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Winston Salem; the Rev. Robert Anderson, Senior Pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Charlotte; the Rev. David Bracken, Senior Pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church, East Spencer; the Rev. Roy Dennis, Senior Pastor of Blue Stone Baptist Church, Pelham; the Rev. Lamont Johnson, Senior Pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Rockingham; and the Rev. Dennis Leach Sr., Senior Pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church, Winston Salem. As a part of the Congregational Growth and Development concentration group they each wrote dissertations on various theological topics.

### DOCTORAL RECIPIENT

### DISSERTATION PROJECT

Rev. Dr. Darryl Aaron.....	Communion Beyond Sunday Morning, Building Faith and Community at First Baptist Church in Winston-Salem
Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson.....	The Development of Traditional, Contemporary and Blended Styles of Worship Services
Rev. Dr. David Bracken .....	A Mission Minded Church: Identifying "Mission Worthy Project" for Global Mission
Rev. Dr. Roy Dennis .....	The Cedar Ministry at Bluestone Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Lamont Johnson .....	Theological Pathways: The Road to Theological Education in the Black Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Dennis Leach, Sr. ....	Developing a Governing Document: Constitution/By-Laws that Connect us to our Christian Vision as well as our Baptist Roots at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

## Defining Terms: Making a Difference

As was mentioned in the previous article, Dr A. Lincoln James stated: "That the Black Church does not understand what discipleship means or what a disciple is." It is appropriate then that we title this article: "Defining Terms."



Bro. Richmond  
 Turner GBSC  
 Laymen

It seem ironic, since our Sunday Lessons are centered on "Defining Justice," that so much emphasizes is placed on definitions.

In trying to understand that discipleship offers God's very best to us we need to make sure we have a clear understanding of what each one of the terms we use means.

### DISCIPLE:

A disciple is a learner or follower-usually someone committed to a significant

master. A disciple is a reborn follower of Jesus.

According to the HOLMAN BIBLE DICTIONARY, "Jesus called His disciples to "follow me" (Luke 5:27). Disciples of the Rabbis could select their teachers. Jesus oftentimes demanded extreme levels of personal renunciation (loss of family, property, etc.). He asked for lifelong allegiance as the essential means of doing the will of God." The Book of Acts frequently uses the term "disciple" to refer generally to all those who believe in the risen Lord.

### DISCIPLE-MAKING:

The term disciple-making comes from the verb matheteusate, which means to "make disciples" (Matt. 28:19). Three dimensions distinguish disciple-making from discipleship. (1) Deliverance — The first step in making-disciples is evangelism. All disciples should be actively engaged in finding others who need Christ and then introducing these individuals to the life of following Jesus. (2) Development — Once a disciple makes a commitment to Christ, the next step is developing character and capacity. This

comes from the "teaching them to obey" component of the Great Commission. (3) Deployment — Once a disciple is trained, the final step is sending.

### DISCIPLESHIP:

Discipleship describes the ongoing life of the disciple. Discipleship means the state of being a disciple. Discipleship is what a disciples does. If a disciple is not following Christ, then Christ gets left out of the process. This individual has only "signed off" on Jesus and doctrine, but does not enjoy a real relationship with Christ.

### SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

The term spiritual formation is derived from Gal 4:19. The word formed comes from Morphe, which means "to shape". Most accurately, spiritual formation describes the sanctification of disciples.

This is a quick look at terms describing discipleship. Our next article will try to clear up some misunderstanding of the discipleship process.

## Baptist INFORMER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

By the time you read this month's column, the Supreme Court of the United States will have rendered its life-altering decision on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. At press time, we were unaware of what the Court would do: preserve this critical piece of legislation or repeal all or parts of it. But we are fully aware of the law's provisions that have changed and even saved lives across America.



Crystal Kimpson Roberts

In my work as North Carolina's Communications Lead for Know Your Care, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating Americans about the benefits of the law, I continue to cross paths with real people who can attest to the legislation's efficacy. Last month, I met Leslie Boyd of Candler, NC, whose 33-year-old son Mike succumbed to colon cancer in 2008 after he was refused quality treatment because he had no health insurance. Had the Affordable Care Act been in place, her fun-loving son may still be here pranking his friends and family and enjoying life with his new wife. (The law turned two in March.)

Leslie's precious son lost his life but by the grace of God, she didn't lose her hope. Six weeks after Mike's death, the former

daily reporter launched Life O'Mike ([www.lifeomike.org](http://www.lifeomike.org)) in his honor, a non-profit based in western North Carolina. She has dedicated her life to educating others about the current healthcare system, the benefits of healthcare reform, and advocating for those whose voices need amplification.

On her home page, she notes, "Mike is one of an estimated 45,000 people who die every year because they didn't have insurance and so didn't have access to the life-saving diagnostic tests, or diabetic supplies that would help them monitor blood glucose, or medication that would help lower blood pressure. We want to put faces to those numbers. Tell us your story. Post blogs, post photos. Let everyone see that good people are dying— beloved people. After all, every one of those people was loved as much as we all loved Mike."

Life O'Mike accepts donations that help fuel the organization's mission. Leslie also hosts a Truth Stories event that illustrates the plight of the un- and underinsured by featuring people with real stories about healthcare reform. Leslie is also planning to accompany Doctors for America ([www.drsvforamerica.org](http://www.drsvforamerica.org)) on its "Patients Over Politics" healthcare reform tour in the fall.

I've had the pleasure of meeting engaged, supportive North Carolinians like Leslie who are committed to staying on task. There's Michael Byrus, the 26-year-

old with Crohn's disease, who was able to stay on his parent's insurance, undergo life-saving surgery, and continue his college career thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Felecia Willems' son Ethan had a pre-existing condition that was covered courtesy of the law, possibly saving the toddler's leg. There's Nancy McCullough, who represents the tens of thousands of parents who keep their young adult children on their insurance thanks to healthcare reform. And LeMarcus Davis, a brand new Shaw University graduate will now enter medical school to become a podiatrist and apply for the law's program that awards scholarships and forgives loans for those who commit to work in underserved areas.

While the country awaits the SCOTUS decision, time is of the essence. But the truth of the matter is that time has always been of the essence. Although two years old, the law is still largely misunderstood and its actual benefits are not well known. There's something in the law for everyone: small business owners, children with pre-existing conditions, women, young adults, Seniors with Medicare, students preparing for work in the primary care industry.

For example, if you've ever made a mistake on an insurance application only to pay for that mistake later with more out-of-pocket costs, the Affordable Care Act makes it illegal for insurance companies to rescind coverage or deny payments.



Ophelia Johnson, M.F.A.

This month, the **Baptist Informer Newspaper** begins a series on the journey of Women Pastors in many of North Carolina's Baptist churches.

We'll explore "*Changing Gender Roles*" in interviews with pastors, theologians, seminarians and laypersons who will discuss the historical context of having women in elder and pastoral roles. Should women be Pastors? What does the Bible say?

We will also provide a Question and

Answer (Q&A) format to introduce you to some women serving as Pastors.

In future installments, we will write about "*Challenges and Conflicts*" and the "*Spiritual, Social and Academic Preparation*" for women pastors in pulpits. While most of the information will come from female Baptist clergy, we will also talk with theologians and academics from other denominations. The reason is to provide our readership with a holistic perspective on this often-debated topic.

We will also hear from Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., President of the General Baptist State Convention, along with former GBSC Presidents, Moderators and officials who faithfully serve under the GBSC umbrella.

As we investigate the topic of women in pulpits, we hope to tap into the spirited

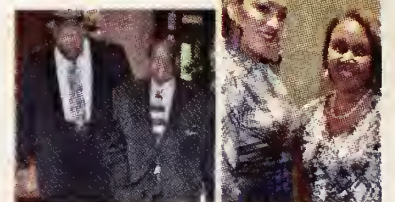
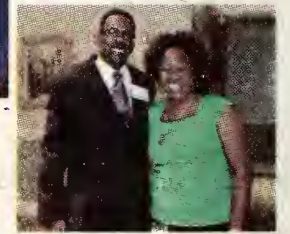
dialogue that is circulating in churches in this state - and beyond. We cannot come to God's word with a social agenda, but allow the Holy Spirit to teach and direct us.

For this reason, we solicit your prayers for our series. We also encourage you to contact the Baptist Informer to let us know what you think of the material on Women Pastors and other topics. Your thoughts, comments, letters and emails are appreciated. Reach us online at [informeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:informeditor@yahoo.com) or via mail at GBSC-NC, 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, NC 27601. We plan to publish many of the emails and letters in future issues.

# MID YEAR SESSION

Host Church was Oak Ridge First Baptist Church,  
where the Rev. Dr. James A. Webster is Pastor

2012 Mid Year Session  
in Greensboro, N.C



Photos by Taniko Williamson

# Q & A

By Ophelia Johnson/  
The Baptist Informer

Growing up, the Reverend LaTonya L. Agard vividly recalls seeing women in nearly every leadership role at her Baptist church in Montgomery, Alabama except one: The pulpit.



Reverend  
LaTonya L.  
Agard

"I'd never heard a woman preach from the pulpit," she said. "They were called evangelists or minister and when they spoke, they spoke from the floor, not the pulpit."

Nowadays, the pulpit is exactly where you'll find the former college professor. She was called to pastor Bazzel Creek

Missionary Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina in 2011 and has since joined the small, yet growing, number of women who are pastoring Baptist churches in North Carolina.

Rev. Agard and her husband, Sean D. Agard, a business analyst, moved with their daughter, Leah, 17, more than a decade ago. Her work in ministry includes serving as a youth ministry director, Christian educator, praise and worship leader and Sunday school teacher at Bailey United Methodist Church in Bailey, NC. Additionally, she holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in English from the University of Alabama. She also graduated magna cum laude with a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

Her journey at Bazzel Creek has been

"a year of observation, listening and relational development to understand the needs of the church" that is located about 30 minutes south of Raleigh. In her words, Bazzel Creek may be on the cusp of "a revolution" in ministry by calling a female shepherd.

## BI: How would you describe Bazzel Creek MBC?

**Pastor Agard:** It's a family church that is moving from rural to suburban since Fuquay-Varina is changing so rapidly. It's a good place to be. They are aware of the great chance they've taken in calling a female, so it's not just about my success, but about the whole church's success. On the whole, Bazzel Creek has been widely supportive, enthusiastic, and receptive to my style of preaching, teaching and leadership. It's unique in the African American Missionary Baptist Church tradition in that it supports females in both clergy and diaconate positions.

## BI: Did you have a difficult time finding a church to pastor?

**Pastor Agard:** My experience was probably typical for a young minister seeking a first pastorate. I sent out several letters of application and resumes, and I heard from a very small percentage of them. However, I now understand that time was necessary for my spiritual growth and professional development.

## BI: What is the general reaction you receive when you identify yourself as "the Pastor?"

**Pastor Agard:** Those who are not familiar with Fuquay-Varina or Bazzel Creek MBC are visibly shocked at the idea. I assume this is due to my apparent age and gender. This typical reaction is tempered a bit among those who have some familiarity with our church, but are meeting me for the first time.

## BI: Was there any opposition to you assuming the role of pastor?

**Pastor Agard:** A small minority of people were significantly resistant to my call as pastor. These persons, to my understanding, were mostly older males. Some have decided not to return to fellowship with us, but others have softened in their resistance and have returned to participate in ministry at the church.

## BI: Were the women all supportive?

**Pastor Agard:** I've gotten some opposition from older women. Maybe it's generational. I don't have an answer for that. I would think it would be empowering to see other women in leadership, but it goes back to our cultural ideas of what it means to be feminine.

## BI: Explain what you mean by masculine and feminine church roles.

**Pastor Agard:** Some roles are just considered masculine. If you have been acculturated in a kind of climate where women [in church] speak from the podium and not the pulpit, then it becomes normal not to expect or encourage women to come to that role.

## BI: Do you think that explains why so few Baptist churches hire female pastors?

**Pastor Agard:** We're also pressing against cultural beliefs in many [Baptist churches]. The concept of God is essentially male and that means that the spiritual leader must be male. A cultural shift will occur, as we begin to see all persons, regardless of color, background and gender.

## BI: Elaborate more on this "cultural shift?"

**Pastor Agard:** To a certain extent, the African American church tradition is grounded in African American culture and [in our history] there has been a struggle with gender equality. Because of the subtle ways that gender oppression works, you see it in the church. The church has failed to address it. Because we understand God as Father and Jesus is male, then it means the pastor must be male. That attitude breaks down when we realize that no pastor is God

(Continued on page 10)

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(Continued from page 9)

or Jesus. Over time, people begin to rethink some of assumptions that are more cultural than Christian.

**BI: Are attitudes about women pastors changing?**

**Pastor Agard:** People have said that I'm a trailblazer, but my intent has never been to blaze any trail, I have only tried to be faithful to what God has called me to. Sometimes that means breaking through the stale and the outdated to progress the gospel ... I grew

up under a pastor [in Alabama] who was very conservative, old school, and led from the top down, but he recently opened his pulpit to me. For him to allow me to preach was significant for the church.

**BI: Will Baptists churches "call" more women pastors, in your opinion?**

**Pastor Agard:** Churches that are staunch in educational and background requirements will have to make some change in their willingness, to at least interview female candidates. Some church search committees know without asking that their churches will not consider a female, but I think the time will come when those kinds of issues will become secondary. We may not see the immediate results that we might want to see, but we must trust that God is always at work.

**BI: What is one of your greatest hopes for women in pastoral roles?**

**Pastor Agard:** Many of us want to see the fruit in our pastorates, but that's really not the point. If we take the focus off of that and just be faithful, we can be sure that the seeds will produce fruit. If we're not distracted, we can plant faithfully, sew in hope and know that there will be a harvest.

### St. John Missionary Baptist Church

We are interested in a Minister of Music and /or Lead Musician

Send Resume and Letter of Reference(s) to:

St. John Missionary Baptist Church  
Attention: Music Ministry Committee  
P. O. Box 119  
Red Oak, NC 27868  
Rev. Herbert C. Scott, Pastor  
[saintjohnmbc@embarqmail.com](mailto:saintjohnmbc@embarqmail.com)

### Dr. Alfonza W. Fullwood



The congregation, family and friends of Riley Hill Baptist Church honored Pastor Alfonza W. Fullwood's educational accomplishments on June 2, 2012, during a congratulatory reception. Pastor Fullwood earned his Ph.D. degree during Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. The Degree was conferred at their Commencement Exercises on May 18, 2012. His dissertation title is "A Study of Gardner C. Taylor's

*Theology of Preaching As A Decisive Factor Shaping His Theory Of Preaching: Implications For Homiletical Pedagogy."*

The Ph.D. is the most advanced theological research degree, equipping Pastor Fullwood for conducting serious academic research and for teaching at the highest level of academic competency. Candidates for this degree have previously completed the Master of Divinity degree with high academic achievement. This program consists of a two-year residency, including instruction in research and teaching, involvement in integrative seminar and other graduate seminars, proficiency in two research languages in addition to Greek and Hebrew, and a mentorship in the student's concentration conducted by the student's major professor. Pastor Fullwood's additional research languages were German and French.

His Ph.D. concentration is Homiletics (preaching). He also completed enough theology seminars to teach theology in addition to homiletics. In 2002, Pastor Fullwood also earned a Doctor of Ministry degree at Southeastern. This degree equipped Pastor Fullwood for the practice of ministry at the highest level of professional competency. In doing so, Pastor Fullwood is not only equipped at the highest level of academic competency but also in the practice of ministry. Now that he has completed his Ph.D. work, he wants to continue pursuing his passion and purpose including pastoral devotion to Riley Hill, teaching students in preparation for ministry, and research and writing. We celebrate Pastor Fullwood's educational accomplishment as he has joined an eminent group in the Ph.D. academy around the country but most importantly he is our beloved pastor.

## Music Reviews

*The Baptist Informer will now run a regular music column to explore the world of sacred music from gospel and Christian artists. Send your thoughts and comments on music reviews to [informeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:informeditor@yahoo.com).*



**Quintera Batts, Reviewer**

If you're looking for a revised rendition of good old church music, Dale Ciceron & Optimistic 4 Christ deliver. With their new single entitled, 'Get Up,' full of energy and upbeat praise, this group gives the weekly church goer something to listen to all week long. Ciceron's voice first brings to mind that of a young Kirk Franklin, one who doesn't sing but yet guides the voices of Optimistic 4 Christ on their lyrical journey. The difference, however, is found when the group itself begins to sing. The result? A total mass choir effect. There is no mistaking the

power behind these voices.

For those in need of a reprieve from the contemporary gospel music whose songs sound similar to those found on your local R&B station, then Dale Ciceron & Optimistic 4 Christ is the group. I find them to be about midway between Rance Allen and Kirk Franklin, not exactly old-school, but current and upbeat enough to entice young listeners, as well. I personally appreciate that they mention God and Jesus in their music, instead of just making weak

(Continued on next page)

### GBSC OF N.C. LAYMEN'S LEAGUE 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 16-20, 2012 - Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention Annual Session TBA

August 2012 - Scouting Campere - Pending

Sept. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Flag Branch MBC Monroe, NC - Piedmont Region

Sept. 21-22, 2012 - Walter Cade, Jr. - Regional Workshop - TBA

Dec. 8, 2012 - Study Commission - Henderson Grove MBC Durham, NC - Central Region

(Continued from page 10)

inferences, like some of the new contemporary artists. Songs like 'We Exalt Thee,' 'My Soul,' and 'We Give You Praise,' are sure to uplift. Relatively new to the gospel scene, Dale Ciceron & Optimistic 4 Christ explodes into the gospel arena with a theme of praise and their message is clear: 'Get up!'

*Quintera Batts, a recent UNC-CH graduate, is a freelance writer from Cary, N.C.*

From "Stomp" to "Hosanna," from "Looking for You" to "Imagine Me," Kirk Franklin has embedded his eclectic style into the ears of listeners worldwide. As one of the most influential Gospel/Contemporary musical artists, Franklin scored yet another goal with his latest album "Hello Fear." Upon releasing his ninth album in March 2011, Franklin introduced his hit sin-



**Kristen Johnson, Reviewer**

"The Fight of My Life" which was dark and liberating, this new album challenges listeners to face any difficulty. Each word is laced with encouragement with soft and inspiring background music. The title "Hello Fear" fits perfectly with the mood of the album filled with some of the most enrich-

gle "I Smile," which seemed to intrigue even the most unreligious crowds.

"I Smile" was one of the many encouraging songs on Franklin's album. There is no doubt that "Hello Fear" speaks to the soul, however unlike Franklin's last album

ing songs Franklin has ever created. For Franklin's fans that followed his music dating back to 1998, he reprises the popular track "Something about the Name Jesus" in a second part, featuring the voices of Gospel Music moguls Rance Allen, Marvin Sapp, and John P. Kee. Franklin also introduced up and coming Gospel artist Mali Music on his captivating single "Give Me." Fear has taken over the minds of many people, Christian or not, and Franklin strikes a home run by addressing the issue burdening the lives of many. "Hello Fear" is an album worth listening to.

*Kristen Johnson, a sophomore political science major at NC Agricultural & Technical State University, lives in Cary, N.C.*



(Photos by Marcus R. Bass)

**FUN & FELLOWSHIP** - Campers rehearsed for a mini Choir Concert during the program presented June 10-15 at the camp located in Fayetteville, N.C.



**CAMPERS DELIGHT** - Seventy-two campers attended the summer program carried out this year under the guidance of Interim Camp Director Mrs. Faye Dunbar and Assistant Camp Director Mrs. Joyce Lashley. This year's theme was "Call to Spiritual Integrity" and activities also included arts, crafts, worship services and fellowship. All campers received t-shirts and backpacks.



**CAMP FACULTY** - Senior Camp Counselors: Mrs. Elizabeth Marrow, Dr. Swannie Wright, Ms. Jewelynn Dunn, Mr. Marcus Bass. Jr. Camp Counselors were Victoria Thorne, Mr. Ivan Bartley. Mrs. Joan Hicks served as Camp Nurse.

## Convention Represents at CCH Annual Day

GBSC recently presented a check for \$2,000.00 for the general operations of the Home on CCH Day. At the first of June, the GBSC contributed \$3,000.00 for the general operations of the Home. An additional \$2,000.00-\$3,000.00 was pledged by month's end.



**ANNUAL DAY** - Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. and the Reverend O. D. Sykes (President and Fourth Vice President, respectively) represented the General Baptist State Convention at the 17th Annual Central Children's Home Day on June 16, 2012 in Oxford. More than 2,000 people attended the day's festivities. One of the day's highlights was the public presentation of the new van purchased by the Convention for the Children's Home. Chairman of the CCH Board of Directors Dr. George Cook, Jr. (left) confers with President Parker (center) and Vice President Sykes (right) at CCH Day 2012.



**SUMMER FUN** - Food, fun, fellowship are the order of the day at CCH Day 2012. Enjoying the entertainment at the Pavilion on the Central Children's Home campus in Oxford.

Staff Photos

## Ushers: What kind of Sacrifice Does God Want?

The sin sacrifices of the Old Testament were animals that did not know what was happening and had already been slain before they were placed on the altar. Our Lord knew what was happening, and His was a living sacrifice. He was alive on the altar of the cross.



Bro. Charles Dunn  
Ushers'  
President, GBSC

Read the Scripture verse which is in (I Peter 2:5), now read verses 1-11, in order to understand what Peter is talking about in verse 5. In the latter part of Chapter 1, Peter stresses the importance of God's Word and how it will abide forever.

At the beginning of (I Peter and II Peter), he presents to the believers steps they need to take in order that they may offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (I

Peter 2:5) He makes this charge to them on basis of their having been born again (I Peter 1:23) and on the assumption that they have also discovered the joy of fellowship with their Lord. "Now that you tasted that the Lord is good." Peter makes it plain to them that they need to lay aside "all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind and all evil speakings (I Peter 2:1). Why? Because they were to live in continued fellowship with the Lord, the one chosen by God.

What kind of sacrifice is God seeking? A sacrifice that has been prepared. A sacrifice that is offered by clean hands and a pure heart.

David asks that question in Psalm 24:3, "Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, he who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false?"

What kind of sacrifice does God want? The corporate sacrifice of living stone that makes up a household of faith. You also, like living stone are being built into a spiritu-

al house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifice acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (I Peter 2:15). This is something that we should be constantly working on so that the corporate sacrifice that we make will be pleasing to God. We are part of household of faith. We don't attend church to do our own thing, but to be a part of the whole. Some Ushers have the attitude that they can do as they please, and if someone doesn't like it, to bad. Some say, don't tell me what I can or cannot do. Such an attitude is foreign to what God wants when we gather to worship.

We stand before God as individuals and will be accountable to God for our own deeds, but when we gather for corporate worship, individual worshippers are suddenly seen as one body in Christ. Paul explained that in Christ, we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all others. Ephesians 2:19-22, talks about our being built together for a habitation of the Holy Spirit. The kind of sacrifice God is seeking is Christ centered.



**BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP** – The Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association convened its 146th Annual Session in May at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Hertford, N.C. Pictured (from left) is the Rev. William Sawyer, Moderator of the Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association; the Rev. Wade Staton, Second Vice Moderator; the Rev. James Harris, First Vice Moderator; the Rev. Dr. Linwood Boone, the Rev. John S. Shannon, Moderator of the Middle Ground Union; the Rev. Ricky Banks, Second Vice President of the General Baptist State Convention. Dr. Boone recently released *“The Chronological History of the Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association and Its Founders from 1866-1966.”*

## Lifting Your Voice Makes a Difference in the Fight

*Press Reports*

Your voice is valuable in addressing issues of hunger and poverty. Proverbs 31:8-9 tells us to “Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” Charity is extremely valuable in addressing the grave needs of local communities, but I believe this verse empowers us to use our voices to communicate to our lawmakers. With the stroke of a pen, policies are enacted that dramatically affect people in need, but YOU can also impact change through legislative advocacy.

Take 21-year-old Kiara Irvin of Little Rock, Arkansas. She and her brother were raised by a single mother, as their father was incarcerated. For a period of time, they relied on food stamps to make ends meet—but the food stamps were never enough to get them through the month. When the food stamps ran out, Irvin and her brother received benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). “When the WIC benefits kicked in, we were excited because we

could buy things like milk for our cereal and eggs to make egg sandwiches,” she said.

Propelled by her personal experience and strong Christian beliefs, Irvin was moved to participate in Bread for the World’s Hunger Justice Leaders training, which was held June 9-12 in Washington, D.C. At the training, she joined other young leaders from 26 states and 16 denominations to learn about the root causes of hunger and poverty and to explore the biblical foundations for anti-hunger advocacy.

Whether you have had a personal experience with hunger or poverty, seen it in your community, or simply care about the issues, your voice matters to your lawmakers. You don’t have to be well-versed in hunger and poverty statistics or be fluent in policy to advocate on behalf of hungry and poor people. Simply speak from your heart and you can make a difference.

*Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World, and bishop of ecumenical and political affairs at United Way of the Cross Church of Christ, Danville, Virginia.*

## News From Across The State

### Hobson Places in Baptist Oratorical

Hanha Hobson of Fayetteville represented the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina at the National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education Oratorical Contest on June 20-21 in St. Louis, Missouri. Ms. Hobson placed second in the national competition.

### Helping students with autism focus of \$10 million research initiative

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute has been awarded a five-year, \$10 million federal grant to create a new research and development center to help high school students with autism-related disorders.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences will involve multiple research sites and collaboration with researchers at UNC-Charlotte, Vanderbilt University and the universities of California at Davis, Wisconsin at Madison, and Texas at Austin.

The new Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders aims to develop school- and community-based educational programs and interventions for high school students with autism spectrum disorders, or ASD. The center also will assess the effectiveness of these programs for students during high school and when they transition to other settings.

As autism rates have increased, research has typically focused on how to help young children through early identification and intervention, said Sam Odom, Ph.D., director of UNC’s Frank Porter Graham institute and senior scientist and professor in the School of Education.

The new UNC-based center will help extend the knowledge base about what strategies work best through late adolescence into young adulthood, he said.

“Every year more adolescents with ASD are entering high school, and the research about effective programs for those students and their families is very limited,” Odom said. “Our new center aims to help fill that gap by collaborating with national special education leaders to develop new programs and evaluate their impact in high schools across the country.”

Odom will co-direct the new center with Kara Hume, Ph.D., a Frank Porter Graham institute investigator.

Odom is principal investigator for the National Professional Development Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

### As job growth stagnates across North Carolina, east lags further behind

North Carolina’s job creation began to stumble across many of the state’s counties last month, according to newly released data from the Division of Employment Security. Most of the long-term improvements in the employment picture are concentrated in the counties west of I-95 which include the state’s four most populous regions—the Piedmont Triad, the Research Triangle, the Greater Charlotte Region, and Western North Carolina—while the regions in the Eastern part of the state lag behind.

**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith and other issues, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.

# The Baptist Informer's Health Spotlight: Stroke: Knowing the Symptoms and Signs

A stroke or "brain attack" occurs when a blood clot blocks an artery or a blood vessel breaks, interrupting blood flow to an area of the brain. When either of these things happens, brain cells begin to die and brain damage occurs.



According to the National Stroke Association, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in America and

a leading cause of adult disability. African Americans are twice as likely to die from stroke as Caucasians. The rate of first strokes in African Americans is almost double that of Caucasians and strokes tend to occur earlier in life for African Americans than Caucasians. Additionally, African American stroke survivors are more likely to become disabled and experience difficulties with daily living and activities.

## Warning Signs

Some potential stroke warning signs include:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, or trouble talking or understanding speech
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, or loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

**FAST** is an acronym used to help detect and enhance responsiveness to stroke victim needs. Use the this test to remember warning signs of stroke.

### F = FACE

Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

Facial weakness judges whether the person can smile without their mouth or eyes drooping

### A = ARMS

Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

Arm weakness is whether the person can hold up both arms successfully.

### S = SPEECH

Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Does the speech sound slurred or strange?

Speech difficulty is about whether the person can speak clearly and understand speech.

### T = TIME

If you observe any of these signs (independently or together), call 9-1-1 immediately. Time represents the need to get to a hospital.

## Stroke Risk Factors

Data from the National Institute s of Health suggests that having a risk factor for stroke doesn't mean you'll have a stroke. On the other hand, not having a risk factor doesn't mean you'll avoid a stroke. Stroke risk grows as the number and severity of risk factors increases. Some factors for stroke can't be modified by medical treatment or lifestyle changes, like age, gender, race and family history.

Knowing the signs, symptoms, and risk factors of stroke can be helpful in prevention and knowing what to do in emergency situations. More information about stroke education and awareness can be found at [www.stroke.org](http://www.stroke.org) or by calling 1-800 STROKES(National Stroke Association) or with your local health provider.

- By Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing. For more information about the Center and its programs, visit their website at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-972-6374.

### PASTORAL VACANCY

The First Baptist Church, Apple Street, Burlington, North Carolina is seeking a Senior Pastor. The following is a description of the pastor we are seeking.

The chief responsibility of the Senior Pastor is leading the church to accomplish the mission of loving God, loving others and making disciples.

#### Education/Experience Expectations.

- Preferably a minimum of a master's degree in divinity from an accredited seminary (II Timothy 2:15).
- Preference given to candidates with a minimum of 5 years work experience as a Senior Pastor along with additional years of church leadership experience.
- The senior pastor should meet the requirements listed for an overseer in I Timothy 3:1-13 and I Peter 5:1-8.

The senior pastor must have a sound Christian vision and strive to unify the church body toward sharing and embracing that vision so that it will become a reality. The senior pastor must be licensed to preach, ordained as a minister of the gospel, and must be willing to follow the ordinances and doctrines of the Missionary Baptist church. Character qualities should include being: humble, self-controlled, joyful, action and goal oriented, caring, approachable, trustworthy, faithful, of ethical/strong moral character, willing to grow, devoted to his marriage/family and willing to persevere in God's work.

#### Qualifications

The senior pastor should lead by word and example guiding the church to accomplish the work of Christ and the mission of the church. The pastor must be capable of proclaiming God's Word, teaching, leading, equipping leaders, role modeling the church's mission, devoted to prayer, assuring care and mobilizing resources.

Send your inquiry to the address below by June 30, 2012.

Deacon George Byrd, Jr., Chairman  
Pastoral Search Committee  
P.O. Box 1244  
Burlington, North Carolina 27216

## Brown New Calvary Baptist Church

200 Doak Street  
Thomasville, NC 27360  
(336) 476-6514  
(336) 688-7012

Brown New Calvary Baptist Church is seeking someone a bi-vocational position as Pastor. All interested persons should send resume to address listed above: Attention Deacon Ministry.

Applicant must have the following qualifications:

- Born again
- Licensed and ordained in the Baptist Church
- Pastoral Experience preferred
- Be willing and qualified to teach and preach God's work
- Must have good people skills
- Support Sunday School and Bible Study
- Strong church administrative ability
- Expected to preach, counsel, visit the sick
- Meet qualifications outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7

All candidates must submit to criminal background and credit check.

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**LOTT CAREY**  
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**August 13-17, 2012**  
**Holiday Inn Superdome**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

(NOTE: The Hyatt Regency Hotel is full)

For hotel information,  
call (504) 581-1600 Ext. 4212  
and mention Lott Carey

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# BAPTIST INFORMER

August 2012

Volume 135, No. 8

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

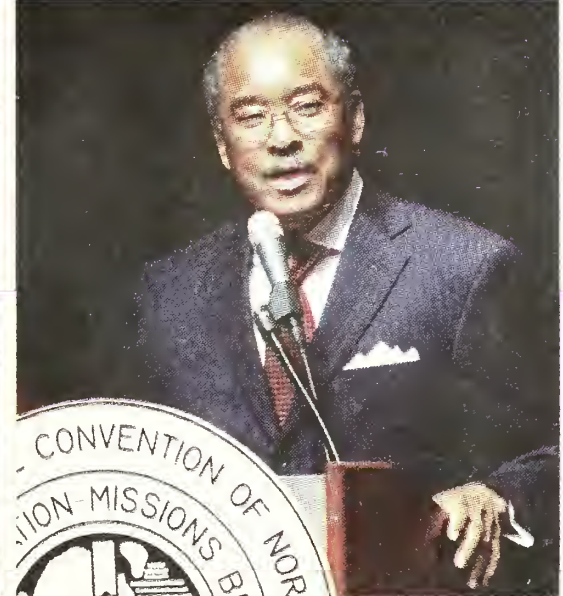


Photo by Art Burks

Photo by Michael Baker with Venita's Photo and Video

## All-Baptist Assembly 2012

### 2012 James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest

See page 8 for photos and more information on the entire list of our winners.

General Baptist State Convention, NC

### SAVE THE DATES ...

- September 3-7  
132nd Annual National Baptist Convention, USA  
Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA
- October 29-31  
GBSC Annual Session

## "Available to Christ, Available for Missions"

### Staff Reports

*"One of the real issues facing African-American Christians today is the sense of the many competing interests that claim our time and attention. The demands of work, family, civic duties and simply keeping up with this fast-paced, highly technological age are a daunting challenge. Most of us have difficulty keeping things in balance and juggling all these competing interests... The sad reality is that too many Baptist Christians – so caught up in the various demands of the time – are simply not available to heed and hear the Lord's call to service."*

-- GBSC Statement for 2012 All-Baptist Assembly

Responding to a call to strengthen the missional message across the state, an estimated 1,500 Baptists arrived in the Capital City last month for the quadrennial All-Baptist Assembly of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

ABA, which was held in the Raleigh Convention Center July 22-26, brought together dozens of pastors, ministers, laymen and ushers, along with representatives of the Congress of Christian Education, the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention and the General Baptist

(continued on page 16)

## On the Battlefield: Rejection, Acceptance, and the Biblical Debate

### PART TWO

By Ophelia Johnson

What does the Bible say about female pastors? Is there any biblical basis to show that they should not lead congregations? Did the Apostle Paul or Jesus speak on this issue? And so on...

According some theologians and religious educators, these are just a few of the questions that confront – and confound – traditional Baptist congregations as they consider female candidates to fill vacant pulpits. Since Baptist churches are inherently autonomous, they make congregational decisions on pastors, but issues such as "tradi-



### WOMEN IN THE PULPIT

tion" and gender biases often complicate the pastoral search process.

Dr. Bruce T. Grady, Dean and Associate Professor of Religious Education at Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, N.C., said women who plan to enter the pastorate still face challenges. The historic seminary has about 140 students, which is about half female. The challenge for women in traditional Baptist churches, he said, is "identical to the hardship that Jesus faced in his earthly ministry."

"[Jesus] did not come in the way that some people expected. Nevertheless, God is sovereign in whom God chooses to lead. The Apostle Peter expressed this revolutionary concept when he preached: *"In the last days it will be, God*

(continued on page 10)

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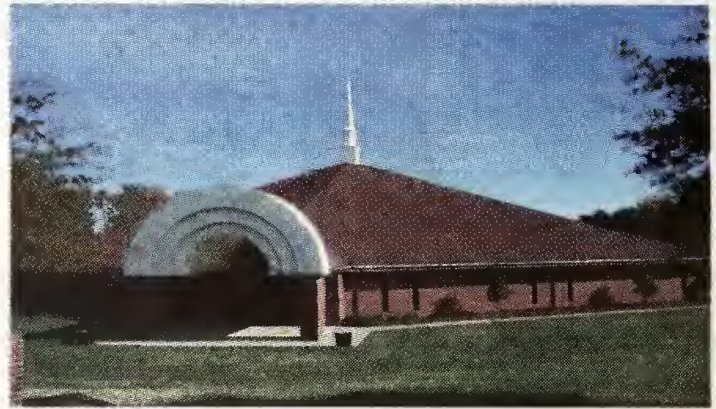
Dr. Bruce T. Grady  
Guest Column:  
"Your Life's Meaning"

P9 Changes  
Come to  
Midweek Church

P9 Q & A Series:  
With  
Rev. Jeanette Floyd



Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch, Host Pastor  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President GBSC



Ebenezer Baptist Church  
Charlotte, NC

Save The Date ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Associate Ministers' Conference ~ Sept. 21-22, 2012

Who should attend? ~ All persons that desire to grow and develop in ministry. ~ All persons who are serious about learning more about the elements of ministry that affect their individual growth and maturity. ~ All persons that desire to learn the current trends in ministry that affect your effectiveness and witness.

Why should you come? This conference is designed to enhance the ministry of the Associate Minister. This conference will bring growth in the areas of sermon development, Biblical study, research methods, the development of a minister's library, ministerial ethics, ministerial protocol, and many other areas as well.

Conference Registration is available ONLINE!  
Please visit us on our website at [www.ebccharlotte.org](http://www.ebccharlotte.org)  
\$ 50.00 ~ All Ministers  
\$ 400.00 ~ Church registration for 10 Ministers

Make checks payable and mail registration to:

**Ebenezer Baptist Church ~ Associate Ministers' Conference**  
2020 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC 28262

Lodging ~ **Hilton Garden Inn** (Special rate = \$99.00)  
7831 Gateway Lane NW, Concord, NC 28027 / 704-979-2900

# Your Life's Meaning

Recently, my 9 year old son approached me and asked, "Daddy, what does my life mean?" The longer I paused to gather my thoughts, the more his curiosity grew. At first, I pondered the witness of Scripture, the lives of the prophets, priests and kings. Then, I reflected on the testimonies of those near and dear to me such as family and close friends.

Eventually, I talked about the personal struggle between who we are and who we are becoming. One familiar text, 1 John 3:2, also expresses this idea.

*Beloved, now are we children of God, and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is (ASV).* Yes, we may be saved, born-again, filled with the Holy Spirit and members of a local congregation. But, what does all of this matter if we are not changing the world and experiencing positive transformation ourselves? If God's grace is so amazing, then there must be value added to every soul who receives it.

Our meaning is deeply influenced by our patterns of thoughts around these same two points- location and destination. That is to say, who am I and what am I becoming? Regretfully, most of us are tempted to either think too much or too little of ourselves. By thinking too much of yourself, you become selfish. Life is centered on you- your quest for power, pleasure, position and prestige. Quite frankly, this is a miserable way of life that leads to isolation. By thinking too little of yourself, you reject who you are and forfeit who you might become. From this perspective, you are like the man who buried his talent (Matt.

25:14-30; Lk. 19:12-28). You are paralyzed by fear, trapped in a constant gaze at the lives of "other people." Consumed with keeping up with "The Joneses," you wonder why somebody else is more gifted, more talented or more attractive than you. Self-hate sets in and you never fully embrace yourself and God's plan for your life.

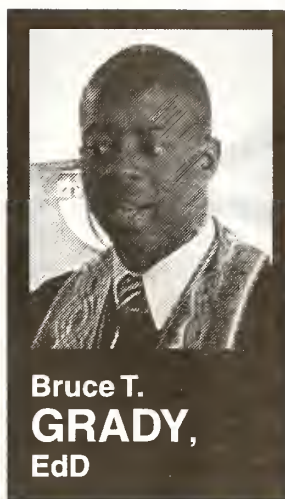
An internationally renowned preacher, Rev. Dr. James Forbes, addressed this topic in Cornell West's work, *Restoring Hope: Conversations on the Future of Black America* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1995). Dr. Forbes provides insight through his definition of spirituality. He said, "When I think of spirituality, I think of the system of values and activities that provide meaning and strength for life, whether it is struggle or whether it is experienced triumph. Whatever it is that, in a sense, holds the pieces together, the inner world and the outer world, both the visible and invisible, from which I or some other person draws hope, strength, and reason to persevere. And usually it involves both personal and private, but always social and more corporate, expressions." (p.87) I wholeheartedly agree with Dr. Forbes. Through the spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer and service to others, we tune into God's voice. God's vision becomes clearer

and our lives gain more meaning.

Ultimately, life's meaning can never be reduced to your annual income, where you live, what kind of automobile you drive, or how many people like you. Your true life is rooted in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. He leads us in a direction of love, peace and justice. Hence, I challenge my son and everyone who has ever seriously considered the meaning of their life, to take time to examine your location and your destination. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!

Shalom,  
Bruce T. Grady, EdD  
Dean - Shaw University Divinity School

*Dr. Grady is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer Newspaper. Please contact him at bgrady@shawu.edu.*

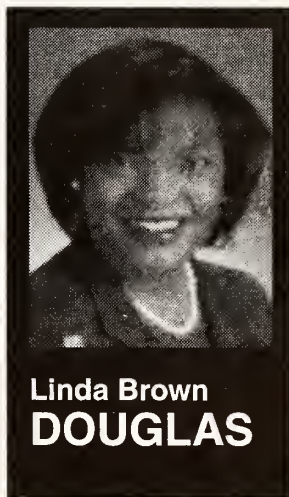


**Bruce T. GRADY,**  
EdD

## CORRECTION

*Dr. Bruce T. Grady, Dean and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, N.C., was misidentified in a story in the July issue of the Baptist Informer. We sincerely regret the error.*

## Ready to soar: Waiting ordeal renews strength



**Linda Brown DOUGLAS**

*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)*

Isaiah 40:31 is a verse that I have heard and recited many times throughout my life, but it took on new meaning as my daughter, Kendra, entered her senior year of

high school. The words had been on my mind much of that summer until finally, I asked Kendra to learn the verse, because I told her she might need it.

As the summer progressed, the Fred Hammond song, *They That Wait* seemed to be all over the radio, and Kendra was always quick to recite the verse whenever she heard the music.

As any parent who has journeyed through the sen-

ior year of high school knows, it's an extremely hard year for both the student and the parents. Students face standardized tests, college applications, scholarship forms, essays, exorbitant expenses, senior presentations, deadlines and more deadlines. The requirements come with anxiety as well as exhilaration; sometimes simultaneously. I said many times during that year that parents of seniors need a support group, but they are so busy they could never find time to attend a support group meeting. For Kendra, that year brought the added challenge of track and field.

One of the first meets of her senior year would take place at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. At the long jump pit Kendra sprinted down the runway and took a leap that should have easily landed her among the top in the group competing that day. Instead, the vault came with a jolting pain. As she hit the ground and the sand blew around her, she froze - not because she was afraid, but because she simply couldn't get up. She just sat there. Assured by the medics that it was probably something small, my husband, Ken, lifted her out of the pit and drove her back to the hotel where she would spend the night with a generic bag of ice, a source of comfort to many athletes.

The truth was, the injury wasn't small at all. Sure. It was a hairline tear of her ACL, and we were convinced by not just one doctor, but a second opinion, as well, that she only needed a few weeks of therapy to get back on the track. Unfortunately, her senior year would result in one unfinished race after another. Still, we were told she was fine and just needed to keep pushing through.

This past September, she had ACL reconstructive surgery and spent her freshman year at Western Carolina University as a redshirt on the track team, but finally, her strength is renewing. She is regaining the confidence she had at her peak. In fact, during a practice later in the school year she jumped further than she's ever jumped before.

I gave her the bible verse because I thought *SHE* would need it, but what I didn't realize was how much *I* would need it. The experience has given me the courage to wait on the Lord, because, indeed, he has renewed my strength. Now, we're all ready to soar.

*Linda Brown Douglas is director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and attends Wake Chapel Church in Raleigh.*

# Diminished Discipleship

As we looked at terms describing discipleship in our previous Outlook Series: I've discovered that we sometimes try to make discipleship into other things that end up diminishing it. That causes us to make the wrong choice our main focus.

In this series, we want to glance at what discipleship is not.

**IT IS NOT A PROGRAM:** A common mistake that leaders make is turning discipleship into a curriculum that a serious disciple completes and then graduates from. Because discipleship is about the choice to follow Jesus, it needs to be a way of life for all of life. Program-based discipleship can divide a community (church) into those who have been through "the program" and those who have not. The most damaging result is that churches categorize discipleship as just one of the ministries of the church, rather than the core of the ministry. When discipleship takes a place alongside leadership and other programs, it ceases to address the heart of what it means to be a Christian. To be a little more explicit: The quality of the church's leadership is directly proportionate to the quality of discipleship. If we fail in the area of making disciples, we should not be surprised if we fail in leadership development. For leadership to be genuinely Christian, we must always reflect Christ-likeness and therefore, discipleship.

**IT IS NOT A PRODUCTION LINE:** Sometimes we try to turn discipleship into a production plan based on multiplication. "Each one, bring one." This is an attractive concept, but the truth is that only disciples who are passionate for Christ will be able to sustain any effort to reach others. In real life, God doesn't have a production plan. He uses us to reach

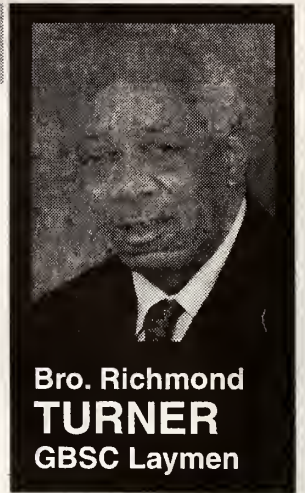
others in a wide variety of ways. Discipleship is much more about the depth of character and spiritual passion than it is a plan for church growth.

**IT IS NOT ONLY FOR BEGINNERS:** Disciples need basic training, but it's a huge mistake to think that we can simply learn the basics, flow into the general population, and live off that training. Churches around the world are filled with people who learned basic information about being a follower of Jesus, but they no longer study the Bible, memorize scripture, or pray as daily discipline. Far too many Christians are out of shape spiritually.

**IT IS NOT JUST FOR PASTORS:** Some pastors maintain a "spiritual aura" that makes average non-

professionals feel left out. Many lay people feel inferior spiritually to the "real" disciples or those who have chosen full-time church service as a profession. They may know more, but this doesn't mean they are more spiritual.

**IT IS NOT JUST FOR THE HIGHLY LITERATE:** God meets people where they are and uses the tools they have available. You should read, but you might grow more through active service. You can be just as intimate with God as someone who studies great spiritual literature.



Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

## Laymen's League Study Commission

### Staff Report

The North Carolina State Laymen's League Study Commission met in June at Roanoke Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Garysburg, N.C., where the host Pastor was the Reverend Dr. Robert Sessoms.

Workshop facilitators were First VP William Pointer who taught the youth about "Forgiveness" and the Reverend Anthonette Wright who taught about "Ministering to Families in Crisis." Second VP Anthony Hagans discussed "Biblical Manhood and Discipleship" with a sub-topic, "No Man Left Behind."

"We must realize that our mission in life is discipleship, which is a life-long journey bringing men into the present of Jesus Christ," he said.

Guest preacher was the Reverend Charles Faulcon, pastor of Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church. His sermon topic was "Don't Just Sit There, Do Something." He encouraged attendees to have faith of a mustard seed.

He said: "We are too busy looking at the mountain, while the work is in the valley. We serve a God who is greater than time."

Submitted by Assistant Secretary Roger Battle, Jr.

## MINISTRY BRIEFS

### GRADUATION JOY

The 88th Commencement of the Lott Carey Mission School, Brewerville, Liberia was held at the Lott Carey Memorial Chapel on 29 June 2012. Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Pastor, St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina and First Vice President, Lott Carey Convention, was the Commencement Speaker. Enjoy memories of that joyful occasion for our 22 graduates by visiting <http://www.tlcafrica.com/Carey/Carey1.htm>. In addition to fulfilling the requirements for graduation, all graduates passed the West African Examination Council tests. Congratulations to the class of 2012.



### OBITUARIES – With Sympathy

The Reverend Henry Donald Coletrane of Yanceyville, passed on Saturday, May 26, 2012 at his residence. He was pastor of New Ephesus Baptist Church in Ruffin, N.C., until his passing. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church.

The Reverend Dr. Carl Lee, former Pastor of First Baptist Church in Badin, NC, was funeralized on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at North End Baptist Church.

The Reverend Dr. Joseph Thomas Walker, Sr., Pastor Emeritus of Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Reidsville, NC where he served for 29 years as pas-

tor, passed away on June 9, 2012. He was laid to eternal rest on June 14, 2012 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

Dr. Eva H. Johnson, former President of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina (1989-1993) and widow of the late Reverend Dr. S. R. Johnson, former Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Salisbury, NC, was funeralized on June 7, 2012 at Mount Zion and laid to eternal rest on June 11 in Roanoke, Virginia.

The Reverend Dr. Jerry Drayton, Sr., Pastor Emeritus of New Bethel Baptist Church, passed on May 29, 2012. He was laid to eternal rest on June 5, 2012 at New Bethel.

# Questioning God: A Legacy of Faith for the Lost Boys

Wire Reports

By Jeff Brumley/Associated Baptist Press

International students who have endured war and disease in their homelands are nothing new at Mercer University. But Abraham Deng can claim that and more: as a child, he survived lion, hyena and crocodile attacks along with starvation and disease – all while evading hostile troops hunting him through 1,000 miles of African plains and jungles.

Abraham Deng, 31, is one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, a group made famous by a childhood exodus from war-torn Sudan that landed them in refugee camps before being scattered across the globe. There were about 30,000 in all and almost 4,000 landed in the United States.

And one of them – Deng – ended up at Mercer's McAfee School of Theology, where he's currently working on a master of divinity degree.

"He is a remarkable human being," said Craig

McMahan, university minister and dean of the chapel. "It's extraordinary that we would have someone come through with the kind of challenges he has had."

Deng is also a religious minority at McAfee because he isn't Baptist. He's an Anglican who attends an Episcopal church where he often preaches Sunday mornings.

But denominational differences mean nothing to him.

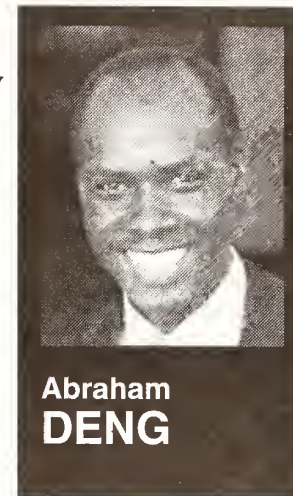
"When we go to heaven we will not have denominations," Deng said.

## World of the Living Dead

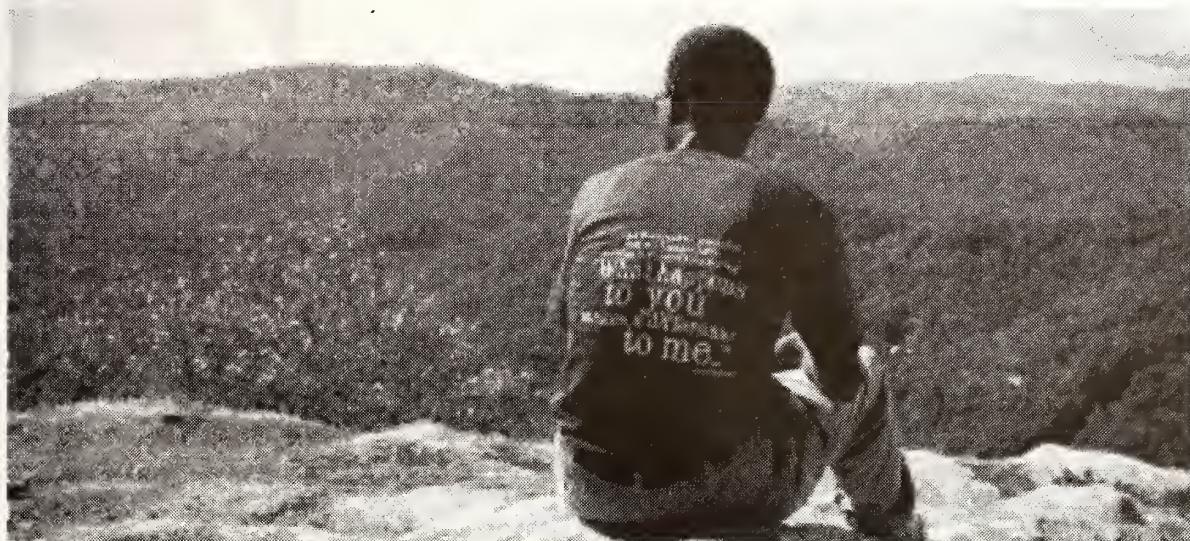
Heaven and denominations weren't even part of Deng's belief systems as a child. He was born to a family of sheep and cow herders in an area of southern Sudan where traditional African spirituality held sway.

"I remember very well my parents had a small god and a shrine in the home," Deng said. He was taught that people entered the "world of the living dead" upon death.

"When I took care of the cattle and sheep, I would



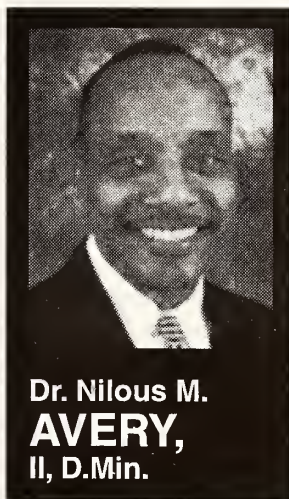
Abraham  
DENG



Abraham Deng at Camp Pinnacle in Clayton, GA, during last year's annual retreat for students, staff and faculty of McAfee School of Theology. (Photo provided by Mercer University)

(continued on page 14)

## From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large ...



Dr. Nilous M.  
AVERY,  
II, D.Min.

"To all in (the General Baptist Family) who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:7, NIV). As we press on with the awesome God-ordained assignment for *Preaching, Reaching, and Teaching*, I continually pause to thank God for all of you, "because your faith is being reported all over

the world" (Romans 1:8b).

Our storied convention does indeed stand on the threshold of abundant blessings through the power of God and divine provisions through God's people. Our mountaintop view of promised-land possessions must not result in a stagnant spirituality. God has promised empowerment for those who are faithful. General Baptists, we can experience and express the power that is ours in Jesus the Christ.

*Power* is a word that is used often in our world. We are familiar with "power plays," "power dunks," and

"power formations" in athletics. We eat "power bars" for energy while on the go. We install power locks, power brakes, power windows, power engines, etc. in our automobiles. We use "power points" in professional presentations. Our churches apply the word *power* to add punch to our ecclesiastical gatherings.

How does the word *power* apply to our spiritual lives? In the New Testament, there are two forms of the word *power*:

- *Dunamis*: the ability, the force, the energy to do or act. It literally means powered by power, transforming power. The focus of this word is the transformation (change) that comes in order to glow, grow, and go when this power is present! (see Acts 1:8)

- *Kratos*: the power that is able to overcome resistance (see Hebrews 2:14). This also refers to overcoming the power of death. This word indicates that God's glorious might is needed for growth as a result of the many challenges that confront our spiritual advancement.

In others words, our power from and through Jesus the Christ must become tangible and visible in our lives in order for us to **glow, grow, and go** in the will, witness, and work of Almighty God!

God provides us with *Power to Know* (Ephesians 1:17-20; 3:18-19), *Power to Walk* (Colossians 1:11), and *Power to Serve* (2 Thessalonians 1:11). We are called to be fruit-bearers of God through Jesus the Christ. True fruit-bearers possess inward divine

power, which transforms lives and overcomes obstacles to ministry.

Our opportunity to be witnesses of God's transforming power is available through our convention's objectives, specifically Missions. Missions is who we are, Missions is what we do! Without Missions, our ability to be agents of transformation is limited. Without your generous contributions and loyal support, there is no Missions!

Your constant prayers and financial support are tangible proof that God's power transforms lives and overcomes obstacles. My beloved General Baptist family, we are in position to impact our world like never before. Accept the challenge today.

I am asking all Pastors, Laity, Churches, Moderators, Associations, and those who love God to prayerfully and generously build up our capacity to do missions by fulfilling the following *Power Points*:

- (1) Increase your monthly financial support;
- (2) Subscribe, renew subscriptions, and enlist others to subscribe to the *Baptist Informer*
- (3) Pledge to ceaselessly pray for and stand with our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Haywood T. Gray, our President, Dr. Howard Parker, and all the auxiliaries of our convention.

Send your prayers *up* and your financial support *in* for the kingdom work of Missions today! I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.

# CSI: A Call to Spiritual Integrity with focus on Unity

*Psalms 133:1*

The eyes of the Lord are upon us. He sees everything we do. The arms of the Lord are around us, He keeps us safe and secure. Although there may be times when we step out of God's will, we will not be out of his care. We may forget God, but he will not forget us.

Psalms 55:22 instructs us to "cast your burdens on the Lord" and He shall sustain you. He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. When facing trails too great to bear, God invites us to cast our burdens and cares upon Him. He bears the weight of them with us and will sustain us in every situation.

The Holy Spirit has repeated this invitation throughout redemptive history.

Jesus gave the invitation in Matthew 11:28-30. This invitation comes to all. All that labor and are heavy-laden with the troubles of life and the sins of our own human nature.

By coming to Jesus, becoming His servant and obeying His directions, Jesus will free us from our insurmountable burdens and give us rest, peace and His Holy Spirit to lead us through life. Trials and cares we carry will be borne with His help and grace.

Hebrews 4:16 tells to come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. We can approach the Heavenly throne knowing that our prayers and petitions are welcomed and are desired by our heavenly Father.

It is called the Throne of Grace because from it flows:

- God's Love

- God's Help
- God's Forgiveness
- God's outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- And all that we need under any circumstances.

One of the greatest blessings of salvation is that Christ is now our high priest. He has opened a way to His personal presence, whereby we can always seek the help we need.

We have been sailing through sometimes rough water, the waves have been dashing- clouds sometimes, raging low- but through it all we are coasting ashore. We do give Him all the glory and honor. If it had not been for the Lord on our side, we would have jumped ship & washed out.

Do you ever get down in the dumps? No you ever feel that everything you have planned for worked for, invested in, sacrificed for and lived for is coming apart at the seams. You wonder when will the storms end? When will the clouds break? When will the sky become blue again? God chose Ezekiel and carried him out in the Spirit of the Lord to give him a message to relay to the people (Ezekiel 37). This is a challenge to us.

We have labored diligently through the year with the assistance of the team. Then, we have prayed for the success of this tenure. I really do thank God for allowing them to accept the call for unity. Praise the Lord. We have worked together recognizing these Powers within the Body of Christ.

I. Faith- *Luke 7:50*- Faith blesses my day and paves the way.

Here we gained the ability to believe in each other.

II. Strength- *Psalms 46:1*- I have had the strength to accomplish all that was mine to do. God has been our

true security in the storms of life. Strength was given when battling our foes. With this power working through us, we were able to overcome many obstacles.

III. Wisdom- *Psalms 51:6*- I have been guided by divine wisdom in every thought word and action. We were given the ability to evaluate, discern and to apply to many given situations.

IV. Love- *John 15:12*- This is my commandment - "That ye love one another as I have loved you." We have the ability to attract other in love- to unify and the desire to involve the Body of Christ in Kingdom building.

V. Power- *Acts 1:8*- Ye shall receive power when the Holy Ghost has come upon you. Accept what the lord gives.

VI. Imagination- *Philippians 4:8*- I envision good unfolding in every area of our life.

We must place our minds on those things which are true- pure- holy- righteous etc. The God of Peace will be with us.

VII. Understanding- *1 Chronicles 28*- The Lord searches every mind and understands every plan and thought. I thank God that my understanding of truth depends and directed my life. It is important that we know God, Serve Him, & Seek Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind.

VIII. Will- *Philippians 2:13*- For it is God who is at work in you-enabling you both in Will and to work for His good pleasure. Having the ability to choose-decide-and make decision. God's grace is at work in us.

IX. Order- *Ecclesiastes 3:1*- For everything there is a season- and a time for every matter under heaven. My life is balanced and is in order. I am in his will.

X. Zeal- *Romans 12:1*- Do not lag in zeal. Be ardent in Spirit Serve the Lord.

We must possess passion, enthusiasm, and motivation.

XI.- Elimination- *1 John 4:18*- Perfect love casts our fear We must learn to release anything and everything that no longer serves any unfolding good. We must learn to let go and let God take control.

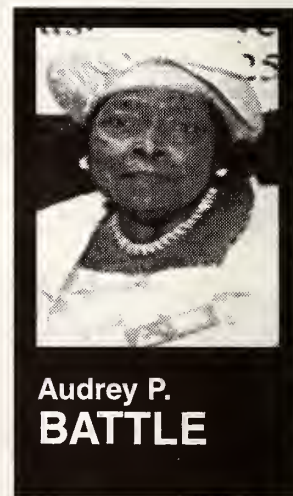
If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home

If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation-

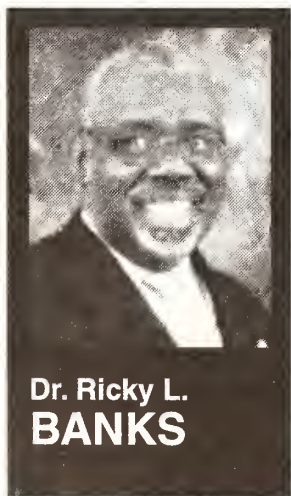
If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

Audrey P. Battle  
President / Woman's Baptist State Convention



Audrey P. BATTLE

## Genesis 1:1-2 "In the Beginning"



Dr. Ricky L. BANKS

In the beginning God created. With the eloquence of an almost stark simplicity, the Bible begins. The first action to be mentioned is creation. The first actor is God. Genesis is the beginning book and the book that describes beginnings, the beginning of the world we know and the plants and creatures in it, the beginning of the family of man, the beginning of human divine conflict.

When the people of Israel thought about where they came from, they thought of Abraham whom God called and blessed and of the Exodus and Sinai where God implemented his promise to Abraham by calling and creating a servant people. In each line of thought, they came ultimately to God. When the children of Israel thought about where everything and everybody had come

from, they similarly came back to God, and beyond Him they did not or could not go. Before anything and anyone else God, after everything and everyone else God. First and last, alpha and omega, before beginning and beyond end, never changing and ever the same, God.

The opening words of Genesis 1 can be read "To begin with, God created." The thinkers of Israel began with God because they could conceive of no other beginning place and no other beginning person. To begin with God.

Such a beginning is a confession, a confession about God that he was before all else. Second it is a confession about man, that man followed God in the sequence of history, and having been made by God is subject to God.

Throughout the marvelous rhythms of this musical account so beautifully varied was an important constant. Each separate section begins with God: and God said (vv. 3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26,29). And each separate section ends with God: God called; God saw; God blessed (vv4,5,8,10,12,18,21,22,25,28,31). Let us never forget that the place of every beginning and the person of every beginning is GOD.

BE BLESSED!

# Changes come to midweek church

## *Churches adapt to make the most out of midweek worship*

Wire Reports  
By Jeff Brumley

The look and feel of the Wednesday night church service is beginning to change as congregations — at least the ones trying to survive — seek to become more intentional and relevant to the communities they serve, ministers and scholars say.

Those experts say they're noticing the shift as Baptist and other churches want to ensure they're putting that traditional gathering to best use for members who are increasingly crunched for time.

The result is a mish-mash of different formats, some designed to compensate for the dwindling Sunday school hour, and others seeking to give congregants a mid-week spiritual boost.

"I told the groups at the workshops there is no panacea," said Beasley, senior pastor at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Beasley said he grew up attending Baptist churches where Wednesday nights were an unquestioned routine of corporate prayer and Bible reading that broke into smaller ministry meetings, such as choir and youth groups.

Churches can no longer afford to assume anything works, especially with families being pulled in different directions by competing, outside options, he said.

"It forces us to become a little more intentional about what we do with that time because people are really having to make an effort to be there," Beasley said.

### 'Back to the drawing board'

At Broadway, that meant a period of experimentation ranging from "Bible study to yoga" and finally settling on a contemplative prayer service. It was in keeping with the church's formal, liturgical worship style but in a simpler format.

"It was a natural fit for our folks," he said, adding it's held in the chapel while other activities, such as choir practice, continue in other parts of the building.

But Beasley said that may not work for other churches. "They may need to go back to the drawing board" to learn what does.

Those who study and teach about worship say that's just what congregations are doing.

### 'All over the map'

"None of these things are monolithic," said Jim Hart, president of the Robert E. Webber Institute of Worship Studies in Jacksonville, Fla.

Hart said a majority of the school's students are Baptists — CBF, Southern Baptist and Independent — and the rest mostly from other evangelical Protestant traditions. Most of them are re-examining how they do Wednesday nights, Hart said.

"And it's all over the map," he said. "Some are doing more historical, traditional forms of worship and others are experimenting" with catechism pro-

grams or praise and worship to balance out Sunday worship.

"And many churches have rejected Wednesday nights altogether," Hart said.

One of those is Lake Oconee Community Church near Athens, Ga., said Becky Matheny, its pastor of spiritual development.

Matheny is a CBF-trained minister and the former campus minister at the University of Georgia, where

church on Wednesdays and get the same thing that's always been done."

### Origin of mid-week church

But the fact Wednesday nights are undergoing transformation is nothing new, said Bill Leonard, professor of church history and Baptist studies at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity.

Wednesday gatherings began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as lay-led, mid-week prayer services in frontier churches that had itinerant pastors.

"It was a kind of evangelical Protestant vespers service," he said.

Denominational churches adopted the format in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and added music programs, congregational meals and, sometimes, preaching. Within a few years, Wednesdays had become the time when different ministries within congregations would meet.

Now it's changing again, he said, due in part to the well-documented decline in Sunday school attendance nationwide.

"Many churches have shifted their Bible teaching or general instruction to Wednesday nights," he said. The demise of the Sunday-night service that began in the late 1900s also is "feeding this Wednesday night movement."

### Deepening faith

Craig Nash said he's convinced his congregation's approach to Wednesday nights is sound after hearing Leonard speak about the changing sociology of Sunday mornings.

Nash is the community pastor at University Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, where Wednesdays are now spent in quiet reflection.

"It's the practice of rituals that deepen our faith," he said. "We recite the Lord's Prayer, take communion and share and pray over requests from our community."

For years the church tried to do what other churches did on Wednesday nights — which was to have a "Sunday worship lite" followed by breaking into small groups.

But that led to time when there were fewer people in the seats than on the stage, he said.

Now they consistently see 30 or more on Wednesday nights because it offers a chance to slow down, he said.

"Our Wednesday service looks nothing like what we do in our real lives," he said. "We sit in a circle, sing old hymns and say corporate prayers."



she learned to be creative with Wednesday night services to keep students and faculty coming back.

At the multi-denominational church to which she now ministers, Matheny said its congregation of retirees weren't as interested in an anchored Wednesday night service as they were having spiritually meaningful fun.

So they have a variety of activities — ranging from movie and game nights to guest lectures — on different days or nights of the week.

That model could work on Wednesday nights, too, Matheny said.

"The local churches, at least the ones I see, are dying on the vine, and one reason they're dying is they are not keeping up with the needs of their parishioners," she said.

"And what do they need? Probably not to go to

**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** *As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.*

**2012 James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest**

*Winners*



Senior Winners: (right to left) 1st place, Shannell Barren, 2nd place, LeAndra Ratliffe, 3rd place, Sydney Davis



2012 James F Wertz Oratorical Contest Senior Division. Thirteen Contestants representing the following associations: East Cedar Grove, Gaston County, Hammond Creek, Middle District, Mt. Catawba, Old Eastern, Pee Dee, Rowan, St. John, Union Baptist Association, United Missionary Baptist Association, Wake Baptist, Western Union.

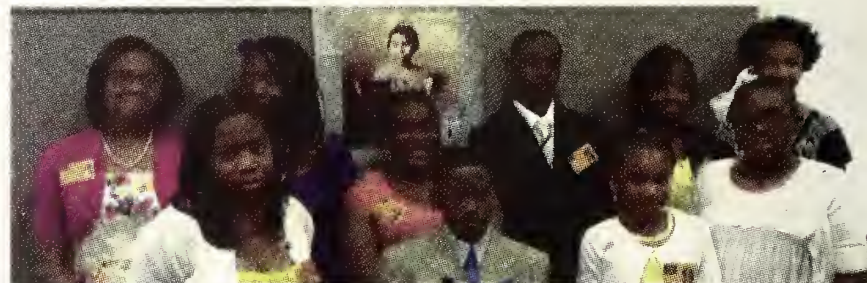


Junior Winners: (right to left) 1st place, Andre' Elliott, 2nd place, Malik Smith, 3rd place, Jamal Cogdell.



2012 James F Wertz Oratorical Contest Junior Division: Fifteen Contestants representing the following associations: Bear Creek, East Cedar Grove, Gaston County, Hammond Creek, Kenansville Eastern Missionary Baptist Association, (KEMBA) Middle District, Mt. Catawba, New Hope, Old Eastern, Pee Dee, Rowan, St. John, Union MBA, United Missionary Baptist, Wake Baptist.

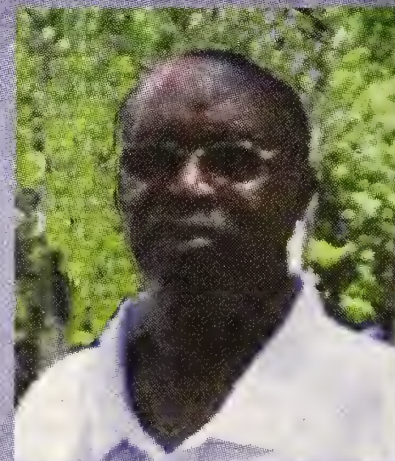
Preparatory Winners: (right to left) 1st place, Madison Donald, 2nd place, Kayla Hurt, 3rd place, Matthew Egypt.



2012 James F Wertz Oratorical Contest Preparatory Division. Ten Contestants representing the following associations: East Cedar Grove, Gaston County, Hammond Creek, Middle District, New Hope, Old Eastern, St. John, Union Baptist Association, United Missionary Baptist Association, Wake Baptist.



We express our appreciation to  
**Dr. Howard Parker**  
 for all his efforts in securing  
 the success of the  
**All Baptist Assembly**  
**July 2012**



# Q&A

Pastor Floyd:

## Bridging the Gap at Dickie's Grove

By Ophelia Johnson

What began as a short-term assignment at her home church in Henderson, N.C. has evolved into an enduring ministerial passion.

When her beloved pastor, the Rev. A.B. Bass' health began to decline, she was asked to serve as the church's spiritual leader and eventually interim pastor. In her words, the pastoral ascension process was "smooth for the church - and for me."

Eight years later, she's pastor of a 150-member pastorate that blends traditional and contemporary styles. "Some traditional worship elements remain in place to maintain the integrity of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

"We implement innovation methodologies to present the gospel to all ages so that they can worship and celebrate God through their own personalities," she said. "Our worship service is integrated with liturgical dance, mime, flag presentations, and drama."

The Henderson native has a long history of church service, including being a missionary to Guyana, South America in order to evangelize and establish a church as well as missions work in which she distributed supplies to Hurricane Katrina victims in Moss Point, Mississippi.

She now serves as President of the Vance Adjacent Counties Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and she's Founder of the African American Community Events Support. She's a Dean of the Apex School of Theology Learning Center in Henderson and a member of the Finance Committee of the General Baptist State Convention, N.C., Inc.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C. and a Master of Divinity Degree from Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh. In 2009, she earned a Doctorate in Ministry from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia.

Whenever she gets occasional comments such as "you don't look like a pastor," she simply smiles, takes it in stride, and uses it as a "teachable moment."

Meet the Reverend Doctor Jeanette Floyd.

**BI: How would you describe your church?**

**PASTOR FLOYD:** Dickie's Grove Baptist Church is a predominately African-American rural church established in 1880. The congregants are compassionate, friendly, innovative and diverse. The church's members include retired farmers, working professionals, college students and young people aged from daycare to secondary school. To promote education in the community and church, we make available a computer lab for tutorial sessions and offer scholarships to college students. We also offer theological classes and degrees through the Apex School of Theology Learning Site at the church.

**BI: Outreach activities?**

**PASTOR FLOYD:** Over the past few years, we've purchased magazine subscriptions for Clarke Elementary School, distributed over 1,000 free books to three elementary schools in Vance County, and contributed money (and collected church school books) for Goshen Baptist Church in Guyana, South America.

**BI: Have you been associated with a church that had a female as pastor?**

**PASTOR FLOYD:** Only male leadership.

**BI: What is your experience with female pastors, in general?**

**PASTOR FLOYD:** The experience has been cordial, but not as intimate or supportive as I would like for it to be in the Vance County area. I don't know what the hindrance is. Maybe because I am the only Baptist female pastor in this area and I don't have that Baptist connection since the other female pastors belong to another denomination. However, I do share in a Godly, intimate experience with female pastors when I attend the Women In Ministry Conference in Atlanta, Georgia with the Reverend Dr. Cynthia Hale. The con-

ference is tailored for female pastors and ministers. That's a special time for women to be mentored by professional pastors and religious teachers who are pioneers and veterans in ministry.


**BI: Did you have an easy or difficult time getting a church? How long did it take?**

**PASTOR FLOYD:** No, I did not have a difficult time getting the church. Dickie's Grove is my home church and my first pastorate. I grew up in the church. When my predecessor, the Rev. A. B. Bass health began to decline, I served as the spiritual leader, and later the church asked me to serve as interim pastor. After 18



Rev. Jeanette FLOYD

(continued on page 11)



T&CE (Travel and Christian Education) Ministries

This is a Safe Guided Tour-Guided by VERED HASHARON TOURS

**A Holy Land Pilgrimage  
Biblical Seminar Holy Land Tour  
Led by Rev. Dr. Rudolph Tripp  
February 11 - 19, 2013**

Great numbers of people continue to pour into Israel every day, visiting biblical sights and experiencing spiritual renewal. Each year the numbers get greater. I am Rev. Dr. Tripp, and I wish to inform our churches and community about my next trip to the Holy Land. I believe every Christian, if it is at all possible, should take a pilgrimage to the Holy Land (in Israel). Once having this wonderful experience, reading and studying the scriptures will take on new meaning and indeed it will be a life changing experience.

**This is a 9 Day Holy Land Pilgrimage departing on February 11-19, 2013.** Because of changes with the airlines it is advised that interested persons **register as soon as possible to confirm and reserve their seat.** Those persons that are interested in going should pay a deposit of \$250.00 and the remainder of \$2745 the **total cost of \$2995** by **December 31, 2012.** Make checks payable to T & CE Ministries, LLC and Submit deposit and a copy of your updated passport to T & CE (Travel and Christian Education) Ministries) P.O. Box 14995, Raleigh, NC 27620. Please feel free to contact me at 919-302-3592 or 919-231-0799

**Special note:** Please take a few minutes and visit my Web-Site: [www.tripp-ministries.com](http://www.tripp-ministries.com) Additional information is provided.

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# On the Battlefield: Rejection, Acceptance, and the Biblical Debate



## WOMEN IN THE PULPIT

(continued from page 1)

declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams (Acts 2:17, NRSV)."

He continued, "This Pentecostal moment tells us that God intends to use a variety of people in the mission of Christ's church, including women. Repeated rejection may cause some of our best and brightest clergy women to seek service in other denominations that recognize their call and gifts for pastoral ministry."

While finding a pastorate can be a challenge for some Baptist women, others such as the Reverend Jeanette Floyd, the Pastor of Dickie's Grove Baptist Church in Henderson, have found a smooth transition from pew to pulpit.

In 2004, she was called to pastor the historic, 150-member church. She received her Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia in 2009.

"I didn't have a hard time getting the church," she said. "It is my home church and my first pastorate. When my predecessor, the Rev. A.B. Bass' health began to decline, I served as the spiritual leader and later the church asked me to serve as interim pastor."

After 18 months, she was called to the pastorate. "It was a smooth process and transition for the church and for me."

Where does the male-female pastoral debate come from?

According to some scholars, the battle line over

having women in pastoral and other leadership roles is rooted in the male-centered Greco-Roman world that flourished from 300-1000 AD. It included such places as Greece, Cyprus, Italy, the Iberian Peninsula, Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. Women were considered the property of fathers and then husbands. In many cases, they were not taught to read Hebrew and their roles – and their voices – were largely downplayed in versions of the Bible.

However, the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – give similar accounts of events that followed the Crucifixion of Jesus, who had female followers, including Lydia, Phoebe and the much-discussed Mary Magdalene. She was often cast as a prostitute by early gospel writers, but many scholars now reject that assertion.

In every gospel account, Mary Magdalene was mentioned as having a mission. "Not a single one of the disciples was there [at the tomb]. Jesus himself told [Mary] to go tell the good news and that means to go preach," according to the Reverend Cheryl Kirk Duggan, Ph.D., also Professor of Religion at Shaw Divinity.

Any congregation that flatly rejects a woman as pastors is operating under "a gross misinterpretation of the Scriptures."

"We have to be very careful how we use Bible interpretation. Jesus came to liberate. He had men and women as equals. If we're [rejecting people], we're not doing what Jesus called us to do. In fact, we're doing just the antithesis."

Additionally, some men view women in leadership as a threat to the "power base in many churches." Many women who object to female pastors are operating out of their own "unfulfilled hopes and desires to serve in the ministry," Dr. Kirk Duggan added.

"We live in a sexist and patriarchal society. Some believe that women are to be used. The same thing happens in [some] churches. Women don't realize their power. Yet, all women would have to do is not

show up for two weeks and not tithe. Then, suddenly, you'd have all these revelations about having women pastors."

All congregations and church leaders could benefit by exploring the social, economic and political role of women in Biblical history, she added. With more education, people change their views on the role of men and women in leadership, including the pastorate.

In classes at Shaw Divinity School, Dr. Kirk Duggan's students often explore male-female roles in the Bible, church and society and she encourages debate among students to heighten the learning process.

She's had female seminary students who did not believe that women should serve as pastors. On the other hand, a male student "who'd been pastoring for 40 years as a Baptist" changed his belief on women pastors. After taking her class, he said, "I never thought about it before, but because of what he learned, he vowed that he was "going to help women" in his church and association.

However, "being enlightened," she said, "takes courage and determination, especially when you return to a congregation. If you're liberated from old mindsets, you have to make a change, but that is frightening for some people."

*Next: Female Pastors: Educational Preparation and Overcoming Obstacles in the Pulpit*



Ophelia JOHNSON

## Scriptures Often Used in Discussions

### PRO

Gospel of John 20:1-18

Gospel of Luke 24:1-11

Acts 18:18

Acts 21:9

Romans 16:1-4

Romans 16:7

1 Corinthians 16:19

Galatians 3:28

Philippians 4:2-3 (Old Testament examples are Deborah (Judges 4:1-10)

Prophetess Huldah (2 Kings 22:14-20)



### CON

1 Corinthians 11:2-16,

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

1 Timothy 2:11-14

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

# Summer Health Tips

The summer months are usually set aside for vacations and relaxation. People often tend to relax and vacate from healthy activities and behaviors. It is very important to focus on healthy behavior during the warmer months to reduce the risk of illness and stress. Increased sun exposure and decreases in physical activity are some of the things to consider and be mindful of during the summer. Below are some summer health tips, as suggested by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



## Tips:

### Be Active

- Adults should get 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity most, preferably all, days of the week.
- Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity most, preferably all, days of the week.
- Start at an easy pace and increase time and distance gradually.
- Don't overdo it. Prevent injuries.

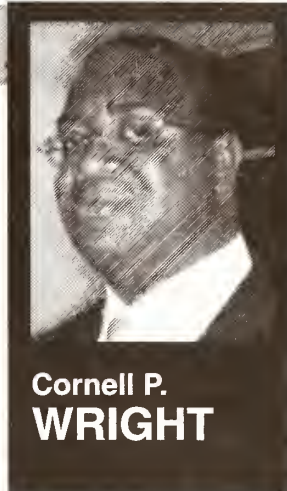
### Eat Healthy

- Eat plenty fruits and vegetables daily.
- Wash your hands before eating or preparing food.
- Cook all foods to the proper temperatures.
- Refrigerate foods promptly.
- Handle and prepare food safely.

### Be Sun-Safe

- When possible, avoid outdoor activities during

## BAPTIST INFORMER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT



**Cornell P.  
WRIGHT**

midday, when the sun's rays are strongest.

- Cover up with clothing and a wide-brimmed hat to protect exposed skin.
- Drink plenty of cool, non-alcoholic fluids.
- Seek shade.
- Wear sunscreen and lip screen with a sun protective factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. Remember to reapply it as needed.

For more health information, please consult your personal physician or local health provider. For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

## Q & A: Bridging the Gap

(continued from page 9)

months, I was called to serve as pastor. It was a smooth process and transition for the church and for me.

**BI:** Describe the reaction from most people when you identify yourself as "Pastor?"

**PASTOR FLOYD:** Most children will look at me and say, "You don't look like a pastor." So, I will explain to them that a pastor can be a male or female. Some men

want to know the number of members I have or how my husband feels about me pastoring. Most women applaud the position.

**BI:** Was there any opposition to you taking over the pastorate? If so, who were the most vocal in opposition?

**PASTOR FLOYD:** To my knowledge the church voted unanimously for me. However, I know there is always someone in opposition, even in silence.

**BI:** What's one of the biggest challenges in pastoring?

**PASTOR FLOYD:** Not having enough committed workers to do ministry locally and globally. A challenge has been to motivate all leadership to engage in the vision of the church and accept responsibility and accountability to God and the church that elected them. It's also disappointing to see some congregants more concerned about the church financial report than the church missions. Or, to see people sacrifice their time for a church conference and not sacrifice time to attend Bible study or leadership training.

**BI:** What are your joys in pastoring?

**PASTOR FLOYD:** To witness transformation in the lives of people who are serious about the Kingdom of

God. It's wonderful to witness the spiritual growth in congregants who were once fearful to share their testimony or offer a prayer or to praise God. Another joy is to know that an unchurched person decides to trust God and accept Jesus as his/her Savior.

**BI:** Where do you see your pastoral experience evolving?

**PASTOR FLOYD:** I will stay behind the pulpit as long as I sense that it is God's assignment during this season of my life. When my season has ended as a pastor, I will transition to the next assignment. I want to serve God's people globally, write a book, and develop a Christian Education Manual for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I don't know all the plans that God has for me, but God knows. I did not seek to pastor a church, but here I am. I'll have to wait and see where God will place me. Nevertheless, my aspirations are to enhance the kingdom of God by pastoring the people at Dickie's Grove Baptist Church.

**BI:** What advice would you offer to women seeking pastorates?

**PASTOR FLOYD:** Be faithful to the ministry assignment for the present season which will prepare the person for the next level in ministry. Moreover, it is imperative to create an intimate, non-toxic and trustworthy circle of friends and mentors (men and women) to share theological ideas, gain support, and mature in the profession. These persons should accept your imperfections, appreciate your uniqueness, and celebrate your successes in ministry. Finally, engage in ministry with your whole heart and realize that Jesus is the Master of your life. Be encouraged and "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

### Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church

#### Pastoral Vacancy

Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a born-again licensed/ordained pastor with the following qualification:

- Pastoral experience preferred
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- Strong church administrative abilities
- Strong leadership and communication skills
- Must meet the qualification of *1 Timothy 3:1 - 7*
- Concerned about the spiritual growth of all members
- Willing to work with all organizations
- Willing to attend conferences and conventions
- Counsel parishioners and visit the sick and shut-in

All applicants must submit a resume and 3 verifiable references to:

Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church  
Attn: Pastoral Search Committee  
9104 Sauls Rd  
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(919) 779-6401

# Let's Talk about Taxes ... and Poverty

By Bishop Don DiXon Williams

If you have been anywhere near a television, newspaper, radio, or computer screen in the past few months, you are sure to have heard some of the debates over tax cuts for the middle-class versus wealthy Americans. The discussions have become ever-present in the media as the November presidential election nears. Often absent from these discussions, however, is any mention of programs that support hungry and poor people—namely tax credits for working families.

On July 9, 2012, President Obama urged Congress to extend the Bush-era tax cuts for the middle class and small business owners who make less than \$250,000 for another year. He also called on Congress to allow tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans to expire by the end of the year. During his speech, President Obama reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the middle class, stating that we need to “widen the circle of opportunity” for the middle class.

Coincidentally, since early 2011, Bread for the World and other organizations have called on Congress and the Obama administration to “create a circle of protection” around programs vital to hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world. Bread has long supported certain tax cuts and credits—such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC)—as long as

hungry and poor people are included. In 2010, Bread for the World backed an \$858 billion bill that extended tax cuts for families at every income level, renewed jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed, and provided a one-year cut in Social Security taxes that benefitted almost every worker.

Bread's 2012 Offering of Letters includes support for tax credits for working families. A series of tax cuts will expire at the end of 2012, including the EITC and the CTC—two provisions that are critical for low-income working families. The EITC is a refundable tax credit that supplements the wages of low-income workers. In 2010, this credit lifted 5.4 million people out of poverty—including 3 million children. The CTC is available for children under age 17 to families earning at least \$3,000, and provides financial support for working families with children. In 2009, the CTC lifted 2.3 million people, including 1.3 million children, out of poverty.

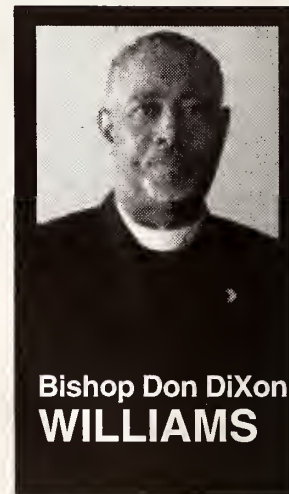
There are currently more than 46 million Americans living below the poverty line—including 10.7 million employed Americans! When times get tough in low-income households, the food budget is usually the first thing families cut. Measures such as these tax credits ensure working families can support themselves.

Particularly in this economy, we understand the importance of continuing the tax cuts for the middle class, but we must also protect programs that effec-

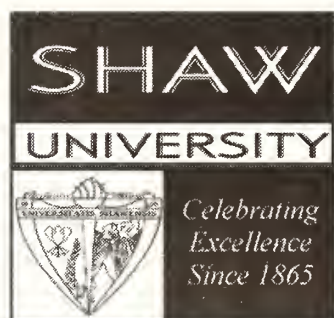
tively address hunger and poverty, such as the EITC, the CTC, and other safety nets. Unfortunately, these programs—and the people they impact—are often left out of the conversation. When it comes to the budget and tax policy decisions that Congress must face by the end of the year, we hope our elected officials remain true to the values we abide by as a country.

No matter which candidate you support in November, we urge you to keep hungry and poor people—and the programs that support them—at the top of your mind. We can't end hunger as long as people lack the financial resources to put food on the table. Your voice can make a difference. For more information, please visit [www.bread.org/ol](http://www.bread.org/ol).

*Bishop Don DiXon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World, and sits on the board of bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, MD.*



**Bishop Don DiXon WILLIAMS**



## “Excellence in Debt Management” Award

*USA Funds Recognizes Shaw for Student Loan Default Prevention and Financial Literacy*

*Press Reports*

Raleigh, NC – Shaw University, the first HBCU in the South, received the 2012 Excellence in Debt Management Award from USA Funds, the university announced today. Shaw was recognized for offering creative and effective debt management and financial literacy programs that helped Shaw students reduce student loan debt and limit loan defaults. The award includes a \$15,000 USA Funds grant to support student scholarships at the university.

“With 97 percent of our students receiving some form of financial aid, it is vital that we not only graduate our students with a high-quality education, but we also ensure that they graduate with the skills and knowledge to be fiscally responsible,” said Shaw University President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy. “This award is a tremendous testament to the hard work and dedication of our financial aid staff and an acknowledgement of their continuous efforts to help our students graduate with less debt and live financially sound.”

The university was recognized for initiating and implementing innovative techniques that helped reduce its default rate and increase financial knowledge among its students. Financial aid officers at the university conducted a survey during freshman orientation to identify students who were at risk of dropping

out of school and in need of academic or social intervention. Based on the survey results, the university launched a pilot mentoring program. In conjunction with that program, the university also presented 27 financial literacy and financial aid workshops during the past academic school year to 625 students. The university also conducts face-to-face exit counseling sessions for graduating seniors to provide information about their lenders, various repayment options and information about the amount of debt that they have incurred while in school.

In addition, following graduation, the university conducts aggressive communication campaigns to former students who have fallen behind in the repayment of their student loans. These efforts include contacting student loan borrowers, beginning when a former student is more than 30 days past due on a student loan payment, and conducting a monthly telephone blitz to reach borrowers whose loan payments are more than 180 days past due. As a result of these activities, Shaw's 2010 draft cohort default rate fell to 13.2 percent, down from its official 2009 rate of

22.6 percent.

USA Funds staff and representatives of the previous year's debt management excellence award-winning colleges and universities selected the award recipients, based on their programs' measurable results, creativity, scope, staff and faculty involvement, and cost-effectiveness. Since 2004 USA Funds has presented its Excellence in Debt Management Awards annually to highlight outstanding campus debt management and financial literacy programs and to disseminate to other postsecondary institutions best practices in debt management and student loan default prevention.

### St. John Missionary Baptist Church

We are interested in a Minister of Music and /or Lead Musician

Send Resume and Letter of Reference(s) to:

St. John Missionary Baptist Church

Attention: Music Ministry Committee

P. O. Box 119

Red Oak, NC 27868

Rev. Herbert C. Scott, Pastor

[saintjohnmbc@embarqmail.com](mailto:saintjohnmbc@embarqmail.com)

# A Family Victory: Keeping a Child on Health Insurance

## *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*

By Crystal Kimpson Roberts

Everybody loves a gift. Whether you're the giver or the receiver on a birthday, Christmas, anniversary, or just because, a gift signifies thought. That's just what Americans received when the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was enacted in March 2010. Since this health reform law has been in existence, millions of our fellow Americans have been positively impacted by this carefully constructed law.

Now that the Supreme Court of the United States

has upheld its constitutionality, the Affordable Care Act can continue to save lives. Before the decision came down, Felicia Willems waited anxiously. I mentioned in a previous column that her son Ethan was born with a pre-existing condition. Due to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, Felicia and her husband were able to insure Ethan and acquire the affordable, quality care he needed to live a healthy life. If the law had been repealed, she feared the worst: that the insurance company would have literally pulled the plug on Ethan's life, leaving them scuffling for a way to keep him healthy. Now at five years old, he has his whole life ahead of him.

On our Facebook page, one North Carolinian commented that all she wanted was to have an affordable eye exam so she could continue to see clearly. Another commented that she was glad Know Your Care North Carolina is working to educate North Carolinians about the law. It's a massive piece of legislation, but is critical to our lives and many are confused and unaware of the impact of its provisions. Some small business owners are afraid that the law will cost them more money and put their livelihoods at

risk. At a recent presentation I made at a senior center in Raleigh, one participant was happy to learn about the benefits of the law. She shared the story of her daughter, who has a pre-existing condition cannot obtain insurance.

I can speak personally: my son is a recent college graduate who can stay on his father's insurance thanks to the Affordable Care Act. He can now take that premium he would have paid and put it towards savings or another bill.

The SCOTUS ruling put a great big bow on the Affordable Care Act. It's our job to show you what's in the package. Clearly, its precious contents are the people who now have access to healthcare and can breathe a bit easier because of the law. We need your help to continue this important work. If you know of anyone who has a real story to tell about how the law has helped them, please send us an email at [knowyourcarenc@gmail.com](mailto:knowyourcarenc@gmail.com) or post a comment on our Facebook page, Know Your Care North Carolina. We're also on Twitter at KnowYourCareNC, keeping you informed and ensuring that this law is the gift that keeps on giving.



Crystal Kimpson  
**ROBERTS**



## • • • MUSIC REVIEWS • • •

# Zacardi Cortez:

## *The Introduction*



Quintera  
**BATTS**

By Quintera Batts, Reviewer

Not all gospel music is created equal. I listened to every song on this album just to make sure I wasn't missing something, and believe me, there is something missing. Don't misunderstand. Zacardi Cortez has

an amazingly beautiful voice. He sings soulfully, full of passion, at times reminding you of a young John P. Kee- (one of several featured artists on the album). Despite this, many of the songs lack the sustenance to be considered good gospel music.

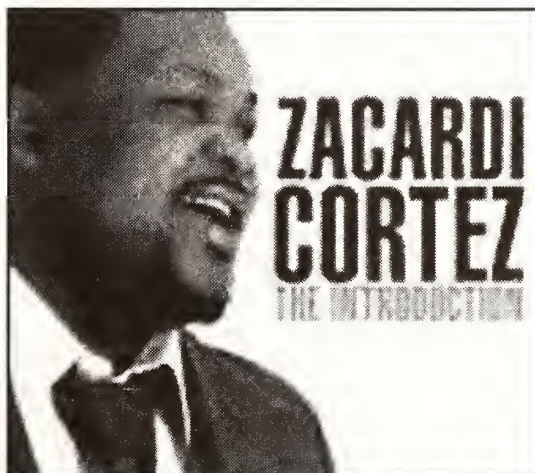
'Hymn Medley,' is particularly beautiful because

it not only showcases Cortez's vocal abilities, but allows the listener to hear him sing from the depths of his soul. The album also enlisted several gospel superstars for help like Kierra 'Kiki' Sheard, James Fortune, Fred Hammond, The Williams Singers, Lalah Hathaway and Isaac Carree, in addition to John P. Kee. However, it was refreshing to hear John P. Kee singing on this album. It reminded me of his older songs like, 'God of Mercy,' 'Stand,' and 'Jesus is Real' - the good times when gospel music couldn't be mis-

taken for R&B soul or old-school funk.

Listening to this album, I wasn't sure about its genre. Most of the songs such as 'Living for You,' 'It Was Love' and 'Every Promise' could be mistaken for wedding tunes or slow R&B ballads. Other songs like 'Praise You' and 'He Brought Me' have an awkward, old-school funk feel to them that don't quite seem to fit with other songs. Of all the songs, 'Mighty God,' 'Come Bless the Lord,' 'Hymn Medley,' and 'For Me' are the only tracks that sound like gospel.

Reach our reviewer at  
[Qmb.writer@yahoo.com](mailto:Qmb.writer@yahoo.com)



# Lost Boys

(continued from page 5)

look into the sky and clouds and I would think the spirits of my ancestors were all around protecting us.”

## Just following the group

There seemed to be very little protecting Deng and his friends and family the day in 1987 when government troops and militias attacked his village, Duk, and others in the region.

The strife was part of an ongoing civil war between Christian and Muslim forces that had begun four years earlier.

Deng was 6 at the time and tending the herds when terrified children began running past him. Within moments he found himself running, too, but not real clear on why.

“I was just following the group, thinking that the war would come to an end and I would return home,” he said. “It did not happen the way I anticipated.”

## Author: ‘Such uncertain lives’

The disbelief and confusion Deng experienced was common among his peers, said Joan Hecht, author of the 2005 book *The Journey of the Lost Boys* and founder of the non-profit Alliance for the Lost Boys of Sudan in Jacksonville, Fla.

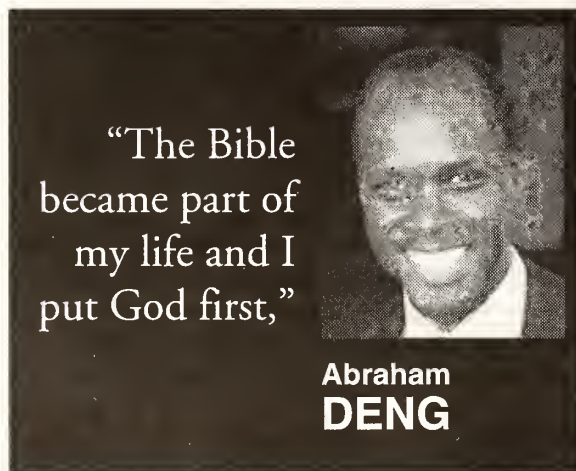
They were forced to flee on foot across great distances while avoiding wild animals, government-backed militias and rebels. By the time the children arrived in refugee camps in Ethiopia, their ranks and

faith were often stretched thin.

“They have lived such uncertain lives,” she said. “Almost every Lost Boy and Girl carries scars on their bodies from their journeys.”

## ‘I saw the limbs’

Deng said his scars are largely emotional and stemmed from seeing a cousin and many friends die



from starvation, disease and wild animal attacks.

Lions and hyenas usually pounced at night, when the children learned to walk to avoid daytime air attacks by government planes, he said. “In some instances I saw the limbs of kids eaten by the lions – the heads and the hands and the feet.”

At a refugee camp, Deng met a 16-year-old Anglican evangelist, and fellow Lost Boy, named Barnabas. His teachings about Christ and scripture began to

help Deng process the ordeal.

“The Bible became part of my life and I put God first,” he said.

After a likely graduation in December, Deng plans to study to become a physician’s assistant. He plans to take his spiritual and medical training back to the Sudan to serve communities that have neither trained clergy nor doctors.

Deng said he never tires of telling his story because he knows it’s inspiring to others. Also, he said he is called to be a witness to the atrocities and tragedies he witnessed as a child.

But Deng said he still struggles with the ordeal he endured in Africa, and is most troubled about why he survived and thousands did not.

Even after becoming a Christian and adopting the name Abraham, Deng said he became angry with God about the squalid refugee camps and the violent deaths he witnessed getting there.

“I was 7 and I said if God is there, why was there so much suffering, why am I separated from my family – why did God do that?”

He has since accepted that he cannot know why those things happened, a fact aided by learning that his mother and other relatives are still alive in Sudan.

He’s also come to believe that questioning God can be spiritually healthy.

“Asking questions of God is not bad because that’s how we find out what God wants from us, and this is how we become closer to God.”

*Brumley is assistant editor of Associated Baptist Press.*

### Pastoral Vacancy

**First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Incorporated  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28206**

First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Incorporated is seeking a pastor. We are currently accepting resumes.

#### Skills and Qualifications desired:

- Must be licensed and ordained as a Missionary Baptist Minister.
- Must have 3-5 years of pastoral experience.
- Must demonstrate the ability to preach and teach God's word.
- Must be able to share his vision for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church.
- Must promote stewardship and tithing.
- Must have the ability to develop a Christian Education Ministry.
- Must have the ability to teach and fellowship with all ages in the congregation.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in members in homes, hospitals and nursing homes.
- Must have the ability to handle conflict effectively.
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational, leadership and financial management skills.
- Willingness to have criminal, character and credit background check.

Please include: resume, copy of pastoral license and ordination papers.

#### Please forward all correspondence to;

Attn: Deacon Joe Mason-Chairman Pastoral Search  
Committee PO Box 790202  
Charlotte, NC 28206

### Huntsville Missionary Baptist Church

Huntsville Missionary Baptist Church in Oxford, North Carolina is currently accepting resumes for the position of pastor.

Huntsville Missionary Baptist Church is affiliated with the County Line Missionary Association.

Interested persons should possess the following qualifications:

- Born Again Christians, committed to Baptist doctrines and policies.
- Ordained pastor with pastoral experience (Services 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays).
- Willingness to work with all ministries of the church.
- Good reputation
- Must be married and manages household well.
- Demonstrates leadership skills and enhance spiritual growth.
- Qualified and gifted to preach and teach the word of God and counsel with clarity and understanding.
- Support and attend trainings and workshops with the County Line Missionary Association and General Baptist State Convention (GBSC).

Please mail resume and letters of reference to:

Huntsville Missionary Baptist Church  
Attn: Ms Vanessa Gregory Chairperson  
P. O. 6160 Highway 96 N  
Oxford, North Carolina 27565

**Apply on or before August 31, 2012**

# Shaw University Divinity School



Many are called, but few are chosen. Are you called to lead God's people in the 21st Century? We can help you be better equipped.

Earn up to 1/3 of Your Degree On-line  
Night and Weekend Classes

Two Campuses: Raleigh and High Point, North Carolina

Accredited by ATS for Over a Decade

High Quality Ministry Preparation

Master of Divinity Degree

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Please contact our office today to setup your tour and to get more information. The number is (919) 546-8570.

**All-Baptist Assembly 2012**

***“Available to Christ, Available for Missions”***

(continued from page 1)

State Convention of North Carolina, which is under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. President of GBSC-NC.

The 2012 theme - “Available to Christ, Available for Missions” - focused on ways to reinforce missions work, locally and globally, by encouraging “churches and Associations and membership to make themselves, their prayers, their monies, their service, their support and their gifts available to be used” for God’s Kingdom. Host church was Mount Peace Baptist Church in Raleigh, where the Pastor is Dr. J. Vincent Terry, Sr.

Highlights of the ABA included the Presidential Address given by Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. The All-Baptist Assembly is the only time during a President’s term of office that the President will address the entire Baptist family at one time. Dr. Parker, the pastor of Sycamore Hill Baptist Church in Greenville, N.C., was elected to the Presidency of the General Baptist State Convention in October of 2010.

Special guests at the ABA included: The Honorable Kay R. Hagan, United States Senator from North Carolina; Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, President of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. and Pastor of First

Missionary Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama; Dr. Peter M. Wherry, Pastor of Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.; Dr. Dorothy C. Yancy, President of Shaw University.

Others guests and presenters included Mrs. Cynthia Perkins Smith, President of the Baptist Mission and Educational State Convention of Michigan Woman’s Auxiliary, and a member of historic New Bethel Baptist Church of Detroit, where her husband, Rev. Robert Smith, Jr., is Pastor; Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention; Dr. William J. Barber, II, President of the NC-NAACP.

Seminar topics included such issues as human trafficking, foreign missions, addressing the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, financial management, breast cancer awareness and ministry with prisoners and families.



**All Baptist Assembly 2012**

“Available to Christ, Available for Missions”  
GBSC • WBH&FMC • CONGRESS • USHERS • LAYMEN • MINISTERS

NOTE: Look for additional coverage highlights of the 2012 All-Baptist Assembly in the September issue of YOUR *Baptist Informer* newspaper.

**BAPTIST  
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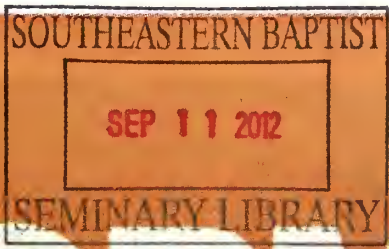
**MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO  
AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!**

The General Baptist State Convention supporting  
Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School,  
Central Children’s Home of North Carolina,  
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly,  
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention  
and State Missions since 1967.

SE Baptist Theo Seminary 96 P1  
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Wake Forest NC 27587-2553



Volume 135, No. 19



# BAPTIST INFORMER

September 2012

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.



Photo by Art Burks

The Rev. Sherri Arnold Graham (far right) baptized eight new members in May 2012 at Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. Since December 2011, she's served without a salary due to budget constraints, but remains "committed." (Story below.)

## President Leads Large Delegation to Lott Carey's Annual Session Thousands \$\$ Donated by GBSC to aid in 'Global Empowerment'

Staff Reports

**D**r. and Mrs. Howard W. Parker, Jr. recently headed the delegation from North Carolina to the 115th Annual Session of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention that brought together thousands of delegates together to study, worship and hear of the Convention's global agenda.

The Convention, held August 13-17 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, heard from our missional partners around the world about ongoing work in such places as Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Italy, Liberia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

During the final address of Dr. Robert G. Murray as President of Lott Carey, a special offering goal of \$250,000 was



Dr. Parker

set for the ending of Dr. Murray's term. This offering is to be used to fund Lott Carey's "Ministries of Empowerment" around the world. President Parker presented a \$25,000.00 check from the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for this special offering.

Following President Murray's final presidential message, an announcement was made that the special offering raised approximately \$291,800.00 - which exceeded the quarter million goal set. It was felt that a second offering should be raised to try to meet \$300,000.00 for foreign missions.

At Dr. Parker's direction, the GBSC gave an additional \$8,200.00 making the total GBSC contribution \$33,200.00  
*(continued on page 16)*

## Rev. Graham's Historic Rise to Pastorate Brings Joy, Sacrifice

*The Baptist Informer continues its series to explore the journey of Baptist female Pastors in North Carolina.*

PART THREE  
By Ophelia Johnson

**W**hen the Reverend Sherri Arnold Graham became the pastor of historic Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., she made history.

Before she arrived, Oberlin had never had a female deacon or associate, but for the first time, a woman had ascended the clerical steps of a traditional

Baptist church in the capital city and the move resonated across the Baptist church world.

"Some Baptist churches are simply not comfortable with a woman pastor, but Oberlin was willing to call me. They had been seeking the Lord and were open to what the Lord said," she said.

The Pennsylvania native is a married mother of two with a wealth of experience from the church, corporate and community arenas. She's worked with such giants as Proctor and Gamble, Federated Investors in Pittsburg, Pa., and the international law firm of Rogers & Wells in New York.

*(continued on page 9)*



**WOMEN  
IN THE  
PULPIT**

General Baptist State Convention, NC

### SAVE THE DATES ...

• **September 22**  
Sickle Cell Month  
Prayer Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.  
St. Joseph AME Church  
Durham, NC  
For more information,  
please contact:  
elaine.whitworth@duke.edu

• **October 29-31**  
GBSC Annual Session

.....  
September is ...



**Prostate  
Health  
Screening  
and  
Sickle  
Cell**

**Awareness Month**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE : P6** Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention

**P8** Rev. Dr. Moss takes the helm as president of Lott Carey

**P9** African-American Men: Prostate Cancer Screening Controversy



*Ebenezer Baptist Church Presents*  
**“Back To The Basics”**

*Fourth Annual Associate Ministers Conference*

*September 21-22, 2012*

*This year’s workshops and lectures are planned to provide growth in the following areas:*



- Ministry Trends
- Ministerial Protocol
- Biblical Study
- Research Methods
- Library Development
- Ministerial Ethics
- Sermon Development
- ...and much MORE

**SCHEDULE:**

*Friday at 7:00 p.m. Opening Worship*

*Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Workshops and Lectures*

*“ My hope is that this conference will enhance the ministers desire to learn, grow, and develop excellence in their respective ministries. ”*

*~ Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch  
Senior Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church  
First Vice President, GBSC*

**LODGING:**

*Hilton Garden Inn (Special \$99.00)*

*7831 Gateway Lane NW, Concord, NC 28027*

*(704) 979-2900*

**REGISTRATION:**

*\$50.00 Ministers*

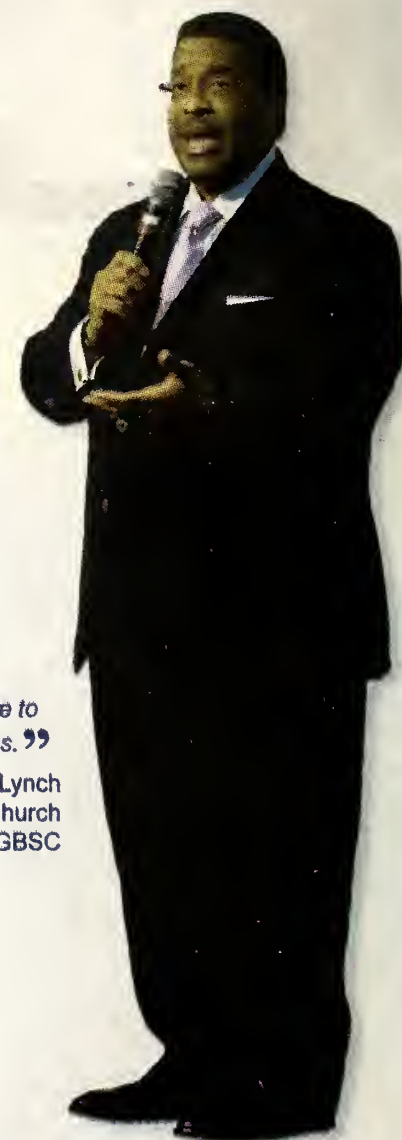
*\$400.00 Churches (10 Ministers)*

NOTE: Lunch will be provided



Registration is available online at [www.ebccharlotte.org](http://www.ebccharlotte.org).  
Make checks payable and mail registration form to:  
Ebenezer Baptist Church - Associate Ministers Conference

◀◀ *Please scan code for quick access to online registration.*



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2020 West Sugar Creek Road  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28269

(704) 598-2219  
[www.ebccharlotte.org](http://www.ebccharlotte.org)

From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large ...

## General Baptist State Convention Needs Your Financial Support, Prayers - Today

To my brothers and sisters in the General Baptist "tie" that binds our hearts in Christian love: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV).

What a wonderful thought to know with assurance that God is merciful. God blesses us so through us, others will be blessed. The writer in Ecclesiastes noted that some things do change. There is a season for "every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1b). Change occurs frequently: from being born to dying ... from planting to uprooting ... from killing to healing ... from tearing down to building up ... from crying to laughing ... from loving to hating ... and so on. Some things do change.

For many who have seen a number of "getting up and lying down," dramatic changes have taken place. Many conveniences we take for granted today were non-

existent at the beginning of the 20th century (the year 1900). Change is constant. Some things do change! A time traveler from the early to mid- 1900's would not recognize the world as it exists today.

And yet, some things do not change. When a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it on His head, Jesus' disciples became angry and complained (Matthew 26). They concluded the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus said the poor would always be around.

Some things do not change! We need food because we get hungry. We need comforting because we experience grief. We need guidance because we get confused. We need compassion and companionship because we get lonely. We need forgiveness and a Savior because we all sin. We need hope because at some point, we all die.

Some things do not change! God's grace, mercy, and love do not change. In Jesus, God's image is not stained and God's power is not weak. God is immutable. In darkness, God is light. In chaos, God is truth. In weakness, God is strength. In death, God is eternal life! Some things do change. God does not! As disciples of Jesus the Christ who strive daily to give thanks and live thankfully, our methods may change, but the goal is still

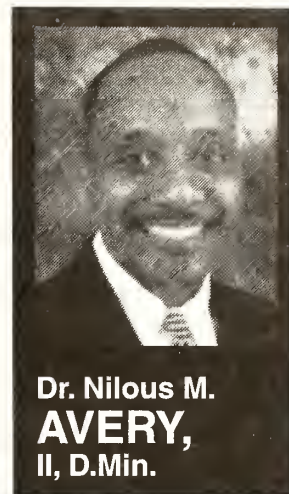
the same: "Preaching, Reaching, and Teaching." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Are we helpers or hindrances to the cause of Jesus the Christ? Our convention equips and empowers us to be helpers. Some things do not change: Our General Baptist State Convention needs your financial support and prayers, NOW! I believe the people of God in the General Baptist family will rise up to meet every challenge, every lion's den, every Red Sea, every flaming furnace, every wall, every stronghold that attempts to thwart the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUPPORT TO STATE HEADQUARTERS TODAY!

*"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV). Amen.*

Dr. Avery can be contacted at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com)



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.



**"All things work together for good to those ... who are the called according to His purpose."**

— Romans 8:28

## LAYMEN OUTLOOK

### Biblical Example of a Transformed Man

The N.C. Laymen's purpose is to transform Christian men into mature, devoted disciples of Jesus Christ, through intentional training. In this article, we want to share a biblical example of a transformed man and then follow with a challenge to the church, especially the men.

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His

love is made complete in us. "We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is

made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him." (1 John 4: 11-17)

The man who wrote the gentle, loving words was once called a "Son of thunder" by Jesus. When Jesus called John he was a noisy, blustery, self-confident fisherman. He and his brother were ambitious and crafty in trying to get Jesus to give seats of prominence (Mark 10:35-37). (italic's mine) Jesus' Kingdom is not centered in position or status, but in the hearts and lives of His followers. John was intolerant when he saw a man healing another in Jesus' name (Luke 9:49). (Our pride is hurt when someone else succeeds where we have failed, but Jesus says there is no room for jealousy in the spiritual warfare of His Kingdom. Share Jesus', open-arms attitude, toward Christian workers outside your group).

John was vindictive when the Samaritans refused to give Jesus hospitality (Luke 9:54). (When James and John were rejected, they didn't want to stop at shaking the dust from their feet, they wanted to burn them up). We must keep in mind that, judgment belongs to God, and we must not expect Him to use His power to carry out our personal vendettas.

After the resurrection, John wrote the Gospel of John and the three epistles of John, which reveal how much this man had changed.

After transformation, love controlled his words - and actions. God takes men as they are and makes them what He needs them to be if they are willing for Him to be Lord of their lives.

John spent much time with the Lord Jesus. He received correction from the Lord and obeyed. This

man of thunder, energy and ambition was transformed into an Apostle of Love.

Reach Bro. Turner at [ITURN60@aol.com](mailto:ITURN60@aol.com)

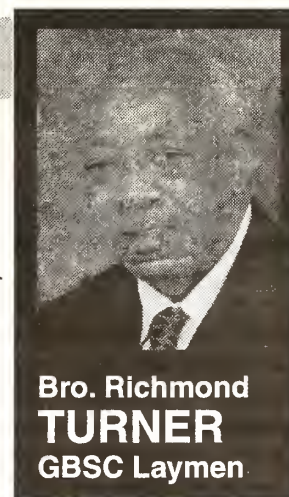
### In Other Laymen's News...

#### NCLL Study

The NCLL Study Commission will be held September 8, 2012 at the Flag Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Monroe, N.C. where the host Pastor is the Rev. Dale S. Jordan, and the Moderator of the Zion Association is the Rev. Dr. Richard Graham.

Registration/lunch for the Study Commission is \$5.00. Laymen, women's groups, men's groups, and youth groups are invited. For more information, please contact Clifton E. Bell, Jr., Third Vice President. Hotels in the area include Best Western—704 283-4746 and Hampton Inn—704-220-2200. For directions to Flag Branch Baptist Church, located at 2619 Old Pageland/Monroe Rd. Monroe, NC, please call the church at 704-709-7999.

NOTE: An Outreach Ministry will be held at the Brian Center Health and Retirement, 204 Old Hwy. 74 East, Monroe, N.C. There are 74 residents. Please bring lotion, Kleenex, toothbrushes, toothpaste, snacks, fruit and candy.



Bro. Richmond TURNER  
GBSC Laymen

**You Couldn't Be There? You still can make a difference!**



Make a \$10.00 donation to Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention by texting **lottcarey** to **20222**.

# Session of the Ushers Serving God in Many Ways

The North Carolina Baptist Ushers' Convention at the All Baptist Assembly in July presented numerous opportunities to encourage and further establish the attendees in the Word of God.

Dean Marvin Clowney gave a workshop (Philippians 1:1-11) on "Seven types of People Every Church has to have." He identified these seven types of individuals as being needed in the church: Faithful people, willing people, people of vision, optimistic people, liberal, willing givers and promoters. However, most of all, the church needs God, he said.

Mrs. Delores Blue, R.N. conducted a seminar on the "Role of an Usher during an Emergency" and encouraged usher ministries to have members who are trained in CPR. They should also "know the address of the church and have emergency equipment such as

first aid kits.

Rodney McCormick, Assistant Dean, discussed "How to get More Men Involved in the Usher's Ministry." Taking his text from Luke 8:5-8, he reminded the audience to "just do your part and leave the rest to God" by setting goals, sponsoring fellowship activities and appointing membership committees. Other ways to increase membership is to "advertise in church bulletins, promote male membership, plant a seed of invitation with new members, share the message that Christians need to be involved with ministry, go out and recruit, and most importantly pray."

Mrs. Linda Harris, Assistant Secretary, spoke on the topics "It's Not About Me."

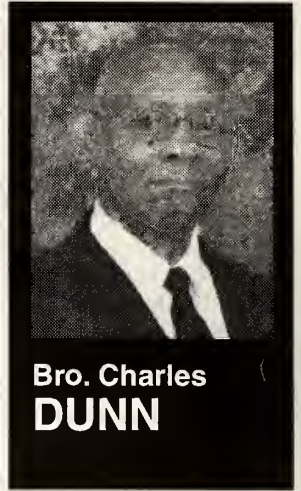
She encouraged everyone to spend more time with God. "Our society leads one to believe it is all about me; however, life is about God and we need to praise

Him. We should be humble, willing, and committed servants," she said.

In other business, Mr. Marcus Sanders from First Baptist in Littleton led a youth session; devotion was lead by Worship Leader Benjamin Hooker and a memorial was presented by Ms. Faye Abner of the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Hartford.

The next session is planned for November 17, 2012.

Reach Bro. Dunn at [justice@bellsouth.net](mailto:justice@bellsouth.net)



Bro. Charles  
**DUNN**

## Taking Whatever Role God Intended

It's always fun to watch young couples — so full of dreams, so willing to negotiate roles and responsibilities.

Just the week before, I had lounged on Cherry Grove Beach in North Myrtle Beach, SC and listened as two well-seasoned wives talked of the way they see marriage now. People manage to visualize their responsibilities a little differently after those 20- and 30-year marks. Both women had chosen more traditional roles in which they take care of everything inside — the cooking, the cleaning and household duties. Their spouses are responsible for everything outside — the yard, car repairs and family income. Neither was interested in negotiating anything other than the roles they had chosen.

Anyone who knows me knows that my world barely resembles tradition. Just ask one of the women from the beach trip who called the other day complaining that she had a flat tire. My response? So why don't you change it? What she said to me after that is a little more information than I can share in this column. But the fact is, I don't think God ever intended for me to do just the inside stuff. Otherwise, I wouldn't be so hyp-

notized by the outdoors. I love cutting the lawn, and sometimes even race my husband for the privilege of tuning out the world while meditating through the hum of the mower. Sure, I do most of the cleaning, but I'm pretty flexible when it comes to roles. My husband, daughter and I all lead very busy lives and we find we have to go with the flow of things. My 19-year-old daughter checks the car tires and refills the air. My husband doesn't like for "the guys" to know how much he can do, but he's nontraditional, as well. As for me, sometimes I'm a domestic and sometimes I'm not. Just don't mention cooking and no one gets hurt.

God gives us all talents and we can all feel comfortable making use of those talents.

Some women like to separate jobs between the sexes by noting that a man should take the leadership role in his home (Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Corinthians 11:3), but what does that have to do with who cuts the grass? Now, I'm just as quick as the next woman to play the damsel in distress and allow my husband to come to the rescue, but if the sun is going down and my husband is at work, I'm not just going to sit there looking at a flat tire.

We're all aware of the Matthew 25:14 parable that is easily understood to refer to money that two people doubled and a third wasted, but we have to accept that God gives us all sorts of talents and he doesn't particularly specify which sex will receive each. Ignoring or squandering our physical and creative talents is just as shameful as throwing away monetary gifts.

I hope the newlyweds that I watched join as one will allow each person in the relationship to develop whatever individual talents God has given them, whether that role is traditional or not.

*Linda Brown Douglas, director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a regular family issues contributor to the Baptist Informer.*



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

## • • • • MINISTRY BRIEFS • • • •

### Homecoming Celebration

Malaby's Crossroads Baptist Church family celebrated its 147th Annual Homecoming Celebration on August 24-26, 2012 at 911 Old Knight Road, Knightdale, where the Rev. James S. Utley is Pastor.

The celebration began with "The Parade of Hats" program on Friday evening. Other highlights included a concert by Grammy-nominated quartet music group, The Sensational Nightingales. The "Gales" received its nomination for "Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album."

Family and Fun Day featuring youth games and a Grill-Out contest were held on Saturday. And, the Reverend Reginald Barnes from Guilfield Baptist

Church, New Bern, N.C. was the afternoon preacher on Sunday.

We remember our past, but excitingly look to the future. We know through prayer, and standing on the promises of God, He will not fell us. We ask your prayers as we continue great endeavors in the Name of the Lord. To God be the Glory.

### Obituary – With Sympathy

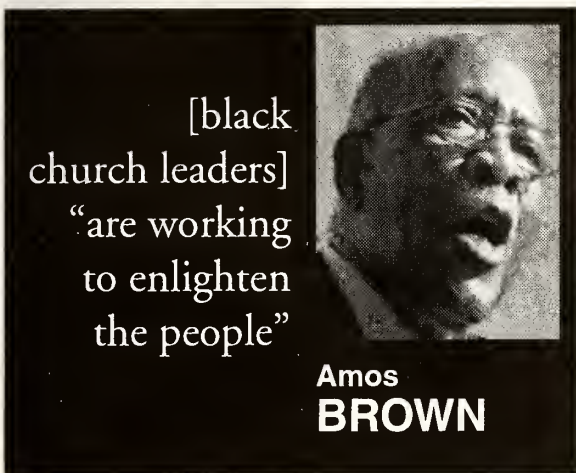
The funeral service for Dr. George W. Frazier, Jr., (father of the Rev. Stacey L. Frazier of Friendship Baptist Church, Winston-Salem) was held on Saturday, August 18, 2012 at New Light Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC.



# Is Gay Marriage a Wedge Issue in Black Community?

Wire Reports

**A**frican-American Baptist leaders are working together to counter attempts by outsiders to use gay marriage as a wedge issue to divide black voters, a Baptist minister and NAACP leader said in a radio interview in early August.



Amos Brown, pastor of Third Baptist Church in San Francisco and president of the city's local NAACP branch, said on Welton Gaddy's State of Belief radio show that heads of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.; National Baptist Convention of America; Progressive National Baptist Convention and Lott Carey Foreign Missionary Convention are all telling their constituencies: "We as black Baptists are not single-issue persons, and we see more important things than getting stuck on this matter of whether or not there should be same-sex marriages."

Amos Brown said black church leaders "are working to enlighten the people" about a confidential 2008-2009 memo from the National Organization for Marriage recently made public as evidence in a lawsuit in Maine.

The memo to NOM's board of directors described a project designed to "drive a wedge between gays and blacks — two key Democratic constituencies." The strategy was to "find, equip, energize and connect African-American spokespersons for marriage, develop a media campaign around their objections to gay marriage as a civil right; provoke the gay marriage base into responding by denouncing these spokesmen and women as bigots...."

"We contend that this is a racist ploy," Brown said. "It is divisive, but it was birthed, it was created by, white evangelicals who have shown themselves to be duplicitous and contradictory in their stances."

Early in the primary, Brown said, many conservative white evangelicals were adamantly opposed to Mitt Romney because he is a Mormon. As soon as he became the presumptive nominee, "they changed their tune, jumped on the bandwagon, jumped in bed with him."

Brown said that illustrates that those evangelicals' positions "have not been based so much on questions of morality, of religion, but it's a matter of power, politics and money that they are creating these kinds of alliances."

Brown charged the strategy was behind the formation of a national campaign in May calling on African-Americans to withdraw their support from President Obama because of his stance in favor of gay marriage.

William Owens, the founder and head of the Coalition of African-American Pastors, claims to be a former Obama supporter and veteran of the Civil Rights Movement. As he gained visibility warning in major media that the president risks losing his African-American base, however, questions arose about the group's apparent ties with white conservative groups.

Brown said he doubts Owens' claim about being involved in the Civil Rights Movement and marching with Martin Luther King.

"I was a part of that movement," Brown said. "Dr. King taught me at Morehouse, and I know pretty much who was in the vanguard of the movement. Reverend William Owens was no leader in the Civil Rights Movement, and yet this organization, the National Organization for Marriage, has anointed him through misrepresenting who he is for political gain to divide the black community."

Brown also challenged Owens' claim that he has 3,000 ministers behind him. "That is a front," he said. "It's fraudulent, and it's not authentic. I hope black people will wake up, and their allies too, and not be duped by this kind of chicanery and political grandstanding that is now going on."

"All of this is happening at the behest of white evangelical fundamentalists who have brought in such persons as Harry Jackson there in Maryland, Tony Evans down in Dallas, Texas, and others who don't understand how they are being used, how they are being duped to make sure that Mr. Barack Obama is a one-term president," Brown said. "This is sinister, it's evil and it is wrong."

Brown said there is some sentiment in the black community that the president is taking their votes for granted.

"This has been the considered judgment of many in the community, that they, blacks, don't have any place to go," he said. "They do have some place to go. Some of them can go and just sit the election out. I'm not saying that this is going to happen, but I'm saying that the challenge is for the Obama campaign to reenergize its base and to let this black community know that this president has stood for issues that impact the quality of life of black people."

Brown, a member of the NAACP board that passed a resolution in May in support of gay marriage, said it would have been "very much apropos" for the presi-

dent to have attended the recent NAACP national convention instead of sending Vice President Joe Biden in order "to stand with the organization who stood with him."

"We haven't given up on the president, but what we're saying is basically this base of African-Americans needs to be shored up," he said. Brown said one key to connecting to those voters is connecting with the black church.

"Unfortunately the president has not made any appearances at a major black denominational body," he said. "If he really wants to connect with this black community, the black church, the black faith community is the base."

Brown said African-American church leaders are working to re-mobilize Obama's voter base from the 2008 election with things like a voter-registration drive later this month. He said the unified message from church leaders is to say to the people: "What you believe in your church about marriage, that's your personal prerogative as a U.S. citizen. You have freedom of religion and freedom from religion, but do not be duped by this singular issue that's a wedge issue to divide the community."

*Bob Allen is Managing Editor of the Associated Baptist Press.*

**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** *As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.*

# Highlights from the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention

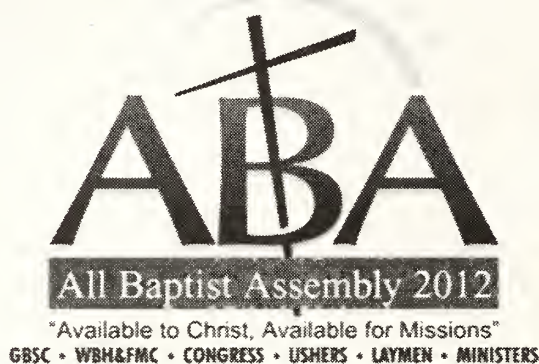
By Dr. Linda Bryan  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, WBHFMC-NC

The All Baptist Assembly occurs every four years as a platform for all auxiliaries of the General Baptist State Convention come together for fellowship, learning, sharing and worshiping. We were blessed to be a part of this assembly of believers.

On Sunday evening, July 22 the Young Adult and Youth Departments co-sponsored a benefit concert as a fundraiser to assist with restoration of the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. Choirs, groups, dancers, mime teams, musicians and other participants came together for a successful concert. A video was shown highlighting signal times at the campsite over the years. It was an exciting and joyous occasion. The concert raised \$5,048. Funds are continuing to come in for our beloved campsite. The concert was recorded and is now available for purchase. Those interested in purchasing a video, may contact the office at 919-833-4823 to make their request. Congratulations to Dr. Mary Byers-Hall and Ms. Jewyl Edwards Dunn for a job well done!

The Johnny B. McLester Banquet was held on Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Raleigh Convention Center. The banquet speaker was Mrs. Cynthia Perkins Smith, President of the Woman's Auxiliary for the Michigan Baptist State Convention. She chal-

lenged all of us to be faithful to our calling with integrity and commitment. We thank God for her and for the message. This year the meal was served buffet style which received rave reviews. Youth who did not attend the banquet enjoyed a meal and games under close supervision at the Sheraton Hotel while parents enjoyed the banquet.



Classes were offered Tuesday, July 24 and Wednesday, July 25 at the Marriott Hotel. Some of the class offerings were Human Trafficking, Missions, Table Talk, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The classes

were filled to maximum capacity. The youth and young adults met in their separate spaces for classes. The youth engaged in their Shaw Project and Have-A-Heart competitions and other planned activities under the leadership of the Youth Supervisor, Ms. Jewyl Dunn.

The Ministers' Wives met for their annual luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at the Convention Center where we were blessed to have Mrs. Barbara Sessoms as the dynamic speaker and Mrs. Mattie Breeden presided over the program. Extra tables and chairs had to be set up to accommodate the overflow. We are grateful to Mrs. Annie Hewett and her committee for a successful luncheon.

We were blessed to have Dr. David Emanuel Goatley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention in Raleigh for the Tuesday evening program to update attendees on how

support funds are being used for foreign missions. Lott Carey continues to develop and empower the indigenous to be leaders of the programs and ministries in their particular country. The work of Lott Carey is global. It is the oldest global African American foreign missions organization in the country.

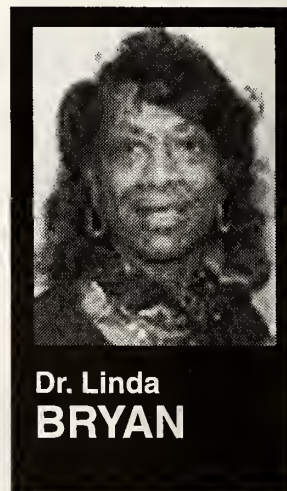
Reverend Linda Inman, Second Vice President, very ably presided on Wednesday for President's Day. Dr. Battle presented plaques to Mrs. Mary S. Williams and Mrs. Dorothy Boone for their commitment and excellent service over the years as members of the Executive Board of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of NC. We wish them well in their retirement. Dr. Battle also presented a plaque to Dr. Mary Byers-Hall for her service as Young Adult Director for the last four years. She has served the young adults with distinction and we are grateful for her time on the team. Likewise, Dr. Battle presented a plaque to Ms. Jewyl Edwards Dunn for her distinguished service as Youth Supervisor for the last four years. We are grateful for the work she has done with our young people during her tenure. Young people demand attention and she was there for them. We are grateful for both of these ladies and the service they have rendered to the Convention. Mrs. Evelyn Johnson will become the new Young Adult Director and Ms. Genetta Williams will become the new Youth Supervisor.

A special recognition was made of Mrs. Phylisa Kelly who has served as Youth Bible Camp Director and Camp Counselor for 28 years. Mrs. Kelly retired this year due to health issues. She was presented a plaque and a beautiful gift basket full of goodies. We wish her well in her retirement and pray God's healing touch be upon her.

Dr. Battle delivered a dynamic message on her theme "Sell Out - Call to Spiritual Integrity in Unity and Cohesiveness". She challenged us by asking a number of relevant questions: (1) In what ways do you put yourself above God? (2) Are we selling out? (3) Who is in charge of your life? (3) Can God count on you? It would do us all well to reflect on our lives and honestly answer the questions.

Under the leadership of President Dorothy Yancey, Shaw University provided an ice cream social for the youth on Wednesday afternoon which was a big hit. The youth was taken on a tour of the campus and encouraged to think of Shaw as their school of choice when it is time to make those decisions. We are grateful to Shaw University and Dr. Haywood Gray for this act of kindness to the youth of our State.

We applaud Dr. Haywood Gray who worked diligently with all auxiliary presidents and Dr. Linda Bryan to pull together a masterful program.



Dr. Linda  
**BRYAN**

## Pastoral Vacancy

First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Incorporated  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28206

First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Incorporated is seeking a pastor. We are currently accepting resumes.

Skills and Qualifications desired:

- Must be licensed and ordained as a Missionary Baptist Minister.
- Must have 3-5 years of pastoral experience.
- Must demonstrate the ability to preach and teach God's word.
- Must be able to share his vision for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church.
- Must promote stewardship and tithing.
- Must have the ability to develop a Christian Education Ministry.
- Must have the ability to teach and fellowship with all ages in the congregation.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in members in homes, hospitals and nursing homes.
- Must have the ability to handle conflict effectively.
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational, leadership and financial management skills.
- Willingness to have criminal, character and credit background check.

Please include: resume, copy of pastoral license and ordination papers.

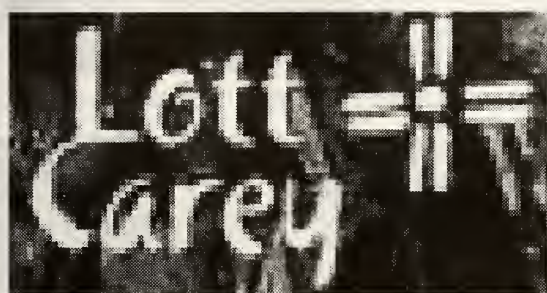
Please forward all correspondence to;  
Attn: Deacon Joe Mason-Chairman Pastoral Search  
Committee PO Box 790202  
Charlotte, NC 28206

# LOTT CAREY WORKS IN AFRICA

**Ethiopia** - Support to African AIDS Initiative International that provides volunteer counseling and testing for college students and people in the marketplace; conducts HIV/AIDS prevention education, care, and support; and provides care and capacity building to help commercial sex workers find safe and secure alternatives for their livelihoods.

**Ghana** - Support for five students preparing for pastoral ministry at the Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary to help provide for stronger church leadership in West Africa.

**Kenya** - Support for Lott Carey Baptist Ministries that has 32 churches, a coffee farm, poultry projects, and periodic distribution of anti-malaria medication toward the end of evangelism, human development, and medical relief and community development.



**Liberia** - Support for the Lott Carey Baptist Mission School that has more than 1,100 hundred students enrolled K – 12 on two campuses (Brewerville and Bopolu) including many former child soldiers from Liberia's recent civil wars.

**Mozambique** - Support for agricultural projects through the Convenção Baptista de Moçambique (Baptist Convention of Mozambique) providing more than 400 families devastated by the catastrophic floods of 2000 – 2001 with cattle, goats, pigs, turkeys, ducks, and chickens.

**Nigeria** - Support of more than 50 churches and four schools in Southern and Southeastern Nigeria through the Lott Carey Baptist Churches to carry out evangelism, pastoral preparation and ministry, and education in communities that would otherwise have no schools.

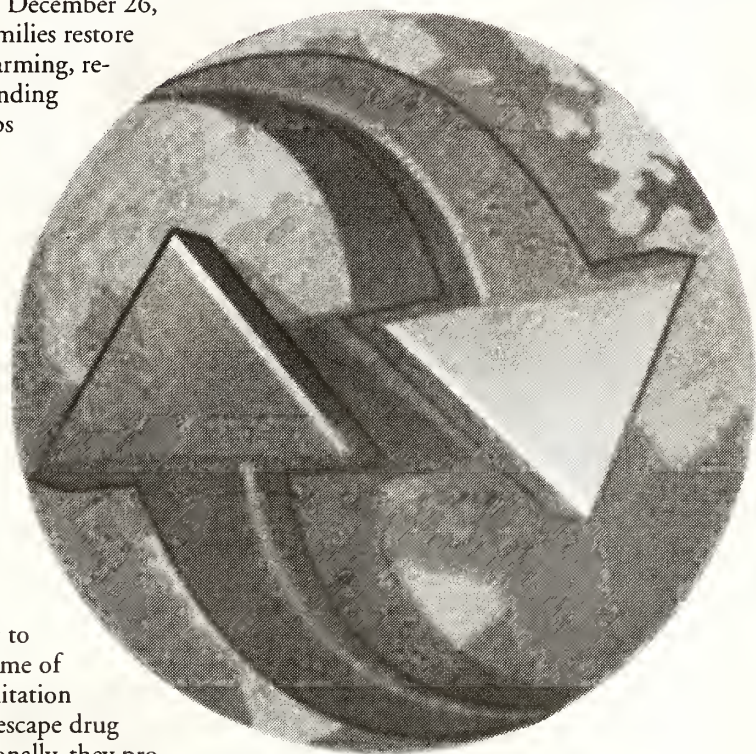
**Somalia** - Support for victims of the December 26, 2004 tsunami in East Africa to help families restore their livelihoods through fishing and farming, rebuilding latrines, digging wells, and funding trauma counseling through partnerships with the All Africa Conference of Churches, the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa, and UNA, a collaboration of Italian non-government relief and development organizations.

**South Africa** - Support for the Baptist Convention of South Africa, a fellowship of 141 churches that provides leadership training, skills development, missions and evangelism, a theological college, and ministry support for HIV/AIDS programs.

**Cape Town, South Africa** - Support to Teen Challenge/Western Cape and Home of Hope which provide residential rehabilitation programs for young people seeking to escape drug life, gang life, and prostitution. Additionally, they provide prevention programs in grade schools, middle schools, and high schools to help young people develop the resiliency to avoid gangs, drugs, and prostitution.

**Sudan** - Lott Carey Baptist Ministries in Kenya has developed a self-supporting economic project through a coffee farm that allows them to provide support for their own missionary pastor that has planted and is serving a church in the southeastern town of Boma.

**Uganda** - Support through Action for Empower-



ment for a ministry to families and children impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic that provides sponsorship to more than 1200 orphans, skills training for women, counseling and treatment in under-served areas, and prevention education for communities and uniform personnel.

**Zimbabwe** - Support for church leadership development through primary sponsorship of the Zimbabwe Theological Seminary prepares men and women for Christian.

## At the 115th Annual Session of Lott Carey:

- Attendees invested more than 1,000 hours of community service on the opening day.
- A Community Feast on Tuesday hosted more than 300 homeless persons from New Orleans.
- Lott Carey Youth booked more than 1,000 hours of community service and were recognized by the Mayor of New Orleans for their efforts.

## • • • • Suburban Poverty Rises • • • •

*New report finds poor population grew 13 times more in suburbs than urban areas*

Wire Reports

**R**ALEIGH - Suburban poverty rose sharply during the 2000s, a new report finds, shifting the economic landscape of suburbia in North Carolina.

The number of poor individuals living in the suburbs grew by 40 percent between 2000 and 2006-2010, according to a new report from the Budget and Tax Center, a project of the North Carolina Justice Center, with the poverty rate in suburbs reaching 13.2 percent by 2006-2010. Although residents of urban areas are still more likely to be poor than suburban residents, the report said, the suburbs' poor population grew 13 times more than in urban areas and the

number of high-poverty neighborhoods grew more than 4 times faster in the suburbs. African Americans and Latinos living in the suburbs were 2 to 4 times more likely to be poor than their white counterparts in 2006-10, the report finds, and were also 2 to 4 times more likely to live in high-poverty suburban neighborhoods than whites.

Between 2000 and 2010, nearly 670,000 North Carolinians were pushed into poverty, with the trend of rising poverty hitting suburban areas throughout the state particularly hard. Because urban areas have historically housed the largest number of North Carolinians who are poor, the report said, safety-net programs such as homeless shelters, food and emergency assistance, and job training programs are less robust in suburban areas.

National research shows that suburban areas were unprepared to address the rising demand for services during the Great Recession, with the few non-profits located in suburban areas reporting an average 30 percent jump in demand for services.

"Addressing the needs of people facing economic hardships and strengthening communities' safety nets will be critical parts of rebuilding the state's economy," said Tazra Mitchell, a fellow with the Budget and Tax Center and author of the report. "By coordinating work across multiple policy areas and across urban and suburban silos, North Carolina can rebuild pathways to prosperity for people who are struggling to make ends meet and are cut off from employment and job opportunities."

# Moss takes the helm at Lott Carey

By Ophelia Johnson

The Reverend Dr. Gregory Moss, Sr., pastor of the Saint Paul Baptist Church of Charlotte and immediate former President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, has been elected President of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention.

Dr. Moss will serve a three-year term as Lott Carey President from 2012 to 2015.

He became active in Lott Carey as a high school student at his home church, First Baptist Church in Statesville, N.C., under the guidance of his pastor and mentor, Dr. J.C. Harris. He also credits his affiliation with the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. with "preparing him for the challenges ahead with Lott Carey."

"It is an exciting and challenging time to be a part of this leadership team," Dr. Moss said during a recent interview with the Baptist Informer. "A lot of people have poured into me. I was groomed and shaped by General Baptist, and North Carolina has had a very important role in Lott Carey."

He would like to expand the scope of Lott Carey in North and South Carolina and to others who would like to "expand their witness globally," he said.

"We deal with schools and people who are in poverty. We deal with human trafficking, HIV initiatives, evangelism and holistic education. We see ourselves as a global missions agency of Baptist heritage, but we are not bound by our heritage. We are willing to work



Rev. Dr. Moss

with anyone, regardless of denomination, in order to address the pressing needs in our world."

Lott Carey was founded in 1897 by African American Baptists who were committed to foreign missions, especially in Africa. It is named for the Rev. Lott Carey, one of the first American Baptist missionaries to West Africa. Born enslaved in 1780 in Charles City, Virginia, Rev. Carey led a missionary team to Liberia in 1821 and was the organizing pastor of the first Baptist church there – Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia.

Also elected were Dr. Allyn E. Waller, First Vice President (Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia) and the Reverend Gregory J. Jackson, Second Vice President (Pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Hackensack, NJ).

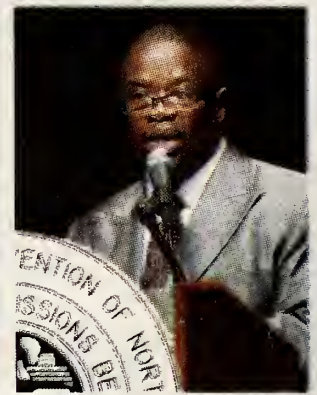


Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Haywood Gray and Lott Carey President, Gregory K. Moss, confer prior to Dr. Gray's sermon at Lott Carey's 115th Annual Session.

Photo by Michael Baker with Venita's Photo and Video



Dr. Haywood Gray



J. Vincent Terry



Dr. William Barber sharing with leaders.



Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.



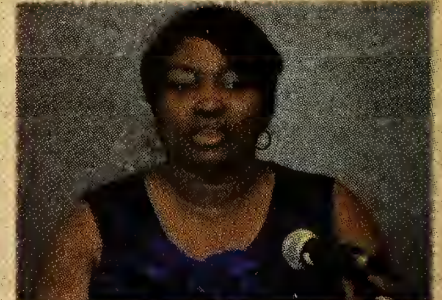
## Laymen League at All Baptist Assembly



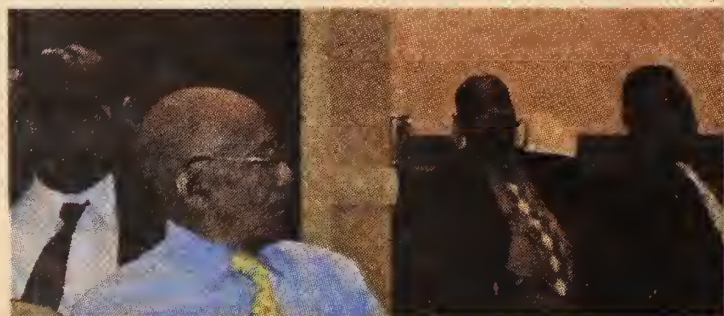
Deacon Dallas Foster teaching his workshop class.



First Vice President William Pointer presides over Assembly.



Reverend Anthonette Wright leading her workshop class.



Laymen Workshop Class listens to presentation.



Reverend Artie Kilgore (left) with his workshop class: Youth Leaders and Junior Laymen.

# Q & A

(continued from page 1)

She also holds a Master of Divinity Degree in Homiletics from Shaw Divinity School. She has also studied at Oxford University, England in Homiletics (2010) and American University of Paris (Homiletics) in 2012. She is now a Doctor of Ministry Candidate at United Theological Seminary in Ohio.

She served as a research assistant under the Reverend Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, senior Pastor Emeritus of Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, who's known as the "dean of American preaching." She also worked with the Reverend Dr.

Suzan Johnson Cook, former President of the Hampton Minister's Conference and President Barack Obama's new United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Freedom.

When Rev. Graham received the invitation to become the interim pastor at Oberlin in 2010, she was studying at Oxford University in England. For a decade, "I had been in churches and I literally was not used.

There seemed to be no room for my gifts, but I was asking God to reveal His will," she said. She admits that "she had become disheartened" as a Baptist minister.

She'd even received inquiries from other denominations, including Methodist churches, to serve as a minister, but God "spoke to my heart and said I was to remain in the Baptist tradition and be a part of the healing process."

Under Graham's pastorate, 132-year-old Oberlin Baptist Church has experienced growth, adding more than 70 new members since 2010. And, on May 8, 2012, she baptized eight people, she said. A new outreach ministry has been working to "knock on doors" and bring new people into the church."

While she's encouraged by the changes, the transition has not come without sacrifice. "One of my

greatest challenges was inheriting a financial crisis as a new pastor of a historic church," she said, adding that she felt "led by God to sacrifice my salary."

Due to church budget constraints, she opted to serve as an unsalaried pastor, rather than take a cut in salary, since December 2011. She remains committed, she said, and believes that God is committed to the work she and other are doing at Oberlin.

"The work is too vast for those who have been granted access to [pastorates]. The need for servants is so great. We should be praying for more preachers and pastors. We need to go out and win souls. God is calling."

Meet the Reverend Sherri Arnold Graham.

\*\*\*

**Baptist Informer:** Describe the makeup of your congregation.

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** The congregation is comprised of both urban and rural residents. We serve the Oberlin Community in Raleigh and have families that commute weekly from Wilson, Bunn, Fayetteville and other cities.

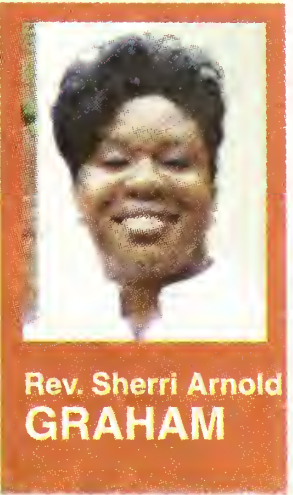
**BI:** What is your experience with female pastors?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** My experiences with female ministers have been great when the opportunities presented themselves. I have served under only one female pastor and that was by invitation to become the pastoral intern to the Reverend Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook in New York City in 2009. I was raised in a Baptist church where women were not allowed to preach and even the occasional visiting female evangelist was required to speak from the floor, not the pulpit. I say that to say this, my experience with and exposure to female pastors in our denomination is limited because we are so few.

**BI:** What about other women in pastorates and/or church leadership?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** I had served alongside female Deacons at First Baptist on Wilmington Street [in Raleigh], including jewels such as Deacon Willie Mae Prescod who passed away in 2011 at age 100. The blessing is that conferences exist that bring female pastors and female ministers together and I have invested in myself by attending those. Dr. Cynthia Hale [the founding pastor of Ray of Hope Church in Atlanta] has a great and substantive conference that brings together female clergy


(continued on page 11)



Rev. Sherri Arnold GRAHAM



## WOMEN IN THE PULPIT



T&CE (Travel and Christian Education) Ministries

This is a Safe Guided Tour-Guided by VERED HASHARON TOURS

**A Holy Land Pilgrimage**  
**Biblical Seminar Holy Land Tour**  
**Led by Rev. Dr. Rudolph Tripp**  
**February 11 - 19, 2013**

Great numbers of people continue to pour into Israel every day, visiting biblical sights and experiencing spiritual renewal. Each year the numbers get greater. I am Rev. Dr. Tripp, and I wish to inform our churches and community about my next trip to the Holy Land. I believe every Christian, if it is at all possible, should take a pilgrimage to the Holy Land (in Israel). Once having this wonderful experience, reading and studying the scriptures will take on new meaning and indeed it will be a life changing experience.

**This is a 9 Day Holy Land Pilgrimage departing on February 11-19, 2013.** Because of changes with the airlines it is advised that interested persons register as soon as possible to confirm and reserve their seat. Those persons that are interested in going should pay a deposit of \$250.00 and the remainder of \$2745 the total cost of \$2995 by December 31, 2012. Make checks payable to T & CE Ministries, LLC and Submit deposit and a copy of your updated passport to T & CE (Travel and Christian Education) Ministries) P.O. Box 14995, Raleigh, NC 27620. Please feel free to contact me at 919-302-3592 or 919-231-0799

**Special note:** Please take a few minutes and visit my Web-Site: [www.tripp-ministries.com](http://www.tripp-ministries.com) Additional information is provided.

## BAPTIST INFORMER

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**Voice of 500,000 Baptists**

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# Baptist women pastors reach milestones across spectrum



## WOMEN IN THE PULPIT

*Wire Reports*

It took Pam Durso a few minutes to comprehend the number that came up during her recent count of women leading Baptist churches: 150.

The number had been 102 in 2005 and 135 in 2010 said Durso, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry. The numbers include the Alliance of Baptists, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Previous numbers represented progress, Durso said, but hitting 150 was something else. "I think it's pretty phenomenal."

Durso said she knew something was up beginning in early 2012 when she had to start updating her list every month. It turns out Carol McEntyre was the 150th in July when she became pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, Mo.

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"I don't have any other female Baptist ministers even close to me," Renfro said. "There is still a lot of isolation."

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Even with the growth, they lag behind other Protestant groups that ordain women. Approximately 27 percent of Presbyterian churches are pastored by women, and it's 29 percent for Methodists. By comparison, just under 7 percent of CBF churches are led by women, Durso said.

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Other noteworthy trends include:

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Most of the women being called are in their 20s and early 30s, including several who are "right out of seminary."

Durso added she's getting more calls from churches asking for candidates than ever before, which boosts her confidence in the future.

"I think we're at a tipping point in Baptist life where churches are starting to embrace the idea of women pastors."

*Jeff Brumley is assistant editor of Associated Baptist Press.*



## Scriptures Often Used in Discussions

### PRO

Gospel of John 20:1-18

Gospel of Luke 24:1-11

Acts 18:18

Acts 21:9

Romans 16:1-4

Romans 16:7

1 Corinthians 16:19

Galatians 3:28

Philippians 4:2-3 (Old Testament examples are Deborah (Judges 4:1-10)

Prophetess Huldah (2 Kings 22:14-20)



### CON

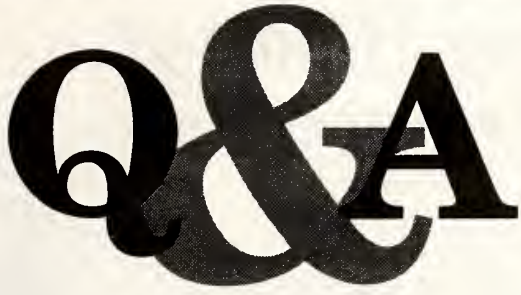
1 Corinthians 11:2-16,

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

1 Timothy 2:11-14

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9



## Rev. Sherri Arnold Graham

(continued from page 9)

from all denominations every September and that has greatly enriched my pastoral journey. Additionally, I have made friends with female pastors of other denominations and continually glean from others along the way. I would love for the GBSC to cultivate a concerted effort to strengthen Baptist women in ministry.

**BI:** Are you suggesting that Baptist women pastors feel isolated?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** Most Baptist female ministers, myself included, are so busy trying to keep our heads above water and avoid the torpedoes of those who would dare try to impeach God, that we often lack the time and opportunity to build the relational alliances that keep our brothers strong. The opportunities for female ministers to connect and build real relationships in our denomination are sparse, but I hope to be a help in that regard. In my experience, the works of Dr. Haywood Gray, our General Baptist State Convention and the Wake

Missionary Baptist Association with Moderator Dr. William T. Newkirk have deliberately embraced female ministers as co-laborers. I believe greater undergirding for the female Baptist minister is on the horizon.

**BI:** What do most people say when you identify yourself as "Pastor?"

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** Most have the assumption that I planted a church. Few believe that I am pastoring a church that is 132 years old.

**BI:** Have you ever experienced any opposition to you being a clergy person?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** In 2009, I was asked to pray at an event, but instead of being asked to the podium, I was invited to pray from the floor. It reflects that many people have been taught protocol through processes that are contrary to the Scripture, she said. "They have not come to the full understanding of God's plan. God Himself says that in the highest orders, there is neither male nor female. We are in need of healing in terms of pastoral leadership. It speaks too often to people operating in unsound doctrine, misinterpretation of scripture or sometimes, there is a manipulation of scripture to maintain order.

**BI:** What about opposition in your church?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** The biggest opposition has been the shift of power from the hands of man to the hands of God. Being that I was called to Oberlin (as in I did not seek them out), I was welcomed with open arms. I can honestly say that whatever reservations that may have existed about gender were overshadowed by the spiritual shift God allowed at the outset. No gender issues were raised. The issues [at the church] have been my unwillingness to engage in church politics and that has a lot to do with my theological grounding on the role of a pastor.

**BI:** Could you describe some of your greatest challenges or disappointments?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** Among my greatest disappointments [in pastoring] is realizing that many Christians have personalized the battle, forgetting that the fight is between good and evil. I marvel that many believers continue to fight in the flesh when the Bible clearly

**"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."**

— 2 Timothy 2:15



## WOMEN IN THE PULPIT

teaches us (II Corinthians 10:4) that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds.

**BI:** What has been one of your greatest joys in pastoring?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** I am grateful that our church is growing spiritually and numerically. God has added 75 members and on May 8, 2012, I baptized eight people. We've also had more than 30 new converts and many are accepting the Lord Jesus for the first time. They are hungry for the Word.

**BI:** What about outreach?

We now have a contract with Starbucks. Twice a week, we pick up all their leftover pastries and Danishes – Delicates for the Least of These - in Cameron Village. God is opening doors.

**BI:** What are some of your plans for the future?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** My plans for the immediate future include shepherding the people of Oberlin through God's plan for spiritual restoration, evangelism, financial healing and building. Upon earning my Doctorate in December, I hope to become an adjunct faculty member in Preaching & Transformative Pastoral Leadership, in honor of my mentor, Dr. Gardner C. Taylor.

**BI:** What keeps you grounded as a Pastor?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** I want to honor the heritage of the church. I made it very clear early on that this is my Father's house. We're not to allow decisions in and of ourselves, but we have to let the Lord lead us. We are here to do His bidding. That means a shift in human to divine power, but that is a lot for some to digest.

**BI:** Has the door opened wider for females to Pastor in Baptist churches?

**PASTOR GRAHAM:** Being a female pastor allows us to come in with great assets. We are nurturers and we come in with a vision and a willingness to really try and build the people up. It breaks my heart to see divisions or to see people cast aside. I make it a point to open doors for others.

### Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church

#### Pastoral Vacancy

Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a born-again licensed/ordained pastor with the following qualification:

- Pastoral experience preferred
- Willing and qualified to preach and teach God's word
- Strong church administrative abilities
- Strong leadership and communication skills
- Must meet the qualification of *1 Timothy 3:1 - 7*
- Concerned about the spiritual growth of all members
- Willing to work with all organizations
- Willing to attend conferences and conventions
- Counsel parishioners and visit the sick and shut-in

All applicants must submit a resume and 3 verifiable references to:

Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church  
Attn: Pastoral Search Committee  
9104 Sauls Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
(919) 779-6401

# African-American Men: Caught in the Middle of Prostate Cancer Screening Controversy

Wire Reports

**P**rostate cancer is the leading type of cancer in men in the United States, with over 240,000 men diagnosed and 30,000 thousand dying from it each year. Also, for reasons that are not completely understood, African-American men have the highest rates of prostate cancer in the U.S, as 1 in 5 will get prostate cancer in their lifetime. African-Americans are also 60% more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 2.5 times likely to die of the disease.

When caught early, prostate cancer can be treated, usually successfully. But, because many men experience no symptoms, it is often identified only by an abnormal result on a basic prostate cancer screening called the PSA test.

The PSA test is a blood test that measures prostate-specific antigen (PSA), a protein produced by the prostate gland. An increase in the PSA level is often the only sign of early prostate cancer. The PSA test is also valuable in monitoring patients after treatment. In May 2012, despite tremendous opposition from prostate cancer experts, legislators, healthcare advocates and cancer survivors across the country, a US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) Committee announced a recom-

mendation that PSA testing should no longer be performed routinely on men in the United States. The task force came to this decision based on studies performed in the United States and Europe suggesting that prostate cancer screening does not appear to im-

prove survival in patients with this disease.

One of the major concerns raised by opponents of the recommendation is the fact that the studies that were sited lacked representation by African-American participants. Thus, their results may not be applicable to that group of men. The USPSTF committee also failed to acknowledge the impact of screening on declining cancer death rates. Opponents of this recommendation felt that the bottom line is that fewer men are dying of prostate cancer and it is very likely that early detection has played a role in this outcome.

Despite the decrease in death rates, African-American men continue to carry a disproportionately higher death rate and, among men under the age of 60, are 4 times more likely to have metastatic disease at diagnosis.

There is currently ongoing research to find better screening strategies than the PSA test. However, until these tests have been confirmed, the PSA test continues to be important part of early detection and should not be blatantly discarded, especially as it applies to high risk populations such as African-American men. It is comparable to "throwing the baby out with the bathwater," and in this case, African-American men are being thrown out with the bathwater.

Any man that is over 40 years of age should have meaningful dialogue with his healthcare provider to understand the details of the PSA test, its value, and possible shortcomings. Prostate cancer screenings are not provided under the Affordable Care Act, so make sure you choose a health insurance policy that covers PSA screenings. However, regular prostate



cancer screenings are provided by Medicare, so if you are retired, take advantage of this benefit. If you are diagnosed with prostate cancer, also consider all options for treatment before making a decision or, if the cancer is not aggressive, talk to your doctor about active surveillance. As with any illness, make sure you get a second opinion before proceeding with any post-diagnosis path.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Week will be celebrated the week of September 16-22, 2012. During this time the Prostate Conditions Education Council (PCEC) is offering free prostate health assessments at over 500 locations across the country.

To find a location near you visit [www.prostateconditions.org/screening-site](http://www.prostateconditions.org/screening-site). Or you can call 303-313-4685/Toll free: 1-866-4-PROST-8

Source: Op-Ed piece by Chiledum A. Ahaghotu, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chief of Urology at Howard University Hospital, Adviser to Men's Health Network.



## September is Prostate Screening Month

## Black Baptists gather in Atlanta this month

**A**bout 20,000 delegates are expected in Atlanta Sept. 3-7 for the 132nd annual session of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., the oldest and largest of the historically African-American Baptist denominations with about 7.5 million members.

Participants will include NBC-USA President Julius Scruggs and leaders from the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention and National Baptist Convention of America.

The annual session of the National Baptist Convention, USA, will feature worship services and workshops on spiritual development. The organization was founded in 1880. For details, visit its website at [www.nbc.org](http://www.nbc.org).

### St. John Missionary Baptist Church

We are interested in a Minister of Music and /or Lead Musician  
Send Resume and Letter of Reference(s) to:

St. John Missionary Baptist Church  
Attention: Music Ministry Committee  
P. O. Box 119

Red Oak, NC 27868

Rev. Herbert C. Scott, Pastor

[saintjohnmbc@embarqmail.com](mailto:saintjohnmbc@embarqmail.com)

# Bread for the World: African-Americans Must Speak out for Africa

Wire Reports

**A**frican-Americans share a rich history with African nations. We also share some of the same challenges with hunger and poverty—a connection that should not be ignored. While I am sadly aware that more than one-fourth of African-Americans live in poverty, on a recent trip to Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia I witnessed a degree of hunger and poverty that few African-Americans in this country experience.

I also witnessed strong faith, hope for the future, and a desire to be self-sufficient. This is where U.S. policies for hungry and poor people abroad can make a significant impact.

Feed the Future is just one of the programs that is helping to change lives. This program, under the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, has selected 20 countries for economic change, based on levels of need, opportunities for partnership, potential for agricultural growth, and available resources.

To better understand the degree of poverty in parts of Africa, let's look at three Feed the Future countries that are comparable in size to U.S. states.

Liberia is roughly the same size as Virginia, but its poverty rate is nearly double the African-American poverty rate in that state.

Similarly, Tanzania is slightly larger than Texas, but it has a poverty rate that is three times that of African-Americans in the Lone Star state.

Finally, in Malawi, which is nearly the size of Ohio, more than 40 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 per day. That is substantially worse than the dire situation of the 31 percent of African-Americans

in Ohio who now live below the U.S. poverty line.

The same level of economic injustice is prevalent across much of sub-Saharan Africa.

Between 1981 and 2005, the number of people living in extreme poverty in that region nearly doubled from 200 million to almost 400 million. By 2010, the proportion of sub-Saharan people suffering from hunger was roughly 21.7 percent. This figure may seem low, given that about one-third of African-American households with children struggle to put food on the table. The difference, however, is the degree of suffering in Africa compared to in the United States.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, one in three people in sub-Saharan Africa experiences chronic hunger. More than 90 percent suffers from long-term malnourishment and micronutrient deficiency. Every 3.6 seconds another African dies of starvation—most are children under age 5.

The situation is extreme, but given our shared experiences, we can and should do something about it.

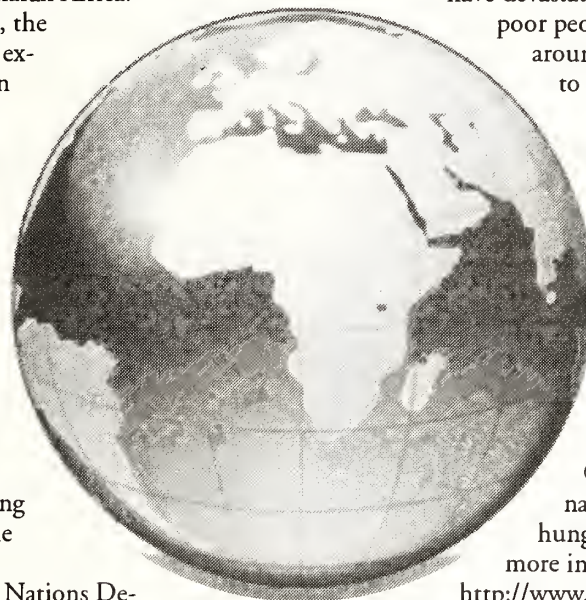
African-Americans must create a circle of protection around funding for vital foreign assistance programs that address the root causes of poverty. And we

must champion African development as a top-tier legislative priority. Cuts to anti-poverty programs will have devastating effects on hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world while doing little to decrease the deficit.

Please visit the African-American Voices for Africa Web page for more information, including a new fact sheet and links to resources.

Rev. Derrick Boykin serves as associate for African-American leadership outreach at Bread for the World, a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. For more information, visit

<http://www.bread.org/hunger/global/voices-for-africa/>.



**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** *As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff or boards.*

## • • • MUSIC REVIEWS • • •



### All Is Well by Troy Sneed



Quintera  
**BATTS**

Issues that everyday people can recognize—problems in marriage, financial instability, etc. Here, his message is simple—life is plagued with problems, but there is solace in Jesus. All is well despite my many problems. This song is full of reassurance and peacefulness. The third track on the album, “Lay It Down,” has a similar smooth, acoustic feel to it. The song begins with Sneed leading the background singers, speaking softly, not aggressively, to his audience, the listener. Then he

**S**ometimes in life, it's best to keep things simple. This can be especially true when it comes to gospel music. Troy Sneed does just that on his latest album, *All is Well*—keeps things simple. The album opens with “All Is Well,” the song bearing the same name as the album itself. This song highlights issues



begins to sing. He can sing. The music is beautifully arranged. Close your eyes (unless you're driving!) and listen to his words. His message is simple—lay down your problems. It's not your usual praise and worship song, but it's a song with which many can identify.

Also, Sneed's voice is impressive—it goes from reserved to powerful in seconds, adding to the intensity and emotion of the songs. And the voices of the background singers perfectly compliment the acoustics of the instruments and the range of Sneed's voice, making the songs soothing to ears and the heart. Sneed doesn't cloud the songs with extra bass or loud sounds that would distract the listener from the songs' actual lyrics. You can actually enjoy the music! And you won't mistake it for anything playing on your local R&B station either.

Troy Sneed is no rookie to the gospel music scene. With awards like Stellar and Soul Train, under his belt, Sneed definitely knows the formula for good gospel music. Not only is he a gospel singer, he is considered a well-respected songwriter and producer as well in the gospel industry. If songs like “The Right Place” and “The Struggle is Over” are any indication of what can be expected from this album, then gospel music listeners are in for a treat.

Reach our reviewer at [Qmb.writer@yahoo.com](mailto:Qmb.writer@yahoo.com)

# Lott Carey Mission Alert - Hurricane Isaac Response

As you prepare for worship this weekend, we invite you to remember the families and communities impacted by Hurricane Isaac. Many are still suffering. Some of our friends and churches have been damaged in Southeast, Louisiana and Plaquemines Parish. Some have trees that have fallen on their facilities. Wooden structures have been flooded that will require floors to be torn out. Some churches had five (5) to eight (8) feet of water in their

buildings. Power is still out in this area.

As we reported to you several days ago, we have learned many lessons about preparedness and rapid responses to large scale disasters from our work in the Gulf Coast over the last seven years since Hurricane Katrina. One of the lessons that we have learned is that the needs of families will grow significantly as people begin to return from evacuations. While we are enjoying better coordination with the American

Red Cross and better communication with various Baptist networks in North America, the call for support will still be significant.

You are invited to help us prepare to support the needs of our surviving sisters and brothers in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac in the Gulf Coast. The scope and scale of our response depends on the resources that we bring together. You can support in three ways.

Make your personal contribution online at <http://www.lottcarey.org/>. Be sure to designate your gift for Hurricane Isaac Response or use the donate button on Strategy 8. Responding to survivors of disasters with aid and support

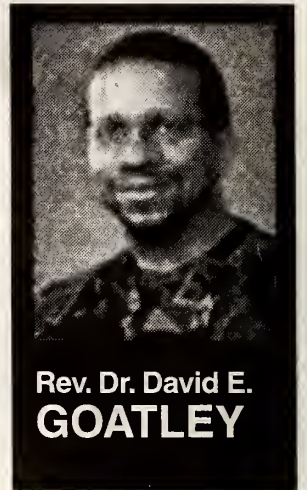
Encourage your friends and congregants to give \$10 through their mobile phones by texting lottcarey to 20222.

Forward your check payable to Lott Carey, 220 I Street, NE, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20002 with a memo designation for "Hurricane Isaac Response."

There will be a need for people with demolition and construction capacities. If you are ready and willing to go to serve, please contact us at [lottcarey@lottcarey.org](mailto:lottcarey@lottcarey.org) with "Hurricane Isaac Volunteer" in the Subject line.

Thanks for your partnership in this ministry.

*Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D., Lott Carey can be reached at [degoatley@aol.com](mailto:degoatley@aol.com).*



Rev. Dr. David E. GOATLEY

## 100 Men-on-Mission in Haiti

The recent devastation of Hurricane Isaac emphasizes our need to continue providing safe housing in collaboration with our sisters and brothers in Haiti. The housing that we helped fund in partnership with Habitat for Humanity last year near Leogane (the epicenter of the devastating 2010 earthquake) survived Hurricane Isaac well.

We are currently working with another partner Grace-Fuller International to provide a planned community with permanent housing solutions for 56 families, a community center, and economic development capacities in a community named Lambi. This location is also near Leogane. We are providing 28 duplexes, the cost is \$8,000 per unit, and we have 12 units completed. The families living in tents in Lambi found refuge from Hurricane Isaac in the permanent housing units that are finished. We literally provided "shelter in a time of storm."

Our goal is to complete this project before Spring 2013 so that these families will be safe for the next hurricane season.

One of the unique opportunities for supporting this project is our goal of deploying 100 Men-on-Mission to help build houses in Haiti. We hope to have at least 33 men serving during the following dates:

3 - 10 November 2012

10 - 17 November 2012

1 - 8 December 2012

We rejoice that over 50 men are committed to serve. We need a little less than 50 men to join us. The cost is \$1,800 from Washington, DC. This includes roundtrip airfare, ground transportation, housing, meals, and supplies. You do not have to be an experienced builder. We need men who are healthy enough to travel and work outdoors (check with your doctor) and who can follow the instructions of the general contractors on site.

Register online under "Trip Calendar" at [www.aabmc.org](http://www.aabmc.org) or contact Kathi Reid ([kreid@lottcarey.org](mailto:kreid@lottcarey.org)).

"The Lord has need of workers ... count on me."

— Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D.

## "Finding Strength in the Faces of Friends"

Wire Reports

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Crystal Kimpson ROBERTS

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*Jeff Brumley is assistant editor of Associated Baptist Press.*

# Shaw University Divinity School



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### President Parker Leads Large Delegation Thousands \$\$ Donated by GBSC

(continued from page 1)

for the special offering. It was later announced that \$310,000.00 was the grand total raised.

Also at the Convention, Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., was invited to deliver a sermon on Thursday, August 16. It was titled, "When Men and Mountains Meet" and was attended by a large delegation of North Carolinians.

Prior to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer's message, he expressed his appreciation to all of North Carolina's General Baptists for their historically strong support of foreign missions through Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention. Since Dr. Gray assumed the office of Executive Secretary-Treasurer in 2005, he has been the steward of more than \$3.3 million for missions, including \$1.2 million for Lott Carey.



Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. presents final address as President.

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## BAPTIST INFORMER



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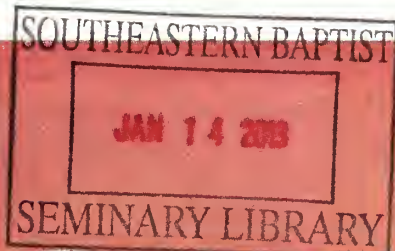


## MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!

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135:10  
NC



# BAPTIST INFORMER

November 2012

Volume 135, No. 10

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

## Shaw Student Selected to Perform with Celebration Choir

Press Reports

**T**yre' V. Smith, a Senior Recreational Therapy Major, has been chosen to represent Shaw University in The 105 Voices of History 5th Year Celebration



Choir performance. The choir will consist of members from the four previous years and 40 new voices.

This year The 105 Voices of History will

celebrate its fifth concert year with not one, but three performances throughout the year— The U.S. State Department (September 2012), The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (February 17, 2013), and The Grand Ole Opry (May 2013). The "105 Voices of History" is a national collegiate choir representing every HBCU in the nation. This invitation to partic-

(continued on page 8)



*We Give Thanks!*

Enjoy a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends.



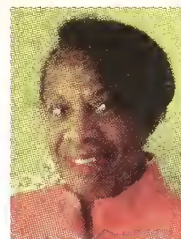
Recipients of the Certificate of Recognition for their successful completion of the Family Study Guide.

## Family Mission Conference is a Success

By Dr. Linda Bryan

**T**he Woman's Baptist State Convention sponsored its Annual Family Mission Conference on September 22, 2012 under the leadership of Mrs. Darlene Esters, Chair of the Christian Family Life Enrichment Ministry, and Mr. Wayne Hines, Co-Chair.

Three hundred Family Mission Study Guides were distributed during the All Baptist Assembly and 23 families completed all study exercises and projects and submitted them to the office of the Woman's Convention by the deadline of August 31. These families were recognized for



Dr. Linda Bryan

their commitment to building strong Christian families through mission studies.

The conference concluded with a highly spirited worship service by the Oak Grove Baptist Church family under the leadership of Pastor Ray A. Allsberry, who delivered a challenging message to its listeners. The choir and musicians blessed us with the songs of praise.

Recipients of the Certificate of Recognition for their successful completion of the Family Study Guide included:

More article and photos (continued on page 8)

## Women Seeking Pulpits: Can the glass-ceiling be cracked in Baptist churches?

PART FIVE

By Ophelia Johnson

**N**early 30 years after the Reverend Queen Penny became a pastor, she delivers a simple yet effective, message for her sisters in ministry: Be yourself - and prepare yourself.

Before she retired from Lillington First Baptist Church in 2011, she spent 29 years on the front lines - preaching, teaching, baptizing, visiting, administering and performing other pastoral roles, and she's quick to admit that, "I had some devils," she said, referring to challenges to her as a pastor - and a woman. Yet, "God fixed it."



**WOMEN IN THE PULPIT**

Having received Bible training at Shaw Divinity School helped her overcome challenges and keep up with her pastoral demands. Because of that, she's still a staunch advocate for religious training, especially for Baptist women interested in the servant role of "pastor," an ancient term taken from the Greek phrase, meaning "shepherd."

"Unless you have divinity school under your wing, you won't be able to handle it," she said during a recent interview.

Rev. Penny's other advice, for women seeking pulpits, was even more practical.

"Do not try to preach like a man," she said. "Let

(continued on page 9)

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From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large, Dr. Avery

**P6**

Shaw University News and News from Across the State

**P8**

WBH&FMC Women Prepare and Send Dresses to Haiti

# Shaw University Divinity School



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*From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...*

## Express the power that is ours in Jesus the Christ

**T**o all in (the General Baptist Family) who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:7, NIV). I continually pause to thank God for all of you, "because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Rom. 1:8b).

With hearts full of gratitude and minds made up to go on in the Lord, we embrace the past, enhance the present, and envision the future as God gets all glory and honor. We must endeavor to continue in our



Lord's mandate to be willing witnesses, warriors, and workers locally, regionally, nationally, and "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8b).

Our convention stands on the threshold of abundant blessings through the power, presence, and provision of our awesome God. Our mountaintop view of promised-land possessions must not result in a stagnant spirituality and laid-back living. God has promised empowerment for

those who are faithful. General Baptists, we can and we must experience and express the power that is ours in Jesus the Christ.

We must continually pray for and participate in the struggles of humanity throughout our world, our nation, and right here at home in our state and local communities. We must never forget we are called to be Christian soldiers, kingdom builders, and committed servants in the construction of Christian disciples in the home, church, community, country, and the world at large.

Our mission is to "go, teach, baptize, and teach." Our ongoing challenge is "Preaching... Teaching... Reaching" (Matthew 28:19-20). This divine mandate from our Lord enables believers worldwide to become equipped for Christian warfare.

The detonating power that is ours in God through Jesus the Christ is inspiring, transforming, and life changing. We are more than conquerors because:

We are the weapons God uses for warfare against injustice, inequity, and inequality.

We are the weapons God uses for warfare against racism, sexism, and ageism.

We are the weapons God uses for warfare against oppression, aggression, and depression.

We are the weapons God uses for warfare against disruption, destruction, and corruption.

We are the weapons God uses for warfare against sin, suffering, and satanic struggles.

We are weapons God uses to address and overcome economic recession, social disparity, church conflict, limited resources, hateful attitudes, political confusion, hopelessness, and helplessness.

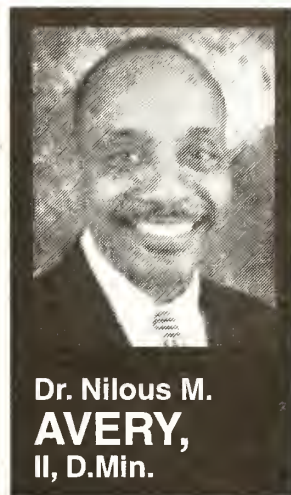
The power, presence, and provision of God, the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit serve as our trinitrotoluene, our TNT! Your financial contributions to GBSC and continual prayers will serve as tangible and visible kingdom building TNT.

Therefore, my beloved, we must strive to equip, empower, and encourage our churches, ministries, missions, and outreach groups with Holy TNT! Become God's weapons of warfare, and ensure the detonation of kingdom building throughout the world as our Lord's power becomes tangible and visible in our lives and our total support.

Our opportunity to be witnesses of God's transforming power globally and locally is manifested through our convention. We are in position to impact the world as God's weapons of Christian warfare. Accept the challenge today, lift your prayers up, and send your financial support in to GBSC headquarters today!

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you." (1 Cor. 16:23) Amen.

*Dr. Avery may be reached at: [averyevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyevkin@aol.com).*



**Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.**

## The Holy Spirit and Preaching are the Answers

**H**ave you ever noticed that we can apply our interpretative skills (hermeneutics), crafting skills (homiletics) in building the sermon, and communication skills (delivery) but yet something seems missing in our preaching? Have you ever noticed that our sermon has shape and sound but lacks strength? What is the one thing that is missing in our preaching?

Let's search for the answer.

In the previous article, I raised the question concerning the one thing that makes the difference in our preaching. I argued the one thing that makes our preaching different is its Christ-centered focus. Our preaching must be Christological before it is anthropological. In doing so the dominant question is settled concerning the issue of agency. In other

words, we resolved the matter of who is in charge of our preaching. Even more important is the question of who is the real preacher? The real preacher is not the well-groomed man or woman with well-polished speech. Although being well groomed and polished is important, the real preacher is the power of the Holy Spirit in our preaching. What makes the difference in our preaching beyond its Christ-centeredness is its

pneumatological dimension.

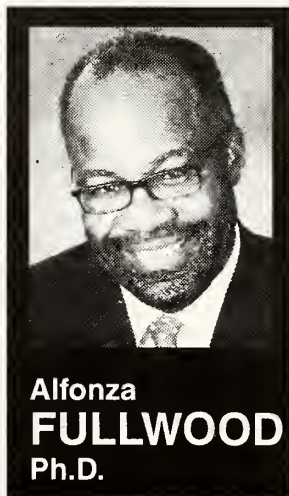
Fewer conversations are held concerning the power of the Holy Spirit in our preaching. In traditional and contemporary conversations concerning preaching the focus is related to methodology, style, and communication theory and delivery techniques. These issues are crucial in the preaching task. Traditional view placed a premium on the deductive method focusing on reason argument to prove a biblical principle. On the other hand, contemporary thought invested interest in the inductive and storytelling approaches. Such methods involved both preacher and listener/congregation in a "shared journey toward insight or meaning," according to Fred Craddock. Henry Mitchell and Cleophus LaRue discuss the stylistic features that make black preaching distinctive and worthy of regard. Still, the real question is whether we should make these issues premium and dominance when it comes to the one thing that makes our preaching different. The power of our preaching is not based on theories, methods and speech. Rather, the power of our preaching is based on what William C. Turner calls the decisive moment of "pneumatological empowerment. In his book, *The Holy Spirit and Preaching* James Forbes rightly noted, "If a greatly improved quality of preaching is to be experienced in our time, it will stem from the renewing power and presence of the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit gives preaching its power of persuasion and conviction.

The Scripture gives witness to the superintendence of the Holy Spirit when we speak for God. There is a scriptural instance showing that as men spoke they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2Peter 1: 21). Paul



gives a more resolute perspective on the role of the Holy Spirit in preaching above polished speech or rhetoric. He says, "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power" (1Cor 2: 4). Such a statement on the part of Paul shows that we must not allow our preaching to get lost in secondary factors even though such factors aid and enhance our preaching. While these secondary factors are important, they have no intrinsic power of themselves. Without the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit they are powerless and nothing more than sounding brass and tinkling symbols. What is missing in our preaching is not method, style, eloquence or forceful delivery but rather the dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit.

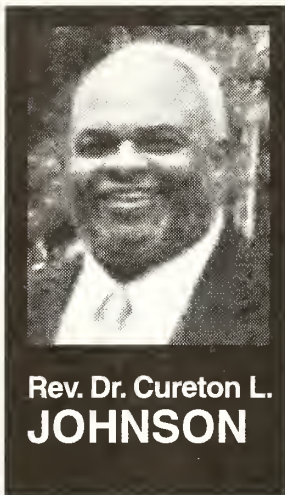
*Dr. Fullwood, Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church, in Wendell, NC, is a regular columnist.*



**Alfonza FULLWOOD Ph.D.**

# Show Hospitality to Foreigners Among Us

Four years ago, while leading more than 100 marchers—white, black, and Latino—through southeast Fayetteville calling for the just treatment of workers at a nearby hog processing plant, I remembered the words in Leviticus: “And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him” (19:33, NKJV).



Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON

In other words, foreigners or strangers should be treated with love, just like everyone else. “You must love them as you love yourself” (34). Also, God is saying to us today that we all are to treat foreigners as we would treat ourselves. We are to view strangers, newcomers, and foreigners as opportunities to demonstrate God’s love.

Let us encourage our nation’s leaders to fix our failed immigration system

and treat the foreigners among us fairly and with the love of Christ. Leviticus foreshadows the words in James’ New Testament letter: “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well” (2:8). It is called the royal law because Christ himself said that to love God and your neighbor form the basis for all the laws of the Bible (Matt. 22:37-40).

Therefore, we are not to harass or take advantage of the foreigner, but to show hospitality to him or her. Those of us in the church must share with them, and aid and assist them. The Old Testament warns us at least 36 times to eagerly be hospitable to aliens, foreigners, strangers, widows and orphans among us. What a challenge!

Unfortunately, not all people who have entered this country have been fair to African-Americans. Some have shown bias against us. And the fear of “the strange one” has a long history in societies. Strangers

seem to signal danger. The stranger presents us with the unknown and a challenge to our familiar surroundings. Therefore, we humans try to keep strangers at a distance.

There is a common word for such fear—xenophobia. Yet, we must not harbor such fear in our hearts, but instead show philoxenia (hospitality). We must show love for the foreigner among us! The Apostle John wrote, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love cast out fear...” (1 John 4:18).

Surely, in these days, we must be cautious in opening our doors to strangers. Many wicked people roam the streets. But, we can still find ways to help the foreigners among us. We must not join forces with racists and blind nationalists who want to send Latinos back to their native lands. Instead, let us open our hearts to their needs and fight for fair and just immigration laws.

The men, women, and children that we so casually refer to as “undocumented immigrants” at best, and as “illegal aliens” at worse, are in fact individuals created in the image of God. They thirst for democracy and freedom and job security for their families; for citizenship rights, and to leave repression and poverty behind.

Jesus himself was an immigrant child in leaving Judea with his family to enter Egypt. And just remember how so many bigots in past years have wanted to send Blacks back to Africa. Surely, Columbus and early white migrants came to the Americas illegally taking land and resources from the natives. So let us not repeat the mistakes of the past. Let us not emulate the blind hatred of many politicians who stir up fear and pound their chest claiming that they will send Latinos back home.

Leviticus reminded the Jew that they were once “strangers in the land of Egypt” themselves (19:34). Let us remember that our distant ancestors, too, were once strangers in this land.

*Dr. Johnson, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer.*

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## •••• GBSC USHERS MINISTRY ••••

# The Way You Do The Things You Do

“You got a smile so bright, you know you could have been a candle. The way you swept me off your feet, you know you could have been a broom. Well, you could have been anything that you wanted to...the way you do the things you do.”

Like the songwriter’s lyrics, Ushers are also challenged to become instruments for God because our objective is to serve those individuals who come to our churches on Sunday morning to worship and praise God.

It is not simply the fact that you have the title - a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord - but it is the way you do the things you do as an usher that will make a difference and brighten someone’s day. “Let your light so shine, so that men might see your good works...” Always remember that a candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. Just reach out and

touch someone’s life and remind them that this is a day that the Lord has made.

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night and said, “Rabbi, we know that thou art a great teacher come from God: For no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” Nicodemus saw the impact that Jesus was making and how he was transforming and changing lives. It was the way that Jesus was conducting himself in ministry that left an indelible impression upon Nicodemus. He had never seen anybody serve and care for humanity as he did. Ushers above all else we must understand that the way you do the things you do is important, influential and impressionable as well.

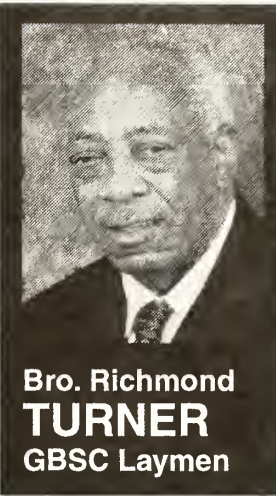
Ushers are the first contact to the church member and to the visitor. You have an important part in setting the atmosphere for worship and praise. The usher will greet, meet and interact with people. We

are representing, the church, the pastor, the usher board and the Kingdom of God. With this in mind you want to make a good impression; not a negative one. It is the way you do the things you do.

As you serve on Sunday morning, try to embrace those who fill your pews and let them know through your deeds, actions and responsiveness that you are there to assist and to ensure they have everything they need to enjoy the worship experience. Additionally, we must also be prepared to interact with diverse personalities and we must give 100 percent because we have the mind of Christ. You are challenged as ushers. Do everything within your power to ensure that the techniques and procedures you are using are powerful, impactful and beneficial.

*Submitted by Rodney McCormick  
Assistant Dean, for Ushers*

## Transforming men into disciples



Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

For the past few months, we have been working to build on our Laymen's purpose: "To transform Christian men into mature devoted disciples of Jesus Christ, through intentional training." To do this, we are shifting from a theological approach to a more practical approach because men are drawn through activity rather than passive settings.

To summarize Part II: the principles in our challenge; Principle # 1—We are to take Jesus to where the lost are. Our command is to "Go and Make" disciples. Principle # 2—Encourages us to take away the stones of self-righteousness and legalism so that the disciple in training may grow in Christ's love and use the gifts that he has been endowed with by the Holy Spirit. And Principle #3—"Loose him and let him go," calls for us to mentor the new convert and help him get acclimated into the service of Our Lord. If you would take note; all three principle indicate what men can do. So, if men are drawn by activity—then to follow Jesus calls for action and it's not an easy and or safe task.

One of the ways the state laymen want to begin the process of "unwrapping Lazarus," is to follow the biblical narrative listed in 2 Chronicles 7:14; the N C Laymen wants to have 1000 men per month lifting up Jesus in Prayer. ("Jesus said if I be lifted up, I'll draw all men unto me")

We want to accomplish this task through; (www.freeconferencecall.com). Any men willing to host this activity in their area; please contact me, 336-686-2028 or e-mail: iturn60@aol.com. And you will receive instructions on how this to be accomplished.

Further encouragement for this project was inspired from the State Laymen's participation in the Southeast Regional Walter Cade, Jr. Workshop held in Jacksonville, Florida. We were blessed to have 96 registered supporters from the state of North Carolina, including wives and women supporters who made up the second highest attendance out of the five, including Georgia, Virginia, South Carolina and Florida.

The theme for this session was: "MEN LIVING BY THE LAW LOVE" (Matthew, 22: 34-40). In order for us to "unwrap Lazarus" and get a 1000 men per month praying for our fellow man, we must live by the Law of Love.

The Bible discusses three kinds of in particular: God's love for, man's love for God, and Man's love for man.

The Regional Workshop certainly emphasized all three, but particularly lifted up Man's love for God and Man's love for man.

To love God this completely we must come apart from the daily press of life and spend time alone with

God, reading His word, meditating upon it, and praying to Him. We are to love God with the totality of our being and this cannot be done on the run. We must pause—quiet our heart- and listen for the "still small voice of God." If we will love God in our private watch, with all our heart, soul and mind, then we will be able to go into the market place and love Him there, also, with all of our strength.

The first and most important thing is love. Love is the organizing principle for all human life.

Under the supreme authority of the law of love we should strive to make our first thought of—discussion about—or encounter with another person be guided by this notion: By the command of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit I choose to love this person as an act of my will.

So to those pastors and churches that ask; what is the laymen to do. Clearly, love is what we are to do.

Reach Bro. Turner at [iturn60@aol.com](mailto:iturn60@aol.com)

## MINISTRY BRIEFS

### Lott Carey Women Mission Trip Planned

Lott Carey Women in Service Everywhere are planning a short-term missions assignment to Kenya to participate in a Women's Conference with Lott Carey Baptist Ministries of Kenya and Sudan. The assignment will be in April 8-16, 2013. The cost is \$3,600.00 per person.

The Baptist Informer  
salutes our troops:



### Remember Veteran's Day

November 11, 2012

### General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

603 South Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2338  
(919) 821-7466



#### TOP TEN CHURCHES IN OVERALL GIVING

2010-11			2011-12		
1	LEWIS CHAPEL, Fayetteville, John D. Fuller	\$49,875.00	1	LEWIS CHAPEL, Fayetteville, John D. Fuller	\$51,445.00
2	GREATER GALILEE, Charlotte, Robert McGowens	\$33,410.21	2	FIRST BAPTIST, Fayetteville, Cureton L. Johnson	\$25,717.20
3	OAK CITY, Raleigh, William T. Newkirk	\$21,740.00	3	GREATER GALILEE, Charlotte, Robert McGowens	\$24,725.28
4	UNITED METROPOLITAN, Winston, Prince Rivers	\$21,075.00	4	OAK CITY, Raleigh, William T. Newkirk	\$17,640.00
5	SAINT PAUL, Charlotte, Gregory K. Moss	\$18,671.50	5	UNITED METROPOLITAN, Winston, Prince Rivers	\$15,560.00
6	EBENEZER, Charlotte, Leonzo D. Lynch	\$17,770.00	6	FALLING RUN, Fayetteville, Leonard Faison	\$14,968.15
7	FIRST BAPTIST, Fayetteville, Cureton L. Johnson	\$15,503.00	7	EBENEZER, Charlotte, Leonzo D. Lynch	\$13,370.00
8	FALLING RUN, Fayetteville, Leonard Faison	\$14,261.05	8	MOUNT PEACE, Raleigh, J. Vincent Terry	\$12,475.00
9	FRIENDSHIP, Monroe, Larry W. Leake	\$13,195.08	9	FRIENDSHIP, Fayetteville, S. Lee Downing	\$12,280.00
10	PINE CHAPEL, Hollister, Robert G. Hedgepeth	\$12,540.04	10	PALMER GROVE, Kingstown, James L. Smith	\$10,650.00

#### TOP TEN CHURCHES IN STATE MISSIONS

2010-11			2011-12		
1	LEWIS CHAPEL, Fayetteville, John D. Fuller	\$30,650.00	1	LEWIS CHAPEL, Fayetteville, John D. Fuller	\$31,690.00
2	SAINT PAUL, Charlotte, Gregory K. Moss	\$17,281.50	2	EBENEZER, Charlotte, Leonzo D. Lynch	\$9,640.00
3	EBENEZER, Charlotte, Leonzo D. Lynch	\$15,590.00	3	SAINT PAUL, Charlotte, Gregory K. Moss	\$9,500.00
4	UNITED METROPOLITAN, Winston, Prince Rivers	\$11,390.00	4	UNITED METROPOLITAN, Winston, Prince Rivers	\$9,075.00
5	PINE CHAPEL, Hollister, Robert G. Hedgepeth	\$6,000.00	5	PALMER GROVE, Kingstown, James L. Smith	\$6,850.00
6	OAK RIDGE FIRST, Oak Ridge, James A. Webster	\$5,699.95	6	FIRST BAPTIST, Fayetteville, Cureton L. Johnson	\$6,067.20
7	FIRST BAPTIST, Fayetteville, Cureton L. Johnson	\$5,540.00	7	PINE CHAPEL, Hollister, Robert G. Hedgepeth	\$6,000.00
8	GREATER GALILEE, Charlotte, Robert McGowens	\$5,163.33	8	OAK CITY, Raleigh, William T. Newkirk	\$5,040.00
9	OAK CITY, Raleigh, William T. Newkirk	\$5,000.00	9	JOHNSTON PINEY GROVE, Clayton, Theodore Breeden	\$4,905.00
10	JOHNSTON PINEY GROVE, Clayton, Theodore Breeden	\$4,425.00	10	ROANOKE SALEM, Garysburg, Robert E. Sessoms	\$4,778.33

#### TOP TEN ASSOCIATIONS IN OVERALL GIVING

2010-11			2011-12		
1	UNION, Mark Rowden, Moderator	\$150,397.35	1	UNION, Mark Rowden, Moderator	\$152,680.00
2	WAKE, William T. Newkirk, Moderator	\$65,468.45	2	UNITED, Peter M. Wherry, Moderator	\$76,008.28
3	ROWAN, David Bracken, Moderator	\$63,079.56	3	NEUSE RIVER, Joseph L. Battle, Moderator	\$74,474.66
4	MOUNT PEACE, Peter M. Wherry, Moderator	\$62,756.96	4	WAKE, William T. Newkirk, Moderator	\$48,930.23
5	NEUSE RIVER, Joseph L. Battle, Moderator	\$61,882.00	5	ROWAN, David Bracken, Moderator	\$47,514.00
6	EBENEZER, James L. Smith, Moderator	\$58,859.85	6	EBENEZER, James L. Smith, Moderator	\$46,856.87
7	JOHNSTON DISTRICT, J. Vincent Terry, Moderator	\$42,674.61	7	JOHNSTON DISTRICT, J. Vincent Terry, Moderator	\$46,629.63
8	REEDY CREEK, Shelton Daniel, Moderator	\$36,585.49	8	MIDDLE DISTRICT, Harvey C. Robinson, Moderator	\$41,948.72
9	MIDDLE DISTRICT, Harvey C. Robinson, Moderator	\$33,064.28	9	REEDY CREEK, Shelton C. Daniel, Moderator	\$38,363.08
10	MECKLENBURG-GENERAL, Lincoln Lee, Moderator	\$31,929.00	10	WEST ROANOKE, William C. Clark, Moderator	\$28,607.85

# Leathers Named Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Press Reports

**R**ALEIGH, NC - Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, president of Shaw University, recently announced Evelyn Leathers as the University's new Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Leathers is the former Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Wiley College in Marshall, TX.

As vice president for Institutional Advancement, Leathers will provide executive-level operational management and supervision of alumni relations, annual giving, major gifts, corporate relations, foundation relations, public relations, stewardship and the University radio station. In addition, Leathers will advance the University's mission, strategic goals, priorities and objectives through substantial fundraising.

"We're excited to have Ms. Leathers join our executive team and provide the leadership we need to advance the University's fundraising goals," said Dr. Yancy. "Her knowledge and depth of experience in donor giving and relations will be a tremendous asset to the University. I am confident that Institutional Advancement will flourish under her direction."

Leathers brings more than 17 years of diverse higher education experience, including serving as a development officer and assistant dean. As the Director of Foundation Relations and Private Grants at Johnson C. Smith University, she helped to secure a \$5.7 million donation from the Duke Endowment, the largest gift in the university's history. She also served as a key member of the university's fundraising

## Shaw Student Selected to Perform With Celebration Choir

(continued from page 1)

ipate has been extended to singers from the "105 VOH" choirs who have exhibited outstanding musicianship, excellent preparation of the concert literature, leadership and who maintained a good rehearsal attendance.

Tyree represented Shaw University in the 3rd Annual HBCU Kennedy Center Concert at John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC on September 19, 2010 and in the "One Voice" 105 VOH musical gala as part of the 2011 Leadership Academy-Vocal and International Development (LAVID) in Nassau, Bahamas and "105 VOH" HBCU National Choir for the Grand Ole Opry House HBCU Inaugural performance in Nashville. Because of Tyree Smith's high ratings in his audition he has been invited to sing in the 5th Year Celebration Choir performance.

In recognition of his acceptance and preparation, he will have an opportunity to participate with the Congressional Black Caucus and will be featured on the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium with American Grammy, Dove and Stellar Award winning gospel singer Tramaine Hawkins and Guest Host Wintley Phipps.

team that successfully surpassed its \$75 million "Pathways to Success" campaign goal. Leathers was also responsible for increasing alumni giving and participation from 18 percent to 25 percent over a three to five year period.

Leathers has served on several boards, including the Lupus Foundation, the Marshall Convention & Visitor's Bureau and the Best Friends Foundation Parent Advisory board. She is also a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, has volunteered with several organizations including the Goodwill Industries of Central Carolinas and has served as co-chair of the Maya Angelou Women Who Lead committee luncheon.

Leathers received both her bachelor's degree in Po-

litical Science and her master's degree in Adult Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She also pursued doctoral studies in Higher Education Administration at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



Evelyn Leathers



## • • NEWS ACROSS THE STATE • •

### Age of puberty among boys dropping in U.S., study finds

Wire Reports

**B**oys in the United States appear to be entering puberty much earlier than in the past – a trend researchers caution may have important medical, psychosocial, public health and environmental implications, according to a new study.

The research, published online in the journal *Pediatrics*, was presented Oct. 20 at an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) conference and exhibition in New Orleans.

"Pubertal data are an important part of monitoring the health of our nation's children," said Marcia Herman-Giddens, Dr.P.H., lead investigator for the study and adjunct professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health.

"Our findings suggest we need to reevaluate anticipatory guidance provided to boys – the famous 'birds and bees' talk may need to happen earlier – and examine what contributing factors might be behind this phenomenon."

On average, boys now begin puberty at around ages

9 or 10, depending on race or ethnicity – a full six months to two years earlier than ages documented by data several decades ago. Researchers assessed pubertal onset through visual inspection of genitalia and pubic hair growth and physical measurement of boys' testes – tell-tale signs that sexual development has started. Unlike in prior studies, researchers included the latter measure – testicular enlargement – a key physical marker of puberty.

Overall, African-American boys were more likely to enter puberty earlier than white or Hispanic boys. The earliest stage of puberty was found to occur at 9.14, 10.14 and 10.4 years in African-American, non-Hispanic whites and Hispanic boys, respectively. Researchers say they don't know why these racial and ethnic differences exist.

"It may be largely genetic, as it is well known that different races have different timing in puberty, other factors being equal. But the variation also may be influenced by environmental factors," Herman-Giddens said. "One thing that concerns me about our overall findings is the expanding gap between the onset of physical development in boys and the maturity of the brain."





THE 40TH ANNUAL  
SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL  
ALEXANDER/PEGUES MINISTERS CONFERENCE  
MARCH 11 - 14, 2013

OPENING CONFERENCE PREACHER  
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CONFERENCE PREACHER  
Rev. Dr. Charles Booth

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Rev. Dr. John Kinney

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and College Students (must  
show valid student ID or  
proof of registration)



For more information, visit [www.shawu.edu/Suds](http://www.shawu.edu/Suds)



• • • *Family Mission Conference is a Success* • • •



(continued from page 1)

Patricia Lennon  
Dea. Thomas & Mary Alston  
Carolyn S. Taylor  
Alfreda B. Vann  
Patty Foster  
Sallie Fuller  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Jones  
Rev. & Mrs. Clarence J. LeMay & Family  
Rachel Mason  
Kamiliah LeMay

Vivian C. Samuels  
Annie Kearney  
Sherrell Harris  
Vivian L. Bullock  
Samone R. Vann  
Patricia Vann  
Christine Haberslom  
Annie M. Sanders  
Lenora LeMay  
Janie Harrison  
Sarah P. LeMay

Mrs. Genetta & Mr. Pete Williams & Family  
Mrs. Segrid & Dea. Clarence Davenport

The Family Mission Conference was hosted by the First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C. where the Pastor is Rev. Dr. Cureton L. Johnson and Mrs. Lena Johnson is our 4th Vice President. We were warmly received and treated with extraordinary hospitality, including an exquisite lunch. Our gratitude to the entire First Baptist Church family.

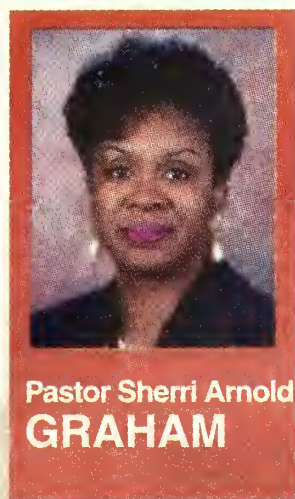
• • • *WBH&FMC Women Send Pillowcase Dresses to Haiti* • • •

A project initiated by the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention last year has taken North Carolina by storm. The Woman's Baptist State Convention adopted the Pillow Case Dress Project for Haiti last year and since that time, has collected close to 2000 dresses from more than 30 churches, unions and auxiliaries. The Pillow Case Dress Project was initiated following the report of continuing need to assist families in transition, living in the tent villages trying to care for their children. The call was for dresses for the little girls who delight in looking pretty in spite of their circumstances. Some of you included clothing for little boys in your project and for that we are grateful.

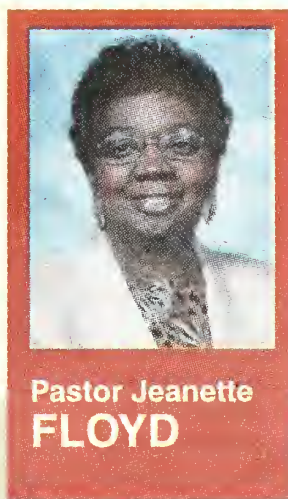
Under the leadership of Mrs. Ellender LeMay, Chair, the Mission in Action Committee met on October 8 and worked tirelessly to properly prepare your gifts for Haiti to be shipped. The Committee boxed, wrapped and prepared eighteen boxes of little dresses, shoes and little boys clothes for our children in the tent villages in Haiti. I am pleased to report the boxes were shipped out on Friday, October 12, to Caribbean American Shipping Company in Hollywood, Florida who will then ship them by boat to Haiti. I have spoken with the responsible persons in Florida and they have already received our boxes and will inform me when they are shipped to Haiti.

Thank you for your generous gifts, your hard work and your commitment missions.





Pastor Sherri Arnold  
**GRAHAM**



Pastor Jeanette  
**FLOYD**



Pastor LaTonya L.  
**AGARD**



Pastor Bajei B.  
**GARRETT**

*The Baptist Informer extends special gratitude to the women pastors who have shared their experiences with us during this series.*

# WOMEN IN THE PULPIT

(continued from page 1)

the Holy Spirit led you in how to speak to an audience. Also, any woman desiring to become a pastor of a church, please go to school so that you can very well divide the word of God. Then, once you become a pastor, set your own preaching style. It will come to you with the aid of the Holy Spirit."

However, many women in ministry still ask the question: Is faith, a seminary degree, and solid church service enough to penetrate the "glass ceiling" that permeates many churches and limits opportunities for women?

Some still decry the unfair treatment that comes to women seeking a pulpit in a Baptist church in North Carolina and those who're working in the church, but are unable to advance to higher calling.

• • •

Minister H. Moore, an associate minister in her early 60s who asked not to be identified, said the "glass-ceiling" of gender bias can interrupt and damage a women's career in ministry. For example, she said her church's pulpit search committee "ignored stacks of applications" from women several years ago.

While she felt rejected and discouraged from applying, she also felt powerless to change or even chal-

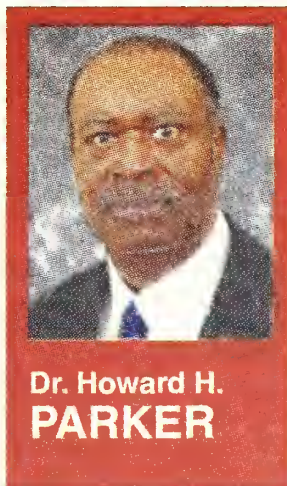
lenge the search committee's position at her traditional, Baptist church in Raleigh. "There are a lot of hurt women out there, but what can we do? Just keep working," Minister H. Moore said, adding that she's now doing more community-based ministry instead of just focusing on the church.

However, while many Baptist churches still reject women as pastors, the tide is beginning to turn as congregations seek pastoral leadership to do 21st Century ministry.

The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina [GBSC], based in Raleigh, NC, is an umbrella organization that covers more than 1,500 churches. The organization does not have an official position on women in leadership roles, but it has women serving in a plethora of positions, including ministers, moderators, deacons - and pastorships, including ones at historic Bazzel Creek Baptist Church with the Rev. LaTonya Agard and Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. with the Rev. Sherri Arnold Graham.

• • •

"I have always felt that if God could call me to proclaim His word, a sinner saved by grace, then He can call whomever He chooses to preach, man or woman. I cannot tell God whom He should call or not to preach," according to GBSC President, the Reverend Dr. Howard H. Parker.



Dr. Howard H.  
**PARKER**

(continued on page 10)

## Lott Carey Men-on-Mission deploys to Haiti

As we approach a season of national Thanksgiving, we are thankful for the opportunities that the Lott Carey network has to touch lives with the transforming love of Christ. We have several missionary deployments about to take place for which we desire your prayers.

We begin deploying our Men-on-Mission in Haiti in November. Team 1 deploys 3 - 10 November. Team 2 deploys on 10 - 17 November. Team 3 deploys 1 - 8 December. These men will be constructing housing on a project that will ultimately have 56 housing units in 28 duplexes. We will deploy 64 men in these teams, and we have additional men who have given us "I-O-U" for service in the first quarter of 2013. Contact Kathi Reid at [kreid@lottcarey.org](mailto:kreid@lottcarey.org) for service to Haiti.

With the coming of hurricane Sandy, our 30 newly trained members of our disaster assistance network have been placed on STANDBY in the New York City-Metro Area by the American Red Cross.

As we prepare to give thanks for our blessings, we continue to be thankful for the opportunity to be blessings. Please remember to pray for these teams and continue to share your gifts to enable our global partners to serve.



Rev. Dr. David E.  
**GOATLEY**

### BAPTIST INFORMER

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# WOMEN IN THE PULPIT

(continued from page 9)

The debate over theological and gender issues often rises to the forefront long before aspiring pastors leave the seminary classroom. For example, at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, the largest on the East Coast, female students make up about a quarter of its enrollment, even though the school rejects the practice of women serving as senior pastors or elders.

Dr. Danny Akin, President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said that female students have at times questioned the school's position and he does not shy away from such discussions in his preaching classes.

"In First Timothy 2, it is clear that men are given the responsibility of leadership with respect to the church. A woman who believes that she is called to be a pastor is welcome to come, but we believe that God calls men to that leadership position."

While Dr. Akin does not believe that Bible Scripture supports having women as senior pastors or elders, he said that his views are not as "restrictive" as many others in the Southern Baptist denomination, which is now headed by the Reverend Fred Luter, the first African American to hold that position. Dr. Akin said he might even support a woman as a presidential candidate, but not as a senior pastor, since it is in a different area.

"I think a woman can do almost anything except



**Dr. Danny AKIN**

fill the role of the elder or senior pastor," he said. "[Women] know my love and respect for them, but I am bound by scripture, not tradition."

The debate on women in pulpits doesn't faze LaKeeyna "Kiki" Cooper, a second year student at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C. She grew up Baptist and plans to remain in the denomination and hopes seminary training will embellish her mission-based work alongside her husband, the Reverend Kenneth Cooper in Raleigh, N.C., when she completes her Master of Divinity degree in 2014.

"I personally believe that God has called female pastors, but unfortunately, we are still living in a patriarchal society," she said. "Some still believe that women should not be pastors," said Cooper, a New Jersey native and mother of a school-aged daughter. "I plan to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ while continuing to do mission work in international countries that address the needs of women and children."

At Duke, the New Jersey native said that the percentage of women versus men in her seminary classes is "almost equal" and responses from teachers, friends and others have been positive. Some offer to add her studies to their prayer lists. None have discouraged her about taking on any role, including a pastor's job should it become available, but she's more interested in academia than the church pulpit.

Is the non-traditional path a way to break through "the pulpit's glass ceiling" that exists in some Baptist churches?



**LaKeeyna "Kiki" COOPER**

The Reverend Sandra Thomas, an ordained minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in North Carolina, said that a non-traditional route to a pulpit is one of the many options available to women - and men - who want to serve God. The retired Air Force Chaplain now pastors Mars Hill PCUSA in Hope Mills, N.C.

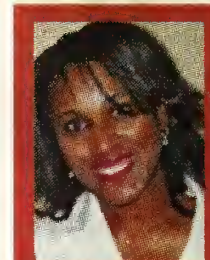
During her 22-years in military service, she said there were "a few times early in my ministry that I had to defend gender in ministry and pastoring, but by and large, I have been supported by women and men in my calling."

Though she grew up in a denomination that has been more open to women pastors, her experience teaches that churches will have to evolve, just as their congregations grow older and a new generation of people take over. Younger people, she said, may push gender issues aside and focus more on the 21st Century rooted in technology.

"There are more reasons than [gender] discrimination why a church may not call a woman pastor," she said. "Political in-fighting and personality issues within the church may keep a call from happening. The experience or education level of the woman may not be acceptable. For example, some churches may not call anyone without a doctorate in ministry."

But, women in Baptist and other denomination must keep an open mind, she said. If women continue to knock on the church doors, they will eventually open wider than many people ever imagined.

"Women will continue to serve," she said. "If God needs them in a pulpit, that's where they'll be. There's no question about it."



**Ophelia JOHNSON**  
Baptist Informer

## "When It Was Time" Galatians 4: 4,5

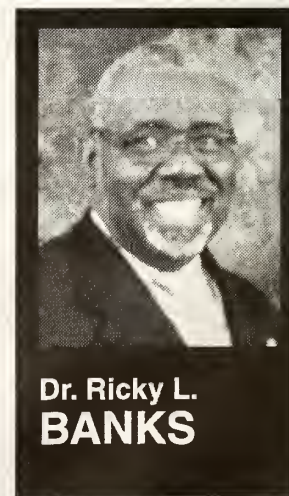
No one in the New Testament world was better equipped than was Paul to recognize the reality and the relief of the event of the birth of Christ. Paul had been the supreme advocate of a legalism that destroyed the intention and the spirit of the law of Moses by idolizing it as an end in itself. Paul had become, indeed, public enemy number one of the Church, claiming as his authority the revelation given by the Father whose idea the Church also was.

Only God would have had the imagination and the audacity to choose such a fellow to be the great emissary of that same Church and to the Gentile peoples at that! But God did choose Paul; and when the great and mistaken burden under which Paul had been struggling and falling was lifted, he knew the meaning of the fullness of time. We almost can see him doing flips in Damascus when the great wave of the meaning of what had happened to him broke over him there. Nobody has been relieved of more than was Saul of Tarsus. The experience changed him into Paul an apostle.

He wrote to the Galatians about this relief because he longed for them also to have it. The new reached him, that they had been thrown into an uproar by the

presence among them of some who were discrediting his teaching. Paul wrote to the Galatians; and attempting to make the reason plain to them, he gave them and us a wonderful confession of why Christ came when he did.

Paul wrote in Galatians chapters 3 and 4 that the law had been and remained a gift of God too. But it was a means to the end of God's purpose, not an end in itself, and certainly not an agent of salvation. The law was given as a guide to the life in covenant and as a map for the way of faith.



**Dr. Ricky L. BANKS**

Reach Dr. Banks at [pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com).

# Health Awareness Month: Focusing on Diabetes

**W**hat is Diabetes?

Diabetes is a disease that affects everyone in one way or another, whether directly or indirectly. Diabetes, describes a group of metabolic diseases in which the person has high blood glucose (blood sugar), either because insulin production is inadequate, or because the body's cells do not respond properly to insulin, or both. Generally, diabetes is has three different classifications.

Type 1 diabetes occurs when the body does not any produce insulin. Some people may refer to this type as insulin-dependent diabetes, juvenile diabetes, or early-onset diabetes. People usually develop type 1 diabetes

before their 40th year, often in early adulthood or teenage years and is not as common as type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body does not produce enough insulin for proper function, or the cells in the body do not react to insulin

Gestational diabetes occurs in females during pregnancy. Some women have very high levels of glucose in their blood, and their bodies are unable to produce enough insulin to transport all of the glucose into their cells, resulting in progressively rising levels of glucose.

According to the American Diabetes Association, African Americans are disproportionately more affected by diabetes than any other ethnic group.

3.7 million or 14.7 percent of all African Americans aged 20 years or older have diabetes.

African Americans are 1.8 times more likely to have diabetes as non Hispanic whites.

25 percent of African Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 have diabetes.

1 in 4 African American women over 55 years of age has diabetes.

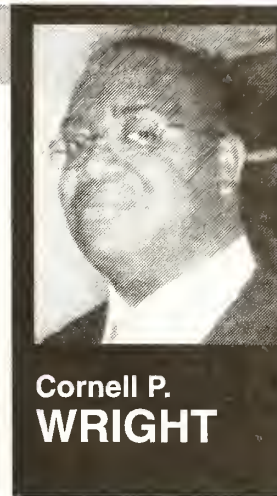
#### Risk Factors

People with blood glucose levels that are higher than normal but not yet in the diabetic range have "prediabetes." If you have prediabetes, you have a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes and also have a higher risk of heart disease. Prediabetes does not always progress to diabetes. Studies suggest that weight loss and increased physical activity among people with prediabetes prevent or delay diabetes and may return blood glucose levels to normal. Risk factors for diabetes include:

Being overweight or obese.

BAPTIST INFORMER

## HEALTH SPOT-LIGHT



**Cornell P. WRIGHT**

Having a parent, brother, or sister with diabetes. Being African American, American Indian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, or Hispanic American/Latino heritage.

Having a prior history of gestational diabetes or birth of at least one baby weighing more than 9 pounds.

Having high blood pressure measuring 140/90 or higher.

Having abnormal cholesterol with HDL ("good") cholesterol is 35 or lower, or triglyceride level is 250 or higher.

Being physically inactive—exercising fewer than three times a week.

#### Reducing Risk

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), research studies have found that moderate weight loss and exercise can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes among adults at high-risk of diabetes.

For more information about American Diabetes Month, please the American Diabetes Association website: [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) or call the NC offices in Charlotte (704) 373-9111 and Raleigh (919) 743-5400.

*Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing, a nonprofit affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For information visit the website at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-972-6374.*

**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights.**  
— James 1:17

#### PASTORAL VACANCY

#### NORTH END MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27801

North End Missionary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a Pastor. All interested persons should send resume along with references to the address listed below.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

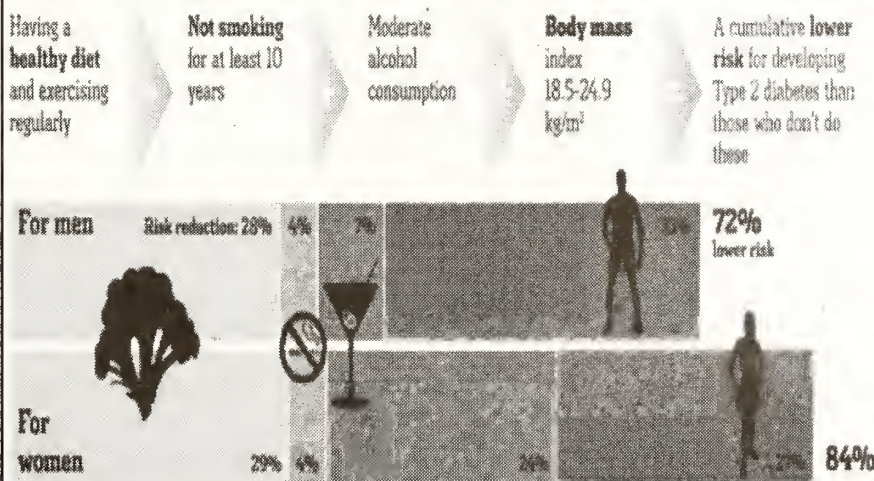
- Must be licensed and ordained Baptist Minister
- Born again Christian as evidenced by ones character and dedication
- Ability to effectively preach and teach God's Word (Holy Bible)
- Willing to follow Baptist Doctrine, Policies and Practices
- Public relations and administrative skills
- Ability and desire to work with all age groups and auxiliaries of the Church
- Expected to preach, counsel, visit the sick
- Bachelor's degree
- Must submit to criminal background and credit check.

Please send resume and references to:

**Pulpit Committee  
NEMBC  
Post Office Box 6358  
Rocky Mount, NC 27802**

#### Healthy Habits

Each of these factors reduces a person's chances of developing Type 2 diabetes. A National Institutes of Health analysis of studies found combining the following lifestyle factors can substantially cut the risk that an adult will get the deadly disease.



**Pastoral Vacancy at  
First Baptist Church  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

The First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill, NC, located at 106 North Roberson Street in Chapel Hill, is seeking a full-time pastor with the following educational experiences, pastoral experiences, and leadership skills and qualifications:

**Education and Experiences:**

- Masters of Divinity from an Accredited Seminary or Bible College
- A minimum of 3 years of successful experience as a pastor
- Strong knowledge and understanding of Baptist polity and governance
- Licensed and ordained in the Missionary Baptist Church
- Strong biblical/theological knowledge in preaching, teaching, and exhorting God's Word through Bible-based sermons, Bible Study, and ongoing Christian Educational experiences for members
- Understanding and use of technology (proficient in the use of computer literacy skills, knowledge and use of biblical and religious software) as a biblical and church management tool and resource

**Leadership Qualities and Skills:**

- Strong administrative and managerial skills to work with and facilitate the leadership and spiritual growth of church leaders and staff
- Communication skills that can generate positive and motivating interactions between and among individuals of all age groups of cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- Leadership skills that are transformational in nature (i.e., visionary, democratic, equipping and empowering of the church membership)
- Ability to counsel and relate well with church members
- Willingness to actively affiliate with local ministerial alliances, New Hope Missionary Baptist Association, General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and National Baptist Associations/Conventions
- Willingness to visit and pray with members who are sick and shut-in, hospitalized, in crisis, and in need of counseling and spiritual support
- Some knowledge of and experience with technology and electronic biblical resources
- Ability to interact with community, surrounding communities, organizations, universities, and other groups.

Submit resume, copies of certificates of license and ordination, and a copy of Master's Degree from seminary, along with three letters of recommendations (one from the church, one from community, and one from Missionary Baptist Association/Union) to:

**First Baptist Church  
Attn: Pastoral Search Committee  
Post Office Box 2636  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2636**

You may also submit your information electronically to:

**[CHANGE2013ISGOINGTOCOME@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CHANGE2013ISGOINGTOCOME@GMAIL.COM)**

The deadline for all information is November 30, 2012.

Candidates will be required to submit to background and credit checks.

# Reclaim Your Gift! Reclaim Your Gift!

Like Moses, Miriam and many others who have walked by faith in Christ Jesus, you are gifted with creativity. Moments after receiving the Ten Commandments, Moses hiked up Mount Sinai and received God's instructions to build the tabernacle. The Lord revealed the plan for constructing the tabernacle.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts — to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you." Exodus 31:1-6

There is a powerful relationship between ministry and the gift of creativity. When the Lord created the world, God did a magnificent work. Think about it. The auburn skies, the majestic mountains, the melodious sounds of nature reflect the spectacular display of our wondrous Creator. The Lord shares this gift of creativity with us. According to the book of Genesis, God appointed man and woman to be the stewards of the garden and one of our first creative acts was to name all of the animals. I am not suggesting that Adam and Eve were following the genus/species classification of contemporary biology. But, whatever they did required thinking, planning and decision-making which are elements of the process of creating. Like a pair of newly weds fashioning their first home, Adam and Eve worked together

to build a place for everyone to enjoy.

From the beginning and throughout the generations to follow, people have been equipped with creativity to fulfill God's plan in the world. At some point in our lives, we may have regarded our crayola crayons, play-dough and etch-a-sketch as mere child's play. But, it is time to reclaim our creativity! Exodus 31:1-6 provides two reasons using this neglected gift.

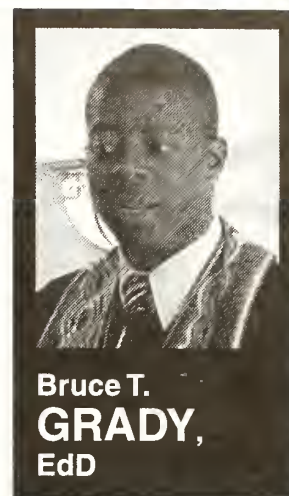
First, God decides who will receive these gifts. In verses 1 and 2 the text states, "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'See I have chosen Bezalel, son of Uri, son of Hur of the tribe of Judah.'" Bezalel was chosen, commissioned to lead in the building of the tabernacle and God gave him special abilities to perform this task. In other words, the Lord decides who gets gifts and the measure of these gifts. In this respect, every person is uniquely equipped for service. Hebrews 2:4 echoes this same understanding that the Holy Spirit distributes gifts as the Holy Spirit wills. You are uniquely blessed. No one can do what you do quite like you. Hence, you should not waste time focusing on who has more or less gifts than you. Simply recognize that your gift comes from God (James 1:17) and praise the Lord for whatever you have been given.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit is the source of knowledge, ability and skills. Time and time again, God's Spirit has demonstrated the power of creativity. Like a majestic Michael Angelo, God kneeled over a lump of clay, molded it into an earthen creature in God's image (Genesis 2:7). Can't you see the Lord's hands working, fashioning the clay with stunning details? Then, with a finishing touch, the Lord exhales the

breath of life (ruah) into this earthen sculpture and humanity became a living soul. It was simply brilliant! Once again in Genesis, the Holy Spirit displayed creativity as it moved upon the chaos of the waters and created lakes, rivers, seas and oceans giving marine life. Our ancestors, the African slaves, exercised their gift while combating the evil forces of racism. Amidst the most dehumanizing conditions, they made melodies, Negro Spirituals, that cultivated agape love, Christian community and hope.

In this same Spirit, Shaw University Divinity School and its supporting churches commit to nurturing our communities' gift of creativity through theological education. Certainly, everyone does not have the same measure of gifting as the Israeli master craftsman Bezalel, Olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas or South African activist Bishop Desmond Tutu. But, when we offer our lives, gifts and talents to the Lord, God infuses them with power to perform in ways that we could never imagine!

*Bruce T. Grady, EdD, is Dean and Associate Professor of Religious Education at Shaw University Divinity School. Dr. Grady is a regular columnist.*



**Bruce T. GRADY, EdD**

# Hunger and the Holidays: It's Time We Do More

Every year around this time, we prepare to give thanks for our many blessings. From food, clothing, and shelter to employment, loving families, and friends, our hearts are filled with joy as we reflect on how good God has been in our lives. However, I believe God is also calling on us to reflect on those who are not as fortunate during this time, and throughout the year.



There are millions of people around the world—some living right in our backyards—who suffer from hunger. Recently released data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reveals that one in six Americans—or nearly 15 percent of U.S. households—often do not know where their next meal will come from.

Similarly, recent U.S. Census Bureau figures show that 15 percent of Americans—including one in five children—lived in poverty in 2011. These figures are unconscionably high, especially in the world's wealthiest nation.

Within the African-American community, poverty and food insecurity rates were much higher than aver-

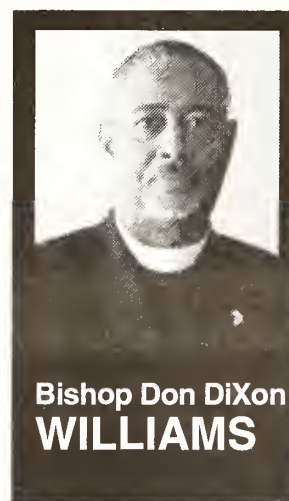
age. While 20.6 percent of all households with children struggled to put food on the table, 29.2 percent of African-American households with children were food insecure. Nearly 28 percent of African-Americans were living in poverty in 2011. Worse, 42.7 percent of African-American children under the age of five live below the poverty line.

If we are serious about ending hunger, we must get government to do its part. Many of us help people in need by contributing to food pantries and charities. This is crucial, but we cannot "food-bank" our way out of hunger. All the food that churches and charities collect combined equals about 5 percent of what is provided to hungry and poor people through federal nutrition programs.

These same programs face drastic budget cuts as Congress continues work to reduce our nation's deficit. The truth is, these programs are designed to expand in times of heightened need, and now is not the time to cut them back. Cutting programs that have helped keep millions of Americans from going hungry would not significantly affect the budget deficit, but the toll on families living in poverty would be huge.

As Christians, we are compelled by our faith to care for the vulnerable. However, in addition to our charity work and missions, Proverbs 31:8-9 tells us, "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." On Thanksgiving Day, and every day, the challenge and opportunity ahead of us is to not only feed the hungry, but to address the systems that keep people in

# Bread for Life



**Bishop Don Dixon WILLIAMS**

poverty. I urge people of faith to take our concern for hungry people a step further by changing the politics of hunger. We must use our voices and pens to encourage lawmakers to end hunger.

*Bishop Don Dixon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World, and sits on the board of bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, Md.*

**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.

# Don't delay, don't procrastinate . . . just don't

**W**e've all heard the phrase, "Procrastination on your part should not constitute an emergency on mine." So what does the Bible say about procrastination?

In the King James Version of Proverbs 13:4 we get, "The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing;



**Linda Brown DOUGLAS**

but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich." Or the New Living Translation, "Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper."

Also, for Proverbs 20:4 the New Living Translation simply says, "Those too lazy to plow in the right season will have no food at the harvest."

What I have finally figured out after 52 years of living is that often, those too lazy to plow in the right season, simply

munch on someone else's food at harvest.

Here's an example of one day this week. I called a fellow committee member to ask why she hadn't sent a required meeting notice she asked me to write a week earlier. She said she would get to it, and by the way, another committee had several important changes on the document I sent them. She was referring to the document I first asked the group to read five months before that. Now that the report was about to receive its final approval, the committee decided to read it for

the first time, and make changes. I don't doubt that the changes were important, but I bet they were just as important five months earlier.

I understand emergencies. And, of course, we all forget to do things sometimes. But some of us are just plain procrastinators. Now, I don't claim to have overcome this disease myself. Part of the reason I have such a problem with other dawdlers is because their procrastination gets in the way of my last-minute work. But as we approach the holidays and constant procrastination, I'm willing to work on my issue and I hope others will join me.

Here are a few tips for people who feel the need to put off tasks, all the time.

**Make lists** – It seems simple, but it works, because lists keep tasks prioritized

**Create a timeline** – figure out the date a project is



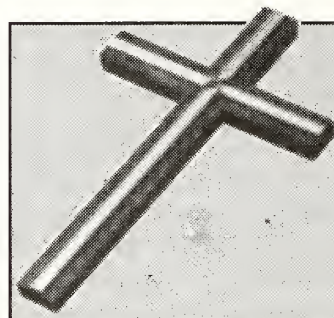
due and work backwards with specific deadlines

**Begin with one small project** – Beginning this way provides that first feeling of accomplishment; being able to check off something from the list

**Include a friend** – Of course, the friend should be someone who inspires you to move forward as opposed to someone who distracts you. Also, another person can act as an independent source for ideas and opinions

**Stop thinking and start doing** – When I was a newspaper reporter, a writing coach once said that writer's block comes from trying to reach perfection. Just do it, and perfect it when you're done.

*Linda Brown Douglas, Director of Community Relations at UNC-CH, is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach her at Linda\_Douglas@unc.edu.*



**Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

— Acts 2:2

## Pastoral Vacancy

**First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Incorporated  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28206**

First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Incorporated is seeking a pastor. We are currently accepting resumes.

Skills and Qualifications desired:

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- Must have the ability to teach and fellowship with all ages in the congregation.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in members in homes, hospitals and nursing homes.
- Must have the ability to handle conflict effectively.
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational, leadership and financial management skills.
- Willingness to have criminal, character and credit background check.

Please include: resume, copy of pastoral license and ordination papers.

Please forward all correspondence to:  
Attn: Deacon Joe Mason-Chairman Pastoral Search  
Committee PO Box 790202  
Charlotte, NC 28206

## Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Is seeking applications for pastoral vacancy

Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Must be an experienced, licensed and ordained missionary Baptist minister, living according 1st timothy 3; 1-7 and Titus 1:6-9
- Must be able to develop and share God's vision for the future growth and development for the church
- Must possess the ability to work with all age groups, with particular emphasis in youth development, and with all auxiliaries of the church
- Must possess effective oral and written communication skills
- Must be community oriented
- Must possess strong and proven administrative experience, with a broad knowledge of the Baptist doctrines, church policies and practices
- Must be able to administer communion, perform baptisms, weddings and funerals
- Must be willing to work with the New Bern Eastern Missionary Baptist association
- Education: possess a high school diploma (or equivalent) preferring a degree or courses in seminary training, and willing to do further study

**Interested applicants should provide the following:**

- A resume of relevant experience
- A copy of certificate of license and ordination document
- One business and two personal references (no family members)

All interested applicants should send resume, and copies of certificates to:  
**(All applications must be received on or before January 7, 2013 @ 6: pm)**

Attn: Deacon Joe W. Ollison, BD. Secretary  
Mt. Olive missionary Baptist church  
246 Park Avenue.  
Mesic, N.C. 28515

# Apex School of Theology



1701 T.W. Alexander Drive  
Durham, North Carolina 27703  
919 572-1625

Dr. Joseph E. Perkins, President

*Triumphal Entry Celebration*

The Reverend Dr. Elliot Cuff, Honorary Co-Chair

Dear Friend of Apex:

President Perkins, Chairman Daye, Dean Cuff, and our entire Apex family would like to invite you to share in the Triumphal Entry Celebration on Saturday, November 17, 2012. This is a signal day in the life of the Apex family. We begin with a Grand Processional at 10 am that starts at our current location of 2945 Miami Boulevard and goes to our new state of the art campus on Alexander Drive. After our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, there will be a wonderful service of celebration at 11 am. Afterwards, there will be a reception for each of our guests and supporters. Please plan to be with us.

As we celebrate this season, we would like for you to consider supporting us by purchasing a page in our digital souvenir journal. The tax deductible cost per page is \$100. The journal will play during the event and commemorative disks will be made available to purchasers. Please email your pages to Dr. Clarence Burke at [cburke@apexsot.edu](mailto:cburke@apexsot.edu) and send your checks payable to Apex School of Theology, 2945 Miami Boulevard - Suite 114, Durham, NC 27703. Please have them into us by October 29, 2012.

We would also like to provide an additional opportunity for you to be a financial supporter of Apex through our Friends of Apex Giver. (FOAG) Persons who give at least \$200 by the October 29, 2012 deadline and will pledge at least \$200 for a total of three years will be included in our FOAG listing. Please consider this and other levels of giving as we provide the best in Christian learning.

Thank you for your consideration and support as we seek to educate Christian leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Yours in Faith and Learning

*Clarence Burke*

Dr. Clarence Burke, Co-Chair

*Elliot Cuff*

Dr. Elliot Cuff, Honorary Chair

*Sherman R. Tribble*

Dr. Sherman R. Tribble, Co-Chair



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and  
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November 11th - and every day. Thank you for serving  
America with honor, courage and commitment.



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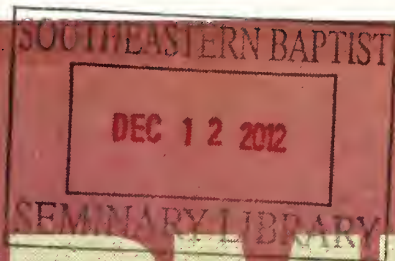




Volume 135, No. 11

# BAPTIST INFORMER

Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.



December 2012



Dr. Howard W. Parker presides over the 145th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of NC in Durham on October 29-31. (More photos from the event on page 8.) Photos by Ophelia Johnson

## Annual Session draws thousands of Baptists to Durham

Staff Reports

The 145th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., under the direction of President Howard W. Parker, attracted a record crowd to the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham on October 29-31.

Headliners included nationally-renowned pastors, clergy and political figures, including the Dr. Benjamin Snoddy, President of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; Dr. Geoffrey V. Guns, Pastor of Second Calvary Baptist Church in Norfolk, Rep. Elijah Cummings with the United States House of Representatives in Maryland.

On Monday, the presenters and workshop leaders included Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, Dr. James Harris, Mr. Curtis Knapp, Attorney Ted Edwards, Revs. Charles and Clyde Walton; Mr. Curtis Knapp; Rev. William Key, Dr. Cornelius Battle and Dr. Kenneth R. Hammond.

Tuesday's lineup featured Rev. Stacy E. Frazier, Dr. James Ashmore, Dr. Dorwin L. Howard, Sr.; Dr. LaMont J. Johnson, Sr.; Rev. Sherri Arnold Graham; Dr. William C. Turner, Jr., Dr. Annie Tinsley, Dr. Johnny R. Freeman and Dr. Herbert L. Dickerson.

On Wednesday, presenters included Rev. John W. Brewster, Dr. William Barber, II, Rev. Quientrell Burrell and Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., President of the GBSC-NC, who gave his Annual Address and recognized Top Contributors among churches in North Carolina. The GBSC-NC is an umbrella organization with about 1,500 churches across the state.

(See more on page 8.)



From the desk of the Vice President-at-Large

### Let's Make Room for the Work of Ministry and Missions

Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.

Peace to you all, and love with faith, from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus the Christ. Along with President Parker, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Haywood T. Gray, the Vice Presidential Team, other officers of the parent body and auxiliaries, let us pledge our full support to kingdom building through our historic convention.

This is the season when the world celebrates Christmas and the New Year in swift succession. Special attention is given to performing acts of compassion and embracing the angelic praise of "peace on earth among those whom God favors" (Luke 2:14, NRSV). Wouldn't it be nice if the hearts and minds of humankind were mobilized and energized to possess this mindset throughout the year?!

The world now stands in between the time when the Lord came into the world and the time when He

will come again. The Lord's appearing here on that night in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago provided a look at a mind-set that often plagues our world — a mind-set of "no room." The Savior of the world was born in an area usually set aside for the animals. There was "no room" for his family in that crowded town-filled with people who had complied with Caesar Augustus' decree that all inhabitants of Rome's

(continued on page 3)



#### Oops! Have you missed your Baptist Informer?

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See the form on page 11 inside the newspaper.

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Youth Evangelism Conference and 2012 Prayer Rally

# Shaw University Divinity School



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## Let's Make Room for the Work of Ministry and Missions

(continued from page 1)

empire be registered.

This "no room" policy continued some time later when King Herod received word the Messiah had been born in Bethlehem. Herod sent his soldiers to kill all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under.

Herod had a "no room" policy — he would not tolerate any sharing of his throne.

Jesus often found Himself at odds with the political and religious leaders because of His passion for God and compassion for people. He placed human needs above tradition. He crossed lines and removed barriers that alienated people because of their race, sex, status, and religion. He advocated the inclusion of all persons. As a result, Jesus was targeted for crucifixion because the political and religious leaders had a "no room" policy — they would not tolerate any one defying their custom whose chief aim was to put and keep people "in their place."

Our world has a history of having a "no room" mind-set. Racism and sexism are twin cousins of evil,

which seek to oppress others simply because of their skin color or gender. Whole segments of our population are often abandoned and isolated based upon their race, gender, economic status, creed, and/or religious and political beliefs. When Jesus comes again, will the "no room" policy still be in effect? Will this policy that faced Jesus when He was born as a child face Him as He returns as King?

Many have not made room for others because they have not made room for Jesus the Christ in their life. This season challenges us to lift the veil and tear down the walls that keep a "no room" mind-set in place.

We must make room for the least, the lost, the lonely, the left out, the kept out, the locked out, and the knocked out.

We must make room for the frail, the fragile, and the forgotten.

We must make room for the distressed, the depressed, and the oppressed.

We must make room for the hapless, the helpless, the hopeless, and the homeless.

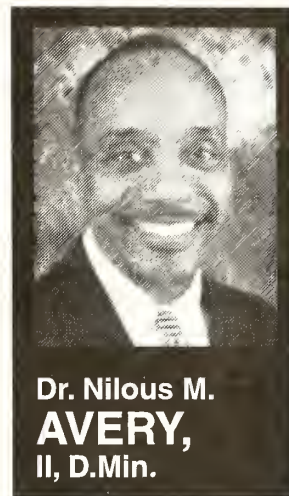
If we do not strive to make room for those who are God's beautiful creatures, should we be

surprised if God meets us at the gates of the Eternal City and declares: "There is no room for you?!"

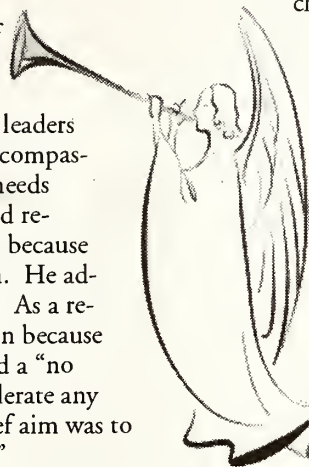
Beloved, let us make room throughout the year to support the goals and objectives of our General Baptist State Convention. Thank you to all who supported the 145th Annual Session in October with your presence, prayers, and generous gifts for State Missions, Other Objectives, and Kingdom Building. This is just the beginning of our efforts to make room for the work of ministry and missions through your generous and continual support.

God's grace and peace be with you all for a joyous Christmas and a fruitful, fulfilling, uplifting New Year. "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all" (2 Thessalonians 3:18, NLT).

Dr. Avery may be reached at: [averyevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyevkin@aol.com).



Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.

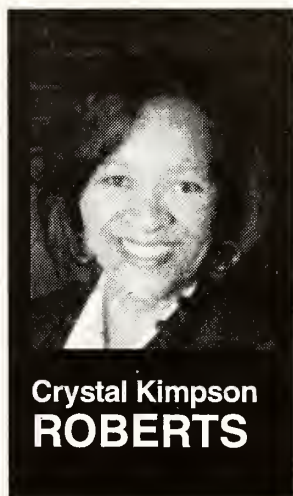


We are spiritual beings having a human experience ...

## "There's a beauty queen inside all of us."

By Crystal Kimpson Roberts  
Guest Column

The cosmetology business is a billion dollar industry with a successful track record of promoting the concept of beauty nearly to a fault, such that it has convinced its consumers that hair and make-up are non-negotiables in this world. I can remember as a young, teenage girl overhearing a fellow church member tell my mother that I needed to wear make-up. And years later, a woman approached me after a speaking presentation and told me I needed to attend to my eyebrows. (Turns out she was a representative for a well-known cosmetics



Crystal Kimpson ROBERTS

company. Little did she know that I decided immediately that I would let my eyebrows grow wooly before I would buy from her, given her approach.) But enough about me. My life and travels have placed me on a blessed path that I have been privileged to share with people who value authenticity. Sandra Dubose Gibson is one of those people.

Sandra is an alopecia survivor who is fulfilling her life's purpose. Known as the "Bald Beauty Queen of Self-Esteem," Sandra lost all of her hair from head to toe at the age of 25. Like most 20-something woman — and now much younger girls — she and millions

of others considered her hair her crowning glory. To compound the life-changing issues she faced with her auto-immune disease, she was wrangling with childhood experiences that shaped her attitude about herself and others around her. She struggled considerably with self-esteem.

Fast-forward through years of that mental tug-of-war, and you have today's Sandra, Mrs. Black North Carolina 2011: a songbird who not only croons a message of hope, redemption, and strength, but speaks and writes with just as much conviction. Moving through the process of her auto-immune deficiency, she can cite denial, delusion, anger, and fear as the emotions that could have crippled her. She used those feelings to render the testimony that is her life's work today. Her epiphany was to decide whether she was going to run and hide for the rest of her life or fight to regain the power she knew God had gifted her from birth. Her story is one that pays tribute to the transformative power of personal growth and living your purpose: she has written a book, "My Crown and Glory: It's Not About the Hair"; created an Alopecia Awareness group; produced a CD; served as a keynote speaker for corporations; and, participated in pageants that support her philosophy of life. Most recently, she has written essays that have been featured on Essence.com, in Inspire Me Today, and the Journal of Dermatology magazines.

"I believe that we are spiritual beings having a human experience. We have to tap into that spirit within because that's the core of our strength, of our identity as spiritual beings...recognizing that we have to surrender to that higher power in whichever way that we do it in order to find that inner strength and inner peace that we are all looking for," she said during a recent television interview.



Sandra Dubose Gibson

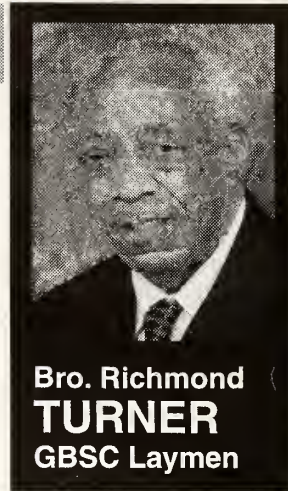
She's now moving into life coaching to expand upon her walk in her purpose.

"I'm the liberation life coach," she said. "There's a beauty queen inside all of us."

Remember the cartoon scenes where a character is imprisoned and the next thing you know you're looking at bars that have been pried open, letting you know that the character has escaped from bondage? That's Sandra Dubose.

You can find snippets of Sandra's liberating performances and presentations by visiting her website at [www.sandradubose.com](http://www.sandradubose.com).

Contact Crystal Kimpson Roberts at [knowyour-carenc@gmail.com](mailto:knowyour-carenc@gmail.com).



Bro. Richmond  
**TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

# Let's Awaken the Sleeping Giant: 'Praying to add 1000 Men A Month'

**H**ow fast time moves. By the time you view this article, you will have celebrated Thanksgiving and now preparing for the Christmas Holiday, and starting to think of the New Year.

We recently participated in and witness a historical election. During the last few weeks before the voting day, it was interesting to watch the candidates frantically racing from one swing state to another, in most cases, in the same day and listen to all the speeches they had to give to get their message across. When we glance back on the early Christian movement, notice how the Lord had them frantically moving from Jerusalem to the utmost part of the earth, carrying the message of the New Gospel. (ACTS 1:8)

The challenge before us, today, is that we have to wake-up the "sleeping giants in our churches" - "The Black Men" - by un-wrapping Lazarus. (John 11:44) To meet this challenge, we must become a Great Commission Christian.

During the political process, rousing slogans and inspiring speeches ignited millions to respond by par-

ticipating in the voting process.

The single most inspiring speech in human history involves the final earthly words of Jesus. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, and surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matt. 28: 19-20)

It's all there. Authority, Challenge, Mission, Adventure. Power. Direction. Purpose. Comfort. Eternal Security. It is our task. It is our mission. It is His Command for us to share the gospel with the whole world. The Great Commission sets the perimeters of our service to Him. Yes, we have others jobs, but our chief work is to fulfill the Great Commission in our personal life, our home, our neighborhood. Our work place and in the world at large.

The concept of the Great Commission is broad. At times we define it so broadly-that we lose sight of in-

dividuals souls. We overlook the "world of one" next door or in the room across the hall. Other times we define the Great Commission so evangelistically that we walk past broken, hurting people who desperately need to be encouraged.

The first step in moving men to act is to call on converted men to pray that God will lead more men to become Great Commission Christian.

By the end of our term of service in 2014; we pray for a 1000 men/month in N C. to follow God's instructions according to 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Please contact me @ 336-686-2028 or at [iturn60@aol.com](mailto:iturn60@aol.com); to be a part of this great movement. One critical lesson learned from this last election is that the world is in darkness and it's going to take Black men of God to lift up Jesus to bring us to the marvelous light.

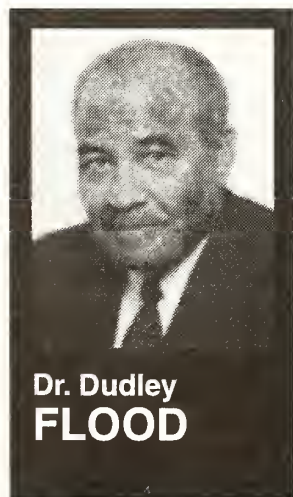
*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

## The Challenge: A Positive Focus on the African American Male

# 'Creating a shared strategy for a shared problem'

By Dr. Dudley Flood  
Guest Columnist for *The Baptist Informer*

**A** major concern within the Black community is that of the lack of success with schooling of the male child. This lack of success is reflected in higher unemployment, higher incarceration rates, higher crime and drug use and lower literacy rates found within this group than within the general population.



Dr. Dudley  
**FLOOD**

Such a pattern begins within the first five years of life for many children, and effective intervention must take place much earlier than is now the rule. One approach is to develop early intervention programs that target minority group males. This would begin with the development of opportunities for parents and interested persons to generate ideas and strategies

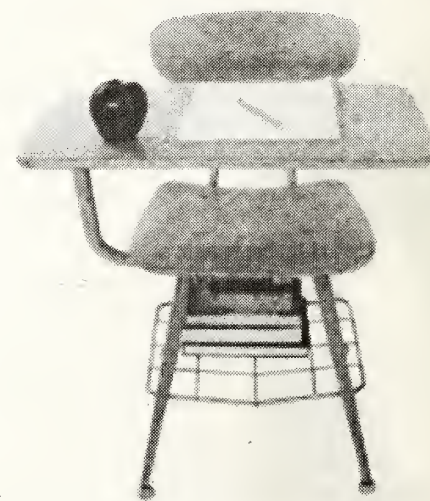
for attacking this problem.

Most of us recognize that in addition to the family support we received during our formative years, we also experienced valuable nurturing from other basic institutions within our respective communities. Even the most remote areas of North Carolina provided growth experiences through faith establishments (churches), social clubs, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts,

4-H Clubs, and other such programs. Many of today's youth have had little or no exposure to such experiences. Our population has grown beyond the capacity of our social organizations, leaving more of the nurturing responsibility to the biological parents. At the same time, the negative influences that might intervene in child development are at an all time high. These factors compel us to seek to create a shared strategy to address these shared problems.

In a free society, so much rides on one's having a sound education that it is immoral to not educate every child. Our society must join hands to establish a moral imperative in support of the idea of providing an effective, appropriate educational experience for all children. While we acknowledge that there are no simple solutions to a matter as complex as the issue of effective education for all youth, there are some things that we have learned that may help us toward that objective. These learnings include the following considerations:

- Develop programs designed to help parents guide the education of their children
- Work to maintain minority presence within the teaching and educational administration work force
- Create after school programs to improve academic and social skills
- Faith-based organizations that provide appropriate role models for minority youth
- Establish 'Grade Mothers/Father'
- Promote sensitivity to the needs of minority children
- Create opportunities for minority students to develop their abilities to compete successfully in non-class activities
- Promote the use of minority personalities as im-



perfect education

- Provide mentors for minority youth
- Establish SAT study courses

We need to look past "blame" in describing the problems that our youth face. Instead, we need to borrow on the collective recourses within our communities to generate new strategies for reaching those children who need our help. There is room in the quest for all who care about our future.

*Dr. Dudley E. Flood, a retired principal, international lecturer and author of three books, serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. He is a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, and is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer.*

# A Call for Christian Ambassadors for Harmony

President Barack Obama's 2008 election victory was historic. His election to a second term in November 2012 was miraculous! Now Christians and U.S. citizens of diverse backgrounds must find common ground to move the American family forward.

The psalmist cries out to us today through these words, "How wonderful it is when kindred live together in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1, NRSV) Harmony is not simply agreement of opinion, but it is the pleas-



ing combination of various elements. In music, harmony produces chords that are pleasing to the ear. Now, more than ever, our words and actions must produce jobs, health care, education, and opportunities for all citizens.

Psalm 133 focuses on harmony among family members. Also, it applies harmony to the members of the covenant community in Jerusalem—God's people. The psalmist called harmony within the family one of God's blessings.

There will always be family fights. Excessive and incendiary voices from the extreme fringes of political parties and from the irrational voices of religious and irreligious people will arise. But, we must tone down our virulent language. We must dispose of our racial ill feelings and find common ground to make our nation greater than ever.

This does not come easily because harmony demands hard work. Therefore, we must learn to sit where others sit and listen to those whom we don't

agree. It is easier to shout and drown out one another! Surely, there will be times when we all suffer relapses to outright conflict and even hostility, but we all must beware of drifting off into outrageous behavior that leaves wounds too infected to heal and scars too deep to vanish.

Sometimes our divisions cause our tempers to explode. These nasty divisions could easily be labeled "code red" by Homeland Security because they so cripple the U.S. political, social, economic, and religious landscape. Despite so many Hatfields and McCoys among us, level heads must prevail. "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him..." (1 Peter 5:8-9, NIV).

Jesus prayed for his disciples' harmony. And his prayer covers his disciples now. "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me" (John 17:11-12).

We Christians, therefore, are ambassadors representing the Kingdom of God to the world — black and white, male and female, rich and poor, gay and straight, lost and saved. An ambassador is a high-ranking diplomat, a representative-in-residence from one government to another. The Apostle Paul said, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Cor. 5:20). As ambassadors we need to take time discovering the common cords among people from all backgrounds.

As ambassadors for harmony in this tense post-election climate, let us serve as positive personal media outlets encouraging some ideas that most people can agree on:

Care for vulnerable people. As in the case of Hurricane Sandy, let us forget divisions and bring healing to people who are hurting: the poor, homeless, children, and seniors.

Support our soldiers and military families. We may not agree with public policies that affect the military, but we must support men and women who have sacri-

ficed so much for our nation.

Uphold justice everywhere, and extend mercy everywhere. Never again should U.S. voters have to stand in lines for four to eight hours to vote.

Forgive one another. Nobody is right all the time. Be willing to forgive and to be forgiven.

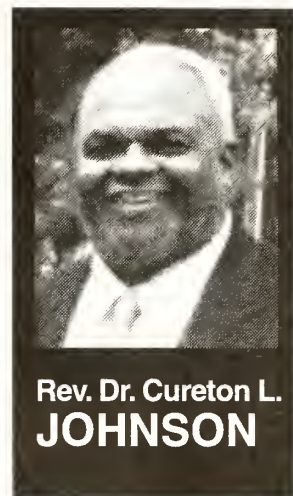
Serve voluntarily. Let the great human resources of America altruistically shine like thousands of points of gospel light throughout our land and around the world.

Believe our best days are yet to come! Like President Obama, always embody the Christian audacity to hope.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, the Bible gives us another list to aid us in finding harmony. Be sincere...be devoted to one another...honor one another...be joyful in hope...share with God's people...practice hospitality...be joyful in hope... share with God's people... practice hospitality...bless those who persecute you...rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn... live in harmony with one another...be careful to do what is right... live at peace with everyone...do not take revenge...do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:9-21).

Remember, God promises us a blessing for practicing a common-sense, common-ground approach to life: How good and pleasant it is when kindred dwell together in harmony. It is where the Lord promises to bless the people with life forevermore. (Psalm 133:1-3)

*Dr. Johnson is the senior minister of the First Baptist Church - Moore Street in Fayetteville. (NOTE: This article contains excerpts from his book, Bible-Based Spiritual Stimulus Plan.*



Rev. Dr. Cureton L. JOHNSON

## Laymen's Workshop Held in the Peach State

### "Men Living by the Law of Love"

The 16th annual Walter Cade Jr. Southeast Laymen's Workshop was held in Jacksonville, Florida September 28-30 at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel. The host church was Florida General Baptist Convention Laymen with Rev. Dr. James B. Sampson President of the Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. and James Green President of the Florida General Baptist Convention Laymen.

Workshop classes included "Biblical Manhood, Principles of Christian Leadership," "Ministering to Families In Crisis," and "Christian Women: Confidence Under Construction." During the General Assembly there were greetings from the state presidents of the Laymen League and greetings from Harold Simmons, President of the National Baptist Laymen's Movement.

Sister Glenice Myrick of Virginia spoke to the as-

sembly about "The Role of a Laymen's Wife". Brother Anthony Hagans talked about "The Laymen's Role in supporting The Pastor."

The Rev. Thurman Neal Timmon of Georgia gave the thematic sermon. After the sermon, Laymen went into the Franklin Arms Apartment Complex to minister, "telling our sisters and brothers about a Savior who died for our sins that we might have eternal life with Him."

Other presenters included the Rev. J. Stephen Deen, Pastor of First African Baptist Church in Alma, Georgia, who presented the Sunday morning message, "Looking at the Wrong Thing." Bro. Leroy Martin, President of the South Carolina Laymen's League, who was the banquet speaker. The music was rendered by the Northeast Region Spiritual Quartet of Florida.

*Submitted by Assistant Secretary Bro. Roger Battle, Jr.*



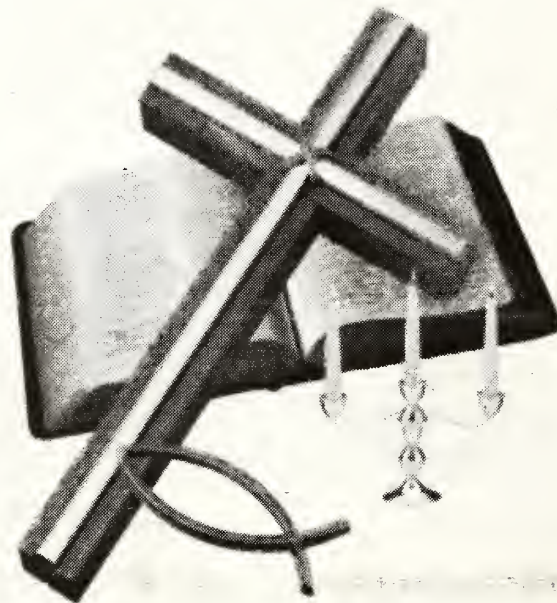
# The Difference in Our Preaching is not the Medium, but the Message

Current trends show the audience is largely influenced by the medium of television. Thus this age of computers influences how the audience sees the world. Such a trend also causes a shift in the audience's way of knowing (epistemology). In doing so, the audience makes a shift also in the way it hears. In his book, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, Neil Postman notes that the idea of truth has been transformed by television media through visual imagery — image-centered culture. As a result, the audience holds a strong entertainment sensibility, desiring amusement and entertainment over being informed, says David Larsen. Therefore, the question is this: To what extent are preachers influenced by the audience's shift toward amusement?

To their credit, preachers recognize their audience is influenced by this "new way of hearing." For this reason, preachers have abandoned traditional styles that fail to attend to the listeners' sensibilities. They have moved to a more audience-centered style or approach in an attempt to fully engage the audience in ways that capture their attention and hold interest. While such an approach is a crucial element in preaching, it needs to be balanced with strong content. Therein, the preacher faces great risk of choosing style over substance. If the preacher allows this to happen, the medium assumes a position of prominence and importance over the message. When the preacher causes the medium to usurp importance over the message, the sermon is reduced to a "talk show." And the

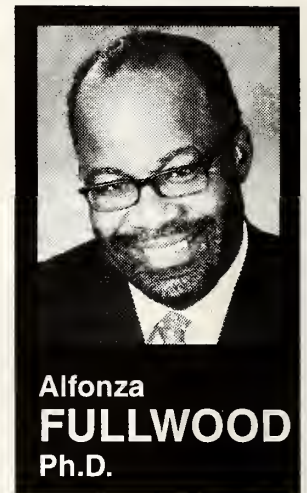
preacher drifts into "showmanship" based on his or her personality, argues Gueric BeBona. At the end, the preacher in an attempt to accommodate the audience's hearing, offers a "medium homiletic" instead of a "message homiletic."

There is no ambiguity in scripture when it comes to the power of the gospel (message) as opposed to the power of human wisdom and personality (medium). Addressing the problem of "exalting style at the ex-

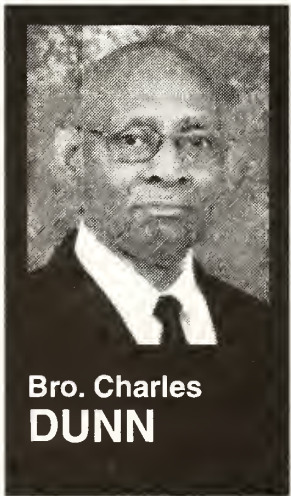


pense of substance" Paul writes, "For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power" (1 Cor. 1: 17). Such instructions on the part of Paul, does not mean the gospel should be preached showing little regard for effective and persuasive communication. To the contrary, the message requires an engaging medium. But the medium should not become the message but rather serve it. There is a sense in which Paul warns against the notion of entertainment, "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but have itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions" (2 Tim. 4:3). With this being said, what makes the difference in our preaching is not the medium but the message — not style but substance.

*Dr. Fullwood, Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church, in Wendell, NC, is a regular columnist.*



## A New Relationship ... with Lord Jesus



Bro. Charles  
**DUNN**

The Lord Jesus is the vine and the believers are the branches. As we look at the vine and its branches, we see that they are one. They share one life. The same life that flows through the vine also flows through the branches. The Bible says that he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. The very instant we receive the Lord Jesus as our savior, we are joined to him, just as the

branches are joined to the vine; therefore, we are one with the Lord.

We were not always in Christ. Before we became children of God, we were in Adam. We shared his life and we had his nature in us. When we were saved, God took us out of Adam and joined us into Christ. Now we can see what a wonderful thing God did for us. We are now joined to the Lord Jesus in a living union. He is the new vine and we are the living branches in him. We share his life and we have his nature in us.

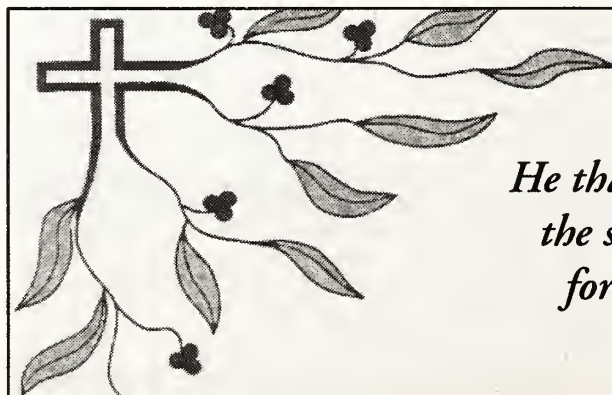
The Bible says that we are partakers of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4). After the branch is grafted onto

the vine the very life of the vine begins to flow through it. This is what keeps the branch alive and causes it to bear fruit. This teaches us that Christ is in us. How can this be? When he was here on earth, he walked and talked with his disciples, but one day he told them something that made them very sorrowful. He told them that he would soon be leaving them; however, he comforted his disciples with these words - "And I will pray the father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." (John 14:16). "Even the spirit of truth...ye know him for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:17)

This was a wonderful promise to his disciples. He promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to abide with them forever. He would not just be with them,

but he would be in them. We therefore live now by trusting the Lord Jesus to live his life in us. Instead of our trying to live the Christian life, we allow Christ to live through us. "I do always those things that please him." (John 8:29)

The Lord Jesus has not changed. He is still the same. He wants to live his life through us. He will do this as we trust him. Let us listen once more as the Lord Jesus speaks those wonderful words, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." We do not have to try to make ourselves branches, we are branches forever joined to him in a living union. As we live day by day we must count on the fact that we are one with Christ. We have received the power to live as a child of God should live. As the branch is in the vine, so am I in Christ. As I trust in him, He will live his life in me.



*"I am the vine,  
ye are the branches.  
He that abideth in me and I in him,  
the same bringeth forth much fruit  
for without me ye can do nothing  
(John 15:5)*

# Health Awareness Month Focus: HIV/AIDS

Cornell P. Wright, MPA  
Center for Health and Healing, Inc.  
Nonprofit Affiliate of  
the General Baptist State Convention, Inc.

Every year, on the first day of December, we observe World AIDS Day. This observance is focused on raising the awareness to the masses about AIDS, caused by HIV infection. While this pandemic is viewed as one of the world's most challenging public health issues, modern advancements are allowing people to live longer and healthier lives.

## What Is HIV/AIDS?

HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

As defined by the Mayo Clinic and World Health Organization, AIDS is a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). By damaging your immune system, HIV interferes with your body's ability to fight the organisms that cause disease. Infection results in the progressive deterioration of the immune system, breaking down the body's ability to fend off infections and diseases. AIDS refers to the most advanced stages of HIV infection, defined by the occurrence of any of more than 20 opportunistic infections or related cancers.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African Americans face the most severe burden of HIV of all racial/ethnic groups in the United States (US). Despite representing only 14% of the US population in 2009, African Americans accounted for 44% of all new HIV infections in that year. Compared with members of other races and ethnicities, African Americans account for a higher proportion of HIV infections at all stages of disease—from new infections to deaths.

## ESTIMATED RATE OF NEW HIV INFECTIONS, 2009, BY GENDER AND RACE/ETHNICITY

> 1 MILL ARE LIVING WITH HIV IN THE U.S.

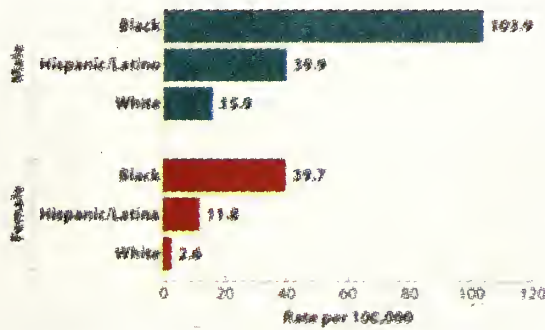
1 IN 5 LIVING WITH HIV

ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR INFECTION

Prejean J, Song R, Hernandez A, Ziebell R, Green T, et al. (2011) Estimated HIV Incidence in the United States, 2006-2009. PLoS ONE 6(8): e17502. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0017502.

African Americans face a number of challenges that contribute to the higher rates of HIV infection including:

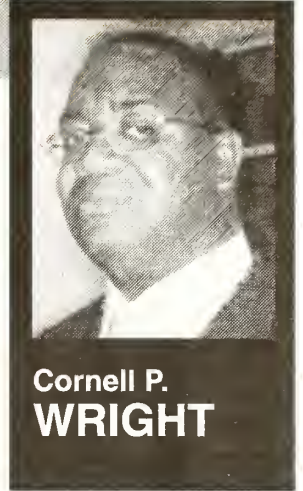
- Unprotected Sex
- Socioeconomic Issues
- Lack of HIV Status Awareness
- Stigma/Fear of Testing
- Access to Care



Local health agencies, primary care providers, and advocacy groups can be extremely helpful for group and individual awareness activities and support. Only by working together to raise awareness and educate our communities, will we ever make a positive impact to protect against infection.

BAPTIST  
INFORMER

## HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



Cornell P.  
WRIGHT

For more information about HIV/AIDS, please visit [www.aids.gov](http://www.aids.gov) or visit your local health provider. For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free 1-866-972-6374.

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• • • *A Record Crowd Attended the 145th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention in Durham* • • •

Photos by Ophelia Johnson

(continued from page 1)



**GBSC President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.**

Hundreds of Baptists from across the Tar Heel State met in Durham in October for the 145th Annual Session that featured conferences, committee meetings, youth events, late night preaching and other opportunities to discuss issues affecting churches under the umbrella of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc. GBSC President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. presided over the Session that drew a record number of delegates.



(Preachers standing) Annual Session attendees included the Rev. Gregory C. Evans of Faithful Band Baptist Church in Pleasant Hill; the Rev. Charles R. Tyner of White Oak Baptist Church, Apex; Rev. Dr. Carroll Dickens of BCP Chapel; and the Rev. Mark A. Barfield of Mt. Hope in Jackson.



Pastors Dr. John D. Fuller, Lewis Chapel Baptist Church in Fayetteville (left), and Dr. Earl C. Johnson (right), Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, chatted during a session break.



**Deaconess Barbara Dillahunt, Greater Mt. Zion in Kinston, NC.**



**Dr. Nilous Avery, II., Pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Salisbury, NC and GBSC First VP**



Ushers in white Linda Miller, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Durham; Katherine Sanford, Delores Clark and Eleanor Allison, from First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, NC served during late night preaching session at the Sheraton Hotel in Durham.



**Dr. Cornelius Battle of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Durham, NC - and members of his congregation. Dr. Battle and Ebenezer's congregation served as Host Pastor and Church during the three-day Annual Session.**



**Pastor Sherri Arnold Graham, Oberlin Baptist Church in Raleigh, kept in touch with congregants in between sessions.**



**Dr. Cureton Johnson and his wife, Lena, of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC chatted with other clergy and members of the Baptist delegation.**

2012 Prayer Rally ...

## Dozens of 'Prayer Warriors' Gathered in the Capitol City in October

About 2,000 people representing more than 100 churches assembled for an evening of powerful praise and prayer for the 2012 Prayer Rally held at the Progress Energy Center in Raleigh.

A team of thirty pastors was formed to lead in various prayer concerns throughout the evening. At various times during the evening, the entire assembly was divided into small groups to pray according to the concerns before the body. Literally thousands of prayers were offered up to God on the same concerns



at the same time.

The 2012 Prayer Rally focused on various concerns, including (1) for God to move in the church – confession, repentance, revival, spiritual awakening, etc., (2) for God to move through the church – evangelism, missions, outreach, compassion ministry, etc., (3) for the church to experience a life changing spiritual awakening so that the church will go out into the world in newness of life and power.

The objectives of the Prayer Rally was to bring the body of Christ together in prayer and to provide a prayer event that could serve as a catalyst for area church prayer ministries. It was also to mobilize, multiply and encourage the prayer movement and create a "fresh hunger" to seek God's face in prayer for spiritual awakening in the body of Christ.

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, headed by Dr. Audrey Battle, was invited to be a part of the 2012 Prayer Rally through First Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr.

Dumas Harshaw of First Baptist Church, Raleigh. He was one of the thirty chosen prayer warriors to lead the Rally. Mrs. Carolyn Edwards, the Minister of Prayer at First Baptist Church, coordinated and led a team of more than 25 persons to experience a call for prayer beyond the boundaries that divide the church on Sunday morning.

As the body of Christ, we have been challenged to commit to prayer.

*Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Linda Bryan, Executive Secretary Treasurer, WBSC and Mrs. Carolyn Edwards, Min. of Prayer, First Baptist Church, Raleigh.*



Dr. Linda  
**BRYAN**

## Youth Evangelism Conference: Blessings, Praise, Worship

Under the leadership of Youth Supervisor Minister Genetta Williams and the youth officers, the 31ST Annual Youth Evangelism Conference convened at Nash Central High School in Rocky Mount, NC, hosted by the Union Hill Baptist Church where the pastor is Rev. Dr. Thomas E. McCullers.

More than 500 attendees gathered at the high school where they were ushered into high praise and worship by a robust youth choir and exhilarating choir director. The Rev. Xavier Harrison, Youth Minister for Union Hill, reminded the disciples that we were gather to worship our God and to bless His name. In his introductory remarks, Dr. McCullers informed the congregants that "The Spirit of the Lord is here, I can feel Him in the atmosphere" and the people responded by standing to their feet in worship.

The Youth Evangelism Conference theme was "Call to Spiritual Integrity in Faithfulness" and the sub-theme asked the question - "GOT FAITH??" Young participants included Youth President Franchesca Dixon; Sasha Arrington; Miles Wiggins; Jeremy Jones and Destinee Cannady, who introduced the messenger.

Special feature components included a PowerPoint presentation by the North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper Clee Atkinson on "Youth and the Law"; a short skit on "Got Faith" presented by State youth officers Gizelle Harris and Areanna Townsend followed by a testimony of "Faith-N-Action" presented by Syd-



**Youth Officers: Youth Supervisor, Min. Genetta Williams (at podium); Second VP, Martinque Hart; Third VP, Gizelle Harris; Historian, Miles Wiggins; and President, Franchesca Dixon.**

ney Brown, the winner of Michele Obama's Healthy Lunchtime Challenge, sharing her faith journey from North Carolina to the White House where she and winners from other states enjoyed a lunch with President Barak Obama and First Lady Michele Obama (Sydney's dish was included on the menu).

The Reverend Anthonette Wright preached a stirring message, "Let's Get Ready to Rumble," based on James 1:2, that encouraged participants to "get in

place to receive the blessings that God has in store for us." She added, "knowing that we will face various trials as we seek to enlist others to accept Christ. It is a battle but, with the right armor we will be victorious."

In closing, President Audrey Battle praised the youth for a job well done.

*Submitted by Dr. Linda Bryan and Minister Genetta Williams.*

### BAPTIST INFORMER

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# Making better memories for all children

I love hanging out with family. I thought I would laugh myself silly at our last Scales-Tillman Family Reunion planning meeting in Charlotte.

After meeting, we sat around trying to figure out how much of Aunt Gladys' chicken and cakes we could stuff into our stomachs, and we recalled the days when we would gather at grandma and granddaddy Scales' farm in Anson County. Family stories are fun, and that's the way things should be. We should remember our childhood with snickers about the silly times and smiles when we think of warm moments.



Linda Brown  
**DOUGLAS**

But not all children have such memories. Thousands of children across the state are abused every year. We have heard lots of stories in recent years, from the terrible re-

ports out of Penn State to incidents of physical and sexual abuse in local news media.

The Bible tells us that children aren't supposed to live in fear. "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 18:10 KJV). We should find joy in them, because "Children are a heritage



**"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."**

— Matthew 25:40

from the Lord, offspring a reward from him (Psalm 127: 3 NIV).

When I moved from Charlotte to Raleigh in 1993, I learned about SAFEchild, an organization created by the Junior League of Raleigh.

Now an independent agency, SAFEchild ("Stop Abuse for Every Child") is committed to eliminating child abuse. It provides training for more than 900 families each year, including those who come voluntarily because they want to be the best parents they can be as well as people who have been sentenced by the courts to learn better parenting skills. Children benefit from programs such as Funny Tummy Feelings presented to 6,500 first graders every year to help them learn skills to protect themselves. Also, SAFEchild has opened a separate Children's Advocacy

Center as a kind of one-stop, child-friendly facility for victims of abuse.

Before the center opened in 2010, abused children sometimes felt they were being traumatized again during the investigation, because they had to suffer through a complicated system of agencies and professionals. Now, medical, legal and law enforcement come together.

I believe in SAFEchild, because children deserve to have happy memories.

To learn more about SAFEchild, visit <http://www.safechildnc.org/>.

*Linda Brown Douglas, Director of Community Relations at UNC-CH, is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach her at [Linda\\_Douglas@unc-edu](mailto:Linda_Douglas@unc-edu).*

## WOMAN'S BAPTIST HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF NC

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**"CHRIST IN EVERY HOME"**

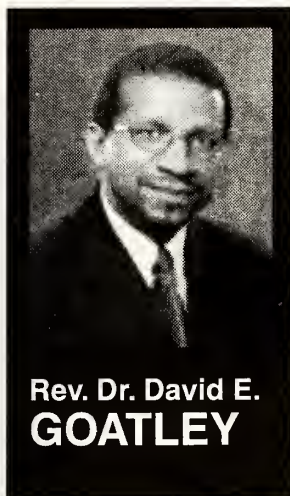
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# A Call to Arms: Responding to the Destruction of Superstorm Sandy



**Rev. Dr. David E. GOATLEY**

Dear Lott Carey Partner,

**T**he last several weeks have been full of assessments and mobilization in response to Superstorm Sandy. Churches and volunteers in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania are collaborating with the American Red Cross to mobilize support for survivors. This relief aspect is crucial, and we rejoice in those who were already trained and those

storm's immediacy subsides and life returns to some sort of normal for many.

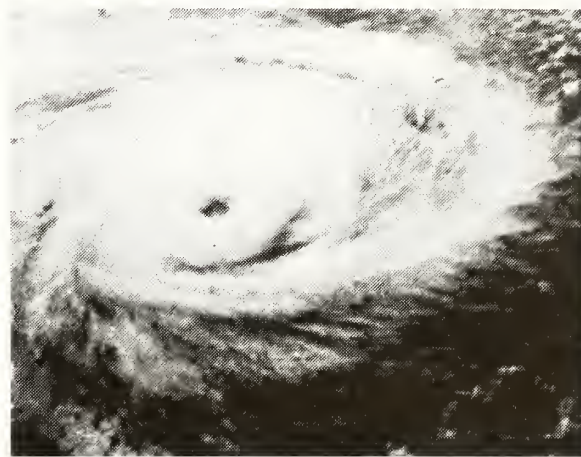
The cameras will turn to different images and the stories to report will be from some other developments. Our experience from the Gulf Coast tells us that there will be ongoing needs for touching lives with transforming love.

Many have contacted us to ask about how they can offer financial support in a coordinated way to amplify their impact. We have three ways that you can support.

You can give online at [www.lottcarey.org](http://www.lottcarey.org) from the home page or through page # 8. Responding to survivors of disasters with aid and support

You, your friends, and congregants can give \$10 through your cell phones by texting [lottcarey](http://lottcarey.com) to 20222. (Messaging rates may apply.)

You can send checks or money orders payable to Lott Carey with "Disaster Relief" in the memo line. Forward contributions to Lott Carey, 220 I Street,



NE, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20002.

We continue to work to support our sisters and brothers who survived Superstorm Sandy. Thanks for your prayers and your support.

who are stepping up quickly to respond with transforming love.

Opportunities will continue to develop as the

## Advertise in Your *Baptist Informer*

### NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & CHURCHES:

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Insertion orders are due by the 10th of the previous month before ad is to appear in the *Baptist Informer*.

Advertising copy or questions may be e-mailed to  
**General Baptist State Convention**  
 at [Nwrightgbsc@aol.com](mailto:Nwrightgbsc@aol.com).

## BAPTIST INFORMER Renewal / Subscription Form

Your subscription expiration date will be listed on your mailing label. Please make a note of this date so that you will know when it is time to renew your subscription. The *Baptist Informer* is produced and mailed around the first of each month.

Subscriptions are \$20.00 per year.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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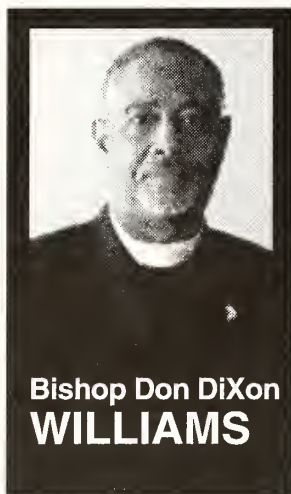
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FOR ADDRESS CHANGE, ATTACH OLD MAILING LABEL

# New Year, Renewed Commitment to Ending Hunger

## Bread for Life



**Bishop Don Dixon WILLIAMS**

Wire Reports

What will it take to end hunger? Some might say, “more food” or “more charity.” Still others might say that it simply cannot be done. But at Bread for the World, we believe ending global hunger is quite possible and that we already have the means to do it. There is more than enough food to feed the world, but it will take strong political will—not simply charity—to make it happen.

You may be familiar with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These eight international targets range from cutting extreme poverty in half to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS to providing universal primary education—all by 2015. These goals have served as a blueprint for countries and for the world’s leading development institutions.

Since the MDGs were established in 2000, the world has made significant progress toward achieving the targets, but there is still much to be done. In 2015, leaders from around the world will decide on a new set of global development goals. Achieving them will depend on the commitment of global political leaders.

Bread for the World’s 2013 Hunger Report, “Within Reach—Global Development Goals,” calls for a renewed push to meet the MDGs and a dedicated commitment to ending hunger and poverty after 2015. To ensure a strong U.S. commitment, the 2013 Hunger Report specifically calls on President Barack Obama and other U.S. leaders to rally the rest of the world.

However, the buck doesn’t stop with world leaders. If we are serious about ending hunger here in the United States, we must do our part as citizens to motivate our government. Any effort to alleviate hunger is commendable; many of us help people in need by contributing to food pantries and charities. This is

crucial and we need to continue efforts to feed hungry people in our communities. But we cannot “food bank” our way out of hunger. All of the food that churches and charities collect for hungry people equals only about 5 percent of what federal nutrition programs provide.

Internationally, ending hunger depends up improving access, development, agriculture, and trade. In other words, hunger and poverty are bigger than charity. We must take action and hold our lawmakers accountable. As Proverbs 31:8-9 tells us, “Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live.

*Bishop Don Dixon Williams is racial/ethnic outreach associate at Bread for the World and sits on the Board of Bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, Md.*

**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.

### Pastoral Vacancy

**First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Incorporated  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28206**

First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Incorporated is seeking a pastor. We are currently accepting resumes.

Skills and Qualifications desired:

- Must be licensed and ordained as a Missionary Baptist Minister.
- Must have 3-5 years of pastoral experience.
- Must demonstrate the ability to preach and teach God's word.
- Must be able to share his vision for the spiritual and intellectual growth of the church.
- Must promote stewardship and tithing.
- Must have the ability to develop a Christian Education Ministry.
- Must have the ability to teach and fellowship with all ages in the congregation.
- Must visit the sick and shut-in members in homes, hospitals and nursing homes.
- Must have the ability to handle conflict effectively.
- Must have excellent administrative, organizational, leadership and financial management skills.
- Willingness to have criminal, character and credit background check.

Please include: resume, copy of pastoral license and ordination papers.

Please forward all correspondence to;  
Attn: Deacon Joe Mason-Chairman Pastoral Search  
Committee PO Box 790202  
Charlotte, NC 28206

### PASTORAL VACANCY

**NORTH END MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27801**

North End Missionary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a Pastor. All interested persons should send resume along with references to the address listed below.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be licensed and ordained Baptist Minister
- Born again Christian as evidenced by ones character and dedication
- Ability to effectively preach and teach God’s Word (Holy Bible)
- Willing to follow Baptist Doctrine, Policies and Practices
- Public relations and administrative skills
- Ability and desire to work with all age groups and auxiliaries of the Church
- Expected to preach, counsel, visit the sick
- Bachelor’s degree
- Must submit to criminal background and credit check.

Please send resume and references to:

**Pulpit Committee  
NEMBC  
Post Office Box 6358  
Rocky Mount, NC 27802**

## NC Introduces First Law to Provide Broad Expungement Opportunities

The law, allowing expunctions of first-time nonviolent misdemeanor and low-level felony convictions, goes into effect Dec. 1.

### Press Reports

**R**ALEIGH — A new law allowing for expunctions of first-time nonviolent misdemeanor and low-level felony convictions 15 years after an individual has fully completed his or her sentence was signed into law on July 16, and took effect on December 1, 2012.

If eligible, an individual must demonstrate he or she possesses good moral character and has been on good behavior throughout the 15-year waiting period. The law will benefit those who have long demonstrated a sincere dedication to contributing to society through their upstanding behavior, but are still being denied opportunities to reintegrate with and contribute to their communities.

As the first law in North Carolina to provide general expungement opportunities to individuals convicted as adults, it is a positive step forward, and will provide relief to tens of thousands of eligible individuals.

"This new law is a measured but historic response to the heavy burden of collateral consequences weighing down the 1.6 million North Carolinians with criminal records—consequences that often follow in-

dividuals throughout their personal and professional lives, and can have a more devastating effect than their actual criminal punishments," said Daniel Bowes, a staff attorney with the North Carolina Justice Center's Collateral Consequences Initiative. "Although this law is not perfect, it will make a huge difference in the lives of tens of thousands of eligible individuals across the state."

When the law takes effect, North Carolina will become one of a handful of states providing opportunities for expunction to individuals with nonviolent misdemeanor and felony convictions. Laws in these states typically require a waiting period of between 5 and 10 years before an expunction may be granted.

"This new expunction opportunity demonstrates that North Carolina's lawmakers are beginning to recognize that perpetually isolating individuals from gainful employment, affordable housing, and community supports triggers collateral consequences that serve as barriers to reentry and ultimately do more harm than good," Bowes said.

The NC Justice Center is part of the Second Chance Alliance, a statewide alliance of advocacy organizations, service providers, faith-based organizations, community leaders and directly-impacted citizens that aims to achieve the safe and successful reintegration of adults and juveniles with criminal records by promoting policies that remove barriers to productive citizenship. The alliance was critical in speaking out in support of the legislation.

To prepare its advocacy agenda for the upcoming

legislative session, the Second Chance Alliance recently hosted a series of listening sessions in communities around the state in which more than 100 individuals with criminal records, reentry service providers, and other interested citizens participated. Visit the Second Chance Alliance website at [ncsecondchance.org](http://ncsecondchance.org).

## Poor and Mid-Income North Carolinians Fall Further Behind Top Earners

**I**ncome gaps widened in North Carolina between the late 1990s and the mid-2000s, as they did for the country as a whole, according to a new study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute.

North Carolina ranks 12th-worse among states for the greatest increase in income inequality between the top fifth and middle fifth from the late 1990s to mid-2000s. Among the eleven states for which data is available, North Carolina's ranking drops to 6th-worse for the greatest increase in income inequality between the richest 5 percent and the middle fifth over the same period.

"As state policymakers prepare for the coming legislative session and tax reform, they should propose policies that narrow — rather than widen — the income gaps between the richest and lowest- to middle-income residents," said Alexandra Sirota, Director of the Budget and Tax Center, a project of the North Carolina Justice Center.

### Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church

# Wanted

#### Psalms 150:1-6

"Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ..."



Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church

is seeking a Minister of Music.

If you possess any or all of the following:

- Dedication to Christ and to His Church
- Basic knowledge in music theory, vocal production, choral technique, and hymnology
- At least 3 years experience in directing/working with a choir of a church comparable in size or larger than Jackson Chapel.
- Cooperative attitude towards others
- Dependability
- The ability to make objective decisions and act accordingly.
- References available upon request

Contact JCFMBC

To Apply  
Send Resume to

Jackson Chapel Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Attn: Minister of Music  
Search Committee  
571 East Nash Street  
Wilson, NC 27893

Or Email to:  
[cmitchell@sdsrg.com](mailto:cmitchell@sdsrg.com)

### Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Is seeking applications for pastoral vacancy

Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Must be an experienced, licensed and ordained missionary Baptist minister, living according 1st timothy 3; 1-7 and Titus 1:6-9
- Must be able to develop and share God's vision for the future growth and development for the church
- Must possess the ability to work with all age groups, with particular emphasis in youth development, and with all auxiliaries of the church
- Must possess effective oral and written communication skills
- Must be community oriented
- Must possess strong and proven administrative experience, with a broad knowledge of the Baptist doctrines, church policies and practices
- Must be able to administer communion, perform baptisms, weddings and funerals
- Must be willing to work with the New Bern Eastern Missionary Baptist association
- Education: possess a high school diploma (or equivalent) preferring a degree or courses in seminary training, and willing to do further study

#### Interested applicants should provide the following:

- A resume of relevant experience
- A copy of certificate of license and ordination document
- One business and two personal references (no family members)

All interested applicants should send resume, and copies of certificates to:

**(All applications must be received on or before January 7, 2013 @ 6: pm)**

Attn: Deacon Joe W. Ollison, BD. Secretary  
Mt. Olive missionary Baptist church  
246 Park Avenue.  
Mesic, N.C. 28515

## Shaw University Names New VP for Fiscal Affairs



**S**haw University recently named Debra K. Latimore as its new Vice President for Fiscal Affairs. Latimore is a Certified Public Accountant and most recently served as the University's Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs.

As a member of the University's leadership team, Latimore oversees and manages the day-to-day fiscal operations of the University, including budget, payroll, accounting, accounts payable/receivable, purchasing, contracting, investment reporting, procurement, treasury management, mail services/receiving and student accounts. She also prepares the

University's operating budget, assesses current business practices to enhance productivity and ensures financial and business policies, processes and services are developed and executed to advance the University's strategic plan.

In addition, Latimore brings both higher education and private sector experience to the position, having served as the Director of Finance at OJ Group in Detroit; Tax Supervisor and Accounting and Business Services Supervisor at Grant Thornton, LLP in Charlotte, NC; and Controller at Johnson C. Smith University also in Charlotte. As Controller, she directed all accounting and reporting activities, supervised a staff of 14 and managed several university units, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, the cashier's office, student accounts, payroll and the bookstore.

"Ms. Latimore's financial and business expertise during her time as Interim Vice President of Fiscal Affairs helped to provide fiscal strength to this University and laid a solid foundation that will allow us to operate effectively," said Shaw University President Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy. "I welcome her continued leadership and creativity in developing a culture of fiscal efficiency."

Latimore has served as an online adjunct professor at several universities, including American Sentinel University, University of Phoenix, Colorado Technical University and Westwood College where she taught online courses in accounting, budgeting and personal finance. She received her Bachelor of Accountancy from Walsh College in Troy, MI and her Master of Science in Financial Management from the University of Maryland - University College. Latimore also completed coursework in Walsh College's Master of Science Taxation Program.

### First Baptist Church

201 Wayne Street  
P O Box 1636  
Badin NC 28009

November 12, 2012

#### ADVERTISEMENT

The Pastoral Search Committee of First Baptist Church, 201 Wayne Street, P O Box 1636, Badin NC 28009, will be accepting Resumes' for the Position of Pastor.

Candidates must have the following attributes and must be willing to provide the required information:

- Licensed, Ordained, Baptist Preacher
- Must attend Sunday School
- Must visit the Sick and Shut-In Members
- Must be willing to develop and organize all ministries of the Church
- Must provide Ministerial experience and accomplishments

Resumes' will be received until 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 31, 2013.

Please direct all correspondence to:

**First Baptist Church**  
**Pastoral Search Committee**  
P.O. Box 1636  
Badin, NC 28009

## Pastoral Vacancy First Baptist Church

301 North Main Street  
P. O. Box 1087  
Fairmont, NC 28340  
OFFICE: (910) 628-9593  
EMAIL: firstbaptistnm@att.net  
WEBSITE: www.firstbaptistfairmontnorth.org

The Historic First Baptist Church is located in Fairmont, North Carolina. We are a called-out assembly of baptized believers in Jesus Christ with a strong emphasis on missions, service, and discipleship. For 143 years, First Baptist Church has been a pillar in the community, region, state, and nation. Please view our website to gain a deeper perspective of our church. First Baptist Church is seeking a Christian leader with the following requirements:

- Licensed and ordained by the Baptist denomination, have an ordination certificate, and be willing to follow the Baptist doctrines and polity
- Education Preferred: Master of Divinity Degree with concentration in Theology or related field from an accredited university (Minimum Education: Bachelor's Degree)
- Willing to be affiliated with the Lumber River Baptist Association, Robeson Baptist Union, and General Baptist State Convention
- Three years of successful experience as a pastor, or five years of combination experience which includes as a pastor, as an assistant pastor, and/or as a part of the pastorate and staff
- Implement church policies fairly and consistently to all members
- Demonstrates versatility and able to effectively relate to a diverse age congregation by emphasizing evangelism, discipleship, spiritual growth and development
- Effective communication skills and willingness to have open dialogue to reduce confusion
- Strong administrative skills
- Ability to effectively preach and teach God's Word
- Involved in pastoral care (including, but not limited to, visiting the sick and shut-in, counseling)
- Willing to submit to credit and criminal background checks
- Married, preferably

To be considered for this position, an applicant must submit a complete package which includes the following: 1) Current Resume', 2) Copy of ministerial license, 3) Copy of ordination certificate, and 4) Three character reference letters (non-relatives). All correspondences must be sent to the church's postal address to the attention of Chairman Deacon Harold Wilson. The deadline for submitting all materials is December 31, 2012.



Shaw University Divinity School

**The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Shaw University Divinity School  
Alexander/Pegues Minister's Conference  
March 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Opening Conference Preacher: Bishop Walter Scott Thomas**

**Conference Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles Booth**

**Conference Lecturer: Rev. Dr. John Kinney**

**Register Now!**

**Early Bird Registration - \$100**

**After February 29<sup>th</sup> - \$135 On-Site**

**All Seminary & College Students \$50 (On-Site Only)  
(Must show a valid student ID or proof of registration)**

# MLK Banquet Planned for January



The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet will be held on Friday, January 11, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center, located at 3121 High Point Road in Greensboro, N.C.



The keynote preacher will be the Reverend Dr. Gina M. Stewart, Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

Tickets for the annual gala are available at Baptist Headquarters in Raleigh, N.C. through January 4, 2013. For more information, please call (919) 821-7466.

## BAPTIST INFORMER



603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601  
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### MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!

The General Baptist State Convention supporting Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School, Central Children's Home of North Carolina, J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention and State Missions since 1967.

SE Baptist Theo Seminary 512 P23  
114 N Wingate St  
Wake Forest NC 27587-2553

135:12



# BAPTIST INFORMER

January 2013

Volume 135, No. 12

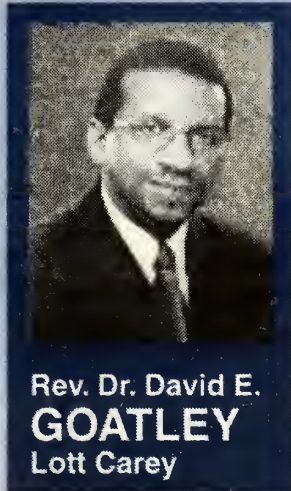
Publication of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc.

## Rachel Weeping: Finding God's Word in the complexities of life

**I** was in Southern Africa as news emerged of the tragic murders in Connecticut. There was shock and pain among our Zimbabwean and South African sisters and brothers as they learned of the calamity. Parents began thinking more intensely about the blessing of their children as well as about the daily and intimate vulnerability with which they live. That this kind of catastrophe can happen in a comfortable suburb in the US

reminded some of the additional danger with which they live.

While some of us are very much aware, most people in the United States do not realize how vulnerable all people are. It is easy to assume that accumulation and possessions equal protection. All of us, however, are vulnerable to the human manifestation of sin and the unpredictability of nature.

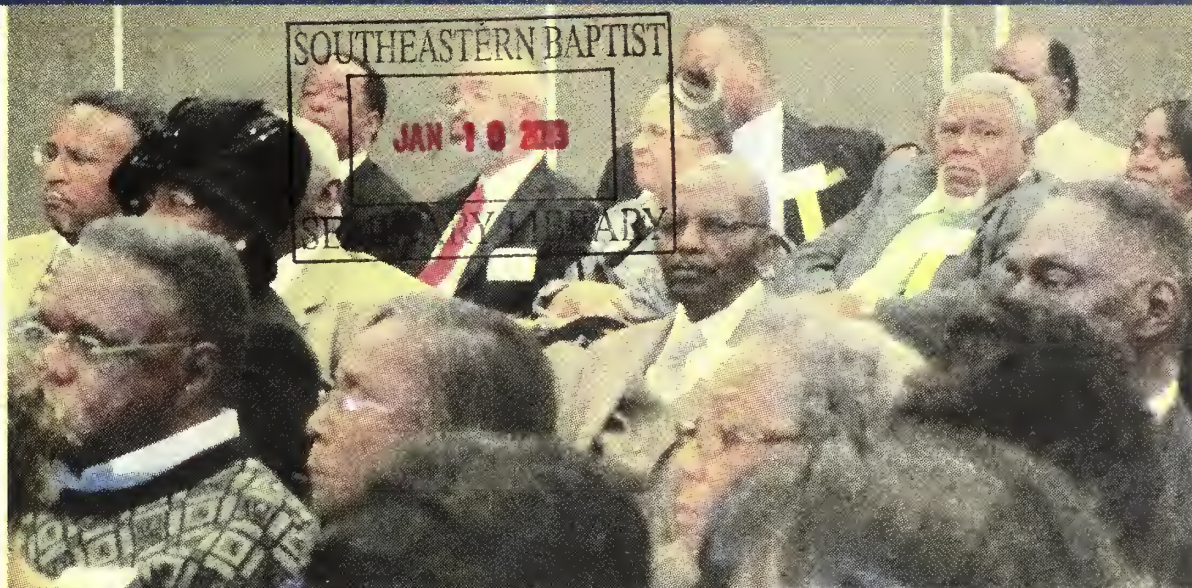


No one is protected from the ups and downs of life. No one can avoid the uncertainties of the world. However, trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, and violence cannot separate us from the love of Christ.

During this season, let us remember...

Let us remember the grief of the mothers and fathers in Bethlehem whose children were massacred following the birth of Jesus when Herod real-

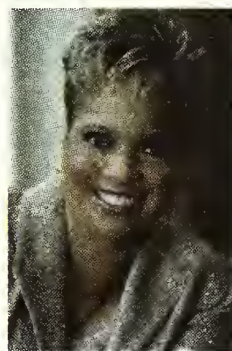
*(continued on page 10)*



Continued coverage of the 145th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention. (Photos on page 8)

## Dr. Gina M. Stewart to Headline MLK Banquet

**T**he Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart has led the congregation of Christ Missionary Baptist Church since March 1995. Pastor Stewart is a native Memphian and "daughter" of Christ Missionary Baptist Church where she was baptized, and mentored for ministry by her predecessor and former pastor, the Rev. Eddie L. Currie. On March 4, 1995, she was elected by majority vote to serve as the pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church. She is the first African American female elected to serve an established African American Baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County.



She is a 1978 graduate of Memphis Catholic High School. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Marketing in 1982 from the University of Memphis. In 1989, she received a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville, Tennessee. She received the Master of Divinity degree from Memphis Theological Seminary in May 1996. Rev. Stewart also attended the Harvard Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute for Church Based Community and Economic Development (2000). She received the Doctor of Ministry degree from the ITC-Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) Atlanta, Georgia

on May 5, 2007.

Dr. Stewart has received numerous honors and awards for her outstanding service to the church and the community such as Outstanding Citizen of the Year from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority (2000), The Community Service Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (2000), the O'landa Draper Humanitarian Award, the Pastor of the Year Award (medium size

*(continued on page 16)*



At the December 18th Central Children's Home Board of Directors' meeting, the Honorable Milton F. Fitch, Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of N.C., Inc., presented two monetary gifts to CCH from the Prince Hall Masons of N.C. Angela Williams (left), CCH Executive Director and Dr. Michelle Ogle (right), Board president, accepted the gifts. A \$5,000.00 gift was given to fund improvements to the outdoor lighting on the campus. The second gift of \$20,000.00 was the annual contribution from individual members of Prince Hall. The Prince Hall Masons have also committed \$25,000.00 to fund the installation of air conditioning in the campus gym. The Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall affiliate, has also donated \$25,000.00 for the AC installation.



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE** : **P3**

From the Desk of Dr. Avery ... and ... HKonJ is February 9th

**P8** More Highlights of the 145th Annual Session of the GBSC

**Renew!** Please renew your Baptist Informer Subscription Now

# Shaw University Divinity School



Many are called, but few are chosen. Are you called to lead God's people in the 21st Century? We can help you be better equipped.

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Master of Divinity Degree

Master of Religious Education

Please contact our office today to setup your tour and to get more information. The number is (919) 546-8570.

*From the Desk of the First Vice President-at-large ...*

## The New Year Provides Opportunities

*"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen"* (Galatians 1:3-5, NIV).

The New Year provides opportunities for new commitments, new goals, new objectives, new lessons, new experiences, new challenges, and new victories. The Christian community must be equipped and empowered to learn from the lessons, embrace our opportunities, confront the challenges,

overcome the obstacles, cultivate our gifts, and celebrate our victories with renewed energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and enlightenment.

The Christian life involves a vertical line from the believer to God, and a horizontal line from the believer to others. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:8 puts it this way: "God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others" (CEV).

Consequently, prophetic ministry must match our proclaimed mission. Our congregational in-reach and community outreach must always lead to a God-honor-

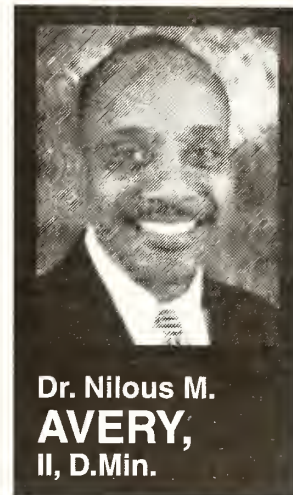
ing up-reach that glorifies God and edifies others. Our claim of inner grace must be interlocked with our outward show of goodness toward others.

Beloved, let us faithfully pledge to fulfill our spiritual and financial support to the General Baptist State Convention objectives. Our time, talents, treasures, and prayers are needed, encouraged, welcomed, and appreciated. The convention and the local ministries we serve are gifts from God that God has entrusted to us as faithful stewards. I can think of no better way to glorify God and edify others than through your generous and cheerful contributions to your General Baptist State Convention and its objectives.

The harvest is ripe for a prophetic ministry that preaches good news, and proclaims freedom, restoration, release, and the year of the Lord's favor (from Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4: 18-19). God's peace be with you all for a joyous, fruitful, fulfilling, and Holy Spirit-filled New Year as we increase our commitment to missions with generous and ongoing support.

*TO GOD BE THE GLORY and "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all"* (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV).

*Dr. Avery may be reached at: [averyrevkin@aol.com](mailto:averyrevkin@aol.com).*



**Dr. Nilous M. AVERY, II, D.Min.**



## Join the North Carolina NAACP on Saturday, February 9, 2013 for the Seventh Annual Historic Thousands on Jones Street

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. This work in many ways parallels that of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, whose ministry was very much a social ministry. We are hopeful, honored and humbled by the resolute support the General Baptist State Convention provides to the NAACP in its missive.

Join North Carolina NAACP on Saturday, February 9, 2013 for the seventh annual Historic Thousands on Jones Street also known as "HK on J" where we will be accompanied by our 140+ HKonJ Coalition Partners representing over one million North Carolina residents. Historically, as people of faith, the Black Church and the NAACP have fought for freedom, justice and equality together. Remember the 1000 churches, mosques and temples 100% voter registration campaign? How about the Mass Voter Registration weekend in August or the radio ads encouraging voters to register and to show up at the polls? During the 2012 historic election, many pastors and churches engaged in voter education, voter registration and souls-to-the-polls activities that led to an upward surge in voter participation this election cycle among African Americans, Latinos and young people.

With this foundation, we can continue to build a broad statewide constituency, inclusive of all people and advance the progressive agenda that our families and communities need and that generations unborn so desperately deserve. To that end, we have identified 5 key Game Changers that require our immediate and ongoing attention, and they are:

- 1) Economic Sustainability - addressing poverty, full employment and labor rights;
- 2) Educational Equality - for all students and children;
- 3) Healthcare - available for all and ensuring access to Medicare and Medicaid;
- 4) Inequalities in the criminal justice system - addressing disparities for Black, Brown, and poor White people; and
- 5) Voting Rights - protecting, defending and expanding them for all people.

Pastors and their congregations must work more strategically, diligently and unwaveringly to utilize the tools already available to us, particularly, our voices, our influence, our time, our dollars, our talent and the NAACP. We must ensure that the least and the lost among us are not left out or left behind. Through joining forces again—the faith community and the NAACP—we can impact our future! We can bring about substantive change for a better North Carolina. Keep abreast by signing up for text alerts, Text NAACP to 46988. Subscribe to receive NC NAACP

Constant Contact messages. E-mail [info@naacpnc.org](mailto:info@naacpnc.org), provide your e-mail address and in the subject line type "Add me to Constant Contact."

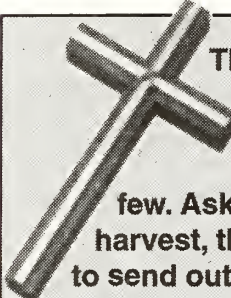
State NAACP President, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II always says, "WE is the most important word in the social justice vocabulary." NC NAACP looks to you to assist us as we collectively, cooperatively, and collaboratively create measures by which the Game Changers may be addressed and resolved. Join the movement! Connect your church with the North Carolina NAACP State Conference. Call Reverend Dr. Cardes H. Brown, Jr., Religious Affairs Chair at (336) 273-5579 or Reverend Kojo Nantambu, Director of the Religious and Educational Advocacy Project at (704) 599-8904. Also, begin making plans now to join HKonJ7 or Historic Thousands on Jones Street People's Assembly Coalition, Saturday, February 9, 2013. For additional information, contact Rev. Curtis E. Gatewood, HKonJ Coordinator at 1.866.NC NAACP or e-mail [curtisgatewood@naacpnc.org](mailto:curtisgatewood@naacpnc.org). Visit the HKonJ website, [www.hkonj.com](http://www.hkonj.com), and remember, Forward Together ... Not One Step Back!

*Amina Josey Turner, Executive Director, NC NAACP, can be reached at Post Office Box 335, Durham, NC 27702; 1-866-NC-NAACP; 919-682-4700 V; 919-682-4711 F; [www.naacpnc.org](http://www.naacpnc.org) [hkonj.com](http://hkonj.com).*

## Becoming a Great Commission Christian

The story goes that geese in the barnyard spent hours discussing the thrill of spreading their wings in flight to the sunny south. However, days passed and they were still in the barnyard continuing the discussion but never experiencing the thrill of flight.

As mentioned in our previous article, the Laymen are endeavoring to move our ministry from doctrine (talking) to practice (walking): According to the



**Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into."**  
— Matthew 9: 37-38

Word of God, the lost cannot be saved without a witness (Romans 10: 13-17). We are not born with saving faith. It comes only when we hear the gospel. Therefore, it is important that every born-again child of God obey the Great Commission to evangelize - to GO with the gospel.

Author Robert E. Coleman wrote in "The Master Plan of Evangelism," that "the world is blind in sin." Therefore, the only hope for the world is for men to go to them with the gospel of salvation and to work with them faithfully, patiently and painstakingly until they become fruitful Christians, savoring the world about them with the Redeemer's love.

In the Great Commission there are three basic points or strands:

**Evangelism (Deliverance):** Proclaiming the good news, assisting people in receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Acts 1:8).

**Discipleship (Developing):** Making disciples-developing character and Capacity; Spiritual formation-sanctification or transformation of disciples. Training leaders, developing accountable relationships, and

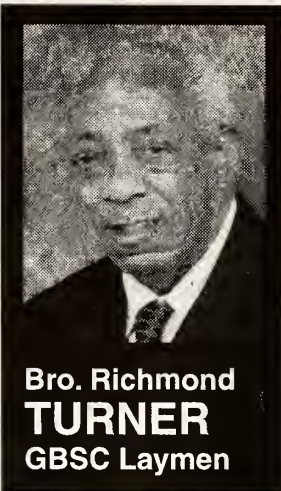
teaching people to live effective Christian lives (2 Tim. 2:2).

**Remembering the Poor (Deployment):** Meeting human needs, the social gospel, and feeding the hungry. The only enduring motivation for remembering the poor is a consuming desire to please Jesus. Do it for Jesus.

As Laymen, we must address all three "strands" of the Great Commission in our service and personal ministry. The most difficult work to motivate Christians to do is to win the lost and make disciples of them (Matt. 9: 37-38).

We pray that you make this endeavor a part of your New year's Resolution: **BECOME A GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIAN.**

Reach Bro. Turner at [Iturn60@aol.com](mailto:Iturn60@aol.com)



**Bro. Richmond TURNER**  
GBSC Laymen

## Have We Lost Our Heroes and Heroines?

Each year, during the month of February, educators across our state and nation make a special effort to call attention to the contributions and achievements of African Americans. There is room for debate about the value of this practice, but I, for one, am happy to see any positive recognition that may be afforded members of my race. However, I do recognize the difficulty in determining which persons are deserving of being characterized as heroes or heroines.

It may be helpful for us to draw some distinction between heroes and celebrities. For me, a hero or heroine is someone who has made significant sacrificial contributions toward the improvement of the human condition over a sustained period of time. I do not view a person who does only that which is convenient and personally gratifying as heroic. Such persons deserve respect, but fall short of hero status.

Most persons who are in or near my generation can readily identify some

three or four persons who by instruction or example have had such a meaningful influence on our lives that even today we are still modeling some behavior that reflects that influence.

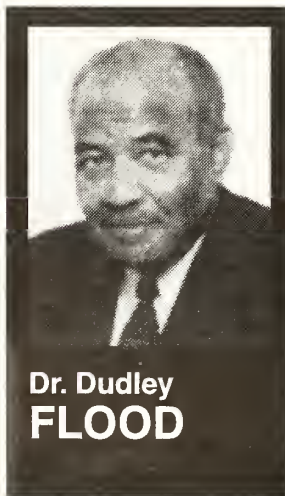
Needless to say, I could develop a very long list of persons who have helped me to write my life's script. Some of these were family members, some were my peers, some worked under my supervision and at least one was my supervisor. I am sad to say that hardly any of them have been acknowledged as heroes. If a child has to look much farther than the end of his or her



dinner table to find a hero, he or she is at a decided disadvantage.

I believe that the future progress of our society is irrefutably dependent on our coming to recognize and appreciate the simple deeds of ordinary people: people who do what they do purely because it might help someone else, and because it, to them, just seems like the right thing to do. For me, these people are the real heroes.

*Dr. Dudley Flood, a retired Assistant Superintendent with the NC State Department of Public Instruction, serves on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. He is a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, and is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at [floodspeaker@bell-south.net](mailto:floodspeaker@bell-south.net).*



**Dr. Dudley FLOOD**

# A New Day — A New Beginning

By *President Audrey Battle*  
*Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of NC*

In the beginning of this New year, create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. We are in need of a heart that hates iniquity. We need a renewed spirit that desires to do the will of God for only God can make us a new creation and restore us to true godliness. The scriptures teach that we will reap what we sow. If we sow to the Spirit, we will reap life from the Spirit. If we sow to the flesh, we will reap corruption from the flesh.



Audrey P.  
**BATTLE**

In the Lord, I put my trust. Faithful believers will take refuge in the Lord and will remain committed to righteousness, even if the moral and spiritual foundations are destroyed in both society and the church. The Lord will uphold the righteous.

All those who have sinned and are overwhelmed by feelings of guilt can find forgiveness, cleansing from sin and restoration to God if they approach Him in the spirit and words of Psalm 27. Our appeal for forgiveness and restoration are based on God's grace, mercy, loving kindness and compassion. The Lord will never forsake us for He cares. His love for us is greater than the natural affection of a loving mother for her children. In our times of grief and despair, He will never leave us.

His compassion for us will never fail, regardless of

life's circumstances. He watches over us with great tenderness and love. We can rest in the conviction that He will never leave us. He has engraved us on the palm of His hand so that He will never forget us. The scars of his hands are ever before His eyes as a reminder of the great love He has showered on us and of his desire to care for us. How quickly do we forget what God has done and is doing. Jeremiah reveals the grief and sorrow of God because of His people's unfaithfulness - forgetting the one who redeemed them from Egypt and cared for them in the wilderness. God will discipline us for our unfaithfulness. He allows us to sometimes suffer. Discipline is a sign that we are children of God. It is also an assurance of God's love and concern for us.

When facing trials too great to bear, God invites us to cast our burdens and cares upon Him. He sustains us in every situation. Peter stated that believers should humble themselves before God, casting all their cares upon Him. It is stated in Isaiah 17:10 that when we forget God we are headed for a downfall. The cares of this world confronts us. The deception of riches encourages us. The pursuit of material things and the pleasures of sin can choke God's word in the lives of believers and cause us to forget Him, to stop praying daily and to no longer delight in Him or His word. When this happens we lose the blessings and presence of God.

"Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." This race is a test of faith. This race must be run with patience with perseverance and endurance. The race must be run by laying aside the sins that impede or slow us down. We

must fix our eyes, our hearts, and our lives on Jesus and the example of obedience He set on earth.

The race must be run with an awareness that the greatest temptation to yield to is sin. In our race of faith we look to Jesus as our example to learn to trust in God. We must commit to His will and pray to overcome temptation and suffering. We must remain loyal to the Father for his strength, His love, his grace and His mercy.

Under God's will adversity may come as a result of spiritual warfare with Satan. As a result of spiritual warfare it is a test to strengthen our faith, and our



works to comfort others. We must see God, examine our lives and forsake all that is contrary to His holiness. As believers in our Savior Jesus Christ, let us separate from sin, let us get closer to God, let us pray to be like Him and see His presence - His righteousness and His fellowship.

Please continue to support us and pray for us. Get involved in this spiritual movement.

*Audrey P. Battle is President of the Woman's Baptist State Convention.*

## • • • NEWS ACROSS THE STATE • • •

### Free Citizenship Workshop on Saturday, January 26, 2012

The Latin American Coalition will conduct a free U.S. Citizenship workshop as part of an ongoing naturalization initiative undertaken by the New Americans Campaign. This campaign is currently taking place in 8 major metropolitan areas housing approximately 3.3 million legal permanent residents who are eligible to naturalize. The goal of the workshop is to help legal permanent residents to assess their eligibility and apply for citizenship, a vital step in the process of immigrant integration into U.S. society.

The New Americans Campaign United for Citizenship is currently composed of the following national partners: the Asian Pacific American Legal Center; Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC); Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC); Immigration Advocates Network (IAN); International Rescue Committee (IRC); NALEO Educational Fund; National Immigration Forum, and ProBono Net. The local partners are the Latin American Coalition, Catholic Social Services and the

Southeast Asian Coalition. Volunteer partners include the Mecklenburg County Bar, the Charlotte School of Law, and numerous others.

Individuals who are at least 18 years of age, and who have been Lawful Permanent Residents for at least 5 years (or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen), who are able to read, write, speak and understand basic English and have basic knowledge of U.S. History and government, and who are of good moral character, may pre-register for these workshops. We welcome the participation of the Levine Museum of the New South as the host of our January 2013 workshop. Space for the workshop is limited and those persons interested in participating will need to pre-register for the workshop by calling our offices at 704-941-2547 or the NALEO Hotline at 1-888-839-8682.

### Nine UNC scientists elected AAAS fellows

Nine scientists from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Sci-

ence, the world's largest general scientific society.

The Carolina researchers are among 702 new fellows chosen for this honor, which is bestowed upon association members by their peers in recognition of their distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.

The list of fellows will appear in the Nov. 30 issue of Science.

With this announcement, Carolina now boasts 67 fellows among its faculty. The new honorees - drawn from the College of Arts and Sciences, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the School of Medicine - and their citations are:

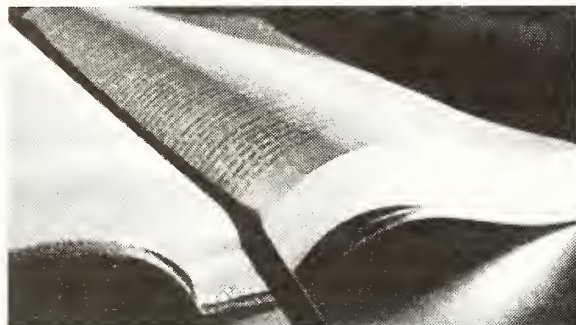
Howard E. Aldrich, professor of sociology and adjunct professor of management, for pioneering the application of evolutionary analysis to the sociological study of organizations and entrepreneurship, focusing on ethnicity, gender, family embeddedness and social networks.

Charles W. Carter Jr., professor of biochemistry and biophysics, for distinguished experimental and theoretical contributions to the fields of structural molecular biology and the evolution of enzymes, and

(continued on page 10)

# What Makes the Difference in Our Preaching is Preparation

In any discipline that one might pursue (whether sports, academics or the performing arts to name a few) what makes the difference in performance and outcome is preparation. There is simply no substitute for being prepared. The science of practice improves your skill, knowledge and ability through redundancy and repetition that produces better outcomes. For this reason,



coaches are non-negotiable concerning practice. They run drills and plays over and over until the players are able to execute almost blindfolded. Boxing trainers carry their fighters through strict and rigid training in preparation for a fight. Even the Minister of music has regimented types of rehearsals in preparation for singing during Sunday morning worship. They understand the connection between practice and successful outcome. In many instances, they have a standing rule: "if you do not practice or attend rehearsal you don't play."

Sports media reports one of the things that separated Michael Jordan's play above others was his unrelenting devotion to improving his skills through practicing the game. To such an end, he spent many hours in the gym,

especially beyond official scheduled practices. He understood the benefit and the enormous bonus outcome resulting from preparation. For sure, due to his strict discipline of being prepared, he is known as one of the greatest to ever play the game. You have heard it said many times that practice makes perfect. There are volumes of truth to this saying, especially and including the preaching discipline. There is simply no substitute for being prepared when it comes to mounting the sacred desk.

There is a direct correlation between the time a preacher devotes to sermon preparation and pulpit performance. Your time outside of the pulpit will either prepare or ill prepare you for your time in the pulpit. Arguably, there is no way you can have a pulpit moment aflame with fire if you have not been filled with the fuel of preparation. While teachers of preaching recommend different set of hours for sermon preparation, they are in agreement that adequate time should be devoted to every sermon.

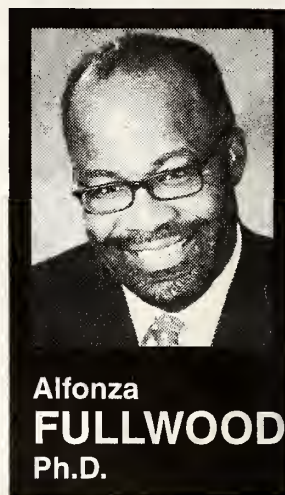
A preacher can be forgiven for many inadequacies and shortcomings; not being able to preach is not one of them. If you are weak in administrative, counseling, budgeting, or planning skills, you can survive. On the other hand, if you cannot preach or "tell the story," your days will be shortly lived. In most cases, the preacher will be recognized for many qualities; above all it should be that he or she can "tell the story." Even if the preacher falls short in doing many things well, still, he or she should be able to preach well.

How do we overcome substandard preaching? Well, we overcome lackluster preaching the same way a student overcomes substandard grades. Or we overcome

this kind of preaching the same way an athlete improves substandard play. For the student, he or she increases study and preparation time. For the athlete, he or she works harder in practice. A preacher who does not speak clearly with enunciation skill, mispronounced words or is not clear in his or her subject matter will most likely be viewed with less credibility. Appearing somewhat inarticulate and unable to present ideas clearly, erodes credibility and confidence. Such deficiencies could be a simple matter of being ill-prepared.

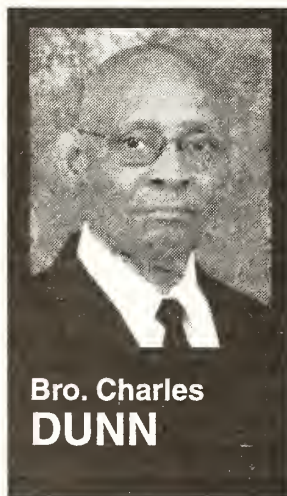
I wish to offer three suggestions relative to preparation. First, you should give adequate time to the text interaction process including language, history word meaning and theology. Second, you should give adequate attention to the sermon structuring, crafting or stitching process. Finally, you should give sufficient effort to the sermon internalization process. To this end, you study like it all depended on you and preach like it all depended on God.

*Dr. Fullwood, Professor of Preaching and Pastor of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., is a regular contributor to the Baptist Informer. Reach him at RHBC@att.net.*



Alfonza  
**FULLWOOD**  
Ph.D.

## Our Lives as Living Proof of Christ's Presence — Luke 3:1-6



Bro. Charles  
**DUNN**

In the text we can see that times were difficult when John started his preaching ministry. The political leaders were corrupt. Historians tell that the Emperor, Tiberius, was ruthless; Pilate, the governor, was apathetic; and Herod, the puppet king, was devious. The religious leadership wasn't much better. Annas, the High Priest and his son-in-law Caiaphas, were to some degree, morally and spiritually bankrupt.

Needless to say, traveling life's roads today we discover people aren't much better. We face corruption in politics and in the church. Yet, our calling to preach the gospel, like John's calling, still stands true. We preach the gospel, living proof that Jesus came and still exist today. How important and powerful is positive proof when we discover it?

No one would ever know what happened at Bethlehem really did occur if we did not tell our story. We are the living reality of Jesus' presence and power. He does exist because he lives in us!

We are the living reality of Christ's presence today for the world. We are those who believe and preach the real gospel of Jesus Christ as his living witnesses.

We can do this only when our hearts are ready for Jesus and opened to his presence. The question we have to ask

ourselves is, "Are our hearts ready for Jesus today?" Ready! That's the operative word for us. We have to be ready and stay ready for the Christ to occupy our hearts. Paul said that, "Christ in us is the hope of glory."

John's preaching was preparatory preaching. He was sent to "Make the paths straight for Jesus." In many ways we are still doing preparatory preaching. We are preparing people to meet Jesus as living proof of his presence and power. Preparation is the key to any successful action.

Almost everywhere we go today we see road construction going on. Because of growth and progress roads have to be repaired or new ones have to be built to handle the traffic — to make our lives easier and our travel times faster and smoother. Most of us like ease and speed! Don't we?

The roads we use to make our hearts ready for Jesus are those of righteousness, repentance (forgiveness) and justice. These roads open our hearts to Christ and allow him to dwell within us and control us and use us. The Lord still needs roads that go straight to our hearts to do his work!

There use to be a question about when Christmas begins but not any more. We all know that for the world Christmas begins on black Friday and is centered on economics. Yet, amid all this the Church has to maintain the real meaning of Christmas and keep Jesus alive in our hearts and open to the world.

Everyday, especially this time of year, we are confronted with a maze of confusion to figure out. We are given choices and have to figure out which ones to take. It is difficult to navigate through all the stuff that's placed before us. But I have discovered the best way to navigate the maze of life is to have someone with a clearer view who

has navigated it before us to lead us through it. The scriptures provide us with credible witness that can help us navigate through the maze of life. They have been where we are headed and have found their way through to Christ. But are we listening to and following the voices of those who have gone before us?

We are the voices speaking to those today who are lost or trying to navigate through the maze to get to Christ.

The road that keeps our hearts open to Jesus passes straight through our relationships with others. I talked to a young man who told me he hadn't been home for Christmas in 15 years because of bad blood between him and his family. I asked him had he tried to reach out to them and he said, "Yes, but it's no use. Too much is in the way!" Broken relationships not only keep us separated from one another, they also keep us separated from God.

That's why being living proof of Jesus' presence and power is so important. We know Jesus heals and mends broken relationships. We know he puts broken lives together again. We know he still heals wounded hearts. We know it because he healed, mended and put our lives together again. Proof positive for us means that we, like the wise men, have seen his star and know he did come. But it does not end there for us. We been by his empty tomb and know he's not there. He rose with all power in his hands. We can sing "Joy to the world the Lord has come" and at the same time because he came we can sing, "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins. Sinners plunge beneath that flow and lose all their guilty stain." That's what Christmas means to us. Isn't it?

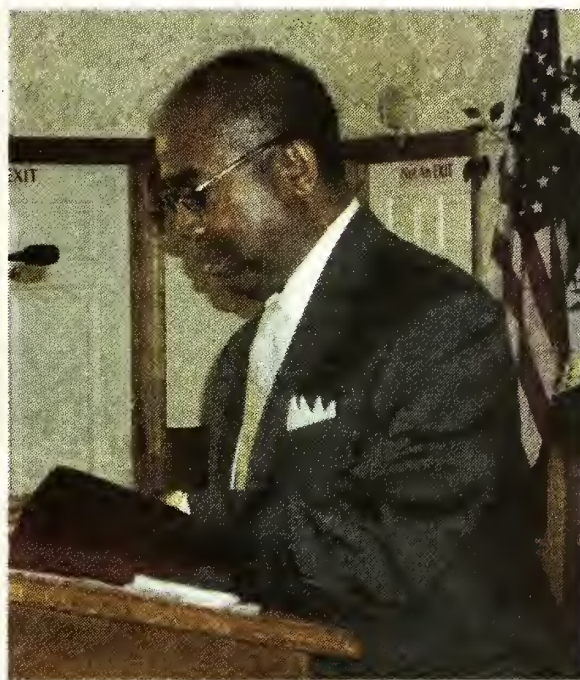
— Submitted by Bro. Marvin Clowney, Dean of Ushers.

# North Carolina State Laymen's League Study Commission, Henderson Grove MBC

The North Carolina State Laymen's League Study Commission was held at Henderson Grove MBC, December 8, 2012, with the Host Pastor Rev. Johnnie Bethea. During our Executive Board Meeting we were greeted by the Host Pastor, William Wallace, President of the Henderson Grove MBC Laymen's League and William Pointer, President of the East Gove MBA Laymen's League. Former Laymen's League Presidents Jarvis Morgan and Theodore David were in attendance.

An issue we will be working towards is strengthening the structure of our North Carolina Junior Laymen's.

Our youth workshop speaker for this study commission session was brother Raynard Johnson of Temple Memorial MBC, who spoke to youth about "Developing Into Christian Men." The women's workshop speaker for this study commission session was Rev. Anthonette Wright, who discussed "Ministering to Families in Crisis." The Laymen's workshop speaker for this study commission session was President Richmond Turner, discussing "Biblical Manhood and Discipleship" with the subtheme "Becoming A Great Commission Christian." He stated: "The final earthly words of Jesus comprised the most compact,



Rev. Dr. James Smith of Calvary MBC presented the sermon to the Laymen's League Commission in Henderson.

compressed distillation of the Christian mission ever uttered.

We will have and do have other jobs, but our chief work is to fulfill the Great Commission – in our personal life, in our home, in our community, in our culture, and in the world at large. Let's never stop seeking a cure for cancer, aids, heart disease, but neither let us forget that the greatest disease is death. Death is the disease we all catch, and the one only Jesus can cure. Belief in Jesus is the antidote that leads to everlasting life."

Rev. Dr. James Smith, of Mt. Calvary MBC, came forward with the sermon for the event, "Preaching - Teaching - Reaching Them." Rev. James Smith stated: "We were giving a commandment to go. We are to motivate and inspire others. They can be anywhere and anyone. Letting them know who the Master really is. He can put love in their heart and joy in their mind. The assurance Jesus is with us. This is the assurance Christ gave the church. AND LO I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS. I'm a very present help in the time of suffering."

*Submitted by Assistant Secretary Bro. Roger Battle, Jr.*

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... A Record Crowd Attended the 145th Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention in Durham ...

Photos by Ophelia Johnson

(continued from page 1)



Rev. Charles C. Barnes, Sr., Pastor of Morehead Avenue Baptist Church in Durham, and Dr. Earl C. Johnson (left), Pastor of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Hundreds of Baptists from across the Tar Heel State met in Durham in October for the 145th Annual Session that featured conferences, committee meetings, youth events, late night preaching and other opportunities to discuss issues affecting churches under the umbrella of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc. GBSC President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr. presided over the Session that drew a record number of delegates.



GBSC President Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.



Rev. D. K. Ferguson of Shiloh Baptist in Wilmington and Rev. Harold Trice, Sr. of Union Chapel in Butler, NC chatted during a break.



Dr. Gregory Moss (center), President of Lott Carey Foreign Missions, Inc. and former GBSC President, chatted with Dr. Charles Bullock, another former GBSC President, at the Annual Session in Durham.



Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch, GBSC First Vice President and Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC.



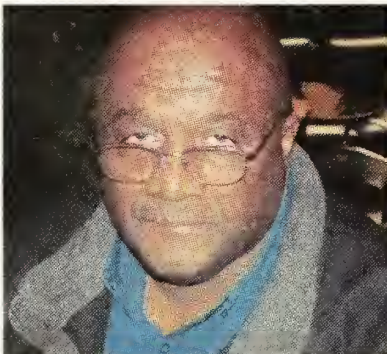
Dr. Joe Stevenson, Pastor of Macedonia New Life Church in Raleigh, NC.



Ushers from various Baptist churches served during the three-day Annual Session.



Dr. Cornelius Battle of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Durham, NC chatted with Brian Johnson, a radio personality with 97.5. Dr. Battle's congregation hosted the session.



Brother John Norman of Philippi Missionary Baptist in Simpson, NC.



Sister Barbara Marsh of Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church.



Members of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, including Evangelist Omelia Barnum, served at the registration desk for the session, which drew about 1,000 attendees.

# Fight the Good Fight: Improving nutrition for women and children

**A**s we kick off the New Year, it's time to renew our commitment to ending hunger and poverty—especially among women and children.

Hunger and poverty are putting more and more African-American women and children at risk of poor nutrition. Research shows that malnutrition during the 1,000 days from pregnancy through a child's second birthday produces permanent changes in the child's brain structure and function. Malnutrition during this period can cause irreversible damage to children, resulting in diminished intellectual capacity, impaired immune function, shorter height, and impaired vision. This damage reduces a child's ability to achieve in school and be productive throughout his or



her life. Studies show that a malnourished child's earning potential is reduced by 10 percent over the course of his or her lifetime, compared to a well-nourished child.

Even proper nutrition after this period can't undo the damage, which impacts a child's cognitive and emotional function and increases the risk of future

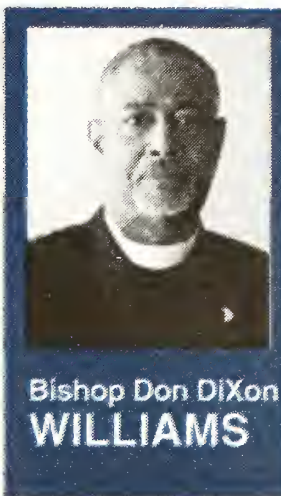
heart disease and diabetes. However, by improving nutrition for women and children during this period, we can give children a better start in life. Nutrition assistance programs will continue to play a vital role in combating hunger in the United States. Participation in these programs has greatly increased in conjunction with rising poverty since the start of the recession.

Two nutrition programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC), are particularly vital for protecting the health and nutrition of African-American women and children. SNAP supplements the food budgets of the neediest people through a plastic card that can be used at grocery stores or other authorized locations. The program currently serves more than 45 million Americans. Nearly 57 percent of all SNAP participants are women and nearly 50 percent are children. More than 22 percent of SNAP participants are African-American, and 13.1 percent of participants are African-American women.

WIC safeguards the health of low-income women and young children up to age 5 by providing monthly packages of nutritious food. WIC also provides information on healthy eating, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care. Families living in or near poverty can participate. For example, a family of four with an income up to \$40,409 would be eligible. WIC served more than 9 million women and children in 2010, nearly 20 percent of whom are African-American. Studies show that participation in WIC improves nutrition and leads to healthier pregnancies, birth outcomes, and better growth and development of young children.

Hunger costs our country an estimated \$167 billion annually in lost productivity, reduced educational outcomes, and increased healthcare costs. Children who are persistently poor are much less likely to be consistently employed as adults. Nutrition programs are vital lifelines to millions of African-American women and children. As a nation, we should consider maternal and childhood nutrition a moral obligation and an investment in our future. We must use our voices and pens to encourage lawmakers to end hunger by protecting the programs that matter. For more information, please visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

## Bread for Life



Bishop Don Dixon  
**WILLIAMS**

*Bishop Don Dixon Williams is Bread for the World's racial/ethnic outreach associate. He sits on the board of bishops of the United Church of Jesus Christ, Baltimore, MD.*



**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** *As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.*

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# Rachel Weeping: Finding God's Word in the complexities of life

(continued from page 1)

ized that he had been outwitted by the Magi.

A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are not more  
(Matthew 2:18)

Let us remember the heartbreak of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, neighbors and friends who face the shock of murders in Connecticut.

Let us also remember the ongoing distress of families dislocated by Superstorm Sandy.

And let us remember heartbreak of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, neighbors, family and friends around the world who also face calamity.

Let us remember the grief of those in Zimbabwe whose children die from water born diseases that can be prevented if they had wells for clean water and sanitation.

Let us remember the pain those in India whose children die from complications from AIDS because they do not have access to health care and medications.

Let us remember the heartache of those in



the Philippines whose children are stolen and forced into sex slavery.

Let us remember the horror of those in Syria who are traumatized and murdered by civil war.

Let us remember the devastation of those in Mexico who are victimized and assassinated because of drug violence.

Let us remember the ache of those in Palestine who live under the brutality and barbarism of Israeli apartheid.

Let us remember the horror of black and brown people in the US who are imprisoned unjustly to create extreme wealth for a few by enslaving the many.

Let us remember, and let us weep with Rachel. After weeping a while, however, let us work toward God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven. Let us touch the lives of the bruised and broken with the transforming love of Christ. By doing this, we will help the world to sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come..."

Weeping, yet working,

Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D., Lott  
Carey can be reached at [degoatley@aol.com](mailto:degoatley@aol.com).

## • • • NEWS ACROSS THE STATE • • •

(continued from page 5)

service to the American Crystallographic Association.

Robert J. Duronio, professor of biology and genetics, for distinguished contributions to the field of developmental genetics, particularly pertaining to cell cycle regulation, and for service in graduate education in the biomedical sciences.

Michel R. Gagné, Mary Ann Smith Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, for distinguished contributions at the interface of inorganic and organic chemistry, particularly for the development of selective catalysts and the study of complex receptors.

Alan M. Jones, professor of biology and pharmacology, for distinguished contributions to our understanding of signal transduction in plant cells, specifically cell proliferation and programmed cell death, and for service to the community.

Ann G. Matthyse, professor of biology, for distinguished contributions to the field of bacterial-plant interactions particularly that of *Argobacterium tumefaciens* with host plants and bacterial cellulose synthesis.

Lishan Su, professor of microbiology and immunology, for distinguished contributions to the field of HIV immune-pathogenesis, particularly for modeling persistent infection, immunopathogenesis and therapy by HIV and HCV in humanized mice.

Kevin M. Weeks, Kenan Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, for distinguished contributions to the development of technology predicting the structures of RNAs and for the application of this technology to problems of biological importance.

Yi Zhang, currently at Harvard University Medical School, for distinguished contributions to the field of epigenetics and chromatin, particularly for

the identification and characterization of various classes of histone and DNA modifying enzymes. Zhang was nominated while a Kenan Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at UNC.

### Low-income North Carolinians' needs must be at forefront of public transit plans.

### Plans should evaluate where low-income individuals – transit's most reliable customers – live and work

RALEIGH (December 12, 2012) – The success of new and expanded transit in North Carolina will be largely dependent on how well the transit system retains and reaches its most reliable customers – low-income North Carolinians – according to a new report.

Policymakers across North Carolina are moving forward with plans to expand public-transit options, including additional bus services and the development of commuter and light rail, but such plans must take into account where low-income North Carolinians live and work in order to succeed and provide for residents, said a new report from the Budget & Tax Center, a project of the North Carolina Justice Center. Investing in public transportation helps connect North Carolinians to education, employment, and social networks that can improve their economic standing, but it's only helpful if transit connects where individuals live to where opportunities are available.

North Carolina's public transportation system will be more successful if it's easily accessible by those

who regularly use and depend on it, particularly low-income North Carolinians, the report added. Sixty-seven percent of the state's workers commuting by public transit had annual incomes below \$25,000 last year, the report said, and the share of low-income workers commuting by transit increased by nearly 11 percent from 2010 to 2011.

It is increasingly important to ensure that transit plans pay attention to where low-income residents live and work, given that low-income residents are depending more and more on public transit, and housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable in the urban cores, where public transit is primarily located and jobs are more plentiful. Renters are disproportionately lower-income, the report said, and are more likely to use public transit than the average North Carolinian. Although renters comprised 3 out of 10 working households in North Carolina in 2011, 7 out of 10 workers commuting by transit were renters.

The increasing spatial mismatch between public transit, affordable housing, and job growth highlights the need for coordinating transit planning with other policy areas before any new transit is built. The success of expanded transit will depend largely on how well the system retains and reaches low-income North Carolinians, the report said.

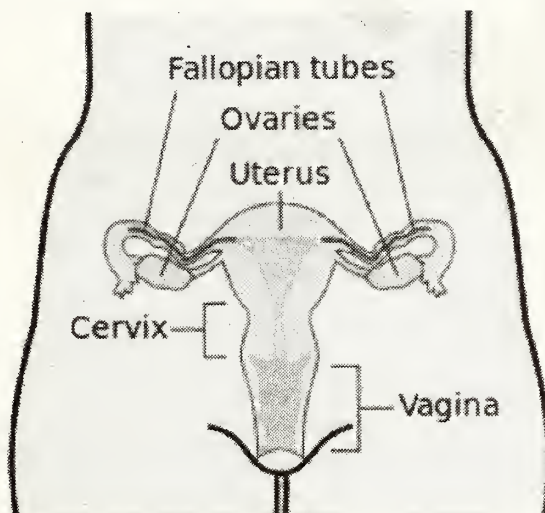
"This requires developing transit plans with an eye to where low-income people live and where the opportunities for economic and social participation exist," said Tazra Mitchell, a fellow with the Budget & Tax Center and author of the report. "Such planning will ensure that public transit investments deliver an economic benefit not just to families but to the broader economy by ensuring connections to jobs and reducing household costs."

# A New Year Starts ... January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

**A**s we enter into a new calendar year, it is always important to stay on top of your health and make good decisions in relation to your own health and that of others. Each month is filled with health observances and a major one for the month of January is "Cervical Health Awareness Month."

## What Is Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is cancer that starts in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects the birth canal (vagina) to the upper part of the uterus. The uterus, also known as the womb, is the area where the baby grows during a mother's pregnancy. All women are at risk for cervical cancer. It occurs most often in women over age 30. Each year, approximately 12,000 women in the United States get cervical cancer.



## Risk Factors

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly all cases of cervical cancer are caused by HPV (human papillomavirus) infection. HPV is a group of more than 100 related viruses, some of which cause a type of growth called a papilloma, which are more commonly known as warts. HPV can infect cells on the surface of the skin, genitals, anus, mouth and throat, but not the blood or most internal organs such as the heart or lungs.

Other risk factors include:

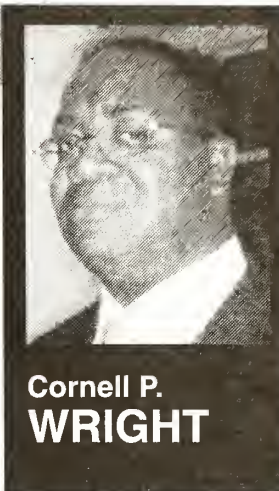
- Smoking
- Immunosuppression (health conditions that damages the body's immune system)
- Diet
- Birth Control
- Frequent Full-time Births
- Lack to Adequate Health Access/Care
- Family History

## What Can We Do

Cervical cancer is the easiest gynecologic cancer to prevent with regular screening tests and follow-up. It also is highly curable when found and treated early. There are two tests that can either help prevent cervical cancer or find it early, the Pap test (Pap smear) and the HPV test. The Pap test looks for pre-cancers, cell changes, on the cervix that can be treated, so that cervical cancer is prevented. The Pap test also can find cervical cancer early, when treatment is most effective. The Pap test only screens for cervical cancer. It does not screen for any other gynecologic cancer and is rec-

BAPTIST  
INFORMER

# HEALTH SPOT- LIGHT



**Cornell P.  
WRIGHT**

ommended for women aged 21-65 years old. The HPV test looks for HPV, the virus that can cause precancerous cell changes and cervical cancer.

While some cases of cervical cancer cannot be prevented, there are many things a woman can do to reduce her risk of developing cervical cancer.

- Get a regular Pap smear.
- Limit the amount of sexual partners.
- Quit smoking or avoid secondhand smoke.
- If you are sexually active, use a condom.
- Follow up on abnormal Pap smears.
- Get the HPV vaccine.

If you have a low income or do not have insurance, you may be able to get a free or low-cost Pap test through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. To learn more, call 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit [www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp).

Local health agencies, primary care providers, and advocacy groups can be extremely helpful for group and individual education/awareness activities and support. Only by working together to raise awareness and educate our communities, will we ever make a positive impact to our overall health outlook.

For more information about cervical cancer, please contact the National Cervical Cancer Coalition (NCCC) [www.nccc-online.org](http://www.nccc-online.org) or contact your local health provider. For more information about the Center for Health and Healing, please visit our website [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org).

*Cornell P. Wright, Programs Manager at the Center for Health and Healing, a nonprofit affiliate of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For information visit the website at [www.c4hh.org](http://www.c4hh.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-972-6374.*

## St. John Baptist Church Middleburg, NC Seeks Baptist Preacher

St. John Baptist Church, Middleburg, NC is seeking a spiritual Baptist Preacher that will teach and preach the word of God and to live daily according to God's word.

Should you be interested, feel free to send your resume post dated no later than Thursday, February 28, 2013 to:

St. John Baptist Church  
Alison Yarborough,  
Pulpit Committee Secretary  
P.O. Box 261  
Middleburg, NC 27556

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**First Baptist Church of Clinton, Inc.  
Position Announcement:  
Minister of Music**

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Inc., is a long-standing spiritual post in the community and has impacted surrounding areas for over a century. The church prides herself on the preaching and teaching of sound doctrine and quality music that - when coupled with kerygma - can move God's people more and more into His likeness. In an effort to minister through music to a congregation experiencing growth and diversity, FBC of Clinton, Inc., is seeking a full-time Minister of Music to oversee the direction of music during this time of expansion.

**Qualifications**

The Minister of Music must be a child of God with a servant's demeanor. This person must:

- ♪ Know the biblical foundation of music
- ♪ Have an appreciation for various styles of worship music
- ♪ Have at least 3-5 years of experience in church music
- ♪ Be able to read music or be willing to learn to read music
- ♪ Be skilled on the organ, piano, and/or keyboard
- ♪ Be able to teach vocal parts and work well with choir members and music staff
- ♪ Be efficient at transposing music to other keys versus using a transposing button
- ♪ Be available to accompany the pastor on extended ministry engagements
- ♪ Be available for revivals, funerals, weddings, etc.
- ♪ Be actively engaged in bible study, sunday school, or ongoing ministry classes

**Interested persons should send their resume to:**

Minister of Music Search Committee  
First Baptist Church of Clinton, Inc.  
900 College St.  
Clinton, NC 28328

For more information, please call the secretary at 910-592-2883.

**Deadline: February 1, 2013**



**Radio Station Donates to Local Children's Home - (From left) Tracy J. Mosley - Radio One Raleigh Promotions Director, Angela Williams - Central Children's Home of North Carolina, Inc. Executive Director and Scott English, Longhorn Steakhouse Managing Partner.**

**Radio Station Donates to Local Children's Home**

Radio One Raleigh (WQOK 97.5FM, The Light 103.9FM, and Foxy 107.1/104.3FM) presented the Central Children's Home of North Carolina, Inc., located in Oxford, with a check for \$3502.00. The radio stations were able to raise the money for the Central Children's Home through their Tip-A-Jock Holiday Community Service Efforts. During this project Radio One Raleigh's on-air personalities waited tables for tips at the Longhorn Steakhouse (8121 Brier Creek Parkway Raleigh, NC 27617). All tips collected were tax deductible charitable contributions to the Central Children's Home of North Carolina.

Tracy J. Mosley, Radio One Raleigh's Promotions Director and Henderson native, organized the "Tip-A-Jock" Holiday Community Service Efforts. "Being that our efforts supported an organization so close to home made organizing and participating in this project very special to me. With the support of Longhorn Steakhouse in Brier Creek, Radio One Raleigh listeners and Cricket Wireless, the "Tip-A-Jock" community service initiative was a huge success. We were able to exceed our goal of donating \$2500 to the Central Children's Home and also increased awareness about the organization. That's what life is about...helping others," stated Mosley.

**• • MINISTRY BRIEFS • •**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance in Smithfield**

First Missionary Baptist Church of Smithfield will present its 2013 MLK, Jr. Celebration January 16-18, 2013. It will culminate with its annual community worship service on January 21, 2013.

The events will highlight the life and legacy of Dr. King and also focus on the 1968 Poor People's Campaign and the implications of poverty today.

Events include a Panel Discussion on Jan. 17. Panelists will include Dr. Dudley Flood, Retired Assistant Superintendent for the NC State Department of Public Instruction; Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr., UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School; Professor Irv Joyner, NCCU Law School; Dr. Jameelah Melton, Physician; Ms. Aleiyah Sanders, Student, East Carolina University; the Reverend Mel Williams, Pastor Emeritus, Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, NC.

For more information, call the church at (919) 934-7007.

**Staff Spreads Holiday Cheer**

The staff at the Baptist Headquarters in Raleigh participated in the Holiday Cheer Program of Wake County. The program assists families with young children and elderly during the holiday season. This year, the staff donated \$325 to buy clothes, learning/educational gifts and toys for two families. This year's program was a blessing for 980 children and 64 seniors in 409 households.

**Obituary**

The Baptist Family mourns the recent passing of Attorney Ernestine Jett Joyner, the spouse of the Reverend Lacy L. Joyner, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Oxford. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes contributions to the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, 101 Manning Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-4220.

# The Issue of Poverty: Addressing it With Truth, Power, and Love

**W**ith an abundance of eateries, super-size portions, and buffet establishments, the issue of hunger seems nonsensical, as does poverty in this land of plenty—particularly in America. But how poverty rears its ugly head like a bad weed in lush grass is an ugly, global issue that demands attention in the form of humanitarians who've not only seen and had enough, but who are obedient followers to Jesus' teachings.

When the Rev. Sterling Freeman answered the call to a full-time pastorate at First Missionary Baptist Church in Smithfield, North Carolina three years ago, he made his commitment to prophetic ministry known. So, when the church's Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Committee began planning for its 2013 program to observe and celebrate the legacy of Dr. King, Freeman he didn't veer course. For the upcoming program, he's enlisted the committee's leadership in



producing a program on the topic of poverty that would "educate and inspire people to take that (MLK) legacy and do something with it," said Rev. Freeman. His objective is to instill motivation in others to do that something "in their own time, in their own space. This is about honoring the legacy and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., doing more than coming together for a one-time ceremony," Rev. Freeman said.

So, based upon the work of the Poor People's Campaign initiated and led by Dr. King in 1968, Rev. Freeman and First Missionary will plan and host activities "that will shine a light on this issue of poverty, which is connected to other issues of inequity." Leading up to King's official birthday observance, a panel discussion will be held on January 17 at the church to engage the community in a multi-disciplinary discourse designed to enlighten participants about poverty as a healthcare, financial, educational, legal, and safety issue. On January 18, the church will host a documentary screening to further underscore the importance of awareness and action to the obliteration of poverty. A poverty simulation activity will also be held to educate participants about the day to day realities faced when money is short and stressors seem long. The simulation date and time has not yet been determined.

"I wish I had heard more about poverty during the campaign season," said Rev. Freeman. "To be prophetic, we must address this issue. One of the powerful things about Jesus is that He was seen doing miraculous things by addressing the most mundane things. He spoke to the condition of the marginalized and oppressed. Prophetic work is about speaking to the powers that be about the prescient, prevailing issues of our day, and calling into question power structures and those who perpetuate them. It's truth to power and love."

Rev. Freeman believes that education and dialogue

will serve as inspiration to unearth the capacity and compassion to do. He challenges kingdom-builders to think of realistic, small things we can do that will begin to chip away at the issue of poverty as a church or as cooperative alliances.

"I want all of us to be mindful of the attraction of consumer capitalism and to guard ourselves as leaders of churches and our church communities so we can focus on the issues that Jesus cared about and named, like poverty in the Gospels. It is simply about doing ministry that makes a difference in the lives of people who are the least of these."

Contact Crystal Kimpson Roberts at [knowyour-carenc@gmail.com](mailto:knowyour-carenc@gmail.com).



Crystal Kimpson  
**ROBERTS**

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## • • • MUSIC REVIEWS • • •



Quintera  
**BATTS**

### Jackiem Joyner releases new gospel music album "Church Boy"

*Church Boy*  
October 22, 2012  
Artistry Records

**W**hen Jackiem Joyner released his new gospel music album *Church Boy* in October, he did something many people had not done be-

fore in gospel music; he released a gospel-infused-with-jazz album. Joyner, a contemporary jazz artist and saxophonist, used this album to take gospel music down the road less traveled. Sometimes inspiration can be found in not only in words, but in the music itself and Joyner exemplifies this on his album.

While Track 2, "City on our Knees," does not con-

tain any lyrics, it gives the listener a sense of familiarity, comfort or peace. The smooth sound of Joyner's saxophone takes the listener on a melodic journey without the distractions of loud bass and overbearing organs or keyboards. The music just seemed to be in melodic harmony. Joyner also covers more popular songs like Kirk Franklin's "I Smile" (Track 3) and "Hosanna" (Track 4). "I Smile" is beautiful as a jazz piece. Joyner's saxophone changes the nature of the song and gives it a different feel, the message is still the same, but without the vocalists, the listener is able to focus more on the music. The songs on this album are composed beautifully, with just the right amount of gospel and jazz meshed together.

Jazz tends to have a calming effect on the soul and Jackiem Joyner's *Church Boy* is no different.

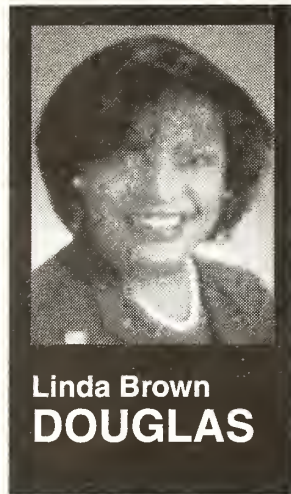
Reach our reviewer at [Qmb.writer@yahoo.com](mailto:Qmb.writer@yahoo.com)



# The 'Fifth Why': Sometimes it's OK to talk to strangers

**W**e always tell children, "Never talk to strangers." We have to say that, because a lot of bad people are out there looking for unsuspecting victims. No matter what age, we all must be careful.

I probably take more chances than I should, though. My friends and co-workers are always making fun of me for striking up detailed conversations with people I have never met, whether it be on the airplane, in grocery lines, at sporting events . . .



**Linda Brown DOUGLAS**

Wherever. As far as I am concerned, who wants to talk about the weather when so much juicy information exists?

I guess it goes back to my early years as a reporter when I was actually paid to be nosy. You would be amazed at the personal details people reveal when you ask. And I made sure I asked everything. I didn't waste my interview time grabbing shallow information like

some of today's reporters. Back in the 80s and 90s, newspapers could actually afford writing coaches who taught us to dig for truth, as opposed to headlines and to stick with an interview until we had asked the fifth "why."

What's the fifth why?

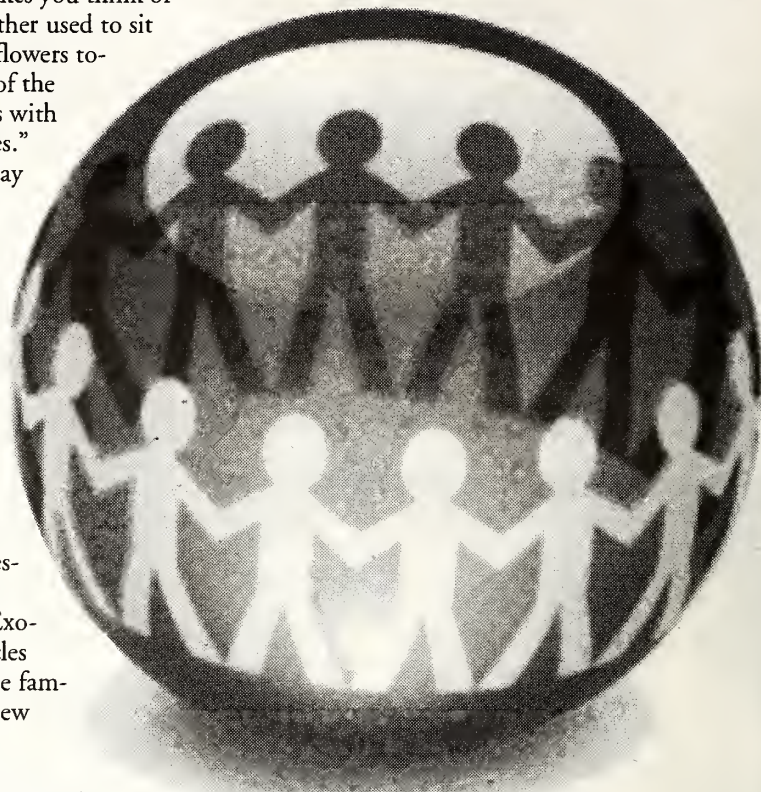
That's the art of digging past the surface answers in

search of information that gives a picture of a person's personality: "You say you like the color purple, why is that? You say it's because it reminds you of your childhood. What about your childhood makes you think of purple? Oh, you say you and your mother used to sit around on rainy days drawing purple flowers together and now every time you think of the color purple you think of special times with your mother. Tell me about those times." That's the fifth why, even though it may not always involve five questions. The idea is to reach past the superficial.

You know, Jesus was always going up to people and asking them intimate questions. Of course, He knew the answers before he asked, but if He had never connected personally with all those people, Jesus could never have touched them. As witnesses, sometimes we have to engage strangers in order to let them know we are approachable. Otherwise, why would they listen to the wonderful message we share?

We were all strangers at one time (Exodus 22:21; Leviticus 19:34; 1 Chronicles 29:15), but we were welcomed into the family. Why not take the time to meet a new family member, today?

*Linda Brown Douglas, Director of Community Relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a regular columnist.*



**Pastoral Vacancy**  
**Sandy Fork Missionary Baptist Church, Nash Co.**  
Wilson, NC 27893

**Sandy Fork Missionary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a Senior Pastor.**

**Qualifications:**

- Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination
- Ability to effectively preach and teach God's Word
- Minimum of a high school diploma
- Minimum of 2 years of pastoral experience
- Willing to support all church programs
- Active involvement in community affairs
- Ability and a willingness to work with all age groups and auxiliaries of the church
- All applicants should submit a resume as soon as possible to:

**Pastoral Search Committee**  
**Attention: Deacon Ronald Deans, Chairperson**  
**Sandy Fork Missionary Baptist Church**  
P.O. Box 67  
Bailey, NC 27807

**Pastoral Vacancy**  
**St. Stephen's Missionary Baptist Church**  
Goldsboro, NC 27533

St. Stephen's Missionary Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for the position of pastor. Worship Services are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month at 11:00am.

**Qualifications:**

- Must be a licensed and ordained Missionary Baptist Minister
- Must be a born again Christian as evidenced by one's character and dedication
- Must be a high school graduate (same college preferred)
- Prefer 1-3 years of pastoral/ministry experience
- Must be a visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
- Must be willing to follow Baptist doctrine, policies, and practices
- Must have the ability to effectively preach and teach God's Word (Holy Bible)
- Must have good public relations and strong communication and administrative skills
- Must be effective in working with all groups in the church and expected to teach, preach, and counsel in ward and deed to all age groups in the church
- Must be willing to support all church programs (Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting, etc.)
- Must be willing to visit the sick and shut-in (homes, hospitals, nursing homes, etc.)
- Must be willing to become an affiliate of the Bear Creek Association
- Must demonstrate interest in attending seminars, conferences, workshops, and other educational programs that contribute to his/her spiritual and intellectual growth
- Must be between the ages of 30-60 years old

**Principal Responsibilities:** teaching and preaching God's Word, leading the church in an effective and caring ministry, and representing the church at meetings of the local and state associations.

To be considered for the position, all candidates must submit a resume with a cover letter, an official/sealed high school transcript (minimum), a copy of his/her ministerial license and ordination certificate, three character reference letters from individuals other than relatives, and a photo.

Applicants must furnish a Criminal Background and Credit Check.  
The deadline for submitting all materials is February 5, 2013. Please forward all correspondence to:

Chairperson, Pastoral Search Committee  
St. Stephen's Missionary Baptist Church  
Past Office Box 1242  
Goldsboro, NC 27533



Shaw University Divinity School

**The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Shaw University Divinity School  
Alexander/Pegues Minister's Conference  
March 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Opening Conference Preacher: Bishop Walter Scott Thomas**

**Conference Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles Booth**

**Conference Lecturer: Rev. Dr. John Kinney**

**Register Now!**

**Early Bird Registration - \$100**

**After February 29<sup>th</sup> - \$135 On-Site**

**All Seminary & College Students \$50 (On-Site Only)  
(Must show a valid student ID or proof of registration)**

# Dr. Gina M. Stewart to Headline MLK Banquet on January 11

(continued from page 1)  
church) from the Gospel Bridge Awards (June 2004), and The World's Most Loved Pastors (November/December 2005 Gospel Today magazine).

Dr. Stewart has been featured in numerous publications such as Gospel Today, Spirit magazine, "Soul Sanctuary" (released April 2006), a desktop documentary of the essential highlights of the African American worship experiences across denominations nationwide and The African American Pulpit, a quarterly journal that serves as a repository for the very best of African American preaching and provides practical and creative resources for persons in ministry.

Dr. Stewart has had the distinction of being the morning preacher for the Hampton Ministers Conference in June 2008 and the Conference Preacher for the Hampton Ministers



Conference in June 2011.

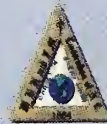
Dr. Stewart has served as a Team Leader for the Pastoral Excellence Program for Lott Carey International, a development and advocacy organization. She serves as an Adjunct Professor for Memphis Theological Seminary and a Visiting Professor of Practical Theology for the Samuel D. Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. She is a former board member of the Advisory Board for The African American Pulpit.

She is a former board member for The National Civil Rights Museum and Bread for the World. She is the founder of Greater Works Inc. a non profit organization devoted to philanthropy and ministry development. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

More than 4,000 persons have united with the Christ Missionary Baptist church

under Dr. Stewart's leadership. In addition to significant numerical growth, the church has experienced exponential physical and financial growth. The church has also purchased several additional properties to accommodate their increasing growth. The church offers more than forty ministries, which are intended to minister to the Spirit, Soul and Body of every person and lead to personal transformation. She travels extensively conducting workshops, revivals, and seminars. Dr. Stewart is a woman with a heart for God and God's people.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons, Koury Convention Center, on January 11, for the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet. Event begins at 7:00 p.m., doors open at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$50.00 at the door. Please contact the Baptist Headquarters in Raleigh for more information at (919) 821-7466.



ONE DAY SESSION  
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

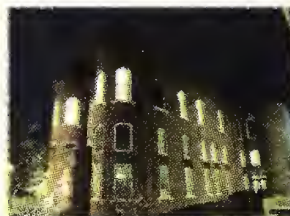
SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 12, 2013

KOURY CONVENTION  
CENTER  
GREENSBORO, NC

## BAPTIST INFORMER



603 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601  
USPS 042-680



### MISSIONS IS WHAT WE DO AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!

The General Baptist State Convention supporting  
Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School,  
Central Children's Home of North Carolina,  
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly,  
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention  
and State Missions since 1967.

06/09/2014 52 P1  
SE Baptist Theo Seminary  
114 N Wingate St  
Wake Forest NC 27587-2353