

Church

Church News

By Mary Wilson
Church Reporter

The black members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will be presenting a fire side (social get-acquainted) meeting Sunday, June 7, 7:00 p.m. at the North Las Vegas Stake Center, 2401 E. Tonopah, on the corner of Tonopah Street and Civic Center Blvd.

All blacks who are investigating the church, and all blacks who would like to know about the church are invited to attend.

Refreshments will follow.

First Pentecostal Apostolic Church, located at 928 W. Owens in the Nucleus Plaza

Shopping Center, is having their annual Women's Day Program Sunday May 31 beginning at 3:00 p.m. President Evangelist Minnie Dunn is Coordinator. For more information call 642-7331 or 648-3333. Elder Sammy Graham is pastor.

Dove Ministries presents Rob Frazier in concert Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free of charge and baby sitting will be provided. The church is located at 800 North Rancho Road at Bonanza. For more information call 646-4626.

The Moments of Miracles Deliverance Center presents Rev. Jean Martin of Atlanta, Georgia, better known as "The Singing Preacher"

Tuesday May 26 thru Friday, May 29. Along with Rev. Martin will be Rev. Jonathan Graham. If you like good singing along with good preaching, don't miss this revival. For more information call 646-3935. The Moments of Miracles Deliverance Center is pastored by Prophetess Amanda Irving.

Dove Ministries will present "Festival of Praise Gospel Music" Saturday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m. The program will be at the Heritage Hall, 932 West Owens Avenue (Nucleus Shopping Center). For more information call 646-4626.

The First Pentecostal Apostolic Church, 928 West Owens, will have their Annual Women's Day Service Sunday, May 31, at 3:00 p.m. For more information call 644-7225. The church is located in the Nucleus Shopping Center. They are looking to see you there. The First Pentecostal Apostolic Church is pastored by Elder Sammy Graham.

The International Women's Convention of The Churches of God in Christ is in progress in Kansas City, Missouri, Tuesday through Friday. We're wishing all of the delegates a safe trip and hurry home.

The St. John Community Club will have a musical Saturday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the St. John Baptist

Church, 1439 Lawry Street. The president is Deacon E. Hayes and the pastor is Rev. Tom Jenkins. For more information call 642-5836. Several guest churches are scheduled to appear: Greater Carver Baptist Church, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and the Greater Faith Baptist Church, to name a few. Don't miss it.

The Mission Department of the Community Baptist Church will have their Mission Day Services Sunday, May 31, at 3:00 p.m. Various speakers will be featured, seven in all. Don't miss this great event. The Community Baptist Church is located at 245 Foster Avenue, Henderson, Nevada and is pastored by Rev. Sam Roberson. For more information call 648-8180.

The Ebenezer Church of God in Christ, 1072 Bartlett Avenue, will have a building fund drive to expand their ministry. For more information call 648-3074. The Ebenezer C.O.G.I.C. is pastored by Elder Robert Tolfree.

St. Mary the Virgin Catholic Church, 5083 Judson Avenue, is having their Annual Rummage Sale Saturday, May 30, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information call 642-6287. Father Clark A. Tea is pastor.

"Keeping The Faith" To Air June 16 on PBS

At Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, parishioners line up 90 minutes early just to get a seat. By 8 a.m. the building is filled with people who are mostly young, upwardly mobile, and black.

On the other side of the city, in a rundown storefront, the New Rising Sun Missionary Baptist Church is only half filled. Many of the faithful here are unemployed women and their children.

These two black churches are examples of a diverse institution that share a common legacy. From its earliest days of secret slave meetings to its central role in the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Church has served as an instrument of liberation for its people.

"Keeping the Faith," a FRONTLINE with Judy Woodruff documentary airing Tuesday, June 16 at 9 pm (check local listings), examines the current status of the Black Church in America. FRONTLINE Correspondent Roger Wilkins travels to Chicago to find out whether the Black Church is fulfilling its legacy.

In Chicago, Wilkins learns that middle class blacks are returning to the church in increasing numbers — coming back to their spiritual and cultural foundations. In many of the fastest-growing churches they are asserting pride in being black. Trinity Church,

which has grown from 87 members to 4,500 in 15 years, bears the motto "Unashamedly Black, Unapologetically Christian."

"Keeping the Faith" explores the power of Trinity Church. Through its pastor Jeremiah Wright, its music-filled worship services and its many ministries — from the "Building Black Men Program" to the "Sojourner Truth Cultural Classes" — the image of a vital institution emerges.

"What I found at Trinity was a coming together of my blackness and my Christianity," says one member.

"You see black folks of all economic status because they're all worshipping the Lord," adds another. "It makes me feel good. It makes me feel we're going to get together... and it makes me feel even prouder of being black."

Many of Trinity's members are part of the growing black middle class. But while this portion of the black community has grown, so has the percentage of those living in poverty.

Unlike Trinity, the church across town, the Rising Sun Missionary Baptist Church, displays no picture of a black Jesus. Its pastor, Reverend Cleveland Whittington, strives to help the young people in one of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods.

"Most churches are not interested in the poor," says Trinity's Pastor Wright. "In 1987 most churches are status quo. They are not trying to feed the poor; they are not trying to find jobs for people."

The Rising Sun Church is trying to work with the lowest, the least, and the left out. But it is an uphill battle. As Pastor Wright says, "Historically, the church has been one of the biggest 'boat rockers.' When you look at the numbers, and look at the facilities they have, and look at the potential for what they could be doing, they're not doing it, we're not doing it, no."

"Will churches and individual blacks reach beyond their membership, beyond their successful lives to

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