Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 1711 N. Claremont Ave., will celebrate its 77th church anniversary and the 50th anniversary of its pastor, E.L. Clark Sr., beginning May 25 at 4 p.m. with special guest the Rev. D.S. Stowe and members of Second Calvary Baptist Church. Services will continue May 29 at 7:30 p.m. with the Rev. Robert L. McGarvent Sr. and members of Galilee Baptist Church, and May 30 at 7:30 p.m. with Dr. Douglas E. Summers and members of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. The Pastor’s 50th Anniversary Banquet will be held Saturday in the Fellowship Hall of the Church. For tickets, contact Elgaheth Hawks at 788-2089. Adult admission is $15, children $7.50. The anniversary will close June 1 at 4 p.m. with the Rev. J.L. Anthong and members of Oak Grove Baptist Church of Walkertown, N.C.
A 75th Anniversary

The Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1711 N. Clarnont Ave., will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary of the Senior Choir and the 47th Anniversary of the Vocal Choir on Oct. 9th at 4 p.m.

The Lexington Christian Fellowship Gospel Choir and the Rev. Bernard Adams will be the special guests of the Senior Choir. The Vocal Choir of Mars Hill Baptist Church and the Rev. K.L. Lilly will be the special guest of the Vocal Choir.

There will be a fellowship dinner on Saturday, Oct. 8th with the guest choirs.

Jessie Robinson is the President of the Vocal Choir; James McQueen is the President of the Senior Choir; the Rev. Marion Pete Thomas is the Minister of Music; Willie Mashack is the Administrative Assistant and the Rev. E.L. Clark Sr. is the pastor.
Double Anniversary at Bethlehem

Bethlehem Baptist Church at 1711 N. Claremont Avenue will observe a double anniversary beginning Sunday; the 33rd anniversary of the Rev. Emory Lee Clark Sr., as pastor and the 60th anniversary of the congregation.

A week of special services will begin at 3 p.m. when the Rev. D. S. Stowe of Second Calvary Baptist Church will preach.

The other services will be at 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the speakers, in order, will be a representative from Kimberley Park Holiness; the Rev. J. R. Samuels of St. Stephen's Baptist; the Rev. R. L. Anderson of Union Chapel Baptist; the Rev. Warnie C. Hay of Galilee Baptist Church; and Bishop S. D. Johnson of Macedonia True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church.

At 6 p.m. next Saturday the congregation will have a diamond jubilee banquet at 6 p.m. at the Patterson Avenue YMCA. The observances will close at 7 p.m. June 1 when the Rev. I. L. Anthony of Oak Grove Baptist in Walkertown, will speak.

Bethlehem's history dates to March 15, 1920, when a prayer group met in the home of two sisters on East 16th Street, then known as "Nat Bottom." The prayer group's success proved there was a need for a church in the neighborhood.

The late Rev. Otto Sylvester Hamm became the founding pastor of the church formed and it was called Fairview Baptist Church. It moved into a small building on East 16th Street. The first $25 for the purchase of that land came from a deacon from First Baptist Church on West Fifth Street. Later other members of First Baptist and the pastor, the Rev. J. R. Jester, helped the congregation get its start.

About the time that site was becoming too small for the congregation, the late Rev. W. T. Johnson, pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church, notified Hamm and the trustees that the present property was for sale.

Johnson moved to Wadesboro and the two congregations agreed to merge and become known as Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church. The church has been renovated twice. In 1940 the church was in need for a larger place of worship, so the building was demolished and a modern brick sanctuary was erected to replace the little wooden church home.

When Hamm died on March 4, 1947, the congregation looked for a new pastor and in December of that year it called the Rev. Emory Lee Clark Jr. Sr., a young minister of the church who had served the congregation when Hamm was ill. He has been serving the church ever since and has led the congregation to its present renovated structures and added features.

Clark is a former president of the Baptist Ministers' Conference and Associates.

Women's Day

First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue will observe Women's Day on Sunday. The speaker for the 11 a.m. worship will be Shirley Wilkerson Bullock, a public school teacher at Rocky Mount Senior High School and wife of the Rev. Charles T. Bullock, pastor of St. James Baptist Church in Rocky Mount. She has been active in the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, the Lott Carey Foreign Missionary Convention and she is a member of the Rocky Mount Interdenominational Ministers' Wives Fellowship.

Briefing

All pastors, local church lay members and at-large delegates to the Western N. C. United Methodist Conference from the Winston-Salem District will meet at 7 p.m. Sunday at Clemmons United Methodist Church for a briefing on the conference issues coming before the conference will be discussed.

Bethlehem Baptist Church represents a merger.

For the Graduates

These baccalaureate events have been announced:

- The joint baccalaureate service by the Northwest Ministry churches will be held at 8 p.m. Sunday at Pfafftown Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church on Transou Road.

- It is to honor graduating high school seniors from the 11 churches which form the ministry.

- The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. David Morrow, pastor of Old Town Baptist.

- Seniors are asked to be in place, in caps and gowns, by 7:30 p.m.

- A reception will follow.

- A baccalaureate service for graduating high school seniors from Ardmore United Methodist, United Methodist and Moravian churches will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Ardmore United Methodist, 630 S. Hawthorne Road.

- The Rev. Ted E. York, associate pastor at Ardmore Baptist, will be the speaker.

- Each congregation will have its own dinner for graduates prior to the service.

Clergy

The Forsyth Clergy Association will meet at 11 a.m. Monday in the private dining room of the Western Sizzlin Restaurant at 984 Peters Creek Parkway.

- The program will be on "The Irresponsibility of the Church as An Educational Institution."

- The speaker will be Dr. Sidney Kelly, associate professor of religion at Salem College.

- A Dutch luncheon will follow.
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The Senior Missionary Circle of Bethlehem Baptist Church will celebrate its 62nd Anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 21, with two services. The programs will also honor the 22nd Anniversary of the President, Mrs. E.H. Griffin.

The Rev. E.L. Clark, pastor, will deliver the special anniversary message at the 11 a.m. worship service. Music will be provided by the Spiritual Choir, under the direction of Rudolph Sullivan and Mrs. Annie Moye.

At 3 p.m. the Rev. Bracy H. Bonham, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church, will be the speaker. He will be accompanied by the choir and members of Morning Star Baptist Church.
Bethlehem Marks 60th Anniversary

Bethlehem Baptist Church celebrated its 60th diamond jubilee anniversary and the 33rd anniversary of pastor Rev. E.L. Clark during a banquet at the Patterson Avenue YMCA Saturday, May 31.

More than 200 guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and the address of Rev. C.J. Banks, associate minister of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, who spoke on the topic “The Shepherd and the Sheep.”

Also honored was Mrs. Ernestine Griffin, the only original member and daughter of the church’s founder, the late Rev. O.S. Hamm. She was presented a plaque.

Master of ceremonies during the program was Deacon Charles Fletcher. Music was furnished by Rev. B.L. Plowden and Mrs. Avenell Samuels. Soloists were Mrs. Jennie Norris, Mrs. Annie Moye, Mrs. Ora Rich and Michael Johnson.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hawkins was chairman of the banquet committee. Willis Johnson Sr., Mrs. Annie Moye, Mrs. Anglemena Vance, Mrs. Veronica Sawyer, Mrs. Celestine Jackson, Mrs. Adeline Brabham and Willis Mashack were members.
Bethlehem Baptist

The missionary department of Bethlehem Baptist Church will hold its 21st annual Mother’s Day-Women’s Day with two services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

During the morning service, the church’s youngest and oldest mothers will be recognized. The speaker will be Mrs. Clifton Conrad, a member of the church who serves on the Women’s Progressive Club and is a member of the Sunday School and the Senior Choir, which she has directed for the past 27 years.

An all-women’s choir will furnish the music under the direction of Mrs. Avenell Samuels, a music teacher in the Stokes County School System.

At the 6 p.m. service, a coronation pageant will be held and a “Queen of Bethlehem” will be crowned. Past queens will also be recognized.

Mrs. E.H. Griffin is president of the senior circle; Ms. Elizabeth Hawkins is president of circle number two, and Mrs. Margaret Wilson and Mrs. Thomascene Carpenter are youth group leaders.

The Rev. E.L. Clark is the guest speaker.
Ann Maye (far right) and Thomascene Carpenter (right, in hat) present Carolyn Acker with plaque and bouquet, as 20th Woman of the Year of Bethlehem Baptist Church, where the Rev. E. L. Clark Sr. (far left) is pastor.
Church to Celebrate 42th Anniversary

The Bethlehem Baptist Church cordially invites the public to attend its 42nd Anniversary celebration on Sunday, Nov. 13 in the main sanctuary of the church.

The guest choirs will be The Adult Choir of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Charlotte; The Spiritual Choir of Morning Star Baptist Church; The E.B.C. Choir of Emmanuel Baptist Church; and the Adult Choir of Kimberly Park Holiness Church.

Sister Mattie Young is president; Deacon William Johnson is business manager; Willie Mashack is administrative assistant; Michael Johnson, Ann Moye and Dolly Cobb are directors; Marion C. Pete Thomas is minister of music; and the Rev. E.L. Clark Sr. is pastor.
Mother's Day Program Sunday
At Bethlehem Baptist Church

The missionary department of Bethlehem Baptist Church will sponsor the 23rd annual combined Mother's Day and Women's Day services Sunday, May 9.

At 11 a.m., the youngest and oldest mothers will be recognized. The speaker will be Mrs. E. L. Clark Jr., the wife of the pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church. Mrs. Clark is a native of Mullins, S.C., where she attended school. She has served with several church and community organizations and is noted for her singing ability.

An All-Woman Choir will furnish the music under the direction of Avenelle Samuels, a music teacher in Stokes County. The women of the church will be in charge of the services.

At 6 p.m., the activities of the day will conclude with a coronation pageant, during which the queen of Bethlehem Church will be crowned.

Ernestine H. Griffin is president of the Senior Circle. Ann Be. Moye is president of the Dora Clark Circle and Margaret Wilson and Thomascene Carpenter are youth leaders.