

RELIGION

Lifeline Church Small church, big heart...

BY DAVID PLECHL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rev. Robert Weaver has never pretended to be "a perfect soul." He respects those that have seen their fair share of trouble. He welcomes those that have learned life's lessons the hard way.

Weaver has wrestled with his own share of inner demons. He spent the 60s and 70s coming-of-age in Alabama.

"I was a manipulator," he said. "I was still in my mischief in those days."

Weaver was the pastor of a small church at the time, but inside he was a mess. Life was spinning out of control. Desperation began to rule his faith and trust in God during those troubled days.

"I was gonna pawn the church," he said. "If I couldn't pawn it, I was gonna sell it. I was in that lost state of life."

In the early 80s, Weavers' wife had had enough. She left him alone

and moved out to Oregon to be with her family. Heartbroken, the pastor soon followed.

Broke and living with few connections in an unfamiliar city 1,500 miles from his home in Alabama, Weaver found himself doing jobs

deeply back in Alabama. The man who had moved him was Pastor Staples. He only had an eighth grade education, but Weaver said Staples was schooled in the ways of the heart.

Pastor Staples had often

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— Rev. Robert Weaver, Lifeline Church

he thought he'd never do. He cleaned windows, scrapped gum off floors and scrubbed toilets. It was an unhappy time for the self-described dreamer.

Soon Weavers' loneliness and sense of alienation gripped him and led him to reflect on his life. He remembered the powerful sermons of a pastor that had touched him

preached about the importance of honesty and humility — and those lessons finally began to take shape in Weavers' heart.

He didn't feel so bad anymore about his station in life. God had given him all he could handle.

So Weaver got his act together. He didn't want to manipulate, deceive or steal. He started preaching again. He decided to fill up his heart not with material things but a new spirit, one dedicated to God, one dedicated to a way of living in peace with one's self. He reconciled with his wife. His life began to move forward again.

"Never despise the day of small beginnings," Weaver explains. "He who fails to master the crude will never master the complex."

At just 5 years old, Weaver's congregation is one of the youngest in the neighborhood.

Two years ago Weaver had 160 people pack his "cracker-box cathedral," on North Albina and Ainsworth. The pastor and his wife were pleased with the attendance



Reverend Weaver of Lifeline Church (inset). Ebonique Colbert has been coming to Lifeline for three years. "To me you should go to a church where the spirit of the Lord is," she said. "Here, people are friendly, you can talk to them, and everyone is like a family."

PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

but the fire marshal wasn't.

"They told us we couldn't have more than 70 people in this place. If he had more, they would fine us," Weaver said.

Since then, he has seen the congregation hover at about "sixty steady folks."

Lifeline's small size creates a cozy atmosphere. Parishioners are mostly from the nearby neighborhood. It is a visitor friendly church, with no strings attached.

"What you see is what you get," said Maggie Weaver, the reverend's wife and assistant pas-

sings, "Yes, He is, yes, He is."

Stobria Bennet sings opening praise each week. She feels at home with Lifeline.

"I like all the members here, we're a very close-knit church, we're very people oriented," she said.

Ebonique Colbert has been coming to Lifeline for three years.

"To me you should go to a church where the spirit of the Lord is," she said. "Here, people are friendly, you can talk to them, everyone is like a family."

Lifeline is a non-denominational Christian church. Weavers' path has led him to embrace people of many faiths and upbringings.

"I don't try and convert anyone, I just show them the truth as I know it," he said. "My desire is to open up minds. My prayer is that people come to know who Jesus is."

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—Stobria Bennet

But the smaller numbers don't discourage Rev. Weaver.

"It's not the size of the dog in the fight that determines who the winner is. It's the fight that's in the dog," he said. "True ministry is not about numbers or status."

"We're for real. We are a grateful congregation"

Spirited gospels warm the little church, causing eyes to close and hands to raise. The voices of the choir lift the heart.

"He is an on-time God," the choir

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
4009 North Missouri Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97227

15th Church Anniversary Celebration

October 11, 2002 – Service time 7:00 PM
October 12, 2002 – Luncheon time 12:00 PM

GUEST SPEAKER CHARLES JORDAN
DIRECTOR OF PORTLAND PARKS

October 13, 2002—Closeout time 3:30 PM

Theme: The Divine Growth of the Church

Acts: 2:47



Pastor
Johnny Pack IV

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Anniversary Banquet Celebrates Pastor

All are invited to celebrate the 5th anniversary of Pastor Jeffery W. Jackson at the Pastoral Banquet on Sunday, Oct. 13, from 4 – 9 p.m. at the Regency Ballroom's Washington Square Embassy Suites in Beaverton. Tickets are \$30 per person, \$50 per couple. Event is semi-formal.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Friendship Christian Fellowship, 301 N.W. Murray Blvd.; Portland, OR. 97229. Call 503-644-1700 or send an email to fefontrock@aol.com.

Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel

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This ad dedicated to the loved ones who passed In:

2002

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Avritt, Logan 7-11-02
Bower, Forrest 2-7-02
Bradley, Cheryl 9-1-02
Bright Jr., Franklin 8-26-02
Brown, Virginia 6-25-02
Bryant, Maggie 4-1-02
Cannon, Rev. Eddie 7-6-02
Carter, John 5-18-02
Cole, Kimberly 8-5-02
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Gibson, Osceola 3-2-02
Goldsbey, Albert 3-3-02
Gould, Vernice 4-17-02
Hall, Howard Lee 1-9-02
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Hampton, Alvin 3-8-02
Hill, James C 1-9-02
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Horton, Louise 7-29-02
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Wilson, Anthony 3-21-02
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We thank those families who have patronized our business.



Local Couple Visit Ground Zero

Paul and Geneva Knauls celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary with a visit to ground zero in New York City on Sept. 19th. "They dug down to about the 7th floor below ground level," Knauls said about the excavation site. "After that I guess they figured there was no point in going any farther. Nothing left to find."

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Sr. Pastor
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Church Anniversary & Call To Solemn Assembly
Oct 23-27, 2002
7:00 P.M. Nightly

Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

Isaiah 55:6

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obituaries Adolph Myers Sr.

A memorial service was held Friday at Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes for Adolph Myers Sr. who died Sept. 30 at the age of 88.

He was born Nov. 26, 1913 in Jackson, Miss.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Leatta; two daughters, Patricia Brinkley and Tania Mosley, of Portland; two sons, John and Adolph Jr. of Portland; and three brothers, Jerry, John and McConnan, also of Portland.

Myers was a self-employed painter and a self-described outdoorsman who liked to fish and hunt.