

RELIGION

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BEMYVALENTINEANDGIVEMESUNSHINE

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Services

Sunday School	9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship	11:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	7:00 P.M.
Wed. Bible Study	7:00 P.M.

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Worship Service Commemorates Astronaut Michael Anderson remembered as "eagle" who aimed high

(AP)— Shuttle astronaut Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson was remembered as a quiet, deep thinker at the small Baptist church in Spokane where he worshipped as a youth and where his parents still attend.

Anderson's parents, Bobbie and Barbara Anderson, "needed to rest" and were not at the Sunday worship service, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Pastor John Claiborne told about 75 congregants.

Anderson, 43, was the only African American among seven astronauts aboard the shuttle Columbia when it disintegrated in flames over Texas minutes before its scheduled landing Saturday morning.

"He told me some years ago the word 'can't' should be taken out of the dictionary because there wasn't nothing that can't be done," Barbara Anderson said Monday in an interview on "The Early Show" on CBS Television.

"His life wasn't in vain and will do some good to mankind," she said.

Anderson often would attend Morning Star church when visiting Spokane, Pastor Emeritus the Rev. Freeman Simmons said. He headed the church when Anderson attended as a youth.

"He was a young man who would always think deep," Simmons said. "He never said much. ... He would listen to what I said, especially scientific things."

Anderson would accompany his father to Fairchild Air Force Base near here and showed "a strong desire that he wanted to fly," Simmons said.

"He didn't know he was going to be an astronaut," Simmons said. "Michael was born for that. ... He had the characteristics of an eagle."

Anderson graduated from Cheney High School, about 15 miles



Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson was the only African American crew member aboard the Columbia when it disintegrated in flames over Texas minutes before its scheduled landing Saturday. Another African American astronaut, mission specialist Robert E. McNair was killed in 1986 when the Challenger exploded during take-off.

"He told me some years ago the word 'can't' should be taken out of the dictionary because there wasn't nothing that can't be done."

— Barbara Anderson, mother of Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson who died in the Columbia explosion

southwest of Spokane, in 1977, then earned a bachelor's degree in physics and astronomy from the University of Washington in 1981, and a master's degree master's in physics from Creighton University, 1990. He was married with two daughters, ages 9 and 11.

He was flying for the Air Force in 1994 when NASA chose him as an

astronaut. He traveled to Russia's Mir space station in 1998.

"We come to remember Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, who on yesterday moved from this world to a better world," Claiborne said in the moving musical service.

"Thank God for Michael Anderson," Claiborne said later. "He had a life knowing that when I die, I

fulfill my hopes and dreams."

A memorial service has not yet been planned at the church on Spokane's east side, an area of industrial plants and modest neighborhoods.

The pastor said Anderson's life reminded him of his own mother's advice: "Aim for the stars and if you fall short, at least you tried."

Mt. Olivet Pressed into Military Service

Congregation comes to aide of Army troop

(AP)— A mostly African American church came to the rescue of the 671st Engineering Company when buses didn't arrive for the Army Reserve unit to make their charter flight for active duty in

Missouri and possibly the Middle East.

"Who'd ever dream they'd see a church bus with military personnel and weapons on it?" said Maj. John Pettit, an Army Reserve chaplain from Steilacoom, Wash.

Commercial buses didn't show up in time to take one of the 671st's platoons to the airport on Sunday, Jan. 26, so Pettit walked next door

from the reserve hall to Mount Olivet Baptist Church, which has an old school bus. William White, the north Portland church's bus driver, offered to help.

"The one key word in the Army is being flexible," said Pettit, a Baptist minister in civilian life. "If you can't be flexible, you'll perish."

The four chartered Greyhound buses didn't appear at the Sharff Army Reserve Center as sched-

uled at 10 a.m., but did arrive at 11:15 a.m. and were able to transport the remaining troops to a later flight.

"There's a sense of duty that has to be done," said Ed Williams, Mount Olivet's director of administration. Williams also provided a church van to haul a dozen more members of the 671st to the airport, including their commander, Capt. Andy Boetticher.

Gospel Extravaganza Planned

Portland Community College will celebrate Black History Month by sponsoring the 19th Annual Gospel Music Extravaganza on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Festivities will get underway at 6 p.m. in the Highland United Church of Christ, 1737 N.E. Alberta.

More than 17 church choirs, solo

artists and singing groups will entertain at this year's extravaganza, which will have the theme 'Cast Down, But Not Destroyed.' The event celebrates the joy of song in the African American community. It is a pivotal way of honoring Black History Month.

The Extravaganza is free and open

to the public. Typically it attracts more than 1,200 people and is a showcase festivity for Black History Month. Organizers will sell ribbons and money donations are encouraged. The event goes to benefit the Robert Wright Scholarship Fund.

For more information, call 503-943-2224.

Recovery Group Meets at Church

A new alcohol and drug recovery group for nervous and mental health care patients has opened at the First Presbyterian Church, 4300

Main St., in Vancouver. Weekly Recovery, Inc. will meet each Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in addition to 10 a.m. sessions already underway each

Wednesday.

For more information, contact group leader Marian Fox at 360-686-3540 or 503-231-1334.

Aging, Spirituality Conference Set

The Archdiocese of Portland's Office for Ministry to the Aging will hold its annual Archdiocesan Spirituality and Aging Conference on Saturday, Feb. 22 at the St. Pius X Parish Center, 1280 N.W. Saltzman Rd. The theme of this year's confer-

ence is "Aging and the Family."

All of the issues of aging to some degree or another are family issues. The conference offers an opportunity for education, networking and prayer through a balance of presentations, inter-

action and reflection.

Major issues to be discussed include spiritual maturity in older adulthood, common geriatric illnesses and treatments and caring for aging parents while raising families.

Obituary



Bruce Joseph

Bruce Joseph died on Friday, Jan. 24, 2003. He was born Oct. 18, 1961 in Tacoma, Wash.

He is survived by his mother, wife, two daughters, a grandson, three stepsons, two brothers, four sisters, a host of nieces, nephews and many close friends. He was preceded in death by a niece, Normandy Mathews and his father, Warren Joseph Sr.

Minority Groups Counter Hate

continued from Metro

Amalia Alarcon Gaddie, program manager for the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, said that in times when the economy is down and unemployment is high racism is

more likely to rear its head. Gaddie said that when life gets tough, people look to place blame.

"It's easy to look for blame in people who are not a part of the dominant culture," she said.

Maria Lisa Johnson, a representative of the Latino Network, said a crime against any community is a crime against all communities and called for neighbors to join together against hate.

Saturday's march and rally will begin at 11 a.m. at the Northeast Police Precinct, located at 449 N.E. Emerson, and will follow along some of the streets targeted by the shooters.