

# RELIGION

Local African American history is being preserved with the savekeeping of church papers by the late Rev. John H. Jackson



## Local History Preserved During PCC Construction

A partnership between Portland Community College and the Oregon Historical Society has helped preserve the beloved collection of the late Rev. John H. Jackson and other mementos of local African American history from the Cascade Community History Center.

Jackson's papers were housed at Terrell Hall on the PCC Cascade Campus in north Portland, but with ongoing construction projects, the collection was moved to the Oregon Historical Society. The collections will move back to Terrell Hall in 2005 when projects on the expanded campus are complete.

Jackson Hall was named after the late pastor who served Mount Olivet Baptist Church in northeast Portland and served as director of the board of the Albina Ministerial Alliance. The campus building received a renovation and new wing

this past year, which was completed in September. It adds approximately 17,500 square feet of space and contains six new science labs and four new classrooms.

"Rev. Jackson believed that without faith, work was empty," said PCC Board Member Harold Williams. "This building is proof of work and faith. Rev. Jackson was active at all times and made sure cultures within this community were speaking to one another. If you didn't meet this powerful man, you missed quite a treat. This building adds to the legacy of the creative work he was known for."

The historical collection consists of Rev. Jackson's sermons and memorabilia, an interpretive display, videotapes, biography, and donated books from his personal library.

## Celebrating with 88 Keys

Area residents are invited to spend an evening hailing gospel greats at a concert and awards ceremony with Tony Award winning actress and Gospel performer Melba Moore.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Evening of Eight-Eight Keys is a sacred music extravaganza to begin at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13 at the University of Portland's Buckley Center, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Other scheduled performances in this holiday event include Apostle Mondaine and Belief, the Jam Night Cast, Celebration Tabernacle Choir and the 25<sup>th</sup> Hour.

The concert will benefit the Eighty-Eight Keys School of the Arts, which is scheduled to open this spring, offering music education. The program will give children and young adults a chance to work with professional artists who specialize in the areas of music, dance, theater, comedy and production.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$100 and are available by calling Tickets West at 503-224-0368 or Fridays Espresso at 503-286-2590.



Tony Award winner Melba Moore will perform Saturday at the annual Evening of Eighty-Eight Keys concert at the University of Portland.

## Peace on Earth

Peace on earth goodwill to men! Great words. But are they relevant and true words today? Look at what's in the news this Christmas season:

Deaths among U. S. troops have doubled since the end of the war. Murders are down among the adult population but skyrocketing among juveniles. Twin babies are found abandoned in a highway rest stop. High school finds cheating is contagious. Gang shootout wounds two teenagers. Dementia patient in assisted living facility kills three other clients. Michael Jackson resembles an aging Joan Crawford.

And the Temptation's Christmas song keeps telling us to "Go ahead rest our minds and sleep in heavenly peace!" Peace on earth?

Because we cannot accept the limits of human failure and mortality, God chose to enter our world in Jesus. While the story of

Jesus' birth is precious, it is also stark and real. Think about how taxes displaced a family from its home at a most inopportune time. A poor family finds shelter in a barn because there's no room in the inn. It was a time when powerful folks jealously plotted murder to protect their power, and children were murdered by rampaging soldiers.

Today's headlines are not much different from the past.

Jesus chose to come to earth not as a conquering King, but as one of us. Not in a royal procession isolated from the realities of human struggle, but placed in a feed trough right in the middle of the human struggle. God anchored himself to our world through the common and everyday realities of our lives so we could know him and be invited to be with him when our time on Earth is completed.

When we see the headlines in the news, remember, Jesus came to



BY ETHEL J. BATES FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

insure that we find peace by taking part in a world without peace.

Christmas is a reminder that God loved us so much that he would wear human skin and face human challenge so we could find everlasting peace.

"Peace on earth, goodwill to men!" That's God's blessing to his troubled children. Hear the bad news of the headlines and be reminded of God's grace. He has lived beneath those same headlines so that we wouldn't always be bound to them.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill to all people (Luke 2:14).

Ethel J. Bates is a minister for the Allen Temple CME Church in Portland.

## Obituary In Loving Memory

Michael Bolds

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003, in Caldwell's Colonial Chapel for Michael Bolds, who died Dec. 2 at age 50.

Mr. Bolds was born April 8, 1953, in New Orleans. He moved in 1972 to Portland and was a machinist for Williams Controls for 25 years. In 1974, he married Shirley Gaddis.

Survivors include his wife; daughters, Erica Clayton and Christon Bolds; sons, Frederick, Michael Jr., Melvin and Derrick; mother, Dorothy; sisters, Clara Tobias, Dorothy Mae Hall, Brenda Clarendon, Laura Ann Thompson and Wilhemina Bolds; brothers, Isaac Sr., Jimmy, Eddie, Donald, Darrell and Walter; and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

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