

# Lincoln church ordains first black woman pastor

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"In the national organization, she's the first installed black Baptist female minister in Nebraska," said Watkins, who has known Morris-Quarells for seven years.

Watkins said he had confidence in the church's vote electing Morris-Quarells as pastor of the Mt. Hermon church at 40th and Sheridan streets.

"She speaks the word - the truth - that's all we ask," he said.

The road of Baptist ministry that led to Lincoln began when Morris-Quarells decided at the age of 13 to devote her life to Christ. At the time she was at a youth camp near her hometown of Casper, Wyo.

But it was when she was working as a security guard in 1985 in Los Angeles that she was called.

"I heard the voice of the Lord calling me to preach the word of the gospel," Morris-Quarells said. "I heard a voice say to me 'I want you to preach the gospel'; that's exactly what I heard."

It was not until she was called that she became focused on living the ministry. In 1990, she graduated from Swisher Bible College in Denver with a theology degree.

"That's when you really feel something special going on inside you," she said of being called. "You know there's

some presence that is calling you to a higher form of living."

After graduation she moved to Lincoln. She later joined her present church, where she has been an associate pastor for the last three years. She was informally installed as pastor several months ago.

At Mt. Hermon she has lived by her personal philosophy of "Each One Teach One To Reach One."

If one person reaches out to one person, and then that person reaches out, eventually everyone could be reached, she said.

Teaching is the best part of the job, Morris-Quarells. She said the two to four hours she spends reading the Bible each day gave her fuel for her sermons and for the biweekly bible study classes she teaches.

"That's where the answers to life are," she said of the Bible.

Morris-Quarells' value goes beyond the pulpit and into the classroom, Watkins said.

"She is very dynamic," Watkins said. "She is very thorough. She breaks it down so everyone can understand."

She brings visual aids to class, teaches by telling stories from her own life, giving her teaching a practical element, Watkins said.

Morris-Quarells also teaches nutrition part-time at the University of

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DEACON CURTIS WATKINS

Nebraska-Lincoln. She teaches in the homes of about 10 elderly citizens and women on the state welfare program, Women, Infants and Children.

The value of Morris-Quarells as a teacher and a preacher was recognized Sunday at the Second Baptist Church near 58th and Vine streets. The ceremony was moved to that church because it could hold more people.

Morris-Quarells' 12-year-old granddaughter, LaQuilla Phillips, was one of those people.

LaQuilla made the trip from Casper with her mother, Bethine, to sing in the choir at the ceremony.

LaQuilla reflected on the value of her groundbreaking grandmother, and then ran off the altar and gave her Morris-Quarells a hug.

"She's the best grandma anyone could ever have," LaQuilla said. "Mount Hermon, you are really lucky to have her as a pastor."

## Lunch links students, senators

From staff reports

Students have the opportunity to air their concerns to Nebraska state senators today over lunch.

The ASUN Government Liaison Committee's annual lunch with the senators will take place today at the Wick Alumni Center.

All students are invited to talk to senators about concerns they have concerning any issue, said Angie Klein, Government Liaison Committee chairwoman.

"Senators on campus provides an opportunity for students to meet with some of their elected state officials to discuss their home communities and the University of Nebraska," Klein said.

The luncheon comes at a time when the Legislature is considering some important issues that will affect University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, Klein said.

With UNL's biennial budget being considered, Klein encouraged students to look at specific issues within the budget they feel strongly about lobbying for.

Some of the areas included in the budget are faculty and staff salary increases as well as funds for need-based scholarships.

The lunch begins at noon with the senators arriving soon after, Klein said.

The lunch is sponsored by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. Admission is free.

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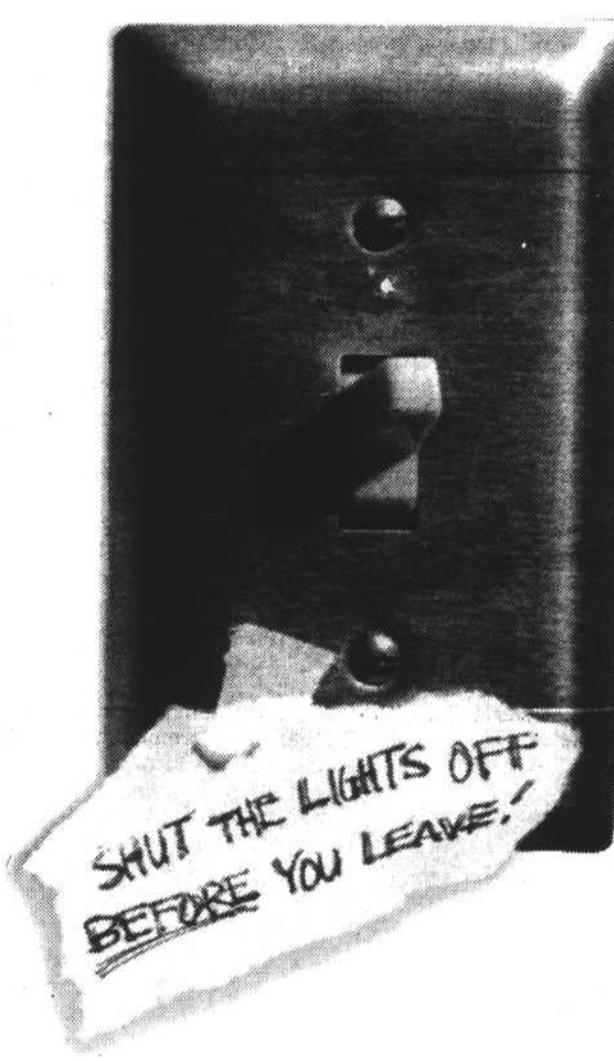
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