

Appointed to serve the Lord

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— Carl Rohlfs, senior pastor at First UMC

Nathaniel Hankins selected as associate pastor at First UMC

By **BRYAN RUSSELL**
Staff Writer

Nathaniel “Hank” Hankins’ service to God was celebrated with his recent appointment as associate pastor at First United Methodist Church.

“I’m really excited,” Hankins said. “I feel like everything has come full circle.”

Hankins has had a long relationship with the church. He has served as district president of the United Methodist Mentor Organization and partnered with fellow pastors throughout the years in community service and sharing the word of God.

“I couldn’t be more excited about his appointment,” said Carl Rohlfs, senior pastor. “We’ve partnered in several ventures and I’m thrilled to work side-by-side with him. He’s like family.”

Hankins said the church’s appointment of a black minister is evidence of a religious brotherhood that transcends race.

“To appoint a black associate pastor speaks volumes of the church family,” he said. “It shows they’re reaching out. Jesus said make disciples of any race. We all belong to the human race.”

Both Hankins and Rohlfs agree that the benefits of Hankins’s appointment will extend to both Hankins and the church.

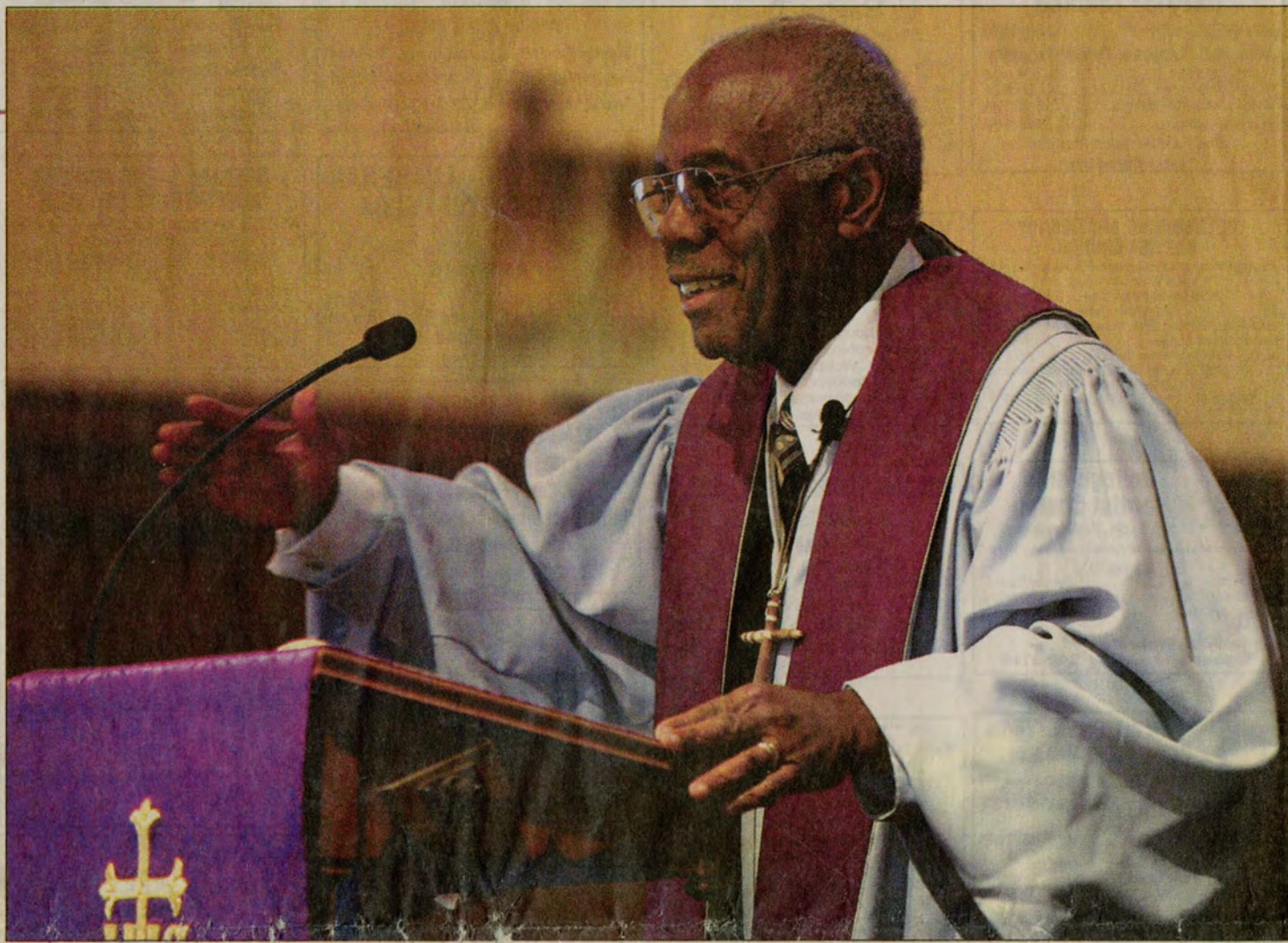
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Hankins said he expects being pastor will expose the black community to other avenues of worship.

Hankins’ preached his first sermon as associate pastor at First United Methodist Church

The Rev. Nathaniel ‘Hank’ Hankins addresses the congregation last Sunday at First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Hankins has been appointed as an associate pastor for the church.

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BY PAM DECKER



last Sunday. The sermon, titled “We Thank You Father,” focused on worshippers remembering to take time out of their day to be grateful and appreciate the splendor of God’s gift.

“God’s done so much for the world as a father to his children,” Hankins said. “Sometimes we fail to say thank you and illustrate God’s love.”

First United Methodist Church hasn’t forgotten to thank Hankins for his service.

“The congregation was real excited too,” Rohlfs said. “They expressed affirmations of all Hank does for the community and for God.”

“I’m helping out in the evangelical area,” Hankins said. “I want to help make disciples

for Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Joel Martinez of the United Methodist Church in San Antonio officiated the appointment.

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