

CHAT WITH JOHN NELSON ABOUT SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We started chatting in the usual joking fashion before the meeting of the Harlem Workgroup.

126P

I told him I had attended the Salem Leadership Retreat. In no particular order we talked about:

1. Mitzie Nelson and the episode with the pigeon on his last Sunday at Salem
2. Zonora Hamm about whom he said little except for agreeing that she is a powerful lady.
3. How there used to be 1,000, 1500 hundred members in the Church and how the balcony was always full (it was empty when I attended); how some days there were three funerals.
4. How some of the leaders are very high powered people (e.g. someone in the management of the Rockefeller [?] foundation.
5. How the bishop was angry with him when he decided to start the anthropology Ph.D. as “they” need all the leaders they can get.
6. How what I refer to as the “brownstone churches” are generally referred to as “free churches.”

306

682

176P

178P

{he did not pick up on the “holiness churches”}