

SEPTEMBER 11: *We'll remember forever*

A quiet gathering

Interfaith Service offers people of many religions a time to rise above the pain

By **YVONNE BETOWT**

Times Religion Editor
yvonneb@htimes.com

Last Sept. 16, about 1,200 people gathered at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Huntsville to remember the victims of Sept. 11.

Tuesday, many of the same Protestants, Catholics, Muslims, Hindus, Baha'is, Buddhists and others will gather again at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church for the Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Unity to mark the first anniversary of Sept. 11.

The observance at Trinity is among many Sept. 11 memorial services planned this week throughout North Alabama.

The service at Trinity will be led by representatives from seven religions – Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu and New Thought. Organizers say the program's prayers, reflection, music, video and common affirmations are designed to promote national unity and religious, racial and cultural harmony.

"What we have done is to recreate the reality the religious community has experi-

enced over the centuries – suffering, healing, redemption and hope," said Rabbi Jeffrey Ballon of Temple B'nai Sholom.

Drums will be used for the call to worship, an ancient tradition that is supposed to bring a community together, he said.

"We will move from destruction and evil to a place of hope and rebirth," he said. "It's been a very hard year, and we want to reflect on the past. We want to show what unites us is greater than what divides us. We want to build a moment of remembrance and unity."

The Rev. Frank Broyles said

the service "is designed to be an experience and to move beyond words."

A minister at Faith Presbyterian Church, Broyles also is program director of the local chapter of the National Conference of Community and Justice, which is sponsoring the 75-minute program in collaboration with the Interfaith Mission Service.

Last September's observance "was more of a verbal service" and in January a second Sept. 11 memorial focused heavily on songs, Broyles said. "This will be the best of both."

Last year, officials turned people away because there wasn't enough seating at Holy Spirit.

That shouldn't be a problem with Trinity's new 1,200-seat auditorium.

"We can do things here you can't do other places," said Hugh Ballou, Trinity's minister of music. "We want to be in touch with the people. This is not going to be a dead, boring service."

The service will feature a wordless video with background music showing people viewing the World Trade

Center remains.

It will then offer a call to prayer time with representatives of all faith groups lighting a candle. A song, "I'll See You," will be performed by Trinity's contemporary worship team, Shine.

The service then moves from grief to the "Phoenix Moment." This will show that "out of the ashes and sacrifices, comes this new hope," Broyles said. "You can rise above pain and suffering through the nobility of the spirit."

For more information, call 883-3200, Ext. 290.