

# Saturday a lucky day for '7' fans

**MANY COUPLES PICK 7/7/07**  
as date to tie the knot.

**BY PETE BREKUS**  
The Express-Times

There's something magical about being married on July 7, 2007 — 7/7/07. Churches will overflow. Banquet halls are booked with back-to-back receptions. Many catering and limousine services have added staff to handle the rush.

But it's not just for the luck of the triple-7 date that some area couples made plans to enter into a lifetime of love and life partnership.

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EXPRESS-TIMES PHOTO | BILL ADAMS

**Waltar Bright and Michalle Ridley have set a 7/7/07 wedding date, citing Biblical references for the significance of the day.**

## **LUCKY SEVEN**

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## WEDDINGS:

### Saturday a lucky day for '7' fans

Michalle L. Ridley, who will marry Waltar L. Bright on July 7, cites the Bible as the couple's main reason for selecting that day. "Seven is the number of completions in the Bible," Ridley says. "It's not really for luck."

Yet Ridley remembers exactly the proposal tendered by Bright: "My fiance, when he proposed to me, picked the date. He said, 'Will you be my wife on seven, seven, o-seven, at seven o'clock?' I just went, 'Yeah, OK!'"

The couple will wed 7 p.m. at Greater Shiloh Church in Easton, where Bright serves as chairman of the Deacon Ministry, followed by a catered garden party reception outside the church.

Bright, son of the late Brother Thomas Bright, longtime Easton civil rights activist and Baptist minister, admits a modicum of the date's hype as a lucky day for a major life event.

"I just thought it was a nov-

## LUCKY SEVEN WEDDINGS

**While the origin of the notion that sevens are lucky is unclear, historians point to Biblical references and to the lunar month of 28 days, or four weeks of seven days each.**

- There are seven deadly sins but also seven virtues.
- The Earth was created in six days and God rested on the seventh, according to the Bible.
- In the precursor to craps, a medieval game known as hazard, seven is the most common number when throwing two cubical dice. It still is with craps, but the number can be good or bad depending on how one bets.
- Three sevens usually mark a slot machine jackpot.

el idea to have the 777 or triple sevens," Bright says. "Seven is my favorite number. It has quite a bit of significance in my life. Because I'm a Christian man, I know it took seven days for God to create the world. I also always wore the number seven in my sports life and was seventh in line to pledge my fraternity" (at Allen University in Columbia, S.C.). Bright explains that fraternity pledges were lined up according to height for future photos, with shorter men up front and taller pledges behind.

About his fiancee, Bright says, "She completes me. Before, I was just a six. Now as a couple, we are a seven," allud-

ing to the Bible belief that the number six is symbolic of man, while the Biblical number seven signifies completion.

"We'll have seven bridesmaids, seven groomsmen and seven candles down the aisles," Ridley said. "We'll also have 7-7-07 in lights outside the church."

Renee M. Talley of Washington says she and her fiance, David C. Gesner, also of Washington, chose the date for purely practical reasons. The couple had originally planned a simple picnic wedding but then decided to have a more formal ceremony.

They booked their wedding and reception at the Al-

mond Tree Manor in Alpha in the spring of 2006 and just happened to draw the lucky 777 date.

"It was the only day available at the Almond Tree. It had nothing to do with luck," Talley said. "I was really shocked that that date was open. We took it so we wouldn't forget."

Jennie L. Harding of Allentown, formerly of Nazareth, says she chose the 777 date to help her "somewhat forgetful" fiance, Jeffrey C. Loeper, to remember their wedding anniversary in years to come.

"I'm a teacher and wanted a summer wedding. I thought that was a great choice (July 7, 2007) because Jeff will remember it. My birthday is October 17 and his is October 16, so he'll never forget my birthday. Now, I'm praying he'll never forget our anniversary date. I guess you could say it's for luck, too. It's a lucky day."

Harding and her fiance will be married Saturday at St. John's Lutheran Church in Nazareth.

"It'll definitely be easy to remember," Loeper said. "It's neat how it worked out. It's a good sign."