

Photos by Layla Farmer

Right: Church volunteers prepare a plate for one of the dinner attendees.

Below: Larhonda Jones with her daughter Janesha.



Church feeds community

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The dining area in the basement of Shiloh Baptist Church was filled with people last Thursday afternoon. Church volunteers flitted from table to table, offering refreshments to the nearly 200 people who came out to take part in Shiloh's Community Christmas Dinner.

Plates were piled high with generous portions of ham, turkey, collards and other fixings. All of that was complemented with homemade desserts of seemingly every variety.

Church member Kiawathia Burton single-handedly prepared nearly all the dishes for the meal, a labor of love that stretched over two days. Her efforts were well-received by Paul Baker, who was among the throngs of people that attended the dinner.

"I'm a single man - I don't cook regular, and I'm from up north - I can't do it like this," said Baker. "I'm glad that I am here."

Traditionally, the church holds community dinners at Thanksgiving, and gives out gift boxes of food for Christmas. But because the Thanksgiving dinners have become so popular, Shiloh decided to expand upon the idea this year, offering two hot home-cooked meals for the community during the season.

Sheepfold Ministries, Shiloh's outreach group, provided more than 40 volunteers to serve the food and help out where needed.

"I felt that it was something that the community needed and we wanted to feed the homeless," said Sheepfold President Paulette Worthy. "People gave socks and different things, so we're going to give them a little gift bag also."

The Christmas dinner is just one of the ways that Shiloh reaches out to the community through Sheepfold Ministries. Worthy says the work fits right in with the mission of the church.

"(God) commissioned us to go out in the community and to serve and be a shepherd," she commented. "(Today), their soul has been fed spiritually and with food."

Dinners such as the one at Shiloh are not uncommon this time of year, but the Rev. Paul A. Lowe, Jr., the church's pastor, says he hopes to be able to make the dinners a more frequent occurrence.

"What I'm trying to figure out is how I can do more of this. I'm hoping that some kind of way next year, (that) I can at least do this once a week," Lowe



remarked. "People are hungry, and a lot of people that are hungry ... are not necessarily jobless, but have to choose between getting something to eat (and) getting to work, whether it's catching the bus or putting gas in their car. I'm just in a very small way, trying to find a way to respond to that."

More than simply answering a basic human need, Lowe, who sat down and shared the dinner with those who attended, says he hopes that the community will understand the deeper meaning behind the Christmas dinner.

"I want this to be known as a caring church. We care about people, we care about what's going on," he stated. "We may not have the resources to respond to every condition, but those things that are within our power, we're going to try to do. This is one of those things that I felt like we could do."

Larhonda Jones and her daughter Janesha, 5, happened upon the dinner almost by accident.

"We were paying bills and I stopped and I seen the sign," Jones explained. "Janesha said, 'Ooh Mama, stop right here, stop right here!'" So the two made the detour into the church, and were met with the the aromas of a carefully prepared meal, and all the comforts of home.

"I can't eat it all; I've got to take it with me," Jones said of her dinner. "Some places don't do stuff like this but this is one place I can eat good like home. It makes me feel happy."

News Clips

School gets Golden LEAF money

The Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors has awarded a \$150,000 grant to Salem Academy and College in Winston-Salem. The Golden LEAF grant will assist Salem Academy and College with the restoration of the Siggie Sisters House (circa 1785) located on the campus in the heart of the National Historic Landmark District of Old Salem. The project will train local construction workers in historic preservation construction techniques and increase tourism.

Golden LEAF administers half of the money received by the state of North Carolina from its settlement with cigarette manufacturers. This grant was one of 72 grants totaling \$17,220,953 million that the Foundation made in its 2006-2007 annual grantmaking cycle to qualified nonprofit organizations and government agencies for projects that will help in North Carolina's transition from a tobacco-dependent economy and aid economically distressed areas.

NCSA Alum Parker up for Golden Globe

North Carolina School of the Arts alumna Mary-Louise Parker has been nominated for a Golden Globe. The awards were announced Thursday.

Parker was nominated for Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Comedy or Musical, for her role as Nancy Botwin in the Showtime series "Weeds." "Weeds" also was nominated for Best Television Series - Comedy or Musical.

Parker already has two Golden Globes. She won one last year for "Weeds." She won her other Golden Globe in 2004 (also an Emmy Award) for her performance in HBO's "Angels

in America."

Her other awards include a Tony Award for Best Actress for "Proof" in 2001. She was nominated for an Emmy in 2002 for her role in "The West Wing."



Parker

A native of South Carolina who also lived in Texas, Parker graduated from NCSA with a College Arts Diploma in 1986. She studied acting in the School of Drama.

NCCU department head elected to head SCBS

Dr. Carlton Wilson, chair of the North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Department of History, has been elected to the executive council of the Southern Conference for British Studies (SCBS).

Wilson is the first professor in NCCU's Department of History to serve on this council.

"I am very pleased to be on the council," said Wilson. "This is a wonderful opportunity to make a contribution and to represent NCCU."

The objectives of the executive council are to do fund-raisers, make policy decisions, determine the awards for research and plan conferences.

A native of Warrenton, N.C., Wilson earned his bachelor of arts from NCCU, the master of arts degree from Ohio State University and the Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is a member of the Southern Historical Association, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the American Historical Association.

Wilson is currently researching the black presence in Liverpool, England from the 1920s to the 1930s.

Forsyth honors longtime employees

Forsyth Medical Center and its affiliates recently honored four employees who celebrated

40 years of service and one who celebrated 45 years of service with the organization this year. In addition, Novant's own president and CEO, Paul Wiles celebrated 35 years of service. They were among the more than 1,110 employees the medical center honored during Service Awards month in September. The month is set aside to honor employees celebrating milestone anniversaries, which are defined as 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or more years with the organization.

Those employees honored for their 40 and 45 years of service included:

- Ruby Blackwell, Forsyth Medical Center, Central Service (45 years)
- Sandra Boner, Salem MRI, Patient Services (40 years)
- Jane Marion, Forsyth Medical Center, Rehabilitation Medicine/Geriatric Team (40 years)
- Lynda Simpson, Forsyth Medical Center, Medical Surgical Mend (40 years)

Salem Academy appoints Karl J. Sjolund head of school

Karl J. Sjolund has been appointed head of school at Salem Academy, an independent day and boarding school for girls in grades 9-12. He succeeds Dr. Wayne Burkette, who left the position in May to become the president of the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC)

of the Moravian Church, Southern Province. Sjolund will begin at Salem Academy July 1, 2007.

Sjolund comes to Salem Academy from the Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, Va., where he served in a number of positions over 20 years, most recently as assistant headmaster. Virginia Episcopal School is a coeducational boarding and day school serving almost 300 students.

Sjolund is also actively involved in volunteer work, serving as the chair of the board of directors of the Alliance for Families and Children of Central Virginia, a \$2.4 million not-for-profit organization. He was elected president of the Small Boarding Schools Association in 1998.

Girls

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act around boys, how to respect yourself, character education," explained Travis. "They're kind of our seniors and when they leave us, we want to make sure that we've given them all the skills they need to go in middle school."

The girls were broken up into two groups of five, and met once a week for 10 weeks. The culmination celebration was held at Village Tavern restaurant on Dec. 19.

"We wanted it small enough that they could really talk and get something from it, so instead of putting 10 girls in one group, we did two smaller groups," Travis said. "They really bonded."

The group took two after-school field trips, to River Birch Lodge and Village Tavern. There, the girls practiced the manners and etiquette they had learned in the program.

"Mineral Springs is an Equity Plus School, that means that the majority of our children are on free and reduced lunch. Most of our girls had never eaten at a place with cloth napkins and different courses ... not a fast food kind of place," Travis commented. "The more experiences anyone can have, the better prepared for life that they are."

Travis and Guess are already making plans to establish a second wave of leadership programming for another small group of girls who will be selected when the kids return from winter break.

"These girls have worked hard," Travis said. "The other girls are just begging to be a part of it because they're hearing about what we're doing."

Guess said that the growth of the girls in the leadership group was apparent at the end of the 10 weeks.

"At the beginning of the program I had each of the girls to define self-esteem. Out of the 10



Photo by Layla Farmer

The girls at Village Tavern.

girls, I would say over half of them did not have a clue what self-esteem was," Guess recounted. "Then at the last session we had ... I had them to define self-esteem again, 10 weeks later. They all ... came up with different qualities of what makes them have positive self-esteem."

Guess remarked on the many important life lessons the girls seem to have gained.

"We sat down and I actually had each one of them talk about how this group has positively impacted them and what ... they learned in the group that they feel like they can carry on with them in the community as they grow and learn to even do better at," she said.

Arteria Torbit, 10, appreciated the experience the leadership program afforded her.

"It teaches your inner feelings, and shows you how to be a good leader instead of a follower," Torbit commented. "I've learned ... to be yourself and don't let anybody and don't follow everybody else if it's the wrong thing. It gets you out of fights and things that other people do that they think is cool but

you don't think is cool because it's the wrong thing, and they know it's the wrong thing."

Chardonnay Campbell, 11, said she was grateful to be a part of the leadership program.

"I like that it helps young girls achieve more in elementary school," Campbell commented. "There's a lot of things that have changed since back in the day. It is more bullying, and I think this group helps a lot of girls that are getting bullied or just needed help at home or need to get help along the way."

Campbell said that she acquired some constructive knowledge by participating.

"The most important thing I've learned is self-respect. I think it will help me to not forget myself like other women do," Campbell stated. "I think I will succeed in the world and be successful with what I want to be when I grow up."

She offered high praise for the efforts of both Travis and Guess where the program was concerned.

"They're two great, amazing teachers and they have helped a lot of girls along throughout the school year," she said.



Moving forward starts with not leaving his message behind.

Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, 01.15.07

