



The Rev. Ernest McLaurin preaches to a packed house.

Thanksgiving

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boxes, filled with additional turkey meals for them to eat. Clothing was also given away, everything from coats to socks, and even blankets.

First Lady Linville said that the Thanksgiving dinner is held in early November, weeks before the Thanksgiving holiday, to avoid overlapping with holiday events that other churches regularly plan for those in need.

She believes it is always important, regardless of the season, to reach out to those who are down on their luck and give them hope. Anyone, she said, can fall on similar hard times.

"I've seen people come who I went to high school with (at the Thanksgiving dinners)," said Linville. "It's not unusual for someone you know within your lifetime to end up in a difficult situation which places them in a homeless shelter."

Linville threw her first feast for the homeless in 2002 with the help of volunteers and local churches. When she married the Rev. James Linville, the church's pastor, in 2003 and became a part of Piney Grove, she enlisted the help of its members, and the church has been hosting it ever since. At first it was held in the church itself and then in Family Life Center, which was built in 2005. As the need gets greater, so does the size of the



Some of the clothing items that were given away.

Thanksgiving dinner. Last year, more than 100 people were served. This year, with harsh economic times increasing the demand for shelters and soup kitchens, Linville was told to prepare for up to 200.

Every part of the church was involved. The hospitality ministry prepared the food. Greeters, ushers and nurses acted as hosts and hostesses. The church's praise team sang. In all, 50 volunteers helped make the Thanksgiving dinner come true. One of those people was Barbara France who was in charge of promoting the event.

"This is very important to us, giving back to the community, helping somebody else who's less fortunate than we are," said France.

Before the meal was served, the Rev. Ernest McLaurin, pastor of

Gethsemane Hope Baptist Church, preached a short sermon about the spiritual meaning of Thanksgiving. Rev.

Linville had his own special message for those who came from the shelters

"You are somebody special regardless of what people say about you, you are God's best," said Rev. Linville. "God created you and He did not create junk."

Wayne Sheffield came to the dinner from the Rescue Mission, where he's lived for the last three months. He said he's already conquered the addiction that brought him to the shelter's recovery program and is on his way to getting his life back on track. He said he was thankful that he got both spiritual and physical nourishment at the dinner.

"It's a blessing to be here," said Sheffield.

Ed Gordon to speak at Bennett

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Emmy award-winner Ed Gordon will speak at Bennett College for Women next week.

He will be the third speaker in the school's Lift Every Voice Speaker Series, which was initiated by President Julianne Malveaux. His 11 a.m. address on Nov. 11 (in Bennett's Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel) is free and open to the public.

Known for his stellar interaction with newsmakers from the worlds of politics, entertainment, and sports, Gordon's name is synonymous with the "big" interview. Gordon's knack for landing exclusives and his no-nonsense style make him one of television's most respected journalists.

Now, as host of "Our World with Black Enterprise," Gordon gets to display all aspects of his interviewing expertise. The weekly 30-minute program is a mix of one-on-one headline interviews with today's top newsmakers and celebrities, an eclectic roundtable discussion and profiles of some of the world's most intriguing people.

This latest assignment just adds to the list of impressive positions Gordon has held over the years, including contributing correspondent for the CBS newsmagazine "60 Minutes II" and contributor for NBC's "Today Show" and "Dateline." Gordon's diverse style also makes him one of the most versatile people in broadcasting. He also hosted "News and Notes" with Ed Gordon which aired on National Public Radio.

On the evening of Nov. 11 (at 7 p.m.), the Bennett Music Department will host a jazz concert featuring Maritri and Nick Cassarino in the Little Theatre. The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited.



Ed Gordon

Law clinic

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Winston-Salem and greater North Carolina.

The CL&BC has been developed with the guidance of community leaders both locally and regionally. The CL&BC will provide its resources to small businesses, nonprofits and community-based efforts that promise innovative solutions to community concerns.

The new clinic will serve at least two purposes. First, as a program of WFU's School of Law, the CL&BC will train new lawyers and business leaders in the skills they will need to work in the increasingly complex business environment they will face after graduation. By working with clients under the supervision of Wake Forest faculty, students will develop and practice the skills they will need throughout their careers. Just as importantly, students will learn the vocation of service while serving our community, a vocation they will carry with them as they grow in their careers and leadership.

The clinic's second purpose looks beyond Wake Forest, as students serve as pro bono advisors for social entrepreneurs, those individuals who apply themselves to solving our community's challenges. Wake Forest's innovative program will help individuals and communities take charge of their own development by providing technical and professional assistance through the efforts of students, faculty and private professionals.

Through the CL&BC, nonprofits, community groups and small business owners can receive, at no cost, legal assistance, business planning and consulting services as they

move forward with community-based initiatives that promise to create economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for their owners and the community. For example, nonprofit housing developers, who play a crucial role in our nation's strategy to develop and operate affordable housing, can receive a full range of professional services from the CL&BC. By making these resources available, Wake Forest facilitates the work of others in an area where more resources are vitally needed today.

The CL&BC will continue the university's tradition of serving as an incubator for initiatives that address the most pressing needs of our community, housing, poverty, employment and community engagement, while adding to the fabric of our community. The School of Law has launched this initiative to both serve its students and its community, and to find new ways to weave a great university more deeply into the fabric of Winston-Salem and all of North Carolina.

Steven Virgil, an associate clinical professor at Wake Forest University School of Law, is the director of the Community Law & Business Clinic, which will be located at 8 West Third Street, Suite 100A. For more information, the clinic, when it opens, can be reached at 336-631-1953 or www.law.wfu.edu/clinics.

The Opening Ceremony for the Wake Forest School of Law Community Law & Business Clinic will be Nov. 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The event will include remarks by Virgil; Law School Dean Blake Morant; Jill Tiefenthaler, WFU Provost; Mayor Allen Joins and Murray Greason, a member of the law school's Board of Visitors.



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