

Fire victims guests of honor at St. Stephen

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The victims of a recent fire at the Alder's Point apartment complex in Happy Hill were escorted by Ben Piggott and Kennell Ceasar to a church service in their honor at Stephen Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday.

Piggott is the former director of the Sims Recreation Center in Happy Hill. Ceasar is the center's current director. Piggott now heads the Carl Russell Community Center. The community has pitched in greatly over the last two months to help victims of the fire.

"We would like to thank the pastor of St. Stephen Missionary, Rev. James E. Cook, and the entire church body for providing transportation to and from church, serv-



The special guests pose with church officials and members.

ing dinner, and (giving) care items to the Alder Point victims. Thank God for people being nice to the them," said Piggott.

Community invited to visit Y for free during 'Move' week

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston Lake Family YMCA invites members of the East Winston community to participate in health and wellness activities during America on the Move Week with the YMCA, Sept. 20-27, during which the Y is inviting the entire community to use its facilities, including attending group exercise classes, free of charge.

More than 1,300 YMCAs will join with the America on the Move Foundation in this collaborative effort to improve the health of communities across the country.

The YMCA and the America on the Move Foundation, a national nonprofit dedicated to improving health and quality of life, are working together to encourage individuals to take small steps to achieve and maintain healthier lifestyles.

"The YMCA hopes to inspire hundreds in the community to take simple steps to achieve lasting healthy changes in their lives," says Jolyn Roberts, membership director at the Winston Lake Family YMCA. "America on the Move Week with the YMCA provides individuals and families with tools to make healthier choices at home, work, school and throughout the community."

Participants of all ages can go to the YMCA to participate in activities. The week begins on Sunday, Sept. 20, with an Open House. Everyone is invited to attend nutritional seminars on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Children will enjoy the Y Kids Fit program on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Roberts at 336-724-9205 or j.roberts@ymcan-wnc.org.

Best of Lewisville Festival happen this Saturday

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The first-ever Best of Lewisville Festival will take place Saturday, Sept. 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Lewisville Town Square.

The festival will have a variety of games for kids young and old as well as contests, entertainment, tournaments and awards.

Judges will judge the best cake, cookie, pie, bread, BBQ and chili. There will also be contests for best flower arrangement, best art,

prettiest baby (no entry fee) and an essay themed around the topic, "Why I Love Lewisville." The entry fee for most of the contests is \$5.

Several local vendors will be on hand, including Sunpiper Salon, Usborne Books, Games 2 U, Accessorize This, Crazy About Critters, Triad Trainers, Salem Gymnastics, Pfafftown Animal Hospital, Honky Tonk Pig, Prime Communications, Cycletherapy and Donato's Pizza.

Entertainment will include a demo by members of Karate International of Lewisville (one of the event's sponsors) and onsite

authentic Army vehicles.

For more information visit, www.bestoflewisville.com.

Peppers

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High Priest while Aaron was the prototype. Our lesson today centers on Ezra, the priest and scribe who led the second group back to Judah.

Lesson: After 70 years in captivity, their captors are conquered by the Persians. Because of God's Grace and Mercy towards His people, He works through them to allow the exiles to return home in waves. When Cyrus the Great issues the edict that they can go home, about 42,000 of them return to Judah. It takes a while, but they complete the rebuilding of the Temple. The first six chapters of Ezra tell their story. The second wave of returnees are led by Ezra and chronicled in the remainder of the book. Committed to the task of the priesthood, he is highly respected by all. He exemplifies a high moral character (chapter 7). This is not perfection! "Scholars believe that he initiates teaching the Law among the captives that became the basis of rabbinic teachings that undergirded the synagogues" (Richards' Complete Bible Handbook). The people are excited to be home, however their outside show of gratitude (rebuilding the Temple) is no indication of spiritual growth. Ezra hears of their sin (pagan marriages) and is disappointed. When trouble comes, he goes to the Temple. Where do you go? Hopefully, to your secret closet! Ezra waits for the evening sacrifice. Contemplating the leaders' actions at the appointed time,

he performs the rites of indignation by tearing his clothes, pulling out his hair (head and face) and falling down on his knees. This self-abasement represents his vulnerability before the Lord. This also indicates his humility. Read Psalm 51 by David. Spreading out his hands, he acknowledges Judah's past and current sins. He is too ashamed to lift up his eyes to face God! As he prays, notice that he doesn't separate himself from their shameful actions. What an intercessor. He doesn't offer excuses because there are none! After admitting guilt, the priest expresses gratitude for God's Grace on the behalf of the remnant (the nail) that is firmly in place in Judah. A large crowd gathers, witnessing Ezra's words and actions. They repent and make covenant with God once more (chapter 10).

Application: Our leader today has no problem for standing up for what's right. When he approaches God, his heart is broken and contrite. These terms refer to a deep sorrow and remorse for offending God. As the intercessor, he is pleading with God to give them another chance, even though they don't deserve it. Was he guilty? No, but his people needed God right then! When the crowd sees his sincerity, they repent. This type of leader leads by example and is effective. Do we lead by example or go along to get along? How can we profess loving God/Jesus doing what we do? The High Priest set the example, our task is to follow it.

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