

More than 120 people attended the New Year's Day service.

"We don't need a victory to

Emancipation

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say that we will work to make sure that our citizens will have the equal opportunity to participate fully in this economic rebirth that is going on in our community."

The economy and the further disparities it has caused were themes touched upon by St. Paul Pastor Donald Jenkins in his keynote address. He opened his remarks by holding up items that he said could be used for either good or ill. While lifting a hammer, he said it could be used to build affordable housing or by a thief to break into a house. He said that a college degree, and the wealth and power that sometimes accompany it, can cut both ways as well. Jenkins said that those who are supposedly the country's best and brightest helped to create many of the world's current problems, including the current economic downturn. He decried those that use their education to make themselves rich instead of giving back.

"Education is not a means to an end to getting; it ought to be an assignment to give," said Jenkins.

He said with unemployment high and the ranks of the working poor growing, there are many "weary people" out there. Jenkins said it's the responsibility of those who are better off to help the less fortunate more. Jenkins said his grandparents, who raised him, were an example of this. They would've had an "easy life," he said, if they hadn't taken in three of their grandchildren.

"I think we come from a people who know something about doing more on less so that someone else can make it," said Jenkins.

The service ended with the awarding of scholarships to area high school seniors. This year, there were 49 applications for four scholarships. Ten of the applicants had grade-pointaverages of 4.0 or higher. Scholarship runners-up Bria Dunn of Mt. Tabor High, Ivy Hardy of Mt. Tabor and Cheyenne Martin of North Forsyth each received \$100. The four \$1,000 scholarships went to Alexis Nicole Duckett of Parkland, Shakeelah Marie Carter of North Forsyth, Kamica



Womble greets the crowd.

Right: Brittany Jenkins introduces her father, Rev. Jenkins.

Below: Dr. Manderline Scales discusses the scholarships.



Miller of Glenn and Sequuia Pettigrew of North Forsyth.

"This is my first scholarship for the season so I'm very, very happy," said Duckett, who will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall and plans to eventually go to medical school to become a pediatrician.

During the service, an offering was taken for next year's scholarship program, which the Association hopes will continue to expand. From the more than 120 who attended the event, \$2,266 was raised.



East Ward City Council Member Derwin Montgomery

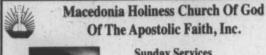
addresses the audience.













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