



Love Church members prepare plates and serve the residents of the Bethesda Center, which houses the homeless. Submitted photo

Love Church serves homeless

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Love Church recently put into action one of its vision phrases: "WiiGIVE."

Serving over 200 homeless people in Winston-Salem, the church fed the residents at the Bethesda Center a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, Nov. 22.

Members of the church whipped up various Thanksgiving favorites such as turkey (prepared by the church's own chef), ham, mac-n-cheese, green beans, yams, and other dishes. The menu also incorporated an array of desserts that included 200 fresh-baked cookies prepared by the youth ministry of the church.

They continued to serve on Saturday, Nov. 28, giving residents of the Bethesda Center a variety of coats, hats, gloves, scarfs, and socks to help as the winter weather is sure to arrive in the coming weeks.

In just over a week's time, the church gathered donations from members, co-

workers, family, and friends to ensure the event would be a success. Along with all the other items, guests also received a box lunch and a baggie full of toiletries such as toothpaste, lotion, and shampoo.

Pastor Curtis Friday and his wife, Shameka Friday, along with other church volunteers were ready to embrace and bless the center.

Friday was enthused to see the vision of the ministry at work, helping to fulfill one of the bedrock principles of the ministry that is derived from one of its foundation Scriptures in Matthew 25: "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me."

"On behalf of Pastor Curtis Friday, The Love Church is grateful to The Bethesda Center and the community of homeless persons who allowed our church to be a blessing to you!" the church said in a statement.

Spaulding officially a candidate for North Carolina governor

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. — Democratic candidate Ken Spaulding officially entered the North Carolina governor's race Monday more than two years after he first announced his 2016 bid, promoting his economic record while criticizing primary rival Roy Cooper on education.

Spaulding, a former state legislator and transportation board member, submitted his candidate notice at the State Board of Elections.

The Durham lawyer announced his candidacy in August 2013, less than eight months into the term of Republican Gov. Pat McCrory, who is seeking re-election.

Spaulding told reporters he has a history of creating economic opportunity and thousands

of jobs, later citing his involvement in real estate development, especially Treyburn Corporate Park and the Southpoint mall in Durham. Spaulding said that, if elected, he would promote job creation in rural areas, too.

"Now, if I'm able to help do that for the Research Triangle area, just think what I'll be trying to do for all of North Carolina," he said.

Spaulding also accused Cooper — the state's attorney general — of aligning himself with McCrory because in court lawyers in Cooper's office defended GOP laws ending teacher job protections and creating taxpayer-funded grants for children to attend private schools. The state Supreme Court upheld the grants. A teacher tenure lawsuit is pending.

The attorney general's office is tasked with

defending the state, but Cooper "had a choice to make whether he was going to defend ... getting rid of teacher tenure and the private school vouchers," Spaulding said. He pointed to Cooper's decision last year not to keep defending North Carolina's same-sex marriage ban when a similar prohibition in Virginia was struck down.

A Cooper campaign spokesman didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Monday. Primary elections are March 15. McCrory also has a GOP challenger in former Rep. Robert Brawley of Iredell County. Time Warner Cable News and the League of Women Voters plan to hold a Democratic primary debate March 1. Spaulding on Monday called on Cooper to participate.

Youth urged to exchange war toys for peace toys

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

City youths can exchange toys and video games that promote violence and aggression, such as toy guns and knives, for basketballs, footballs, puzzles, board games and non-violent computer games during the 23rd annual Peace Toys for War Toys Exchange, to be held Saturday, Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds Annex.

The exchange is sponsored and organized by the Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center.

The exchange is for youth ages 3-14 who are accompanied by a parent. High school students can register for a chance to win one of two laptop computers donated by Venable Tax Services. Youths will also have an opportunity to win bicycles and other special prizes that promote fitness, education and peace.

Doors will open at noon. Registration

will close at 12:45 p.m. The exchange is expected to conclude about 4 p.m.

This year's Peace Toys Exchange has been moved to a Saturday afternoon to accommodate parents who work, said Ben Piggott, the exchange organizer. Previously, the exchange was held on a weeknight, Piggott said, and "parents were rushing to get home and make dinner and then get to the event."

Piggott, the director of the Russell Community Center, started the exchange in 1993 as a way to help children learn from a young age to deal with problems peacefully. In 2000, Piggott was honored by the National Crime Prevention Council for starting the program.

Anyone wishing to donate unwrapped toys for this event should call Piggott or a member of the Russell Center staff at 336-727-2580, or drop them off at the center, 3521 Carver School Road.

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4 PM

WOMEN'S
DEC 17 BARTON
5:30 PM
*DONATION GAME

*DONATION GAME: FANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DONATE ITEMS FOR THE HOMELESS (TOILETRIES, NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND LINENS).

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