



Photo by Timothy Ramsey
Last Saturday, July 9, St. James Missionary Baptist Church held its first Bible study cookout at Reynolds Park.

Outside

asking "once you have accepted Jesus into your heart, what are you doing with it?"

Because St. James is at a location with two other churches in close proximity, Robinson felt the need for them to step outside of the walls of the church. He says as a church they must mark out their own territory to make their mark in the community not for the sake of new members but for others to get to know Christ.

Following the Bible

study, the congregation was treated to a delicious cookout style meal that included burgers, fried fish and salad. Everyone said they enjoyed themselves and really enjoyed the food.

"Today our Bible study was centered around the redemptive power of Christ and how he paid a ransom for our souls," said Minister Stuart Eaton. "We just let everyone know that we cannot do anything by ourselves; we have to be covered by the blood of Christ and take that salvation message from house to house."

According to Eaton, St. James Pastor Mack H.L.

McConnell's vision for the day was for the church to go outside of the church like the early church did in the book of Acts. The early church went from house to house breaking bread and fellowshiped with the community.

Robinson touched on the fact there were young men playing basketball while Bible study was taking place. He noticed they did not leave and were aware of every word he said. His thought on the young men observing was, "I just want to get the Word out to the people, and the Lord will do the rest."



Photo by Timothy Ramsey
Pastor Gary James of Renewed Hearts Inc. will be speaking to the congregation of Ephesus, Seventh Day Adventist church from July 10-16.

Prayer

Seventh Day Adventist faith. He feels as though you do not have to dumb down the message in order for today's youth to absorb what he has to say.

"Hearts are broken throughout life by a lot of different situations, especially with young people, and most of them center around relationships," James said. "What we try to do is make individuals whole and from there we build relationships and that renews their heart. When the heart is renewed, the first thing people want to do is tell someone else who may be hurting that they have been there before."

James said in his organization, "we don't tolerate, we accept." He wants the young people to come how they are and they will understand you and then see where they need to go.

He said one of the challenges he faces during a youth week of prayer is having to reach the entire audience. James wants to have information for the young people but also have

something the parents can take away as well. He says without the parents reinforcing what he is trying to convey to the young people, his message is null and void.

"The message I want to convey this week is how the parents can effectively help the youth in these difficult and challenging times we live in and give them an understanding of the big picture," James went on to say. "When you have the big picture, you have better tools and strategies to fight the challenges they fight."

"Many of the young people do not know why they are here. They do it because they think it's right and they have done it all their life and have come up in the faith. But when you know why you are here, it helps you fight battles. If I could sum it up, I would just say know why you are here."

Ephesus Church Pastor Godwin Mitchell said he has known James for years and the fact he has worked with the millennial generation for years was a blessing to be able bring him back to the church.

"He is so solid in God's Word and what he does is he unpacks the Word in a way that anyone can grab it," Mitchell said. "There are a lot of questions from the millennial generation and addressing those questions is a challenge nowadays. For him to come and reach back and deal with something that many aren't willing to deal with is great. His plus is that he loves young people and could not have thought of no other person to come and speak with our young people. He is very relatable and down to earth and the Lord has an anointing on him."

For individuals who are not of the Seventh Day Adventist faith who attend the week of prayer, James said, "Even though you may not be of the Seventh Day Adventist faith, that does not mean you are not a part of the family of God. All God's people are of the family of God and play a role in God's plan. I want them to ask the question, not do I become a Seventh Day Adventist but what do I need to do as my sole purpose with my relationship with God."

Lesson

Messiah are saved (Rom. 3:22). Paul explains that all have "sinned" (Romans 3:23). All "fall short" of God's glory. There is however, God's free gift of grace (vss. 23-24). Paul indicates that God's pardon was offered "freely" (vs. 24) as a gift, because of His "grace" and could not be earned. It is through the sacrificial death of Christ that we all who repent and believe receive salvation (vs. 24). We are all guilty of sin and Jesus' sacrificial death was the means for our acquittal. His death on the cross turned away God's justifiable wrath against us as sinners. It not only accomplished "propitiation" - the appeasing of God, it also provided

"expiation" - the removal of personal guilt. Righteousness...continues Paul, is received by faith, and not works. He wants us to understand that trusting in the blood of Jesus, not observing the law, was the reason for God's pardoning us (vs. 28). Paul's rhetorical question of whether God is the God of Jews only, begs the Jews themselves to acknowledge that He is the God of all since He is also the creator of all (vs. 29). Paul addresses the question also, whether emphasis on faith overturned the need for the law. He emphasizes his regard of the Mosaic Law to be "holy, righteous and good" (Rom 7:12). Not only that, Jesus himself stated that He came to fulfill the law, not replace it. "The law was fulfilled

when it led people to see their sinfulness, turn to the Savior in faith and conform their lives to the moral norms taught in the law" (David C. Cook).

For Your Consideration: What does it mean for us to be declared righteous (justified) by God's grace? How would your relationship with God be different if you could earn salvation by your works?

Life's Application: God is both just and loving. He loves us and wants us to join Him in His eternal kingdom and has made that possible by the death of Jesus on the cross as an atoning sacrifice, which annulled our sins. We have only to accept this unmatchable gift.

DivorceCare Seminar offers hope and healing

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Stephen Ministry at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church (UMMBC) is offering its fourth, 13-week DivorceCare seminar starting on Monday, Aug. 1.

A broad range of topics are covered during the seminar, including how to face anger, loneliness and depression, developing new relationships, financial survival and single sexuality, reconciliation and forgiveness, moving on and growing closer with God.

The UMMBC DivorceCare program provides help and healing for those hurt from separation and divorce and is open to the public.

According to Cornelious Flood, one of the UMMBC Stephen Ministry leaders, the program is meeting expectations. "Every participant enrolled has completed the entire 13 week program," he said.

Participant feedback has been positive also. They have discovered that they do not have to go through their pain alone, that what they are going through is normal, and that it is okay to talk about it and get help.

One participant shared that the program has helped her through her separation and the emotions she felt such as anger, bitterness and stress.

"I think the videos were very helpful because they outline all these emotions and how to cope, along with scripture and the group discussion," she said. The workbooks also provided good information that she could reference later and the group discussions were helpful. "There would be days when I would feel down, so when we would discuss these feelings and talked, it made a difference," she went on to say.

The facilitators were very helpful, understanding, caring and good listeners. This is a great program. Group facilitators have been trained and all have experienced divorce.

Participants also discover that UMMBC is more than just a church service on Sunday and Bible study on Wednesday. It reaches out to the entire community and embraces the needs people may have and addresses them through various ministries.

Flood says that "Participants rediscover hope and peace, realize the power of God, start to heal,

and feel much better about themselves when they complete the program."

And sometimes a life is saved.

Some divorced people feel embarrassed and ashamed to tell or talk about it. And many African-American churches do not have an ongoing ministry to help individuals deal with the pain and hurt of divorce or separation.

Separated or divorced people who would like to join the 13-week program should complete an online registration form at: <https://beyondthesanctuary.wordpress.com/divorce-care-ministry>.

DivorceCare is a comprehensive, Christ-centered divorce recovery ministry. The 13-week program holds meetings once per week for two hours. There is a nominal registration fee of \$15 to cover participant workbooks. Child care is also available.

For additional information, contact the church office at church@united-metropolitan.org or call 336-761-1358. A complete UMMBC DivorceCare meeting schedule can be located online at: <http://www.divorce-care.org/groups/62759>.

Mt. Olive nurses celebrate anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church Senior Nurses Board celebrated its anniversary recently. Arzella Carson was named the Nurse of the Year. She is a faithful member of the Nurses Ministry and is married to Calvin Carson.

The Senior Nurses Board was organized in 1934 under the leadership of the late Rev. T. H. Harris. Through the years, the board has undergone many transitions. By the grace of God and the assis-

tance of Pastor Dr. Charles E. Gray, the membership has grown tremendously.

The Senior Nurses meet on the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. Their primary duties are to take care of the pastor's needs during all home services and when the pastor visits other churches. They also assist the congregation with its needs, administer first aid or emotional support to those in need, provide nursery care to young children, visit the sick in the hospital and assist the bereaved at funerals.



Arzella Carson

Rel. Cal.

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Vacation Bible School

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1301 C. E. Gray Drive, will have Vacation Bible School July 18-20 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Charles E. Gray is the host pastor.

July 18-22

Vacation Bible School
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 810 N Highland Ave., will hold its annual Vacation Bible School July 18-22. The theme is: "Super Heroes for Christ." There will be classes for PK-Adults. The sessions begin nightly with dinner at 5:30 and end at 8 p.m. All are welcome. Call 336-724-2614 for more information and to sign up.

July 21
Food box giveaway

Greater Tabernacle Worship Center will have a food box giveaway on July 21 from 12 - 2 p.m. at 2058 Dellabrook Road. The Host Pastor is Apostle BJ McCloud. For additional information, please contact Greater Tabernacle Worship Center at 336-777-1113.

July 22
Summer beach party dance

First Christian Church Ministries, 1130 N. Main Street, Kernersville, will host a Summer Beach Party Dance for people with special needs on Friday, July 22 from 7-10 p.m. We will have dancing, karaoke, and snacks. This is open to all ages with special needs participants attending with a parent or caregiver. The dress is casual. We want you to be comfortable and have fun! Please sign up by email to tracyb@fccministries.com or by calling Tracy at 336-996-7388. For more information, please contact Tim Bussey at 336-996-7388 or timb@fccministries.com.

July 20-24
Youth Conference

Fresh Fire Worship Center Inc., 1538 Waightown St., will host the Resistance Youth Conference July 20-24, presented by Sr. Pastor Phillip G. McCloud and First Lady Michelle McCloud. Speakers are:

Wednesday, July 20, 7 p.m., Pastor Aaron Tharrington, Apostolic House of Deliverance, Durham; Thursday, July 21, 7 p.m., Minister Charity Campbell, Potter's House Of Greensboro; Friday, July 22, 7 p.m., Pastor Lathan Wood,

Movement Worship, Charlotte; and Sunday, July 24, Youth Sunday Service at 10 a.m., Minister Shamsudin Hakim of Fresh Fire Worship Center Inc. Along with Praise and Worship, there will be spiritual dance teams and more. Sponsors are currently needed. For information, go to www.freshfireworship.org or call 336-833-4208.

July 23
Cancer Survivors and Thrivers event

Solely For Christ Ministries, in collaboration with Cancer Services, will hold a Cancer Survivors and Thrivers event on Saturday, July 23, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 1510 Martin St., to bring awareness to one of the leading causes of death within our community. We will provide testimonials of those who've been afflicted by this disease, triumphing over it and are now labeled as survivors. We will also allow you to hear from those going through this journey, and provide support to them as they stand courageously and share their experiences. Vendor space is available to provide informational materials and health screenings. To make a donation, please visit our PayPal Account at: <https://www.paypal.me/SFCMinistries>. For more information on how you can participate, please contact Shannon Brooks, 336-486-9151 or swbrooks39@gmail.com, or Christina Harris, 704-658-7530 or charrissfc@yahoo.com.

July 29
Health Fair

Love Fellowship Outreach Church, 205 East 25th Street, will have a health fair on July 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., that is open to the community. There will also be a cookout and free food, a bounce house, and games for children.