

Local church targets 500 students for school supplies

BY LAURIE D. WILLIS
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

For many parents, purchasing school supplies is easier said than done.

"About 60 percent of our students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch," said Theo Helm, chief of staff for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, which has about 54,000 students. "So as you can imagine, if you struggle to find money to pay for a meal, you're certainly going to struggle to find money to pay for school supplies."

Officials at Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church want to help parents who lack adequate money for school supplies, so they're sponsoring an evangelistic outreach event on Saturday, Aug. 6, in hopes of donating book bags filled with supplies to 500 children.

The free event will be from 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church, 132 North Glenn Ave. in the Kimberley Park neighborhood. The public is invited.

"The purpose of this event is to get outside the church and to meet and greet people in the community," said Marcellette Orange, lead coordinator/liaison for evangelistic outreach. "We want to spread the word of God, and we also want to meet the needs of the community spiritually, physically and mentally."

This will be the fifth consecutive year Phillips Chapel has held the evangelistic outreach event and the third time book bags will be distributed at it. In 2014, the church gave book bags to 243 children, followed by 350 last year.

"After much prayer and based on the need in the community, I told the pastor I thought this year we needed to try to reach 500 children," Orange said. "He agreed ... and I have faith that we'll receive enough donated school supplies to reach our goal."

Orange, however, acknowledges that organizers need many more school supplies and encourages anyone who wants to assist Phillips Chapel to drop off items at the church from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. People who want to contribute but don't want to shop for supplies can make financial contributions - via mail or in person - and let church members shop for them.

The daylong event features much more than book bags and school supplies. For example, there will be face-painting and a bounce house for kids, and hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad and other food will be served. Representatives from several community agencies will be on hand to disseminate information, including the city's police and fire departments, Legal Aid, Self-Help Credit Union, The Prosperity Center and others, Orange said.

There will be free dental screenings for kids and blood pressure and BMI checks for adults. Mia Parker, parent involvement coordinator at Kimberley Park Elementary School, will address parents about the importance of being engaged in their children's schools, and Phillips Chapel Minister Shannon Shore will conduct a youth workshop.

Phillips Chapel Pastor Chad R. Armstrong said the Aug. 6 event is important, not only because of school supplies that will be donated to help local families stretch their budgets, but also because it gives the church a chance to serve others while spreading the word of Christ.

"It is our greatest intention to implement the mandates of Christ that we might point individuals to Him," Armstrong said. "Through the passage of Matthew 25:34-40, we recognize that ministry does not exist only in the four consecrated walls but extends itself beyond to the masses that experience various levels of challenges in life. Therefore, I contend that as we make ourselves available to God, He prepares and positions us to be a blessing that produces hope in a dismal and chaotic world."

Orange said a lot of hard work has gone into planning the event, and she credits Chapel ministers Britnee Tellez, Francine Hines and Patrick Livingston, as well as Rev. Sherman Marshall, director of evangelism ministry, for helping her organize it.

Suffice it to say, the church's benevolence isn't going unnoticed.

"Community efforts, like what's being done at Phillips Chapel on Aug. 6 to help provide school supplies, really help us fill in the gaps," said Helm of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. "We appreciate it so much."

For more information or to donate school supplies, call Phillips Chapel at 336-723-9451.

Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Marriage fellowship participants shown here, from left to right, are Rick Howell, Olympeia Howell, Pastor Richard Miller, Ernestine Miller, Toni Jeter, Darrell Jeter, Ericka Howell and Antonio Howell.



Marriage

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Newlywed couples often go through

the most turmoil in marriage because often they are not equipped to handle the new situational arguments that occur during that time. Antonio and Ericka Howell have been married for a year and four months and know that being around couples who have been where they are can only push their marriage in the right direction.

Antonio, who has seen a successful marriage between his parents and grandparents, knows firsthand what it takes to make a marriage last. He stated that it is sometimes tough for newlywed couples in 2016 to last because they try to emulate the images shown on reality TV and try to portray an image outwardly that may not be reality behind closed doors.

Toni and Darrell Jeter have been married for 13 years. Darrell said that early on, there will be disagreements, but couples have to realize just because they are not on the same page does not mean the marriage is over. He said seeing other

married couples go through similar issues helped him realize there is hope. He said that keeping God at the center will enable him and his wife to make it 49 years.

Toni Jeter said the biggest thing she has learned from the ministry is not to look at other couples and compare her marriage to theirs. Because she was married at a young age, she wants to convey to other couples to not be selfish and remember it's "we" not "I" once you get married.

The Marriage Ministry of Holy Trinity meets periodically to continue to help one another. To sum up the evening, Olympeia Howell went back to her candle metaphor and stated, "When it comes to marriage, you have to keep one fragrance and make that fragrance strong."



Photo submitted

Fifteen of the recruits pause to pose with Min. Brian Cager (far left) and Minister Tamara Moore (far right) before beginning the Bible Challenge.

Boot Camp

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Team names/members	Bible Challenge	Overall Performance
Blueberry Krisalyn Coleman-Simon Aeja Hood Tristan Scott-Jacobs JaQuez Williams	1st Place	3rd Place
FWBC Bible Boot Camp Caramel Apple Synoere Blackwell Knaji Gilbeaux Jocelyn Hayes Deja Hood	2nd Place	2nd Place
Strawberry Shortcake James Blackwell Jaylin Fryer Terrell Robinson, Jr. Ciara Zepeda-Nelums	3rd Place	1st Place
Strawberry Shortcake James Blackwell Jaylin Fryer Terrell Robinson, Jr. Ciara Zepeda-Nelums	3rd Place	1st Place
Root Beer Chandler Beatty Ja'Nyia Fryer Zedikkiah Mims Corlan Wardlow	4th Place	4th Place

Each new soldier received a Bible, certificate, trophy, medallion, gift card, and a laminated copy of their group's original psalm.

Operating under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Sergeant Major Dennis W. Bishop, Senior Pastor of FWBC, and Drill

Sergeant Tamara Moore, program director, led a core of camp volunteers: Beverly Bishop, Brian Cager, JoCelia Cager, Tonya Carty, Jay Carlton, Molly Cunningham, Barbara Coleman, Gary Garlington, Myrtle Hairston, Rodney Hairston, Dale Martin, and Marilyn Roseboro.

Lesson

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whom the Spirit was conforming to the Son's "image" (see 1 Cor 15:49; 2 Cor 3:18; Phil 3:21; 1 John 3:2). God's grand design was to bring everything together - whether in heaven or on earth - under Christ's authority.

Romans 8:31-32 deals with the provision of Christ. No one could prevent believers from receiving their eternal inheritance because God is on their side (vs.31). Paul states that the Father would not withhold from His children anything necessary for their redemption. He gave His son on the cross showing that He desired the very best for believers.

Romans 8:33-34 explains the acquittal of believers. Jesus paid the penalty for His disciples' sins. Jesus died, rose again, and now intercedes on behalf of believers in the place of honor at God's "right hand" (vs.34). He

made it impossible for those who trust in Him to be held liable for their iniquities.

Paul expresses the enduring love of God in verses 53-39. Rhetorically, Paul asks "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" This is unconditional and self-sacrificing. Calling on his own experience, Paul mentions seven afflictions. None - not trouble ("pressure," "distress"), hardship ("being pressed in"), persecution, famine, nakedness, danger or sword - could separate Christians from Christ's compassion and commitment to them (Rom 8:35). Paul calls on Psalm 44:22 to carry the point (vs.36), but emphasizes the triumph through union with Christ (vs.37). Paul continues in (vss. 38-39) saying he is "convinced" that nothing could sever believers from the Father's covenantal love for them in union with the Son. Not the extremities of existence, spiritual armies, time or space - none of these could come

between God and His children - God's love is real, substantial and will last forever.

For Your Consideration: How has God turned around difficult events in your life for good? Why can nothing separate believers from God's love?

Life's Application: We all quote "... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Rom 8:28). True belief in God's word makes this verse in particular comforting when personal hardships seem unbearable. It helps to know God is there to steady us because He cares for us and He is able to bring eternal good out of our afflictions. God shows His mercy and love in ways we can't even imagine and there is no trial we may experience where His consolation is not available. Our hope for future glory is dependent on God's unfailing love for us.

DID YOU KNOW?



Immunizations helps prevent "whooping cough" or pertussis. Children CAN NOT attend school without vaccinations. Vaccinations can mean the difference between life and death.

BE WISE, IMMUNIZE

Contact your doctor or Forsyth County Department of Public Health at (336) 703-3200 for more information

