



Photo by Timothy Ramsey
St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church not only purchased the food but also prepared the meals to be given away.

Thanksgiving

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group homes, nursing homes and members who are sick and shut in. They in turn would make the plates for those individuals and deliver them to their homes free of charge.

There were three ladies who initiated the Thanksgiving dinner some 19 years ago: Pearl Cook, Minnie Harris and Mattie Bailey. They said they went to the pastor and asked if they could make the dinner instead of handing out pre-made boxed dinners. Now the church averages close to 250 meals made to help those in need.

"God has been good to me, and I have had my share of sickness, but He brought me up from the sick bed," said Pearl Cook, one of the organizers of the dinner. "So I figured when our church wanted to do something to help somebody else and relieve them of the trouble of not having anything to eat on Thanksgiving, we definitely wanted to do something."

Minnie Harris said most of the food was donated from the members in the church, which they in turn give to the ladies and they prepare the meals to go out. She says she really enjoys helping others, especially those who cannot get out of bed to make their own meals.

St. Mark First Lady Hattie Fulwood added, "The biggest pleasure I get out of this is seeing that everyone is getting fed. I don't like to see anyone being hungry. And if St. Mark can help the sick, shut in and the homeless, it's a blessing for me."



Photo by Timothy Ramsey
The church was full with family and friends to celebrate with Bishop Oscar Davis LeGrant.

Lesson

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and it is the "greatest honor among women." (verse 28). Mary is not feeling particularly honored, but frightened until Gabriel explains further that God's favor is an act of kindness toward her (verses 29-30). Gabriel goes on to say that she would conceive a son and she "shall" name him Jesus. He also explains that He would be called the "Son of the Highest." In his conversation or instructions to Mary, Gabriel also confirms a promise that God made to David (2 Samuel 7:16). Gabriel speaks of Jesus reigning over all Israel and for eternity (which speaks past death and resurrection) (verses 32-33). Mary's response is ... so how will all this happen ... since I'm a virgin? Gabriel's response is ... by way of the Holy Ghost and God's power from on high, you will bare God's son (verses 34-35). Oh Mary, and by the way, your cousin Elizabeth, who is old, is six months pregnant also by God's power (verses 36-37). This information is a way of also convincing Mary that there is no reason for her to doubt what she has been told. Now fully convinced, Mary gladly submits to being the vessel of God and a part of God's divine plan of salvation. Mission accomplished ... Gabriel leaves (verse 38). (UMI Annual Commentary 2016-2017)

Pastor

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LeGrant was born on Dec. 10, 1924 in Bennettsville, S.C. He was called to the ministry in 1954 at Christ Temple Holiness Church as an associate minister under Bishop Eli Daniels. In 1967 after the passing of Bishop Joseph Cotton, the Pentecostal Church of God in Christ sent Bishop LeGrant to Progressive,

and he was installed as pastor in August 1967.

The service was heartwarming as many friends and family were able to get up and speak to the significance Bishop LeGrant has played in their lives. There were gifts given from a select few as well as a special tribute given to Bishop LeGrant's late wife, Dessie Mae.

The choir sang, and the closing remarks from Bishop LeGrant were full

of appreciation and thanks.

"It's a blessing to be able to be in the ministry for this long," said Bishop LeGrant. "It was beautiful to see everyone come out and celebrate 49 years of pastoring with me."

At the soon to be age of 92, he was asked will he ever stop pastoring or preaching. His simple answer was "No." He said he was placed on this earth to preach and pastor and will do so as long as his

mind and body will allow him to do so.

Elsworth Leon LeGrant Jr., Bishop LeGrant's grandson, said "It was a success, from the dinner on Saturday, which was held at the Ivory Arms, the facility of the local Winston-Salem Alpha Kappa Alpha chapter, to all the churches that participated. All of the local associated churches that came and represented down to all the members at Progressive made this all

For Your Consideration: Have you noticed that God either names or re-names those He uses? What then is the significance of or in a name? Do you live up to yours? Covenants and promises, what's the difference?

Life's Application: People make promises all the time with no intention of keeping them. However, God points out to us that He does not lie (Titus 1:2). So we can depend on promises such as, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Heb.13:5) and "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Rom.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey
The organizers of the Thanksgiving event were able to feed over 500 students and family members at the school.

Feed

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ting together the dinner.

"I'm fighting back tears because it does my heart well to see all these people enjoying a meal," Tribby said. "I'm thankful that I have partners to help me meet the needs of families. Our kids can't learn until their basic needs are met."

The volunteers for the event were from St. Paul's, the staff of Hall Woodward and a few varsity football players from Carver High school. Carver varsity head coach Germane Crowell says they caught wind of the event from one of his coaching staff members who also works at Hall Woodward, and he thought it would be a great chance to help someone in need.

"I just thought it was a great opportunity to put others before us," Crowell said. "The spirit of Thanksgiving is all about serving and with me being a head coach as well as a pastor, I just fell right in line with this."

St. Paul's Senior Pastor Oscar Pilson says he initially

became aware of having Thanksgiving dinners for the less fortunate while he was in Atlanta, Georgia. He says on Thanksgiving, members from the church were feeding people in multiple locations, such as the Bethesda Center, and taking orders at the church from the sick and shut in. The church also delivered meals to some of the local fire stations in Kernersville.

Pilson went on to say that much of the funding for this event came from a grant provided by the United Methodist Church. He says church members along with people in the community donated to the cause as well. He wanted to give a special thanks to K&W Cafeteria for working with them on a reasonable price for all of the meals along with Sam's Club and Publix.

"Being both a pastor and a strong believer in Jesus Christ, I remember the words He explained to His disciples that He did not come to the earth to be served; He came to the earth to serve," Pilson stated.

"Wanting to be more like Jesus is the platform that I am working from. My joy and excitement comes from duplicating the work that he did," he said.



Hall Woodward Elementary Principal Celena Tribby poses with some of her students during the Thanksgiving dinner at the school.

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