

Features

Dance team steps up ways to worship

Erin Boyd
Pilot co-editor

On the surface, they look like any other ministry at Gardner-Webb.

They pray before meetings. They discuss God's work in their personal lives. They strive to be used by Him.

But they are different.

They step. They hip-hop. They dance.

The Ladies of Virtue move to music with their feet—out of the convictions of their hearts.

The group, begun last year by senior Cheryln Carby, grew out of the Gardner-Webb University Dance Troupe.

"We felt like we were going to a new level and wanted to reach a new height," said junior Brandi Briggs, vice president of Ladies of Virtue. "We wanted something [a name] that represented us and God—something that was Christian-

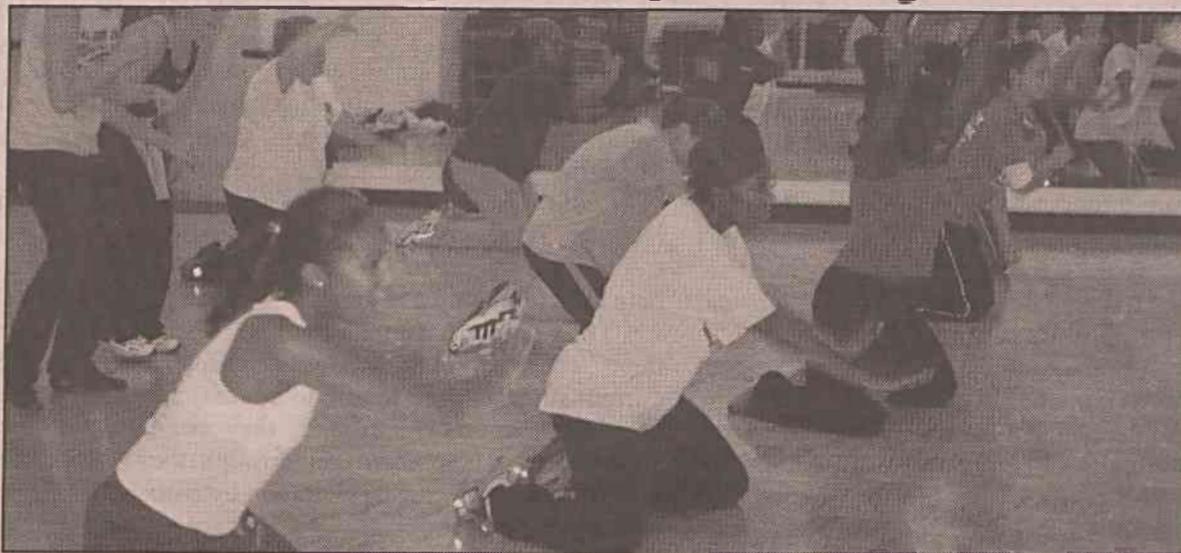


Photo by Margaret O Driscoll

Left to right: Leaders Sanchia Gool, Cheryln Carby and Brandi Briggs teach the dance team new steps to prepare for their upcoming performances.

based."

While the team dances to a variety of musical styles, they differ from other dance troupes in that they use all Christian music.

The reason? With their movements, they have ministry

in mind.

"A lot of people here can't be ministered to just by people preaching at them. They need to know that Christians can have fun too," said Briggs.

Team members emphasize the role worship plays in the

ministry.

"It [dancing] is a good way to be in the ministry," said junior Amy Callahan. "It's a form of worship for me."

Before deciding to use a particular song to dance to, the team members listen to the

music and the lyrics and let the song minister to them.

"We want to know the meaning of the songs we are dancing to before we use them to minister to other people," said Briggs.

The troupe has had many opportunities to minister to Gardner-Webb students by displaying their talents. They perform during half-times at ball-games, Dimensions, Gospel Fest, Celebration Week and during other extra-curricular activities on campus.

The ladies have also danced at area churches, and they will give their second-annual team recital in April.

Any Gardner-Webb female who has a heart for ministering through dance may join the team. There are no tryouts. Carby (x3440) or Briggs (x4135) can be contacted for information.

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