

Local church plans to share Thanksgiving Day joy with others

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

For most of us, Thanksgiving is a time to sit around a food-laden table with family and friends for a few hours of pleasantries.

But not everyone can afford to bring a turkey to the table, nor does everyone have family accessible for the annual holiday.

With that in mind, members of the Faith Pentecostal Holiness Church have cooked up the idea sponsor a free Thanksgiving dinner for those who may otherwise not be able to enjoy the holiday as they would like to. Church members will man their ovens and stoves to prepare a feast for the needy on Nov. 26.

"It's open to everybody and anybody," said church member Dee Spruce last Friday afternoon. "We want the rich, the poor, the young and the old to come out here and join us for a Thanksgiving dinner."



Pastor Danny Gurganus, at left, helps fellow Faith Pentecostal Holiness Church members Francis Alexander, center, and Dee Spruce load more than 80 pounds of sweet potatoes into a freezer last Friday. The sweet potatoes will be part of a special Thanksgiving dinner the church will serve on Nov. 26. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

Located just a few miles north of Edenton on NC 32, the church will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the dinner. Spruce said that organizers hope to feed between 180 and 200 local residents Thanksgiving day.

Donations from church members, local residents and businesses have made the event possible.

"Everything has been donated," she said. "We've probably had about \$600 to \$750 worth of food donated for this cause."

Spruce took part in a sweet-potato baking effort last Friday morning in which nearly 80 pounds of yams were prepared for the church dinner.

Other menu items will include: turkey, ham, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, stuffing, mashed po-

tatoes, pies and cakes.

After the dinner, church members, including pastor Danny Gurganus, will take part in a special singing program from 1-2 p.m.

Personal gift-care packets - shampoo, soap, etc. - will be given away during the dinner. The church also plans to create an "Angel Tree" for the event. Guests will also be able to register for Christmas assistance during the dinner.

Spruce said the dinner is a way for church members to lend a helping hand to those in need.

"God gave us the food, now we're trying to get it to those who need it," she said.

Persons interested in attending or volunteering for the dinner should call the Faith Pentecostal Holiness Church at 482-7899.

Ellis receives North Carolina Merit Award

Hannah Ellis, a senior at Lawrence Academy, has won a North Carolina Merit Award to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The North Carolina Merit Award program awards approximately 200 one-time \$500 scholarships annually to North Carolina students in competition for the Morehead Award.

Ellis, daughter of Hood and Anne Ellis of Edenton, is a member of the National Beta Club, the varsity basketball and tennis teams, and served as chief marshal.

She will advance to the Northeast Region competition for the Morehead Award. Interviews with Ellis and other candidates will take place Jan. 7 in Williamston, NC.

"The North Carolina Merit Award recognizes those students in every North Carolina county who embody the ideals of the Morehead Program.

Clearly, Hannah Ellis is exceptional in her achievements and potential as a student and leader," said Charles E. Lovelace, Jr., executive director of the John Motley

Morehead Foundation, a private educational foundation based in Chapel Hill. "The North Carolina Merit Award helps the foundation achieve its goal of enhancing the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill by attracting the most outstanding students to enroll there."

Ellis was elected from among seven high school nominees chosen earlier by area high schools. Interviews were conducted by the Bertie-Martin selection committee.

At the school and county competition levels, the selection process for the North Carolina Merit Award and the Morehead Award are the same. Nominees are judged on leadership, scholarship, character and physical vigor.

Fourteen Morehead Regional Committees throughout the state will select the 70 North Carolina finalists to appear for interviews with the foundation's central selection committee in Chapel Hill Feb. 27-March 2. Approximately 55 nominees from selected independent and public secondary schools across the country, and two nominees from Great Britain, are also interviewed at that time.

Morehead Awards provide all-expenses-paid undergraduate educations at UNC. The value of an award for a North Carolina resident is more than \$54,000 for four years of study on campus and for four summer internships.

Morehead was a native of Spray (now Eden), NC.



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Visitors to this year's Oak Fest look at some of the many craft items available at the White Oak Elementary School fundraiser sponsored each year by the school's PTA. In addition to the crafts, there were children's games, a talent show, and a bake sale for all to enjoy. (Staff photo by Debbie Collins)

Lawrence PTO to meet

MERRY HILL — The Lawrence Academy Parent-Teacher Organization will hold its second meeting of the year at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16.

Parents are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will be held in the Daniels Gymnasium, to learn more about the school.

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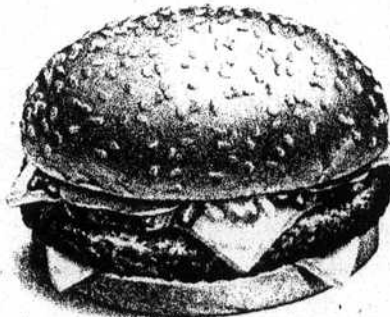
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