



Photo by Paul Collins

Brothers Christian Searcey (left) and Chrishawn Searcey (right) and Jacques Shoffner

THE WAY TO A FATHER'S HEART

Church honors fathers at breakfast, worship service

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

New Liberty Baptist Ministries had activities Sunday morning to honor fathers who attend the church and the greatest father of all, God.

The activities began with a buffet breakfast on the church grounds. The breakfast, prepared by Carol Cousar and Gloria Myers, included bacon, ham, smoked sausage, chicken, eggs, grits, watermelon, cantaloupe, peaches, pineapple, grapes, bananas, juice. (Church members chipped in various items.)

"I just love doing it. I love cooking," Cousar said. "I love to show my appreciation to all the men, the fathers. Sometimes we don't show them enough love, you know, everyday working and men busy."

Jackie Harrell was one of the 25 or more people who attended the breakfast. "I feel like the best way to honor our fathers is with praise and with honor because without God we wouldn't have any fathers to do what they do. And I thank God for all the fathers. I'm just glad that we could have a Father's Day at church. Instead of just

being anywhere else, this is the best place to honor our fathers on Father's Day."

The church's pastor, Rev. Dr. Linda M. Beal, said that "table fellowship," eating together, is important because "that's part of what Jesus did: He taught table fellowship. And so we fellowship one with another here in the community."

The 11 a.m. worship service followed the church breakfast.

Beal said, "I think our bulletin points out who our greatest Father is ... God."

The headline on the bulletin says "Thank God for Our Father's Love."

Beal said there are wonderful Scriptures in the Bible about fathers and sons. For example, Malachi 4:4-6 says: "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

And Paul writes in Ephesians 6:1-4: Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that I may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Beal said, "I think it still carries through today where they (young people) obey and honor their parents, that they would have a long life."

During the worship service, all the fathers present were recognized and presented tokens.

Deacon James C. Miller Jr., Beal's brother, of White Rock Baptist Church, was the special speaker for the worship service. He delivered a message on how husbands should base their love for their wives on biblical principles, not on the world's love. He also advised men to become husbands before they become fathers.

This was the second annual Father's Day service at New Liberty Baptist Ministries, which is at 922 S. Broad Street.

Kirkman hopes his big dreams for Fifth District inspire voters

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

A friend of Roger Kirkman's recently came across a tiny replica of the Capitol enclosed in a crystal prism, a find that she passed on to Kirkman - for good luck, she said.

Kirkman has given the tiny trinket a prominent place in his office. It is now a constant sign of his biggest goal these days: to win a seat in the Capitol representing the people of the Fifth Congressional District.

Kirkman, 54, is an average Joe-kind of candidate. The city native has a background in geography and topography. He currently works in the office of marketing and communications at Winston-Salem State University. He has never held elected office before and this is the first time he has thrown his hat into a political race. And while jobs and the war are at the top of most candidates' agendas, Kirkman has bigger fish that he wants to fry. He wants to change Congress - literally.

"One of the reasons we are in the predicament we are in is because the government has gotten to be so distant from the person on the street," said Kirkman, a Democrat who will face Jim Harrell and Andrew Winfrey in the July 20 primary.

Kirkman's solution for bringing the people closer to government is to increase the number of people in the House of Representatives. It is a topic on which Kirkman has done a lot of research. He said increasing the House membership from 435 to around 1,000 would not only mean representatives would have more intimate districts, but also that minority groups would finally get their fair share of congressional representatives.

Kirkman said his desire to change Congress is the primary reason he is running. Although he has ideas about health care (he wants to make it easier for small businesses to afford health care) and the war (he thinks America needs to work on building better relations with the average Arab man and woman), Kirkman said those topics are symptoms. A disconnected

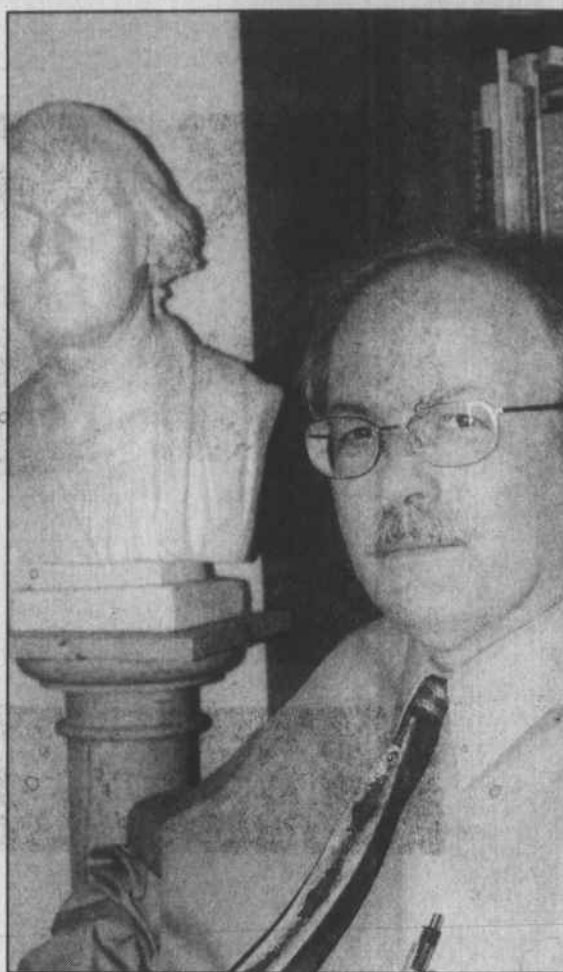


Photo by Kevin Walker

Roger Kirkman poses in front of a bust of George Washington that he keeps in his campaign office.

government is the cancer, he said.

"The other candidates are talking about these Band-Aid issues. We need to treat the whole sickness," he said.

While Republicans seeking the Fifth District seat are wearing suits of armor (to avoid the back stabbing), Kirkman is proud that the Democrats have kept their campaign above board. Kirkman said he respects the other Democrats. He and Harrell are even former classmates from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. But Kirkman says he stands out from the pack because his planks are original, not taken line-by-line from the national party's agenda.

His other innovative ideas

for the district include bringing a light rail system to ease street traffic and creating a museum of industrial design to show off the region's strong industrial history.

Kirkman admits to being a dreamer, but he insists that his ideas are not too over the head of ordinary folks who just want jobs that pay well and places to lay their heads.

"Every trip of 1,000 miles begins with one step. I am ready to take a step," he said.

Kirkman will take part in a forum Monday with the other Democrats running for the Fifth. The forum will begin at 6 p.m. at the Vintage Theater, located on the corner of Main and Vintage across from the N.C. School of the Arts.



Photo by Kevin Walker

Members of Mount Pleasant triumphantly and symbolically tear apart chains as they enact what may have happened back in 1865 when Texas slaves learned of their freedom.

Juneteenth

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celebration. "In Texas and Oklahoma) they celebrate (Juneteenth) with pomp, circumstance and fanfare. It is, in fact, their Fourth of July," Crump said. "They appreciate the Fourth of July, but it doesn't mean as much."

State Rep. Larry Womble has been on hand for all of Mount Pleasant's Juneteenth events. But Saturday, he had to fit the event in between two other Juneteenth celebrations he attended. Womble said the holiday is catching on. A few years ago he sponsored a resolution in the General Assembly that formally recognized Juneteenth. The resolution passed unanimously.

"That is one of the (bills) that I am most proud of," he

said. Womble urged attendees to educate others about Juneteenth. He said blacks need to hold close to their history.

"If we don't tell our own stories someone is going to tell our stories for us, and we may not like what they say," he said.

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who served as the keynote speaker for the celebration, emphasized the importance of also keeping local black history alive.

Burke has penned a booklet about local landmarks, buildings and streets named for African-Americans. Burke also told the audience to never forget the black men and women who existed in the country in bondage.

"I am so happy that I am free," she said. "I think about the suffering our people went through, and I try to enjoy every moment of life."

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