



Old rivals' teams to meet for match-up

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Friends offer hot styles at boutique

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Four-legged firefighter on the job

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North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 W. 5th Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

THE CHRONICLE

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Prominent pastor is leaving his pulpit

Rev. Runnels says challenges of family and career hard to juggle with duties at First Calvary

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

After eight years at the helm of First Calvary Baptist Church, the Rev. Calvin Runnels is stepping down from the pulpit for good.

Runnels, who works full time as a faculty supervisor in the Department of Pastoral Care at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, has cited the demands of his day job and new responsibilities at home as reasons for his departure.

"It was a difficult decision to make because there are some wonderful relationships that I have formed at First Calvary," Runnels said. "But it was a decision for my own self care."

Runnels came to First Calvary almost by

accident, and served as interim pastor for two years before officially assuming the role as pastor.

"(At first) I was not interested in pastoring," he admitted. "(But) I went over there and preached. They ... kept inviting me back. I think our spirits connected in the ministry."

Once a prominent congregation in the Winston-Salem community, First Calvary faltered after the death of its first pastor, W.O. Wilson, who occupied the pulpit for more than 40 years. Subsequent leaders showed less longevity, and the church languished for two years without a leader prior to his appointment, Runnels reported. The population had shrunk to a fraction of its



Searcy

See Runnels on A4



Photo by Layla Farmer

The Rev. Calvin Runnels will soon preach his last sermon.

Women's Fund opens up its purse

Grants awarded to local agencies

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem, one of the Winston-Salem Foundation's fastest growing initiatives, has announced the recipients of its grants for the 2008-2009 season.

Formed in 2005 by five women, Michelle Cook, Lynn Eisenberg, Sarah Holthouser, Mary Jamis and Janie Wilson - known as "The Fab Five" - the fund promotes women's philanthropy at all levels of the socioeconomic system, through individual and group memberships.

Its inaugural grants, awarded last year, totaled more than \$140,000 for programs tailored specifically to suit the needs of local women and girls.

"We wanted to get at the root causes of the problems that affect women and girls in our community," Cook explained. "We've been really pleased with the outcomes that we've had."

The Fund's secondary season has proved to be even more ambitious.

"We've increased (our grant awards) substantially since last year," Cook remarked. "We are building our endowment as well."

After reviewing more than 20 proposals for funding, the more than 600 members of the Fund selected nine agencies to receive grants.



Cook

See Fund on A4



Photo by Layla Farmer

Rev. Darryl Aaron with his daughter, Naomi, and her friend, Sarah Pranikoff.

Walkers take notice of plight of the hungry

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

More than 500 people took to the streets of Winston-Salem on Sunday to fight hunger as part of the annual CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk.

In all, more than 1,000 Forsyth County residents took part. There were simultaneous walks in Kernersville and Clemmons as well.

The two-mile Winston walk began and ended in Corpening Plaza downtown. The event is meant as a way for all citizens to show their solidarity with people in developing countries who walk long distances every day for their basic needs like food. It is also a fundraiser. Walkers solicited donations from friends, co-workers and church members. Most of the money

raised (75 percent) goes to the international organization Church World Service, while the other 25 percent is split between Crisis Control Ministries and Sunnyside Ministries, two local agencies that provide food, clothing and other services to struggling families.

"Your walking might mean a bag of groceries, or gas money for someone to drive to work, or might mean feeds and tools for a farmer in Haiti or Kenya," said Mary Catherine Hinds of Church World Service. "Your walk makes a tremendous difference—it brings help and it brings hope."

Church World Service provides sustainable self-help, development services, disaster relief and refugee assistance in 80 countries around the world. The organization relies heavily



Hinds

See Walk on A13

AN ARTIST'S TOUCH



Photo by Felecia P. Long

Artist Derek Stallings showcases his immense talents last week in a hallway at Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge. He was among dozens of local artists - from singers to violinists - on hand to help the charter school raise money. Read more about the event on page B7.

Gabriel comes full circle at YMCA

New executive director at Winston Lake grew up at his local Y branch

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Summer camp, Saturday night dances. Learning to swim.

These are among Shawan Gabriel's most treasured memories. In fact, Gabriel says he can scarcely think of his childhood without thinking about the YMCA.

Growing up in Charlotte, Gabriel says he participated in virtually every program the 'Y' had to offer. Not to mention the time he put in playing basketball, football and baseball at his local neighborhood facility. He even met his wife, Keisha, while working at the Y as a college student.

So perhaps it's fitting that Gabriel is now the executive director of a facility much like the one he visited as a youth.

The 31-year-old has wasted little time getting acclimated to the storied history of the Winston Lake Family YMCA, which has changed locations and names over the decades but has remained steadfast in its commitment to the well-being of the people of East Winston.

Gabriel has contacted former executive directors of the



Photo by Layla Farmer

See Gabriel on A6 Shawan Gabriel has lofty goals for the Y.

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