

Grant will allow Old Salem to create St. Philips music series



The historic St. Philips Moravian Church.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Old Salem Museums & Gardens has been awarded three grants totaling \$30,000.

A \$3,500 grant from the Morris and Lillian Sosnik Memorial Fund of The Winston-Salem Foundation will go toward the creation of a new music series this fall at St. Philips Church at Old Salem, a part of the St. Philips Complex for African-American Studies. The church is the oldest black church in the state.

The free monthly series, which will run from September to December 2009, will celebrate the contributions of Africans and African Americans to the country's musical heritage by featuring jazz, gospel and choral music.

The DataMax Foundation of Winston-Salem has pledged \$25,000 to assist in the renovation of the Old Salem Education Center, located next to the Visitor Center. The grant will help serve the needs of school children and tour groups by equipping the Center with computers and advanced technology for its opening in summer of 2010.

Also, Old Salem has also been awarded a grant of \$1,500 by The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation of Durham to aid in the construction of a mobile puppet stage. The stage will host "Heirloom Puppet Productions," a new educational-outreach program that combines the artistry of puppetry with storytelling to help young children learn

about American history.

"We are so pleased and grateful that these three foundations have recognized the importance of Old Salem as an essential historical and cultural resource for the

community," said Lee

French, president and CEO. "The grants will help us continue to provide our visitors with exciting new offerings and up-to-date visitor facilities."

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Shakara Johnson, Samuel Starks and Chris Freeman.

Ashley

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ing," she said. However, the best was yet to come for Howard, who will attend Hanes Middle School next year.

The school also had a special recognition program for fifth-graders back at the school.

"My favorite part is probably going to be walking across the stage (at the Recognition Ceremony)," Erin said.

Home - School Coordinator Angela Miller organizes the luncheon each year.

"It's a big effort to make it happen," said Miller.

Outside donors are required to bring the event to fruition, and financial support has been harder to come by in recent years.

"So many of our business partners have had to unfortunately decline because of the economy," Miller explained.

Despite the challenges she and many others undoubtedly face, Medicap Pharmacy Owner Beverly Graham's support has remained steadfast, Miller said.

"Even though the economy has gone through what it has gone through, at no time does Ms. Graham hesitate," she commented. "If we ask, she answers."

Graham, who spent some of her formative years at the now-defunct St. Benedict's School on nearby Hattie Avenue, began volunteering at the school more than five years ago, and has sponsored the etiquette portion of the fifth grade program since she opened the Liberty Street Medicap in 2005.

"We just thought it would be nice," she said of her motivation to foot the bill for the classes, which have become an integral part of the annual celebration. "It's a good life skill to have."

Although times are tough, financially speaking, Graham said she felt it was important to maintain her connection with the school.

"We have to watch our dollars, but I wanted to do something to give back, and this is our small way, to do the program for the kids at Ashley," she remarked. "It's such a wonderful school; it really is... I hope to do more in the future."

David Hill, a member of April Gamble's fifth grade class, said he was appreciative of all those who made the luncheon possible.

"I think it's been great,"



Angela Miller with Vice Principal Robert Ash and Principal Brenda Butler.



Catyana Byers, Jacob Cobbs and Kristian Saunders.



Angel Morgan, Kmyia Allen and Tyesha Hall.



Erin Howard

said Hill, who will continue the international baccalaureate (IB) curriculum next year at Paisley Middle. "I like that they spent this much money on us, because they didn't have to do it."

Gamble was among the teachers who accompanied

the students to the luncheon.

"I'm so proud of this class because they've really worked hard," she remarked. "It's just been really good ... watching them grow."

At the end of the luncheon, Ashley PTA President Rev. Richard Gray addressed the group. He praised the students for what he characterized as "perfect" behavior, and advised them to remember their days at Ashley.

"It's situations like this that shows us our jobs are done; you have learned what it was that we were supposed to teach/you," Gray stated. "...You will always be a part of Ashley and our family, no matter where you go."

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