



Members of the Troop, pictured here with radio personality Anita Dean, pose outside of the Samaritan Kitchen, one of many places where the Troop has volunteered. One Scout is holding a community service award that the Troop earned.

Troop
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The Troop, which is one of the city's few African American Scouting groups, is known for its extensive volunteer efforts across the community. It boasted more than 70 members before problems began to surface last year.

Though they are not members of St. Stephen, James and Vonda Flynt placed their only child, James Jr. in the Troop more than five years ago because of its solid reputation. James Flynt, an operations administrator for Replacements, Ltd., said he has been pleased with the lessons James Jr., a rising seventh grader at Jefferson Middle School, has gleaned from his participation.

"It's had a major impact on James Jr.," he said. "Mr. and Mrs. Mickens do an outstanding job of making sure those boys understand those core values of what it means to be a true Boy Scout."

The group was forced to cancel three Scout meetings last year because its leaders could not gain access to the church building. James Jr. and seven other Troop members are now a year behind on earning their credentials for Order of the Arrow, a Boy Scout honor society, because they must be certified by representatives from the BSA and when the representatives came out, they were unable to gain access into the church.

The boys have been negatively affected in other ways as well by the well-publicized church controversy. Mickens said.

"They know what's going on," said the 71 year-old, who hasn't attended a service at St. Stephen in over a year. The state of limbo the Troop finds itself in has been difficult for the Mickenses too.

"We love them and we're devoted to those guys," Mrs. Mickens said of the Troop. "Whatever you do, do it to us, but leave the boys alone. They have not done anything."

Flynt also expressed concern that the youth have had to suffer because of an adult conflict.

"I can understand if you have a problem with whoever," he said.



Jackson-Wiggins

er," he said. "But when it gets to the point where you're affecting the lives of young men who are trying to be good citizens and represent the Boy Scouts, I don't understand that from a biblical perspective."

Longtime St. Stephen member Priscilla Jackson-Wiggins attended a recent Eagle Scouts ceremony at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. Despite the celebratory tone of the event, Jackson-Wiggins, a city native and retired school teacher, said she was melancholy because she could not stop thinking about the situation with the Troop at St. Stephen.

Jackson-Wiggins says that church members were not invited to weigh in on the decision to not renew the charter.

"I grew up knowing that church people, when all else fails, that's where you can go - it's a family," said the grandmother of two. "But a family wouldn't kick a group of kids out."

St. Stephen leaders declined to comment directly on the issue, but Church Secretary Priscilla Jackson issued a statement on their behalf.

"We, the members of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, support the Boy Scouts of America," Jackson said. "We strive to work in their best interest, and we're advocates."

American Legion Post 220 on Liberty Street has agreed to charter the Troop. The boys will begin meeting there at the start of the school year and will continue their civic-minded work, Mickens said.

Flynt said he and his wife plan to keep James Jr. involved in the Troop regardless of where it is based.



Pastor James Cook preaches at a countywide Easter service in 2009.

Non-traditional student leader earns scholarship

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Mae Timmons-Moore, a non-traditional Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) student, has received a \$1,600 Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society (ASL) scholarship.

She received ASL's Dr. Paul Sable Scholarship, which is based on academic achievement, scholarship, leadership and need. Timmons-Moore is a senior majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Public Administration at WSSU. She is employed as a specialty key account service representative with Pepsi Beverages.

"I am so pleased to receive the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor

Society's Dr. Paul Sable Scholarship. It is such an honor to be chosen for my scholastic ability from among such a worthy host of candidates. In addition, it allows me to represent Winston-Salem State University in such a positive way," said Timmons-Moore.

Timmons-Moore has served as a volunteer with the Forsyth County Department of Social Services-Relatives as Parents Program (R.A.P.P.), the

Keep Winston-Salem Clean - Big Sweep Program, the Susan G. Komen 5K Walk for the Cure (Breast Cancer Awareness), the March of Dimes' March for Babies Campaign, and serves on various auxiliaries at First Baptist Church - Highland

Avenue.

Timmons-Moore is a current member of the WSSU Non-traditional Adult Student Organization of which she is current past president and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars honor society.

Timmons-Moore recently completed studies in WSSU's Summer Study Abroad Program in Ghana and Benin, West Africa where she conducted research on "The Evolving Role of Women in African Politics."

Timmons-Moore is married to Anthony Moore and has two adult children and six grandchildren. Her motivation for entering college as an adult was to fulfill a lifelong dream of obtaining a college degree with the urging and support of her son, Anthony II. She aspires to pursue a Master's Degree in Adult Education after graduating from WSSU.



Timmons-Moore

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