



A Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy choir participated in the Black History Month celebration at Diggs Memorial. Submitted photo

Unsung

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she assists in serving dinner and treats to the senior citizens of the Somerset Assisted Living Homes. When asked what is her goal in life she said, "My goal in life is to be successful in life and achieve things in life my mother and family haven't, so I may make them proud."

The special musical guest was Renee Matthews-Phifer, WSPA director of Choral Activities, along with WSPA High School Mixed Chorus, Advanced High School Chorus, The WSPA Ladies Ensemble (aka The Phifer Singers). Phifer says she chose songs that would "connect the youth with their heritage and allow them to appreciate the journey." The theme of their overall selections was "Our Journey in Song ... A Celebration!" The Phifer remarked at the beginning of the selections that "The greatest contribution of our people is the Spirituals." The journey started in Africa, traveled to Latin America, and ended in America with gospel traditional.

Keith "KJ" Watson, who led the song "Victory," was supported by his parents Keith and Jamestris Watson along with the crowd, who gave him a standing ovation for his rendition. The WSPA had a special guest: Vera B. Andrews, mother of Phifer, who has been a longtime supporter of the group and brings enormous energy and enthusiasm to any program that she attends with her personal testimony and praise.

Rev. Duck is the visionary of the Black History Event. She is a member of Diggs Memorial United Holy Church, where she serves as the senior minister on the Ministerial Staff. The event concluded with a swelling rendition of "We Shall Overcome."

The Rev. Dr. Lamonte Williams, senior pastor of Diggs Memorial United Holy Church, along with its officers and members, said they would like to thank the community at large for the support of the program. Dr. Lamonte Williams submitted this report.

Film

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in the world and reconciliation in the Church.

The film is based on a true story that took place in Oxford, North Carolina, in 1970 where a black man was beaten and killed by three white men. The man who pulled the trigger was subsequently found not guilty by an all white jury. The plot focuses on two men; an African-American high school teacher that organizes the black community to fight the unjust verdict and a white minister who loses much of his congregation and eventually run out of town for his liberal views during the civil rights era.

Terrance Hawkins says they decided to show the film during this time of year is because it hits close to home due to our proximity to where the incident in the film took place.

"With all of the relevant themes in the movie, we just said lets do this and hoped

some people would come out and watch it and embed something in their hearts," Hawkins said. "I think we can point to many great signs of progress but we can also point to many signs of this oppression shown in the movie still living on."

Hawkins went on to talk about how some of the themes in the movie are still prevalent in today's time. He thinks we still have a way to go.

"Its almost like we are in the best of times and the worst of times," he continued. "For some upper middle-class educated black folks, they have unprecedented levels of access, such as being in the White House. At the same time we have mass incarceration, the resegregation of our schools and educational inequality."

Hawkins says he wanted people to see themselves as a part of the story shown in the movie. He felt as though if they did they may be inspired from the main characters in the film and say "I'm going to play my role and it will be on the side of resistance and not capitulate to the status quo."



The audience listens as the panel answers questions about the film. Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Lesson

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verse 21 with those that are social in nature (read the lists). Paul emphasizes that these are just examples and there are plenty more. Anyone identifying with these sins is not followers of Christ. Verses 22 through 24 point to the spiritual fruit that a life in Christ exhibits. This a direct result of our submission to Christ and His will. Though the list includes nine characteristics, the use of the singular word "fruit" by Paul denotes the "unity" and coherence of the life in the Spirit (The Wycliffe Bible Commentary). Paul continues to contrast the Law and grace and points out that there is no law against the fruit of the spirit (verse 23). A Christian life is characterized by Godly fruit, though Christians are still subject to an occasional slipup ... those slipups are just

that and do not characterize a Christian's life (verse 24). Selfless in service is covered in verse 25-26. We are to walk in the Spirit that we believe. There should be unity produced by the Spirit and no competition or jealousy.

Chapter Six sees Paul encouraging the spiritually strong to help strengthen those who are fallen and build them up in the Word (verse 1) and help with their daily trials (verse 2). We must be careful not to build ourselves up and think we're better than the weak ... then we deceive ourselves (verse 3). Paul says that everybody has to be accountable for their own works and carry their own burdens (verse 5). Paul reinforces the need to communicate, teacher to student and vice versa (verse 6). He also cautions that anyone can turn from the justice of God and the stinger here is that "you reap what you sow."

Verses 8-9, flesh versus spirit, perish or eternal life (verse 8). The key is to not get tired and give up doing good because there is an appointed time for your reward (verse 9). Until then, "take advantage of every opportunity to do good for all, especially for fellow believers" (UMI Bible Study Guide 13, Precepts for Living, 2016-2017).

For Your Consideration: Works versus fruit, there is a deliberate contrast here. Why? There are specific concrete actions that exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. How active are you, fruit wise?

Life's Application: Our lives should be an outpouring of our love for Christ and our desire to serve one another. It's that simple. (UMI Annual Commentary 2016-2017).

Links chapter continues partnership with Q.U.E.E.N.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

To begin the new year, the Winston-Salem Chapter of The Links Inc. continued fostering its relationship with the thriving young black women in the community with a viewing of the empowering, critically acclaimed film "Hidden Figures."

The thriving young black women are a part of Q.U.E.E.N., a women's organization at Winston Salem State University (WSSU). As part of the facet of National Trends and Services, members of the Chapter and the young ladies attended a showing of "Hidden Figures" on Sunday, Jan. 29. Connecting Links and others guests attended the movie as well.

Afterward, the group gathered at Hill Hall on the campus of WSSU to discuss the inspiring movie. The discussion focused on a variety of themes, including the impact of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s, the obstacles faced by women particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and the challenges in the workplace.

The more impactful theme that the group focused on was the power of the strong bond among the women of color portrayed in the film in helping each other succeed. The movie and discussion were right on time for Black History Month.



Members of The Links Inc. and Q.U.E.E.N. engaged in enlightening discussions around discrimination in the workplace and women of color supporting each other, as portrayed in the movie. Submitted photo

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