

Mallard Creek Barbecue To Attract Large Crowd

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

Crisp fall winds, golden leaves and 10,000 anxiously awaiting people can indicate only one thing. It's time for the annual Mallard Creek Bar-B-Cue.

Since 6 a.m. Monday, 13,500 pounds of pork have been cooking in huge pots and stored in large walk-in coolers until October 28 when the big day arrives. Four to five hundred pounds of cabbage will be grated into slaw and 8,000 pieces of silverware will be wrapped.

Early next week, the chicken, Brunswick stew and vegetables will be prepared. According to Jim Kirk a participant of the publicity committee, members of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church are "ready, willing and able to meet this annual challenge as did their grandparents before them."

Mallard Creek, located on Mallard Creek Church Road will be hosting its 53rd barbecue this year. The first event of this kind for the church was in 1929 during the Great Depression. The congregation had borrowed money to build Sunday School rooms, and suddenly making the payments was difficult. The members barbecued three or four pigs and one goat.

The profit made from selling barbecue plates for 50 cents helped to pay off the debt. Plates won't go for 50 cents this year, but \$3.50 is probably reasonable for barbecue and all the trimmings.

Besides luscious barbecue and Brunswick stew, gallons of hot coffee, barrels of tea and cartons of ice cream will be available. If you're in a hurry and don't have time to mingle among the large crowds, feel free to drive by anyway. There will be a carry-out line. Just drive up and without getting out of your car, members of Mallard Creek will fix a barbecue plate just the way you want it.

"Previous years we have often run out of food for the carry-out lines but we'll be

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prepared this year," promised Kirk.

Kirk also predicted most crowded hours at the barbecue will be 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. "The gross income at the first barbecue was \$89.50. In 1978 it was \$33,485.29. We expect \$50,000 this year," Kirk stated.

Besides an opportunity for some good food, many people look forward to the annual barbecue because they know all Mecklenburg County politicians will be present. It could be a good time to meet the candidates and get their views on some important issues just before the election.

"The church does not stress the political implications of the big event, but it is commonly accepted as the biggest political gathering in the county," Kirk

professed.

With the barbecue just one week away, you can look forward to a different style of dining by having lunch or dinner or maybe even both at the annual barbecue of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church.



Rev. J.W. Walker, well-known evangelist, will be the guest speaker at New Emanuel Congregational Christian United Church of Christ. The church, located at 3546 Beatties Ford Road, will host Rev. Walker Sunday at 11 a.m. Everyone is urged to come out and hear another inspiring message by the evangelist.

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