

Stewpot

Faith meeting needs in our community



A Newsletter of Stewpot Community Services

2012

You are invited! to the Taste of Mississippi Sponsor Preview Party

By: Rev. Frank Spencer

The volunteers are hard at work preparing another fantastic Taste of Mississippi fundraiser, so mark your calendars for March 26. In addition to this highly anticipated fundraiser on March 8, we will host the Taste of Mississippi Sponsor Preview Party 2012 which is a "come and go" party that will be at the art gallery of Nunnery's at 119. Co-Chairs Doris Scott, Michelle' Bingham, and I invite you to be a part of this fun night which gives you a "Taste of the Taste" before hand. The party goers will indulge in fine finger foods and fun beverages provided by the Winning Restaurants from Taste of Mississippi 2011. This is our opportunity to highlight and for our contributor to be able to get an up close and personal look at the Live Auction art work and sample a few of the restaurants culinary delights that will be participating on March 26. We will have live music from the talented band NBC, who always promises the crowd fun-filled night of dancing and great singing.

Nunnery's at 119 is located at 119 South President Street. The viewing will be from 6:00 -8:30PM. Because of the time, we have noticed that attire will range from business to business casual to casual. There is no admission but a \$30 donation is requested to help support Taste of Mississippi and the Ministries of Stewpot.

Featured will be varied works from popular artists including Bucci, William Goodman, Pryor Graeber, Tony DiFatta, Huntsman, Jason "Twiggy" Lott and many others.

We are very grateful to Mike McRee, Mike Nunnery and Melissa Neville for allowing Stewpot return our Sponsor Preview Party to the Gallery and assisting with this event.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Stewpot held its annual membership meeting on February 2, 2012. This meeting is important because it is at this meeting that new members representing the various churches and the synagogue that support Stewpot are elected. There is a provision in our by-laws that requires representation from the 7 churches that founded Stewpot and then there are provisions that require other churches that provide funding and then for those that can just supply volunteers. We also elect Stewpot's Board officers at that meeting.

New members elected are: Rev. Mark Williams, the Senior Pastor at New Hope M.B. Church, a neighbor of Stewpot located on Roach Street; Glen Breedlove a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church on Grant's Ferry Road and Rev. Ricky

CONTINUED ON INSIDE...

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
TASTE OF MISSISSIPPI
Sponsor Preview Party
THURSDAY, MARCH 8
FROM 6:00-8:30 P.M.
AT THE ART GALLERY LOCATED IN
NUNNERY'S AT 119

*Business casual attire
\$30 donation requested*

Stewpot Art

By: Heather Logan

Stewpot has been a part of my life since Junior High School. I still remember the first time I came on a Saturday to serve lunch with my friend's church, McDowell Road Baptist Church. Lunch was still being served across the street in the old service station. It was a hot day and people seemed to just continue to pour into the area hungry and grateful for pimento and ham sandwiches, a few cookies and chips. For several years I would come with this group and others to serve lunch. As a freshman in college, I began volunteering one day a week in the afterschool program. I learned about the Americorps program that would let me work at Stewpot while earning money to help pay for college. Thus began my 14 plus years of working with the poor and homeless of our city.

But, they are not who I want to talk about right now, not exactly. You see, I have had the chance to work with and get to know many other service agencies and groups that have come to "serve" the poor. Some have long track records of doing good in the community. Others have been just a flash in the pan so to speak. Others come in and descend on the area for a short time doing what they think is needed and quickly leave when they realize the work is harder than they thought. Many times these groups are "religious" based, mostly Christian. They come to share the word of God with the poor and preach the good news of Salvation to those who are struggling to put food on the table, or pay the utility bills and rent. Many even require that a person sit through a chapel service or listen to scripture before receiving a meal, counseling services or even a dental exam.

Now let me make it clear, I am a Christian and my faith and

belief in the word of the Lord is the reason I do what I do. I would also say that most, if not all, the staff at Stewpot do this work because of the same convictions. But what makes Stewpot different than some other organizations is not that we are more in tune with the will of our God, but that we recognize that our state in life does not directly reflect our relationship with Him. In other words, there is no assumption that the people we serve are in need because of a lack of faith or because they do not have a relationship with the Lord. This truly does make us different. Many of the people we work with each day are very poor and endure hardships that many of us could never imagine and that

"...there is no assumption that the people we serve are in need because of a lack of faith or because they do not have a relationship with the Lord."

would break a "normal" person. Often they credit God for helping them survive. I have talked to many recovering addicts that will tell you that if it was not for their God, they would not have made it through their addictions. In other words, the assumption that if "these people" could just hear the word of God and believe, their lives would be miraculously

better is not part of the philosophy of Stewpot. Or, to put it another way, we do not assume that because a person is poor, black and lives in West Jackson they don't know Jesus.

I believe this philosophy is what attracts so many people to Stewpot, both those in need and those who have a need to serve. There is no pressure to profess a certain religious belief in order to receive something you need, nor is there that same pressure in order to provide for someone's needs. The poor, middle class and rich mingle together in this place acting out their own faith and practicing the love of God in a way that acknowledges every person's dignity, individuality and worth.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER *Continued from front*

Luke, the Senior Pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Duling Street.

Officers elected are Holmes Adams, Chair and member of St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral; Janeanna Barksdale, Vice-Chair and member of St. James Episcopal Church; Charles Parrott, Treasurer and member of Northminister Baptist Church; and Amy Brooks, Secretary and member of St. Peter's Catholic Cathedral.

Needless to say, Stewpot is very grateful for these new members and also for the members that are willing to provide leadership for this great ministry.

Summer Reading 2012 in Advance By: Michelle' Bingham

Growing up everyone may have heard the phrase "reading is fundamental" and at Stewpot we take that phrase to the next level. In both of our Afterschool programs it our sincere desire to provide our children with all the supplies that they need. We try our best with help from donors such as yourself to help these future leader be totally equipped with the supplies that they need for school.

All year long, not just during the school year, our counselors are busy assisting the campers with school projects. One of the children major projects is their summer readings. Each child is required to read three books, complete one project, and finish a reader's response log for at least two of the books they have read. We need your help getting our children these books. Some of you may have children, nieces, nephews, or maybe even grandchildren that have read these books, if so and they are not being used anymore we'd love to have them. If you could purchase books that is appreciated as well. Help keep the phrase "reading is fundamental" active in the live of "our" children here at Stewpot.

Kindergarten

** *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* - Martin, Bill
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus - Willems, Mo
Duck on a Bike - Shannon, David
Goodnight Moon - Brown, Margaret
Rosie's Walk - Hutchins, Pat
Where is the Green Sheep? - Fox, Mem & Horacek, Judy

First Grade

And I Mean It Stanley! - Bonsall, Crosby
Fancy Nancy: The Show Must Go On - O'Conner, Jane
** *Kitten's First Full Moon* - Henkes, Kevin
Olivia Saves the Circus - Falconer, Ian
Olivia! - Falconer, Ian
Peter's Chair - Keats, Ezra Jack
Sheep Out to Eat - Shaw, Nancy E.
The Carrot Seed - Krauss, Ruth

Second Grade

Amelia Bedelia - Parish, Peggy
Growing Patterns - Campbell, Sarah C.
Harold and the Purple Crayon - **Johnson,**

Crockett

Pigeon Finds a Hotdog - Willems, Mo
* *Something Beautiful* - Wyeth, Sharon Dennis
Stage Fright on a Summer Night - Osbourne, Mary Pope
The Dot - Reynolds, Peter H.
The Napping House - Wood, Audrey
Be Good to Eddie Lee - Fleming, Virginia
Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds - Adler, David A.

Third Grade

Mrs. Katz and Tush - Polacco, Patricia
Sheila Rae, the Brave - Henkes, Kevin
Through Grandpa's Eyes - **MacLachlan,**

Patricia

* *Uncle Jed's Barbershop* - Mitchell, Margaree King

Fourth Grade

A Song for Harlem - McKissack, Patricia

* *Charlotte's Web* - White, E.B.
Kid in the Red Jacket - Park, Barbara
Pink and Say - Polacco, Patricia
Talk About Family - **Greenfield, Eloise**
The Mouse and the Motorcycle - Cleary, Beverly
Wayside School is Falling Down - Sachar, Louis

Fifth Grade

Bridge to Terabithia - Paterson, Katherine
Class President - **Hurwitz, Johanna**
* *Maniac Magee* - Spinelli, Jerry
The Cay - Taylor, Theodore
The Magician's Nephew - Lewis, C.S.
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 196 - Curtis, Christopher

Sixth Grade

Because of Winn-Dixie - DiCamillo, Kate
Bronx Masquerade - Grimes, Nikki
Bud, Not Buddy - Curtis, Christopher Paul
* *Missing May* - Rylant, Cynthia
Mississippi Bridge - Taylor, Mildred
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - Lewis, C.S.

Seventh Grade

* *Hoops Sixth Grade* - Myers, Walter Dean
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry - Taylor, Mildred
Tears of a Tiger - Draper, Sharon
The Great Gilly Hopkins - Paterson, Katherine
Tuck Everlasting - Babbitt, Natalie
Where the Red Fern Grows - Rawls, Wilson

Eighth Grade

Black Beauty - Sewell, Anna
Gifted Hands - Carson, Ben
Jacob Have I Loved - Paterson, Katherine
* *Let the Circle be Unbroken* - Taylor, Mildred
The Westing Game - Raskin, Ellen
A Wrinkle in Time - L'Engle, Madeleine

Ninth Grade

Coming of Age in Mississippi - Moody, Anne

Lord of the Flies - Golding, William
* *My Dog Skip* - Morris, Willie
* *The Outsiders* - Hinton, S.E.
The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens - Covey, Sean
Think Big - Carson, Ben
To Kill a Mockingbird - Lee, Harper

Tenth Grade

Black Like Me - Griffin, John Howard
Bleachers - Grisham, John
* *Of Mice and Men* - Steinbeck, John
* *The Green Mile* - King, Stephen
The Secret Life of Bees - Kidd, Sue Monk
To Sir, With Love - Braitwaite, Edward Ricardo

Eleventh Grade

A Time to Kill - Grisham, John
Fahrenheit 451 - Bradbury, Ray
* *Jubilee* - Alexander, Margaret Walker
Night - Wiesel, Elie
The Great Gatsby - Fitzgerald, F. Scott
* *The Scarlet Letter* - Hawthorne, Nathaniel
The Sound and the Fury - Faulkner, William

Twelfth Grade

1984 - Orwell, George
Amistad: A Long Road to Freedom - Myers, Walter Dean
* *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* - Stevenson, Robert Lewis
The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother - McBride, James
The Fellowship of the Ring - Tolkien, J.R.R.
* *The Runaway Jury* - Grisham, John
Things Fall Apart - Achebe, Chinua





Children's Program *By: Monique Ealey* **In Action**

The Children's Program is pleased to announce that beginning Monday February 6th 2012 we will be extending our hours of operation as well as extending the program to include Friday activities. The new times will be Monday thru Friday 2:30-5:15pm. As we evaluated our program and assessed the needs of our families we found that we were trying to cram too many activities in the short period of time we were here. With the extension of our new time we are able to incorporate Art, Music, and Dance as well as spend more time meeting our students' academic needs, and with the addition of Fridays we are able to better serve our parents that work Monday-Friday and provide the students with more recreational activities that they have been missing out on. The staff and I are excited about this opportunity to better serve all those within the program. We have many other new additions that we will slowly begin to roll out that will further enhance the work we already do. You may be wondering how you can help and be apart of this great ministry; a few ways are helping supply fresh fruits and other healthy snacks for our students, helping with our literacy and math components of the program, teaching any special skills or talents God has blessed you with, or simply planning a monthly birthday party. Any way you would like to help and be apart of the great work we are doing would be greatly appreciated. You may contact me at any time via email at mealey@stewpot.org or phone at 601-260-9277.

Stewpot Community Services, Inc.

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A Visit from the **JACKSON ZOO**

By: Stephanie Echols

One of our great volunteers who comes on a daily basis to serve lunch is Mr. Percy King. This makes him very special to us, but what makes him extra special is his day job: Mr. Percy King of Amazing Animal Presentations. He recently blessed Virginia's playhouse and some local personal care home residents with an animal show. Everyone was really excited about the cockatoos, alligators, ferrets and turtles. They learned some interesting facts about all of them such as their longevity and what food they eat. Things were going pretty good until he presented two snakes. Now, we had a lot of the volunteers from Don's program who are very manly and strong. You have to realize these are the ones who do the yard work, carry in large donations, fix things. They are the muscle and protection around here. But once Mr. Percy brought these huge snakes (a python and a boa) the audience scattered. No one was left in their chairs but the little old ladies from the personal care homes and Virginia's Playhouse. It was hilarious. Mr. King had to coax them back. Some gave in and had their pictures taken with the snakes. Others never made it close enough. It was certainly a day to remember. We thank Mr. King and the Zoo for this special treat.





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Faith meeting needs in our community

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