

Antioch...from Page 1A



In preparation for its yearly wood ministry, Antioch Baptist this year has been able to cut up more firewood than ever before.

and for organizations like S.A.F.E.

This year, more than 30 church volunteers rallied their best cooking and serving efforts to make greater than 200 meals, many of which were served to people who attended the Thanksgiving Day meal in person at Antioch Baptist's Family Life Center, and for those who took delivery.

"Every year, the same workers come and help," said Candy McCaffity, one of the founders of the Thanksgiving

Day ministry at Antioch. "I think it's a great food ministry, because growing up myself, we were hungry kids, so I know what it's like to be hungry. I don't want anybody to not have a Thanksgiving meal, and we have a lot of needy people in Union County."

And yes, the volunteers prepared more than 200 meals, but that number reflects the individuals who made it known that they wanted to take part in the Thanksgiving Day celebration with Antioch. Had more people and families come forward, the church would have prepared as many meals as necessary for the occasion.

The Thanksgiving Day ministry goes hand in hand with the other ministries of the church, namely the food and wood ministries that Antioch provides every third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"There's Hope for the Hungry" is the name of the food ministry, and participants receive dry goods and select perishables when they pick up their boxes of food each month.

To qualify for the monthly food ministry, residents sign in at the main sanctuary and sit down with a church counselor.

"We just sit down and find out where they are spiritually," said Antioch Baptist Church Pastor George Cline. "We present a plan of salvation, and if they accept, great. If they don't, that's alright, too. If they come in and sit down, they're getting a food ticket."

According to Pastor Cline, the ministry is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Matthew.

"This is strictly us trying to do just like Jesus did," said Pastor Cline, referring to Matthew 25:31-46. "Everything is free, we don't ask for anything. Occasionally, we'll have somebody who, maybe they found another job, or maybe somehow their situation got better, and they'll come back and say, 'Here's \$50 - put it in the food giveaway ministry.'"

As for the wood ministry, the church provides firewood



Pastor George Cline, left, talks with one of his church members in the kitchen after all the food has been prepared.



This is the fifth year for Antioch's Thanksgiving Ministry, and it always takes place inside the church's Family Life Center.

by the truckload - the church does not deliver the wood, but it must be picked up by those who will be using it.

The wood is reserved strictly for households that use it for cooking and/or as their primary source of heat during the winter, and is not for resale.

CASA...from Page 1A

CASA volunteers in helping children in need.

Friday night's program will begin at 6 p.m.

Enotah CASA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that spans across the Enotah Judicial Circuit - Union, Towns, White and Lumpkin counties - and helps more than 200 abused and neglected children in the foster system each year. Oftentimes these children are separated from their siblings and experience a great deal of confusion as they are processed through the system of social workers, foster homes and courts.

According to the Enotah CASA website, "Every day in this country, 1,900 children become victims of abuse or neglect, and four of them will die. Every day, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children is a network of community-based programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities.

"Volunteer advocates - empowered directly by the Enotah Juvenile Court - offer judges the critical information they need to ensure that each child's rights and needs are being attended to while in foster care."

The purpose of a CASA volunteer is not only to give these abused and neglected children a voice within the legal system, but also a point of stability and certainty on a regular basis during a time



Linda D'Angelo, executive director of Enotah CASA, in last year's lighting ceremony.

when nothing is certain.

In the last year alone, Enotah CASA volunteers donated more than 5,000 hours of time and dedication advocating for the best interests of over 200 children in the region.

Any funds raised by Enotah CASA, such as those given through the luminary event, will go directly toward supporting these volunteers and the children on whose behalf they speak.

There are four levels of sponsorships available for the luminaries that can be purchased at the event on Saturday or by calling (706) 864-0300.

The largest sponsorship available is the Magi Sponsorship of \$500, which is an industry exclusive and includes an Enotah CASA Facebook page and website

recognition, the industry's name on the program and bag and 50 luminaries purchased.

An Angel Sponsorship of \$250 is the next level and includes an Enotah CASA Facebook page and website recognition, the sponsor's name in the program and 25 luminaries.

Next, donors can become a St. Nicholas Sponsor by donating \$100. This sponsorship includes the sponsor's name in the program and the purchase of 10 luminaries.

Finally, those interested can become what is known as an Elf Sponsor by either purchasing a single luminary for \$20 or three luminaries for \$50.

For more information on Enotah CASA and how to get involved, visit www.enotahcasa.org.

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