



Church Hill Activities and Tutoring

Opening Homes, Transforming Lives, Rebuilding

Funeral Homes, Mangers and New Life

This is the season of the unexpected. Wise men following stars. Shepherds wandering in the wilderness to pay homage to a baby that would become king. A God in a manger. Nobody saw that coming.

In a similar fashion, CHAT is being overwhelmed by the unexpected this season. First, CHAT just purchased a new building (a funeral home) that will become the future site for Church Hill Academy and Nehemiah's Workshop. This is strange for two reasons. One, we actually lost the auction for the building, but still managed to somehow purchase it at a much lower price than our losing bid. Two, the building was formerly a funeral home. There is a powerful reversal that is happening in this transition. A place that was once marked by the grief for the dead is turning into a place where new life is being shown forth daily as young people learn, build, laugh and grow. I didn't see that coming.



Church Hill Academy's New Building, 3021 N St.

Second, we had our Second Annual 'Christmas in Church Hill' Banquet on December 1st. Nearly 400 people joined us at the Richmond Convention Center to celebrate the wonderful things happening in the lives of our students. The most surprising thing for me in that time? Our students. I watched as young people proudly displayed their stories in front of a capacity crowd. In a community that is often wracked with shame, it was beautiful to see our kids proud for all the right reasons. They sang, danced, rapped, and shared with a level of joy that I have never seen before. Our kids twinkled like stars. Wise men could have followed them and they wouldn't have been disappointed! Unexpected...

CHAT wishes you a Merry Christmas and we hope that this is a season of the unexpected for you. Thanks for your support. While I don't know what is in store for us yet, I look forward to the day when we (like on Christmas morning) will awake to see the many good things that have been accomplished through your support. This world says a poor kid is just a poor kid, just another baby who doesn't have enough to get a good room in the inn. God says something unexpected, "Your king is in that manger. My son is that poor kid."

Percy Strickland, CEO



CHAT staff and students join Gina Maio for a benediction at CHAT's 2nd annual Christmas in Church Hill Banquet

Nehemiah's Workshop Helps Quake Victims

After the August earthquake that severely impacted Mineral, Virginia and beyond, many schools in Louisa County weren't able to continue projects they had started. Funds were needed to repair and rebuild. Jouett Elementary School in Mineral was planning to build an outdoor learning classroom but weren't able to follow through with their plans due to the earthquake.

St. Matthews Episcopal Church heard about Jouett's situation and decided to help. Their Mission Committee asked CHAT woodworking ministry, Nehemiah's Workshop, to build two picnic tables that could be given to Jouett Elementary. Academy Juniors Ja'Quan Hicks and AJ Malone jumped into the opportunity. Along with volunteers David Houser from St. Matthews and Tom Widmer, the boys completed the tables in two Saturday sessions.

On Saturday, November 12, Ja'Quan, AJ, and Tom loaded up the tables for delivery. A grateful teacher was there to thank the team and accept the tables on behalf of everyone at Jouett Elementary School. Thanks to a partnership between St. Matthews and Nehemiah's Workshop, the students at Jouett are on their way to having a wonderful outdoor classroom!



Winter Calendar....

- January 31st— Church Hill Academy's DC field trip
- February 20th—CHAT's 10th birthday
- February 25th — 'I Have a Dream' Student Presentations
- March 4-9th and 11-16th—Spring Break College Workgroups

Special Thanks!

A native of Petersburg, Karl Jackson volunteered every day at CHA during 1st semester. He has been a great gift to the Academy! All our prayers and blessings as "Dr. Karl" leaves us in January to teach undergraduate Chemistry and pursue his academic research.

Karl is pictured to the right with sophomore Diamond Wright.



Senior Spotlight

Mark your calendars for June 2nd 2012, when Church Hill Academy will celebrate its 2nd graduating class. Seniors Janaya Lyttle, Brandon Clark, Tre Davis, Breyanna Brooks, Imani Clark and Angelica Blackman will march across the stage to receive their high school diplomas. CHAT is so proud to celebrate with this group as they achieve this incredible milestone in their lives.

From left: Angelica , Brandon, Breyanna, Imani, and Tre. (Janaya not pictured)



CHAT

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