

Star of Hope Baptist Trunk or Treat a hit

Star of Hope Baptist Church's 8th Annual Trunk or Treat was a success.

Ghouls, goblins and gremlins swarmed the grounds of Star of Hope Baptist Church's Hope Hall at 7212 Keystone Street, Sunday after morning worship service but, wait, before you call an exorcist, it wasn't a Satanic attack it was the hundreds of happy children dressed for the 8th annual Trunk or Treat event held at the church.

The event was originally scheduled for Sunday, October 29th but torrential rains forced the church to reschedule. This obviously did nothing to damper the enthusiastic youth in the community who dragged their parents through the church's parking lot which contained some 25 cars whose trunks were filled with delicious treats for the youngsters.

"We started this about 8 years ago and every year it's an exciting event and we love doing it," said Rev. Hubert B. Barnes, Star of Hope Baptist Church pastor.

"We do it to honor the Lord and to reach out to the community, this is our way of saying to the community that God loves them and so do we," he said.

Rev. Michelle Garvin, was dressed as a fortune teller quickly distributed food from the trunk of her car as lines of children waited anxiously to receive their portion. Beside her stood a sign reading "I can't read your fortune but God Can."

"It brings the community together and shows how much we love our children and our families because we are a family oriented church and we're here for our community to help in any way we can," she said.

Cheryl Randolph thanked the Philadelphia Tribune for faithfully covering the event every year and said it was all about God.

"We're all about telling everyone about Jesus Christ, that's what the church is about so if we have to host a community event to try to reach everybody, we try to plant a seed and that's what we're doing today," said Randolph.

Not only were the young guests afforded the opportunity to go from Trunk to Trunk and get their share of goodies but there was also a moon bounce, face painting, and refreshments served.

These, said Randolph, were made possible from generous sponsors, and volunteers who contributed to the event.

"We get a lot of donations from a lot of people," she said.

"Even the community gives, I have people drop food off at my house when they hear that we are having it," Randolph said.

One of those sponsors was Patients First, an urgent care facility who distributed treats for the children and information to their parents for the 2nd year.

“It’s an outstanding community event. The community comes together here in Tacony, it’s a very tight knit community here,” said Adrienne Turner of Patient First who also happens to be a member of Star of Hope Baptist.

Cooking up the French fries and hot dogs for the throng of guests attending the event takes work and one of the people doing that work was Carla Williams.

“I’m always in the kitchen every year, each year we do this for our community to make sure that everyone knows that Star of Hope is in the community and that we’re always here as a beacon of light,” Williams said.

“It’s a joy to be able to serve the people, that’s what we love,” she said.

And how did the children feel about this year’s Trunk or Treat.

“I think it’s really fun and we get to have all of this candy, too,” said Gemma Richardson, 10.

“I think it’s important because the whole community comes together, and we have a great time,” she said.