



Church Picnic 2019!

By Auburn Mann



The TPCBC Family showed out in full force for this year's Church Picnic. The Benjamin Family organized a fun and inclusive event Saturday, August 3rd in custom commemoration of TPCBC's 41st Church Anniversary. There was plenty of food and music, and a diversity of entertainment options to satisfy friends and family of all ages. "Outstanding," commented Deacon Hudgens. "There is a no more appropriate time than right now, on the eve of our 41st anniversary, for the church and our community to really come together."

As usual the festivities extended beyond the TPCBC family. We were joined by dignitaries, such as Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford and Delegate to the Maryland General Assembly Pamela E. Queen, who gathered to fellowship.

There have been several additions to the annual picnic over the past several years, such as the Book Giveaway, the Health Awareness center and of course the Prayer Station. Venterprises, Inc. was present again this year for a book giveaway headed by CEO and Asher Family member, Valarie Davis. "I collect books all year long and we pop up at different locations throughout the DMV and give out free books." The nonprofit, designed to guide young girls and women, made TPCBC its latest stop in its yearlong giveaway tour.

Beri Kari-Fonge supervised the health information center in the lobby of the Norwood Center. The focus was on educating people about diabetes, heart health, cancer, maternal child care and mental health. "I hope we can spread awareness about these many diseases in the community and their causes," shared Beri.

The Prayer Station was conducted by the Prayer Ministry. "If anyone has any prayer concerns, we are available to pray with them individually, as a family or whatever way they need to lift the presence of God," said Deaconess Thoko Kadzamura, a member of the Prayer Ministry. Even at a picnic, because participants are at different points in their walk with God, many arrive with challenges on their hearts. "Whatever their needs, we are here to usher them into the presence of God," Thoko assured.

One of the signature highlights of the picnic was the moon bounce and water slide, which naturally attracted the children. Many of the teens were able to live vicariously through the younger children as they assisted them in using the equipment. Justin Tyler shared his excitement for the young ones: “The kids are always good; I like seeing the kids having fun now, since I used to do the same things when I was their age.”

Another highlight of the picnic was the food – everything from fried fish, beef, green beans, macaroni, barbecued baked beans, watermelon and rolls. Many thanks go to the ‘grill masters,’ who served as the backbone of the culinary experience. “There was a good turnout, people seemed to be having fun and enjoying the food; we didn’t mind cooking it either,” laughed Ed Martin and some of the other grill masters who were tasked with grilling about 200 pounds of fish. He went on to say, “It’s been a great day full of fun, fellowship and good food!”