

Women of faith gather for 'Salvaged'

By Rose King

On Thursday evening 354 women from over 42 churches came together for "Salvaged 2017" at Clear Springs Baptist Church in Corryton for fellowship, worship and to hear the message shared by author and speaker Rachel Lovingood.

Women of all ages filled the sanctuary where, after a moving performance by the Gravelton Baptist Church Worship Team, Lovingood began her message with a definition: "To salvage is to rescue something that is in danger of being completely destroyed." She then wove Bible truths with humorous and touching personal stories in her illustration of women's true identity in Christ and what a Salvaged Life looks like.

The vision for this event began during a time of prayer while Michelle Watson, wife of Gravelton Baptist Church's Pastor Sean Watson, was working on the Core Team for a Women's Conference last May. Watson felt a call to bring the women of her local community together for fellowship and encouragement.

Realizing the task was bigger than she could manage on her own, she contacted two other pastors' wives and friends, Susan Inklebarger and Monica Muncey.



The Salvaged Core Team takes a seat after Thursday evening's Salvaged Women's Ministry Event. The team of twelve is made up of Michelle Watson, Sarah Wright, Denise Miller, Monica Muncey, Bobbie Wyatt, Annie Winstead, Rachel Lovingood, Lori Wyrick, Susan Inklebarger and Regina Beeler. Not pictured are Robin Smith and Olivia Smith.

The group of three women soon became a group of 12. She also contacted long-time friend, author and speaker, Rachel Lovingood, who has written such titles as "In Our Shoes," "Real Life, Live It, Tell It" and "Salvaging My Identity."

"You may ask, 'why salvaged?'" All that kept coming to my mind was junk to treasure," Watson explained. "Rachel and I were talking and she said, 'Michelle the word you're looking for is

SALVAGED!' And so it was birthed. Then God gave us Romans 12:2. "Our goal is to show women that there is hope, that there is a place to run to when life gets you down, that no matter what you have going on or what stage of life you are in God has something for you. If you are weary from the journey, God can send you refuge; if you are fighting the battle of your life, God can fight for you; if you are just needing (to be) recharged, He

can do that too." "Young, Seasoned or in-between God is there. He can Salvage you and make you something beautiful. The great thing about Jesus is He doesn't care where you have been or what you have done. All you have to do is call upon His name and He will save you. It's a promise from Him (Romans 10:13). Every woman needs to know there is a safe place to turn to in difficult times.

That safe place is with each other but most of all, in our one, true, safe place, Jesus Christ."

She also realized that her local community was bigger than she thought as the head count for the event quickly approached the seating capacity of Gravelton Baptist Church.

"This was not just about the women of the community of Gravelton Church or even the Corryton Community," explained Watson. "We are all One Body, One Church."

When the registration numbers exceeded the seating at Gravelton, Watson contacted Clear Springs Baptist Church where the event was moved.

Bobbie Wyatt of Clear Springs Baptist Church told The Focus, "I am just so thankful to be included and a part of this journey."

The evening came to a close with door prizes donated by area businesses. Each woman in attendance also took home a goodie bag filled with a themed notebook and other thoughtful items. The finale of the evening was an announcement that next year's event, "Gloria," will take place on October 4, 2018 at Clear Springs Baptist Church — that is, unless they need a larger venue again.

Historic Overlay, Short-Term Rentals OK'd by MPC

By Mike Steely
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In a landmark meeting of the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission Thursday two controversial issues were approved and passed on to the city council. The planners recommended approval of expanding the historic district in the Edgewood-Park City area and the adoption of a short-term rental policy in all Knoxville residential areas.

Both issues had its opponents and the MPC split over the Historic District proposal in a recorded vote and also split on the rental issue in a voice vote.

Short-Term Rentals

The Short-Term Rental Proposal from the MPC Staff included allowing transient rental in homes that are owner occupied within all residential areas. Several neighborhoods objected to including R-1 and R-1E zones. Community Forum's Ray Silverstein said that 10 neighborhoods oppose the inclusion and said STRs are "commercial use" in zones that don't permit bed-and-breakfast houses.

Don Parnell, a Bearden resident, told the MPC that he

opposes STRs in R-1 neighborhoods because they are transient and not compatible with the single family residential zone. He said that short-term rentals are similar to boarding houses.

Mary English warned the commissioners that the issue has created "a cultural clash" and to be aware of misuse of the ordinance that could allow occupancy up to 5 months and 25 days.

Speaking in favor of the ordinance was Jennifer Roach who said that if the proposal has made both sides unhappy then it will be effective. She said she has "some picky things" about the proposal but that "things overall were well vetted."

Roach also said that the Tennessee Court of Appeals has ruled short-term rentals are a property right.

Commissioner Art Clancy said the ordinance was "well thought out" and said it doesn't compromise R-1 residential areas.

Debora Olson of Olson Properties told the MPC not to "make a decision based on fear" and also said that South Knoxville wants STRs because of access to the greenways and no available motel rooms there.

"There's a whole lot I like about

Continued on page 2

Board of education reverts to previous wording on controversial harassment policies

By Pete Gawda

After weeks of discussion about changing the wording on policies concerning harassment of students and harassment of employees, the Knoxville County Board of Education, at their meeting Wednesday evening Oct. 11, voted to reinstate the previous wording on both policies. At stake was one of the definitions of harassment in both policies. The previous wording banned harassment based on "actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation." The board debated substituting the word "sex" in place of that phrase. At previous meetings legal counsel had assured the board that the word "sex" was sufficient to protect the board legally. However, many members of the LGBT community spoke in previous meetings advocating the expanded definition, claiming they needed the added protection.

At the Monday meeting David Buuck, chief deputy law director, again stated the legal opinion that the proposed wording would be sufficient to protect the school board from lawsuits (See work session story on A3). He disputed some of the opposing arguments heard at the

Monday evening work session saying, "I don't think you need to put in anything, if this board says there will be no harassment in regard to any student for any reason that seems to cover everybody."

However the board was not content with the shorter definition.

In light of all the previous discussion on the matter Mike McMillan offered amendments returning both policies to their previous wording. "I think this will afford the most protection if we left it as it is," McMillan said to the applause of the audience.

"It is not the policy that protects the people—it is the people who enforce the policy," was the opinion of Patti Lou Bounds.

By a 6 to 2 vote on both policies the board voted to reinstate the previous wording. Jennifer Owen and Bounds voted no both times. Terry Hill was not present.

The term "actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation" had been added to the policy on harassment of students in 2011 and to the policy on harassment of employees in 2012.

The unanimously board approved, without discussion, first and second readings on a

"It is not the policy that protects the people—it is the people who enforce the policy."

Patti Lou Bounds

number of other proposed policy changes. Proposed policies on student goals and equal educational opportunities were sent back to the policy review committee for further study.

The board also unanimously voted to take up to \$450,000 from the fund balance to pay for construction work in progress at Kanne High School for a Culinary Arts program. At the September meeting the board learned that there was no funding for that project.

Terry Norman asked Superintendent Bob Thomas about how that expenditure occurred without board approval.

"We had internal controls but they were not strong enough," was Thomas' response. "There were multiple places where this

Continued on page 3

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