

24th Annual Friendly Chapel Fish Fry

Verizon Arena, North Little Rock

Friday, October 22nd, 2010 5:00-8:00 pm



Hundreds of volunteers will be cooking and serving the all-you-can-eat catfish and chicken dinner on the Verizon Arena floor for the 24th Annual Friendly Chapel Fish Fry on Friday night, October 22nd.



The “all-you-can-eat” dinner includes catfish, chicken, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, baked beans and drinks. Take-out is available.

Good Eats for a Good Cause—All Proceeds Benefit Brother Paul’s Soup Kitchen and Shelter

Volunteers will be cooking and serving a delicious fried fish and chicken dinner Friday night, October 23rd, from 5-8 pm at the Verizon Arena in North Little Rock. Your support will help provide thousands of meals for local adults and children throughout the coming year for Brother Paul’s Soup Kitchen and Shelter in North Little Rock. The street level entrance on the south side of the arena facing the river will be open. Diners can use this entrance to go directly onto the arena floor from street level.

Books of 10 tickets can be purchased in advance for \$80.00 each. Tickets are available at the door for \$10.00. Children's tickets (ages five to 12) are \$6.00 at the door. A special line for take-out dinners will also be available. Please call 501-371-0912 to purchase books of tickets. Come help make a difference in the lives of less fortunate Arkansans.

Free Fish Fry promotional tickets are being personally delivered to all Little Rock area media outlets to use as you wish.

We hope to see you at the Verizon Arena Friday night, October 23rd, from 5-8pm! Please help us spread the word.

Paul Holderfield, Jr. can assist you in providing interviews and media access. Friendly Chapel Church of the Nazarene is located at 116 Pine St, in North Little Rock. Phone: 501-371-0912. Email: fishfry@friendlychapel.org.

This document, photography and text were prepared for Friendly Chapel by James Strand. Please feel free to use it freely. A PDF file of this document can be downloaded at www.friendlychapel.org. For additional media promotional tickets you may email your requests to: info@redballdomains.com. Please see the next page for additional background information.

Background Information

From Boxer to Fireman to Inner-City Preacher and Shepherd

The work of the inner-city ministry founded by the late Paul Holderfield, Sr. continues to carry on the legacy he left behind when he passed on in 1998 from a sudden heart attack. He was gassing up the church van to take food to a needy family when he was stricken. He had always said he would rather wear himself out working for the Lord than to die of old age in a nursing home.

Thousands of people around the city and state mourned the loss of this wonderful man. All who knew him always marveled at how he loved everybody. He would always have a kind word, a bowl of hot soup or a warm jacket if you needed it. He founded the Friendly Chapel Church of the Nazarene in 1972, and the Feeding Loving All Men Equally (FLAME) ministry in 1986. FLAME has many outreaches. These include a thrift shop to provide college scholarships for inner-city children, a soup kitchen that serves as many as 250 meals a day, and several other programs for children and youth.

Paul Holderfield, Sr. was the son of a poor sharecropper in Scott, Arkansas. He was born in 1931 and at the age of six he could pick 100 pounds of cotton a day by himself. He and his older brother, Buddy, started boxing at the North Little Rock Boys Club. They were both outstanding boxers. His brother won the National Golden Gloves boxing championship in 1945. Paul would follow in his brother's footsteps. He won the Arkansas Golden Gloves championship twice, and he was the MidSouth Golden Gloves champion in 1949. He also reached the National Golden Gloves finals. He went on and fought professionally and won 10 out of 11 fights. In 1951 he married his wife Barbara. He became a North Little Rock fireman in 1954 and retired after 22 years of faithful service. He remained close to his firemen friends, and he was the North Little Rock Fire Department's Chaplain when he died.

While he was a North Little Rock fireman in 1957 he was caught up in the racism of the times. When Governor Faubus called up the National Guard to block black students from entering Central High, he and many others cheered them on. During this time an incident happened that forever changed his life. A black man, who was his boyhood sharecropper neighbor, walked by the North Little Rock Central Fire Station while he and some of his firemen buddies were outside talking. The man walked up to Paul and reached out to shake his hand. Paul refused to shake it. This man had a hurt look on his face and went away. This was the same black man who had taken Paul to the bus station to go to the Golden Gloves finals when he was younger. Paul's family was too poor to own a car so he often asked this black man for a ride when he needed to go somewhere.

Paul went into the fire station later and cried his heart out. He knew that shunning this man in front of his friends was not the right thing to do. He made a promise to God to never let other people's opinions keep him from doing the right thing. This incident would haunt him for years. However, this sad situation became the catalyst that would start him on a wonderful journey of hope and faith. This journey would bring joy and comfort to thousands of black and white people in Arkansas and across the country. Paul Holderfield, Sr. would go on to reconcile with this black man in 1976. Paul would also credit this man, and the incident at the fire station in 1957, as his main motivating factor for starting a multiracial church in 1972.

Walking the Walk

In 1969 Paul Holderfield's mother lay dying in a hospital bed. She was a godly woman and had often prayed for her children to give their lives to Jesus. Right before his mother died, Paul took his young family to church and gave his life to the Lord. His decision to follow Jesus Christ was not merely a superficial one. He went home after the church service and cleaned out his beer-filled refrigerator. He stopped drinking and smoking cigars, and he cleaned up his filthy language. He started giving his beer and cigar money to his church. His life was completely changed from the inside out and others saw him as a new man.

During this time he was also working with boys at the North Little Rock Boys Club. As he became more active in Christian ministry he realized the black children would not be accepted in his church. He saw the need to start a church where everyone would be welcome. He found an inner-city location for the church in North Little Rock near the Arkansas River. At this time many churches were looking to leave this crime-infested area, but he saw an opportunity where others saw only crime and poverty. Paul became an ordained Nazarene minister and everyone started calling him "Brother Paul." In the years since the church was founded, the church, its members, and the surrounding area have been transformed for the better. The church's influence and outreach are a beacon of hope to everyone they meet. Brother Paul's legacy of loving his neighbors as himself continues today stronger than ever.

The Fish and Fowl dinner began in 1987 as a fundraiser initiated by soup kitchen volunteers to support their efforts to feed the poor. Proceeds from the dinners have been used to provide thousands of nutritious meals and to build a kitchen and gymnasium facility. The gymnasium provides needed recreational programs for children and youth in the area. The ministry facilities, which include the F.L.A.M.E Soup Kitchen, shelter and the dollar-or-less thrift shop, are located at 116 Pine St. in North Little Rock. The church is visible as you drive north on I30 over the Arkansas River bridge. It is off to the right just before the Broadway Exit.

Paul Holderfield, Sr.'s son, Paul Holderfield, Jr., has taken his father's place as Pastor of the church. He also administers the meals program and inner-city outreaches. Paul Holderfield, Jr. and his church's outreaches provide a backdrop for inspiring human-interest stories. To schedule a tour, an interview, or to obtain more information, please call the church office at 501-371-0912.