



Church Spotlight

St. Philip AME Church “On the Boulevard”

Ms. Brenda Young Haithco, FAN Coordinator



St. Philip AME Church (GA) has always had a heart for worshiping and doing activities together as a congregation -- and FAN has been a welcomed addition. For Mrs. Brenda Young Haithco, FAN Coordinator and First Lady of St. Philip AME Church "On the Boulevard," recruiting an enthusiastic and diverse FAN committee has been key to leading a successful and impactful program. Having FUN has been an important part of their FAN plan! They named their committee CIA, short for Christians in Action, and added theme music, which has boosted morale and member

engagement in FAN activities. Ms. Haithco described her view of FAN at St. Philip, “... *in addition to fostering some good team involvement, it was just a matter of really embracing and understanding the core of what FAN represents. We already knew that the goal of increasing one’s faith is key with EVERY church, so when FAN came along ... promoting the idea of being more physically active and eating healthily ... it became pretty obvious how these things could contribute to experiencing greater faith,*”

The St. Philip FAN committee kicked off their program by collaborating with their New Generation (Youth) Ministry to host a festive FAN affair. The community-wide event featured different health advocates, vendors, food, games, music, and lots of education and fun. Their committee has focused on enhancing programs that were already within the church, but revitalized with FAN’s involvement. The church has a popular “Walking in the Spirit” program.... however, “Biking in the Spirit” and “Dancing in the Spirit”, along with other physically active opportunities, are in the works for 2022. They have also worked to make healthy eating easy by replacing vending machine snacks and drinks with healthier alternatives.

Under the leadership of Rev. Haithco, Mrs. Haithco, and the FAN committee (comprised of Shirley Taylor, Tracy Lee, Daniel Lee, Iris Hildebrand and Arthur Howard), St. Philip AME Church has made the FAN program their own. St. Philip AME Church has embraced the core FAN principles of increasing physical activity and healthy eating -- they believe that a healthy church is a wealthy church. By creating opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating in church settings, like taking additional time to walk around during the offering, having physical activity breaks during meetings, and serving their congregation delicious and healthy “FAN” foods, the St. Philip FAN committee is seeing that they are making a difference in their congregation and surrounding community.



Congratulations to St Philip AME Church for your success with FAN!