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ciation of the hard work the volunteers have done for the centers.

This was followed by the first of three songs performed by the Union County High School Chorus under the direction of Alicia Covington. The chorus sang, *Prayer for the Children, Amazing Grace, and Firework*. All three performances were amazing. The UCHS chorus did an excellent job and they beautifully harmonized.

Following the chorus' rendition of *Prayer for the Children*, Becky L. Dyer, director of the Blairsville Center spoke about the center and some of the upcoming activities and initiatives. The center is beginning their "Stocking Up" Christmas project, which continues through Dec. 14, and helps provide needed items for the center. In addition, a "Pledge to Pray" initiative is currently going on, and it is a pledge to pray for 9 months for an unborn child.

In addition, Dyer presented the audience with some center statistics from this year. According to Dyer, the center has had a "busy year," and they have "served 356 regular clients, seen 70 new clients, and had 61 precious babies" born so far in 2013.

When asked about the purpose of the ministry, Dyer said that "it is to do God's Will by helping those in need to be enlightened as to God's Will for life, for children to be born."

Following Dyer's words, Zona Weller, a client and now volunteer for the center gave



The Enrichment Banquet was a rousing success last week at Antioch Baptist Church's Family Life Center. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

her personal testimony of the great deeds the center did for her and her family in their time of need. Local churches' embraced the family with the center becoming their new "family."

It is a result of the love and compassion this new family gave to Weller and her family that helped them to overcome their trying times. Weller said that because of the Woman's Center, her soul is filled with God's Love, and she and her husband now realize what it means that "it is better to give than to receive."

Dee Dee England, with the Women's Enrichment Center in Blue Ridge, was the next speaker. Although, the Blue Ridge Center is not as prominent or well known in the Blue Ridge community as the Blairsville Center is here,

they were able to help 16 young women this year, and they are looking to continue to grow as a place of blessings and salvation for women who need assistance.

Charles Cattanach of Life Images Ultrasound spoke about his volunteer efforts with all of the Centers in the area. Cattanach has performed almost 8,000 ultrasounds since 2002. Cattanach will travel all over the area providing these ultrasounds because from his experience when he is able to show prospective abortion patients pictures of the life moving inside of them, and watching these women change their minds to have the child instead of abort them, that is what his calling is all about.

Although, tracking of "saved" babies did not start until 2006, from then until now,

there have been 477 confirmed "saves" of women changing their minds and their hearts from an abortion decision to a life decision. Appropriately following this information, the UCHS Chorus sang *Amazing Grace*.

Then guest speaker, Austella Miller provided the audience with the story of "Her Life's Beginning," from a premature baby, to a young child hearing God's Call, to a woman who has lived her life hearing the message of the Lord and who is proud of the work done at the Centers.

Pastor John Mason also was a guest speaker during the banquet; Pastor Mason is a Deacon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Blue Ridge, and his message was unity. The unity between the churches of all denominations is necessary to continue carrying out this most important message from God – the message to save the lives of unborn children.

Closing the banquet, the UCHS Chorus sang a rendition of Katy Perry's hit song, *Firework*, because of the message that Scoggins pointed out is found in the song, and that is the individuality of each and every person in the world and this includes the individual lives of the unborn children.

The Woman's Enrichment Centers' Fall Banquet was an amazing success and those in charge would like to thank all those involved for the "beautiful connection between all ministries" in the area who have helped to make the Centers' a true success.

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years and did a great job. We're very fortunate to have Kathy Hill in that position now to carry on that tradition."

"The program is growing, our seniors enjoy the center," Hill said. "The lack of space made it tough, we only had one activities room. We do our Meals on Wheels here, our exercise program here and many of the other programs that we do were done in cramped, crowded conditions."

The money paid for an activities room to alleviate the crowded conditions at the center, a meetings/functions room also was included. There was enough money left over to expand the kitchen area, which is the heart of the county's Meals on Wheels program. The county is on track to serve 24,000 meals in 2013, Hill said.

On Saturday, Hill and the Senior Center faithful will host their annual Christmas Bazaar at the center.

"It's on the same day as the Mistletoe Market at North Georgia Tech," she said. "It's from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We'll have a lot of different vendors in here. One lady has jewelry, another has jellies, and there will be a lot of hand-made items."

"Most importantly, we'll have food, grilled hot dogs and fried bologna sandwiches," Hill said. "All of the money that we make will go toward our home-delivered meals



The Union County Meals on Wheels team in action at the revamped Union County Senior Center.

program. We don't charge the vendors, but some usually donate to our cause. We've made as much as \$900 from the bazaar before."

Georgia Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Mike Beatty said the CDBG program provides an essential resource to Georgia's rural communities to support projects that will create jobs and assist low- and moderate-income residents.

"As communities large and small are making difficult choices, today's announcement represents an important investment in various local health and safety, economic development and job creation programs, helping preserve Georgia's quality of life," Commissioner Beatty said.

More than \$36 million was allocated for CDBG awards to be used to support

capital projects in 74 Georgia communities. Those projects include upgrades of water supplies, the provision of basic sewer services, health facilities, senior citizen facilities, flood and drainage improvements and other neighborhood revitalization projects, Commissioner Beatty said.

Commissioner Paris said credit for receiving the grant funding goes to the seniors.

"They wrote letters to Commissioner Beatty," Paris said. "Commissioner Beatty will tell you that the amount of personal letters received from seniors in Union County made all the difference in the world of where some of that grant money was going."

"We're so proud to be in a position where we had funding to improve the quality of life at the Senior Center for our Senior Citizens," Paris said.

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said. "That event is always such a big help for us," Carey said.

The event is scheduled for Dec. 14 with the evening's program beginning at 4 p.m. with hayrides. At 4:30 p.m., special music is on the program.

From 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., the Christmas program

and tree lighting take place. Music is provided by Mike and Cheri Young.

The Park encourages the community to come out for an evening of fellowship and celebration of the true meaning of Christmas.

There will be plenty of hot chocolate, hot cider, bonfires, cookies, and, of course, Santa Claus.

It's all part of the Park's *Faith in Our Community* program.

As for the Give-A-Gift program, Carey and Chief Deputy George prefer unwrapped gifts for children ages 1-12 over money.

"We do take donations," Chief Deputy George said. "But, we'd rather have those unwrapped gifts instead."

"Either will work," he said.

For more details regarding the Union County Sheriff's Office Give-A-Gift program, please call the Sheriff's Office beginning Nov. 25 at (706) 439-6066, Carey said.

Give them a call and let's make this year's Give-a-Gift Christmas campaign the biggest ever.