

pivotnow

THE PIVOT MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Pivot Celebrates With December Graduation

By Kim Douglas, Pivot Volunteer/Mentor

On Saturday, December 16th, 2023, Pivot Ministry hosted its seventh Commencement Ceremony at Centenary United Methodist Church, recognizing four extraordinary graduates. All four of these successful women completed Pivot’s 16-week program, learning how to transform their lives by making positive changes to find and follow God’s will. Many family members and friends celebrated the graduates by attending the event.

Each of the graduates – Amanda Brown, Diane Kirby, Julie Robins, and Clara Sanders – was supported by an amazing mentor and a host of incredible instructors who assisted in guiding them through the semester. Mentor support from Gina Selman, Lakisha Jordan, Roper Halverson, and Benita Watkins was vital as the participants worked and persevered through the semester.

The graduation ceremony opened with a beautiful *Pomp and Circumstance* rendition by flutist, Kim Gleason, a Pivot graduate from class #6. Jill Lackey, Chair of Pivot’s Board of Directors, offered a welcome and prayer. Spirit-filled music selections from Pivot Board Vice-Chair Rev. Ken Pettigrew and another Pivot graduate from class #5, Wendy Corley, were an inspiration to all.



Gleason



Lackey

Dr. Kristen Tucker, the keynote speaker, inspired and challenged graduates and guests to make their personal proclamation to God, “I’ll Be the One.” Dr. Tucker’s message referenced Luke 17:11-19, the story of the ten lepers. She pointed out how, like many of us, the lepers



L to R: Graduates Clara Sanders, Amanda Brown, Pivot Executive Director Carol Polk, Program Coordinator Michelle Minnich, Graduates Diane Kirby, and Julie Robins.

experienced feelings of rejection, being unseen and unheard, until they met Jesus. She emphasized that, after they



Pettigrew



Corley

were healed, only one of the ten lepers returned to thank Jesus. Dr. Tucker put out a charge to “be the one” who acknowledges what Jesus has done for you and to walk out your faith as you move forward through life. Tucker reminded everyone that Jesus sees us at our lowest, His love is never-ending, and He is always there to listen. She urged all to come before God boldly during those challenging times in life.

After the moving address from Dr. Tucker, the graduates walked across the stage, receiving their official completion certificates from Executive Director Carol Polk and Program Coordinator Michelle Minnich. Each graduate was then met by her mentor, who offered words of encouragement and prayed



Dr. Kristen Tucker

scripture over her. Then each graduate had the opportunity to share a few words about her Pivot experience and new direction in life. Their stories

were touching and inspirational.

Following the commencement exercise, a reception was held during which State Representative Kanika Brown, who represents Forsyth County’s District 71, presented each graduate with a pin and a state certificate, acknowledging this momentous milestone in her life. Graduates also received “No Whining” pins, reflecting changed behaviors they learned during Totally Responsible Person (TRP) classes. Dedicated volunteers provided and served refreshments to graduates and their guests.

Special heartfelt acknowledgments were expressed to Deb Pozebanchuk, Mentor Coordinator, and all of the many Pivot volunteers who made the semester and the celebration possible.



Above: Amanda with mentor Gina Selman.

Below: Diane with mentor Lakisha Jordan.



Amanda Brown - Thank you for helping me so much! Pivot was a huge blessing for me right when I needed it, and helped lead me where I needed to be! Thank you!



Clara Sanders - I learned about the gifts that are within me that I didn't know about, as well as self-care. The Bible study was wonderful.

From Our Graduates: What Does Pivot Mean to You?

Right: Clara with mentor Benita Watkins.



Diane Kirby - Pivot has given me a zeal to face life with determination and love. I really appreciate the sisterhood.



Julie Robins - Pivot Ministry has really helped and blessed me in so many ways. Thank you all for everything!

Right: Julie with mentor Roper Halverson.



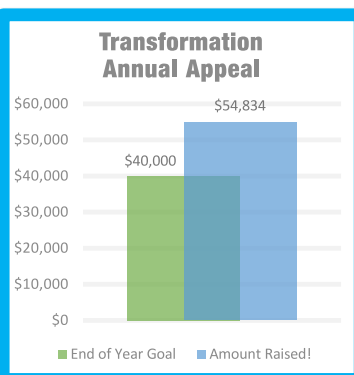
Above: Each graduate was presented with a pin and certificate from NC State Representative Kanika Brown.

Right: Participants listen as they wait for their names to be called at graduation.



Above: Pivot instructor Mary Sajjar, center back row, leads a class promoting resilience using the acronym G.R.I.T.: God's Reign Is True. Participants create "Survival Kits" with tokens to remind them of God's love & provisions and their ability to overcome obstacles.

It's Because of You!



Because of You – Our community is a place where women find hope.
 Because of You – Services are made possible!
 Because of You – Wishes ARE GRANTED!
YOU GAVE AND AMAZED!
 Your support sustains Pivot Ministry with a solid foundation. 156 donors made this possible, and 22% of you were new donors.
 Thank you for making the mission of Pivot possible: *To empower low income women for a better life!* It's never too late if you want to become a donor and support Pivot.

Join us in celebrating the results of the Transformation Annual Appeal 2023:

Goal:	\$40,000
Receipts!	\$54,834
% of Goal	137%
# of Donors	156
# New Donors	35
Largest gift	\$5,000
Smallest gift	\$25
Average gift	\$362

THANKS TO EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 11!



5K Run at River Oaks Community
Church benefiting Pivot Ministry!

By Jennifer Szescula, Pivot Volunteer

ROCC PIVOT MINISTRY 5K is a family-friendly event open to the entire community! Please help us raise both funds and awareness for Pivot Ministry, while also enhancing the race day experience for over 500 runners and walkers. To help us raise awareness and funds, you can:

Sign up to run or walk:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Clemmons/TheROCC5K>

If you want a training plan with accountability & connection, check out River Oaks' Run for God program starting February 19:

<https://riveroakscc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2061681>

Sign up to volunteer with Pivot:

Contact Jennifer Szescula at (336) 382-9326 or jennifer.m.szescula@gmail.com

Interested in sponsoring at a reasonable cost? Contact Rebecca Kearns at (336) 601-6648 or at Rebecca.S.Kearns@gmail.com



Pivot Ministry Goes Social

By Alyson Bailey, Pivot Volunteer

Great news! Pivot is now on [Facebook](#). Social media has become a must-have tool for nonprofits as a way to provide education, awareness and engagement in creative and shareable ways. After quietly launching the page in late November, we have already surpassed the 100-follower mark.

Now it's time for you to **connect by Liking and Following the page**, sharing with friends and mentioning when you talk about Pivot. The page provides background information about the creation of Pivot, the 16-week semesters for our wonderful participants, graduation, volunteering, Pivot Plus and scriptures—all great talking points you can use as you share about Pivot to those in your sphere of influence. Also check out the Pivot Ministry [ROCC5k](#) Facebook page (see info at left)!

You can even celebrate your birthday by creating a **Facebook birthday fundraiser** and selecting Pivot Ministry as your designated nonprofit. Invite your friends, family and colleagues to donate and support our mission. It's a wonderful way to help raise funds and spread awareness within your social network.

Pivot Plus Members Celebrate Winter with Games

By Sarah Griffenhagen and Susan David, Pivot Plus Coordinators

The First Pivot Plus Winter Games were held in the auditorium of the Winston-Salem Central Library on Saturday, January 20. Past programs have included Bible studies, a prayer retreat, inspirational speakers, goal setting and more, – but this one was a little different. Thirteen graduates gathered on a cold winter day to celebrate winter 2024.

Our main scripture verse for the day was Job 8:21 – “He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy.” Laughter and shouts of joy did indeed fill the room in response to five games. Game one was to guess the

middle initial on each nametag. We heard each other's stories of how we got our names and found out that several use their middle names as their primary one.

The second game was *Cup and Spoon*, which involves passing a cup and spoon in opposite directions around the circle, while also trying to pass a verbal message in both directions. Our scripture verse was Exodus 25:29 – “You shall make its plates and dishes and its cups and bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold.” We show our joy and love of the Lord by doing our best even when confused! Our actions should be pure gold for the Lord.

The third game was *Speak Out*, a box game that includes mouth pieces and phrases to say. We talked about our calling to speak out for the Lord, even when others have trouble understanding us. We

never give up! Our scripture verse was Ephesians 4:15 – “But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”

The fourth game was Winter Songs. Our scripture verse was Zephaniah 3:17 – “The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” We laughed together as the small groups sang loud songs for each other, usually a few lines, but sometimes entire songs.

The last game was *Telestrations*, another box game that requires drawing and understanding. We repeated our main verse as we learned from the game that there can sometimes be misunderstandings in communication, but the love of the Lord will again fill our mouths with laughter and shouts of joy.



The Cup and Spoon game provided lots of laughter.



Recent graduate Amanda enjoys Speak Out game.



For a new approach to life & work

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2023 Donors

This long list of donors will inspire you as you recognize the breadth and depth of individuals and organizations that believe in Pivot and support God’s work through this ministry. In addition, you will see the names of those who

were honored or memorialized by someone’s gift. Thank you to all! PLEASE NOTE: If your name is shown incorrectly or if you donated and your name is missing from this list, please let us know so we can correct it in our records.

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Yvette Stackhouse

Churches and Church Groups

Adult Coed 2, Ardmore Baptist
Ardmore Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church
First Baptist Church on Fifth Street
Global Women, Ardmore Bapt.
Jean Phillips WMU, Ardmore Bapt.
Ladies Community SBS, Ardmore Bapt.
Lena Early Mission Group, Ardmore Bapt.
River Oaks Community Church
Stephen Ministry, United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist
West Side Baptist
Women’s Missionary Union of NC

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Dewey’s Bakery Corp.
Ketner Insurance Agency
Legends Hospitality (W-S Dash)
Mario’s Pizza of Lewisville
Rotary Club of Clemmons
Simply Sterling & Company
Talon Eagle’s Wing Ministry Corp
The Woman’s Club of Winston-Salem

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Bob and Gayle Edwards
Carol Polk (6)
Camille Smith
Ivonne Guerra
Jerry Isley
Jill Lackey
Kathy Steen
Ken and Carolyn Carpenter
Mary Foster
Pivot Graduates (3)
Rev. Emily Hull McGee
Roper Halverson
Sallye Liner
Sarah Griffenhagen

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Over 50 In-kind donors (goods, services)

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Pivot Ministry • 501 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103
www.pivotnow.org • Office: 336-725-8767, ext. 131
Carol Polk, Executive Director • carol@pivotnow.org • 336-971-4878

Michelle Minnich
Program Coordinator
michelle@pivotnow.org
336-207-3890

Ivonne Guerra
Administrative Coordinator
ivonne@pivotnow.org
336-497-8586

