

For Immediate Release:

The Church @117 is happy to announce two upcoming events to support literacy in Manchester and Coffee County. On Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a 6pm screening of Manchester 1951, a video recording of people, businesses, and life in downtown Manchester in the early fifties. The following Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> classic blues and R&B band The Soulution will return to The Church @117 to promote the establishment of The Church@117 Book Exchange.

As many know, 117 East Fort Street became home to the Coffee County Manchester Library in 1962. Manchester kids of the sixties and early seventies looked forward to a trip to the downtown library. "I loved that I could go in and pick out something I really wanted to read about instead of just what came my way via school, church, or newspapers. I developed a love of reading that continues with me today," says The Church's Steve West. "During the restoration of our building, I found some of the original book shelves in the back and decided we could give that era a nod and encourage literacy at the same time by creating a book exchange." West moved the shelves to the entrance area of the former library and began stocking it with books from his personal collection. The Exchange is also now accepting donations of your pre-loved favorite books. For more information, call (615) 804-6087. Doors open at 7pm for an 8pm show with The Soulution and admission to this event is \$10.

History buffs are going to love Manchester 1951. This video has a much-traveled history. Shot on film, it was first viewed at the old Lyric Theater according to Evans Baird. "They showed it for two or three weeks, then it just disappeared." The library eventually came into possession of it and made it available to be checked out – first on film, then later on VHS – and there weren't multiple copies of it either. Amazingly, it survived. Grady York added a narrative to the VHS in 1990. Previously there was no audio.

Downtown Manchester is shown as it was in 1951. The film shows streets, automobiles, business exteriors and interiors, local restaurants, as well as downtown business owners and customers interacting. College Street Elementary and Central High students are also shown. One of the more fascinating aspects of the video is seeing the hairstyles, eyeglass wear (pre-contact lenses), hats, and clothing fashion...especially on someone you might know or did know.

Kelly Anderson and his family are presenting this viewing to benefit the Coffee County Manchester Public Library. Admission is \$5. Leave with your personal DVD for an additional \$5. For more information, call Kelly Anderson at (931) 224-5961.