

At the same time, Reverend John Brewster had been dreaming of having a school within the walls of his church, Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. For over 30 years, from 1936 to 1968, St. Anthony of Padua School had offered an alternative educational opportunity to Asheville's African-American families at that location. A mission school established by Franciscan nuns, St. Anthony's had high expectations of its students and delivered a high standard of educational excellence to them. Reverend Brewster hoped for a similar school for our time. Immediately upon meeting Coral Jeffries and hearing about her dream for a school, he said "You can have your school right here."

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church is surrounded on three sides by public housing developments, within a city zip code better known for high criminal and gang activity than for educational rigor. The church served as New City's first home, growing from an enrollment of 7 kindergarten students the first year, to 44 students in grades K-4 six years later. Continue growth created the need for additional space, and today New City Christian School is located on the campus of Trinity Baptist Church in West Asheville. The school hopes to continue adding grades, eventually serving students in K-8.

While the achievement gap remains a staggering 49% in the Asheville City Schools, more than 80% of New City's African-American 3rd and 4th graders last year were working at or above grade level as measured by the Woodcock Johnson Test of Achievement, a nationally standardized testing instrument. Parents are also encouraged by their children's spiritual growth at New City, and are quick to express gratitude that their families now have such an option.