

# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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FIFTY CENTS



## MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Ebonee Spears of Wilmington. The local Crimestoppers organization has joined with the Wilmington Police Department in offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information on Ebonee's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

## OUTside Looking IN

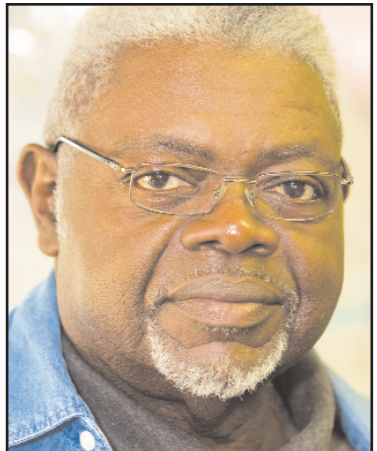
## OUR VOICE



DR. E. FAYE WILLIAMS, ESQ.

GUEST EDITORIAL "REPARATIONS: AMERICA'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS" BY DR. E. FAYE WILLIAMS, ESQ. PAGE 4

## BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

## ON VACATION

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Will return next week. Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP.

# Congressional drama hurts N.C. HBCU funding

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

For N.C. A&T University, the loss is \$1,621,622.00.

NC Central University is also losing, to the tune of \$1,358,898.00

And Shaw University in Raleigh can certainly use the \$809,352.00 it is missing out on.

In all, ten historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in North Carolina, not to mention many more across the country, will not see a penny of the federal funding they are supposed to receive from the Future Act, a federal law, established in 2008, which reautho-

rizes "...\$255 million in critical funding for "Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) for the next two years, including \$85 million for HBCUs," according to Rep. Alma Adams' (D-NC-12) office.

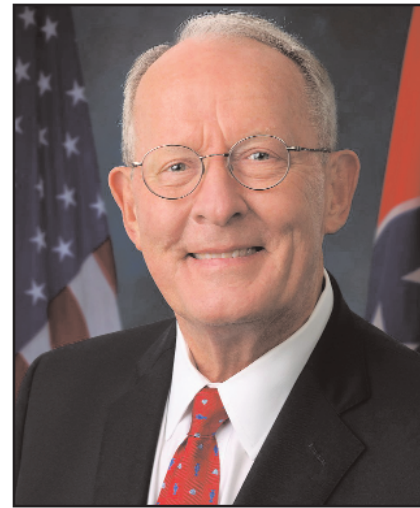
"This legislation provides HBCUs, tribal colleges, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and others funding to strengthen STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs, improve infrastructure and equip campuses with the technology they need to prepare students for 21st century jobs," Rep. Adams' office continued.

As co-chair of the Congressional

Please see **FUNDING**/Page 2



CONGRESSWOMAN ALMA ADAMS



SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER



Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) (center), Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) (fourth from left), and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY) (far left), along with local Congressman, Rep. Juan Vargas (second from left), visited a shelter for African asylum-seekers in Tijuana November 22, 2019. Attorney Nana Gyamfi, the executive director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (far right), joined the group at the border.

## Congressional Black Caucus members visit U.S.-Mexico Border: "Mistreatment of Black Immigrants is Another 'Stain on America'"

BY STACY M. BROWN, NNPA NEWSWIRE CORRESPONDENT @StacyBrownMedia

Chairwoman Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.) led a delegation of Congressional Black Caucus members to the U.S.-Mexico border on Friday in San Ysidro, California, where they said they witnessed first-hand the

deplorable treatment and plight of Black immigrants.

Bass, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY), each said they wanted to examine the treatment - and call attention to the mistreatment - of African immigrants at the border, including the October 1 death of 37-year-old

Please see **BORDER**/Page 2

## NNPA NEWSWIRE EXCLUSIVE

# Bill Cosby speaks from prison

BY STACY M. BROWN, NNPA NEWSWIRE CORRESPONDENT @StacyBrownMedia

November 24, 2019 - Bill Cosby breaks his silence, granting his first exclusive interview since beginning his sentence at SCI-Phoenix, a maximum-security Pennsylvania penitentiary near Philadelphia.

Today, in a special phone call with

the National Newspaper Publishers Association's BlackPressUSA.com, Cosby said he's spending his time helping to teach and encourage a large population of African American inmates - men he calls residents - via Mann Up, a prison reform program.

The 82-year-old educator and award-winning TV producer/director/comedian was sentenced to serve 3-to-10-years in Pennsylvania's prison system

following his September 2018 conviction on charges of aggravated indecent assault.

Unless he receives relief from the state's appellate courts, Cosby said he fully anticipates serving his entire sentence, saying he's not guilty and will never admit to something he didn't do.

Please see **COSBY**/Page 2



BILL COSBY



ATKINSON



GADDY

## Lawsuit filed to overturn law that stops ex-felons from voting

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

You unfortunately committed a felon when you were young, and you have served your time.

However, according to North Carolina law, as long as you are still legally classified as a felon due to probation or parole, even after you've served your sentence and have been released from prison, you do not have the right to vote.

For over 70,000 formerly incarcerated North Carolinians, this is their reality. They say the law mandating their citizenship disenfranchisement is unfair and unconstitutional, and last week, a lawsuit was filed to have that 1971 measure overturned.

"This fight is deeply personal to me," Dennis Gaddy, an ex-felon and Executive Director of Community Success Initiative (CSI), a nonprofit organization that works with the formerly incarcerated to help them re-enter society, told reporters last week during a press conference announcing the lawsuit.

"When North Carolina excluded

Please see **LAWSUIT**/Page 3

The Wilmington Journal is still partially operating from a remote area. Our building has much damage and some of our equipment is still inoperable. Please continue to bear with us as we work to return to normalcy.

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STATE BRIEFS



CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE FILING DELAYED BY COURT

[RALEIGH] Until a Wake Superior Court three-judge panel decides that new congressional redistricting maps are constitutional and

ready to be used in the upcoming 2020 elections, candidates for Congress will not be allowed to file on December 2nd, the beginning of the filing period for the March 2020 primaries. State lawmakers recently completed and approved new congressional maps, only to have them immediately challenged by Democrats in court as remaining partisan gerrymanders. No word on when

the court will render a final decision on the maps.

ELON POLL SAYS MOST NORTH CAROLINIANS WANT CONFEDERATE STATUES TO STAY UP

[PITTSBORO] In the aftermath of the Confederate statue in Pittsboro being taken down in Chatham County, an Elon University poll shows that a majority of North Carolinians surveyed are in

favor of monuments to the Confederacy remaining up on public property, despite strong opinions that they represent white supremacy. Sixty-five percent of respondents approve of the statues staying out, as opposed to just 35% wanting them taken down. Seventy-three percent, however, said that they want the statues to remain with added plaques to provide historical context.

FEMALE PRISON GUARD SUES OVER PAY DISCRIMINATION

[WHITEVILLE] A retired female prison guard has sued the NC Dept. of Correction, claiming that she was paid less than two male colleagues, even though they were all at the same level. Captain Melissa Evans retired from the Columbus Correctional Institute last April after almost 30 years, but claims

she made \$4,000 to \$5,000 less annually than two male counterparts, according to her suit in federal court. A spokesman for the medium-security prison said he couldn't comment on pending litigation.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 1

from its democracy people with past convictions living

in a community, working and contributing to society, but still under probation and parole, [the state] excluded me and the people I devote my life to serving," Gaddy,

who is also lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, continued.

"For seven years, under the statute we challenge today, I lost that sacred right, even after I fully returned to society," Gaddy added. "We serve as lead plaintiff here today to end this unconstitutional policy and bring a sense of hope to those North Carolinians who are seeking to reintegrate into our communities and society against great odds."

CSI, along with the NC NAACP and Justice Served

NC, another nonprofit advocacy group, filed the suit November 20 in Wake Superior Court against Republican legislative leaders and the State Board of Elections, "...seeking to re-enfranchise approximately 70,000 North Carolinians previously convicted of felonies who have had their right to vote taken away under an unconstitutional probation or post-release disenfranchisement law," according to Forward Justice, a non-profit civil

rights law firm in Durham.

"As the plaintiffs explain in their lawsuit, North Carolina General Statute § 13-1 violates at least four guarantees of the North Carolina Constitution: the Free Elections Clause, the Equal Protection Clause, the Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Assembly Clauses, and the Ban on Property Qualifications Clause. The plaintiffs ask the court to enjoin, or prohibit, the statute's restriction on North Carolinians currently under state supervision from registering and exercising their right to vote."

Plaintiffs allege that the statute places a restriction on the electorate's ability to vote in North Carolina based on impermissible race and class-based classifications.

"The importance of the right to vote cannot be overstated," explained Diana Powell, Executive Director of Justice Served, "Quite simply, the vote is our voice in our own lives. It gives us a say over the direction of our elected officials and the policies that govern our daily experience. This right should not be conditioned on paying fees, restitution and fines, or other terms of probation and parole, while our neighbors and family members with past convictions are otherwise actively participating and contributing in our community, trying to raise children and grandchildren, trying to live lives that are healthy, and safe.

Every week, I work with people who are in this situation. They deserve, and they need, a say in their own lives, and this lawsuit is a necessary step in our work to ensure that reality."

"It is time for a new day in North Carolina, where we say no more to this racist disenfranchisement policy that is not only unconstitutional in its origins and impact, but that dishonors our democratic commitment to ensuring that North Carolina elections reflect the will of the people," said Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President of the NC NAACP. "The struggle over who has access to the right to vote has always been a fight over who is included in the 'we' of 'we the people,'" explained Attorney Daryl Atkinson, Co-director of Forward Justice. "Our Constitution requires that the State of North Carolina recognize that people living in our communities, regardless of past felony conviction, are a part of that 'we' and the votes and basic citizenship of more than 70,000 North Carolinians cannot be denied. As we seek an expedited review of our claims and full relief for those injured under this unconstitutional scheme, we are proud to represent these courageous plaintiffs, who in one voice are telling the State today that the time of illegal disenfranchisement, based on conviction status, is over in North Carolina."

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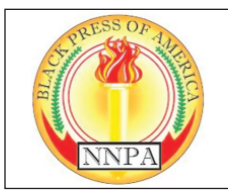


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**THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL**  
The *Wilmington Journal* was founded on the principle of the Black Press Credo. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to

every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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## OUR VOICE

GUEST EDITORIAL

### Reparations: America's unfinished business

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Whenever Black people bring up the subject of white Americans acting to cure years of discriminatory acts against Black people when our ancestors were forced to work without compensation, they usually pivot to the term "reverse discrimination" or they question whether reparations would be constitutional.

My good friend, Gloria Dulan Wilson, responded to the constitutional argument by saying, "It was once constitutional to beat, lynch, rape, enslave, torture Black men, women and children with impunity. I don't think we have to concern ourselves with what is or is not constitutional - our main responsibility is to push for, stand for and demand reparations on OUR OWN TERMS - not concerned with what they want - They damned sure weren't concerned about what we wanted when they were making us work for them for free and traumatizing our families."

After the constitutional question, they also pivot to questions like "Why should I pay or I didn't discriminate against anybody." They never respond with, "You're right. I have benefited from discrimination against you" even though the answer is obvious. They just don't get it or they have selective memory.

Recently the United Nations addressed the subject of reparations. Because I serve on the Reparations Commission with Dr. Ron Daniels, I naturally perked up to hear exactly what the United Nations was saying. I read that the United Nations panel says the U.S. owes reparations to African Americans and gave as a reason the reparations are owed for slavery.

For those who still benefit from slavery, you should read the report of the United Nations' working group of experts on People of an African Descent affiliated group. The group spelled out that the compensation is necessary to combat the disadvantages caused by more than 200 years of slavery and legally allowing the sale of human beings based on the color of their skin. The resulting article was written by Eugene Mason.

Today's polluted and continuing atmosphere of racism against not only African Americans, but of people of Hispanic and Native American heritage. We see no indication of America resolving this problem even if an individual group, such as Georgetown University, has recognized its duty to resolve its debt.

In the case of Georgetown University, the school has offered free tuition for descendants of the slaves sold by that University in 1838 to "pay its bills."

The late Congressman John Conyers worked for years to resolve the reparations' issue. He said, "I'm not giving up...Slavery is a blemish on this nation's history, and until it's formally addressed, our country's story will remain marked by this blight." He repeatedly introduced HR 40—a bill that would establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery and recommend appropriate remedies.

Since the late Congressman has been out of Congress, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has picked up the lead on this issue. She's spearheaded a Congressional hearing which calls for a commission to study and develop reparations proposals for African Americans, and consider a national apology by the government. She reminds us of the role of the federal government in supporting the slavery and subsequent discrimination. She calls for formal acknowledgment.

Our government has apologized for many things, but slavery is not on the list. Several years ago, the late Dick Gregory, Mark Planning, Janet Langhart-Cohen and I spent many days walking the halls of the Senate seeking an apology for never having apologized to African Americans for lynching. After many months for something as simple as that, the Senate finally apologized.

No reparations were involved for that horrendous practice, but the time has come for reparations for those hundreds of years of slavery.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women and host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-FM 89.3.



VOICE YOUR OPINION!!  
WRITE A LETTER  
TO THE EDITOR, TODAY!

## Visual Voice



## YOUR VOICE

**It's time to lower drug prices**

Our government having been declared by the founders as being: "of the people, by the people and for the people"; it is certainly past time for those who've been chosen by the people to govern, place and keep the wellbeing of the people at the very top of their priorities. This noble task can be illustrated by passing and implementing a lawful requirement of a reduction and limit on drug prices. Too many people have contributed in one way or another in various efforts to make this a better society for all Americans, and now find their resources being drained away as they seek to merely continue a life of reasonable health. These so harshly affected include: seniors, veterans, the disabled; but not limited to the just stated. A society with the vast resources of our country must take firm actions to keep its people healthy. The greatest country on earth can certainly accord its people the benefit of lower drug prices just as well or better than any society on earth. Concern and compassion is a must.

Mr Sidney Fulwood  
Supply, NC

**The impeachment of Trump will be televised!**

UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE OF POLITICS- LESSON #3. Educate yourself so you can investigate and learn the right person to vote for on election day, November 8, 2020. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used "big" words in his speeches and sermons, then everyday words behind them to help us learn new words. He was teaching us, not coming us. Many politicians use "big" words as "double talk" to keep us from understanding what they are really saying. For example, MUCKRACKER is a journalist like, Sean Hannity, who looks hard to find dirt on a public servant. If he can't find any dirt, he will just make up some. IMPEACHMENT means fire the president/ throw TRUMP out of the White House. The U.S. House of representatives vote yes on impeaching then send it to the U.S. senate, who will be the jury for a trial. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will be the judge. Each house and senate member will have to vote yes or no on live TV. No double talk on this historic vote, so we will see if our leaders follow our constitution or a dictator. All reading is

good. Reading fiction is entertaining but reading truth will help you choose the best candidate to represent you and your family. This is an excerpt from my book "What We Blacks Need To Do" by James Hankins

James J. Hankins  
Wilmington, NC

**The American holiday season is back!**

The American holiday season is back. It's a time when families reunite and there is a spirit of generosity and compassion in the air. One only needs to go to a supermarket parking lot and watch as the Salvation Army pot fills with donations thanks to the kindness of ordinary people, some of whom are visibly financially stretched but choose to give out of the goodness of their hearts.

With so many worthy causes and charities that represent them, finding the right one to support can be a daunting task. Judging from local bumper stickers, a cause dear to many hearts in this neck of the woods is support for veterans, and there is no shortage of fine organizations that serve them, like the Wounded Warriors Family Support, the

Semper Fi Fund, the Gary Sinise Foundation, and so on. Fortunately, it will be easier to make the right choice because, this year, there is one less charity to consider.

In 1988, the Trump Foundation was established in New York to collect money from donors and give that money to charities, including those supporting veterans. The foundation was dissolved in 2016 and fined \$2 million last month after an investigation found that donor funds were being used, not for charitable purposes, but rather as a piggybank for the Trump family. Some of the foundation's "donations" included paying the family's legal bills and the purchase of a portrait of Mr. Trump that hangs above a bar at one of his clubs.

Allow me to state this in simple terms; DONALD TRUMP STOLE MONEY FROM VETERANS.

This holiday season let's all reflect on what it means to be an American and think about how, as Americans, we can support a president who is so morally bankrupt that he will steal money from the very veterans that we all revere.

Jeffrey Zalles  
Southport, NC

## MATTERS OF OPINION

### Women rock in fifth Democratic debate

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

The November 20th Democratic presidential debate took on a much different tone than the previous debates. I'm not sure if it was because the panel of moderators was all women - NBC's Andrea Mitchell and Kristen Welker, MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, and the Washington Post's Ashley Parker. Or perhaps it was because the candidates finally got over attacking each other (mostly) and instead decided to be themselves and embrace their identities. Maybe they hoped to engage more viewers with a substantive focus on the issues. And since the impeachment hearings loom large (closing only minutes before the debate began), each of the candidates had an opportunity to opine on impeachment.

Hillary Clinton broke the glass ceiling in both 2008 and 2016, first as a strong competitor to President Barack Obama in the 2008 primaries, then as the first woman to gain the nomination of a major party. Now, there are four women - Senators Kamala Harris (CA), Amy

Klobuchar (MN), and Elizabeth Warren (MA) along with Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. And the women highlighted their gender in their remarks, with Kamala Harris reminding people that Black women are a backbone of the Democratic Party, and Black women are all too often ignored. Amy Klobuchar got an amusing one-liner off when she said, "If you think a woman can't beat Trump, Nancy Pelosi does it every day." Her point about the double standard women face in politics was an important point to make. Hillary faced it, and all of the Democratic women running for President face it. The double standard is especially acute because the current President of the United States has no problem denigrating women, especially Black women. To be sure, 45 denigrates anyone who disagrees with him, but women take the brunt of his attacks.

Andrea Mitchell, NBC's Foreign Affairs correspondent, was the right one to ask the candidates about foreign policy, and here is where Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard shone. Citing her background as a veteran, she was knowledgeable both about foreign policy and environmental justice. But Gabbard seems to enjoy playing the role of attack dog against her fellow Democrats, including Kamala Harris. Bernie Sanders had it right

when he said, "We cannot simply be consumed by Donald Trump because if we are, you know what? We're going to lose the election." Most of the other candidates concurred, and they attacked 45 more than they attacked each other.

While this column focuses on women, the men had their moments as well. It was poignant when Senator Corey Booker (NJ) shouted out Congressman John Lewis (GA) and acknowledged his service to the nation. Candidate Tom Steyer talked about the role of money in politics, and also spoke about a "climate crisis." Biden was Biden, and Bernie was Bernie, delivering performances that were similar to their performances in the other debates. I am intrigued by Andrew Yang, whose unlikely candidacy has shown more sticking power than the campaigns of folk like New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke. He has also qualified for the debate stage in November while former HUD Secretary Julian Castro (TX) has not.

A generation ago, both Presidential debates and Congressional hearings would be dominated by grey-suit wearing white men. Now, the fifth debate was not only moderated by a coterie of women, but there were four women, nearly half of those who qualified, on the

stage. Similarly, during the impeachment hearings, women witnesses, especially former US Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, Jennifer Williams, and Fiona Hill, held their own in the face of hostile questioning. Their extremely competent performance was as striking as their presence. Again, a generation ago, foreign policy was the purview of white men. While the foreign policy arena (or presidential races) are hardly equal, the presence of women foreign policy experts represents progress.

Women showed up and showed out both during the impeachment hearings and in the most recent Presidential debate. This last debate was wide-ranging, and it included "kitchen table" issues like paid family leave, Medicare for All (or for all who want it), and more. The inclusion of issues like family leave in a Presidential debate is probably attributable to the fact that women were both moderators and candidates. It would be fantastic and also meaningful, however, if one of the debates could focus on income inequality and poverty.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.julianmalveaux.com](http://www.julianmalveaux.com).

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL



## New Hanover County

**Althea Gibson Tennis Complex**, 3405 Park Avenue, will hold an Upcoming Junior Tennis Tournament "Holiday Smash Junior L6 Tournament" on Friday, December 6 (begins at 4pm) Divisions: BG 10U-18U singles and doubles. Deadline: Tuesday, December 3rd. Questions: Call Tari Ann Toro-Steinmetz at 910-341-4631.

## Community Briefs

**The New Hanover NAACP December Winter Meeting** will be held on Thursday, December 12, 6 - 8 pm at Mt. Olive AME Church, 1001 Wright Street, Wilmington. The meeting will include a review of 2019 and plans for 2020, followed by a fellowship potluck. All members of the community are invited to attend. For more information, call 910-508-9414 or email nhnaacp@gmail.com.

Policies for briefs, news, & photos on page 2.

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

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## GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

## "Got to pay to play"

**COMMIT & CONFIRM:** This week we start to unpack the steps you can take to pay off some of those collections on your credit report. If you are trying to get a mortgage loan, those higher scores can help you tap into some serious grant and downpayment funds.

Collections are one of the major reasons most people's credit scores do not rise. Especially the ones noted as High Impact on the credit reports. Paying multiple collections is a process and before you start, a written game plan is a must. This will give you a clear course of action, one by one and will help you stay focused. So, you now have a made-up mind and are committed to doing this, KUDOS to you. It's time to get to work. The next step will be to confirm the debt. Don't start making payments until know or confirm that debt is yours. If you believe the debt

in your name was an error or fraud, the first thing to do is see if you're truly responsible for repaying it. The last thing you want to do is start paying on it and then want to dispute it. Even one payment on a debt can mean you are assuming responsibility. The best way to make sure the debt is yours is by looking at your credit report for the dates and names of the original creditor. These collection agencies will also be able to give you this information. Once confirmed the debt



Brenda Dixon

but don't agree to the amount that's being collected, you have the right to dispute it under the FDCPA laws. Filing a dispute starts an investigation to determine if the debt and amount is yours. Another

thing to double-check is that the collection agency isn't trying to collect a debt from you that has already been cleared. These companies buy bulk accounts from these original creditors and sometimes they get accounts where nothing is still owed. There is a bad practice among creditors of selling debt that has been discharged in bankruptcy or even some that the statute of limitations has expired. There are also some cases where people have made a settlement with the creditor and paid that amount as agreed and the creditor sold the portion of the debt that wasn't paid. Yes, they agreed to take the lesser amount from you and then turn right around and sell to a collection agency to collect from you the balances left over after settlement amount. In that case, it might be wise for you to provide the written agreement you had for that settlement

and fight not to pay anything more. That's a point worth noting, PLEASE GET IT IN WRITING, every settlement agreement. You need to keep that in your important papers for sure. Legally some of these collection companies can't even collect on these kinds of debt but it doesn't keep them from trying. Please know it's really tricky out here dealing with these collection companies so you really have to watch your back when dealing with them but do keep pounding at it. Until next time, share this article with at least 3 people.

For anyone that desires homeownership, reach out for your Free personalized game plan to purchase your 1st-home in the next 18 mths or less no matter the current finances. Yes, it is possible.

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## WRAAP &amp; NC Food Bank join forces to offer free food items to help benefit children and families in need for Pre-Thanksgiving Holiday

(WRAAP) Wilmington's Residential Adolescent Achievement Place & Wilmington's Branch; NC Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC have joined forces to distribute food items to help needy fami-

lies for the holiday. The event will take place at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, 2929 Princess Place Drive on November 27, 2019, 10am-1:00pm. Food items will be distributed to the public on a first come basis. Participants are asked to bring photo ID & per-

sonal shopping bag.

WRAAP is a 501 c 3 non-profit community-based "youth" organization. Our mission is to bridge the educational and social gaps that exist amongst youths, families, and communities. WRAAP is an award-winning "youth" program that

offers after-school services and community outreach programs to help benefit children and families in New Hanover County.

For more information, contact Daryl Dockery, Executive Director, WRAAP at 910-392-6007.

## Annual heating cost assistance program begins December 2

NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NC – New Hanover County will begin taking applications on Monday, December 2 for the state's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) for qualified households. The program provides a one-time annual utility payment to help eligible families pay their heating expenses during the cold-weather months.

Households that have a person age 60 or older, or an individual receiving disability benefits and services through the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to apply for assistance beginning December 2. All other households may apply from January 2

through March 31, 2020, or until funds are exhausted.

"The Low Income Energy Assistance Program helps residents stay safe and warm through the winter months, and last year our team helped 2,394 New Hanover County households with their utility bills through this program," said New Hanover County Assistant Director of Social Services Tonya Jackson. "Anyone who is having difficulty paying their bill is encouraged to come in and apply."

New Hanover County Department of Social Services administers the program locally, and applications must be done in person at the Health and

Human Services building, located at 1650 Greenfield Street. Those eligible to apply in December can also apply at the locations and times listed below:

December 2 – 31: Senior Resource Center, 2222 South College Rd., Wilmington, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 10: Glover Plaza Apartments, 1402 Little John Cir., Wilmington, 9 a.m. – noon Thursday, December 12: Hadden Hall Apartments, 3610 Caswell St., Wilmington, 9 a.m. – noon Tuesday, December 17: White Oak Apartments, 7235 Darden Rd., Wilmington, 9 a.m. – noon

Visit the Social Services website for more information or call 910-798-3400.

In Loving Memory of Our  
Beautiful Mother and Grandmother  
*Catherine Grady Hooper*  
October 28, 1935 - November 26, 2016

A million times we needed you,  
A million times we've cried.  
If love alone could have saved you  
You never would have died.  
In life we loved you dearly  
In death we love you still.  
In our hearts you hold a place  
No one else can fill.  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone.  
Part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.



Forever in our Hearts

Children: Marilyn McClammy, Jacqueline Grady, Teresa Everett, Thomas Hooper, Jr.  
Grandchildren and Great-Grands

13TH ANNUAL  
PRE-KWANZAA  
CELEBRATION

DEC 4

Dec 4th | Warwick Ballroom | Doors Open At 6:30 p.m. | Begins at 7 p.m.  
| Limited Seating | RSVP REQUIRED | Sign Up at [uncw.edu/upperman](http://uncw.edu/upperman)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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Accommodations for disabilities may be requested by contacting Manuel Lloyd at 910.962.2480 or [lloydmc@uncw.edu](mailto:lloydmc@uncw.edu). UNCW is an EEO/AA institution.



NCDOT AND SCDOT TO CONDUCT TWO CORRIDOR PUBLIC MEETINGS  
FOR THE CAROLINA BAYS PARKWAY EXTENSION BETWEEN CAROLINA  
BAYS PARKWAY (S.C. 31) AT S.C. 9 IN HORRY COUNTY S.C. AND  
U.S. 17/SHALLOTTE BYPASS IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY N.C.

NCDOT STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
PROJECT NO. R-5876

SCDOT STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
PROJECT NO. P029554

The N.C. Department of Transportation and S.C. Department of Transportation will jointly hold two open-house public meetings to present information and maps of potential corridors currently being evaluated for the Carolina Bays Parkway Extension project. The project would extend Carolina Bays Parkway (S.C. 31) from its current terminus at S.C. 9 in Horry County, SC to U.S. 17 Shallotte Bypass in Brunswick County, NC. The purpose of the project is to improve the transportation network by enhancing mobility and connectivity for traffic moving in and through the project area.

December 3, 2019

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Sea Trail Convention Center

75A Clubhouse Road

Sunset Beach, NC 28468

December 4, 2019

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

VFW Post 10804

111 State Highway 57 North

Little River, SC 29566

NCDOT and SCDOT project team members and representatives of the NV5 Consultant Team will be available to provide information and answer questions regarding the project. The opportunity to submit written comments and questions will be provided at the meeting or before January 10, 2020. Please note that no formal presentation will be made at these meetings.

Maps to be presented at the meetings will be available for viewing or download on the project website [www.ncdot.gov/projects/carolina-bays-parkway](http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/carolina-bays-parkway), and comments may be submitted online using the project's public engagement page [www.publicinput.com/Carolina-bays-pkwy](http://www.publicinput.com/Carolina-bays-pkwy).

For additional information please contact Krista Kimmel P.E., NCDOT Design Engineer by email or phone [khkimmel@ncdot.gov](mailto:khkimmel@ncdot.gov) / 910-341-2000 or Leah Quattlebaum P.E., Pee Dee Regional Production Engineer by email or phone [quattlib@scdot.org](mailto:quattlib@scdot.org) / 803-737-1751.

NCDOT and SCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Diane Wilson (NCDOT), by email [pdwilson1@ncdot.gov](mailto:pdwilson1@ncdot.gov) or by calling 919-707-6073, or Betty Gray (SCDOT), by email [grayb@scdot.org](mailto:grayb@scdot.org) or by calling 803-737-1395, prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made.

Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494 (NCDOT) or 803-737-1395 (SCDOT).

Aquellas personas que no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando change to al 1-800-481-6494 (NCDOT) o 803-737-1395 (SCDOT).

**Nathaniel Lee Merrick**

Nathaniel Lee Merrick funeral service was held Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at Mt. Calvary A.M.E. Church. Burial followed in Mt. Calvary Church Cemetery. Nathaniel, affectionately known as "Pig Meat" was born October 28, 1936 to Cass and Mary M. Balloon Merrick in Leland, North Carolina. He departed this life on November 13, 2019 at Azalea Home Health following an extended illness. At an early age he joined Mt. Calvary A.M.E. Church in Navassa, NC. In 1954 he left Navassa to seek employment in New York. He then moved to Syracuse and worked for GE. After many years of living in New York, he returned to Leland, NC, where he worked at the Bolivia Lumber Company until he retired in 1998, although he continued to work part-time. "Nat" as he was often called was a faithful Sunday school member, attending every Sunday. He was one of a kind, he never wanted to miss his Sunday school and always had a smile on his face. He will be missed by the many special people in his life.

He leaves to cherish: his cousin and caregiver, Willie McKoy; one daughter, Rose Mary Merrick of Leland, NC; three sisters, Grace Merrick of Sanford, NC, Catherine Burns and Margaret (Julius) Lawrence of Syracuse, NY; three brothers, Herbert and Curtis Merrick of Syracuse, NY and David Merrick of Virginia Beach, VA; three special nephews, Cass and Todd "KT" of Syracuse, NY and Johnny Merrick of Annapolis, MD; one niece and caregiver, Michelle Brooks "Honey Bun" and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Alexander "Shotgun" Corbett, Jr.**

Alexander "Shotgun" Corbett, Jr., funeral service was held Friday, November 22, 2019 at Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel. Burial followed in Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

Alexander, son of the late Alexander Corbett, Sr. and Mary Lou Bellamy Corbett was born on February 2, 1949, in Wilmington, North Carolina. Alexander attended First Baptist Missionary Church with his family and sang on the JJ Howze Choir. "Shotgun" as he was so affectionately known, was educated in the New Hanover County School System, graduating from Williston Senior High School in the Class of 1968. Following graduation, "Shotgun" relocated to New York. While in New York he worked in the clothing industry. After returning to Wilmington, "Shotgun" gained employment with Pepsi Cola, Goulds, and Corbett Packing Company. He spent many hours helping around John H. Shaw's Funeral Home. "Shotgun" was a people's person. He loved outdoor work and enjoyed helping as many people as he could. But, most of all he loved his family. Not having a car did not stop him from traveling the city rendering a helping hand to many. You would often see him riding "Flat Tire" (his bike) from residence to residence, helping everyone. Even after his health declined, "Shotgun" was still "Shotgun", checking on everyone, thanking God for a good life and never complaining. He was a friend to many and loved just being in the midst, enjoying family and friends. Listening to him in his

final days you would hear him saying, "Our Father", reciting "The Lord's Prayer". A loving grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, "Shotgun" will be greatly missed. He loved you in his own special way. In addition to his parents, "Shotgun" was preceded in death by his son, Terry Crumdy; and his sisters, Gloria Jean Corbett and Martha Corbett Jones. He leaves to cherish very fond memories: one grandson, Ki-Jana Shamari Crumdy of Maryland; three sisters, Dorothy Williams and Rose Johnson of Wilmington, NC and Eleese Hall of Maryland; one brother, Alfred Corbett of Wilmington, NC; four nieces, Nicole Smith (Bernard), Pamela Davis, Audrey Carter, and Felecia Hawkins; five nephews, Anthony Hall, Tyrone Corbett, William Corbett, Jerome Jones and David Jones; several great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, other relatives and many, many, friends, including his John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home Family. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Malachi Pigford**

Malachi Pigford memorial service was held Sunday, November 24, 2019 at Ephesus SDA Church.

Malachi Zachariah Pigford, son of the late Vera Sparrow-Pigford and Malachi Pigford was born in Wilmington, North Carolina on August 26, 1946. He departed this life on Monday, November 18, 2019. Malachi was educated in the New Hanover County School System, graduating from Williston High School. He joined the United States Army and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was wounded in the Army and also had medical issues associated with Agent Orange. Malachi was a devoted member of Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church. He had a lengthy illness that kept him from attending service regularly. He loved his church. In addition to his parents, Malachi was also preceded in death by his brother, William Berry.

Loved ones left to mourn his loss are a devoted brother, Cornell M. Sparrow (Cynthia) and Lacy Pigford (Hallie) all of Wilmington, NC; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Angela Leverne Grainger Currie**

Angela Leverne Grainger Currie died November 22, 2019. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at Spring Green Missionary Baptist Church. Burial followed in the Spring Green Church Cemetery. A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Willie Mae Hawkins Junipher**

Willie Mae Hawkins Junipher, daughter of the late Scipio Hawkins, Sr. and Roser Mae Hawkins, was born on August 16, 1937 in Pinewood, South Carolina. She moved to Wilmington, North Carolina at an early age. After graduating, she moved to Bronx, New York, where she met and married the late Holt Junipher. She departed this life on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

Willie Mae was a kind, loving and giving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She was always willing to lend a helping hand no matter how big or little

the challenge. She loved her family, had a great sense of humor and a love for life. Willie Mae accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age. Upon returning to Wilmington, she re-established her membership at St. Phillip A.M.E. Church.

Willie Mae graduated from Williston Industrial High School and was a faithful member of the Class of 1955. After graduating from high school, she moved to Bronx New York where she found employment with the United States Postal Service. After serving many years in New York as a postal worker, she returned home where she transferred her employment to the Fayetteville, NC Postal Service, serving as a Supervisor. After driving back and forth between Fayetteville and Wilmington for 5 years, she decided to retire with a total service to the United Postal Service of 30 years. She loved to travel and take her family on adventurous trips throughout the US. She sacrificed a lot so that her family and others could enjoy better things in life. Her memories will forever be etched in our minds and hearts.

Left to cherish her memories are her children, Angela Daniels, Alexander J. Hawkins (Brenda) and Gary Hawkins, all of the city; grandson James Daniels, III; granddaughter Sharon; great granddaughter Jamaia; a devoted brother Scipio C. Hawkins, Jr. of the city; two special great grandsons, Cedric of Atlanta, GA and Noah of the city; a special nephew Antonio Newsome of Charlotte, NC and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at St. Phillip A.M.E. Church. Burial was in Calvary Memorial Cemetery. Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, Inc., 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at [www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com](http://www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com).



**Jeanne Keith Harris**

Mrs. Jeanne Keith Harris was born May 14, 1928, in Washington, D. C. at Freedman Hospital to Mr. & Mrs. Hudson and Geneva Barksdale, who preceded her in death. She was the devoted wife of Eddie Joel Keith and upon his passing Elbert Harris. She was the loving sister to her brother, Hudson Barksdale, Jr. who also preceded her in death. A loving mother and doting grandmother, Jean ne Keith Harris departed this life on November 13, 2019.

She attended elementary school in Spartanburg, South Carolina, high school at Mather Academy, Camden, South Carolina and college at North Carolina College in Durham, North Carolina.

Mrs. Harris was a devoted teacher for thirty-two (32) years. Her professional accomplishments started with teaching in Woodruff,

S. C. She moved to Wilmington, N. C. in 1951 and taught at Williston Senior High and Hoggard High School. After retirement from the public school system she continued to serve as a substitute teacher. Her impact is measured in part by her inevitably being warmly greeted by former students wherever she would go in Wilmington. These men and women not only thanked and remembered her; they remembered what she taught them.

She was a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the Wilmington, N. C. Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. She served in several positions of leadership throughout New Hanover County. She facilitated Vision 2000, a program focused on solutions necessary for success in the new millennium. Mrs. Harris was one of the founding directors on the Board of Domestic Violence Shelter and Services and served two years as vice moderator and two years as moderator for the board as well. She also served three years as a Hospice volunteer and for two and one half years served as an inter-racial dialogue moderator for the YWCA. She served as volunteer in the early years for public radio; and docent for the Cape Fear Museum.

Church for her was not an event; it was a way of life. She gave committed service to Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church where she was in charge of the Junior Choir for thirty-nine (39) years; was in charge of the combined choir on the fifth Sunday; was Moderator for the Christian Education Committee; was a Deacon and Board Moderator and Secretary. She served as chair of the Vacation Bible School and Church Bazar. She served as treasurer of the Presbyterian Women's Organization for nine years. She used the church van to carry adults and young people to the annual meetings in Fayetteville.

In 2012, The Committee on Christian Education (CCE) selected Mrs. Harris as an outstanding

older adult who had been a faithful volunteer both in the church and community. She was chosen from submissions by Presbytery of Coastal Carolina churches and among others was the subject of a power point presentation during their Presbytery meeting in Elizabethtown, N. C. She was also recognized as one of the Living Legends of the Wilmington community.

She was an excellent seamstress and was famously known for many years as a show-stealing model in the Links, Incorporated Annual Fine Arts Brunch. As another hobby, she truly enjoyed putting together scrapbooks of programs, photos, awards and other hi-lights of her life and her family. It served as a reminder of the value of a life lived well and to show others about how God lived in her.

In her words, among the many honors she has received, she is most proud of being honored on October 28, 2001, when the Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church USA dedicated its 135th Anniversary Booklet to her in recognition and appreciation of her service to the church, community and education.

She leaves to cherish her memory one son Darryl Keith (Kim) of Wakefield, Rhode Island; three (3) grandsons, Brandon Keith of Bloomington, IN, Evan Keith of Cleveland, Ohio and Taylor Keith of North Providence, RI; three nieces, Gina Jenkins (Jeremy) of Charlotte, N. C. Staten Barksdale Miller (Robert III) of Spartanburg, S. C. and Siera Barksdale of Charlotte, N. C.; two grand nieces, Gabriella Jenkins and Gianna Jenkins of Charlotte, N. C. and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church. Burial was in Greenlawn Memorial Park. Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, Inc., 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at [www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com](http://www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com).



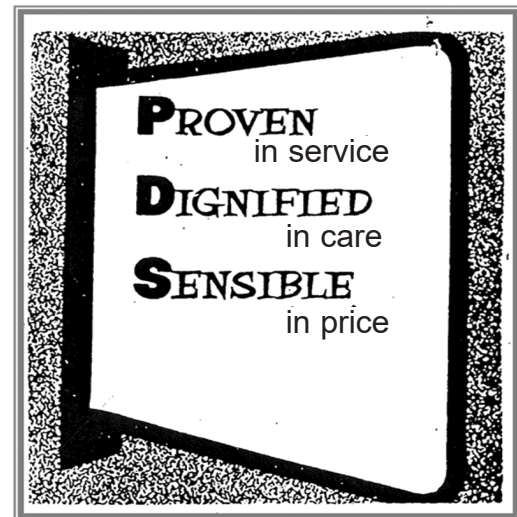
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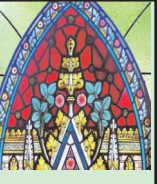
Samuel Drain, Jr.  
and Allene Drain  
In Memoriam



Connie Drain Green  
Funeral Director

## Brunswick County

Moore's Chapel AME Zion Church, 1492 Village Rd., Leland will hold a Father, Son and Holy Ghost program service on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. The speakers will be Rev. Annette Clemmons, Rev. George Patrick and Rev. Betty Jean Patton.

Religious  
Briefs

Policies for briefs, news, & photos on page 2.

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

## BOOK REVIEW:

## The Christians' features a 1960s Louisiana love story



"THE CHRISTIANS"

BY CORA LESTER  
OF THE DRUM NEWSPAPER

The Christians, book one, follows the life and love of Mary Jean Woods, a young, Christian woman in 1960 South Louisiana as she maneuvers through self-discovery, unrighteousness, and betrayal in hopes to find a true spiritual identity.

Through this first release, B.J.T. Ledet weaves a story that answers "What exemplifies a Christian?" and introduce readers to characters who boldly feel right—even all-knowing—in their beliefs when they are flawed and some are fallen.

The Christians deals with the distinctive differences and interactions between the characters who consider themselves Christians and those who don't. Meet ministers who are in the business of religion instead of uplifting the people and teaching them to love. Meet the 'show and tell'

flock alongside the church Mothers who have tunnel vision and live in the past.

Using romance, family scandals, and murder, the novel questions who is and is not a Christian and how the interactions between family and friends impact the spiritual growth of young adults. B.J.T. Ledet is a retired Hurricane Katrina survivor who worked at Tulane University in New Orleans. She attended Southern University and A&M College and Tulane University. Currently, she gives back to the community by tutoring kids inside her home while working on completing the trilogy. Ledet enjoys writing from her Baton Rouge home where she lives with her spouse, a dog, and a cat. Published by Jozef Syndicate, The Christians (ISBN 978-1944155209) is available on Amazon and at www.jozefsyndicate.com/creators/b-j-t-ledet/

## SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

## Praise God for His Greatness

BY FANNIE ALLEN  
AND SHEILA ROSS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

O what a beautiful morning; O what a beautiful day! This is the day that the Lord has made Rejoice! The Senior Citizens' Fellowship with joy in our hearts, met at our usual place and time. The meeting was called to order by our vice president Mrs. Mary Green. Our devotional leader Mrs. Margie Robinson led us in singing "In Times like these." Our prayer warrior this morning was Mrs. Marie Stitt. Thank You God for hearing our prayers. Next we sang "Love lifted me."

Minister Doris McQuillan was our speaker today. Have you thought Jesus was in Heaven and God was not pleased with what was going on? So He sent His Son, Jesus. We should never neglect God for He sent His Son. Jesus was crucified. The cause of His death was crucifixion. Everyone that is saved has a job to do, to spread the great news of Jesus Christ so we can go back with Him. We should not judge, gossip, or run anyone down, nor mistreat anyone. We have to learn to be like Jesus and treat them with kindness. Talk about the Lord to others. We need to share the good

news. He has done so much for us. We should praise God for all His greatness. We should not want anything to separate us from God. He loves us and will see us through whatever we are or will go through. Love one another. God brought us to where we are. Minister McQuillan was thanked for a great message and was given a hand.

Our president Mrs. Gladys Taylor asked for remarks on the 43rd Anniversary. Some sentiments were shared. The minutes from our last meeting were read by Mrs. Mildred Ellerby and subsequently approved. Next roll call was

held as well as trip callers. The winner was Mrs. Sadie Bunting. All callers were thanked and given a hand for their efforts. Mrs. Annie Haskins gave her report. She asked us to continue praying and visiting those in the report.

Announcements were entertained. Everyone was encouraged to have a Happy Thanksgiving. Share your love and food with someone. We all have a lot to be thankful for Give thanks always! Our circle was formed and we sang "Bind us together." Prayer was offered by Minister Doris McQuillan. There were 37 in attendance.

## TELL SOMEBODY

## "A Thanksgiving Praise"

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

As we come together with family and friends to celebrate the time honored holiday of Thanksgiving, before we carve the turkey, toss the salad, eat the greens, and serve the cobbler...let us remember to offer unto the Lord our God, a Thanksgiving Praise! Praise never takes a holiday, because everyday is a day of thanksgiving!

Psalm 33:1 says, "Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright." "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High." Psalm 92:1 It is always good and proper to give praise unto the Lord. As a matter of fact, Saints of God understand the purpose and power of praise.

The purpose of praise is to exalt the name of the Lord. Psalm 34:3, says "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Praise brings us into the presence of the Lord. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalm 11:4 "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." Psalm 22:3

Praise reminds us of God's greatness. "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable."

Psalm 145:3 "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?"

The power of praise can edify the Believer. The more we bless the Lord, the more he



Sylvia Hooper

blesses us. This is important to know because, there will be times when we do not feel like giving God praise. Our praise should not be predicated on a feeling, because feelings change. God never changes, and Jesus remains the same! Hebrews 13:8 states, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

The economy is down, unemployment is up, and sickness has no respect of person. Nevertheless, when we assume an attitude of gratitude, praise will pick us up every time! Praise is what we do, even when we are going through. The power of praise can lift us up out of despair; despondency, and depression. When we stop and give God praise, we focus on Truth, rather than facts. Facts say you may be broke, but Truth says, "Our God shall supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ

Jesus." Facts, may say you have a bad report from the doctor; but whose report are you going to believe? Facts say you are sick, but Truth, says, "with his stripes you are healed!" The facts may determine that you need a miracle. Truth reminds you that, "With God all things are possible."

David the psalmist said in Psalm 34:1, "I will bless the Lord at all times; HIS PRAISE SHALL CONTINUALLY BE IN MY MOUTH."

This praise warrior had a made up mind, and a double determination to give God praise in whatever state he found himself in. When he declared that he would bless the Lord at all times, it was because he trusted the Lord at all times. The words of his testimony showed great confidence in the Lord's ability to deliver him out of any and every situation. He even said, "Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..." Psalm 23. He had so much faith in God's ability to deliver him, he offered God praise in advance. On at least one occasion, he gave God an undignified praise. He praised God in the dance until he felt better! He didn't care who saw him praising the Lord. He was so full of thanksgiving!

Like our brother, David, let's keep the high praises of God in our mouth, before, during, and after this holiday season. "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee." Psalm 67:5

Prayer: Dear Lord, touch my heart, so that I can give you praise every day of my life, because everyday is a day of thanksgiving! And you are so worthy! In Jesus'Name Amen. Happy Thanksgiving! Tell Somebody!

Mrs. Sylvia B. Hooper is a native Wilmingtonian, married to Pastor Johnson A. Hooper, First Lady of Faith Outreach COGIC, Jacksonville, N.C. She is a mother of three wonderful children and a proud grandmother! She is a Licensed Evangelist with COGIC, International. She is the President of P.W.E. Pastors Wives Empowerment Conference, an annual event held in honor of Pastors and ministers Wives. This support group's focus is to Encourage, Embrace and Empower Elect Ladies to be all they can be in Christ Jesus, while providing support to their husbands, who are Gospel preachers and pastors. Her heart's desire is to please the Lord, rescue the perishing, comfort the dying, and live a life that gives God glory!

## A WORD FROM THE LORD

## Thanksgiving is who we are and what we do. It's our attitude toward God

All Scriptures are from the KJV!

Hebrews 13:15, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name".

Attitude is defined as a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone (God) or something (worship), typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior (thanksgiving). A position of the body proper to or implying an action or spiritual state (praying and meditating on the Word).

Thanksgiving as we know it is a national holiday celebrated in this country, which celebrates the Pilgrim's meal with the Native Americans. Today, it is reserved as a day to spend time with loved ones and for mainly giving thanks. But thanksgiving and many others religious celebrations, have lost their true meaning and has become a pagan holiday. Commercialism and other distractions have cleverly robbed it of its true meaning (Christ has been replaced by Santa Clause in Christmas and the Easter bunny for resurrection of Jesus Christ).

We as Christians should hold to the truth of the celebrations of our Christian heritage as the children of God, that should start being rooted in the Word of God. We must not allow the secular world, that is anti-God, to set the

agenda for how we think. Our thought process must be rooted in the Word of God. That means actions will be about changes that brings about a result of thanksgiving and worship to God. Let's now turn to the teaching of the infallible, unchanging Word of God on this subject of Worship (thanksgiving); you can't have one without the other (interdependent).

Psalm 103:1-5, "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (I have taken ownership of His grace in my heart). Ps. 119:11, Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee".

Psalm 104:1-5, "Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. 2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: 3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: 4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his

ministers a flaming fire: 5 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever" (This is the attitude of the heart that is filled with the Word).

A lack of thankfulness and

praise to God is the result of taking His blessings for granted. All too often, we can only see the difficult circumstances facing us or the things that we do not have and completely overlooking all that we have in Christ. On our very worst days, if we have genuinely trusted Christ, just remember we are forgiven and redeemed. We are also, sons and daughters of God, recipients of His unfailing love and tender mercies. We have a peace and inner satisfaction that this world cannot offer. Best of all; the challenges of life are merely temporary, but the benefits of God's goodness and mercy are eternal (2 Cor. 4:17). "We need to take our eyes off of the things we can see, the afflictions and difficulties of this life, and focus on those things we cannot see: the eternal blessings God has so mercifully given us" (2 Cor. 4:18). When we do, like David, we will overflow with the praises to the Lord.



Rev. Naconiel Fullwood

Psalm 105:1-12, "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. 2 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. 3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. 4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. 5 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; 6 O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. 7a He is the LORD our God" (God's Word is alive in us). Psalm 106:1-5, "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise? 3 Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times. 4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; 5 That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance" (this is honoring God through praises).

Psalm 107:1-9, "O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy" (This

is what we do as a Christian). Acts 16:25, "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (Praising God brings deliverance/ healing).

Eph. 5:19-20, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Heb. 2:12, "Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" (This is who we are and what we do).

Rev. 15:3, "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints".

Ps. 77:11-12, "I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings" (we also meditate on the word of God day and night, it's a lifestyle!).

Isa. 12:5-6, "Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee" God's promise is an everlasting covenant, given to

Abraham's descendants, the nation of Israel (v. 10b). But the New Testament reveals that all those whose faith is in the Lord are descendants of Abraham, regardless of race or nationality. Abraham has a physical seed, the Jews, but he also has a spiritual seed: all who trust the Lord for righteousness. Gal. 3:7-9, 29.7 "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise".

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost". Ps. 150:6, Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Ps. 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, o Lord, my strength, and my redeemed. Amen

Reverend Naconiel Fullwood currently the pastor of MRDRC Ministries (Miracle, Restoration, Deliverance, Revival Center Ministries Inc.) located in Wilmington, NC.

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