

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

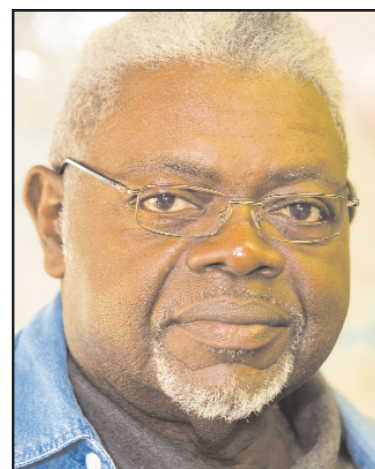


REV. JESSE JACKSON

GUEST EDITORIAL "If Democrats don't go bold with social reform right now, then when?"

BY REV. JESSE JACKSON PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

LOVE AND KINDNESS

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I hope and pray that everyone had a safe and joyful Thanksgiving. The Christmas season is upon us! Let us remember to love and give the gift of kindness to our fellow man. I'm a little under the weather, but, through God's grace and mercy, I will survive. Continue to pray one for another. See you next week.

Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP.

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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FIFTY CENTS

SENATOR HARRIS EXITS RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Across the country, the feelings among Democrats are mixed about Sen. Kamala Harris' (D-CA) leaving the presidential race Tuesday. Her support dropped sharply over the past year. With a troubled financially strapped campaign and a deluge of negative headlines, all eventually drained the life out of what, at first, shaped up to be an exciting effort for the White House by a sharp experienced Black female, a former California state attorney general and political rising star.

"It is with deep regret, but also

with deep gratitude, that I am suspending my campaign today," Harris, 55, wrote in a campaign goodbye, "But I want to be clear with you: I am still very much in this fight."

Pundits surmise that Sen. Harris, who excited supporters with her precise prosecutorial questioning of U. S. Attorney General William Barr during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings last spring, was never able to be clear on her policy agenda when it came to affordable health care and may have paid the price for attacking Democratic front runner, Joe Biden, one too many times in hopes of robbing him of his solid African-American support in

the polls.

That, and criticism of her law enforcement record as California state attorney general, ultimately weighed against the talented politician. With campaign funds running low, Harris could not hold until the Democratic primaries starting in January 2020.

During her brief run, Sen. Harris and North Carolina got to know each other.

Last August, when she was considered one of the top four Democratic presidential contenders after a fiery first debate

Please see HARRIS/ Page 2



SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS

Congressional candidates get green light to file for office

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

With a three-judge panel deciding Monday that the NC General Assembly's most recent congressional maps can be used for the 2020 elections, the way was finally cleared for candidates for federal office to join their local, state and legislative counterparts to begin filing for office.

The filing period, which began on Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, ends on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019.

For congressional incumbents, the ruling by the Wake Superior Court was welcomed news, especially after it wasn't clear whether the March 2020 primaries would be pushed back if the court could not decide Monday.

"Now that the three-judge panel has made its decision concerning the congressional map for the 2020 election, I look forward to the opportunity to continue representing the people of North Carolina's First Congressional District," said Congressman G. K. Butterfield (D-NC-1), after the court's ruling. "The First District will encompass many counties that I formerly represented in Congress, and, if the people of the First District give me the honor once again, I will continue to fight for their best interests in the United States Congress."

Rep. Butterfield will be vying for his ninth term in 2020.

At press time Monday, Butterfield's Black colleague, Congresswoman

Please see FILING/ Page 2



In a recently released video, Williams donned a pair of jeans, workboots, a hardhat and went to work on Salt Marsh Elementary School in Trelawny Parish, Jamaica. Williams, who has won a total of 39 Tennis Grand Slams - including Doubles titles, has also built grade schools in Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. Williams built the Marsh Elementary through a partnership with the nonprofit Helping Hands Jamaica, while the schools in Africa were in conjunction with Build Africa.

Serena Williams builds schools in Jamaica and Africa

BY STACY M. BROWN, NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR CORRESPONDENT @StacyBrownMedia

While many deep-pocketed philanthropists and celebrities will write checks to support worthy causes, Tennis megastar Serena Williams routinely goes the extra mile.

In a recently released video, Williams donned a pair of jeans, workboots, a hardhat and went to work on Salt Marsh Elementary School in Trelawny Parish, Jamaica.

Williams, who has won a total of 39 Tennis Grand Slams - including Doubles titles, has also

built grade schools in Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe.

Williams built the Marsh Elementary through a partnership with the nonprofit Helping Hands Jamaica, while the schools in Africa were in conjunction with Build Africa.

It's part of the mission of Williams' Serena Williams Fund and her other charitable efforts, which include the Serena Williams Venture, where the tennis champion seeks to boost the bottom line of individual companies.

Please see SERENA/ Page 2

Sixteen and seventeen year olds no longer charged as adults under new "Raise the Age" law

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

As of Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019, in North Carolina, 16 and 17 year olds who commit certain low level, non-violent felonies and misdemeanors will not automatically be charged

as adults, thanks to the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, or "Raise the Age" law, a bipartisan effort, passed in 2017.

For many a parent, this is great news.

North Carolina literally was the last state in the nation to change its century-old practice so that under

18 teens were not saddled with adult level criminal records for the rest of their lives for certain crimes of which they were convicted.

Their cases will now be heard in

Please see 16 AND 17/ Page 3



LATOYA POWELL

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. The Staff and Management of The Wilmington Journal



THE WILMINGTON
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HARRIS

Continued from Page 1

performance, Harris visited Durham and Greensboro. In Durham, she was the keynote speaker for the sold-out Annual Durham Committee of the Affairs of Black People Banquet, where she dutifully blasted President Donald Trump and promised that, if elected president, she would make sure that historically Black colleges and universities would be properly financially supported, along

with Black homeowners and businesses.

The next day, Sen. Harris attended 11 a.m. services at St. Joseph A.M.E. Church, where an old friend, Rev. Jay Augustine, was the new pastor.

"The measure of our strength is not who we beat down. It's about who we lift up," the former California state attorney general continued, also touching on how her faith in God has strengthened her; to thunderous applause led by several sorority sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. in

attendance.

Harris later teased her old friend, Pastor Augustine, saying, "Yes pastor, I know you can't tell people who to vote for; but you can tell people who to pray for."

However, before she concluded her remarks, Sen. Harris gave props to a fellow AKA sister, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, who is running to keep her seat in 2020.

"If justice is to be real in America, one of the most important and lasting places it will happen and take place is in the court-

rooms of America, and it will be by re-electing the chief justice of the State of North Carolina," Sen. Harris said, turning to Beasley and then saying, "I'm honored to be sharing this moment with you."

Later that Sunday afternoon, Sen. Harris held a packed campaign rally at a Greensboro high school.

Months earlier, members of the NC NAACP who went to Washington, D. C. in November 2018 to lobby U.S. senators against confirming Raleigh attorney,

Thomas Farr, to the federal bench were greeted by a smiling Sen. Kamala Harris, who warmly commended them for taking the time and making the effort. She took time to speak to NC NAACP Pres. T. Anthony Spearman, and take a group picture.

At press time, there were many of social media sorry to see her go and hoped that, no matter who the eventual Democratic presidential nominee will be, Kamala Harris will also be on the ticket as a running mate for vice president.

SERENA

Continued from Page 1

"In 2014, I launched Serena Ventures with the mission of giving opportunities to founders across an array of industries. Serena Ventures invests in companies that embrace diverse leadership, individual empowerment, creativity, and opportunity," Williams said in a statement posted on her organization's website.

"Serena Ventures focuses on early-stage companies and allowing them to be

heard. As we grow, we hope to mentor young founders and take burgeoning entrepreneurs to the next level," she stated.

"Serena Ventures extends relationships, encourages collaboration among portfolio companies, and expands partnership opportunities across my vast network. Similar to many of the companies we have invested in, we are just getting started and are hoping to make a difference."

Also, according to Charity Buzz, the Serena Williams Fund was estab-

lished to promote equity; through education, gender, race, disability, or anything else that stands in the way of someone achieving their goals and living their best possible life.

"The mission of this charity is to help the individuals or communities affected by violence, and [to ensure] equal access to education," Williams stated.

Knowing the value of creating strong partnerships with organizations with expertise in their fields, Williams counts as a UNICEF Goodwill

Ambassador. She has partnered with organizations such as Beyond the Boroughs Scholarship Fund, The Equal Justice Initiative, The Caliber Foundation, and Build Africa Schools.

Jessica Curney of Borgen Magazine reported that before each of her matches, Williams reads and writes affirmations out loud from her diary about wanting to help people, kids, and work in Africa.

"Through the Serena Williams Fund, Williams dedicates her off-season

time improving access to education by building schools in underprivileged areas of the world," Gurney reported.

"She has done extraordinary tasks using her own resources and through partnerships with the Serena Williams Fund and other foundations dedicated to providing and improving education for those in difficult conditions or developing countries. Her active role has notably left a mark on those who have had their lives changed significantly through this act of kindness."

FILING

Continued from Page 1

Alma Adams (D-NC-12), of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, was also expected to file for re-election for a fourth term.

Based on the new approved NC congressional map, five of the North Carolina's thirteen congressional districts, including Representatives Adams and Butterfield, will lean Democratic. In the previous 2016 congressional map, which was eventually ruled unconstitutional because of partisan gerrymandering, only three of the thirteen North Carolina congressional districts leaned Democratic.

For North Carolina Congressional District 2, former Wake County School Board Chairwoman Monika Johnson-Hostler will be facing off against fellow Democrats, Jason Butler and Scott Cooper, in the March 3 primary. Republican incumbent, Rep. George Holding, had not filed for re-election by press time.

If Hostler-Johnson were to win in November, she would become North Carolina's third African-American congressperson, assuming Adams and Butterfield hold on to their seats.

For the U.S. Senate, Democrats are lining up to oust first-term Republican, Sen. Thom Tillis, out of office. State Sen. Erica Smith of Northampton County is working hard to face fellow Democrat, Cal Cunningham, a former State senator, in the March primary. Other Democrats in that primary include Mecklenburg County Commissioner, Trevor Fuller, and Durham businessman, Steven Williams.

For statewide office, NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley is expected to file for a full eight year term for her post. Republican Associate, NC Supreme Court Justice Paul Newby, has announced that he will challenge the North Carolina's first Black female chief justice for the seat.

Jessica Holmes, an African-American Democrat and currently the chairwoman of the Wake County Board of Commissioners,

officially filed for NC Commissioner of Labor Monday.

"I am a proven advocate for working families, and I am ready to fight for fair wages, safe and healthy work environments, and family-friendly policies on behalf of all North Carolinians," the Pender County native told her supporters in campaign literature. If she wins, Holmes will succeed current Labor Commissioner, Cheri Berry, who is stepping down after five four-year terms.

Holmes will have to get past Democratic primary challenger Eva Lee, a tax attorney, in order to face challenger, Republican, Rep. Josh Dobson (R-McDowell) in November.

Rep. Yvonne Lewis Holley (D-Wake) has announced that she is running for lieutenant governor. She is one of several Democrats who will be competing in March for the open seat.



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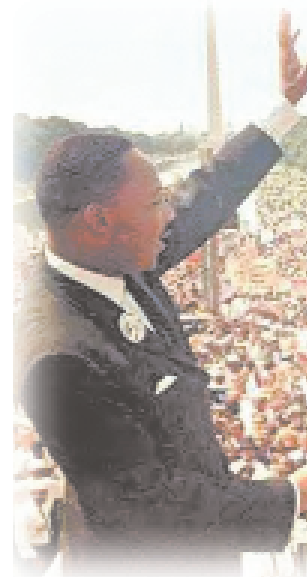
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THE WILMINGTON
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—SALUTES—

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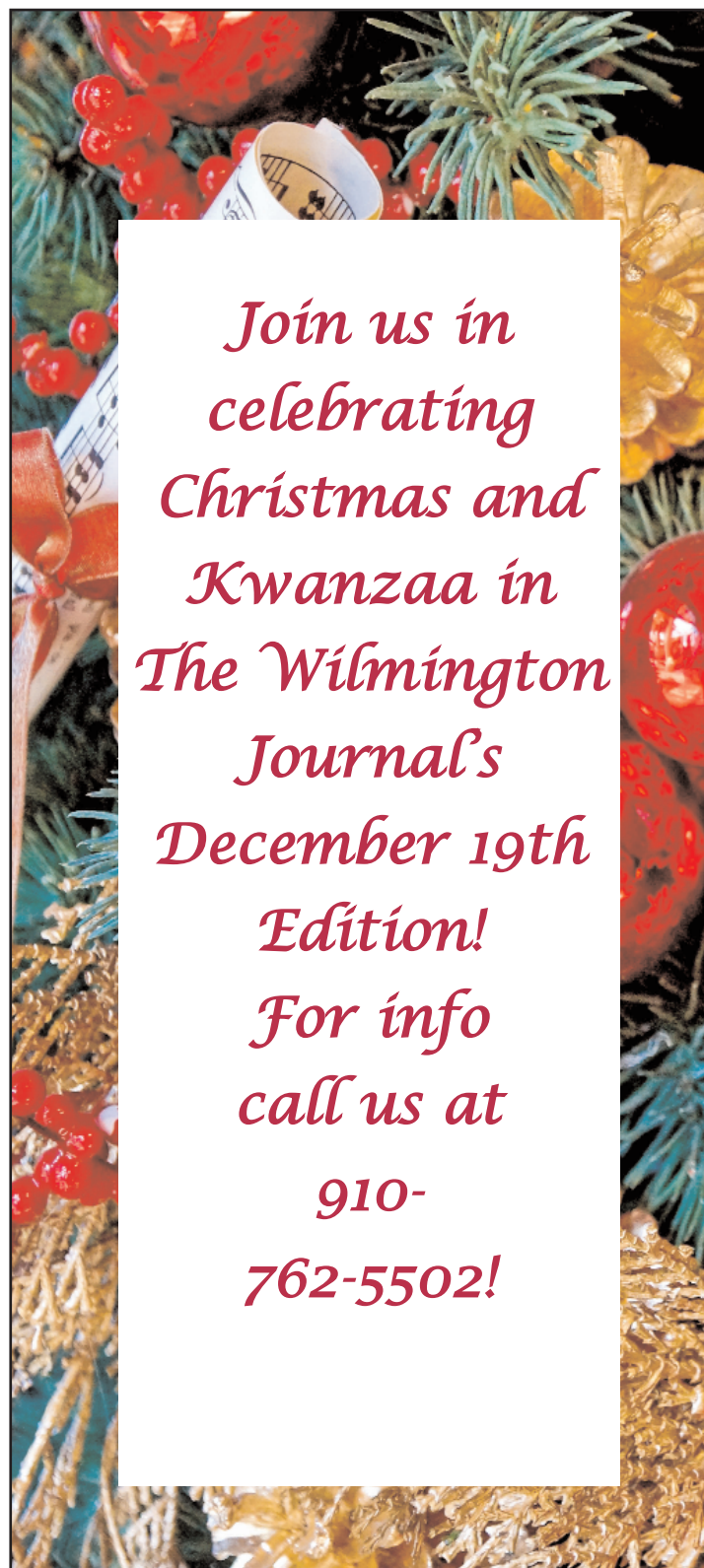
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STATE BRIEFS



"MAYOR PETE" SPEAKS AT REV. BARBER'S CHURCH

[GOLDSBORO] If there was any indication just how important the black vote is to the 16 Democratic presidential candidates running in

2020, a visit by Pete Buttigieg, considered a moderate, to Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro Sunday, certainly confirmed it. Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, is rising in the national polls, but still is doing poorly with African American voters compared to frontrunner Joe Biden. Buttigieg attended morning service, then sat for a two-hour public conversation with Greenleaf Pastor

Rev. William Barber, who questioned the presidential candidate about addressing poverty, protecting voting rights, and improving access to affordable health insurance, especially for the poor and low-income.

PHOTO IDs FROM ALL CAMPUSES IN UNC SYSTEM NOW ACCEPTABLE FOR VOTING

[RALEIGH] The State

Board of Elections [SBOE] has now approved campus photo identification for voting from all UNC System schools in time for the 2020 elections. The new IDs can be used in lieu of driver licenses. Several UNC schools had their IDs approved earlier in the year, but now all of them qualify. A variety of photo IDs are now eligible for use from registered voters. To find out more, please go to www.ncsbe.gov/Voter-ID.

UNC PAYS \$2.5 MILLION FOR SILENT SAM TO GO TO CONFEDERATE GROUP [CHAPEL HILL] By order of a superior court judge, the Silent Sam Confederate statue that stood for 105 years on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus before being pulled off its pedestal in August 2018 now belongs to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. But that's not all the SCV are getting. The UNC System and Board of Governors will also

pay \$2.5 million in a trust to help transport and maintain the eight-foot statue in any county across the state...as long as there is not a UNC School in that county. The UNC Board wanted to make sure no students at any UNC campus came in contact with Silent Sam ever again.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

16 AND 17

Continued from Page 1

juvenile court.

According to LaToya Powell, a former appellate attorney at the UNC School of Government, "In September 2015, Chief Justice Mark Martin convened the North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice (NCCALJ) to study North Carolina's court system and make recommendations to improve it. The NCCALJ Committee on Criminal Investigation and Adjudication identified "juvenile reinvestment" as a top priority and developed a raise-the-age proposal with input from a diverse group of stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, juvenile justice representatives, and judges, among others."

Ms. Powell continued, "That collaboration resulted in the Juvenile Reinvestment Report, which concludes that rehabilitating youthful offenders in juvenile court will reduce crime and save money. Citing adolescent brain development research and recidivism data, the report provides evidence that treatment in the juvenile justice system is far more effective in reducing juvenile crime than incarcerating juveniles in adult facilities. The report concludes that, by lowering recidivism, raising the age will improve public safety and produce economic benefits for both the State and juveniles, who will no longer carry the burden of a permanent criminal record for youthful mistakes (the same conclusion reached by two prior cost benefit studies completed in 2009 and 2011)."

Powell concluded, "Ultimately, the report recommended that NC raise

the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 16 and 17 year olds for all offenses, except violent felonies and traffic offenses, contingent upon several other provisions designed to address law enforcement concerns. The recommendation is the first raise-the-age proposal to receive broad bipartisan support and the endorsement of the law enforcement community. Apparently, this collaboration was the change needed to make raise-the-age a reality in NC."

State lawmakers also made sure at least \$77 million were appropriated to help fund more district court judges, designated prosecutors and other personnel, as well as juvenile justice programs and facilities in time for the new law when it began this week.

All one hundred counties have a Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, which monitors the needs of at-risk youth and provides resources for rehabilitation services.

The NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) is the lead state agency to see that the important aspects of the law are implemented properly across the State so that young people who commit low level offenses have every opportunity to correct their paths and not be saddled with serious charges that will crush their chances at good educations or career opportunities.

Not all juveniles will be eligible for the new law.

Those excluded from juvenile jurisdiction include those transferred to, or convicted in, superior court and those juveniles who have been emancipated and married.

According to NCDPS, "...all criminal cases for juveniles up to age 18 (with the exception of exclusions above) will begin in juvenile court."

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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

RAINBOW COALITION

If Democrats don't go bold with social reform right now, then when?

Too radical, impractical, too costly, impossible, can't pass the Senate."

Those are the terms centrist Democrats use to describe the bold reform ideas put forth by Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren in the Democratic presidential primaries. "Venezuela, socialist, communist tripe, crazy" are the jibes preferred by President Donald Trump and Republicans.

All this begs the same question: What do they plan to do to meet the challenges we face?

For most Americans, this isn't a rhetorical question. The economy, Trump boasts, is as good as it has ever been in terms of the top line unemployment figures, but it still doesn't work for most Americans.



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

Wages have been inching up, but they aren't rising as fast as the cost of basics — housing, college, health care. Working families — whether middle or low income — are struggling simply to stay afloat.

Depths of despair are soaring, particularly among the young. Illness is still the leading cause of bankruptcy.

Half of all Americans have no retirement plan other than Social Security. The climate emergency is a clear and present danger, costing more lives, more displacement and billions in damage each year.

If we are going to address these challenges, we need reforms that correspond with the size of the problem. An adhesive bandage won't stop a leg hemorrhage. A wall can't shut out the cataclysmic storms, droughts, floods and tides of the climate emergency.

The Green New Deal — mocked by Trump and Republicans who continue to deny the existence of man-made climate change — is ambitious and costly — but only because it tries to meet the goals that scientists say are necessary if we are not to become an endangered species.

Getting to a clean energy, zero carbon emissions economy requires massive investment, new innovation and dramatic changes in transportation, housing, energy and more.

The transition will generate millions of new jobs, while displacing some from old jobs. The Green New Deal proposes a job guarantee to make certain that no one is left out in the transition.

Critics say it costs too much — but it costs far less than the price we will pay if we don't act boldly and now.

Or consider higher education. Student loan debt continues to rise, now over \$1 trillion, exceeding even credit card debt.

More students have to put off college or drop out for years in order to earn enough to get the education that all agree is vital to our country and to their future.

More students graduate with debt that will burden their lives, making it harder to afford to have children, to save for a house, to put money away for retirement.

Debt is crushing a generation that tries to do the right thing. It is particularly brutal on people of color who have less of a chance to have parents with the wealth to help pay for tuition.

Tuition-free college — mocked as a costly giveaway — simply argues that publicly provided education or advanced training should be extended beyond kindergarten through 12th grade.

At a time when college education or advanced training is deemed essential not simply for the individual but for the country, why wouldn't we make that available for all who qualify?

How can our society thrive if we condemn the best of the next generation to a life burdened by debt?

This is one of the richest countries in the world. We can afford these things. With inequality reaching new extremes, and corporations and the wealthy rigging the tax code to their benefit, we can pay for them without raising taxes on middle- and low-income Americans.

The argument that these necessary reforms are not "practical" makes no sense.

Centrists suggest that only modest, piecemeal, admittedly inadequate reforms have a chance to gain the support needed to pass. But pre-emptive compromise doesn't inspire fear or fervor.

What's needed is a clarion call that lays out what is essential — and builds the public support necessary to tackle those standing in the way.

Republicans opposed Social Security and Medicare as socialism, or communist notions. They passed because Roosevelt and Johnson built the majorities and claimed the mandate to get them passed.

The argument that these reforms are too radical, too "left" also fails on its face.

These basic reforms — the right to adequate health care, the right to an education, the addressing of the existential threat posed by the climate emergency — are not left or right.

They represent the moral center. The values they express are not un-American; they are central to the American dream.

It isn't radical to suggest that all have health care, or all have access to a good education. It is just common sense. And we are badly in need of a strong dose of that.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., is the founder of Rainbow Coalition.

Visual Voice



MATTERS OF OPINION

World War II Rosies

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

All of my life I had seen a White woman, fist up, a red bandana around her head, determination on her face and words above her saying "We Can Do It!" I never thought much about it until I attended a program this past summer where there were no Black women or any women other than White women celebrating the Rosies. As National President of the National Congress of Black Women, I responded to the invitation to attend the observance on the U.S. Capitol Grounds where we were asked to "Ring A Bell for Rosies. Tell America, 'Wake Up! Listen to Rosies. 'Pull together, not apart.' Great advice!

Dr. E. Faye Williams

When I saw no Black women being honored, it dawned on me that there must be some Black women Rosies

who worked during the war, so I raised the question. A wonderful 99-year old white woman told me indeed there were Black women Rosie the Riveters. She sent me a lot of confirmation of what she said—and the contact with her introduced me to the son of a Rosie the Riveter. His name is Gregory S. Cooke—a career educator and historian. He is an award-winning documentary filmmaker.

The woman I met at the event sent me lots of information on Black women Rosie the Riveters. A call from Gregory S. Cooke followed. I learned that he had spent three decades fighting to illuminate African American agency in the most consequential event in human history. In his organization, he stated that his mission is to move our legacies from the margins to the main pages of American and global history.

I learned from him that his research took him to Bastogne, Belgium and on to Great Britain where he discovered 137,000 African American men and women waiting for D-Day—June 6, 1944. I learned from him that 1.1 African American men

and women risked their lives for Franklin Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms," but he also knew that most of them could not vote when they returned home; for them, only the "back of the bus" was waiting. But most significantly for him, he began collecting oral histories of African American veterans.

He found compelling stories about friendship, love, "brown babies," and racial violence among Americans—byproducts of fraternization between "Choc'late soldiers" and white Brits. These stories, especially the ones about interracial dating, were quashed during the war because they were problematic for the American racial narrative. In Great Britain he encountered African American women in World War II—the 6888 Postal Battalion—850 WAC's who sorted mail for 4 million G.I.'s in Europe.

He dug deeper and stumble upon 600,000 African American "Rosie the Riveters in the U.S. who helped build the "arsenal of democracy." These women had courageously and defiantly fled economically and culturally sti-

fling lives as domestics and sharecroppers to work, for the first time, in factories and in government and corporate offices. They also battle racism and sexism. One Rosie, he said, "It took Adolph Hitler to get colored women out of white women's kitchens."

This information gave Mr. Cooke a better understanding of his mother's stories she had repeated to him during his childhood. He then understood his mother's courage as a pioneer and being a history maker. How many more stories are there about the important work Black women have done? As a result of what he learned in his research, he created Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II. Our historic stories are so often left out of history. It is incumbent upon all of us to research and find other stories of our foremothers who've done great work that benefits us all.

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.

Bloomberg's apology - Sorry doesn't always make it right

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Billionaire Mike Bloomberg entered the already-crowded Democratic presidential primary with a splash. His ad buy of about \$35 million represents more than half of what the other dozen or so candidates have spent on the campaign so far. His \$54.6 billion net worth (according to Forbes) means he has deep pockets and virtually unlimited funds to spend on a campaign.

Some think that he can beat Trump in an election since Bloomberg is far wealthier than him. In addition to his wealth, he's white and male. Facetiously speaking, what's not to like?

Except. In his 12-year tenure as Mayor of New York City, Bloomberg was an ardent proponent of "stop and frisk," the policing policy that allows officers to stop virtually anyone without a warrant if they seemed "suspicious". At its peak, more than 650,000 were detained in a single year. Nearly six million New Yorkers were "stopped and frisked"



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

A few of those who should not have been stopped sued. Many protested. Some considered 'stop and frisk' the byproduct of racism and racial profiling and chose not to take the legal route. The era of stop and frisk exacerbated tensions between "law enforcement" officers and the Black community. And until recently, Mayor Bloomberg stood by his stop and frisk policy.

Then a week before his entry into the contest for President, Bloomberg "apologized" for the stop and frisk

policy, speaking at an African American megachurch in Brooklyn, New York. His very cynical use of the Black church, along with the timing of the so-called apology, is highly suspect. And the decade-too late apology, offered with no remedy, is meaningless.

The very wealthy Mr. Bloomberg could accompany his apology with a sizeable donation to criminal justice reform. He could break off a few million and donate it to the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the American Civil Liberty Union, or any of the other organizations fighting for criminal justice reform. An apology, without an offer to redress the wrong, is meaningless. A simple apology, especially after all the harm that was done, is as sorry as the words "I'm sorry." Sorry doesn't always make it right.

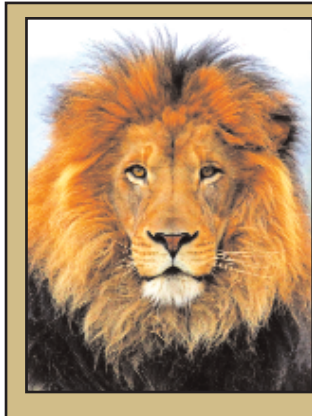
The apology seems to have been made to aid the Bloomberg presidential campaign, but most people won't be fooled. Despite his money, Bloomberg is a late entry into the race. His wealth is the only thing that makes him stand out, but not by much, since there is another wealthy white man — Tom Steyer — in the race. Some say it takes a big person to acknowledge their wrong,

but Bloomberg left office in 2013. He's had at least six years to apologize.

In the years since Bloomberg left office, tensions between Black and Brown citizens and police officers have risen. Trigger-happy cops have killed too many Black and Brown folks. Do the names Tamir Rice, Philando Castille, or Michael Brown mean anything? If Mayor Bloomberg were sorry, he could talk about the flaws in our criminal justice system. Instead, he has offered a half-baked apology without acknowledging or attempting to remedy, the impact his unjust policies had on Black and Brown lives.

The current President is proof positive that money, integrity, and sagacity are not positively correlated. Bloomberg's tepid apology may be further evidence that the wealthy don't think the rules apply them. Mike Bloomberg clearly has money to burn, but it would be great if he burned it for criminal justice reform than for an ill-fated, vane, presidential campaign.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDC TV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianne-malveaux.com.



"If the lions do not write their own history, then the hunters will get all the credit."

--AN AFRICAN PROVERB

Three Baltimore men exonerated after nearly four decades in prison

(Via NNPA Newswire.com)

Alfred Chestnut, Ransom Watkins and Andrew Stewart were released and exonerated after spending 36 years in prison for a crime they didn't commit.

The men were teenagers when they received a life sentence in 1984 after being convicted of murdering 14-year-old DeWitt Duckett in Baltimore.

"Everyone involved in this case — school officials, police, prosecutors, jurors, the media, and the community — rushed to judgment and allowed their tunnel vision to obscure obvious problems with the evidence," said Shawn Armbrust, executive director of the Mid-Atlantic

Innocence Project, which represents Watkins.

"This case should be a lesson to everyone that the search for quick answers can lead to tragic results," Armbrust stated.



Stacy M. Brown

Harlem Park Junior High School in Baltimore.

Marilyn Mosby, the Baltimore City State's Attorney, reopened the case earlier this year because of lingering questions and recent revelations of corrup-

tion in the city's police department that allegedly stretched back for decades.

Chestnut also sent a query to the city's Conviction Integrity Unit, which the Washington Post said included exculpatory evidence that he uncovered in 2018.

An assistant prosecutor who worked on the case in 1984 reportedly said that prosecutors had no reports at the time that would have cast doubt on the guilt of the three men.

Following their conviction, court records were sealed, and it wasn't until a year ago, that Chestnut had successfully obtained the related documents through a freedom of information request.

According to the District Attorney's office, the police

records revealed that several witnesses told authorities that the person responsible was an 18-year-old who immediately fled the scene and dumped his weapon.

Instead, the Baltimore police focused their investigation on Chestnut, Watkins, and Stewart. The alleged shooter was fatally shot in 2002.

"On behalf of the criminal justice system, and I'm sure this means very little to you, gentlemen, I'm going to apologize," Circuit Court Judge Charles Peters told the men at a hearing on Monday, November 25.

Peters said the men are entirely exonerated.

Stacy M. Brown is a NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent.

CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES

The futility of blaming

As we have watched the ongoing reality show in Washington D.C. what is particularly striking is how much blaming of others is going on.

The president, of course, is a master in the art of blaming. Nothing he does or says is his fault. All of his problems are because of the "radical Democrats," and he unabashedly flouts his position on the "badness" of the Democrats at every opportunity he gets.

But he's not the only one. Attorney General Barr recently blamed the impeachment inquiry for the Congress not getting important work done - on gun legislation. (<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/13/politics/bill-barr-gun-legislation-impeachment/index.html>) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed Iran for drone attacks on a Saudi oil field.

(<https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/14/politics/pompeo-drone-strikes-saudi-oil/index.html>). Both the president and vice president have blamed the Democrats for the deplorable conditions of immigrants being held in detention. (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/06/24/conditions-migrant-detention-centers-are-deplorable-trump-pence-blame-democrats/>). Republicans (and many Democrats) blame the poor for their poverty (<http://www.msnbc.com/politics/snation/gop-blames-poverty-laziness>). After the horrendous shooting in El Paso earlier this year, some Republicans and Democrats blamed video games (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/08/05/kevin-mccarthy-dan-patrick-video-games-el-paso-shooting/>). This president is going to be remembered for a lot of things but one of the most stark qualities of his leadership is his willingness to blame everyone and everything else but himself for what is going on in this country. (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/democracy-post/wp/2018/10/25/president-trumps-nefarious-blame-game/>).

Hillary Clinton played the blame game, too, as she lashed out against those whom she held responsible for her loss to Trump in the 2016 election. (<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2017/09/people-clinton-blames-for-her-election-loss>). The late Barbara Bush, wife of the late President George W. Bush, blamed Trump for her heart attack (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/03/27/barbara-bush-blamed-trump-heart-attack-leaving-gop-the-matriarch/3270187002/>). Some historians, scholars, and even Germans blame Germany's defeat in World War I for the rise of Hitler and Nazism. President Abraham Lincoln blamed the presence of enslaved Africans in this country for the Civil War. And the list goes on.

It's always easier to blame someone than to take responsibility for one's own actions. But it's not helpful. Blaming others is a way to avoid being accountable for one's own mistakes and missteps. We want to be "right" no matter what. A side effect of blaming others is that it makes it hard - if not impossible - to admit wrongdoing. Saying "I was wrong" is one of the most unpleasant and difficult things in the world to do. Few choose to do it. Most of us would rather just assign blame and move on.

But the blame game is futile; it is not good for the one doing the blaming because it gives permission to that person to keep on doing as he or she always has. Blame is a defense mechanism, it is a tool we use when we are in attack mode, and it is an excuse to lie. (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201509/5-reasons-we-play-the-blame-game>). But the more we blame others, the more we erode our capacity to grow, and we also erode the capacity of people around us to take us seriously or to believe us.

This president and his administration are deep into the blame game, even as they lead our country into some very dark places. While they talk about the "deep state" as being the cause of all that they are doing to do to "drain the swamp," they are in actuality replacing one set of swamp creatures for another set of their own doing. The new batch of swamp inhabitants will continue to do as the former swamp did; the state will continue to be "deep," although in a different way, and those who were blamed for everything will have to take time to lick their wounds.

But they will heal and will seek to get back in the seat of power by blaming the foes who ousted them on the hot seat. Empires fall and fail for many reasons, but one reason has to be that in the process of blaming, societies do not get better; they just become more entrenched in self-destructive behavior.

Rev. Dr. Susan K Smith is nearing completion of a book, "On the Shores of America: Two Nations, Two Gods" and in November, her book, "Rest for the Justice-Seeking Soul" will be released by Whitaker House Publishers. To inquire about booking her, contact cassady2euca@icloud.com.



Rev. Susan K. Smith

TO BE EQUAL

At Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year, reflect upon the redemptive power of love

(Via TriceEdneWire.com)

"I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens ... and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union." - President Abraham Lincoln, 1863

nice to people who disagree with us?

As a civil rights organization dedicated to righting historical wrongs, we have felt this nation's divisions all too keenly. As we struggle as a nation to find a way to come together on this holiday that Abraham Lincoln dedicated to unity, I recall a sermon of Martin Luther King, Jr., on "loving your enemies," in which he i n v o k e d



Marc Morial

Lincoln's own approach to loving his enemies.

Lincoln famously appointed Edwin Stanton, a bitter rival, as his Secretary of War. And after Lincoln's assassination, Stanton offered up what King called "a beautiful statement concerning the character and the stature of this man," the often-quoted, "Now he belongs to the ages."

King saw in the story of Lincoln and Stanton a powerful message about the redemptive power of love.

"If Abraham Lincoln had

hated Stanton, if Abraham Lincoln had answered everything Stanton said, Abraham Lincoln would have not transformed and redeemed Stanton. Stanton would have gone to his grave hating Lincoln, and Lincoln would have gone to his grave hating Stanton. But through the power of love Abraham Lincoln was able to redeem Stanton."

King always counseled against answering hate with hate. In that same sermon, he told a story of driving at night with his brother. His brother was agitated by passing drivers who failed to dim their lights, and threatened to respond in kind to the next discourteous driver. But as King reminded him, that would simply make the highway more dangerous for everyone.

"Somebody got to have some sense on this highway," King said.

The same principles of love are taught by the true meaning of Christmas and can be transferred into the current toxic political atmosphere. We have to have some sense on this highway we are negotiating right now. We have got to resist the tempta-

tion to answer hatred with blinding hatred.

If you dread breaking bread with someone who disagrees with you politically, remember that King forgave a woman who stabbed him, nearly killing him.

Loving our enemies doesn't mean accepting oppression. Loving our enemies is the way we transform them from oppressor. To paraphrase King, there are three ways to respond to oppression: with violence and hatred, with acquiescence and resignation, or non-violent resistance based on love.

We often see King's messages of peace invoked as a caution against the ambitious pursuit of justice, and his radicalism downplayed. To imagine exactly what Dr. King would have said or done in response to the events of recent history is a game played by those who would use his legacy to justify their own responses. But what we can know is that he would never give up hope, and he would never stop believing in the redemptive power of love.

"Marc Morial is President/CEO of the National Urban League.

More truths about guns in America

On November 6, 17-year-old Da'Qwan Jones-Morris, a former Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® scholar from St. Paul, Minnesota, was killed when he was accidentally shot in the chest by a 15-year-old friend playing with a stolen gun in our gun saturated nation. Da'Qwan and a group of friends were playing video games after school when the boy who had stolen the gun a few days earlier pulled it out of his bag to show it to the 15-year-old, who fired it without realizing it was loaded. Da'Qwan, a high school senior, was the co-captain of his football team and excited about applying to college. His mother said she always sought out positive opportunities like the CDF Freedom Schools program, sports, and the church choir to keep her son busy—but she still couldn't keep him safe.



Marian W. Edelman

When will parents be able to protect their children from guns? CDF's Protect Children Not Guns 2019 report sets the record straight about critical truths you need to know about gun regulations, gun laws, and the gun industry in America to fight the scourge of gun violence in our nation that takes 3,410 child lives a year—one every 2 hours and 34 minutes. It is outrageous and irresponsible that the only unregulated consumer product in America is one that takes the lives of nine children and teens a day and injures another 50.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) can regulate teddy bears and toy guns but not real guns. A 1976 amendment to the Consumer Product Safety Act specifically states that the Commission "shall make no ruling or order that restricts the manufacture or sale of guns, guns ammuni-

tion, or components of guns ammunition, including black powder or gunpowder for guns." This restriction remains in effect today. As a result, the CPSC can regulate teddy bears and toy guns but not real guns—one of the most deadly consumer products that kills 39,220 Americans every year. This is disgraceful!

The gun industry has been granted broad immunity from liability lawsuits, preventing consumers from holding negligent gun manufacturers and dealers accountable for irresponsible behavior unlike every other major industry. The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA)—passed by Congress in 2005 with pressure from the NRA—grants gun manufacturers and dealers broad immunity from federal and state liability lawsuits. The PLCAA makes it nearly impossible to hold the gun industry accountable, prohibiting individuals from filing lawsuits against gun manufacturers or dealers when their dangerous products cause harm or their irresponsible practices enable criminals to obtain guns. No other industry enjoys such blanket immunity. Given these special protections, gun manufacturers and dealers face virtually no penalties for failing to make guns safer or preventing their guns from getting into the wrong hands.

Virtually anyone can buy a gun without a background check under current law. Federal law requires anyone purchasing a gun from a federally licensed dealer to complete a background check but

does not cover private sales at gun shows, sales over the internet, and between individuals. These hugely dangerous loopholes allow people unable to pass a background check—including those convicted of violent crimes and domestic abuse—to easily obtain a gun.

Common sense gun safety laws work and have effectively reduced gun violence without preventing law abiding citizens from owning guns.

Tighter regulation and oversight of gun sellers prevents guns being diverted to criminals. A study with data from 54 U.S. cities found diverting guns to criminals is much less common in states that license retail gun sellers; require careful record keeping that can be reviewed by law enforcement; require potential buyers to apply for a license directly with a law enforcement agency; and conduct regular compliance inspections.

Requiring background checks for purchases through licensed and private sellers prevents guns from getting into the wrong hands. More than 3 million firearm purchase applications have been denied since the 1994 Brady Law, which instituted a federal background check requirement for sales through licensed dealers. Evidence from California suggests extending background checks to cover not only licensed but private sellers substantially decreases illegal straw sales in which a purchaser buys a gun for a person who isn't eligible to buy it.

Firearm prohibitions for high-risk groups reduce the risk of violent crime. A California study suggests denying handgun purchases to people who have committed violent misdemeanors is associated with a decreased

risk of arrest for new gun and/or violent crimes.

Child access prevention laws save lives. Studies of child access prevention laws requiring gun owners to store guns so children and teens can't access them unsupervised have found they reduce accidental child shootings as much as 23 percent and adolescent suicides 8 percent.

Well-designed assault weapons bans reduce homicides, suicides and mass shootings. An Australian law banning and buying back assault weapons—including semi-automatic rifles, pump-action rifles and shotguns—was associated with lower homicide and suicide rates. No mass shootings occurred in the decade following the law's enactment compared with 11 in the decade before.

The majority of American voters, including gun owners, support common sense gun safety regulations. As of August 2019, 60 percent of voters supported stricter gun laws and 93 percent of voters and gun owners supported universal background checks. Three in five voters (60 percent) favored a nationwide ban on assault weapon sales and about 3 in 4 American voters (72 percent) said Congress must do more to reduce gun violence.

The American people want change. Our children are crying for it. Please make sure your lawmakers know and act on the truth about guns. Make sure they have a copy of Protect Children Not Guns 2019 and insist they do something about it.

Marian Wright Edelman is a lifelong advocate for disadvantaged Americans and is the Founder and President Emerita of CDF. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families.

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New Hanover County

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 nhc-naacp@gmail.com.

Community Briefs

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

—SALUTES—

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



On January 16th 2020, *The Wilmington Journal*

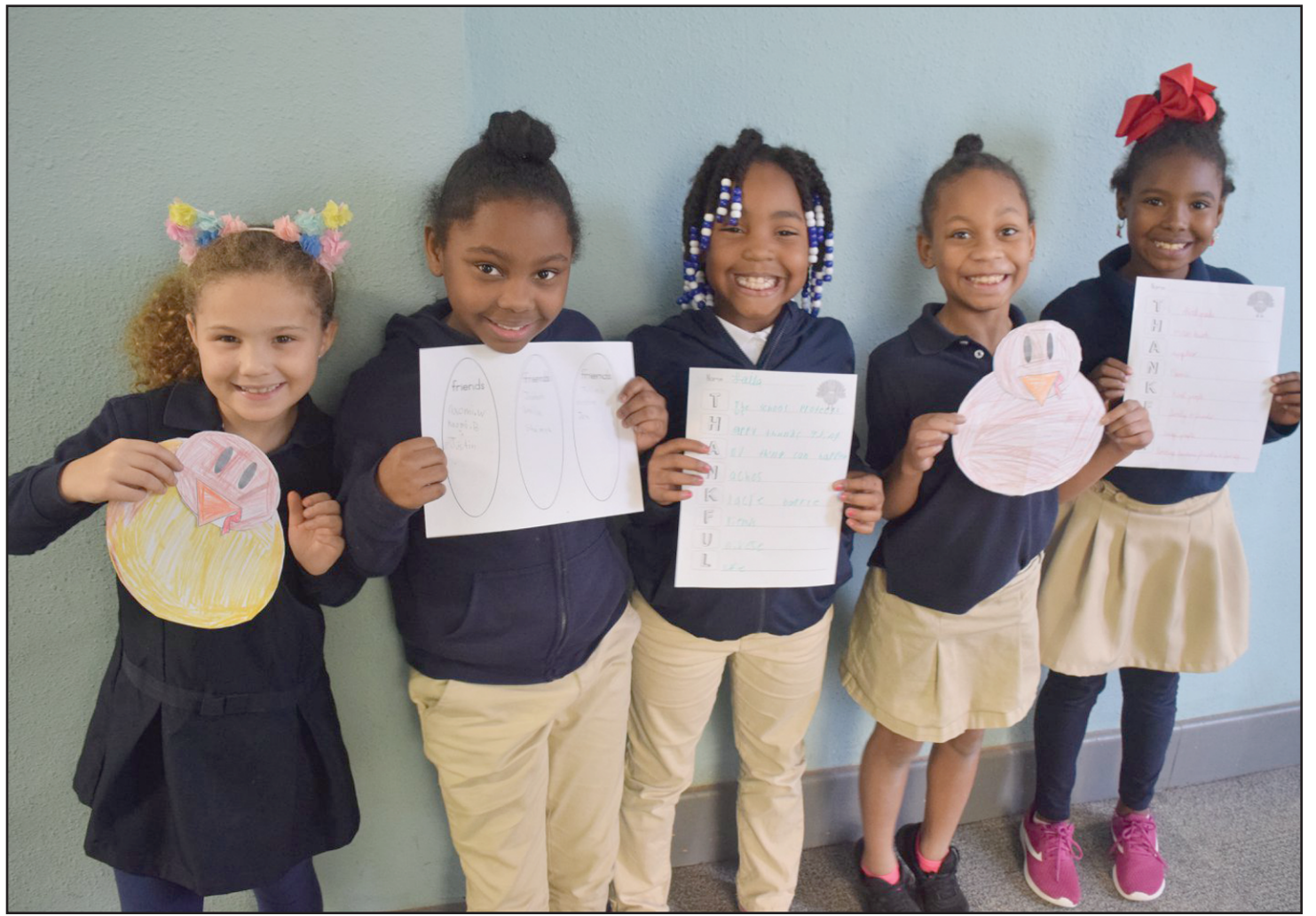
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Douglass Academy celebrates Thanksgiving



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Douglass Academy students celebrate Thanksgiving with special lesson plans, arts, and crafts.

Douglass Academy is one of four charter schools managed by The Roger Bacon Academy, Inc. founded in 1999 by education pioneer

Baker Mitchell. The other schools include Charter Day School in Leland, Columbus Charter School in Whiteville, and South Brunswick

Charter School in Southport with a combined enrollment of over 2,100 students in K-8. All four are tuition-free, charter schools that welcome

all students, regardless of income, ability, or address. To learn more or enroll online, please visit EnrollRBA.com

Bladen and Columbus Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry surpasses goal

Elizabethtown- The Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry collection and relay site located at Fellowship Bible Church on Alexander Street in Elizabethtown has been busy this season. The local church is the Central Drop-off Site for Bladen and Columbus County.

Bladen and Columbus County residents help pack boxes with presents for children in other countries to enjoy for Christmas. Each box is packed with hygiene products and small gifts. Then each box is prayed over and sent to chil-

dren all over the world with a program for leaders to introduce the Christian message to the recipients.

Operation Christmas Child is a mission project organized by Samaritan's Purse. The mission has grown since it first started in the 1990's after Dave Cooke, a father of four from Wrexham, North Wales, saw the horror of abandoned children in Romanian orphanages on the news and asked friends to help fill a truck with toys to drive to the children's home in Romania.

Now, every year, churches,

non-profit groups, schools, civic organizations and businesses help this non-denominational ministry to spread the message of Christ Jesus, gift giving and prayer.

Boxes are prepared for boys and girls from ages 2 years old up to 14 years of age. Lynn Ransom from Foundation Church is the area coordinator for the ministry. "We passed our goal of collecting 10,000 boxes!" Ransom exclaimed, "We had 581 more boxes than we did last year."

This year there were 10,041 boxes collected and loaded to be

shipped out of the Elizabethtown's Central Drop Off. The volunteers make a list and check it twice. All the boxes are checked, double checked and prayed over multiple times before being loaded and shipped to their final destination.

Bladen County Coordinator Pat Warwick with Fellowship Bible Church, said the ministry is continuing to grow.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child and how you can pack a box go to samaritanspurse.org/occ.

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Join us in celebrating Christmas and Kwanzaa in The Wilmington Journal's December 19th Edition! For info call us at 910-762-5502!

Angela Leverne Granger Currie

Angela Leverne Granger 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.

Angela was born June 6, 1968 to the late George Cornelius Granger and Brenda Alene Pelham Granger. "Red" as she was so affectionately called, loved her children and her family and fought hard to live until saw fit to grant her the ultimate healing of eternal life. Angela accepted Christ as her Savior early in life and in later years joined Rock Church International where she was an active member and a faithful servant. While serving there, she was passionate about being in the ministry and was dedicated to serving others. She received her GED from Cape Fear Community College in 1994 and in later years attended Liberty University where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Theology. She then went on to become a licensed Real Estate agent in the State of Virginia. In 1995, she married Adrian Currie and was wed in holy matrimony for 16 years. She's best described as being a strong woman who was a protector that loved her family and was loved unconditionally. In addition to her father she was preceded in death by her brother, Faheem Diaab.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her children, Krystal Granger of Knightdale, NC, DeAngelo Granger of Leland, NC, Jonathan Granger of Petersburg, VA and Andrew Granger of Wilmington, NC; her loving mother, Brenda P. Thomas of Leland, NC; step-father, Eddie Thomas; sisters, Sheril Granger of Raleigh, NC, DeJuan Gregory (Dwayne) of Powder Springs, GA, Lanita Jones (Dax) of Knightdale, NC, Jessica Lofton (Arrick) of Maple Hill, NC and Zanetta Granger of Charlotte, NC; brothers, George C. Granger, Jr. of Leland, NC, Eric Fields of Wilmington, NC and Mark (Sholanda) of Angier, NC; one granddaughter, Za'Kiah Briggs; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, including a special life-long friend, Shawn Wilkins. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

George Roosevelt Simpson, Jr.

George Roosevelt Simpson, Jr., died Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at Nash UNC Hospital, Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Funeral service was held Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at Mt. Ararat AME Church.

George, son of the late George Roosevelt, Sr. and Lillie Mae Simpson was born September 14, 1956, in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was educated in the New Hanover County School System. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. George touched many hearts and lives and was loved by everyone who knew him. George leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Virginia Simpson; one brother, Dennis Simpson (Celestine); two sisters, Darlene Smokes (Randy) and Dorothy Etienne (Nelson); four nephews, Tyrone Simpson (Keisha), Nelson Etienne, III, Eric Etienne and La'Zerrick Smokes; three nieces, Monica Simpson, Chamika Smokes and Christyl Etienne; one great-niece; five great-nephews; one aunt, Helen Hayes; a special friend, Farris Jackson and a host of cousins, extended family and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Malinda Faye Southerland

Malinda Faye Southerland died November 26, 2019. Funeral service was held Saturday, November 30, 2019 at Willie L Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel.

Malinda Faye Southerland, daughter of Mildred Drakeford was born on March 15, 1970 in Chicago, Illinois. Malinda was raised in Wilmington, North Carolina and received her education in the New Hanover County Public Schools. She worked at Wendy's and Bojangles, never meeting a stranger. Malinda was a very loving and caring person with a heart of gold. She took in many people who did not have a place to stay and fed many.

She leaves to cherish fond memories: her loving husband, Roger Southerland; four children, Keith Drakeford, Laticia Drakeford, Daquah Drakeford and Alquah Drakeford; five grandchildren, M'Kayla, Ke'ashya, Demerion, Marcus and Samariah; her mother, Mildred Drakeford McGraw; one brother, Genell Drakeford (Jacqueline); two sisters, Yolander Drakeford and Traci Drakeford; mother-in-law, Hazel Southerland; sisters-in-law, Raynay Williams and Sylvia (Ronnie), five nieces, Simone, Terrica, Tearra,

Alecia and Brandy Antijuan); six nephews, Terrell, Rasheaquan, Qua'zae, Nehemiah, Andrew and Deon; a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and special friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Gregory Lewis Nixon

Gregory Lewis Nixon died November 26, 2019. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 2, 2019 at Shiloh MB Church. Burial followed in Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

Gregory Lewis Nixon son of the late Agnes Nixon and Adolph Brown was born on August 31, 1949. "Greg" as he was so fondly known was a native and lifelong resident of Wilmington, North Carolina. He was educated in the New Hanover County Public School System and graduated from Williston Senior High School. He attended Cape Fear Tech graduating with a degree in Marine Technology. Greg later attended Fayetteville State University, graduating with a BS in Psychology. He matriculated at the University of Cincinnati receiving a Masters Degree in Social Work. Greg was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; a Vietnam Veteran-US Army and a lifelong member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church where he attended regularly.

In addition to his parents, Greg was preceded in death by his brother, Arnold Nixon. He is survived by: two children, Tenee' Holmes and Gregory Nixon (Betty) all of Wilmington, NC; two grandchildren, Tyshawn Nixon and Keyiana Holmes; two great-grandchildren, Skylar Nixon and Mason Myers; one aunt, Geraldine Springfield-Wilson (Rev. Richard) of Trenton, NJ; one nephew, Corey (Misha) Nixon of Wilmington, NC and numerous special cousins, other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Milton Steward

Milton Steward died November 28, 2019. Funeral service will be 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 6, 2019 at Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Lillian McCrae

Lillian McCrae died November 29, 2019. Funeral service will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Willie L. Shaw Jr.

Memorial Chapel. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Elsie Clay

Elsie Clay died Monday, December 2, 2019. Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Bethel Holiness Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Robert A. Sumpter

Robert A. Sumpter, Sr., age 86, of Wilmington, passed away Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

A celebration of Mr. Sumpter's life was held on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at Davis Funeral Home.

Mr. Sumpter leaves to cherish his memories, his wife, Sadie Gerthell Sumpter of Wilmington; sons, Robert A. Sumpter, Jr. and Juan A. Sumpter both of Wilmington; brother, Thomas Spearman of Baltimore, MD; 7 grandchildren, 4 great-children and a host of other relatives and friends. *Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Gloria G. Riley

Gloria G. Riley, age 75, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, November 23, 2019.

A celebration of Ms. Riley's life was held on Saturday, November 30, 2019 at St. Phillip A.M.E. Church. Interment followed in Pine

Forest Cemetery.

She leaves to cherish her memories her children, Demetrick T. Gause (Stacy) of Brevard, Lendell R. Riley and Tomeka N. Riley both of Wilmington; brothers, Freddy Gause of Wilmington and Leroy Gause (Lucy) of Waldorf, MD, 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and a host of other family and friends. *Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*

Betty D. Robinson

Betty D. Robinson, age 81, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, November 25, 2019.

A celebration of Ms. Robinson's was held Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at Davis Funeral Home. Interment followed in Pine Forest Cemetery

Her love will remain in the heart of her children, David Robinson (Elaine) of Wilmington, Rosalyn Evans (Donald) of Wilmington, Dennis Robinson, Sr. (Henerietta) of Charlotte, LaVinda Robinson of Wilmington, Bennie Robinson of Wilmington and LaTashia Murray (Lamonda) of Wilmington, 18 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com.*



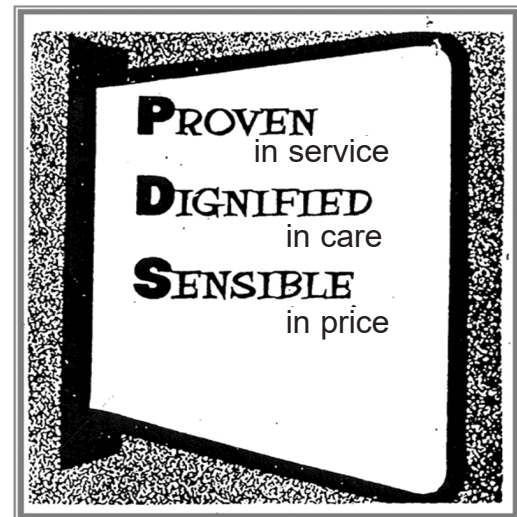
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Moore's Chapel AME Zion Church, 1492 Village Rd., Leland will hold a Father, Son and Holy Ghost program service on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. The speakers will be Rev. Annette Clemmons, Rev. George Patrick and Rev. Betty Jean Patton.



Religious Briefs

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

Judge Carol Jones to speak at Mt. Olive AME Church



JUDGE CAROL JONES

Mt. Olive AME Church located at 1001 So. 7th St., will be celebrating Family and Friends Day on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. The theme is "Coming Together as One." The guest speaker will be the Honorable Judge Carol A. Jones.

Judge Carol Jones has served as District Court Judge of Duplin, Jones, Onslow and Sampson counties since being elected on November 7, 2000. She made history in that she was the first female elected as a judge in this district. She was re-elected in the 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 Elections and she will be seeking re-election next year in 2020. She presides over Family, Juvenile, Traffic, Criminal, and Civil Courts treating all who appear before her with respect, fairness, and dignity.

Judge Jones is the wife of Rev. Victor L. Wilson, Pastor of The People's Church of Clinton, NC, and together they have three children and two grandchildren. She was born to the late Mrs. Sarah F. Jones and Thomas Jones and she has twelve brothers and sisters.

Judge Jones graduated from the public schools of Duplin County; earned her undergraduate degree in Economics from UNC at Chapel Hill; her Juris

Doctorate degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law; a fellowship with the Institute of Political Leadership from UNC at Wilmington; and her Master of Arts in Religious Education at Shaw University School of Divinity in Raleigh, North Carolina. She has been a public servant since graduating from Law School, serving as an Assistant DA from 1994 until 2000.

Judge Jones is very active in community and volunteer work and she knows that to whom much is given, much is required. She is a member of the Duplin County Teen Court, Advisory Board of the State Employees' Credit Union, Advisory Board of the Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina, Duplin County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta as Chaplain, and she is a Sunday School teacher and church administrator of The People's Church. She is encouraged by the scripture, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8 Judge Jones seeks to encourage the young people to study hard, be responsible, and pursue their dreams-because if she can become a District Court Judge, they can reach their dreams also.

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THE NEWS

SENIOR CITIZENS' FELLOWSHIP

The power of God

BY FANNIE ALLEN
AND SHEILA ROSS
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

It was a bright but cool and chirp day that the lord blessed us with. Thanks be to God. Our meeting was call to order by our Vice President Mrs. Mary Green. Mrs. Margie Robinson our devotional leader lead us in singing "A charge to keep I Have." Evangelist Sharon Pollok was our prayer warrior today. Thank you God for hearing our prayer. Next we sang "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus." Our President Mrs. Gladys Taylor said what a wonderful day. Mrs. Ethel Lawton was our

meditation speaker for today. She opened with prayer: Our minds are occupied with many things and sometimes we can forget the power of the God and what God's powers can be. Sometimes we feel as if we are in a closet that needs cleaning of, gossip, money, impatience, evil, and other things that cause us not to focus on God. We need more power than what we can do. We need God's power: He began a new work in us. God's timing is always on time. He knows what is best for us and hat time we need it. God is getting cleaning and changing our heart. There is nothing too hard for God. Mrs. Lawton was thankful for such a great

message and given a hand of appreciation.

We then had expressions. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mr. Mildred Ellerby and approved. We had no visitors. We were given info on our birthday celebration which will be done 12-17-19 at Sensations Restaurant. Callers were given a hand for calling and to those that came. Sick report was given prayer for Elder Moore, Elder Benjamin and Mrs. Leola McIntyre. She said Pray for all our sick and shut ins. Mrs. Margie Robinson gave us info on scams on seniors. Please be mindful of what you do. Mrs.

Doris McNeil, Mr. George Hill, Mrs. Bertha Worley add on sick list. Mrs. Julia Bibbs asked each of us to stand and tell God what we are thankful for and give him thanks. Mrs. Doris Nixon sang "What a Blessing" Mrs. Bradley sang "Down Through The Years." It was such an inspiration to hear the many blessings the Lord has upon each of us. God has been so great to all of us. Thank you God. Everyone was thankful for their participation for today's meeting. Our circle was formed and we sang "Bind Us Together." Closing Prayer was given by Mrs. Ethel Lawton. There were 40 in attendance.

TELL SOMEBODY

"The unseen guest"

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the Day of Redemption." Ephesians 4: 29-31

Unseen - Invisible; Not directly evident
Guest - The recipient of hospitality at the home or table of another
Conversation - Spoken exchange of opinions, thoughts, or feelings

As we prepare our homes for the holidays, let us remember to prepare our heart for the guests who will be arriving and dwelling among us. We are so busy washing, cooking and cleaning that sometimes we forget to mind our manners, monitor our tempers, and bridle our tongues. We want our guests to feel welcome, and because they were invited, we want them to return again next year. We shop until we drop, dust and clean, wash and fold, to insure our guests will feel "welcome". We spruce up our homes inside and out because we enjoy having the company! We want the words of our mouths and the meditations of our heart to

be acceptable in the sight of the Lord. We want family members, friends, neighbors, and co workers to feel welcome. Therefore, be aware when entertaining guests in your home, some are seen,



Sylvia Hooper

and then there is the "Unseen Guest." I Peter 1:15 says, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversations." You don't want your invited guests to cut their visit short because they were vexed by filthy conversation. (II Peter 2:7) Hebrews 13:5 says, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things that you have." You want each of your "guests" to feel received and respected at all times during their visit to your home. You don't want to be so tired, that your temper has a short fuse and no one comes to the dinner table because of your bad disposition. Tempers may flare during the holidays, but

let's keep love alive! Family love and Godly love will cover a multitude of faults. Apostle Paul even exhorted young Timothy to, "be an example of the Believers in word and in conversation."

As we look at the signs of the times, bible students and scholars realize the coming of the Lord is drawing nigh, and now is not the time, to forget thatespecially during the holiday season!

Ephesians 4:29-32, makes a profound statement to assist us in the process of monitoring our mouths and weighing our words. It says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness (strong animosity), and wrath (resentful anger), and anger (feeling of great displeasure and hostility), and clamour (noise insistently), and evil speaking (Indicating future misfortune) be put away from you, with all malice (desire to harm others or see others suffer):

And be ye kind (friendly,

generous, warmhearted) one to another, tenderhearted (compassionate), (forgiving one another (excuse for an offense or fault), even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." The Unseen Guest is the Holy Spirit. We need him to come for more than a visit. We need for HIM to stay!

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

Hearing is here- Part 2

Healing is here (available) for the black community through the person of Jesus Christ who died on the cross for sins of the whole world. This is the vaccine or antidote for the sin nature we inherited from Adam. Jesus, the second Adam came and gave His life through the shedding of His own Blood and it is describe in the Word of God. I want you to understand that I'm not speaking of religion or being a member of a church, and yet I'm not excluding being a member of a church but its a relationship with God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ and we must be born again into this relationship. Jesus said John 3:5-7 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6, That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7, Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. Vs.16-17, says For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved (healed, deliverance). This is the cure for the violence in our cities (the blood of Jesus).

Let's look at some of the statistics of black on black crime in some of our major cities that's being ignored by the black leadership in Washington DC, Civic rights organizations and the Church: "From Jan. 1, 2018, to July 31, 2019, Chicago Police Department of the 687 murders that were black victims only 148 were black".

"In 2015, FBI Uniformed Crime Statistic indicated that 2,380 Blacks were killed by other blacks During the

same period, 2,574 whites were killed by whites. it's tempting to stop here and conclude quantitatively (by simple weight of numbers) that Black on black isn't a problem since more whites kill whites than Blacks kill Blacks. The terrible truth is found in the qualitative analysis. Blacks make up only 13% of the population yet nearly 50% of all murder victims are Blacks killed by Blacks. It's not merely that Whites kill Whites and blacks kill Blacks. It's that Blacks are killing Blacks at horrifyingly higher rates than are seen in other segments of society. Source: FBI's Uniformed crime report".

"Politicians and many others are ignoring and making excuses to the media. However, the numbers don't lie. The simple and disturbing fact is that, young African-American men, year in and year out, commit a grossly disproportionate number of crimes including murder" ("364,000 blacks were killed by another black in 35 Yrs."). "More African-Americans were killed by other African-Americans in two year period than were lynched during a span of 86 years".

"According to FBI data, 4,906 black people murdered other blacks in 2010 and 2011. That is 1,460 more black Americans killed by other blacks in two years than were lynched from 1882 to 1968, according to the Tuskegee institute."

May 2019 Violence Policy Center The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national Ranking State Number of Homicides, 1-Missouri 333,

2-Wisconsin 144, 3-West Virginia 24, 4-Illinois* 685, 5-Indiana 205, 31.

6-Kentucky 106, 7-Michigan 402, 8-Tennessee 323, 9-Louisiana 423,

10-Pennsylvania 415. The question should be asked again, Does Black lives really matter to the black community or it matter only when a White policeman takes it! If we can stand by and watch over 20,000,000 innocent, helpless Black babies that have been aborted in the past forty some years, no wonder it doesn't move us when Black males are killing one another. When death comes, it doesn't matter as far as life is concerned. Dead is dead. We lose life when it is taken; that is the end of that individuals existence no matter who committed the act. When we kill our own we accept it as okay, but when someone else does of another race, we're ready to retaliate. Strange thinking I would say. Or is it just hypercritical.

What is the collective or individual solution? The Word of God has the answer! Psalm 107:20, He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. The Word of God is a Person: John 1:1-4,1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2, The same was in the beginning with God. 3, All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. V.14, And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1. Christ was preexistent. This means He was there before creation. He had always existed. a. "In the beginning [En arch? PWS: 2124]" does not mean from the beginning. Jesus Christ was already there. He did not

become; He was not created; He never had a beginning. He "was in the beginning with God" (cp. John 17:5; John 8:58). b. The word "was" (?n PWS: 4258) is the Greek imperfect tense of eimi which is the word so often used for deity. It means to be or I am. To be means continuous existence, without beginning or origin (POBSC).

Healing has been provided for the whole man (spirit, soul and body) through the death and resurrection Jesus Christ: Isaiah 53:5, But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 1 Peter 2:24, Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

The Church is believers who are born again into the family of God. Ephesians 1:19-20,19, "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places". The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. He has given us His authority and His authority is His Name: John 14:13, And whatever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Father, in the Name of Jesus open the eyes of this people that they may see. 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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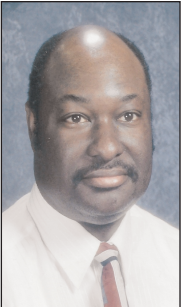

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