

Celebrating Black History Month & The Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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Community News

Section B

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Community groups promote the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Jae McKrae

On a cold Tuesday night, January 12, the MLK committee held its annual candlelight vigil to honor the life of King, and several local civil rights activists. It took place at the MLK Memorial Park on Blue Street—home of the MLK statue.

Candles were provided by the MLK committee. Inspirational songs filled the air while the crowd reflected on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Cumberland County Sheriff Moose Butler reminded the young people of how much they owed Dr. King. “Dr. King walked many a mile for progress...many a mile.”

The pastor of Evans Metropolitan Rev. Corey Little said the country still has a lot of work to do to fulfill King’s dream. Little’s remarks were insightful and everyone including college students and some high school students listened while sipping on hot apple cider provided by the MLK Committee.

One student talked about having watched a movie not long ago that showed white drivers in the south being stopped and charged with riding black people in their cars. “If factual, that’s undeniably incredible! Thank God for the life of people like Dr. King. The crowd was challenged to go forth and live this example by creating what Rev. Little called a “creative community” in which everyone contributes something and gives back.

The parade

People smiled and laughed and waved along sidewalks on Murchison Avenue and Robeson Streets watching the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade on Saturday, January 16. The parade, which is in its 20th year, traveled from the Medical Arts Building downtown to the Seabrook Recreation Center on Langdon Street.

The weather was a definite factor in bringing out more spectators—in the upper 50s / lower 60s. Bands from area schools included Westover, Pine Forest and South View high schools. A few local and state dignitaries got in on the festivities. Lumberton Democrat Congressman Mike McIntyre shouted proudly, “It’s a great day to be in Fayetteville.” Floyd Shorter, president of the Fayetteville Business and Professional League, was the grand marshal for this year’s MLK parade.

Lula Crenshaw, parade organizer is the voice of the committee that spearheads the annual MLK Banquet as well as the



Dr. Booker T. Anthony, Dr. Allen McLaughlin, Dr. James A. Anderson, Rev. Ronald M. McElrath at 17th Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast (Photo by JJ Jones)

MLK Memorial Park. “When the holiday was recognized,” she said, “...we wanted to bring attention to the struggle. Dr. Martin Luther King was trying to get equal rights for everybody. Not just the blacks.”

MLK Breakfast

The Ministerial Council hosted the 17th annual MLK Prayer Breakfast at the Crown Expo Center. Citizens come not only to hear the messages, but also to interact with area dignitaries, community activists, and politicians. Stephon Ferguson, known for performing Dr. King’s speeches with the same emotion that is reminiscent of Dr. King, was the emcee. Ferguson also delivered a King speech that focused on service.

The guest speaker was the chancellor of Fayetteville State University, Dr. James Anderson. Dr. Anderson talked about the King’s message and expectations after delivering his historical “I Have A Dream” speech. “King’s expectations of people would be the same as they were in 1963.” Moses Mathis—**The Bicycle man**—was also recognized as the Person of the Decade. Mathis has repaired and prepared bicycles for area children during Christmas for almost 20 years. Also, along with his wife Ann, they organized the Tiffany Pines Community Outreach Center to combat criminal activity in his neighborhood. There was a lot of talk about doing more and setting goals to complete projects that impact lives. Outgoing president of the Ministerial

Council Dr. Allen McLaughlin said the focus on community service wasn’t a new one. He also hoped more people get involved in the future.

Many people spoke of where we’ve come from, while others focused on where we’re going.

King activities support

Tell me, who attends King Holiday activities? It is clear if there were no politicians vying for that African American connection—seen in mixed company—there would be few people of other races. All people should feel moved to pay homage to Dr. King and his legacy. I don’t even want to imagine—although you are right now—where we as African Americans would be today had not there been people with tenacity to endure the national war against the terrors of racial hatred for African Americans. So are we still dreaming? King’s message promoted racial harmony.

Does some change measure up to a lot of progress? Electing President Barack Obama, although historic, was not the end all; it did not eliminate racial injustice in this country. On the contrary, it puts the focus on race! Because the government has a brown face, seeing that face everyday is like an eyelash caught in the eyes of the naysayers. They can’t stand it!

People of all races have to get on the same track and define what the King Holiday symbolizes—and remain consistent with it. Then, maybe the King’s message can live out its true meaning. So 50 years later, we won’t be still asking, is the dream realized! People with no direction, end up going nowhere!

King struck down like an animal

April 4 at 6:01 pm in 1968, a single shot ripped into the core of this nation. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Years later in 1982, the motel was closed. However, in 1987, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation bought it for \$144,000. Today, The Lorraine Motel stands as a shrine and serves as the National Civil Rights Museum that thousands from all races and denominations visit annually.

This year marks the 42nd anniversary of King’s assassination. Dr. King would have been 81 yrs. old Friday, January 15.

The following businesses below Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Suse’s J Barber Shop & Salon
5411 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28311
(910) 822-3124 * 822-3126

The Janice Mae Hawkins Foundation, Inc.
(d/b/a) S-Lyon Nurse Competency Agency,
S & S Associates Home Health Care Agency
S & S Spoonridge Group Home, CAP Services,
Community Support Team & Diagnostic Assessments

BB&T
3817 Morganton Road
Fayetteville, NC
(910) 487-7500

Bridal Pageant Connection
827 Elm Street Eutaw S/C
North Fayetteville, NC 28303
(910) 484-0978

204 S. Reilly Road
Fayetteville, NC 28314
910-864-3426 (Office) 910-764-1457 (Fax)
Sheryl Lyons/Executive Director

Cape Fear Finance
118 Gillespie Street
Fayetteville, NC 28302-0570
(910) 483-6010

Glaspie Barber Shop
228 Franklin Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
(910) 483-9189

Community Health Interventions and Sickle Cell Agency, Inc.
2409 Murchison Road * Fayetteville, NC 28301
(910) 488-6118

Fast Service Food Mart
2112 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301
(910) 488-9740

Jason’s Barber Shop
5487 Yadkin Road
Fayetteville, NC 28303
(910) 487-0903

Lucky Strike Internet Cafe
4928 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28303
(910) 920-4570

Affordable Computers
4810 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28311
(910) 822-3789

Head Quarter Hair Gallery
3308 Bragg Blvd. Ste. 238
Fayetteville, NC 28303
(910) 764-1104

Kindred Hearts, Inc.
225 Franklin Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
(910) 483-2842

Williams Printing
2112 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301
(910) 323-2220

Sunday’s Best Suits
4926 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
(910) 426-1494

Wardlaw’s Transmission Repair & Service
1053 71st School Road
Fayetteville, NC 28314
(910) 487-1599

S & G Hair Care Center
1620 Clinton Road,
Fayetteville, NC 28312
(910) 323-2060