

NAACP HONORS
DR. KING'S LEGACY

King Day At The Dome
JANUARY 19, 2009

The March is on! Had he not been killed by an assassin's bullets - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, would be 80 on his next birthday, January 15th. Forty years after his death, America has seen some progress in equality: educational opportunities have increased and workplaces and political leadership are more diverse. But even with the election of President Obama, it is very clear that we still have a long way to go.

His vision lives on and on Monday January 19, 2009 The SC NAACP will sponsor the 10th Annual King Day at the Dome event in Columbia. This will be a day of reflection for us as we continue the dream and efforts for a better South Carolina.

After some reflection the executive committee of the NAACP SC State Conference determined to proceed with King Day at the Dome as planned. While a number of people have indicated that they will be traveling to the inauguration in Washington, D.C., we know that all the rest of us will be here in South Carolina to view the event by video on Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Meanwhile as the Association approaches the 100 year mark, this King Day will be viewed as one of the most historic King Holidays in our lifetime, and we shouldn't let it pass without making a significant statement about the need for change in South Carolina.

Notwithstanding the lure of the historic inau-

guration of a new president of the United States, our daily struggle in every locale will remain just that - and this must still be our priority. Thus, we must see and help others see the "change" in Washington as an extension of our local efforts to better America. King Day at the Dome provides us an opportunity to have students and adults gather in solidarity to demand the changes we need for every community in South Carolina. Our theme this year is "Bringing the Change We Need to Every Community: *Education, Jobs & Justice.*" And we will continue to push state authorities to remove the Confederate battle flag from state house grounds.



NAACP President & CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous will lead the NAACP South Carolina State Conference's King Day at the Dome festivities.

The events will start early beginning with the Annual

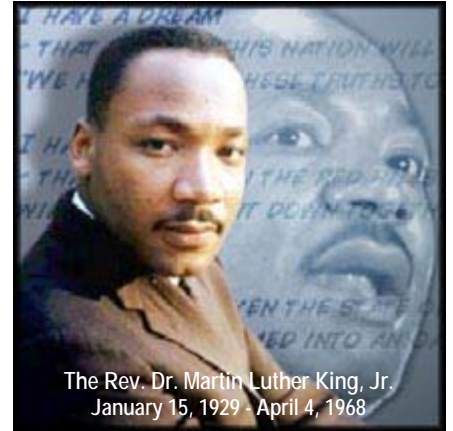
King Day Service at Zion Baptist Church, 801 Washington Street; Columbia, SC. African



Bishop Kenneth Monroe

Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Bishop Kenneth Monroe who presently serves as the presiding bishop of the South Atlantic Episcopal District will

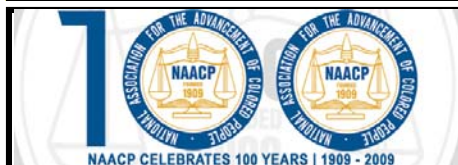
provide the morning message at the 8:30 a.m. service. The Centennial King Day Rally and Pre-Inaugural Salute will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a march to the SC State House steps.



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968

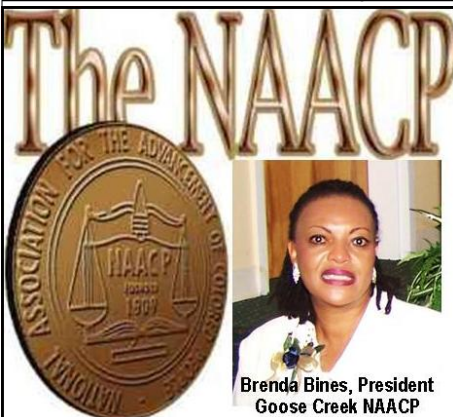
Buses will depart from Abraham Masonic Building in Goose Creek at 206 Liberty Hall RD at 6:30 a.m. and return at 4 p.m.

Contact King Day at the Dome Coordinator, David Cantley at 843-276-6294 to sign up for transportation or if you have any questions.



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Brenda Bines, President
Goose Creek NAACP

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1st VPDavid Cakley
2nd VP.....Orville Hayes
Secretary.....Jenae Haynes
Treasurer.....Tameka Morant

Executive Committee Members

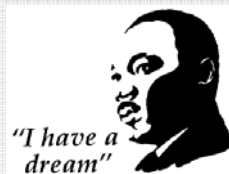
The Rev. Ted Adams	David Johnson
Jackie Adams	Nancy James
Eddie Anderson	Betty Jones
Barbara Blackwell	Thomas Lanier
Herbert Bodison	Marlene Lemon
Lori Brooks	John Matthews
LaMaurice Burgin	Christine Moore
Veronica Dukes	Robert Newton
Andrea Glover	Paul W. Staggers, Jr.
Beverly Hargrow	Clarence Turner
Ranese Harrell	Eyamba Williams
Jenae Haynes	

BRANCH MEETINGS

**Goose Creek NAACP meets the first Monday of the month at Abraham Masonic Building
206 Liberty Hall Rd; Goose Creek, SC.**

Upcoming Meetings 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Executive Meeting
Monday Jan 5, 2009* 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting
Monday Feb 2, 2009

*** Note: Branch Officers and Executive Committee members for 2009 - 2010 will be officially sworn in at the January 5th General Meeting**



1933-2008

The Goose Creek NAACP Branch mourns the loss of one of our charter members

Dr. Jessie D. Fowler who entered into eternal rest on Monday, December 22, 2008 was a charter member of the Goose Creek NAACP Branch. She was a retired educator and Minister of the Gospel. Her failing health limited her activity in recent years. Her funeral is Friday December 26th at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church.

Julian Bond changes his mind and will stay on as Chairman of the NAACP Board



A message from Chairman Julian Bond

December 8, 2008 - *"The outpouring of support from a supermajority of Board members - and from State and Regional Leadership and rank-and-file members - asking me to run again for NAACP Board Chairman has convinced me to change my mind. I will be a candidate for Chairman when the Board convenes in February."*

Julian Bond, Chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors

Outgoing Goose Creek branch president Andrea Glover didn't change her mind

But she'll still be around and working as she promised



Out going branch president Andrea Glover is already providing evidence she plans to remain active and continue her work with the NAACP. She volunteered and was appointed ACT-SO Program Coordinator for South Carolina NAACP Conference of Branches at the December 13, 2008 meeting in Columbia.

ACT-SO is an acronym for Academic, Cultural, Technological Scientific Olympics. ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. The ACT-SO program centers around the dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders; to serve as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence among African-American students. There are 25 categories of competition in the sciences, humanities, performing and visual arts. For more about ACT-SO online visit <http://www.naacp.org/programs/act-so/> and our website www.naacpgoosecreek.org.

"You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea"

Myrlie Evers

KEEP THE IDEA OF FREEDOM ALIVE

JOIN NAACP



The NAACP Celebrates the historic victory of President-Elect Barack Obama

It's being said, "now that we have a Black president, how much more advancement can there be?" Is the NAACP still needed?



Read how NAACP President & CEO Jealous, Goose Creek Branch members and others answer that question . . .

NAACP President/ and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous' Answer . . .



For almost a century the NAACP has been a powerful force for racial equality and social justice, leading the way on issues from the desegregation of our public schools to securing voting rights, and paving the way for this country to elect its first ever African American President.

But no matter how many barriers we have broken or glass ceilings we've shattered, we still have a long way to go to make the promise of America a reality for people of all colors. You can help by joining the NAACP today.

Racial discrimination continues to warp our housing, employment and credit markets. Nearly 50 million Americans are still without health insurance. Racial profiling and sentencing disparities persist, and No Child Left Behind has abandoned hundreds of thousands of children in under-funded schools.

A President doesn't make all of that go away. It takes a strong grassroots advocate to secure the kind of change we need. And there's no organization more qualified than the NAACP. That's why I hope you'll join the

NAACP as a Member today.

As the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, our strength comes from our Members. When the NAACP speaks, it carries the power of more than 500,000 people of all colors, ages and backgrounds who have joined together in the pursuit of justice and equality for all Americans. And unlike other groups, our power isn't just in Washington, but in communities like yours across the country. When you add your voice, we become even more powerful together.

You've shown your support by answering the call when the NAACP has asked you to take action on critical issues. Today I urge you to take the next step. Become a Member of the NAACP and help us honor the past while we fight to secure a brighter future for all. ■

Benjamin Todd Jealous, President/CEO NAACP



Yes, now more than ever the NAACP is needed. It is naïve to think that the election of an African American President will cure all of the hatred and inequities that exist. Unfortunately there seems to be a rise in racially charged activities of late; and there have been more death threats against the President elect than ever before. I believe that the NAACP has to stay on the case to continue to fight to defeat the scourge of discrimination and injustice in the United States and abroad.

Madie Robinson, President Florence NAACP Branch Member, NAACP National Board of Directors



The election of Barack Obama by the majority of the voting public proved to the world that America is truly a place where all qualified citizens can become President of The United States of America .

That being said, there are still some in our great country that would seek to withhold the rights and liberties of minorities and the under served. All citizens should be afforded the guarantees of The U.S. Constitution which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Even with the election of Mr. Obama, racism is still alive and well in America. This factual statement requires organizations to fight for the rights of all who have been victimized by racism, discrimination and all decisions based on race, national origin, sex and other unfair practices in this great land of the free and home of the brave.

I am proud that since 1909 The NAACP is the kind of organization that would challenge, investigate and bring to light any decisions in the work place, public or private where the expectation of fairness appears to be not the order of the day.

There is still a need for the NAACP and all other organizations that fight racism and discrimination where ever they raise their ugly heads.

David Cakley, 1st Vice President Goose Creek NAACP Branch

See NAACP Still needed on page 8



NAACP CREEK CONNECTION



The December meeting was a casual meeting with refreshments and fellowship. President Glover surprised 1st Vice President Paul W. Staggers, Jr. and 2nd Vice President Thomas Lanier with awards for their dedicated and committed service to the branch since it was chartered 5 years ago. Tim Scott and Robert Newton received their awards from the Freedom Gala.



DECEMBER 1, 2008

President Glover received recognition from the South Carolina House of Representatives for her leadership and community service. Representative Joseph Jefferson was unable to be at the meeting and the award was presented on his behalf by John Matthews. President Glover also received a plaque from the membership outstanding leadership as president.



We understand everyone can't make every meeting but you missed a good meeting and we missed you! See you soon



Closing the Gap in Health Care



 Thaddeus John Bell M.D.
Family Medicine

Copyright October 2008
Bell Update Volume 3, Chapter 35

Does Black culture trump medicine in Black communities?

Would you rather subscribe to home remedies than see a doctor and get a professional opinion? Do you eat unhealthy foods often simply because that's what you are used to or because it's easy? Don't stick to old habits and ways of thinking when it comes to your health. New medical updates and discoveries occur daily. Stay informed so your health doesn't suffer.

Black Culture and Medicine

Physicians and other medical providers have known for some time that many African Americans check with other people before they check with a physician or they do not seek the advice of physicians until the 11th hour when it's often too late. Is this attitude part of our black culture? Does it contribute to the health disparities that are so pervasive in our community?

As I speak about health around our state, I am amazed that the black community's history of old wives' tales and home remedies is very much alive and well. This system of beliefs and practices in large measure are responsible for the very poor health outcomes that African Americans experience. As a black physician, I understand why this is the case and I try to dispel myths and poor health practices in my work in our community. I also try to raise the awareness of non-minority physicians so that they become sensitive to these things and consider them when they treat minority patients.

Unfortunately, in these poor economic times where the cost of healthcare is a concern for all of us, I believe that we will see more and more blacks and other minorities discounting modern medical practices and going back to the way that our mamas and grand mamas doctored - "Lord have mercy." I am Dr. Thaddeus John Bell, Closing the Gap in Health Care for African Americans and the Underserved. ■

Website www.closingthegapinhealthcare.com

If you have questions for Dr. Bell or general comments for Closing the Gap in Health Care, Inc, please send an email to: info@closingthegapinhealthcare.com

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY 2009



Get Educated! Get Tested!
Get Involved! Get Treated!
www.blackaidsday.org

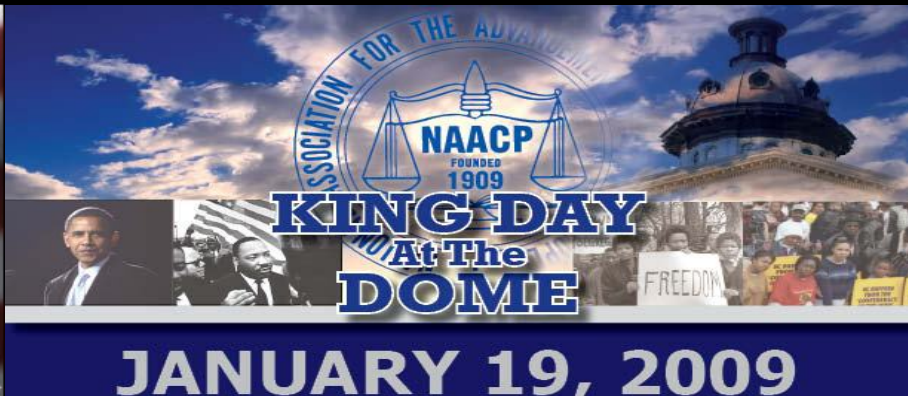
To find an HIV Testing location near you, send a text message with your ZIP code to KNOWIT (566948) or visit www.hivtest.org



JANUARY 2009 IS
NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter months due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. January, in particular, is a difficult month for blood centers to collect blood donations. A reduction in turnout can put our nation's blood inventory at a critical low.

To learn about blood donation opportunities,
visit www.givelife.org or call
1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543)



Dr. King was a prophet

By

The Reverend Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III

“Any discussion of the role of the Christian minister today must ultimately emphasize the need for prophecy. Not every minister can be a prophet, but some must be prepared for the ordeals of this high calling and be willing to suffer courageously for righteousness”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from his book
Stride Toward Freedom



Forty years ago (April 4, 1968), Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. As we pause to reflect on the transformative life of Dr. King, let us not forget that he was a modern day prophet. While Dr. King seems to be almost universally loved and respected today – when he was murdered that was not the case. True prophets are rarely

popular while living, true prophets usually become popular only after death. The same can be said of this great prophet who walked among us who, like prophets before him, met the two-fold test of prophecy: foretell and forth tell.

For those who work in or follow the American Civil Rights Movement, one of the best known pieces of scripture is Amos 5:24. The text “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream” NRSV, was proclaimed by the Old Testament prophet Amos when he prophesied against the Northern Kingdom of Israel for their mistreatment of the poor and the oppressed. The scripture has become synonymous with Dr. King. So much so that in Montgomery, Alabama, the designer of the Civil Rights Memorial attributes this scripture from Amos to Dr. King.

Like Amos, Dr. King was a reluctant prophet. While in school he

thought he would pursue law or education. He did not think he wanted to preach. Even after finishing his seminary work, he seriously considered taking a position at one of three colleges that made offers to him. Ultimately, like Amos he could not resist the call of God to go prophesy to the powerful and elite. He decided to accept the pastorate of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama and then set on a course, like Amos, to speak truth to power and declare that justice indeed should flow like mighty waters.

The messages regarding justice from Amos and Dr. King had some of the same basic characteristics. Both of them had a poetic flair in their use of language. Amos is regarded by many theologians as one of the first of the speaking prophets. He used words skillfully and with great affect on the hearers of his cutting commentary. Dr. King was a gifted orator who was well trained in the powerful use of language to move the human heart by his deep background in the Black church tradition of the South.

Dr. King and Amos agreed that the burden of prophecy against the oppressor was dangerous but mandated by God himself. Both men delivered a message of uncompromising clarity that the God of justice will not abide with the abuse of His people. Though they lived 2,700 years apart, the message from both was the same: there can be no righteousness without justice!■

Monday January 19, 2009





Priority Schmiority

By
Michael Rodgers

It's time to put our country first. It's time to take down the Confederate flag!



Michael Rodgers

December 3, 2008 - How can we judge what's the most important priority of our state legislature? Perhaps we should conclude that their most important issue is the one that they thought was the most important to get the public's opinion on:

"Amendment 1: Must Section 33, Article III of the Constitution of this State be amended so as to delete the provision that no unmarried woman shall legally consent to sexual intercourse who shall not have attained the age of fourteen years?"

Huh? Where's the amendment about the budget crisis? Or about illegal immigration? Or about health insurance for children? Raising the tax on smoking? Promoting economic development? Renaming our state "The Confederate State of South Carolina?"

I never would have thought removing a constitutional protection for female children was our state legislature's top priority!

It's not in my top 5, not even in my top 10! Yet, it seems that it was the issue our state legislature was most interested in. They want to have complete control of the protection of the female children of our state. Well, there's only men in our state senate now. They must want to be designated as the great protectors, our governing fathers.

Now they can set the age of consent to 9 if they want to!

There's no more constitutional protection to stop the legislature from lowering the age of consent below 14! Our legislature can set it as low as they want! Of course, they'd never do anything so ridiculous, our legislature. And of course we could just vote out whoever had the idea.

But our legislature is ridiculous. And the incumbents almost always win. They could bring back video gambling, close down all our public schools, lock up all the youth in prison, whatever they want. Almost all of

our legislators are in safe seats now. What's going to happen when they redraw their own districts after the 2010 census? The seats will be ultra-safe.

Look out South Carolina!

That's why we've got to realize now that something is wrong in our state! We fly the Confederate flag! We have no women in our state senate! We can't host any Final Four games!

But I don't care about the Confederate flag, you say, it doesn't bother me. It's not one of my priorities, you say. As Gov. Mark Sanford describes the situation (here in this link, <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/20080715/sc-gov-confederate-flag-dispute-not-a-priority.htm> from July of 2008):

"Trying to open the way for a compromise on the flag would require 'a tremendous amount of political capital,'" said Sanford, a two-term Republican, adding he has other priorities. 'This administration is not going to be doing that.'"

What other priorities is he talking about, whether or not the State House can have security guards? The governor and Sen. Glenn McConnell are having a feud about everything, including \$6 million for security that Gov. Sanford called "a colossal waste." That's their priority — fighting each other. Flying the Confederate flag is a colossal waste to the tune of \$50 million, minimum.

And now we're back to the idea of priority, and what it means. When your priority is to have government spend money wisely in ways to help people and businesses thrive with sustainable economic development (that's my priority), you do everything you possibly can to help that goal. You do the big things, and you do the small things. You do everything.

We will get the bill to take down the flag reintroduced. It's a respectful and responsible bill. It is not the most important and responsible thing in the world to pass this bill, but it's more important and more responsible than many other things that our legislature does. ■

Contact Michael at his *Take Down the Flag* Blog - <http://takedowntheflag.wordpress.com/>

Let's we forget....

The Meaning of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday By Coretta Scott King

(Circa 2004)

"... not a black holiday; it is a peoples' holiday"

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America.



November 2, 1983

President Ronald Reagan signs legislation enacting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

We commemorate as well the timeless values he taught us through his example -- the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit.

We commemorate Dr. King's inspiring words, because his voice and his vision filled a great void in our nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk, that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day, the man who braved threats and jail and beatings and who ultimately paid the highest price to make democracy a reality for all Americans.

It is a day of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing. No other day of the year brings so many peoples from different cultural backgrounds together in such a vibrant spirit of brother and sisterhood. Whether you are African-American, Hispanic or Native American, whether you are Caucasian or Asian-American, you are part of the great dream Martin Luther King, Jr. had for America. This is not a black holiday; it is a peoples' holiday. And it is the young people of all races and religions who hold the keys to the fulfillment of his dream. ■

On 31 January 2006, Coretta Scott King died in her sleep. She was 78.



NAACP Still needed from page 3



The NAACP was, is and will always be relevant. The world we live in has so many injustices and prejudices. We may have grown to the extent that we were able to select a Black Man as president however, he was selected because he was clearly the better choice not because he was Black. The NAACP is the in between when we need someone to stand with us and the forerunner when we need someone to just go and fight for us. If anything we need the NAACP more!

Barbara R. McFadden, Member
Goose Creek NAACP Branch



The National Election of President Barack Obama is a powerful step in the right direction for America. This election reflects the millions of Americans that have begun to understand a man should not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

However, we cannot let the historic election of an African-American become an excuse for complacency – especially here in Michigan, where racial division still plays too large a role in too many decisions.

While millions have voted for change and Black President to guide us into a new era, still millions of Americans still harbor prejudice, hate, systemic racism, and the old mindset of white supremacy. These ills and mindsets will not go away in one election, even if it is the President of the United States of America. However, these mindsets have to be challenged state by state, county by county, city by city at the grassroots levels of the local units of the NAACP, that has stood for civil rights, freedom justice and equity for past 100 years.

Is the NAACP still needed now that we have a Black President, The answer is a resounding YES!

Roberta H. Cribbs, President
Battle Creek Senior Branch NAACP #3132



It is great that we have an African American to serve as our next president; however, there are many areas we must im-

prove in order to close the doors of the NAACP. Just a few weeks ago there was a nose found on the campus of Furman University. We are still fighting a lawsuit to change our legislation so that our education system won't be min. adequate. We continue to have high unemployment, poorly managed health care, and a political system that is made to leave us out of the process. We celebrate the accomplishment of President-Elect Obama and we wish that this can be the beginning of a conversation about true change in our community not the end.

Jerome Bryant, Member
Columbia NAACP Branch



Here's how Barack Obama described his success in our presidential primary: "In South Carolina, where the Confederate Flag still flies, we built a powerful coalition of African Americans and white Americans." Forging this type of coalition for change has been the mission of the NAACP for 100 years. The NAACP has had many successes at many levels throughout its history. Most notably, during the civil rights movement, the NAACP was able to succeed at the federal level with Supreme Court decisions and civil rights legislation, and those successes brought many positive changes nationwide. However, a lot of problems still remain, both at the federal level and at the local (state, county, and city) level. Here in South Carolina, the political and business leaders are not going to change any of their actions one bit because Barack Obama is in charge nationally. We're going to be known around the nation and around the world as "South Carolina, where the Confederate Flag still flies" for the foreseeable future. The main hope for change in our state is for the NAACP to lead a powerful coalition of African Americans and white Americans at the local level. Now is the time for the NAACP to redouble (and redouble again) their efforts to bring change to our state.

Michael Rodgers, Member
Columbia NAACP Branch

I do believe that the NAACP is still relevant, regardless who is presi-

dent. We have come a long way but still have a long way to go! I can't imagine being without the NAACP. I think that we need the NAACP more than ever because we have elected an African American for president.

There will be some that believe that the messiah has come. We should not expect any special privileges. The president is the president for all Americans not just for one group of people.

Jeanette Willis
North Charleston, SC



The threats, racism, hate crimes, injustices, and discrimination will not vanish from the streets of America on January 20, 2009, simply by Mr. Obama ascending into office. Now, as in the past, we need the advocacy and scrutiny of the NAACP as we venture forth into, hopefully, a new era.

H. Jean Brown, Life Member
Charleston NAACP Branch



The NAACP is still very much relevant more so now than ever. know that elect Obama will no doubt be one of the greatest presidents., people will want him to not do some of the things he promised but all of them and then some. They will expect him to go above and beyond simply because he is black. Even though we have a black president, bigotry and racism still raises its ugly head. People still don't believe in justice and equality, people's civil rights are still being violated. So yes the NAACP is still relevant to protect not only people of color but all people.

Barbara Williams, Member
Orangeburg NAACP Branch



The NAACP is not just about political advancement. There are so many areas that we must continue to strive for advancement, such as educational, social, economi-

Continued on next page



NAACP Still needed from page 8

cal, and the court room. The organization must keep up its fight until we have been successful in all of these areas. Further, our President-Elect is going to need us to "keep his back".

James Gallman, Member
NAACP National Board of Directors

The NAACP is really going to have to work hard now. I'm already hearing those racist folks saying things like "Oh since they have their President we don't need to do anything for them, they have everything they need." As if having Barack as a President is going to solve all the hate and racism in the world. I'm so very proud to have seen something like this and to be a part of it but he (Obama) cannot change ignorant people's minds. So yes we need the NAACP because ignorance is here to stay and we must continue the fight.

Candy Stuckey, Member
Goose Creek NAACP Branch



The election of a president who happens to be African-American is the result of years of work for fair and free voting rights. One hundred years after the founding of the NAACP – after all the blood, sweat, tears, marching, fighting in the courts

– America will inaugurate a president who happens to be African-American.

This would not have been possible without a tremendous amount of challenge and sacrifice that produced change. However, the work is not over. The empirical data tells us racism and racial disparities are not eliminated. Systemic racism is still alive in education, economic, health care, etc.

As our new national NAACP president says, "Our organization is not the National Association for the Advancement of One Black Person." This election is epic, but it is not an ending. Perhaps it's more of a beginning for America to finish the work of equality and social justice.

The night he was deemed the projected winner, President-elect Obama even said, "My election is not the change we fought for, but it does give change a chance."

The Rev. Dr. William Barber, President
North Carolina NAACP State Conference

Note: Congratulations to the Reverend Dr. Barber who was elected to the NAACP National Board of Directors from Region V. He will be seated on the board in February 2009.



The Rev. Dr. William Barber President, North Carolina NAACP Answers questions often asked about the NAACP

(Originally posted 12-16-08 on www.wral.com)

Dear Rev. Barber, this is something that's always puzzled me. If the term "colored" is considered offensive, why is it still part of the NAACP's name? Thank you for your time. – Bret Chambers, Wake Forest

Great question. To be quite honest, there has been some internal wrestling with the name, but one reason it hasn't been changed is out of respect for history and the founders.

In 1909, when the organization began, "colored" was one of the more respected identifications used by the larger society when compared with all the other grotesque names used to refer to African-Americans.

Another reason however, is that the NAACP was founded as a multi-ethnic organization by whites, blacks, Jews, Christians, male, female, etc. In fact, the majority of the founders were white. The first chair was a white woman. So, in a sense, it was a "colored" organization dedicated to the eradication of racism and legalized racial discrimination and disparity.

Even today, our mission is broad and covers all minorities: "The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination."

I am hopeful the NAACP is involved in community activities, perhaps with youth in some way. Can you share some of those with us? The public perception is that protests are your only purpose. You can thank the media for that. – Jack Mullins, Raleigh

I'm glad you asked this. I would ask you to visit our national web site at: www.naacp.org. We are engaged in scholarship programs and anti gang/drug programs. We sponsor the nationally acclaimed Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics and the list goes on and on.

We are the only civil rights organization that has an ongoing, consistent youth program in every state conference. Our Youth and College Division is 71 years old. In addition to being against re-segregation of schools the NAACP seeks:

Increasing Teacher Quality: Schools with heavy concentrations of minority students have an average of 78 percent of math teachers teaching outside of their subject area. The NAACP is committed not only to ensuring that minority children are taught by qualified teachers, but we are also committed to ensuring that teachers receive the supports necessary to do their jobs effectively.

Promoting Parent and Family Engagement: Research has established that sustained parental involvement is critical to the educational success of children. The NAACP is committed to helping parents become more directly engaged in their education of the children.

Enhancing Early Childhood and Literacy Initiatives: Early childhood education has been shown to be an important predictor of future academic and emotional success for children. Still, far too many minority children start kindergarten performing far below their potential as a result of their inability to access quality early childhood education programs. The NAACP is committed to enhancing early learning opportunities for all students.■

These questions and answers were originally posted on www.wral.com on 12/16/08. You can go to <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/4142989/> to see the complete article. Special thanks to Kelly Hinchcliffe, Web News Editor at www.WRAL.com for sharing this article with us.



The Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III Installed as Pastor of Charity Missionary Baptist Church

By Barbara Bodison

Charter Member of Goose Creek NAACP Branch

On Saturday November 29th a great number of ministers, family members, friends, and church members gathered to celebrate the historic event of the Rev. Rivers' installation as pastor of Charity Missionary Baptist Church.

The Rev. Rivers is the son of Merelyn and the late Nelson Rivers, Jr. of Charleston, SC. He has one brother and one sister. He is married to the former Carolyn Smalls of Charleston and has four children.

The Rev. Rivers is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Theology Degree at the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary Seminary and University of Baltimore, MD. As a preacher of Gospel, he is committed to spreading the Word of liberating "good news" of Jesus Christ. He was ordained at the Olivet Baptist Church of Christ Fayetteville, GA. He was recently serving as Associate Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Charleston, SC. The Rev. Rivers is a highly sought after minister for his ability to share God's Word and inspire listeners. He has been called to speak all over America.

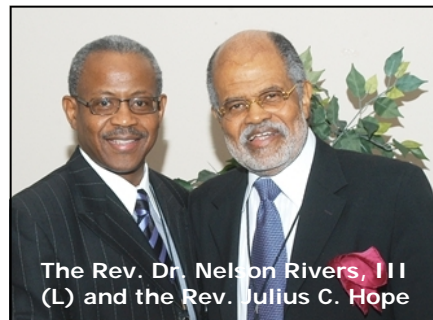
The term "coming fill circle" could certainly apply to the Rev. Nelson Rivers, III as a result of his recent return to North Charleston as pastor of the Charity Missionary Baptist Church in the Liberty Hill section of North Charleston, SC. It was in Liberty Hill that the Rev. Rivers began his commitment to the community and the NAACP. He has worked at every level of the NAACP from a branch committee chair; advisor the local youth council; President and leader of the reorganization of the once nearly defunct North Charleston NAACP Branch; Executive Director of the South Carolina State Conference; Director of the Southeast Region (the largest of the NAACP's seven regions); Chief of Field Operations; and his current position, Vice President of Stakeholder Relations of the NAACP. His climb epitomizes the unlimited possibilities of a life of commitment, dedication and purpose.

The Rev. Rivers has received numerous awards for his civil rights and community work including the Order of the Palmetto, the

State of South Carolina's highest award; and induction into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame. He has appeared on various radio and television programs including Donahue, 60 Minutes, BET Tonight with Ed Gordon, "All Things Considered" on NPR, among others. In July 2004 he was recognized as the top NAACP staff professional when he was awarded the Medgar Evers Award of Excellence.

The service portion of the Rev. Rivers Installation was presided over by the Rev. Dr. William Sailey, Vice Moderator of Charleston County Missionary Baptist Association and the pastor of Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church (Charleston). The theme for the service was "Achieving Greatness through Service". Included among the several ministers in attendance to support the Rev. Rivers and witness his installation were the Rev. James Williams, Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Fort Mott, SC. whom Rev. Rivers considers his mentor in the Gospel. The Rev. Williams offered encouraging words.

The Rev. Dr. Willie E. Givens, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. 1st Vice President, Southeast Region; Moderator of the Charleston County Missionary Baptist Association; and pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church (Summerville), introduced the guest



speaker, the Rev. Julius Caesar Hope a Father in the Gospel to Rev. Rivers.

The Rev. Julius C. Hope is Director of Religious Affairs of the NAACP and pastor of New Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Highland Park, Michigan. Rev. Hope is a former pastor of First Baptist Church on New Street in Macon, Georgia and former Presi-

dent of the Georgia State Conference of the NAACP. Under the Rev. Hope's leadership and dedication, the NAACP has formed relationship with faith leaders across the country.

In his message the Rev. Hope, adorned in a uniquely decorated and regal robe, gave an excellent explanation of the levels and order of the church as it relates to God's sovereignty. He reminded the congregation that God is the ultimate leader in any congregation. His sermon text focused on Hebrews 11 and the need of the pastor to have the "Faith Walk". The message from the Rev. Hope electrified the congregation and Charity Baptist Church choir was awesome in the songs they sang.

The Installation Service continued with the Charges which were presided over by the Rev. Dr. W.E. Givens, Jr. He gave the Charge to Pastor Rivers. The Rev. James Lewis, Pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Georgetown, SC conducted the Charge to the Church, and Rev. William Frederick, pastor of Salem Baptist Church gave the Installation prayer. All the pastors present united and did a unified prayer for Rev. Rivers. Deacon Julian Green and Charity's Pastor's Aide Board then made presentations to Rev. and Mrs. Rivers.

Finally, Rev Rivers offered his remarks as he thanked everyone for coming and recognized his 85 years old mother. He expressed how happy he was that she was present to witness this memorable event. He also mentioned that he follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late Rev. Henry Brown. Rev. Rivers emphasized that he is guided by the words of Jesus found in Mark 10:43: "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant." The Rev. Rivers has served as the guest preacher at many churches all over America and now he comes home to serve at Charity Missionary Baptist Church in Liberty Hill. May God richly bless his ministry!■



we are **one hundred**

1909 NAACP 2009

NAACP Centennial Celebration | Feb 12, 2009 | New York, NY • 100th Annual Convention | July 11-16, 2009 | New York, NY

In February 2009, the NAACP, the nation's oldest preeminent civil rights organization, will mark its 100th anniversary. Celebratory events will kick off on January 20th with the NAACP Presidential Ball, the first in its 100-year history, and continue throughout the year. The NAACP Headquarters, based in Baltimore, as well as its 1,700 units throughout the country will host activities that highlight the significant role the Association has played in leading social change in America.

Following is a partial listing of upcoming events for your planning calendars. For regular updates, please visit www.naacp.org.

Jan. 19, 2009 – 10:15 a.m.
10th Annual NAACP 'King Day at the Dome'
Columbia, SC
 Contact: SC State NAACP 803-754-4584

Jan. 20, 2009
 NAACP 1st Presidential Inaugural Ball
 Washington, DC -The NAACP will host an inaugural ball in honor of the 44th President
 Contact: NAACP 202-463-2940

Feb. 6 & 7, 2009
 "The Civil Rights Century: The NAACP at 100"
 Center for Africana Studies Johns Hopkins University
 Baltimore, MD Contact: 410-516-6385

Feb. 12, 2009
 100th Anniversary of the NAACP
 There will be numerous events around the country hosted by local Branches including:

- Founder's Day Services
- Cake-Cutting Ceremonies
- Birthday Parties

40th Annual NAACP Image Awards
 Airs live nationwide on FOX TV at 8 p.m.

Feb 15, 2009
NAACP Lowcountry Centennial Celebration at Charity Baptist Church, North Charleston, SC. Contact: Rev. Nelson Rivers, 843-747-2737

Feb. 21, 2009
 NAACP Annual Meeting New York, NY
 Contact: Paula Edme, 212-344-7474 x101

May 2009 - NAACP Leadership 500 Summit
 Since its inception in 2005, *Leadership 500* has served as a fertile training ground around social justice advocacy for more than 1,200 mid-level professionals between the ages of 30 and 50.

Leadership 500 workshop topics also explore issues of economic parity and wealth creation; health and wellness as a business imperative and early childhood education.

Contact: Paula Edme, 212-344-7474 x101

July 2, 2009
 Thurgood Marshall Day
 Baltimore, MD
 Baltimore City Branch NAACP hosts a bus tour throughout the state that highlights Marshall's life, career and important role in the civil rights movement as an NAACP attorney.
 Contact: Baltimore City Branch NAACP, 410-366-3300

July 11-16, 2009
 NAACP 100th Annual Convention
 New York, NY

Additional festivities planned for the NAACP centennial year include:

Televised specials highlighting the most influential films, music and people from 1909-2009.

Release of a commemorative music CD of 'freedom songs' performed by noted recording artists of today.

Release of *NAACP: Celebrating a Century, 100 Years in Pictures*, a photo book of images and notes from the NAACP's own files and records.

Details about these and other projects can be found on www.naacp.org. For more information, contact NAACP Communications Department, 202-463-2940 or email communications@naacpnet.org.

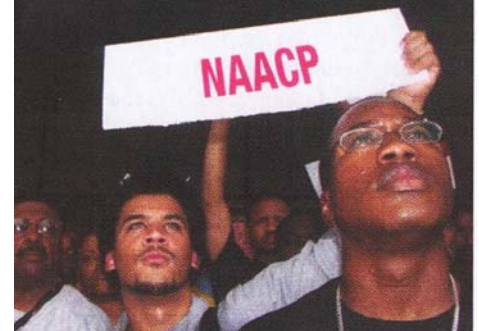
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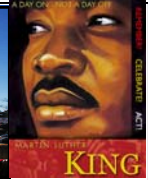
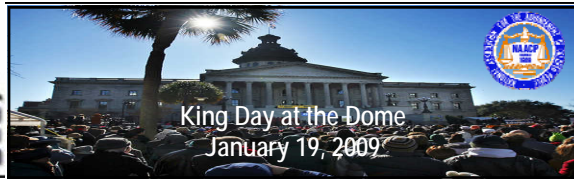


**Goose Creek, SC
Branch # 56A3**

Upcoming Events

- Jan 5th Goose Creek Branch Meeting
- Jan 15th The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
- Jan 19th King Day at the Dome
- Feb 12th NAACP 100th Anniversary
- Feb 12th **The 40TH NAACP IMAGE AWARDS** - will broadcast Thursday, Feb. 12 (8:00-10:00 PM on FOX. The star-studded broadcast coincides with the NAACP's 100th anniversary

NAACP CREEK CONNECTION



Dr. King's dream of social and economic justice and his call for peace are even more relevant today.

Please contact the King Day at the Dome Coordinator, David Cakley at 843-276-6294 and sign up for transportation to King Day at the Dome or if you have any questions. ■



FIVE REASONS TO JOIN THE NAACP

1. The fight for freedom is not free! Your membership will help fund initiatives and programs to support our mission of racial equality and equal justice
2. A membership in the NAACP is your opportunity to give back to the organization that has done more to change this country for the betterment of people of color, women, and the disenfranchised than any other in the nation's history
3. Your membership in the NAACP makes you a part of a force of 300,000 people who stand for the freedoms guaranteed in our nation's constitution
4. Your membership in the NAACP makes a direct and positive impact in your community when you join your local Unit
5. Your membership in the NAACP will give you access to our upcoming benefits program that provides discounts on products and services across the country

THE NAACP IS TODAY



Impact the issues affecting your community by joining the NAACP today!
Call 830-9779 or download application online from: www.naacpgoosecreek.org

1st VP Cakley on the Radio



Branch 1st VP Elect David Cakley (L) and John Matthews were on the David Mack Radio Show December 10th with on air radio personalities, Claudia Collins (C) and L.T. Price (R) to inform the community about King Day at the Dome and encouraged people to join the NAACP.

Message from NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous...

When I hold my 2-year-old daughter in my arms, I still can't get over the fact that the first president she'll remember will be an African American.

But while my family and I are celebrating the election of Barack Obama, I know the battles for civil rights are still many.

That's why I'm asking you [to make a special gift this season to the NAACP](#) to ensure that while we celebrate, we also have the resources to continue to transform America.

As you know, racial and gender-based discrimination continue to warp our housing, employment, and credit markets. Nearly 50 million Americans are without health insurance. Foreclosures spiral upward. Racial profiling persists. No Child Left Behind has abandoned hundreds of thousands of children in schools where they're not learning.

[Your tax-deductible gift](#) will ensure that the NAACP is powerful enough to fight and win today's struggles for equal rights for all Americans. And your gift today will honor the memory of freedom fighters like Dr. Martin Luther King, Ida B. Wells, Medgar Evers, and Rosa Parks.

Thank you for your support. And the very best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Ben Jealous, President and CEO

Go online to www.naacp.org and click on "Donate to NAACP" or call 888-NAACP-98 to make a tax deductible year end donation to the NAACP

