

The Northside News

A printlink for neighborhoods of change



"WHAT HAS SUSTAINED THIS COMMUNITY HAS NOT BEEN BRICK AND MORTAR"
- REV. TROY F HARRISON

It is with sorrow that we share that Reverend Troy F. Harrison, a great visionary, pastor, friend, father, and co-founder of the Jackson Center passed away on Tuesday, May 2. In honor of this prophetic leader, we are sharing sermons, excerpts, and interviews from his leadership here in Chapel Hill – all of which can be found on our website at www.jacksoncenter.info/reverend-troy-harrison/

In addition to selections from his obituary, testimonials from neighbors and community members that chronicle his spirited impact can be found to the right.*

We ask that you please keep his family, friends, and congregation at Israel Metropolitan CME in Greenville, SC in your thoughts.

** - a full transcript of his obituary text can also be found on our website*

IN LOVING MEMORY
AND HONOR OF

Reverend Troy F Harrison

A CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS -- MAKING AN IMPACT IN NORTHSIDE

In 2001, Reverend Troy F Harrison was appointed to serve at St. Joseph's CME in Chapel Hill, NC, where he was instrumental in the establishment of the St. Joseph Food Ministry, which is now known as Heavenly Groceries. He was also a renowned community leader whose abiding vision of "a church without walls" drove the establishment of a center dedicated to the vitality of historically Black neighborhoods in Chapel Hill, NC, known as the Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History. On April 29, 2017, his commitment to the beloved community was honored with an inscription in a historic Neighborhood Gateway. The community is now marked with his immemorial words: **"WHAT HAS SUSTAINED THIS COMMUNITY HAS NOT BEEN BRICK AND MORTAR,"** but it has been faith that has sustained this community.

A LIFE FULL OF JOY AND SERVICE

Wise beyond his years, yet always willing to learn, Rev. Harrison was an avid reader and enjoyed theologians such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, H. Richard Niebuhr and Reinhold Niebuhr. He also enjoyed singing, preaching and traveling. He loved to laugh, tell jokes, and to see others smile. In heart, spirit, and action, Rev. Harrison was a Good Shepherd. No matter where he journeyed, no matter where the Lord appointed him to go, he always insisted **"I AM HERE TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED."** He truly had a heart for people, and in all that he did for others, he remained humble, seeking nothing in return.

A HOLDER OF LOVE

Reverend Harrison was a wonderful young man. One who loved life and people. I always say that Love is what Love does. That was Pastor Harrison. He also reminded me of the three CCCs -- Chances, Choices, and Change. He took chances, he made the right choices in Jesus name, and he made a change in every one's life that he touched. Reverend Harrison would always say: *"Do Good, Do no Harm, and Stay in Love with God."* Bless you Reverend Harrison and much love.

-- Dennis and Roxie Farrington

A PROPHETIC LEADER

Pastor Harrison was the first pastor to help me understand the true meaning of living a Christian life. He helped me to know how to live in this world but not be a part of this world. He also helped me understand how to meet people where they are, accept them for who they are, and love them because they are loved by God. His teachings will forever live on in my life and my heart.

-- Cecilia Massey-Fike

AN INSPIRING PASTOR AND TEACHER

I know I'm gonna miss Reverend Harrison. To me he was a wonderful pastor. I love him so much and sure enjoyed being one of his members. He was one of the best and the family has my sympathies and prayers.

-- Lillian Alston

A LIFE THAT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

We will miss a preacher among preachers, a pastor among pastors, and a friend among friends. One by the name the Reverend Troy Harrison. Though he may be absent from us, we will always cherish him in our memories. To pursue the goals of equality and fairness for which he fought.

-- Reverend Mark Royster

A MAN FULL OF HEART

Reverend Harrison was a heartfelt pastor and always did what he did from his heart. He constantly provided encouragement and philosophy and encouraged me to explore theological ideas. We had a true friendship -- he called me his big brother

-- Reverend Albert Williams

INTEGRATION PIONEERS TO BE HONORED WITH STATE HISTORICAL MARKER

[Chapel Hill] The first African Americans to serve in the modern Navy at general rating will be honored with the dedication of a permanent historical marker on the 75th anniversary of their enlisting.

To be installed at 10 a.m. on May 27 at the intersection of West Franklin and South Roberson streets in Chapel Hill, the marker commemorates U.S. Navy Band B-1, which was attached to the Navy's PreFlight School on the UNC campus from July 1942 - April 1944.

Attending the installation ceremony will be two of the original members of B-1, Simeon Holloway of Las Vegas and Calvin Morrow of Greensboro, as well as many of the veterans' family members. Only four of the original 44 members of the band are still living.

After the installation, a reception in B-1's honor will be held at the Hargraves Center at 216 N. Roberson Street. The marker dedication program and reception are both free and open to the public.

U.S. Navy B-1 was comprised primarily of young men who were enrolled at North Carolina A and T and Dudley High School in Greensboro. Enlistees also came from North Carolina Central, Hampton Institute, South Carolina State, Johnson C. Smith, and Hillside High School in Durham.

on May 27, 1942 at the Raleigh recruiting station. After training at Norfolk, they were transferred to Chapel Hill. Because of North Carolina's segregationist laws, the bandsmen could not live or be fed on campus. They were housed in a newly constructed community building on Roberson Street that is now the Hargraves Recreation Center.

Their service included daily marches from Hargraves to the UNC campus, where B-1 played for the raising of colors for the white cadets every morning. These marches were big events for Chapel Hill's black community. Rebecca Clark, longtime Chapel Hill resident and Civil Rights advocate, vividly recalled for B-1's official history how wonderful it felt to see "all those handsome young men in their uniforms" marching to work: "The kids were out at every corner watching them parade. They were the best thing that could have happened to our community."

Rebecca Clark's son, John Clark, said, "Doug and I and all the kids in the neighborhood would run out to Roberson Street when we heard the band coming, and we followed them as far as we could."

The band's marching route would have taken them by the spot where the state's historical marker will be installed, exactly 75 years since their enlistment at Raleigh.

often played music for occasions that they would not have been allowed to attend because of their race. In 2007, UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser apologized to them for how they were treated by the university during World War II, and at Kenan Stadium the bandsmen were made honorary members of the Marching Tar Heels.

Prior to B-1's service, blacks were limited to work in the Navy as cooks and porters. B-1 was also the first Navy band to serve without having trained at the Navy's School of Music, which did not admit blacks. B-1 bandsmen were the first African Americans to work on the UNC campus in jobs that did not involve cooking, cleaning and laundry work.

North Carolina's historical marker program is administered by the state's Department of Cultural Resources and the Department of Transportation. Since 1935, the program has erected over 1,500 state highway historical markers.

The B-1 marker is the fourth to be installed in Chapel Hill, where markers also commemorate the founding of the University of North Carolina, the training of U.S. astronauts, and the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation. A Carrboro marker commemorating Elizabeth Cotten is about 5 blocks from where the B-1 marker will be installed.

B-1 bandsmen were formally inducted into the Navy

During their service at Chapel Hill, B-1 bandsmen

Visit us at www.jacksoncenter.info or 512 W. Rosemary Street or call us at (919) 960-1670!

THE NORTHSIDE FESTIVAL: A RITUAL OF RENEWAL

Floral balloon clusters as ornaments for trees and light fixtures; various decorative accents and garlands in tones of purple, gold, and white; a stage framed by a majestically hand-crafted, balloon archway -- these fixtures marked off the territory for this year's Northside Festival.

Taking place on Saturday, April 29th, the Festival began with a **dove release**¹ in honor of our namesake Mrs. Marian Cheek Jackson, who passed away in March. Following the release was the much anticipated **unveiling and dedication of the Freedom Fighters Gateway**². Standing in awe of the granite slabs, there were many moments where I was completely swept away by someone reliving the events of a particular photo -- whether it was a Northside activist pointing themselves out in a featured picture, like **Hilliard Caldwell**³, or a neighbor candidly sharing how

they were involved in the civil rights efforts that spurred throughout Chapel Hill, I was humbly reminded of and inspired by the initial roots of our history.

Singing and **dancing**⁴ served as inherent parts of the day; while the **CEF Advocacy Choir**⁵ brought lively passion to the Festival at large, the soulful melody of headliner **Prince Taylor**⁶ was unmatched.

Honing in on the spirit of intergenerational connectivity, folks of all ages participated in the classic sack racing, face painting, water balloon throwing, and chalking that happened simultaneously throughout the event. To end was the **wrapping of the Maypole**⁷, a tradition that was a key part to the Orange County Training School's annual May Day Festival.



ASK KEITH

Ms. Keith Edwards is a lifetime resident of McDade St. and a lifelong advocate for the community. Keith is widely known as a fighter for justice and receives calls from neighbors asking her about programs and referrals for help with household and community issues. To submit questions for "Ask Keith," call us at (919) 960-1670 or email at contact@jacksoncenter.info

I attended the Northside (May Day) Festival and noticed the wonderful plaques with pictures of the Civil Rights Movement. What is the significance of the gateway leading into the Northside Neighborhood?



The Northside Neighborhood was the biggest African American neighborhood in the town of Chapel Hill. This neighborhood was the center of many African American businesses, schools, community centers, and churches. This racially mixed area was and still is home to many UNC students and professionals. Northside is also the birthplace of the Chapel Hill Civil Rights Movement. Through several conversations with many people seeking a way to recognize the Northside area, the idea of a gateway to this area is something to remind people of the significance of this area. The Freedom Fighters pictures were chosen not as a memorial but was a reminder how the Northside neighborhood and others came together as one standing tall to combat many issues.

IN MEMORIAM

Regina Faye Alston of 227 N. Graham St
April 14, 1963 - March 19, 2017



Regina Alston affectionately called Bunny was a mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and cousin to many. She was a member of First Baptist Church where she served on the missionary board until her health prevented her from serving. Bunny was so energetic and fun loving to all. One of her favorite things was to gather people around, especially

for cookouts. She loved cooking large pans of spaghetti, which made everyone stop what they were doing and run to get in line before she could put the pan down. Something so simple as seeing people enjoy themselves brought great joy to her. We must all remember: *One ship sails in, one ship sails out. God needs angels to help him out.*

The Northside community will miss you.

COMMUNITY BOARD

5/3 Janie Alston
5/14 Willie Mae Patterson
5/17 Garland Foushee
5/19 Richelle Watson
5/24 Josh Davis
5/30 Donny "Hollywood" Riggsbee

 *may birthdays*

VETERAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EmPOWERment, Inc. now offers the following free housing counseling services to veterans with DD214:

- Pre-purchase Counseling
- Loan Modification
- Reverse Mortgage
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Other Housing-related Assistance

For more information, contact Sharron Reid, Project Manager at (919) 914-1177 or sharron.spruill@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save Money, Save Water Pickup from the Jackson Center

OWASA has provided us with a supply of free shower heads for anyone to pickup! Stop by the Jackson Center to receive a free shower head and cut back on your water bill today.

It Takes a Whole Village to Raise a Child Sunday, May 28th | 10:45 - 12:00 pm at Durham Baha'i Center (5103 Revere Rd, Durham, NC)

Please join parents and other villagers for fellowship to talk about ways we can create a brighter future for ALL of our children in Chapel Hill; during this session, we will also hear a youth speak about examples that can inspire our lives.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro's Juneteenth Freedom Celebration 2017 - Finally: A Reparative Strategy that Works!

Saturday, June 17th | 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Lincoln Gym (750 S Merritt Mill Rd - on-site parking available)
Hear from your elected Congressman and other elected officials: Ellie Kinnaird, Howard Lee, and Valerie Foushee. Music by: local piano extraordinaire Jimmy Smith and soloist Prince Taylor. Free food and door prizes!

Further information on our beloved community members **Estelle Mabry**, **Lucy W. Fearrington**, and **Alvino Deshon Jones** will be in our next issue. We ask that you please keep their families and friends in your thoughts. Additionally, if we have missed any of your loved ones in this issue, please call us at (919) 960-1670 so we can make sure to honor them in June's issue.

ARCHIVE TRIVIA

Who was the proud librarian for the original Northside School that taught everyone the Dewey Decimal System?

Think you know the answer to this month's archive trivia? Call the Jackson Center anytime after 9am to win a prize!