

The Northside News

A printlink for neighborhoods of change

THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH

Historically, the Black church served as a critical fixture during the Civil Rights Movement. Seen as a familiar and safe landmark for creating individual and systemic change within the Black community, the church was one that meshed worship and praise with critical organizing for social change. As seen in the historic photograph taken by Jim Wallace (right), demonstrators primarily gathered in front of the church prior to a march or protest. Amidst the advent of Jim Crow and racial violence, the Black church was one pillar of community that helped sustain, empower, and uplift our people. Because of this significant haven, this edition of your Northside News centers the church pillar of community. It explores themes of faith and love, fears associated with your calling, and historical roots of Black resilience.



To start, we are highlighting the African American churches in the community. While there are several embedded in Northside/Pine Knolls, we did initial interviews with four due to the limited amount of space for this writing. The remainder will be listed at the end of the article along with their contact information. *Full interviews with each individual pastor can be found on our blog: <http://jacksoncenter.tumblr.com/> in the next few weeks.*



Finding Joy in any Situation Rev. Rodney Coleman First Baptist Church (FBC)

Pastor Rodney Coleman has experienced a lot in his 18 years within the ministry. In this short excerpt, he recalls a hilarious memory from one of his services. At a previous church, Reverend Coleman was in the midst of a sermon and he said, “it was first Sunday, I had on this white robe, long gleaming white robe, and one of my members had switched her medication—” Reverend Coleman “in [his] charisma, and in [his] fiery presentation, [he] decided that [he] was going to

stand on this front pew.” This member of Reverend Coleman’s congregation was an older woman sitting in the second row and she was “still kind of asleep, you know because the medication has really got her out of it.” He continued the story by saying, “I approached that first pew, and I stand up on that front bench, and about that time, she wakes up, and she sees this big, long, white robe. She thought she had gone to Glory! The look on her eyes, and it was a really slow progression from the bottom of my robes until she realized that was me, and she looks up and her eyes are like this, and then she gets to the top and realizes its me, and by this time, I’m done with my sermon and I’m about to fall back laughing.” Reverend Coleman thinks that was probably the funniest thing that has ever happened while he was in ministry “because the look on her face was priceless. First Sunday, white robe, she’s going to sleep, wakes up and you see this big white robe in front of you, and you’re like—she’s like ‘I’m going to Glory! No, that’s just the pastor, wow.’”

Coleman sees FBC’s role in this community historically as one of the pillars in the Civil Rights Movement. He wants to continue this legacy and to be more active in local and international missions.

106 North Roberson St. (919) 942-2552 www.ourfbc.org



Accepting His Calling Rev. Ernest McCowan Second Baptist Church

There’s Nothing to Fear with God on Your Side. This was the title of Reverend Ernest McCowan’s first sermon as a pastor and represents a critical theme within his journey to the ministry. As you read a glimpse of his story, consider: How long does it take us to recognize our own calling? Why might we run?

“You know, the calling was on my life for several years and I tried to run from it. I was in my early 30s and I’ll never forget it...It was a little scary, but not the type

of scared, let’s say if a bear jumped out. It was the type where I did not want to do anything wrong. I didn’t want to disappoint. I didn’t want to do anything to let God down.” Although content with his role as Deacon, Rev. McCowan eventually began to feel his disposition change within the church. By “running [from] what God had called [him] to do,” he began to feel less happy in service. This shift was his sign to talk to his own Pastor: Rev. McCowan shares, “I went to his home and I said, “*God has called me to the ministry and I know it.*” And he looked at me and he said, “*I was wondering how long it was going to take you.*” When he told me that he had seen it and knew it for years, that was relief to me, because I knew then that I don’t have to try to prove myself to anyone. My Pastor sees the calling that’s on my life, and he told me, “*I need you back at my house at six or seven o’clock that same evening.*” When he returned, he was pleasantly surprised to see “preachers from all over town lined up in the living room...to lay hands on [him].”

McCowan sees Second Baptist’s role in the community as an outreach to recovery houses, like Oxford Homes, nursing homes, and mid-week bible study for seniors. He hopes to accomplish this when he retires from his job in education.

114 S Graham St. (919) 942-2953



Embodying God’s Love Rev. John Cradle Sr. St. Joseph CME Church

The scripture says, God’s greatest gift is **LOVE** and Pastor John A. Cradle Sr. believes that with his whole heart, with everything that is within him. Pastor Cradle says, “Love: it’s an action word and God showed that love by giving of Himself. God looked beyond my faults and wanted to rescue me through Jesus—that’s love! Love truly covers it all, and people do not get the true concept of it. Love means to die to thyself. With love comes a level of peace, serenity, and harmony. It

invokes the spirit of oneness.” The challenge for Pastor Cradle is that he sees such great and beautiful people who are still caught-up in the concept of I, refusing to die to themselves. He says, “when you understand God’s love for us and what God gave up for us—that He would leave a heavenly realm to come down here to die for you and me and the only thing He asked of us is to love one another as I have loved you—this was a sacrificial love that showed through action. I want people to understand that level of love, how beautiful and sacred such a love is. It is so rewarding when you see people who have received this thing called love!”

Cradle sees St. Joseph’s role in this community as a place of refuge, a church of love, and a beacon for anyone seeking Jesus. It is one that welcomes people into the sheepfold.

510 W. Rosemary St. (919) 929-1116 saintjosephcme.com



Connecting with Compassion Rev. Michael Cousin Sr. St. Paul AME Church

Pastoring in several states like, Boston, MA, Fort Lauderdale, FL, and Detroit, MI, Pastor Michael Cousin Sr. has displayed an empathetic and relatable adaptability that draws him closer to people of various backgrounds. He shares how it is easy for people of God to become tainted and corrupt in this world; although easy to become desensitized, we—as people of God who are in relationship with Him—should also be in relationship with one another. Pastor

Cousin says, “It’s ok to be friendly and talk to people. How you present yourself matters. Having a spirit of compassion and giving is very important.” Taking the time to talk and interact with people who may not attend church could develop into wonderful relationships. By meeting people where they are, whether that be inside the sanctuary or outside the church walls, Pastor Cousin has built wonderful relationships with all by being non-judgmental and not afraid to interact with people who may never come to church. During his time in the ministry, he has met and kept in touch with many people who are not. He has been instrumental in their lives and says, “It’s great to see them turn their lives around! People should be able to tell you are a preacher not by your collar but by how you conduct yourself.”

Cousin sees St. Paul’s role in this community as continuing to develop and cultivate the relationship with the community.

101 N. Merritt Mill Rd. (919) 967-3961 stpaulamechapelhill.org

Rev. Sara Kelly
O’Bryant’s Chapel AME Zion
509 Chapel St., Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 929-2786
obryantchapelamezion.weebly.com

Rev. Dardanella McMillan
New Vision Church of God of Prophecy
605 Church St., Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 522-6607 or (919) 698-1213
dmyodah@aol.com

Bishop Bryant D. Tolbert
Church of God
102 Boyd St., Carrboro, NC 27510

CALLING & COMMUNITY: THE STRENGTH OF NORTHSIDE FAITH

Faith has always been a central pillar of the Northside community, and a recurring theme in the records of the Oral History Trust. In the spirit of recognizing this central part of the Northside community, here are a number of excerpts from the Oral History Trust that discuss the power of God’s calling, the resilience of faith, and the power of the church to help families.

The Pastor’s Calling

“Everyone could see it. My first wife could see it. She said, “The Lord has called you to preach,” and we had one of the biggest fusses. My God, I got on her case [laughs]. I didn’t want to be anything but just involved in the Sunday School, that’s all. But, it turned out that I acknowledged my calling on a fire call...The person that called in thought they saw fire, but it turned that there was no fire. When we investigated, we got a fifty foot hydraulic ladder and they hoisted me up. I guess we got about forty feet in the air and he was swinging me around—it was thundering and lightning and all of a sudden the lighting said ‘Kapiyaow! Boom!’ It shook me up I said ‘Yes Lord, Yes Lord.’ Never been the same [laughs].”

— Rev. Albert Williams

The Role of the Black Church

“The church was where people gathered and discussed strategies about the integration of the schools and it’s just always been the gathering place, you know...Religion has always been really important for African Americans, from slavery to all the way up. Because when you’re in a situation where things are hopeless, the only person that you can have hope for would be God, you know, for something better. So for them as slaves, I don’t know how they could’ve survived it had it not been for religion... That was what kept them going.”

— Linda Carver

God-Given Resilience

“My mom was superintendent of Sunday school, First Baptist; director of the children’s choir; she loved music and played by ear; president of the PTA for about six or seven years—we had finished high school and they would not let her leave. She was something. She walked everywhere she went, she had those three jobs and —.

Interviewer: She had to take care of y’all.

Yes—she made our clothes, she had a garden, she cared. And every August was her vacation from it. She worked us to death, I mean we had to clean, and it was a big house and we stayed in it. It had the real high rooms, you know with the real high ceilings...we had to hate every August. So there was Charlie and my room, there was the kitchen and the bathroom, and there was the room that Harold and mother slept in, and there was a hallway there—we had to paint six rooms every August.

Interviewer: So, who, who’d take care of her, or just...just amazing resilience...God.

I didn’t know what she meant at the time, but she’d always say, I know there is a God because if it was left up to man, I would have been dead a long time ago.”

— Esphur Foster

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

While I was passing by Carrboro High School on Wednesday, March 14th, I noticed there were students participating in the 17 minute walkout in honor of the 17 students who lost their lives in Parkland, FL. I was so proud of these students and wish I had stopped to participate. It makes me question and concerned about the safety of our children in our school system.

Thank you for your questions and our heart goes out to the young kids in Parkland, FL and anyone who has died at the hand of gun violence. It just so happens some members of the Jackson Center were at Carrboro High School during the 17 minute walkout and they can speak of their experience being involved in this event.

It was a pleasure witnessing the power and passion of students. While many viewed the walkout as an opportunity to solely remember the lives lost, quite a few students viewed this opportunity as one to march for civil rights and fight for critical and social change within our world. Seeing the acts of our future generation is hopeful.

The Jackson Center honors all students who participated in the 17 minute memorial walkout in honor of the 17 students who lost their lives in Parkland, FL and those who were not able to attend. Chapel Hill and Carrboro has a history of students taking the lead. In the 1960’s for example, students from the all black Lincoln High School on Merritt Mill Rd, now Lincoln Center, took the lead during the Civil Rights Movement. They did a walkout marching from their school to E. Franklin St where they gathered. This was a significant achievement by young school aged children using their voices in the Chapel Hill movement. From that moment on, students of all ages (elementary to college) took the lead in making change in our community and across the nation.

ARCHIVE TRIVIA

What is the traditional May Pole dance?

Last month’s answer: The six rooms in the Rathskellar were: the Cave, the Train Room, the Circus Room, the Main Room, the Lautrec Room, and the Rat Trap Lounge.

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

COMMUNITY BOARD

3/12 Maggie West Vaughan	3/18 Stella Farrar	3/28 Dustin Rawlings	4/22 Nikki Harmony
3/14 Billy Hemmingway	3/23 Delores Bynum	4/6 Matthew Farrington	Seth Kotch
3/17 Claudia McLain	Anita Wilson	4/12 Barbara Davis	4/23 Calvin Neville
3/18 Nate Davis	3/24 Regina Merritt	4/17 William Page	4/38 Michael Palmer

march and april birthdays

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 Community Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 24th | 10:00-1:00 pm
Southern Community Park
1000 Sumac Rd, Chapel Hill

Games, crafts, bounce houses, food trucks, and the holiday bunny! Come on out for the Town of Chapel Hill’s annual Easter Egg Hunt. Don’t forget your egg basket! Rain date is set for Sunday, March 25th.

Community Outreach Meeting
Tuesday, April 10th | 6:30-7:30 pm
Hargraves Community Center

Hosted every other month, Empowerment Inc.’s community outreach meetings are open forums for neighborhood residents to get information about upcoming events throughout the community and present issues or concerns. Please join us for a special event in partnership with Duke Energy this April.

UNC Science Expo -- FREE for all ages
Saturday, April 14th | 11:00-4:00 pm
UNC’s Campus along Cameron Avenue

Experience science demonstrations, hands-on activities, behind-the-scenes tours of research labs, exhibits, stage presentations and science-related arts and crafts at the UNC Science Expo! Learn about 3-D printing, Google Glass, giant waves, virtual reality, robotics, DNA, fossils and much more!
<http://www.ncsciencefestival.org/>

HISTORIC CIVIL RIGHTS
COMMEMORATIONS

Tell Your History

Molly Luby of our Library staff and Flo Miller, Deputy Manager, are working with the Historic Civil Rights Commemorations task force of community members, scholars, and history makers to create a timeline/outline of the Civil Rights Era in Chapel Hill. The group is now turning to a public engagement phase, asking for stories and dates, recollections, and memories of this important era of our shared history.

We want to hear from people who lived in Chapel Hill during the 1960s. From participants in the Civil Rights Movement. From historians. From invested community members. We want to hear from you.

You can share your experiences through various ways:

Online: Fill out our online form. You can fill it out as many times as you’d like.
[Visit chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights](http://visit.chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights)

By Phone: Share your thoughts on important PEOPLE, PLACES, and EVENTS of Chapel Hill’s Civil Rights Movement.
Record a voicemail message at (919) 642-3629

In Person: We can record your memories and experiences in person
Contact Molly at mluby@townofchapelhill.org or (919) 969-2028



Save The Date
Northside Festival 2018
April 28, 2018 | 12-3:30

Northside: Say it Loud
Say it Proud

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 12-3:30pm
W. Rosemary St. between Roberson & Graham

- Free Food • Field Games • Face Painting •
- Traditional May Pole Dancing •
- Family Fun for all! •

Featuring
Northside
Joy from:

Mr. Prince Taylor, of “Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts” fame
Harvey Dalton Arnold and our own Bubba Norwood, formerly with Ike & Tina Turner and the Monkees

CEF Advocacy Choir

The Orange County Jammers and more...

CEF Spring Graduation at 1:00pm