



February 8, 2022

A Celebration of Black History Month

As I leave the month of January and enter the month of February, my mind weighs heavily on the work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. While Dr. King was not perfect, as none of us are, the platform for his work in the community holds some striking similarities to the platforms upon which we stand as the Charleston Area Justice Ministry.

In a day and age in which patriotism seems to be an aspirational goal in the lives of the American public, I can think of no greater patriot than Dr. King. A patriot is defined as a person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors, and if this is the case, Dr. King was indeed a patriot. In his famous “I Have A Dream Speech,”...

Dr. King suggested that

When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men — yes, Black men as well as white men — would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds.

Over and over again, Dr. King prophetically called America to live up to the words of the constitution, which call for justice and liberty for all men and women. By fighting to align

America with the highest commitments of its constitution Dr. King was defending America's purity, dignity, and historical identity.

Dr. King was also motivated by the pain of the poor and disenfranchised. In his Nobel Lectures in 1964 Dr. King stated,

“The time has come for an all-out world war against poverty. The rich nations must use their vast resources of wealth to develop the underdeveloped, school the unschooled, and feed the unfed. Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation.”

Dr. King was so bothered by the plight of the poor that he called them to

“Come in mule carts, in old trucks, any kind of transportation people can get their hands on. People ought to come to Washington, sit down if necessary in the middle of the street and say, 'We are here; we are poor; we don't have any money; you have made us this way ... and we've come to stay until you do something about it.'

Faith was also a driving force for Dr. King's work. In a sermon titled “The Transformed Nonconformist”, Dr. King said

“We need to recapture the Gospel glow of the early Christians, who were nonconformists in the truest sense of the word and refused to shape their witness according to the mundane patterns of the world. Willingly they sacrificed fame, fortune, and life itself on behalf of the cause they knew to be right.”

Within the speeches, writings, and actions of Dr. King, it was evident that his commitment to patriotism, his compassion for others, and his faith in God were driving forces behind his fight for justice.

As the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, we too work out of a sense of patriotism regarding our local government, deep compassion for those who are hurting, and our own personal faith traditions.

We do not hold elected officials accountable at the Nehemiah Actions because we want to shame them or destroy the political system. We simply want Charleston County to be a just, fair, and livable place for all people. We do not call for improvements to access healthcare for the richest in our community. We do it for all who struggle, rich or poor. We do not pursue justice in policing because we want to shame police officers. We pursue justice out of obedience to our faith traditions, in full awareness that one day we will all have to give an account for what we have done with our time on earth.

That's why we gather, that's why we build, that's why we train leaders in our different covenanted congregations and organizations across the Charleston Area. It is also why we have been successful, over these past 10 years we have made great strides toward creating a city that is more like God's. -Rev Brian Henderson, St. James Presbyterian

CAJM's News

The last year CAJM has set the tone across our larger network so much so that we received the 2022 DART pacesetter award



for our hard work and diligence in turning out over 2400 folks to our 2021 Nehemiah Action! We also took home the Nehemiah Cup for the largest action turnout! 13 members of CAJM's Clergy joined our sister organizations in upcoming Greenville and Columbia, giving South Carolina 1/4 of the overall turnout all across the DART community as we celebrated these victories at the 2022 Clergy Conference in Orlando Florida.



Pictured above-CAJM representatives and our newest sister organization, The Greenville Interfaith Justice Network!

Have you registered for your congregation's Network Meeting?

If you haven't registered for your congregation's Network Meeting, please do so ASAP! Each congregation is assigned to a different date, so please look for your congregation's name next to each of the options below. If your congregation has already had its network meeting please contact your team leader.

- **February 10 Network Meeting - 6:30pm - In person at Parkside Church (45 Moultrie Street) - [Click here to register](#)**
 - Congregations: Morris Brown, Nichols Chapel, Parkside, Calvary Baptist, Two Rivers, Holy Communion, Hebron Zion
 - **February 24 Network Meeting- 7:00 PM -Via zoom - [Click Here to Register](#)**
 - Congregations: Charity and any other individuals who missed their network meeting times!
-
-

Show up to support upcoming research visits!

Mr. Chris Tate, Porter-Gaud Middle School Dean (Education)

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Pre- Meeting at 12:00 PM

Meeting at 1:00 PM

[Register Here](#)

Mr. Darrell Davis of Charleston County (Housing)

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Pre-Meeting at 1:30 PM

Meeting at 2:30 PM

[Register Here](#)

Education Full Committee Meeting

February 17, 2022, at 7:00 PM

[Register Here](#)

Mr. Donald Kennedy, Acting Supt CCSD (Education)

February 22, 2022

Pre Meeting at 2:00 PM

Meeting at 3:00 PM

[Register Here](#)

Captain Cretella of CPD on Racial Bias Audit (Policing)

February 24, 2022

Pre Meeting at 10:30 AM (In Person)

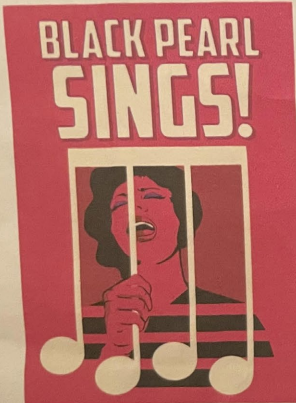
Meeting at 11:30 AM (In Person)

[Register Here](#)



Want to have some fun outside of CAJM meetings? The Gaillard Center and the Dock Street Theater are offering discounted tickets to CAJM members for upcoming performances!

For \$20 tickets to Black Pearl Sings, go to www.charlestonstage.com and use the promo code "BlackPearlSingsCAJM" or call 843-577-7183 and reference the code.



BLACK PEARL SINGS!

CAJM Discount Tickets to "Black Pearl Sings" at the Historic Dock Street Theatre

March 11th - March 27th
DIRECTED BY: Henry Clay Middleton

Get \$20 tickets (regularly \$36-\$70) to Charleston Stage's production of *Black Pearl Sings* at the Historic Dock Street Theatre. To purchase tickets, go to CharlestonStage.com and use the promo code "BlackPearlSingsCAJM" or call 843-577-7183 (Tues-Fri, 1pm-5pm) and reference the discount code. Discount cannot be applied to prior purchases.

MASKS AND PROOF OF VACCINATION/NEGATIVE COVID TEST REQUIRED



BLACK VIOLIN
IMPOSSIBLE
IMPOSSIBLE
TOUR SPRING 2022

FEBRUARY 11 | 7:00PM

Buy your discounted tickets [here](#) and use the code Violin25 for a 25% discount!

Curious about where we are with getting funding for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund?

Please sign up [here](#) to let us know what upcoming County Council meetings you can attend and when you are willing to share your testimony (Treva is willing to help craft your story with just a quick phone call! You just have to be willing to speak!)

[Click here to read an update from our housing committee!](#)

Mark your calendars!

- **Network Meetings** - January & February - Ask your Team Leader when your congregation is having their Network Meeting and register ASAP
 - **Rally** - March 14 @ 7pm - Location TBD
 - **Nehemiah Action** - April 4 @ 7pm - Bring at least three people with you! - Location TBD
 - **Celebration & Investment-Drive Kick-Off** - May 16 @ 6:30pm - Location TBD
-

Have you made your 2022 investment in CAJM?

CAJM's 2022 investment drive goal is **\$215,000!** In honor of our tenth year, we are striving for 100% participation for investments! In other words, we're going ALL IN for year ten!

It's not too early to make a payment towards your 2022 CAJM investment! You can do so by clicking the link below. Reach out to your team leader or organizer with any questions about investing.

[CLICK HERE TO INVEST!](#)

African History Fact:

Black history is American history, but way before we were Black we were African. Africa is recorded as the second-largest continent, hosting 54 countries on its terrain. Africa is the birthplace of humanity and diversity. The continent of Africa has the longest and richest history found, boasting thousands of different languages, cultures, and people throughout the continent. Acheulean tools dated 1.76 million years ago linked African world travel. Africa is credited for several advancements in society, technology, medicine, and much more still used today.



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The Charleston Area Justice Ministry · PO BOX 71416 · North Charleston, South Carolina 29415 · USA