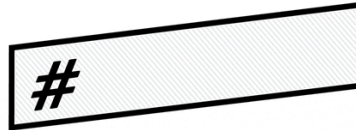


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We are always in preparation for something...

from the ant gathering pebbles for its home, to the bear preparing for hibernation, to the mother readying her house for a new baby...Many of us are preparing for the New Year, preparing ourselves for exciting new adventures. Some of us are working on things that we began in the past with renewed hopes of final completion. Whether its building a workout plan into your schedule or revamping your resume, most of us are getting prepared for the changes that the upcoming year will bring. In this work of Justice, we commit to be prepared and to prepare those we engage. But as the saying goes, **“if we stay ready, we don't have to get**

ready.”



Fall house meeting training in preparation for over 100 house meeting across Charleston County.

With the holidays approaching, it's easy to believe we have down time or that there is no work to be done. These problems we face in our community will be here long after the holiday cheer has dissipated. Our children will return to schools where suspensions are used at alarming rates. [North Charleston has the second highest payout rate in the State](#) for cases against the police department and they continue to resist conducting an audit for racial bias in their police department. CARTA has not increased frequency on routes which meet the needs of our most vulnerable community members lowering the quality of living. Housing affordability is still at a crisis level with North Charleston eviction rates recently highlighted in a [New York Times article](#).



CAJM Board of Director Meeting at
Charity Baptist Church.

**Our goal for the Nehemiah
Action this year is 2,000
CAJM members.**

With issues that are this important, we can't afford to fall short. We need the power of people to press our officials to get things done. Just like the ant and the bear, we need to store up enough people power in this season so that we can make serious impacts in this next season.

So as we brace our bodies for the chill of winter, prepare to feast at holiday meals, change our Facebook statuses for resolutions, let us also prepare to surface tension and conduct research, let us prepare our ears to truly hear one another crying out for relief, let us prepare our voices to call out inequities, let us prepare our hearts to remain steadfast and let us stay our minds on Justice for **“if we**

**stay ready, we don't
have to get ready.”**



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