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## Action Re-Cap: Pt. 2

We're still riding on our freedom high experienced at our April 15 Nehemiah Action. The power displayed by 1,150 people assembled to demand ethical governance from the school board was felt by our public officials, captured by news outlets, and made possible by your presence.

Last week's Manna recounted the school board demands. Let's also recap what happened in our other two campaigns: housing, policing, and environmental justice.

**Environmental Justice:** Gadsden Green residents Roland Flowers and Angela Washington shared Gadsden Creek's historical importance and cultural significance to their community. "Save the Creek, Save the Green, Save our Homes" is the rallying cry from the neighborhood for preserving one of Charleston's last tidal creeks. They shared data that counters the false narrative suggesting wildlife doesn't live in the waterway. Unfortunately, Mayor Cogswell did not attend the action. We reminded the crowd of the mayor's pre-election commitment to preserve the creek by playing a video of his interview with Mika Gadsden. **Next Steps** include scheduling a June walk along the creek with Mayor Cogswell.

**Policing:** Rev. Benton, Suzanne Hardie, and Chris Jennings shared updates on the progress that's been made to engage the Charleston Police Department in addressing racial disparities in law enforcement practices. Unfortunately, there's been no community engagement from CPD when it comes to sharing the racial bias audit data and its plan for reducing disparities. Chris shared a powerful testimony that emphasized the need to address racial bias in policing. She described how her son had been pulled over 15 times between 2014 and 2018 by police conducting pre-text stops. We are grateful for Chris' vulnerability and transparency.

**Next steps:** Based upon Mayor Cogswell's request, the committee is compiling data to create a plan to tackle racial disparities in Charleston - a plan that will be based on best practices performed in other cities.

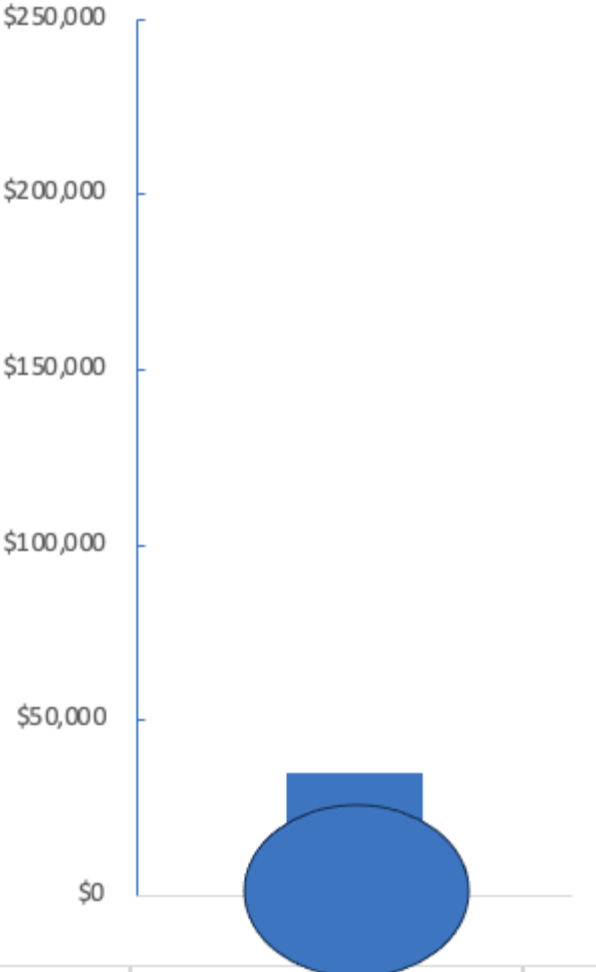
**Housing:** Housing Committee Members Betty Niermann and Rev. Charles Heyward celebrated CAJM's seven-year-long fight to push the Charleston County Council to establish an affordable housing trust fund. Councilmembers Kylon Middleton and Rob Wehrman attended the action to be recognized for the council's recent decision to dedicate \$4.15 million over the next six years toward affordable housing. Whoop, whoop! We also heard testimony from Valerie Harper Young with the Liberty Hill Improvement Council about how the funding has allowed them to initiate a plan to rehab 80 homes and create 60 businesses in the neighborhood.

**Restorative Practices:** Superintendent Anita Huggins restated her commitment to implementing restorative practices across the entire district.

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## Investment Update

### Total Congregational Investments



In 2024, we've raised \$40,067.79. in Congregational Investments. Thank you for your contributions.

[Click here to invest](#)

## Upcoming CAJM events and Research Visits

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[Register Here](#) for the Celebration!!!



**What:** Charleston County School Board Meeting

**When:** April 29, 5:15 p.m.

**Where:** 75 Calhoun St., Charleston

Want to make public comment? [Let us know here.](#)



**What:** Education Steering Committee Meeting

**When:** May 2, 6-7 p.m.

**Where:** Zoom



**What:** Environmental Justice Full Committee Meeting

**When:** May 2, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Where:** Zoom

## Community Events

**TRI-COUNTY**  
**PARTY**  
to the  
**POLLS**  
a community  
celebration of voting

Free  
Family  
Friendly  
Event

**Sat. May 11th** ✨ **2-5pm**  
**Commonhouse Aleworks**  
4831 O'Hear Ave. North Charleston 29405

**Mingle w. Tri-County Primary Candidates**  
**Nonpartisan Voting Resources**  
**Activities, Music, Food & More!**

More Info & RSVP:  
[betheones.org/events](https://betheones.org/events)

Hosted By: **be. the. ones.**

In Partnership With: Alliance for Full Acceptance (AFFA), Black Voters Matter, Charleston Area Justice Ministry, Charlestonians for Responsible Development, Gamma Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, NAACP Charleston Chapter, National Pan Hellenic Council: Charleston Chapter, SC Housing Justice Network (*partner list in formation*)

This is a nonpartisan event. Be The Ones & event partners do not support or endorse any political party or candidate.

## Announcements

By Betty Nierman:

I am a member of the Board for African Education Outreach (AEO). This year is the 10th anniversary of AEO which was founded by Father JohnBosco Ikemeh (recently appointed Administrator of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Charleston) to build a school for students in Abakaliki, Nigeria.

In celebration of the anniversary we are having a concert at Bishop England High School on May 4 to raise funds for the school. Please support.





**An Evening  
with  
Charlton  
Singleton**

to Benefit African  
Education Outreach

2 Time  
Grammy  
Winning  
Musician

 Live at Bishop England High School  
Performing Arts Center

 4 May, 2024 | Doors open at 6  
Concert begins at 7/ Bar open 6-7

Event Sponsored by  
Joseph Bartone



## Passover Reflection

The Jewish Passover began April 22. The celebration marks the Hebrews' liberation from Egyptian captivity. What's interesting is that the Hebrew word for Egypt is mitzrayim, which translates as "narrow places" in English.

While the holiday is a collective narrative embedded in Jewish historical memory, it's also relevant to non-Jews. No matter one's cultural background, we all can identify with feeling trapped and constrained, in need of a pathway through a "Red Sea," said Rabbi Stephanie Alexander with KKBE.

Passover is also a reminder of those who are oppressed globally. Because Jews have historically experienced slavery, they can also identify with those who are not free, Rabbi Alexander said.

Passover serves as a call to compassion and care.

**Want to get involved in CAJM? [Click here](#)**



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