

Emory

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The Ministers Conference has adopted a four pronged approach to its community activism, focusing on the areas of economic development, police relations, education and healthcare this year, explained Parrish, who led the April 8 meeting, one of several meetings featuring speakers connected to education this month, leaders explained.

Emory highlighted other developments that have taken place in the district since she last addressed the Conference in September 2013, including a diagnostic evaluation by the Broad Foundation, which supports the education of children in urban districts that WS/FCS voluntarily underwent. The recommendations made by the Foundation were underscored by the concerns that were raised by par-

ents, staff and community members during her 20-stop listening tour last summer, Emory said.

Like the community overall, the Broad Foundation supported the idea of choice schools but decried the resegregation that took place across the district because of it.

"I like to say they're unintended inequities ... but nonetheless, they're there," she said of the pockets of low income, predominantly minority student bodies that have resulted from the controversial plan, which has been in place since the mid 1990's.

While many have accused her predecessor, Dr. Don Martin, of implementing a plan they say was designed to re-segregate local schools, Emory stopped short of placing blame.

"I can't focus on blame," she said. "I've got to focus on, 'What does it look like to get better?'

because all of us can get on that train."

Emory also highlighted the expansion of the system's Academically Gifted Program - which by next school year will have increased its participation threefold and increased the percentage of African Americans involved from three to 33 percent - an overhaul of the Human Resources department that she hopes will bring greater accountability and better recruitment tools to the district, and the rollout of a districtwide technology standard she is proposing that will use county funds to supply technology to schools districtwide and bridge some of the resource gaps that currently exist within low wealth schools.

Bishop Todd Fulton, who serves as second vice president of the Conference, praised Emory for the work that she has done and the ini-

tiatives and causes she has championed thus far in her career at WS/FCS.

"Thank you for being a breath of fresh air in our community," declared Fulton, the pastor of Mt. Moriah Outreach Center in Kernersville. "...We're just glad to have you here."

Parrish said he was also encouraged by what he heard.

"I'm encouraged by her engagement and by her open spirit and by her willingness to consider new ways and new paths forward," the Peace Haven Baptist pastor said. "There's a lot of work to be done."

The Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem meets every Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1075 Shalimar Drive. For more information, visit <http://mcwsv.org> or call 336-788-7023.

MAKING IT OFFICIAL



NCCU Photo
Debra Saunders-White is surrounded by members of her family on Friday, April 4 as she takes the oath to formally become the new chancellor of North Carolina Central University. Several days of special events were held at the Durham-based school last week to celebrate the occasion. Saunders-White is the first woman to ever serve as NCCU's leader.

Poverty

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of action to eradicate its presence in the local community during a forum convened by members of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus.

"We've reached out to the people and organizations that can really make a difference in our community. We are counting on you," State Sen. Earline Parmon, vice chair of the NCLBC, told attendees at the April 4 event, which drew representatives from dozens of local agencies. "...I heard someone say it couldn't be done, but I'm here to tell you if we join forces together, it can be."

The event, which was held at the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University on the 46th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, was part of a tour Caucus leaders are embarking upon to establish coordinated efforts to eradicate poverty statewide.

"This is not a listening tour. This is about action, and action now," declared Rep. Garland Pierce, NCLBC chairman. "If ever there was a time that we need to be concerned about poverty, the time is now."

The forum featured a panel discussion with Mayor Allen Joines, Rev. Kelly Carpenter, Minister Alvin Carlisle, Margaret Elliott, John Gladman and Dr. Karen McNeil Miller.

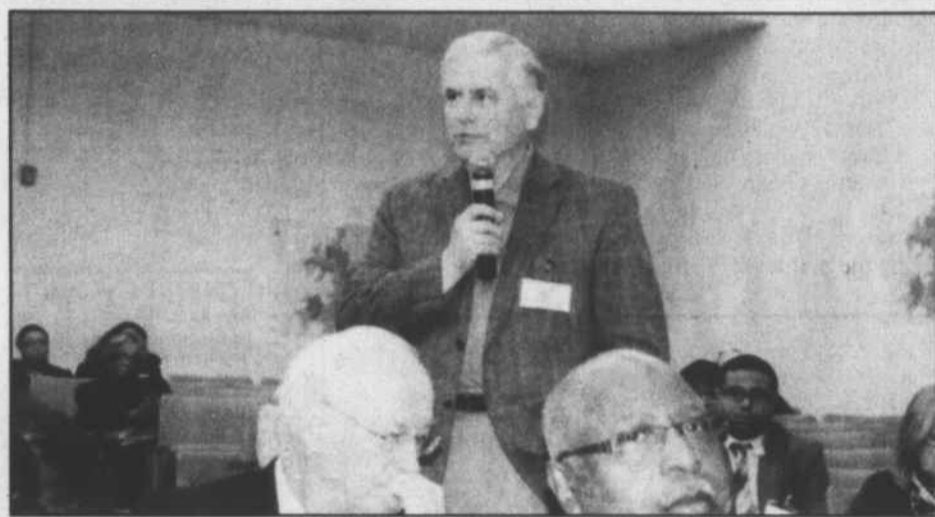
"Fifty years ago, the War on Poverty was declared and today, we're declaring the War on Poverty failed," Joines said, noting that the latest Census report found that 22 percent of U.S. residents live in poverty. "...Poverty levels are as high, if not higher, than they were in 1964."

Forsyth County has the dubious distinction of being home to the highest poverty rate among urban North Carolina counties, noted Gladman, the assistant director of the Salvation Army, which provides shelter and services for some of the area's most needy families.

Joines is on the cusp of waging his own war on poverty, through a collaborative initiative he's calling a "thought force." Slated to launch in the spring, the effort will call on community stakeholders to spend several months delving into poverty and its causes. They will generate realistic strategies based on what they learn and "connecting the dots" to create a Poverty Reduction Community Action Plan within the next two years, the mayor said.

"We're about ready to kick this thing off, and I think we're going to have some good results," the mayor declared, adding that he wants every local leader to make poverty reduction a chief priority.

"If we could get our mindset going in that direction, I think we could



Dr. John McConnell of Wake Forest Medical Center speaks.

Photos by Layla Garris



Mayor Allen Joines speaks as Rev. Kelly Carpenter looks on.



Rep. Earline Parmon



Dr. Corey Walker of Winston-Salem State welcomes attendees.

begin to make some progress," he said.

Since its inception in 1947, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust has invested over \$80 million to support the poor and needy in the local community, said McNeil-Miller, the organization's president. But, philanthropy alone is not enough to solve the issue of poverty, she said. Without the support of the government and other partnerships and initiatives, philanthropic investments are as effective as "throwing a thimble full of water on a raging fire," McNeil-Miller said.

When it comes to ending poverty, those who know it best must be partners in the effort, McNeil-Miller said.

"You have to be very resourceful to be poor," she observed. "...They have great assets; they know how to put two and two together and make eight, and we need to exploit that as part of our solution."

In a time where many societal ills - including poverty - are exacerbated by moral issues such as "the breakdown of the family structure," the faith-based community is uniquely positioned to address the effects of poverty, said Carlisle, the pastor of Exodus Baptist Church.

"The faith family has

always been a major vehicle for moving the minds of the masses, to elevate their decisions to think in another way," he stated. "...Oftentimes, we neglect to be that stopgap provision for those who are in poverty."

Carpenter, who helms Green Street United Methodist Church, briefly explained the Circles project, a new initiative of the Shalom Project, a nonprofit he established a decade ago. The project, which has been implemented in communities across the nation, seeks to demolish some of the obstacles people living in poverty face in trying to overcome their situation, he explained.

"Poverty is not just about a lack of resources. It's also a lack of relationships," Carpenter said. "...The Circles initiative is designed to actually give new relationships, to provide a circle - or actually a network - of support. The Circles approach is about trying to build social capital for people who live in poverty."

Parmon deemed the more than two hourlong session a successful step in the march towards ending poverty for good.

"This has been a great opportunity," Parmon told attendees at the culmination of the gathering.

"Together, we truly, truly can make a difference in this city."

For more information on the NCLBC's war on poverty, visit <http://nclbc.com> or find them on Facebook.

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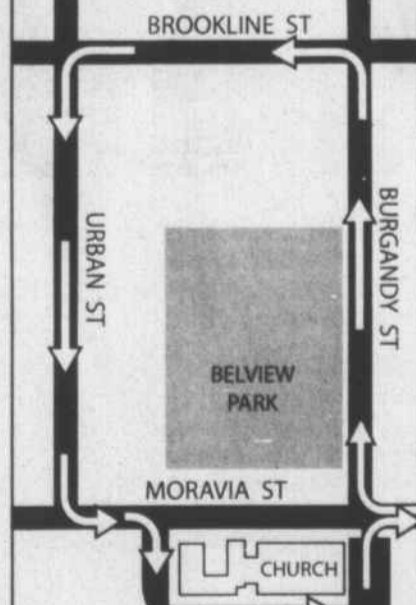
Assault weapons: \$150
Handguns: \$100
Rifles/shotguns: \$75

Pellet guns, BB guns and ammunition will also be accepted, but without compensation.

APRIL 12, 9 A.M.-1 P.M. RAIN OR SHINE
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HOW TO TURN IN A WEAPON

- Place the unloaded gun inside your trunk, truck bed, or cargo area before leaving your home.
- Approach the church by way of Burgandy, Brookline and Urban streets (see map). Signs will be posted.
- Enter the driveway on the west side of the church.
- Tell the officers what type of gun you have in the trunk.
- Stay in your vehicle at all times. Officers will remove the gun. (If you cannot remotely open the trunk or rear hatch from the driver's seat, you will hand the officer the key.)
- Accept the receipt for weapons collected.
- Move to the next stop where a staff member will accept your receipt and pay you cash for the weapons collected.



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Q. Do I have to identify myself?
A. Yes. You will have to give your name.

Q. I want to remove a gun from my home, but I don't want to receive payment for it. May I bring it to the gun buy-back?
A. Yes, you may bring the gun to the buyback and decline payment for it.

Q. Will you buy ammunition or realistic toy guns?
A. Participants in the program may turn in ammunition and realistic toy guns, but they will not be paid for these items.

For more information, call CityLink 311 or 727-8000. www.CityofWS.org/gunbuyback