



Dr. Mack

Mack will be Noon Hour speaker

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The 35th Annual Noon Hour Commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will take place in North Main Hall of the Benton Convention Center, 301 W. 5th St., on Monday, Jan. 19 at 12 p.m.

Dr. Sir Walter L. Mack Jr., pastor and teacher of Union Baptist Church, will deliver the keynote address for the event, the longest ongoing MLK observance in North Carolina. The theme of "Keep Moving Forward: the Struggle Continues" pays homage to Dr. King and the countless who sacrificed their lives, blood and freedom for the civil rights that are now under attack. Longtime community advocate State Sen. Earline Parmon will receive the MLK Dare to Make a Difference Award and former awardee the late Dr. Maya Angelou will be remembered. She was a speaker at the third annual event in 1983. The Twin City Choristers will perform.

The event is sponsored by the MLK Noon Hour Commemoration Committee, which was founded/organized by Mütter D. Evans in 1981. It is free and open to the public.

Attorney starts campaign for judgeship early

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The 2014 election cycle just ended, but for a local attorney, the campaigning is just beginning - for 2016, that is.

Carrie Vickery has already set a campaign in motion to run for a District Court judgeship.

Vickery, who works at the Holton Law Firm, began making plans to run in 2012. She has formed a campaign committee and begun raising funds.

"It has been a really conscious decision and something that I was interested in for a while," she said. "I think it's a really important position that requires and deserves someone that is going to think through it thoroughly before seeking the seat. To me, because I'm a planner, that means thinking through it ahead of time."

Several local seats will be up for grabs on the 21st Judicial District bench in 2016. The 29-year-old is eyeing an expected vacancy. Judge William Graham, who has served since 1996, is expected to retire, forgoing a re-election bid.

Vickery said if there had not been an opening, she wouldn't have challenged any of the sitting judges.

"I think they're all great judges, and I think they all bring unique characteristics to the bench. I don't have a problem with any of them, so I certainly don't want them to leave," she said.

The Rutherford County native came to Winston-Salem to attend high school at UNC School of the Arts. After graduating, she received her undergrad degree at Western Carolina University and then a law degree from Elon.



Submitted Photos

(Left) Carrie Vickery poses with Alan Andrews, to whom she donated a kidney in 2013.



Vickery's boss, Walter Holton, is already on her side.

"I think it would be a good thing for the county if she is elected. She's a hard worker and very dedicated to doing what's right," he said. "I believe she will call cases as she sees them and without being persuaded by someone's position of influence. That's what we need for our judges to do."

A former U.S. Attorney under President Bill Clinton and a former

Forsyth County District Attorney, Holton said he has encouraged ambitious colleagues in the past.

"When Lisa Menefee (who is now the chief local District Court judge) and I were law partners many years ago, we had similar conversations," he said. "It's a normal thing for a person with some drive and ambition to want to seek that position if that's where your interests are. It's a natural progression for people interested in the judiciary."

Vickery says it is her passion for the law that drives her.

"I think it's important to seek the bench for the right reasons and I think I have those reasons. The biggest one is I love what I do," she said. "I think District Court is much more important than Superior Court because the average person will most likely interact with the District Court at some point in their lives."

Vickery said she has received a lot of support from her husband, Phillip "Skip" Skipper Jr., family, friends and fellow congregants at Reynolda Church, EPC (Evangelical Presbyterian Church) of Winston-Salem.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/VickeryforJudge.



Holton

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