

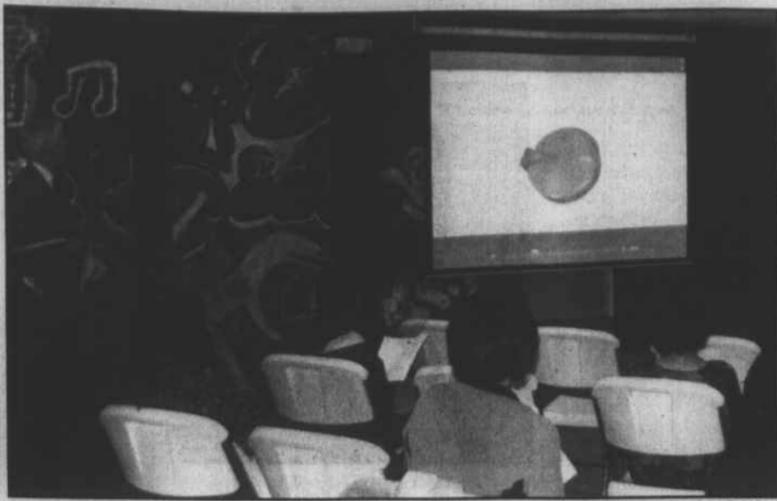
End

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attendees, including Audrey and DeVante Johnson. The couple already has a Living Will and wanted a Health Care Power of Attorney. Audrey Johnson said as the parents of three children, they felt it was an important issue for them to deal with.

"You just have a responsibility and you don't want to put an unnecessary stress on your spouse or other family members to make decisions on your behalf when you can kind of plan that out in advance, and that makes it easier for your loved ones should there ever be an accident or something occur and those decisions have to be made," she said.

Hospices have long



Organizers show an opening presentation at the workshop sponsored by Rowan Hospice & Palliative Care on Friday, April 17 at St. Peter's Church & World Outreach Center.

Photos by Todd Luck

advocated for people to make advance directives for end of life care. Rowan Hospice has already addressed the congregation at St. Peter's on the subject and goes to many places around the community to give presentations and hold workshops.

"As much as possible we want people to be able to die on their own terms,"

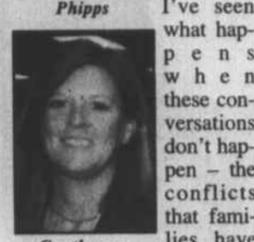
said Ann Gauthreaux, Hospice regional director of public relations.

She said death rarely happens quickly and quietly. It usually requires medical care and sometimes difficult decisions. Currently there are 400 people under Rowan Hospice's care. Those with six months or less to live qualify for hospice care,

the vast majority of which takes place outside of a hospice facility, such as in the patient's homes or long-term care facility. She said the care is holistic for the patient and family, and is intended to help them live their last days as fully and comfortably as possible. Attorney Melissa Phipps said she's seen firsthand how not having

advance directives can be difficult on families.

"I've worked for almost 17 years as an attorney working for a health care system in-house and I've seen what happens when these conversations don't happen - the conflicts that families have because one person's way of loving



Gauthreaux

momma best is to do everything, another person's way of loving momma best is to let momma die, let momma have a death with dignity," said Phipps, Novant Health's VP of Patients Services and chair of the North Carolina Bar Association's Health Law Council End of Life Subcommittee.

She said the N.C. Bar association also will be holding sessions across the state on advance directives. She said it's important to make advance directives before serious illness or injury happens. She said that state law puts extra burdens on advance directives, requiring both a notary and two qualified witnesses who aren't family members or healthcare workers, making it sometimes challenging to do in a hospital setting even when the patient can communicate. A state House of Representatives bill (HB 146), which had Forsyth County Reps. Donny Lambeth and Debra Conrad among its sponsors, would've reduced the requirements to either a notary or two witnesses was voted down in April.

"It's more about empowerment and choice than it is about death," said Phipps.

For more information about advance directives and a schedule of "Got Plans?" workshops, visit gotplans123.org.

Maps

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consider the case. Within hours of the ruling, they presented proposed schedules to the state Supreme Court with the goal of settling the litigation before the 2016 election cycle. Candidate filing begins next February.

"The redistricting plans which the General Assembly created were illegal because they were racially gerrymandered," said the Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP chapter. "They were intended to violate the political presence and the participation of racial minorities." New boundaries will have to be drawn, Barber predicted.

A pair of legal challenges focused on 27 state House and Senate districts and three congressional districts. In many districts, Democratic-leaning black voters were placed within boundaries that ultimately benefited Republicans elsewhere in the state. A three-judge panel of state trial judges unanimously upheld the maps in 2013. A majority of state justices determined the districts withstood legal scrutiny whether or not race had been the predominant factor in drawing them.

Republicans who led the 2011 mapmaking committees said Monday's decision was "procedural" and not unanticipated. They believe the maps are lawful and designed to protect the state from legal

claims under the federal Voting Rights Act.

"We are confident that our state Supreme Court will once again arrive at the same result and the U.S. Supreme Court will affirm its decision," Rep. David Lewis, R-Harnett, and Sen. Bob Rucho, R-Mecklenburg, said in a written statement.

In the Alabama case, Justice Stephen Breyer said lawmakers and a lower court relied too much on a "mechanically numerical" view of whether the new plan reduced minority voting strength. Breyer wrote that the court should have asked what percentages were necessary for minorities to elect their candidate of choice.

In earlier N.C. redistricting, Democrats in

charge of maps adopted a similar strategy that resulted in cutting back the percentages of black voters in majority-black districts. They kept more black voters in districts with white Democrats where combined they could influence election outcomes. N.C. legislative Republicans contend the two cases are different because their legal defense is based on a different portion of the Voting Rights Act than the Alabama case. The number of minority legislators has reached record numbers in the N.C. General Assembly since the latest round of redistricting. In the 2009 legislative session, when Democrats were in charge, there were 30 black legislators. There are 34 black lawmakers today.

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This educational opportunity was partially funded with support from Title X grant funding.

HBCU

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President Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, Bennett College Interim Provost Dr. Michelle Linster, Winston-Salem State University Government Relations Director Cornelius Graves, and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's Chancellor Dr. Harold Martin.



Submitted photo

U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, 12th District, meets with presidents and representatives from four HBCUs in North Carolina's 12th Congressional District on Monday, April 20, to talk about HBCUs.

Local Community Care networks form strategic alliance

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Two local Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) networks are forming a Strategic Alliance that will collaboratively reach the greater Triad.

On July 1, Partnership for Community Care (P4CC) and Northwest Community Care Network (NCCN) intend to complete a strategic alliance that will serve the 10 counties of Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin.

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