

# Ministers' Conference partners with *The Chronicle* for MLK Jr. Day activities

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

The Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity announced earlier this week that a few changes have been made to their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day festivities.

While the conference will still hold a march and afternoon service to commemorate the life of Dr. King, the organization has decided to partner with *The Chronicle* to sponsor the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast held annually at the Benton Convention Center.

"We are proud to announce that we will be joining forces with *The Chronicle* to sponsor the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast Forum," said MCWSV president Bishop Todd Fulton.

Fulton said the organization decided to join forces with *The Chronicle* because it would be more beneficial to the community and the scholarship program the conference provides for local high school students.

Last year the conference donated six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors. Fulton mentioned this year he hopes to pro-



Rev. Carlisle



Bishop Fulton

vide even more students with funds for college.

"We decided that if we take this route we would be able to give more scholarships to deserving students in the area," said Fulton. "We are extremely excited to partner with *The*

*Chronicle* as we keep the dream and vision of Dr. King alive."

According to MCWSV third vice president Rev. Alvin E. Carlisle, the annual march and rally held to honor King will have a revamped route.

The memorial march is usually held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church located on File Street. This year the march will begin and end outside the convention center following the breakfast.

"After the breakfast we will gather in front of the convention center and proceed to march around the building located on West Fifth Street," he continued. "Even if you are unable to attend the breakfast, we encourage all local community organizations to join us for the march."

Carlisle mentioned that although the march will be shorter than it has been in the past, the rally and march will send a powerful

message.

"It won't be a long march but it will be powerful," said Carlisle. "The shorter route will be a better fit for those who have trouble walking as well, so we encourage the entire community to join us."

The breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 18. The rally and march is expected to begin at 10:30 a.m. The evening program will be held at St. Paul United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Robert McGowens. McGowens is the pastor of Greater Galilee Baptist Church located in Charlotte.



Two exhaustive and independent reviews—each lasting about a year and a half—have exposed a botched investigation, questionable prosecutorial tactics, and a host of facts unknown to the judge and jury. The Silk Plant Forest Citizens Review Committee, empaneled by the Winston-Salem City Council, concluded it did "not have confidence in the investigation, the information in question, or the result of the investigation..." and found "no credible evidence" that Calvin Smith was at the Silk Plant Forest on the day in question. Former Assistant FBI Director Christopher Swecker, in his own independent review, documents the original investigation was "seriously flawed and woefully incomplete, thus calling into question whether the original trial jury rendered their verdict based on all the relevant and accurate facts of the case." Director Swecker concluded "only a new trial that considers the full record and evidence not available, misrepresented or omitted in the original trial will provide the full measure of justice the community of Winston-Salem and every accused defendant deserves."

We call on Attorney General Roy Cooper to move swiftly to vacate Smith's conviction and petition the court for his immediate release. Free Calvin Now.

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Email Us

Supporters of Calvin Michael Smith have formed a website: [www.freekalvinnow.org](http://www.freekalvinnow.org).

## Supporters continue fight for Calvin Michael Smith

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

As another appeal was filed in the Calvin Michael Smith case last week, local advocates are renewing their request for Attorney General Roy Cooper to stop defending his conviction.

Smith is serving up to 29 years for the 1995 assault of Jill Marker at the Silk Plant Forest store that left her with severe brain injuries. In 2008 Forsyth County prosecutors declared a conflict of interest in the case. Since then, it has been handled by the District Attorney's office of Cooper, who is now running for governor.

For the past decade, the Silk Plant Forest Truth Committee has been advocating for Smith's release, saying that he was wrongly convicted. The committee has tried over the years to appeal to Cooper, including holding a rally outside his office.

"So it's his sworn duty not to defend a conviction on faulty evidence," said committee co-chair Stephen Boyd, a Wake Forest University religion professor.

Boyd said the committee has sent reports to Cooper about doubts in the case. One was from the Silk Plant Forest Citizens Review Committee that was empaneled by the City Council to review the original case. That panel concluded it did not have "confidence in the investigation" and found no credible evidence Smith was at

Silk Plant Forest. The other was from former Assistant FBI Director Christopher Swecker who also found serious questions about the case that he determined needed to be answered in a new trial.

The committee has information on how to contact Cooper's office and demand that he vacate Smith's conviction on its website, [www.freekalvinnow.org](http://www.freekalvinnow.org). The committee also makes presentations on the case to churches and groups, attends hearings in the case, and does advocacy on anything involved with the Smith case.

Smith's cause has drawn diverse supporters. The committee's advisory board is composed of clergy of different faiths, lawyer Robert Elliot, WFU Criminal Justice Director Kami Simmons, and Darryl Hunt, who served more than 19 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Boyd was also involved with the movement to free Hunt. He said that case opened the eyes of many in the white community to the role of race and class in the criminal justice system, resulting in broad community support for Smith now.

The latest appeal in the Smith case involves accusations about the lead detective. According to court papers, Detective Don Williams told his brother Ricky Williams that he believed a white man committed the Silk Plant Forest assault and that "If the nigger didn't do this, he's done something

else," referring to Smith.

The white man he was referring to was Kenneth Lamoureux, who had a history of violence, threatened Marker the night of the attack, and moved out of town during the investigation. The jury never heard about Lamoureux at trial. Lamoureux died in 2011.

According to court papers, Ellen Lamoureux, his wife who had separated from him and accused him several times of assaulting her, asked Williams about the evidence pointing toward Lemoureux. Williams didn't see why it would matter to her because he moved out of town and they got a crack dealer off the street, referring to Smith. The court papers said there was no evidence Smith sold crack.

There's also a request for an evidentiary hearing on an affidavit obtained in 2008 by Forsyth County prosecutors. In the affidavit, police officer Armita Miles said Marker identified her attacker as a black man.

In Miles' original report she said Marker was incoherent and could not describe the attacker. Though it was not filed in court, the petition asks for a hearing to see if it was secretly used by prosecutors.

Over the years, Smith has had his many appeals denied. Boyd said that Hunt had a similar struggle, as dozens of judges ruled against his case before DNA evidence freed him.

## Have a Story Idea?

Let us Know [news@wschronicle.com](mailto:news@wschronicle.com)

THE ELLISON

ATTORNEY AT LAW



Eric S. Ellison  
Attorney At Law

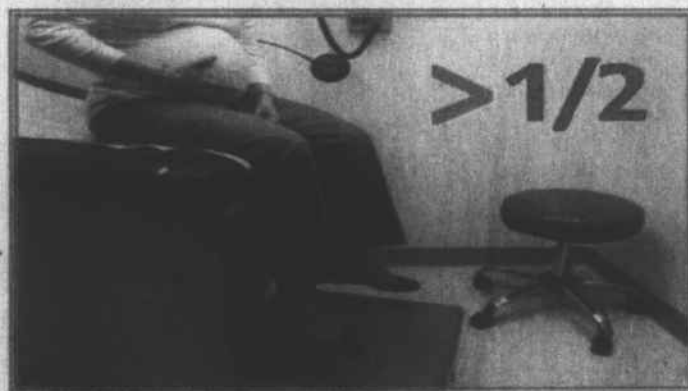
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[ellisonlaw@earthlink.net](mailto:ellisonlaw@earthlink.net)

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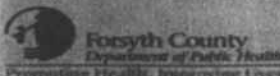
## National Folic Acid Awareness Week

January 3-9, 2016



Did you know that more than 1/2 of all pregnancies are unplanned? Talk to your provider about planning your next pregnancy.

(Remember... folic acid should be a part of every woman's diet to help prevent birth defects.)



## Want to be a Homeowner or know someone who does?

Come to an orientation session to learn more about the Habitat program!

Monday, January 11  
6 p.m.  
1023 W. 14th St.

Space is limited. No children, please.

For more info:

Carol Ebron

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Can't make it this time? More orientation sessions on  
Saturday, February 13, 10 a.m.  
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