

C011
C011

WILE 08-28/35
HILSON LIBRARY
N C COLLECTION
UNC-CH
CHAPEL HILL
NC 27514

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

VOLUME 94 - NUMBER 26

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2015

TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 50 CENTS



"A Celebration of the Life and legacy of Dr. Joseph T. Mitchell", left, was held June 27, at St. Joseph A.M.E. Church. Friends, family and guests gathered to honor Dr. Mitchell for his life's work in music. At right is Rev. Ronald Owens, pastor of St. Joseph A.M.E. Church. See story and photos on page 2.

Supreme Court upholds key tool for fighting housing bias

By Sam Hananel
WASHINGTON (AP) - A sharply divided Supreme Court on June 25 preserved a key tool used for more than four decades to fight housing discrimination, handing a surprising victory to the Obama administration and civil rights activists.

The justices ruled 5-4 that federal housing law allows people to challenge lending rules, zoning laws and other housing practices that have a harmful impact on minority groups, even if there is no proof that companies or government agencies intended to discriminate.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, in a rare vote on the side of civil rights groups on matters of race, joined the court's four liberal members in upholding the use of so-called "disparate impact" cases.

The ruling is a victory for housing advocates who argued that the 1968 Fair Housing Act allows challenges to race-neutral policies that have negative effects on minorities. The Justice Department has used disparate impact lawsuits to win more than \$500 million in legal settlements from companies accused of bias against black and Hispanic customers.

It was a defeat for banks, insurance companies and other business groups that claimed such lawsuits - often based on statistics - are not explicitly allowed under the landmark housing law that sought to eliminate segregation that has long existed in residential housing.

"The court acknowledges the Fair Housing Act's continuing role in moving the nation toward a more integrated society," Kennedy said.

The White House issued a statement saying the decision "reflects the reality that discrimination often operates not just out in the open, but in more hidden forms." And Attorney General Loretta Lynch said the Justice Department would continue to vigorously enforce the Fair

Housing Act "with every tool at its disposal - including challenges based on unfair and unacceptable discriminatory effects."

In upholding the tactic, the high court preserved a legal strategy that has been used for more than 40 years to attack discrimination in zoning laws, occupancy rules, mortgage lending practices and insurance underwriting. Every federal appeals court to consider it has upheld the practice, though the Supreme Court had never previously ruled.

Civil rights groups and the Obama administration had tried for years to keep the issue out of the Supreme Court, fearing that conservatives wanted to end the strategy. Two previous cases that reached the court were settled or strategically withdrawn just weeks before oral argument.



Emanuel AME Church, Charleston, S.C.

The Black Church and the Strength to Forgive

By Jazelle Hunt
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - For many outside the black community, they had never seen anything like it. Though suffering and deep in pain from the loss of loved ones at the hands of Dylann Roof at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, S.C., they reflected the finest reflection of Christian values.

A daughter Ethel Lance, 70, one of the nine killed at Bible study, struggled to find the right words.

"I will never be able to hold her again. But I forgive you and have mercy on your soul," she said, her voice trembling with emotion. "It hurts me, it hurts a lot of people, but God forgive you and I forgive you."

Speaking for her family, a sister of Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, 49, had a similar message.

"We have no room for hate," she said softly. "We have to forgive. I pray God on your soul. And I also thank God that I won't be around when your judgment day comes with him."

One-by-one, they took turns, sharing their grief, but not any rancor. How could they be so forgiving?

In order to understand the answer to that question, experts on religion say, you have to understand the role the church plays in black America and how the nation's most religious group - African Americans - take the teachings of Jesus' literally.

"To understand the black Christian tradition and faith that has nurtured black people for centuries is to know that they live by a deep, resilient faith that God is on the side of justice, God is on the side of love," explained Rev. Forrest Harris, president of American Baptist College in Nashville, Tenn. and a scholar on the black Christian church. "And that ultimately, though people will tragically experience what we saw happen at Mother Emanuel, ultimately love will prevail and hope will prevail."

Rev. Susan K. Smith of Columbus, Ohio says that Scripture shows that it's reasonable to feel and wrestle with difficult emotions, instead of jumping straight to forgiveness.

"If you don't deal with your real, strong feelings, it's almost impossible to get to a place where you can forgive," she said. Smith points to Psalm 13, saying, "The Psalmist, who expresses his pain - then at the end of the Psalm there's a 'but, I will praise you anyway.' This is vital, because what we have with God is a relationship, and in relationships there are always times when you don't get it."

Rev. Amos Brown, pastor of the Third Baptist Church of San Francisco and NAACP national board member, said blacks should not bear the brunt of suffering - or forgiveness - in the U.S.

"I do not feel in my spirit that blacks should have to be the sacrificial lambs all the time," he explained. "The pain is so great and it's insulting that America has still not confessed to its wrong and its evil. And that evil is racism."

Relatives of the nine slain in Charleston refused to be overcome by the evil of racism.

"In this particular context, we're all deeply moved by the family offering up forgiveness, and I want to honor that supernatural manifestation of grace," says Pastor Michael McBride, leader of The Way Christian Center in Berkeley, Calif., and director of the PICO Network Live Free Campaign, which uses faith to fight mass-criminalization.

Preventing Student 'Summer Slide'

By Jazelle Hunt
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - As students slip into their summer vacations, it's up to families to make sure they don't slip into academic amnesia. Usually, in what is called the summer slide, students forget up to six months of math and reading instruction when they're not engaged in academic activities between school years.

Matthew Mugo Fields thinks he has the solution to halting that slide. He hopes to bridge the gap with Rocket Group, an education company he founded. His suite of programs for schools and parents blend technology, face-to-face instruction, and specialized curricula based on groundbreaking yet obscure research from Stanford University.

"Summer slide] is a huge problem. And it's exacerbated for low-income and minority students," says Fields, a Morehouse University alumnus who holds a public-masters in business and education from Harvard University. "The research I've seen says that nearly half of the achievement gap can be explained by the difference in summer learning between low-income students and their counterparts."

Tammy Drayton is an early childhood teacher in Newark, N.J. Even kindergarten students are expected to know a few things at the start of school, such as counting to 10, colors, shapes, and the days of the week. When such lessons are new or lost to them, the impact is clear.

"We might have to do more one-on-one work with [that student]," she said. "But it may affect their social skills. Because they realize they're not on the level of other kids, they tend to fall away and shut down. They feel different, in a sense."

Summer slide affects older students, too, and the stakes are much higher. In high school, there are fewer interventions and opportunities to relearn lost information, and students can become discouraged with their performance - internally and

through the actions of teachers and administrators. In this way, summer slide can lead to dropping out.

It also manifests as poor preparation for post-graduation. Another term, "summer melt," happens when college-eligible high school seniors do not successfully transition to post-secondary education. The Department of Education estimates that up to 20 percent of high school graduates are lost this way, most of them of color.

"Preparation is a factor, but not the guiding factor of whether a student will be college-bound," says David Johns, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. "The belief if they can even go to college diminishes, if they are not supported over time."

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans is currently working on combating these summer losses. Although it is still gathering data, it's clear that parental involvement is one of the most important factors in academic achievement across years, for students of all ages.



"It's important to acknowledge that the first and most important educator in a child's life is his or her parents. One of the challenges is engaging parents to supplement learning for their scholars," says Johns.

"Often the way we think of learning is that it's for school only, it happens in the classroom within the school day. But educational development happens throughout the calendar year."

Drayton says that in her kindergarten classroom, parents' efforts are more important than the personalized schoolwork packets her school sends home with students.

"My students left me today, and I gave them a list of books along with a summer packet. I don't necessarily rely on the packets [to determine if slide has occurred]," she says. "It affects [students] based on if they worked with a parent, and it all depends on if they had practice or continuing education in the summer."

Johns explains that income is the strongest predictor of summer slide. More affluent families have the money, job flexibility, and connections to keep their children engaged with programs, gadgets, and enriching experiences throughout the year.

Other families, who may lack time, money, and access, have to get resourceful in supplementing their child's education.

"Go to the library - it's free. Dollar stores sell books, and places like the Salvation Army sometimes gives away books," Drayton recommends. "Read something with your child every day. It's essential to build literacy skills over the summer."

For parents and guardians, Fields offers GiftedandTalented.com, which provides personalized academic supplements and one-on-one

Pastor of church damaged by fire forgives suspected arsonist

CHARLOTTE (AP) - The pastor of a predominantly black church damaged by a fire that authorities believe was intentionally set says he forgives whoever was responsible and wants to move forward.

WBTV in Charlotte quotes the Rev. Mannix Kinsey of Briar Creek Road Baptist Church as saying that he was afraid at first the church would be destroyed by the early June 24 morning fire. But Kinsey said the damage wasn't as bad as he thought it could be.

Kinsey said he speaks for the church in forgiving whoever started the fire, which damaged a wing of the building that houses education.

The rest of the property, including the sanctuary and gymnasium, has smoke damage. A Charlotte Fire Department investigator said total damage is estimated at more than \$250,000.