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Rams get ready early



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THE CHRONICLE

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CHARLESTON MASSACRE

“No matter the color of the skin, no matter the complexion, no matter the culture, no matter the law, we are all of one race, and that is the human race,”

—Bishopn Marvin Cremedy



Photo by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle

Bishop Marvin Cremedy prays silently during the public prayer vigil held at Vessels of Honor Church Ministries, 3608 Ogburn Ave., on Tuesday, June 23. The special night of prayer focused on the Charleston church slaying tragedy and churches around the world.

Local prayer vigils comfort hearts, decry racial hatred

BY TORI PITTMAN FOR THE CHRONICLE AND DONNA ROGERS THE CHRONICLE

On Wednesday, June 17, a white man entered in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina, and opened fire, taking nine lives. In the wake of the shooting, a lot of churches have come together, praying for the victims' families, the church and the entire city of Charleston.

In Winston-Salem, prayer vigils have been held since last week. They have drawn large and small crowds, but they all have expressed the grief that the apparent racial slaying has brought and hope in God.

On Tuesday, June 23, Vessels of Honor Church Ministries (VHCM) in Winston-Salem held a prayer vigil in remembrance of those whose lives were lost, while

praying for the nation. A small sanctuary was filled with words of encouragement while uplifting one another in this time of tragedy.

VHCM member Dawn Darbone began the vigil by reading different scriptures from the Bible. Pastor Clara Cremedy followed with her words of prayer to the victims of Charleston.

“This tragedy has affected all of us in this country,” said Pastor Cremedy. “Families were affected. Someone lost their husband, wife, mother or father.”

Ten people were at the vigil, at some point either speaking or praying to themselves.

Bishop Marvin Cremedy talked about how the victims' families have shown forgiveness, and the unity that's happening in Charleston after this incident.

“No matter the color of the skin, no matter the com-

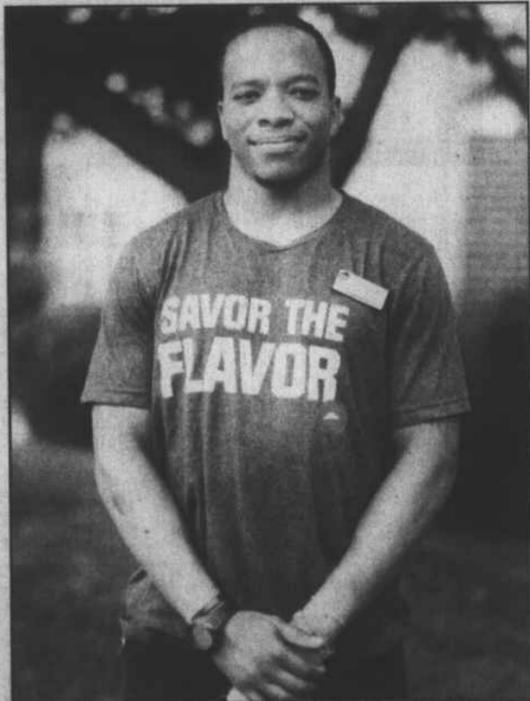
See Vigils on A9

MAN ON THE STREET

Question: Will the killings at the black church in South Carolina cause you not to attend church? Why or why not?

Photos and interviews by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle

See more coverage on A5



“Yes, it does affect me. I feel the first place a person should feel safe and accept anyone is church. Since this happened, it compromised a lot of judgments. Nowadays, you're not safe at church or school. Now everyone will be on edge due to the fact that people have malicious intent.”

— Maurice Lewis

See Street on A2

W-S NAACP prepares for Moral Monday

Branch looks to educate community on historic federal voting rights trial

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

On Tuesday, June 23, the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP held its first official meeting under newly elected officials and executive board members.

The meeting was held at the NAACP Enrichment Center, 4130 Oak Ridge Road. Elected members of the executive board met at 6 p.m., followed by a separate meeting for general members at 7 p.m.

During the general members meeting, Moral Monday was the topic of discussion.

On July 13, the historic lawsuit N.C. NAACP v. McCrory will be heard in federal court. It challenges North Carolina's 2013 voter law. The Rev. Dr. William Barber, N.C. NAACP president, believes the law represents the extremist agenda of Gov. Pat McCrory and will affect minority voters throughout the South and eventually the nation.

Isaac “Ike” Howard, who was elected president of the Winston-Salem Branch last month, said it was important that the members of the local chapter are instrumental in educating the community on the trial and what it all means.

“This is about more than voter rights, this is about us trying to better the way of life in this community and in this state,” Howard said. “This is just a moment in the movement, it's just a small part of what we have to do to make life better for the people of this community.”



Howard

The weeks leading up to the trial, each ward in the city will hold a teach-in session to educate the public on the trial and the lawsuit.

Laurel Ashton, N.C. NAACP field secretary, attended the meeting and said the organization of the teach-in sessions was all done by city officials and the local branch of



Photos by Tevin Stinson

On Tuesday, June 23, the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP held its first official meeting under the new leadership. During the meeting at the Enrichment Center, members discussed their plans for Moral Monday in Winston-Salem.

the NAACP.

“I have to say the Winston-Salem chapter has already done an amazing job,” Ashton said. “Although this is the first official meeting for the chapter the members have been very instrumental in making sure the public is aware of what is going on.”

During the sessions, members of the NAACP and officials from other states will talk about their struggles with similar laws and how it will affect this city and state.

“This is the first voting rights case since Shelby v. Holder,” Ashton said. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and we must make an impact now because it will affect the entire nation.”

Forsyth County Commissioner Walter Marshall said, “More important than the march, we must make sure that the people stay involved and educated.”

“Everything depends on getting people involved,” Marshall said. “Education and economics are our salvation. We can't march, then forget about the cause. We must educate the public and make sure they continue to fight for what's right.”

Marshall, a member of the local chapter since 1969, also said that it is important that the younger generation get involved with the NAACP to carry on the tradition.

“Young people have to realize that the NAACP is more important now than ever. The youth of this community have to educate themselves on what happened in the past to prepare for the future.”

On the first day of the trial, there will be a teach-in session from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, 630 N. Patterson Ave., followed by a march and rally at the Corpening Plaza, 231 W. 1st St.

For more information on the trial or on the Moral Monday March, visit www.naacpn.org.

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