



# Capital Baptist Newsletter

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A Publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention

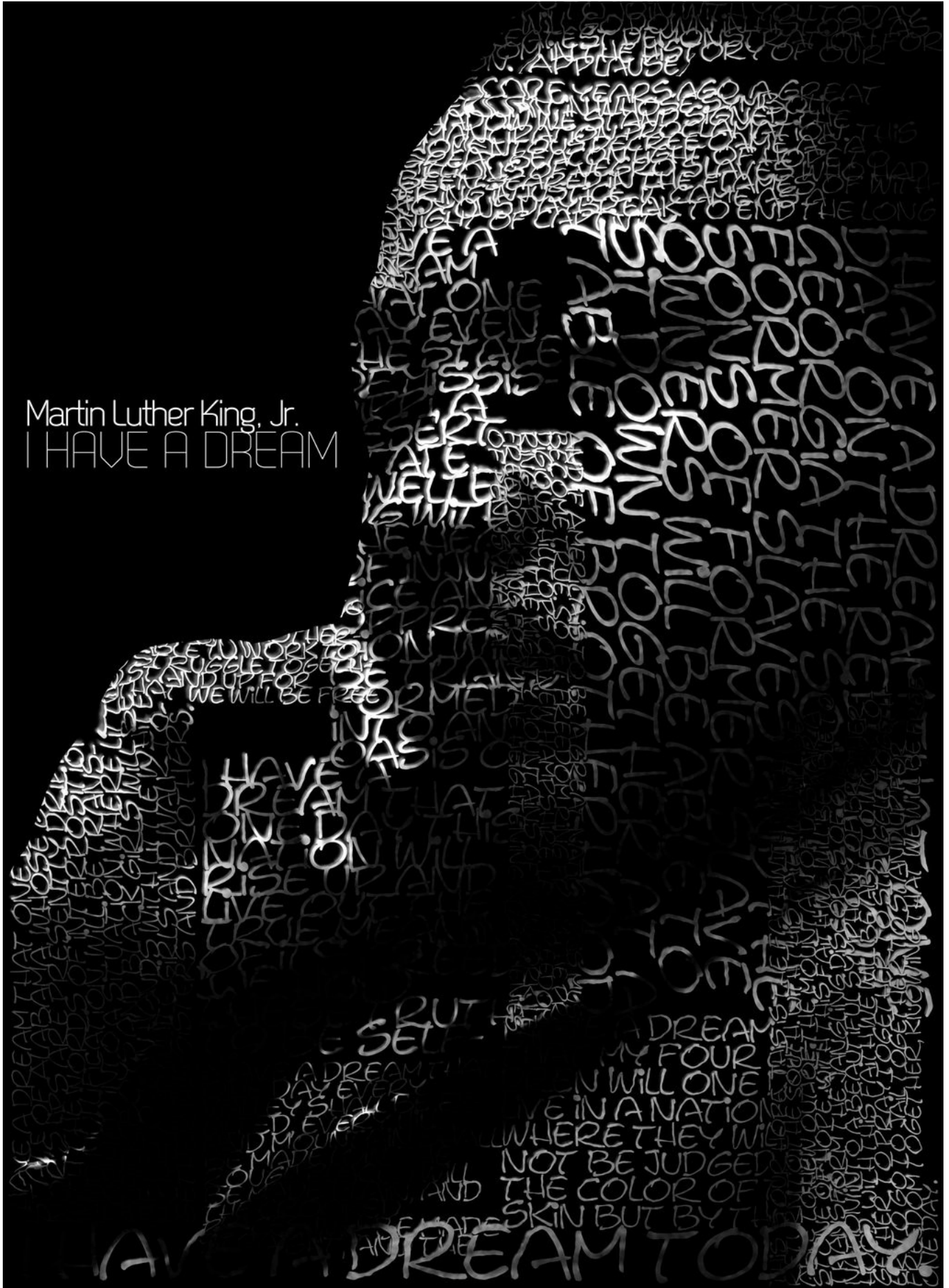
JANUARY 2019 - VOLUME 1

**Happy  
Birthday  
Dr. King**

# From the Desk of the Executive Director/Minister

By Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
I HAVE A DREAM



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## FEATURES

**Why Are People Hungry** Page 6-7

**Moving in the Right Direction** Page 8

## IN EVERY ISSUE

**From the Desk of the Executive Director/Minister** 2

**Calendar** 4

**From the Editor's Desk** 5

## FOLLOW US

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1

New Years Day

DCBC Offices Closed

january

CALENDAR

10

Chapel and  
Staff Meeting

9:30AM

23

Mental Health  
First Aid  
Training

12

OAM Team  
Meeting

10:00AM

25

21

Martin Luther  
King Day

DCBC Offices Closed

Mental Health  
First Aid  
Training

28

Program  
Committee  
Meeting





# Editor's Note

## about this month's edition...

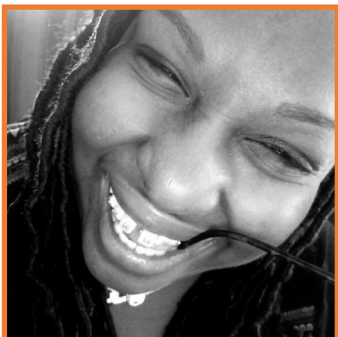
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*Welcome to January!*

We greet you in the matchless name of our Lord, JESUS! We are so pleased that you are joining us for a year of unlimited possibilities and wondrous blessings. This year, the DCBC, will continue to offer trainings, workshops, events and support to all of our member churches. We invite you to visit our website, call the office or even email us with questions, concerns and testimonies.


This month we are pleased to feature an article from our own Minister of Engaging Communities, Andre Towner entitled, "Why Are People Hungry" and Starlette Thomas entitled, "Moving in the Right Direction". Please take the time to read this fantastic articles.

Lastly, we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King. We will continue to strive for the world that he so dreamed about!



*Welcome to the New Year of Possibilities!*

*Kimberly Anne*



# WHY Are People HUNGRY?

By Andre Towner

For most of its 2,000+ year history one of the ways the Christian Church has demonstrated its allegiance to Jesus of Nazareth is by caring for and feeding those on the social and economic margins of society. Despite this, hunger persists. In 1964, as part of his Great Society Initiative, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a “War on Poverty” that helped lower the national poverty rate from 19% to 11%. Yet, people are still hungry. Today, the American food supply system produces over \$135 billion in excess food that is exported across the globe. Nevertheless, this year nearly 2.6 million children will die as a result of hunger-related causes. While these statistics can be overwhelming, they can also motivate us to rethink how we address hunger and poverty in our communities. To this end, the DC Baptist Convention has decided to end its monthly feeding program at the Jochening Baptist Community Center in Southeast DC and redirect its resources towards increasing the capacity of our member congregation to address hunger in the neighborhoods they serve.

In consultation with congregations, non-profits, community leaders, and those receiving food assistance, we have decided that our hunger and food security work will utilize a threefold methodology that allows congregations to participate in ways most congruent with their focus and capabilities. Our direct service efforts will address immediate hunger concerns by continuing our tradition of providing food and prepared meals directly to those in need; primarily through our member congregations and during special convention wide events. The second method, self-help, will promote efforts to help those receiving aid to obtain healthy food themselves by participating in the building and maintenance of congregationally based community gardens or similar projects. Finally, we will seek to change the systems and structures that create poverty and hunger by equipping local residents to advocate for more just food and economic policies by engaging legislative and policymaking processes. We believe this multi-tiered ministry approach is the best way to leverage our resources to address the ongoing hunger crises in our congregations and communities and help bring about the Beloved Community longed for by so many.

To buttress this work we will offer quarterly grants to congregations and partners whose work aligns with one of the three methodologies of direct service, self-help, or structural change. Grant applications will be submitted online and afterwards grantees will submit photographs and written summaries/articles which capture ways in which the funds were utilized. Additionally, DCBC will provide theological resources that highlight how various biblical themes such as love, justice, and mercy are connected to eradicating hunger. Examples include Sunday School/Bible Study curriculum, devotional guides, sermon preparation materials, and worship litanies. We will also, directly or through partner organizations, offer technical and/or financial assistance to assist congregations establish or enhance food pantries, community gardens, and community nutrition and meal preparation workshops. Finally, we will provide real world training on how to effectively engage community leaders, such as elected officials and business owners, in ways that encourage them to join our efforts to build more just and egalitarian communities where all can fully answer the call God has placed on their individual and collective lives.

Why are people hungry? This question will be the cornerstone of our work to help congregations build on their current hunger work while redeeming the underlying systems and structures that help foster poverty and hunger. Answering and responding to this question will help expose and leverage the “inescapable network of mutuality” described by Dr. King in his Letter from Birmingham Jail. This new awareness will help economically and racially disparate communities collaboratively and holistically combat hunger while internalizing and becoming the Good News of God’s unfolding Kingdom. Why are people hungry? What’s your answer?



# MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

By Starlette Thomas



The New Year acts as a kind of reset button. The clock strikes twelve and our new beginning starts. It is a fresh start, another opportunity to take more steps forward than back. We count down: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6...

We are counting calories for new diets, counting our gray hairs and resolving to look younger and feel better than ever. The same can be true of our congregations. This is an opportunity for members to reflect on the congregation's spiritual life and to resolve to have new experiences of divine delight, to mature and grow stronger together, to do new things for the glory of God, in the name of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit. And the fact of the matter is, we don't need a clock and its hands don't have any special power.

But, God's hands do and God will push you in the right direction. The psalmist realizes this and sings, "Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way" (37.23). In other versions, the verse reads, "our steps are ordered." This affirms God's plan for us, in spite of and not because of our resolutions. The God who is with us in Christ Jesus is also walking with us.

As believers, it is an important reminder any time of the year. But, at the start of a new one is always fitting. We may feel like we have gotten off track or that things are not off to a good start. One foot in front of the other, if we are following Jesus, then we are moving in the right direction.

"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life' (Matthew 16.24-27, NRSV)?"





**District of Columbia Baptist Convention**  
**Office of Engaging Communities**

# THE FORGE

## **Baptist Men's Ministry**

The Baptist Men's Ministry (BMM) provides a monthly men's ministry training event designed to equip local church leaders to develop a well-rounded, balanced ministry to men in their church. Leaders will experience a meaningful teaching designed to provide a model of how a challenging men's ministry can be conducted in the local church. It is highly encouraged that pastors attend this training along with their men.

**DATE:** SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019

**TIME:** 10AM

**LOCATION:** FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

5605 COLORADO AVE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20011



# I have a dream that one day

the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

## never give up hope

We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

## love is the only way

"In spite of the fact that the law of revenge solves no social problems, men continue to follow its disastrous leading. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-deleting path."

— Martin Luther King Jr. —  
**I did not start this boycott**

So we have come to cash this check — a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drugs of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

**We must face the force of evil with the force of love**  
We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

— Martin Luther King Jr. —

The unleashing of events will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the weary threshold of a new dawn. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

## I've been to the mountaintop

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

# I HAVE A DREAM

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning. "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

we have to learn to live like brothers

## Rosa Parks 1913- 2005

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

1929-1968

## politics

Martin Luther Jr.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free.

## Strike Towards Freedom

## nobel price for peace

So we come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American must hold true.

## Rosa Parks

I have a vague concept that my four little children will one day live in a nation where people aren't that bothered about the color of their skin but might think a tad more about the content of their character

## I see the promised land

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the victims of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

## hate brings hate

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro.

This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Shorter summers are not in our fate, but a beginning.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his constitutional rights. His freedom is in jeopardy.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

## Birmingham City Jail

LEK 109



