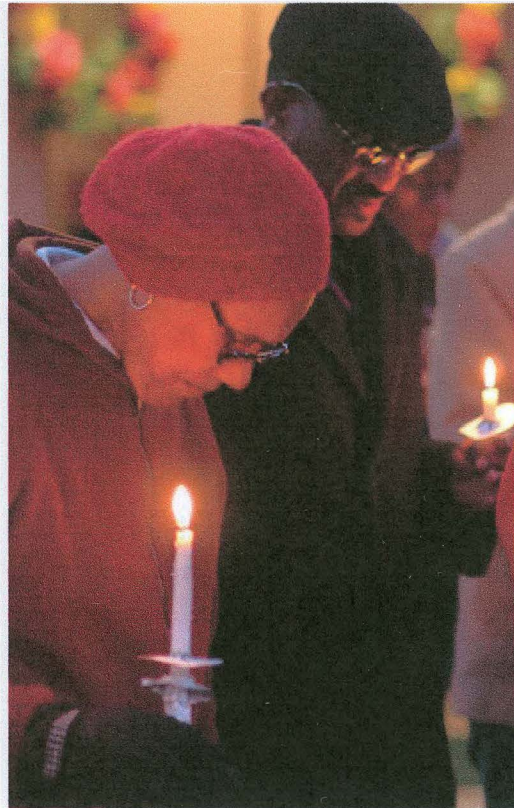


Celebrating MLK Day: Parade, luncheon, other events planned throughout region. Staff report. January 19, 2015.



1 / 1 Church and civic leaders gathered with members of the community last year for the New Vision Youth annual MLK Community Unity candlelight vigil, held at Shiloh Baptist Church. Photo by Ned Jilton II.

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STAFF REPORT • JAN 19, 2015 AT 8:36 AM

A number of events are planned to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day next week including a parade, luncheon and candlelight vigil in Kingsport, a dinner and candlelight march in Wise, Va., and a Holston Habitat for Humanity service project.

Kingsport's 15th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Parade will be held on Monday, Jan. 19, from noon to 1 p.m.

The theme is "King's legacy of peace with a renewed commitment to nonviolence 365."

Parade participants will need to assemble at 11:15 a.m. at the intersection of East Sevier and Center Street (the Rikki Rhoton Allstate Insurance Co.'s parking lot).

The parade route will follow Center Street and end on Shelby Street at the city parking lot between Kingsport City Hall and the Justice Center.

People who would like to enter a car, float, church/business van, bus, truck, other exhibits or take a 20-minute walk during lunch in the parade, please contact Elder Gwen Collins at (423) 753-2345 or General Overseer Ronnie Collins at (423) 956-0675 or email: [gacssccc@aim.com](mailto:gacssccc@aim.com) or [rcollins\\_316@vzw.blackberry.net](mailto:rcollins_316@vzw.blackberry.net)

Parade sponsors include Eastman Chemical Co., Food City, city of Kingsport, Office Depot, Joshua Generation, My Brother's Keeper, Putting Babies First, Tennessee & Virginia Fellowship

Against Racism, H.O.P.E., New Vision, and Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency.

South Central Kingsport Development/New Vision Youth, in partnership with Kingsport Parks and Recreation, Riverview Resident Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, will present their annual Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon on Jan. 19 beginning at 1:15 p.m. following the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. The luncheon will be held at the Riverview Community Room on Wheatley Street.

The menu will include homemade chili beans, crackers, bread, coleslaw, desserts and drinks. New Vision Youth will also hold its annual "MLK Community Unity Candlelight Vigil" at 6 p.m., Jan. 19, at LampLight Theatre, 140 Broad St. Participants are asked to bring a candle. In case of inclement weather, the vigil will be moved inside LampLight Theatre.

All events are free and open to the public.

This year's candlelight vigil will recognize a number of organizations including the Kingsport Police and Fire Departments.

For more information, contact Johnnie Mae Swagerty, (423) 429-7553 or Jaquetta Hale, (423) 579-4651.

The University of Virginia's College at Wise Black History Committee also has events planned to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19.

The community is invited to participate in the event, which begins with a free dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the First Church of God in Wise. A candlelight march from the First Church of God through downtown Wise begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at the Wise Baptist Church, where the formal program will begin at 7 p.m.

Minister Jonathan Radford, an award-winning weather anchor and broadcast reporter, will be the featured speaker at the event. Radford, a graduate of Mississippi State University, will begin work on a Master's in Divinity at Vanderbilt University this fall.

Prior to Radford's remarks, Rev. Justin Preston will recite King's "I Have a Dream" speech, and the Mount Sinai Spirituals from Lynch, Ky., will perform. Other guests include UVa-Wise Chancellor Donna P. Henry, Wise Town Council member Teresa Adkins, Rev. Mike Winters, Blackman Chapel A.M.E. Zion Youth Choir, Rashida Hall, Carolyn Smith, Rev. Beth Tipton and the Wise Guys.

For more information, contact the Office of College Relations at (276) 376-1027.

Holston Habitat for Humanity volunteers will honor Martin Luther King's legacy on Monday by participating in a community service project.

Volunteer opportunities will be available in Kingsport, Bristol, Tenn., and Elizabethton.

Activities for the day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include site cleanup, constructing a porch and other exterior work. Volunteers from across the Tri-Cities are invited to participate. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Barry Osborne at (423) 335-5573 or [volunteer@holstonhabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@holstonhabitat.org) to register.