

BOTHI at Work in 2017



The Beloved Organizing, Training and Healing Institute (BOTHI) is the official training arm of the Beloved Community Center. After three years at Union Theological Seminary (UTS) in New York City, where he earned his Masters in Divinity Degree, Rev. Wesley Morris returned to BCC in July of 2017 to become BOTHI's first Director. Wesley hit the ground running, as he joined with experienced religious and community building leaders. Wesley has embraced his new responsibility with vigor and a keen sense of spiritual grounding. Preparing the next generation of organizers is a major component of BOTHI. Pictured below on the left is a national training of youth leaders; on the right is a local Greensboro training of college students and neighborhood youth.



To schedule trainings and/or to consult with Rev. Morris related to the scope and character of the Beloved Organizing Training and Healing (BOTHI) component of BCC's work, please contact him at wesleym@belovedcommunitycenter.org, or call 336-230-0001.



An Invitation to Greensboro Area Churches and Religious Institutions to Become an Active Part of Healing Tuesdays

Standing and praying together weekly is a major accomplishment in this busy world. Just imagine even more religious institutions and individuals coming together in 2018 for just 15 minutes each week with our minds and hearts focused on "peacemaking" that is firmly anchored in and undergirded by economic and social justice. What a tremendous step forward that would be! *This is a special appeal to religious leaders in all of our racial, ethnic and religious diversity* to join with and promote Healing Tuesdays from 12 Noon until 12:15 each Tuesday. We cannot say with certainty all of what this "peacemaking" gathering might mean, but we believe deeply that something good will come out of it. For more information contact: Bill & Sybil West at BillWest104@gmail.com or call 910-617-4586.

Greensboro's Healing Tuesdays

On January 17, 2017 the Beloved Community Center and Faith Community joined with members of St. James Presbyterian Church, New Light Missionary Baptist Church, and others to initiate a **“Weekly Fifteen Minute Public Healing Gathering.”** The gathering takes place every Tuesday at the Governmental Plaza, in Downtown Greensboro. **We have only missed gathering together once since Tuesday, January 17, 2017. We missed the July 4th week because the entire Governmental Plaza was occupied by other groups; so, we agreed instead to pray simultaneously from wherever we were at 12:00 Noon.**



Pictured above from left to right and top to bottom are some of the regular Healing Tuesdays participants: Sybil West, Reva Kreeger, Maya Jackson, Marcia Foutch, Rev. Alicia Alexis, Rev. Diane Moffett, Rev. Johnny Freeman, Joyce Johnson, Rev. Daran Mitchell, the diverse interfaith, intergenerational crowd gathered for the inaugural event, Rev. Warren Pittman, Irving David Allen, and Marilyn Clayton.

This public witness in an effort to heal the wounds of our “yesterdays” and prepare us to redirect our entire city more towards understanding, peace and justice in the months and years to come. Please join us on Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon for 15 minutes of community prayer, silent reflection, and community solidarity for racial healing and transformation, rooted in economic and social equity and justice.

Join us every Tuesday to help build a more just, safe, and healed City.

Some Challenges and Opportunities As We Step into 2018



The Greensboro City Council: Greensboro has a new City Council that will serve for four years (through 2021). We must strive to grow our moral consciousness and that of the City Council, while holding the Council morally and politically accountable.

The Wednesday Community Table: The Beloved Community Table is an open, welcoming space for anyone to attend on any Wednesday, 12:00 Noon-1:30 PM, at the BCC office, 417 Arlington St. Any concern or issue can be raised. The only requirement is mutual respect.



The Paradigm Shift Campaign: The BCC, together with others, will join with neighborhood youth of color in a paradigm shift initiative. This initiative will challenge the narrative that sees young men and women of color as “a problem” and instead embrace them as a gift to make the nation aware of its historical sins and to take the lead in justice making, community building and social transformation.

Democracy Greensboro (DemGSO): DemGSO has tremendous potential. It is a one-year-old community-based organization seeking to bring the voices and concerns of all people of Greensboro into the public decision making process. It developed the first ever “People’s Platform” and held a Citywide Platform Conference prior to City Council elections. The Platform serves as the basis to elect good candidates and hold them accountable to the interests of the people.



The Poor People’s Campaign — A National Call for Moral Revival (PPC): BCC is committed to promoting and building broad support for the PPC, grounded in a moral agenda and linked to local and state issues of economic and social equity within a moral framework (<https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/>).



BCC has a strong track record and an exciting vision. We have been engaged in this creative, place-based, community-building work for over 25 years. Please make a generous, tax-free donation today. Feel free to use one of the following methods to make your contribution:

Send a Check via Postal Mail to:

BCC
PO Box 875
Greensboro, NC 27402

Use a Credit Card Online at:

www.belovedcommunitycenter.org

Or Call Beloved at:

(336) 230-0001



2017 Review: The Beloved Community Center of Greensboro, NC Greensboro: Place-Based Organizing Local Organizing Connected to National Movements

“The Fierce Urgency of Now”

As we close out 2017, we are in a period of unprecedented moral decay, vicious economic attacks on the poor, rapidly rising racism, revelations of deep-seated male gender domination, ecological devastation, and the growing threat of war, even nuclear war. And, right here in Greensboro, we are grappling with a \$56 million parking deck project which could result in the public paying for private development. Borrowing from the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are facing the “fierce urgency of now!”

Against this background, can “we the people” and the many progressive organizations in Greensboro work together to build a moral movement sufficiently powerful to bend the *moral arc of our city* toward overcoming poverty and racism as we promote greater equity, social and ecological justice?

Further, can our work in Greensboro be joined with similar work over the nation building the *New Poor People’s Campaign: A Call for a National Moral Revival?* We at the Beloved Community Center not only believe that we CAN but that we MUST build such a movement. Now is the time!

We believe that our greatest contribution to a National Poor People’s Campaign is to work tirelessly to build a powerful, place-based movement right here in Greensboro and in North Carolina. Although fueled by flawed national and state policies, people experience pain primarily on the local level, where negative experiences of employment, housing, education, police conduct, poverty all converge.

While we must build enduring unity and strategic thinking on the local level, our organizing should always be connected strategically with state and national organizing. We invite you to read the remainder of this End of Year Report carefully and then join the work and make a generous donation to the Beloved Community Center (see the back page).

**Together We Can Move Mountains:
Alone, We Can’t Move at All!**

Thanks and many blessings,
Nelson & Joyce Johnson



Over 1,000 gathered at Greensboro’s Government Plaza in the wake of the August Charlottesville tragedy, reminding Greensboro of the tragic Greensboro Massacre of November 3, 1979.



The Intergenerational Beloved Community Center Team -- Rear Left to right: TC Muhammad, Cherrell Brown, Niesha Williams, and Rev. Wesley J. Morris; Front: Rev. Nelson N. Johnson, Joyce Hobson Johnson, and Lewis A. Brandon. III.



Tens of thousands gathered in Raleigh for the Annual HKonJ March led by the NC NAACP in February. Pictured above are members of the large Greensboro Delegation.

The Entire Community & City Striving to Come Together



The "Beloved Spirit" That Binds and Affirms the Dignity and Worth of All Humanity and All Creation

Working collaboratively with other organizations and institutions on the local and state levels is the principal manner by which BCC seeks to bring about the moral, economic, social, and cultural changes required to create a more just, equitable, and compassionate society. Pictured above, from left to right, top to bottom are a few initiatives BCC partnered in with fellow Greensboro organizations — **Row 1:** "Save Our Healthcare" Coalition; Support for "Our WalMart" Workers' Campaign; United Methodist Church Training Sessions on Engaging Racism in the Church & Community. **Row 2:** Triad Women's March; Support for Justice in the Young Jose Charles (inset) Police Abuse Case by Greensboro Clergy & Others. **Row 3:** Over 200 Gathered at BCC following Klan & Nazi Attack in Charlottesville; African American, Jewish, Christian and Muslim Youth Gathered at BCC for Dialogue and Grassroots History Tour. **Row 4:** Support of Sanctuary for Immigrant Residents; Children Encouraged to Read through Books and Black Youth Program hosted by Local Barber and Beauty Shops; Democracy Greensboro Gathered at BCC for Monthly Meetings to Craft the People's Platform for City Council Elections. **Row 5:** City Council and Other Leaders Gathered Downtown in Response to Charlottesville Attack; Diverse Community Group Gathered at Trinity AME Zion to Develop Community Strategy to Promote Police Accountability and Transparency in Government; American Friends Service Committee Chapter celebrated 100 Years of Promoting Equality and Justice in Greensboro during Special BCC Grassroots History Tour and Storytelling Session.

The Whole Nation Striving to Come Together: Connecting Local, State and National Struggles



An Injustice Anywhere Is a Threat to Justice Everywhere
(Dr. M L King, Jr.)

While focusing on local work, BCC also actively collaborated with state and national initiatives as in those depicted above from left to right and from top to bottom — **Row 1:** Raleigh Gathering to Support Just Immigration, Annual HKonJ in Raleigh led by NC NAACP. **Row 2:** Training for National Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA) in Collaboration with the Center for Creative Leadership; Full CBMA Inaugural Class at BCC. **Row 3:** Raleigh March to Repeal HB2, an Anti-LGBTQ Rights Legislation, BCC Training Session for Statewide Youth Organizing Institute (YOI), Festive Sending Forth for Former NC NAACP President Barber to Nation. **Row 4:** Clergy Blessed Rev. Barber; BCC Hosted Saket Soni of New Orleans Workers' Center in weeklong "Leadership Training and Renewal Residency."

