



LAY EXPRESS

Volume III

June 2017

Issue 6

Juneteenth Facts



Juneteenth celebration in [Austin, Texas](#), on June 19, 1900

Also called	Freedom Day or Emancipation Day
Observed by	Residents of the United States , especially African Americans
Type	Ethnic, historical
Significance	Emancipation of the last remaining enslaved persons in the United States
Observances	Exploration and celebration of African-American history and heritage
Date	June 19
Next time	June 19, 2017
Frequency	Annual

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 - 3	Juneteenth Information
4	Calendar * Concerns
5 - 7	Announcements * Know Your Church
8	Scholarship Information
9	Marion Lee Johnson: "A Hidden Figure"

HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

During the [American Civil War](#), President [Abraham Lincoln](#) issued the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863.

It declared all slaves to be freed in the [Confederate States of America](#) in rebellion and not in Union hands. This excluded the five states known later as [border states](#), which were the four slave states that were not in rebellion - Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri—and those counties of Virginia soon to form the state of West Virginia, and also the three zones under Union occupation: the state of Tennessee, lower Louisiana and Southeast Virginia.

Continued on Page 2

More isolated geographically, Texas was not a battleground, and thus its slaves were not affected by the Emancipation Proclamation unless they escaped. Planters and other slaveholders had migrated into Texas from eastern states to escape the fighting, and many brought their slaves with them, increasing by the thousands the number of slaves in the state at the end of the Civil War.

Although most slaves lived in rural areas, more than 1000 resided in both Galveston and [Houston](#) by 1860, with several hundred in other large towns. By 1865, there were an estimated 250,000 slaves in Texas. As news of end of the war moved slowly, it did not reach Texas until May 1865, and the [Army of the Trans-Mississippi](#) did not surrender until June 2. On June 18, 1865, [Union](#) General [Gordon Granger](#) arrived at [Galveston Island](#) with 2,000 federal troops to occupy Texas on behalf of the federal government. On June 19, standing on the balcony of Galveston's [Ashton Villa](#), Granger read aloud the contents of "General Order No. 3", announcing the total [emancipation](#) of slaves:

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The [freedmen](#) are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.



[Ashton Villa](#), from whose front balcony
General Order #3 was read on June 19, 1865

Former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets after the announcement, although in the years afterward many struggled to work through the changes against resistance of whites. But, the following year, freedmen organized the first of what became annual celebrations of Juneteenth in Texas. Barred in some cities from using public parks because of state-sponsored [segregation](#) of facilities, across parts of Texas, freed people pooled their funds to purchase land to hold celebrations, such as [Houston's Emancipation Park](#), [Mexia's Booker T. Washington Park](#), and Emancipation Park in [Austin](#).

Although the date is sometimes referred to as the "traditional end of slavery in Texas" it was given legal status in a series of Texas Supreme Court decisions between 1868 and 1874

In the early 20th century, economic and political forces led to a decline in Juneteenth celebrations. From 1890 to 1908, Texas and all former Confederate states passed new constitutions or amendments that effectively [disenfranchised blacks](#), excluding them from the political process. White-dominated state legislatures passed [Jim Crow](#) laws imposing second-class status. The [Great Depression](#) forced many blacks off farms and into the cities to find work. In these urban environments, African Americans had difficulty taking the day off to celebrate. From 1940 through 1970, in the second wave of the [Great Migration](#), more than 5 million blacks left Texas, Louisiana and other parts of the South for the North and West Coast, where jobs were available in the defense industry for [World War II](#). As historian [Isabel Wilkerson](#) writes, "The people from Texas took Juneteenth Day to Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle, and other places they went.

By the 1950s and 1960s, the [Civil Rights Movement](#) focused the attention of African-American youth on the struggle for racial equality and the future. But, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. Following the 1968 [Poor People's Campaign](#) to Washington, D.C. called by Rev. [Ralph Abernathy](#), many attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas where the day was not previously celebrated.

Since the 1980s and 1990s, the holiday has been more widely celebrated among African-American communities. In 1994 a group of community leaders gathered at Christian Unity Baptist Church in [New Orleans, Louisiana](#) to work for greater national celebration of Juneteenth. Paul Herring Chairman of The Juneteenth Committee credits Mrs. E. Hill Deloney (Community Matriarch) for starting the celebration in [Flint, Michigan](#) in the late 1980s; as he said, "... It's a time to Reflect & Rejoice, because we are the children of those who chose to survive. Juneteenth informal observances have spread to many other states, including Portland, Maine, in part carried by Texans. Expatriates have celebrated it in cities abroad, such as Paris. Some US military bases in other countries sponsor celebrations, in addition to those of private groups.

Organizations such as the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation are working toward gaining Congressional approval to designate Juneteenth as a national day of observance. Others are working to have its 150th anniversary celebrated worldwide.

In 1980, Texas was the first state to establish Juneteenth as a state holiday under legislation introduced by freshman [Democratic state representative Al Edwards](#). Juneteenth is a "skeleton crew" day in the state; government offices do not close but agencies may operate with reduced staff.

By 2008, nearly half of US states observed the holiday as a ceremonial observance. As of May 2016, when the Maryland legislature approved official recognition of the holiday, 45 of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday, a day of observance. States that do not recognize it are Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota and South Dakota.

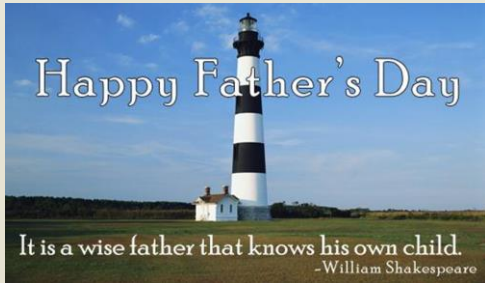
In 1996 the first legislation to recognize "Juneteenth Independence Day" was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.J. Res. 195, sponsored by [Barbara-Rose Collins](#) (D-MI). In 1997 Congress recognized the day through Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56. In 2013 the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 175, acknowledging Lula Briggs Galloway (late president of the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage) who "successfully worked to bring national recognition to Juneteenth Independence Day", and the continued leadership of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.



**Emancipation Day celebration in
Richmond, Virginia in 1905**

Upcoming Events

- Jun 4 Pentecost
- Jun 11 Memory Sunday
- Jun 16 Reality of Money-St. Paul, Raleigh
- Jun 18 **FATHER'S DAY**



- Jun 19 **Emancipation Day - Juneteenth**



- Jun 19-23 Campus Cruzin' - St. Paul, Raleigh

- Jul 4 **Independence Day**



- Jul 17-20 Summer Meeting at Hampton, VA
- Jul 23 **Parents' Day**
- Aug 7-10 Lay Biennial in Columbus, Ohio

CONCERNS

Continued Prayers for:

Bishop Frederick Talbot * Bishop John Hurst Adams * Elder J. Bernard Wilder * Elder C. K. Pridgen * Rev. Robert Goode * Rev. Alphonso McGlen * Rev. Willis Camp * Dale Wragg * Wesley Hendrix * Lamont Upperman * Crestian Johnson * Dwight Patterson * Barbara Smith & Family * Rev. Leroy Mitchell * Rev. Deborah Brown * Banks & Smith Families * Woodrow Winchester * Family of Janie Wilson * Family of Betty Chrisp * Leavie Davis * Wilbert Hooker * Joan Suddreth * Aisha Lide * Emma Devine * Penny Oliver * Adolphus Kelly * Family of Mozell Weston * Diane Foy * Charlene Camp * Leonard Flake * Family of Tonya Shoffner * Rev. Leroy Mitchell * Loretta Johnson * Family of James Edward Campbell * Margaret Duell * Rev. Ronald Owens & Family * Bethel AMEC-Reidsville & the Family of Rev. Shirley DeCoster * Retired Supervisor Theora Byrd * Family of Karen Jackson * Family of Rev. Diane Conley * The 17th Episcopal District * Mary Dasher-McAdams

Answers to the "Know Your Church"

1. B 2. C 3. C 4. A 5. A 6. B 7. A

"KNOW YOUR CHURCH"

How much do you know about the AME Church? In each issue you will have a chance to test your knowledge. *Answers will be found elsewhere in the newsletter.*

1. Which organization has to meet once per month?
 - a. The Steward Board
 - b. The Official Board
 - c. The Church Conference
 2. North Carolina has 2 Conferences. What are they?
 - a. North & South
 - b. East & West
 - c. NC & Western NC
 3. Shall meet every 3 months or 4 times a year in every circuit or station:
 - a. Church Conference
 - b. Lay Meeting
 - c. Quarterly Conference
 4. Richard Allen used this block as his first altar:
 - a. Anvil
 - b. Tree Stump
 - c. Soap Box
 5. The official colors of the Sons of Allen:
 - a. Maroon, Gray & White
 - b. Red & Gray
 - c. Solid Black & White
 6. During the service, including during meet & greet, when is it okay for a worshipper to walk in front of the altar?
 - a. During offering
 - b. Never
 - c. Leaving the Choir loft
 7. Members of RAYAC are between the ages of:
 - a. 21 & 39
 - b. 18 & 32
 - c. 19 & 30
-

ANNOUNCEMENTS



YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO VOTE!

Rev. Edwards would like you to vote for him by going to this site daily.

<http://ultimateguy.menshealth.com/entrant/2017/811/#907546/>

He is the Pastor of St. James AME Church in Asheville. You can vote until **June 5th**.

There will be a special issue of the newsletter highlighting the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and our 2017 graduates. If you have pictures and/or names of persons you would like to acknowledge, please email to the editor within the next 2 weeks. Thank you. so-b-it1@hotmail.com

**Subject: Western District Conference and Church School Convention
Saint Joseph AME Church,
2521 Fayetteville Street,
Durham, North Carolina 27707**

June 29-30, 2017

Pastors of the Western District

Greetings!

Time is counting down for the 2017 Western District Conference and Church School Convention June 29, 2017 through June 30, 2017.

The Saint Joseph Family is making preparations for your arrival and look forward to your attendance.

Rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis at the ***Hilton Garden Inn Durham Southpoint***, Wednesday, June 28, 2017 through Saturday, July 1, 2017 at a special group rate of \$117 per night plus applicable tax. **This special rate includes a scrumptious breakfast buffet.**

The Hilton Garden Inn Durham Southpoint, 7007 Fayetteville Road is located beside North Carolina's premier shopping center, The Streets of Southpoint along with Southpoint Cinemas and a variety of dining and entertainment options within walking distance.

Please share this information as applicable, and make your reservations as soon as possible by calling the hotel directly at [919-544-6000](tel:919-544-6000) or using this reservation link:

<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/R/RDUSPGI-STJ-20170628/index.jhtm>

The group code is Saint Joseph Conference.

****ALL ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE GUARANTEED WITH A CREDIT CARD BY 5:00 pm WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017. ****

Additional hotels for lodging include:

Double Tree Hotel

2515 Meridian Parkway

Durham, NC 27713

(919) 361-4660

Request and apply discounts for best available rate. Online booking may provide the best rate.

Residence Inn

Durham McPherson Duke University Medical Center

[1108 West Main Street](#)

[Durham, NC 27701](#)

[\(919\) 680-4440](#)

[marriott.com/hotels/travel/rdudd-residence-inn-durham-mcpherson-duke-university-medical-center-area/?scid=45f93f1b-bd77-45c9-8dab-83b6a417f6fe](#)

Request and apply discounts for best available rate. Online booking may provide the best rate.

Hampton Inn

[1542 North Gregson Street](#)

[Durham, NC](#)

[\(919\) 688-8880](#)

[https://www.reservationdesk.com/hotel/392805/hampton-inn-and-suites-durham-north-i-85/](#)

Request and apply discounts for best available rate. Online booking may provide the best rate.

Hilton/ Durham

[3800 Hillsborough Road](#)

[Durham, NC 27705](#)

[\(919\) 383-8033](#)

[http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/north-carolina/hilton-durham-near-duke-university-RDUDHHF/](#)

Request and apply discounts for best available rate. Online booking may provide the best rate.

Please contact Azzie Conley at azc280@yahoo.com or mobile (252) 916-8400 for additional information on lodging.

The meeting agenda will be forwarded via separate correspondence. We look forward to welcoming you to the 2017 Western District Meeting and Church School Convention! See you June 29-30, in the Bull City!

With God's Richest Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Owens, Senior Pastor

*Commission on Christian Education and
The Saint Joseph AME Church Family*



DAVIS/MCKINNEY SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE: JUNE 6, 2017
MAIL TO: DAVIS/MCKINNEY SCHOLARSHIP
C/O DR. V. SUSIE OLIPHANT
910 LURAY PLACE
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20783

**PLEASE READ EACH ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT AND
ADHERE TO DEADLINES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

KITTRELL-ALLEN-ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE: JULY 31, 2017
MAIL TO: MRS. GAIL P. RADCLIFF
9285 BERRY ROAD
WALDORF, MD 20603

DR. JAMES C. JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP



COMING SOON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Marion Lee Johnson: “A Hidden Figure”

May 15, 2017 [admin](#) [Features](#), [Frontpage](#), [News](#) [0](#)



Marion Lee Johnson: “A Hidden Figure”

By Rev. W. Golden Carmon, Sr., 1st Episcopal District

Marion Lee Johnson, a “Hidden Figure,” graduated from Tompkins High School in Savannah, Georgia, receiving the honor of Valedictorian of her class. She attended Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama, majoring in mathematics. After graduating from Talladega College, she began her career as an Associate Engineer at Boeing Company in Huntsville, Alabama in 1967. Boeing was a leader in building the Apollo Saturn V rocket. Sister Marion Lee Johnson was assigned to the Launch Systems Branch at Boeing, and worked on the NASA project for the Marshall Space Flight Center (NASA), under the direction of the legendary Wernher von Braun and Arthur Rudolph.

The contributions to NASA’s space program by Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughan are featured in the 2017 movie, “Hidden Figures.” Katherine, Mary, and Dorothy were physicists and mathematicians who worked directly with John Glenn. As pioneering contributors to NASA in the early application of digital electronic computers, Katherine, Mary, and Dorothy helped to ensure Glenn’s success as the first American to orbit Earth in the Friendship 7 Mercury capsule in 1962.

Like her predecessors, Marion Lee Johnson’s contributions were well hidden in Boeing and NASA. While working on the Boeing/NASA team in 1967, Marion Lee Johnson was responsible for preparing data inputs for simulation of vehicle piece impact trajectories. Marion Lee Johnson received significant commendations in March of 1969 for an incredible perfect score of 20 successful runs out of 20 attempts. Boeing also recognized her for her dedication, technical competence, and high standards of achievements in contributing to America’s successful First Manned Lunar Landing Mission on July 20, 1969, where Neil Armstrong said, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” Sister Marion’s name is enshrined in the Apollo/Saturn V Roll of Honor. A copy of this historic Roll of Honor is in the Library of Congress, as well as the Smithsonian Institution, both in Washington, D.C. (Also see, <http://abc7ny.com/1815282/>).

Following her two-year assignment with Boeing/NASA, Mrs. Johnson was employed at Pfizer, Inc. and retired as a Project Leader after 26 years of service. She currently works at the Branford Hall Career Institute, formerly known as the Chubb Institute, as a Computer Networking and Security Instructor.

Sister Marion Lee Johnson has been an active member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church since 1969 and a member of Mount Zion AME Church of Plainfield, New Jersey since 1985. She currently serves as president of the stewardess board. She is married to J. Frank Johnson, a member of the Mount Zion, Plainfield steward board and owner of J. F. Johnson & Co., providing accounting, tax, audit, and advisory services. They have three accomplished adult children—Dr. Sherri Wilson, Vice President of Women’s Services at Reston Hospital in Virginia; Miss Toni Renee’ Johnson, Dance Director at Savannah State University, Savannah, Georgia; and Mrs. Tracy R. Hardy, Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner at Lorain County Health & Dentistry in Lorain, Ohio.