
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

**We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one
mass movement.**

Sections

- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
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Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

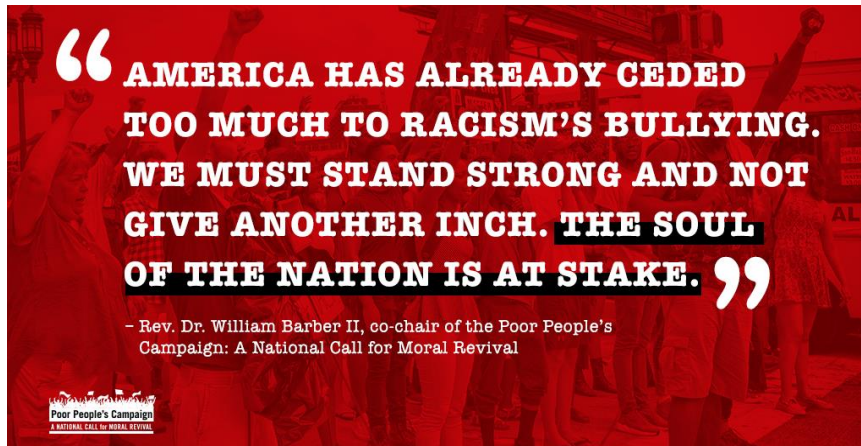
Spotlight

Poor People's Campaign: A Moral Revival



By DonnaMarie Woodson

"Fifty years ago, Americans across all races, religions, classes and other divides united to launch a revolution of values. As the moral agents of our time, we must do the same." #PoorPeoplesCampaign

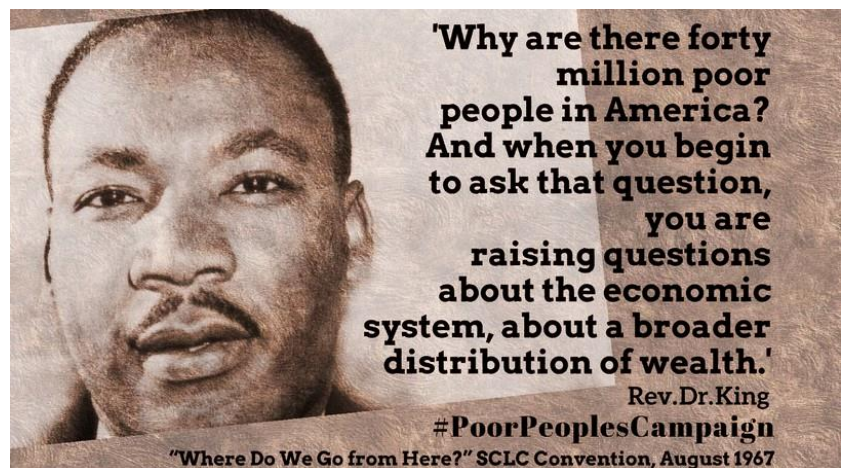


On February 5th, 2018 the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, held Unity News Conferences at state capitols across the nation. In over

25 states and Washington DC, people announced their participation in 40 days of moral action to launch the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival this Spring.

[The Poor People's Campaign](#) stands united with folks across the country highlighting the human impact of policies which promote systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and environmental devastation.

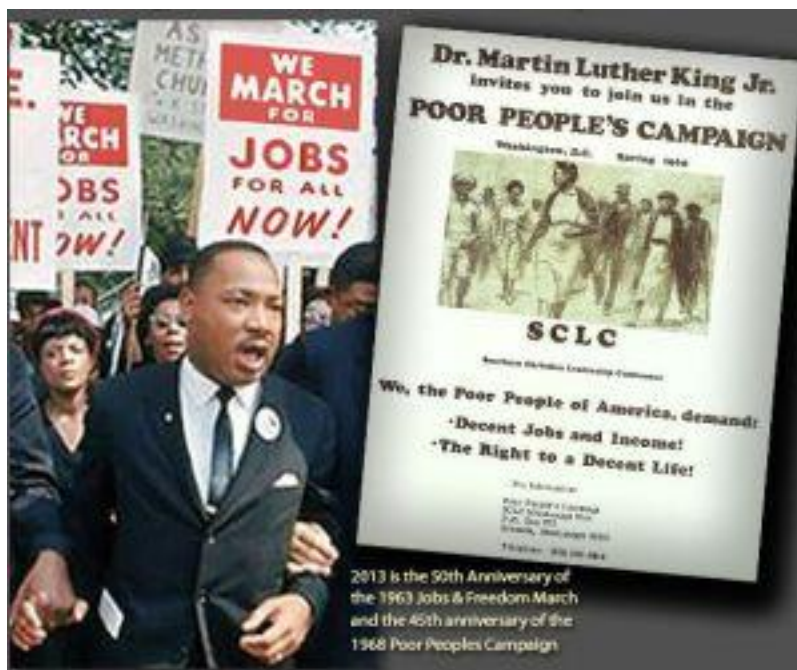
Fifty years ago, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King called for a Poor People's Campaign to begin a "revolution of values" in America. The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival



is reigniting these efforts to unite the poor, disenfranchised, and marginalized to transform our nation's political, economic and moral structures of our society.

Just a year before his assassination, at a Southern Christian Leadership Conference staff retreat in May 1967, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said:

“I think it is necessary for us to realize that we have moved from the era of civil rights to the era of human rights...[W]hen we see that there must be a radical redistribution of economic and political power, then we see that for the last twelve years we have been in a reform movement...That after Selma and the Voting Rights Bill, we moved into a new era, which must be an era of revolution...In short, we have moved into an era where we are called upon to raise certain basic questions about the whole society.”



Later that year, in December 1967, Rev. Dr. King announced the plan to bring together poor people from across the country for a new march on Washington. This march was to demand better jobs, better homes, better education—better lives

than the ones they were living. Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy explained that the intention of the Poor People's Campaign of 1968 was to “dramatize the plight of America's poor of all races and make very clear that they are sick and tired of waiting for a better life.”

Dr. King exemplified the clarity, commitment, capability, and connectedness needed to build a movement to end poverty saying:

“I choose to identify with the underprivileged. I choose to identify with the poor. I choose to give my life for the hungry. I choose to give my life for those who have been left out...This is the way I’m going.”

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II believe that this commitment is needed from all leaders interested in taking up King’s mantle. Dr. King demonstrated the difficulty and necessity of uniting the poor and dispossessed across race, religion, geography and other lines that divide.

In efforts to commemorate and build a Poor People’s Campaign for our times, PPC is undertaking an analysis of the 1967-68 Campaign.



“We aim to stand on the shoulders of those who came before and put effort into learning lessons and getting into step together.”

(Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II)

Working with the Poor People’s Campaign digital media group, it’s been very exciting to see the energy on the ground and spreading Dr. King’s and Rev. Barber’s message of a new “Moral Movement.”

In 2018, this is our reality:

- **Since 2010, 23 states have passed racist voter suppression laws.**
- **As of 2016, there are 40.6 million people living below the federal poverty line.**
- **At the height of the Vietnam War, military spending was \$354 billion, today it is nearly twice that at \$635 billion. 53 cents out of every discretionary dollar of our taxes goes directly to the military.**
- **13.8 million low-income households cannot afford water. This number could triple if water prices continue to rise.**



This video highlights the reasons why it's more than time for a National Moral Revival.

On February 19th the Poor People's Campaign held a Mass Meeting in Washington, D.C. with the clergy and impacted people giving their testimony.

Hosted by co-chairs the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, faithful reflection and public action on moral issues were told through storytelling, music, and interviews with local community organizers and impacted people.

The full event can be viewed at the NC Poor People's Campaign Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PPCNC/>

Together we're strong and our voices louder!



The North Carolina Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival Coordinating Committee.

(From Left to Right: Rev. Johnson, Minister Huslage, Keith Bullard, Joyce Johnson, Ana Blackburn, Joel Segal, Jade Jackson, Leslie Boyd)



We're doing our part in North Carolina to raise awareness and "take it to the streets!"

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality.

"We need you to step up and join our efforts."

Add your name now if you're ready to join our movement to transform the political, economic and moral structures of our country.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN



<https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/index.php/poor-peoples-campaign-1968/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PPCNC/>

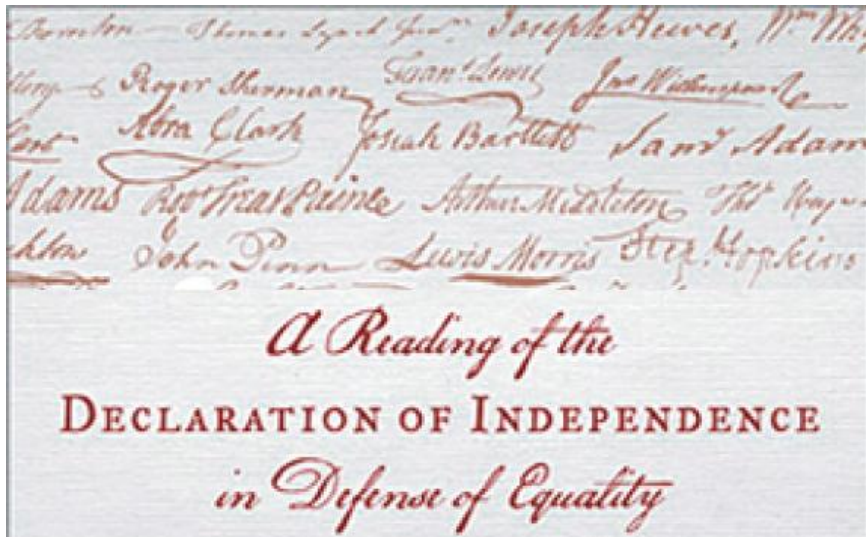
Editorial

Whatever Happened to Freedom and Equality?

By Tarik Kiley

February 23, 2018

It seems like Americans are living in an increasingly dystopian nightmare; people are being polarized along ethnic and religious



lines. President Trump, in his State of the Union address, paints all Latino immigrants as gangsters, executes travel bans which label all Muslims as

terrorists, stands up for the Alt-right, and otherwise maligns non-white, rich men.

This amazes me, because I remember studying in undergraduate school about American freedom and equality under the law.

But, aside from political equality or fairness under the law, one particular inequality which seems to go unexamined is socioeconomic inequality. So few people control so much. So few people are wealthy, while so many of us remain poor.

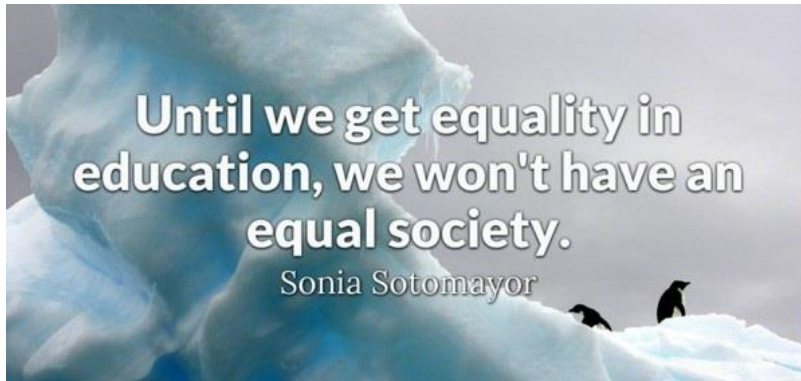
The proponents of the work ethic tell you to work and to pull yourself up by the bootstraps, but they do not talk about the lack of opportunity to work in their analyses.

If you do not have a good education, it will become increasingly more difficult to find self-fulfilling and self-sustaining work in this increasingly technological near future. Even if you do have the education, the scarcity of “good” jobs means that more people are competing for less.



It also seems like workers are begging for scraps from the tables of the rich; nothing trickles down though. This is evidenced by the increasing move towards regressive taxation by the Republicans.

Equality also used to mean “equal opportunity” but instead the “opportunities” seem to be shrinking for the middle class. There seems not to be a living wage anymore as in post WWII America; a wage on which a breadwinner could raise a family.



Students are strapped with ridiculous student loan debt and it seems more likely for the average person to move back

in with their parents after undergraduate school than to land that lucrative job which promises advancement and job security.

To make it worse, opportunity is being stifled by the lack of investment by the current government in Research and Development; 21st century infrastructure such as regional high-speed rail, and the failure to envision a plan for opulence in an increasingly technological age.

So, for me, freedom today is impacted by the ability or inability to produce and consume. It is not so much as combating racism, or fanaticism, or even the alt-right as much, though all these things are important. Today, it is more about the freedom of movement of goods and labor.

The movement of labor is crucial, because without the ridiculous borders which nationalist have and continue to want to impose on people—build

the wall, says Mr. Trump—people would be able to move internationally to the areas which offer the best opportunity.



For people to really benefit from free trade, they must be able to move where the jobs are. Unfortunately, wall builders make that very difficult.

So, peoples' freedoms are being hampered. It is being hampered by those who discriminate—discrimination denies you an opportunity from the starting gate. It is being hampered by the inability to move and migrate. It is being hampered by nativist who want to hoard benefits and resources for their, for lack of a better term, “tribe.”



The solution here, is to allow people the opportunity to move. Reservations and ghettos are cruel, because they trap people in an area which has very little economic development or opportunities for upward mobility. Upward

mobility leads to a higher standard of living, and a higher standard of living leads to increasing opportunity. What is freedom if you can't afford to live free?

There is the crux of my argument—not necessarily to redistribute resources from the rich, but to allow people the opportunity to access resources by being able to migrate.

Announcements



Democrats of N. Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018 7:00 PM

MAGNOLIA WOODS

12125 STATESVILLE ROAD

HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078

(SHARED DRIVEWAY WITH CAROLINA VETERINARY SPECIALISTS)

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

N.C. Senate 38 Political Forum

Mecklenburg Young Democrats

Thursday, March 1st at 6:30 PM

Heist Brewery

Charlotte, NC

North Mecklenburg Progressives

Monthly Dinner – Senator Jeff Jackson Speaker

Monday, March 12th, starting at 6:30

Famous Toastery

12715 Conner Dr., Huntersville

Swing Left NC-13

March Meeting of Democratic Women of Iredell County

Tue., March 6th at 6:30 PM

Mi Pueblo Mexican Grill Statesville, NC

March for Our Lives Charlotte

Charlotte March for Our Lives

Saturday, March 24th, 2018, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

First Ward Park

E. 8th St. and N. Brevard, Charlotte 28202

You Can Vote

2018 Volunteer Training and Workshop in Charlotte

Saturday, March 3rd at 10:00 AM

Beatties Ford Library

March for a Dream Act

Hosted by Libre

Saturday, March 3rd at 2:00 PM

Marshall Park

800 E. 3rd St. Charlotte 28208

Mecklenburg County Democratic Party Convention

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Vance High School

7600 IBM Dr.

Charlotte, NC 28262

Announcements



Senator Jeff Jackson's Gameplan Phone Bank

Advent CoWorking

933 Louise Ave, Suite #101, Charlotte, 28204

Purpose: Targeting voters in the most flappable districts across the state and letting them know there's an election this November 2nd.

- They've got a great challenger running in a competitive race who deserves their support as a voter and a volunteer.
- This challenger could be one of the keys to unlocking the governor's veto which would dramatically shift the political landscape.

Sign up here <http://www.jeffjacksonnc.com/gameplan-phone-bank>



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery



(Jade X. Jackson (Women's March), Rev. Rodney Sadler (Poor People's Campaign Town Hall Union County), and Joanna Hollingsworth (Women's March))

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley