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Baptist Bulletin

The 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet
of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

“Celebrating Baptist Women ... In the Spirit of Coretta: Women of Strength, Faith and Courage”

Since 1974, the inaugural event of every calendar year for the General Baptist State Convention has been the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet. More than 800 Baptists are expected to converge on the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro for the 39th Annual Banquet.

President Howard W. Parker, Jr. has directed the Baptist Headquarters to promote the theme he has chosen for the 2013 Banquet: *“Celebrating Baptist Women ... In the Spirit of Coretta: Women of Strength, Faith and Courage.”* According to Dr. Parker, “we have not always recognized the important role that Mrs. Coretta Scott King played in the civil rights movement. Not only was she a wife and mother, but she was a central figure in the movement during Dr. King’s life and certainly after his death.”



Mrs. LaVerna G. Parker, First Lady of the Convention, will assume her husband’s normal role and preside at the King Banquet.

Just as the civil rights movement was blessed with a woman of strength, faith and courage in Coretta Scott King, the General Baptist State Convention is blessed with women whose service and commitment are remarkable. The 2013 Banquet has been planned to spotlight some of these remarkable Baptist women and to honor their work and service.

The key feature of this year’s Banquet is a role reversal: the spouses of the Convention’s leaders will serve as program participants starting with Mrs. LaVerna G. Parker, wife of President Howard W. Parker, Jr. Each of the Vice Presidential spouses will participate.

Continuing the reversal of roles, the annual remarks of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer will be given by Dr. Linda W. Bryan, EST of the

Woman’s Auxiliary.

First Female Pastor to Host MLK Banquet



Dr. Sherri Arnold Graham, Pastor of Oberlin Baptist Church of Raleigh, will serve as the host pastor for the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet. Oberlin traces its beginnings back to the 1870’s. Dr. Graham has been Oberlin’s Pastor since December 2010. Her brief tenure has focused on ministry and missions including the “Boutique at Oberlin,” a food pantry and a transportation ministry.

BANQUET PARTICULARS

- **PLACE:** Imperial Ballroom in the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center (3121 High Point Road, Greensboro)
- **TICKETS:** \$50.00 per person and are available at the door until sold out. Seats may be guaranteed by credit card payment over the phone until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 10. Call 919-821-7466 to hold tickets by credit card.
- **ON-SITE TICKET SALES** begins at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 11. Doors to the Banquet open at 5:30 p.m. Banquet begins at 7:00 p.m.
- **HOTEL ROOMS** are available at the Sheraton Greensboro. Call the hotel at (919) 292-9161 and ask for General Baptist rate..

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

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“Preaching ... Teaching ... Reaching”

Loving Sisters of Roxboro to Provide Music



Dr. LaMont J. Johnson, GBSC Director of Music, has engaged The Loving Sisters of Roxboro, North Carolina to provide the music

for the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet. The group is lead by Evangelist Pamela Croom.

BANQUET MENU



A buffet will be served during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet.

Tossed Mixed Greens Salad
Waldorf Apple Walnut Salad
Pasta Prima Vera
Roast Beef with Mushrooms
Southern Fried Chicken
Broccoli, Cauliflower and Carrot Medley
Country Green Beans
Rice Pilaf
Rolls and Butter
Assorted Desserts
Coffee
Iced Tea

Banquet Honorees Kept “Top Secret”

President Parker to Surprise Four Recipients of the President’s Award of Distinction



Each year, the Convention President selects persons to receive the President’s Award of Distinction. This honor is the highest bestowed by the President and is awarded to persons of accomplishment within and without our Baptist family. The President has chose a very select group of four to receive this year’s honor. However, the recipients names are not being released. “This group is so special and so unique that we are heightening interest by keeping the list secret and saving the announcement until the Banquet,” says Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer. “All I am at liberty to say is that what the President has decided is unique and has not been done before at the King Banquet,” says Gray.

In addition to the framed Presidential Citation, the recipients will receive a European crystal vase etched with the Convention’s official seal, the recipient’s name and the “Woman of Strength, Faith and Courage” Banquet theme.

“BAPTIST BULLETIN” is an electronic newsletter published by Baptist Headquarters to highlight news of interest to the General Baptist Family. Please feel free to distribute copies (electronically or in print) to others who might be interested.