

Baptist Bulletin

Volume 8, Issue 10
December 30, 2014

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Sharpe to Preach at MLK Banquet

The Reverend Reginald W. Sharpe, Jr. will visit North Carolina for the 41st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet sponsored by the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. This annual event will take place in Durham, North Carolina at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Conference Center. The Banquet begins at 7:00 p.m.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet is the first event of the year for the Convention and, in 2015, will be the inaugural event of the new Avery administration. Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II was elected GBSC President in October, 2014 during the 147th Annual Session held in Greenville.

"In inviting Reverend Sharpe to the King Memorial preacher, President Avery is sending a bold signal of his interest in and sup-

port of young clergyper-sons," says Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Convention. At 23 years of age, Reverend Sharpe will be the youngest King Memorial preacher in the 41-year history of the Banquet.

Without question, Reverend Sharpe is one of the nation's emerging voices among young Baptist ministers. A 2013 *cum laude* graduate of Morehouse College, Reverend Sharpe was a campus leader. In addition to receiving departmental honors in Religion and Philosophy, he was President of the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel Assistants Program and of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society. Like Martin



Rev. Reginald W. Sharpe, Jr. will keynote the 2015 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet on January 9, 2015 in Durham, NC.

Luther King, Jr., Rev. Sharpe is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Reverend Sharpe has been a frequent guest to various North Carolina pulpits in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Durham. However, the King Banquet will be his first official visit to preach to the Convention. "We are quite excited about his upcoming visit," says Gray, "and we are all in for a very special evening."



BANQUET DETAILS AT A GLANCE

DATE:

Friday, January 9, 2014

TIME:

Banquet begins at 7:00 p.m.
Ticket pickup starts at 4:00 p.m.
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

TICKETS:

\$65.00 at the door.
Discounted tickets may still be available at Baptist Headquarters. Call (919) 821-7446 to see if additional discounted tickets are available at \$50.00 each.

PLACE:

Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Conference Center
I-40 at Exit 282 (Page Road)
4700 Emperor Boulevard
Durham, NC 27703
(GBSC Room Block Sold Out)

New Fiscal Year Begins On January 1

The new fiscal year for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. begins on January 1, 2015. Contributions intended for the 2014 fiscal year must be received at the Baptist Headquarters by the close of business on January 31. 2015 will mark the second year that the Convention's fiscal year has mirrored the calendar year. "The change was made primarily because most of our contributing churches

operate on a January to December fiscal year," says Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary Treasurer. "The fact that the Convention's fiscal year did not match the Church's calendar made for lots of confusion in churches. We hope this change will make it easier for most churches to remember and to report."

"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.

*General Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina, Inc.*

THE BAPTIST HEADQUARTERS

In the heart of downtown Raleigh
603 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2338

Phone: 919-821-7466

Fax: 919-836-0061

E-mail: GBSCgray@bellsouth.net



Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II
President

Rev. Haywood T. Gray
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

From Baptist Headquarters



Banquet Ticket Distribution Changes for 2015

Tickets to MLK Banquet to be Distributed on Day of Banquet at "Will Call" Table

The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet is always an exquisite affair, but also a very expensive affair. According to Baptist Headquarters, the event's costs can be in excess of \$30,000.00. As such, the event is a ticketed affair.

The Baptist Headquarters has changed its ticket distribution policy for the 2015 Banquet. All banquet tickets will be available for pick-up on the day of the Banquet; **no tickets will be distributed in advance.**

"This change comes to address the inevitable problem of lost, misplaced and forgotten tickets that always happens each year," says Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer. "This change is designed to better address these issues."

Lost tickets can be a big problem for staff and for Banquet attendees. If tickets are reported



lost prior to the Banquet, generally replacements can be provided. However, persons who discover that their tickets are lost on the evening of the Banquet present a unique problem for which there is not always an easy solution.

Mailing tickets and receipts becomes an expensive activity when attendance approaches 1,000 tickets. Sometimes tickets are not delivered in time or purchasers give incorrect or

incomplete addresses that prevent mail delivery.

Another big problem is that persons attending the Banquet simply forget to bring their tickets. They often may have come from a great distance without the possibility of going back to get their tickets.

Headquarters staff will be available beginning at 4:00 p.m. on January 9 to distribute tickets for the Banquet. Doors to the Banquet will open at 5:30 p.m. Banquet attendees who will be staying at the hotel are encouraged to pickup tickets upon check-in at the hotel.

Tickets purchased after December 31 will cost \$65.00 each; tickets are available for \$50.00 until December 31. Tickets may be purchased by credit card (MasterCard or VISA) by calling Headquarters at 919-821-7466.