



# EAST SIDE PRIDE NEWS AND VIEWS

*A New Community Newsletter*

VOL. I

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NO. I

## Rev. Dr. H. Ward Greer to Lead Board of the Afro-American Historical Society



We are pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. H. Ward Greer has been appointed Chairman Pro Tem of the Board of the Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware.

Rev. Greer was born and reared in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was graduated from Minnehaha Academy. He received a B.S. Degree in Sociology from Westmar College in 1973. He received a Master of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and was awarded a Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary, specializing in Urban Church Development. Rev. Greer has served as Pastor of Brandywine Trinity and Buttonwood United Methodist Churches. Other local pastorates were Coleman Memorial, Mt. Joy and Ezion-Mt. Carmel United Methodist Churches. Rev. Greer has recently been called to Pastor at Breezewood United Methodist Church and Everett United Methodist Church, both located in nearby Pennsylvania.

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## THE BLACK CHURCH FREEDOM'S INCUBATOR AND COMMUNITY ANCHOR



Almost from its inception, the Black Church was the center of the Black community. Not only did it provide for our spiritual well-being, it was freedom's incubator. During slavery the Black Church was a primary station on the Underground Railroad, as well as a prime supporter of the abolition movement. (All this, of course, was done in secrecy and few Black ministers would speak against slavery on the pulpit for fear of seeing their church burned to the ground. Even in the North).

The Black Church is where the African in captivity was first educated. It was the only place we had a chance to socialize and establish relationships. It is where we established our family structure and extensions.

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# *EAST SIDE PRIDE*

## **Dr. Greer On Board ... continued**

Dr. Greer's community service in Delaware has included: serving on the Board of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, Chairman of the Methodist Action Program Board of Directors, and as President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Action Council, popularly known as IMAC. Rev. Greer will be working closely with the Historical Society's Founder and CEO, Dr. Harmon R. Carey, to expand the role of the organization to include nontraditional historical activities in keeping with the needs of the community, such as operating the first Black owned/operated Radio Station in Delaware, WHGE- 95.3 FM.

### **EAST SIDE PRIDE RECOVERY MEETINGS TUESDAY EVENINGS**

**7 PM- 8:30 PM**

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**9TH & PINE STREETS**

**OPEN TO ANYONE SUFFERING OR  
RECOVERING FROM AN ADDICTION  
NARCOTICS●ALCOHOL●NICOTINE  
GAMBLING●OVEREATING  
REFRESHMENTS SERVED**

## **Freedom's Incubator ...continued**



From Emancipation through the Black migrations north, the Black Church was often the first stop for the newly free, for we hoped and expected our church family to take care of us. There was a time all someone new in town needed to do was to find the Black Church and they were straight. You would be fed, found a place to stay and even employment. If you stuck around long enough and became a member of the church, eventually you'd find yourself with a spouse and children.

It is the Black Church from which the Civil Rights Movement sprang. Three such churches were founded on Wilmington's East Side.

Mother A.U.F.C.M.P., Ezion United Methodist , and Bethel A.M.E.

Our greatest victories in the Civil Rights era were planned, organized, and implemented in churches around the nation. The Black Church also produced some of our most notable leaders. From Peter Spencer, Richard Allen and Absalom Jones to Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Black Church has been at the forefront of our struggle for freedom and our survival as a people and community.

# *EAST SIDE PRIDE*

## **WILMINGTON GET READY FOR THE 29TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY FESTIVAL**

Saturday September 6, 2025 marks the 29th Anniversary of the historic African American Family Festival in Wilmington, Delaware. The collective work of community, the cooperative economics of a thriving marketplace and the creativity of up-coming to legendary local performers, continues a traditional presence of homegrown Black excellence.

From 12noon-7pm Kirkwood Park (located at 11th & Kirkwood Street) will transform into a celebration of music, art, culture and food. Bring your chairs and blankets to enjoy African drummers *Griots Wa Umoja*, Jazz band *Alfie Moss & Dexter Koonce Project* and R&B provided by *The Full Effect Band*.

Fun times for the children are lined up with free horseback rides (2pm-4pm), a moon bounce, face-painting, cotton candy, snowballs and popcorn. Also get excited about youth performers *Essence Legacy Drummers & Steppers* and family band *H-FaM* taking the stage.

Bring your family, your friends and tell all your neighbors about the 29th Annual African American Family Festival, sponsored by The Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware and the Walnut St. YMCA. There will be food vendors, an Art Exhibit by *K.O. Simms*, a fashion show and more. *Don't miss out on this day of fun and unity in our community!*

*Samantha Hollins*

*The Festival Planning Committee expresses appreciation for donations to: City Council President, "Trippi" Congo and Council Members Shané Darby, Maria Cabrera, Zanthia Oliver and Michelle Harlee. Also, appreciation is expressed to the Delaware Division of the Arts which awarded a grant for the musical ensembles.*



## **FREE AFRICAN DRUM LESSONS**

Will begin on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 4:00 pm on the Patio in back of **WHGE** Radio Station at 9<sup>th</sup> & Pine streets. Children of all ages are welcome to enroll. The lessons will last through the month of October or as long as weather permits. The Instructor is **Baba EA**, a Master Drummer and resident of the East Side.

## **So You Want to Be A RADIO HOST?**

**WHGE – 95.3 FM** is accepting applications for new radio shows from SERIOUS applicants. To apply: Go to website [WHGE953.com](http://WHGE953.com)

Scroll down to Contact Us and print the Broadcast Inquiry Form. Complete the form and submit it according to the instructions. Upon review, we will be back in touch with you. If you don't have access to a printer, leave your address in our mailbox at 9<sup>th</sup> & Pine, and we will send you an application.

## **OUR STAFF**

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## **REWARDS FROM \$500 UP TO \$1,000**

For information leading to the return of Art Works stolen from a storage facility on East 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Wilmington. Included are paintings of Clifford Brown (on silk), Frederick Douglass (oil on canvas), Louis Redding (oil on canvas), a drawing of a Blind Irish Beggar by Laura Wheeler Waring. These and other works were to be exhibited in an African American Art Gallery now under construction on the East Side. Names of anyone offering information will remain confidential. Call information in to (302) 562-4718.

## **THE AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE**

Has entered into discussion to obtain the title to a property now owned by the Wilmington Land Bank. According to the organization's Board Chairman, Rev. Dr. H. Ward Greer, the Society plans to use the property as an Administrative Office and for programs and services needed on the East Side. Rev. Greer has issued a call for volunteers to reactivate the East Side Pride Action Council to play a leadership role in developing the initial services and activities to be offered for children and adults. Of special interest to family and friends of the late Wilmington City Council Member, William "Dutch" Burton, is that there has been serious discussion about naming the facility in his honor.

Anyone interested in participating in this effort should contact the organization's CEO, Harmon R. Carey, at (302) 562-4718. Priority will be given to individuals who live, work or attend church services on the East Side.

## **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

Can you COOK? Do you enjoy cooking? For yourself? For others? Do you want to open a restaurant? Can you qualify for a loan? All "YESSES?"

Call East Side Action Council at (302) 562-4718.