

Call to Action on African American Health

continued ▲ from Front

in regular health facilities," Norwood-Knight said.

Emmanuel Temple Church Pastor C.T. Wells and the other local leaders all urged Smith to take action to ensure federal funding for community-based solutions.

"Prayer alone does not resolve the health disparities people face," Wells said.

Corliss McKeever of the African American Health Coalition said stereotypes about African Americans in health facilities where they are not represented create paranoia for all parties involved and can lead to healthcare mistakes.

She said an example is a patient being overdosed with medicine in a hospital because of a misconception that a higher dose is needed for African Americans.

There is also the fear of being used as guinea pigs for a lot of



PHOTO BY KHAYA DARKO/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dr. Rev. Leroy Haynes of Allen Temple Church and Bishop A.A. Wells, founder of Emmanuel Temple Church, lend support to a forum on healthcare inequities.

African Americans because of scandalized mistreatments and experiments on minority populations from past decades.

Dr. Joy Leary, author of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, said

at the national level, therefore it is an American problem, she said.

Dr. Norwood-Knight said mental health in the African American community also is not being adequately addressed, leading to a

and tend to self medicate by way of alcohol or drugs, leading to increases in crime and homelessness.

Sen. Smith said he emphasized with the concerns brought to him.

"I lost a son to mental illness," he shared with the group, agreeing that mental illness is a health issue and that health organizations need to cross-train health providers in both physical and mental illness.

Smith also agreed that funds are vital to fight against these health disparities and that he was going to take back to Washington D.C. with him the cries of the community. He said the government must put people first.

"The health disparities issue is a fight I am very passionate about," he said.

Prayer alone does not resolve the health disparities people face.

—Bishop C.T. Wells

these fears create less black participation for current health trials.

African American health disparities for Oregon are at par with those

rising number of blacks that are being incarcerated. He further added that people who suffer mental health conditions and are being ignored

Moment of Silence for Rosa Parks

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community also took time out to remember Parks during a memorial service at Emmanuel Temple Church in north Portland.

Many, including prominent figures in the community attended the event, including Sen. Margaret Carter, Dr. Rev. T. Allen Bethel of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, Oregon's First Lady Mary Oberst,

TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen, Portland Mayor Tom Porter, and Bishops A.A. Wells and C.T. Wells of Emmanuel Temple Church.

May Parks' spirit and legacy live on.

Tobacco Prevention Network Started

A new health coalition wants you involved with anti-tobacco efforts.

Local residents are encouraged to attend the first meeting of the African-American Tobacco Prevention and Education Network to be held Thursday at noon at Talking Drum Coffee Shop and Bookstore (formerly Reflections) at 446 N.E. Killingsworth St.

The meeting is an opportunity to participate in a community-wide effort to reduce smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke, according to Yugen Rashad, the coalition's program coordinator.

Rashad said the focus of the network is the high prevalence of tobacco use in the African-American



Yugen Rashad (left) and Calvin Henry help launch the African-American Tobacco Prevention and Education Network.

community. Discussions will also focus on possible solutions to creating a healthier community.

Smoking-related diseases kill 45,000 African-Americans each year. About 27 percent of African-

American adults in Oregon smoke compared to 21 percent of the general population. Black American men are at least 50 percent more likely to develop lung cancer than white men.

In Loving Memory

Fannie Lee Smith

Fannie Lee (Robinson) Smith went home to be with the Lord on Nov. 30, 2005. She was born Nov. 16, 1910 in Anniston, Ala., the daughter of Mose Robinson and Rosie Dale.

She accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. She married Sanders Smith and moved to Oregon in 1944. The family joined Mt. Olivet Baptist Church three weeks after arriving in Portland.

Sister Smith loved the Lord and served him in the church and her community. She was a Sunday school teacher for many years and sang in the Chancel Choir for over 40 years. Her love and passion for youth

resulted in her organizing the American Baptist Girls Guild at Mt. Olivet. She also served as Guild camp director for over two decades. She was a member of the church's Lott Carey Circle and was ordained a deaconess under Rev. John H. Jackson. She served with American Baptist Women and Church Women United on both local and state levels. She was a member of the national Council of Negro Women and the Federated Women's Clubs and many other civic and service organizations.

In 1965, she trained at the University of St. Louis and became one of the first African-American women employment specialists for

the state of Oregon. She worked for SEP and the Youth Opportunity Center. She helped many people; especially African-American youth find employment.

She was an active member of OASIS. She attended Wednesday morning Bible study and was an inspiration to all who knew her. Almost everyone called her "Gamma Fannie or Miss Fannie." Many young women loved to spend time with her because of her strong faith and the wisdom. Her love of God was evident to everyone. She was a reminder to us all that God does not have a retirement plan.

Sister Smith leaves to cherish her memory, daughters Helen Britton and Angela Branch of Las Vegas, Nev., and Rosie Tabb of Portland; sons; Edward and Moton Smith of Portland; grandchildren Joyce DaSilva, Trecolyn Collins, Patricia Britton, Winston Branch and T'Neshia Branch of Las Vegas, and William Henderson (Monica), Terri Hamilton (David), Anthony, Timothy and Ebony Smith of Portland; 19 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Her husband Sanders Smith, daughter Mary Ann Smith and grandson Sanders Smith preceded her in death.



Lewis and Clark's 'York'

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All this follows the fact that in 1804, Lewis and Clark, accompanied by a slave only known as "York," set out on an extraordinary journey of exploration. Theirs was not merely a physical trek to the Pacific and back, but a journey of the mind set in motion by a president impatient to learn as much as he could about the

North American continent. Two hundred years later, their expedition inspires new journeys of the mind.

For teachers, students, and lifelong learners, the bicentennial of this historic event is an opportunity to become immersed in President Thomas Jefferson's spirit of discovery and to learn more about the views of those who already lived in the West.

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