

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

and

Bethlehem Baptist Church of Chesterfield
First Baptist Midlothian
First United Presbyterian Church
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Gravel Hill Baptist Church of Southside
Mt. Nebo Baptist Church of Chesterfield
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

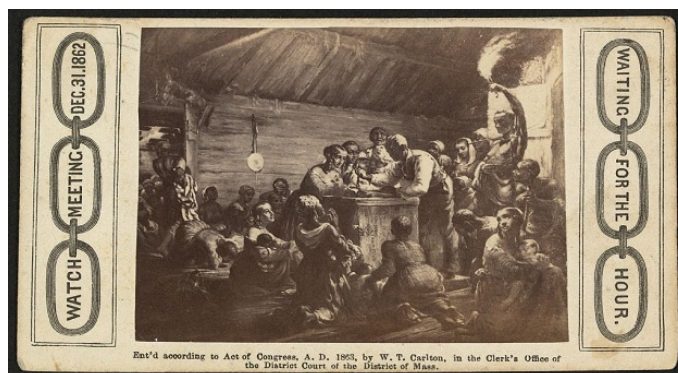
Come Celebrate and Remember

The 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

December 31, 2012 at 10:00 p.m.

**Good Shepherd Baptist Church
1127 North 27th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
Reverend Sylvester Smith, Pastor**

*Church Bell Tolling Across the Commonwealth
January 1, 2013 at 12:00 Noon*



Source: <http://afroamericancivilwar.blogspot.com/2012/10/what-were-they-watching-for-on-watch.html>

The remembrance of this Watch Night is historic. It was 150 years ago that enslaved Africans huddled together to pray, wait, and "watch" for the promise of freedom and liberty with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. With the signing of this historic document, millions of enslaved Africans were freed to seek their own destiny, claim their human dignity, and leave a rich legacy for their progeny and generations to follow.

As the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War is commemorated throughout the Commonwealth and the nation, the Commission and the churches named above invite you to pause with them and the African American community to pray, wait, and "watch" and give thanks with a grateful heart for God's deliverance.

This special Watch Night service, which kicks off the state's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, will highlight the purpose of the observance of Watch Night in the African American community, prayer, music, dramatization, and much more. You are invited to join the King Commission and area churches for this historic Watch Night at Good Shepherd Baptist Church, 1127 North 27th Street in Richmond. The pastor is Reverend Sylvester Smith. Also the Commission requests that churches throughout Virginia toll their bells at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2013, to commemorate the Emancipation.

For further information contact:

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