



## 2018 Beloved Community Conversations

**WILLIAMSBURG** *June 6, 2018, First Baptist Church*  
**727 Scotland Street, Williamsburg, VA 23185**

**Primary contact:** Rev. Dr. Reginald F. Davis, First Baptist Church

**Program:**

Introduction: Sen. McClellan

Welcome: Sen. Monty Mason

Panel:

Reverend Reginald F. Davis, Pastor, First Baptist Church

Rev. Christopher Epperson, Rector, Bruton Parish Episcopal Church

Lafayette Jones, James City County Historical Commission

Brian J. Smalls, President, York-James City-Williamsburg Branch of the NAACP

Dr. Robert Vinson, Associate Professor of History & Africana Studies, William & Mary

**King in Williamsburg**

**June 26, 1962**

Location: First Baptist Church on Scotland Street

Event: Speaking event.

---

**DANVILLE** *July 11, 2018, High Street Baptist Church*  
**630 High Street, Danville, VA 24541**

**Primary contacts:** Emma Edmunds, Rev. Tyler Millner

**Panel - invitations pending:**

Bishop Lawrence Campbell

Rev. Thurman O. Echols

Emma Edmunds

LTC Wesley Motley

Councilman Sherman Saunders

Sen. Stanley

Mayor Gilstrap (welcome)

**King in Danville:**

**March 26, 1963**

Location: Danville City Auditorium

Event: Speaking event

Details: The Danville Christian Progressive Association (DCPA), an affiliate of the SCLC, brought Dr. King to Danville to speak to an audience of 2,500 at the Danville City Auditorium. According to

Bishop Campbell, a leader in the DCPA, Dr. King stayed in Greensboro, North Carolina, because Danville hotels would not permit him to stay there.

**July 11, 1963**

Location: High Street Baptist Church

Event: speaking event; response to police violence in Danville

Details: MLK: Spoke after "Bloody Monday" (June 10, 1963) in Danville. "Wherever injustice is alive, it is a responsibility for people of good will to take a stand against it." "As long as the Negro is not free in Danville, Virginia, the Negro is not free anywhere in the United States of America."

**November 15 and 21, 1963**

Location: High Street Baptist Church (Nov. 15 and Nov. 21)

Event: Civil rights rally; planning for major SCLC efforts in Danville

Details: Flew in to Greensboro, N.C. and went to Danville Friday night to give a speech to a crowd of about 375 at High Street Baptist Church. Before King spoke, a member of the American Nazi Party took the stage and addressed the crowd, telling the audience that they had chosen "the wrong leader" in Dr. King. King spoke afterward, telling the crowd that he was "glad you let him say what he had to say...When I look at people like this, my reaction is not one of anger but one of pity." Dr. King left Danville the next day, cancelling scheduled talks due to a virus.

King returned to Danville the next week (Thursday, November 21) and spoke again at High Street Baptist Church. He told the crowd, "There's a mighty good fight getting ready to take place in Danville—a good, non-violent fight." King was in Danville to prepare for "massive, direct action" in the fight against segregation. The SCLC planned for a major civil rights effort in Danville, comparable to actions in Birmingham, but the full-scale plan was never implemented.

---

**SUFFOLK *July 26, 2018 (tentative), Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts***  
**110 Finney Ave, Suffolk, VA 23434**

**King in Suffolk:**

**June 28, 1963**

Location: Union Hall, East Washington Street (press conference); Peanut Park (talk)

Event: SCLC Rally

**March 30, 1968 - Norfolk, Suffolk, Southside (Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Amelia, Brunswick, Nottoway) - planned tour but didn't go (went to Memphis, assassinated April 4)**

Details: Intended to visit several cities to encourage participation at Poor People's March on Washington, but cancelled to go to Memphis for sanitation workers' strike.

---

**LYNCHBURG, *August 1, 2018, E.C. Glass High School***  
**2111 Memorial Ave, Lynchburg, VA 24501**

**King in Lynchburg:**

**March 27, 1962**

Location: E.C. Glass High School

Details: Gave address sponsored by the Lynchburg Improvement Association. Part of People to People Tour.

## HAMPTON

### King in Hampton:

**September 27, 1956**

Location: Hampton Institute

Details: Speaking engagement. King delivered his talk, "The Montgomery Story," at Hampton Institute. En route to Hampton that morning King had been refused service in the main dining room of the Atlanta airport's restaurant, and had his first meal of the day after his talk.

---

## HOPEWELL

### King in Hopewell:

**March 29, 1962**

Details: Led a delegation of ministers and laymen to Hopewell for contempt trial of Rev. Curtis West Harris, after he refused to give names to Virginia Legislative Committee. End of MLK's People to People Tour.

---

## NEWPORT NEWS

### King in Newport News:

**January 2, 1958**

Location: First Baptist Church (now First Church of Newport News)

Event: Annual Emancipation Celebration program

Details: Spoke on "Facing the Challenge of a New Age"

**June 28, 1962**

Location: First Baptist Church (now First Church of Newport News)

Event: Southern Christian Leadership Conference Fund for Freedom Drive

Details: Spoke to an audience of 700 at the church.

---

## NORFOLK

### King in Norfolk:

**June 30, 1961**

Location: City Arena (now Harrison Opera House)

Event: rally sponsored by Virginia Christian Leadership Conference

Details: Addressed an audience of 2,500. Dr. Milton A. Reid also attended. (A previously scheduled visit in October 1958 was cancelled when he was attacked while autographing books in NYC.) MLK: "It is non-violence or non-existence." "If America is to remain a first class nation, it can't have second class citizens."

**October 29, 1966**

Location: New Calvary Baptist Church

Event: Installation services of Dr. Milton A. Reid

Details: Attended installation services, followed by press conference with reporters and NSC students. Dr. King's last visit to Norfolk. Less than 3-hour visit.

**March 30, 1968 - Norfolk, Suffolk, Southside (Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Amelia, Brunswick, Nottoway) - planned tour but didn't go (went to Memphis, assassinated April 4)**

Details: Intended to visit several cities to encourage participation at Poor People's March on Washington, but cancelled to go to Memphis for sanitation workers' strike.

---

## PETERSBURG

### King in Petersburg:

#### **October 5, 1956**

Location: Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

Event: 21st annual convention of the Virginia State NAACP

Details: Invited by Wyatt Tee Walker. MLK stayed at Walker's home in Petersburg. Gave a talk on "Desegregation in the Future." Mr. Olivet Baptist Church was filled to capacity, and the talk was broadcast to other local churches.

#### **March 1957**

Location: Foster Hall (talk) and Jones Hall (banquet), Virginia State College. Very little documentation on this visit.

#### **June 1 and early June, 1960**

Details: MLK recruited members for executive staff, announced at Gillfield Baptist Church that Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker would go with him to Atlanta (related: [3/5/1960 letter offering Wyatt Tee Walker position as SCLC executive director](#)). Dorothy Cotton also went to Atlanta. MLK spoke at June 1 meeting of Petersburg Improvement Association.

#### **March 28, 1962**

Location: Virginia State College and First Baptist Church

Details: Part of the People to People Tour. Spoke to 2,000 students, staff, and visitors. MLK: "There is no need for immoral means to achieve moral ends." (Note: this is the same date as MLK's Farmville visit.)

**March 18, 1963** – [Telegram from MLK to Sen. Robert Kennedy](#), requesting investigation into inadequate police protection in Petersburg and use of police dogs on peaceful demonstrators. [Telegram to Governor Albertis Harrison](#).

#### **July 2, 1965**

Location: Virginia State College Athletic Stadium

Event: First convention of the Virginia branch of Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Details: Speaking to an audience of 2,000, MLK urged an end to the Vietnam war, and suggested the possibility of using teach-ins and peace rallies to protest the war. MLK: "We can beat communism with democracy, if we can make democracy work."

#### **June 2, 1967 - Petersburg**

Location: Jones Hall, Virginia State College

Event: Banquet to honor Rev. Dr. Curtis West Harris

Details: Invited by Hopewell Improvement Foundation. King gave 45-minute address.

---

## Past Programs

### *RICHMOND March 1, 2018, VUU*

#### **Community Roundtable**

**March 1, 2018, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Perkins Living and Learning Center, Virginia Union University**

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Corey Walker

#### **Program:**

Introduction: Sen. McClellan

Greetings on behalf of City: Mayor Stoney

Panel: Jamar A. Boyd, VUU graduate student

Del. Delores McQuinn, 70th District

Benjamin Ragsdale

Rev. Dr. Jim Somerville, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Monument Avenue

Dr. Corey Walker, VUU Vice President

Rev. Janie Walker, Richmond Hill

Moderated by Sen. McClellan

#### **MLK in Richmond:**

##### **Summer 1953**

Location: Virginia Union University

Details: King attended and spoke at an interseminary conference at Virginia Union University

##### **November 2, 1956**

Location: Belgian Building, Virginia Union University

Event: 69th annual convention of the Virginia Teachers Association, Oct. 31 - Nov. 2

Details: Three-day session, Dr. King spoke on Friday, the last day, at 4 p.m. on "Facing the Challenge of a New Age."

##### **February 27 - March 1, 1957**

Location: Virginia Union University

Details: Preaches "Remember Who You Are" (Feb. 27), "Going Forward by Going Backward," (Feb. 28), and "Three Dimensions of a Complete Life" (March 1) as part of VUU's annual Week of Prayer.

##### **January 1, 1959 - endorsement of Pilgrimage of Prayer (not a VA visit)**

Event: Pilgrimage of Prayer, protesting closing of VA public schools

Details: King sent a letter (dated Dec. 3, 1958) to churches across the state asking for participation in the march to protest the closing of public schools. King wrote, "Today is a day for great men, great ideas, great movements, a day of new self-esteem and dignity for Negro Americans; a day for all Virginians of good will to speak to our millions of disenfranchised and disinherited brothers all over the world. Virginia, in this critical hour, has the opportunity to give direction and destiny to our troubled South. As Virginia goes, so goes the South, perhaps America, and the world." The January 1, 1959 march was organized by the state NAACP, the Congress for Racial Equality, and the SCLC. A 7-minute pre-recorded message from King was played at the march.

##### **January 1, 1960**

Location: The Mosque (now Altria Theater); Virginia State Capitol

Event: Pilgrimage of Prayer and March on Capitol

Summary: Rally urging Governor Almond to use his emergency powers to open Prince Edward county schools. MLK: "Nothing is more sublime than suffering and sacrificing for a great cause." "Attempting to resist integration today is like standing against a tidal wave... it is an unstoppable movement." "We will wear you down by our capacity to suffer, and in the process we will win your hearts." "We stand on the threshold of the most constructive period in the nation's history in race relations. We stand on the Promise Land of Integration." Rally was followed by a march on the State Capitol.

**September 24-27, 1963**

Location: Virginia Union University, Belgian Building

Event: 7th Annual Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Details: As president of the SCLC, MLK attended the conference and spoke on the final evening (Friday, Sept. 27) of the conference at Virginia Union University.

**April 1968** – Photo: Broad Street blocked off by police after assassination (RTD)

---

## CHARLOTTESVILLE *March 13, 2018, UVA*

### Community Roundtable

**March 13, 2018, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Old Cabell Hall, University of Virginia**

**Primary contact:** Meghan Faulkner

**Prior to program:**

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.: Commission meeting

5:00 - 5:45 p.m.: Reception

**Program:**

Introduction: Sen. McClellan

Welcome: President Teresa Sullivan

Panel:

Pastor Lehman Bates, Ebenezer Baptist Church

Andrea Douglas, Jefferson School

Dr. Wesley Harris

President Teresa Sullivan

Mayor Nikuyah Walker

Moderated by Sen. McClellan

**King in Charlottesville:**

**March 25, 1963**

Location: Old Cabell Hall, University of Virginia

Event: Speaking event

Details: Spoke to audience of 900. MLK: Tragedy is not the "strident clamor of the bad people but the appalling silence of the good people" "Segregation is a cancer...which must be removed."

From MLK in Charlottesville: "In fact, as the Cavalier Daily reminded readers, King had not been allowed to speak at Washington and Lee College (now University) in nearby Lexington the previous year." "Conspicuously absent were University officials— not only administrators, but members of the Student Council as well. In 1963, King was not, Gaston explains, 'someone who was really safe to celebrate.'"

---

## **FARMVILLE *April 24, 2018, First Baptist Church***

**Community Roundtable**

**April 24, 2018, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**First Baptist Church, Farmville**

**Primary Contacts:** Dr. Larissa Fergeson; Cameron Patterson, Moton Museum

### **Program:**

Introduction: Sen. McClellan

Welcome: Mayor David Whitus, Senator Peake, Skip Griffin

Panel:

Reverend James Ashton, First Baptist Church

Megan Clark, Commonwealth's Attorney, Prince Edward County

James Ghee, President, Prince Edward County Branch NAACP

Dorothy Holcomb, Chair, Moton Museum Council

Cameron Patterson, Managing Director, Moton Museum

Dr. J. Michael Utzinger, Elliott Professor of Religion, Hampden-Sydney College

### **King in Farmville:**

**March 28, 1962**

Location: First Baptist Church

Details: Spoke to a group of students. This visit was a stop on the 3-day People to People Tour of Virginia to encourage African-American voter registration.