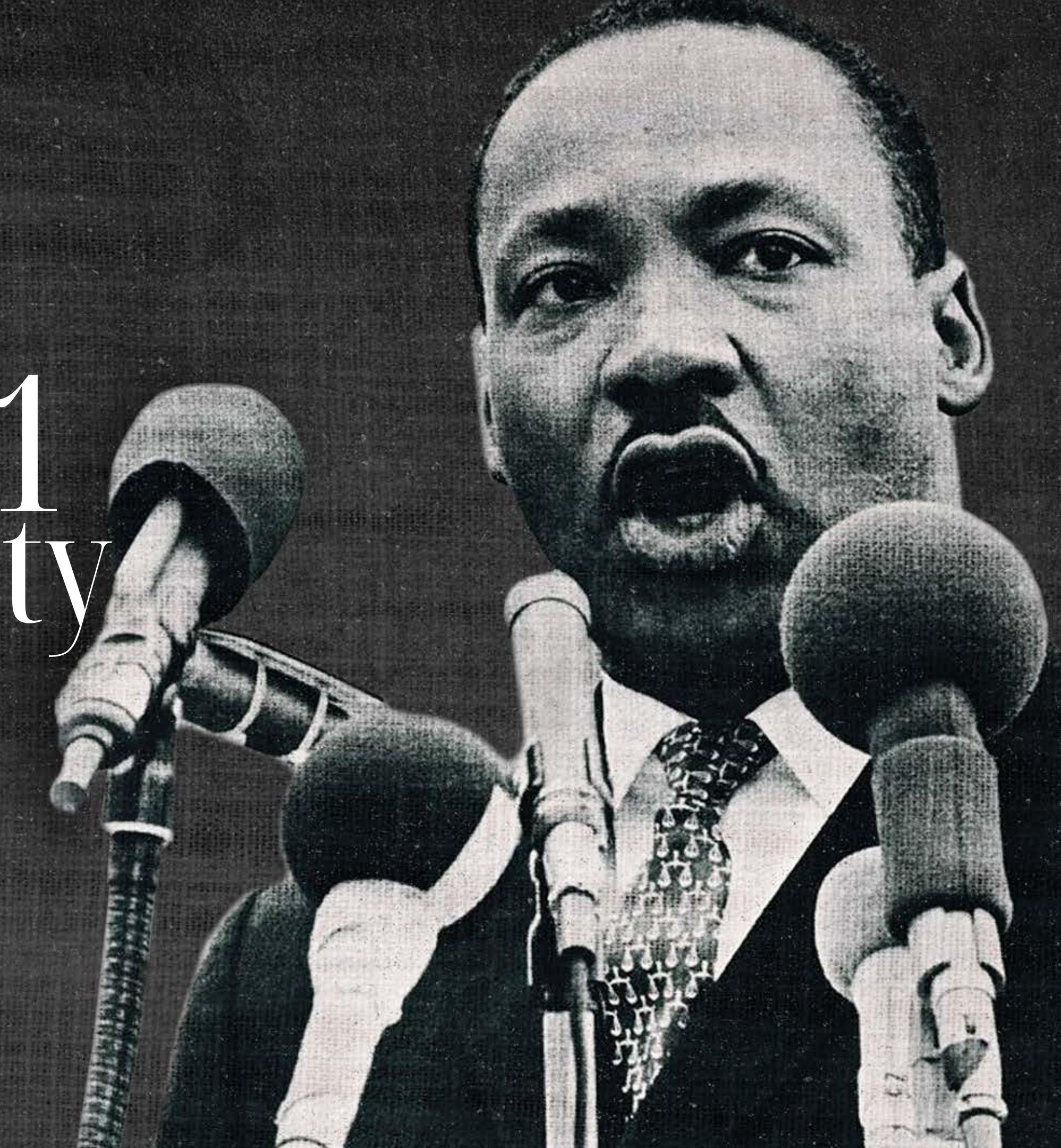




MLK 2021 Community Awards





FOOD BANK

Outstanding Ministry





Vicki Callaway, Coordinator
Food Bank

Unforeseen circumstances in life such as layoffs, illnesses, mental disorders, divorce, and even a pandemic are just a few of the reasons people seek assistance from the Ben Hill UMC Food Bank. The majority of our clients are families with children. We typically serve 800 families, which is approximately 2,500 individuals, and 9,000 pounds of food each month.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our distribution of food changed to meet the needs of the community and also to keep everyone safe and healthy. Therefore, we created a drive-through Pantry. The Ben Hill Food Bank is blessed to have more than 60 people on the Volunteer Register and we give thanks for each and every one of them for their faithfulness and willingness to serve.

We appreciate All of the Ben Hill ministries, congregation, families, partners, and friends for your unyielding support of Food Bank ministry.



OUTREACH

Outstanding Ministry





Kimberli Smith
Work Area Ministry Chairperson

Outreach

The Ben Hill United Methodist Church Outreach Ministry strives to identify and serve the needs of our local community while sharing the love of Jesus Christ. The Ministry provides programs and services throughout the year and partners with several ministries within Ben Hill, other churches, and organizations in the community to assist with education, nutrition, resources, and support for activities that promote Godly relationships in order to meet the social and economic needs of children and families in our community.

The Outreach Ministry has partnered with the Ben Hill Food Bank and other organizations to meet the growing needs of our community during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Although the Church has been closed for in-person worship, Outreach has continued to provide services and resources. A few of the programs that were sponsored by Outreach Ministry in 2020 included Trinity Feeding, Back to School Book Bag Drive, The Annual Touching Hearts with Acts of Love Thanksgiving Outreach Program, and the Annual Adopt-A-Family Program.





HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Outstanding Ministry





Janet Gordon
Work Area Ministry Chairperson

Health & Wellness

The Health & Wellness Ministry continues its mission of providing educational information and resources on key health conditions and their effects on communities of color. The ministry distributes information to increase awareness on a number of health topics, including diabetes, pre-diabetes, immunizations, breast cancer, men's health and autism.

With the declaration of the global health emergency, the Health & Wellness Ministry performed 918 COVID-19 tests in 2020, in partnership with CORE and the Fulton County Board of Health. In collaboration with other Ben Hill ministries, we assisted with voter registration, Census 2020, and extended our outreach to businesses and community agencies. Each of these partnerships shares the goal of reaching out further to connect our Church with the community, per our Vision Statement.

In 2021, we will continue God's work by providing monthly COVID-19 testing to keep our Church family and community healthy.



KENDALL CLARK

Outstanding Youth





Kendall Clark
Outstanding Youth

Kendall Stephen Clark is a graduating senior and Dual Enrollment student at Westlake High School. He is also a proud graduate of the Ben Hill UMC Christian Academy Class of 2009 and a member of the 2015 Ben Hill UMC Confirmation class. As an active participant in the youth ministry, and before the pandemic, Kendall regularly served in worship as an acolyte and pulpit participant. He also serves as a member of the Youth Council, Trinity Table, and several other volunteer activities within the church. In December 2019, he was blessed to travel with our church to South Africa and Zimbabwe for a 12-day mission trip where he was in mission with children and youth living with or orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Kendall is an Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts Troop 3310 and a Westlake High School varsity baseball team and Atlanta Kappa League member. He has not decided where he will attend college, but he plans to major in Civil or Architectural Engineering.



TANJA GOODE

Certificate of Recognition





Tanja Goode

Several close friends from Ben Hill UMC were having multiple conversations about the state of our country...from racial unrest to COVID-19 to the upcoming 2020 Elections. They realized that our world had to change. We realized that the one common denominator that could bring about a change was our VOTE!! Out of those conversations, the birth of "StayWoke. Be Vocal. Go Vote!" came to fruition. The "StayWoke. Be Vocal. Go Vote! Rally and Youth Summit" was a virtual experience held on Sunday, July 26. It was designed to equip members of the community with the information and resources needed ahead of the November election. It featured a special breakout youth summit to address the protests, civic unrest and racial injustice facing the city and the country.

Whether our youth's voices needed to feel empowered or our residents and our community needed clarification on voting, voter rights, or the Pandemic, the virtual experience was a one-stop-shop for the entire family to seek and find their answers.



YULONDAR ROBINSON

Certificate of Recognition





Youlonda Robinson

I started the Early Voting journey when my baby brother sent a challenge to my siblings the day after the NBA took a stance and boycotted the play-off games. He reminded us that my parents (Glendell and MaryNell Green) spent their life fighting for equal rights, doing voter registration, and working as managers over the polls at every election. It was now our time. I spoke to my family, and contacted our Church family and started a Zoom call for Early Voting and Voter Registration, and offered assistance by distributing MARTA cards for rides to the polls and passing out snacks and water during early voting and on electing days.

On one of the first voter-registration days, Pastor Thomas stopped by and made a statement to me that was profound. He said, “We are not done yet. We have to keep going and do it for every election”. I took that literally and we were not only successful for the Presidential election with getting people to the polls, but we also continued with the 2 senate seats. It is now deep in my DNA and we can never stop!!! To God Be the Glory for the things He continues to do in our Lives!!!

“It is our job as ministers to bring the church back to the center of the human race. But we can only bring the church back to the center of the human race when we bring Christ back to the center of the church.”



Martin Luther King Jr.

