



# Civil Rights

## KAIROS

*The Voice of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Students*

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**Inside:** Resolutions,  
revolutionaries, reflections,  
and more.

# Editor

**Sheth LaRue, Middler MDiv**

Sheth was born at a young age and has been introverted and under-confident for most of his life (except for a brief period from August 18 to August 23, 1997). Avid fan of pie and Led Zeppelin. The most famous person he ever met is a tie between Barry Lopez and Rich Karlis, neither of which are very famous. He wants humanity to be nicer, kinder, and more loving. And to laugh more. Fears spiders.



# Designer

**Reba Balint, Junior MDiv.**

Combining her passions of Fine Arts and Religion, Reba is very excited to be the new designer for Kairos. She loves denim jackets and music she wasn't yet alive to originally listen to. She believes in sharing cheerfulness whenever possible. Has deep respect/fears for bees.



We have had a large number of people getting locked out of their rooms/buildings and we'd like to prevent this if at all possible.

**Place your key somewhere that you'll immediately remember to take it with you.**

- Some residents have used card carriers on their phones
  - Put it in your wallet.
  - Put it in your purse.
- Put it on a lanyard to wear around your neck.

As a reminder, if you call the lock-out number more than three times because you forgot your key, you will be charged **\$5 for each subsequent call**.

Take your keys with you and keep your money in your pocket!

# 2019 Resolutions

- ☐ stop to stand in the sun
- ☐ learn about something affecting the earth
- ☐ drink the required daily amount of water
- ☐ tidy up your sacred spaces
- ☐ collaborate in something unexpected
- ☐ meditate or pray
- ☐ boldy stand up for what you believe in
- ☐ call yourself worthy
- ☐ listen carefully

I have to credit the placebo of January 1st as a helpful tool for many people in their journey, but I tend to embrace resolutions as they enter my life regardless of the date. I've just have never been the type of person to wait around for January 1st to make changes or work to become a better person. The core of my being is based on curiosity and introspection, I'm just too impatient to wait on an arbitrary date to discover and change. Regardless of my cynicism for New Year Resolutions, I did have a find time meditating on things I would like to expand in my life. This list is humble, but sometimes it is within the practice of something simple that we find fundamental change.

Peace be with you.

Reba Balint, Junior MDiv



## The Dream We All Should Seek – John Weller, Junior MDiv

There seems to exist certain people who, over the course of history, have displayed a unique gift. A blessing from God. Perhaps this gift is like that of Solomon, a blessing of wisdom. Perhaps it is the blessing one has in being a true believer. An understanding of the eternal order of the creation, and that being loved by the creator means a certain confidence in faith. Whatever can be used to describe this blessing, the point is that there are extraordinary people who are marked for a great undertaking and who have responded to such an undertaking with a God given confidence and direction. Dr. Martin Luther King is one such individual.

Dr. King must have had an intense understanding of the love that God has for him. His mission was clear and he was steadfast in its pursuit. His thinking must have been on a scale that was much broader than anything that could have been put in his way to stop him. I have often thought of the viewpoint that God must have within the created order. Our Creator God has eternity in full view. He knows the beginning and the end. It seems that Dr. King shared a God given vision that transcended the known confines of race, human relations, and the traditional modes of understanding. His vision was uncanny.

When you finally grasp the measure of love that God has for you, all forms of idolatry fall away. What is held in front of God should be a return of the love that is given to us. It should be a pursuit of the love that has been given to us. Instead, humanity has routinely held things such as money, power, sex, drugs, race, and a myriad of other lies as idols that get in the way of the true pursuit. Dr. King saw humanity and he practiced love for humanity that overcame the racial divides he found himself embroiled. His vision, his actions, and his dream was inclusive of all of humanity.

If we had an opportunity to show Dr. King the accomplishments in the time since his assassination he would not be proud, nor would he be rejoiceful. Rather, he would look at each one of us and ask, "What are we doing to show our love of God? What are we doing to show our love of humanity?" I believe that Dr. King would tell us that his mission and purpose was done. He would tell us that the times we are in now are our times. Here and now, it is our chance to step up and show the world a love for one another that goes beyond anything divisive and idolatrous.

Christians have gotten so many things wrong at pivotal points in the mainstream of history. What overshadows this sin is that many Christians have stood in the gap, picked up the guidon, and said "This is the way!" We must understand what it means to love our God and our neighbor too. We must not only understand, but also bear the fruit that demonstrates - through our actions - the love that has been given to us by our Holy God. This is the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, and it one that we all can inherit.





## Remembering the Hope – Jackie Freeman, Middler MDiv

January is the month that we celebrate the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. As an African American, this month has come to be a time of reflection for me. It is a time of looking back and remembering what was and a time of looking forward to the hope that could and should be.

In the time of remembering, I look back at all the people who have made sacrifices for me to be able to go to the schools that I want, to be able to stay or eat where I want, to be able to be who I was called to be, and most importantly to be able to say what I need to say whether that be in words or through the ballot box. Many have suffered and died for me to have these basic human rights and I do not take them lightly. I feel that it is my honor and duty to take full advantage of all that the African American women and men fought so diligently for.

My parents both lived through Jim Crow and segregation as well as integration, and I can vividly remember discussions around the dinner table about who I was and how I needed to take advantage of all that had been placed before me. They understood that my future was opened up in a way that they could have never imagined.

But as bright as that future was, my parents knew that there were difficulties that came with those advantages. I can remember being told as a young girl that being your best in a world where just 55 years ago I would have been treated as less than human was not going to be enough. My father told me that you have to be that 10% better if you want to just get the basic rights that I assumed I deserved. That stuck in my mind with everything that I did. I could never just be good, I had to be better. Because better in the eyes of the majority was good enough to give you what you had deserved all along.

Dr. King fought for all of us women and men of all colors and races and religions to be who we are. He fought for that because he knew that God accepts us all as his beloved children. In his eyes, he knew that all people need to be loved and accepted. He fought for that right for all people. So when I reflect on the hope that Dr. King was looking forward to, he was hoping that each of us would be loved and accepted for who we are and wouldn't have to spend our lives being invisible or living up to impossible standards. His hope was that when his children grew up, that they would be seen just as people. Not black people. Not gay people. Not immigrants. Not male or female. Just people. People who have families and lives and joys and hurts.

When I reflect on Dr. King's legacy, I'm amazed at how wondrous that dream is and yet I know that we are not there yet. We are moving forward. Every time someone realizes that those who are marginalized are people and defends their rights, the dream moves forward. So let the candle that Dr. King lit become a blazing fire in our country which lights the darkness of hate and bigotry and injustice. Let freedom and justice and love ring through our nation as we walk together into the light of God's Kingdom.



When my family and I moved from the suburbs of Denver, I had no idea how formative that transition would be for me. The move was good for me because I was able to have so much more freedom than I did in the city – I could wander the town as I pleased and I knew I was safe. It was bad, though, because the small mountain town was white; while my life in Denver had some color in it, that little town was full of people who looked just like me.

I'd read about racism and prejudice but had never actually witnessed it until I landed in that community. I knew in my heart of hearts that the racist talk and prejudiced attitudes were wrong and yet, when I was in the midst of it, I fell into its trap. Not everyone was this way, but it was around, and it fell on my ears and into my mind.

At first I was entirely offended by the jokes and put off by the discussions, but as time went on I began to accept it. A comment overheard from the barber, a minute play on words from the grocer, an off-handed remark by a teacher – all these little things took root in my mind and I began to put them to use. A racist seventh-grade joke by my friend would be followed by one I had recently heard; an eighth-grade discussion with a teammate about how we - as the white kids - were better at sports than the Hispanic kids we had just played against.

Throughout high school and into college I had this evil in my mind, ready for use. My racism wasn't burning crosses and wearing hoods. My racism was thinking I was better simply because of my skin tone. My racism was retelling jokes I'd heard. My racism was verbalizing racial slurs in my mind. Mine was not overt racism – that wasn't what I had learned – my racism was underhanded, under-breath, in my mind. It was inappropriate but used at perceived appropriate times.

Some twenty years removed from that time and space the evil is still there: the jokes, the comments, the phrases are all still in my mind, unused but ever-present. I am ashamed that I still carry them, and I'm angry that they take up space and flood me with unwanted thoughts. I wish getting rid of this trash was as easy to empty as the trash in my room in Currie.

As much as I try I can't get rid of it, and yet I know that this evil must be somehow driven out of me. In summarizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I must admit that neither my own power nor my own submissive waiting for God to act will vanquish the evil, "Rather, both man and God, made one in a marvelous unity of purpose through an overflowing love as a free gift of himself on the part of God and by perfect obedience and receptivity on the part of man, can transform the old into the new and drive out the deadly cancer of sin."<sup>1</sup>



I myself can't get rid of this evil that invades my soul, and I can't sit on my laurels waiting for God to do something. I need to invite God into those dark places and ask for help in cleaning up the mess I've made. It's going to take some work, some elbow grease, and patience, but I'm sure that someday it will be gone.

I invite you to do some cleaning with me in this coming year. What are some things in your life that you need help throwing away? What are some things that you desire to be tidied up? What are some things you're unsure what to do with? "God is too courteous to break open the door, but when we open it in faith believing, a divine and human confrontation will transform our sin-ruined lives into radiant personalities."<sup>2</sup>

As we invite God into our process of cleaning our lives, may we have courage as we dispose of the garbage in our hearts, patience as we toss out the trash in our souls, and perseverance as we scrap the junk in our minds.  
much love. sheth.

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010), 140.

2. King, *Strength to Love*, 143.



*Tess Aslpund. A Woman Against 300.*  
Reba Balint, Junior MDiv

On May 2016 in Borlänge, Sweden an activist fed up with intolerance and hate stood in the way of 300 neo-nazis with her fist raised high in the air against the leadership of the Nordic Resistance Movement (NRM). She gained a lot of publicity for her courage, and with that many people began to police the way in which she fought against the hate she saw. These comments were eerily similar to those spat at Martin Luther King Jr throughout his campaign. The backlash she recieved was not going to outshine her accomplishments through. She held her chin and fist high and stood as opposition to bigotry.



**February 4-6, 2019**

## MidWinter Lectures & Alumni Reunion



**Robert M. Franklin Jr. | Katelyn Beaty | Miroslav Volf | Sarah Johnson**

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Selina Aguirre  
saguirre@austinseminary.edu  
(512) 404-4809.

The 2019 Mid-Winter Lectures will soon be upon us – and APTS is going to need some help!

We will need volunteers from January 31 – February 7 to help with a variety of assignments: parking hosts, registration, ushers, greeters, clean-up, set-up and so much more!

By volunteering you can be an important part in helping us create a safe and amazing experience for all who attend.

## 2019 Calendar

JAN 21ST  
JAN 25TH  
FEB 3RD  
FEB 4TH-7TH  
FEB 11TH  
FEB 12TH

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**  
**NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION & REGISTRATION**  
**SPECIAL STUDENT ORIENTATION**  
**MIDWINTERS LECTURES**  
**SPRING TERM BEGINS**  
**OPENING WORSHIP & LORD'S SUPPER @ SHELTON 11:10 AM**

**FEB 19TH**

**Day of Remembrance & Hope: Panel Discussion**  
Ms. Sharon Alexander, Professor Steve Reid, Rev. Daryl Horton, Rev. Sharon Rischer

**McMillan 210,  
9:30 – 11 AM**

**FEB 19TH**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative  
Worship Service,**  
Rev. Daryl Horton & Huston Tillotson Choir

**Shelton Chapel, 11:10  
AM**

**FEB 19TH**

**Community Lunch**

**Stotts, 12:00 PM**

**FEB 19TH**

**Day of Remembrance & Hope: History  
Presentation,**  
Herald Osorto (MDiv '18)

**McCord 204, 1:00 PM**

**FEB 21ST**

**Day of Remembrance & Hope:  
Worship and Community Art Response**

**Vickery Atrium &  
Stotts, 4 – 6 PM**