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January 21, 2014

Mt. Zion presents its 25th annual MLK celebration

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Marie Washington walks to stage to receive business award

Closing their 600 eyes, people in the Warrenton theater Monday afternoon could have imagined themselves at the August 1963 March on Washington.

The Rev. Jeffery Johnson Sr. sounded very much like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as he recited part of the latter's famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

The Rev. Johnson provided the keynote address at Mt. Zion Baptist Church's 25th annual MLK Day celebration at Highland School.

The pastor of **Mount Calvary Baptist Church** in Fairfax, the Rev. Johnson for years has delivered dramatic presentations of Dr. King's most famous speech.

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A quarter century ago, the Rev. Moyer Foddrell Jr. started the annual King Day celebration, which became a community tradition and outgrew the sanctuary at Mt. Zion, on Warrenton's South Third Street.

On Monday, the event again brought more than 300 people to Highland School's performing arts center for two hours of music, speeches and awards.

The Rev. Foddrell, who has announced he'll retire in 2014 after 30 years at Mt. Zion, said he'll sit in the audience next year. Several ministers who joined him on stage insisted he'll be back with them and that they'll save a chair.

Mt. Zion presented awards to:

- Caleb Smoot, a ninth-grader at Eastern View High School in Culpeper, for his winning youth essay.
- The Rev. James Kelly of Silver Hill Baptist Church near Sumerduck for religious work.
- Marie Washington, a Warrenton attorney, for business.
- Dianna Allen and Maria Davis for community service.

Under the direction of Lemuel Montgomery, the MLK Choir — composed of members from a number of churches — provided the music.

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Mt. Zion presents its 25th annual MLK celebration

Tuesday, January 21

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Friday, January 17

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OPINION

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