



**THE BLACK HISTORY COMMITTEE**  
of the Johnston County Heritage Commission  
*presents*

## ***The Fight to Vote: Re-examining Racism***

**Thursday, February 27, 2020, 6:30 PM**  
**Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield, Smithfield, NC**

**Musical prelude**

Mr. Q. K. Wall

**Welcome**

Mrs. Pearl Blackmon,  
Committee Chairman

**“Lift Every Voice and Sing,” by James Weldon Johnson**

Audience

Mrs. Georgia Perry-Adam, accompanist

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of Liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies. Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee; Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

## The Program

**Video: THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE** produced by Technology, Education, and Design (TED Ed)

**Introduction of Topic and Speaker**

Mrs. Denise Joyner Bennett

**Guest Speaker**

Mr. Michael Spencer,  
Common Cause Education Fund

**Group discussion questions**

*Do enough citizens have the right to vote?  
Why don't more eligible voters vote?*

**Closing remarks**

Mr. Todd Johnson

## Our Speaker

**Michael Spencer** is

***The members of the **Black History Committee** are grateful for your attendance and participation. We hope our program has enlightened and challenged you to guard our cherished democracy.***

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Pearl Blackmon, Chair**

**Denise Joyner Bennett**

**Dr. John Booker**

**Monica Davis**

**Dr. Carolyn G. Ennis**

**Q. K. Wall**

**Todd Johnson, Heritage Center Director, Ex-Officio**

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

***The Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield***

**We invite you to visit the Heritage Center to explore your family history and to see our current exhibit –**

**“A Generation Goes to War, 1941-1945”**