

We Are Charleston

Trio reflects on mass shooting at Mother Emanuel church

♣ On the night of June 17, 2015, a 21-year-old white supremacist shot and killed nine African-American churchgoers and wounded five others during a prayer meeting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

A year later, a journalist, a historian and a poet with deep ties to the city published *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*. The three — Herb Frazier, Dr. Bernard E. Powers Jr. and Marjory Wentworth — will share their thoughts and reflections in the first installment of the 2019 Friends of the Library Sunset Signature Series at 7 p.m. Saturday, January 26, in downtown Asheboro's historic Sunset Theatre.

The event, sponsored by the Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau, the City of Asheboro and the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

Frazier has edited and reported for five daily newspapers in the South, including the *Post and Courier* in Charleston, his hometown. He currently serves as marketing and public relations manager for Magnolia Plantation and Gardens near Charleston.



Historian Dr. Bernard E. Powers Jr., poet Marjory Wentworth and journalist Herb Frazier, authors of *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*.

Powers is a history professor at the College of Charleston, where he teaches United States and African American history. He has appeared in productions for PBS including *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* and *Slavery and the Making of America*.

Wentworth is Poet Laureate of South Carolina. A five-time nominee for the Pushcart Prize in poetry, she is author of five collections of poetry and the acclaimed children's book *Shackles*.

We Are Charleston explores not only the shooting, its aftermath and its ramifications, but also the history of slavery and racism in Charleston, and the importance of the AME denominational movement in the fight for freedom and civil rights. The book also delves into the impact of the shooting on the loved ones of those killed and wounded, focusing on the nature of forgiveness and the religious mandate to forgive — a fraught subject in the face of the evil acts of the young murderer.

Also slated for the 2019 Signature Series:

- Musician **Jim Avett**, 7 p.m. Friday, March 15;
- Author **Jerry Bledsoe**, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2;
- **TBD**, September 2019.

See reverse for details.

**FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY**

SUNSET

*Signature
Series ♦ 2019*

**We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel Authors
HERB FRAZIER, BERNARD E. POWERS JR.
& MARJORY WENTWORTH**

7 P.M. SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019



At 9:05 p.m. on June 17, 2015, a 21-year-old white supremacist murdered nine churchgoers and wounded five others attending a prayer meeting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. Journalist Herb Frazier (right), historian Bernard Edward Powers Jr. (left) and South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth (center) will share reflections from their book *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel* in a powerful discussion of history, race, faith and forgiveness.

**Country Music, Original Ballads and Stories
JIM AVETT**

7 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019



North Carolina native Jim Avett, who now lives in Cabarrus County, grew up singing gospel tunes with his preacher father and family. During his career as a welder, music remained a part of his life. After retiring in 2008, he recorded a gospel album, *Jim Avett and Family*, featuring sons Scott and Seth — the Avett Brothers — and daughter Bonnie. Since then he has recorded three more albums of original country ballads, including last year's *For His Children and Ours*, and has toured nationally.

**New York Times Best Selling Author
JERRY BLEDSOE**

7 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019



Catch up with *New York Times* Bestselling author — and local favorite — Jerry Bledsoe as he shares stories of his life as a writer from his new memoir, *Do-Good Boy: An Unlikely Writer Confronts the '60s and Other Indignities*. Known in these parts as the fabled *Greensboro Daily News* columnist, Bledsoe is author of true crime tales *Bitter Blood*, *Blood Games*, *Before He Wakes* and *Death Sentence*, as well as the nostalgic *The Angel Doll* and *A Gift of Angels*, and numerous compilations of his newspaper columns.

SEPTEMBER 2019 — TBD

*Sponsored by the Heart of North Carolina Visitors
Bureau ♦ City of Asheboro ♦ Friends of the Library*
FREE • FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 800-626

SUNSET THEATRE
234 Sunset Avenue ♦ Asheboro, N.C.