

Fredericksburg Mourns Martin Luther King With March and Memorial Service

The city of Fredericksburg mourned the loss of Dr. Martin Luther King in a march and memorial church service last Sunday. A crowd of nearly three hundred people, about two-thirds black, participated in the three block march which culminated at St. George's Episcopal Church in the center of town.

Sponsored by the Fredericksburg Area Ministerial Council, the service was performed by eight different ministers. The Mayor of Fredericksburg, Josiah P. Rowe, III also participated in the service.

Though there were few MWC students at the march and service (because of Spring Break), the faculty and administration were widely represented.

The march began at the Baptist Church and proceeded silently along the sidewalk, passing the Post Office with its flag at half mast, another church with its chimes tolling, and numerous photographers.

At the service, the Reverend T. G. Faulkner of St. George's Church termed King the "Ghandi of America," and expressed hope that King's dreams would become a reality so that "every citizen has the opportunity to develop to the fullest potential for which God has created him." He further noted the appropriateness of holding the memorial service in St. George's church, because St. George was a "champion of the weak, poverty stricken, and oppressed."

The Reverend E. E. Campbell of the First Christian Church told the mixed congregation that "We are here in unity as we mourn . . ." He said that Martin Luther King died so that men and women could live together in harmony and that we

must go forth to achieve this.

Towards the end of the service, Mrs. Roger Kenvin, Chairman of the Fredericksburg Unitarian Fellowship, spoke of concrete suggestions for action in the civil rights cause. She suggested that citizens urge their congressmen to pass the open

housing bill, that they join the Fredericksburg City council to enact an open housing law. In general, she asked the members of the congregation to "draw your circle wider to include your fellow man" and to "take home with you a change of attitude which will change your world."

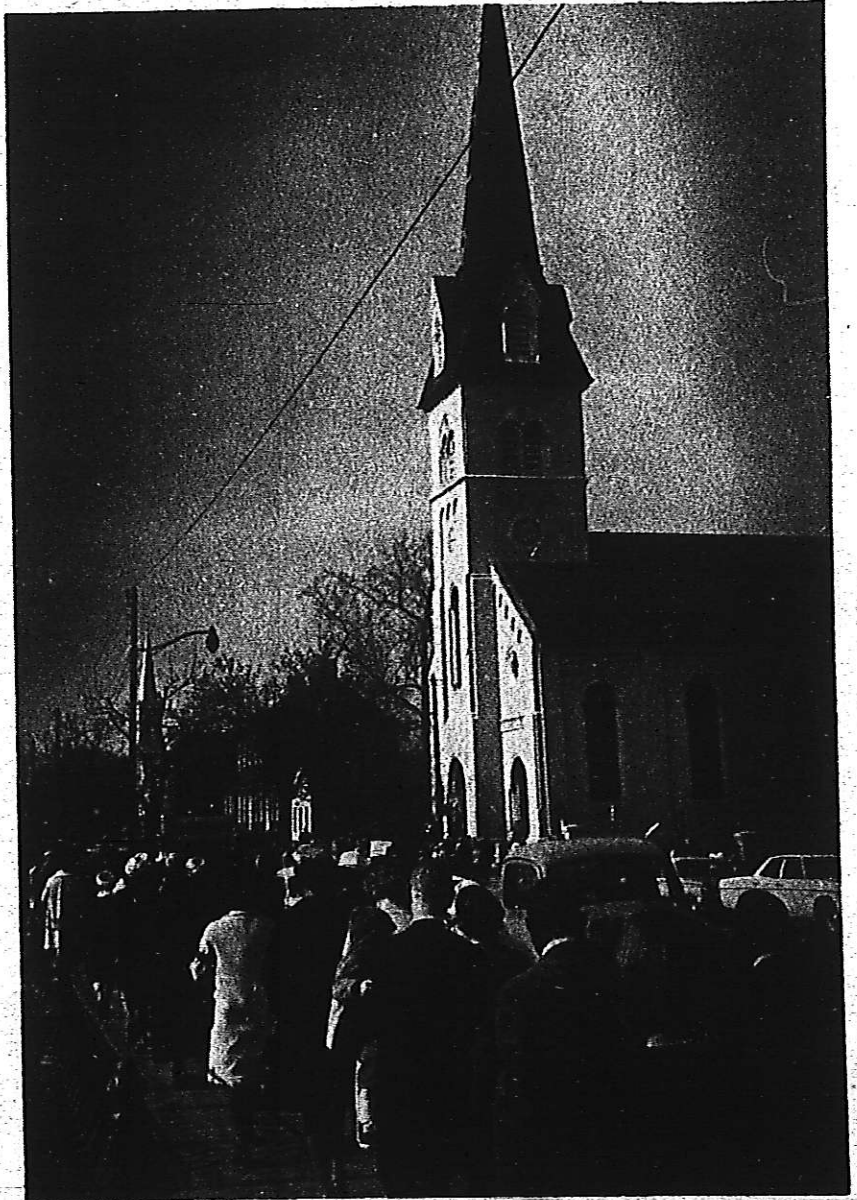


Photo Courtesy of Free Lance-Star
Citizens ascend the steps to St. George's Episcopal Church.