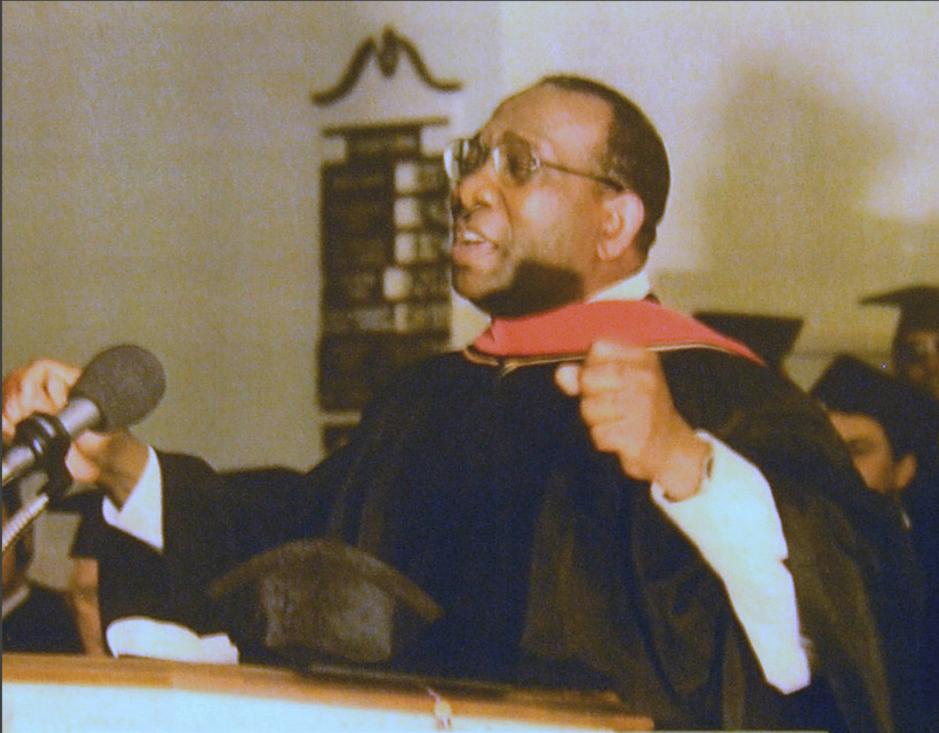


Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr.



Rev. Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr., 1915-2007

Born January 31, 1915 in Sumter, South Carolina, Grant came to Asheville in the 1930s and began his ministry preaching in Pritchard Park. He served as pastor at New Bethel Missionary Baptist in 1942, then at Pleasant Hill Baptist, before founding Worldwide Missionary Baptist Tabernacle Church in 1958.

He attended Shaw University Extension Classes, Shaw University Summer Convention Classes, and received Honorary Doctorates from Covington Theological Seminary and Emmanuel Theological Seminary.

Grant also had a weekly Sunday morning program "Count on Me," which aired on WLOS. Grant and then his son Louis, also a preacher, have had a weekly radio program radio on the Blue Ridge Broadcasting station WFGW since 1962. The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners saluted Grant for his "positive impact on race relations in Asheville and Buncombe County."

During racial tensions following school desegregation in the 1970s, Grant went every morning and every afternoon to sit on the steps of Asheville High. He was a calming influence, according to his daughter, Mary Grant McDaniel.

He worked not only on building a strong family at home and at church, but to achieve strides such as the election of Ruben Daley as the first African American Asheville city council member in 1969.

The Reverend Wesley Grant, Sr. died in 2007.



This historic marker is part of the *Southside Heritage Trail* along the *Town Branch Greenway*, made possible by the City of Asheville and the Federal Transit Administration, 2014



This area in 1968



① 191 Southside Avenue



② 209 Southside Avenue



③ 4, 6, 8 Bartlett Street



④ 327 Ashland Avenue



⑤ 329 Ashland Avenue

Photos from the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville Archives in the D. H. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC-Asheville



⑥ 331 Ashland Avenue



⑦ 333 Ashland Avenue



⑧ 242 Southside Avenue