

THE CONNECTION

RHANDI M. STITH, EDITOR

"MAXIMIZING OUR MISSION BY MANAGING OUR MINISTRY:
THROUGH EXPANSION"



"Onward To Montgomery"*

Onward to Montgomery; Working side by side,
Pray God's blessings on us, And our feet to guide.
Love our neighbor and forgive; Lend a helping hand,
Never be too proud to serve God and our fellowman.
Refrain

Onward to Montgomery; Working hard for God,
We must tread the same path, that the
Freedom Riders trod
We must bear our crosses, But continue on,
Knowing at the judgment, we'll receive our, crown.
Refrain

Refrain
Onward to Montgomery; Working side by side,
Pray God's blessings on us, and our feet to guide.

* Tune - "Onward Christian Laity"

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Online Registration ~ CLC Moving Forward With The Times

Online registration for the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention became available February 1, 2013. Registration is \$195.00 until Friday, May 31, 2013. After this date the fee will be \$225.00.

Included in your registration are the following: Convention bag, Official Convention Program, Lay Academy materials, Cultural and Gospel Extravaganza, Welcome Reception, Prayer Breakfast, Bishop George J. Leake III Challenge Luncheon, Regional Breakfast, Dr. Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet, and a Special Projects coupon.

You can register by visiting <http://www.cvent.com/d/tcq49z/1Q>. . . NO CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS will be accepted by the CLC Central Office for registration. EVERYONE MUST REGISTER ONLINE If you are registering a group, it is suggested that you obtain a pre-paid debit card to complete the process. If you are not technically savvy or do not have access to a computer with internet, you can contact the CLC Central Office to receive assis-

tance with the registration process.

The registration process will enable you to do the following:

- Register as an individual or as a group
- Provide you with a confirmation number
- Make changes to your registration or hotel form
- Allow you to sign up for ground transportation
- Choose a Lay Academy
- Register with the hotel
- Vendor Information
- Note Frequently Asked Questions (FA&Q)
- Bus Parking Information
- Purchase additional meal tickets
- Place an ad in the Convention Souvenir Journal
- Purchase Special Project Items (discounted pricing)
- Contribute to the Community Outreach Gift
- Sign up for Children's Activities, Evangelistic Block Party & Fish Fry, Parade and Tours

Call To 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention



My fellow laity it gives me immense pleasure to call upon each of you to gather for the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention in Montgomery Alabama Saturday, July 27, -Thursday, August 1, 2013 in Montgomery

Alabama, the "City of Dreams". The theme for the Convention is: Fortifying Our Faith While Focusing on Our Future Through: Worship, Leadership, Discipleship and Stewardship. Our Convention hosts are the Right Rev. Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding Prelate and Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. D. Diane Proctor, Alabama Florida Episcopal District, Rev. Wallace L Noble, Presiding Elder West Montgomery District, Mt. Zion A. M. E. Zion Church, Rev. Dr. Claude A Shuford, Pastor, Mr. Isaiah Pinkney, Regional Director, Alabama-Florida Episcopal District, and Mr. Isaiah Flowers, Jr., Central Alabama Conference Lay Council President.

The Steering Committee, Executive Board, Committee Chairpersons, Montgomery Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and host hotels have been working tirelessly on the planning and execution for the convention to ensure that every detail is addressed to ensure this is one of the BEST conventions in the Connectional Lay Council history! Every one working on the preparations is enthusiastic, excited, and energized about the task at hand!

Montgomery Alabama is a historic city and it is fitting the laity of the FREEDOM church returns to the birth place of the civil rights movement 150 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, 50 years after Dr King's "I Have a Dream Speech" and six months after the second inauguration of President Barack H. Obama as president of the United States to culminate the quadrenium and to craft a new vision for the next four years.

The Connectional Lay Council Convention is the largest non-delegated gathering in the denomination. The purpose of the convention is to conduct the important business of the Connectional Lay Council-the election of officers, legislative matters, and training. It is critical that there be a significant presence by the laity in order to efficiently conduct the official business of the Council and

set the tone for the operations for the new Quadrenium. I am appealing to the laity to make the commitment and sacrifice to journey to Montgomery for the Convention. It is imperative that all lay attendees ensure their membership dues are paid ninety days prior to convention so they will be able to vote in the business proceedings.

The convention is designed to be an all inclusive family friendly one and will provide benefit to all ages- children, youth, young adults, mature adults and young at heart! We will begin convention week with an "Evangelistic Block Party" on Friday, July 26 at the host church. A Freedom Church Parade will take place on Saturday morning. We are hoping that all laity will participate. On Saturday afternoon there will be an array of pre-convention activities-Lay Academy with various topics, AARP sponsored health fair screenings, workshops, civil rights forum, Young Adult and Youth Leadership Training, R.C. Rochon Church Music Academy, Praise and Prayer Assembly and Cultural and Gospel Extravaganza to conclude the evening! Plan to arrive early and take full advantage of the Saturday's schedule!

Sunday morning will begin with Sunday School followed by Communion Service and the GRAND MARCH! The balance of the week will be mixture of business, training, workshops, fellowship, bible study, pray breakfast, challenge luncheon, elections, and awards banquet. There will even be a track for the clergy!

Some of Zion's most dynamic and talented-speakers, teachers, preachers, and musicians have been selected to lead the sessions and preach at the worship services. The Education Committee has done an extraordinary job of developing Lay Academy topics for equipping laity for an advanced level of leadership. I assure you your attendance at the 2013 convention will be worthwhile! Your mind, body and spirit will be nurtured, nourished, stimulated, and energized- with the dissemination of information, deepened sense spiritual commitment, and renewed sense of denominational loyalty.

Laity of Zion, this is your convention and the convention provides an opportunity to become engaged in the business of the church and to hone your leadership skills to better equipped lay leaders. Let's exercise the people power and be a part of the change we want to see in the denomination! I look forward to welcoming you at Convention in Montgomery!!

To God Be The Glory!!

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention

Pre-Convention Activities

EVANGELISTIC BLOCK PARTY & FISH FRY REACHING OUT AND SHOWING LOVE TO THE COMMUNITY

Plans are well underway for the Evangelistic Block Party & Fish Fry to be held at the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church 515 West Jeff Davis Avenue, Montgomery, AL pastored by Rev. Dr. Claude Shuford with Rev. Barbara Rogers, Coordinator. The evangelistic outreach to the community will take place on Friday, July 26th from 4:00 -7:00 P.M. and is free to the public.

CLC Chaplain, Mr. Charles Montgomery, reached out to our partner in Evangelism, Dr. Otis T. McMillan for guidance regarding a community-wide evangelistic effort at the site of our 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention.

Dr. McMillan set the collaboration in motion with a visit to Rev. Barbara Rogers last October to explore what the local churches were doing to evangelize to the community. Out of that meeting came the good news that the first evangelistic block party was held September 17, 2011 and was a huge success with the community. However, the event was not held in 2012 due to various challenges.

The 2nd Annual Block Party will take place with financial and moral support coming from the We Care, Worship and Evangelism Committees of the Connectional Lay

Council.

The local planning and cast of volunteers represents the efforts of the inter-denominational community under the leadership of Rev. Rogers. As in the previous year, the planned event will include:

- Ministry of the Word,
- Gospel Rappers and Choirs
- Intercessory Prayer
- Praise and Worship and Liturgical Dance
- Skits and Games
- Food and beverage
- Security

We need all Zionites who are prayer warriors and have the passion for evangelism to join in the spirit of the outreach ministry. We pray that it will be a life changing experience for the community and that prayerfully we will reap what we sow.

We thank Dr. Otis T. McMillan, Director, Department of Church Growth and Development and Rev. Barbara Rogers for their efforts and continued support.

"THE PARADE OF DREAMS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE."

Lynda Byrd, Chairperson

The Connectional Lay Council will host its 10th Quadrennial Convention July 27 - August 1, in Montgomery, Alabama, "The City of Dreams." On Saturday, July 27 a gala parade will serve as the kickoff to a full day of pre-convention activities, including an evangelistic neighborhood outreach, tours to historic sites, health fair, and lay academy. The culminating activity for the day will be a Gospel/Cultural Extravaganza.

The parade will feature members of the Board of Bishops (schedules permitting) participants from local churches, marching bands from schools and colleges in the area, cars and floats from departments of the A.M.E. Zion church, and representation of historic figures from the civil rights movement past and present. The parade route will wind past many historic sites including the Rosa Parks Museum and Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

This Parade of Dreams is a "people's parade." If you or your organization would like to participate in the parade,

please "X" that you would like to participate and the number of persons under the optional additional activities section when you register, if you would like to volunteer to assist with its organization please contact Lynda Byrd - elbeebloom@aol.com



See you in Montgomery!

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Pre-Convention Activities

SOCIAL POLITICAL ACTION FORUMS

Queen DeGraffreid, Chairperson

The Social Political Action Committee is excited to provide an array of ministries and activities both before the official opening and the duration of our 10th Quadrennial CLC Convention. These ministries and services will include the following:

- The Social Political Action Center: An initiative of our own President, Dr. Yvonne Tracey, and this event was a favorite at both our 2011 Convocation in Greensboro, followed by the 2012 General Conference in Charlotte, NC.

A favorite stop among the conference exhibits, the center provides state-by-state information on voting and political action; NAACP and National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) membership and services. An added attraction this year will be a power-point presentation on stats and facts about the civil rights movement and relevant achievements of African-Americans leaders and groups.

- Photo Ops with President and First Lady Obama: An engaging attraction at the 2011 CLC Convocation in Greensboro, NC was the photo ops for

both conferees and visitors to take pictures with the attractive "cut-outs" of President Obama and First Lady Michele. This opportunity will again be provided for our 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention attendees as we continue to celebrate history in the making.

- Health and Social Concerns Exhibits: Convention attendees will have the opportunity to have one-on-one interaction with a range of organizations representing local health and social, civil rights and social justice, and educational institutions.
- SPA Community Outreach Project: A touching moment at each CLC event is the opportunity to touch the lives of our struggling sisters and brothers in the communities where we convene. In collaboration with the Mrs. Sara Charrington, Supply Secretary of the WH&OMS, we will continue to reach out to help those less fortunate.
- Nurses' and Health Screening Station: The Connectional Lay Council continues its commitment to provide health screenings to our conferees. Collaborating with our We Care Committee, spiritual guidance and prayer will be provided as requested.



CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH "Maximizing Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry Through: Education, Evangelism, Empowerment, and Expansion"

Alabama/Florida Regional Lay Academy Site of the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention

The Lay Academy will be conducted by two members of the CLC Executive Board Effie Woodard, 2nd Vice President and Mary Matthews, Life Members Chair.

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2013
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: The Renaissance Hotel and Spa, Montgomery, Alabama
Location: Check the monitors for room location
No Registration Fee Required

Topics:
I'm a Lay Council Officer, what do I do?
How to process Lay Council Memberships.
How effective is your Lay Council?

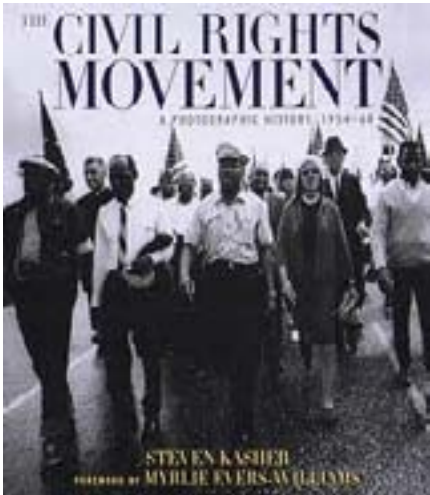
Isaiah Pickney, Regional Director
The Right.Rev. Mildred B. Hines, Presiding Prelate

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention

Pre-Convention Activities

Onward to Montgomery! - Civil Rights Tours

Glenda Davis Canteen, Chairperson



Montgomery, Alabama offers many sightseeing opportunities. Attractions include museums and art galleries, amusement parks, National and State Parks, historical places, sporting events and festivals.

Montgomery, Alabama is also recognized as the birthplace of the Civil Rights

Movement, where many significant events took place on the city's streets and in its historic buildings. It is also the location of a number of museums and memorials dedicated to the memories of those who fought and died in the struggle for Civil Rights.

Visiting any or all of the Civil Rights museums and memorials in Montgomery is a great way to deepen your knowledge and understanding of Civil Rights, the leaders and ordinary people whose simple acts changed the nation. The following sites focus on the Civil Rights Movement, past, present and future.

Civil Rights Memorial

400 Washington Avenue, (334) 956-8200

A black granite table serves as a fountain as water flows over the names of 40 Civil Rights activists who died in the struggle for Civil Rights. Behind the fountain, more water flows over a black granite wall inscribed with excerpts from the book of Amos quoted by Dr. King. Sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the fountain stands outside the Civil Rights Memorial Center and is free and accessible 24-hours a day.

Civil Rights Memorial Center

400 Washington Avenue, (334) 956-8200

Dedicated to those whose struggles and sacrifices contributed to the Civil Rights Movement, the center houses exhibits, a 56-seat theater, a classroom for educational activities, an area dedicated to contemporary social justice issues and the Wall of Tolerance, where visitors may sign their names and pledge to work for justice, equality and human rights, the ideals of the Civil Rights Movement.

The center is open Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Closed Sunday. Admission is \$2 for adults and free for children 17 and under.

Former Greyhound Bus Station

Corner of Adams and S. Court Street

In 1961, activists attempting to challenge segregated transportation laws rode interstate buses into Montgomery. At the Greyhound Bus station, they were met by an angry white mob and were severely beaten. Today the station is closed, but a story board on the outside walls tells the story of that event and its effect on the Civil Rights Movement. The site is open and free to the public.

National Center for the Study of Civil Rights & African-American Culture

1345 Carter Hill Road, (334) 229-4876

On the Alabama State University campus, the center's mission is to document and preserve the written and oral history of the Civil Rights Movement, the black history of Montgomery and the history of ASU. Various programs, lectures and exhibitions are scheduled throughout the year for both children and adults.

An exhibition hall is free and open to the public during business hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with rotating shows of African-American art. The center also houses the papers and artifacts of the Montgomery Improvement Association, headed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and formed in Montgomery on December 5, 1955, to direct the Montgomery boycott.

There are both guided and walking tours (with MP3 players) available to Montgomery visitors.

For more information about the historical sites and things to do in Montgomery, visit Montgomery Alabama - Convention & Visitor Bureau Civil Rights Tour link <http://visitingmontgomery.com/play/see-and-do/civil-rights-audio-tour> or the contact the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitor Bureau, 300-A Water Street, (334) 261-1100 or (800) 240-9452. During the Convention representatives from the Chamber of Commerce will be on site at the Renaissance hotel to assist you with booking tours and providing other assistance.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Montgomery! Help us celebrate the 10th Quadrennial Lay Council Convention in Montgomery...the City of Dreams...past, present and future!

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Pre-Convention Activities

AARP Health Fair & Workshops



The AARP Health Fair will take place at the Renaissance Hotel from 2:00 – 5:00 P.M. It will feature health screenings and health related collateral materials. Local certified nurses will be available to assist attendees with resources for additional information.

The AARP Workshops on Care-giving, Social Security and Health Care will take place at 4:15 P.M. All are invited to participate to learn and receive information that you can share with persons who can benefit but was unable to come to Montgomery.

Community Outreach

The CLC Executive Board will sponsor a Community Outreach Project under the umbrella of the Social Concerns and Political Action Committee. The local agency that will be the benefactor of our contributions is yet to be identified. Nevertheless, you can begin now contributing the \$10.00 donation on line or you can bring with you to the convention. If it is convenient you may also purchase \$10.00 Wal-mart Gift Cards. The CLC has a strong track record in making a difference everywhere we have had our Connectional events. We do not intend to leave Montgomery, AL without

Cultural and Gospel Extravaganza



Mississippi Mass Choir - more details to follow

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Info

GRAND MARCH BANNER CRITERIA



- Size for Episcopal District banner is Width 36' x Length 48' (excluding fringe 3-5 inches)
- Conference and Presiding Elder District banners can be same size or smaller
- Use fabric that has some body, such as felt, burlap, broadcloth,

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The Convention Committee wants to plan activities for persons bringing children ages 3—12 but they can't wait until July for you to let them know. They are asking that if you want your children to participate in all of the Children's Activities. In the Optional Additional Activities section of the Registration process place an "X" on the line "I need information on children's activities" Also fill in the next line "Total # Of Children: (Ages ___3-5) (Ages ___6-8) (Ages ___9-12)". Details will be sent via e-mail and fees TBD. Parents or guardians will be responsible for meals, unless otherwise noted. Tickets must be purchased for the designated event meals should you desire the attendance of the child or

CONVENTION SOUVENIR JOURNAL

10TH QUADRENNIAL LAY CONVENTION
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
July 21-August 1, 2013

Montgomery, Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center
Montgomery, Alabama

Travis Bessette, Convention Chair | Dr. Yvonne K. Taylor, General President

Quadrennial Theme:
"Fostering the Faith (Faith, Fostering on Our Future Through: Family, Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Innovation)"

SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD FORM
(PLEASE FILL OUT THOROUGHLY)
DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: JUNE 4, 2013

Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____
Email: _____
Specialty District: _____

AD SIZE AND PRICE... (CHECK SELECTIONS)	PRICE
<input type="checkbox"/> Front Inside Cover	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Back & Inside Cover	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover	\$275.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Color Gold Border Page	\$275.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Color Page	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Color Page	\$175.00

Number of Ads Submitted: _____
Total Amount Submitted: \$_____

• AD MUST BE SERVED AND CAMERA READY
• Any (pictures) can be submitted with the ad or as an attachment to email
• Electronic submissions are to be emailed to marym1204@aol.com
• Ad will not be process until payment is received
• Great questions to (919)775-2056 or email questions to the above email address

Souvenir Journal information is as follows: DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: JUNE 1, 2013. Ad Size and Prices are Front Inside Cover—\$500.00; Back Inside Cover—\$500.00 ; Back Cover— \$500.00; Full Color Gold Border Page—\$275.00; Full Color Page—\$200.00; Half Page - \$175.00. Please add \$10 for each picture. Souvenir Journal submissions must be done online @ <http://www.cvent.com/d/tcq49z/1Q> ADS SHOULD BE CAMERA READY AND CONTAIN NO BORDERS. Photo(s) can be submitted within the ad or as an attachment to e-mail. Electronic submissions are to be e-mailed to marym1204@aol.com. Ad will not be process until full payment is received at the above web address. Direct questions to (919)775-2056 or e-mail questions to the above e-mail address

One Up Promotion

"Onward to Montgomery" the City of Dreams! The Connectional Lay Council has exciting things taking place before we arrive at the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention. Here's what's happening!

Our "One Up" promotion is guaranteed to have everyone talking!

We're connecting the dots between A.M.E. Zion history and American History. It's all about Zion's rich history and the contributions its members made towards our journey to freedom. This is an opportunity to share little known or even forgotten facts about Zion's impact on the Civil Rights Movement within our American History.

Share your factual stories on the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention face book page; but beware, someone else may have a story that's "One Up" on your story. Don't forget to share your photo because "a picture is worth a thousand words". Start posting today!

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Info

DR. VICTOR J. TULANE AWARD, DR BETTY V. STITH AWARD AND LAITY HALL OF FAME



“Onward Christian laity: Working hard for God, We must rend the same path, that our Saviour trod, We must bear our crosses, But continue on, Knowing at the judgment, We’ll receive our crown.” – Charlotte Riggins

This is a question we should not have to ponder...why should the laity who are “Working hard for God” have to wait till judgment day to receive their crown? Let’s celebrate them at this moment in time when they can hear our “Thank You” for a charge well done!



This is why one of the highlights of the Tenth Quadrennial Convention will be to honor notable laity of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church who have or continue to make significant contributions at all levels of Zion Methodism and likewise in the communities where they reside.

The Quadrennial Awards Banquet will prove to be an exciting event and full of surprises as we celebrate laity receiving honors for noteworthy accomplishments. We will praise God and rejoice with their family and friends.

Because we are not aware of the contributions of many persons on the local, District, Conference and Connectional levels, we offer you this opportunity to seek nominations of deserving persons from your area That you believe should be recognized for their committed and sacrificial service to humanity. Remember the nomination process for all awards begins at the grass roots level with you. Posthumous and self-nominations are also appropriate. All nominees and nominators must be card-carrying lay members of the CLC.

The laity recognition awards are as follows:

- The Laity Hall of Fame (one per region)
- The Dr. Victor J. Tulane Servant-Leadership Award
- The Dr. Betty V. Stith Trailblazer Award

There are criteria for each award. The criteria are challenging guidelines to assist you in matching up the laypersons that are the best fit for each of the awards. We encourage you to be in prayer as you reflective on the laypersons that you are considering for each of the honors.

The selection process for the Hall of Fame Award using the Nomination Information Form and required letters of recommendations (Nomination Packet) will start at the local church and flow as follows:

- The local church will select one deserving person and submit that name and the Nomination Packet to the District by March 1, 2013.
- The District Lay Council will select one person from those nominated by the local churches and submit that name to the Conference Lay Council along with the Nomination Packet by April 1, 2013.
- The Conference Lay Council will select one person to represent the Conference and submit that name to the Regional Director along with the Nomination Packet by May 1, 2013.
- The Regional Director must review the Nomination Packet(s) for completeness and send the Nomination Packet(s) (limited to one per Annual Conference Lay Council) to the Awards Committee by May 15, 2013 (see address below).

It is the responsibility of the nominator to submit the Nominee Form to the CLC Office on or before the scheduled submission date of May 15th. Forms not submitted on time may be disqualified.

The nominator should mail the Stith and Tulane Award Nomination Information Forms with the appropriate letters of recommendation (Nomination Packet) directly to the Awards Committee on or before May 15, 2013. For additional information about the life and accomplishments of Dr. Stith and Dr. Tulane, please visit the CLC web site www.clcamezion.org.

Mail all nominations to:
Connectional Lay Council
Attn: Awards Committee
PO Box 26770
Charlotte, NC 28221-6770

The Honorees and the Regional Directors will be notified by US mail or e-mail by the Awards Committee, at least thirty days prior to the opening of the Convention.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Rhandi Stith, 914 235-3596 or Mary Matthews 919-775-2056.

AWARD NOMINATION FORMS AND CRITERIA CAN BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR OR THE CLC WEBSITE UNDER THE FORMS TAB.

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Info

"Throwback" Registration Contest

Registration for the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention opened on February 4, 2013. The CLC is giving back through its "Throwback" registration contest.

PRIZES & SPONSORSHIP

Ten names will be drawn. Ten winners will be the recipient of a \$50 visa card given by the Connectional Lay Council. Here's how it works:

ELIGIBILITY

One name will be randomly selected from registrations received during the specified time frame. If your name is not chosen then you will remain in the selection pool. If your name is chosen you are no longer eligible for future drawings.

PRIZE DRAWING

Drawings will be held the fifteenth and last day of each month beginning on February 15, 2013 and ending June 30, 2013. Specified drawing dates are February 15th and 28th; March 15th and 31st; April 15th and 30th; May 15th and 31st; June 15th and 30th.

WINNER NOTIFICATIONS

Each winner will be notified via e-mail or telephone. Winners will be announced via the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention face book page, CLC News face book group, The Connection, and a list will be available at the site of the Quadrennial Lay Convention.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The rules apply to all registrations received. Drawing occurs if there is a minimum of 60 registrations received by the first drawing date and additional 60 registrations for each specified drawing dates thereafter.

2013 Quadrennial Registration Process

CLC bylaws can only be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of a quadrennial convention. The convention is a non-delegated body of active and registered members convened every four years. However, to participate in the process, a member must meet the following requirements: 1) Active member (CLC membership is current) at least 30 days prior to convention opening, June 27, 2013, 2) Registered for the convention, and 3) must be at least 18 years of age and not a member of the ordained clergy.

All resolutions for consideration by the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention must be received at the headquarters office no later than mid-night, April 29, 2013 (CLC Office fax # 704-688-2551). To facilitate submission of resolutions, the depicted bylaws amendment form is downloadable from the CLC website under the tab "Forms".

Come and participate in the process to keep our bylaws a model living document.



10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Info

10th Quadrennial Lay Convention Young Adult POV (Point of View)

By LaKeshia S. Womack, YACM Steering Committee South Central Region



It's a family affair!

One of the reasons I love being a part of a connectional church is because whenever I attend District, Conference, Episcopal and Connectional events; it always feels like a family reunion. In the age of social media, many young adults now feel more connected to our peers in our virtual worlds but we cannot afford to neglect the benefits of meeting and fellowshiping in person.

For many of us, with kids and spouses, finding time during the summer to add anything else to your plate can seem impossible. Turn that impossible into I'm possible! Make plans today to attend the Tenth Connectional Lay Convention in Montgomery AL this summer. There will be lots of small group discussions and leadership training for young adults to learn more about the church and ministry as well as to strengthen our connection to one another. Not only will there be sessions for young adults and adults but there are activities planned for the children and youth.

There are historical sites throughout the city of Montgomery that you can visit and make this your summer vacation. We will kick off with an evangelistic block party and fish fry for all ages on Friday, July 26 followed by an energetic celebration with the YAMS to recognize their 30th Anniversary.

I hope to see you and your family there!

From The President's Desk



Greetings, my beloved co-workers in the vineyard of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ, as members of the body of Christ and the great denomination known as The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Excitement is brewing everywhere as the laity of Zion are poised

through the work of the CLC Executive Board to convene the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention July 27 – August 1, 2013 in the City of Dreams, Montgomery, AL.

Time is drawing near for us to gather to celebrate the ministries we accomplished together over the last 3 ½ years and to birth the new lay leadership and agenda for the years 2013-2017.

First, let me continue to thank you the laity and members of the clergy for that you are doing to promote and sustain the mission and objectives of the Connectional Lay Council. We cannot afford to lose track of our purpose and role in Kingdom building.

Second, let me continue to encourage you to attend and/or to support others to attend the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention. In this issue of The Connection you will find articles on several of the activities planned. The goals set for this convention by the CLC Executive Board are not only based on the numbers who register (700) but more importantly, the intentional effort of the attendees to continue the life cycle of information (dissemination of Information) shared by qualified presenters who are grounded spiritually and in the operations of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. So when it comes to information about Zion's doctrines, history, polity and traditions these topics will all be touched upon through the Lay Academy and various other sessions during the convention.

In conclusion, please continue to keep lay leadership at the local, district, conference and connectional levels in your prayers; keep your membership in the Lay Council current; register for the convention and commit to each one leading one to participate in the 10th Quadrennial Lay Convention.

I (We) can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (us). Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

HEALTH NOTES FROM COZZIE

By Cozzie Watkins

Symptoms of West Nile Virus Questions & Answers



Q. What are the symptoms of West Nile virus (WNV) infection?

A. Infection with WNV can be asymptomatic (no symptoms), or can lead to West Nile fever or severe West Nile disease.

It is estimated that about 20% of people who become infected with WNV will develop West Nile fever. Symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, and body aches, occasionally with a skin rash (on the trunk of the body) and swollen lymph glands. While the illness can be as short as a few days, even healthy people have reported being sick for several weeks.

The symptoms of severe disease (also called neuro-invasive disease, such as West Nile encephalitis or meningitis or West Nile poliomyelitis)

include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. It is estimated that approximately 1 in 150 persons infected with the West Nile virus will develop a more severe form of disease. Serious illness can occur in people of any age, however people over age 50 and some immune compromised persons (for example, transplant patients) are at the highest risk for getting severely ill when infected with WNV.

Q. What is the incubation period in humans (time from infection to onset of disease symptoms) for West Nile disease?

A. Usually 2 to 15 days.

Q. How long do symptoms last?

A. Symptoms of West Nile fever will generally last a few days, although even some healthy people report having the illness last for several weeks. The symptoms of severe disease (encephalitis or meningitis) may last several weeks, although neurological (effect on the brain tissue and nerve tissue) effects may be permanent.

Q. What is meant by West Nile encephalitis, West Nile meningitis, West Nile poliomyelitis, "neuroinvasive disease" and West Nile fever?

A. The most severe type of disease due to a person being infected with West Nile virus is sometimes called "neuroinvasive disease," because it affects a person's nervous system. Specific types of neuro-invasive disease include: West Nile encephalitis, West Nile meningitis, West Nile meningo-encephalitis and West Nile poliomyelitis. Encephalitis refers to an inflammation of the brain, meningitis is an inflammation of the membrane around the brain and the spinal cord, meningo-encephalitis refers to inflammation of the brain and the membrane surrounding it, and poliomyelitis refers to an inflammation of the spinal cord.

West Nile Fever is another type of illness that can occur in people who become infected with the virus. It is characterized by fever, headache, tiredness, aches and sometimes rash. Although the illness can be as short as a few days, even healthy people have been sick for several weeks.

Q. Once there is a confirmed diagnosis of West Nile Fever, can it turn into West Nile encephalitis?

A. When someone is infected with West Nile virus (WNV) they will typically have one of three outcomes: No symptoms (most likely), West Nile fever (WNF in about 20% of people) or severe West Nile disease, such as meningitis or encephalitis (less than 1% of those who get infected). If you develop a high fever with severe headache, consult your health care provider.

West Nile fever is characterized by symptoms such as fever, body aches, headache and sometimes swollen lymph glands and rash. West Nile fever generally lasts only a few days, though in some cases symptoms have been reported to last longer, even up to several weeks. West Nile fever does not appear to cause any permanent health effects. There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. People with West Nile fever recover on their own, though symptoms can be relieved through various treatments (such as medication for headache and body aches, etc.).

Some people may develop a brief, WNF-like illness (early symptoms) before they develop more severe disease, though the percentage of patients in whom this occurs is not known.

Care may involve nursing IV fluids, respiratory support, and prevention of secondary infections.

REGIONAL NEWS

Piedmont Episcopal District

**Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.,
Presiding Prelate**

Mrs. Sandra Williams, Regional Director

Little Rock Celebrates Lay Day

Submitted by G. Johnson, Staff Reporter

As the Lay Day observance began at Little Rock AME Zion Church began, Dr. Dwayne A. Walker, Pastor announced the special day was being observed over all of Zion and presented the lay participants leading the congregation by reading the scripture, responsive reading and leading the Apostle's Creed (Isadore Sharpe, Teri Rhodes Taylor and Autumn Clarke) respectively. These young adult and youth participants did an excellent job and were very happy to be included and expressed a willingness to the local President, Gloria Joyner Johnson, to become more involved in the Lay Council.



Following the worship service, a delicious reception including a special Lay Day cake prepared by the Culinary Ministry, was enjoyed before Dr. Dwayne A. Walker led over one hundred members on a "Stroll to the Polls". Early voting began on October 18, 2012 and as Lay Day was the first Sunday of early voting in North Carolina, Dr. Walker modified the "Souls to the Polls" mantra and galvanized the congregation to "Stroll to the Polls". Little Rock is located about six blocks from the uptown Charlotte voting locations. In addition to those members who walked to the polls, the Transportation Ministry made the church bus available to those unable to walk the distance.

The Uptown Charlotte Obama Headquarters office was made aware of the Stroll to the Polls event by the Social Awareness Ministry and as a result set up on the Little Rock Community Development Center and with the help of the Culinary Ministry sponsored a cook-out with hot dogs, hamburgers, water, beverages and desserts. There were also face-painting and other activities for children in the amphitheater of the Community Development Center. The Information Technology Ministry provided music as the volunteers signed up to be scheduled to as-

sist the campaign to get out the vote and voting information and memorabilia was distributed. The community around the Church and the Community Development Center joined in the activities.

The laity of Little Rock then proceeded to the North Charlotte District Lay Observance held at Torrence Grove AME Zion Church where Rev. William Puryear is the pastor. The Lay Speaker was Dr. Mary Love, Editor, Church School Literature of the AME Zion Church.

Mid Atlantic II Episcopal District

Bishop Richard K. Thompson

Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Katherine Burrell, Regional Director

Lay Sunday at First Agape A.M.E.

Zion Church

Submitted by Thomas "Chuck" Williams, Secretary
Baltimore District of the

Philadelphia-Baltimore Conference; MidAtlantic II
Episcopal District

I was invited to be the lay speaker for First Agape A.M.E. Zion Church in Bethesda Maryland for this year's Lay Sunday worship service. Currently, the congregation meets in a synagogue as their structure suffered the ravages of a devastating fire several years ago. The congregation is in the process of rebuilding their existing church structure.

We opened service with praise and worship music and prayer. This congregation is blessed to be a singing church! During the service, we sang many songs from the present and the past; a very good balance of music. The amount of joy present was uplifting! During the service, we took time for testimonies. There were several moving stories that touched my heart. This local church really has a heart for God.

I was then called to speak. My topic was titled "Expansion; Reach Out and Touch Someone" and it was based upon the scripture 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. I read the scripture from three translations (King James, New Living Translation, The Message) as I felt it fitting to reach the audience based upon the translation which is most effective to the listener.

The scripture reads:

"Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. 20

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When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law.

21 When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. 22 When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. 23 I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings."

I pointed out that as in the scripture, we must reach people where they are.

I followed my scripture reading by singing a few verses from Donald Lawrence's "Prayer of Jabez" (Enlarge my Territory) for the purposes of providing auditory example. I challenged the congregation to think of enlarging their territory from the perspective of expanding their "spiritual footprint" within their community. For starters, I strongly urged this congregation to take their singing into the streets of the community!

I further discussed the topic of expansion from the standpoint of the four generations of worshippers in the church (Builders, Boomers, Gen X and Gen Y) and how we must accommodate each and every generation. I continued with presenting expansion from a socioeconomic point of view regarding the addicted, the convicted and the evicted and witnessing how the miracle of God's work within these people will happen when we reach out to them with our hearts and hands; and also added the idea of expansion geographically by giving thought to our brothers and sisters from other nations who live amongst us within our local communities. I challenged the congregation to consider reaching out and touching each of these groups.

I shared ways that we can expand our worship service, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. During the presentation, I brought up the success of "mega" churches and their secret formula: small groups – which are modeled after the Methodist Class System! I encouraged them to come back to our Methodist roots and rebuild their class system. I also shared ways to leverage technology in their expansion efforts to reach young adults.

I closed my presentation by summarizing what we discussed and emphasizing the need to motivate themselves to carry out the Great Commission and use it as our

guiding principle for expansion. As I looked out into the congregation, I was surprised to see that our Presiding Elder was in attendance! He was scheduled to conduct a Quarterly Conference meeting after service and stopped by to participate in the worship service.

I can only pray that I blessed the folks at First Agape as much as they blessed me and my wife on Lay Sunday. If anyone wishes to bless this congregation's building restoration efforts, please send your contributions to: First Agape A.M.E. Zion Church, P.O. Box 1016, Burtonsville, MD 20866-1016.

"Expanding - Not A Choice! A Command"

Lay Sunday message given by Katherine S. Burrell, Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic II at Clinton AME Zion Church, Rockville, MD. The Rev. T.K. Venable, Pastor and Mr. Clive Alexis, President of the local Lay Council.



New Testament scripture
- Matthew 28:16-20, the
great commission, verse
19-20

Old Testament scripture -
Deuteronomy 30:16

Our Theme "Expand our
Mission"
What is a Mission?
The Mission defines the
WHAT we are to do!

OUR MISSION! As stated in our NT Reading of the Great Commission... As Christians We are SENT by God to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything that God has commanded. And in the OT God assures us He will be with us always as we accept His command.

We must first understand and accept the relationship between the "Sender" and the "SENT." Those sent are often times not consulted when the Mission is being planned. Jesus did not sit down and have a committee meeting with the disciples on the Mission He was sending them and I BELIEVE if the disciples could have seen into the future they probably would not have gone. They had violent and untimely deaths...they died as martyrs. Stephen was stoned to death, Paul was beheaded and Peter "Jesus' Rock" was crucified upside down

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The Sender, as in our case today is the pastor...He defines the mission, empowers, authorizes and dispatches the "Sent." The "Sent"... the Laity, are the ones empowered, authorized and commissioned to carry out the Mission.

The CLC's motto "Come with us to Christ" is a driving force for implementing ministries to Expand that are positive in transforming people's lives spiritually, socially and economically; by promoting fellowship with God and other believers, as well as those who are not saved. We are to carry out our Mission with Excellence because we are serving God!

Once we are educated and empowered on the duties of our mission we are almost ready to go out into the world. Next we must have a personal relationship with God for successful expansion. As the disciples were told wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon you. We must have our armor on and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Laity Can you answer these questions in a positive reply?

"Are you Saved?" In the Pass tense is our Justification -

"Are you being saved?" In the Present tense is our Sanctification

"Will you be saved?" And in the Future is our Glorification,

Once our Spiritual Life is in order, through Bible Study, Prayer Meeting and studies provide by the pastor there is another step we have to take to be prepared to go out to Evangelize and Expand God Church.

You have to take time to learn the History of our Church, how our forefathers Expanded the church with very little resources. It is a rich history.

In his book, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Reality of the Black Church, Bishop William J. Walls states: "Indeed the story of the earliest period of the AME Zion Church is a romance, built on faith, hope, fortitude and courage inspired by God Almighty and His Son, Jesus Christ, witnessed by the Holy Spirit.

Between the organization of the church in 1796 and the separation in 1812, this group had some turbulent days... but Varick stood like a rock mid some raging storms and bought the old ship of Zion through a series of crisis to freedom."

The blacks who started our church, decided to break from the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1796, almost a 100 years before the end of slavery, they were Lay people, tired of being mistreated, relegated to the bal-

cony, not allowed to take part in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and just tired of being ridiculed by the whites.

Ten years after they left John's Street Methodist Episcopal Church in New York City, James Varick, Abraham Thompson and June Scott were secretly ordained deacons by Bishop Francis Asbury, who was one of the first two bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but the ordination was not accepted by many of the other white leaders. The white leaders put qualifications and restrictions on our leaders so that they were not able to practice their ordination and still had to depend on the whites from the MEC to come and serve them Communion.

They were lay people... Yes, James Varick was not born a Bishop in the AME Zion Church, as everyone in our great Denomination... the Christian Educators, the Missionaries and even the clergy all began as a Lay people... James Varick and his followers developed and grew the church. They compiled our Discipline; they built the first church building called Zion Church. They ministered to the sick, clothed the poor, they brought men, women and children to Christ. They had phenomenal grew. At the same time they bravely fought the battles of slavery.

It was not until June 2, 1822, 25 years after the initial separation, at a meeting held at the then recently dedicated Zion Church, Abraham Thompson, James Varick and Leven Smith were ordained Elders by Methodist Episcopal ministers, William M. Stilwell, Samuel Stilwell and Sylvester Hutchison. It took twenty-five years, for the right people to come and lay hands on them at their ordination, thus our pastors today are assured a place in the order of the apostolic succession of Christianity. The laying on of hands continues today at the ordination of our Deacons and Elders.

Our founding fathers, many of them slaves, were wise, patient leaders, full of the Holy Spirit and today we are reaping the benefits of their faithful service to God.

Laity! What are we doing today to guarantee the life of our church? We need to regain that romance and commitment with our Church as our forefathers had. Yes we must embrace our history.

SUCCESSFUL EXPANSION COMES THROUGH EDUCATION

When we are called and accept the call by the leadership to become a leader in the church you have to learn what your duties are read your Discipline. There are many "How To" handbooks available through the AME Zion Publishing House. Become the best in whatever

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position you are asked to serve, through education and knowledge of your position.

Pastor: provide the training for the people you call!

Laity! Prepare "Equip" yourselves to be leaders in the church, "know the story!" Tell the Story when mentoring others. Encourage our young people so they will become strong leaders in the church.

This is a partnership clergy and Laity ... We are on this journey together. We need each other

If the proper tools and knowledge are given, the person called will be successful in serving in their ministry to raise up and edify the Body of Christ and the Church will EXPAND!

Expansion!

It is not a choice it is a Command! We are to go into all the world to make disciples and proclaim the Good News that Jesus is the Christ, our savior AND THEN WE SHALL BE BLESSED AND BECOME MANY. Amen! Amen! Amen!

RESOURCES:

The Description of the Quadrennial Theme, by
Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett, retired
Bishop Richard K. Thompson
Bishop Kenneth Monroe
Reality of the Black Church, by Bishop William J. Walls
CLC Thematic Theme Guide 2009-2013
CLC Theological Treatise 2009-2013

North Eastern Episcopal District

Bishop Roy A. Holmes
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Marie H. Baxter, Regional Director

Power-Up,

Submitted By, Ms. Dianne M. Chappelle
2nd Vice President, Lay Council
Mother AME Zion Church

A soul-stirring Lay Sunday Celebration was held at Mother Zion on Sunday, October 14th. The First Lady, Dr. Denise Clay of Williams Institutional CME Church brought a message of encouragement to the Laity. Dr. Clay offered, if we are to "Maximize Our Mission" we need to 'power up', that is we must receive God's power by connecting to the Holy Spirit and be willing to be witness everywhere.

As lay persons we can experience God's grace and

be guided by His hand. If we are to experience church growth, the African American church must understand that there is a process for calling people to God. People are energized through God's prophetic word. We must have the conviction necessary to live the word; make the investment to place ourselves in a ministry where we have to make the commitment to grow, to spend the necessary time and effort; a willingness to make the investment in order to realize the vision. To be willing to go where and do what God would have us to do. If there is no passion; there is no power. If there is no power; there are no people!

If we are to expand the church locally, regionally and globally, we must power up; receive God's power by connecting to the Holy Ghost!



Pictured with the Pastor, Rev. Dr. Gregory R. Smith, Associate Pastor, Rev. Cecil Muschett; Rev. Dr. Julius C. Clay pastor of Williams Institutional CME Church and the dynamic guest speaker, the Dr. Denise Clay, of Williams Institutional CME Church; Local Lay Officers (from left to right): Mrs. Versatile Simmons Mrs. Velva E. Edwards, Ms. Carol Samake, Ms. Dianne M. Chappelle, Ms. M, Denise Niles, Ms. Lovell Jackson, President, Ms. Sheryl Witherspoon-Diggs, Ms. Cynthia Wilson; along with the Ms. Rhandi Stith, New York Conference Lay Council President



REGIONAL NEWS

Albany District ~ Western New York Conference

Submitted by Eddie R. Fite

I want you to know that the Albany District Lay Council is up and running. We hosted The Western New York Annual Conference retreat on Oct. 20, 2012 at Hope Chapel A.M.E Zion Church in Utica N.Y. We had a speaker on Bath Salt, the new drug that teen agers are using. WE had about 55 people attend from far away as Buffalo New York. I would say it was a success.

On Oct. 21, 2012 we had the result of our King & Queen contest in Albany N.Y. at Walls Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Rev. Oscar McLaughlin pastor The winner was a young boy by the name of Justice Beekman of People A.M.E. Zion Church of Gloversville N.Y. Rev. Diane Fletcher Pastor.

Mid Atlantic I Episcopal District
Bishop Louis Hunter
Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Helene Zacharis Regional Director

Be Careful What You Ask For Because You Just Might Get It - Them What?

Submitted By Anita Rankin



On successive Sundays at St. James AME Zion Church in Massillon, OH and at her home church, Simmons Chapel AME Zion Church, Lisbon, OH, Anita Rankin delivered the

Lay Sunday message based on I Chronicles 4:1, more commonly known as the Prayer of Jabez.

The speaker posed the question as to why Jabez asked God to expand his territory – was it greed or was it a sincere request to do more. Both congregations reflected on the rationale behind Jabez' request and concluded

it was a sincere request to do more to please God. The congregations were also asked to examine how inclusive their gatherings are to ensure they are not "turning people off" and sending them away. Lastly, the first of the "Three Simple Rules" was used as the standard when we relate to others – do no harm.

The various churches within Ohio Conference Lay Council also held receptions, kicked off membership drives, shared the history of the Connectional Lay Council, and celebrated with a special dinner after the morning worship.

Ohio Conference

Submitted By Anita Rankin

Empowerment has been the order of the day throughout the Ohio Annual Conference. From Lay Sunday activities to Lay Academies the themes have hinged on the concept of Empowerment.

The Lay Sunday speakers:

Patricia Lewis, Ohio Conference Lay Council President - at Wesley Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Akron; Judge Adele Riley, President Emeritus of the Judicial Council – at St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church, Cincinnati; Anita Rankin, 2nd Vice President, Ohio Conference Lay Council – at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Cleveland and at Simmons Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Lisbon; and Gloria Cook, 1st Vice President, Akron District Lay Council – who spoke to a combined congregation from St. Matthews A.M.E. Zion Church, Sewickley, PA; Greater Emmanuel A.M.E. Church, Aliquippa, PA and St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Coraopolis, PA all addressed some facet of empowerment in keeping with our quadrennial theme. In many instances the speakers used a common scriptural reference Acts 1:8, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (NIV)

The Cleveland District Lay Council hosted a Lay Academy on Empowerment Resources. The presenters were:

Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker, Sr., Pastor, Beth-El A.M.E. Zion Church, Cleveland "Empowerment: God the Father"; Rev. Emerald Hall, Assistant Pastor, Beth-el A.M.E. Zion Church (Cleveland) Empowerment: "God the Son" and Rev. Randy Reed, Pastor, Old Ship A.M.E. Zion Church (Sandusky) "Empowerment: God the Holy Spirit." The attendees were given reference scriptures and insights as to how they are to utilize the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as resources in their daily lives.

The Akron District hosted a Lay Academy with Ruthie King, District Director of Christian Education as the presenter.

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Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

Dr. W. Edywin Baird, Regional Director

Lay Sunday Celebration At Mt. Hebrew AME Zion Church

Rev. Larry Gordon, pastor, served as worship leader for the Lay Sunday Celebration at Mt. Hebrew AME Zion Church, the welcome was extended by Ms. Carolyn Gorham and announcements followed. Music was rendered by the Male Chorus and Mrs. Marie Dobbins, Local Lay Council president presented the lay speaker. The lay speaker was Miss Mary J. Matthews, Connectional Lay Council Life Members Chairperson. Her topic and excerpts from the message are as follows: "Expansion - Laity, doing our Part in Bring Others to Christ". Today we remember the many efforts of lay people through-out our church. The laity serve in many roles to help spread the good news of Jesus Christ and the love of God; therefore inviting others to come with us to Christ. We expand our local churches as well as the kingdom of God by helping the ministers to save souls through our witnessing for Christ.

As laity, with so much suffering of humanity around us, we must stay connected to God's will for direction and connection with the ministry that He has set aside for us to do. We are sent to teach, educate, make disciples, take the gospel of God's reconciling love to all nations, and to feed the lambs. If the lost are not being won, if the unreached people are not being reached, if the needy people are not being helped, if the sick are not being visited, and if God's work is being left undone; it is the fault and responsibility of the people whom God has called into His ministry, be it clergy are Christian lay people. And please know that a lay person cannot pay someone else to fulfill his or her ministry to God. As lay people we must know that Jesus is the Son of God and we must work the work of Him that has sent us. So, let us work on making sure that we are lined up with God's will for our lives. God has much for those who obey His will. Let us continue to work together through the ministry of the Connectional Lay Council for we have been commissioned by Jesus to make disciples; so let's get ready and report for duty, "inviting others to come with us to Christ" expanding God kingdom here on earth.

Lay Academy Held At York Memorial AME Zion Church

On October 20, 2012 the York Memorial AME Zion Church, Greenville, NC conducted a Lay Academy, along with other workshops, Rev. Lester Jacobs, pastor, and Ms. Floretta Graham, Local Lay Council president. The presenter for the Lay Academy was Miss Mary J. Matthews, Connectional Life members Chairperson. Topic: "Expanding Your Horizon by Cultivate Denominational Loyalty". The presenter's goal was to get participants to move beyond the local church and get actively involve in District, Conference and Connectional Activities in the AME Zion Church. She stated that in order to Cultivate Denominational Loyalty we should uplift the AME Zion Church and be proud of our Zion Connection; read the histories written about Zion, learn about Zion, especially the Articles of Religion in the A.M.E. Zion Church Book of Discipline, and we should know the structure and polity of the church. The very creative PowerPoint presentation allowed participants to take a look at involvements in which the laity can work beyond the Local Church making difference and growing the church as a whole. There was excitement in learning about the operations of Connectional Lay Council in playing the game "Who Wants to be a Lay Council Millionaire"; where Miss Matthews displayed questions and answers about the Lay Council. The presentation also included reflections from the 49th Quadrennial Session to the AME Zion Church General Conference. At the close of the session participants were asked to make this commitment: I will endeavor to know what I am a part of in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. And I will do my part, in my Local Church and beyond (in the district, conference and connection) God being my help. Miss Matthews ended the presentation with this remarkable challenge; NOW, ARE YOU READY TO EXPAND OUT BEYOND YOUR LOCAL CHURCH? The Choice is Yours, "Build or Let Die".



REGIONAL NEWS

Wadesboro-Monroe District Lay Council

Submitted By Joyce P. Edwards

The Wadesboro-Monroe District Lay Council opened Conference Year 2012-2013 on the District's quarterly Empowerment Day with a program designed to enhance appreciation for the role of the laity in enhancing the viability of the church. Ms. Minnie McRae, President of the Wadesboro-Monroe District Lay Council solicited the cooperation of the Christian Education directors and the officers of the Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society in developing and presenting this instructional session.

During the breakout sessions, the Presiding Elder, the Reverend Dr. Murray L. Edwards, talked extensively with the adults about special efforts needed by each church leader in order for the local church to attract and maintain new members. This discussion was aligned with the year's District emphasis on evangelism and outreach. Age level groups of young adults, youth, and children met separately. The young adults studied the development of the Connectional Lay Council from its inception in 1916 and its reestablishment in 1952. They learned about key personalities who have been significant in the Lay Council's history and its more recent leaders, including the immediate past president, Mr. David A. Aiken, Sr., and the current president, Dr. Yvonne K. Tracy. The youth learned about the vision, mission, and purposes of the Lay Council. The children's group learned about the meaning of the word "laity" in the church and how lay leaders serve in the local church.

After the breakout sessions, a plenary session was held where each group presented their information to the entire assembly. A highlight of the plenary session was the multi-media presentation by the young adults that capsuled the history of the Connectional Lay Council and the leaders who have been instrumental in sustaining the organization.

Mid West Episcopal District Bishop Darryl Starnes Presiding Prelate

Ms. Lynda Byrd, Regional Director

St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church Celebrates Connectional Lay

Sundays

Submitted by Lynda Byrd

St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church celebrated Connectional Lay Sunday with two events October 27-28, 2012. CLC President Dr. Yvonne Tracey conducted a Lay Academy on Saturday. She spoke from the position of "Leadership Under Construction—Finding Our Purpose and Voice." Using a beautifully designed power point slide presentation, Dr. Tracey guided the well-attended audience as she examined the aims, purposes and function of the laity. She reminded the audience that "...our primary function is to be Christ's presence in the world," and that the role of the laity and clergy is to be the church. She suggested that we accomplish that by using our "voice"...through membership and ministries.

Reviewing the steps toward full membership in the A.M.E. Zion Church, Dr. Tracey reminded those present of the mandate to "study" as she outlined some of the materials that we should use for that purpose and the way in which our attendance at Bible study, prayer meeting members meetings and attendance and Quarterly, District, Annual and the General Conference aid us in "managing our ministries" and help us to "prepare and equip" ourselves for service to Jesus Christ.

Lynda Byrd, Midwest Regional Director was also on hand and connected Dr. Tracey's presentation to our roles as servant leaders.

The next day, Dr. Tracey was the speaker at the morning worship service and brought a rousing address reminding those present of their duties and that the most effective voice for the church is one who knows the church!

VOTING CARD

You'll be entitled to a card like this if:

- your Lay Council membership is current 30 days prior to the Convention;
- you pay the appropriate registration fee in a timely manner;
- you have reviewed and understand the election process;
- you are certified as a voting member prior to the

election; and

you sit in the designated area with your Regional Director.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

See you July 27 - August-1, 2013
Renaissance Montgomery Hotel &
Spa

REGIONAL NEWS

Hilliard Chapel AME Zion Celebrates Lay Sunday

A special Lay Sunday Service was held the third Sunday in October at Hilliard Chapel AME Zion Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan to commemorate the anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, founded in 1796. Under the leadership of President Cheryl Ann Brewster, daughter of a former church pastor - Rev Earnest Brewster (deceased) - proud laity gathered to celebrate Zion's Birthday. Members of the church were assigned to carry out all parts of the morning worship from The Call to Worship to the Closing Prayer as suggested by the Connectional Lay Council (CLC). Proclamation of the Word which was done by Sister Carmen Warren, Western Michigan District LC President. Sister Warren who is in her second year of study for ministry in the AME Zion Church, delivered a Soul-Stirring Message on this year's quadrennial Lay Council theme "Maximizing Our Mission By Managing Our Ministry Through Expansion." She gave several examples of expansion and encouraged the congregation and visitors to do their own personal self-check. All present were asked to give a special offering which was sent to CLC for the Bishop Leak Scholarship Fund. Closing remarks were given by The Reverend Bobbie Overton, Pastor. The service was followed by an Ice Cream Social and Fellowship.

M. E. Zion in Toledo, Ohio. Using the quadrennial theme, "Maximizing Our Mission by Managing Our Ministry through Expansion," Dr. Tracey was introduced by the pastor Rev. Dwight L. Gutridge. Other worship participants were Mr. Herman Anderson, Mr. Smith Davis, Mrs. Elsie Harbour, Mrs. Billie Lothery, Mrs. Deborah Sims, and Mrs. Amelia Williams. Ms. Jacqueline Williams serves as president of the Detroit District Lay Council. Dr. Tracey encouraged the members of St. Paul to use what we have to expand our ministry throughout the community.

She then travelled with the St. Paul Toledo Lay Council to John Wesley A. M. E. Zion in Southfield, Michigan, Rev. Al Hamilton host pastor, for the Dynamic Detroit District's 22nd Annual

G. Lynnwood Howie Vesper Service. Dr. Tracey was the speaker and was introduced by Mrs. Sylvia Henderson, 2nd vice president of the Detroit District Lay Council. Other worship participants included district officers Mrs. Vivian Stansbery, worship leader, 1st vice president of the Detroit District, and president of the John Wesley Lay Council, Mrs. Carol Carter, District Special Projects Coordinator, Mrs. Lynda Grier, District Treasurer, Mrs. Dyann Longmire, District Secretary, Mr. Christopher Howie, Ms. Hawanya Jackson, Ms. Linnea Beal. Music was provided by the choir of John Wesley. Dr. Tracey urged us to continue seeking students for Livingstone College and to carry on the legacy of those that went before us. The proceeds from the vesper service fund a scholarship for students from the Detroit District to attend Livingstone College.

The Dynamic Detroit District Celebrates Connectional Lay Sunday

Submitted By Jacqueline Williams, President,
Detroit District Lay Council

Connectional Lay Council President Dr. Yvonne Tracey was the speaker for Connectional Lay Sunday at St. Paul A.

Kentucky Conference

By Steve Dobbins, President, Kentucky Conference
Lay Council

The KY Conference President, Steve Dobbins, spoke At Wesley Chapel AMEZ church on Sunday Oct. 14 and at Broadway Temple AMEZ church on Oct. 21. He used it as a teaching moment to give the history of the Lay Council as well expounding on our current Quadrennial theme. Bro. Dobbins also lifted up the upcoming Quadrennial convention.

FROM THE EDITOR:

We would like to remind you that the main thrust of "The Connection" remains to help publicize and promote the Lay Council programs throughout the denomination. Many informative and exciting events are taking place and we want to share them with you. We hope the articles in this Newsletter will inform, and inspire, instruct and guide, encourage and challenge. Hopefully the Lay Council will continue to use this to promote Lay Councils. But I want to remind you that we also would like to receive articles pertaining to the Lay Council from the local, church, Presiding Elder District, Annual Conferences and Episcopal Districts (300 WORD LIMIT). So that the whole denomination knows what your Lay Council is doing or plans to do.

Articles and pictures (please identify people in the photo) may be mailed or e-mailed to the Editor, Miss Rhandi M. Stith, Carrington Arms Apt. 8H, 33 Lincoln Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10801 1 (914) 235-3596.

REGIONAL NEWS

St. Luke AME Zion, Grand Rapids Proudly Celebrates Lay Sunday

A spirit-filled Lay Sunday Service was held at St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan where Rev Gaylyn Wilson is the Pastor. The special service to commemorate the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church began with a procession led by the St. Luke Acolytes who ushered in Lay Council President Albert Moore, local Lay Council Officers and a host of Clergy to the processional hymn sung by the St. Luke's Invincible Choir.

Highlights of the service included a recitation of The Affirmation of Laity; a rousing expose' on this year's Quadrennial Theme focusing on expansion; and the first time presentation of a "Faithful Servant Certificate of Appreciation". The certificate was created as recognition for over 20-25 years of service to the church. Certificates and 3 long roses were given to Tommie Williams, a former Steward; James Edwards, a former Trustee, Millie Austin, a former Stewardess and current Deaconess; and Annie Edwards, current Christian Education Director. The roses symbolized our desire to say thanks and "to give them their flowers while they can still smell them."

A powerful and enlighten sermon was delivered by local Deacon, the Reverend Orea Peterson, entitled "You May Think I'm Lost, But I'm Listening for the Word of God." Rev. Peterson assured us that God does speak to all of us. He encouraged us to pray about all things we endeavor to do, ask for God's guidance, listen for an answer and follow where He leads. The text was taken from Ephesians 4:25- 5:2 with emphasis on verse 29. Pictured: Mary Edmond, MAC



President; Albert Moore, St. Luke President and honorees Annie Williams, Annie Edwards, and James Edwards. Not pictured Millie Austin

The Connection Reporters

The Editor of the Connection is urging the laity across Zion to submit news to be published in The Connection. Each Episcopal Area has a representative whose name is listed below. Please contact them with your news. All articles must be typed and double spaced. Do not format or use effects (such as text boxes). Use upper and lower

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Lay Sunday Offering

Effective January 13, 2013

CHURCH	AMOUNT	EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	CHURCH	AMOUNT	EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
South Iredell	\$60.00	Piedmont	Clinton Memorial	\$120.00	North Eastern
Rock Hill	\$100.00	Piedmont	St. Paul	\$23.00	North Eastern
Cedar Grove	\$20.00	Piedmont	Jackson Memorial	\$205.00	North Eastern
Charlotte District Lay Council	\$500.00	Piedmont	Varick Memorial	\$200.00	North Eastern
Mount Pisgah	\$145.00	Piedmont	New York Conference	\$200.00	North Eastern
Reeves Chapel	\$80.00	Piedmont	Lay Council		
Soldiers Memorial	\$125.00	Piedmont	Simmons Chapel	\$50.00	Mid Atlantic I
Trinity	\$465.15	Piedmont	St. Mark	\$228.00	Mid Atlantic I
St. Stephens	\$100.00	Piedmont	Old Ship	\$15.00	Mid Atlantic I
Lincolnton District	\$200.00	Piedmont	Big Zion	\$107.61	Eastern North Carolina
Moore's Chapel	\$150.00	Piedmont	St. Luke	\$30.32	Eastern North Carolina
New Zion	\$95.00	Piedmont	Hood Memorial	\$128.00	Eastern North Carolina
Price Memorial	\$40.00	Piedmont	St. Mark	\$260.00	Eastern North Carolina
St. John	\$179.00	Piedmont	Rush Metropolitan	\$119.70	Eastern North Carolina
Sills Creek	\$61.00	Piedmont	Miller's Chapel	\$50.00	Eastern North Carolina
Blue Ridge Conference	\$200.00	Piedmont	Bethel	\$50.00	Eastern North Carolina
New Hope	\$150.00	Piedmont	St. James/Snow Hill	\$40.00	Eastern North Carolina
Union Chapel	\$65.00	Piedmont	Union Wesley	\$50.00	Eastern North Carolina
Winston Salem District	\$300.00	Piedmont	New Elder's	\$50.00	Eastern North Carolina
Sandy Ridge AME Zion	\$129.00	Piedmont	Paul's Chapel	\$50.00	Eastern North Carolina
McDonald Chapel	\$25.00	Piedmont	St. Matthew-Goldsboro/Wilson	\$50.00	Eastern North Carolina
1st AME Zion Lovingson	\$100.00	Mid Atlantic II	Moore's Chapel	\$50.00	Eastern North Carolina
1st AME Zion Bluefield	\$108.00	Mid Atlantic II	Wilson District	\$200.00	Eastern North Carolina
Trinity	\$480.00	Mid Atlantic II	Bowen's Chapel - Wilmington	\$50.00	Eastern North Carolina
Stephen Gill	\$25.00	Mid Atlantic II	Shaw Temple	\$30.00	Eastern North Carolina
Spottswood Church			Norington	\$88.00	Eastern North Carolina
Tyne's Chapel	\$81.00	Mid Atlantic II	Oak Grove	\$100.00	Eastern North Carolina
First AME Zion	\$25.00	Mid Atlantic II	Mt. Olive	\$150.00	Eastern North Carolina
Saint Luke	\$50.00	Mid Atlantic II	New Bern District	\$500.00	Eastern North Carolina
John Wesley	\$200.00	Mid Atlantic II	Pilgrim Journey	\$10.00	Eastern North Carolina
Mt. Zion	\$50.00	Mid Atlantic II	New Prospect	\$130.00	Eastern North Carolina
Taylor's Chapel	\$100.00	Mid Atlantic II	Greater Walters	\$200.00	South Atlantic
Paradise	\$25.00	Mid Atlantic II	Walls Memorial	\$96.00	Mid West
St. Paul	\$100.00	Mid Atlantic II	Lynda Byrd (Midwest)	\$50.00	Mid West
Greater Faith	\$75.00	Mid Atlantic II	Walters Clement	\$51.00	Mid West
Zion Chester	\$128.75	Mid Atlantic II	Metropolitan	\$157.00	Mid West
Brown's Chapel	\$57.00	Mid Atlantic II	Creekstand	\$60.00	Alabama-Florida
Lebanon	\$30.00	Mid Atlantic II	Hick's Chapel and Liberty Hill	\$36.00	Alabama-Florida
St. Luke	\$100.00	North Eastern	Metropolitan	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida
Shaw	\$50.00	North Eastern	Mt. Moriah	\$30.00	Alabama-Florida
Bell	\$61.00	North Eastern	St. Mark	\$25.00	Alabama-Florida
Hope Chapel	\$30.00	North Eastern	Tuskegee District	\$101.50	Alabama-Florida
Greater Centennial	\$500.00	North Eastern	Jackson District	\$250.00	Alabama-Florida
St. John	\$30.00	North Eastern	West Alabama Conference	\$500.00	Alabama-Florida
Mt. Hope	\$105.00	North Eastern	Butler Chapel	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida
Eastern District	\$80.00	North Eastern	Berry's Chapel	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida
			Pine Grove	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida

Lay Sunday Offering

Effective January 13, 2013

CHURCH	AMOUNT	EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		
Small Memorial	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida	Solomon Chapel	\$50.00
Springfield	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida	William Chapel	\$50.00
St. Thomas	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida	Pilgrim Rest	\$50.00
Little Zion	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida	Caleb	\$100.00
Miller's Chapel	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida	Louisiana	\$50.00
Lewis Chapel	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida	Conference	
Chalk Level	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida	Payne Chapel	\$50.00
James Chapel	\$40.00	Alabama-Florida	Eureka AME Zion Church	\$25.00
Ward Chapel	\$30.00	Alabama-Florida	Zion Chapel	\$25.00
Sand Hill	\$30.00	Alabama-Florida	John Wesley	\$50.00
Thompkinville	\$20.00	Alabama-Florida	Outland	\$178.00
Beautiful Star	\$20.00	Alabama-Florida	Memorial	
Walter Mission	\$20.00	Alabama-Florida	Spottswood	\$45.00
Bethlehem	\$20.00	Alabama-Florida	Community	\$100.00
Big Zion	\$100.00	Alabama-Florida	AME Zion	
Asbury Chapel	\$50.00	Alabama-Florida	GRAND TOTAL	12,374.03

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Call the Connectional Lay Council

Office for further information. 704-599-4630