

THE CONNECTION

RHANDI M. STITH, EDITOR

"FORTIFYING OUR FAITH WHILE FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE THROUGH: WORSHIP, LEADERSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP AND STEWARDSHIP"

Zion's Laity Supporting The Harriet Tubman Home FINANCIAL GOAL: \$50,000

By Mary Matthews

Zion, your continuous giving to the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park project is appreciated. Please share our financial goal for the Harriet Tubman Home with others. More people will give if they are aware of our commitment to this project of Love.

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor and Ms. Karen Hill invited me and Yvonne Baskerville, CLC first vice president to witness the establishment ceremony of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. On Tuesday morning, January 10, 2017 at the US Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., we witness U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell sign a memorandum establishing the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, Auburn, New York, as the 414th unit of the National Park System.

The Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, New York is a part of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. There is no better time than now to show our appreciation of Harriet Tubman and the legacy she left to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Now that the memorandum has been signed establishing the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, we as members of the AME Zion Church are to move swiftly in place, at the forefront, in giving our financial support and beyond.



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Bishop Proctor stated during the celebration that the park ensures our ability to continue to lift up more dynamically Harriet Tubman's core values of freedom, family, faith, community, justice, self-determination, and equality. I am asking that we let the world see the true spirit of Harriet Tubman shine through us as we support the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park project.

Ms. Karen Hill, informed me that the federal legislation requires that we "the AME Zion Church" donate a non-federal dollar for every federal dollar the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park receives. **We will continue the celebration of Lay Sunday in the**

giving of offerings and donations until the date of the Harriet Tubman pilgrimage May 26-27, 2017. Please know that no amount is too small, because little becomes much in the hands of God.

A Word from Our President



Ms. Mary Matthews
General President

Greetings in this season of Lent! As we turn our lives towards Calvary's cross, may this favorable season deepen our relationship with God and our fellow man. "Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Joel 2:12

The end of the quadrennium is almost upon us. But we still have time to accomplish our goals for this quadrennium within the next three months, 1) 50,000 active card-carrying members of the Connectional Lay Council; 2) \$50,000 in Lay Sunday offerings and donations for the Harriet Tubman Home in support of the Harriet Tubman Historical National Park. You will find an update of your giving in this edition of the newsletter.

Let us start preparing now to attend the 11th Quadrennial Lay Convention by pre-registering online with Cvent or via the paper mail-in registration. Early registration will allow us to better prepare for your arrival and stay in Knoxville,

Tennessee.

Exciting news! The Connectional Lay Council's newly innovatively designed website was launched on March 14, 2017. The website offers a wealth of educational materials, articles, newsletters, forms, and other tools; all designed to keep you up-to-date on strategies for doing lay ministry. You will need to visit the website often to see what I have placed in the "General President's Bag," just for you.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support and involvement within the ministry of the Connectional Lay Council. **I ask for your prayers and your vote as I again offer myself to serve you as president of the Connectional Lay Council.**

Harriet Tubman Home *Continued from page 1*

Additionally, I attended a meeting with Ms. Hill and others at the US Department of Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing. During the meeting, we were allowed to view the picture of Harriet Tubman that will be presented from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the twenty-dollar bill. Please share all of this inspiring information with others.

Last month, I received an email asking where the Lay Sunday offerings should be mailed. Mail all offerings and donations to Connectional Lay Council, Attn: Harriet Tubman, PO Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770.



Travel arrangements are currently being finalized for the Annual Harriet Tubman Pilgrimage May 26-27, 2017. The travel information will be disseminated as soon as the hotel arrangements are finalized.

From the Convention Chairperson



Mrs. Yvonne Baskerville
Convention Chairperson

L a i t y o f Zion, the time for our 11th Quadrennial Lay Convention is fast approaching! The start of the convention is less than one hundred twenty days away. **Are you preparing?** You may be asking what do I need to do to prepare? As a voting delegate there are a number of vital things you can and must do. **First, pay your dues.** Are your dues current? In order to vote your dues must be paid **30 days** prior to the convention.

As communicated in my previous articles, the convention has three purposes: to elect officers, pass legislation and to approve a quadrennial budget. Only financial lay members can vote. Be proactive and pay your dues now. Don't delay.

Second- register. Register early for the convention and hotel. The early bird convention registration deadline is May 31st, 2017. The hotel reservation deadline for the conference rate is June 19, 2017. And don't forget to make your travel reservations-whether by plane, train, bus or car.

Third, acquaint yourself with the candidates seeking office. All offices are up for election. There are only two incumbents eligible to run for re-election. (The office of president and the office of chaplain). New individuals will assume all other offices. Many candidates have already announced their candidacy and begun to campaign. I encourage each lay delegate to review the candidate's platform and vitae so that you can make an informed decision on the day of the elections.

Fourth, We will be voting on legislation at the convention. It will be helpful if you **review the CLC by-laws.** What changes if any do you believe are needed in the CLC bylaws? Any financial Lay Council member may propose changes to the by-laws for a vote at the quadrennial convention. Proposed amendments must be sent to the Legislation Committee at **least 90 days** prior to the opening of the convention. A two-thirds vote is required for proposed changes to be passed. If you do not know who the legislation committee chairperson is or how to contact him your Regional Director can provide this information. Proposed changes are due April 22.

Finally, pray God's will be done! Proverbs 16:3 states, Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Pray that the Holy Spirit will direct and guide us throughout convention. Beginning on June 8th the Connectional Lay Council under the leadership of our Connectional Lay Council Chaplain will be initiating a 45-day corporate prayer time line. The calendar will be disseminated with a daily prayer focus. I invite each of you to participate.

Let's travel to Knoxville together, convention ready-equipped and prayed up!

Grand Banner March Criteria

Mrs. Patricia Walton, Chairperson

The Lay Council General Convention will display banners from the twelve Episcopal Districts. Each Episcopal District must choose two banner carriers who will be responsible for your Episcopal District's banner. Banners should be completed by July 15, 2017 and brought to the Convention by designated persons.

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT BANNER CRITERIA:

- Size: Width 36' x Length 48' (excluding fringe 3-5 inches)
- Creativity is important
- Include Episcopal District name (conferences and presiding elder districts can be listed on banner; including the presiding bishop's name is optional, if plan to use banner more than once)
- No commercial banners
- Use fabric that has some body, such as felt, burlap, broadcloth, quilt, etc.
- Conferences and Presiding Elder Districts are welcome to bring banners for the Grand March in the same size or smaller.

11th Quadrennial Lay Convention Program

“Refocusing on Our Purpose, Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling Our People and Reaching Our Potential”

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2017

Registration
Free Time/Personal Tours
Pre-Convention Activities
Health Fair - Social/Political Action
Plenary Session - The Youth & Young Adults
Dinner (On-Your-Own)
Star Of Knoxville Dinner Cruise
Entertainment AME Zion Church/Cultural Event

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

Registration Desk Open
Sunday School General Assembly
Communion Worship Service
Quadrennial Lay Convention Opening Ceremonies
Plenary Session I
Organization Of The Convention
Plenary Session II
Welcome Program
Keynote Address
President's Reception

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017

Morning Watch
Bible Study
Plenary Session III
Convention Business Legislative Matters
Theme Of The Lay Quadrennial Convention
Challenge Luncheon
Plenary Session IV
Clergy Seminar I
Lay Academy Session I
Life Members Reception
Plenary Session V
President's Address

Quadrennial Reports

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

Morning Watch
Bishop George Leake Prayer Breakfast
Bible Study
Plenary Session VI
Convention Business Legislative Matters
Plenary Session VII
Memorial Service
Clergy Seminar II
Lay Academy - Session II
Plenary Session VII
The Quadrennial Theme: Board Of Bishops Perspective
Using Social Media For Evangelism And Global Outreach
Meet The Candidates

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017

Morning Watch
Regional Cluster Breakfasts
Bible Study
Plenary Session VIII
Convention Business/Quadrennial Budget
Social And Political Action
Plenary Session X
Election Of CIC Officers
Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet

THURSDAY, July 27, 2017

Morning Watch
Plenary Session XI
Convention Business (Cont.)
Installation Service
Closing Remarks

Exhibit Space

Exhibit Space (\$350.00) and Tables (\$250.00) available – Please contact Priscilla Leeper at 704-599-4630 x 2180 for an application.

Registration

Mrs. Priscilla Leeper, Chairperson

Dates of Convention: July 22-27, 2017

Host hotel: Knoxville Marriott, 501 E. Hill Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37915

Telephone: 1 (865) 637-1234

Marriott hotel Rate: \$121.00 plus 17.25% State and Local Tax per night

Marriott hotel reservation deadline for Conference: June 19, 2017

Overflow hotel:

Holiday Inn Downtown, Knoxville, TN Telephone: 1 (865) 522-2800

Registration Rates:

Early Registration through May 31, 2017: \$195.00

Late Registration (postmarked June 1, 2017) and on Site Registration: \$225.00

Registration includes:

Convention bag, Official Convention Program, Lay Academy materials, Legislative materials, health information, Bishop George J. Leake III Scholarship Prayer Breakfast, Challenge Luncheon, and Dr. Victor J. Tulane Awards Banquet tickets

Additional Event Ticket prices:

Bishop George J. Leake III, Scholarship Endowment Prayer Breakfast: \$35.00 per person

Challenge Luncheon: \$40.00 per person

Victor J. Tulane Banquet: \$60.00 per person

Registration process: Mail-In Registration forms are available through your Regional Director or by calling or emailing Priscilla Leeper-jessinana@yahoo.com – 704-866-0742

Online Cvent registration Link: <http://www.cvent.com/d/wvq5fr/4W>

The Marriott Room reservation link is available on the CLC website:



Knoxville Marriott
 501 E. Hill Avenue • Knoxville TN 37915

- Fitness Center
- Pool
- Restaurants on Site

Book your room for AME Zion: Connectional Council, WHOMS Leadership Inst., & Connectional Lay Council Quad. Convention

Rate available 07/16/17 to 07/28/17
Book by 06/19/17

121.00 USD/night

Check-in: Check-out:

Rooms: Guests/room:

[Check Availability](#)

Hotel and Transportation Information

Check-in and Check-out
 Check in: 3:00 PM
 Check out: 12:00 PM

Parking
 Complimentary on-site parking

Airport
 Knoxville McGhee Tyson Airport - TYS
 Hotel direction: 13.9 miles SW
 This hotel does not provide shuttle service.

High-Speed Internet
 Guest rooms: Wired, Wireless
 Public areas: Wired, Wireless
 Meeting rooms: Wired, Wireless

[Hotel Website](#)

Legislative Reminder

Mr. Isaiah Flowers, Chairperson

Resolutions to be acted on by the Quadrennial Convention are from current Connectional Lay Council (CLC) members, CLC executive board, and/or CLC by-laws committee. The deadline for resolutions submission is April 23, 2017. Resolutions for consideration by the convention should be sent to the CLC office (The Connectional Lay Council, Attn: Bylaws Committee, P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770). Once a resolution is received in the office, it is passed to the bylaws committee for inclusion in its report to the convention. The committee will report its recommendation as to the merit or non-merit of a resolution. Resolutions that

the committee deems merit will be voted upon (pass or reject). If the committee recommend non-merit, as a general rule the resolution "dies". However, a delegate may inquire of the bylaws committee as to why a resolution lacks merit. If the committee gives sufficient rationale and the inquirer is satisfied, the discussion ends. If one is not satisfied, then he/she may make a motion to have the resolution considered by the body. To facilitate submission of resolutions, a bylaws amendment form is downloadable from the CLC website (www.connectionallaycouncil.org) under the tab "Forms".

2017 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 22, 2017, 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.

Deadline Dates

Election

March 25, 2017

Journal Contract

June 1, 2017

Resolutions

April 23, 2017

Hotel Reservation

June 19, 2017

Dr. Victor J. Tulane, Dr. Betty V. Stith
and Laity Hall of Fame

May 15, 2017

Membership

June 22, 2017 - 30 days prior to Convention

Registration

Early Registration through May 31, 2017. Late Registration (postmarked June 1, 2017)

Banner

July 15, 2017

Dr. Victor J. Tulane, Dr. Betty V. Stith and Laity Hall of Fame Awards Information

Mrs. Katherine S. Burrell, Chairperson

Dr. Victor J. Tulane Servant-Leadership Award



Nominees for the Dr. Victor J. Tulane Servant-Leadership Award must have been an active member of the Connectional Lay Council for a mini-

mum of (4) four consecutive years prior to the convention and must provide evidence of significant accomplishments as a leader in at least 2 of the four categories: The A.M.E. Zion Church, Civic Organization, US Military or a member of the faculty or staff of a college or university. Each must submit letters of recommendation from each of the following: Local Pastor, Presiding Elder, and Bishop of the area. Additional recommendations may be submitted from an elected local community official, class leader, district or conference Lay Council President.

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 15, 2017. Forms not submitted on time may be disqualified

Dr. Betty V. Stith Trailblazer Award



Nominees for the Dr. Betty V. Stith Trailblazer Award must have been an active member of the Connectional Lay Council for a minimum of (4) four consecutive years

prior to the convention and must provide evidence of significant accomplishments as leaders in follow-

ing the areas: faith based or civic communities. The applicant must show significant accomplishments as a Visionary, Innovative and/or Tenacious Leader in The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, noteworthy accomplishments that were directly affected by nominee's sacrificial and dedicated service in The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and have major accomplishments as a leader in the Civic and/or Ecumenical Community.

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 15, 2017. Forms not submitted on time may be disqualified.

Laity Hall of Fame Award

To be nominated for The Hall of Fame Award the named person must have been an active member of the Connectional Lay Council for a minimum of (4) four consecutive years prior to the convention and must provide their leadership involvement in following areas: community, local church/ Presiding Elder District, Conference and/or Connectional Lay Council. You must show significant accomplishments and submit letters of recommendation from each of the following: Local Pastor, Presiding Elder, and Bishop of the area. Additional recommendations may be submitted from an elected local community official, class leader, district or conference Lay Council President.

It is the responsibility of the highest-ranking Lay Council Officer to screen and submit the Nominee Form to the next level on or before the scheduled submission date.

Local to District by March 1st – District to Conference by April 1st – Conference to Regional Director by May 1st - Regional Director to CLC Office by May 15, 2017. Forms not submitted on time may be disqualified.

Nomination forms and additional information can be found on the CLC website. Click on the Resource tab, click on forms and under Awards you can get nomination forms. Completed nomination forms should be sent to Priscilla Leeper P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, North Carolina 28022.

Convention Souvenir Journal

Ms. Shelly Henry, Chairperson

The Connectional Lay Council is convening the Eleventh Quadrennial Lay Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee July 22- July 27, 2017 and we invite you to express your congratulations, advertise your business, remember your loved ones, or simply bless this event by purchasing an ad in our Digital Souvenir Journal. Yes, that is correct. The Connectional Lay Council will be going Green at the Eleventh Quadrennial Lay Convention. Even though we are being good stewards of our planet, paper copies of the souvenir journal will be available at your request.

Advertisements will be placed in the souvenir journal by Episcopal District. We are asking all local churches, districts, annual conferences and Episcopal Districts to please work with the members of the Souvenir Journal committee and your Regional Director in soliciting ads for the journal. There are 76 conferences within our beloved Zion. What a blessing it would be to have all conferences represented on this memorable CD. Each person/church/company who places at least one half page ad will receive a copy of the Quadrennial Lay Convention Souvenir Journal. The deadline for ad submission is June 1, 2017.



AD SIZE AND PRICE

- 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 Color Page \$175.00
- Quarter Color Page \$100.00
- Friends of CLC (20 words max) \$ 50.00

We are encouraging you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to support the Connectional Lay Council by placing an ad. Your support will help make the Eleventh Quadrennial Lay Convention the most successful Lay Convention ever. More information on placing ads and ordering your souvenir journal will be available after January 1, 2017.

The Star of Knoxville Dinner Cruise

Mrs. Martha Scudder, Chairperson



One of the attractions for Saturday, July 22, 2-07 is The Star of Knoxville Dinner Cruise an authentic paddle wheeler originally powered by a steam engine. See Knoxville from a whole new perspective, along the Tennessee River. Saturday is their fabulous deluxe dinner cruise featuring their world famous prince rib. A delicious buffet with 2 entrees, tossed garden salad, potatoes, fresh garden vegetables, green beans, fresh baked rolls, and a delicious dessert.

Tickets are \$49.50. To secure a ticket go to the The Star of Knoxville website <http://tnriverboat.com/>.

Spotlights on CLC Executive Board Members Malcolm Russell, Linda Starnes and Frank Lee Fisher

Chairperson of the Election Committee



Malcolm Curtis Russell, Texas Conference, Southwestern Episcopal District was appointed Chair, of the Election Committee by former Connectional Lay Council General President Dr. Yvonne Tracey and reappointed by current General President Ms. Mary Matthews. Malcolm was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and is the fifth of six siblings. Malcolm received his formal education in the public county schools of Forrest County, Mississippi and received a bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi Valley State University with a major in Business Administration and Accounting. Upon graduating from college, Malcolm was employed by a major shipbuilding corporation as a financial for ten years followed by a professional tenure of more than thirty five years as an International Business Development and Program Manager for a Fortune 500 Aerospace Corporation wherein extensive international business travel was required.

He joined the A.M.E. Zion Church over 45 years ago under the late Rev. J. Thomas Goode, Pastor (Asbury Chapel, A.M.E. Zion, Pascagoula, MS), Presiding Elder Rev. Leon Watts and The Right Rev. William M. Smith. He has been actively involved in the life and ministry of the church most of his life and currently serves as Adult Sunday School Teacher, Trustee Board Chair, District Treasurer, member of the Texas Conference Finance Committee, Texas Conference President of the Lay Council and Connectional Trustee. Also, he recently served as Lay Delegate to the 50th Quadrennial General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church. As Lay Council Conference President, he travels the state of Texas extensively for the church and conducts Lay Academies and workshops as required and appropriate.



Historian

Linda Faye Starnes was born January 14, 1947 to the late McLellan and Grace Spencer Starnes. She is a life long resident of Gastonia, N.C. (Gaston County). She is a graduate of Lincoln High School and attended Livingstone College and Evans Business College.

As of March 3, 2017 she has been employed by Gaston County Government (Tax Department) for 43 years, 8 months and 18 days. Linda is the Senior Customer Service Representative in the Tax Office.

She was a cradle member of Mt. Chapel AME Zion Church until it closed in 1968. She, along with other family members moved their membership to Trinity AME Zion Church, and have remained there, (until their merger in 2012) it is now Trinity Unity AME Zion Church. At Trinity Unity she is a member of the Board of Trustees, President of the Lay Council, Life Matron of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, Board of Christian Education, member of ACE.

Elected in 2002, she is currently serving as the Second Vice President of the Lincoln District Lay Council. Linda also serves as the District Annual Conference Secretary and has served for the past 18 years.

Following the death of CLC Second Vice President William Orr, She worked as second vice president until the election of Mrs. Odessa Tyson Clapp, and once again after the death of Mrs. Clapp. She was officially elected Second Vice of the Connectional Lay Council at the Sixth Quadrennial Lay Convention and served until 2001. She was appointed as the Historian of the Connectional Lay Council for the 2013-2017 Quadrennium. Linda says she is Zion born! Zion bred! Until Zion dead!



Marshal

Frank Fisher is a member of the Fayetteville District and the Central North Carolina Annual Conference in the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District. He is the First Vice President of the Lay council in his local church, Chapel Grove AME Zion Church. He serves as usher in the local church, and at district, conference and Episcopal District meetings. He serves as a marshal at Episcopal District Institutes and connectional Lay Council meetings. President Mary Matthews appointed him to serve as marshal for the Connectional Lay Council Executive Board in August 2013.

Executive Board Members Priscilla Leeper, Patricia Lewis and Staff Member Joyce Zimmerman



Mrs. Priscilla Leeper
Executive Assistant



Mrs. Patricia Lewis
Parliamentarian



Ms. Joyce Zimmerman
Office Assistant/Member

New CLC Logo



The Lay Council Logo was accepted during the tenure of Dr. Betty V. Stith and was presented by the late Dr. Coleman DuPont Rippy who was first vice president at the time. The focus is on the Holy Bible of which must be an integral part of our lives and that is why it is placed in the center. "Come With Us to Christ" was our first Quadrennial Convention theme in Charlotte, North Carolina. Black signifies our pride as a race of people. Gold signifies our striving toward purity.

Color Codes:

Gold #daa627 cmyk(15%, 34%, 100%, 1%)

Black #fff

White #000000

Go the NEW Connectional Lay Council website www.connectionallaycouncil.com and you can download the NEW logo and will find other Connectional Lay Council informatinn.

7 Guidelines For Effective Lay Council Meetings

By Joyce Perry Edwards, Phd. Education Committee Chairperson



Effective meetings are essential for an effective lay council in the local church. Participants need to find the meetings to be both meaningful and comfortable. If they are not, they are not likely to return, nor will they encourage others to come. The following are seven guidelines for conducting effective lay council meetings. These ideas are taken from Part 5 of the Connectional Lay Council's recent publication, *An Effective Lay Council in the Local Church: Tips for Lay Council Leaders*, which includes suggestions from laity throughout Zion.

#1. Publicize the meeting. In today's society, people have many options for use of their time; so usually leaders must do some work to get their attention. Also, few people want to attend an event where only a few other members are present. Encourage attendance by distributing letters, flyers, or posters both in hard copy and online. Use email, phone calls, and text messages to remind people about a meeting.

#2. Start the meeting on time. People have lots to do and don't want to waste time waiting for a meeting to begin. A late start time indicates disregard for the attendees' valuable time. If a meeting consistently starts on time, the group is more likely to arrive on time for subsequent meetings. To start promptly, the leader should arrive at least 15-20 minutes before the start time to organize self, materials, and the room.

#3. Distribute a carefully developed agenda to each attendee. A good agenda reflects what is to be accomplished during the meeting. A written agenda says to the participants, "This meeting is about something." After giving the group a minute or two to review the agenda, carry a motion to approve or revise it. See p. 66 of the CLC Handbook for a sample agenda. Have all necessary handouts (except those for the Lay Academy) clipped to the agenda to avoid using time passing out materials during the meeting.

#4. Assure that Devotions and the Lay Academy are engaging. Minimize use of time on routine business items such as the minutes, treasurer's report, and membership statistics, which can be communicated quickly and effectively by using handouts or even by notes on the agenda.

Assure that devotions are planned and serious though brief. Encourage the chaplain to plan for variety from meeting to meeting. Sometimes such components as choral readings, inspirational poems, or even a 2-3 minute meditation might be included. Make sure songs are enthusiastically sung; maybe even include a solo sometimes if one of the members has this gift.

Include a lay academy on the agenda for every meeting. It should be facilitated by a person who plans and communicates well, and is enthusiastic. To be effective, a lay academy during a regular lay council meeting should be no longer than 15-20 minutes. The *Facilitator's Guide for Conducting Thematic Interactive Lay Academies* is a source of ideas for lay academies in the local church. For additional ideas, see p. 15 and pp. 21-24 in *An Effective Lay Council in the Local Church*.

#5. Meet quarterly. The CLC Bylaws stipulates four Lay Council Meetings per year. This interval provides for continuity but not an excessive number of meetings. Encourage fellowship and service among the Lay Council members by working together on ministry projects between meetings. (See Part 6 in *An Effective Lay Council in the Local Church* for ideas for ministry projects by lay councils in the local church.) A limited number of meetings with meaningful engagement in ministry between meetings increases motivation to engage with the Lay Council and discourages people from developing the negative, unproductive "just another meeting" attitude.

#6. Observe a meeting duration time of 1 ¼ to ½ hours. A sure-fire way to discourage attendance is to convene meetings that last too long. Difficult agenda items and those that require significant discussion and planning should be referred to a committee to make recommendations to the entire group. An alter-

See 7 Guidelines .pg 15

Membership

Submitted By Mrs. Effie Woodard, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chairperson



Mrs. Effie Woodard

episcopal districts	current memberships	additional memberships by July 2017	projected memberships by July 2017
Piedmont Episcopal District	9,613	887	10,500
Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District	6,679	3,821	10,500
Midwest Episcopal District	1,960	1,040	3,000
North Eastern Episcopal District	4,175	1,325	5,500
South Atlantic Episcopal District	5,590	1,410	7,000
Mid Atlantic Episcopal District	3,053	1,947	5,000
Alabama Florida Episcopal District	4,395	2,805	7,200
Southwestern Delta Episcopal District	630	70	700
Western Episcopal District	471	129	600
	36,566	13,434	50,000

The Train is rounding the bend with Memberships!!!! As we are approaching the Depot in Knoxville, TN, make sure that your Memberships are on target with our projected goal. As the Conductor (Regional Directors) and the Attendants (Membership Chairs) to canvass their Episcopal area, they will be inviting everyone to get on board.

As listed above, if the expired churches on each Episcopal area renew with full memberships we will exceed the expected goal. All memberships must be updated before the 11th Quadrennial Connectional Lay Council Convention. Please follow-up with the additional memberships requested above in your Episcopal area; for we have additional seats and space on this membership train.

Let's jet this Memberships Train with your emails, twitters, church bulletins, church AV screens making passengers aware that being a part of this vital organization is where the concepts of faith, work, and economics intercepts. **We need you to occupy a seat on this Membership Train** as you become a card-carrying member of the 11th Quadrennial Connectional Lay Council Convention. When we arrive at the Depot at Knoxville, we all will be recognized as an important part of the 50,000 card-carrying members of the Connectional Lay Council.

As a special note: if you are planning to attend the 11th Quadrennial Connectional Lay Council Convention, your membership dues must be paid up-to-date by June 23, 2017 to be vote certified. If your memberships

Staying The Course: Taking The Critical Path – Part II

Submitted by Queen Degraphenreid, Social Political Action Committee Chairperson



Ms. Queen Degraphenreid
SPA Chairperson

The Negro (African American) must be EVER vigilant lest his forces be marshalled behind “wrong causes” and “undemocratic movements”. He must not lend his support to any group that seeks to “subvert democracy”. That is why we must select leaders who are WISE, COURAGEOUS, AND OF GREAT MORAL STATURE AND ABILITY. We have great leaders among us today. . . We have had great men and women in the past. . We must produce MORE qualified people. .Who will not work for themselves, but for others. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (1955)

Critical Path 1: Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised. James 1:12

Our last issue of “The Connection” came on the hills of the 2016 General Election. Because we were faced with both “an episodic awakening” and a political uncertainty, I offered some comforting, but critical words of what can happen when we forget history – history will repeat itself with a resounding reality. This reality is being actualized daily with early morning tweets.

In technical and scientific fields, and even in public policy, there is a process called Critical Path Method (or CPM). It’s the step beyond strategic planning that puts the plan or test to action with a certain precision to acquire the finish product or the desired outcome. A critical path is also a process which brings together all key players in an elaborate on-going decision-making process for a duration. **SPECIAL NOTE** The duration for the African American church is ongoing.

Critical Path 2: We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. Hebrews: 6:11

We as faith-walkers have the same assurance of a desired outcome when we extrapolate the promises that our biblical teaching offers us - taking the Critical Path for Christ.

In the Quadrennial Address of the 50th Session of the General Conference of the AME Zion Church held in Greensboro, NC in July, 2016, our illustrious Board of Bishops outlined the critical path for us in their Recommendations at the end of this historical document. In these eleven (11) statements, over one-half had been deliberated by the CLC during my 12-year tenure as Social/Political Action Chair. These recommendations include:

#3: The AME Zion Church will make young adult leadership development and mentoring a major priority at every level.

#7: Every church will designate a Voter Education/Mobilization Coordinator.

#8: The AME Zion Church will fully embrace our legacy and our mantra as The Freedom Church.

9: Endorsement of the following legislative and policy initiatives (summarized):

- a. Partner with President Obama’s “My Brother’s Keepers”. It’s easier to build strong children than to repair broken men – Frederick Douglass
- b. Establishment of a national minimum “living wage.”
- c. Endorse renewed calls for responsible gun control legislation
- d. Endorse the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (SRCA)

#10: That pastors and lay leaders offer Life Enrichment classes or ministries for their churches extending to the church community.

#11: Practice Lifestyle Stewardship of our time, talents, temple and treasure, encouraging tithing, adopt health life habits, and reduce financial indebtedness as we move away from consumer mentality to a prudent investment strategy. Practice what we preach.

Critical Path 3: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding:
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your (Critical) **PATHS straight.**

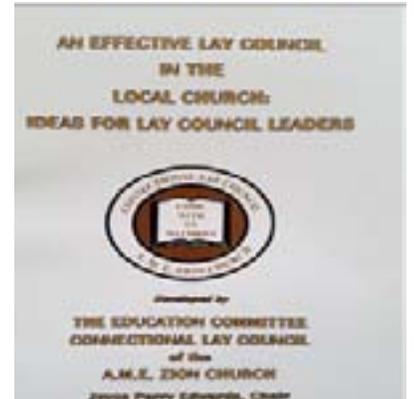
Special Projects



Ms. Leondras Davis
Special Projects Chairperson

Greetings CLC Family, As we get ready for the 11th Quadrennial Convention and make plans to head to Knoxville, TN this summer...We have a few new items available for you to share with your Local, District and Conference Lay Councils.

In case you haven't heard or haven't seen the latest publication..."An Effective Lay Council in the Local Church," This is a must have for every church! They are only \$2.50 each. This wonderful tool was written by our Education Committee and is designed to use during your Lay meetings. See your Regional director or contact Lele Davis, Special Projects Chairperson.



Look what has just arrived in time for your End of the Year Awards and Recognition! Special Projects has just received our shipment of Certificate Folders....They are designed especially for the Lay Council and are only \$4.00 each. Present your certificates in style! To place your order, email Lele Davis: Lpsivad@gmail.com.



In our last article, we wanted to know if you would be interested in having your very own CLC sneakers, custom designed on site while attending the CLC Convention this summer. We have communicated with a vendor that can do this for us, but I need to know your level of interest. Take a moment to let me know your thoughts. Take a second look so I will

know how to proceed. You can simply respond in an email to Lpsivad@gmail.com. This NOT a commitment, just an interest survey.



1. Yes, I am interested.

2. No, I am not interested.

SN: As we approach the end of the Quadrennium, we need to complete our records with outstanding balances. If you still have finances to report, we certainly want to make sure each region is given the proper credit for all sales. Please help us bring closure to all outstanding balances as soon as possible. If you have paid for your consignments, I thank you for all you are doing to support the Lay Council.



Lele Davis, Special Projects Chair via email: Lpsivad@gmail.com
Contact the CLC Office @ 704.599.4630 ext. 2556
Connect with us on Facebook: CLC/SP (Please, NO orders on FB)

7 Guidelines

Continued from page 11

native is to convene a work session of the total group outside of the regular meeting time. During a work session, only those members interested in the topic would attend. In the absence of an interested group, the officers should develop recommendations regarding complex items after some discussion during a regular meeting.

#7. Serve light refreshments. Have them ready at least 10 minutes before the start time of the meeting to encourage early arrival. After the devotional period and approval of the agenda, provide a brief period when attendees can serve themselves with the treats to enjoy during the meeting. Snacking during meetings helps participants feel more comfortable.

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

*The Polity in the Church

What is Church Polity? The policing of the form of church government, the standards, the policies, the ordinances, the rudiments and the mannerisms is the polity of the church.

Let us look at some of the church things we have picked up and brought into The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church:

Actions

- The neglect of Prayer Meetings, Class Meetings, church attendance, the attendance and reporting to the Quarterly Conference, choir rehearsal, Sunday School and other organizations in the church of which we may be a part of.
- Ministers and Laity standing upright to pray. Kneeling expresses humility. It is in the tradition to kneel to pray.
- Choirs transposing the hymns of the church in order to swing to them and abandoning spirituals for a full diet of gospel singing.
- The raising of the right hand by the congregation, while the benediction is being said by the minister.
- Ministers and Laity closing their eyes and bowing their heads while reaffirming the faith by which we live. The Affirmation of Faith is not a prayer.
- Clapping of the hands as applauding the preacher and the choir. It is the tradition in Methodism to sanction preaching and singing (in the worship service) by saying Amen!
- Sitting with heads bowed and eyes closed while saying or singing the Gloria Patri. This is a salute to the Trinity. A salute is not made while sitting or with the eyes closed.
- Gambling in the church by the raffling games of chance, by holding the winning number, TV sets, quilts, hams, mixers, cakes, gift certificates, bed spreads, saving bonds, cash prizes, bingo games, and many other little gadgets that can be won in a gambling game.
- Stewardship in the church or tithing is a "no-no" (we do not give God His 10%).
- We budget ourselves for the needs of the home and for our social needs and if there is anything left, we may give it to the church, OR WE MAY NOT.
- Although we know that the ongoing of our church is dependent upon how we train our children and how much we let them participate. Unfortunately, many of us are prejudice against young people and have hang-ups about letting young people participate.

(*) Handbook of the Connectional Lay Council African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
1981-1985 Betty V. Stith, General President

Black People More Likely to Be Wrongfully Convicted in U.S., Says Report

By Sheryl Estrada / March 17, 2017

The National Registry of Exonerations report analyzed data on crimes for which exonerations are most common.



Brian Banks had a promising football career when he was convicted at age 16 for a rape crime he did not commit. Banks was exonerated in 2012 after serving five years. TWITTER

There has been prior research pointing to racial bias and official misconduct contributing to higher wrongful conviction rates for Blacks than for whites. But the National Registry of Exonerations (NRE) not only documents such instances; it also supplies a consistent source of data to explore what is driving that disparity.

A NRE report, "Race And Wrongful Convictions In The United States," released last week, examined U.S. cases from 1989 to October 2016. Of the 1,900 defendants convicted of crimes and later exonerated, 47 percent were African Americans — three times their representation in the population, which is 13 percent.

The analysis focuses on sexual assaults, murder and drug-related offenses. These are the crimes for which exonerations are most common.

According to the study, Blacks were almost seven times more likely to be wrongfully convicted of murder than whites. Forty percent of Blacks were convicted of murder but are 50 percent of those wrongfully convicted, whereas 36 percent of whites were wrongfully convicted of a crime.

The report said that the high homicide rate in the Black community is one of the causes of the high number of Blacks exonerated for murder.

But the authors note that this alone does not explain the disparity between Blacks and whites in regard to wrongful convictions. Official misconduct also plays a role.

"In the murder cases we examined, the rate of official misconduct is considerably higher in cases where the defendant is African American compared to cases where the defendant is white," Samuel Gross, a University of Michigan Law School professor who is senior editor of the group that tracks U.S. exonerations, told Reuters.

The report said that convictions, which led to murder exonerations with Black defendants, were 22 percent more likely to include misconduct by police officers than those with white defendants.

On average Black murder exonerees spent three years longer in prison before release than white murder exonerees, and those sentenced to death spent four years longer in prison.

Also in regard to racial disparity, about 15 percent of all murders committed by Black individuals involve white victims, the report said. But 31 percent of Blacks eventually exonerated were initially convicted of killing white people.

"African American prisoners who are convicted of murder are about 50 percent more likely to be innocent than other convicted murderers," according to the authors.

“Many of the convictions of African American murder exonerees were affected by a wide range of types of racial discrimination, from unconscious bias and institutional discrimination to explicit racism.”

In regard to sexual assault, the report said that a Black prisoner is three-and-a-half times more likely to be innocent than a white sexual assault convict.

Researchers discovered that assaults on white women by Black men are a small minority of all sexual assaults in the country, “but they constitute half of sexual assaults with eyewitness misidentifications that led to exoneration.”

They found that convictions that led to sexual assault exonerations were not only cases of misidentification but also included instances of implicit biases, racially tainted official misconduct “and, in some cases, explicit racism.”

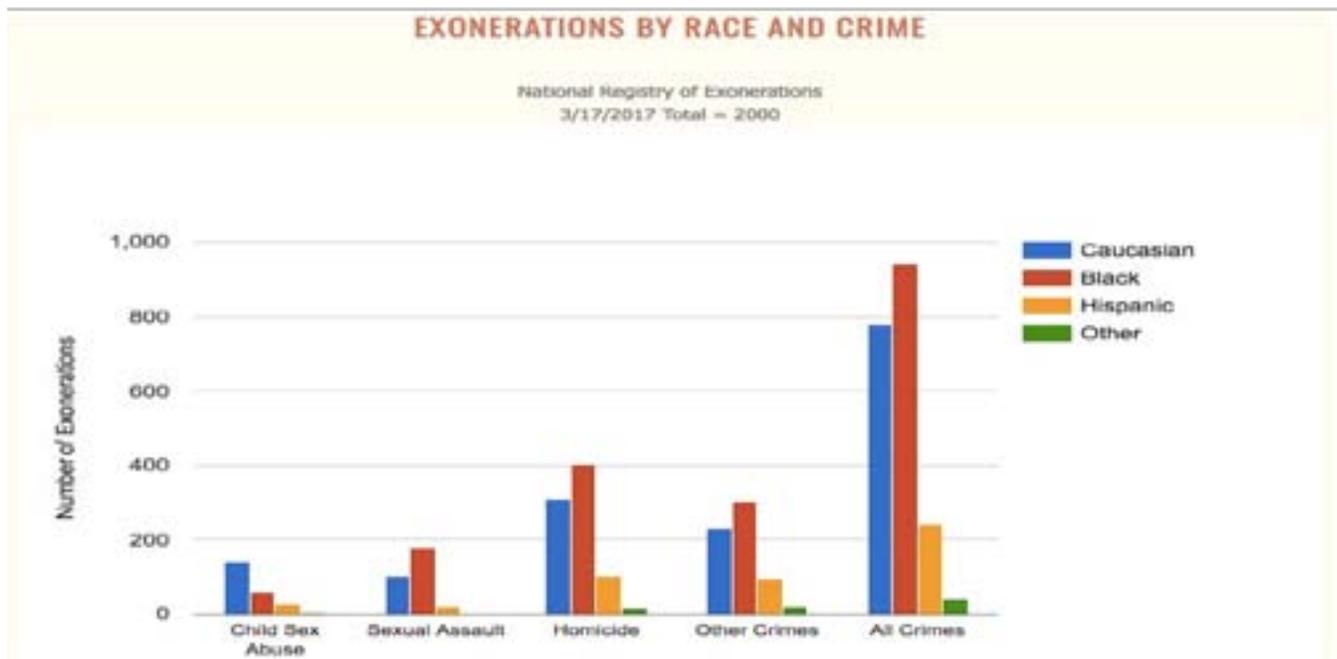
The authors said the racial disparities are especially stark for drug cases. Blacks are about 12 times more likely to be wrongfully convicted than innocent white people.

The report indicates that police enforce drug laws more vigorously against Blacks than against members of the white majority, “despite strong evidence that both groups use drugs at equivalent rates.”

African Americans are more frequently stopped, searched, arrested and convicted — including in cases in which they are innocent. The extreme form of this practice is systematic racial profiling in drug-law enforcement, the report said.

Since 1989, more than 1,800 defendants have been cleared in “group exonerations” that followed 15 large-scale police scandals in which officers systematically framed innocent defendants.

A NRE companion report said that 166 exonerations in 2016 set a record high for the third year in a row, averaging more than three per week. This pushes the registry past 2,000 exonerations for people who were wrongly convicted. About half of the people exonerated for non-drug related crimes in 2016 were Black. In contrast, roughly two-thirds of those exonerated for drug possession or sale last year were Black.



From The National Registry of Exonerations. Note: Percentages are updated periodically.

The authors of the report cautioned: “The record numbers of exonerations that we have seen in recent years have not made a dent in the number of innocent defendants who have been convicted and punished.

“The number of those who are cleared and released is simply a function of the resources that are available to reinvestigate and reconsider cases on the one hand, and the level of resistance to doing so on the other.”

The National Registry of Exonerations is a joint project of the University of California Irvine Newkirk Center for Science and Society, University of Michigan Law School and Michigan State University College of Law.

REGIONAL NEWS

Piedmont Episcopal District **Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.** **Presiding Prelate** **Ms. Sandra Williams, Regional Director** **The Western North Carolina** **Conference**

Submitted By Gloria Joyner Johnson

The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council, under the leadership of Mr. Jerry L. McCombs, met at Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church, Salisbury, NC where Rev. Dr. Derrick Anderson is the Pastor, Dr. Mary Ponds is the Salisbury District Lay Council President and Rev. Dr. Grant Harrison is the Presiding Elder. The devotion was led by Mr. Gerald Rush, the Conference Chaplain followed by the business session conducted by the Conference President, Mr. Jerry McCombs. Mrs. Connie Bell Wright reported 6714 members as of November 26, 2016. The "We Care", the Young Adult Initiative by Miss Rachel Highsmith as well as the Albert S. Stout, Sr. Memorial Scholarship reports were lifted up. The "each one give one" offering for the Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center reported \$267.90. The Regional Director, Mrs. Sandra Williams asked all district presidents submit a copy of their district history and that on-line registration for the CLC Convention will be available in January 2017.

Mrs. Leondras (Le-Le) Davis, 1st Vice President, presented Dr. Yvonne Tracy who presented highlights of the 2016 General Conference to include the following:

- The election of two indigenous African Bishops
- An overview of Zion's expansion in the Motherland
- The global and historical impetus for Zion to embrace indigenous leadership
- A review of the Restructuring Commission legislation
- The District Presidents reported highlights during this quarter as follows:

The Charlotte District: Mr. Willie Bratcher, President reported a successful fund raiser with the Annual Junior and Teen Program at East Stonewall AME Zion Church. In conjunction with the Missionary Department, they collected and delivered greater than \$1000.00 in canned goods for the Lumberton Relief Project for relief of hurricane victims in eastern North Carolina.

The North Charlotte District: Ms. Joyce Zimmerman, President reported a successful Lay Day with Mrs.

Connie Bell-Wright who spoke on stewardship. The Little Rock Lay Council was lifted up for going above and beyond what was asked for the Lay Day with an offering of \$500.00 for the Harriet Tubman Home Fund. Dr. J. Elvin Sadler, newly elected General Secretary-Auditor gave the Thanksgiving meditation admonishing us to be grateful for what we have been given. We were asked to continue being prayerful for Presiding Elder James M. Sloan's health challenges as well as his family during this time.

The Statesville District: Mrs. Cheryl J. Gray, President reported the speaker for the Lay Day observance held at Mt. Pleasant AME Zion Church, was Mrs. Ava Farmer of the Mt. Olin AME Zion Church. Their Annual Kwanzaa Program will be held at the Unity Center where the Thomas Chapel Men's Choir will be the special guest.

The Lincolnton District: Mr. William F. Manning, Sr., President reported the Lay Day speaker was WNCC President Mr. Jerry McCombs at the St. Peter AME Zion Church and \$612.00 was raised for the CLC asking for the Harriet Tubman Home Fund.

The Winston Salem District: Mrs. Shirley Allen, President reported that the district observed Lay Day at Steward Chapel AME Zion Church and contributed \$500.00 for the asking. Their Annual Kwanzaa Program will be held at John Wesley AME Zion Church.

The Salisbury District: Dr. Mary Ponds, President reported the Sensational Salisbury District Talent Revue at Southern City Tabernacle AME Zion Church; the Brunch-Stoling Service for new life members as well as observing Pink Sunday across the district to support Cancer Awareness. The District Lay Council History has been completed and submitted as requested. Dr. Ponds was the Lay Day Speaker at Liberty AME Zion Church. Additionally, Dr. Ponds and Mr. Manning asked that a "Memorial Moment of Remembrance be observed for Mr. Phillip Hager, Lincolnton District and Mr. Earl Willie of the Salisbury District.

The WNCC By-Laws Presentation was made by the By-Laws Committee, Mrs. Dorothy Gill-Smith, Chairman. Articles VI-XII were presented, discussed and edited. A motion was made, seconded and carried to adopt these articles with changes as needed.

The attendance banner was awarded to the Charlotte District, Mr. Willie Bratcher, President after which "Onward Christian Laity" was sung and the meeting closed with the Lay Council Closing Prayer.

REGIONAL NEWS

Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

Bishop Kenneth Monroe

Presiding Prelate

Mr. Hank Dobson Regional Director

ENCED Convocation: Lay Assembly

Submitted by Sonya Powell,
ENCED reporter

On January 26-27, 2017 the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District under the leadership of Bishop Kenneth Monroe meet at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown, Raleigh, North Carolina for our first Convocation. The theme of the convocation was "Getting the Church on Target" and the opening sessions were departmental in nature. The Lay Council Planning Session, under the very capable leadership of Brother Hank Dobson was facilitated by Milton H. Williams, Presiding Elder, Retired and Gloria G. Williams.

The goal and objective for the planning session was to develop strategies that would increase our membership in the Lay Council for the ENCED 100% by December 31, 2017. In her overview, Dr. Williams explained that our bishop desired an increase in our memberships and we were gathered to find ways to increase said memberships.

Rev. Williams then led us as we addressed such topics as "Setting the Stage," with strategy, attitude and motivation and then "How to Accomplish our Goal and Objective." We then divided into our various conferences where we were encouraged to come up with specifics that were germane to our individual conferences, districts and churches that would lead to the accomplishing of our goal and objective of increasing Lay Council membership on every level.

After a period of time to work in our conference groups, each conference reported the ideas their particular group came up with to grow the Lay Council in their given area. At the end of sharing it was noted that very similar ideas were shared by most conferences.

As a very lucrative incentive, the Williams offered a week long vacation in Myrtle Beach to the conference president who has the greatest increase in membership by percentage on December 31, 2017. The conference presidents were then challenged to offer incentives to their district presidents for doing the same. Thing. At the end of the planning session there was an air of excitement for the entire ENCED Lay Council members.

Can't hardly wait until December is over to see who prevails!

ENCED Regional Lay Academy

Submitted by L. Kate Walker Jacksonville, NC

The Lay Academy had a very exciting 2016 year.

The year began March 2016 was the Connectional Lay Council in Fort Mill, SC asking the question "Why are you here"? first meeting and plans for the year.

June 18, 2016 Speaker DaDonna Coulter, Speaker from St. Julia AME Zion Church on Stewardship.

2016 Fit, Fabulous & Healthy

August 27, 2016 Speaker John Coulter, Speaker from St. Julia AME Zion Church on Stewardship

December 3, 2016 was the year end celebration hosted by Presiding Elder EC Dobson and family. Our speaker Rev. David Elliott, Pastor of St. Luke AME Zion, Maysville, NC was the speaker with an exciting message of "Take Care of God's Stuff". Emphasis was put on Energy, Money and Time. At this meeting the "Lay Person of the Year" Ms. Sandra Oliver of Simon Temple AME Zion was chosen. Ms. Oliver received paid registration to the Connectional Lay Council in Knoxville, Tenn. Also the "Oldest Lay Council Member" James Wilkerson of Big Zion AME Zion, Mary Roach of St. Julia AME Zion, Joe E. Nuchurch of St. Mark AME Zion, Mrs. Ethel Baldwin of Millers Chapel AME Zion, and Mrs. Georgia Morgan of Mt. Lebanon AME Zion. These members were award a cash prize of \$25.00. The Kelly Girls of New Bern gave a wonderful mime performance.

Raleigh District Lay Council Celebrates Unsung Heros & K-12 Recognition

Submitted by Janet Howard, 2nd VP

The Raleigh District Council, under the leadership of President. Daphne Lloyd Feldman, Solid Rock AME Zion Church, Wake Forest, NC, Rev. Joseph Robbins, pastor, presented its second annual **Unsung Hero & K-12 Recognition Celebration** on Saturday, March 4 at Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church Worship Center,

REGIONAL NEWS

Rev. Dr. Maurice Harden host pastor, Rev. Dr. Anthony Davis, Presiding Elder. This year the Raleigh District Lay Council decided to align its **Unsung Hero Recognition** with that of the Presiding Prelate Bishop Kenneth Monroe's Episcopal Address that included Zion's engagement of young adults. The Council also used this opportunity to address and encourage the Connectional Lay Council's Young Adult Initiative (YAI). Ms. Frances Johnson, District 1st VP, served as the very capable emcee.



L-R: Daphine Feldman, Mary Matthews, Jacqueline Brown, Laneshia Hawkins, Malik Williams, Nakia Green, and Presiding Elder Anthony Davis

The 2017 awardees included Young Adult (18-40) Unsung Heroes from five (5) churches, **Jacqueline Brown**, Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church, Raleigh, Rev. Dr. Harden, pastor; **Nakia Green**, Big Zion AME Zion Church, Oxford, NC, Rev. Lynn Brandon, pastor; Laneshia Hawkins, Mt. Moriah AME Zion Church, Henderson, NC, Rev. Terry Bristow, pastor; **Nia Thorpe**, Union Chapel AME Zion Church, Franklinton, NC, Rev. Allen Moore, pastor; and **Malik Williams**, Norrington AME Zion Church, Lillington, NC, Rev. Dr. Donald Cozart, pastor. Church laity and clergy selected nominees, 18-40 years of age, who represent the objectives of the Lay Council - **deepening the spiritual life of the Laity; disseminating information; cultivating denominational loyalty, expanding the denomination through education and evangelism and promoting any other interest of the Kingdom of God** - and who are active Lay Council members for at least 2 years. Churches reported the following examples of our young adults volunteer service for Kingdom Building: personally transporting children to District events; creatively developing activities to engage and retain youth; playing drums; managing audio visual equipment; teaching VBS; serving as junior Steward, Trustee & District officers; coordinating

kitchen ministries, website management, newsletter publication and drama ministries, along with ushering and singing in choirs. Awardees received a Lay Council medallion, a framed signed certificate and a cash gift.

Our own CLC President, Miss Mary Matthews, presented a special Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District Regional recognition, a gift card, to the oldest active Regional Lay Council member, Mr. James Wilkerson, Big



L-R: Student honorees present are anchored by Miss Mary Matthews, Presiding Elder Anthony Davis; Frances Johnson and Daphine Feldman

Zion AME Zion Church, Rev. Lynn Brandon pastor.

Thirty-four (34) K-12 students from eight (8) District churches were recognized for their Kingdom Building service in their local church. The major criteria included a minimum of two years of active attendance & participation at the local church & District events. Along with singing in church choirs, ushering & dancing with liturgical ministries, our Raleigh District K-12 students are presenting mediations; serving as delegates & representatives at Zion District, Conference & General Connectional conferences and events; serving as Youth Council officers and Sunday School assistant secretary; participating in church youth ministries, esp., Buds of Promise, Varick's children, Sons of Varick, VCE, Truthville; assisting with Children's Church, morning worship service and drama ministries; serving as acolytes; receiving near perfect Sunday School attendance (missing one Sundays); and creating community programs to assist others. K-12 Honorees received a color certificates in certificate covers and honorary Lay Council memberships. Honorees: **Noah Guy and Moriah Harris**, Big Zion, Oxford, NC, Rev. Lynne Brandon, pastor; **Christina Elizabeth Williams**, Douglas Chapel, Holly Springs, NC, Rev. Marcus Williams, pastor; **Aliyah Bell, Khalil Fujona, Kraven Hennessey, Andrea McKoy,**

REGIONAL NEWS

Kadeijah Pearson, Norrington, Lillington, NC, Rev. Dr. Donald Cozart, pastor; **Noah Hall**, Rush Metropolitan, Raleigh, Rev. Dr. Maurice Harden, pastor; **Donnelle Foster, Elijah Foster, Lola Foster, Quardious Foster, Aiden Holmon, Aubrielle Holmon, Daveon Holmon, Ahryhanna Mitchell, Jaylin Person, Mackayla Person, Jayla Ruff, Jayme Ruff, Brianna Strickland, Brandon Wilson, Tynazia Yancey**, Saint Mary's, Henderson, NC, Rev. Jason Ruff, pastor; **Quincy Burreal, Aniya Smith**, Taylor's Chapel, Henderson, NC, Rev. Charles Allen, pastor; **Noah Green, Taisean Hester, Riley Lloyd, Kayla McClain, Shaniyah McClain, Tamy Wortham**, Union Chapel, Franklinton, NC, Rev. Allen Moore, pastor; and **Joshua Fullard, Stephen Fullard**, Williams Chapel, Angier, NC, Rev. Alonza Burnett, pastor.

Attending the event was our supportive Central North Carolina Conference Lay Council President, Mrs. Thomasena LeGrand and her husband Mr. Walter LeGrand, St. Mark AME Zion Church, Durham, Dr. Coleman, pastor..

The 2nd Young Adult Unsung Hero & K-12 Recognition Celebration featured an exceptional dra-



ma ministry that made us laugh, blush and remember the power and truth of the Holy Scriptures through the St. Matthew AME Church Drama Ministry's presentation of **'Bad Girls of the Bible'**, Rev. Marion Robinson, pastor and Mrs. Jennifer Robinson, Director.

We were also blessed by the liturgical dance ministries of Amazing Grace from Rush Metropolitan and the **Youth Praise Dancers**, St. Mary's Chapel.

The Raleigh District Lay Council thanks our expert photographer Mr. James Feldman the husband of our District President who also serves, appointed by Presiding Elder Davis, as the Raleigh District photographer. Additionally, the Raleigh District Lay Council thanks our special guests from St. Matthew AME Church, Raleigh and all District laity and clergy for their continuing support as we strive to live so that others will **'Come with us to Christ.'**



REGIONAL NEWS

Mid West Episcopal District
Bishop Darryl Starnes
Presiding Prelate
Ms. Lynda Byrd, Regional Director

News from the Chicago District

The Chicago District celebrated the 3K/5K Walk/Run at Foster Park in Chicago, Illinois on Saturday, November 19. 50 enthusiastic “walkers” braved 20 degree temperatures to join in the activity! They were given numbers upon their arrival so that their progress could be clocked throughout the event. Upon their return to the field-house they were rewarded with a T-shirt, “goody” bag, water, Lay Council water bottle, snack bar and a certificate of completion and appreciation! We were grateful that we had a fine group of volunteers to facilitate the event.



Co-Chair Perry Young and Carolyn Robinson



Co-Chair Floria Lucas *(right) and daughter Michele Lucas-Washington

Passing the Torch

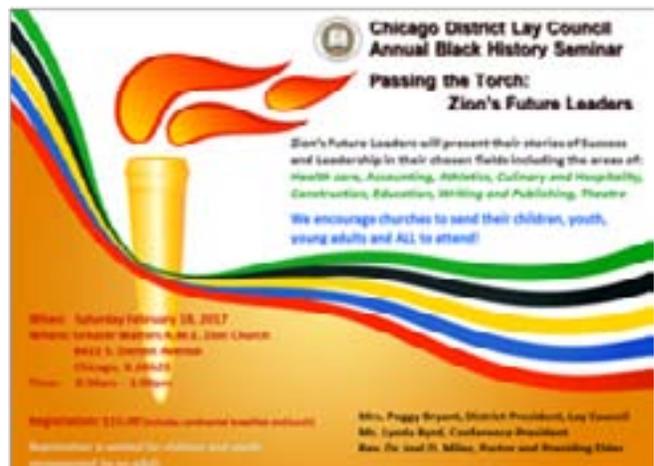
The Chicago District Lay Council celebrated Black History Month by holding its 33rd Seminar in African-American History by “Passing the Torch.” The emphasis was on the next generation of Zionites who have made great strides in their fields of endeavor and the importance of their backgrounds in the church and the role that their faith plays in their work. A panel of four persons, Jason Spigner, Briget Turner, Dionne Smith and George W.C. Walker III, (Trey), spoke of their work in health care, construction and building trades, not-for-profit groups and culinary/hospitality/sommelier. Appearing by video was Olympian Rev. David Neville III, Keisha Walker (higher education) and in print Crystal Bailey (Industry and Entrepreneur). Their presentations were followed by a question/answer session with the audience.

The devotion was conducted by young people as well. 16-year-old Nneka Jones of Martin Temple served as Mistress of Ceremonies, while an instrumental flute solo, scripture and prayer were presented by young people Darrow J. Richmond, Lydia Taylor and Kamirah Clark all of Greater Walters. Young Adult Jermon Smith of Fisher Memorial served as moderator of the panel.

Panelists were presented with small tokens of appreciation from the Chicago District’s new President, Peggy Bryant and 2nd Vice President Carolyn Crockett. The continental breakfast and soul-food lunch was coordinated by Program Coordinator Charlotte Griffin.

This was one of the most successful seminars in the long history of the Chicago District Black History work. The colorful poster was designed by Raymonde Vance and served to be a beacon for the day.

We look forward to encouraging persons to attend the Lay Council Convention. See you in Knoxville!



REGIONAL NEWS

Detroit District Lay Council, Michigan Conference

On January 16, 2017, Ms. Susan Hunt, Lay Council President of the Lomax AMEZ Church (Detroit) and the Rev. Dr. Brian Relford, pastor held a "Meeting and Movie event. At the event Rev. Relford spoke of the history of the Lomax Temple and of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. This group then went to a private viewing of the movie "Hidden Figures" at a local movie theater. "Hidden Figures" detailed the tremendous contributions that African American black women had on the success of the NASA Space Project.

The group, which numbered 84 people, included young and seasoned members of the church, members of the community and family and friends of the members of Lomax. Each person obtained a greater awareness of the positive impact that black people have had and continue to have on this country.

The Detroit District Lay Council holds quarterly meetings, with the District Christian Education Department, the District Evangelism Department, and the District WH & OM Society. These meetings are called "Super Saturdays." At these meetings each department makes a short presentation highlighting the events of the prior three months and announces upcoming events. Each department is charged with running a Super Saturday program. The department that runs the event has the additional responsibility of making one or more presentations centered around its mission.

On February 4, 2017, the Detroit Lay Council was in charge of the Super Saturday program, held at Blackwell AMEZ Church, in Flint Michigan. Rev. Darren Overton was the host pastor.

Mr. Leon Lucas, First Vice President of the John Wesley AMEZ Church Lay Council, Detroit (Rev. Al Hamilton is the pastor) brought remarks. He spoke of the need to educate ourselves and our young people and how that was one of the 5 missions of the AMEZ Connectional Lay Council. The District Lay Council President followed Mr. Lucas with a learning activity, taken from the Connectional Facilitators Guide.

Ms. Miriam Devine and Ms. Barbara Bryant, of Clinton Chapel, AMEZ Church, Detroit, announced the details of a District Lay Council sponsored bus trip to Salisbury NC, to visit Livingstone College, Hood Seminary, with a side trip to the AMEZ Headquarters in Charlotte NC on August 24-26, 2017.

There were almost 100 people who attended the event. Each of them spoke highly of the warm recep-

tion that they received from the congregation and Rev. Overton at the Super Saturday event.

Tennessee Conference Lay Council

Submitted by Roslyn Eskridge
Tennessee Conference President

The Knoxville District hosted a fantastic Conference Lay Council meeting in December. The focus was on being good stewards of our bodies. Mrs. Rose Davis, a nurse and member of First AME Zion Church, was the presenter for the session. She discussed important issues relative to Men's Health, specifically Prostate Cancer. Her presentation was very informative in an entertaining way. She stressed how important it is for men to have regular check-ups. Mrs. Davis encouraged all women in attendance to urge the men in their lives, whether they are family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors to make sure they have regular checkups. She gave statistics about the African American community and Prostate Cancer. During the end of the presentation, several men shared how the disease had impacted their lives. The revelations and testimonies from these men were very powerful. Mrs. Davis had a variety of materials available to share with anyone who desired to take them home and read.

Following the presentation and business meeting, several members of the group traveled to the Holston Hills Rehabilitation Center for the Tennessee Conference Outreach ministry. Each year all three districts contribute monies to purchase items for gifts and cards to be distributed to a facility selected by the host district president. Mr. Elijah Bowman and members of the Knoxville District selected the location.. Christmas Carols were sung in the dining hall and gifts were given to all the residents at the facility.

The Knoxville District held its annual Soup and Chili Fellowship Dinner at Logan Temple AME Zion Church in January. It was great success! First AME Zion took the banner for having the most members in attendance. It was a night of fun, fellowship, and Funds! In addition, members of the District Lay Council are looking forward to their March Lay Academy with Mr. Larry Brice, Lay Council President at Oak Grove AME Zion Church, giving the presentation.

The Chattanooga and Maryville District Lay Councils have also continued their focus on Stewardship during their District Super Saturday Lay hours. Mr. David Jenkins gave a presentation entitled "Stewardship Over Your Fellowship.." He explained that since we are a con-

REGIONAL NEWS

nectional church, being good stewards over our fellowship is the key. We are only as strong as our weakest link (least functioning church). Therefore, it is important that we not be in competition, but instead encourage and support each other.

The third presentation on Stewardship given during the Maryville District Super Saturdays was entitled "Community Really Matters" Using Matthew 25:31-40. Ms. Eskridge talked about how important it is for us as Christians to help clothe the naked and feed the hungry. One way we can be good stewards and honor this command is by informing and assisting members of the community in taking advantage of career and educational opportunities. She listed programs offered at local American Job Centers, Technical Schools, and Community Colleges. Pamphlets and flyers were given out also.

All the districts have continued to work diligently on membership with 100% of the churches in the Tennessee Conference participating. The officers of the Tennessee Conference are looking forward to hosting the Connectional Lay Council Convention in July. All three district presidents are encouraging members to attend and participate

The Laity of Fisher Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church remains very active.....

In partnership with St. Paul Lutheran Church lay members prepared and distributed brown bag snack lunches for about 60 adults attending the soup kitchen. This is an ongoing project coordinated through the efforts of the Interfaith Action of Evanston. Additionally, through the Interfaith Action of Evanston our very own Denise Jackson-Willis was the recipient of this year's Vision Keeper Award on behalf of Fisher Memorial Church.



The Lay Council also held a "Chat & Chew" Worship service on fifth Sunday in January. The spiritual focus was on stewardship of talents. Members participated in conversation and reflection on what they believed their talents/gifts were. Also, we discussed how we could become more visible with the use of our stewardship talents. This was led by the Chicago District Director of Lay Activities, Mrs. Peggy Bryant.

Lastly, the trustees and lay members sponsored a church wide cleanup, where we thoroughly organized and cleaned the sanctuary, fellowship hall, conference rooms, storage facility, and kitchen. We were pleased to



have such wide support from many of our church members. This effort was a huge success.

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North Eastern Episcopal District
Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Sr.
Presiding Prelate
Ms. Shelly Henry, Regional Director

The New York Conference Lay Council Annual Love Feast and Fellowship



The New York Conference held their Annual Love Feast and Fellowship on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at St. Frances A.M.E. Zion Church, Port Chester, New York where the local President is Geraldine Swift Dennison. The host pastor, Reverend Dwight Bolton gave

us a meditation on John 3:16 Giving Love

1. Love involves giving God so loved the world that he gave. Love is expressed through more than just words, but it must be expressed as well in action
2. How do we give. We give love through caring and compassion, and demonstrating Christ Likeness



Which involves sacrifice (time, talent and gifts)

3. By giving the difference that it makes it promotes healing, restoration, liberation, which leads to salvation

Mrs. Marie H. Baxter, Westchester District Lay Council President led us a song, Ms. Angela

McNeill, YAI Chairperson read the Scripture, Ms. Fay Fagan, A.W. Printz Scholarship Chairperson led us in the Prayer and greetings were given by the host president. Our Outreach Project was the Port Chester Carver Center where we brought items for their Food Pantry. Also an offering was taken up in the amount of \$250.00.

President Stith surprised the Executive Board of the New York Conference Lay Council by giving each of us a check in the amount of \$196.00 for each Board member what is going to the 11th Quadrennial Lay Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee. In all 13 checks were given out. We ended the Love Feast with a Fellowship luncheon which was cooked by the host president's son San Dennison. We were also honored by have our own Presiding Elder, Rev. Isidora Branch, Sr and his wife Mrs. Susan Branch as well as Presiding Elder Keith I, Harris and Mrs. Tawanda Harris in attendance.

The New York Conference Lay Academy - "Not My Job"

Submitted by Angela McNeill
 New York Conference YAI Chairperson

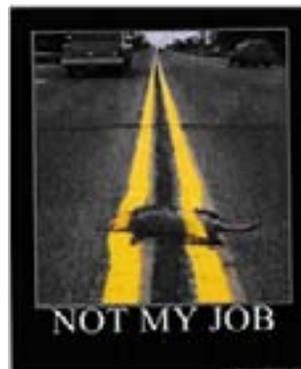
New York Conference Lay Council Lay Academy took place Saturday, February 4th on "Not My Job". Our presenter was Ms. Rhandi M. Stith, New York Council Lay Council President.



We were all given a photo of a street that recently had the traffic lines done. The traffic lines were freshly done over a dead possum. The caption says "Not My Job" and we were asked to reflect and

question our response to everyday tasks.

We learned about our personal commitment to what God has tasked us to do.



We were given a calendar and 2 different colored highlighters. We were asked to fill out all of our daily activities for the month on the given calendar. We were then to highlight all the activities that were for Christ and highlight with a different color all the activities that weren't for Christ.

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During our calendar activity several bible verses were read; Romans 12:1, 12:4-7, 12:10-11, Hebrews 6:10, 9:13-14, Colossians 3:23-24, Malachi 3:17-18, Mathew 6:24. When the activity was completed we were then asked, what is your percentage for Christ? It was an eye opener to know from the 20+ people at the event that Christ was on the low percentage for most of us. It was a true reality check that we need to make some changes in our lives, if we truly say we love the Lord. We learned you cannot serve 2 Gods, Love of God or Money!

This was a very powerful workshop that all those who love God, should reflect on and really take a look of what is important to us.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Mathew 6:21

Westchester District Lay Rededication and Convocation Service

Submitted by Eloise Homer
Westchester District 1st Vice President



The Westchester District Lay

Rededication/Convocation took place on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at Mt. Hope AME Zion Church, the Reverend Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, Pastor.

The meditation was brought by our Presiding Elder Isidoa Branch Sr. The scripture was 1 Corinthians 3: 5-11; subject "Laboring with God". After the meditation, Pres. Elder Branch led the Litany for Rededication. The following officers were rededicated: Marie H. Baxter –

President, Eloise Homer – 1st Vice President, Linda Tyson – 2nd Vice President, Marsha H. Henderson – Secretary, Toni Manigault-Grant – Financial Secretary, Ira Golden – Treasurer, and William Ross – Chaplin.



Lay Academy Presenters L-R: Detective Daymon Yizar, Detective Rick Lee, Donald Whitely, Lena Anderson, Moderator Juel Hodge and Sergeant Jennifer Carpenter

The Lay Convocation theme; "Making Our Community Safe" – Moderator- Juel J. Hodge, Esq. The Challenge: Where Do We Go from Here:

A: Improving relationships between community and Law enforcement - B: Building trust between community and law enforcement.

Participants were : Lena Anderson – President, NAACP White Plains/Greenburgh; Sergeant Jennifer Carpenter – Mount Vernon Police Department; Gary Fuller – Para Legal, Citizen's Advisory Council Greater Centennial AME Zion Church, Mt Vernon; Detective Rick Lee (Retired) White Plains Police Department; Sergeant Howard Tribble (Retired) White Plains Police Department; Donald Whitely, Associate Professor/ Admissions, SUNY/WCC and Detective Daymon Yizar (retired) Greenburgh Police Department.

We divided into six groups to consider the following questions;

1. What specific action(s) can the church body take to create positive change between law enforcement and your community? Identify some of the steps necessary to implement that action. In light of the above suggested action, what can you as an individual do to assist in the successful implementation of that actions
2. What are some strategies a community can take to restore, improve or build trust between the police and the community?
3. In this climate. What actions can we as a community take to ensure that our rights-civil

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The group summary responses were:

Group 1:

Be part of police advisory board, Get youth involved in police academy, Build relationship with different ethnic groups in community, Register to vote, Form a GS/BS troop in church, Open the church to school board meetings.

Group 2:

Pay attention to the legal process, Family counseling/pastoral counseling concerning home concerns, Have classes on multicultural subjects, Establish dialogue with law enforcement, Reach out to those who need assistance.

Group 3:

Establish a liaison between the church and the community, Conduct group events with police and community to break down barriers etc, sport game, urge church to take stronger leadership role, develop programs with law enforcement for youth in community.

Group 4:

Improve communication between law enforcement and the community, need to eliminate fear of police officers with opportunities for more contact, Westchester Rockland Guardians can provide free seminars in churches/communities.

Group 5:

Improve communications by having group meetings between law enforcement and churches.

Group 6:

Youth must share and communicate with peers, be clear on what you are defending, have conversation and communication with each other and with law enforcement, educate law enforcement about the community needs and church/youth on how to respond to law enforcement, listen to each other and help to lift up each other.

Marie H. Baxter made announcements; which included the North Eastern Annual Regional Lay Academy on April 15, 2017 at St. Catherine AME Zion Church, New Rochelle, NY

We were exceptional proud of our youth for their attendance and participation in the convocation. To God be the Glory!



Teenagers that attend the Lay Academy

New Jersey Conference Celebrates Grandparents

What is a grandparent? A grandparent means so many different things to each and every one of us. To some they are stand in parents, educators of life, teachers of the living Word of God, best friends who always have time for us, and the list can go on and on. But one of the greatest things about grandparents is they love you unconditionally.

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

Each year the Camden and Jersey City Districts of the New Jersey Conference lift up our grandparents by hosting special celebrations. Each church has the opportunity to select a grandparent to represent them at each of the luncheons.

The Camden District, Mrs. Doris Hollis, District President, held their Grandparent's Luncheon on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at Shrewsbury Ave. A.M.E. Zion Church, Rev. Zaniel Young, Host Pastor and Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence and Territa Johnson, Host Presidents. Throughout the year churches raise funds in support of their grandparent. The grandparent with the most support is crowned, “Grandparent of the Year”.

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Winners. Lawrence and Territa Johnson (2nd place), Robin Smith (3rd place), Cassandra Vlaun (Grandparent of the Year), Camden District president, Mrs. Doris Hollis.

The Grandparent of the Year is Cassandra Vlaun, from St. James A.M.E. Zion Church, Perth Amboy, Rev. Amos Dickerson, Pastor, Mrs. Toni Terrell, Local President. The second place winners were Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence and Territa Johnson, (the dynamic duo), from Shrewsbury Ave. A.M.E. Zion Church, Rev. Zaniel Young, Pastor, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence & Territa Johnson, Local Co-Presidents. Third place winner was First Lady, Robin Smith, from St.



Mrs. Hollis and local presidents of The Camden District.

John A.M.E. Zion Church, Lakewood, Rev. Percy Smith, Pastor, Mrs. Dottie Stevens, Local President. It was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all.

The Jersey City District Lay Council, Ms. Clarice Smith Jarvis, District President, will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of its annual Tribute to Grandparents on

Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Wallace Chapel AME Zion Church, Reverend Dr. Dennison Harrield, Host Pastor and Ms. Denise Miles, Host President.

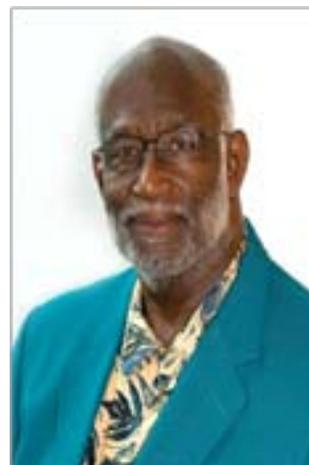
Jersey City will be honoring past celebrated grandparents at the 30th Anniversary Gala; a memorial tribute will highlight Mrs. Linda S. Ganzy, who served for over ten years as the secretary of the JCD Lay Council, the district will celebrating her life as a district officer faithful member of the laity.

The New Jersey Conference Lay Council plans to continue in the theme at our Lay Academy, which each year kicks off the beginning of New Jersey's Annual Conference on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 12 noon. This year's Academy will disseminate information that may not be known about Medicare, Medicaid, Nursing Home care versus keeping loved ones at home, and what it takes to be a Caregiver.

New Jersey celebrates those who have such an impact on our lives. We will continuously support them and educate ourselves, in order to give back some of what they have given us. To God be the Glory.

South Atlantic Episcopal District Bishop Mildred B. Hines Sr.

**Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Glenda
Davis-Canteen,
Regional Director**



**Shaw Temple
A.M.E. Zion
Church**

The Walt and Helen Bellamy Academic and Community Service Award was established in 2016 by the Shaw Temple AME Zion

Church Lay Council to honor the legacy of the late Walter Bellamy and his widow, Helen Bellamy. The scholarship is designed to assist deserving students who have a high academic achievement, a strong spiritual background, and community involvement.

In 2016 three graduating students were awarded this scholarship and are currently enrolled in college. The

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recipients were Keresha Richardson (Emory University), Clayton Thompson (Georgia Southern University), and Syndei Head (Albany State University).

The Old African Proverb states "It takes a village to raise a child". In today's political climate, it is even more important that the community supports our youth in attaining a higher education.

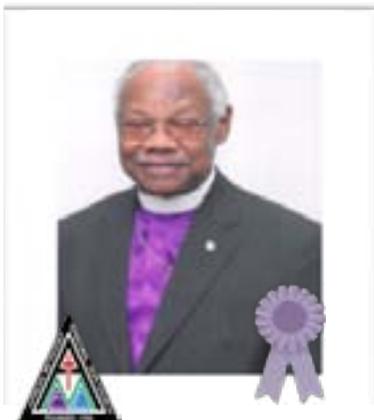
We are asking the support of the village to provide three more scholarships for 2017. We are thankful to those that supported this endeavor last year. The Shaw Temple AME Zion Church Lay Council is honored to continue the legacy of Walter Bellamy and support our future leaders.



Bishop Carr Quiz Bowl

Submitted by Mrs. Mireille Landrum , Event Chair
Shaw Temple Lay Council Chaplain

Do you know who our church was named after?



My mother taught me that you cannot expect from a child what you do not teach them. With this in heart, I joined the vision of our Shaw Temple A.M.E Zion Church's (Smyrna, GA) Lay Council President, Ms. Coleen Daly, in the planning Shaw Temple A.M.E Zion church's **1ST BISHOP CLARENCE CARR**

QUIZ BOWL. This event was held on Friday, March 17 and was a tremendous success. Bishop Carr, (deceased), who was a wonderful and outstanding Bishop in the A.M.E Zion church, made a tremendous impact in the world, Zion and in our church and will be forever loved and remembered.

Since this was a Lay Council sponsored event, we focused on one (1) of our Lay Council objectives; to cultivate denominational loyalty. We selected content for this bowl from bible trivia and A.M.E Zion History. Thank you to our great historian, Mrs. Odessa Huff for providing a great deal of the content. The goal was to create a fun interactive way for our children and youth along with our entire congregation to become more engaged and learn about the bible and our Zion history while simultaneous



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ly developing/strengthening their love for Christ and the church. The Quiz bowl was designed in a game show style format, with three categories, a game show moderator, three judges, two proctors, a time keeper, and colorful, noise-making buzzers that were used to signify readiness to answer questions.

The team that represented “**Bishop Clever Crenshaws**”, and took First Place were Tamarra Baldwin, Zanyira Wrice, Kennedy Crenshaw and Keyana Roderiquez. Our Second Place winners that represented team “**Bishop Brown Braniacs**” were Anaya Moore, Ethen Herndon, Aniecia Richard and Michelle McClendon. And our Third Place winners who represented “**Bishop Head Hunters**” were Jackie Massey, Anieka Richards, Ana Herndon and Tyrell Vacciana. We salute ALL our participants!!!

Participants were given a study guide with 114 ques-



tions of which 74 were asked in three categories. Due to competing activities we are blessed to have at Shaw Temple, participants had only two weeks to study, but the results were never-the-less impressive. We are happy to share our game content, format, and support to church that is interested. We were elated to have our Bishops, Bishop Warren M. Brown (Retired), Mrs. Aurelia Brown (Retired Missionary Supervisor), Bishop Louis Hunter (Retired), Bishop George D. Crenshaw



and Mrs. Laurenna Crenshaw, Missionary Supervisor in attendance and cheering on their “favorite” team. Our Georgia Conference President (Connection Lay Regional Director) Mrs. Glenda Davis-Canteen, a member of Shaw, was also in attendance and we were honored.

We were privileged to have Mrs. Barbara Carr (Retired Missionary Supervisor-Shaw Temple Member), Bishop Carr’s widow, with their daughter, Leslie Carr-Robinson and son, Bro. Mark Carr in attendance also. Mrs. Carr remarked how much Bishop Carr loved children and how he engaged with them in delight each time he had the privilege. She further remarked that she looks forward to the 2nd Annual Bishop Clarence Carr Quiz Bowl as she congratulated Ms. Coly, and the Lay Council on a marvelous event.

Thanks be to God for His grace and the parents for their support. Thanks our Bishops for their support and attendance. Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Mercuria for being a great moderator and game show host. Thanks to Ms. Linda Pyles, Ms. Ra Jendra Hunter, Mrs. Deloris Robinson, and Mrs. Roberson for donating gifts for our participants. Thanks to Mr. Ike Washington “Uncle Ike” for capturing all the action (photo credit). To the entire committee; Ms. Daly, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Tonia Nelson, Mrs. Rita Hunter-Williams, Mrs. Odessa Huff and the AWESOME and dedicated Shaw Temple Lay Council. Thanks to Mr. Willie Landrum, my husband, for his hard work in helping to bring my vision to life in the Great Hall

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for the night of the bowl and to my daughter Tamarra for "rescuing" mommy. Special thanks my Pastor, Rev. Eldren Morrison, and Mrs. Stachia Morrison, whose support makes ministry work easier. Thanks to all who assisted in making this a God-blessed and unforgettable experience!

We continue our assigned work....Bringing others to Christ!

Mid Atlantic Episcopal District **Bishop W. Darin Moore** **Presiding Prelate** **Mrs. Helene Zacharias and Mrs. Katherine Burrell, Co- Regional Directors**

Submitted By Katherine Burrell

The last several months has brought many challenges and a lot of successes as the Mid Atlantic Lay Council continues to grow as one Episcopal District.

- Virginia Conference under the leadership of President William English is doing well. Mr. Hurley Daye president of the Newport News District continues to present innovative Lay Academies, while sharing his talents of creativity. Petersburg District, under a new District President, Miss Debretta Pulliam continues to strive forward with most of churches with Lay Council membership. Cynthia White, President, is working diligently to maintain the solid Lay Council of the Norfolk District.
- Having traveled to East Tennessee Virginia Conference in December, I am happy say several young adults, Jovan Bass, Donald Kinchloe and Joseph Thompson have come forward to serve the Laity. I look forward to working with these young men. Also, those working with Mr. Melvin Perrow, Conference President representing the Bluefield, Bristol and Johnson City Districts are Mrs. Ella C. Davis Hurt, Mrs. Marie Robinson, William Batiste and Richard Hicks. Welcome aboard!
- I had the opportunity to meet with the Ohio Conference on their telephone conference call meeting as they planned their activities for the Annual Conference Lay Brunch Ms. Pat Lewis, Conference Lay Council President, uses technology to bring The Ohio Conference together and disseminate information. Attending the meeting led by the parliamentarian, was a true learning experience. Everything was done in good and perfect order

- Allegheny Conference, our baby Lay Council Conference is excited and working under the new president, Mrs. Debbie Dennison. We are looking for great things to come from Allegheny Conference.
- As president of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference Lay Council continues to grow in preparing others for leadership. We continue to have our Lay meetings at our check-up meetings. Presently we are planning for our Annual Black and Gold Gala where the Laity will be ministered to by "Those Singing Pastors" led by Pastors Scot Moore and David Devertuil.
- Northern Virginia District under the leadership of Gil Turner is strong in membership and continues to hold Lay Academies to train and edify the laity of their District.
- Harrisburg District has 100% of their church with Lay Council membership. The President, Jackie Ferrell is a faithful in leading and participating in the conference events.
- Philadelphia Eastern Shore with Patricia Griffin, leadership as the president is strong and viable with a strong membership role.
- Washington District under the leadership of Robert Edmonds held their Lay Recognition Program at Varick Memorial, Washington, DC. The attendance was outstanding with Lay leaders from each Church on the District. Support as given by the clergy and the Laity for this program.

As a Co-Regional Director working with Helene Zacharias, the Conference and District presidents are our focus to develop leadership to enhance the work of the local Lay Councils, grow memberships and engage active Lay Councils in each church. There is still plenty of work to do but we feel that our work has produced much fruits.

To God be the Glory for what He has done, for what He is doing and for what He is about to do for the Laity of the Mid Atlantic Episcopal Area.

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Northern Virginia District Celebrates Black History Month

Submitted by Gilbert Turner,
District Lay Council President



All eyes were focused to the front of the sanctuary of the Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church, host to the Northern Virginia District's annual Black History Service, as they watched a Mother (Rev. Wanda Polite) and little daughter (Miss Ellie Ashby) interact with "Hidden Figures" from Baltimore's Great Blacks in Wax Museum. As they wandered through the museum, several figures (portrayed by district youth) came alive and gave testimonials about their accomplishments... "Josephine Baker" (Miss Maya Daniels), "Shirley Chisolm" (Miss Nakiya Briggs), "George Washington Carver" (Master Evan Strachen), "Rev. Jesse Jackson" (Master Emmanuel Ashby), "Langston Hughes" (Master Dorien Green), "Herman Rucker" (Master Jordan Parham), "Freed Slave" (Master Brendon Murray) and "Oppressed Slave" (Master Brandon Murray). This was just a small portion of the District's annual celebration under the leadership of Presiding Elder Monica Hargrove. Lay and clergy from the District's churches took part in "Honoring the Journey; Our Vision, Our Voice and Our Legacy."

As the service progressed, our mistress of ceremonies, Mrs. Donna Moore masterfully set up each presentation. Following the scripture, Psalm 100, read by Master Isaiah Patillo and the prayer rendered by Master Christopher Cooper, the congregation's attention was directed to the monitors to view a video trailer, "Black and White in America." The video captured Ms. Dorothy Height getting into a chaffuered car, leaving her residence en route

to the second inauguration ceremony for President Barak Obama. The video showed glimpses of some of the struggles of Blacks in America. It depicted many scenes of abuse as well as triumphs and followed many of the events surrounding the Obama family, the campaigns, election and reelection of the President.

With visions of the video still in our minds and memories of what was, we were quickly caught up in an inspirational liturgical dance by Ms. Nia Liberty, followed by a rousing recitation of Langston Hughes' poem, "Negro Mother", by Ms. Brooke Waller. What was to follow warmed our hearts as we were introduced to a review of the Obama presidency and family legacy with video clips accompanied by readings and musical selections by Ms. Krystal Shackelford, Ms. Alvina Briggs, Ms. Veronica Riley and Ms. Darlene Logan. To our delight, this portion of the service reached a high point when we joined in on the video clip of President Obama singing "Amazing Grace!"

Following this delightful journey down memory lane, we were blessed with a musical selection by Mr. Brian McLean and a memorable oratorical presentation from one of Uncle Remus' tales by Mr. Hunter Forte.

Presiding Elder Hargrove closed our wonderful afternoon with many thanks and laudatory comments and presented each of the participants with a commemorative copy of the Dorothy Height Black Heritage Stamp or copy of the January 20, 2009 Presidential Inauguration Day postage envelope. Following the benediction, we joined hands; thankful for the journey, thankful for the legacy and sang, "We Shall Overcome!"

Newport News District Lay Council Kaleidoscope of Events

Submitted by Mr. Hurley Daye
Newport News District Lay Council President

Our beloved Newport News District of the Virginia Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Mid - Atlantic Episcopal District is happy to announce a few of the activities since our last time of submitting an article to the CLC Newsletter. The Presiding Elder of the Newport News District is Rev. Vincent M. Jones, Sr, and his Administrative Assistant is Rev. Dr. Montina Jones. Mrs. Devieta Moore is our Missionary Supervisor, and Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate of the Mid - Atlantic District.

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Lay Academy

On Saturday, January 28, 2017, the Newport News District conducted its first Lay Academy of the year. The Lay Academy was held at Beulah Land A. M. E. Zion Church, Ivor, VA. (Home church of deceased Lay Leader Mrs. Lizzie Mae Sykes) Rev. Juan Turnes is the pastor. rs. Cheryl Artist serves as Local Lay Council President.

Using the Stewardship component of the Quadrennial theme, Stewardship was our topic for the academy. Mr. Billy Bradley, Newport News District Lay Council Chaplain was the messenger for the opening of our academy. He sparked the minds of the attendees with the question, "What is Stewardship?" Many responses were given to his question. During a question and answer period about some of the points presented during his presentation, attendees left the academy with poignant thoughts on stewardship. Using the Facilitators Guide to Conducting Interactive Thematic Lay Academies, authored by Joyce Perry Edwards, Ph.D., Chairwoman and the Education Committee of the Connectional Council several activities were utilized to enhance the learning of the attendees.

Also, the president of the NND Lay Council, Mr. Hurley Daye, presented a game for the attendees to play. It was a bible race. Stewardship scriptures were called out and participants needed to find the answer in an allotted time to respond with the correct answer. Each church was represented on the district. Everyone in the session was engaged in this fun activity.

Lots of canned goods were brought in to distribute among the faith community of Beulah Land A. M. E. Zion Church. It is the aim of the NND Lay Council to bring canned goods to our Super Saturday gatherings to help in the faith community of our visitation.

A clarion call was given to all present to go back to their local churches and recall, reclaim and renew those individuals who have not at this time joined the Lay Council for this year. Mrs. Carolyn Wrenn, NND Treasurer did an excellent job in prompting those present.

Our Second Lay Academy was held at St. Luke A. M. E. Zion Church in Franklin, VA. Rev. Dr. Joseph Perry, is the pastor. Ms. Linda Evans is the local Lay Council President.

Our emphasis today was on Stewardship of Time. This presentation was given by Mr. Hurley Daye, NND Lay Council President. Much excitement was generated on the stewardship of our time through a game activity where groups were formed with church representation for each of our district churches. Buzz Lights were

used to signal the first team to answer the questions in an allotted amount of time. The Facilitator's Guide for Conducting Interactive Thematic Lay Academies was used to help learners remember biblical instructions on Stewardship. A responsive litany from the same book was used, titled, "Things God Will Not Ask You On That Day."

Again, numerous canned goods were brought in to share with the St. Luke faith community as project of the NND Lay Council.

Commendations were given to those churches supporting the membership emphasis to recall, reclaim and renew memberships by Mrs. Carolyn Wrenn.

Several of our children were engaged with Rev. Dr. Montina Jones during this session. She supported the theme emphasis for today by instructing the children to create clocks on poster boards illustrating the effective use of heir time using biblical scriptures to reference their art work.

Black History Programs

Several of our churches gave an account of their Black History experiences during the month of February. Piney Grove A. M. E. Zion Church, pastored by Rev. Betty Bradley celebrated Black History with a Saturday morning breakfast including their local church membership, district representation, and others from the ecumenical community. Rev. Donald Brown, was the messenger for the morning. Mrs. Patricia Howell serves as Local Lay Council President.

St. Luke A. M. E. Zion Church, Franklin, VA held its Black History program on the third Sunday in February, 2017. Rev. Clarence Cross, Ph.D, associate minister at Wesley Union A. M. E. Zion Church, Washington, D.C., Mrs. Carolyn James, Chairperson of the program and sister of the messenger prepared a wholesome meal for all to enjoy after the program. Many participants from North Carolina and the ecumenical community were a part of this program.

Mars Hill A. M. E. Zion Celebrated Black History during its morning service with the pastor of the church, Rev. Kenneth Zollicoffer delivering the message. Individuals from the community were recognized by political leaders in Sussex County. Mars Hill A. M. E. Zion Church is located in Wakefield, VA.

The Honorable Congressman H. Donald McEachin, representing the 4th district presented certificates to honorees for their service to the community. Congressman McEachin was the 1st congressman to

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visit Mars Hill.

Rev. Zollicoffer also presented awards to members of the Mars Hill church for noteworthy service to the cause of Black History in their respective communities.

The Honorable Roaslyn Tyler, 75th District House of Delegates as present for the service.

Miss Kimberly Harris with the Horizon Medical Group was also present. She was the 1st Black female Dental Assistant in the Ivor Dental Office.

Mrs. Terry Wiggins, serves as the 1st Black female Nurse practitioner in the Sentara Office serving the town of Waverly, VA was also present.

Ms. Canisha Turner was the 1st Black female young lady to be crowned from Sussex County Model Queen in the 2009 pageant for the Grand National Dream Girl USA Supreme Spokes Model Queen.

The Honorable John Stringfield, Board of Supervisors representative for Wakefield District, helped with the implementation of the Block Grant Renovation Project for the Pocohontas Section of Wakefield, VA.

The NND is now gearing up for the District Conference and a grand banquet celebrating celebrating Lay Leadership throughout the Newport News District.

Alabama-Florida Episcopal District
Bishop Seth Lartey
Presiding Prelate
Mr. Ben Bolton Regional Director

Alabama Florida Episcopal Area

Submitted by Rose M. Thomas, Reporter
West Alabama Conference

The West Alabama Conference Connectional Lay Council has been very busy. Annual Lay was celebrated across the conference on October 19, 2016. The West Alabama Conference was held at Pilgrim Rest A.M.E. Zion where the Annual Conference was opened with a Lay Academy. Our Presiding Prelate, Bishop Seth O. Lartey addressed the Lay Academy. We had twelve (12) Pastor's on the Jackson District of the West Alabama Conference to become Life Member's including the Presiding Elder of The Jackson District. Alabama/Florida

started the year off with a bang "Ignite the Fire" 21 Day Revival & Fasting. Beginning January 1, 2017 and culminating January 19-21 with a Ministers and Lay Institute. We began "Spiritual Awakening," February 1, 2017 with a Conference Call on Wednesdays and Fridays from 5 a.m. - 6 a.m. and from 6 a.m. until 12:00 noon Fasting every Wednesday and Friday (until further notice).

Beginning March 1, 2017 we will be observing FRANGelism (Friends, Relatives, Associates & Neighbors) throughout the Alabama/Florida Episcopal area. Inviting Friends, Relatives Associates and Neighbors to attend Church, Sunday School and Bible Study so that they to may know about the goodness of our Lord and Savior.

The Third Tuesday of every month, Bishop Lartey meets with all Conference, District, Local Officers throughout the Alabama/Florida Conference via Conference calls where we discuss our Spiritual Gifts and moving them to a higher level. March 9-11, 2017 is our Evangelistic Retreat and Founder's Day Celebration. The guest speaker for this event will be Rev. Brian Thompson.

Western West Africa Episcopal District
Bishop Hilliard Dela Dogbe
Presiding Prelate Western West Africa Episcopal District
Mrs. Martha Scudder and
Mr. Lawrence Kofi Atsyor, Co-Regional Directors

Regional News Western West Africa Episcopal District

Submitted By:- Godfried Ngorli Nyaku

Under the leadership of his Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. Hilliard Dela Dogbe, the Lay Council in the Western West Africa Episcopal District is being revamped. Following the Bishop's desire to have a more vibrant Lay Council several interventions have been made.

One notable intervention is the formation of a Regional Connectional Lay Council Board to oversee the work of the Council in Western West Africa. During a dis

cussion with very influential lay people, Bishop Dogbe expressed optimism that the formation of the Board will among other things;

- Provide the leadership of the Episcopal area with counsel on how to advance/ grow the area,
- Be an incubator for birthing new or special initiatives which will enhance and promote the church and wellbeing of its members.
- Be a platform for mobilizing financial resources for the church. The Board will be formally inaugurated during the International Leadership Conference scheduled for April at the Pentecost Conventional Centre at Gomoa Fetteh, Ghana. Plans are far advance to institute a Lay Academy during the during the Conference to teach participants on the importance of the Lay Council as well as how the Lay Council would be used

as a vehicle for growth and expansion in the church.

Brothers Lawrence Atsyor and Kafui Kuwornu have been empowered by the Bishop to coordinate the work in the Episcopal District. Bro. Lawrence Atsyor has hit the ground running with the Bishop's vision. A visit was made to some local churches in the Ho District to educate local leadership on the work and importance of the Connectional Lay Council.

The Connectional Lay council is poised to embark on a massive educational retreat at all levels especially in the Districts and Conference levels of the church during the conference year. It is the aim of the Lay Council leadership to increase its membership base, institute the appropriate structures and hopefully spearhead the developmental agenda of the Church in Western West Africa Episcopal District.

Meet The Candidate

"Doing God's Work with Our Hands"

Katherine J. Burrell

Candidate
1st Vice President

Connectional Lay Council
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

"For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey Him, and then helping you do what He wants."
- Philippians 2:13 Living Bible

Stellar Leadership Meticulous Organizer Strategic Planner

"The Connection" Regional Reporters or CLC Regional Directors

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 case letters when typing. (do not use all capital letters of italics.)

PIEDMONT - Regional Reporter - Gloria Joyner Johnson gloriajo6812@gmail.com
 EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA - Regional Reporter - Sonya Powell sonyapower@hotmail.com
 MID WEST - Regional Director - Lynda Byrd elbeebloom@aol.com,
 NORTH EASTERN - Regional Reporter - Joyce Harrington Jhat17@aol.com
 SOUTH ATLANTIC - Regional Director - Glenda Davis Canteen gdaviscanteen@bellsouth.net
 MID ATLANTIC - Regional Reporter - Anita Rankin skipperrankin@aol.com
 ALABAMA-FLORIDA - Regional Reporter - Rosemary

Thomas breathe2005@yahoo.com
 SOUTHWESTERN DELTA - Regional Director - Stephany Ricks-Fields sfields2009@comcast.net
 WESTERN - Regional Director - Rynette Nixon rlnixon@comcast.net
 CENTRAL SOUTHERN AFRICA Regional Director - Portia Jacobs ptjacobs4yacm@gmail.com
 WESTERN WEST AFRICA - Regional Reporter Godfried Ngorli Nyaku
 EASTERN WEST AFRICA - Co-Regional Directors Hon. Udo H. Ekpeowo and Patricia Walton Walpat1@gmail.com and

Connectional Lay Sunday Offering

PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		Hunter's Chapel	\$ 78.00
Hopkins Chapel	\$ 120.00	Zion Grove	\$ 103.00
Gilmore Chapel	\$ 50.00	Norrington	\$ 200.00
Bethel	\$ 40.00	St. James	\$ 50.00
Wadeville	\$ 30.00	New Zion	\$ 60.00
Trinity - Greensboro, NC	\$ 637.00	Russell Chapel	\$ 50.00
Zion Wesley - Mount Pleasant, NC	\$ 205.00	Pleasant Hill	\$ 25.00
Lincolnton District	\$ 612.00	Mt. Lebanon	\$ 197.00
Varick Chapel	\$ 150.00	Saint Julia	\$ 250.00
Little Rock	\$ 500.00	Union Grove	\$ 75.00
Ardis Chapel	\$ 75.00	Paradise	\$ 100.00
Zion Wesley - Troutman, NC	\$ 70.00	Troy Chapel	\$ 58.00
Sandy Ridge	\$ 265.00	Mary J. Matthews	\$ 153.00
Statesville District	\$ 200.00	Rev. Dr. Murray & Dr. Joyce Edwards	\$ 25.00
Moore's Sanctuary	\$ 100.00	St. Peter	\$ 100.00
Walls Memorial	\$ 306.75	Clarkton District	\$ 300.00
North Charlotte District Lay Council	\$ 250.00	Morning Star	\$ 125.00
Soldier's Memorial	\$ 125.00	Mt. Olive	\$ 25.00
Marvin	\$ 1,073.00	New Bern District	\$ 250.00
Marable Memorial	\$ 100.00	Union Chapel - Rev. Allen Moore	\$ 20.00
White Rock	\$ 65.00		\$ 3,617.10
South Iredell	\$ 42.00		
Winston Salem District	\$ 250.00		
	\$ 5,265.75		
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		MID WEST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	
Gardner's Chapel	\$ 200.00	Selectman Chapel	\$ 82.00
Oak Grove	\$ 200.00	Zion Temple	\$ 140.05
St. Mark - Bayboro, NC	\$ 51.00	Smith Memorial	\$ 126.00
Longleaf	\$ 97.10	Ricks Chapel	\$ 200.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Alice White	\$ 20.00	Metropolitan - Kansas City, MO	\$ 568.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Althea Hinton	\$ 20.00	Blackwell/ Earnest and Lucy White	\$ 40.00
	\$ 20.00	Hilliard Chapel	\$ 100.00
	\$ 20.00	Williams Chapel	\$ 155.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Carl Boler	\$ 20.00	Greater Walters	\$ 300.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Charles LeGrand	\$ 20.00	Rices Chapel	\$ 20.00
	\$ 20.00	Highlett Temple	\$ 50.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Gwendolyn Abrams	\$ 10.00	St. Paul - Toledo, OH	\$ 100.00
	\$ 10.00	Jones Memorial	\$ 50.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Hazel White	\$ 20.00	Wallace Temple	\$ 125.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Irene Owens	\$ 20.00	Beth-El	\$ 49.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Jesse Wilcher	\$ 5.00	Stoner Memorial	\$ 1,000.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Jesse Wilcher	\$ 20.00	Taylortown	\$ 159.08
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Linwood Jones	\$ 20.00	Knoxville District	\$ 372.00
	\$ 20.00	Unity	\$ 240.00
	\$ 20.00	St. Paul - Kansas City, KS	\$ 100.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Patricia Walker	\$ 20.00	Metropolitan/Jersey City, NJ/Barbara Waddell	\$ 20.00
	\$ 20.00		\$ 20.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Paula Gibbs	\$ 20.00	Metropolitan/Jersey City, NJ/Joyce Franklin	\$ 20.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Sharon DeSahzo	\$ 20.00		\$ 20.00
	\$ 20.00	Metropolitan - Jersey City, NJ	\$ 193.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Thomascena LeGrand	\$ 30.00	Spradling	\$ 90.00
	\$ 20.00	Samuel Brown Temple	\$ 136.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC/Wallace Darden	\$ 20.00	Martin temple	\$ 350.00
	\$ 20.00	Broadway Temple	\$ 200.00
St. Mark - Durham, NC	\$ 515.00		\$ 4,752.13
St. Paul	\$ 25.00		

Connectional Lay Sunday Offering

NORTH EASTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		Donnie BeBerry	\$	10.00
Lakeville	\$ 200.00	Mt. Zion	\$	20.00
Parker Memorial	\$ 154.00	Rose S. Bryan	\$	20.00
Bell	\$ 163.00	New Prospect	\$	170.00
Dyer Phelps	\$ 130.00	Smalls Chapel	\$	40.00
St. Paul - Great Neck, NY	\$ 180.00	Spartanburg District	\$	100.00
Grace	\$ 175.00	Shaw Temple	\$	100.00
State Street	\$ 40.00	Pee De Conference	\$	500.00
Shaw Temple	\$ 260.00	Jones Memorial	\$	245.00
Walls Temple	\$ 137.00	Pleasant View	\$	116.00
St. Stephens - Branford, CT	\$ 60.00	Camp Creek	\$	100.00
Westbury	\$ 100.00	Good Hope	\$	60.00
Clinton Memorial	\$ 300.00	York District	\$	200.00
Hood	\$ 100.00	South Carolina Conference	\$	600.00
Shrewsbury Avenue	\$ 350.00		\$	2,692.00
St. Luke	\$ 400.00			
St. Stephen - Asbury Park, NJ	\$ 189.00	MID ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		
Durham Memorial;	\$ 414.00	Trinity - Delta, PA	\$	61.00
First AME Zion - Paterson, NJ	\$ 380.00	Speights Chapel	\$	189.00
St. Charles	\$ 375.00	Clinton Memorial - Newark, NJ	\$	200.00
Camden District	\$ 81.00	Newport News District	\$	250.00
Woods Memorial	\$ 30.00	Warner Temple	\$	119.00
St. Catherine	\$ 405.00	First AME Zion	\$	50.00
St. Paul's - Spring Valley, NY	\$ 200.00	St. Matthew	\$	100.00
New Jersey Annual Conference	\$ 400.00	Contee	\$	100.00
Greater St. Augustine/Rev. Akpan Inyang	\$ 20.00	Tynes Chapel	\$	170.00
Greater St. Augustine/Jeanette Stephens-El	\$ 20.00	St. Peter's	\$	40.00
Wesley	\$ 450.00	Hickory Grove	\$	25.00
Smith-Thompson	\$ 25.00	Galbraith	\$	300.00
Calvary	\$ 95.00	Union Wesley	\$	500.00
Walls Memorial	\$ 220.00	Clinton - Rockville, MD	\$	920.00
Walters Memorial	\$ 50.00	Trinity - Washington, DC	\$	1,000.00
Myra G. Sabir	\$ 75.00	Ruth	\$	140.00
John Wesley	\$ 75.00	St. James	\$	200.00
Mt. Olive	\$ 127.00	John Wesley	\$	200.00
St. Frances (Port Chester)	\$ 30.00	Zion Chester	\$	400.00
Greater Centennial	\$ 534.00		\$	2,964.00
Park Street	\$ 50.00	ALABAMA/FLORIDA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		
Metropolitan/Jersey City, NJ/Barbara Waddell	\$ 20.00	St. Luke	\$	55.00
Metropolitan/Jersey City, NJ/Joyce Franklin	\$ 20.00	Asbury Chapel	\$	160.00
Metropolitan - Jersey City, NJ	\$ 193.00	Aaron and Edna Harris	\$	100.00
	\$ 7227.00	Jefferson District Lay Council	\$	450.00
		Escambia	\$	150.00
		Jackson District	\$	100.00
		Mobile District	\$	150.00
			\$	1,165.00
SOUTH ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		SOUTHWESTERN DELTA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		
New Hope	\$ 50.00	Redeeming Grace	\$	50.00
Cedar Grove	\$ 50.00	Speaks Temple	\$	100.00
Faith	\$ 123.00	Outland Memorial	\$	300.00
Augusta District	\$ 50.00	Pope Chapel	\$	50.00
Augusta District	\$ 118.00	Porter Chapel	\$	15.00
Augusta District	\$ 20.00			

Connectional Lay Sunday Offering

Walls Chapel	\$	180.00	Community	\$	60.00
St. Mark's	\$	200.00	John Wesley	\$	100.00
St. Mark's	\$	50.00	Kyles Temple	\$	372.00
	\$	945.00	First AME Zion - San Francisco, CA	\$	400.00
WESTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT			Leake Temple	\$	50.00
Lawrence Memorial/James G. Allen	\$	20.00	First AME Zion - Los Angeles, CA	\$	100.00
Lawrence Memorial/Rev. Y. Bolden	\$	10.00		\$	1,496.00
Annie Govan	\$	20.00	WESTERN WEST AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		
Geneva Watts	\$	20.00	Western West Africa	\$	200.00
Kyles Temple	\$	254.00	EASTERN WEST AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		
Linda Wheeler Trust	\$	20.00	Eastern West Africa	\$	300.00
Mary Davis	\$	10.00	CENTRAL SOUTHERN AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT		
Olevia Austin	\$	20.00	CSA	\$	50.00
Sheila Quintana	\$	20.00			
Thelma Turner LaCaze	\$	20.00	GRAND TOTAL:	\$	31,508.98

Mail contributions to:
 Connectional Lay Council
 Attention: Harriet Tubman
 PO Box 26770 Charlotte, NC 28221-6770

OUR GOAL: \$50,000





**11th
 Quadrennial
 Lay
 Convention**



Knoxville Marriott
 501 E. Hill Avenue,
 Knoxville, TN 37915



Mary J. Matthews,
 General President



Yvonne Beckerville,
 Convention Chair

Save the Dates

July 22-27, 2017



KNOXVILLE, TN