



THE LAY EXPRESS

Second Episcopal District ~ African Methodist Episcopal Church
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Website: <http://wncclay.org/>



VOLUME IV

FEBRUARY 2018

ISSUE 2



From
the desk
of...

Penny S. Oliver, President

This season the WNCCLO encourages you to love and empower one another. Why is it that you ought to love and empower one another? First and foremost, because you, the laity, are the nucleus of the African Methodist Episcopal Church! You and I, the Lay, are essential to the life of our Zion and the Church universal. Without the Lay, the Church is a lifeless shell. Without the Lay, there is no community. Without the Lay, our churches and our pastors are lost. Moreover, the measure of the Church's success is directly related to how you, as lay members of our community, love one another and live out your faith in your daily lives.

By tradition, February is recognized as the "Love" month. Therefore, let us demonstrate our love for one another by forgiving one another. Let us surrender our will to the will of God as we work together as one unit alongside our pastors. Let us hold fast to the belief God will bless us with the true spirit of Christianity, in order that "... we may live together, not as man over man, but as Laypersons working with God."

Let us show love as we create an atmosphere of empowerment within our local churches. We need people to feel empowered and enabled for ministry. Don't just expect people to "get it." We must preach, teach, and train our congregations. It takes time to empower people for ministry when they do not have a good understanding of their spiritual gifts. Within these circumstances, we humans tend to overestimate what we can do in a year, while simultaneously underestimating what we can do in three years. We must learn to communicate using different techniques and at different times, in order for the receptivity to change to saturate our communities over time.

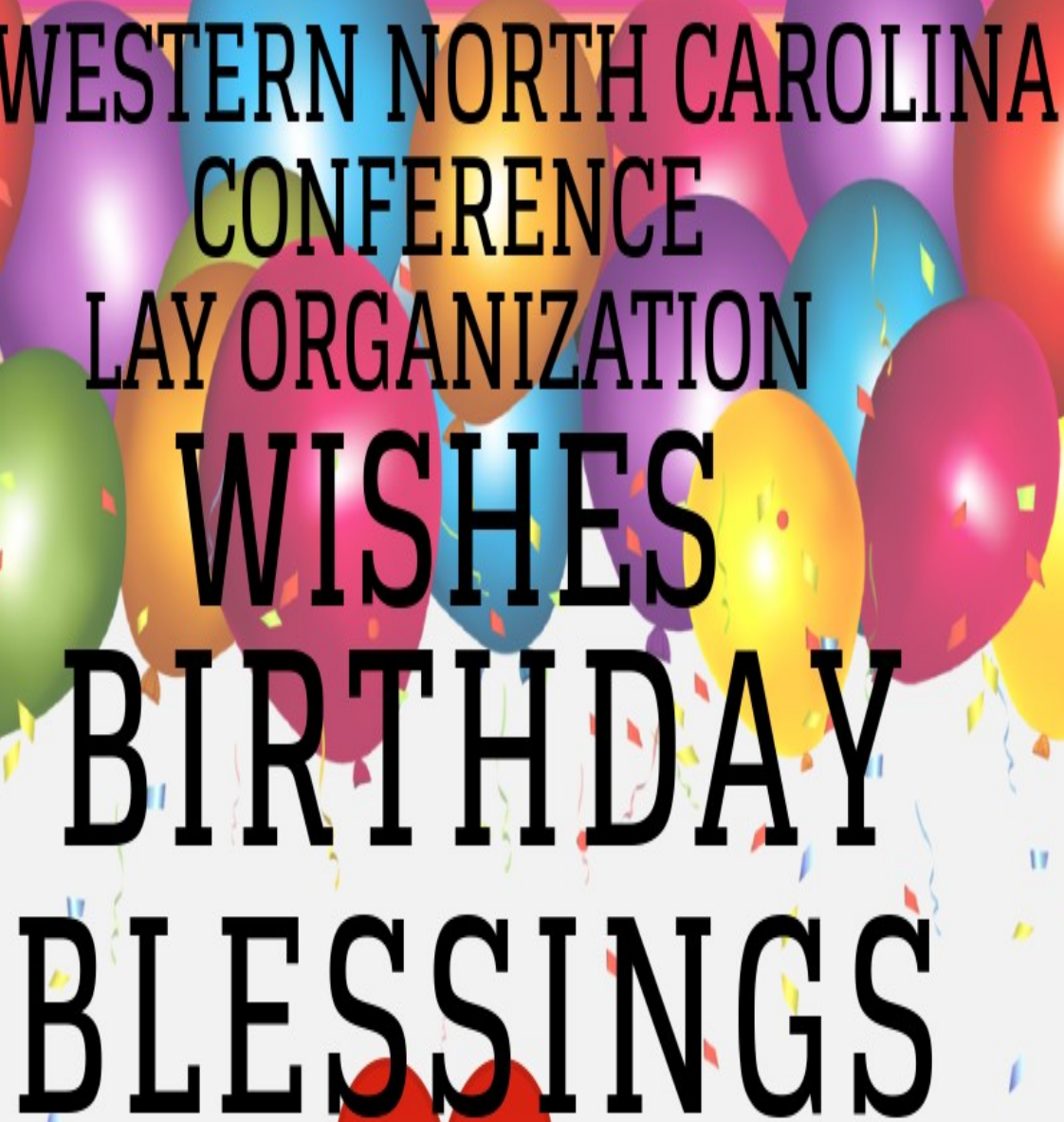
Structure breeds confidence. As such, when well thought through programs are in place for the people to implement, the ability to participate in the execution of said plans generates an atmosphere where the people to feel led and empowered. Empowering people requires that you give them authority, along with responsibility. They need to know they have ownership of the task, and that it is their job to get done. People need affirmation; they need to know they are appreciated for their ministry activity and involvement. In this month of "Love", give them a quick "thank you" note. Let those you love know their efforts didn't go unnoticed.

Currently, our 2018-2019 lay membership drive is in full force. We need your support! Membership dues are \$6.00 for adults. Membership dues must be current for voting and election privileges and this year is an election!

The WNCCLO election for 2018-2020 Conference Lay Officers is scheduled for April 14, 2018, at Springdale AMEC, Burlington, North Carolina. Membership dues must be received on or before March 18, 2018, for election and voting privileges. Please send your membership dues to the Credential/Membership Chair, Sister Niki Allen, 2913 Ashwell Court, Raleigh, NC 27603.

Join us as we Empower the People, remembering that we "...can do all this through him who gives [us] strength." Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

Thank you for your willingness serve!



**THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
CONFERENCE
LAY ORGANIZATION
WISHES
BIRTHDAY
BLESSINGS
TO**

**WNCC-LAY
PRESIDENT
PENNY OLIVER**

FEBRUARY 6TH

**Bishop James L. Davis & Supervisor Arelis B. Davis
are pleased to present The Second Episcopal District's
MID-WINTER GATHERING!**

#4REAL



Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown



Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.



Attorney Sherrilyn Ifill

February 15-17, 2018

THE SHERATON GREENSBORO AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

SCHEDULED PANELS, WORSHIP SERVICES, & LAY EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

11:15 am - 12:00 pm	LAY ORGANIZATION COMPONENT, Auditorium I
12:20 pm - 1:25 pm	EMPOWERED TO MOVE FROM PASSENGER TO THE DRIVER' S SEAT
3:15 pm - 5:15 pm	EMPOWERMENT PANEL DISCUSSION Mr. R. N. Flamer, Facilitator
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Theresa L. Fry Brown, Preacher

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

10:00 am - 12:30 pm	EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ECONOMICS
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	WMS DORCAS EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018

7:30 am - 8:30 am	2nd DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION- LEGACY BREAKFAST
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	CLOSING EMPOWERMENT MEDITATION Rev. Dr. JoAnn Browning, Preacher, Co-Pastor, Ebenezer AMEC, Ft. Washington, MD

SUMMER INTERN WITH THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

Summer 2018 Application Details



- \$600 per week stipend
- Need-based housing and transportation subsidy is an additional \$150 per week.
- 12 weeks (35–40 hours per week)
- Professional development seminars
- Structured mentorship
- Opportunities in Washington, DC, Alabama, North Carolina, Florida & Pennsylvania

The informational webinars scheduled on February 5 have reached capacity. However, a recording may be posted on this page by February 9, 2018.

APPLY BY 11:59 PM, MARCH 15 Meaningful internships offering hands-on experience in the digital preservation of African American history and culture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/connect/osp/robert-frederick-smith-fund-internship-and-fellowship-program> \

A WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY
Y.A.R. EVENT
(Young Adult Representatives)

GOSPEL EXPLOSION ***For Your Glory***



REGISTRATION BEGINS AT

9AM

4|21|18

Featuring:

"My Praise Is For Real" Rap Session

Rev. Anthony Radcliff
9:30 a.m.

"Battle of the Choirs" Competition
Western District versus Eastern District

Youth & Young Adult Categories
10:30 a.m.



"Crown Mr. & Miss Gospel Explosion"

Turner's Chapel A.M.E. Church
7615 Florence School Drive
High Point, N.C. 27265



The proceeds from choir registrations for this event benefit youth scholarships.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

James L. Davis, Servant Bishop

Arelis B. Davis, WMS Supervisor



**126TH SESSION OF
THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Wednesday, May 16, 2018
WMS Annual Convention**

**Wednesday – Saturday, May 16 – 19, 2018
Business, Training & Worship**

**Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 10:00a.m.
Opening Annual Service**

**Hotel Accommodations
Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown**



3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609
Room Rate: \$117.00+ Taxes
(Single/Double Occupancy)

Group Rate Cut-off Date – April 13, 2018 *
(800) 446-6677

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

<http://www.ame2.com/2018-annual-conferences>

**Rev. Robert L. Hodges, Sr., Host Pastor
Saint Paul AME Church, Raleigh, NC, Host Church
Reverend J. Bernard Wilder, Host Presiding Elder
Reverend Conrad Pridgen, Associate Host Presiding Elder**

SAVE THE DATE



ANNUAL LAY PRAYER & BREAKFAST & MEMORIAL SERVICE

**ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION
FORTHCOMING**



"Laity walking humbly with God to do justice and to love kindness."

September 8, 2018

**St. Matthew AMEC
1136 Apple Street
Burlington, NC 27217**

**Doors open at 9 AM
Program begins at 10 AM**

Tickets are \$15 per person

**Ms. Penny S. Oliver~
President WNCGL
Ms. Jackie Kanipe~
Chair of Prayer Breakfast
Committee
Ms. Emma White~
Host Church Lay President
Rev. Patrice Fields~
Host Pastor**

"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

"WHEN YOU HEAR THEM... ACT."



This month's, *Christian Recorder*, published a thought provoking article by the Reverend Tamara Kersey, the Pastor of Maxwell Chapel, Graham, NC. In the article, "Can You Hear the Cries?", Rev. Kersey, referenced Acts 9:39-42 to encourage the body of Christ in our charge to demonstrate the love of God through acts of compassion. Rev. Kersey reminds us that "[w]e cannot ignore the cries of our community, close our hearts and spiritual doors (ears) to the cries of those in need, and turn a blind eye to the weeping, hurting, and impoverished."



Rev. Tamara O. Kersey

Rev. Kersey entreats us that it is what we do for those some consider the *least of these* which most effectively reflects the relationship we share with Christ (Matthew 25:40). As such, she states, "[t]here is a monumental call to touch people's lives and not measure their worth by their tithe, musical gifting, or charismatic worship, while simultaneously demonizing and ostracizing them. Most communities today are in a compassion crisis." She goes on to say that as a result of this void in compassion 29% of the youth who self identify as lesbian, gay, or bi-sexual have attempted suicide at least once in a given year, as compared to six percent of youth who identify as heterosexual. Rev. Kersey exhorts us not to stand in positions of judgment when we encounter what we perceive as different because it is in these very moments that the Lord can manifest opportunities for many to come to believe in the Lord.

To read more from Rev. Kersey's article, "Can Your Hear the Cries?" visit the Christian Recorder at:



http://www.thechristianrecorder.com/can-you-hear-the-cries/?utm_source=The+Christian+Recorder&utm_campaign=559a3821ee-NEW%21%21%21+AME+News+Digest+1203..2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1b584cea2e-559a3821ee-47423965

HISTORY OF SAINT JOSEPH AME CHURCH

2521 Fayetteville Street, Durham, NC 27707



The history of Saint Joseph African Methodist Episcopal Church reflects legacies of spiritual dedication, diligence in service and unity of purpose. The founder, Rev. Edian D. Markham was born enslaved in Elizabeth City, North Carolina on April 23, 1824. In 1868, Rev. Markham and his wife, Molly, came to Durham and purchased a parcel of land from Mrs. Minerva Fowler, which he used for preaching and holding prayer meetings. Historians report that “the newly found church was nothing more than bushes supported by long poles which were fixed in the ground, with God’s ‘grassy earth’ as the floor”.

Shortly thereafter, a log cabin was constructed in which Rev. Markham continued to preach and teach the doctrine of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. On August 20, 1869, the church, with its six members, officially organized under the name Union Bethel A.M.E. Church. The founder’s wife, Mrs. Molly Markham, worked diligently with her husband in ministry and placed special emphasis on missionary endeavors until her death in February 1941. When the membership of the church reached fifteen, Rev. Markham was transferred to another pastorate. Rev. Markham’s ministry was succeeded by Rev. Lewis Edwards and Rev. George Hunter, respectively. Rev. Hunter accepted the challenge of initiating the construction of the first frame church building, which was replaced later on by a more stable frame edifice. Subsequent to the transfer of Rev. Hunter, the second frame building was completed by the Reverends Ofley Edwards and W.D. Cook.

As the membership continued to increase the pastor, officers and members developed plans for a more “stately” brick structure and the cornerstone was laid for the facility, in 1892, at 804 Fayetteville Street with the Rev. Andrew Chambers as pastor. The building program continued under a succession of pastors including W. Jordan, W.E. Walker, D.J. Beckett and J.E. Jackson, who shepherded the church’s completion. Soon the name of the church formally changed to Saint Joseph African Methodist Episcopal Church. The bricks used in construction were obtained from Robert Fitzgerald and Sons, an African-American Company. Church records show that church members and prominent community leaders made generous financial contributions. Key among them are John Merrick, Trustee and Co-Founder of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company; Professor W.G. Pearson, Trustee and Principal; Mrs. Minnie S. Pearson, Missionary Leader; Mr. John Avery, Connectional Layperson; and Mr. E.D. Mickle, outstanding Steward. Washington Duke, General Julian Carr, W.T. Blackwell and Eugene Morehead are among the white citizens of Durham whose financial contributions assisted the building program, and the maintenance of the new facility. Their names are embossed on the Church’s stained glass windows. The basement of the church was completed to street level during the administration of the Rev. J.A. Valentine.



The church membership made rapid gains in the twentieth century. On November 28, 1948, Rev. David A. Johnston with his wife, Verdelle Johnston and their daughter arrived at Saint Joseph. Rev. Johnston, was a visionary leader. In his tenure, the church planned and expanded the facility to include, the construction and dedication of the Edian D. Markham Memorial Educational Building and a new parsonage. The sanctuary was renovated, the exterior was painted and the bricks of the structure were restored to their original beauty. The Official Board endorsed the naming of the Education Building as a tribute to the founder on March 17, 1952. After the completion of the education building, Rev. Johnston established a Nursery School and First Grade. He also expanded his family by welcoming another daughter.

Rev. Johnston was succeeded by Rev. Melvin Chester Swann who was accompanied by his wife, Dorothy. Under the leadership of Rev. Swann, the Lay Organization was established at St. Joseph in 1964.

In September of 1965, the Rev. Philip R. Cousin, Sr. and his wife Margaret Joan and their sons came to Saint Joseph. Rev. Cousin was a young, assertive minister with progressive ideas. These resulted in the establishment of new programs and building plans. A new parsonage was constructed in October 1968, and seven acres of land at the corner of Fayetteville Street and Burlington Avenues was secured for a new facility.



A dedication service for the land was held in 1974, and immediately, Mr. Clinton Gravely, an African American architect from Greensboro, North Carolina, was employed to design a new church. Male and female designers in the corporation selected the color scheme, and the cornerstone was laid in October 1975.

A historic milestone for the Church occurred on February 15, 1976, as the congregation marched from 804 Fayetteville Street (the old site) to 2521 Fayetteville Street (the new site) for its Grand Opening. The new facility

officially was dedicated on April 11, 1976.

While the membership celebrated the construction of the “new” St. Joseph, they also recognized the historic value and civic contribution of the original site to the Durham community. Consequently, the original site was repurposed as a cultural enrichment and arts education facility and renamed the Hayti Heritage Center.

The year 1976 marked another milestone in St. Joseph’s history. During the month of June, Rev. Cousin was elected the 96th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the Fortieth Session of the General Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the first Bishop elected from St. Joseph, as well as the First A.M.E. Bishop from the State of North Carolina.

On August 15, 1976, Bishop Henry W. Murph, the Presiding Prelate of the Second Episcopal District appointed Rev. William Webster Easley, Jr. to St. Joseph. He was accompanied by his wife Ora, and their son. During his tenure, the church installed a new pipe organ.

Rev. Easley was succeeded by Rev. Philip R. Cousin, Jr., on August 16, 1992. He is the eldest son of Bishop and Mrs. Philip R. Cousin, Sr., who previously served at St. Joseph. Under his guidance, the church initiated a van ministry, refurbished the church offices and rooms, purchased new office equipment, completed a total renovation of the parsonage and an aggressive plan to liquidate the church mortgage was instituted. In 1996, the mortgage, which had been in excess of \$400,000.00, was burned. Further, under his leadership, the church appointed its first female members of the Board of Stewards. Included among the new appointees are Cora Bryant, Ava Haskins Brownlee, Azzie Conley, Emily Marshall and Natalie Perkins.

On June 16, 2013, The Reverend Ronald L. Owens was appointed pastor of St. Joseph A.M.E. Church. Rev. Owens, along with his wife Gwendolyn and daughter Ronnise, embraced the rich history of the church and are progressively implementing a new twenty-first-century vision and commitment for the St. Joseph church family. Notably, Rev. Owens initiated a progressive community outreach ministry, instituted programs and resource networks for seniors and established a college connection ministry with students at North Carolina Central University.

St. Joseph’s historic pastoral leadership has been complemented by the rich engagement of its members. Since the early 1900s, members of St. Joseph have held leadership positions on the Connectional Level in the African Methodist Episcopal Church including Mr. John Avery, Lay Leader and Mrs. Minnie S. Pearson, Missionary Leader. Following these early pioneers are others who made significant contributions to the Connectional Church. Notably, Attorney William A. Marsh Jr. was elected in 1976 as a member of the Judicial Council of the AME Church at the General Conference in Atlanta, Ga. Subsequently, in 1992, he became the Chief Counsel and in 1999, the General Counsel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Between 1960-1988, Mrs. Verdelle Johnston served as Conference Branch President of the Western North Carolina Conference Branch of the Women’s Missionary Society, Chairman of Promotion and Missionary Education for the Western North Carolina Conference; Connectional Historiographer of the Women’s Missionary Society; Chairman of Promotion and Missionary Education for the Second Episcopal District and was appointed the Second Episcopal District Supervisor by Bishop H. Hartford Brooks. During her tenure, Mrs. Johnston also authored the seminal text recording the history of the Women’s Missionary Society, entitled *One Hundred Years of Victorious Service*. Bishop John Hurst Adams and Dr. Dolly Desselle Adams appointed Mrs. Willia R. George the Connectional Chair of the Hughes-Smith Life Membership Committee of the Women’s Missionary Society from 1987-1995. The Connectional Women’s Missionary Society established the Endowment Fund, of which Mrs. George served as the First Chairperson. In addition, Mrs. Claudine Zimmerman was elected as Conference Director of the Young People’s Division of the Women’s Missionary Society.



The Church's history also includes other members who have held leadership in the Western North Carolina Conference. Mrs. Minerva Evans, Dr. James W. Hill, Sr. and Mary Dasher McAdams served as President of the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization. St. Joseph member Shontea Smith was elected to serve as the Historian for the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) in 2014. In 2015, her peers elected her to serve as the Secretary for RAYAC in the Second Episcopal District.

Most recently, St. Joseph member Azzie Conley was elected as an Adult delegate of the Western North Carolina Conference to the Fiftieth Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

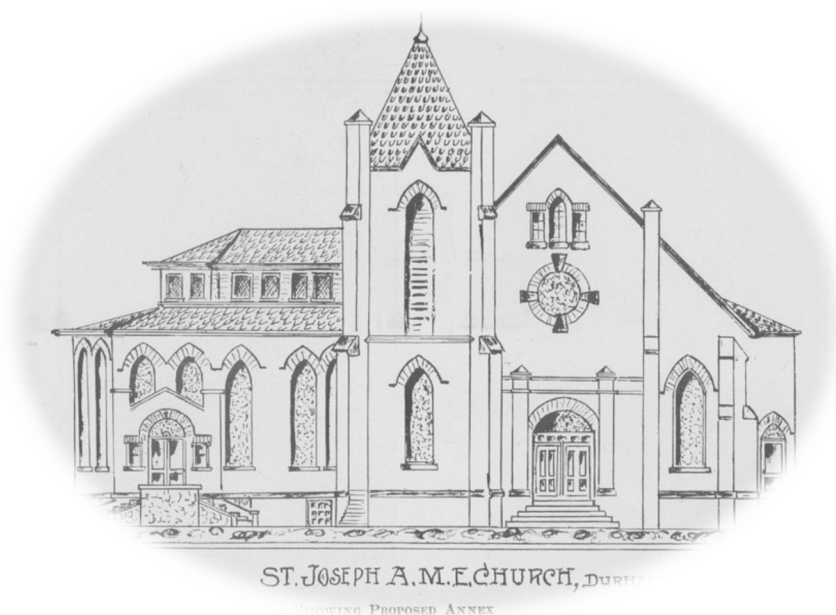
Ms. Conley was also elected as the district delegate of the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization to Thirty-Fifth Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization in 2017. She also represented the church as a delegate of the Western North Carolina Conference Branch of the Women's Missionary Society as a member of the Second Episcopal District Delegation to the Connectional Women's Missionary Society Quadrennial Convention. Significantly, she is the first female treasurer of St. Joseph A.M.E. Church.

St. Joseph was represented at the Connectional level by Adam Johnston, who was elected as the Youth delegate of the Western North Carolina Conference to the Fiftieth Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 2017 he was elected by the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization as a delegate to the Thirty-Fifth Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization. He serves as the Third Vice President for the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization.

Saint Joseph proudly salutes our Living Legacy Honorees whose unrelentingly dedicated service in building God's Kingdom have been recognized by Western District Community Development Corporation, spearheaded by Presiding Elder Conrad Pridgen. Our Living Legacy Honorees include 2013– Attorney William A. Marsh, Jr.; 2014–Robert McAdams; 2015– James W. Hill; 2016– Willia R. George; and 2017– John N. Smith.

St. Joseph continues to make significant contributions to the Durham community. The pastors of St. Joseph serve as mentors and provide apprenticeship opportunities for Duke Divinity School students. The church continues to maintain a training partnership with The Duke Divinity School. In addition, keeping with the entrepreneurial spirit of Bishop Richard Allen and the local church's founder, Reverend Markham, St. Joseph owns several properties that serve the Durham community.

Under God's guidance, we are united in hope, trusting God, putting our faith in action and moving forward.





Hidden Figures

Saint Joseph – Durham



Mr. Mason Earl Brooks, born 1934 in Rutherford County, attended North Carolina Central University (formerly North Carolina College) earning a degree in Biology in 1968. Mr. Brooks

worked for the State of North Carolina as a health care technician, at Duke University Medical Center, Lenox Baker Children's Hospital NS Murdock Center, retiring in 1994.

For the major part of his life, Mr. Brooks has been a driving force in the Scouting Program within the Durham community. With the desire to assist African American males to reach their full potential, he realized he could impact their lives through working within the program of the Boy Scouts of America. He began this effort as a Scout volunteer at Duke Medical Center. From there he branched out and started a Cub Scout Pack #149 in 1970 at Mt Zion Baptist Church, where he served as Cubmaster for several years.

Mason Brooks continued to recruit and design scouting programs in various locations in the city. He chartered or re-chartered four other scout programs within the Mawat District of the Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts of America: Cub Scouts Pack #137 at St. Joseph AMEC (re-chartered in 1984); Cub Scout Pack #149 at Bell-Yeager Free Will Baptist Church (re-chartered in 1999); and Cub Scout Pack #133 at First Ebenezer Baptist Church (2006). In 2012, he started a pre-Tiger program at St. Joseph AMEC. This Tiger program is the only one of its kind in the Mawat District. Within these programs, he has recruited approximately 1400 boys and 500 leaders and has been certified as an Occoneechee Trainer for all scouts and scout leaders.

At St. Joseph where he has been a member since 1982, more than 400 boys have come

through the scouting program. Pack # 137 has sold more than \$10,000 worth of popcorn to support the Occoneechee Council raise funds to take cub scouts and parents on field trips, as well as provide other learning experiences, i.e., oratorical contest and other competitive activities which help foster a sense of self-esteem with the youth.

Mr. Brooks has been a father figure and role model to many young men who have gone on to become educators, businessmen, and other career professionals. He is the father of 3 adult sons who were also introduced to the scouting program. He firmly believes that a good scouting program helps develop a boy into a better man. Today at the age of 81, his level of enthusiasm and commitment to scouting are as solid as they were when began 43 years ago.

Awards received include: the Silver Beaver Award 1988; the Mawat District Award of Merit 1980; a nominee for the Boy Scouts of America 100 Anniversary National Hall of Leadership 2010; Bishops Award of Excellence-St Joseph AMEC 2011; 40 Years of Service Award of Excellence 2011; Minnie S. Pearson Missionary Award 1995; 20 Years of Continuous Service as Cubmaster Pack #137 St. Joseph AMEC 2005; Leadership Lead with a Vision St. Joseph AMEC 2000; Youth Leadership Award-St. Joseph AMEC 2003; Mawat District Heritage Award 2006; and Man of the Year of St. Joseph 2017.



Mr. Everett L. Goldston was born in Durham, May 25, 1926. He has a member of St Joseph AME Church since the age of 3 years old (1929). Mr. Goldston's greatest, most rewarding accomplishment was working with the church in the re-

organization of a 15-member Wind Ensemble at St. Joseph AME Church in 1970.

This was after St. Joseph moved from 804 Fayetteville Street (currently the Hayti Heritage Center) to the present location 2521 Fayetteville Street. St Joseph previously had a Sunday School Orchestra started in 1941 which lasted until 1945 under Joseph N. Mills, Jr. Mr. Goldston and others revived the orchestra in 1947 and it became regular again at the old church. The orchestra played for Sunday School every Sunday until St Joseph moved to 2521 Fayetteville Street at which time the orchestra was renamed the St Joseph Wind Ensemble performing Christmas, Easter and other occasions when asked.

Mr. Goldston does not brag about his accomplishments, but he participated in the Soap Box Derby as a youngster. He later worked as a band director for 15 years, specializing in Brass. His education profession began at Coates High School in North Hampton county. He then worked in Warrenton, Asheboro and in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Mr. Goldston stated, this was during the time when black schools in rural areas were called "Training Schools".

Being one of seven WWII veterans, returning to Durham with high hopes of becoming pilots, this dream was accomplished as a result of the G.I. Bill, which offered flying training. Mr. Goldston and his friends, sitting in his mother's home, established the Durham "Bronze Wing" Flying Club in 1947. The seven completed and became licensed pilots by late November 1947. In-flight training took place at the Durham Airways just off highway 85 north and the Raleigh-Durham Airport. All instructions were taught by Civil Aeronautics Administration personnel, certified from the National Aeronautics Association in Washington, DC. Mr. Goldston states their mission was to foster awareness and interest among black youth in the immediate area. They could acquire the necessary flight time to qualify for advanced certification.

The Bronze Wing" Flying Club enjoyed carrying friends on local cross-country flights, Sunday afternoon joy rides and special pre-arranged breakfast flights. Also, during the club's existence, they sponsored two air shows, dubbed The National Negro Aviation Convention.

Mr. Goldston published an article in the Carolina Times Newspaper entitled "Lest We Forget, Durham's Forgotten Flyers", on April 20, 2003. This article recounts the more than 50 years of historic accomplishments of these seven friends who had accomplished their goal of having become licensed-certified pilots.



Mr. Ervin Hester, ABC-Channel 11's first African-America anchor. Hester made history in the early 1970's becoming the first African-American news anchor in the southeast. In 1996, Hester made history, again, as the first African-American inducted into the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.



Dr. James W. Hill is a mighty man of God who loves the Lord and serves with gladness. Dr. Hill has been a member of Saint Joseph AME Church for over sixty years. His church work includes: former Vice Chair of the Steward Board for over three decades; former member Commission on Stewardship and Finance; Assistant Teacher and member of Berean Sunday School Class; former WNCC Conference Lay President; and former SED Lay Parliamentarian.

Dr. Hill served as President of Durham Business College (1974 - 1980). He is a sixty plus year member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.



Mrs. Verdelle Ruth Jennings Johnston was a distinguished educator and passionate activist in the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She designed and implemented the first instructional program for African American special education students in Durham, North Carolina. Over her more than thirty years of service, Mrs. Johnston was credited with enhancing learning gains for numerous students with learning disabilities.

Her professional responsibilities also energized her work in missions in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Johnston was an active member of the Caroline Bond Unit of the Women's Missionary Society at St. Joseph AME Church. Her activism at St. Joseph led to her engagement at the Conference level in women's missions. For several years, Mrs. Johnston served as Conference Branch President of the Western North Carolina Conference Branch of the Women's Missionary Society. She also served as Chairman of Promotion and Missionary Education for the Western North Carolina Conference.

Subsequently she served as Connectional Historiographer of the Women's Missionary Society. Then she worked as Chairman of Promotion and Missionary Education for the Second Episcopal District and was appointed by Bishop H. Hartford Brookins as the Second Episcopal District Supervisor. Notably, Mrs. Johnston was one of two women in the history of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to serve as Episcopal supervisors who were not Bishop's wives.

During her tenure Mrs. Johnston authored the seminal text of the history of the Women's Missionary Society titled *One Hundred Years of Victorious Service*.

Mrs. Johnston contributed significantly to her church and her community.

recognized as a "Social Work Pioneer" by the National Association of Social Workers. Mrs. McClinton will be 100 years old in 2018.



Representative Henry M. Michaux, Jr., was born September 4, 1930 and attended the public schools of Durham, NC, and graduated from Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia, NC. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from North Carolina Central University in 1952 and a Juris Doctor Degree with honors in 1964. Further graduate work was done in Business Administration and Economics at North Carolina Central University and in Physiology and Biochemistry at Rutgers University.

Representative Michaux has been a licensed and practicing Real Estate Broker and Property Casualty Agent and Broker in the State of North Carolina for 50 + years. He is a practicing attorney and was admitted to practice before all local and federal courts including the United States Supreme Court. Representative Michaux was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as the United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina – the first African American to serve in that position in the South.

Representative Michaux served in the North Carolina House of Representatives and was elected in 1972 – 1977 and re-elected in 1984-present. His most notable achievement in the North Carolina Legislature was to serve as Senior Chair of the Appropriations Committee (Chief Budget Writer) from 2008-2010. He is the longest serving African American and Democrat in the North Carolina General Assembly. He served on the Board of Trustees of North Carolina Central University, Board of Directors of the North Carolina Central University Foundation and as the National President of the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association for three terms.

Among numerous honors and awards Representative Michaux receiver are Honorary Doctor of Law degree from North Carolina Central University, inducted into the North Carolina Central University Athletic Hall of Fame, the naming of the NCCU's education building in his honor "H. M. Michaux School of Education", Spectacular Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award, inducted into the Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in the area of Government and was awarded the James E. Shepard Medallion by North Carolina Central University.



Attorney William A. Marsh, Jr., is a native of Durham, North Carolina, known throughout the AME Connectional Church and Durham Community for his stellar legal counsel. He has been a pioneering civil rights lawyer since 1953.

Attorney Marsh is a life long member of St. Joseph's AME Church. One of his passions is studying God's word and teaching the Berean Bible Sunday School Class. Attorney Marsh currently serves as Special Counsel to the AME Church, after previously serving as General Counsel.

In addition to serving as General Counsel to the historic African-American financial institutions of Mechanics & Farmers Bank, and Mutual Community Savings Bank, Attorney Marsh also served as chairman of the NC State Board of elections. Attorney William A. Marsh, Jr. is a 33rd degree Mason and served as Sovereign Grand for NC, Free & Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliation and served as Grand Attorney.



Professor Hortense McClinton, a member of St. Joseph AME Church in Durham, NC, graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in the 1930s. She became the first black professor at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill. She has received

many awards and professional honors from UNC including the Hortense McClinton Outstanding Faculty Staff Award, which is presented by the General Alumni Association and the Hortense McClinton Senior Service Award which is presented by the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She is



Dr. Donald Torian Moore, son of John and Annabelle Moore was born in LaGrange, GA on May 4, 1933. He attended LaGrange Public Schools and graduated from Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, NC. He received his Bachelor of Science degree with

honors from Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA in 1954, and a Doctor of Medicine degree from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN in 1958. He served his country as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He interned at Detroit Receiving Hospital, Detroit, MI, and did his resident training in Surgery at Malden Hospital, Malden, MA and his Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN) residency at Hubbard Hospital, Nashville, TN.

Don Moore was a consummate physician, teacher, role model, and family man. He came to Durham in 1965 and joined the medical staff of Lincoln Hospital, and later, Durham Regional Hospital, the Lincoln Community Health Center, and the Duke Medical School faculty.

This was the first time that an African American physician had held such a position at Duke University. Dr. Moore was in private practice for 23 years in Durham and during this time maintained his teaching position. In 1988, he became a full-time Associate Clinical Professor at Duke University Medical School.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Moore was a diplomat of the American College of OBGYN; a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the honor society of Medicine; Bayard Cancer Society; the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics; and the National Medical Society. He served as President of the Lincoln Hospital Staff, President of the Durham Academy of Medicine, a member of the Old North State Medical Society, a member of the National Medical Association and Secretary-Treasurer of Durham County General Hospital Staff. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity-Alpha Tau Chapter, and a member of St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church, where he served as a Senior Steward.

In appreciation of Dr. Moore's invaluable contributions to the Duke and Durham communities, The Donald T. Moore, M.D. Endowed Lectureship was established in 2012, at Duke University Medical School. This annual lectureship will bring to Duke and Durham, nationally recognized experts on such topics as healthcare disparities, societal issues related to access to care and the economics and politics of healthcare. To honor Dr. Moore's commitment

to all women patients and to healthcare in Durham this lecture is open to the entire community.



Mrs. Willia Robinson George leadership has extended beyond the Local Church, to the State, National, and International levels of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. At St. Joseph she has served as Christian Education Director. Trustee, 1990-1992, Ladies Aid Society President,

1990-2005, Young Adult Sunday School Class Founder, Church School Teacher, and Mary C. Evans Missionary Unit Chair. Additionally, she was elected Conference Branch President of the Western North Carolina Women's Missionary Society, 1980-1987. From 1987-2011, she served as the international chair of four committees: the Hughes-Smith Life Membership Committee, 1985-1995; The Creative & Performing Arts Commission, 2003-2011; Quadrennial Convention Banner Chair, 2007 and 2011.

Mrs. George has served the Durham Community in several leadership roles: She was honored as a Durham Key Volunteer and a North Carolina State Volunteer. 1983. She was one of ten First Exchange Teachers to Toyama, Japan, 1992, sponsored by The Durham Sister Cities Program. Upon their return, Mrs. George co-designed the first Guidelines for Educator Exchanges for teachers and students. She has held Presidency of Durham County Library Association; The North Carolina Central Library School Alumni Association, 1978-80 and Durham Public Media Coordinators; additionally, she was elected "Teacher of the Year" at Holloway Street School 1975.



Ms. Virginia Williams, a member of St. Joseph AME Church for over 50 years, graduated from Gumberry High School in Gumberry, NC in 1955. She came to Durham, North Carolina in March 1956 from Seaboard, North Carolina.

In June 1957, she joined six (6) others and entered the Royal Ice Cream Parlor and occupied several booths and refused to leave. They were arrested and charged with trespassing. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), paid their fines. They are known as, "The Royal Seven".





Hidden Figures

Does your church have members (living or deceased) who have done exemplary things in the community, or who are/were trailblazers in their profession(s)?

Well... the *Lay Express* want to know who they are, and what they did.

Each month the *Lay Express* will highlight a church in the Western North Carolina Conference and feature the church's "Hidden Figures"

Just send the individual's name (layperson or clergy), a picture (if available), and a very brief description of your church's "Hidden Figures".

You never know when your church will enter the spotlight, so ***the SOONER*** you submit your "Hidden Figure(s)"

the BETTER!



365 DAYS OF BLACK HISTORY

The February Edition

Feb. 1, 1865 - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted by the 38th Congress.

Feb. 1, 1902 - Langston Hughes, a famous poet, was born this day in Joplin, Mo.

Feb. 1, 1926 - What is now known as Black History Month was first celebrated on this date as Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson. It became a month long celebration in 1976.

Feb. 2, 1862 - District of Columbia abolishes slavery.

Feb. 2, 1914 - Ernest Just, genetic biologist, wins the Spingarn Medal. He received this same medal on this day in 1915 for his pioneering in cell division and fertilization.

Feb. 2, 1948 - President Truman sent Congress a special message urging the adoption of a Civil Rights program, including the creation of a fair employment practices commission.

Feb. 3, 1903 - Jack Johnson wins the Negro Heavyweight title.

Feb. 3, 1920 - The Negro Baseball League is founded.

Feb. 3, 1965 - Geraldine McCullough, sculptor, wins the Widener Gold Medal Award.

Feb. 4, 1913 - Rosa Parks (born Rosa Louise McCauley) was born on this day.

Feb. 4, 1971 - National Guard mobilized to quell rioting in Wilmington, N.C. Two persons killed.

Feb. 4, 1996 - J. C. Watts becomes the first Black selected to respond to a State of the Union Address



Representative J.C. Watts

Feb. 5, 1866 - Congressman Thaddeus Stevens offered an amendment to Freedmen's Bureau Bill authorizing the distribution of public land and confiscated land to freedmen and loyal refugees in 40- acre lots.

Feb. 5, 1958 - Clifton R. Wharton Sr. confirmed as minister to Rumania. This career diplomat was the first Black to head a U.S. embassy in Europe.

Feb. 5, 1962 - Suit seeking to bar Englewood, N.J., from maintaining "racial segregated" elementary schools filed in U.S. District Court.

Feb. 6, 1820 - "Mayflower of Liberia" sailed from New York City with eighty six Blacks. Black population: 1,771,656 (18.4%)

Feb. 6, 1993 - Arthur Ashe dies. First African American tennis player to win at Wimbledon.

Feb. 6, 1867 - Robert Tanner Jackson becomes first African American to receive a degree in dentistry.

Feb. 7, 1926 - Negro History Week originated by Carter G. Woodson is observed for the first time.

Feb. 8, 1944 - Harry S. McAlphin, first African American to be accredited to attend the White House press conference.

Feb. 8, 1986 - Oprah Winfrey becomes the first African American woman to host a nationally syndicated talk show

Feb. 9, 1944 - Novelist Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Ga.

Feb. 9, 1952 - Author Ralph Ellison's novel Invisible Man wins the National Book Award.

Feb. 9, 1971 - Leroy "Satchel" Paige is inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Feb. 9, 1995 - Bernard Harris, African American astronaut, takes space walk.

Feb 10, 1927 - Leontyne Price, who became an internationally acclaimed opera singer, was born in Laurel, Miss.

Feb. 10, 1964 - After 12 days of debate and voting on 125 amendments, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by a vote of 290-130.



Ms. Leontyne Price

Feb. 10, 1966 - Economist Andrew Brimer is appointed to the Federal Reserve Board.

Feb. 11, 1961 - Robert Weaver sworn in as administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, highest federal post to date by a black American.

Feb. 11, 1976 - Clifford Alexander Jr. confirmed as the first black secretary of the United States Army.

Feb. 11, 1990 - Nelson Mandela is released from a South African prison after being detained for 27 years as political prisoner.

Feb. 12, 1865 - Henry Highland Garnet, first black to speak in the Capitol, delivered memorial sermon on the abolition of slavery at services in the House of Representatives.

Feb. 12, 1909 - The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded. The call for the organizational meeting was issued on 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth by 47 whites and six blacks.

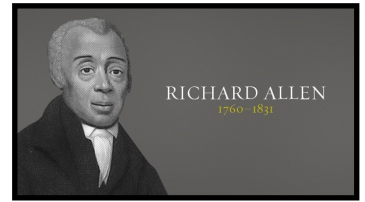
Feb. 12, 1948 - First Lt. Nancy C. Leftneant became the first black accepted in the regular Army Nursing Corps.

Feb. 13, 1923 - The first black professional basketball team, "The Renaissance," was organized.

Feb. 13, 1957 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized at New Orleans meeting with Martin Luther King Jr. as president.

Feb 13, 1970 - The New York Stock Exchange admits its first black member, Joseph Searles.

Feb. 14, 1760 - Bishop Richard Allen, the founder and first consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Feb. 14, 1817 - Frederick Douglass, "The Great Emancipator," is born.

Feb. 14, 1867 - Morehouse College organized in Augusta, Ga. The institution was later moved to Atlanta. New registration law in Tennessee abolished racial distinctions in voting.

Feb. 14, 1936 - National Negro Congress organized at Chicago meeting attended by 817 delegates representing more than 500 organizations.

Feb. 15, 1848 - Sarah Roberts barred from white school in Boston. Her father, Benjamin Roberts, filed the first school integration suit on her behalf.

Feb. 15, 1851 - Black abolitionists invaded a Boston courtroom and rescued a fugitive slave.

Feb. 15, 1968 - Henry Lewis becomes the first black to lead a symphony orchestra in the United States.

Feb. 16, 1857 - Frederick Douglass elected President of Free-man Bank and Trust.



Ms. Bessie Smith

Feb. 16, 1923 - Bessie Smith makes her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues, which sells 800,000 copies for Columbia Records.

Feb. 16, 1951 - New York City Council passes a bill prohibiting racial discrimination in city-assisted housing developments.

Feb. 17, 1870 - Congress passed resolution readmitting Mississippi on condition that it would never change its constitution to disenfranchise blacks.

Feb. 17, 1963 - Michael Jeffrey Jordan, famed basketball player and former minor league baseball player, born in New York, N.Y.

Feb. 17, 1997 - Virginia House of Delegates votes unanimously to retire the state song, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," a tune that glorifies slavery.

Feb. 18, 1688 - First formal protest against slavery by organized white body in English America made by Germantown Quakers at monthly meeting.

Feb. 18, 1865 - Rebels abandoned Charleston. First Union troops to enter the city included twenty-first U.S.C.T., followed by two companies of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers.

Feb. 18, 1931 - Toni Morrison (born Chloe Anthony Wofford), who will win the Pulitzer Prize for her novel *Beloved*, was born on this day in Lorain, Ohio.

Feb. 19, 1919 - Pan-African Congress, organized by W.E.B. DuBois, met at the Grand Hotel, Paris. There were 57 delegates- -16 from the United States and 14 from Africa as well as others from 16 countries and colonies.

Feb. 20, 1895 - Death of Frederick Douglass. Douglass was the leading black spokesman for almost 50 years. He was a major abolitionist, lecturer, and editor.

Feb. 21, 1895 - North Carolina Legislature, dominated by black Republicans and white Populists, adjourned for the day to mark the death of Frederick Douglass.

Feb. 22, 1979 - Frank E. Peterson Jr. named the first black general in the Marine Corps.

Feb. 23, 1965 - Constance Baker Motley elected Manhattan Borough president, the highest elective office held by a black woman in a major American city.



Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler

Feb. 24, 1864 - Rebecca Lee Crumpler became the first black woman to receive an M.D. degree.

Feb. 25, 1870 - Hirman R. Revels of Mississippi was sworn in as first black U.S. Senator and first black Representative in Congress.

Feb. 25, 1948 - Martin Luther King was ordained as a Baptist minister.

Feb. 25, 1971 - President Nixon met with members of the Congressional Black Caucus and appointed a White House panel to study a list of recommendations made by the group.



Senator Hirman R. Revels

Feb. 26, 1869 - Fifteenth Amendment guaranteeing the right to vote sent to the states for ratification.

Feb. 26, 1926 - Carter G. Woodson started Negro History Week. This week would later become Black History Month.

Feb. 27, 1869 - John W. Menard spoke in Congress in defense of his claim to a contested seat in Louisiana's Second Congressional District. Congress decided against both claimants. Congressman James A. Garfield of the examining committee said "it was too early to admit a Negro to the U.S. Congress." Menard was the first black to make a speech in Congress.

Feb. 27, 1988 - Figure skater Debi Thomas becomes the first African American to win a medal (bronze) at the winter Olympic Games.

Feb. 28, 1859 - Arkansas legislature required free blacks to choose between exile and enslavement.

Feb. 28, 1932 - Richard Spikes invented/patented the automatic gear shift.

Information can be found at:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs141p2_015471.pdf

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE CONNECTION



February 15-17, 2018

SED Mid-Winter Meeting

February 17, 2018

SED Lay Organization

Prayer Breakfast

Sheraton Four Seasons ~ Greensboro, NC

February 24, 2018

P. E. Wilder Pre-Retirement Banquet

Greensboro, NC

March 10, 2018

WNCC Lay Org. Meeting ~ 10 a.m.

St James AME Church ~ Asheville, NC

March 10-11, 2018

Power of Prayer Women's Weekend

Maxwell Chapel AME Church

835 Moores Chapel Cemetery Rd

Graham, NC 27253

For Additional Information call:

336-376-6362

March 14, 2018

**Deadline to declare intent to run for
office in WNCC Lay Organization**

April 14, 2018

WNCC Lay Org. Election ~ 10 a.m.

Springdale AME Church ~ Burlington,
NC

April 21, 2018

YAR Gospel Explosion ~ Turner's

Chapel AME Church ~ High Point, NC
(formerly "Jack and Jill" event)

May 16-19, 2018

WNC Annual Conference

North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, NC

May 17, 2018

WNCCLO Lay Program ~ 7:30 p.m.

North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, NC

July 16-19, 2018

The Summit ~ Hampton, VA

Room Reservation details available at:

[http://www.ame2.com/summer-summit-](http://www.ame2.com/summer-summit-2018)

2018

September 27-30, 2018

SEDLO Lay Convention, TBA

THE FINAL REMINDERS

- **Lay Organization Membership dues NOW {\$6 Adults} for 2018 Membership Dues must be current by March 18th for voting and election privileges.**
- Reserve room at Sheraton Greensboro Four Seasons Hotel (1-800-242-6556) for the SED Mid-Winter Gathering". (Double/King Room \$129 + tax). Gathering is scheduled for February 15-17.
- **Open an account at a black bank.**
- Complete and submit the WNCC Lay Organization "Letter of Intent" for WNCC election **by March 14th**. The form and additional information can be found on the www.wncclay.org .
- Reserve room at Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown (1-800-446-6677) for the Western NC Annual Conference **by April 13th** (Single/Double Room \$117 + tax). The Annual Conference is scheduled for May 16-19, 2018.
- Reserve room **ASAP** at Embassy Suites by Hilton Hotel (757-827-8200 or at www.embassysuiteshampton.com) in Hampton, VA for the Summer Summit under block "2nd Episcopal Summer Summit". The Summer Summit is scheduled for July 16-19. **A one-night non-refundable deposit is due at the time reservations are made. THESE ROOMS ARE FOR THOSE NOT STAYING ON HAMPTON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.**

Single/Double—\$159 + tax per night
Triple/Quad — \$169 + tax per night

For additional information on the events above,

Please visit the Second Episcopal District website, www.ame2.com,
and/or the website of the WNCC Lay Organization, www.wncclay.org.

WE NEED YOUR "CHURCH HISTORY",
"HIDDEN FIGURES",
& "CHURCH EVENTS"
by February 26th

Angela Elam ~ allendur@aol.com

Shontea Smith ~ shontea.smith@gmail.com