



Western North Carolina Conference LAY EXPRESS



Volume II

October 2016

Issue 8

10TH ANNUAL LAY PRAYER BREAKFAST

How would you describe this event? Fantastic! Superb! Outstanding! Uplifting! These are just some of the words that come to mind when I think of the wonderful time we shared at Macedonia AMEC in Milton, NC on the 2nd Saturday in September. It is fitting that the 10th anniversary of this event fell on the 10th day of the month. The food was delicious. The decorations were awesome and the program was excellent. From the opening prayer by Sis. Jessie Cardwell, to the welcome by Pastor Kelvin Royster and the host Lay President, Bro. Jerome Wilson, to the harmonious music by the Macedonia Male Chorus, to the many prayers that were offered up on our behalf, to the singing of the Lord's Prayer and to the simple memorial service to honor those who have left this earth, all was excellent! Certificates were given to those persons who had worked with the Prayer Breakfast for the past 10 years. It started as an idea from Sis. Starr Battle taken to our past President, Bro. Dwight Patterson, and now

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
1	10 th Annual Prayer Breakfast
2	Voter Information-Souls to the Polls
3 - 5	Church Spotlight
6	Events
7 - 8	Lay Institute Information/Form
9	SEDLO Convention Registration Form

carried on by our current President. A hearty congratulation is extended to all! A special thanks to the Pastors and clergy who attended and to PE Conrad Pridgen.

President Penny Oliver, thank you for your willingness to serve.



Our Worship Leader

Almost 200
in
attendance



Macedonia
Male
Chorus



Memorial Service



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION



Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization
Social Action

September 20, 2016

I greet you in the Mighty and Matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

This upcoming General Election is very Crucial! Not only is it important that we vote, we must make sure that everyone in our church is registered and votes. **(If necessary, provide transportation - "Souls to the Polls")**

The Social Action committee of the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization is asking every Pastor/Lay President to make sure everyone in your congregation is registered voters.

Voting Registration will end October 14, 2016. You will be able to register and vote during the early voting period. **We recommend voting early.** Early Voting will begin in most counties in North Carolina Thursday, October 20, 2016 - ending Saturday, November 5, 2016. Check with your local Board of Elections and Precinct for actual dates.

You can also vote by Absentee Ballot! You can obtain an Absentee Ballot from your local Board of Elections or you can download from your computer. This ballot must be returned to your local Board of Election on or before the General Elections on November 8, 2016.

Voter ID is not required during this election.

If you vote on November 8, 2016 you must be a registered voter. **You cannot register and vote on November 8, 2016.** If you have any concerns, contact the Social Action Chair of the Western North Conference Lay Organization. We are asking that you report to the Social Action Chair the number of voters you have registered. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Kenneth R. Woods Sr., Chair
Social Action Committee
email: kwoods6@centurytel.net
Phone: 336-263-1097

Penny S. Oliver, President
Western North Carolina Lay Organization
email: penny.oliver52@yahoo.com
Phone: 336-348-3259

Per your request at our conference meeting on Saturday, Adam Johnston, 3rd VP, has provided the following information. Thank you Adam! The website below lists by state the federal and state primary and general election results for this election cycle and previous election cycles, background information on each of the candidates, and salaries for each of the elected positions. This is a broad tool to use in preparation on who to decide to vote for in November. I would advise that those who do use this website, still compare and contrast the ballot that is provided online by your local county board of elections office with the candidates individual websites or newspaper articles written about each candidate seeking an elected position.

https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page

Penny S. Oliver, President

Wilbert Hooker, Jr., 1st Vice President

Diane Foy, Recording Secretary

Greater Bethel AME Church History

In 1897, Rev. A. J. Mitchell arrived in Charlotte, North Carolina from Winnsboro, SC seeking employment. He met Samuel T. Moore, also from the same city. They were both African Methodists and sought to establish a church of this denomination. In the same year with spiritual guidance, God's blessings, and determination, thirteen African Methodists from Winnsboro, South Carolina, together with Rev. Mitchell and Mr. Moore, organized and founded Bethel African Methodist Church. Other charter members were: Mrs. Samuel T. Moore, Mrs. Charlie Lyles, Mrs. Bessie Cooley, Mrs. Sally Rabb Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Vick, and Mrs. J. L. Eagle.

Rev A. J. Mitchell was the first pastor of Bethel AME Church. The church was located at 906 First Street. The congregation later relocated to the Good Samaritan Hall that stood on the corner of South Caldwell and East Boundary Streets. The Hall burned down and the congregation held services in a building on Crockett Street. The Good Samaritan Hall was rebuilt and the congregation returned to that site.

In 1901, Brother Samuel T. Moore, one of the most faithful members and one of the founders, loaned the church \$550 to purchase a parcel of land at Starr Street and South Boulevard and the Sunday School Building was erected. Rev. J. D. Cowan, then Presiding Elder, gave a helping hand with the construction of the building. Shortly thereafter, the Sanctuary was constructed under the Pastorate of Rev. A. Wilson.

In 1969, Rev. H. D. Patterson and the Bethel AME congregation were compelled to move to a new location because of Urban Renewal Redeployment. With the consent of Rev. James E. McCollum, the officers and members of Gillespie United Methodist Church, Bethel held services for one year at their church. When it became necessary to relocate, Rev. McCollum and his congregation granted Bethel the privilege to continue to worship at the old site of Simpson Chapel United Methodist Church on West Trade Street.

In 1970, a resourceful and energetic Christian leader, Rev. Mayo Rich, was sent to be the Pastor. It was under his leadership that Bethel marched triumphantly into the location at 201 Grandin Road under the name Greater Bethel African Methodist Church, The adjective "Greater" was added with the consent of the membership to reflect God's blessing on the congregation and their works.

Under the administration of Rev. L. S. Penn, the Young Adult Choir was reactivated and gave its first Anniversary Concert. The annual concerts became a tradition.

Rev. Frank M. Reid III was appointed Pastor after Rev. Penn. During his tenure, Greater Bethel initiated the "Faith Can Move Mountains" outreach radio broadcast. Under Rev. Reid's youthful and militant leadership, the membership grew by leaps and bounds. Much of the growth was including membership comprised primarily of students attending the nearby Johnson C. Smith University.

In June 1980, Rev. Levi Brown, Jr. was appointed Pastor. Rev. Brown was involved in evangelism

and ecumenism. Under his leadership, Greater Bethel entered into a renovation project and the physical structure of the Church was renovated. A new conference room and officers for the Pastor and secretary were added.

In July 1985, Rev. David L. Morrison, Sr. received his appointment to Greater Bethel from the Rt. Rev. John Hurst Adams. Bethel was able to continue the renovations under Rev. Morrison's inspiring direction. The parsonage received major renovations, including new bathrooms, carpeting, and a new roof. The outdoor sign for the Church was remodeled and made of durable brick. The Church grew in membership and spiritual fervor. Rev. Morrison possessed leadership qualities and was a loving and caring Minister, who was a friend to all.

In May 1989, Rev. Conrad K. Pridgen was appointed Pastor. Under his leadership, the renovation program continued with the selection of a contractor and the implementation of the "Renovation Project", which had been started under the leadership of Rev. Morrison. Under Pastor Pridgen's inspirational leadership, a Youth Bible Study, a Young Adult Choir named "The Bethel Spiritualites", by Rev. Brendalyn Jones, an Outreach Service, and other Church activities were implemented. The Church grew spiritually and became actively involved in the community. The church held a Saturday Soup Kitchen, hosted AA meetings and was a popular "water stop" for the annual CROP Walk. Rev. Pridgen was instrumental in the purchase of the Siskron Property for Greater Bethel located on Grandin and Tuckaseegee Roads. This marked major and historical growth for the church.

In 1997, following the death of Presiding Elder John R. Crutchfield, and under the directive of Second Episcopal District Bishop Dr. Vinton R. Anderson, Rev. Pridgen was moved to Bethel AME Church in Greensboro and Rev. Benjamin Foust, (then pastor of Bethel in Greensboro) was appointed to serve as Presiding Elder of the Western District of the WNCCL. Rev. Dr. Walter V. Howard, Jr. (then pastor of Mt. Zion-Greensboro) was appointed to Greater Bethel. All of this occurred during the October 1997 Mid-Year Conference at Mt. Zion AME Church in Hillsborough, N.C.

In 1998, Dr. Howard led the people of Greater Bethel in the renovation of the upper level of the church building, which had not been used in over 25 years. The "Upper Room", as it was affectionately called, was completely renovated and remodeled. The area consisted of a music rehearsal area meeting rooms, computer lab, print shop, ministerial lounge, finance room and the Pastor's office suite.

Other Pastors who led the congregation through the years were: Rev. Pearson, Rev. Cleland, Rev. Avery, Rev. Morrison, Rev. Marsh, Rev. A. J. Mattison, Rev. H. B. Thompson, Rev. H. Lucas, Rev. S. C. Thompkins, Rev. P. O. James and Rev. Wylie Williams.

In 2007, at the Planning Meeting in Hampton, VA, Bishop A. J. Richardson appointed Rev. Morris Reddon, Jr. formerly of the Baltimore Conference to lead the people of Greater Bethel. Upon his arrival, Rev. Reddon asked the congregation to "follow me as I follow Christ". Under his direction, the members have rallied together to reorganize the Girl and Boy Scouts, revive the building fund, revamp the Hospitality/Greeter Committee and increase participation in the outreach ministry, all

demonstrating that his primary focus is on Kingdom Building.

Rev. Morris Reddon, Jr. as Pastor of Greater Bethel, was supported in God's work by the first lady of the church, Rev. Gloria Reddon, a powerful preaching woman of God; Bishop Vernon Byrd (Ret.) who has gone on to glory; Presiding Elder Thomas Clark (Ret.) and the members of the Ministerial Staff. Due to the sale of the Grandin Road property, the Greater Bethel congregation was faced with the major challenge of relocation. Seeking to follow God's will, Pastor Reddon, the officers and members of Greater Bethel temporarily worshipped in the Alexander Funeral Home, affectionately referred to as "The Chapel", as they sought their new church home. At "The Chapel", the Holy Spirit thrived as members and visitors worshipped, praised and sang to the glory of God. Through dynamic preaching and anointed teaching, Rev. Reddon did not let the spirits of the members wane. Instead, he kept the congregation focused on soul saving and kingdom building. He proclaimed that the Lord would lead the Greater Bethel family into a permanent home within a year - a seemingly impossible feat by man's standards.

Seeking God's path to a church home, the Trustee Board members prayed and searched the city of Charlotte for property to build a church and for an existing facility that would meet the needs of the congregation and the ministries of the church. Sis. Elizabeth Carrothers of Greater Bethel informed the congregation that a church building would be available for sale. Rev. Reddon, along with Trustee Pro Tem, Bro. Robert Roberts and Steward Pro Tem, Bro. Matthew Holland, met with officers of Grace Baptist Church regarding the sale. In October 2008, the leadership of Greater Bethel began the negotiations for the purchase of Grace Baptist Church located at 5232 The Plaza. The sale was approved by both congregations and the AME Church hierarchy and the purchase finalized on January 26, 2009 with the official "closing" on the \$2.5 million property one year after the move from Grandin Road.

On Sunday, February 1, 2009, Rev. Reddon led the officers and members of Greater Bethel into their new church home. On that day, the members of Greater Bethel along with supporters and friends witnessed the glorious culmination of a journey that was truly directed by the Lord. During the tenure of Rev. Reddon, God's plan for Greater Bethel has been manifested in the growth of the congregation, the increase in and display of spirituality, and growth in the ministries of the church.



**HAPPY 119th
ANNIVERSARY**



Upcoming Events

- Oct 2 Greater Bethel 119th Anniversary
5232 The Plaza - Charlotte 28215
- Oct 8 WNCCLO Meeting - Rock Creek
Hwy 49 S & Coble Mill Road
Snow Camp, NC 27349 - 10:00am
- Oct 9 Lay Day - Emmanuel AMEC
Lay Day - Greater Bethel AMEC
- Oct 15 153rd Anniversary Banquet
Oct 16 Gaston Chapel Homecoming
Oct 17-20 Revival at Gaston Chapel - 7pm
102 Bouchelle Street, Morganton
- Oct 22 Lay Institute - Bethel, 200 N. Regan
Street, Greensboro - \$10.00
9:30am - 12:30pm
- Oct 23 Living Waters - Raleigh
Pastor's Appreciation - 4:30pm
- Oct 27-30 Music Ministry Workshop - \$25.00
Greater Bethel - Charlotte - Concert on
Sunday at 3pm hosted by Tonya Rivens
featuring Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson
Details - www.qbmusicministry.org
- Nov 2-3 SED Convention - Portsmouth
Registration - \$150.00
- Nov 4-5 SED Mid-year Conference
Portsmouth Renaissance
425 Water Street - Portsmouth, VA
Room Rate = \$99.00 per night
757-673-3000

Join **Living Waters AME Church** at 3309 Cedar Springs Dr., Raleigh, NC 27603 on Sunday, **October 23, 2016** at 4:30 pm as we celebrate **Rev. Allonia Holmes'** Pastor Appreciation and 33rd Year Anniversary! **Rev. Thomas O. Nixon** of St. Paul AME - Chapel Hill, NC will be our Guest Speaker, accompanied by the St. Paul Choir.

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

Emmanuel A.M.E. Church Celebrates Annual Lay Day

Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2018 Riddle Road, Durham, NC 27713, will hold its Annual Lay Day Program on Sunday, October 9, 2016, at 10:00 A.M. The program theme is "**Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission Through Prayer.**" **Sister Theresa Watson**, member of St. Paul AME Church, Chapel Hill, NC will be the guest speaker.

Ms. Watson is a native of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In 2004, she attended Chapel Hill High School and graduated from Shaw University with a degree in Business Administration and a concentration in business management.

Emmanuel A.M.E. Church knows Sister Theresa Watson's presence will be an asset to our service. We look forward to her sharing her Annual Lay Day message **Precious Dreams** with our pastor, congregation and guests.

Sandra DeGeneste, Program Chair
Rev. Anita Thompson - Pastor

Two hearts, two lives, & two AME churches are joined in the sight of God...

Relatives, friends, and church families gathered together to celebrate the joining of **Tyrone Y. Warren** and **April C. Walker** in holy matrimony on Saturday, September 17th in Mebane, NC. Tyrone is the son of Rev. Allen and Mrs. Linda Warren, the Pastor and First Lady of St. John AME Church in Raleigh.

April is the daughter of the late Mr. Tony C. Walker and Rev. Florissa Walker, the Associate Minister of Hunter's Chapel AME Church in Mebane. The happy couple will reside in Hillsborough.



May God bless their marriage!

* Penny S. Oliver, President * www.wncclay.org



**The Western North Carolina Conference
Lay Organization of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**THE LAY INSTITUTE
For Clergy & Laity**

**Saturday, October 22, 2016
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Bethel A.M.E. Church
Greensboro, North Carolina**

**Rev. Alphonson McGlen, Pastor
Brother Dale Wragg - President, Bethel Lay Organization**

Please bring your Bible and 2012 A.M.E. Doctrine & Discipline

- Dialogue with our Presiding Elders:
Rev. Dr. Conrad K. Pridgen, Western District
Rev. J. Bernard Wilder, Eastern District
- Let's Put and Keep God First
- How Are the Assessments Determined?
- What Are We Doing to Keep Our Youth in the Church?
- The AME Colleges

Just to Name a Few of the Topics

Pre-Registration \$10.00 \$15.00 at the door

**Sponsored by the Western North Carolina Conference
LAY ORGANIZATION
Penny Oliver, President**

**Committee Members: Bettie Duell, Mary Royster Harris, Betty Parker, Dwight
Patterson, Gertrude Upperman, Renee White, Kenneth Woods, J. Dale Wragg
Jackie C. Kanipe, Director of Lay Activities**



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Registration for the Lay Institute

Clergy and Laity

\$10.00 Pre-registration will be accepted until October 15, 2016

\$15.00 on-site

NAME OF CHURCH: _____ PASTOR: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

Total # of Registrants: Clergy _____ Laity _____ @ \$10.00 each Total Amount: \$ _____



16th Lay Convention
Second Episcopal District Lay Organization
November 2-3, 2016
Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel
425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA 23784
WNCC Registration
REGISTRATION FORM (Please Print Clearly)

Full Name: _____

Street Address _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Ph. # _____ **Work Ph. #** _____

Cell Ph. # _____ **E-mail:** _____

Conference: _____ **Home Church:** _____

Level: **Local** **Presiding Elder Conference** **Episcopal District**

Elected Office: _____ **First Time Attendee:** _____

***YA Only: College/University** _____ **Year** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

CONVENTION FEES: (25% cancellation cost) **Registration fee includes convention registration packet, and (1) Awards Banquet ticket and Power Training Lunch.**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION TYPES	FEE	TOTAL
ADULT LAY (\$150.00/\$200 on site)		
CLERGY (\$150.00/\$200 on site)		
SED Polo Shirt* (\$25.) (M or F) men S-6x; ladies S- 3x. <i>note xl is the same as 1x. *Upon availability</i>		
SEDLO Kente Stole (\$25.00)		
Additional Banquet Tickets (\$50.00)		
SUBTOTAL:		
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:		

Regular Registration - \$150.00 deadline, October 15, 2016. On-site registration, \$200.00

Form must be sent to: Jackie C. Kanipe, 207 Branch Street, Morganton, NC 28655. Check made payable to: WNCC-Lay Organization

To be Used by WNCC Lay Organization Staff

Received by _____

Fee Enclosed _____

Date Received _____

Check # _____ Control # _____