



This newsletter and additional pictures can also be viewed at:

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Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

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## **5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND EDUCATION SERVICE**

Submitted by Sister Cynthia Douse, Historiographer  
Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

On Saturday March 21, 2015, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Worship Service to benefit the *Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship Fund* was held at New Bethel AME Church of Germantown, Host Pastor Rev. Allan Robinson. It was a wonderful service and well attended by both clergy and laity.



The speaker, **Brother Sean Lewis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of the 1<sup>st</sup> District YPD** and a member of St. Matthew AME Church, Phila. PA was presented by his father, the Rev. Stephen Michael Lewis, Pastor of Bethel AME Church, Freeport, NY.

The Education Service message was titled **“Despite Our Struggles, God Has A Plan,”** at which time Brother Sean encouraged us to **“never ever give up despite our challenges; because God knows them all and He will give us all that we need to accomplish our goals.”** He also reminded us that, **“God WILL and CAN take us beyond our limits.”**

Brother Earl Knight, III served as our musician and also led us into the praise and song fest segment before the worship service began. We were also blessed by three clergy soloists from the Philadelphia Conference. Those who sang were the Reverend Michael Chism, pastor of Campbell AME Church, Frankford, Philadelphia; the Reverend Jay B. Broadnax, pastor of Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Philadelphia; and the Reverend Carolyn Cavaness, pastor of Bethel AME Church, Ardmore, PA.

Other participants included: Worship Leader Bro. Walter C. Jeffers, Connectional Lay Organization Director of Public Relations and

Education Service Coordinator; the Invocation was given by Sister Starsha Frierson, Grimes AME Church, Phoenixville, PA; the Scripture was read by Sister Anna Cobb, Bethel AME Church, Harrisburg, PA; the Welcome & Statement of Purpose, was extended by Sister Marian Spivey Sudler, Education Committee Chairperson; and the Lay Litany was led by Sister Lataeya Carr, Zion AME Church, Philadelphia, PA. The Offering was conducted by members of the PCLO Finance Committee, Sister Anna Cobb and Sister Fern Wesley; and clergy, the Reverend Allan R. Robinson and the Reverend Carolyn C. Cavaness.

We were blessed to have many persons from Bethel AMEC, Freeport, New York who joined us for the service and gave a generous offering.

Remarks were given by Education Committee Chairperson Sister Marian Spivey Sudler; Philadelphia Conference Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell; and the Reverend Dr. Janet J. Sturdivant, Presiding Elder of the South District of the Philadelphia Annual Conference who also gave the closing prayer. We then closed with the singing of the Lay Benediction.

# « Despite Our Struggles, God Has A Plan »



Reverend Dr. Janet J. Sturdivant  
Presiding Elder, South District



Reverend Carolyn Caveness



Reverend Michael Chism



Reverend Jay Broadnax



Phila. Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



Rev. Stephen Michael Lewis; Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. Rev. Allan Robinson, Host Pastor



Sis. Pamela, Mrs. Claudie Hammond, President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and husband Bro. Irv. Hopewell



Sean Lewis and Family



Education Committee Chair Marion Spivey-Sudler, Conference President C.H. Hopewell, Rev. & Mrs. Stephen Michael Lewis, standing next to their son, Sean Lewis, (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), and Rev. Allan Robinson

# PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAY NIGHT

Thursday, May 21, 2015 - 7:31 P.M.



Submitted by Sister Cynthia Douse, Historiographer  
Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization held their Annual Lay Night at the 199<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia Annual Conference at First District Plaza, 3801 Market St., Philadelphia, PA19104.

Our musician for the evening was Brother Earl Knight, III, the Young Adult Representative for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. Music was provided by the Philadelphia A.M.E. Mass Choir.

The Lay Message was given by our own, **Brother Walter C. Jeffers, Director of Public Relations for the Connectional Lay Organization.** The title of his message was, **“Moving Through the Pain”**, taken from **John 5:1**. The main points of the message were: **(1) Do we want the situation that is causing the pain to change? (2) We must decide not to continue making excuses, and (3) We must decide that we are ready to act, to change and to move through our pain.**



**Lay Night Speaker**  
**Brother Walter C. Jeffers**  
**Connectional Lay Organization**  
**Director of Public Relations**

Other participants included: Worship Leader, Sister Shirley Moore-Harris, Philadelphia Conference Director of Lay Activities and Lay President of Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Philadelphia; the invocation was given by the Reverend Jay B. Broadnax, Host Pastor of Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Philadelphia; the Hymn of Praise was lined by Sis. Starsha Frierson, Grimes AMEC, Phoenixville; the Old Testament Scripture was read by Sister Joan Greenleaf, Mt. Zion AME Church, Norristown; the New Testament Scripture was read by Brother William Mason,

Bethany AME Church, Holmesburg; Sister Dereth Hicks, St. Paul, Malvern led the Lay Litany; Brother Carl Bell III, Bethel AME Church, Carlisle acknowledged the visitors and The Prayer In Motion Ministry of Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Philadelphia presented Ministry through Dance.

Brother Earl Knight, III, Zion AME Church, Philadelphia presented our Bishop The Right Reverend Gregory G. M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District who in turn presented our Lay Night Speaker Brother Walter C. Jeffers, Connectional Director of Public Relations, a member of New Bethel AME Church, Germantown.

The Reverend Charles H. Lett, Sr., Presiding Elder of the West/Main Line District extended the Invitation to Christian Discipleship. The Worship through Giving was conducted by Rev. Mark K. Tyler, Pastor, Mother Bethel AME Church, Philadelphia; Sister Deborah Stancil, Metropolitan, Lansdowne; and Sister Gwendolyn Burnett, Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Philadelphia.

Remarks were given by Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Philadelphia Conference Lay President; Mary Mootoo, First Episcopal District Lay President; The Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, First Episcopal District Supervisor and The Rt. Reverend Gregory G. M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate

Our Lay Night was well attended and was an awesome experience. We thank our lay guests from Delaware, New England, New Jersey, New York and Western New York for blessing us with their presence.

**To God Be The Glory!**

**PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
LAY NIGHT - May 21, 2015**



Lay Night Speaker Bro. Walter Jeffers Connectional Director  
Public Relations, New Bethel AME Church, Germantown,  
Dekuffers an **"electricfying"** message which he titled  
**"MOVING THROUGH THE PAIN ."**

L-R: Host Pastor the Rev. Jay Broadnax; Lay Night Speaker Bro. Walter C. Jeffers;  
Bro. Irvin Hopewell, Mt. Pisgah AMEC; 1st District Lay President Mrs. Mary . .  
Mootoo; 1st District Supervisor, the Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram; 1st District  
Presiding Prelate Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram; and Philadelphia Conference  
Lay President Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



The Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, 1st Episcopal District Supervisor



The Rev. Jay Broadnax, Host Pastor - Mt. Pisgah AMEC



Philadelphia Conference Lay President Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



Philadelphia Conference A.M.E. Mass Choir and Worshippers

# PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAY NIGHT - May 21, 2015

Worship Participants included: Worship Leader, Sis. Shirley Moore-Harris, Philadelphia Conference Dir. of Lay Activities and Lay President of Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Phila.; the invocation by the Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, Host Pastor of Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Phila.; the Hymn of Praise was lined by Sis. Starsha Frierson, Grimes AMEC, Phoenixille; the Old Testament

Scripture was read by Sis. Joan Greenleaf, Mt. Zion AMEC, Norristown; the New Testament Scripture was read by Brother William Mason, Bethany AMEC, Holmesburg; Sis. Dereth Hicks, St. Paul, Malvern led the Lay Litany; Bro. Carl Bell III, Bethel AMEC, Carlisle acknowledged the visitors and The Prayer In Motion Ministry group of Mt. Pisgah AMEC, Phila. presented Ministry through Dance.



Worship Leader Sis. Shirley Moore-Harris



Bro. Carl W. Bell, III, Acknowledges Visitors



Sis. Starsha Frierson lining the Hymn of Praise



West District Presiding Elder Charles E. Lett at the lectern



Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram



Prayer In Motion Ministry of Mt. Pisgah AMEC, Phila.



Center: Worship Service Musician Bro. Earl Knight Philadelphia Conference Young Adult Representative



L-R: Sis. Marie Jeffers (Bro. Walter Jeffers' mother); 1st District Lay President Sis. Mary Mootoo; Lay Night Speaker Bro. Walter Jeffers, Connectional Lay Director of Public Relations; and Philadelphia Conference Lay President Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell.

# MT. SINAI A.M.E. CHURCH

2334 Highland Avenue  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Reverend Lillie Battle, Pastor  
Sis. Patricia Awotwi, Lay President

## ANNUAL LAY DAY CELEBRATION

Submitted by: Sis. Patricia Awotwi



The Reverend  
Charley Mae Thomas  
Guest Speaker  
The A.M. Service

On April 19, 2015, Mt. Sinai held its annual Lay Day. It began in the morning with a vibrant sermon by the Reverend Charley Mae Thomas of Mt. Sinai AME Church's ministerial staff. Her sermon titled, "REACH ONE, TEACH ONE." was centered on "The Great Commission", *Matthew 28:16-20*.

Reverend Thomas' message summarized the fact that, "***We, as Laypersons are to reach out and teach others about Christ.***" The children graced us with a selection and were accompanied by Sis. Jacqueline Morrow on the keyboard and Bro. Anthony Jackson on the drums. Following the morning service the church served a delicious lunch.

The afternoon service began with praise and worship. Sis. Anna Cobb of Bethel AMEC, Harrisburg served as the woship leader.

The invocation was offered by Sis. Juanita Underwood and the scripture was read by Sister Karen Swaringen, both are members of Mt. Sinai AME Church. Musical selections were led by Bro. Michele Underwood accompanied by our Pastor, the Reverend Lillie Battle, who served as the musician for this service. The Lay Litany was led by Sis. Brenda Thomas of Ebenezer AME Church, Middletown.



Bro. Carl W. Well, III  
Bethel AMEC, Carlisle, PA  
Afternoon Guest Speaker

This year, for his very first time, **Bro. Carl W. Bell, III**, the local Lay President of Bethel AME Church, Carlisle, PA brought the Word. His text was focused on "***Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***"(KJV)*Matthew 28:16- 20*.

To paraphrase the message, Bro. Carl stated: "***You can be distracted by many things. But we must not lose focus. We are representing Christ and ourselves. It matters how we represent Christ. We don't always know how our attire or the manner in which something is said can deter someone. Therefore, we must put on the whole armor of God and present ourselves in line with the mission. We must keep away from the mere presence of wrong doing, surround ourselves with like minded people, and keep our focus on the task at hand.***"

To our surprise the president of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, was in attendance and extended words of encouragement to us. She was accompanied by her husband, Bro. Irv Hopewell; her mother, Mrs. Claudie Hammond, and her sister, Pamela. There were also many visitors from other churches in attendance and we were truly blessed with their presence. Overall, it was a beautiful day. We ended our service with the singing of the Lay Benediction.



# ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH

215 N. 57TH STREET - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19139

Reverend Roland McCall, Pastor  
Sis. Marion Bolton, Lay President

## ANNUAL LAY DAY CELEBRATION

Submitted by: Bro. Lorenzo Cruger  
Director of Public Relations, St. Matthew AMEC

On **Saturday, March 14, 2015**, the Lay Organization of St. Matthew AME Church held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lay Breakfast. And once again we have to say, "we don't know how our lay breakfasts always seem to be better than the great fellowship of the year before, but they do".

The day was great, not only the food, but also the entire program! The menu included: quiche, scrambled eggs, grits, sausage, bacon (both pork & turkey), assorted breads, pastries, coffee and tea.



Brother Andree' Turner of Campbell AME Church was the Worship Leader. Brother Leroy Langston, Hickman Temple AME Church gave the invocation and blessing. The scripture was read by Sister Joan Greenleaf, Mt Zion AME Church, Norristown.

The **St. Matthew Praise Team** warmed our hearts throughout the program.

The welcome was given by Sister Taylor Blackson (emerging Lay Leader, St. Matthew AME Church) with the response by Sister Patricia Layne, Mt. Pisgah AME Church; Brother Curtis Garrett, Jones Tabernacle AME Church, led the Lay Litany.

Once again the **Drama Ministry** delighted us with several short lessons from the Bible. They were: "**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**", "**IDOLS LIKE US**", "**CONTAGIOUS WARD**", and "**EVICTED**". They were both entertaining and informative.

Brother Hosea Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization gave an invitation for membership that led to the receiving of one new member.

The program concluded with remarks from Sister Marion Bolton, St. Matthew Lay President; Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Philadelphia Conference Lay President; and Pastor Roland C. McCall extended the invitation to unite with the church.

On **Sunday, March 15th**, we had our Lay Day Worship Service. It was well attended and the messages were well received. **Exhorter Lewis Speights** was our early morning speaker and his subject was "**HE WILL WAKE US UP.**"

For the 10:45 AM service **Licentiate Beatrice Sims** gave the message, her subject was "**IS YOUR JESUS HOMELESS?**" from *Ephesians 2:21-22*. Both messages were well presented and received.

We took in a total of three new members during our weekend, to God Be the Glory. It was a great celebration and a Lay Day to remember. In all, the St. Matthew Annual Lay celebration was successful.



# BETHEL OF ARDMORE

*African Methodist Episcopal Church*

163 Sheldon Lane – Ardmore, PA 19003

February 8, 2015

## **A FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Reverend Carolyn C. Cavaness, Pastor  
Sis. Bernice Green, Local Lay President

Submitted by: Sis. Cleo J. Gibson, Director of Lay Activities



**Dr. Richard Newman**



**Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness**

We celebrated **Founder's Day** with **Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness** preaching her first **Founder's Day sermon here at Bethel** titled **"The House That Allen Built."** Founder's Day is all about the life of Bishop Richard Allen and how he built the Methodist Church for Black Christians to worship freely.

Before Rev. Cavaness preached, we had a fantastic and distinguished speaker, **Dr. Richard Newman, Director of the Library Company of Philadelphia.** Dr. Newman was very honored to be at Bethel in that this was the first time he had been asked to keynote a Founder's Day event.

Dr. Newman spoke about the Main Line's influence on this movement and how Methodist preachers traveled as "circuit riders" to spread the Word of God in the suburbs. He also expressed his fondness of Allen and called him "his hero" for his tremendous impact not only in religious circles, but also in the community and in civic affairs, such as Allen's prominent role in the yellow fever epidemic.

After the morning worship service was over, we gathered in the Lawrence Johnson Social Hall for a question and answer session with Dr. Newman. We dined on a meal reminiscent of that era and the tables were adorned with crops that were eaten back in that period of time.

Dr. Newman, specializes in African American History and is the author of five books including **"Freedom's Prophet"** which he brought with him. Before Dr. Newman left we had a book signing session.

Our Founder's Day ended with a lecture and tour to the birthplace of the African Methodist Episcopal Church which included Mother Bethel AME Church and St. George's Methodist Church. A boxed lunch was provided and the bus was filled to its capacity with adults and many children. Much learning and fun was had by all.

**Bethel Church** and the **Lay Organization** continue to "grow and glow" in the name of God and we are enjoying the Reverend Carolyn Cavaness, our **"first"** female pastor, in the 120-year history of our church. She comes with many talents, new ideas and a strong leadership drive to lead us faithfully in worship and working with the community.

# WARD

## AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

728 N. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street - Philadelphia, PA 19104

Reverend Terrance Henceford, Pastor  
Sis. Connie Williams, Lay President

### ANNUAL LAY DAY AT WARD

Submitted By: Sis. Connie Williams, President

#### “EQUIPPING TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION”

It was several degrees below cold. The ground and streets were still partially clothed in snow and ice from the storm of the previous day. However, this was yet another day that the Lord had made which proved to be a blessing. It prompted an eager group of laypersons to gather for worship and fellowship.

The occasion was the Lay Day Breakfast held at Ward AME Church on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 9 AM. After a full “grits-to-fruit” meal and friendly chatter, the gathered laypersons moved into the purpose of the day.

Sister Theresa Rudd, President of the Lay Organization of Emmanuel AME Church, served as the Worship Leader and led the group in the singing of the Laymen’s Hymn while Dr. Helen Jenkins-Earley of Allen AME Church played the music. Sister Tina Gee of Ward offered a stirring prayer of thanks and praise. Prayer was followed by the reading of *Matthew 28:16-20* by Sister Lucy Stewart, the Lay President at Bethel, Lansdowne. Sister Mary Brown of Ward extended a welcome to those in attendance. Sister Madace Thorpe, Lay President of Metropolitan AME Church responded to the welcome with her usual smile and warm manner. The program proceeded with the Lay Litany which was led by Sister Cynthia Douse, Lay President of New Bethel, Germantown. Sister Mary Miles shared a moment of reflection in memory of

Sister Pearl Barnes, who served the Lay Organization at Ward for many years prior to her death.

The **speaker**, yours truly, **President Connie Williams**, was introduced by Sister Stella Davis, Director of Lay Activities at Ward. Her topic was **“Equipping to Fulfill the Great Commission”**.

Sister Williams stated, **“Laypersons have teaching and training for Christ as a primary mission. The goal is to reach out to others and bring more souls to Christ. Our example as leaders is to guide others in their Christian walk. This is the Great Commission. This awesome task requires ongoing preparation and perseverance. We “KNOW” what to do, but do we know “HOW” to do it?**

Sister Williams offered some tips for “equipping” which include: **(1) Do your spiritual homework with prayer and study. (2) Use your gifts to teach and evangelize. (3) Prepare the ground before you sow the seeds. (4) Be**

**inclusive, reach out to all. (5) “TEACH” the “REACHED” to keep it going by “PASSING”it on to others.”**

After the message, Reverend Arneither Neil gave the invitation to Christian Discipleship and Brother Andree Turner, PCLO 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, made the appeal for Lay membership. The offering was lifted by Brother Bill Lipscomb of Ward. Remarks were made by President Connie Williams and Brother Gilroy Reid, PCLO 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, spoke in the absence of PCLO President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell who was away at the Bermuda Annual Conference..

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** goes out to the **Reverend Dr. Earl R. Jefferson** for his encouragement and for distributing to each of us a copy of an informative leader-training workbook entitled **“Lay Leadership: The Heart of the Church”** which is written by Dr. Jefferson.

The Ward Lay Day Breakfast was indeed a blessing and Ward thanks fellow laypersons for their love and participation. The morning ended with the singing of the Lay Benediction.



Lay Day Speaker  
Sister Connie Williams  
Lay President  
Ward AME Church

**The Lay Benediction**  
**Connectional Lay Organization AME Church**

Words by Mrs. Rose Reese  
Tune by Ms. Jackie Winston/Ms. Florine Herron

May God bless us with the true spir-it of

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time, featuring a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The lyrics are: "May God bless us with the true spir-it of".

6  
Chris-ti - a - ni ty. That we may live to-geth-er not as man o - ver man. But as

The second system of musical notation continues the piece, starting at measure 6. The lyrics are: "Chris-ti - a - ni ty. That we may live to-geth-er not as man o - ver man. But as".

10  
Lay per - sons work-ing with God - - But as Lay per - sons work-ing with

The third system of musical notation continues the piece, starting at measure 10. The lyrics are: "Lay per - sons work-ing with God - - But as Lay per - sons work-ing with".

13  
God - - But as Lay per - sons work-ing with God. A - men.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece, starting at measure 13. The lyrics are: "God - - But as Lay per - sons work-ing with God. A - men.".

Scoring by Ms. Florine Herron



## HEADLINES AND DEADLINES

The next publication of “**OUR VOICES**” newsletter will be published in September 2015. All information you wish to be published must be received by the editor by **AUGUST 15, 2015**. Please e-mail all news articles and pictures to: [anitamatt@verizon.net](mailto:anitamatt@verizon.net)

PLEASE NOTE: The editor reserves the right to publish and/or edit articles when deemed necessary.  
Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor - Director of Public Relations – PCLO

## Save The Dates

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

July 24-25, 2015

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Downtown Wilmington  
700 N. King Street – Wilmington, Delaware

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### 34<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

August 2-6, 2015

Embassy Suites North Charleston-Airport/Hotel & Convention Center  
Charleston, South Carolina



## PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

**Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President**

Gilroy Reid, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Hosea Jackson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Andree Turner, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President
Marion G. Bolton, Recording Secretary	Valerie O. Ward, Asst. Recording Secretary	Wanda Ringgold, Corresponding Secretary
Fern Wesley, Treasurer	Anna M. Cobb, Financial Secretary	Mamie Price, Chaplain
Cynthia Douse, Historiographer	Henry Murray, Parliamentarian	Shirley Moore-Harris, Director of Lay Activities
Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations		Earl Knight, III, Young Adult Representative

**Walter Jeffers, Connectional Director of Public Relations**

*The Right Reverend Gregory G. M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate*  
*The Reverend Dr. Jessica K. Ingram, Episcopal Supervisor*  
*The First Episcopal District - African Methodist Episcopal Church*