



# OUR VOICES

Newsletter & additional pictures can also be viewed at:  
[www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org](http://www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org)

Volume 6 - #3 December 2014

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

## THE ANNUAL LAY RETREAT

by: Anita Hanna Matthews  
PCLO Director of Public Relations

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes, it is recorded:

**“To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”**

And accordingly, it was “our season” for the **ANNUAL LAY RETREAT** of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, and we took time out --for just a brief season—to pause from “secular business segments” to spend time in an atmosphere of “Spiritual Regeneration and Rejuvenation Through Prayer, Meditation, Preaching and Teaching”.

### October 18, 2014 – 12:00 Noon

When we arrived at New Bethel AMEC, Willow Grove, Lay President Sister Alvetta Woods and the hospitality committee pleasantly extended greetings to us and proceeded to serve a delicious and abundant lunch.

Following lunch, the **Annual Retreat Sermon** was delivered by the host pastor of New Bethel AMEC, the **Reverend Dr. Miriam Burnett,** who also serves as



Medical Director of the Connectional Health Commission of the AME Church. Reverend Burnett’s timely

message stirred our spiritual senses to a high point of spiritual awareness of what “God” wants us to do as the laity, while serving in the many ministries at our local churches and throughout the Connectional Church.

Reverend Burnett’s topic **“Unity–The Power of Oneness”** revealed that we must acknowledge that the **“Holy Spirit” is the uniting element.** She gave us three points to put into practice as we serve:

**(1) LEADERSHIP:** we must lead by example, walk the walk and talk the talk; **(2) CONFLICT RESOLUTION:** must be solved by using scripture; **(3) we must always seek WISE CONSULTATION.**

In preparation for the Workshop, PCLO Director of Lay Activities, **Shirley Moore-Harris** led us through a

relaxing **“mind unwinding exercise”** as she encouraged us to “focus on our inner being, to forget about the past, focus on the present, and focus on God’s many blessings. A **RETREAT** is a time to concentrate, meditate and reflect on the goodness of our Lord because God wants us to be happy and healthy as we serve.”



### THE WORKSHOP **“Maintaining Unity in the Body of Christ”**

The **Reverend Glenn Shepherd,** Pastor of Morris Brown AMEC, Phila. served as the facilitator for the Workshop. His very informative and empowering Power Point presentation entitled **“Maintaining Unity In The Body of Christ”** was supported

by **1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 and Romans 15:5-6.**

Reverend Shepherd stated: “We must first understand the purpose of unity in the Biblical sense as well as in the social sense; and we must be aware of the causes of division and separation”. He emphasized the following factors: **(1)**we must love folk for love’s sake; **(2)** we must realize the importance of staying in our own lane; and **(3)** we sometimes fail to realize that it’s not always about “us”, -- we must meet people where they are. Reverend Shepherd reiterated that **“the body of Christ has many parts, nevertheless it is still one body”.**

## Continued: THE WORKSHOP

### *“Maintaining Unity In The Body of Christ”*

He also stated, “Just as each body part of a human being has a specific and designated function, we, too, must function collectively in the role that Christ wants us to, always remembering that **Christ is the head of the body.**”

At the close of the Retreat, we felt refreshed, renewed, and equipped to put into practice all that we were exposed to during this spirit-filled RETREAT!!



Rev. Glenn Shepherd (Workshop Facilitator and Shirley Moore-Harris (PCLO Director of Lay Activities)

*Romans 15:5-6 “May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other – each with the attitude of Jesus Christ toward each other. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*



Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Rev. Miriam Burnett, Rev. Glenn Shepherd, and Conference Director of Lay Activities Shirley Moore-Harris

## PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

### ANNUAL LAY AWARDS LUNCHEON

#### LAY PERSON OF THE YEAR “2014” GILROY C. REID AND UNSUNG HEROES CELEBRATED



Rev. Cheryl Coleman (Pastor-Waters AMEC), Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell.; Mrs. Janice Reid; Lay Person of the Year Gilroy C. Reid, and Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

**Saturday: October 4, 2014 – 12:00 P.M**

As the doors opened to the banquet room, the lovely hostesses-- dressed in white and wearing blue

and white corsages and the distinguished-looking hosts wearing dark suits-- were ready to usher in and seat the guests who arrived ready to celebrate and give recognition to well-deserving honorees.

It did not take long for the Banquet Room of the First District Headquarters at 3801 Market St., Philadelphia, PA to become alive with festive celebratory chatter and cohesive energy of family and friends from the four Presiding Elder Districts of the Philadelphia Conference. The room quickly filled with lay and clergy who traveled from near and far.

The spirited procession of the Honorees raised lively applause and cheers from the crowd of witnesses who came to extend **CONGRATULATIONS** and **BEST WISHES** to the Lay Person of the Year, **Brother Gilroy Reid, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization (PCLO).**

### *Continued) Annual Awards Luncheon*

Bro. Reid was chosen by the PCLO members because of his committed service and support to the PCLO, his local church and his community.

Under the precision leaderships of our Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, our Luncheon Chair Mrs. Deborah Stancil (*who also served as Mistress of Ceremonies*) and Co-Chair Mrs. Marie Butler (*who also served as Journal & Plaque Chair*), it was obvious that meticulous thought and great preparation was dedicated to this occasion, which made our Awards Luncheon another affair that will always invoke pleasant memories for years to come.

After singing The Laymen's Hymn, the Invocation and Table Blessing was offered by PCLO 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Hosea Jackson; followed by a cordial Welcome and Occasion delivered by Patricia Manson, Zion AMEC Lay President.

Our guests included our Bishop, the Right Reverend Gregory G.M. Ingram, who took an "ecclesiastical stroll" throughout the Banquet Room greeting and chatting with as many of us as he could. Later in his additional greetings and remarks, he gave commendations of approval and satisfaction of our Annual Lay Luncheon as he addressed our Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, the honorees, our lay organization and guests.

Bishop Ingram stressed the fact that this type of fellowship thoughtfully acknowledges the committed service extended by the laity. He encouraged the laity to continue to serve in lay ministries, because the organized lay are most certainly a vital component of the A.M.E. Church.

Clergy in attendance included Presiding Elders Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart, Philadelphia District; Rev. Dr. Janet J. Sturdivant, South District; Rev. Lawrence C. Henryhand, Harrisburg District; Rev. Charles E. Lett, Philadelphia District; and numerous pastors and ministerial staffs from many churches.

**Lay Person of the Year "2014", Brother Gilroy C. Reid of Waters Memorial AME Church, Phila.,** was presented by his daughter, Janeice Reid who in turn extended remarks of gratitude and appreciation to the Conference, his family, friends, and guests. His

remarks were mixed with a humorous flair and style "that only Gilroy Charles Reid could deliver."

Chairpersons and Leaderships roles were also provided by Committee Consultant E. Catherine Shepard; as well as Committee Ticket Chair Ruth Nelson; Host & Hostesses Chair Lillie Gorham; Finance Officers Fern Wesley and Anna Cobb. Music and vocals were rendered by Earl Knight, III, & Co., while Connectional Lay Director of Public Relations Walter Jeffers operated the video power point station that flashed photos of the honorees which enabled all of us to see pictures of each honoree.

The Annual Awards Luncheon also acknowledged the **Unsung Heros**, those who give Christian service at local churches as members/disciples to their local churches, in their communities, throughout the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, the First Episcopal District and the Connectional Church.

Those celebrated may be in the "background" as supporters --and-- sometimes they may be in the "front-and-center" as leaders. Nevertheless, the work that each of them provide speak for them in such a way that affects the life and growth at our local churches where we worship, praise, fellowship and exercise our Lay ministries.

=====  
**SAVE THE DATE: February 19-21, 2015**



**First District Lay Mid-Year Meeting**  
Double Tree Hotel  
128 Frontage Road - Newark, NJ 07114



The next publication of the conference lay newsletter, "OUR VOICES", will be published in MARCH 2015.

All information to be published must be received by the editor by FEBRUARY 15, 2015.

Please send all "proofed read" news articles and pictures by e-mail to: [anitamatt@verizon.net](mailto:anitamatt@verizon.net)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The editor reserves the right to publish and/or edit articles when deemed necessary.



!! CONGRATULATIONS !!



## UNSUNG HEROES OF YEAR "2014"

**Saturday – October 4, 2014 – 12:00 P.M** Neither somber skies nor the early morning misty rains falling from the skies could dampen the spirits of family and friends who traveled to attend our Annual Awards Luncheon to witness and participate in the celebration of honoring the Unsung Heros from churches of the Philadelphia Conference. "These are they" who render service at their local churches in various lay ministries, such as: Stewards, Trustees, , Stewardesses, Missionaries, Lay Organization Members, Christian Education Leaders, Church School and Vacation Bible School Teachers, Ushers, Musicians, Choir Members, Transportation Committees, Secretaries, Willing Workers and Helping Hands, Sextons, Liturgical Dancers, Praise Teams, Wellness Ministries, etc. ....and where would we be without these faithful **UNSUNG HEROS:**

- |                        |                           |                          |                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Allen, Phila.          | Geneva Elerbee            | Morris Brown, Phila.     | Eric Kamper           |
| Bethany, Holmesburg    | Michael Wilkinson         | Mother Bethel, Phila.    | Dorothy Young         |
| Bethel, Ardmore        | Vikki M. Asbury           | Mt. Pisgah, Phila.       | Patricia Layne        |
| Bethel, Bryn Mawr      | Carloyn M. Vance          | Mt. Tabor, Phila.        | Ronald Satchell       |
| Bethel, Harrisburg     | Mary C. Randolph          | Mt. Zion, Norristown     | Betty L. Dukes        |
| Bethel, Pottstown      | Patricia A. Faison-Gehris | New Bethel, Germantown   | Evelyn Square -       |
| Bethel, Reading        | Ida Morris                | New Bethel, Willow Grove | Charmaine S. Milligan |
| Bethel, West Chester   | Bryant Martin, Sr. -      | St. Matthew, Phila.      | LaGreta M. Brown –    |
| Campbell, Frankford    | Walter Bagwell, Jr.       | St. Paul, Elmwood        | Rebecca Gipson        |
| Grimes, Phoenixville   | Starsha D. Frierson       | St. Paul, Malvern        | Sharon D. Shepherd    |
| Hickman Temple, Phila. | James O. Ford             | Trinty, Phila.           | Tyana Mapp            |
| Jones Tabernacle       | Valorie R. Pearson        | Ward, Phila.             | James H. Collier      |
| Metropolitan, Phila.   | Cora Morris               | Waters Memorial, Phila.  | Ella M. Parks         |
| Monumental, Steelton   | Marcie A. Carter          |                          |                       |

Each Honoree was presented a prestigious plaque as they posed for a picture along with our Presiding Prelate Bishop Ingram, the honoree’s Presiding Elder and Pastor, the Philadelphia Conference Lay President and the honoree’s local Lay President. Family and friends also lavished the honorees with bouquets of flowers, balloons, cards, presents, etc.



Luncheon Chair Deborah Stancil, Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Luncheon Co-Chair Marie Butler



Music and vocals rendered by Earl Knight, III, & Co.

*Continued) Annual Awards Luncheon*

**Bon Appetite:** The delicious and palatable luncheon was catered by the Bynum Brothers who prepared a sumptuous meal of: a crisp tossed salad, delightfully seasoned golden brown oven-baked chicken along with perfectly prepared fish fillet; tasty glazed sweet potato medallions; savory chopped cabbage/greens; rolls, butter, ice tea, and lemonade; with a dessert of tasty pound cake garnished with a strawberry and caramel sauce. The catering service was punctuated with courteous servers who made all efforts to ensure that we were served in an expeditious and professional manner.

**Read All About It:** Journal Chair, Marie Butler, once again spearheaded the outstanding Souvenir Journal consisting of 248 pages which was filled with greetings from Bishop Ingram, the Presiding Elders, Lay Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and Luncheon Chair Deborah Stancil. The Journal also included profiles of all honorees, congratulatory messages from churches, families, friends, ads and patrons. The Journal was very well prepared and produced by Diversified International of Philadelphia, who thanked us for the opportunity to produce another fine booklet and sent prayers that “God will continue to bless, keep, guide and direct The Lay Organization and that God will dispatch angels to protect us daily.”

Closing remarks were extended by Luncheon Co-Chair Marie Butler, who will have the grand task of chairing the Annual Awards Luncheon next year. Our Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell also expressed her gratitude and thanks to all who participated and attended our Awards Luncheon.

After singing the Lay Benediction, we know that we can truly say;

**We came - We saw – We celebrated - We Were Delighted      *TO GOD BE THE GLORY!***



**Seated: Luncheon Chair Deborah Stancil, Dir. of Lay Activities Shirley Moore-Harris, Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Hostess & Host Chair, Lillie Gorham, Luncheon Co-Chair Marie Butler; Standing Luncheon Hosts and Hostesses**

**PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION**

**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 Lay Activities |

***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***

# Campbell A.M.E. Church (Frankford)

1657 Kinsey Street - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Reverend Michael D. Chism, Pastor  
Mrs. Marie Butler, Lay President

## Highlights from Campbell, Frankford Annual Lay Day Sunday, September 21, 2014



On a beautiful Sunday afternoon Campbell A.M.E. Church (Frankford) celebrated their Annual Lay Day. This marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Local Lay President, Sister Marie Butler, serving as our President. This was also the **32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of our Local Lay Organization**, having been re-organized on October 10, 1982. A delicious and scrumptious meal was served prior to the service.

Brother Charles Emory, the choir director of our "Gospel Mass Choir" opened the service with the Prelude, followed with the Processional of our Pastor, the Reverend Michael D. Chism, our Presiding Elder, the Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart, our Conference President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, our Local Lay President, Sister Marie Butler and our Worship Leader, Sister Juanita Bryant of Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Church.

After Sister Butler introduced the Worship Leader, Sister Bryant led us into the Doxology, followed by the Call to Worship. We sang our opening Hymn, "The Laymen's Hymn". We were led to the throne of grace with the Invocation by Sister Kim Billups of A.M.E. Union Church, which was followed by the Choral Response, "Let the Church Say Amen". The Scripture Reading was presented by Brother William Mason, Lay President of Bethany A.M.E. Church (Holmesburg). He read Matthew 28: 16-20, the Connectional Lay Theme Scripture, which was followed by the Gospel Mass Choir's selection, "I Just Want to Praise You".

The Welcome and Recognition of our guests was given by Sister Marie Butler. We then went into our Memorial Tribute, led by Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr., assisted by Sister Schnita Tully and Brother Walter Bagwell, Jr., who lit candles in loving memory of our departed members, Sister Juanita McSwain, the mother of Sister Tully and Sister Mae Bagwell,

the wife of Brother Bagwell. A poem was read by Brother Turner in memory of Sister McSwain, "When God Saw You Getting Tired", and in memory of Sister Bagwell, "Let Me Go". We then observed a moment of silence for all of our departed members.

Sister Marion Bolton, Lay President of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, led us with the Lay Litany. Sister Susan Butler, YPD Conference Director and Brother Michael Chism II, the Pastor's son, did a tag-team introduction of our Pastor, the Reverend Michael D. Chism, our Annual Lay Day speaker.

Prior to the sermon the Gospel Mass Choir sang "God Is My Everything". We were treated to the message, "**Do You Remember How you Made it Through the Night**" by Pastor Chism with scripture reference **Psalm 30:1-5**. Pastor Chism opened the doors of the church with the Invitation to Christian Discipleship. Brother James Lake of Jones Tabernacle A.M.E. Church extended the Call to Lay Membership. Sisters Schnita Tully and Ashley Turner stepped forth and joined the Lay Organization of Campbell A.M.E. Church. Our pastor called for all of the members of Campbell's Lay to come to the Altar for the Prayer of Rededication. The Altar was full!!

Sisters Merle Wilson and Natoya Travers held the Lay offerings and Brother Henry Murray of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Norristown, held the Love Offering.

After remarks by Conference Lay President Sister Hopewell, Local Lay President Sister Butler, our great Presiding Elder Rev. Jocelyn Hart and Pastor Chism, we sang the Lay Benediction.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr.*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Campbell's Lay Org.*



## **“PRECIOUS MEMORIES – HOW THEY LINGER”**

### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF SISTER IRENE V. ARMSTRONG**



*Submitted By: Peggy Pinder*

**A faithful servant of God has gone home. In the early hours of Monday, September 19, 2014 God called our beloved Sister Irene V. Armstrong home to eternal rest.**

I first met Irene at Delaware College during the Christian Education Congress. She was the teacher for the little children. At that time Children of all ages attended the Christian Education Congress and it was no surprise to see Sister Irene like a Mother hen guiding her precious little ones across the campus. The Staff would meet later for briefings. When we would ask the late Doris Armstrong where is your daughter? She would reply “still looking after the little ones”.

It was not long before I realized that Mother Doris and both her daughters were dedicated members of the church. They represented their church on all levels with dignity and devotion, whether it was the Missionary Society, the Lay Organization, the Church School or the Christian Education Department you could expect them to be in attendance. Irene prided herself by being on time to each function and many times she rode public transportation to and fro.

Irene (A twin) was a shy humble person, never wanting to be out front. She earned her Degree in Nursing, she spoke for several Lay Day programs, assisted with compassion those who took sick while in her presence, and she traveled extensively. During my tenure as Episcopal District Director Lay Activities there were times of stress. Irene would come with words of encouragement and inquire about my health. Irene became the Director of Lay Activities for the Philadelphia Conference and it was a blessing to see Sandy, Irene’s sister, pitch in and hold up Irene’s arms as she took on a mammoth task. It was a joy to witness two Sisters working together with joy.

On Monday, September 29, 2014 the Celebration of Life for Sister Irene Armstrong was held at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church. Rev. Mark Tyler served as Worship Leader and Eulogist. His Scripture reference came from Second Corinthians 4:7. The Sermon “A Symbol of Faithfulness” - like the golden arches depict McDonalds- Sis Irene depicted “faithfulness”. Everyone recognize the McDonald symbol and so it was with Sis Irene, a faithful servant of God.

Component representation was as follows: The Women’s Missionary Society was represented by President Connie Smith of the Philadelphia Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society and Jackie Carter-Jones, Chair of the Shrine Area WMS; Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization; Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, Chair of First Episcopal District Christian Education and Rev. Clarence Martin, Chair of the Philadelphia Conference; Jeanne Chavioux Episcopal District Sunday School Chair and Gerald Samuels, Chair of Shrine Area Church Schools; The Lay Organization attendees also included Third Vice President Jane Harris and Walter Jeffers, Director of Public Relations from the Connectional Lay Organization; First Episcopal District Lay President Mary Mootoo, Emma Lee, Recording Secretary, First Episcopal District Lay Organization; and New Jersey Lay President Jeronia McClish. Many expressions were received including condolences from Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Rev. Dr. Jessica K. Ingram, Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, former Pastor of Mother Bethel and Dr. Susan Leath.

There were many times when I would take Irene home in my car. After much prodding, begging and threatening she would ride with me. She would say “I’m alright or I can make it” and I would not hear it. So she would get in the car with her soft smile. Of course there were other times when she would just quietly leave and I would scold her for traveling late at night alone. She would say things like I did not want to put you out of your way. And so it was, that my friend just quietly, once again, went on home. Like so many of the AME Church members I will miss an awesome Christian Sister, however, I remind myself, **“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”**.



## THE OBITUARY

**Sunrise: February 3, 1952**

**Sunset: September 19, 2014**

**Service: Monday-September 29, 2014 – 11:00 A.M.**

**Mother Bethel AME Church - 419 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Philadelphia, PA**

**Reverend Dr. Mark Tyler, Pastor**

**Irene Vinia Armstrong**, the fourth child (she has a twin brother) of the late

Julius Vernard, Sr. and Dorris Marie Armstrong, was born February 3, 1952 at Mercy-Douglas Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. At seven months she was crawling, walking & talking. She was very advanced for her developmental years. Irene loved her family; she always mentioned to church friends about her older brothers, the late Julius V. Armstrong Jr. and Edward C. Armstrong and her sister, Sandy.

Irene grew up in a Christian home. Dorris (her mother) was heavily involved in the AME church's missionary activities, lay organization, and Christian education departments. Julius (her father) also contributed to her spiritual growth through his participation in the church choir and Bible readings at home. She confessed acceptance of Jesus Christ at the tender age of 4 years. During the ensuing years of her youth she began intensive study of the Bible and the AMEC discipline.

Further, as a child she actively participated in the children's choir of Waters Memorial AME. Under Irene Tucker's direction (her grand aunt) her first solo was "How Great Thou Art". Irene actively involved herself in Girl Scouts, YPD and Christian Education. Concurrently, Irene became acquainted with the helping ministry while attending the Nebinger and Kirkbride childcare. Instead of going outside for recess, she would help in the nurse's office. While attending Furness Jr. High she was encouraged to continue her helping ministry in the capacity as class banker and student association representative. She further enhanced her knowledge in arts education studies at Settlkement Music School and Tyler Memorial Arts School (she learned how to play the flute and sketch human figures). From age nine through 16 she was heavily invested with her auxiliaries and departments (the Laymen, Missionaries, Church School as a teacher and superintendent, class leader, director-Jr. Ushers, director-YPD and Girl Scouts leader).

Irene continued from youth through adulthood serving God whom she loved. She received Advanced Bible School Training from Citywide AME Intitute in teaching church school. Irene's secular career commenced at South Philadelphia High School where she completed two programs -- nursing and science courses at University of PA and Thomas Jefferson Medical College for nursing and EKG certifications which led to a degree. Also during high school, she participated in dramatic arts and a magnet language program from Southern High-French Department. Irene represented the Girl Scouts and Christian Education as part of the "Doven Experiences" ..she taught children about "Jesus is the truth and the light".

Irene's spiritual journey and commitment to her church and community at large continued when she thransferred as an adult to Mother Bethel AME. She served noted offices at Waters Memorial and Mother Bethel AME, the Philadelphia Conference, and the Connectional AME Church, including serving as delegate for the Women's Missionary Society and Lay Organization; Lay Activity Director/Mother Bethel and Waters, Mother Bethel Lay President, Mother Bethel Missionary Education, Lay Career Day (Waters & Mother Bethel ); Scholarship/Sponsor; Church School Teacher; Asst. Church School Superintendent-Mother Bethel; Youth Christian Education; HealthCommission/Misionary Worker, Christian Education; Coordinator-Olympic Contest; Conference Church School/Christian Education, Connectional Episcopal Conference, General General Conference Choir/Lay & Missionary;; served on Legislation committee/Budget, and chaired 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District First Aid Station Committee.

Irene was the recipient of many certificates, commendations and awards for her dedicated allegiance and unwavering service, whether as a delegate to the conferences or in other capacities or assignments. Her most cherished recognitions were conferred by the Four Chaplains Organization, The unsung Heros Awards from the Philadelphia Conference Lay organization and her 25-year service pin from the Christian Education Department of the First Episcopal District; the First Episcopal District Lay Organization Outstanding Service for First Aid Chair and Philadelphia Conference Youth of the Year Award for Outstanding Service rendered.

Although the family was believing God for a different miracle, on Friday at 4:40 a.m. our most merciful Lord called Irene from labor to reward. We hold fast to 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.

Family members who mourn her passing: one sister, Wondilyn Sandra Armstrong, a twin brother, Titus Armstrong; one uncle, Moses Hillman; aunts: Laurel Weston and Katie Hillman; sister-in-law, Brenda Armstrong; nieces, Mone' Hunter and Christine Armstrong; nephews, Edward C. Armstong, Jr. and Julius V. Armstrong, III; grand-nephews, Justin Talington and Edward Armstrong, II; grandniece, Olivia Armstrong; cousin, god-children, Daniel Salters and Vinisha Salters; and a host of friends and extended family.

*Lovingly submitted, The Family*



Submitted by: **Lillian Murphy**  
**Zion A.M.E. Church**  
**21<sup>st</sup> & Tasker Sts., Philadelphia, PA**  
**Reverend Bruce Points, Pastor**



## **“Attitude”**

by **Charles (Chuck) Swindoll**

*A renowned Christian radio broadcaster, pastor, author and educator*

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of **attitude** on life.”

**Attitude**, to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, a home.

The remarkable thing is, we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past ... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our **attitude**. I am convinced that “ life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it”. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our **Attitudes**.”

=====

### **SHOUT-OUT FROM A PROUD GRANDPARENT**

by **Peggy Pinder**



For those, like me, who are NOT computer savy, I have discovered YOUTUBE.

So, I typed in the word “youtube”. It showed music and to my enjoyment, so much information appeared. Then I typed “Nu Life Church Choir” in the search box. My grandson Malik sings with the NU Life Church Choir at Oak Grove A.M.E. Church . I am so proud of my grandson MALIK!

Oak Grove A.M.E. Church was formerly pastored by our Bishop the Right Reverend Gregory G. M. Ingram. For your enjoyment, checkout all the other A.M.E Churches.



For unto us a child is born; unto a Son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called;  
Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace”.



Wishing Each Of You A Blessed and Joyous Christmas  
and A Prosperous Happy New Year!

**From: Anita Hanna Matthews**

