

# OUR VOICES

Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Newsletter

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

February 2013 – Vol. - #1

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – PCLO Director of Public Relations

## Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Education Service To Benefit The Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Scholarship Fund

By : Cynthia Douse, Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Historiographer

Pictures taken by Brother Walter Jeffers

On Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 3:00 pm, the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization under the leadership of President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, held its **3rd Annual Education Worship Service** to benefit the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship Fund at Jones Tabernacle AME Church, Philadelphia. Reverend Manuel Biagas was the host Pastor and Sister Marcia Palmer is the host local Lay president.

The service was chaired by Education Chairperson, Sister Marian Spivey Sudler of Trinity AME Church who also serves as the Philadelphia Conference Christian Education Director. Young Adult Representative, Brother Walter C. Jeffers of New Bethel, Germantown served as co-chairman.



Worship Leader, Bro. Walter Jeffers, read the Scripture taken from Mark 16:15 and Ephesians 4:11-13, which is the Connectional Lay Theme. Sister Marian Spivey Sudler gave the Statement of Purpose and reminded us of “the importance of scholarships for our young people” and how all of us can take part in their future because “We all hold an earned and accepted degree from our Savior”. It reads, ***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”***

The musical selections were provided by the newly formed Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Choir (see below) under the direction of Brother Earl Knight of Zion AME. This Choir was a vision of our conference president, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and the Choir served us well.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Education Service - Continued:



Reverend James P. Baker, Pastor of Morris Brown AME Church and President of the AME Ministerial Alliance of Philadelphia and Vicinity, was the preacher for the service. His message ***"There is Nobody Like our God"***, taken from Isaiah 64: 1-9.



Clergy in attendance also included: Presiding Elders Rev. Charles H. Lett, Sr., Rev. James E. F. Lawrence gave remarks; Rev. Manuel Biagas, Host Pastor of Jones

Tabernacle gave the prayer; Rev. Jay Broadnax, Pastor of Mt. Pisgah and Rev. Glenn Shepherd, Pastor of Campbell, Frankford assisted with the offering, and Rev. Tressa Fuller, of the Ministerial Staff at Metropolitan, gave the closing prayer.



Service participants also included Sister Susan Butler, of Campbell, Frankford, the Philadelphia Conference YPD Director, who led in the Litany, Sister Linda Frazier from Morris Brown who presented her pastor and Sisters Fern Wesley from Allen, Philadelphia and E. Catherine Shepard from Metropolitan, Lansdowne who also assisted with the offering.

The service was well attended, a good time was had by all, and we received contributions to support scholarships for young people entering college. **WHAT A WINNING COMBINATION!**

Sister Marian Spivey Sudler gave the **Statement of Purpose** and reminded us of "the importance of scholarships for our young people" and how all of us can take part in their future because "We all hold an earned and accepted degree from our Savior". It reads, ***"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."***



The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization thank all who were in attendance and also those who were not able to attend but sent an offering. Donations are still being accepted and checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization.

**We thank you for your support of young people who are striving to further their education.**



**"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH"**



# ***A Memorial Tribute To Frank Lee Gilyard, Sr.***

***Sunrise: April 3, 1930 Sunset: January 24, 2013***

*Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
330 W. Windsor Street – Reading, PA 19601*

Reverend Eugene McDuffy, Officiating  
Rev. James E.F. Lawrence, Presiding Elder  
Reverend Dr. M. D. Wayans, Jr., Eulogist  
Right Reverend Gregory G. M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate

**BROTHER FRANK'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE** was overwhelmingly attended by family members; church members; friends; pastors who previously served at Bethel AME Reading; presiding elders and clergy of the Philadelphia Annual Conference; clergy from churches throughout the community; city and state officials; civic and nationally noted organization leaders; the 1<sup>st</sup> District Lay President (Mrs. Mary Mootoo) and the previous 1<sup>st</sup> District Lay President (Mrs. F. Jane Harris); lay persons from each of our four presiding elder districts of the Philadelphia Annual Conference; and the officers and members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. We were all in attendance at this beautiful “standing room only” Celebration of Life for one of our beloved laymen brothers, Mr. Frank Lee Gilyard, Sr., where hundreds gathered to bid farewell.

Bro. Frank was well-known and appreciated throughout the Connectional African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States from coast to coast and from border to border; in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia. His great and noteworthy service during his tenure as the past Connectional Historiographer of the A.M.E. Church, as well as having served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and as Historiographer of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, as well on numerous Committees was always held in high esteem.

Of all who knew him, **we, the officers and members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization**, would like to think that **“we knew him best”** because of his longevity of great service and support, faithful commitment and loyal allegiance to our Conference - - as he was truly a man who loved God and all humankind.

During this “Celebration of Life Service”, our Conference Lay President, Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, presented an honorable and all-inclusive declaration which contained a message of condolence to Bro. Frank's devoted wife, Mrs. Mildred Gilyard and family, which also expressed our appreciation and thanks for his faithful service, his inspiring endeavors, his empowering resources, and his unwavering commitment to God, to his church and to us.

Bro. Frank was loyal. He was a “mentor extraordinaire”. He was humble. He was thoughtful. He was generous and kind. He was our friend and we will most certainly miss him. Always with a camera in his hand ready to record our history and often said, “Nobody can tell OUR story like we can!” And, no matter how hard we try, we will never be able “to tell all of Bro. Frank's story”. However, he leaves with us his great legacy as a “A Christian Man For All Seasons” – a “Loyal Layman Soldier of God” and therefore we must **“let the great works he's done; speak for him.”**

Thank you Bro. Frank! Great is your reward in Heaven. Now rest in Peace, Safe in the Arms of Jesus! **Servant of God - Well Done!**

***By: Anita Hanna Matthews - Director of Public Relations - Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization***

**BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ARDMORE, PA  
LAY ORGANIZATION ANNUAL LAY DAY**

*October 14, 2012  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service*

**Ms. Louise Coursey, Lay President**

**PREACHER OF THE DAY**

**Reverend Albert Johnson, Pastor**

**By: Anita Hanna Matthews - PCLO Director of Public Relations**

Under the Pastoral leadership of Reverend Albert Johnson and the lay leadership of Local Lay President Sis. Louise Coursey, Bethel AME Ardmore celebrated an Lay Day Annual that offered a great practicum of a worship service for the generations that will follow.

The Order of Worship was embellished with our traditional way of worship in the A.M.E. Church- -from the piano prelude by "maestro magnificent" Ms. Donna Dingle (Bethel, Ardmore) to the Lay Benediction followed by the Recessional.

Lay officers and members from our four Presiding Elder Districts ( were strong in numbers. And, in spite of her very active and busy schedule, our Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization President, Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, (Mt. Pisgah, Phila.) was among the worshipers and extended greetings and gave gracious remarks. Mr. Hosea Jackson, PCLO 2nd Vice President (Bethel Bryn Mawr) extended an earnest appeal to join Bethel's Lay Organization, which resulted in two new members--one adult and one your adult.

*As you read the listing of participants of this worship service, you will no doubt see that Ms. Coursey wanted to utilize to the fullest extent the loyal lay members of "the House of Bethel."*

Ms. Louse R. Coursey proficiently and gracefully served as the Worship Leader. The Bethel Jewels Youth Choir led the processional of lay members and clergy as they spiritedly sang the spiritual, "When I Woke Up Early This Morning, I Didn't No Doubt". Other selections sweetly sang by the Bethel Jewels were: "Since I Laid My Burdens Down"; "If It Had Not Been For The Lord On My Side" and "Somebody Prayed For Me."

The Worship Service participants was inclusive of many loyal lay "Bethelites". Ms. Janine Baggett lined the opening hymn, "The Laymen's Hymn"; Invocation by Mrs. Marcia Brown; Scripture read by Ms. Estelle Summers (*Psalm 42*); Mrs. Maxine Rodriguez led the Summary of the Decalogue; Ushers of Bethel conducted the Benevolent Offering and Mrs. Cleo Gibson led the Lay Litany. We were blessed by a solo rendered by Ms. Oceancyanna Dark; Ms. Sheilah Vance extended a warm welcome; and on behalf of the visitors, Mrs. Anita Hanna Matthews (Monumental, Steelton) responded and presented Ms. Coursey with one dozen red roses in appreciation for her many years of mentoring and leadership.

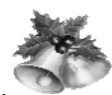
Ms. Nicole White read the announcements; Mrs. Verona Vance rendered a statement for the *Dedication of Flowers in Memory Sis. Maude E. Raines and Sis. Rosalie M. Clark*, who were two of Bethel's dedicated and devoted lay persons. Mr. Ernest Asbury extended the Altar Call; Mrs. Daisy Atkinson and Ms. Nicole Vance served on the Finance Committee. Mrs. YaVonne White introduced the Preacher of the Day, Rev. Albert Johnson, Pastor of Bethel followed by the Hymn of Preparation "It Is No Secret What God Can Do" melodiously rendered by Mr. Theodore Stevenson (Jones Tabernacle, Phila.). **And then it was "preaching time."**

Pastor Johnson's thought-provoking and charging sermon to the laity was entitled, "**How Bad Do You Want It?**" Scripture reference, **Psalm 42:1 (As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.)** This powerful message had the congregation standing on our feet as he preached.

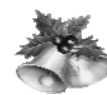
Excerpts from Pastor Johnson's message: "**Coming together as one is not easy. If we are to benefit and be of service to others, we must learn how to encourage ourselves and every now and then we must pray and "shout" our way through depressions. Pastor continued, "The laity have an excellent opportunity to let others know that God never fails and we must never allow issues to separate us from God or from serving God. If we want it bad enough, we must put our hope in God. We cannot allow jealousy and blind ambitions cause us to break the band of unity with God and among ourselves." It's time to move from being complainers to being encouragers, and to stop being just hearers but to be doers as well.**" (WoW, what a powerful message!)

On behalf of Bethel's members, Mrs. Bernice Green presented Ms. Coursey with a beautiful bouquet flowers acknowledging her longevity of church membership and laity leadership. Ms. Coursey stated that "after 40 years of serving as President, it's time to pass the gavel and time for her to place the "mantle" to the next generation." (The new President of Bethel's Lay Organization will be announced in the near future)

**Ms. Coursey has always been an influential icon, and a viable and visible lay leader who expressed "leadership extraordinaire" for many decades, and I am quite sure, that the stepping stones she laid will continue to produce "strong and effective laity" at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Ardmore.**



## PCLO Christmas Service and Fellowship



*Submitted by Anita Hanna Matthews*

*Pictures taken by Brother Walter Jeffers*

The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, under the leadership of our president, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, held its Christmas Service and Fellowship on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at Campbell AME Church in Frankford. The Christmas service started at 11:00 and was led by Sister Marie Butler, Campbell's local lay president who served as the worship leader. The service opened with the singing of "Joy to the World". It was a wonderful service with great music by the senior choir under the direction of Brother James Smith, Organist. The message was delivered by Reverend Glenn Shepherd, host pastor. Reverend Shepherd preached a "powerful and thought provoking" message from **Philippians 1:3-7** on the subject, "**How Will You Be Remembered?**"

We were delighted to have the Presiding Elder of the Philadelphia District, Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart join us for the service. Reverend Hart brought closing remarks and blessed the food. We ended the service by singing, "Silent Night" and the Lay Benediction.



Following the service, we went to the dining room for our Christmas Fellowship. A wonderful time continued.

We were joined by Reverend Carolyn Caveness, pastor of First AME in Sharon Hill. Each year the

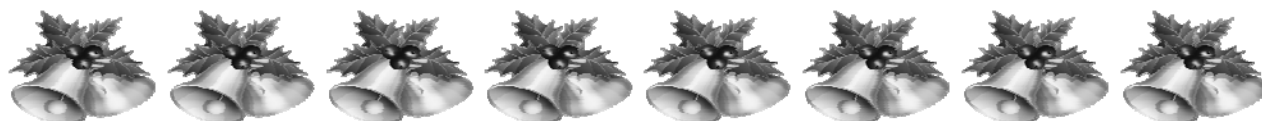
members of our Conference Lay Organization hold a card shower for one of our sick or shut-in members. This year, Sis. Diane

Long from First AME in Sharon Hill was the person selected to receive our card shower and the cards were delivered to her by her pastor, Reverend Carolyn Caveness.

During the fellowship, we had joyous singing, a beautiful Christmas Poem, and then dined sufficiently on the delicious foods and desserts prepared by the local members of Campbell.

After dining we played some Christmas games and prizes were awarded to game winners. It was a lot of fun and there were many prizes distributed. Even those who didn't win one of the game prizes was able to walk away with a gift because our president makes sure everyone gets a gift each year. This year's gift was a small engraved tote bag.

There was one more thing we needed to do after we finished with the games and that was to sing, "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Last year we participated by tables. This year, our president showed us animated motions for each of the twelve days of Christmas and as we sang, we had to act out the motions for each of the days. What a time! We had winners for this too. Our judges were Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart and Reverend Glenn Shepherd who went out to "deliberate to decide who the winner would be" and came in "deliberately" walking slowly with pomp and circumstance" and was announced as the "Episcopal Committee." This "Christmas" Episcopal Committee made their report by announcing the winners and more prizes were handed out. What an enjoyable time! We ended our fellowship with the singing of "Silent Night". **A blessed time was had by all!**



*(continued)*  
**Fellowship**



**Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Christmas Service and**



**PCLO Christmas Worship Service at Campbell AMEC, Frankford (Phila.)**



L-R. (Musician) Earl Knight, Photographer Walter Jeffers, and Pastor Glenn Shepherd



L-R. PCLO President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell  
Campbell's Lay President Marie Butler



The joyous and cheerful Spirit of Christmas is ever so present as lay members from all Presiding Elders Districts of the Philadelphia Conference join in singing and animating the "Twelve Days of Christmas"

# MT. PISGAH'S LAY ANNUAL BRUNCH

*Saturday, October 13, 2012*



*Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church  
428 N 40<sup>th</sup> St. - Phila, PA 19104*

*By: Cheryll Morris-Davis, Director of Public Relations*

Majority of the membership returned to action as the Organized Lay of Mt. Pisgah's Lay started this conference year in a whirlwind of activities. However, we must pause for a moments, to offer prays for our sick and shut in members that they will be able to return to the fold.

The first grand Lay event began with the Annual Lay Unsung Heroes Awards Luncheon on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at our First District Headquarters, 3801 Market Street. Our **Unsung Hero was Brother Irvin Hopewell**, the husband of our PCLO Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. He holds the position of the Parliamentarian in our local Lay and our Church School Superintendent.

On the following Saturday, October 13th, Mt. Pisgah's Lay held its Annual Lay Brunch. We were delighted to see many Lay members from our sister churches in attendance. We are sure that if our first president, Brother Joseph F. Walker, was alive today, he would be smiling seeing that we are still carrying on in what began in 1951. We are blessed to have one original member, Sister Pauline I. Andrews, with us. Her attendance was truly missed at this year's Annual Lay Brunch.

Mt. Pisgah's church school room was transformed into an attractive dining area with buffet tables holding serving trays containing flavorful foods and delicious desserts positioned on both side of the walls in the room. The Lay's theme colors, "blue and white," with touches of the appropriate adornments throughout the room set the stage for the hosting of our Annual Lay Brunch. Our special guests were greeted cordially with smiles and hugs, and to partake of a sumptuous lunch prepared by our own culinary artist and efficient Lay President, Sis. Shirley Moore-Harris. Sister Shirley as she is affectionately called was aided by members of the Lay in preparation of this feast delight. This year was a particularly poignant affair as we now are drawing to the close of the Lay's centennial celebration.

The Order of Service was guided by the capable worship leader Sister Irene Hall of Metropolitan A.M.E., Lansdowne. Our faithful Lay member, Sister Barbara Kennedy, accompanied us with the music for the "Laymen's Hymn." The invocation was by Brother James C. Ayres, President of St. Paul A.M.E. Church Lay. The Holy Scripture was read by the Lay President of Morris Brown A.M.E. Church, Sister Linda Frazier. Sister Cherie Q. Ryans of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, sang the beloved song, "I Am Redeemed," and she was followed by our Lay member, Sister Catherine Stewart in a gracious way extended a "Welcome to one and to all." The "Welcome" is always followed by a response and Brother Gilroy Reid, Waters Memorial A.M.E. Church, Lay President, did so in his own special way.

St. Paul A.M.E. Church's Lay President, Sister Dereth A. Hicks led the Litany. The Offering/Offertory participants were Sister Cheryll Morris-Davis and Sister Gladys Patterson, members of Mt. Pisgah Lay, and Sister Lillian Murphy of Zion A.M.E. Church.

**(Continued) MT. PISGAH'S LAY ANNUAL BRUNCH**



Sister Patricia Layne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of our Lay dedicated a moment to remember two our faithful members, Sister Ruth Adams and Sister Lillian Drake that departed this life in 2012. Sister Gloria Geathers, member of Mt. Pisgah's Excelsior Choir rendered the solo for the memorial.

Our worship service moved forth to hearing of a "Word from the Lord." This year's **Lay speaker was Brother Keith Arrington**. Brother Arrington wears many hats. He is a son of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church whose days of association goes back to his infancy. Brother Arrington is the son of an active member, Sister Letitia Arrington, brother to Kenneth and Joshua Arrington, husband of Sister Juanita Arrington, father, uncle, member of the Steward Board, and educator. However, with all of these responsibilities in life, Brother Arrington first proclaims that he is a Child of God. Sister Letitia Arrington had the dubious honor of introducing her son. His brother, Joshua established the moment in rendering a soulful solo.

Brother Arrington's message came from the Scripture, Ephesians 2:8. ***For by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.*** The title of his message was ***"I've Got The Gift; I've Got To Use It."*** Brother Arrington laid the foundation for his message and he was off and running. He supported his message with scriptures from other verses in the Bible. Brother Arrington's message was easy to understand, sprinkled with humor and held everyone's attention. There were folks shouting "Amen", waving their hands in approval, and standing. We've got the gift; we've got to use it.

We could not assume that everyone in attendance is in the membership of the Body of Christ and our pastor, Reverend Jay B. Broadnax, spirited filled gave the Invitation to Christian Discipleship. Brother Andrew Turner, Sr., 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of Campbell A.M.E. Church followed to gave the invitation for members to join the Lay. The Lay has the task of being the teaching component in proper training of members in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Sister Shirley Moore-Harris switched her role in the culinary and hostess area to Local Lay President with remarks. **Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell church member and Conference Lay President and Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, Pastor** made their closing remarks. The worship experience ended with the Lay Benediction, **May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity, that we may live together, not as man over man, but as laypersons working with God.**

Lunch was served by the Mt. Pisgah Lay members and now was the moment of chat, chew and fellowship. It was a great day for all for to share.

We, the Lay of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, cordially invite you to attend our next Annual Lay Day, Saturday, October 12, 2013.





# St. John A.M.E. Church, Lebanon, PA

CELEBRATES 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL LAY DAY - November 11, 2012



by: Anita Hanna Matthews  
PCLO Director of Public Relations

When Sister Mildred Gilyard, the Director of Lay Activities at Bethel AME, Reading, PA delivered her thought-stimulating and informative message as the Lay Day Speaker at St. John AME, Lebanon, PA she *infused the challenges and ingenuity of the Africans who were captured, brought to America, and put into slavery, with the challenges and prophecies of the Old Testament and the "good news" of the New Testament.*

Sis. Gilyard's message entitled **"The Cycle of Communication"** revealed to us that effective communications involves "senders" and "receivers". She relayed to us that our Heavenly Father creates the instructions as "the sender", and we as the children of God are the receivers" and that His message must be spread throughout the world to others. (*Ephesians 4:11-12 & Mark 16:15*)

Sis. Gilyard went on to say *"Just as the slaves used songs, signs, signals and distinctive patterns on quilts and placed these quilts along escape routes as guidelines to physical and mental freedom, our Heavenly father chose distinctive prophets, priests, kings and Jesus Christ to lead us to spiritual freedom through salvation by using "prophecies, parables, signs and wonders."* So now it's up to each of us as laypersons working with God to spread the "Good News" and to serve one another.

Sis. Carol J. Hayes, the Local Lay President accompanied the musical selections during the service. Bro. Michael Kitchen, Sr. (Bethel, Reading) served as the Leader. Worship participants also included Prayer rendered by Rev. Eugene Simmons (St. John Ministerial Staff); Scripture reading by Sister Beverly Francis; the Welcome was extended by Sis. Barbara Hall; the Leader of the Lay Litany, was Sis. Anna Cobb (Bethel Village, Harrisburg); soul-stirring musical selections were rendered by the Barbara Hall Family accompanied by musician Bro. Hubie Hall, Jr.. The introduction of the Guest Speaker, was given by Sis. Brenda Thomas, (Ebenezer, Middletown); Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell (Mt. Pisgah, Phila.) extended the invitation to join the Lay and the pastor of St. John, Rev. Jerome F. Thomas, offered the prayer for the rededication of Lay members.

Guest worshipers also included Rev. Charlie Mae Thomas of the St. John Ministerial Staff; Mrs. Claudie Hammond (Mt. Pisgah, Phila.) the mother of our Conference Lay President; Sis. Mary McCullough, (Mt. Sinai, Edgemont); and Sis. Anita Hanna Matthews, (Monumental AME, Steelton) who also extended greetings.



**Bro. Frank Gilyard, Bethel AME, Reading (deceased - Jan. 24, 2013)**

the late husband of the Guest Speaker, Mrs. Gilyard, and the many loyal Gilyard children and grandchildren was among this fellowship and they proudly listened to Mrs. Gilyard's impressive message.

Continue to pray for the Gilyard family and their church; that despite the challenges they may face, they will continue to prosper and to experience bountiful comfort and blessings from God.

# Monumental African Methodist Episcopal Church Celebrates 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lay Day - November 18, 2012



2<sup>nd</sup> and Adams Streets - Steelton, PA 17113  
Reverend Ronald L. Sparks, Pastor

*by: Anita Hanna Matthews, Lay President*

Plans for “getting an early start” to travel the distance of 100+ miles from Philadelphia to Steelton, PA on an early Sunday morning, turned out to be a unexpected change of plans because of a traffic tie-up on the Expressway.

Our Lay Day **Guest Speaker Mrs. Juanita Bryant** and her faithful sister and traveling road buddy, Ms. Carolyn Jones sat in one spot for over an hour, due to a traffic accident that had happened miles down the road. However, they were determined to continue their journey and arrived in a timely manner to fellowship with us.

While on their way to Steelton, they kept in touch with us by cell phone to let us know that they were coming, regardless. We anxiously waited for their arrival and when they finally arrived, Sis. Bryant was just as calm as she could be and said **“it was all in God's plan and that they were in His hands.”**

Sis. Juanita's message was entitled **“Can God Count on You”**. The text was taken from ***Ephesians 4:22-23*** and **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9**. Her message was enriched with spiritual and Biblical principals and enlaced with practical principals that should be a part of our everyday life styles if we profess to be Christians.

She gave us encouraging and spiritual recipes on **“how to grow the church and how to grow in the church.”** and reminded us that we all have been called to be responsible for church growth and when we are called we must do our ministry.” She continued, **“Not only do we have a calling, we have a blessed assurance that God is still in control in the midst of what we do whether it be disappointments or blessings. If God brought us to it, He will bring us thru it.”** We are to: **Study God's word** for directions. **Prayer** will make us strong in faith. **Giving** of our time and talents will reveal that fact that God will provide, because the more we give the more God will give to us.

Our Worship participants were as follow: Introduction of Worship Leader, Joyce Bradshaw; Worship Leader: Sis. Emma Pettis, Ebenezer Middletown; Invocation: Bro. John Archie, Monumental; Scripture Reading: Bro. Edward Dickinson, Mt. Zion, Atglen; Leader of the Lay Litany: Sis. Theresa Miller, Monumental; Response to the Welcome: Bro. Carol Bell, Bethel, Carlisle; Sis. Audrey Clowe gave the Memorial Tribute for our four deceased Lay members during this past year; **(Sis. Nestine C. House, Bro. Lawrence J. Matthews, Sis. Helen Pettigrew, and Bro. Adam Elliott)**. Church announcements: Sis. Brenda Barrett; Recognition of Guests was acknowledged by local Lay President Sis. Anita Hanna Matthews; Introduction of Guest Speaker: Sis. Alda Hanna Epps; our Pastor Reverend Ronald L. Sparks gave remarks and extended the Altar call; Sisters Edrina Whitaker and Rosa McCormick (Monumental) and Sis. Anna Cobb (Bethel, Harrisburg) and Bro. Andre Turner (Campbell, Frankford)delphia lifted the offerings; Conference Lay President Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell (Mt. Pisgah, Phila.) extended the invitation to unite with the organized lay. Her appeal encouraged our drummer Bro. Stan White to join our Lay Organization, at which time she presented him with a study handbook that will assist him in knowing more about the A.M.E. Church.

Our guests also included Sis. Patty Lane (Mt. Pisgah, Phila.); Sis. Louise Coursey, (Bethel, Ardmore); Sis. Carolyn Kamara-Thomas, (Bethel, West Chester) Sis. Debbie McNeal and her daughter (Bethel, York.)

Following this spirit-filled worship service we processed to the dining room where **“Kathy's Krew and Culinary Staff”** served us a delicious meal that sated our appetites. The culinary staff included the neatly uniformed-clad “teenage girls” of our church who were well poised, charming, and ready, willing and able to serve us with elegance and style. We were proud of their performance and they really enjoyed being of service to us.

**We praise and give God all the Glory for such a wonderful fellowship as we celebrated our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lay Day.**

# ALLEN A.M.E. CHURCH

## Observes

### ANNUAL LAY DAY

By: *Peggy E. Pinder, Director of Lay Activities*

*ALLEN A.M.E. CHURCH - 5901 Larchwood Avenue – Philadelphia, PA*

**Sis. Fern Wesley** serves as President of the Allen Lay Organization. This year she was selected the **Lay Person of the year for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization**. Fern has served at Allen as Director of the Credit Union which has helped the members as well as the Church through some financial situations. Also she has served as Treasurer and Financial Secretary of the Philadelphia Conference (PCLO) Lay Organization. Some folks deem her as “the money person.”

**Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** Allen celebrated their Annual Day at 3:30p.m. The Lay Director was asked to invite program participants. With cell phone in hand she decided to call as many men to participate as possible. It was a good task and it included: Brothers Charles Ayers (St. Paul) Bro. Timothy Baldwin (Hickman Temple) Bro. Andre Turner (Campbell, Frankford), Bro. Hosea Jackson (Bethel Bryn Mawr) and Bro. James Lake (Jones Tabernacle).

The **Guest Speaker** from Bethel AMEC, Bryn Mawr was **Bro. Kyle Helton**, a dynamic Lay Expounder of the Word of God. The Pastor and members from Bethel turned out to encourage Bro. Helton. This young soldier of the cross grew up in the church, singing and assisting wherever needed and it shows in his message. Sisters Irene Hall (Metropolitan) and Ethel Warner (AME Union) rounded out the program. The Allen Combined Choir sang per usual and were sincerely thanked by President Wesley for their willingness to serve when called upon. Allen has always been known for an outstanding choir and the legacy still stands.

Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart joined Pastor Richard Lackey and Reverend Carlos Bounds to enjoy the spirit filled Lay Service. President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell extended greetings and words of encouragement.



The Allen Lay had to bid “Farewell” to an active loyal member this year in the person of **SISTER THELMA LACY**, our Secretary. Sis. Lacy, was a well known educator in the Philadelphia area and will be sorely missed. She Chaired most of the groups' fund raisers. Organized Lay members and fellow teachers attended the Memorial service.

**The Annual Day is over - - but the work continues. As the “old folks” used say, “no rest for the weary”.  
They must have been talking about church folks.**



*Permission was given to the editor from one of the latest members of "Club 70" to print this  
Special Shout-Out:*



**Happy "70th" Birthday to: Sister Ethel Wanner - - A.M.E. Union, Philadelphia, PA  
who recently celebrated her birthday.**

*Ethel says, "I want everybody to know that I'm glad to be alive to celebrate my  
**70<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY.**" To GOD Be the Glory!!!*

Please Forward News For The PCLO Newsletter "OUR VOICES" to:

Anita Hanna Matthews  
PCLO Director of Public Relations  
4820 Sweetbrier Drive - Harrisburg, PA 17111  
e-mail: [AnitaMatt@verizon.net](mailto:AnitaMatt@verizon.net)  
Telephone: (717) 561-4422

Please submit your news according to the "designated due dates."  
The DEADLINE for articles to be printed in the next "Our Voices" is: May 31, 2013  
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*The editor reserves the right to edit all materials received and to  
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