



# OUR VOICES

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Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations



## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

HOSTED BY BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ARDMORE, PA

Rev. Albert Johnson, Pastor - Mrs. Bernice H. Green, Lay President

By: Anita Hanna Matthews, PCLO Director of Public Relations

Dec. 21, 2013 Upon arriving at Bethel AMEC, Ardmore, we noticed that

the doors leading to the narthex were adorned with evergreen wreaths and holly. This was an inviting symbol of the Christmas spirit; and as we entered through the doors, the members of Bethel's Lay organization greeted us with warm smiles and hellos.

The Christmas Worship Service began with greetings from Worship Leader, Mrs. Bernice H. Green, Bethel's Lay President who led the service in a manner that continued the already established protocol of the way Bethel Family does things - *"with decency and in order."*

In spite of a busy schedule, Church musician Ms. Donna Dingle rendered the music and favored us with a beautiful medley of vocal Christmas solos.

The Lay members of Bethel participated throughout the service: Mrs. Marcia Brown gave the prayer, Mrs. Kimberly A. Howard read the Scriptures (*Philippians 4:4-9*) and Ms. Louise Coursey enthusiastically Introduced the "Shepherd of Bethel" her pastor, the **Reverend Albert Johnson**, who delivered a superb Christmas message in which he titled **"The Joy of Christmas"** using the text of *Philippians 4:4-9*.

Rev. Johnson's inspiring message clarified *"Even through the apostle Paul was in prison and isolated from those he loved, Paul found true JOY in knowing who Christ is – and, although we may not be trapped in a physical prison, we sometimes becomes imprisoned mentally and spiritually. However, we can have "JOY"*

*in knowing that every day is Christmas because CHRIST IS BORN.* Pastor Johnson also reiterated, *"We should never confuse "happiness" with "joy". Happiness, (he stated) is the result of things happening on the "outside". But "JOY" comes from the "inside" because of the birth of Christ.*

This inspiring message was a "Christmas Gift" within itself. Pastor Johnson brought us to our feet in praises, as he told us to count our blessings and to live our blessings through believing, praising and by giving God the glory for such a wonderful gift called **"JESUS"** who brings **"HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, SALVATION AND JOY"**

One highlight of this fellowship occurred when Ms. Lousie Coursey (Bethel) was recognized for her longevity of noteworthy and significant Lay ministry and service of 44 years (*and still going strong*). She served as Bethel's Lay past president laying many stepping stones and is yet a strong pillar at Bethel and throughout the Connectional A.M.E. Church. "Her story" is featured in "We Speak" our Connectional Lay Newsletter.

Following the worship service, we processed to the dining room where the Bethel Culinary Staff served delicious and abundant Christmas Luncheon followed by fun and games as our thoughtful Conference President Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell provided quizzes pertaining to Christmastide and prizes. And, when it was all said and done, each one of us received very useful Christmas gifts from our generous Conference president. Truly, this "Fellowship" will always be remembered as **"THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS"**

Conference Lay President Hopewell listens attentively to the Christmas Message



Food-Prizes-Gifts-Fellowship in the Dining Room



Sis. Frances Archer, AME Union (standing) shares Christmas "greetings"





# Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Salutes



## “Shirley Moore-Harris” “Layperson of the Year”

By: Anita Hanna Matthews, PCLO Director of Public Relations

Oct. 5, 2013 As we entered the dining room at 3801 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA (our 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church Headquarters) to celebrate another **Annual Awards Luncheon**, the entire room was festively super-charged with excitement and anticipation. We had assembled to pay tribute to **Mrs. Shirley Moore-Harris of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia**, where the **Reverend Jay B. Broadnax is the pastor**.

Sister Shirley was chosen by the members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization to wear this honorable mantle in recognition of her faithful and noteworthy Christian service to our Conference.

At her church she serves as the local Lay President expressing exemplified leadership and her steadfast service encompasses detailed and sincere service which enables our Conference Lay Organization to maintain our distinction of promoting **“First Things First.”**

Sister Harris was presented a prestigious plaque from our Conference and a citation from our State Government acknowledging her faithful and exemplary Christian service. The plaque was presented to her by our Bishop, the Right Reverend Gregory G.M. Ingram and Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. Also, accolades of applause, gifts, flowers and well wishes were showered upon **“Lay Person of the Year 2013 - Mrs. Shirley Moore-Harris.”**



### “35 UNSUNG HEROS” HONORED DURING THE ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The very capable Luncheon Chairman Walter C. Jeffers served as Master of Ceremonies and guided us through the festivities of the day.

Maestro Earl Knight, II & Co. provided music and vocals and the hosts & hostesses greeted and seated us. Also making this affair such a wonderful success was Luncheon Co-Chair Deborah Stancil, Ticket Chair Ruth Nelson, Journal Chair Marie Butler, the Committee Chairs and members, local Presidents and all who worked behind the scenes.

We were also delighted to have in our midst our Bishop, the Right Reverend Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram Our Presiding Elders, our many pastors and clergy of the Philadelphia Conference, our family and friends.

When the Welcome and Occasion was extended by Carolyn Jones, she eagerly stated, **“Some of our honorees faithfully and tirelessly serve in the background – but TODAY, is YOUR day to be FRONT and CENTER.”** And, thus 35 “Unsung Heroes” from churches throughout the Philadelphia Conference received tributes in recognition of their Christian service rendered at their local churches.

Each honoree received an appreciation plaque from the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization which was presented to them by our Bishop the Right Reverend Gregory G.M. Ingram. Each Honoree had his/her picture taken with our Bishop, the Honoree’s Presiding Elder and Pastor, our Conference President and their local church Lay President.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all of you who give **FAITHFUL SERVICE AT YOUR CHURCH** as: stewards, trustees, stewardesses, missionaries, ushers, youth leaders,

teachers, choir members, directors, musicians, organizational officers & members, culinary staff, van drivers, custodians, praise dances, willing workers, etc.,

#### THE UNSUNG HEROS OF 2013

- Elizabeth Watkins, Allen; Sharon B. Thomas, AME Union; Jean King Hayes, Bethel, Ardmore; .....
- Vivian Robinson, Bethel, Bryn Mawr; Lloyd Asparagus, Jr., Bethel, Downingtown; Milton B. Stanley, Sr., Bethel Harrisburg; Rev. Albertha E. Glover, Bethel, Lansdowne; Viola L. Towson, Bethel, Pottstown; Taylor Golden, Bethel, Reading; Genevieve Richardson, Bethel, West Chester; Sallie Tart, Calvary; Andree A. Turner, Sr., Campbell; Donna L. Hare, Emmanuel; Marguerite Jones, First AME; Sandra Caple; Greater Mt. Olive; Wendy R. Kelly, Grimes; Denise Whitaker, Hickman Temple; Joyce Moseley and Lillian Moseley, Jones Tabernacle; Dorothy Wright, LaMott; Betty V. Waters, Metropolitan; Hilda L. Elliott, Monumental, Steelton; Shirley Richards, Morris Brown; Irene Armstrong, Mother Bethel; Gwendolyn Burnett, Mt. Pisgah; Elaine Morgan, Mt. Tabor; Wendell Hauley, Mt. Zion, Norristown; Esther D. Dove, New Bethel, Germantown; Leslie-Ann Budhoo, New Bethel, Willow Grove; Caroline P. Ketchum, St. Matthew; Constance R. Means, St. Paul, Elmwood; Robert L. Wright, St. Paul, Malvern; Marian S. Sudler, Trinity; Anthony L.E. Rockemore, Ward; Kesha Harvey, Waters Memorial.

**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**Pottstown, Pennsylvania**

**Lay Organization Celebrates**  
**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LAY DAY**



**Guest Speaker:** PCLO President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and the Reverend Vernon Ross, Pastor



Local Lay President Carl Glover and Mrs. Glover;  
Guest Speaker C.H. Hopewell and Pastor Vernon Ross

The Bethel Lay Organization, Church Family, visiting Lay and friends had a glorious time in the Lord on Sunday, October 20, 2013 as we celebrated our **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lay Day**.

Brother Bobby Josey from Grimes blessed us with a powerful morning prayer. The **Guest Speaker** was our **Conference Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell**. Her message was on time and in line with our Connectional theme.

Sister Cheryl indicated that in the Laity's charge of fulfilling the Great Commission we must prepare ourselves much like a builder. She challenged us with her message topic, "**Are You Ready to Build?**" **Nehemiah 2:17-20a** was the Scripture text. She said "*just as a builder needs mortar and brick to construct buildings, we need a sound foundation as we build up God's Kingdom. As Christians we must have faith in God and allow Him to lead us. Sister Cheryl also referenced Psalm 127. We must spend time with God and stay in the Word. We were informed that we can't teach what we do not know and we can't lead where we do not go*". She said "*that we need to have a listening heart and build relationships*". We were truly blessed by the message and honored to have Sister Hammond Hopewell as our speaker.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to Sister Cheryl, Brother Hopewell, visiting Laity and friends for joining us. Special thanks to those visiting from Mother Bethel, to Pastor Ross and our Local Lay program participants and members. We also served a light repast after the service. Our Lay Day was spiritually and financially blessed by God and successful because of you.

*Submitted by,*  
*Carl Glover, Lay President*

# MONUMENTAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND & ADAMS STREETS – STEELTON, PA 17113

Reverend Troy Lynn Carr, Pastor

## 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LAY DAY CELEBRATION

*Submitted by: Anita Hanna Matthews, Lay President*



**Guest Speaker:**

**Licentiate Bryan McAllister**

**Mt. Zion AME Church, Columbia, PA**

Nov. 17, 2013 From the beginning to the end--from the preparation to the conclusion, **Monumental's 27th Annual Lay Day** was celebrated with high spirits, great encouragement from our pastor, the Reverend Troy Lynn Carr, and copious support from Monumental's members and the many guests who attended..

We were blessed to have as our **Guest Speaker** an anointed and inspiring Licentiate of the Harrisburg District, **Brother Bryan McAllister, of Mt. Zion AMEC, Columbia, PA** where his mother, the Reverend Patricia McAllister is the pastor.

Bro. McAllister expresses his "gift of The Highest Calling" through evangelizing in youth ministries. He delivered a rousing message as he ardently interpreted our **Connectional Lay Theme "Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church" (Matthew 28: 18-20)**. He affirmed, *"Fulfilling the great commission, as defined by Christ, is not just a spectator's sport and if we want to spread the Word of salvation and continue the legacy of the A.M.E. church, we must first "preach Christ" -- and we must make it evident that our first and foremost order is to "love" everyone, just as Christ loves each of us."*

Bro. McAllister's message was inspiring, profound, and he "preached" in a manner that captivated our attention and directed our thoughts to the true meaning of the "Great Commission" as mandated by Christ.

Our acolytes who lead the processional are Malik and Zaria, Kari and Jaylen and they alternate in lighting and extinguishing the candles in the chancel; followed by our praiseful Choir who is accompanied by our versatile and multitalented musician Sis. Cynthia McCarthur and Choir Director Sis. Marcie Carter.

We followed the traditional protocol of an A.M.E. Morning Worship Service as Sis. Emma Pettis (Ebenezer

AME, Middletown) proficiently led us through the Order of Service. Additional participants included: The Invocation by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of the Phila. Conference Lay Organization, Bro. Andree Turner (Campbell, Frankfort); The Holy Scriptures (Psalm 100) was read by Sis. Towanda Hunter-Greeger (Bethel Carlisle) and (Matthew 28:16-20) was read by Sis. Brenda Thomas Ebenezer, Middletown. Sis. Alda Hanna Epps (Monumental) led the Lay Responsive Reading and Sis. Rosetta Archie (Monumental) extended a warm welcome. Pastor Troy Lynn Carr gave the invitation to the Altar Call -- a time for worshippers to come to the Altar for prayers of thanks and personal petitions to God -- who is omnipresent and omnipotent.

Bro. Damien Colon (Mt. Zion, Columbia), who also extends his Christian services to evangelizing to the youth in Columbia, PA, gave an admirable introduction of his friend, our Guest Speaker.

Following the Morning Message and invitation to Christian Discipleship, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Bro. Hosea Jackson (Bethel, Bryn Mawr) made the appeal for those who would like to unite with the organized Lay. Thus, we received one new member. Sis. Danielle Chambers (Bethel, Hbg.) and Sis. Rosa McCormick (Monumental) assisted with the Offering.

Remarks were given by Monumental's Lay President, Sis. Anita Hanna Matthews followed by encouraging remarks from our Conference President, Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, whose encouragement and attendance always lets us know that "we may be quite a distance in miles from the other three Presiding Elders' Districts; nevertheless, we are most certainly "connected to the connection" which makes the A.M.E. Church such an unique and resourceful church.

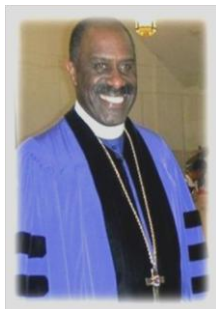
After the service we went to the Elcora McClane Social Hall where Kathy's Kulinary Krew served a delicious meal. And as we fellowshiped, **we realized how blessed we were "to be in the fellowship "one more time"**.

# MONUMENTAL A.M.E. CHURCH—STEELTON, PA, CELEBRATES 142<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY

“LIVING THE LEGACY – FIRST THINGS FIRST”

By: Anita Hanna Matthews

**Guest Preacher: Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram**  
Presiding Prelate 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District  
African Methodist Episcopal Church



The Monumental AME Church Family graciously welcomed our Bishop, the **Right Reverend Gregory G.M. Ingram**, when he arrived at our house of worship on Sunday, **Nov. 24, 2013** to join us as we celebrated our **142<sup>nd</sup> Church Anniversary**. Under

the creative and energetic leadership of our Pastor, Reverend Troy Lynn Carr, a plethora of enthusiasm and preparation had permeated throughout the hallowed walls of our beloved church for several weeks.

Monumental has a rich legacy that resonate an

essence in our community of Christian service, sacrifice, determination and the pride of our ancestors -- “**upon whose shoulders we stand**”.

Our guests included our present Presiding Elder the Rev. Lawrence C. Henryhand and our former Presiding Elder the Rev. Robert O. Bailey (*retired*).

From the time the **Community Youth Step Team** (under the direction of Sis. Helen Green) set the tone through the pulsating cadenced drum beats and throughout the service the spirit was high.

And just as we knew he would do, our Bishop delivered a powerful and inspiring Spirit-filled sermon with reverence, ecclesiastical wisdom and style.

Bishop Ingram’s message “**Thanking and Praising God**” (*Text/Psalm 100*) **encouraged** us to remember to thank God for all our blessings and “**that we’ve come this far by faith and faith will take us the rest of the way – God is still in control.**”

Pastor Carr and members of Monumental take great pride in knowing that we are the “**first church**” on the **Harrisburg District to invite our Bishop to preach a worship service on the Harrisburg District -- denoting “First Things First**”.

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## THE REVIVAL ” PREACHED BY A DYNAMIC FATHER AND SON DUO at Monumental A.M.E. Church

Preceding our Church Anniversary Sunday, we had just concluded a super-soul-stirring two-day **REVIVAL** which helped to **renew our minds as it lifted our spirits** in preparation for our Anniversary Sunday.



(Nov. 21) Revivalist **Guest Preacher**, the **Reverend Dr. Stanley Hearst**, pastor of Bethel AMEC, Moorestown, N.J. (former pastor of Monumental) preached a prophetic and encouraging message as well as stated it was good to be “back in Steelton for a visit.”



(Nov. 22) Revivalist, **the Rev. Stanley Hearst, II** (pastor of Jones Tabernacle AMEC, Phila. Who spent some of his young adults years in Steelton reminisced about the time he spent in Steelton in preparation of the “highest calling”. His enlightening and powerful message also sated our souls and uplifted our spirits.

The Revivalists’ presence and messages made a great impact to “us *Monumentalites*” and to the great number of relatives and friends from throughout who Community who attended the Revival..

The visitation of the Rev. Dr. Stanley Hearst, Sr. who was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Sharon Hearst (a native Steeltonian) and the Reverend Stanley Hearst, II was similar to a “Steelton Homecoming”. Needless to say, we were truly blessed as the Holy Spirit directed these two anointed preachers to preach powerful and fitting messages as we “geared up” to celebrate **Monumental’s 142<sup>nd</sup> Church Anniversary – “Living The Legacy – First Things First.”**

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Monumental African Methodist Episcopal Church Steelton, PA



Reverend Troy Lynn Carr, Pastor



Anita Hanna Matthews, Lay President

# BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1721 North Fifth Street – HARRISBURG, PA

Reverend Micah G.T. Sims, Sr. Pastor

## ANNUAL LAY DAY

*Anna M. Cobb, Local Lay President*



### **Guest Speaker**

**Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President  
Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization**



**October 27, 2013** After Bethel's Praise and Worship team ushered in the "SPIRIT", we were well prepared to celebrate another Annual Lay Day at Bethel.

Sister Mary Randolph of Bethel served as the Worship Leader and competently led us through the Worship Service.

I must say, "the Harrisburg District kept our Conference President very busy during these past months as she once again fulfilled her ministry and leadership commitment as the President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization and traveled from Philadelphia to Bethel AMEC, Hbg. to deliver a very timely message. Traveling with our guest speaker was her Mother, Mrs. Claudie Hammond, her sister and friends. Also at this service were several PCLO officers: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gilroy Reed, (Waters memorial, Phila.) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Hosea Jackson (Bethel, Bryn Mawr); 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Andree Turner, (Campbell-Frankford) Director of Public Relations Anita Hanna Matthews, (Monumental-Steelton); Conference Marshal David Alexander, (Bethel-Hbg.) and host Lay President Sis. Anna M. Cobb who serves as the Financial Secretary for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization.

After singing the Laymen's Hymn, Carl Bell, III (Bethel-Carlisle) gave the Invocation and Danielle Chambers (Bethel-Hbg.) led the Responsive Reading. The Choir, accompanied by "Maestro Extraordinaire Jarred" rendered several spirited praises and their melodious voices added to the already spirit-filled service. Choir director and soloist Diane Wilson blessed us with "My Worship Is All For You". A gracious Welcome was extended by Tanita Dobbin followed by

the introduction of the Guest Speaker by David Alexander (Bethel-Hbg.).

Pastor Sims, Bethel's enthusiastic shepherd who brings to our District innovative and unique trends "to serve the present age" extended the Altar Call – "a time when we can individually come before the throne of grace for personal prayer and to place our petitions in the hands of our Heavenly Father and to give thanks to Him who knows, sees and cares for us all.

**Guest Speaker Cheryl Hammond Hopewell of Mt. Pisgah-Philadelphia** delivered a powerful and thought-provoking message entitled, "**It's Time To Take A Stand.**" Her message centered around the Connectional Lay Theme "Laity Following the Great Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church" and reinforced the "**importance of taking a stand as to what a Christian should be and holding fast to not only reading the Word but living the Word daily.** She restated that **it is up to those of us who are in leadership roles to be good leaders by learning, teaching, and walking the paths that Jesus would choose.**"

Rev. Tameaka Sims (Bethel) extended the Invitation to Salvation and Church Membership followed by the Invitation to Lay Ministry extended by 2<sup>nd</sup> PCLO Vice President Hosea Jackson. Two young adults answered the call to join Bethel's Lay Ministry.

Following remarks by the local Lay President Anna M. Cobb, Rev. Tameaka and Pastor Micah Sims, we sang the Lay Benediction and recessed to the Lower Level Hall and dined on a delicious dinner prepared by the Culinary Staff of Bethel. Pastor Sims and the Bethel Family was grateful to all of us who worshipped at Bethel in celebration of another Annual Lay Day.



# MT. PISGAH'S LAY ORGANIZATION

428 N. 41<sup>st</sup> Street – Philadelphia, PA

Reverend Jay Broadnax, Pastor

*Cheryll Morris-Davis, Director of Public Relations*

## **Lay Person of the Year “2013” Award**

*And*

## **Unsung Hero’s Awards Luncheon**

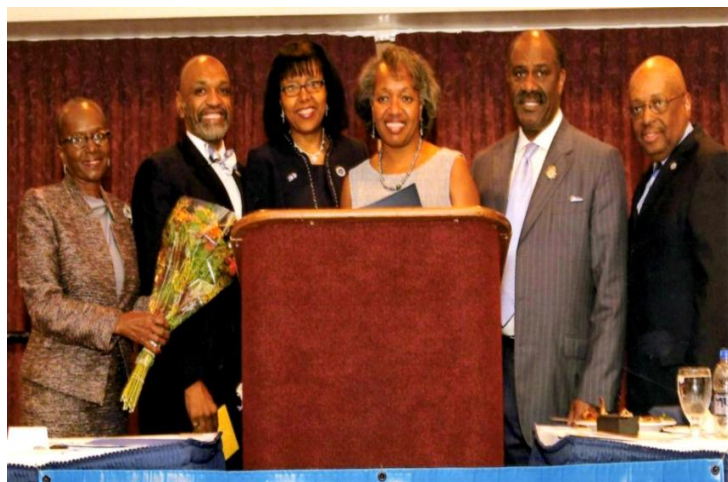
The whirlwind of activities for the membership of the Organized Lay of Mt. Pisgah is in high gear. We have hit the ground running at 100 miles per hour with the start of our September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. We give our praise and honor to our Almighty Creator and Jesus Christ our Savior for letting us return to the vineyard for this new conference year in evangelizing and encouraging others to join us in this Christian journey. However, we must pause for a moment, to offer prayers for one of our sick and shut-in member, Brother Melvin Logan and his faithful wife and care giver, Sister Madeline Logan. The Logans are longtime and were active members of Mt. Pisgah’s Lay.



The rite of activities began with a great fellowship at the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Annual Lay Unsung Heroes Awards Luncheon. This year, it was held Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at our First District Headquarters, 3801 Market Street. There were 66 in attendance from Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church for this year’s luncheon. It was a double-header honor and celebration for Mt. Pisgah’s Lay.

First, we were particularly proud of our local Lay President, **Sister Shirley Moore-Harris** who was selected the **2013 Lay Person of the Year**. At Mt. Pisgah, Sister Shirley is an untiring, dedicated worker who wears many hats in the ministries she is involved. They are arranged in alphabetical order, as Sister Shirley is a very organized person: Children’s Church, Church School, Department of Visitation and Assistance, HEEP Tutorial Program, My Sister’s Keeper, President of the Lay Organization, Steward Board, and Usher Boards.

Secondly, Our **Unsung Hero** was **Sister Gwendolyn Burnett**, who juggles her time within the various ministries of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church: Church School, Commission of Stewardship and Finance, Divine Movement Prophetic Dance Ministry, Department of Visitation and Assistance, El Shaddai Greater Works Ministry, Excelsior Choir, Stewardess Board, as well as the Lay Organization. Sister Burnett is methodical and dedicated in everything that she touches.



Local Lay President Shirley Moore-Harris, Rev. Jay Broadnax, Pastor  
Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Mt. Pisgah’s  
Unsung Hero of Year 2013, Gwendolyn Burnett;  
Presiding Prelate Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram; Presiding Elder Rev. Charles E. Lett, Sr.

# ANNUAL LAY DAY BRUNCH AT MT. PISGAH

By: Cheryll Morris-Davis, Mt. Pisgah AMEC

On October 13th, Mt. Pisgah's Lay hosted its Annual Lay Brunch. We were glad that so many friendly faces from our sister churches were in attendance. Surely, Brother Joseph F. Walker, our first Lay president, continues to smile to see that after 62 years, we are still planting seeds of education concerning the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the educating in the Discipline of our Church. We were happy that Sister Pauline I. Andrews was able to attend this year's Annual Brunch. She is the last of the original Lay members.

The Annual Lay affair was held in the church school room that was transformed into a dining area, bedecked in blue and white table coverings splashed with autumn colored floral arrangements. Buffet tables were laden with heated serving trays containing delicious foods and desserts positioned alongside the walls of both sides of the room. Early arrivals were able to nibble on continental breakfast tidbits. The culinary fare was prepared by our own kitchen whiz and Lay President, Sis. Shirley Moore-Harris assisted by members of the Lay.

The Order of Service was under the guidance of the worship leader Brother Andree Turner, Campbell A.M.E. Church, Frankford. No Lay program is complete without singing the "Laymen's Hymn," and so it was done accordingly with our Sis. Barbara Kennedy on the piano. The invocation was by Sis. Mamie T. Price, Lay President of Bethel A.M.E., Langhorne Church. The Holy Scripture was read by Master Kahseme, Mt. Pisgah's Y.P.D. member. Sisters Tiffany Fauntleroy and Gloria Geathers members of Mt. Pisgah's Excelsior Choir rendered solos. Sister Darlene Foreman, Mt. Pisgah's Florida Grant Missionary Society member gave the "Welcome and Introduction of Guests" and Sister Deborah Stancil of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, Lansdowne gave the response to the welcome. Sister Joyce Criss, a lady that changes her uniform from usher, to Class Leader to Trustee read the "Responsive Reading."

The Offering/Offertory participants were Sisters Flora James and Veronica Plaza, Mt. Pisgah's Lay and Sister Connie Williams, Lay President of Ward AME Church. Divine Movement ministered in prophetic dance and we were prepared for the Introduction of the speaker by Sister Carol Jones from Mt. Tabor AME Church.

**Sister Juanita R. Bryant**, Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Church's Lay President is no stranger as participant in our Annual Brunch. This year Sister Bryant was our **Lay Speaker**. Sister Bryant's text was based on the new **Connectional Lay Theme, Matthew 28:18-20** – "The Great Commission," *Therefore go and make*



**Guest Speaker Sister Juanita R. Bryant, Mt. Tabor AMEC**

*disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .*" Sis. Bryant referenced Matthew 10:1, in which Jesus gave a charge to his twelve disciples, Jesus "gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness." We, Lay members are recommended to go forth in the "Great Commission." We wear the badge, WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) and Sister Bryant recommended us to listen to Jesus to learn what he would do. We are called to evangelize but before going forth, we must ourselves know Jesus first. Some of us have not always been on our post, on duty! Evangelism is a must and is defined as to go, to move, to journey. Sister Bryant stressed again that in order to fulfill the mission, we must know Jesus. Sister Bryant referred to John 14:12, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." The Greater Works, we know the end of the story as all power was given to Jesus. Sister Bryant referred us to Philippians 4:13: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

The commandment to the first disciples was the same as given to Moses, go, heal, pray and lead. However, disobedience results in undesirable consequences. If we evangelize, churches would be filled and it is not just the pastors' responsibility.

However, it is something we all must do. We must all sit down and be quiet, listen and regroup. Quiet time is necessary to listen to what Jesus said, Matthew 10:20 – *for it will not be you speaking "but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

You must humble yourself; Mark says. We must put into practice the **three "R's":** **Review** your assignment; **Renew** your relationship – Psalm 51:10, *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.* **Release** yourself. It is not about you. Sister Bryant referred to Matthew 10:20 – "for it will not be you speaking".



John the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus, *And this was his message: After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.*

Sister Bryant hit us with the Word of God, left and right supporting our charge for the "Laity, Fulfilling the Great Commission of African Methodist Episcopal Church."

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 Brunch, Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 11:00 A.M. We will be here to greet you.**

**Bro. Keith Arrington: Photographer**

Divine Movement Ministry of Mt. Pisgah



Worship Participants

Mamie Price-PCLO Chaplain



Pianist Barbara Kennedy-Mt. Pisgah

Members of Mt. Pisgah's Lay Organization



2<sup>nd</sup> PCLO Vice President Hosea Jackson extends invitation to unite with organized Lay

A delicious and abundant luncheon is served



Shirley Moore-Harris & a Mt. Pisgah youth

Submitted by: Cheryll Morris Davis  
Director of Public Relations – Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Philadelphia, PA

# Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

1312 Willow Street ♦ Norristown ♦ PA ♦ 19401

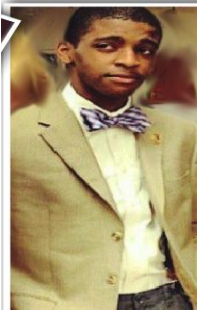
Reverend Kanice D. Johns, Pastor

## ANNUAL LAY DAY

Submitted by: Henry J. Murray

### "Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church"

Guest Speaker Brother Richard F. Norris, III



The officers and members of Mt. Zion AME Church were excited and blessed with the Annual Day services of the local Lay Organization. On **October 20, 2013**, the Lay Organization featured an 11AM worship service with "**Bro. Richard**

Norris, III as the **Guest Speaker.**"

The day was culminated with a Concert presented by the Philadelphia AME Mass Choir at 3:30PM.

The procession was led by the pulpit staff and the Mt. Zion Male Chorus with Bro. Oscar Williams on the keyboards. Following the Call to Worship and singing of the Laymen's Hymn, the Invocation was given by Bro. Fred Smalls. The Male Chorus then offered a beautiful rendition of "I'll Close My Eyes". Sister Naomi Satterwhite read the Scriptures and Sister E. Pearl Smith welcomed our visitors, followed by another musical selection by the Male Chorus. The Lay Litany was led by Sister Jackie Grimes, and Sister Theah Norris capably introduced our guest speaker.

Following another soul stirring song by the Male Chorus, Bro. Norris mentioned the fact that he was a replacement for our original speaker, Sister Wanda Ringgold and he was available to accept our invitation. (This organization was very pleased (and relieved) that he was able to do so at the last minute.) Bro. Norris used the scriptures of our Lay Theme and 'preached' on the subject "**Why I Believe in the Church**". Bro. Norris gave us four points for us to believe that the church will survive: its **mandate**, its **make**, the **mentor** and His **message**. He challenged us to continue to fight those who want to tear the church down. Our members were inspired by this outstanding message, *particularly when they realized that Bro. Norris was only 14 years old.*

Following the Invitation to Christian Discipleship, Brother Andree Turner, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP of the PCLO (Campbell-Frankford AMEC), invited Mt. Zion members to join the Lay Organization. We are pleased to receive to two new members.



After having a superb dinner prepared and served by a great kitchen staff, the officers and members waited in anticipation of our afternoon Concert. It took

us almost 4 years for the Philadelphia AME Mass Choir to schedule a performance and it was well worth the wait.

The afternoon service began with host pastor, the Rev. Kanice D. Johns introducing our Worship Leader, Sister Susan Butler, Philadelphia Conference YPD President and member of Campbell-Frankford AME Church. Following the Doxology, Sister Butler lined our opening hymn, "What a Fellowship". Our invocation was given by Sister Frances Jamison, and the scripture was read by Sister Jackie Grimes. Sister Lorraine Vance welcomed our many conference guests including Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, PCLO President, as well as local guests. The response was given by Sister Linda Frazier, President of the Morris Brown Lay Organization.

Our Worship Leader introduced the choir, providing historical and personal comments. The AME Mass Choir, with Bro. Richard F. Norris, II as Director, began the concert with a resounding rendition of "*Wait on the Lord*", followed by "*Psalm 23*" and two other songs before they stopped to take a break and to give the audience time to catch their breath. Rev. Johns extended the Invitation to Christian Discipleship, followed by the offering. The Mass Choir then blessed us with four more selections, closing with "*All of My Help*" and "*They Got the Word*" which had the entire congregation on their feet.

The afternoon service concluded with Bro. Henry Murray expressing his sincere thanks to the choir, the conference guests, participants and to our wonderful Worship Leader. Special thanks also went out to Sister Marie Butler for her efforts in scheduling, as well as for program arrangements. The entire day was clearly a wonderful spiritual experience and a financial success.



# **BETHEL**

## **African Methodist Episcopal Church**

### **READING, PENNSYLVANIA**

**Reverend Eugene McDuffy, Pastor**

*Submitted by: Mildred E. Gilyard*

## **ANNUAL LAY DAY**

Bethel's Lay President Mildred Gilyard, Guest Speaker Walter Jeffers  
 Standing: Ed Lovelace, Anna Cobb, Andree Turner, Hosea Jackson,  
 Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Irvin Hopewell, Van Gilyard

The Bethel AME Church, Reading celebrated its Annual Lay Day in July 2013 at a 10:30 am Service which was led by Brother Van J. Gilyard, son of Mildred Gilyard and the late Frank Gilyard, Sr.

Bro. Jermaine Edwards served as the organist and music was rendered by the Bethel's Combine Choir. The Divine Inspirations told their message through a liturgical dance performed by Sis, Taylor Golden and Jhiani Gilyard.

The traditional Call to Worship was led by our capable worship leader. We then sang the Lay Hymn as our Hymn of Praise. Brother Ed Lovelace of Bethel AMEC, Bristol, PA rendered the prayer of invocation. The summary of the Decalogue was led by Sister Dolores Booker.

Pastor McDuffy interacted with our children as he gave the Children's Message in a very interesting manner. Brother Andrew Moore welcomed our visitors and the Bethel Family sang a special welcoming song to our visitors. The Morris Brown Lay Organization responded to the welcome. Sister Anna Cobb, Bethel Harrisburg Lay Organization's President, led the congregation in the Lay Litany and the scripture (Ephesians 4:1-16) was read by Bro. Andree Turner of Campbell AME Church, Frankfort. Sister Angelena Spears introduced the **Speaker** of the hour, **Brother Walter Jeffers of New Bethel AME Church, Germantown**. Bro. Jeffers was also a candidate for the Connectional Lay Organization Director of Public Relations. We now "CONGRADULATE" Bro. Jeffers on winning the victory and becoming the Director of Public Relations for the Connectional Lay Organization.

During the service we took time to memorialize our beloved sister and brother who has gone on to their Heavenly Home. Bethel's circle was broken upon the death of Brother Frank Gilyard, our beloved Lay president who served for many years, and our dear Sister Margaret Durdin, our Chaplain.

Bro. Hosea Jackson, Bethel Bryn Mawr, extended the invitation to join the Lay Organization. We are delighted to report that our Lay organization was increased by four members on that day. Since then two more have joined. Remarks were given by our Pastor, Rev. Eugene McDuffy and Conference Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell as well as by yours truly, Mildred E. Gilyard, the Local Lay President of the Bethel AME Church, Reading.

The members of Bethel's Lay Organization thank God for His goodness and blessings as we were able to experience another year of using our talent and time to glorify God. We are truly grateful to our guests from the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, as well as others who came out to worship with us on our Annual Day. "To God Be All the Glory."

We were reminded that "**we have entered to worship and we depart to serve.**" The service ended with the reciting of the Lay Benediction.

**DECEMBER 2013**

### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

\* Bethel Reading Lay Organization continued an old tradition of Christmas caroling to our sick and shut-ins. Our late president, Brother Frank Gilyard, Sr. encouraged participation annually in this rewarding experience. A group of 15 persons visited private residences as well as a Senior Citizen's Residence to spread "JOY" at Christmas time. The recipients appreciated our visit and we all felt blessed after performing this service.

### **MEMORIAL TREE OF LIGHTS SERVICE**

\* Bethel Reading Lay Organization sponsored a special Memorial Tree of Lights Service. The beautiful Christmas tree was adorned with ornaments which contained the names of the beloved deceased members of various families. Christmas carols were sung throughout the service and a sermon was delivered by our own Pastor, Rev. Eugene McDuffy.

Several family members and friends gave remarks as they reflected on the memories of their Loved Ones. The service was both emotional and inspirational and ended with lighted candles which glowed in the dark as all sang "Silent Night".



***The next publication of our conference lay newsletter "OUR VOICES", will be published in June 2014.***

***All information to be published must be submitted to the Editor by May 15, 2014.***

***You may send your news by e-mail to: [anitamatt@verizon.net](mailto:anitamatt@verizon.net) or mail to: Anita Hanna Matthews - 4820 Sweetbrier Drive Harrisburg, PA 17111***



## **THE 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

Mary English, Parliamentarian

Juanita Bryant, Director of Lay Activities

Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations

Earl Knight, III, Young Adult Representative

***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***