

# Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization



## OUR VOICES

Newsletter and additional pictures can also be viewed at [www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org](http://www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org)  
Volume 5 - #3 - October 2013 Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

### Greetings from the Philadelphia Conference Lay President Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



We have come out of a great conference year. In 2012-2013 we had meaningful meetings, informative workshops, a wonderful Awards Luncheon, a dynamic Retreat, a great Christmas Fellowship, a successful Education Service, and an exciting and spirit-filled Lay Night with our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Gregory G. M. Ingram as our preacher. What a superb night which also included the awarding of four young persons with the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship in the amount of \$500 each.

During the conference year we also introduced the new Philadelphia Conference Lay Choir under the direction of Brother Earl Knight, III. We ended our conference year with a refreshing and relaxing cookout. During the year we also hosted the First District Lay Mid-Year Meeting. People are still talking about the wonderful job we did. We praise God for working all that out.

This past summer, we were in full force at the First District Lay Annual Meeting in Wilmington, DE and the Connectional Lay Biennial in Atlanta, GA. We congratulate Brother Walter C. Jeffers as we did not come home empty handed. He was elected to the position of Director of Public Relations for the Connectional Lay Organization. We are proud of Walter and wish him well with his new position.

As we begin this new conference year, I promise that I will continue to represent you in every way possible. I will continue to travel across the conference, district and connection to lay days, meetings, services, and speaking engagements, to represent you in a way that will continue to uphold this organization to the highest possible standards.

The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization is alive and well and has done great and exciting things, but we're not done yet. We continue to be committed to teaching, training and evangelizing so we can have informed laity who will be better Christians, better leaders, and in turn better lay who work in all areas of their local churches and beyond. It is a privilege to represent the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. I have also taken on two new responsibilities during the last conference year and I now serve on the First District Self-Help Board and the Payne Theological Seminary Board. I am honored to serve in these capacities.

We thank Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram and Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram for their leadership and their vision of **First Things First**. They have really raised the bar in our District and the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization is committed to keeping "First Things First" in all we do. We truly believe that for this all to work, lay and clergy must work together. "We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength" as we continue to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus". God has been good and it does not yet appear as to the great things that lie ahead.

**"WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE"**



## THIRD ANNUAL COOKOUT

The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization held its Smith and the host lay president was Brother Ed Dickinson. Third Annual Cookout on Saturday, August 10, 2013 at the Salisbury Township Community Park, 777 White Horse Road, Gap, PA. The host church was Mt. Zion AME, Atglen, host Pastor, Rev. Linwood Smith.

We were delighted to have Conference Lay President, Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, many local presidents and members and several clergy in attendance including Rev. Dr. Miriam Burnett, Rev. Stanley Hearst, II, Rev. Kahlil G. James and first lady, Sister Deborah Clark-James, Rev. Lisa Lackey, Rev. Richard Lackey, host pastor Rev. Linwood Smith and Rev. Isaiah Woods. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship was great. It was truly a fantastic day.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, pretzels, potato chips, soft drinks and water were provided by the conference and Brother Walter Jeffers, Rev. Kahlil James and Brother Andree Turner were on the grill.

For a while there was even some chicken and corn on the cob (while it lasted) which was provided by the host church. We were truly blessed. The tables were full of many other good things to eat which was provided by the members of the conference lay from all four Presiding Elder Districts.

We listened to music, played games, talked and just enjoyed each other's company. Our conference president also challenged some to do a 3-mile walk/run with her. There was something for everyone.

The Pastor and members of Mt. Zion, Atglen provided tours of their historical church and points of interest in the area. That always goes over well.

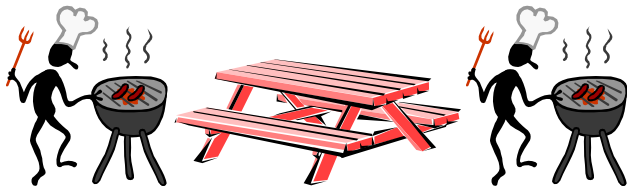
"Thank You" to Brother Walter Jeffers, chairman, Brother Andree Turner, the Pastor and members of Mt. Zion, Atglen and any others for the fine job on organizing, planning and carrying out this wonderful event. **WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR FOURTH COOKOUT ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014.**

# THIRD ANNUAL COOKOUT

Saturday, August 10, 2013

Salisbury Community Park

777 White Horse Road, Gap, PA.





**WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
OUR FOURTH COOKOUT ON  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014.**



# ST MATTHEW AME CHURCH

215 N. 57TH STREET - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19139

PHONE # 215.472.4784

REV. ROLAND C. MCCALL, PASTOR

*Submitted by Lillie Gorham  
Director of the Nutrition Ministry*

**Do You Want To Learn More About Living A Healthier Lifestyle?**



**Come and Join the Nutrition Ministry**

Classes will begin on **October 8th, 2013** at the above address : at **1:30 pm.**

Listed below are the dates.

2013 dates are: <b>Oct. 8 &amp; 22; Nov. 12 Dec. 10</b>
2014 dates are: <b>Jan. 14 &amp; 28; Feb. 11 &amp; 25; Mar. 11 &amp; 25</b>
2014 dates are: <b>Apr. 8 &amp; 29; May 13 which will be our closing date.</b>

**All classes held on 2nd Tuesdays** will be presented by a Health Education Director from Lankanau Hospital.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT :

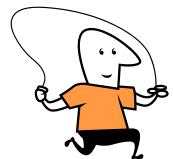
“Don't you know that your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God; he bought you for a price, so use your bodies for God's glory.” *1st Corinthians 6:19 Good News Bible*

**The Nutrition Ministry** strives to promote healthy and nutritious living by encouraging participants to change destructive eating habits and by exercising daily.

**A light lunch will be served.**

**If interested you may contact the Church or :**

**Lillie Gorham 215.79.0379 email [Lillie22@verizon.net](mailto:Lillie22@verizon.net)**



# Calvary A.M.E. Church

604 Dickinson Street - Philadelphia, PA 19148

**Rev. Natalie Mitchem, Pastor**

**Valorie E. Byrd  
Local Lay President**

## ANNUAL LAY DAY



Calvary A.M.E. Church Lay Organization was overjoyed with the blessings and success of our Annual Lay Day on Sunday, June 09, 2013 at 3:15P.M.

The turnout of Conference Lay Members nearly filled our sanctuary. Calvary was so excited to have so many people coming out to support.

We were graced with the presence of three visiting clergy: our own Presiding Elder of the Philadelphia District the Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart; First Episcopla District Executive Director of Christian Education and pastor of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, the Rev. Jay Broadnax; and the Rev. Lois Wilkinson, Pastor of Bethany A.M.E. Church, Holmesburg, who came with her newly organized lay organization in record number.

Our conference Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell did an outstanding job with her message around the Connectional Lay Theme and her subject: **“Lay, It’s Time To Stand”!** As we have heard many Bishops

say, “There’s a Preacher in the House” and most certainly “There Was a Speaker in the House”, as she brought the entire sanctuary of people to their feet. Surely, she was the instrument sent by God to bring a new young member to join Calvary A.M.E. Church.

Needless to say, this local president is still on a high from our Annual Lay Day. Words cannot express our deepest appreciation and thanks to our Conference Lay President, the program participants, the clergy, and all who came and those who could not be with us, but sent an offering. And most certainly to all who helped in any way to make this one of our most blessed and successful Annual Lay Days!

God Bless You All !

In His Service, With Love,

*Valorie E. Byrd,*

Local Lay President

# **Mt. Tabor African Methodist Episcopal Church**

7412 Stenton Avenue - Philadelphia, PA 19150

Reverend Martha A. Lang, Pastor

## **ANNUAL LAY DAY**



*Reported by:*

*Sister Juanita Bryant, Local Lay President*

The officers and members of the Mt. Tabor AME Church family were especially blessed as the Lay Organization observed ANNUAL LAY DAY on Sunday June 23, 2013, at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service.

There was a special air of excitement as many visitors, which included officers and members from the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, arrived to share in the worship experience and to enjoy a time of fellowship.

Brother Dennis Waller served as a most capable Worship Leader as the *(precedent)* Connectional Lay Organization Theme "Building on Our Global Legacy of Christ Centered Leadership and Training" was lifted up throughout the service.

Soul stirring music was provided by the Male Chorus and the Mass Choir of Mt. Tabor. Guests who participated in the service included Brother Andree Turner (Campbell AMEC) and Sister Linda Frazier (Morris Bro AMEC). Conference President Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, was also a part of the celebration along with a number of readers who follow the weekly news column writer by the guest speaker.

The Guest Speaker for the day was Brother Solomon Jones, columnist for the Philadelphia Daily

News, noted author, educator and motivational speaker.

Brother Jones used John 4: 19-24 (KJV) and the story of the Samaritan woman at the well as he gave the message entitled "*When Jesus Says I Got This*". He reminded those present that, as lay persons, we have God given gifts to be used to carry out a teaching ministry that is meant to change the world. He also admonished everyone, including members of the clergy, that no one is expected to do every task and that as we do the tasks before us, we are not alone. We, like the Samaritan woman, must come to know who Jesus is so that "When Jesus Says I God this", our faith in His word will empower us to impact the world through our witness. The message was powerful and was very well received.

Following the Invitation to Christian Discipleship given by Pastor Martha A. Lang, Brother Hosea Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, extended an invitation to join the Lay Organization and three new members were received.

A sumptuous meal, prepared by Sister Carolyn Jones, was enjoyed by all following the service.

# **CAMPBELL A.M.E. CHURCH (FRANKFORD)**

1657 KINSEY STREET - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124

## **ANNUAL LAY DAY**

REV. GLENN SHEPHERD, PASTOR

MRS. MARIE BUTLER, LOCAL LAY PRESIDENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2013 – 3:30 P.M.



**Our Connectional Theme is: “Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church”. Matthew 28:16-20**

**On a glorious Sunday afternoon we were treated to a great meal before hearing a message from our very own, Ms. Susan Butler, YPD Director of the Philadelphia Conference YPD.**

The processional was led by the pulpit staff, Lay members and the Campbell Gospel Mass Choir, with Mr. Charles Emory on the Hammond organ and led by Mrs. Sharon Wilson. Sister Marie Butler, local Lay President invited Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, PCLO President into the pulpit. Sister Butler filled in for Brother Walter Jeffers, Worship Leader, who was detained by his local church. Sister Butler led the Call to Worship, followed by the singing of the Laymen’s Hymn. The Invocation was given by Sister Irene Hall of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, followed by the Scripture reading by Sister Dereth Hicks of St. Paul A.M.E., Malvern.

We were then treated to a selection by the Gospel Mass Choir, “Take Me to the King” led by Sister Sharon Wilson. That song got the congregation filled with the Holy Spirit. The Welcome and Recognition of our Guests was done by Sister Butler. After hearing from our many, many guests, we entered into our Memorial Tribute to the loving memory of our departed Sisters, Sondrea Curry, remembered by Sister Merle Wilson and Dorothy

Wilson remembered by Sister Elaine Wilson. A short narrative was spoken on the character of each sister by Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr., followed by a poem, “I Am Free”.

Our Lay Litany was delivered by Sister Carolyn Thomas Kamara of Bethel A.M.E., West Chester, followed by another selection entitled, “ I Am on the Battlefield”, led by Brother Emory. Sister Wanda Ringgold of Morris Brown A.M.E. then came forward to introduce the speaker of the day, Sister Susan Butler. She gave a fine introduction and also reminded all of us that as we move forward in our walk with Jesus Christ, we must sever some people from our lives, because they are holding us back from God. After another selection from the choir, “Sweet Wonder” led by soloist Sister Sharon Wilson, we were treated to an excellent message entitled “**E+R=O**”. the **Event** plus the **Response** equals the **Outcome**. The scripture lesson came from Luke 10:38-40. We learned about two women at the same event, and their different responses and the final outcome was so different.



**CONTINUED: CAMPBELL AMEC ANNUAL LAY DAY**

The story was about Mary and Martha at the event of Jesus coming to visit them. That was a very powerful message. The theme is that Jesus wants you to come to him first, don't try to fix your mess. Let Jesus fix you up. Sometimes we must step out of our comfort zone so that we can receive the blessings.

After a rousing celebration, our very own pastor, Rev. Glenn Shepherd came forward to extend the Invitation to Christian Discipleship. We are looking for Disciples, not Club Members.

Brother Gilroy Reid extended the call for Lay membership. We received Sisters Larita Mayers, Lyndra Sahou, Nadea Jackson, Shawn Jackson, Jasmine Rowley, Ether Butler and Brothers Coley leazer and Christ Fortson. Brother Reid really appealed to the youth of our church and they came forward to work. Pastor Shepherd then came forward to offer a Prayer of Rededication to the Campbell Lay members.

If the Clergy and Lay work together, we can have a great church. As you can see we love our pastor and he and his family love Campbell A.M.E. Church. Brother Walter C. Jeffers of New Bethel A.M.E. (Gtn.) asked for the offerings. Sisters Merle Wilson and Faye Richardson received the Lay offering and Brother James R. Lake of Jones Tabernacle A.M.E. and Sister Nagoya Travers received the love offering.

After remarks from Brother Jeffers, Sisters Marie Butler, our Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Susan Butler and Pastor Shepherd, we closed with the Lay Benediction, sung by everybody under the direction of Brother Earl Knight on the piano. "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"...Amen

***Respectfully submitted by  
Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr.  
1st V.P. of Campbell Lay Organization***



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

***All information must be submitted to the Editor by December 14, 2013.***

***You may send you news by e-mail: [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***

# The Lay Benediction

Connectional Lay Organization African Methodist Episcopal Church

Lyrics, Mrs. Rose Reese

Tune Ms Jackie Winston / Ms Florine Herron

Scoring Ms Florine Herron

Piano



May God bless us with the true spir-it of

Pno.



Chris-ti-a-ni-ty. That we may live to-ge-th-er not as man O-ver man. But as

Pno.



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

Pno.



Lay per-sons work-ing with God. A men.