

OUR VOICES

Volume 4 - #4 - October 2012

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor - Director of Public Relations

"GREETINGS FROM THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY PRESIDENT"

SISTER CHERYL HAMMOND HOPEWELL





We had great representation at the 2012 General Conference in Nashville, TN. Our lay delegates were in place, engaged and we did our work. The First District had several highlights at the General Conference. With our help, the First District came home with two representatives to the Judicial Council and we elected a Bishop in the name of the Rt. Reverend Reginald T. Jackson.

Another task we went to do, and we accomplished, was to bring the **Rt. Reverend Gregory G. M.** Ingram and Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram to the First. We did it, and we WELCOME our Episcopal Leaders.

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 doing great and exciting things. 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 thank our former Bishop and Supervisor, Presiding Elders and Pastors who have been so supportive. We truly believe that for this all to work, lay and clergy must work together. We look forward to working with our new Bishop and Supervisor as we continue to **"press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus"**.

THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President

Gilroy Reid, 1st Vice President Hosea Jackson, 2nd Vice President Andree Turner, 3rd 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 Walter Jeffers, Young Adult Representative

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

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 49th GENERAL CONFERENCE

By Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

From June 27th to July 4th AME's from all over the Connection convened in Nashville, Tennessee for the 49th General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Many came in several days before and others stayed several days later to set rules, participate in services, discuss and vote on legislation, elect general offices and bishops, and all the other exciting things that happen at a general conference.



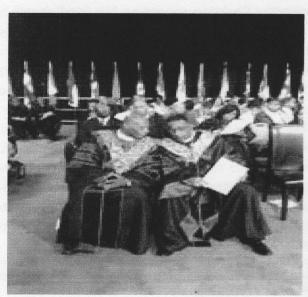
The Philadelphia Conference was well represented with lay and clergy delegates. Lay delegates included Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Marian Spivey Sudler, Frank Gilyard, Wanda Ringgold, Anna Cobb, Hosea Jackson, Marie Butler, Cheryl L. Ford, Juanita Bryant, Patricia Atwotwi, Bryant McCallister, Louise Coursey, Marion Bolton and youth delegate, Walter Jeffers. Lay alternates included the Liliian Murphy, Gloria Sharp, Helen Jenkins-Earley, Mamie Price, Deborah Stancil, Mary English, Cynthia Douse, Wanda Hunter, Fred Bearden, Valerie Ward, and Curtis Garrett.

The pictures include some of our delegates at various Business Sessions and our First District Breakfast.





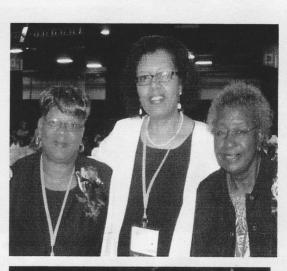
Mrs. Michelle Obama delivers powerful and timely speech at the 49th General Conference

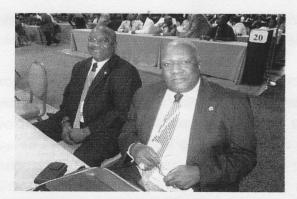


-

3

BISHOPS, CLERGY & LAY DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS











PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE ANNUAL LAY PERSON OF THE YEAR AND UNSUNG HERO AWARDS LUNCHEON

"These are they" who labor and render Christian service for kingdom building in the African Methodist Episcopal Church

> by: Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

> > October 6, 2012 - 12:00 Noon

The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization paid tribute and bestowed accolades to the Lay Person of the Year for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization "Sister Fern Wesley" of Allen AME Church, Philadelphia, PA. where the Reverend Richard E. Lackey is the pastor. This all-inspiring



luncheon was held at the 1st District Plaza -A.M.E. Church Headquarters, 3801 Market St, Phila. PA.

Sister Fern's steadfast leadership, contributions and support include 22+years of dedicated and noteworthy Christian service to her local church to our Conference, and to her community. She faithfully serves at Allen A.M.E. Church as a Steward, the Treasurer of the Allen AME Federal Credit Union, the local Lay President and in other viable capacities.

Her noteworthy service to the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization is inclusive of faithful years of service as the Financial Secretary with the Finance Committee and presently serves as the Conference Lay Treasurer. She served as alternate delegate to the General Conference and delegate to the Annual and Mid-Year Meetings of the 1st District.

(TOP-Right to Left: Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, McKinley and Episcopal Supervisor Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram; center, Conference Lay President Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell making the presentation to Honoree Fern Wesley (standing) and seated is the Luncheon Chairperson Sis. Wanda Ringgold.

Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell presented Sister Fern a merited Recognition of Service Citation from State government and a prestigious plaque from the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization.

It was truly a delight to have our newly appointed Bishop the Right Reverend Gregory



HIS-

G.M. Ingram and Episcopal Supervisor the Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram share in this auspicious fellowship with us. Bishop Ingram stated that he was pleased to be our Bishop and proud to be partaking of such a grand affair, noting that the 1st District Headquarters "is the only one of its kind accommodation that is built "brick-by-brick" and owned by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Episcopal Supervisor Dr. Jessica Ingram expressed her delight of being a part of this fellowship and expressed her and support to the Lay Organization.

(L-R) Presiding Prelate Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram Episcopal Supervisor Rev. Dr. Jessica K. Ingram; Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

(Continued) Annual Lay Person Of The Year And Unsung Hero Awards Luncheon Our guests also included Connectional Officer the Reverend Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor, III, 20th Editor of the Christian Recorder; our Presiding Elders, Pastors, Clergy, laity, family and friends.

Luncheon Chairperson Wanda Ringgold "par excellently"served as Mistress of Ceremonies and we delight in the diligent preparation and successful work done by herself and the persevering hard-working Ticket Chair Ruth Nelson; E. Catherine Shepherd and the Finance Committee; all Luncheon Committee members, the Hosts and Hostesses - - which manifested another enjoyable luncheon.

The Program Participants were from all Presiding Elder Districts; the music was proficiently rendered by Bro. Richard Norris, 1st Episcopal District Music Director; Bro. David Alexander, a Marshal of the PCLO rendered a fervent Invocation and Table Blessing; Sis. Juanita Bryant, PCLO Dir. of Lay Activities, graciously extended a warm welcome and delivered an all-inclusive Occasion of Purpose Statement. A very special cordial Welcome and Tribute was rendered by Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell to Bishop Gregory G.M. & Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram. This was followed by a delicious and delectable meal of "tender oven roasted chicken, green beans, candied yams, rolls & butter, refreshing ice tea and dessert.

Following the meal Sister Peggy Pinder introduced the Lay Person of the Year, Sister Fern Wesley. President Hopewell made the presentations, followed by the Unsung Hero Award Presentations. Remarks were made by Conference Lay President Hopewell, Bishop ingram and Dr. Jessica Ingram. The closing Prayer was given by Reverend Richard Lackey, pastor, Allen A.M.E. Church.



Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Luncheon Chairperson, Wanda Ringgold

2



Sis. L. Lynn Rochester and Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, Pastor Mt. Pisgah, Phila., singing melodious duet as Honorees attentively listen.

FUN, FOOD, FASHIONS, FELLOWSHIP AND THE ELECTRIC SLIDE FLASH MOB

The Banquet Room was filled with chatter, laughter and merriment as some of the attendees got up to "strut their rhythm and bust a couple of moves" while participating in the "Electric Slide Flash Mob."



30 UNSUNG HEROS HONORED AT ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

One of the highlights during the Annual Lay Awards Luncheon featured the recognition of **UNSUNG HEROES** from the local churches throughout the Philadelphia Conference who came from the four Presiding Elder Districts – the West, the Harrisburg, the South and the Philadelphia District.

Each person was chosen for their commitment, service and dedication in the area of Christian Service at their local church. Some of the Honorees are the ones who serve behind the scenes as **"good followers and loyal supporters**", while serve in **"steadfast leadership roles"** in many capacities of service to the A.M.E. Church. Yet **ALL** of them are deserving of the honors and the "works they are doing speak for them" as they strive to walk worthy of their calling."

Once again, "these are they" who serve in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and we acknowledge and celebrate their works and deem them as Unsung Heroes of our local churches.

Each Unsung Hero was presented a prestigious plaque and a Service Citation from the State government. The Unsung Heroes for Year 2012 are:

CHURCH Waters Memorial Trinity St. Paul, Wlmwood New Bethel, Willow Grove Mt. Zion, Norristown Mt. Zion, Atglen Mt. Pisgah **Morris Brown** Metropolitan **Jones Tabernacle** Grimes Campbell, Frankford Bethel, Pottsbown Bethel, Bryn Mawr A.M.E. Union

HONOREE Tiara H. More **Lillie Williams Charles E. Holts** Betty A. Taylor E. Pearl Smith Mattie Ann Millet Irvin Hopewell Donna M. Thomas-Fisher Alfonso Morris, Sr. John J. Griswold, Jr. Lillie Cragg **Gwen Boyd Janice** Corum Harriet E. Sydnor **Bernadine Adolphus**

CHURCH Ward St. Paul, Malvern St. Matthew New Bethel, Germantown Mt. Zion, Darby Mt. Tabor **Mother Bethel** Monumental, Steelton LaMott **Hickman Temple** Greater Mt. Olive Bethel, Reading Bethel Village, Harrisburg Bethel, Ardmore Allen, Philadelphia

HONOREE **Cynthia Allen** George B. Reason, Sr. Mildred Hines Jeannette Congleton Ethel V. Williams Angela Perry M. Elizabeth Wilson Dennis Jackie Robinson Roy Moore, Sr. William H. Morton, Jr. **Shirley Ann Bennett Jenny Giles** Anna M. Cobb Lawrence Lloyd Johnson **Elizabeth Bostic**



Among this awesome group of Unsung Heroes was **Brother Lawrence Lloyd Johnson, who is "105 years of age"**. His longevity and seniority is most certainly a "gift from God." Brother Johnson is a walking history book and can recall events that he's lived through and events that molded and shaped his church and our country. He can boast that his first car was a *1924 Model T Ford*. He continues to give **THANKS** to **God** for **Mrs. Minnie B. Johnson**, his gracious and lovely wife of **"75 Years.**

L-R: Presiding Elder Rev. Charles Lett, Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram; Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram; Honoree Lawrence Lloyd Johnson; Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell; Rev. Albert Johnson,, Pastor, Bethel-Ardmore ; Local Lay President, Sister Louise Coursey, Bethel-Ardmore

Steward Emeritus Johnson's longevity of steadfast membership and noteworthy service at Bethel-Ardmore dates back to 1949 as a *Steward* and as a member of *the Finance Committee*. Brother Johnson says his favorite Bible verse is : Exodus 20:12 "Honor thy Father and thy Mother that thy days may be long upon the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee."and Bro. Johnson is truly "living proof" of the truth in one of God's first promise to us.

ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Submitted by: Lorenzo Cruger Director of Pubic Relations

RETIREMENT AT ST. MATHEW AME CHURCH

"ACCCOLAIDS and THANK YOUS "

The St. Matthew Lay Organization, - - like so many others, - - held their election of officers in June. Some may say "Why is that news worthy?" We say that it truly is!

Our election saw the retirement of a "Great Leader", SISTER JUDITH (JUDY) BEVERLY! She diligently served for many, many years as our "Esteemed President," always available, as she tirelessly and effectively worked to ensure that our local Lay, Conference Lay and the First Episcopal Lay Organization was well informed so that everything could be done in "decency and in order. "

Sister Beverly also served as Treasurer, and the Financial Secretary, and on many ad hoc Committees for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization – and as Registrar for the First District Lay Organization. She has retired from these positions as well.

Sister Beverly will be greatly missed, but she leaves many stepping stones for us to follow and a solid foundation of expertise in so many things; and we know that she will be around to assist her successor, Sister Marion Bolton, to reach even greater heights.

Sister Bolton was our Director of Lay Activities and she brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the position of President of St. Matthew Lay Organization.

Please join with us in wishing SISTER BEVERLY a "great retirement" from the lay positions, as well as A LONG HAPPY LIFE, AND GOD'S BLESSINGS!!! Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Monthly Meeting November 10, 2012 - 12:00 Noon Bethel AME Church, Carlisle, PA.

 * 1st Episcopal District Fall Convocation 3801 Market Street – Phila. PA November 15, 16, & 17, 2012

1st District Lay Scholarship Luncheon November 17, 2012

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE ADVENT SERVICE



Sunday - December 9 - 6:00 P.M. A.M.E. Union Church – 1600 W. Jefferson St., Philadelphia, PA

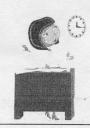
P. C. L. O. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Saturday, December 15, 2012

12:00 Noon

Campbell (Frankford) A.M.E. Church 1657 Kinsey Street, Philadelphia, PA

PLEASE SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR "OUR VOICES" Newsletter to: Anita Hanna Matthews PCLO Director of Public Relations 4820 Sweetbrier Drive Harrisburg, PA 17111 Telephone: (717) 561-4422

e-mail: AnitaMatt@verizon.net



The **DEADLINE** for articles to be printed in the next "Our Voices" Newsletter is: **December 31, 2012**

Second Annual Cookout

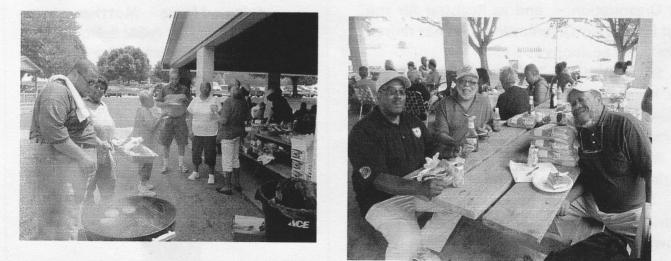
submitted by Cynthia Douse PCLO Historiographer



The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization held its **Second Annual Cookout** on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at Salisbury Township Community Park, 777 White Horse Road, Gap, PA. The host church was Mt. Zion AME, Atglen, host Pastor Rev. Linwood Smith and the host lay president was Brother Ed Dickinson. Conference Lay President, Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and Pastors Kahlil G. James, Florence Kelly, Lisa Lackey, Richard Lackey, Denzil Turton and the host pastor Rev. Linwood Smith joined the 150+ persons for a wonderful fun-filled day. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship was great. It was truly a fantastic day.

Hot dogs, hamburger, salads and soft drinks were provided by the conference and Walter Jeffers, a member of New Bethel Germantown was on the grill. The tables were full of many good things to eat provided by the members from all four Presiding Elder Districts.

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



"Thank You" to Brother Walter Jeffers, Cookout Chairman and his exceptional Committee for all their hard work. We look forward to our 3rd Annual Cookout (next year) on Saturday, August 10, 2013.

CAMPBELL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FRANKFORD

1657 KINSEY STREET - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124 REV. GLENN SHEPHERD, PASTOR

1.

ANNUAL LAY DAY – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2012 MRS. MARIE BUTLER, PRESIDENT

Submitted by,

Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr. First Vice President of Campbell A.M.E. Church Lay Organization



0



Guest Speaker Mrs. Mary Mootoo, 1st District Lay President

Our Annual Day started out on a glorious Sunday. Our Worship Leader was Sister Wanda Ringgold from Morris Brown A.M.E. Church. Our own Brother James Smith, pianist began with the Prelude, and then the Pulpit Staff gathered in the rear of the church. The Procession proceeded to the pulpit singing, "When We All get to Heaven." In the procession was Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, P.C.L.O. President, Sister Mary Mootoo, 1st District President, Sister Edna Sharp, D.C.L.O. President and Sister Marie Butler, Local Lay President, who introduced the worship leader for the day.

Brother Devon Bacon, a young man from Morris Brown, led us in the Call to Worship. We love our youth and we will always have them involved with us. The Opening Hymn was the "Laymen's Hymn", which everyone was involved and singing with a great gusto. Our Invocation was given by Sister Mamie Price of Bethlehem A.M.E. Church, Langhorne. Sister Price has a certain way with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When she prays, we feel blessed and we feel the presence of the Lord. The Scriptures, Ephesians 4: 1-13 and Mark 16:15 were read by Sister Marion Bolton of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church.

The Welcome and Recognition of guests was done by our local President, Sister Marie Butler and the Response to the Welcome was given by Sister Edna Sharp, a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Milford, DE. This was followed by a Liturgical Dance Selection by our very own "Treasurers From Heaven". They performed to the song "The Presence of the Lord is Here" and, yes we felt the presence of the Lord up in the church.

Second Annual Cookout













Continued: Campbell AME Frankford Celebrates Annual Lay Day (Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012)

Our Memorial Tribute to our two deceased members, Brother Dr. Leon Johnston and Sister Katherine Williams, was presented "In Loving Memory" by Brother Andree Turner, with the assistance of Brother Erik King, Grandson of Dr. Johnston and Sister Dorothy Haskins, Sister of Mrs. Katherine Williams, who is also the sister of our president, Sister Butler. Brother Turner read a poem, "A Parable of Immortality" by Henry Van Dyke. The memorial candles were lit and during a moment of silence, Mr. Smith softly played "There's a Bright Side Somewhere".

As the program moved on, Sister Lillian Murphy of Zion A.M.E. Church, led us in the Lay Litany, followed by the Introduction of the speaker by Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, who is a member of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church.

15

Our speaker, Sister Mary Mootoo is a proud member of Macedonia A.M.E. Church, Flushing, New York. After a selection from Sister Kelli Murray of Campbell, who sang "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" which is a favorite hymn of Sister Mootoo, we were blessed with the word. Sister Mootoo's scripture reference came from Romans 11: 14-16 and 12:6-7. Her topic was "Faith". She opened her message with prayer and gave a brief history of the background of the Lay Organization, how we started out in 1912 and how we have come so far by Faith. She also spoke about the faith of Sarah Gongo, who along with 28 others, formed a Prayer Band, which later became Campbell A.M.E. Church. She also spoke about Layman's Sunday, which started in 1949 in Chicago. She told us that because someone stepped out on Faith and started Campbell, we are charged to Walk Out on Faith and continue the "Great Commission". She closed her message with the words of James 2:8, "Show Me your Faith".

After a standing ovation, Pastor Glenn Shepherd offered the Invitation to Christian Discipleship. He said he was interested in saving souls for the Lord. This was followed by Brother Hosea Jackson of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Bryn Mawr, who gave the Call to Lay Membership. It was a worthy call, because we had six new members join the Campbell Lay Organization. They were Sisters Alissa Dingle, Linda Piehs, Shirley Rogers, Duane Shelton, Keisha Jones and Carolyn Garrett. Pastor Shepherd called all of the Campbell Lay members to the altar and asked them to rededicate their lives to the Lay and to go forth as Laymen Soldiers on the Great Commission.

We invited everyone to stand and bring their offerings to the front. Sisters Merle Wilson and Mae Bagwell received the Lay Offering and Brother James Lake of Jones Tabernacle A.M.E. Church, along with Sister Susan Butler, received the Love Offering.

We heard remarks from Sister Mootoo, Sister Hopewell, Sister Butler and Pastor Shepherd. We ended our service 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".....AMEN

> Submitted by, Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr. First Vice President of Campbell A.M.E. Church Lay Organization



Walter C. Jeffers – CTS Eastern PA CTS Office Adams & Associates, Inc.

CONGRATULATIONS to Walter C. Jeffers who has received a City of Philadelphia Mayoral Appointment to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) Citizen's Advisory Committee.

The Citizen Advisory Committee acts as an independent representative and advocate on behalf of our customers in the five county region of Southeastern Pennsylvania served by SEPTA.

2

The committee's major concerns are the quality of service, including reliability and frequency, speed, cleanliness, safety and security; fares; policies; financing and planning; and accountability. Citizen Advisory Committee members are appointed by the County Commissioners in which the member resides, the Mayor of Philadelphia, or the SEPTA General Manager. Each member is asked to commit to serve a term of two years; not to exceed three consecutive terms.

Brother Jeffers is also the Editor-In-Chief for the 1st Episcopal District's Flame Newspaper; the Young Adult Representative for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, and the Director of Lay Activities at New Bethel, Germantown.

MT. PISGAH'S PHILADELPHIA LAY GEARING UP FOR THE NEW CONFERENCE YEAR

by: Cheryll Morris-Davis Director of Lay Activities (Mt. Pisgah)

In 1951, Mt. Pisgah's Lay Organization was organized and in the year of 2012, it still continues to grow and thrive. On Monday, September 24th at 7:00 p.m. the Mt. Pisgah Lay Organization will reconvene after its summer break and continued the tradition started 61 years ago. We are blessed to have one of its original founding members active and still participating, Sis. Pauline I. Andrews.

Mt. Pisgah's Lay will hit the ground running as many of its members and friends will be attending the Annual Lay Luncheon, Saturday, October 6th at our First District Headquarters, 3801 Market Street. Our **"Unsung Hero" this year is Bro. Irvin Hopewell,** and holds the position of Parliamentarian of our local Lay.



Under the leadership of our capable President, Sister Shirley Moore-Harris, we are in the final phases of preparation for hosting of our Annual Lay Brunch on Saturday.

October 13th at 11:00 a.m. We are looking forward to the Lay membership in attending.

WE WILL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS, A CHEERY SMILE AND A PLEASANT "HELLO."