



## OUR VOICES

[www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org](http://www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org)

Volume 6 - #1 - JUNE 2014

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

### PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE ANNUAL LAY NIGHT

By: Anita Hanna Matthews

**Thursday, May 15** During the 185<sup>th</sup> Session of the Philadelphia Annual Conference, hosted by Bethel A.M.E. Church, Lancaster, PA, the Annual Lay Night Sermon was preached by:

The Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram  
Episcopal Supervisor of the First Episcopal District



The hour had arrived when “both clergy and laity” had gathered to worship as “one” in the body of Christ. And as always,

with great joy and with great anticipation, we always look forward to the opportunity to celebrate the ministries of the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church through worship and praise.

This year was no exception and all of our expectations were met, especially by the anointed and powerful preaching of “Dr. Jessica.”

Worshippers included our Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District, Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram (*pictured above admirably standing next to his beloved wife, Dr. Jessica Ingram*); as well as our First District Lay President Sister Mary Mootoo, the officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> District Executive Board, and our Conference Host Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell.

Along with the warm fellowship of our many out-of-town guests from the New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and the New England Conferences, we were blessed with inspiring musical presentations by the Bethel A.M.E. Church Choir of Harrisburg under the direction of soloist Sister Diane Wilson Bedford.

Prior to the Call to Worship, excitement, anticipation and expectation prevailed throughout this ‘house of worship.’ Worship Leader Anita Hanna Matthews was led to “prime” the worshippers expressing that “when we leave this place we will be empowered and eager to serve as we strive to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ through Lay Ministries .

#### IT'S PREACHING TIME !

The preacher, the Reverend Dr. Jessica Ingram, entitled her profound, encouraging and timely message “I NEVER LOST MY PRAISE” and referenced her text from Job 1:20 “*Then Job rose, shaved his head, fell to the ground and worshipped.*”

Throughout her preaching the anointing of the Holy Spirit graciously fell upon her and throughout the room as she sermonized to us: “*Life is filled with paradoxes, and if we lose our praise, we lose the ability to be effective in our work in the Kingdom of God.*”

Dr. Jessica reminded us that “*We must keep a proper prospective of people, position and power at all times. It is the “Lord” who gives and the “Lord” who takes away - therefore, we must bless the Lord at all times, which will enable us to KEEP our praise!*”

As the preacher preached the blessings fell upon us and “we” worshippers were on our feet in shouts of praise and dance. WHAT A POWERFUL MESSAGE with such an ELECTRIFYING DELIVERANCE! PRAISE GOD!!!

Members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organizations participated throughout the service. Sister Marian Spivey Sudler read the Scripture from *Matthew 28:16-20*; Bro. Curtis Garret led The Lay Litany; Sis. Juanita Bryant amiably presented our Presiding Prelate Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram who in turn ardently presented the preacher, his wife the Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram.

Following the “powerfully preached message” the Presiding Elder of the Harrisburg District the Rev. Lawrence C. Henryhand, extended the invitation to Christian Discipleship followed by our worship through giving assisted by the Annual Conference and the Lay Finance Committees. Connectional Director of Public Relations Bro. Walter C. Jeffers Acknowledged the Visitors and Closings Remarks were extended by our Conference Lay President Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell; Sis. Mary Mootoo, 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District Lay President, the Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram and by Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram.

We closed this all-inspiring service by singing: **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*”





## PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION EDUCATION SERVICE

*Submitted by Cynthia Douse  
PCLO Historiographer*



***Saturday March 15, 2014 3:00 p.m.***

The **Fourth Annual Education Worship Service** was held at Morris Brown AME Church to benefit **The Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship Fund**. It was a wonderful and well attended service by clergy and laity. The music, "Yes, God Is Real" and "Standing In Your Will" was provided by the Mt. Pisgah Male Chorus under the direction of their pastor, the Rev. Jay Broadnax.

The sermon was given by The **Rev. Carlos Bounds, Pastor of Bethel AME Church, Bryn Mawr, PA**. His scripture was taken from 1 Samuel 16: 11-12 and the sermon title was "**Take A Chance**".

The Rev. Bounds stated that *"No matter what our children look like or are going through, "never ever" give up on them. Someone took a chance on some of us so we should take a chance on our youth and young adults. God wants us to go beyond the walls of our churches, minister to the unsaved and bring them to Christ"*.

Worship service participants also included: Worship Leader Bro. James March, Local Lay President, AME Union Church; Invocation given by Bro. Christopher Porter, President, South District YPD; the Scripture was read by Sis. Briana Harvey, Waters Memorial AME Church; Sis. Marian Spivey Sudler, Education Committee Chairperson extended the Welcome and gave the Statement of

Purpose; and the Lay Litany was led by Bro. Earl Knight, III, PCLO Young Adult Representative. Bro. Hosea Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the PCLO presented the Preacher of the service, (his pastor) the Reverend Carlos Bounds of Bethel AME Bryn Mawr. The Offering was conducted by Sister Fern Wesley, the Conference Lay Treasurer and clergy The Rev. Stanley Hearst, II pastor of Jones Tabernacle AME and The Rev. Glenn Shepherd, the pastor of Morris Brown AME Church.

Remarks were given by Sis. Marian Spivey Sudler and by the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. The closing prayer was given by The Rev. Glenn Shepherd, Pastor of Morris Brown. With spirits high, we closed with the singing of the Lay Benediction.

We thank the clergy who thought it not robbery to attend the service inclusive of Guest Speaker Reverend Carlos Bounds, and the Reverends Jay Broadnax, (Mt. Pisgah) Stanley Hearst II, (Jones Tabernacle) Clarence Martin (Metropolitan AME) and recently appointed host pastor the Reverend Glenn Shepherd.

We are grateful to all who helped us make it possible to give young adults financial contributions to assist in some small way in their pursuit of higher education.



# BETHLEHEM AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

215 South PINE Street - Langhorne, PA

Reverend Ethel L. Moore, Pastor  
Sister Mamie Price Local Lay President

“LAITY FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION” - *Matthew 28:16-20*

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ANNUAL LAY DAY

By: Sister Kimberly Reddick, Local Lay Secretary

**Jan. 19, 2014: PRAISE GOD!** Once again, the local Lay Organization of historic Bethlehem A.M.E. Church, Langhorne was blessed with the **SIXTH** observance of our Annual Day, which began with a period of devotional singing led by the host church's own Praise and Worship Team.

Sister Gloria Sharp (Bethel/Kennet Square) gave the Call to Worship followed by the opening hymn, “THE LAYMEN’S SONG”. The Scripture reading was taken from Matthew 28: 16-20, and was read by Sis. Linda Frazier (Morris Brown). This was preceded by the Invocation, led by our local Lay Treasurer, Sis. Ann V. Gules.

At that time, Bethlehem’s Combined Choir, under the direction of Bro. Craig Herder at the keyboard, rendered their first musical selection: “Jesus Paid It All”; Bro. Daryl Clark extended the Welcome to the visitors (Bro. Herder and Bro. Clark are our newest members of the local Lay Org.

Another musical selection was rendered by our Choir, and then we were graced by an exciting, excellent Praise-dance solo set to the hit Gospel song, “TAKE ME TO THE KING”, by young Brianna Herder. She was also part of our Combined Choir.

The Lay Litany was led by Sis. Earline Gaskins (New Bethel/Willow Grove); followed by the Introduction of the **Guest Speaker, Sis. Juanita Bryant**, local Lay President of Mt. Tabor AMEC.

The Choir gave an unusual rendition of “Praise Him” with portions of PSALM 150, spoken by Bro. Clark, interspersed throughout the song. Afterwards, the next voice heard was that of our **Guest Speaker Sis. Bryant**, with her message: **‘LORD, I WANT TO SEE!**

Sis. Bryant’s message focused in on **LUKE 18: 35-43**, where we learned about the blind man who sat begging alongside the road and how his sight (and more) had been restored by Jesus Christ. She went on to remind the Laity that *“there are many people today who are locked in a dungeon of spiritual blindness, crying, “Lord, I want to see!”*

*But when we see them, do we say to them “Shut up? Be quiet! - - or do we stop and share the Gospel of Jesus?” (She stated) “Spiritual blindness is caused by SIN. Only JESUS can cure it.”*

Finally, she admonished us to remember *“how spiritually blind we were before someone came and shared the sight-restoring Gospel of Jesus the Christ with us. Shall we, as laypersons, dare not ignore the Lord’s mandate to go preach that Good News that cures this blindness?” “And, in so doing, let us first get our marching orders from the Lord; pray; and then GO! Go tell them that Jesus can give them NEW “eyes” to see and eternal life, too!”*

The invitation to Discipleship was then given by Pastor Moore; followed by the invitation to Lay membership, which was given by Bro. Andree Turner of Campbell AMEC Frankford.

Following the offering, closing remarks were given by Sis. Mamie T. Price (local Lay President), by the Philadelphia Conference Lay President Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, and by host pastor the Reverend Ethel L. Moore.

And so, with the energetic singing of the LAY BENEDECTION, this observance of our Annual Lay Day at Bethlehem/Langhorne drew to a close.

We, the local Lay, are thankful for the significant turnout of all who had attended. Also, thank you to those in our church family, the Combined Choir, Bro. Craig Herder (along with Sis Reddick), our musicians, culinary staff, who prepared the delicious dinner and fed all in attendance, Sis. Barbara Simpson, who handled the offerings and others for their support and participation. Above All, **Thanks Be To The Lord Our God**, who had blessed us with this spirit-filled and uplifting Annual Day this year. We appreciate your attendance, participation and hearty Christian fellowship. **PLEASE, COME AGAIN !**



**WARD A.M.E. CHURCH**  
**728 N. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street - Philadelphia, PA**

Reverend Terrance Hensford, Pastor



**ANNUAL LAY DAY**  
**Lessons from the “First” Class of Christians**

*By: Connie Williams, Local President*



**Background:** Sis. Connie Williams, Lay President of Ward;  
**Front Row L-R:** PCLO President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell; Guest Speaker Sis. Felecia Commodore; Bro. Walter Jeffers, Connectional Director of Public Relations

One of the highlights of the year has always been Annual Lay Day at Ward AME Church. This year's worship service was no exception. The setting included sunny, but chilly weather on Sunday, March 16 at 10:30 AM. The morning worship service was chosen so that the entire congregation could participate and experience the Lay in active worship and unity. To support the Connectional Lay Organization's theme of "Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission", the local church theme for the day was "All Generations: Connecting, Worshiping and Serving in Unity". The main focus of the day was realizing first steps that will serve as a foundation to achieving the Connectional theme. Targeted efforts are being made to involve everyone with special attention to including youth and young adults.

Our worship leader was Sister Marian Dossou, a young adult member of the organized Lay, who greeted everyone after a high spirited period of devotions. The service began with the doxology, followed by the call to worship. Our worship leader lined the first stanza of the "Laymen's

Hymn" which prompted lively singing by the congregation. Prayer was offered by Sister Mary Brown, Mt. Zion, Norristown. Sister Taylor Brizill, a very active youth member of Ward, read Matthew 28: 16 – 20 as the scripture for the day. The Women's Fellowship Choir of Ward, under the direction of Sister Cora Wells, provided a musical selection. The welcome and acknowledgement of visitors was cheerfully done by Sister Carolyn Wilson of Ward. Sister Alycia Williams of Mt. Zion Norristown, responded by thanking Ward for the warm expression of welcome which made everyone feel at home.

The Lay Litany was lead by Sister Faith Williams of Metropolitan AME Church of Lansdowne, PA. Following announcements and a second selection by the choir, Sister Alicia Williams of Ward, a young adult Lay member, introduced the **speaker, Sister Felecia Commodore, Young Adult Representative of the Connectional Lay Organization.** Sister Alicia noted that Sister Felecia was a former member of the Ward Church family as she had attended Ward under watch care while attending Drexel University as an undergraduate student.

Sister Felecia greeted the congregation, established protocol and sang "Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary". Her message was entitled "**Lessons from the First Class of Christians**". Acts 2 was the scriptural reference. Sister Felecia bought life to her message by taking us back in time with the Word. The experience of the eleven disciples on the day of Pentecost was the "first" class of Christians.

She stressed that "*they were together in one place and on one accord. Laity of today can learn many lessons from that day. If we are saved and in*



**(Continued: WARD AME CHURCH  
"Lessons from the First Class of Christians"**

By Connie Williams Local President

*agreement, we can listen and understand what the Holy Spirit is saying to us about our own Salvation. The Word tells us, "Salvation is for all". To achieve unity, each of us must start with ourselves. As we receive the Holy Spirit, we are then equipped to engage others and present God's Salvation through Jesus Christ. The crowd that was assembled on the day of Pentecost saw and heard the coming of the Holy Spirit".*

*"The coming of the Holy Spirit was linked to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. God sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and He can do it again for us today. Allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell in us promotes unity and empowers us for the work of The Great Commission."*

By the time Sister Felecia said "Class dismissed", there was applause" and "Amen" agreement that she had delivered a needed message with power!"

Pastor Hensford gave the invitation for Christian Discipleship. Brother Gilroy Reid, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay, made the appeal for Lay membership, assisted by Local President Connie Williams.

An infant, Milea Jael Lewis was baptized by Pastor Hensford. She was received with great joy.

Pastor Hensford prayed for the Rededication of Lay members. The offering was lifted by Sister Barbara Alston and Brother William Lipscomb, stewards and Lay members at Ward. The speaker's plates were held by Samaya Ruff and Lamont Gee, youth members of Ward.

Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Philadelphia Conference Lay President joined Sister Connie Williams and Pastor Hensford in giving remarks. Her words were encouraging and acknowledged the hard work of the members and continuing support of the Pastor and ministerial staff. The service ended with an energetic and melodious singing of the Lay Benediction. All were invited to share an early dinner and fellowship in the lower church hall. During that time, there was a nice surprise for all of the Lay members. Sister Renee Nelson came forth and stated that she wanted to become a member of the organized Lay. Her decision was received with celebration and encouragement. Prayers for willing workers are being answered! The Lay Organization at Ward thank God for a wonderful day that was spiritually fruitful, well attended and financially successful. Young and old were included and the support of our fellow laypersons was great. **To God be the glory for the great things He has done!**

**SAVE THE DATE – MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND**



**JULY 25 & 26, 2014: 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT ANNUAL LAY MEETING -DOUBLE TREE HOTEL, 700 N. King St., Wilmington DE**



**AUG. 9, 2014: PCLO FOURTH ANNUAL COOKOUT: SALISBURY COMMUNITY PARK - 777 White Horse Road, Gap, PA**



**OCT. 4, 2014: LAY PERSON OF THE YEAR & UNSUNG HERO AWARDS LUNCHEON: 1<sup>st</sup> District Plaza, 3801 Market St., Phila.,**

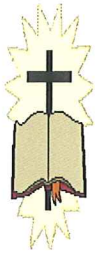


**The next publication of our conference lay newsletter "OUR VOICES", will be published in OCTOBER 2014. All information to be published . . . must be submitted to the Editor by SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.**

**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 Lay Organization of  
CAMPBELL A.M.E. CHURCH**  
*1657 Kinsey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124*

*Marie Butler, Lay President  
Rev. Michael D. Chism, M.Div., Pastor*



***SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH***

*Respectfully submitted,  
Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Campbell A.M.E. Church Lay Organization*

The Campbell Lay Organization kicked off Black History Month with a special program on Saturday, February 1, 2014 @ 2:00 P.M. Our musician for the day was Sister Criseeda Seals, who certainly added to the program with her special rendition of Negro Spirituals. The program began with the Call to Worship by Sister Roberta White, followed by the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing". A stirring prayer was given by Sister Susan Butler, followed by scripture reading, Matthew 28: 16-20 by Sister Patricia Bingham. Welcome and Statement of Purpose was given by Sister Marie Butler.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:**

- (1) Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr., portraying **Bishop Richard Allen**, concluding with the congregation singing "God, Our Father".
- (2) Brother Donald Jr. spoke on the **Emancipation Proclamation**, concluding with the congregation singing, "Oh Freedom".
- (3) Brother Donald Travers III delivered **Martin Luther King's** speech, "I Have a Dream",

concluding with the congregation singing, "We Shall Overcome".

- (4) Sister Ashyah Jackson, a 12 year old, recited "**Still I Rise**" by **Maya Angelou** and concluded by performing a Liturgical dance with Ashley Turner to the musical rendition of the poem.
- (5) Sister Faye Richardson portrayed **Sister Rosa Parks**, concluding with the congregation singing "I Shall Not Be Moved".
- (6) Brother Roger Tenant, Sr. spoke about **President Nelson Mandela** and the song that was sung was "O When the Saints Go Marching In".
- (7) Sister Criseeda Seals highlighted her **trip to Africa** and the **visit with Nelson Mandela**.
- (8) After a soul stirring afternoon, the then Pastor, Rev. Glenn Shepherd gave his remarks and blessed the food. Afterwards, we went to the lower auditorium for a soul food meal and fellowship.

**WHAT A SPECIAL DAY WE SHARED WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS KICKING OFF BLACK HISTORY MONTH.**



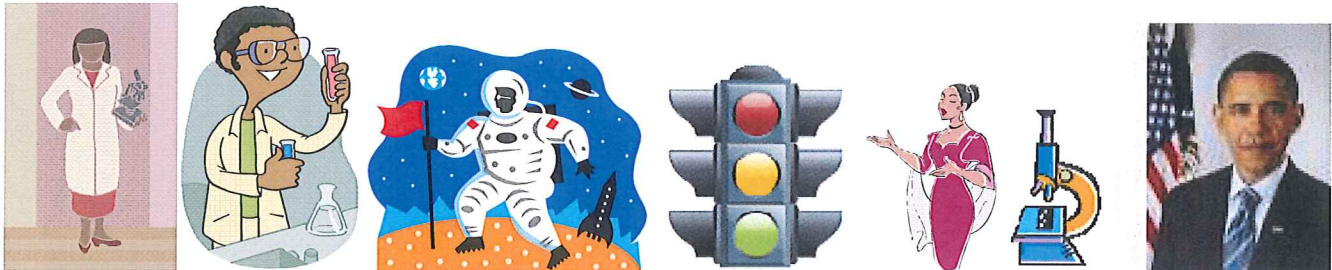
# ST. MATTHEW LAY ORGANIZATION



## CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Submitted by: Marion G. Bolton, Local President  
St. Mathew AME Church, Philadelphia, PA

**Black History Month** got off to a rousing beginning on Saturday, February 1, 2014, which happened to be National Freedom Day at St. Matthew AMEC, Phila. We were blessed with an awesome workshop entitled *"A Presentation of Our History"* by **Sister Darryl L. McLain**, a member of Bethel AME Church, Bryn Mawr, PA.



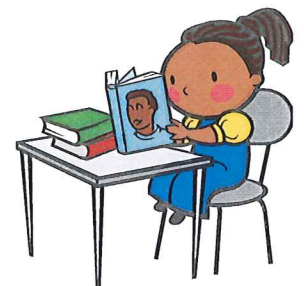
Sister McLain's main focus was on Black inventors and their inventions. She not only spoke about various Black inventors and their inventions, but she also brought along examples of many of the inventions!

She stressed the fact that our history is not being taught in our schools and that it is up to us to teach it to our children. She gave an example of it not being taught when she asked two of her nieces who are now in their 30's, "Who was Medger Evers?" One said, "He was an activist." The other said, "No, he's a rapper!" Another niece at Fubert Middle School in West Chester was asked if Black History was celebrated in her school and she said, "They played a Rap song!" Ironically, this same school was named after J. R. Fubert, a black man.

Sister McLain emphasized the importance of knowing about the lesser known blacks as well. We know about Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, etc., but do we know about Selma Burke, George Crum, Otis Boykin, and Minnie Jean Brown to name a few. Something else to remember is that our Black people have not been given credit for what they did, therefore, it is up to us to teach, preach and sing about Black History!

Present to give support to Sister McLain was his pastor, the Rev. Carlos Bounds, her Lay president, Brother Hosea Jackson and his wife Sister Brenda Jackson, Sisters E.J. Fisher and Patsy E. Hill.

### Jump Start





# The Lay Organization of LAMOTT A.M.E. CHURCH

1505 W. Cheltenham Avenue  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Reverend Leroy P. Attles, Pastor  
Mary P. English, Local Lay President

## ANNUAL LAY DAY

Submitted by Mary P. English,  
Local Lay President



**February 16, 3:30 p.m.** As we celebrated our Annual Lay Day, we were truly blessed in the Lord, under the leadership of our pastor the Reverend Dr. Louis P. Attles and led to higher heights by our **Guest Lay Speaker, Dr. Helen Jenkins Earley from Allen AME Church.** Dr. Earley's message was entitled "**The Jesus' Plan**" and her Scripture references were Luke 6:22; Luke 3:32; James 5:20, Luke 24:36 and Matthew 7:24.

Dr. Earley emphasized "*the importance of making disciples our friend and challenges us to pray. Prayer is a must and we need a prayer life "because there is POWER in prayer"*". She also reminded us that, "*We need Bible Study and the teaching of God's Word.*"

She then directed us to read Page 1 of the 2012 Discipline which is "*the Episcopal Salutation*"

connecting us with the Connectional Theme "*Fulfilling The Great Commission*" (Matthew 26: 16 thru 20.)

I can truly say we were blessed spiritually and financially along with receiving five new members into our Lay organization of which two were young adults.

There were several visitors from throughout the Philadelphia Conference including our excellent President Sister Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell.

The program participants included the Worship Leader Sis. Marie Butler of Campbell-Frankford; the Prayer was given by Sis. Mamie Price, Bethlehem, Langhorne; Sis. Evelyn Wright, St. Matthews read the Scripture; the Welcome was extended by Sis. Rosemary Manley, Lamott; and the Response given by Sis. Constance Williams, Ward. The music was rendered by our Sanctuary Choir; the Litany was led by Sis. Shirley Moore-Harris, Mt. Pisgah; the introduction of the Speaker was given by Brother Turner Vann, Allen; and the Invitation to Christian Discipleship was rendered by our pastor Reverend Louis Attles. The PCLO 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Bro. Andre Turner, Campbell, Frankford extended the invitation to members of Lamott to unite with the Lay and five new member joined of which two were young adults.

Pastor Louis Attles invited the Lay members of Lamott to rededicate themselves as members of their local Lay Organization. The offering was lifted by Sister Gretta Banks and Bro Robert Love of Lamott; and by Sister Juanita Bryant of Mt. Tabor and Bro. Charles Jones of Mother Bethel.

Acknowledgements and remarks were given the Sis. Mary P. English, Local Lay President; Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, and our pastor the Reverend Louis P. Attles.

The service ended with a recessional and the Lay Benediction. **To God Be the Glory for Great Things He Has Done.**



# BETHANY A.M.E. CHURCH

8898 ASHTON ROAD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136

REVEREND LOIS M. WILKINSON, PASTOR

Brother William Mason, Local President

Reported and respectfully submitted by:

Brother Andree A. Turner

"Mentor" to Bethany A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia, PA



## ANNUAL LAY DAY

March 21, 2014 - Friday Night 7:00 P.M. Bethany A.M.E. Church celebrated their **First Annual Lay Day** under the direction of the Holy Spirit and the Pastor of Bethany A.M.E. Church, Rev. Lois M. Wilkinson. Brother William Mason, local President introduced the Worship Leader, Sister Juanita Bryant, Lay President at Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Church. Sister Bryant also serves as the Philadelphia Conference Lay Activities Director.

We were invited to sing our Opening Hymn, "The Laymen's Song". We were led to the throne of grace by Brother Gilroy Reid, Lay President at Waters Memorial A.M.E. Church. Brother Reid also serves as the First Vice President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. The scripture was read by Sister Gloria Sharp, Lay President at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Kennett Square, PA.



We were then treated to the **Heavenly Angels Praise Dance Team** from **Christian Faith Baptist Church**. It an outstanding display of "worship and praise."



Bernice Wilson of Bethany gave a warm welcome to all of the visitors and one of the members from Christian Faith Baptist Church gave a rousing response. We were treated to a selection from the Christian Faith Baptist Church choir, followed by the Lay Litany, led by Sister Marie Butler, Lay President at Campbell A.M.E. Church, Frankford.

Following the offering, Rev. Wilkinson introduced the preacher of the evening, who is one of her classmates and a personal friend, the **Rev. Dr. James Brown, pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church**. We were once again treated to another worship and praise dance by the Heavenly Angels. Rev. Brown's sermon was entitled "**A Push into Our Destiny**". His scripture came from Exodus 2: 11-25. His key verses were 11-14, "*We make our own decisions, and our decisions causes a Reaction*". His final point was "*There is no excuse for you, when Jesus is passing by, **RISE UP.***"



Rev. Brown gave the Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell gave the Invitation to Lay Membership by passing the torch to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr. of Campbell A.M.E. Church. Brother Turner invited the membership to go down in history as being the first to join the lay on this their first Lay Day.

We were treated to remarks by Sister Jeanette Davis, Program Chairperson, Brother William Mason, Local Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, PCLO President, Rev. Lois M. Wilkinson, pastor and final remarks and the Lay Benediction by Rev. Dr. James Brown.

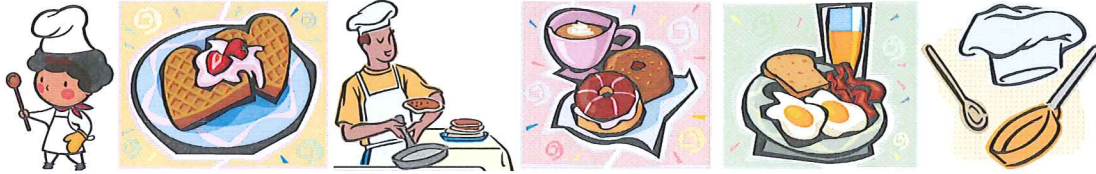


# ST. MATTHEW AME CHURCH

215 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Street – Philadelphia, PA

Reverend Roland C. McCall, Pastor

## ANNUAL LAY DAY BREAKFAST



Submitted by Brother Lorenzo Cruger  
Director of Public Relations  
St. Matthew AME Church

**Saturday, March 8, 2014** The Lay Organization of St. Matthew AME Church held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lay Breakfast. It seems to be a case of *“Can you top this?”* again.

When we reflect on last year’s breakfast and look forward to the coming one, we think of how great last year’s breakfast was!

Well, *they went over the top!* The day was great, not only the food, but also the entire program! The menu pleased not only the eyes, but also the taste. It included: quiche, scrambled eggs, home fries, grits, sausage and bacon (both pork & turkey) kielbasa, biscuits, pastries, coffee and tea.

The Worship Leader was Brother Earl Knight, III, of Zion AME Church and from there it just got better and better. Sister Connie Williams of Ward AME Church gave the invocation and blessing. The St. Matthew Praise team warmed our hearts throughout the program that included one of the junior members (Jared Gravely) leading at one time. The Welcome was extended by Sister

Tamara McCollum, which was responded to by Sister Mary Brown of Mt. Zion AME Church; Sister Cynthia Douse, New Bethel AME Church of Germantown, led the Lay Litany.

Once again the Drama Ministry delighted us with several short lessons from the Bible. They were: *“Worry”*; *“How Not To Gossip”*; *The Lord’s Prayer*; *“Diary of a Bible”*; *“The Testimony Show”*; and *“Where Did I come From?”* While being entertaining these presentations also gave messages that we all need from time to time.

Following the presentations Brother Gilroy Reid of Waters Memorial AME Church gave an invitation for membership to the Lay that led to a new member who joined that day.

The program concluded with remarks from Sister Marion Bolton, St. Matthew’s Local Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Philadelphia Conference Lay President and Pastor Reverend Roland C. McCall.



**Sunday, March 16:** We had our Annual Lay Day Worship Service. It was well attended and the message was well received. The Speaker for both services was our pastor, the Reverend Roland C. McCall. During the first service his text was taken from 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:1-6 and his subject was **“GOD is the Greatest.”**

At the 10:45 AM service Pastor McCall used Matthews 7:7-14 as his text and his message was entitled **“Which Way Do You Want To Go?”**

We took in four new members of which three were young people, *“to God Be The Glory”*, bringing our increase to five new members. It was a great celebration and a Lay Day to remember. In all, the **St. Matthew Annual Lay** celebration was successful!





# 100 YEARS OF BLESSINGS HAPPY BIRTHDAY SISTER MARY WELBORN SMALL

Happy Birthday Blessings and Best Wishes were the order of the day for  
"CENTENNIAL CITIZEN SISTER MARY WELBORN SMALL  
of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bryn Mawr, PA.

*Submitted by: The Members of Bethel AME Church, Bryn Mawr, PA  
Reverend Carlos D. Bounds, Pastor  
Bro. Hosea Jackson, Local Lay President*

**SISTER MARY SMALL** joined Bethel AME Church in Bryn Mawr over 50 years ago, and has become one of our most beloved and cherished members. Today, we gather with her family and friends to celebrate her "100<sup>th</sup> birthday".

There are many reasons why "we love our dear Mary Small", not the least of which are **her style, her dignity and her graciousness**.

We love Mary Small as a **woman of wisdom**. She speaks her truth clearly and firmly, never in a whisper, but never shouting to be heard. She is always willing to offer advice out of her love and concern for anyone in need.

We have come to love Mary Small for **her hospitality**. The door at 218 Williams Road is always open to visitors and every visit will include an offer to eat a meal with the suggestion "Don't you want a can of Coke?" She has rightly earned the reputation as **one of the best cooks** at Bethel, having prepared many delicious and beautiful meals over the years.

We admire Mary Small as a **true example of strength and courage**. Although she has endured the loss of loved ones throughout the years, she still looks forward with anticipation to each new day.

We love Mary Small's **zest for life**. She will tell you quickly she is not old, preferring the company of younger persons who she says keep her **young at heart**. She is **always ready to shop at her favorite store Nordstrom's**, get a manicure and definitely keep her weekly appointment at the hair salon.

Mary Small has quite a **wonderful sense of humor**. How many of us have laughed at one of her stories, which may be just a bit naughty and are always told with a twinkle in her eye.

So today, Mary Small, we join with all assembled, to wish you **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**. **Your faith in God and love of life** has kept you "100 years young".

**Your Bethel Family loves, admires and treasures you and we pray God's blessings for many more birthdays to come.**



## PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

**Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President**

Gilroy Reid, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Marion G. Bolton, Recording Secretary

Fern Wesley, Treasurer

Cynthia Douse, Historiographer

Juanita Bryant, Director of Lay Activities

Earl Knight, III, Young Adult Representative

Hosea Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Valerie O. Ward, Asst. Recording Secretary

Anna M. Cobb, Financial Secretary

Andree Turner, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Wanda Ringgold, Corresponding Secretary

Mamie Price, Chaplain

Mary English, Parliamentarian

Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations

*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*