

Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Launches Web Site

www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org

by: Anita Hanna Matthews



“10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 -- BLAST OFF!”



That's right, my brothers and sisters. The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization has launched its **“First Web Site”** and it is fabulous, informative, and illustrates just how progressive we've become. Have you seen it yet?

It's been up and running since March 2011. It's stays up-to-date with information from our Conference and the 1st Episcopal District -- in an effort to “serve the present age.”

Our Web Site disseminates news and posts excellent pictures of the PCLO present and upcoming events; as well as 1st District and Connectional Lay events; issues of the PCLO Newsletters “Our Voices”; and has links to several AME websites, and much, much more.

Not only is this Web Site informative, this Web Site is setting precedence as how we must be more versatile and effective in our “Lay Awareness Outreach” and our communicating options, because the world is daily becoming more “computer and internet literate, cultured, savvy, and dependent.”

Our youth and young adults (and many of our seniors as well) have already adapted to communicating through cyber-space -- and by using resources other than pencils, paper, telephone conversations, and snail mail -- *and just think of how many trees we are saving through paperless communications.*

Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and ALL of the innovative persons who are involved in designing and promoting this Web Site are to be commended for their ingenuity in leading us into this type of technology. Thus, we, the members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organizations, are very proud of our website and extend our **CONGRATULATIONS to President Hopewell and All involved for pioneering this major achievement.**

“MISSION ACCOMPLISHED”



PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President	Frank Gilyard, Sr., 1 st Vice President	John Gadson, 2 nd Vice President
Gilroy Reed 3 rd Vice President		Marian Spivey Sudler, Recording Secretary
Benda Watts, Assistant Recording Secretary	Fern Wesley, Treasurer	Carolyn Thomas-Kamara, Corresponding Secretary
Judith Beverly, Financial Secretary	Mamie Price, Chaplin	Cynthia Douse, Historiographer
Mary English, Parliamentarian	Juanita Bryant, Director of Lay Activities	Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations

Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Presiding Prelate - 1st Episcopal District – African Methodist Episcopal Church

BETHLEHEM A.M.E. CHURCH
LANGHORNE, PA
CELEBRATES
3RD ANNUAL LAY DAY

By: Kimberly Reddick



BROTHER HOSEA JACKSON
GUEST SPEAKER

At Bethlehem A.M.E. Church, Langhorne, PA we celebrated our Third Annual Lay Day on January 15, 2011. Pastor Reverend Ethel Moore, Lay President, Sis. Mamie Price and our members were blessed to have a wonderful day.

Our **Guest Speaker** was **Brother Hosea Jackson**, Lay President of the Bethel AME Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. His Message: **"THE LORD IS WITH YOU"** was supported by the scriptures from Judges 6:1-14, focusing on verse 12 which says, **"The Lord is with you, you might man of valor."** In this verse the Angel of the Lord finds Gideon threshing wheat in the winepress and declares to Gideon, **"The Lord is with you."**

Bro. Jackson stated in his message to us that every person has some type of challenge, trial, circumstance, or a problem in his/her life. Christians are no different. Many believers still think that because we are Christians, we are (should be) exempt from problems. However, nothing could be farther from the truth!

Brother Jackson brought forth examples of how Job, King David, and others coped with the trials and challenges they faced. Job lost all his possessions and his children; David faced a giant, they also had their own sins to deal with. However, they each learned how to trust God's presence in their lives, to help them go through their challenges and to gain the victory.

The messages for us: **"God DOES permit circumstances, trials challenges, and "storms" to**

teach us to depend on Him. Such circumstances can hit us anytime, anywhere. It is how we respond to them that matters. When we learn that the Lord is with us, we will triumph!"

By: Kimberly Reddick




1st District Planning Meeting
June 16-17-18, 2011
1st District Plaza
3801 Market Street, Phila, PA




1st District Annual Lay Meeting
July 15-16, 2011
DoubleTree Hotel
Wilmington, Delaware

"GOT NEWS?"



PLEASE FORWARD NEWS FOR "OUR VOICES"
to: Anita Hanna Matthews
PCLO Director of Public Relations
4820 Sweetbrier Drive - Harrisburg, PA 17111
e-mail: AnitaMatt@verizon.net
Telephone: (717) 561-4422

The next newsletter will be published in October 2011
 Please submit news by Deadline: September 17, 2011.



The editor reserves the right to edit all materials received & to use editorial discretion.

ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA, PA



CELEBRATES ANNUAL LAY DAY

Guest Speaker

BROTHER RICHARD "R2" NORRIS, II

**Submitted by: Lorenzo Cruger
Director of Public Relations of
St. Matthew AMEC Lay**

On one of the first clear and somewhat warm Saturday mornings, March 12, 2011, St. Matthew AME Church Lay Organization, celebrated Lay Day by reaching back into the history of the church. For its Fifth Annual Day Breakfast, they selected Bro. Richard Norris, II to be the speaker.

The Worship Leader, Bro. John Gadson, Lay President, Morris Brown AMEC and 2nd Vice President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, kept the program moving in such a manner that the morning went swiftly. Bro. Stanley Hearst, St. Matthew AMEC, gave a very inspiring and moving invocation, setting the tone for a great morning. Sister Carolyn Jones, Mt. Tabor AMEC, read the scriptures.

Sis. Toni Dennison and Bro. Michael Woods, both of St. Matthew AMEC, rendered selections. Their voices lifted up the crowd. A welcome was extended by our 1st Vice President, Lynne Malone, and the response was given by Sis. Doretha Hicks, of St. Paul AMEC Malvern Lay President. Both were concise, short and right to the point. Sister Mary English, LaMott Lay President, led the Lay Litany.

Our Pastor, Reverend Roland C. McCall, had to leave due to another commitment, so he brought

words of welcome and regretted the need to leave.

The Chat and Chew exposed us to a menu hard to beat. It consisted of: fresh fruit, various fruit drinks, sausages, both pork and turkey, (again pork and turkey) corn beef hash, three types of quiche, scrambled eggs, homes fries, grits, biscuits, Danish, coffee and tea. There was enough for seconds "if anyone could handle them -- however, only a few tried."

After we had consumed all the physical food, it was time for spiritual nourishment. Our Guest Speaker's son, Richard "R3" Norris, III, introduced his father, Guest Speaker Richard "R2" Norris, II. He used the occasion to tie in three generation of Norris' and did it with such flair that everyone felt at ease from the start. Brother Norris picked his topic from Judge 7:5, and used as his theme "Time to Let the Dogs Out." He reminded us that as there are several classes of dogs, there are also several classes of "us". There are those who need to go out into the world and pass the word, as well as those who must be in the church and make sure that all who enter feel at home and want to become a part of the AME Church. There are also people needed to be there to support or back up those up front. The message, while not lengthy, was direct and to the point. He left us with clear directions as to how we could not only serve the Church but, better yet, God.

Bro. Stanley Hearst opened the doors to the Church. The invitation to Lay membership was given by Bro. Gilroy Reid, PCLO 3rd Vice President and Waters Memorial AMEC's Lay President. We were blessed with one new member, Bro. Perry. The day was a success and our Lay President Judith Beverly indicated that she was pleased with the morning.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY !



PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

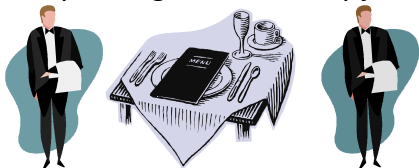
“Elegant Evening”

Submitted by: Marie Butler, Chairperson



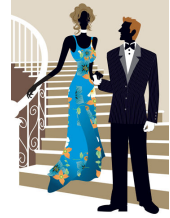
On Friday, May 6, 2011 the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization gathered for an **EVENING OF ELEGANCE**, which was held at Unity Hall, 1349 Unity St., Philadelphia (Frankford) PA. The event was chaired by Marie Butler, Lay President at Campbell, Frankford. The hall was decorated with the lay colors, blue and white.

As people gathered and greeted one another, the D.J., Donald Travers, Jr. (member of Campbell) entertained the guest with soothing dinner music. The delicious food, which included baked & fried chicken, sweet potatoes, string beans, macaroni & cheese, dinner roll, was catered by Aunt Berta's Kitchen of Oaklyn, NJ. The meal was enjoyed by all and topped off with cake for dessert. To make sure the P.C.L.O. could come in, sit down and enjoy the evening, the chairperson gathered some of her church kitchen staff to serve and they did a great & friendly job.



Upon arrival, Mamie Price and Faye Richardson who were on the door gave everybody a ticket for a chance to win one of the ten (10) prizes, which were different appliances. Everybody was excited, looking forward to winning. The grand prize was a \$50 gift card, which was won by Kimberly Yon from Mt. Pisgah.

President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, welcomed everyone and was the unofficial photographer. You can see the pictures on our website: www.philadelphiaconferencelay.org



After dining and the drawing, the D.J. started the music with the “Electric Slide”,



followed by many other ‘line dance’ songs.



We just danced the night away and nobody was rushing to leave.



Of the 160 tickets sold, Kudos go out to the top ticket sellers: Mt. Pisgah, who sold 23 tickets, Campbell, 18, Calvary, 16 and Morris Brown 15.

Special thanks were extended to those in attendance and a good time was had by all and most are looking forward to the next

“ELEGANT EVENING.”



Celebration of Life for

SUSIE COLTER MYERS

Metropolitan AME Church, Philadelphia, PA

Submitted by: E. Catherine Shepard



Sunrise: Sept. 29, 1908 - Sunset: March 1, 2011

"For I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2nd Timothy 4:6-7

SUSIE COLTER MYERS, a daughter of the late John and Sarah Colter, was born September 29, 1908 in Charleston, S.C. She departed this life March 1, 2011 at the Bala Nursing & Retirement Center.

At the age of 10, she moved to PA with her father and sister, Lillian. She received her education in the public schools of Philadelphia. She was married to Isaac Myers, who preceded her in death.

Throughout her life, she lived by faith that the Lord Jesus Christ would provide her with all that she needed. Each she lived holding fast to that promise.

Susie Myers was truly loved by all who came in contact with her. She was a member of Metropolitan AME Church for over 65 years. There, she served faithfully as a Steward, President of Stewardess Board B, Class Leader, Missionary Worker, member of the Lay Organization, the South Caroline Club, the Gospel Chorus, and a cook for the Metropolitan Soup Kitchen. She was a good, faithful and supportive member and always wanted to know what she could do for her church. At her 102nd birthday celebration, all money she received as gifts was given to her church.

"Susie" was preceded in death by her siblings: Lillian Hopkins, Florence Benjamin and John Colter. She leaves to celebrate her life and cherish her memory her beloved baby sister, Anna Bell Wilson of Brooklyn, NY; an adopted daughter, E. Catherine Shepard of Philadelphia, PA; two special friends, Madace Thorpe and Carolyn Thomas-Kamara; nieces, Patricia Wilson, Dolores Ford and Mildred Hines; nephews, Joseph Campbell, John Hayes and Carl Wilson (wife, India); and a host of great nieces and nephews. She also leaves her beloved Metropolitan Church

Family and the Bala Nursing & Retirement Center's 1st Floor Family & Staff.

Celebration of Life for

ROSE OPHELIA HARDAWAY TRUEITT

Bethel AME Church, Harrisburg, PA

Submitted by: Anna M. Cobb



Sunrise Dec. 14, 1922 – Sunset March 31, 2011

One thing I have desired of the Lord, That I will seek; That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple! Psalm 27:4

ROSE H. TRUEITT, the daughter of the late Freeman "Daddy" and Lilly Bell "Mama" (Thompson) Hardaway, was born December 14, 1922 in Columbus, GA, and transitioned into eternal on Thursday, March 31, 2011 at the Harrisburg Hospital.

She was a former employee of PA Department of Labor and Industry and retired from the Harrisburg School District with over 25 years of service, and a former foster parent for Family and Children Services.

As a faithful member of Bethel Village A.M.E. Church since 1952, she was a member of the Lay Organization, served as a Choir Director of the Sanctuary Choir, blending her distinctive "opera quality" soprano voice with the Choir; a faithful President of Stewardess Board for many decades - instrumental in creating the first Annual Poinsettia Tea; a member of the Lay Organization, taught Vacation Bible School, participated in the Kitchen Ministries and the Sister to Sister Bible Study groups.

In her leisure, "Aunt Rose" was an avid sports fan enjoyed sewing, visiting the sick, spending time with her family, participating in the March of Dimes Campaigns, gardening, watching Soap Operas and more than anything "praising God and encouraging young people to do their best." She was a well-known soprano in the Harrisburg and sang at many prestigious occasions throughout the area.

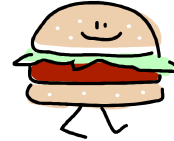
"Ms. Rose" was the widow of Jackson C. Trueitt, Jr. and in addition to her parents and husband, was preceded in death by 2 sons, Jackson H. III and Stanley Trueitt. She leaves to celebrate her life, a daughter, Antoinette "Toni" Trueitt; a son, Anthony T. Trueitt, both of Harrisburg and Stefan B. Trueitt of Norfolk,

VA; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization



ANNUAL PICNIC



Saturday, August 6, 2011

Salisbury Township Community Park
777 White Horse Road – Gap, PA



R.S.V.P. by July 23

Contact: Walter C. Jeffers: 267-403-0317

32nd BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION



August 14- 18, 2011
Detroit, Michigan