



# OUR VOICES

Quarterly Newsletter

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Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

## PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION ANNUAL LAY NIGHT SERVICE

Submitted by: Cynthia Douse, Philadelphia Conference Lay Historiographer  
Pictures: Courtesy of Walter Jeffers and Cheryl H. Hopewell

On May 24, 2012 at 7:30 pm, The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization held their Annual Lay Night Service at Mother Bethel AME Church, the host church for the 196<sup>th</sup> Session Philadelphia Annual Conference. It was a wonderful and well attended service. Music was provided by the Philadelphia AME Mass Choir and musicians; the worship leader was the host lay president, Brother Charles Jones.

The Annual Lay Message message was given by **Dr. Willie C. Glover, President of the Connectional Lay Organization.** Dr. Glover's thought provoking message threw out the challenge of **"THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX."**

*(Left to Right)* Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath of the 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District; Retired Bishop Retired Bishop Henry A. Belin; Presiding Prelate of the 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District, Bishop Richard Franklin Norris; Guest Speaker Dr. Willie Glover, Connectional Lay President; Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Philadelphia Conference Lay President; Ms. Juanita Bryant, Philadelphia Conference Director of Lay Activities; Worship Leader and Lay President of Mother Bethel AME Church, Bro. Charles Jones; and Mrs. Mary Mootoo, 1<sup>st</sup> District Lay President.



The program participants also included: the Invocation by Brother Andree Turner, Campbell AME Church, Frankford; the Scripture was read by Brother David Alexander, Bethel AME Church, Harrisburg; Lay Litany led by Sister Dereth Hicks, St. Paul AME Church, Malvern; Presentation of the Speaker by Brother Walter C. Jeffers, Hickman Temple AME Church; Invitation to Christian Discipleship was extended by Rev. Dr. Mark K. Tyler, Host Pastor; and the Presentation of our Bishop Richard F. Norris by Sister Wanda Ringgold, Morris Brown AME Church.

We were blessed to have two bishops present to receive the offerings, our Presiding Prelate, Bishop Richard F. Norris and Retired Bishop Henry A. Belin. along with the Philadelphia Annual Conference finance committee and Sisters Fern Wesley & E. Catherine Shepard from the lay finance committee.

## Continued: PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION LAY NIGHT SERVICE

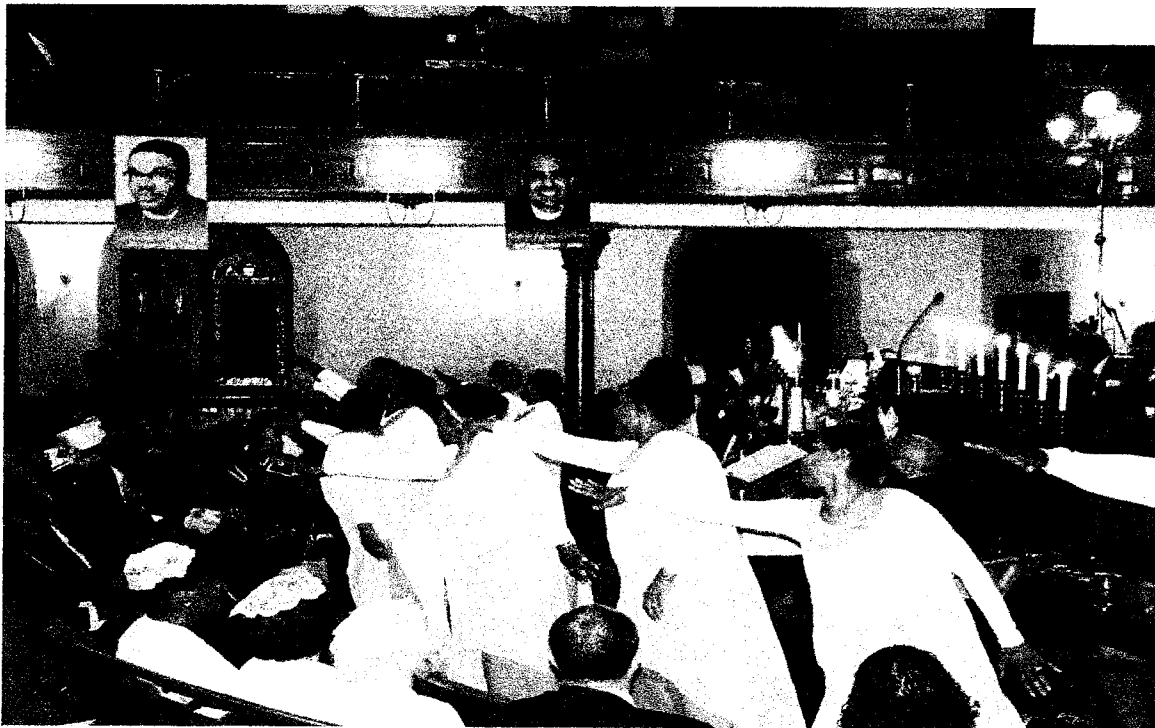
Sister Marian Spivey Sudler, Philadelphia Conference Lay Education Chairperson presented the 2012 Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship recipients. This was the third year of the Scholarship. The first year, one Scholarship in the amount of \$500 was given. In the second year, two Scholarships in the amount of \$500 were given. This year, three Scholarships in the amount of \$500 were given to each recipient. The recipients were Raven Campbell from Bethel, Carlisle, Moses Adenaïke from St. Matthew, Philadelphia, and Jamie Oliver from Mt. Zion, Darby.

Sister Juanita Bryant, Philadelphia Conference Lay Activities Director acknowledged the visitors. Sister Juanita was also the chairperson for this service and is to be commended.

At the end of a wonderful service, we heard remarks from our Philadelphia Conference Lay President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, First District Lay President, Sister Mary Mootoo, and Bishop Richard F. Norris.

Lay Conference President Hopewell remarked that "for this past conference year we have been celebrating **"100 years of lay ministry (1912-2012)."** We started at our 2011 lay night with a praise service which included song, dance and instruments. Then during the year, we distributed 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary magnets, produced a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary journal, had a special workshop on the history in our conference lay and distributed an informational brochure, produced a short video highlighting four of our lay members who have been in the conference lay for more than 40 years, then tonight we had a Centennial bookmark in each program and brought in our Convectional Lay President to be our speaker.

As a culmination of our year-long celebration of **"100 YEARS of LAY MINISTRY"** **Divine Movement from Mt. Pisgah danced to the Hallelujah Chorus.** *(Pictured Below)*



What an amazing service and we **"THANK GOD"** for blessing our **Annual Lay Night Celebration** as only **"HE"** can!

**Bishop Norris and Conference Lay President Hopewell observed as three \$500 Cheryl H. Hopewell Scholarships** were presented by Sis. Marian Spivey Sudler, Chair of Education Committee, to three youths who will attend Colleges and Universities in pursuit of higher education.



**Recipient: Brother Jamie Oliver**  
**Mt. Zion AME, Darby**  
 (Far Left) Rev. Albert Jones, Pastor



**Recipient: Sister Raven Campbell**  
**Bethel AME, Carlisle**  
 (Far Right) Sis. Sally Williams, Dir. Of Lay Activities



**Recipient: Brother Moses Adenaike**  
**St. Matthew AME, Philadelphia**  
 (Far Right) Sis. Marion Bolton, Lay President  
 Rev. Ronald McCall, Pastor



Conference-Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell; Connectional Lay President Dr. Willie Conference Dir. Of Lay Activities, Juanita Bryant; and First Episcopal District President Mary Mootoo.

**IT WAS A "FULL HOUSE"**

Bishops from near & far and pastors, clergy and lay worshippers from the Delaware, New England, New Jersey, New York, and Philadelphia Conferencs joined in our "Spirit Filled Celebration."



# ST. MATTHEW AME CHURCH Philadelphia, PA

## ANNUAL LAY DAY BREAKFAST

Submitted by: **Lorenzo Cruger**  
**Director of Public Relations**

On **Saturday, March 10, 2012**, the Lay Organization of St. Matthew AME Church held its **Sixth Annual Lay Breakfast**. It was well attended and all had a good.

The breakfast once again was well organized and the food was outstanding. After the fresh fruit you had a choice of four types of Quiche, scrambled eggs, home fries, grits, sausage, bacon (pork and turkey) kielbasa, biscuits, pastries, coffee and tea.

Our Worship Leader was Cheryl L. Ford (Hickman Temple AMEC, Lay President.) Other program participants were Andre Turner, (Campbell AMEC), Lillian Murphy (Zion AMEC), Tamara McCollum (St. Matthew AMEC), Gloria Sharp, (Bethel AMEC Kenneth Square) and Ed Lovelace (Bethel AMEC Bristol.)

The mood was set with some soul-stirring music from the "Soulful Delegation." In place of a speaker the Lay presented the Drama Ministry of St. Matthew. who presented three short plays, "**The Courtroom**", "**Way After the Garden**" and "**The Sculpture.**" They were all well received and there were even a few tears in the eyes during the latter.

We were blessed with four new members after the plea from James Lake (Jones Tabernacle AMEC.) Two of who joined in Bermuda during the Mid-Year Meeting of the First District Lay.

The program concluded with remarks from Marion Bolton, (St. Matthew), Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell, Philadelphia Conference Lay President and Rev. Deborah Speaks, (for Rev. Roland C. McCall).

On **Sunday, March 18th**, we had our **Lay Day Service**. It was well attended and the message was well received. The Speaker for the 7:30 AM service was Rev. Deborah Speaks who spoke from Mark 16:15. Her topic was "Impact Players" and she stressed that we all should make an "Impact" on the rest of the world where ever we are.



**Richard F. Norris, II**

The Speaker for the 10:45 AM service was Lic. Richard F. Norris, II (aka R2). His subject was "**The Lay and The New Circle of Logic**" which he explained how we should be intertwined with the whole community and spread the Word of GOD.

The Lay "Person of the Year" was Sister Evelyn Wright who also serves as our second Vice President. In all, the St. Matthew Lay Annual celebration was a success both spiritually and financially and we look forward to next year.

# MT. PISGAH'S LAY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By: Sis. Cheryll Morris-Davis, Mt. Pisgah Director of Public Relations

On Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at the 10:45 a.m., the Founder's Day Sunday Worship Service was a historic and joyous occasion. The Mt. Pisgah Lay Organization celebrated the Lay Centennial Celebration (1912–2012). The program participants and Mt. Pisgah's Lay organization processed in on "Siyahamba." The worship service was lead by Sister Marion Bolton, from St. Matthew A.M.E. Church. We were blessed to have service participants from our sister Churches that included: Sister Cynthia Douse, New Bethel A.M.E.C., Germantown, Lay President; Brother James C. Ayres, St. Paul A.M.E.C., Lay President; Sister Carolyn Jones, Mt. Tabor A.M.E.C., Director of Lay Activities; Sister Mary English, LaMott A.M.E.C., Lay President; Brother Gilroy Reid, Waters Memorial A.M.E.C., Lay President; Sister Lillian Murphy, Zion A.M.E.C., and Sister Bertha Smith, Ward A.M.E., Lay President.

Mt. Pisgah's Lay service participants included Brother Ernest M. Davis, Chaplain; Sister Patricia Layne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Sister Carrie Yon, Secretary; Sister Gwendolyn Burnett, Financial Secretary, and Sister Bertha Harmon.

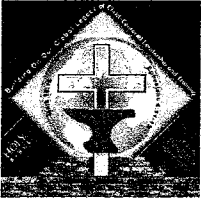
Brother Irvin Hopewell, Mt. Pisgah Lay Parliamentarian, had the dubious honor in presenting our celebratory speaker. Brother Hopewell proceeded in his own witty and humorous manner to "introduce to some and known by others," his wife and President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. After a spirited sermonic selection by the Mt. Pisgah Family Choir, the next voice we heard in delivering the message from on high was our own Sister Hopewell.

Sister Hopewell's message applied to all, entitled, "**What Are You Doing To Build Up The Body of Christ?**" The message was taken from the Scripture text: *Ephesians 4:11-13* and *Mark 16:15*. Sister Hopewell's message stressed to all that after 100 years, it is still the same, if you are not Clergy, then you are a part of the Lay. She reminded the Stewards, Trustees, Missionaries, Class Leaders, Church School workers, Choir Members, Ushers, and all, they are Lay and it takes all of us, all Clergy and Lay alike to work together to build up the Body of Christ. Sister Hopewell's message was urged on and supported by the Pastor, Rev. Jay B. Broadnax and the attendees in the congregation by standing and/or the waving of hands. The Lay Centennial Celebration was truly one to be remembered.

Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church Lay Organization was organized in 1951 during the pastorship of Rev. Mansfield E. Jackson. The first Lay president was Brother Joseph F. Walker. The presidency baton was passed on to Sister Joan W. Walker, Sister Eleanor P. Cogdell, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and onto our current President, Sister Shirley Moore Harris. All of the Lay presidents have diligently shrieved in instructing the Mt. Pisgah church membership to be educated and informed members, "as we all must continued to work together to build up the Body of Christ."

Left to Right: Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, PCLO President;  
Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, Pastor of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church;  
Sis. Shirley Moore Harris, President of Mt. Pisgah Lay Org.





Willie C. Glover, Ph. D. President Connectional Lay Organization

This Article was "reprinted from and is of the Courtesy of" The Connectional Lay Organization On Line

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION!!  
From: Willie C. Glover, Ph. D. President ,Connectional Lay Organization**

It is through great tenacity and courage our founding fathers and mothers pioneered an uncharted path of faith and vision which evolved into our great organization. It took vision and goals to keep these God led people on task despite various vicissitudes of life. Many obstacles were encountered as they forged ahead knowing that our Church would only benefit from an equal voice of laity in our ecclesiastical order of governance.

Today, our Church is stronger for having the official voice of the laity. Since May 1912 the leadership and advocacy role has been vital in transforming and structuring the Church. Examples include the financial officers of the Church have been laypersons for 100 years, helped to promote leadership of women, engaged in the legislative process of strengthening not only laity but clergy as well, and assisting in the global development of our Church. We have indeed come this far by faith.

It took 36 years to organize ourselves into the Connectional Organization with components at all level of the Church. Today, it is mandated that a Lay Organization exist in all Local Churches.

So our centennial year is one of celebration as we have overcome so many obstacles. However, as we celebrate it is my hope and encouragement to take time to reflect, evaluate and think outside of the box for an even greater future. Let us myopically focus on building on our global legacy of Christ centered leadership and training.

Again, Happy Birthday! May God continue to bless the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Connectional Lay Organization.

**The Next Newsletter will be published in October 2012**

**Please submit all news for publication by September 30, 2012 to:**

**Anita Hanna Matthews, PCLO Dir. of Public Relations**

**4820 Sweetbrier Drive - Harrisburg, PA 17111**

***e-mail: AnitaMatt@verizon.net Telephone: (717) 561-4422***

**The editor reserves the right to edit all materials received  
and to use editorial discretion regarding printing of all materials received.**

**PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS**

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Hosea Jackson, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President		Marian Spivey Sudler, Recording Secretary
Benda Watts, Assistant Recording Secretary	Fern Wesley, Treasurer	Carolyn Thomas-Kamara, Corresponding Secretary
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Mary English, Parliamentarian	Juanita Bryant, Director of Lay Activities	Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations
<b>Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Presiding Prelate - 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District – African Methodist Episcopal Church</b>		