



# OUR VOICES

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 4 - #1

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

## GREETINGS FROM THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY PRESIDENT, SISTER CHERYL HAMMOND HOPEWELL



As I look back over my first three years in office, I can truly say that, “I Never Would Have Made It” without the help of the Lord. God is good and worthy to be praised. I can never thank him enough for all he has done, is doing now, and will do in the future because with the help of the Lord, we will do a lot more. So glad He is first in my life because I can’t do anything without Him.

We have come out of a great conference year. We’ve had meaningful meetings, informative workshops, a wonderful Awards Luncheon, a dynamic retreat, a great Christmas fellowship, a successful Education Service, an exciting and spirit-filled lay night, and a refreshing picnic. We thank God that we were able to give two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each at our lay night.

As we begin this new conference year, I promise that I will continue to represent you in any way possible. We will continue to have meaningful meetings and informative workshops. 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 uphold this organization to the highest standards, so all will know that the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization is alive and well and doing great and exciting things.

We continue to be committed to teaching and training 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 Bishop, Presiding Elders and Pastors who have been so supportive. We truly believe that for this to work, lay and clergy must work together and we include clergy in anything that we do. Clergy are always welcome at our meetings and we look forward to continued teamwork.

Let’s move forward as we are capable of doing and “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”. Philippians 3:14. This year we celebrate 100 years of the Connectional Lay Organization (1912-2012). We have been around for 100 years and we are not going anywhere, so climb aboard and come along for the ride!

**In His Service,**

**Cheryl Hammond Hopewell**

### PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President         | Frank Gilyard, Sr., 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | John Gadson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President        |
| Gilroy Reed 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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**

# PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES ANNUAL LAY NIGHT - THE PRAISE CELEBRATION

A Preparatory Commencement of **“100 YEARS”** of the Organized Lay in the  
**African Methodist Episcopal Church**

*By: Anita Hanna Matthews, PCLO Director of Public Relations*



Liturgical Dance Ministry of Mt. Pisgah AMEC, Phila., PA.



Male Chorus: Bethel AMEC, Bryn Mawr, PA



The Ultimate Praise Mime Ministry  
.Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia, PA



Recipients of the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Scholarship  
“Briana” of Morris Brown and “Britt “ of Trinity (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> from left)  
Also pictured: Pastors of the recipients Rev. James Baker and Rev.  
Dr. Earl Jefferson; parents of recipients; Education Chair Marian  
Spivey Sudler and PCLO President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

During the Philadelphia Annual Conference, hosted by St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, on Thursday evening, May 26, 2011, the atmosphere was intense with great expectations of blessings and the spirit was high during the entire worship service as various talents were expressed by Lay and Clergy. Host Lay President Judith Beverly and the members of St. Matthew extended cordial hospitality during this traditional evening when the Lay are extended the opportunity to lead the worship and events of the evening. Our Guests included First Episcopal District President Mary Mootoo and officers and members of the New York Conference; the New Jersey, New

England, and Delaware Conferences. First District President Mootoo stated, “she came to celebrate with us, complimented President Hopewell for her diligent service, gave credence to our Conference for putting in place the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Scholarship Award, and for launching out in a new direction to celebrate the work and diligence of the organized Lay of the A.M.E. Church in such innovative ways—utilizing the talents and ministries of “clergy and lay” while working together.

*(continued) Annual Lay Night Praise Celebration*

Also in attendance from the New England Conference was Sister TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Esq., 2012 Candidate for Judicial Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and our Director of Lay Activities Juanita Bryant, were inspired to develop this unique Worship Service so as to share the gifts and talents that make our worship services, fellowships and programs unique and distinctive throughout our local churches.

Participants on the Worship Services were: Bro. Marvin Richardson, St. Matthew A.M.E., who served as Worship Leader; the Musician of the hour was Brother Richard F. Norris, II, our First District Director of Music. Following the Laymen's Song, the Invocation was given by Bro. Lucious Glenn, St. Matthew A.M.E.; the Scriptures Readings were presented by Sis. Valorie Byrd, Calvary A.M.E. (Old Testament) and (New Testament) by Sis. Patricia Manson, Lay President of Zion A.M.E. Rev. Juanita Hall-Walters, Pastor of Allen A.M.E., Oxford, PA presented us with a soul stirring vocal selection, "There's A Story Behind My Praise"; The Lay Litany was expressively led by Sis. TaWanda Hunter, Bethel A.M.E. Church, Carlisle, PA; Bro. Verdis Collins, LaMott A.M.E. vibrantly rendered a vocal solo "My Soul Is Anchored In The Lord.

Following the Preface to the Praise Celebration exquisitely presented by PCLO Director of Lay Activities Sis. Juanita Bryant, the Praise Celebration featured talents of Lay and Clergy through soul-stirring vocal selections, melodious instrumental music, as well as praises through expressive mime and lively dance.

**"PRAISES" WENT UP and "BLESSINGS" CAME DOWN!**

Leading the "The Praise Celebration" was Saxophonist Rev. Maurice M. Hughes, (former Pastor of New Bethel AMEC, Germantown, PA,); followed by choral selections from the Male Chorus of Bethel A.M.E. Bryn Mawr; the Liturgical Dance Ministry by the youth from Mt. Pisgah A.M.E.; Trumpeter Rev. Eugene M. McDuffie, Pastor of St. Paul AME, Elmwood; selections by the South District Mass Choir featuring guest soloist, Rev. Jocelyn Hart, former Pastor of Hickman Temple A.M.E. of Philadelphia –and just recently appointed as Presiding Elder of the Philadelphia District.

Although our Bishop was unable to attend this celebration, Sister Kanisha Chatman of Mother Bethel A.M.E. rendered beautiful expressions and attributes of our beloved Bishop Richard Franklin Norris.

Sis. Peggy Pinder, 1<sup>st</sup> District Director of Lay Activities acknowledged the Visitors and extended accolades for such a beautiful spirited worship experience. Conference President Hopewell and the Philadelphia Conference Education Chairperson, Sister Marion Spivey Sudler presented two Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Scholarship Awards to two gracious young ladies - - "Britt" from Trinity A.M.E., Philadelphia and "Briana" of Morris Brown A.M.E., Philadelphia. Each Scholarship merits the value of \$500.00.

At the close of the worship service, we all departed feeling blessed "for truly, it was good to be among the worshippers at this great **"PRAISE CELEBRATION"** as we enthusiastically embark on **"ONE HUNDRED YEARS" of service by the Organized Lay of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.**

**SAVE the DATES: FALL CONVOCATION - Nov. 3-5, 2011 1<sup>st</sup> District Plaza**

- Advent Services:** Dec. 1 - Bermuda: Mt. Zion, Southampton  
Dec. 4 – New Jersey: Mt. Zion, New Brunswick  
Dec. 8 – Delaware: Mt. Zion, Dover, DEla.  
Dec. 9 – Connecticut: Bethel, New Haven  
**Dec. 11 – Philadelphia: Zion, Philadelphia**  
Dec. 13 – Western NY: Agape, Buffalo, NY  
Dec. 16 – New York: People's Institutional, Brooklyn, NY

Feb. 9-11, 2012 First Episcopal District Founders Day – First District Plaza

**MAR. 1-4, 2012 FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION – MID-YEAR MEETING**

**FAIRMOUNT SOUTHAMPTON HOTEL - 101 SOUTH SHORE ROAD - SOUTHAMPTON BERMUDA**

# Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

## FIRST ANNUAL LAY PICNIC

*Held at Salisbury Township Community Park, 777 White Horse Road, Gap, PA*

By: Cynthia Douse, PCLO Historiographer and  
Anita Hanna Matthews, PCLO Dir. of Public Relations



"The Chief Chef" stands with Picnic Chair Walter Jeffers, Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Rev. Linwood Smith, Host Pastor and a member of Mt. Zion AME, Atglen



President Hopewell, Rev. Narcisse, Pastor St. Paul, A.M.E. Coatesville, and Rev. Dr. Miriam Burnett, Bethel AME Willow Grove

On Saturday, August 6, 2011, the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization (First Episcopal District) held its **First Annual Lay Picnic**. The picnic was held at a scenic country setting with lots of fresh air with great facilities at the Salisbury Township Community Park, 777 White Horse Road, Gap, PA. The host church was Mt. Zion AME, Atglen, Rev. Linwood Smith, Pastor. Conference Lay President, Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, enthusiastically embraced, supported and attended this fun-filled outing and was well pleased with the outcome.

There were over 160 persons in attendance (representing all four Presiding Elder Districts covering a circumference of 105+ miles). The Conference Lay Organization provided hot dogs, hamburgers, salads and soft drinks and many members took the picnic to another level by

bringing and sharing their favorite specialties of salads, desserts, etc.

Several clergy spent the day at the picnic: Rev. Dr. Miriam Burnett, Rev. Floyd Narcisse, Rev. Gwendolyn Bell and the host pastor Rev. Linwood Smith. Even with a very busy schedule, the Presiding Elder of the Harrisburg District Rev. Lawrence C. Henryhand, found time to stop by.

The picnic was a huge, huge success! It was a fun day had by all. It was a great time to talk and fellowship. Some played cards and some even got to do some line dancing.

Many took tours of Rev. Linwood Smith's historical church, Mt. Zion AME Church, located in nearby

*Continued*) **FIRST ANNUAL LAY PICNIC** Atglen, PA. This tour also included the history of Christiana, PA (located adjacent to Atglen) where on September 11, 1851, Christiana was the site of the "Battle of Christiana" (also called the Christiana riot), in which the local residents defended with firearms a fugitive slave, by killing the slave owner. Southerners demanded the hanging of those responsible, who were accused of treason and making war on the United States, but after the first defendant, who was a Quaker, was acquitted, the government dropped the case. This trial was the

first nationally covered challenge to the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.

Thanks to host pastor Rev. Linwood Smith, the local Lay President Bro. Ed Dickinson, who also gave gifts of symbolic book markers; the youth (who covered the tables with blue & white table cloths and helped to serve the food), and the Mt. Zion AME church family for hosting. "Kudos" for a job well done" to Bro. Walter Jeffers and his Committee for all the work put into this effort.

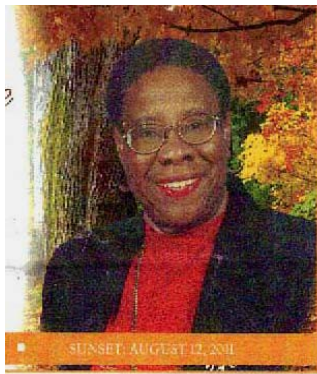
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## ANOTHER "LAYMAN SOLDIER" GOES HOME

*By: Sister Marian Bolden  
St. Matthew A.M.E. Church*

*57th and Summer Streets - Philadelphia, PA*

The HomeGoing Service for Sister Mary L. Williams was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at St. Matthew AME Church. Mary was truly a "Layman Soldier". In her local church Lay Organization, she served in various positions including Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee and as First Vice President for many years. On the Philadelphia Conference level, she served as a member of the Membership Committee, visiting churches to help them become members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. Mary loved the fellowship provided by the Lay and traveled to the various Connectional, First District, and Philadelphia Conference meetings, the General Conference, Annual Lay Nights for our Conference, and Annual Days of other churches. **SHE WILL TRULY BE MISSED!**



*Mary Louise Williams*

**Sunrise: 07/02/35 - Sunset: 08/12/11**

**, THE OBITUARY:** Mary Louse Young Williams was born July 2, 1935 in Monticello, Florida to the late Mary Jo Fletcher and the late James Young. She attended Howard Academy Elementary School. After graduating from there, Mary moved to Philadelphia, PA with her mother in 1948. She then joined Jones Tabernacle A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia, where she was a Jr. Dram. Mary attended Vaux Junior High School where she met and later married the late Rainey Williams and graduated from Vaux in 1950. From there, she attended Kensington High School and graduated in 1953. She attended Penn State University where she studied Medicine; but do to financial restraints Mary was forced to leave Penn State and gained employment at the Veterans Admin. for three years.

In November 1957 Mary and Rainey were united in holy matrimony. From this union a daughter was born, Stacey. In November 1960, Mary was employed by the Philadelphia Naval Base, where she was an accounting supervisor for 38 years until she retired in 1998. In November 1962, Mary became a member of St. Matthew AME Church, Philadelphia where she was a lay member, stewardess and class leader. Mary loved to travel, going on many cruises and especially driving to Florida with her family every summer for ten years. Mary was an avid horticulturist and sports fanatic. The Phillies and the Eagles were Mary's favorite teams. She always would lend a listening ear and gave advice for whoever needed it. If you needed a ride anywhere Mary was there, she would give you the shirt off her back if you needed it. We will miss Mary's infectious smile, and beautiful personality.

**PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION  
HONORS LAY PERSON OF THE YEAR AND UNSUNG HEROES  
AT ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON**

*By: Anita Hanna Matthews – Director of Public Relations, PCLO  
Photos: Courtesy of Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, PCLO President*

**Saturday, October 1, 2011**

Under the leadership of Philadelphia Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, **HONORS AND TRIBUTES** were the “order of the day” as **31 “Loyal Lay Soldiers”** of the Philadelphia Conference received recognition for their **good and faithful service** rendered to our Conference and to their local churches throughout the Philadelphia Conference. The Layperson of the Year, Brother Fred Bearden, was chosen by the members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization and the Unsung Heroes listed below were chosen by their local Lay Organizations, and were from our four Presiding Elder Districts: the Philadelphia District, the Harrisburg District, the West District, and the South District.

Chairperson Marian Spivey Sudler and Co-Chairperson Wanda Ringgold, Committee Chairs and members, hostesses and hosts, program participants, Conference officers and members, local lay presidents and local lay members fervently labored to ensure that this affair would be a meaningful and triumphant occasion.

Innovated highlights were unveiled and shared with us during the Luncheon when pictures of this year’s events – the Elegant Evening Fellowship, our Conference Annual Lay Night “Praise Celebration” and our First Annual Picnic -- were shown on a movie screen, as well as taking a group picture of all the Honorees seated with Bishop & Mother Norris, Conference President Hopewell, Luncheon Chair Marian Spivey Sudler and Co-Chair Wanda Ringgold.

Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, along with his wife, our “ever-so-always” hat-clad and fashionable Episcopal Supervisor Mother Mary Ann Norris at his side, extended greetings during the program. President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, along with Bishop Norris, presented the Lay Person of the Year, Brother Fred Bearden of Grimes A.M.E., Phoenixville with a well deserved prestigious plaque which acknowledges his ardent service to the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. Each **Unsung Hero** was presented a Commemorative Plaque and an Official Proclamation from the State of PA that acknowledged their **“faithful and committed service”** to their church.

Luncheon Chairperson Marian Spivey Sudler served as Mistress of Ceremonies and the participants included the Invocation by the PCLO Chaplain Mamie Price, the Welcome and Statement of Purpose by PCLO Director of Public Relations Anita Hanna Matthews; Greetings and Remarks were also extended by Co-Chair Wanda Ringgold.

Delighted Presiding Elders, Proud Pastors and Elated local Lay Presidents stood with their local “Unsung Hero” while the Editor-in-Chief of the First District Flame, Bro. Walter Jeffers and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Frank Gilyard, family and friends took photos.

This celebratory Annual Awards Luncheon continues to be greatly appreciated and increases in attendance and support as the Honorees radiantly glow with pride and gratitude. This year’s attendance was overflowing with more than 700 persons, inclusive of clergy, family and friends.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO FRED BEARDEN  
2010-2011 LAY PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE**

**THE UNSUNG HEROES**

Doris Christy – Allen, Phila.  
Karen L. Hickson – A.M.E. Union  
Lorraine Johnson – Bethel, Ardmore  
Edythe A. Simmons – Bethel, Bryn Mawr  
David Alexander – Bethel “Village”, Harrisburg  
Mary A. Cobb – Bethel, Pottstown  
Jermaine D. Edwards – Bethel, Reading  
James Davis – Bethel, West Chester  
Mae Bagwell, Campbell-Frankford  
Theresa Rudd – Emmanuel  
Doris Shaw – Greater Mt. Olive  
Brenda L. Smith - Grimes  
Michelle K. Baldwin – Hickman Temple  
Marie L. Palmer – Jones Tabernacle  
Rosemary Manley – LaMott

**THE UNSUNG HEROES**

Charles D. Fuller, Jr. - Metropolitan  
Joyce Roach-Bradshaw – Monumental, Steelton  
Mabel Franks – Morris Brown  
Brigitte R. Jones – Mother Bethel  
Margaret Miller – Mt. Pisgah  
Ada Miller – Mt. Tabor  
Robert Satterwhite, Sr., - Mt. Zion, Norristown  
Murial King – New Bethel, Germantown  
Carroll Woolridge – New Bethel, Willow Grove  
Marion G. Bolton – St. Matthew  
Curtiss Ayers – St. Paul, Elmwood  
Tommie Dean – St. Paul, Malvern  
Jacqueline N. Lee - Trinity  
Stella L. Davis - Ward  
Patricia Davis – Waters Memorial

**PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON**



A **Special Tribute in Recognition of Christian Leadership Extraordinaire** to the Philadelphia Conference and to the 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District was pronounced upon Bishop Richard F. Norris and Episcopal Supervisor Mother Mary Ann Norris by Lay Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. Also, the "Prayer in Motion Mime" youth ensemble of Mt. Pisgah AME, Phila. dedicated a special presentation to our Episcopal Leaders.



Presentation of Plaque to **Lay Person of the Year**, Fred Bearden , by Bishop Richard Franklin Norris and Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



Jubilant **Lay Person of the Year**, **Fred Bearden** expresses thanks to the Philadelphia Conference



Standing: The **Unsung Heroes of the Year 2010-2011** from the local churches of the Philadelphia Conference  
 Seated: L-R: Awards Luncheon Co-Chair, Wanda Ringgold, Awards Luncheon Chair, Marion Spivey Sudler, Episcopal Supervisor Mother Mary Ann Norris; First Episcopal District Prelate, Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, and Philadelphia Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

# BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH – READING, PA

## ANNUAL LAY DAY and HOMECOMING CELEBRATION – JULY 17, 2011

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



Frank Gilyard, Bethel's Lay President served as Worship Leader



Sis. Mildred Gilyard led The Summary of the Decalogue



Lillie Pratt led the Litany  
Pastor Cindy Carr stands to her left



Conference President Cheryl H. Hopewell extended the invitation to join the Lay



LaSonta Babb welcomed the guests



Guests Singers: The Pine Forge Harmonaires  
Male Acapella Ensemble



Rev. Melvin Wayns, Jr. (a former Pastor of Bethel, Reading) delivered the Message



The Choir of Bethel A.M.E. led the Processional under the direction of Musician Bro. Jermaine Edwards with the singing of "We've Come This Far By Faith"; as once again, this congregation celebrated another Annual Lay Day and Home Coming Sunday.

In addition to the above pictures, the Worship participants also included Rev. Pierre Abraham, who gave the Invocation; The Choir rendered many praiseful selections; Scripture was read by Nonnie Singleton; Response to the Welcome by Anita H. Matthews of Monumental (Steelton) and Lynn Ragsdale, Andrew Moore, Jessye Evans and Taylor Golden assisted with the Offerings. Several guests from the Philadelphia Conference churches attended this up-lifting traditional Annual Lay Day.

Pastor Cindy Carr's "Message to the Children" was filled with wisdom as she explained the reason why we must wear the "proper" clothing and accessories when we enter the House of God to worship."

The Guest Speaker, Retired Pastor Rev. Melvin Wayns, gave a message which reflected upon Ephesians 4:10-13 entitled "A Place Where Everybody Is Somebody." He reminded us that "every believer is in an exalted position in the body of Christ and church should be a place where everybody is somebody. Everyone has a gift and a talent that must be used for the Glory of God." Rev. Wayns advised us to encourage each other, and to remain in "prayer" which is the most powerful resource we have. Following the Service, we feasted on a delicious meal. It was truly a blessing to worship and fellowship with the Bethelites and the members of the Philadelphia Conference.

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# CAMPBELL AME CHURCH-FRANKFORD

1657 KINSEY STREET - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124

## ANNUAL LAY DAY

Respectfully submitted by Brother Andree A. Turner, Sr., First Vice President, Campbell AME Church Lay Org.

Mrs. Marie Butler, President

Rev. Glenn Shepherd, Pastor



**Guest Speaker, PCLO President Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Rev. Glenn Shepherd, Pastor, and Mrs. Marie Butler, Local Lay President along with other worshippers who attended the Campbell's Annual Lay Day**

**Sept. 18, 2011** Our Annual Day began with the songs by our youth choir, God's Creation. They opened with the singing of "The Windows of Heaven", led by their pianist, Sister NaKia Thomas, who just happens to be the daughter of our pastor, and our drummer was Christ Fortson. Our Worship Leader was Sister Peggy Pinder, a member of Allen AME and Lay Director of the First District Lay Organization. She did an outstanding job in her direction and clarity which everyone followed to the letter.

The program participants were as follows: Call to Worship by Brother Walter Jeffers, Hickman Temple AME; Invocation by Sister Mamie Price, Bethlehem AME; Scripture Readings (Ephesians 4: 10-13 & Mark 16:15) by Sister Fairlee Handy, New Bethel AME, Germantown; Welcome & Recognition of our guest by Brother Andree A. Turner, First V.P. of Campbell AME which was followed by a selection from God's Creation Choir. They rendered an acapella selection "Get Ready and Let's Go Home". This song got us standing and clapping for the Lord. We were in a truly praising mode. The Lay Litany was given by Sister Marian Spivey Sudler, Trinity AME, which was followed by another selection by the choir, "We Come to Praise". Yes, they did come to praise our Mighty King. It was a very moving song.

Sister Pinder invited Sister E. Catherine Shepard of Metropolitan AME to introduce our guest speaker. Sister Shepard spoke so lovely about our speaker letting us know that the love of Jesus Christ was in her heart, and it showed on her face when she spoke about our President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. She informed us that, "To be a good leader, you had to be a good follower". It was one of the finest testimonies of a sister whom I admire. It was a moment that brought my eyes to sweat. After another selection from the choir, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, member of Mt. Pisgah AME, began her message with scripture reference from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:9-11. The theme was "It's Time to Build". Highlights from her message: To build you must have the right tools. She listed

the following – First, we must have a time and place to wait and listen to God. We must have an open Bible to build, a listening heart, so that we can listen to what God has to tell us. We must keep building each other up and we must build bridges to each other. Finally, we must learn that we don't have to move the mountains; we can let God move the mountains.

After Sister Hopewell's message we were brought to our feet for the Call to Christian Discipleship, by our Pastor Shepherd. The Call to Lay Membership was given by Brother Hosea Jackson, Bethel AME, Bryn Mawr. We had five members (two which were young people) to join, plus two more that joined prior to Lay Day, bringing the Lay Membership of Campbell to a total of 107. Pastor Shepherd asked the Campbell Lay to come to the altar for our prayer of rededication. He stated that we must dedicate ourselves to do the work of the building up of ourselves and the work of building the church. Our Lay offerings were received by Sister Merle Wilson and Sister Mae Bagwell and Brother James Lake, Jones Tabernacle AME and Susan Butler received the Love Offering.

A great Lay Day was beginning to come to a close with remarks by Sister Hopewell, Sister Marie Butler, Lay President, who thanked everyone who did anything and everything to make this day a success and remarks by our Pastor, Rev. Shepherd who stated that he was very proud of our Lay President and our Lay Organization. He stated that because someone prayed for him, in his youth he has been a success story. He also stated that the love from so many, made his heart glad. We closed our Annual Day with the Lay Benediction.

The next PCLO Newsletter will be published in February 2012.



Please submit all news by January 25, 2012

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

