



Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

OUR VOICES

February 2011

Quarterly Newsletter

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Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

EDUCATION WORSHIP SERVICE TO BENEFIT THE CHERYL HAMMOND HOPEWELL LAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By: Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



L-R: Marian Spivey Sudler, Bishop Jeffrey Leath, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Rev. Dr. Mark K. Tyler

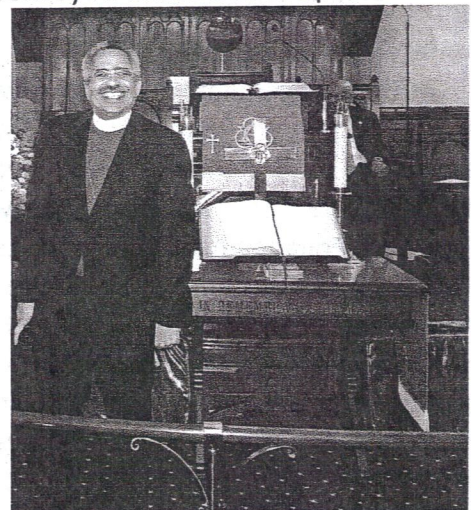


Marian Spivey Sudler, Rev. Jay Broadnax, Bishop Leath Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Presiding Elder Charles Lett Rev. Trevor Woolridge, Presiding Elder Vernard Leak

On Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 3:00 pm, the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization held an Education Worship Service to benefit the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship Fund. The service was held at the mother seat of African Methodism, Mother Bethel AME Church. It was a wonderful service with participation from lay and clergy and from various components of the AME Church. Our Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District, Bishop Richard Franklin Norris was supposed to be the preacher, however, he was sick and the Presiding Prelate of the 19th Episcopal District, Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath was the preacher.



C.H. Hopewell, Walter C. Jeffers, M.S. Sudler



Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath
Standing in the Chancel of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church

Our Worship Leader for the service was Brother Walter C. Jeffers, the Editor of the First District Flame and the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization Young Adult Representative. *(Continued on Page 2)*

(Continue from page 1)

PCLO Education Worship Service To Benefit The Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship Fund

Our musician was Brother Richard Norris II. We sang the Laymen's Hymn and Invocation was given by Brother Ed Lovelace from Bethel, Bristol. Scripture was read by Rev. Trevor Woolridge, the pastor of Bethel, Lansdowne and the Statement of Purpose was given by Sister Marian Spivey Sudler, the Education Committee Chairperson for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, pastor of Mt. Pisgah, Philadelphia sang, "Sovereign". The Lay Litany was led by Sister Kanisha Chatman of Mother Bethel and Sister Jeanne Chavious, the Philadelphia Conference Church School Superintendent ended up introducing two bishops; Bishop Norris in his absence and Bishop Leath, our preacher. Rev. Broadnax was called on to lead our sermonic selection, "O Thou in Whose Presence" and the Sermon was given by Bishop Leath. Bishop Leath preached from the subject, "Grace and Order". He took his Text from Mark 3:5.

After Bishop Leath gave the Invitation to Christian Discipleship, he as bishops do, led in the offering. The offering was \$25 and Bishop Leath announced that Bishop Norris had sent a check for \$50 to cover the offering for him and Mother Norris. Those assisting in the offering were Rev. Stephen Lewis, pastor of Jones Tabernacle, Rev. Glenn Shephard, pastor of Campbell, Frankford, Rev. Clarence Martin, pastor of Metropolitan in Lansdowne and Sister Fern Wesley, Philadelphia Conference Lay Treasurer.

Acknowledgement of Visitors was given by Sister E. Catherine Shepard of Metropolitan in Lansdowne and Remarks were given by Sister Marian Spivey Sudler, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, Philadelphia Conference Lay President, Presiding Elder Vernard Leak of the Philadelphia District and Presiding Elder Charles H. Lett, Sr. of the West/Mainline District. Bishop Leath gave a few closing remarks and Host Pastor, Rev. Dr. Mark K. Tyler gave a Closing Prayer. We then ended with the Lay Benediction. It was truly a wonderful service and we thank God for the Education Committee led by Sister Marian for putting the service together, for the worship participants who all served so well, and to all who attended and helped us raise funds to assist

young people to obtain higher education. To God be the Glory for the great things he has done.

By: Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

*Come Join Us
for
"An Evening of Elegance"
Pre-Mother's Day Event*



Dining

Dancing

Good Fellowship

**Friday – May 6, 2011
7:00 pm – 12:00 midnight
at
The Unity Hall
1349 Unity Street, Phila.
(Frankford) PA**

Ticket Price: \$25.00

***For Tickets and Additional Information
Contact: Marie Butler, Chairperson***

(215) 743-5129

Ticket deadline: April 16, 2011

**Sponsored by:
Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
Cheryl Hammond Hopewell
Conference Lay President**

MONUMENTAL A.M.E. CHURCH

Steelton, PA

Celebrates 24th Annual Lay Day

By Anita Hanna Matthews



WALTER C. JEFFERS

*Editor of the First District Flame
Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
Young Adult Representative*

We were blessed to have another great Annual Lay Day Celebration at Monumental AME. How so, you may ask. It began with a beautiful sunny November day, willing workers, sweet fellowship, a spirit-filled service and most certainly, a great

Guest Speaker, BRO. WALTER C. JEFFERS,

whose timely message was full of wisdom and deep perception. His deliverance was well received by the youth and the seasoned. His message was one that we all could relate to entitled, "Facing Your Fears and Moving To The Next Level." (*Text: Exodus 14:1-16* Moses leading the children of Israel)

Bro. Walter inspired us with a five-point guideline to reflect upon, **as we serve as leaders in the church.** He expounded on the following points with in-depth exactitude: **(1) GET THE FACTS:** If you are going to take risks there is a right way and a wrong way. (*Proverbs 13:16 & Proverbs 23:23*) **(2) EVALUATION:** Why are you doing what you are doing? What do you wish to accomplish – count the costs and analyze your risks. (*Luke 14: 28-31.*)

(3) PREPARATION: Are you equipped with the right resources and strategy? (*Proverbs 14:15*)

(4) ANNOUNCE YOUR GOALS. (*James 4:15-16.*)

(5) INITIATION: Pray to God on how to begin, then, "Let go and let God!" (*Exodus 14:15.*)

Monumental's Super Choir rendered soul-stirring musical praises under the direction of Directress Extraordinaire Sis. Alda Hanna-Epps and Keyboard Maestro Sis. Cynthia McCarthur.

Visitors and members also participated during the worship service. Bro. Carl W. Bell, III of Bethel Carlisle, served as worship Leader. He was presented by Sis. Joyce Roach-Bradshaw (Monumental). The Worship Service proceeded as follows: Invocation by Adam Elliott (Monumental); Scripture by Sis. Rosetta Archie (Monumental); Responsive Reading by Sis. Anna M. Cobb (Bethel "Village", Harrisburg); Welcome extended by Sis Margery C. Smith (Monumental); Prayer of consecration for Benevolence Offering Sis. Marcie A. Carter (Monumental).

Pastor Ronald Sparks extended the Altar Call; the offerings were lifted by Bro. D. Jackie Robinson, Bro. James Archie, Sis. Stephanie Jackson and Sis. Alicia D. Smith. Sis. Alda Hanna Epps splendidly introduced the Guest Speaker.

After being blessed and spiritually fed during the worship service, we were sumptuously and adequately physically fed by the "A" Team, of the Culinary Staff under the direction of Bro. Bill, Bro. John and the "Lovely Ladies".

Recognition was given to the members of the Lay Organization who are eighty years of age or older:

"SEASONED SENIOR CIRCLE"

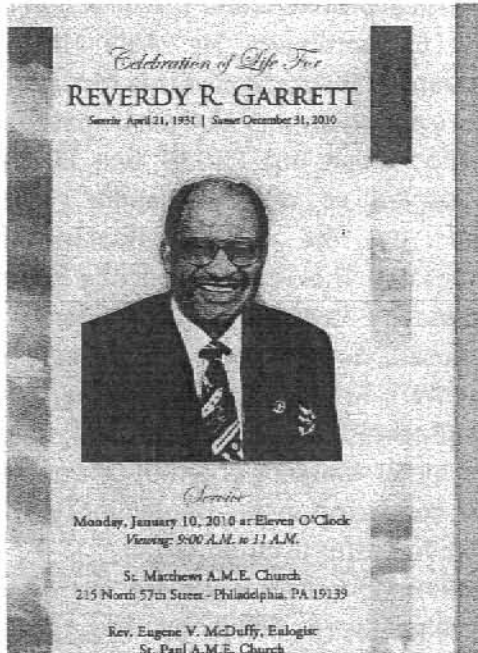
Sisters Barbara J. Baker, Annabelle Curtis,
Nestine C. House, Theresa House, Florence
Mosby, Helen Pettigrew, Bro. William Pettigrew

"These are they" who were our religious leaders and Sunday School teachers, our church officers, mentors, and teachers throughout the years. And, even today they continue to bless us with love, encouragement, wisdom, knowledge, and support. Our **Seasoned Senior Circle** embody the reasons why we must **continue to serve** and lift high the name of Jesus Christ and to uphold the rich traditions of Monumental A.M.E. Church as we maintain and prepare our church for the next generation.



Truly, the Lord did bless and we most certainly
"Give God All The Glory."

A MEMORIAM TRIBUTE



The Life Story of Reverdy R. Garrett

(as printed on the Obituary submitted by The Family)

REVERDY R. GARRETT was the youngest of four children born to the late Dr. Colon Hunter Garrett, Sr., and Henrietta Duckett Garrett. Reverdy entered this life on April 21, 1931.

Reverdy was a native of South Carolina. In his early education, he attended a private elementary school in North Carolina. The Garrett family relocated to the Elmwood section of Philadelphia, PA and there Reverdy completed his secondary education in the public school system. He continued his educational pursuit by taking classes at St. Joseph's University.

In 1952, Reverdy entered the U.S. Army. He was the first Black to serve in the 533rd Military Intelligence Unit in Europe.

He was a longtime member of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, served as a Trustee, Lay President and sang on the Male Chorus.

Reverdy also served as President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay organization, 8 years, Conference Trustee, and Delegate to the General Conference, five times. He was a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Reverdy was preceded in death by his parents, brother, and son Michael. He leaves to cherish his memory: Brother C. George; one niece Chyran; great nephew Christopher Lee; close friends: Betty, Nancy, and Garneice; a special friend Louise Coursey; and a host of cousins and friends.



**2012 Candidate for Judicial Council
African Methodist Episcopal Church**





TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Esq.

"Discipline - Integrity - Perseverance"



"On this rock I stand."

Got News ?  PLEASE FORWARD to:
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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.

**GREATER HARRISBURG
INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTERS'
CONFERENCE (IMC) CELEBRATES
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING**

By: Anita Hanna Matthews (Jan. 15-16, 2011)



"I Have A Dream"



Reverend Dr. Mark Kelly Tyler the 52nd Pastor of Mother Bethel AME Church, Philadelphia, PA was the **Guest Speaker** at the Sunday Evening Worship Service on **January 16** as the Interdenominational Ministers' Conference of Greater Harrisburg celebrated the Life & Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. The First Lady of Mother Bethel, Mrs. Leslie Tyler, accompanied Dr. Tyler for this celebrated tribute.

Reverend Ronald L. Sparks, the pastor of Monumental A.M.E. Steelton, was the Chairman and Coordinator for the weekend events, and it was a well prepared and outstanding celebration. Harrisburg District Presiding Elder Lawrence C. Henryhand participated on the Worship Service.

The timely theme for this auspicious commemoration was, **"NAVIGATING THROUGH TURBULENT WATERS"** and was held at the Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church of Harrisburg, Dr. James Jackson, Host Pastor.

When Dr. Tyler was introduced, a rousing round of cheers, applause and standing ovations accompanied our enthusiasm. **Yes, indeed, my brothers and sisters! Those proud "A.M.E. Worshippers" of the Harrisburg District were in that House of Worship in great numbers!**

Dr. Tyler's profound and challenging message, **"Speak Lord, Your Servants Are Listening"** (1st Samuel 3:1-14) resonated the words that **"God called us to be "prophetic" and not necessarily "prosperous".** He went on to say, "Just as God called **"Samuel", "Richard Allen" and "Martin Luther King"** to be catalysts and medians to break and unfetter the chains of injustice for all of God's people, **"we" too, must respond to that same challenging and demanding call."**

It was most certainly a conglomeration of believers who must stand firm in attesting: (as Dr. Tyler stated) **"Despite the deep seated discriminations that yet prevail, "WE" as the children of God, must practice motivated forgetfulness and forgiveness. We must utilize effective nonviolence procedures and listen to the voice of God, as we strive to mirror the celebrated leaders of the past."**

Jan. 15, 2010: Reflections of the day before renders a wonderful **Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfast**, held at The 1st Baptist Church of Steelton, Rev. Dr. W. Braxton Cooley, Host Pastor.

Keynote Speaker, Mr. Lenwood Sloan, Director of the Cultural & Heritage Tourism for PA, delivered a very moving and heartfelt message of his personal experiences of "turbulent waters" and how he was able to confront and conquer most of his challenges. In essence, Mr. Sloan encouraged us to "continue to press on, in spite of the turbulence; and to stand firm on the belief that **"freedom"** must begin within, with **self-determination and perseverance."** He also reminded us: **"Never let someone else determine who you are (as an individual or by your race) or what you can be".**

Each inspiring event of the weekend was attended by an overwhelming number of people from many walks of life; clergy and lay from many religious denominations, ethnic backgrounds and creeds; as well as local, municipal, and state government officials.

"Let Us March On, 'Till Victory Is Won"
" DREAM COMES TRUE!! "

President Barack H. Obama



44th President of the U.S.A.



A Founder's Day Quiz (lest we forget)

by: ahm

GREAT HISTORICAL MOMENTS IN THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1. The first consecrated bishop of the A.M.E Church was: _____
2. There are _____ Presiding Elder Districts in the Philadelphia Conference. Name them: _____
3. Presently, the names of the Presiding Elders of the Philadelphia Conference are: _____
4. What and where is the oldest property, which has been continuously owned by black Americans? _____ Location: (City & State) _____
5. The present pastor of our "Mother Church" is: _____
6. _____ wrote the theme song for the AME church, adopted during the General Conference of 2008 held in (City & State) _____
7. The next A.M.E. General Conference will be held in (city & state) _____
8. There were (how many) _____ Bishops known as the "Horsemen" of the A.M.E. Church.
9. The "Horsemen names are: _____
10. The current Presiding Prelate of the 1st Episcopal District is _____
11. How many Episcopal Districts are there in the A.M.E. Church? _____
12. How many Annual Conferences are there in the First Episcopal district? _____
Name them: _____

Choose the correct answer to the questions above. You might have to use an answer more than once.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rev. Lawrence C. Henryhand | Missouri | Rev. Charles H. Lett |
| St. Louis | West | Bishop Richard Allen |
| New England | Mother Bethel AME Church | Rev. Gabriel S. Hardeman, Jr. |
| Nashville | Bishop Richard Franklin Norris | Bishop William Paul Quinn |
| Seven | Bermuda | Four |
| New York | Tennessee | Bishop Henry McNeal Turner |
| Twenty | Western New York | New York |
| Rev. James Lawrence | Philadelphia | Rev. Venard Leak |
| Harrisburg | South | New Jersey |
| Delaware | Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler | Pennsylvania |
| Bishop Daniel Payne | | |

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

- | | |
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- Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Presiding Prelate – First Episcopal District – African Methodist Episcopal Church**