



# Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

## OUR VOICES



June 2010

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2 - No 1

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

### FIRST DISTRICT LAY PRESIDENT MRS. MARY MOOTOO

Guest Speaker of Annual Lay Night  
at Philadelphia Annual Conference



By: Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor

May 27, 2010

One cannot help but to be impressed by the sanctioned stature and confident stance that preceded the message delivered by Mrs. Mary Mootoo, 1<sup>st</sup> District Lay President. Her profound message reminds us **“the most EFFECTIVE approach to the growth of the church begins with EFFECTIVE training and leadership. EFFECTIVE leadership brings about EFFECTIVE fellowship. We must put on the whole armor of God because leaders must be Christ-centered mentors, capable and willing to sacrifice time; and above all be in the will of God. EFFECTIVE leadership in church must be strong and courageous. Potential leaders are born, but EFFECTIVE leaders are made. In closing, President Mootoo stated, “GOD gives us the AUTHORITY to be EFFECTIVE leaders.”**

Leading the worship service was our Conference Dir. of Lay Activities, Juanita Bryant (Mt. Tabor); along with Lay Presidents and Members throughout our Conference; Anna Cobb (Bethel, Hbg); Irene Hall (Metropolitan); Carl Bell (Bethel, Carlisle); Shirley Harris (Mt. Pisgah); Marie Butler, (Campbell Frankford); Peggy Pinder, (Allen); Walter Jeffers, (Hickman Temple); and Marian Spivey Sudler, (Trinity).

Guest Soloists Kimberly Mouzon (Trinity), Derrick Hicks (Zion), Rev. Lela M. Henderson (Associate Minister, Bethel, Harrisburg) and Rev. Jay Broadnax (Pastor, Mt. Pisgah), each rendered soul-stirring solos accompanied by Richard Norris, II. Our Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and our Bishop Richard F. Norris extended cordial greetings and remarks.

### PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY PRESIDENT

### MRS. CHERYL HAMMOND HOPEWELL

Annual Lay Day Guest Speaker  
Morris Brown AMEC – Phila.



By: Trudy Carter, Reporter

The organized Lay at Morris Brown AME Church, 25<sup>th</sup> & Montgomery Ave. celebrated their Lay Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of April 2010. Reverend James Baker is our pastor and Bro. John Gadson serves as Lay President,

Beginning at 10:00 a.m. through 5:30 p.m., we had a glorious day in the Lord. Enjoying the morning service with us were several Lay presidents and members from various churches throughout the Philadelphia Conference. It is always so wonderful to have the support of sister churches to help us rejoice in Jesus!

We were honored to have as our Guest Speaker of the morning the President of the Philadelphia organized Lay, Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. Her message encouraged us to strengthen our relationships between the Laity and the Clergy of the church. It is evident that she truly believes in the harmony that will result when we are all on one accord -- keeping Christ in the center of all we do – and is essential if we are to perpetuate the AME Church.

An added blessing is that “seven” members of the church joined the organized Lay. Conference President Hopewell honored the new members with of gift of dedicated copies of The Catechism.

Our anniversary continued through a 3:30 p.m. afternoon service; and we were graced with the inspirational singing by The Victory Choral Ensemble. Our membership was again opened to all and yes, another person came forward to work and learn about the AME church. A truly memorable day was had by all. *The Lord’s Grace.*

**The First  
Cheryl Hammond Hopewell  
Scholarship  
Awarded To**

**KENDRA BARKASI  
Bethel AMEC, Pottstown**



*By: Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor*

**Congratulations** to Kendra Barkasi, the daughter of Lee Ann and John Barkasi who is the first recipient of the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell \$500.00 Scholarship Award.

This newly created scholarship comes from the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization and was presented to Miss Barkasi during the Philadelphia Annual Conference in Lancaster, PA (May 27) at Annual Lay Night. Ms. Marian Spivey Sudler made this prestigious presentation.

This Scholarship, named after our Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, is offered to encourage our youth to reach for higher heights of study beyond high school. The applicant must be a senior in high school who will attend a school of higher education and must also submit a detailed written selected subject Essay.

Kendra is an active youth member of Bethel AMEC, Pottstown, where the Reverend Vernon Ross is her Pastor and Mr. Robert Glover is Lay President.

Kendra is also a high school senior at Pottstown High School and plans to attend Neumann University and will pursue the field of oncology.

Upon receiving this Award, she graciously thanked the us and shared with us that she had previously applied for another scholarship – but was disappointed when she did not receive it. However, she said, ***“the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Scholarship makes up for the one she did not receive and she is very happy to receive this one.”***

**THE BLUE CROSS  
BROAD STREET RUN  
“10-MILER”**

**A “Lay-Runner’s” Perspective**

**By Kimberly Reddick,  
Bethlehem AMEC, Langhorne**



The Blue Cross Broad Street Run Ten-Miler, which is held every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May, has been an annual Philadelphia sports tradition since 1980, and has grown to be the largest 10-mile road race in the nation. The race course, beginning near the corner of Broad and Fisher Avenue, tracks a straight route through some of the city’s storied neighborhoods and landmarks; it ends inside the historic Philadelphia Navy Yard. Proceeds from this event benefit several local charities, as well as the American Cancer Society. Walkers are always welcome.

I made the Broad Street Run my own “Philadelphia Sports Tradition” since running that first race 30 years ago, when only 2,000+ runners toed the starting line and the race ended inside FDR Park. Since then, I have missed running only six of them.

This is an account of how I, Kimberly Reddick, fared in this year’s race. The race started promptly at 8:30 a.m. (with the wheel chair racers allowed a head start); then the elite-level runners were in the next wave. Next were the fastest runners, and so on, each group according to their perceived pace-per-mile. The slowest competitors bring up the rear. I was in this group. The inconvenience posed by the wave-start system was nothing compared to the weather on race day – sunny, but HOT and very HUMID. It took my group over 20 minutes to get past the starting line!

To calm my body down and to ward off panic attacks, I began with a word of PRAYER. Then, I focused on a spot a few inches ahead of me on the ground for the first 6-9 minutes after starting. (I’ll tell you why this mental “warm-up” has worked for me, later).

**Continued:**

**THE BLUE CROSS BROAD STREET RUN  
"10-MILER"**

**A "Lay-Runner's" Perspective**

**By Kimberly Reddick,  
Bethlehem AMEC, Langhorne**



As I waited for the horn to go off. I said to myself, "Pace yourself; take walk breaks early. It's going to be a hot one." IT CERTAINLY WAS!

My race went smoothly. Surprisingly, I was on pace for the first 7 miles; afterward, I and the remaining runners were ordered to move to the sidewalks by the police so that the roadway could be reopened to motor traffic. During the race, I took advantage of every water-stop and every sprinkler station along the course. Just to be sure, I brought my own water and some snacks. Nevertheless, **only the strength of Jesus Christ** was sufficient to carry me as I passed the Sports Complex area and the gates of the Navy Yard came into view.

When I entered the Navy Yard and pushed through those last 439 yards to the finish line, I thanked and praised God, aloud, arms outstretched in triumph. **My Broad St. run was DONE! My Time: 2:44:53.**

After finishing, I hobbled to the refreshment tents, where I received my goodies, and then it was on to the parking lot to receive my gear-bag from the bus –one of many holding them for the runners. From there, I caught one of the last remaining Race Shuttle buses to begin my ride back to the subway station on Pattison Ave. –free! From there, to City Hall; and from City Hall, to the Gallery at Market East, where I bought lunch before descending to the train station below. Once I hopped on that SEPTA R-3, I was on my way home. **HOME SWEET HOME.**

**P.S.** In spite of sore feet and the effects of the record heat; proceeded by a winter so fierce that it wrecked an already reduced training schedule, still, I finished the 2010 Broad Street with **JOY**. Amazingly, my body recovered from it two days later. My taking part in this year's race has been pleasant and dare I say, it was a blessing. Of course, if it had **NOT** been for the **LORD** keeping, sustaining, strengthening me all the way ..... *(need I say more)*

**Submitted by Sis. Kimberly Reddick.**



**June 17-19, 2010**

First Episcopal District Planning Meeting  
First District Plaza – Phila., PA

**July 12-15, 2010**

Christian Education Congress  
Wesley College  
Sheraton Hotel - Dover, DE

**June 2008 – June 2010**

**Officers of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Org.**

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President  
Frank Gilyard, Sr., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
James Lake, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
John Gadson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
Marian Spivey Sudler, Recording Secretary  
Cheryl L. Ford, Assistant Recording Secretary  
Carolyn Thomas-Kamara, Corresponding Secretary  
Judith Beverly, Treasurer



**July 23-24**

First Episcopal District Lay Annual Meeting  
Sheraton Hotel – Dover., DE

**October 2, 2010**

**Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization**  
Annual Awards and Unsung Hero Luncheon  
First District Plaza – Phila., PA

**June 2008 – June 2010**

**Officers of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Org.**

Fem Wesley, Financial Secretary  
Mamie Price, Chaplin  
Irene Hall, Historiographer  
Reverdy Garrett, Parliamentarian  
Juanita Bryant, Director of Lay Activities  
Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations  
Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Presiding Prelate  
First Episcopal District – African Methodist Episcopal Church

***As we commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Richard Allen, we are privileged to share many unique presentations and observations throughout the world.. This expressive poem was written by one of the "seasoned saints" of Mt. Sinai AME of Harrisburg and is also the Mother of Patricia Awatri, the President of Mt. Sinai's Lay Organization***

## **RICHARD ALLEN**

**Written by: Mrs. Margaret R. Hinton, Feb. 2010 - Mt. Sinai AME Church, Harrisburg, PA**

Everyone comes from somewhere  
For each of us God has a plan  
Way back in the beginning  
When he first made woman and man.

Today, we celebrate a birthday  
Of a man that we all know  
The person that established the AME Church  
But we have gotten ahead of the show.

We are speaking of Richard Allen  
He was born into slavery  
But his owner was kind and did not mind  
When he found education, the key.

Allen soon found his calling  
Attended Methodist meetings close by  
But some people said no  
And he found he must go  
Another place he must try.

His master then allowed him  
To hold the meetings there  
Yes, right there, on the plantation  
For his master really didn't care.

It is said that Allen's influence  
Opened his master's eyes  
His master became a Methodist  
Conversion, no compromise.

From Delaware to Philadelphia  
Allen moved and he was free  
He worked hard to purchase his freedom  
Which he did in 1783.

Allen regularly worshipped  
In the Methodist Church you see,  
But opposition from white members  
Made him leave them permanently.

He founded his own congregation  
Called the Free African Society  
To serve their religious needs  
And serve God faithfully.  
They purchased an empty blacksmith shop  
And in 1794  
This building was dedicated  
As a church, but wait there is more.

The first brick church erected  
By people of color you see  
The roughcast church it then was called  
They were people like you and me.  
Richard Allen was the first consecrated  
Bishop of the African Methodist Church  
Appointed at Conference you know,  
He worked hard to increase the numbers  
Of blacks, as the free black population did grow.

Bishop Allen continued preaching  
Yes, his whole life through  
He was known as the unofficial leader  
Of free black people, too.

But self-help and self-dependence  
He organized that group and more  
He started a day and night school  
He helped open the Masons' door.

Bishop Allen operated a station  
On the underground railway also  
For escaping slaves to go free  
Allen showed them the way to go.

We have told you just a few things  
Of what one person could do  
If we each took a page from his book of life  
I am sure we could do a lot more

Bishop Allen, we are thankful  
You answered your call,  
And hope we find our calling too.

**ST. MATTHEW AMEC  
PHILADELPHIA  
Celebrates Annual Lay Day**

**Guest Speaker  
WALTER JEFFERS**  
*Editor in Chief of the District Flame*



Submitted by Lorenzo Cruger

Public Relations Director of St. Matthew AMEC Lay

On a rain soaked Saturday morning, March 13, 2010, St. Matthew AME Church Lay Organization held its Fourth Annual Day breakfast and a worshipful service. The Worship leader, Sister Shirley Harris, Lay President at Mt. Pisgah moved the program along and kept it interesting. Brother Stanley Hearst II, of St. Matthew rendered an inspiring invocation that set the stage for an inspirational morning. Sister Beverly Lee, of Morris Brown, read the Scripture lesson. Sister Toni Dennison, who was accompanied on the piano by Brother Richard Norris, II, (both of St. Matthew), rendered music for the service. Sister Toni Dennison rendered three soul-stirring solos. Brother Richard Norris, II, then extended a very different and entertaining welcome. Sister Madace Thorpe, Lay President of Metropolitan responded to it "just as original."

It was then time to chat and chew! The St. Matthew Food Ministry served breakfast and it was out of this world! Breakfast consisted of three types of quiche, beef, turkey and pork sausages, grits, hash brown potatoes, eggs, waffles, fresh fruits, pastries, juice, coffee and tea. Everyone dined sufficiently.

After feeding our physical bodies, it was then time to be fed spiritually! Sister Cheryl L. Ford, Lay President at Hickman Temple introduced the speaker of the hour, Brother Walter C. Jeffers, who among other things is the Editor of the First District Flame. He also serves as Chairperson of the Membership

Committee for the First Episcopal District. Brother Jeffers' subject was "PLEASING GOD AS YOU SERVE OTHERS". His message was based on our new Lay Theme, "Building On Our Global Legacy of Christ Centered Leadership and Training". Ephesians 4:11-13 and Mark 16:15. He reminded us that the main objective of the Lay Organization is to teach and train and in order to do that to the fullest, we must utilize our God given gifts to the fullest to make our churches the best that they can be; however, in order to do this we must first be Christ-Centered. The message was very inspiring and gave us plenty of food for thought.

We thank God for a wonderful day, both spiritually and financially! In spite of the rain, our brothers and sisters from across the Philadelphia Conference came out in large numbers to support us. After Brother Hosea Jackson's soul-searching invitation to Lay membership, we were blessed with four new members. **To God Be the Glory!**

**1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT LAY ANNUAL MEETING**

**July 23-24, 2010**

**Dover, Delaware**

**"Building on Our Global Legacy of  
Christ-Centered Leadership and Training"**

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

**Mark 16:15**

**"GOT NEWS?"**



**PLEASE FORWARD**

**NEWS FOR "OUR VOICES" to:**

**Anita Hanna Matthews  
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**DEADLINE for News: Sept. 1, 2010**



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

# BETHEL AMEC, CARLISLE

## Celebrates 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lay Day

### Guest Speaker

**Anita Hanna Matthews**

*(Harrisburg District Lay Co-Liaison)*



By: Anita Hanna Matthews

There is an age-old adage that says, *“the show must go on”* and when I received a call to be Guest Speaker (the evening before Bethel’s Annual Day,) I thought of yet another saying *“be ye also ready”* – and suddenly the word *“ye”* became *“me.”*

Many major snowstorms during the months of December thru February along the eastern seaboard had inundated many metropolitan cities as well as well as quaint and cozy towns from Georgia to Maine. However, Bethel was determined to celebrate Annual Lay Day on February 14, in spite of an emergency that hindered the travel plans of the original guest speaker who was to travel from Philadelphia (*I began to wonder, “could I fill her shoes?”*)

This has been a winter that we will remember for a long, long time. It seemed as if just as soon as you “dug-out” your car, Mother Nature supplied us with more of that “fluffy white stuff” – keeping the snow blowers busy, shovelers shoveling, cars inaccessible, roads slick & treacherous; worship services, fellowships, schools, businesses either cancelled, postponed, or closed. Name it, we all had to make adjustments to our plans.

At the approval of Bethel’s Pastor Rev. Bruce D. Points and between Lay President Bro. Carl Bell, Lay Director of Activities Sis. Wanda Hunter and the supportive and determined members of that Lay Organization, they managed to keep the faith and reached within the Harrisburg District for a Guest Speaker— and thus, it was “I.”

The hospitality was pleasing & pleasant. The ample and delicious culinary offerings sated our appetites and their gratitude was superb. The gracious cordiality of First Lady Mrs. Points and the members offered all there was to be desired.

Our diligent Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell accompanied by driver extraordinaire, Sis. Valerie Byrd, stepped out on faith and confidence and made that 200+miles round-trip to attend. President Hopewell’s presence rendered inspiration to all of us.

Several guest participants from the churches in the Harrisburg District and the Carlisle “Bethelites” participated during the worship service. St. Peters AMEC (Shippensburg) Male Chorus provided music. A unique Welcome was given through song by Sis. Sally Williams, Lay 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

My message *“Living In The Comfort Zone”* included texts from Ephesians 4, Mark 16:5 and Matthew 16:18 which reminds us of who God calls us to be, our purpose and the importance of reverence in the church *“as we continue to build upon the firm foundation of our Christian beliefs and the AME doctrine – because that’s who we are.* Also, we must renew our minds and *“put off the former conduct of the old person which is corrupt according to the deceitful desires; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind and to put on the new person, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness as leaders and as followers.*

We must remember that God will use *“ordinary”* people (along with titled and famed high achievers) as vessels to *enliven – enhance – enlighten – elevate – enthuse – and encourage each other, so that ALL can feel empowered to do that which is necessary for the growth of the church while “Building On Our Global Legacy of Christ-Centered Leadership and Training”*

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