



Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
OUR VOICES

October 2010

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2 - No 2

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 two years in office, I can truly say, that I've been blessed, I have a testimony. God is so good and I can never thank him enough for being first in my life and being there even when it's felt that no one else is. I thank Him for what has been done, and I know there is more work to do. Together, we can do great things through and in the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization.

I thank you for the prayers and support you have rendered thus far, and ask for your continued prayers and support as we walk this journey working in unity and harmony.

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 informative meetings and 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 and let all know that the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization is alive and well.

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 persons. It is a privilege to represent the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization.

I thank our Bishop, Presiding Elders and Pastors who have been so supportive. All of the Philadelphia Conference Presiding Elders and several pastors came to pay us a visit at our monthly meetings and we are grateful for their attendance. Members of clergy are always welcome. It is of utmost importance that we continue to strengthen that relationship. Again, we are thankful to all of you who gave support and encouragement. Please continue to supply the same, and pray for me as I pray for you, and together our dreams can become a reality. 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

In His Service,

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President
 John Gadson, 2nd Vice President
 Marian Spivey Sudler, Recording Secretary
 Fern Wesley, Treasurer
 Judith Beverly, Financial Secretary
 Cynthia Douse, Historiographer
 Juanita Bryant, Director of Lay Activities

Frank Gilyard, Sr., 1st Vice President
 Gilroy Reed 3rd Vice President
 Benda Watts, Assistant Recording Secretary
 Carolyn Thomas-Kamara, Corresponding Secretary
 Mamie Price, Chaplin
 Reverdy Garrett, Parliamentarian
 Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations

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

DR. WILLIE C. GLOVER CONNECTIONAL LAY PRESIDENT

Annual Lay Day Guest Speaker at
Bethel AME, Reading, PA



L-R: Mildred & Frank Gilyard
PCLO President, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Glover



Praise Dancers:
Taylor Golden & Jhiani Gilyard

By: Anita Hanna Matthews, PCLO Dir. of Public Relations
July 18, 2010 – 10:30 a.m.

Neither distance, nor the heat, nor the humidity of a hot and muggy summer day could deter the loyal laymen soldiers of the Philadelphia Conference nor guests from afar from attending the Annual Lay Day at Bethel, Reading.

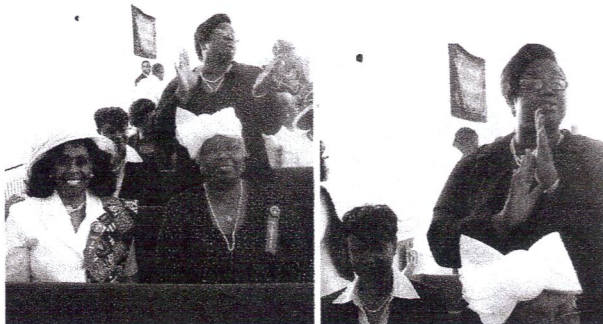
Under the tenured and dedicated leadership of the Local President, Frank Gilyard, Sr. (who also serves as the First Vice President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization) and his faithful soul mate, Sis. Mildred Gilyard, members and guests this worshipful celebration.

Reverend Cindy Carr, Pastor of Bethel, gave the Children's Message challenging them to live healthy lifestyles by eating the right kinds of foods and snacks, by studying and going to school, by being obedient to their parents, and most certainly by coming to Sunday School and church.

Among the visiting worshippers were Mrs. TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Esq., Candidate for Judicial Council, and Sister Faye who made the 3-hr journey from Norwalk, Connecticut, (New England Conference) safely arriving on time – with pleasant



Worshippers: L-R: Valerie Byrd, Mrs. Karen Lee Glover and members of the PCLO



L-R: Anita Hanna Matthews, PCLO Dir. of Public Relations
Juanita Bryant, PCLO Dir. of Lay Activities
TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Standing: Sister Faye

smiles, full of energy, ready for worship. The Mass Choir of Bethel grandly presented soul-stirring musical selections, under the direction of the "maestro pianist" Bro. Jermaine Edwards.

Our Conference President, Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell introduced Dr. Glover as one whom she has great confidence in for leading the Connectional Lay Organizations effectively and in paths that will inspire growth and fellowship. **GUEST SPEAKER CONNECTIONAL LAY PRESIDENT DR. WILLIE C. GLOVER'S** inspirational and profound message delivered sound spiritual counsel. He reminded us that we should do our works according to our individual gifts and talents; because the Lay of the Church has a responsibility (along with clergy) to spiritually and adequately equip ourselves while "**Building on Our Global Legacy of Christ-Centered Leadership and Training.**"

Worship Leader Bro. Carl Bell, II, of Bethel Carlisle, splendidly steered us through the worship service. Participants included: TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Bethel, Norwalk, Conn.; Juanita Bryant,

Continued: BETHEL AME, READING LAY DAY

Mt. Tabor, Phila; Reverdy Garrett, St. Paul Elmwood; Anita Matthews, Monumental, Steelton; and the members of Bethel, Reading, Dolores Booker, Viola Brown, Andrew Moore, Lillie Pratt, Jessy Evans, Lynn Ragsdale. Guests included members from Mt. Pisgah, Phila.; Bethel, Bristol;; Mt. Tabor, Phila.; Trinity, Phila.; Bethel, Ardmore, Bethel, West Chester and several other churches throughout the Philadelphia Conference.

Following the worship service we dined sufficiently (as we always do) in Bethel's dining room. The Worship Service was divine. The fellowship was sweet. We are blessed to have effective leadership and faithful laymen with such a wonderful understanding of how important it is to "assemble together, banded one in union, as we walk this Christian journey as Laymen Soldiers, "lifting the cross forever to the skies."




**FIRST DISTRICT LAY
PRESIDENT MRS. MARY MOOTOO
Presides Over PCLO Election Of Officers**

by: Anita Hanna Matthews
June 2010 PCLO ANNUAL MEETING,

When we use the term Incumbency, it embellishes the "sanction of" as well as "confidence in" previous leadership. The past two years yielded progressive development and increase and the outcome of this election manifested incumbency of several of our officers. Therefore, we will continue to thrive and prosper on the gifts and talents of the officers, the faithful members of Conference and our local churches.

President Mootoo encouraged each officer "to maintain the qualities that each Christian leader should have: spirituality, patience, understanding, knowledge, commitment, and the desire to serve".



**AME CHURCH
LAY ORGANIZATION**

**Connectional Theme:
"Building on Our Gloval Legacy of
Christ-Centered Leadership and Training"
Ephesians 4:11-13 & Mark 16:15**

As President Mootoo ceremoniously installed each officer, we knew without a shadow of a doubt just what our responsibilities would be. And, **with God being our helper, we will strive to be effective leaders as we serve our Conference and the Connectional African Methodist Episcopal Church.**

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

PCLO Advisors, Committee Chairs and Members and marshals were announced at a later meeting.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES



JUANITA RICHARDS BRYANT Lay Person Of The Year

By: Anita Hanna Matthews- October 2, 2010

JUANITA RICHARDS BRYANT of Mt. Tabor AMEC, Philadelphia was selected as the Lay Layperson of the Year for 2010. ACCOLADES and CONGRATULATIONS bestowed upon Sis Bryant were led by Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and over-whelming supported by the officers and members.

This auspicious recognition was showered upon her at the **Annual Awards Luncheon** for her years of **"service par excellence"** contributed to our Conference. She is presently serving as an incumbent Director of Lay Activities for the Philadelphia Conference (since 2006).

Sister Bryant's daughter, Ms. Melanie Renee, proudly introduced her beloved mother as **"a virtuous mother"** full of love, guidance, staying power, and one who has always been a blessing to her, as well as to others.

Known as a Prayer Warrior, Sis. Bryant is a faithful servant who serves as a Bible study teacher, workshop leader and a spiritual motivational speaker. She is the Lay President at Mt. Tabor, a Class Leader, a member of the Mass Choir and Hospitality Committee.

Sister Bryant is also a community activist and is committed to encouraging "the crestfallen and underprivileged" to improve their standard of living. She is a Certified Tutor with the Mayor's Commission on Literacy and also affiliated with "Philabundance" Food Bank, and the Alpha Pregnancy Services, providing services to single mothers.

Presentations to Sister Bryant included a Commemorative Plaque from the Conference and a Citation from State Representative Jewel Williams. Always striving to do her best, she says it's because **"GOD gave His best for me when He sent Jesus"**.



PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION HONORS 34 UNSUNG HEROES AT ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

*By: Anita Hanna Matthews
October 2, 2010*

Under the enthusiastic leadership of our Conference Lay President, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, **HONORS AND TRIBUTES** were the "order of the day" as **34 "Loyal Lay Soldiers"** received recognition for their **good and faithful service** rendered at their local churches throughout the Philadelphia Conference.

The Honorees, chosen by their local Lay Organizations, were from all of the Presiding Elder Districts (Philadelphia, the West, Harrisburg, & the South). Each Honoree was presented a Commemorative Plaque from the Conference and a Citation from State Representative Jewel Williams, acknowledging **"faithful and committed service."**

Luncheon Chairperson Cheryl L. Ford and Co-Chairperson Rosalie Jackson joyously labored passionately to ensure that this affair would be a momentous and triumphant occasion. The Committee Chairpersons, Committee associates, hostesses, hosts, program participants, Conference officers and members, local lay presidents and members willingly gave ample and supportive assistance to ensure that our Annual Awards Luncheon would serve as an occasion that would bring joy to our hearts....**and it most certainly did!**

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION



2010 UNSUNG HEROES



Bethel, Ardmore
Bethel, Bryn Mawr
Bethel, Kennett Square
Bethel, Lansdowne
Bethel, Pottstown
Bethel, Reading
Bethel, West Chester
Bethlehem, Langhorne
Calvary
Campbell, Frankford
First A.M.E.
Greater Mt. Olive
Grimes
Hickman Temple
LaMott
Metropolitan
Monumental
Morris Brown
Mother Bethel
Mt. Pisgah
Mt. Tabor
Mt. Zion, Norristown
New Bethel, Germantown
New Bethel, Willow Grove
St. John, Wayne
St. Matthew
St. Paul, Elmwood
St. Paul, Malvern
Trinity
Ward
Waters Memorial

Cleo J. Gibson
Jules Boyer
Mildred Green
Mary F. H. Carter
Paul S. Hudson
Ruby Robinson
Cecil A. Varlack
Kimberly Reddick
Virginia L. Barnes
Doris Watson
Jacquelyn M. Hall
John E. Brunson
Maurice L. Treadwell, Sr.
Maurice Glasgow
Linda Taylor
Jimmie Shelton
Margery M. Smith
Lucille Goldsmith
Charles Jones
Ernest M. & Cheryl M. Davis
Malcolm A. Sweet
Fannie M. Cowan
Crummer Hickson
Sylvia M. Banks
Sylvia Shuler
Evelyn G. Wright
Sharon Erwin
Mildred P. Perry
Felicia Britt
Alicia Williams
Janeice Reid



**Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization
Unsung Hero Awards Luncheon
Saturday, October 2, 2010**

THE PROGRAMME

**Mistress of Ceremonies: Sister Valerie O. Ward
New Bethel AME Church, Willow Grove**

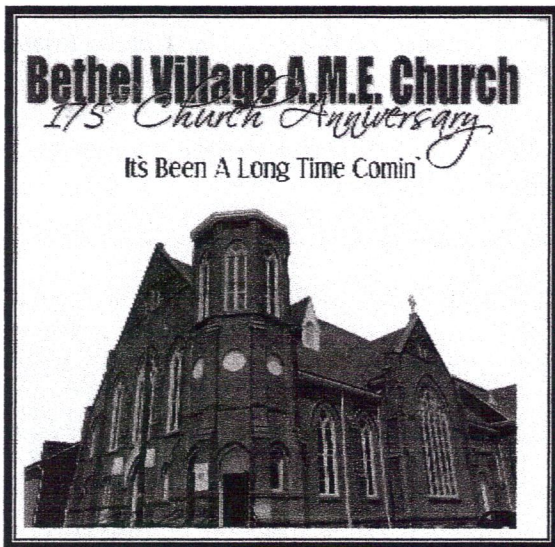
Musical Prelude.....Brother Bruce Jefferson
Processional.....Dais Guests and Unsung Heroes
Hymn.....The Laymen's Hymn
Invocation and Table Blessing.....Sister Irene Hall
Welcome & Occasion.....Sister Anna Cobb
Solo.....Sister Diane Dixon

Bon Appetite

Presentation of 2010 Lay Person.....Sister Melanie Renee Bryant
of the Year – Sister Juanita Bryant
Solo.....Sister Diane Dixon
Unsung Hero Award Presentations.....Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell
Remarks.....Sister Cheryl L. Ford, Chairperson
Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President
The Lay Benediction

Bishop Richard F. Norris will speak at will





Reverend Martin D. Odom, Pastor
Bethel "Village" A.M.E. Church – Harrisburg, PA

By: Anita Hanna Matthews
Director of Public Relations
Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization

Under the prestigious leadership of Reverend Martin D. Odom, his cherished helpmate Mrs. Nicole Odom, and the dedicated members of Bethel "Village" AME Church of Harrisburg, PA the 175th Anniversary of this great church was acknowledged during September 24th -29th.

The Anniversary theme, **"It's Been a Long Time Comin'"** was ever so fitting for this long established and progressive church.

The fervent Anniversary Chairperson, Sis. Alvina R. Fortner and her attentive Committee persons zealously worked to incorporate the "history of the past and of this present age" into an auspicious occasion.

Friday (09/24) The celebration began with a eloquent **Anniversary Banquet** at the exquisite Navy Officers' Club in Mechanicsburg. The **Statement of Purpose** declared: ***"This grand occasion has been called that we may celebrate 175 years of labor and love here at this, the House of God, that we call the Bethel "Village"; and also to pay tribute and honor to those, who with their prayers, presence, gifts and***

services unselfishly and humbly have dedicated their lives to the mission of our church, so that others may see their good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

The Honorees of Bethel "Village" were Sis. Lucy Bibby, Bro. John "Randy" Colden, Sis. Mary L. Davis, Bro. Leon Pynes, and Bro . Milton Stanley. Also selected, as a **Guest Honoree**, representing the **Community** was Sis. Anita Hanna Matthews of **Monumental AMEC, Steelton**. Pastor Odom presented each Honoree with a Commemorative Plaque.

Sunday: (09/26) At this charismatic and reverential Sunday Worship Service, the **Guest Speaker** was **Mrs. Anne Henning Byfield**, a distinguished preacher, speaker, writer, poet, composer, teacher, motivational life coach, who emphatically believes that **"all must Live."** Her uplifting sermon **"Don't Throw Away the Obvious: Tomorrow May Be Too Late"** challenged us to "stop sitting down on our assets by judging others, and to stop letting unfavorable circumstances or conditions prevail that will block our blessings and possibilities."

Wednesday (09/29) The renown and captivating powerful preacher **Pastor Jamal Harrison Bryant** of **Empowerment Temple AME Church**, Baltimore, MD drew 100's & 100's of people of all ages from many denominations to witness and worship at **the Capital City Fire Crusade 2010 One Nigh Revival, "Fire In My Bones."**

Pastor Bryant delivered a powerful, soul-stirring, thought provoking message which offered empowering ways to "forget the past – face the present and do what God inspires you to do.

Along with Pastor Odom's dynamic leadership and encouragement, the faithful members of Bethel "Village" have embarked on several unique ministries inclusive of: Liturgical Dance, Orators Classes, Aerobics, Wednesday Night Youth Bible Study, Tape/Video services, a Health Commission, the MD Odom Commission on Community Initiatives, Summer Youth Basketball Camp, Wonderful Wednesday Worship Service, etc.

Bethel "Village" AMEC Church is truly encompassed and endowed with dedicated and devoted members and "the Village" is most certainly a **pillar of strength and a beacon of light in our Community.** **"BE BLESSED BETHEL "** to celebrate 175 more years of Service for the Lord , **"WHERE LOVE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE."**

ANNUAL LAY DAY



CAMPBELL A.M.E. CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA (FRANKFORD)

Submitted by: Bro. Andree A. Turner, Sr.
Director of Lay Activities – Campbell AME Church
Lay Organization

On Sunday, September 19, 2010 at 3:30 P.M. Campbell A.M.E. Church, celebrated **ANNUAL LAY DAY** under the Connectional Theme, "Building on our Global Legacy of Christ Centered Leadership and Training." Ephesians 4:11-13 and Mark 16:15.

Pastor Glenn Shepherd and local Lay President Sis. Marie Butler, along with the President of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, Sis. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, and other Lay members, were led into church by our Senior Ushers with the song, "There is Peace in the House" sung by the JOY Choir, under the direction of Sis. Susan Butler and led by pianist, Sis. LaNae Bryson.

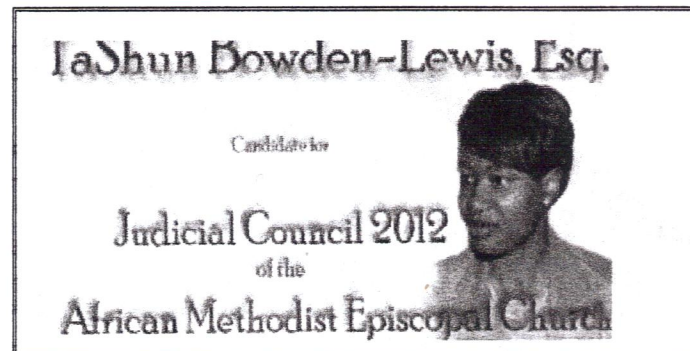
The Invocation was given by Sis. Mamie Price, Lay President at Bethlehem A.M.E. Church, Langhorne and Chaplain of the Philadelphia Conference Lay, telling us, "What a Merciful Savior We Serve." Sis. Butler introduced our Worship Leader, Sis. Hopewell of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, who did an excellent job in following the spirit, which was in the church that day. The scripture was read by Sis. Carolyn Thomas Kamara, President of the Lay at Bethel A.M.E. Church, West Chester. We were charmed to hear the choir's selection, "Down at the Fountain" from the JOY Choir and soloist, Sis. Jacqueline Butler. Sis. Ethel Wanner of A.M.E. Union Church led us in the Lay Litany.

We were then treated with a selection from our very own, "Treasurers of Heaven", our young children's Liturgical Dance Group. They gave us a selection of Praise, "Sometimes You Have To Encourage Yourself."

We have a bright future ahead of us with our young children's liturgical group, "Treasurers of Heaven".

Sis. Marian Sudler, Lay President of Trinity A.M.E. aroused to introduce and present her Delta Sister, the **Guest Speaker** of the day, **Sis. Tashun Bowden-Lewis of Bethel A.M.E. Church of Norwalk, CT.**

Sis. Lewis is a candidate for the position on the Judicial Council of the A.M.E. Church at the 2011 General Conference.



After a rousing selection from JOY Choir, "Something Got a Hold of Me", led by soloist, Jennifer Folks, we were in for a treat from Sis. Lewis. She spoke from her subject matter: *"We are to give our knowledge that was obtained through Blood, Sweat and Tears, which needs to be passed down to the younger generation. We have so much to offer them. Our future church must continue to grow up and out throughout all the lands. We must be Proactive to Teach, Reclaim and Recruit our next generation of leaders, under the theme, "Building on our Global Legacy of Christ Centered Leadership and Training". We already are assured of the Victory, because of our teamwork between the generations and with God's blessings"*.

Pastor Shepherd gave the Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Bro. Reverdy Garrett, Lay President from St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Elmwood, gave the call to Lay membership. Bro. Victor Capers and Sis. Tammy Davis, Nancy Smith and Bonnie Davis answered the call and joined the Campbell A.M.E. Church Lay Organization. Pastor Shepherd gave a Prayer of Rededication to all of the members of the Lay Organization, with the admonish, "that we must dedicate ourselves to improving ourselves and improving the Church." Sis. Merle Wilson of Campbell, along with Bro. Henry Murray, Lay President of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Norristown stood to hold the Lay offering. Sis. Mae Bagwell of Campbell, along with Bro. James Lake, Lay President of Jones Tabernacle A.M.E. Church stood to hold the Love offering. After remarks by Sis. Hopewell, Sis. Butler and Pastor Shepherd, we were dismissed with the Lay Benediction.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE LAY ORGANIZATION OF
CAMPBELL A.M.E. CHURCH
(FRANKFORD) PA**



SIS. MARIE BUTLER, LAY PRESIDENT

REV. GLENN SHEPHERD, PASTOR

**Submitted by: Sis. Susan Butler
Director of Public Relations,
Campbell A.M.E. Church**

On Sunday, September 12, 2010, a **RECOGNITION BANQUET**, sponsored by the Lay Organization was held to honor the three oldest, active members of Campbell A.M.E. Church. The **Honorees** were: **Dr. Leon Johnston, Mrs. Irene Butler and Mrs. Mary Knox.**

Bro. Sloane Folks presided and began the program asking all to stand and sing "The Laymen's Hymn". Bro. Nathaniel Johnson extended a warm welcome and Bro. Roger Tenant, Sr. offered a prayer and blessing of the meal.

Following a delicious catered meal, Bro. Donald Travers, III did a Liturgical selection to "Never Would Have Made it", which was dedicated to our Honorees. **Lay President, Sis. Marie Butler** gave a message entitled, "**By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them**". She pointed out that if you have not let Jesus come into your life, the fruits of your labors will be tainted and it is by your fruits they will know you. Psalm 92:14 reads, "The Righteous will bear fruit in Old Age." She encouraged all to take a page from the honorees book and join in bearing fruit for the Lord and if you continue to serve Him, He will continue to bless you.

The Honorees were presented following the message. Bro. James Smith presented Sis. Mary Knox; Bro. Royal Black presented Dr. Leon Johnston and Sis. Maxine Johnson presented Mrs. Irene Butler. Each received a citation from Governor Rendell and State Representative Christine Tartaglione. After remarks from each honoree, family, friends and church organizations showered them with gifts of love.

In closing, Sis. Butler asked for prayer for Pastor Shepherd (in his absence) for the loss of his father. The event was held at a beautiful hall in Frankford, (Unity Hall) and was packed with 170 persons. The meal was catered by "Aunt Bertha's Kitchen" of Oaklyn, NJ

A great time was had by all. We closed with the Lay Benediction.



**MT. TABOR A.M.E. CHURCH
Philadelphia, PA**

CELEBRATES ANNUAL LAY DAY

By Sis. Juanita Bryant, Lay President

On Saturday, June 26, 2010 The Lay Organization of Mt. Tabor AMEC observed **ANNUAL LAY DAY**. This was the first time the annual celebration was held on Saturday and the day was indeed a success.

The **Speaker** was **Brother Richard F. Norris II**, District Music Director and a member of St. Matthew AMEC. As usual, Brother Norris provided a thought provoking message entitled "**Do You Love Jesus?**" Sister Shirley Moore-Harris (Mt. Pisgah AMEC) served as the **Worship Leader**.

Other program participants included Sister Brenda Watts (Bethel Lansdowne AMEC), Sister Mary English (LaMott AMEC), Sister Diane Long (First AMEC), Sister Judy Beverly (St. Matthew AMEC) and Brother Hosea Jackson (Bethel AMEC Bryn Mawr).

Lay members from sister churches around the Conference joined the officers and members of Mt. Tabor in the worship experience and enjoyed a sumptuous brunch prepared and served by Director of Lay Activities Carolyn Jones and the Mt. Tabor Culinary Committee. "Ultimate Praise Mime Ministry" of Mt. Tabor shared two wonderful praise dance selections. Sister Peggy Pinder, 1st Episcopal District Director of Lay Activities, along with district officers Brother Reverdy Garrett and Sister Louise Coursey were also present. First Vice President, Brother Frank Gilyard, brought greetings on behalf of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. We were blessed!
To God be the Glory for the great things He has done!!

KYLE IRVIN HOPEWELL WEDS ROBBYN RENEISHA MITCHELL

By Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

On Saturday, **May 15, 2010** on a beautiful spring day, Kyle Irvin Hopewell wed Robbyn Reneisha Mitchell at 11:30 am at the Newton White Mansion in Mitchellville, MD. The ceremony was officiated by The Rev. Jay B. Broadnax. Kyle is the son of Philadelphia Conference Lay President, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell.

The wedding was outside on the grounds at the mansion and the day was beautiful from start to finish. The wedding took place around the fountain, but it was a warm, windy, day and the only thing the wind affected was that the fountain had to be turned off to keep the guests from being sprinkled with water.

To start the wedding, the DJ, Mark Dennis was in place and played music throughout the ceremony except when the vows were being said. The grandmothers were escorted out to their seats, followed by the mother of the groom, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell and the mother of the bride, Wanda Henson. With the colors being blue, silver and white, both mothers were asked to wear blue. The groom, Kyle, then processed out with his best man James McDougall and the four groomsmen: Marlon Walker, Kahlil Taylor, Charles Sims and Kyle's dad, Irvin Hopewell. Also entering with them was the ring bearer, Kyle's godson, Dymere Carter. The guys were in black tuxedos and black patent leathered shoes. Kyle and the ring-bearer had white ties and white vests. The best man had on a blue vest and blue tie and the groomsmen wore silver vests & silver ties. Once the guys were all in place, the maid of honor, Syreeta Anderson and the four bridesmaids: Jade Foster, Lindsay Pollard, Nyjia Jones, and Renyta Le, processed out. The maid of honor and the bridesmaids were in blue with silver shoes. Then came the "bubble girl". She was dressed in white. Since this location did not allow flowers to be thrown, there was a "bubble girl" instead of a flower girl and the bubble girl blew bubbles as she processed in. Then came the time we were all waiting for, the entrance of the bride with her dad, Michael Henson. The bride came in on *Canon in D* by Joann Pachelbel. The bride had on a lovely v-necked white gown with a long train. The train was held by her niece, Chinelle Mitchell, also in white.

Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, officiated in a fine way. The couple recited their vows by repeating after Pastor Jay, then they each had a chance to say a special vow of their own. It was a very touching moment. The couple exchanged rings, had communion and then blended sand. Once all was said and done, their covenant was sealed with the traditional kiss. They were then announced as **MR. AND MRS. KYLE HOPEWELL.**

The grounds of the place were beautiful, so the bridal party did not have to go far for pictures. While the bridal party, the parents and grandparents were taking pictures, the guests moved inside and were feasting on hors d'oeuvres.

Once pictures were through, all the guests were brought into the reception room and the parents of the couple were introduced, the bridal party was introduced and the bride and groom. After coming in, the bride and groom immediately took their first dance. There was a wonderful buffet set up and the tables were called for the guests to go for their food. There was plenty of food and it was really good. The place was decorated in blue and white and everything was perfect from start to finish.

Guests came from all over arriving from Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Tallahassee, FL, Houston TX, Atlanta, GA, New York City, Richmond, VA, the Carolinas, the DC and MD areas, and a good contingent of folks from the Philadelphia area. Mt. Pisgah was well represented. We thank our family and friends for coming to share in the day with us and many even stayed for the entire weekend. What a time, what a time, what a time.

Kyle and Robbyn spent their honeymoon in Honolulu, Hawaii. Kyle and Robbyn will be making their home in Tampa, FL where they both work as journalists. Kyle is a Copy Editor II for the Tampa Tribune and Robbyn is the Cops Reporter for the St. Petersburg Press. They met in the Journalism Department at Florida A & M University.

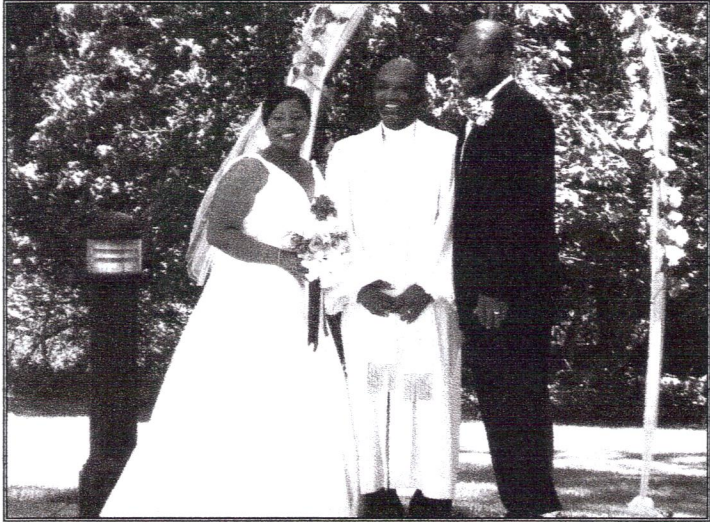
**We wish the happy couple much success and
a long and prosperous marriage.**

**KYLE IRVIN HOPEWELL WEDS
ROBBYN RENEISHA MITCHELL**

By Cheryl Hammond Hopewell

The Bride & Groom

**Reverend Jay Broadnax
Pastor of Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Phila. PA**



Mr. & Mrs. Kyle I. Hopewell



**Bride & Groom
with Mr. & Mrs. Irvin & Cheryl Hammond Hopewell
(Groom's Parents)**



The Wedding Party



**Cutting
the Wedding Cake**





WHO'S WHO IN THE LOCAL LAY

By: PEGGY E. PINDER

In my position of **Director of Lay Activities for the First Episcopal District** I have been able to attend some events that I may not have attended otherwise. However I am happy to say I have noticed an **outstanding Lay person, Bro. Richard F. Norris, II (R-2)**. Each time I have asked him to be present for whatever task, he has done so. And as I move throughout the District that seems to be the testimony of most folks. Richard has a willing spirit. He uses his God given talent to the Glory of God.

Many times I am up late writing or reading and I put on his CD to help calm down or just for my listening pleasure. At the recent Connectional Women In Ministry Conclave, Richard had the Choir out in full and at their best. He works with Sis. Sheila Booker, Sis. Diane Dixon and other Directors. The musicians: Sis. Bettye Spivey, Sis. Barbara Kennedy and all the guys in the Ensemble just name a few. It all comes together and we, the waiting congregation, are the beneficiaries, The First District Choir, The St. Matthew Choirs and some I may not know about. He's a husband and Dad, a PK with all that that entails. And if that is not enough he is Big Brother to Mark--Oh excuse me, The Reverend Marcellus A. Norris. He's (R-2) is just a cool dude and an active member of the Lay Organization at St. Matthew, Philadelphia.

I have heard Richard as principle speaker several times and he usually alludes to his favorite pass time, watching movies. He has the ability to fit his movie theme into his presentation. He is both positive and encouraging. A smart dresser and good role model for our young men. The song says "if I never had a problem, then I would not know how God can solve them". There are many like me who God has cleaned up and we can witness to others. It is just a pleasure to see young people like Richard taking over to carry the church on. He was elected Delegate to the last General Conference and served well and I am sure that there is more in store for him. So hats off to "R2" for his commitment to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. **Let us encourage all our young people to stay the course.**

"HEADS UP"

From: *Peggy Pinder*

Please keep your eyes and ears open for news from the: **Lest We Forget (LWF) Museum of African American Slavery & Cultural Center,**

Located at:

3650 Richmond Street, Phila. PA 19124,
P.O. BOX 26846

J. Justin Ragsdale, Curator

Information about –

The Tunnel of Remembrance.

Also known as

BLACK HOLOCAUST SLAVERY MUSEUM.

THANK YOU.



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

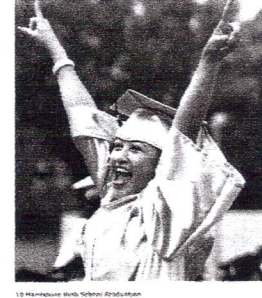
MONUMENTAL A.M.E., STEELTON, PA

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES CLASS OF 2010



VICTORIA LEE GRAHAM

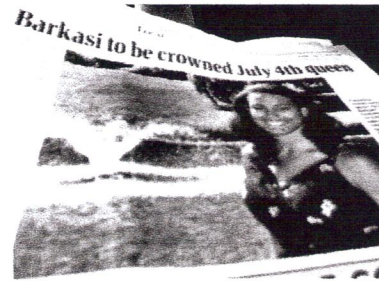
2010 Graduate of Laurel_High School
Student at Jones County Junior College, Laurel, MS
Victoria is the granddaughter of Alda Hanna Epps



SHANTEY MONIQUE ARSUAGA

2010 Graduate of Scientific Technology School of Harrisburg
Student at Indiana University of PA
Shantey is the daughter of Migdalia DeJesus-Valera
(granddaughter of Anita Hanna Matthews)

BETHEL A.M.E., POTTSTOWN, PA



CONGRATULATIONS

KENDRA BARKASI from Bethel, Pottstown, the first winner of the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship. She was crowned Pottstown's 2010 Fourth of July Homecoming Queen. Her fundraisers included bake sales, a dunk tank, and spaghetti dinner. Congratulations, Kendra. Keep up the good work. We look forward to hearing more great things from you in the future.

Congratulations

HICKMAN TEMPLE A.M.E., PHILA.



WALTER C. JEFFERS

Philadelphia Conference Young Adult Representative nominated a delegate to the 20th World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa. The Conference meets August 4-8, 2011 at the International Convention Center in Durban with delegates who will represent 132 countries around the world. Walter is the Editor-In-Chief for the First District Flame Newspaper. He also serves as 1st District Lay Membership Chairperson, and Marshal for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization, and the Director of Lay Activities at Hickman Temple AME Church, Phila.

CONGRATULATIONS



MR. ROBERT SUDLER, (*holding his prestigious Award*) son of Mrs. Marian Spivey Sudler of Trinity AME, Phila., received mammoth **COMMENDATION** and **THANKS** from the **U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Washington, DC** for his recent participation during the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington. D.C. In a letter from Mr. Jeffrey W. Irvine, Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office-U. S. Secret Service, the following acclamations were documented and conveyed to Robert. *“Mr. Sudler coordinated the joint teams of the Department of Health and U.S. Food & Drug Admin. professionals that provided 24-hour vigilance and coverage during this two-day summit which included proactive and aggressive application of law and regulation related to this critical mission. He was responsible for providing and maintaining intensive inspections of more than 350 food service facilities and at least 12 hotels that housed foreign heads-of-state at this Summit. This diligence and dedication was crucial so as to ensure that all persons were provided with maximum protection from food-borne danger.”* Mr. Jeffrey W. Irvine also stated, *“This achievement is significant considering the magnitude of this endeavor and I believe it worthy of commendation and deserves recognition of the DC Department of Health’s commitment to excellence.”*



MT. SINAI AME, HARRISBURG, PA

CONGRATULATIONS - ADRIENNE FELLS

Adrienne, the granddaughter of Mrs. Ann Fells, graduated from the **Central Dauphin East High School, Harrisburg, PA** (June 2010) and is a student at the **University of Pittsburgh**.

The poem below was written by Sis. Margaret Hinton of Mt. Sinai AMEC, Harrisburg, PA

“GRADUATION DAY IS OVER”

Graduation day is over, and I hope your mind is clear.
Another door has opened, walk into the future dear.
Hold your head high and remember, you don't have to walk alone.
Through Christ you can do all things, Our Father is still on the throne.

If you're off to a college campus, you're really not leaving behind
All the things you were taught in the years that are past, are still in the back of your mind.
This time as you enter your classroom, keep in mind the things you must do.
Each class that you take will be for your sake, Ensuring your future for you.

You are blessed with a gift -- why not use it. It's a God-given gift just for you
As you go don't forget, God is not finished yet -- and remember he will see you through.

GOD BLESS YOU!



PCLO MONTHLY MEETINGS

(As published by the Time & Place Committee)

- Oct. 16 – RETREAT**
New Bethel
1646 Prospect Ave., Willow Grove
- Nov. 20 – BETHANY**
912 S. 21st Street, Harrisburg
- Dec. 11 – Christmas Meeting**
ALLEN
5901 Larchwood Ave. Phila.
- Jan. 15 – C.H. Hopewell Lay Scholarship Service**
MOTHER BETHEL
419 Richard Allen Blvd, Phila.
- Feb. 19 – BETHEL**
334 Miner St. West Chester
- Mar. 19 – Zion**
1600 S. 21 St., Phila.
- Apr. 16 – MONUMENTAL**
2nd & Adams Sts., Steelton
- May 21 – NEW BETHEL**
6153 Germantown Ave., Phila.
- June 25 – ANNUAL MEETING:**
MT. TABOR
961-71 N. 7th Street, Phila.



ANNUAL LAY DAYS

(Please see Local Presidents to confirm time & dates)

- Oct. 17 – 10:30 a.m. - Bethel – Pottstown,**
401 Beech St.
- Oct. 17 – 3:30 p.m. – Mt. Zion – Norristown,**
1312 Willow St.
- Oct. 17 – 3:30 p.m. - 1st AME, Sharon Hill**
1201 Hook Lane
- Oct. 24 – 11:00 a.m. Trinity, Phila.**
27th & Cumberland Sts.



ANNUAL LAY DAYS

(Please see Local Presidents to confirm time & dates)

- Oct. 24 – 3:00 p.m. Mother Bethel, Phila**
419 Richard Allen Ave.
- Nov. 14 – 11:00 a.m. Zion**
21st & Tasker Sts., Phila.
- Nov. 21 - 11:00 a.m. Monumental**
2nd & Adams Sts., Steelton
- Nov. 21 – 3:30 p.m. Metropolitan**
39 W. Stratford Ave., Lansdowne
- Nov. 28 – 3:30 p.m. Allen**
5901 Larchwood Ave., Phila.
- Dec. 12 – 4:00 p.m. Mt. Sinai**
2334 Highland Ave., Harrisburg
- Jan. 16 – 3:30 p.m. Bethlehem**
215 S. Pine St., Langhorne
- Feb. 13 – 4:00 p.m. Bethel**
131 E. Pomfret St., Carlisle
- Feb. 20 – 3:00 p.m. Lamott**
1501 Cheltenham Ave., Lamott
- Mar. 6 - --- a.m. Mt. Zion**
1008 Center St., Darby
- Mar. 12 – 9:00 a.m. St. Matthew**
57th & Summer Sts., Phila.
- Mar. 20 – 3:00 p.m. Ward**
43 & Aspen Sts., Phila
- Mar. 20 – 3:30 p.m. Hickman Temple**
5001 Baltimore Ave., Phila
- Mar. 20 – 11:00 p.m. Waters Memorial**
604 S. Clifton St., Phila.
- Apr. 10 – 3:30 p.m. Grimes**
338 Morris St., Phoenixville
- Apr. 17 – 11:00 a.m. Bethel**
3:30 p.m. 301 Linden St., Kennett Square
- Apr. 24 - a.m. & p.m. Morris Brown**
25th & Montgomery St., Phila.
- May 15 – 10:45 a.m. Jones Tabernacle**
2021 W. Diamond St., Phila.
- June 12 – 3:30 p.m. Calvary**
604 Dickerson St., Phila.
- July 10 – 11:00 a.m. New Bethel**
1645 Prospect Ave., Willow Grove,
- July 17 – 10:30 a.m. Bethel**
330 W. Windsor St., Reading
- July 24 – 11:00 a.m. Bethel**
1721 N. 5th St., Harrisburg



Philadelphia **C**onference **L**ay **O**rganization

OUR VOICES

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October 2010

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations