



OUR VOICES

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Volume 6 - #2 - September 2014

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor – Director of Public Relations

Greetings from the Philadelphia Conference Lay President Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell



We have come out of a great conference year. In 2013-2014 we had meaningful meetings, informative workshops, a wonderful Awards Luncheon, a dynamic Retreat, a great Christmas fellowship, a successful Education Service, and an exciting and spirit-filled lay night with our Episcopal Supervisor, the Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram as our preacher. Elections were held at our annual meeting and I was blessed to be elected to serve the Philadelphia Conference Lay for my last two years. At the annual meeting, we also awarded four young persons with the Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship in the amount of \$500 each. We ended the year with a refreshing and relaxing cookout.

In February, many of us traveled to Rocky Hill, CT for the First District Lay Mid-Year Meeting. In July, we traveled to Wilmington, DE for the First District Lay Annual Meeting. I was blessed to be the speaker for the annual meeting service. God truly blessed and I give "Him" all the glory.

As we begin this new conference year, I promise that I will continue to represent you in every way possible. In doing this, I will travel across the Conference, District,

and the Connection to attend lay days, lay nights, meetings, luncheons, services, and speaking engagements, to represent you in every way that will continue to uphold this organization to the highest possible standards.

The Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization is alive and well and has done great and exciting things, but we're not done yet. We continue to be committed to teaching, training and evangelizing so we can have informed laity who will be better Christians, better leaders, and in turn, better lay persons who work in all areas of their local churches and beyond - - being better Christians, officers and committed workers. It is a privilege to represent the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. I also continue to serve as Finance Chairperson for the First District Lay Organization, on the First Episcopal District Self-Help Board, as a Philadelphia Conference Trustee and on the Payne Theological Seminary Board. I am honored to serve in all of these capacities.

We thank Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram and Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram for their leadership and vision of "First Things First". They have really raised the bar in our worship services throughout the district and we are committed to the same. We truly believe that to be successful in this endeavor, lay and clergy must work together. I have stood on this since becoming president six years ago and that has not and will not change for me. "We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength" as we continue to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus". God has been good, and it does not yet appear as to the great things that lie ahead. *"With God all things are possible"*.

First Episcopal District Lay Organization

Annual Meeting Worship Service

*Submitted by:
Cynthia Douse, Historiographer
Philadelphia Conference Lay
Organization*



Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell delivers the Annual Lay Message at the 1st Episcopal District Annual Lay Meeting

The First Episcopal District Lay Organization under the leadership of President Mary Mootoo held its annual meeting on July 25-26, 2014 at the Doubletree Hotel on King Street in Wilmington, DE.

The annual message was delivered on Friday evening July 25 at 7:30 pm and **we are proud to report that our very own Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell was the evening speaker.** Her message was entitled, **“You’ve Gotta Believe”** and her text was taken from *St. John 11:38-44*.

This scripture text told the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead after four days. Jesus told Mary, Lazarus’ sister, to *“believe”* and in doing so *“God’s glory was revealed.”*

This story, as well as other biblical stories, remind us that Jesus is still able and ready to do the impossible even today, but **“You’ve Gotta Believe”**. We were reminded that God sees us as we are, sees what we can become and knows what we need to do his work.

Our speaker, Sister Hopewell, named persons from the Old and New Testament to show how God uses people of no faith or little faith to do his work. You must have faith and **“You’ve Gotta Believe”**. The message was powerful and enjoyed by all. It was a wonderful worship celebration.

Other participants in the worship service included: Music by the Delaware Conference Choir; Worship Leader: Dr. Martin Drew, Host President Delaware Conference; Hymn of Praise lined by

Brother Gilroy Reid, Philadelphia Conference; Prayer by Brother Charles Pelote, New England Conference; Scripture: Old Testament by Sister Etta J. Cohen, Western New York Conference; New Testament: Sister Linda Bean, Bermuda Conference; Lay Litany: Sister Marie Corbett, New York Conference; Presentation of the District Lay President: Sister Dorothy Chandler, New Jersey Conference; Presentation of the Speaker: Sister Mary Mootoo, First Episcopal District Lay President in the absence of Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram; Invitation to Christian Discipleship: the Rev. Richard Worthy, Presiding Elder of the Wilmington District; Offering was led by Rev. Herbert L. Eddy, Presiding Elder of the Boston/Hartford District with directions from Philadelphia Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell; Prayer of Commitment and Rededication: Rev. Dr. Silvester S. Beaman; and Closing remarks were made by President Mootoo and Presiding Elder Eddy; the singing of the Lay Benediction was led by President Hopewell, which was accompanied by Brother Earl Knight, III, Philadelphia Conference Young Adult Representative (YAR) who also serves as the Music Director for the First District Lay Organization.

It was a “great service”, a “blessed fellowship” and we **“congratulate” Sister Josephine Fulcher Anderson, the Director of Lay Activities** for the First District Lay Organization for putting it all together.

PICTORIAL REFLECTIONS:

First Episcopal District Lay Organization Annual Meeting

Doubletree Hotel - King Street - Wilmington, DE

July 25-26, 2014

CLERGY AND LAITY IN WORSHIP, PRAISE, AND FELLOWSHIP



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Saturday, June 21, 2014

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

We should never underestimate the importance of assembling together in fellowship to give an account of the temporal business and service that we, the laity of the church, perform along with our spiritual allegiance to God.

On Saturday, June 21, the officers and members of the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization convened for our **Annual Meeting** held at Mt. Pisgah AME Church, Philadelphia, the local church of our Conference Lay President, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. The meeting was hosted by Sister Shirley Moore-Harris, local lay President, lay members, and the Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, the host Pastor.

At **8:00 a.m - 9:00 a.m.** the day began with a delicious and all inclusive continental breakfast buffet orchestrated and served by the versatile and flexible lay members of Mt. Pisgah followed by the Business segment.

The **Business Session** began promptly at 9:00 a.m. consisting of our Devotions & Bible Study led by Chaplin Mamie Price, followed by the Conference Business Agenda of reports, updates, initiatives of our Conference, and Annual Reports from each Local Lay President.

The Worship Leader, Sister Wanda Ringgold, led the **Memorial Service** at 11:00 a.m. This service offered an opportunity to "reflect upon and commemorate the legacies and Christian service of the "clergy and laity" who had departed since last we met; and, *"in HIS own way and for HIS own purpose, God had called from labor to reward.* Their names were called, candles were lit, and flowers were placed in vases in loving memory of the deceased loved ones of this past conference year.

Lunch was served from **12:00–1:00 pm.** The meal was enjoyable, plentiful, tasty and satisfied and fulfilled our physical hunger at a lofty level of contentment.

Following lunch, the **Election of Officers** was held for the Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization. The **Installation of Officers Ceremony** was conducted by the **Reverend Dr. Earl R. Jefferson.**



RESULTS OF THE ELECTION: (See picture above- R-L) Conference President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell; followed by, 1st Vice President-Gilroy Reid; 2nd Vice President-Hosea Jackson; 3rd Vice President-Andree Turner; Recording Secretary-Marion Bolton; Assistant Recording Secretary-Valerie O. Ward; Corresponding Secretary-Wanda Ringgold; Treasurer-Fern Wesley; Financial Secretary-Anna M. Cobb; Chaplain-Mamie Price; Historiographer-Cynthia Douse; Director of Lay Activities-Shirley Moore-Harris; Director of Public Relations-Anita Hanna Matthews; and Young Adult Representative-Earl Knight, III.

As we took our pledges "to give of our best with diligence", we were encouraged to remember that *"only what we do for Christ will last"*; as we pledged to serve with integrity and accountability to our Conference, at our local churches, to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and most importantly "to the children of God".

Reverend Jefferson conveyed words of encouragement and reiterated the importance of **taking our positions and assignments seriously -- for it is not easy being in any leadership position; but with "GOD" all things are possible.**



(Continued): PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION ANNUAL MEETING

Following the election of officers, Sister Marian Spivey Sudler, Chairperson of the Education Committee led in presenting the certificates and checks to **the winners of the 2014 Cheryl Hammond Hopewell Lay Scholarship.**

The scholarship winners were: Briana E. Harvey of Waters Memorial, Lay President Gilroy Reid; Chindinma J. Obiakor of St. Matthew, Lay President Marion Bolton; Jazmyn M. Campbell of Bethel Carlisle, Lay President Carl Bell, III; and Taylor L. Golden of Bethel Reading, Lay President Mildred Gilyard. Each winner received a certificate and a check for \$500.00. Pictures were taken with awardees, parents, lay president, Education Chairperson and Conference President. **(See Pictures Below)**



Scholarship Awardee: Briana E. Harvey , Waters Memorial



Scholarship Awardee: Chindinma Obiakor, St. Matthew AME



Bethel, Carlisle Lay President Bro. Carl Bell, III receives Scholarship Award for: Jazmyne Campbell



Scholarship Awardee: Taylor L. Golden Bethel, Reading



Recording Secretary Marion Bolton, Philadelphia Conference Lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, and the Rev. Dr. Earl Jefferson



Memorial Service Participants

The last segment of the afternoon included **annual reports** from our conference president, Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, all elected officers, and committee chairpersons. The reports were detailed and endorsed with credence which is supported by this past year of enormous activities and extensive progress. Our hearts and minds were encouraged by hearing the reports of the abundance of works done and tasks accomplished. After singing the Lay Benediction, we adjourned. ***We had a great conference year and we give all praise to God because, "What A Mighty God We Serve"!***



“ ENJOY YOURSELF ” *By: Peggy Pinder*


Don't just sit there, you're retired and for that you are blessed. Many are busy in their respective churches and that is a good thing. However, there is another venue in which you can be of assistance to yourself as well as others.

The **Senior Community Centers** are available for your leisure and it is all volunteer. Yes, all kinds of activities. There are activities that can enhance your pleasure, learning and companionship. In fact there are those who just need someone to sit and talk to and maybe that is you.



You can share your life experiences as it pertains to health issues, your church involvement, or perhaps a financial matter. Bravo, AARP, Medicare and Keystone are the basic insurance companies that the Senior's deal with and there have been problems that we can talk about that might just give insight and help to a fellow senior. Senior Center programs include:



table games (including dominoes), outings (the boardwalk)  lectures on Health

concerns, exercise



(silver sneakers) ,



line and social dances (ZUMBA). Clinics on diabetes and

healthy eating, and they got it".



sewing. Birthday Parties,



Holiday celebrations. Arts and crafts. Yes, you "name it



I joined the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center at the encouragement from my friends (Lay Members) at St. Matthew AME and what a blessing that was! Representatives at the Center include The Heath Director Sis. Helen Rayon, and the former Custodial Supervisor Bro. Seymour Jones, both who are members at Mother Bethel AMEC. Also Members from; Morris Brown, Hickman Temple , Zion, Tyree, Waters Memorial, Jones Tabernacle and Mount Pisgah. Mixed in with all the great AMEs are Baptist, Pentecostal, and Independents and if you look closely you'll find some Muslims, Presbyterians, Jehovah Witnesses and Catholics. Needless to say "Bible Studies are quite interesting."



JOIN UP, KEEP THE OLD HEART PUMPING!



IT MIGHT BE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EVANGELIZE OR JUST TO HAVE FUN.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

FOURTH ANNUAL COOKOUT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014

Salisbury Community Park, Gap

Host Church – Mt. Zion A.M. E. Church, Atglen, PA

Host Lay President: Bro. Ed Dickinson

Host Pastor: Rev. Linwood Smith

By: Anita Hanna Matthews

Director of Public Relations

Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization



The Philadelphia Annual Conference Lay Organization held its 4th Annual Cookout, and once again it was a “fabulous-fun-filled-fellowship inclusive of delicious food, good-humored conversation, line-dancing, and even a “fitness session” deemed to be the “Hammond Hopewell Hike” led by our physically fit and tip-topped-toned conference lay President Cheryl Hammond Hopewell. Some participants were able to hang in there “from the start to the finish”; some “did the best they could”; and some of us just “watched”. Our President encouraged us “to let this be a day of fun, fellowship and relaxation”.

It was a beautiful day – sunshine, blue skies, moderate temperature, low humidity, -- a perfect day for well deserving loyal lay members who worked so very hard during the year – so now it was time for fun and a season just to enjoy each other’s company and to savor and enjoy a variety of food.

Among the first to arrive were the TWO busses filled with family & friends from the local churches of Philadelphia and the surrounding area -- as well as

many who traveled by cars, SUVs, and vans.

The Conference furnished hot dogs, sausages, sodas, bottled water, chips, & pretzels. However, many of the attendees “took it to another level” and brought an abundance of additional foods such as potato and macaroni salads, chicken, fruit platters, unique and delicious desserts, watermelon, cantaloupe, veggie platters, pickled eggs, etc. What an abundant feast!

Along with the loyal laity, there was an inclusion of clergy as well – can’t name them all – but they were there having a good time and letting us know that they too wanted to join in on the fun and games. Some were even “shooting basketball hoops with the “young people”. It was a fun time -- a church family affair. There were laity from each of our Presiding Elder Districts mixing and mingling, chatting and chewing.

We’re looking forward to next year – when once again we will take time out to “just enjoy the company of each other.” Once again we can say, “ **”AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL” !!!**

If someone should ask you, just where is “Gap” or “Atglen” or “Salisbury Community Park,” just tell them that these quaint places are located in the heart of what is historically and traditionally called the Amish country of Lancaster County, as you travel on Route 30, -- midway between Philadelphia & Harrisburg – where there is plenty of fresh air, farm land, charming villages, scenic views, away from the hustle and bustle, hullabaloo and reality; and quite often you will see some of the local people who travel by horse & buggy, the mode of transportation preferred by the Amish population.

However, not too far heading westward (on Route 30W) you will find a conglomeration of very interesting tourist attractions such as: tours through the Amish country, Sight & Sound Theater, the

American Music Theater, Dutch Apple Dinner Theater, a fantastic water show theater, a family amusement park, fast-food drive-thrus, popular chain restaurants, Shady Maple Smorgasbord, Pennsylvania Dutch style cooking, apple dumpling desserts & shoo-fly pies, souvenir shops, hand-made quilts, furniture & carpentry items, locally grown fruit & vegetable roadside stands, homemade canning foods, a variety of excellent hotels and lodging, etc.

And, of course, while traveling on Route 30, if you should see a sign that says, “Zion Hill” you can wend your way to the historical and hallowed Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Atglen, PA., the host church of this Annual Cookout.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION FOURTH ANNUAL COOKOUT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014

Salisbury Community Park, Gap
Host Church – Mt. Zion A.M. E. Church, Atglen, PA
Host Lay President: Bro. Ed Dickinson
Host Pastor: Rev. Linwood Smith



PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION FOURTH ANNUAL COOKOUT



A NOTE OF THANKS FROM PRESIDENT HOPEWELL

“SPECIAL THANKS” to



“Walter Jeffers” for chairing the event, to “Andree Turner”



for cooking all day and to “ALL” who assisted in any way. Also, a “SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MT. ZION, ATGLEN” for hosting. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to doing it again next year.



BROTHER DWIGHT RAMSEY

Lay Member of the Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia, PA

passed suddenly, July 1, 2014 after a brief illness. The “**Celebration of Life Services**” was held Monday, July 7, 2014 at Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church.

The Celebration Services was truly a celebration of his life. Brother Dwight touched the hearts of all he came in contact with. Funny thing about Brother Dwight, you really did not remember when he first entered your life, he just happen to show up and was there with a smile on his face. Perhaps your first encounter with him was at a Church or was it a store somewhere in the neighborhood on 52nd Street in West Philadelphia?

Anyway, where ever you met Dwight, this was an instant connection. Brother Dwight’s social contacts extended beyond race, color, business or creed and many came to pay their last respects was an indication and tribute to his life as he lived.

Brother Dwight was also known by many clergymen from various churches, regardless of denomination, and the clergy in kind, were in attendance from the Philadelphia and vicinity, as well as the New Jersey area. In attendance from our connectional churches were: Reverends Maurice Butler, Glenn Shepherd, Eugene McDuffy, Roland McCall, Larry Thompson, Stanley Hearst II, Terence Hensford, Carlos Bounds, Marcellus Norris, Stephen Lewis, as well as clergy from other religious denominations. Our Presiding Bishop, the Right Reverend Gregory G. M. Ingram, expressed his desire to attend, but because of a previous commitment could not be present.

Brother Dwight Ramsey was born October 30, 1959. He was educated in the Philadelphia Public School System and also attended classes and activities at the Carousel House located on Belmont Avenue in Fairmount Park.

He accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church in 1971. On March 7, 1987, he joined Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church. However, one could consider that Brother Dwight had unique membership between Mt. Pisgah, St. Matthew and Ward as he spent time among these churches as well as others.

Outside of Brother Dwight being a member of the Lay Organization in which Sis. Shirley Moore Harris is our local Lay President; he served on the Mt. Pisgah’s Men’s Usher Board, was involved in the Men’s Fellowship, and was a member on roll for the Church School.

The congregational Hymn of Triumph was “We’re Marching to Zion,” a very fitting tribute as Brother Dwight loved to march with the Men’s ushers. The prayer of comfort was lifted by Reverend Phyllis A. Harris. Reverend Isaac N. Patterson, IV, encouraged the congregation to recite Psalm 23, and Reverend Donna M. Minor read from the New Testament I Corinthian 13. One of the best known and appropriate hymns in memory of Brother Dwight was “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Sister Elaine Gleaves sang “His Eye is On the Sparrow.” A resolution regarding Brother Dwight came from within and outside of the walls of the church, and this was followed by the silent reading of his Life Story. Sister Verna Cox sang “How Great Thou Art.” The eulogy was given by Reverend Jay B. Broadnax. Reverend Broadnax had mentioned that Brother Dwight was the first person to greet him early in the morning when he was first assigned to Mt. Pisgah Church seven years ago. Reverend Broadnax scriptural text was from taken from Matthew 27:54 – Now when the centurion. . . The centurion, who was standing at the cross when Jesus died, was standing at his post. The eulogistic topic was “Standing On Your Post.” Brother Dwight was a soldier of the Cross. He was everywhere where the gospel was being preached. He stood at his post for his church and his family.

We must be committed and be where we are suppose to be as God will find a way for you out of no way. (In reflection of these words by Rev. Broadnax, Bro. Dwight had no car and could not drive. However, he was at a church when there were special services.) We must be faithful and a servant as Brother Dwight was faithful and early for his duty. Brother Dwight touched the lives of many through all walks of life, was a natural servant and had a passion as he stood at his post as a soldier of the Cross.

The recessional hymn was “When We All Get to Heaven.” A repast was served following the “Celebration of Life Services” in honor of Brother Dwight.

The writer of this article referred to Brother Dwight as the “Dwighster” and his response was always “Cher-Cher, How did I become the “Dwightster?” There will be many who will miss Brother Dwight Ramsey and I will miss calling him the “Dwightster” as we had our own special greeting for each other.

**By: Sister Cheryll Morris-Davis,
Director of Public Relations
Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Lay Organization**

Reverend Jay B. Broadnax, Pastor

Volume 6 - #2 Sept.2014



ST MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH

215 N. 57TH STREET - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19139

PHONE # 215.472.4784

REV. ROLAND C. MCCALL, PASTOR

Submitted by: Lillie Gorham

Do You Want To Learn More About Living A Healthier Lifestyle?

Are you interesting in learning how you can have fun and learn how to keep your body healthy.



You Are Welcome to Come and Join Our Nutrition Ministry

**ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT
ST MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH
215 N 57TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Classes will begin on September 30 at 1:30 p.m.

All classes held on the 2nd Tuesdays will be
presented by the Health Education Director from Lankenau Hospital.

Listed below are the additional dates.

2014 dates are:	Oct. 14	& 28;	Nov. 11	Dec. 9
2015 dates are:	Jan. 13	& 27;	Feb. 10 & 24;	Mar. 10 & 24
2015 dates are:	Apr. 14	& 28;	May 12 which will be our closing date.	

*Classes held on other dates will consist of:
reading recipes, reading labels, planning menus for breakfast, lunch and dinner,
doing taste testing and preparing some recipes.*

ANY OTHER INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN WHEN YOU REGISTER.

A Light Lunch Will Be Served

THE NUTRITION MINISTRY

strives to promote healthy and nutritious living by encouraging participants to change destructive eating habits to good eating habits since we are the Temple of God; and "in order for us to do God's work, our bodies must be healthy".

If you are interested, please call: **REV. ROLAND MCCALL, PASTOR - CHURCH TELE. # 215.472.4784**
YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT ME (Lillie Gorham) AT 215.879.379



SAVE THE DATES

OCT. 4, 2014: 12:00 Noon: at The First District Plaza – 3801 Market St., Phila. PA



Philadelphia Conference Lay Organization



ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

for

THE LAY PERSON OF THE YEAR

and

UNSUNG HEROES OF THE LOCAL CHURCHES

Nov. 14-16, 2014: FALL CONVOCATION – First District Plaza, Philadelphia, PA

Dec. 14, 2014: ADVENT SERVICE (Philadelphia Annual Conference) Jones Tabernacle AMEC

Feb. 5-7, 2015: FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION – First District Plaza

FEB. 20-21, 2015: 1st DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION MID-YEAR MEETING

Headlines and Deadlines



The next publication of our conference lay newsletter "OUR VOICES", will be published in DECEMBER 2014.

All information to be published must be submitted to the editor by NOVEMBER 15, 2014.

Please send all news articles and pictures by e-mail to: anitamatt@verizon.net

Thank you

Anita Hanna Matthews, Editor

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, President

Gilroy Reid, 1st Vice President

Hosea Jackson, 2nd Vice President

Andree Turner, 3rd Vice President

Marion G. Bolton, Recording Secretary

Valerie O. Ward, Asst. Recording Secretary

Wanda Ringgold, Corresponding Secretary

Fern Wesley, Treasurer

Anna M. Cobb, Financial Secretary

Mamie Price, Chaplain

Cynthia Douse, Historiographer

Shirley Moore-Harris, Director of Lay Activities

Anita Hanna Matthews, Director of Public Relations

Earl Knight, III, Young Adult Representative

The Right Reverend Gregory G. M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate

The Reverend Dr. Jessica K. Ingram, Episcopal Supervisor

The First Episcopal District - - African Methodist Episcopal Church