



The Lay Communiqué

Magazine of The 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Digital / Online Edition



The Seventh Edition of the Digital Magazine ✝ Winter/Spring Issue ✝ January-May 2018

*AMEC Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization ~ Photos/Events/Accolades
Content is presently updating ~ Please send your articles/photos for publication!*



Red, Green & Yellow Flower Plant ~ Orlando, FL ~ "Flowering Plant at Night" by AJSG ✝ East

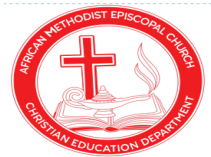
Content in this Digital Magazine will update as features are submitted or created & removed when time has expired
Please send your articles, photos, flyers & features for the Digital Lay Communiqué

President: Patricia Wright ✝ West Coast Conference/Director of Public Relations: Mary Silva ✝ Florida Conference
Digital Magazine design by AJSG ~ EEDLO Web Servant/Social Media ✝ East Conference

**11th Episcopal District AMEC
Board of Christian Education
Rev. James C. Givens, CE Director**

2754 ORANGE STREET
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33916

239-258-4112/239-332-0305
239-332-7877 FAX



June 5, 2018

Attention: Future 2018 Christian Education Youth Leadership Congress Delegation

Distribution: Presiding Elders, Consultants, Pastors, Clergy, WIM, MSA
CE Workers, LAY, SOA, WMS, CDMC, RAYAC, YPD and Youth Leaders

In keeping with the objectives of the 11th Episcopal District Board of Christian Education to make your Annual CEYLC Experience the greatest, the following advisory is distributed to ensure that all future registrants for CEYLC 2018 have a clear understanding of the Registration Process particularly as it relates to financial responsibility.

CEYLC Registration will officially **OPEN** on-line on **June 6, 2018** and **END** on **July 6, 2018**.

Website for registration: **11thdistrictceylc.com**

There are two (2) options available for registration to be completed before the deadline.

Option 1: Complete the on-line registration form in its entirety and make the on-line payment for your total delegation via Pay Pal, Credit Card or Debit Card.

Option 2: Manually download the registration form. (Print a copy of the registration form.) Registration Form must be completed in its entirety and forwarded along with a check to cover the total amount for all persons registered. The registration forms and check for the full registration amount should be forwarded (mailed) to the Bishop's Office before the registration deadline.

CEYLC Registration Desk
11th Episcopal District
101 E Union Suite 301
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Deadline for all registration is **July 6, 2018**. Website: **11thdistrictceylc.com**

The Board of Christian Education ask that you please follow one of the options listed above to register for 2018 CEYLC. Registration opens June 6 and closes July 6, 2018. Your completion of registration forms with no payment whether on-line or by mail will simply generate a list of your registrants. They are not considered registered without a payment included. If payment is made after the deadline of July 6, 2018, an additional fee of \$10 will be assessed for each registrant.

We thank you for adhering to the required guidelines and it is our prayer that your 2018 CEYLC will be one of *Worthy Worship, Phenomenal Fellowship* and *Life Changing Learning*.

Yours in His Service,

Rev. James C. Givens
11th District Christian Education Director

cc: Bishop Adam J. Richardson



What is the Edward Waters College Promise?

The EWC PROMISE is a commitment to our local county high school graduating students seeking a four-year bachelor's degree without financial and transportation barriers.

The Edward Waters College Promise Program is the **First Program** in the nation established by a four-year institution for a debt-free freshman year. It is the first Promise Program by a Historical Black College or University.
#EWCisFirst

Who is eligible to apply for The Promise?

The Promise is for graduating, first-time-in-college, high school seniors, who seek a degree in the fields of **Biology, Business, Communications, Criminal Justice, Elementary Education, Mathematics, Music, or Psychology.**

How do you qualify for The Promise?

- Complete the EWC admissions application for the fall 2018 term. **To apply, go to: www.ewc.edu.** Contact: **Admissions Office: 904-470-8200; admissions@ewc.edu.**
- Complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA)** and be eligible to receive the federal Pell grant with the estimated family contribution (EFC) of zero. FAFSA website: www.fafsa.ed.gov and EWC's FAFSA code: **001478**.
- Receive an acceptance letter from the EWC Office of Admissions.
- **Must be** a commuter student.





"The Lay Communiqué"

11th Episcopal District Lay Organization

Director Public Relations



April 30, 2018

Volume 1, Issue 1

Episcopal Events (After 2017 Annual Convention —April 2018)

The 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization year in Review:

2017 July—December was filled with the many Annual Conferences completing their Lay Witness night worship services, visits with our erudite leader Sister Patricia Wright as she presented each Conference President with a book to enhance reading and leadership skills.

The 2017 Hurricane Season was intense as the NOAA upped its prediction for named storms from 14 to 19 as the season progressed. Two named hurricanes hit the state causing thousands of dollars in damages and many lost lives. The named storms were Emily in July and Irma in September. Hurricane Irma also caused a disruption in the series of Annual Conferences, thus, the 2017 series wasn't completed until after Thanksgiving 2017. The 11th District's Ministers and Laity assisted its AME members by providing financial gifts and other sustenance towards disaster relief.

2018 began with an air of excitement as President Wright received information that the Eleventh District Lay Organization had won an award/recognition from The Christian Recorder for the most subscriptions gathered



over a prescribed period of time. The editor, John Thomas presented the award during our Annual



Executive Board Meeting held January 6-7, 2018, Bethel, Tallahassee, Florida Conference.

Workshops on Saturday were well presented and informative in regards to "Leadership."

The Districts special fund-raising project Sweeter the Knowledge booklets were available and were distributed to all contributors.

February 2018, Hymnfest 2018 and the Annual Retreat were held in the West Coast Conference on the Lively Lakeland District, hosted at New Bethel, Lakeland. As always, the hymnfest brought a new wave of hymnist which included pastors and laity as we were again enlightened as to the history of hymns and a variety of renditions of hymns both familiar to our Zion and others that we may have heard for the first time. The workshops on Saturday were well presented by Sister Francine Postell, Brother Deric Feacher and Sister Sherri White.

As the laity prepared to depart to travel back to our many places of abode, we received special prayers for God's Grace, Protection and Mercy and a hearty meal; believing that we would meet again in March at Mid-Year.

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.,
Presiding Prelate,
11th Episcopal District

The Right Reverend E. Earl McCloud, Jr.,
Lay Commission Chair

Dr. Connie Speights Richardson,
Episcopal Supervisor

Sister Valerie G. Bell,
Connectional Lay President

Ms. Patricia H. Wright,
11th Episcopal District President

Mrs. Mary Brown Silva,
11th District Director of Public Relations



Pray One for Another

Bereavement & Sickness

My mind knows that you are in a better place, where there's no pain. You are at peace. I understand that. I just wish I could explain it to my HEART.....

Author Unknown



A view from the Rear (Hindsight)

Historical Reflections:

My View:

We often hear or have heard that hindsight is 20/20; taken literally or figuratively, what does that phrase mean to any of us. Thinking back to childhood, it may have meant, we would or should have been content being a child without grownup responsibilities; however, many of us wrongly believed that the world would be a better place when we were grown and gone from our parents or grandparents home. Now, looking back in hindsight, were we better off remaining a child for as long as was legally possible or did we need to age before our time?

What about college, trade school, or other vocational opportunities, was there a transition from high school immediately to post secondary education or was there a delay of some type. In hindsight, would you have altered your transition from point A to point B?

Then comes the age of grownup responsibilities, again, some were excited thinking about marriage and children whether in the traditional sense or vice versa but Traveling on the road called "Life" has a way of bringing about a multitude of changes based on myriad reasons, many good, bad or seemingly indifferent; however, GOD brings all things back to CENTER, when we regain our focus and look at the world and life as it really appears. We can all look back in hindsight and know that some things we encountered were brought about due to our not stopping, thinking and praying before acting. Remember

ONLY GOD can turn

A MESS into a MESSAGE,

A TEST into a TESTIMONY,

A TRIAL into a TRIUMPH,

A VICTIM into a VICTORY.

GOD is GOOD ... all the time!

(Daily Inspirational Quotes) *Much Love!*

The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year B

Easter ~ Year B (continued)	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Third Sunday of Easter April 15, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	* Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
Fourth Sunday of Easter April 22, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	* Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
Fifth Sunday of Easter April 29, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	* Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 6, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	* Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
Ascension of the Lord May 10, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	* Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or Psalm 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 13, 2018 (If Ascension not observed here) ART -- PRAYER	* Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
Day of Pentecost May 20, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	* Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27	

Season after Pentecost Year B	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Trinity Sunday May 27, 2018 First Sunday after Pentecost ART -- PRAYER	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29		Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth May 31, 2018	1 Samuel 2:1-10 Psalm 113		Romans 12:9-16b	Luke 1:39-57
Proper 4 (9) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 3, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Psalm 81:1-10	2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Mark 2:23-3:6
Proper 5 (10) Third Sunday after Pentecost June 10, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) Psalm 138	Genesis 3:8-15 Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
Proper 6 (11) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 17, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 Psalm 20	Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15	2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 4:26-34
Proper 7 (12) Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 24, 2018 ART -- PRAYER	1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 and Psalm 9:9-20 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16 and Psalm 133	Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41

GOD IS THAT YOU?

Scripture: *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

Revelation 3:20 (RSB)

I imagine many of us learned this bible verse as children. I know I along with my siblings did. And I always pictured someone standing on the other side of the door knocking. I would imagine them calling out, "Is anyone home?" And then remembering what our parents had told us, "never open the door to strangers or when you are at home alone." And now when I read this scripture I visualize another picture. I see Jesus standing on the other side knocking and calling out, "Is anyone home, may I come in?" and the person on the opposite side not recognizing Him or His voice does not answer.

When Jesus says that He stands at the door, and is knocking, He is trying to get our attention. He is trying to let us know that he is there because He wants to be invited in. He wants to come in and eat with us. This symbolizes a desire of close fellowship by Jesus. This fellowship is the goal, and is the reason He wants to get our attention. We talk about seeking God; but in this scripture it is clearly Jesus that is seeking us. This Scripture is not merely a picture of Salvation that Jesus is giving us. It is a picture of the heart of God. Jesus is saying that He is continually standing and continually knocking. Christ is knocking on the door of the sinner; but the message can be broader than that. The invitation is a personal one, since salvation is individual. But He is also knocking on the door of the Church, calling the many to saving faith, so that He may enter the church. So if one person, anyone, opens the door by repentance and faith, Christ would enter that church through that individual. The Lord can and will speak to us if we place our faith in Jesus. However, we must first expect and anticipate that the divine voice of God can ring in our ears and heart.

HYMN/SONG: "Hush, hush, Somebody's calling my name. Sounds like Jesus, Oh Lord, what shall I do"

Barbara Moore
Third Vice President
5th Episcopal District

STRIVING FOR GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

Scripture: *For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*
Hebrews 4: 15-16 (KJV)

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.
Psalms 84:11 (KJV)

When we think about what God has done for us, we think about His amazing grace. God's grace protects us each and every day from all harm. When I think of the men who serve in the military, I think about the men who fought in the Vietnam War. Many veterans can testify to God's amazing Grace. God's grace kept them safe and secure and His grace relieved their fears. It was God's grace they depended on and grace that brought them home. God, who gives all grace, will make you strong, support you, and keep you from falling. His grace is sufficient. It is because of God's amazing grace that we are saved through His son Jesus Christ on the cross. His sacrifice is a testament of his love for us. The blood Jesus shed for us on the cross is real and the price was extravagant. God's grace is love. His grace is mercy, faithful, and eternal.

According to the scripture, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God: not of your works, lest any should boast." Ephesians 2: 8-9 (KJV). If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us. Not only are we saved by grace but the scripture tells us that we are forgiven by God's grace.

PRAYER: Heavenly father, how holy and great is your promise. We come before you with humble hearts; thanking you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. Realizing that it is not because of our goodness, but it is your amazing grace that sustains us. We pray that you strengthen our faith, hope, and our love for you. It is only by your grace and mercy that we receive favor. Forgive us of our sins. We ask that you will continue to lead and guide us in the right way. Lord, help us to be more loving and kind to one another. We will give you the honor and praise as we strive to be worthy of your grace. This we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

HYMN/SONG: Amazing Grace

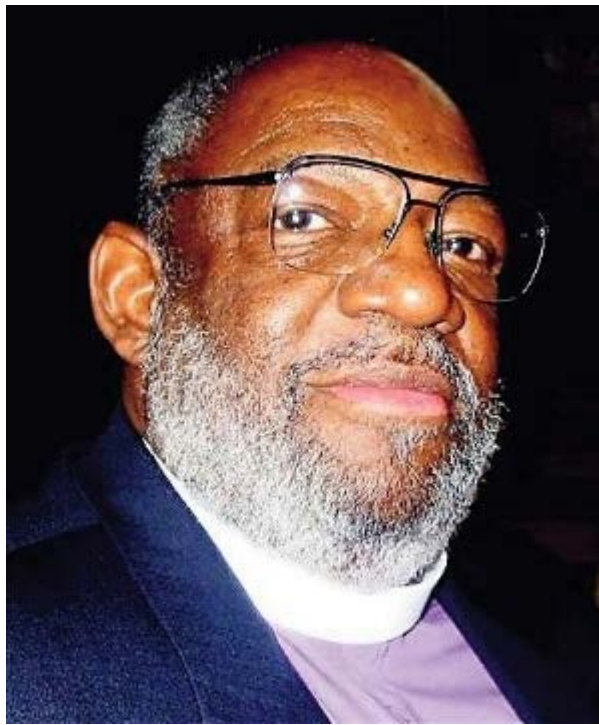
Rita K. Nelson
Third Vice President
13th Episcopal District Lay Organization



*Editor's Note: Below is the correct statement that was originally received from the Council of Bishops.
We apologize for any inconvenience as you share this information.*



**Transition of
Bishop Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr.
112th Elected and Consecrated
Bishop of the AME Church**



***“Soldier of Christ, well done!
Praise be thy new employ;
And while eternal ages run
Rest in thy Savior’s joy.”***

It is in a spirit of deepest humility and surrender that the Council of Bishops announces that the Right Reverend Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr, 112th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, transitioned today, May 15, 2018, from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant.

As arrangements are being finalized, please join with us in prayer for Former Ernestine Lee Henning, family members and friends who cherish his life.

Clement W. Fugh
President
Council of Bishops AME Church

Biography of Bishop Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr.

The Right Reverend Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr. was the 112th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, elected in 1992 in Orlando, Florida. He was the son of a parsonage, born in Memphis, Tennessee and educated in the public schools of Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky and

Tennessee. He received a B. S. Degree from Wilberforce University, a Master of Divinity from Payne Theological Seminary, and completed course work for the Doctorate of Ministry at Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. Bishop Henning served as pastor of congregations in Tennessee, Kansas, California and Missouri. He has also served as assistant pastor at Greater Allen A.M.E. Church in Dayton, Ohio and First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles, California. During six years as pastor of St. Peter A.M.E. Church in St. Louis, Missouri (1968-1972), the membership increased by more than six hundred fifty members, Parish Partners, an urban-suburban program designed to provide summer employment for youth in a community different from their own, was founded. Rev. Henning also served as Executive Director of Block Partnership, a multi-ethnic, multi-racial and multi-cultural program devised to break down barriers to the economic, educational and political empowerment of Blacks.

While pastor of Ward A.M.E. Church (1972-1980), Bishop Henning served as a member of the Los Angeles Housing Commission (twice as president). Bishop Henning joined with Dr. Henry Mitchell, Bishop Charles Blake and other area ministers in the establishment of The Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies. He also served in the following positions with SCLC-West; Executive Vice President, President, and Chairman of the Board. He established the Ward Area Redevelopment Department, Inc. (W.A.R.D.), an umbrella corporation to a number of programs, including The William Grant Still Community Music School. At St. Paul A.M.E. Church in St. Louis, Missouri (1980-1992), Bishop Henning and Dr. William Harrison founded St. Paul Saturdays, a Black male mentoring ministry that provided positive experiences for Black males and encouraged their development into strong Black Men. Bishop Henning was a founding member of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition and chairperson of its Political Action Committee. He also organized the St. Louis Superintendent-Clergy Committee to assist in the development of a positive relationship between the School Superintendent, the board of education and the Black community to keep the lines of communication open and constructive.

In 1992, Bishop Henning was elected and consecrated the 112th Bishop of the AME Church and was assigned to the 14th Episcopal District – West Africa, where he served four years. As Bishop of the 14th Episcopal District, he established the C. Garnett Henning, Jr. Memorial High School named in memory of his deceased son and located in Danane' Cote D'Ivoire. In 1996, in Monrovia, Liberia he founded AME University which has a present enrollment of approximately 4000 students. It is the nation's second largest University. He also built Bethel A.M.E. Church in Accra, Ghana at a cost of more than \$100,000. In 1996 Bishop Henning was assigned to the 19th Episcopal District – South Africa, where he served until 2000. In 1998, in Johannesburg, he led in the building of a one and one-half million rand annex to the Bishop Harold Senatle Center. He also renovated the R. R. Wright School of Theology in Evaton, South Africa, purchased an Episcopal residence appraised at \$700,000, and worked with Bishop Donald G. K. Ming and Bishop Harold Senatle in reopening Wilberforce Institute which had been closed during the apartheid era.

In 2000 Bishop Henning was assigned to the Eighth Episcopal District which is comprised of

Mississippi and Louisiana. He reopened the Bonner Campbell School of Religion and retired the debt on the Episcopal Headquarters and Residence in New Orleans, Louisiana. The C. G. Henning Multiplex, was built at the cost of more than a million and a half dollars. In 2005, following Hurricane Katrina, the worst disaster in the history of the United States, Bishop Henning was asked by the church to administrator more than three million dollars, raised by the A.M.E. Church for the restoration of damaged churches, with more than a half million dollars of support going to ministers and members of the district. At the same time, Bishop Henning was appointed to the National Bush-Clinton Katrina fund, by President William “Bill” Clinton, a committee with the responsibility for directing the distribution of more than seventy million dollars to a religious institution in the region. Bishop Henning successfully restored 49 of 51 churches damaged by Katrina and left over one-half million dollars in the Eight District treasury, \$350,000 of which was earmarked for the replacement of the Episcopal Headquarters and Residence destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

From 2008-2012, Bishop C. Garnett Henning, Sr., was assigned to the Third Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church which comprises Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. He worked to secure money for needed renovations at Payne Theological Seminary and his Wilberforce University.

Bishop Henning was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and received many awards and honors. Bishop Henning was married to Ernestine Lee Henning and they are the parents of three children, Dr. Carma Love, who resides in California, (Helaine and Garnett, Jr., both deceased), and two grandchildren, Jahbrielle Henning-Rayford and Massiah Garnett Henning. He is the brother of Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, the 135th elected and consecrated bishop of the AME Church and Retired Supervisor Yvonne Henning Parks and Mr. Herman Henning.

Connectional Lay Organization Subscription Drive Results

□ December 28, 2017 □



Connectional Lay Organization Subscription Drive Results

The Connectional Lay Organization sponsored a drive to promote subscriptions to *The Christian Recorder* during the 2017 calendar year. The Eleventh Episcopal District, under the leadership of President Patricia Wright and Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr., turned in the most subscriptions. Their prize will be awarded in January at the 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting.

The full results are:

First Place: 11th Episcopal District, Ms. Patricia Wright, president; Bishop Adam J. Richardson

Second: Place: 1st Episcopal District, Mrs. Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell, president; Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram

Third Place: 5th Episcopal District, Mr. Simeon Rhoden, president; Bishop Clement W. Fugh

Fourth Place: 17th Episcopal District, Mr. Martin Lombe, president; Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah

Fifth Place: 9th Episcopal District, Mrs. Bernella Knight-Rose, president; Bishop Harry L. Seawright

Welcome Our New Lay Member!

We are recruiting from Generation to Generation!



Our Young Adult Representative Robbyn Hopewell has become a Mommy!
Congratulations Robbyn and Kyle Hopewell on the birth of **Deanna Joy Hopewell**, born midnight
October 4, 2017, 7 pounds 3 ounces, 20.25 inches.

Robbyn is well but exhausted after part delivery and then necessary C-section! Share this blessed news
via email to all our membership and family. Best wishes can be sent to rmhopewell@gmail.com

Welcome Our New Lay Member!

Here we **GROW** Again!



Our Director of Public Relations Mary Silva has welcomed a new grandbaby!

Congratulations Brian and Melissa on the birth of **Brian Israel Hall, II**

born 10:53 A.M. October 25, 2017, 8 pounds 3 ounces.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRANDMA MARY!!

Florida Conference Lay Organization

Lifetime Achievers Award Banquet

Saturday, December 16, 2017

6:00 P.M.

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church

2891 Orange Street

Marianna, Florida 32448



Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.

Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson

Episcopal Supervisor

Ms. Patricia Wright

Episcopal District Lay President

Ms. Theresa White

Episcopal District Director of Lay Activities

Mr. Shepherd Myrick

Florida Conference Lay President

Ms. Judith E. Hollinhead

Florida Conference Director of Lay Activities

OFFICERS

President.....	Mr. Shepherd Myrick
1 st Vice President.....	Mrs. Dorothy Harley
2 nd Vice President.....	Mr. Robert Jackson
3 rd Vice President.....	Mrs. Carolyn Hill
Recording Secretary.....	Ms. Delbra McGriff
Assistant Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Annie McCelvy
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mrs. Jennifer Lawson
Treasurer.....	Mrs. LaDonna Hogue
Financial Secretary.....	Ms. Marrie McQueen
Chaplain.....	Ms. Barbara Patterson
Historiographer.....	Mrs. Rebecca Pittman
Parliamentarian.....	Mrs. Connie Jenkins-Pye
Director of Lay Activities.....	Ms. Judith E. Hollinhead
Director of Public Relations.....	Mrs. Sharon Russell
Director of Benevolence.....	Ms. Vivian Cromartie
Young Adult Representative.....	Ms. Ashley Blakely

District Presidents

Quincy-Monticello District.....	Ms. Sharolyn Wood
Marianna District.....	Ms. Patricia McCallister
Pensacola-Panama City District.....	Mr. Joseph Johnson
Tallahassee District.....	Mr. Donald Russell



MENU

*Chicken and Beef
Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Peach Cobbler
Dinner Rolls
Tea
Water*



Words of Thanks

*To the Pastors of the Florida Conference,
District Presidents and Lay Members,
Program Participants and the Caterer*

*Words cannot express my feelings, nor my thanks for all your help.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*From
President Shepherd Myrick, Officers and Members of the
Florida Conference Lay Organization*

"You can't help someone climb a mountain without getting to the top yourself."

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES of The Lay Organization

The Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church so that each lay person may utilize to the maximum the abilities and skills granted by God, in assisting with the improvement and extension of God's kingdom, and creating happiness, peace, and harmony among its members.

Objectives

- ◆ To instill in the membership of the church a love for, and an appreciation of, the history, traditions, principles and development of African Methodism by encouraging, motivating, and educating all lay persons.
- ◆ To keep forever alive the sacred memory of Richard Allen, our illustrious founder.
- ◆ To advocate respect and loyalty at all times to constituted authority and leadership.
- ◆ To encourage the laity to support the total program of the church in the local congregation, in the community, and throughout the Connection.
- ◆ To foster a systematic and regular study of *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* and of parliamentary procedure, to the end that greater knowledge and information may be disseminated among the laity, and with the further purpose of encouraging lay members to participate more largely in the general functioning and supervision of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- ◆ To foster, influence, and support all constructive and progressive legislation for the church that promotes the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ To encourage development, recognition, and utilization of the most appropriate operational practices and modern technology in conducting the activities of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- ◆ To promote the spread of personal evangelism through activities designed to prepare lay members for appropriately conveying God's Word.
- ◆ To provide training in Christian stewardship, which causes lay members to recognize that the connotation of stewardship addresses more than giving money.
- ◆ To increase the circulation of church papers.
- ◆ To provide for the orderly and systematic training of lay persons, especially officers, in order that they might more effectively perform their service assignments.
- ◆ To promote activities which will result in harmonious fellowship for lay persons throughout the Connection.
- ◆ To help in the support of the AME educational institutions.
- ◆ To give financial assistance to the Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC) in support of Connectional programs.

Programme

Presiding

Brother Joe Johnson
Pensacola-Panama City District President

Prayer

Sister Barbara Patterson
Marianna District Chaplain

Scripture

Sister Sharolyn T. Wood
Quincy-Monticello District President

Welcome

Sister Patricia McCallister
Marianna District President

Occasion

Sister Mary Silva
Tallahassee District

Blessing of Food

The Reverend Ronald D. Mizer, Host Pastor
St. James AME Church - Marianna

Dinner and Fellowship

Reflections Through Song

Sister Ira Nell Davis (Pensacola-Panama City District)
Sister Elease Wynn (Marianna District)
Sister Vivian Cromartie (Quincy-Monticello District)

Congregational Participation

"The Twelve Days of Christmas"
Led by Brother Donald Russell
Tallahassee District President

Remarks

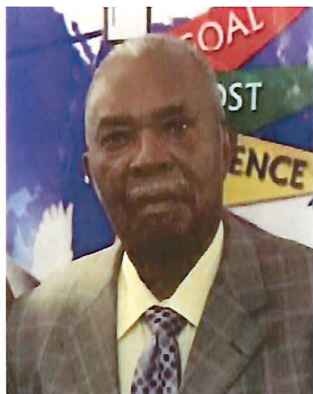
Sister Patricia McCallister, President, Marianna District
Brother Shepherd Myrick, President, Florida Conference President
The Reverend Ronald D. Mizer, Host Pastor

Lay Benediction

May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity that we may live together
not as man over man, but as lay persons working with God. Amen.

Johnnie Hill, Jr.

QUINCY-MONTICELLO DISTRICT



Brother Johnnie Hill, Jr., was born in Tallahassee, Florida to Johnnie Hill, Sr., and Sally Hill. He was educated in the Gadsden County School System and graduated from Carter-Paramore High School 1958. After Graduation from High School, he attended Florida A&M University majoring in Agricultural Science. Johnnie left college and served his country in the Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, Arkansas, and Amarillo Air Force Base, Amarillo, Texas. After being honorably discharged he returned to Florida A&M University and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness.

Johnnie is a family oriented man. He was married to the Late Yvonne Smith Hill. They had five children: Jerome Hill (Deceased), Karen Hill, Jackie Hill Smith, Perentes Hill and LaTonya Hill and two grandchildren: Orenthious "O.J." Hill and Akilah Fields.

Johnnie was employed for 31 years with the United States Department of Agriculture Farmers Home Administration. He was elected as District Supervisor which at the time he was the second African American to serve in that capacity within the State of Florida. Johnnie retired in 1996 as a District Loan Specialist. During his time working for the USDA he was given special recognition for his swift response in immediate relief to those who lost housing during hurricane Andrew in 1992, he oversaw the rebuilding of the Redland Center and South Dade Center as well as the farm worker housing facilities in the city of Homestead. Johnnie also served as the Loan Specialist officer for housing developments that were built in: Gadsden, Madison, Jefferson, Palm Beach, Highlands, Jackson County and various other counties in the State of Florida. In 1994 he was given an award for properly processing and handling more than \$50,000,000 in Farm Labor Housing loans and Grants in the State of Florida. The United State Department of Agriculture also gave him special recognition for his management of \$79,017, 869.00 in the building of 1,683 homes and 8 farm labor housing complexes. He received special recognition from the Indian River County Housing Authority for the building of the Victory Park Apartments phase I and II in Gifford, Florida.

Johnnie is an active member of Mayflower AME Church in Havana, Florida where the Reverend Juliette Horne is the pastor. He has served as a Steward, Trustee, Church School Superintendent and Church School Teacher, Treasurer, Lay President, a member of the Son of Allen and President of the Florida Conference Lay Organization for six years. Currently, Johnnie holds the office of Third Vice-President of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization and is a member of the Florida Conference Trustees. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Prince Hall Affiliated Mason, President for the Florida Non- Profit Housing, Incorporated, Tax Professional and Advisor for H&R Block. His hobbies includes following the FAMU Athletics, watching the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Los Angels Dodgers and the Boston Celtics, reading books, studying the bible and spending time with his family and his friends. His Motto is: *"I believe a life of service is a life that count, especially when it come from lifting the burdens of others"*.

Annie G. McCelvy

PENSACOLA-PANAMA CITY DISTRICT



Sister Annie G. McCelvy, a life-long AME, is a member of Gregg Chapel AME Church, Fort Walton Beach, FL where the Reverend Cecil Williams is Pastor and Leroy Kelley is Lay Organization President. Annie has been active in the local Lay Organization since 1991 when Gregg Chapel was part of the West Florida Conference. She became active in the Pensacola District Lay Organization in 1992 when Raymond Jackson was president. She was elected and served as assistant recording secretary and became the acting secretary and subsequently was elected secretary when the recording secretary, Mary Silva left the area to attend Law School. Annie served as secretary for

the Pensacola District Organization Lay under four presidents, Raymond Jackson, James Robbins, Charlie Nichols, and Judith Hollinhead and has been the financial secretary for the Pensacola District Lay Organization, Pensacola-Marianna District Lay Organization and the Pensacola-Panama City District Lay Organization. She has held offices and been active on all levels of the organization since becoming active in 1992. Her first attendance at an Episcopal Convention was Ocala, Florida, 1993 and a Connectional Lay Biennial in Jacksonville, Florida, 2001. Annie has not missed many of either of these conventions since that time. In July 2004 at the Christian Education Congress in Orlando, Florida, which she did not attend, President Marion Bacon White appointed her to serve as Registrar for the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization. She has served in the position under President White, President Nichols and now President Wright.

Annie tries to support all levels of the organization, local church, District, Conference, Episcopal and Connectional. She loves the church and desire to know first-hand what is going on in the church. Therefore, in addition to her involvement in the local church, she is often seen at meetings outside of Gregg Chapel. Even though she doesn't feel deserving of this award, she is honored to know that others feel she has earned it.

Ronnie Tyrone Price

MARIANNA DISTRICT



Mr. Ronnie Tyrone Price also known as “**Mudd**”, was born October 11, 1957. He grew up in the St. John Community and has been a member of St. John AME Church in Quincy, FL since August 1968. He joined the Army National Guard in 1974, and upon graduating from James A. Shanks High School in 1975 enlisted in the U.S. Army 5th Infantry Division.

In 1980 he married his high school sweetheart Carrie White, and through this union was blessed with four children - Kimberly Price, Dr. Elvin T. Price (Andrea), Reverend Kelvin Price (Marisa), and Minister Delvin Price (Shondanita); and seven grandchildren - Lajarous Davis, Katelynn Davis, Olivia Davis, Jaycen Davis, Henry Price, Heidi Price, and Anna Price.

He serves St. John AME Church as a steward and Lay President, under the leadership of Pastor Matthew J. Bryant and faithfully attends church school and Bible Study. He has served as District Lay Chaplain of the Marianna and Quincy Districts and is currently the 1st Vice President of the Marianna District Lay.

Ronnie has numerous accolades and accomplishments which includes, but not limited to being a Disabled Veteran of the U.S. Army; NCO Academy #378 Soldiers Award; Alfred Garner Award for 25 years of dedication with the Quincy Recreation Department; District 3 Dixie Youth Coaches Award 1999, and a FAMU President's Award in 2012 for his family earning a total of 6 college degrees from the university.

Mary Brown Silva

TALLAHASSEE DISTRICT



Sister Mary Brown Silva, a native of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, first daughter of the late Hannah L. (Mitchell) Brown and Robert A. Brown. Educated in Okaloosa County, Florida. Mary received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Troy State University – Florida Region; B.S. Social Science with minors in Business and Sociology, 1993; Masters in Public Administration with a Court Justice Concentration, 1995 and her J.D. from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida in December, 1998. Married to James A. Brown, the mother of three adult children; Tyra, employed with the Social Security

Administration in Kansas City, MO; Lucille, elementary school teacher with the Santa Rosa County School District, Milton, Florida; and Nico (“Bubba”) Silva, recently retired from the US Army after 27 years 9 months living in Puyallup, Washington. Mary is grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of eleven.

Mary has had the pleasure of living in three Conferences within the 11th Episcopal District. 1) West Florida Annual Conference, (1980-8/1995) where she served as an officer, choir member, usher and church secretary of her local church, Gregg Chapel AMEC, and served as a conference officer with the Lay Organization, Women’s Missionary Society, Conference Trustee and assisted the Reverend Phillip Russ, IV, Conference Secretary; 2) Central Florida Annual Conference, (8/1995-2/2001) as an officer of Greater Bethel AMEC, Lay Organization President, YPD Director, choir member and Church School Superintendent; officer with the Conference Lay Organization and Women’s Missionary Society; and 3) Florida Annual Conference, (2/2001-present); an officer of Mt. Pisgah AMEC, serving as an officer inclusive of Steward, Church Secretary, Trustee, choir member, usher, Church School Teacher/Superintendent, YPD Director, WMS President (2 years), Lay Organization officer, and/or whatever I’m tasked to do. First Alternate Delegate 50th General Conference (2016-Philadelphia, PA), Tallahassee District Lay President (2013-2016), Florida Conference WMS Treasurer (2007-2015), Florida Conference WMS President (2016).

Worked in Retail Sales Management for 14+ years; Substitute Teacher in Alachua County, Florida (2+ years); worked for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice with the Children In Need of Services / Families In Need of Services (CINS/FINS) project (2 years); has been employed with Brown and Brown Attorneys at Law, P.A., for more than twenty-one years; part-time from July 1996-December 2001; full time employee January 2002 to present.

East Conference Lay Organization Annual Lay Witness Service

Photographs by Sister Angela Surcey Garner, East Conference

The East Conference Lay Organization held its Annual Lay Witness Service at the 141st Session of the East Annual Conference at the Omni Hotel Jacksonville, Florida, hosted by Saint James A.M.E. Church, Orange Park, Florida on Thursday, November 3, 2016. The 142nd will post soon.



East Conference Lay Organization Annual Lay Witness Service

Photographs by Sister Angela Surcey Garner, East Conference

Unpublished photos from the 141st Session, November 3, 2016... Photos from the 142nd Session will post soon in the Winter/Spring issue...



The Reverend Kennetta C. Carter, Pastor of Roberts Mt. Pisgah, Atlantic Beach, Florida was the preacher for the East Conference's Lay Witness Worship (141st Session).



Eleventh District Lay Organization Annual Executive Board Meeting

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Eleventh District Lay Organization Annual Executive Board Meeting

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