



# Western North Carolina Conference



## LAY EXPRESS

Website: [www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org)  
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Volume II

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**Mr. Kenneth R. Woods Sr.**  
**Western North Carolina Conference**  
**Outstanding Lay Person**



Kenneth R. Woods Sr. is a lifetime member of White Cross AME in Efland, NC. He serves in the church as a Steward, Lay and Male Choir President, Church School Secretary, and WMS Male Associate. Mr. Woods has served various capacities at all levels of the Lay Organization. He has served as a member on the Social Action Committee, Constitution & By-Laws Committee on the District and Connectional levels. Kenneth has been elected as Connectional Lay delegate numerous times and to the General Conferences. In the Western North Carolina Lay Organization he has served as 2nd Vice-President, Chaplain, Chaired- Constitution & By-Laws Committee, Social Action Committee, Nominating Committee, Prayer Breakfast Committee, Lay Institute Committee and served as Marshal for 30 plus years.

As a vivid community leader, he served as a Precinct Judge and assisted citizens of Orange County, North Carolina with Voter Registration for over 40 years. He drives anyone who needs a ride to their voting precinct and shares with them the qualifications of the candidates. He's currently the Chair of the Cheeks Precinct, the 2nd largest Precinct in Orange County and the Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity.

A man raised by moral standards and always giving back, Kenneth has a passion to assist older soldiers in their daily lives. He has been a humble servant in driving former WNCC Lay President Dr. James C. Johnson for over 20 years to meetings throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church and today he drives Mrs. Myrtle Mayo and Mrs. Hazeline Brooks.

Residing in Mebane, North Carolina, Kenneth is married to Leatrice Woods. They have four children, eight grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Kenneth stands firm for the love of God, Family, Community, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

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# Emmanuel A.M.E. Church History



Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the oldest black known congregations in Durham and Durham County, dates back to its earliest existence of 1880. Church services were held in the home of the founder, Mrs. & Mrs. William Fitzgerald, Sr. until 1883. Mr. Fitzgerald, a brick mason, was the first Black to own a brickyard. He erected a church at 705 Kent Street in the city of Durham on land he owned. The Fitzgerald's stipulated, "Should the building cease to be used as a church, it would revert to the Fitzgerald's or their heirs".

The pastors who served Emmanuel at Kent Street were: Reverends H.J. Jeter, C.S. Stroud, J.A Hunter, C.E. Johnson, J.C. Cross, Peter Crawford, G.W. Troublefield, J.E. Tredwell, P.O. James, J.F. Epps, Nathaniel Gaylord, L.G. Horton, L.O. Saunders and John R. Crutchfield.

Pastors and their dates of service to Emmanuel at the present location: Reverends John R. Crutchfield (1971-1983), Clyde Long (1983-1989), David L. Morrison, Sr. (1989-2001), Sheridan Knight (2001-2002), Shelton Miles (2002-2013) and Anita Thompson (2013 to present).

Notable contributions have been made during the tenure of many of our pastors. In 1966, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. L.O. Saunders, property on Cook Road in Durham was purchased as a parsonage for Emmanuel's Pastor.

November 1967, Rev. John R. Crutchfield was assigned as pastor to Emmanuel. Soon after he assumed his role, the congregation expressed interest in renovating the church on Kent Street. This was not feasible because the property was not properly deeded to the AME Church. Still somewhat dissatisfied with the condition of the building, the congregation explored the possibility of purchasing

another building and relocating. The Board of Trustees consisted of Brothers: John Leathers, Sr., Chairperson, Fred Hargraves, James Davis, William Tapp, Moses Webb and Sister Ethel Warren. The Board was authorized to begin a search for a new building. Brother John Leathers was informed that the congregation of Southern Baptist Church owned church property located at 2018 Riddle Road and wanted to sell it because the church had split. After thoughtful consideration and prayer, a church conference was called to further discuss purchasing the property. With less than 50 members on roll and the majority being present, the congregation voted to move ahead with plans to purchase the property at 2018 Riddle Road. The Church had no building fund at the time. Sister Helen Fike co-signed for the loan in the amount of \$25,000.

In March 1971, Rev. John R. Crutchfield and Emmanuel's members moved to our present location. The church was filled to capacity with members and visitors. New church pews were purchased, installed and paid for within 90 days. A church van was purchased; the church grounds were landscaped; playground equipment was donated; an altar was erected; hymnals were purchased; and a water fountain was installed. Choirs organized were: the Gospel Chorus, Celestial Heralds (1973); the Male Chorus (1979); and the Richard Allen Youth Choir. On September 26, 1971, a dedication ceremony was held with Bishop Henry W. Murph, Presiding Prelate of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church, presiding. Our Presiding Elder Dr. G. W. Larkin and Pastor John R. Crutchfield assisted. The church mortgage was liquidated on February 14, 1982. This brought about an overall increase in church membership and Sunday School. Church members took an active role in church programs and activities.

Brother John Leathers and Sister Helen Fike were called home to be with the Lord soon after Emmanuel moved to the new location.

Emmanuel was growing spiritually and financially. The increased membership regularly resulted with chairs in the aisles and the use of overflow seating on the lower level of the church. Emmanuel had outgrown the current sanctuary. Rev. Shelton T. Miles, Sr., who was assigned to Emmanuel in 2002, recognized the immediate need for expansion to meet the needs of the growing church congregation. Rev. Miles started a building fund campaign to build a new church. Emmanuel AME Church had a Ground Breaking Service with Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Presiding Prelate of the Second Episcopal District along with Rev. J. Bernard Wilder, Presiding Elder of the Western North Carolina Conference (Eastern District) presiding. The new sanctuary was dedicated on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October of 2008.

In November 2013, Pastor Anita M. Thompson was assigned to Emmanuel AME Church. Pastor Thompson uses her work experience in the public and private industry to move Emmanuel to the next level by providing spiritual and business accruements to the leadership of the church. Pastor Thompson is interested in the spiritual as well as the fiscal health of Emmanuel. Her vision is to provide Biblical solutions to promote personal success in life, family and work. As a result of Pastor Thompson's leadership, we have a noonday Bible Study for seniors, a church food pantry for the community, and Bridging the Gap Summer Program. Our worship experience is a time of honoring God, receiving sound Bible teaching and fellowshiping with others.

**Remembering OUR Past; Embracing OUR Future as we continue OUR Journey with God.**



**Eastern District**  
*Presiding Elder J. Bernard Wilder*

**Educational Heritage Tour**

**June 29-July 1, 2017**

Departing from Hillsborough, Greensboro & Charlotte  
(Times TBA)

**REVISED**

**SITES & ATTRACTIONS**

**\*\*Atlanta, Georgia\*\***

Sweet Auburn Avenue  
King National Historic Site  
Ebenezer Baptist Church/Grave Site & Family Home

**\*\*Tuskegee, Alabama\*\***

Tuskegee University (Training Airfield for Tuskegee Airmen)

**\*\*Montgomery, Alabama\*\***

Civil Rights Memorial Museum  
Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church  
Rosa Parks Museum  
Alabama State University

**\*\*Selma, Alabama\*\***

The Edmund Pettis Bridge  
Brown Chapel AME Church

**\*\*Birmingham, Alabama\*\***

The Civil Rights Institute

# CHURCH DIRECTORY APPEAL

I had hoped that I would be overwhelmed with responses to the appeal for church information. I thought all the churches would want to help put together this directory and I also thought most of the churches would love to have their church in the spotlight for a month. Unfortunately, I was wrong. I only received responses from 9 churches out of over 80 churches in our conference. This is not good. We are supposed to be a unified body and should be willing to pull together to get a job done.

Once more, I am asking for your assistance in getting the information I have requested below. Please try to have this info to me by December 17<sup>th</sup>. Lay Presidents, I am counting on your help.

I am also still looking for churches to spotlight, so please send me your church history. Deadline for articles for the newsletter is the **25<sup>th</sup> of the month** so it can be published by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

Thank you for your assistance.

Bobbi Hague  
Director of Public Relations  
WNCCLC  
704-957-7583

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
A HAPPY AND  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**



CHURCH NAME:

PHONE #:

FAX #:

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS:

CHURCH WEBSITE:

WORSHIP SERVICE HOUR(S):

CHURCH SCHOOL TIME:

BIBLE STUDY DAY:

BIBLE STUDY TIME:

MISCELLANEOUS INFO:

(Such as: nursery available (age limit); AA/NA meeting days & times; transportation service; etc.)

**Please Provide a Picture of the Church, if possible**

Information can be emailed to me at: [so-b-it1@hotmail.com](mailto:so-b-it1@hotmail.com)

# On The Lighter Side



Congratulations to **Rev. Kim Moss** on the latest addition to the family - a granddaughter



Congratulations are in order for **Brother Woodrow Winchester** on the marriage of his Daughter, Danielle.

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## PRAYERS GOING UP FOR:

P E J. Bernard Wilder  
 Bro. Dwight Patterson  
 Bro. Lamont Upperman

Rev. Willis Camp (former pastor of St. Paul in Mt. Airy) had a fall that went from a sprain to 2 broken bones - had to have emergency surgery on his right foot and ankle.



\*\*\*\*\*  
 Condolences to the family of Brother Bobby Rankin in the loss of his brother, Jerry

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Condolences to the Ifill Family in the loss of Journalist Ms. Gwen Ifill

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 Condolences to the Adams Metropolitan AME Church family upon the death of their faithful "doorkeeper" Ms. Dorothy Adams and prayers for her family

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## Upcoming Events

- Dec 1 Open enrollment begins for WNCCLO membership. In order to vote or run for a delegate position, churches need to have their paid registrations in to the membership chair by February 17<sup>th</sup>. Any questions please see membership chair, Niki Allen
- Dec 17 Bishop's & Supervisor's Christmas St. Paul AMEC - Raleigh
- Dec 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** There would be no **CHRISTMAS** without **CHRIST**



- Jan 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- Jan 14 WNCCLO Meeting - Union Bethel  
1716 Richard Allen Lane  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105 - 10AM
- Jan 16 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Feb 9-11 **FOUNDER'S DAY**

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**Sheraton 4 Seasons Greensboro**  
**Phone: 336-292-9161**  
**\$122.00 Basic Room Rate**  
**Mention the AME Founder's Day**

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## Preliminary Biennial Information

Greetings Presidents,

I have just returned from the Connectional Lay Organization Fall Executive Board meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Although the Biennial Budget has not be finalized, the Registration Committee feels safe in estimating that the **Registration will remain at \$250.00, which again will include a subscription to "We Speak". The Deadline for Registration to get to the CLO Registration team will remain at March 31, 2017.**

The hotels that will be used are the **Hilton** and the **Hyatt** in Columbus, Ohio.

An Agenda, (draft) not final, that was shared with Dates for the Biennial is as follows:

**Saturday, August 5, 2017** Time: TBD  
Service of Appreciation for Dr. Willie Glover

**Monday, August 7, 2017** Opening of the Biennial  
**Morning Business Session**

**Monday, August 7, 2017** Election Time: TBD

**Monday, August 7, 2017** CLO Biennial Worship  
Service - 7pm

**Tuesday, August 8, 2017 - 7pm**  
Black Tie Soiree Fundraiser for AME Universities  
**(\$100.00 - not included in Registration)**

**Wednesday, August 9, 2017 - 7pm**  
Outstanding Lay Awards and Scholarship Banquet  
Included in Registration fee

**Thursday, August 10, 2017** Time: TBD  
Installation of Officers and Closing of the  
Biennial

Additional information will be provided as available.

**Mrs. Valerie Bell - SEDLO President**

LIFETIME AMOUNT RAISED

**\$265.22**

ALL SUPPORTERS

**430**

**TOP DOZEN SUPPORTERS**



Penny  
\$26.80  
(Springdale)



Bobbi \*  
\$24.51  
(Greater Bethel)  
Ruth  
\$11.70  
(Greater Bethel)



Bobbi \*  
\$8.72  
(Greater Bethel)

Boneita  
\$0.63  
(Greater Bethel)

Ruth  
\$0.21  
(Greater Bethel)

Kenneth  
\$0.08  
(White Cross)  
Betty  
\$0.04  
(Greater Bethel)

Geraldine  
\$0.01  
(Greater Bethel)  
Jacqueline C  
\$0.00  
(Gaston Chapel)

Byron  
\$0.00  
(St. James W/S)

Brenda  
\$0.00  
(Greater Bethel)

\* Bobbi has a personal and business acct.

A zero dollar amount means the account was activated, but not used.

**To register:** Go to **Goodsearch.com** - establish a user name (can be your email address) and a password. When it asks you to select a cause, type in **Western North Carolina Lay Organization** - When you see our name, click on it.

Now when you need to do a search, use **Goodsearch** instead of Google or Bing and we get a penny each time. If you shop using **Goodshop**, we get a percentage of the money you spend. No one has made purchases so far this year, but the holidays are upon us. (See current stats below) So far this year we have only raised **\$17.94**. It should be closer to \$1,700.00 with over 80 churches participating. When you go to the **Goodsearch** website, check out how much some of the other organizations make a month.

Pass this information on to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to have them help us, especially now since it is getting close to Christmas and people will be shopping online. Thanks everyone.

### **Goodshop Sundays! Now All Month Long!**

It's time for our 3rd Annual **Goodshop Sunday**. We're offering amazing savings and up to **DOUBLE** the donations on the Sunday after Black Friday. But this year, **Goodshop Sundays** will happen EVERY week, from 10/23 through 11/27! Shop on these days and up to **TWO TIMES** the cash will go to **Western North Carolina Lay Organization**.

**[www.goodsearch.com/terms#donation\\_details](http://www.goodsearch.com/terms#donation_details)**

## 2016 Earnings

2016

Month	Goodsearch	Goodshop	Other	Total
<b>2016 Total</b>	<b>\$17.94</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$17.94</b>
January	\$2.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.52
February	\$2.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.90
March	\$2.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.36
April	\$1.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30
May	\$1.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.08
June	\$1.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.19
July	\$1.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.22
August	\$1.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.55
September	\$1.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.09
October	\$1.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.08
November	\$1.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.65
December	...	...	...	...

### NOTE:

For back issues of the newsletter, go to the website: [www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org) and click on the link that says “Minutes”, then scroll to the bottom of the page.