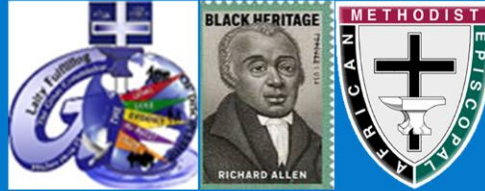


# Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization



## AUGUST 2017 SPECIAL EDITION

This Special Edition of the Lay Express Newsletter is to provide recognition to our 2017 graduates and to provide some coverage of our Annual Conference. Thanks to all of the churches who submitted your graduates' information. A special thanks to Sonia Barbre and Flo Avery for all of the great pictures. We hope you enjoy it.

### Be Who You Must Be

By: Diarmaid Cronin

I don't know where you are on your path  
I have never stood in your shoes  
I see not with your eyes.

I know not what your purpose is here  
In this stage of your evolution  
But I feel blessed to know you  
As you are not in my life by chance  
And you are my teacher

As I hope you learn from me  
I pray I show reverence to you  
I pray not to judge you  
I wish to let you be  
Who you are

Who you dream of being  
I will just be beside you  
And watch you grow  
And the day will come for sure  
When we will know why  
Our paths crossed this way  
And until then my friend  
Be who you must be.



To God Be the Glory!  
I just want to congratulate you as you graduate.



It's a treasured moment in your life, no one can take away. May you know God's hand upon you as you go forth into a future of expectation, with an abundance of God's grace.

I want to remind the graduates to keep the whole armor of God at all times. Keep the helmet of salvation upon your heads, remembering to protect your thinking from ungodly teachings. Remembering where you come from and where God is taking you.

Keep the breastplate of righteousness on at all times to protect the word of God which has been written upon your hearts.

Wear the belt of truth which holds all of your armor together for your spiritual protection; the truth which is Jesus Christ.

The shoes of the gospel of peace, sharing Christ with those you meet, bearing witness to all.

Carry the shield of your faith in God which will protect you against the attacks of the devil that WILL come against you. It will extinguish all of his fiery darts and keep you from harm.

And in your hand the Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God - your Bible. With the word, you will keep your enemy at bay.

And finally in all things, pray, pray, pray. Because it is through prayer that we have a relationship with God and it is through this relationship that we draw our strength.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Penny Oliver – Lay President  
Western North Carolina Conference



**Mount Zion AME Church – Hillsborough, NC**  
**Rev. Shelton T. Miles, Pastor**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Jalynn Smith	Orange High School	Durham Technical Community College	Criminal Justice	Grandson to Sister Bertha Corbett
Imani Hope Stephen	Orange High School	Bennett College	Journalism and Media Studies	Daughter of Beverly Hester-Stephen & granddaughter of Molly Bell Hester
Cameron McCrimmon	Orange High School	Louisburg College	Sports Management	Son of Tasha and Will McCrimmon & grandson of Mary Currie
Jonathyn Smith	Mount Zion Christian Academy	Guilford College	Sport Management and Business Administration	Son of Tammy and Dexter Smith & grandson of Carolyn and Hayes Betts
Kenisha Pulliam	Kendrick High School	Columbus Vocational Community College		Daughter of Kenton and Vicki Latta & granddaughter of the late John & Lucy Latta

**COLLEGES**

Matthew Alan Betts	Louisburg College	UNC-Chapel Hill	Mass Communication Degree	Son of Maria & the late Michael Betts, & grandson of Carolyn and Hayes Betts.
India Jones	UNC-Pembroke University	NCCU Graduate Program	B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice	Granddaughter of Wanda & Leon Torain
Tiffany Brooks	Shaw University	Graduate Program	B. S. Degree	Granddaughter of Bettie Brooks

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Erin Hester		Orange High		Daughter of Chris & Robin Hester, Granddaughter of Mary Currie & Great granddaughter of Molly Bell Hester
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## KINDERGARTEN

Keyasia Blackwell		Southern Elementary School		Daughter of Kevin Blackwell & granddaughter to Linda Blackwell
Brianna Wallace		Central Elementary School		Daughter of Natalya Brooks-Jones & Dee, & the granddaughter of Bettie Brooks
Christinina Evans		Central Elementary School		daughter to Jeremy Parker and the granddaughter to Nathan, and Jackie Parker
Antoine Leath II				Son to Antoine I, & the grandson of Gracie & Edward Leath



# *BETHEL – GREENSBORO*

*Rev. Alphonso McGlen - Pastor*

**John Spinks**

General Greene Elementary  
Kindergarten

**Ava Evans**

Gate City Charter Academy  
Kindergarten

**Aniyah Bennett**

Bluford Elementary  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Pamela Troxler**

Northeast Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Kasandra Steele**

Southern Guilford Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Nicholas McKinney**

The Academy at Lincoln

**Toshira Isley**

Grimsley High School  
Will be attending William Peace  
College, Raleigh

**Azariah Stroud**

Frazier Elementary  
Kindergarten

**Nylah Allen**

Jones Elementary  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Joshua Spinks**

Allen Jay Middle Preparatory  
Academy  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Malachi Bennett**

Kiser Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Makaela Steele**

Southern Guilford Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Torian Flowers**

Northern Guilford High School  
Will be attending Guilford College

**Jabari Spruill**

Triad Math & Science Academy  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade



**The World Is  
Yours To Conquer**



# Greater Bethel - Charlotte

Rev. Morris Reddon, Jr. - Pastor

## Elementary School

### Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K)

Christina Blackett  
Caleb Brown  
Caden Brown  
Lakhai Footman  
Hayden Footman

### Kindergarten (K)

Zandile Kemp  
Braxton Boyd  
Riley Lloyd  
Ryan Lloyd  
Brenton Boyd

### Second Grade (2)

Solomon Brown  
Taylor Dunmeyer

Zion Kemp (Barringer Academy - Horizon Program)

### Third Grade (3)

Bryce Boyd

### Fifth Grade (5)

Morgan Jones      Destiny Parker  
Trinity Barnett      Darian Lloyd

## Middle School

### Sixth Grade (6)

Jaylon Kesler  
Tatenda Mukusha

### Eighth Grade (8)

Jacob Harrison

## High School

### Tenth Grade (10)

Donovan Chicot  
Jalayah Harrison

### Eleventh Grade (11)

Joshua Ijames



## College/University

### Justin Bryant Wilson (Freshman)

A&T State University  
Major: Communication

### Morgan Alexis Kesler (Freshman)

Norfolk State University  
Major: Criminal Law

### Kiah Danielle Carrothers (Sophomore)

New York University  
Major: Psychology  
First Semester (A's & B's)  
Second Semester (5 A's)

### PhD Degrees

Mrs. Shenna Gaines - **Education**  
Ms. Shawana Burnett - **Nursing**

## Central Piedmont Community College

Theophilus Ijames \* Travis LaMonte Orr \* Chase Smith



# Rock Creek AME Church

Rev. Archie T. Evans - Pastor

## Pre-School Graduates:

Carter Caviness  
Coltan Caviness  
Jamison Crisp  
Kendrick Crisp  
Sigmund Platt  
Jalen Timmons

## Elementary School Graduates:

Gavin Caviness  
Aubrey Kimes  
Kieran Nunez  
Melanee Nunez  
Riley Tinnin  
Aniya Tinnin

## High School Graduates:

Jasmine Addington  
Jacod Addington  
Whitney Cobbins  
Kayla McSwain  
Jeremiah McSwain  
Nicholas Mintz  
Roman Patterson

## College Graduates:

MiKayla Graves  
Trinity Graves  
Caleb Holt  
Morgha Kimes  
Shelby Kimes  
Marcus Mintz

## Kindergarten Graduates:

Skylee Farrabee  
Leon Graves, Jr  
Stanton Platt

## Middle School Graduates:

Jasten Addington  
Kory Graves  
Dwain McSwain  
Melita McSwain  
Meilani Patterson  
Devon Patterson  
Ashlynn Tinnin



# Saint Joseph AME Church, Durham

Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Owens, Pastor



## PRESCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. **Kamden Alexander Bailey Taylor** graduated from preschool
2. **Raguell Couch** graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Durham Academy (Middle S
3. **Bryce McDonald** graduated from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade from Pearsontown Elementary and will be attending Rogers Herr Middle School
4. **Glameria Taylor** graduated from kindergarten

## HIGH SCHOOL

1. **Matthew Curry** graduated from Hillside High School and will be attending Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville
2. **Rita Furbert** graduated from Leesville High School and will be attending Louisburg College
3. **Janelle Izzard** graduated from Northern High School and will be attending East Carolina University, Greenville
4. **Savanna Kanu** graduated from Durham School of the Arts and will be attending UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill
5. **Destiny Max** graduated from Durham School of the Arts and will be attending North Carolina Central University, Durham
6. **Timothy McMillian** graduated from Jordan High School and will be attending Durham Tech. Community College, Durham

## COLLEGE GRADUATES

1. **Tiaira Bass** graduate from UNC Greensboro with BS in Business Administration
2. **Maya Bryant** graduated (Dec. 2016) from William Peace College with BA in Communications
3. **Iyana Waltrese** Faison graduated from UNC Greensboro with BS in Human Development & Family Studies with a minor in Sociology
4. **Lauren Hester** graduated (Dec. 2016) from North Carolina A&T State University with a BA in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Race, Class and Culture.
5. **Matthew McKenzie Foster** graduated from UNC Wilmington with a BA in Public Health
6. **Ronnise Owens** graduated from Spelman College with BA in Psychology

## MASTER'S DEGREE:

**Shontea L. Smith** graduated from Duke University with a Master's of Theological Studies





# Recognizing Our Emmanuel AME Stars

**Aaron Perry**  
**Pre-K**  
 Kreative Kidz  
 Loves to play  
 musical  
 instruments

**Aniyah Douglas**  
**Pre-K**  
 Kreative Kidz  
 Count to 10 in  
 Spanish & 100 in  
 English

**J'Keya Dukes**  
**Kindergarten**  
 Club Blvd School  
 Loves to Dance

**Avery Riggs**  
 Kindergarten  
 Morehead  
 Montessori  
 Loves Horseback  
 Riding

**Ashtin Bellamy**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**  
 Holt Elementary  
 Read 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
 level

**Jaida Grayson**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**  
 Alston Ridge Elem  
 Received Reading  
 Award

**Kennadi Hunter**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**  
 Morehead  
 Montessori  
 Loves to Read

**Alliyah Liles**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**  
 CC Spaulding  
 Elementary  
 Loves to write &  
 draw

**Jordan Little**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**  
 Grady A Brown  
 Elementary  
 Excellent  
 Academic

**Kema Atkins**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
 Creekside  
 Elementary  
 Read 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
 level

**Nasir Henry**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
 Morehead  
 Montessori  
 Improved Reading  
 Level

**Kaydence**  
**Hickman**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
 Burton  
 Elementary  
 Improved Reading  
 Award

**Maurice McBride**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
 EK Powe  
 Elementary  
 Read 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
 level - Tutored  
 Kindergarten

**Kinnadi Dennis**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
 Walnut Creek  
 Elementary  
 Achievement  
 Award in Reading

**Isis Henry**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
 Morehead  
 Montessori  
 Improved Reading  
 Level

**Kelis Richmond**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
 Sandy Ridge Elem.  
 Accelerated in  
 Math

**Ja'Kira Jones**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
 Club Blvd. School  
 Reading  
 Improvement

**Makayla Bullock**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
 Selma Elementary  
 "A" Honor Roll all  
 year

**Arianna Lawson**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
 CC Spaulding  
 Elementary  
 Excellence in  
 Writing

**Simone Watley**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
 Holt Elementary  
 Progress in  
 Reading

**William Butts**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
 Oak Grove Elem  
 Improved Reading  
 Level

**Tony Hunter**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
 Morehead  
 Montessori  
 Plays AAU  
 Basketball

**Christian Harrington**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Southwest Elementary  
Best Student in Class

**Taylor Jones**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Mt Zion Academy  
Love Math & Science

**Myles Butts**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Oak Grove Elem.  
National Honor Society

**Ja'Kwon Jones**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Club Blvd School  
Accepted-AIG Program

**Joshua Little**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
A. L. Stanback Middle School  
Excellent in Academic

**Chelsa Brown**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Brodden Middle School  
Excellence in Science

**Khalil Jacobs**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Kestrel Heights School  
Favorite Subject is Science

**Marlon Corbett**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Rogers Herr Middle  
Student of the Month

**Kayla Sims**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Shepard Middle  
AIG-IB Honor Student

**KeAndre' Johnson**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Maureen Joy Charter School  
Boys-1<sup>st</sup> Place Track

**Isaiah Prince**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Rogers Herr Middle School  
Best Artwork Award

**Taniyah Roberts**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Lowes Grove Middle School  
AIG -IB at Hillside

**Eleanya**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Cedar Ridge High  
A/B Honor Roll  
Loves Technology Reading & Writing

**Kayla Beckett**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
JDC Early College  
A/B Honor Roll

**James McCoy Jr.**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Hillside New Tech  
"Big Man on Campus"

**Nyrie McDuffie**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Jordan High School  
Moving Upward

**Nashanti Silvera**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
City Medicine Academy  
A/B Honor Roll

**Destiny Reyes**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
Middle College DTCC  
Taking College Courses

**MiCayla Steele**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
South Granville High  
Began Cosmetology & High School courses



**Emmanuel AME Church - Durham**

**2017 College & High School Graduates:**

**Tonya Prince**

North Carolina Central University

Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Juvenile Justice

**Jasmine Everett**

Master of Arts Degree in Curriculum Education

**Mariah D. Alexander**

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Bachelor of Science Degree in Math & Minor in Computer Science

**Jocelyn A. McCoy**

North Carolina Central University

Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health Education

**Elizabeth A. G. Wood** - High School Graduate

City of Medicine Academy

Attending UNC at Chapel Hill

Majoring in Public Health with concentration in Environmental Science

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**Queens Chapel AME Church - Burlington**

**Pastor: Rev. Kerry P. Rigsbee**

**Jalessa Rigsbee** - University of North Carolina at Greensboro:

Bachelor of Arts - Graduated cum laude

**Kerri Rigsbee** - Belmont Abbey College: Bachelor of Arts

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**Gaines Chapel AME Church**

**High School Graduates:**

**Yasmine Cobb**

**Nigel Latta**

**Adriana Mangum** is going to High School

**Kye James**

**Alexia McAdoo**

**Persimmon Grove AME Church**

**Mr. Ari Walker** - New Garden Friends High School - will be attending Guilford College

**Ms. Morgan Gibbs** – UNC-Greensboro

**Zakee Ameer Simmons** - graduated from Hillside High School in Durham - will be attending Hampton University in Hampton, VA - grandson of the pastor

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**New Covenant AME Church**

**Rev. Jacqueline Robertson, Pastor**

**Christian Dowling** - Kindergarten

**Allaya Nicole Spencer** - Vance High School

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**Shiloh AME Church - Morganton**

**Pre-K to Kindergarten:**

**Amirah Rutherford** graduated from Creative Beginnings and will be in Kindergarten at Oak Hill Elementary

**Elementary to Middle:**

**Bria Corpening** and **Devyn Chapman** graduated from 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Oak Hill Elementary to 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Table Rock Middle

**Middle to High School:**

**Myles Fleming-Young** graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Table Rock Middle to 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Freedom High School

**High School:**

**Sierra Nacole Forney** graduated from Freedom High and will attend UNC-Greensboro where she plans to major in Recreational Therapy

**College Graduate:**

**Shalee Nacole Forney** earned her Masters of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies from UNC-Greensboro

**Lincolville AME Church, Raleigh**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Beatty

High School:

Brandon Russ

Jay'da Woodley

\*\*\*\*\*

**Poplar Springs AME Church**

Southern Lee High School Grads, Sanford

Rodney KaShaun Boykin - to NC A & T University

Talia Dalrymple - to Sandhills Community College

Myeshia Snipes

Overhills High School Grad

Jamaouria Dorsett

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Lenoir**

**Carly Patterson** graduated with honors from UNCC and carried a 4.0 Grade Point Average for all 4 years. She was inducted into the Social Work Honor Society, Phi Alpha and into the National Society of Leadership and Success. She was a member of the Executive Board of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Carly graduated SUMMA CUM LAUDE.

She is currently enrolled in Graduate School at UNCC seeking her Master's Degree. Carly is the daughter of Rev. Samuel & Rev. Carla Patterson. Rev. Samuel is the pastor of Hartland A.M.E. and Mars Hill A.M.E. Churches. She is the granddaughter of Barbara R. Smith.

**Imani Bowick** graduated from Caldwell Middle College in May with a CNA certification and high school diploma. She is the daughter of James and Marsha Bowick.



**Turners Chapel AME Church**

**Inez Cole** - Kindergarten  
**Eli Pender** - 5th grade  
**Rashad Murphy** - 8th  
**Precious Bracey** - 8th

**Kera Walker** - 12th  
**Jasmine Wilson** - 12th  
**Jasmyne Bracey** - 12th  
**Kyler Marks** - 12th

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**Clapp's Chapel AME Church**

**Rev. Dr. Clay L Barrow** - Hood Theological Seminary - Doctor of Ministry - May 20<sup>th</sup>

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**Gaines Chapel AME Church - Efland**

**Rev. David P. Lowe, Pastor**

**Kindergarten**

Arianna Washington

**High School**

Yasmin Cobb  
Kye James  
Alexia McAdoo  
Jalee Tate  
Nigel Latta

**College**

India Jones  
Jevon McPherson  
Antiono Mebane

\*\*\*\*\*

**Springdale AME Church**

**Pastor Robert L. Goode**

**MiRonda Swepson** - from Middle school to High School  
**Cameron Allen** - from Middle school to High School  
**Stella Shoffner** - Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education  
**Cody Corbett** - Bachelor of Arts in History



**Mt. Sinai AME Church - Pittsboro**

**College:**

Alexis Brower

**High School:**

Kristian Eanes

Telia Rone

Malik Kirby

Jazanae Billings

Jamison Dorsey

**Middle School:**

Mason Spencer

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**Elizabeth AME Church - Liberty**

**Graduated to Kindergarten**

Kaidyn Turner

Macy Turner

Nikeim Curtis

Tyler Adams

**Graduated to 6th Grade**

TaShawn Curtis

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**Hunter's Chapel A.M.E. Church, Mebane**

**Jacoby D. Brown**

Graduated from Eastern Alamance High School

Son of Diane and the late Gerald Brown

Plans to attend Alamance Community College or the Naval Academy

**Kyle Stanley**

Graduated from Gravelly Hill Middle School

Son of Robin and Dionne Stanley

Plans to attend Orange High School

## Mount Zion AME Church - Hillsborough



**Imani Hope Stephen** - Attending Bennett College, Majoring in Journalism and Media Studies

**Cameron McCrimmon** - Attending Louisburg College, Majoring in Sports Management



# WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 2017

On Wednesday morning the WMS had their Tanner Turner Memorial Prayer Breakfast. The speaker was Rev. Diane Conley, pastor of McElrath Chapel AME Church in Morganton.

At noon the Lay had their program featuring singing by 2 dynamic men's choruses that showcased our African American brothers and their many talents. They were the Emmanuel and the Ethel Anderson Male Choruses.



During the program, our Young Adult Representative, Mary Harris presented trophies to the winners of the Jack and Jill Experience. In their absence, Betty Parker, Greater Bethel Lay President, accepted the awards for Zion and Zandile Kemp.







That evening, the WMS held their Night in White program that featured the soul-stirring music of Ms. Dottie Peoples. They had 30 new women to be capped and 8 men to be pinned.

On Thursday morning we had the official opening ceremony with the speaker being Rev. Kelvin Royster who took his text from Habakkuk 3:17-19 - "Seeing Beyond a Hopeless Situation".



On Friday morning, more reports were given. Each Pastor was asked how many persons they would be bringing to the Summer Summit. Bishop was concerned about some of the numbers.

During the evening program, we celebrated our men. The Lincolnton Men's Chorus sang us happy while their pastor, Rev. Harry Simpson, gave a dynamic message. The Man of the Year was recognized from each of the churches. Also, the honorable Associate Justice Michael Morgan accepted the plaque that was presented to him for his outstanding work. The Bishop asked him to come back the next night so that the youth could see someone like them who had excelled to greater heights.



The Ordination/Communion Service on Friday afternoon was so moving. The word was brought by retired Bishop Frank Cummings. His text was taken from John 15:16-17 and his sermon topic was "I'm In It to Win It".

Our Bishop washed the hands of the candidates for ordination, which was so symbolic of Jesus being a "Servant". He challenged each one regarding their desire to serve before ordaining them. This service was rich.



Friday evening saw the churches showcase the talent of their youth. The still pictures do not do it justice. The youth were awesome. Because some of the youth were so outstanding, and the Bishop was so impressed, he agreed to pay their tuition to the Summer Summit himself.



Donovan Chicot on violin & Zion Kemp on keyboard from Greater Bethel AMEC



Dancers from Emmanuel AMEC





**Persimmon Grove  
singers and  
Step Team**

**Youth Night  
Dancers**





### **Youth Night**

Saturday was closing service with the appointment of Pastors. Several changes were made and one Pastor asked to have her church closed due to low membership and the strain of keeping the doors open.

This Annual Conference was one of the best ever (editor's personal opinion).

We look forward to bigger and better things in our Conference thanks to the leadership of our Bishop and Episcopal Supervisor.

To God be the glory for the things He has done!