



THE LAY EXPRESS

Second Episcopal District ~ African Methodist Episcopal Church
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Website: <http://wncclay.org/>



VOLUME IV

SEPTEMBER 2018

ISSUE 9

From
the desk
of...

Penny S. Oliver, President



Then God Said, "let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the seas and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Genesis 1:26

Since God has given us dominion over everything on the earth, let us, the people of God, rise to the occasion and to take charge of the environments we have influence within. It is time for us to start influencing the environments we are allowed to steward, **NOW!** God did not create us to be average or cowards. Mediocrity has no room in God's temple. God doesn't want **OUR** leftovers; God wants **OUR BEST!** Therefore, we ought to do all things with **EXCELLENCE!**

Our Biennial theme, "Laity Walking Humbly with God to do Justice and to Love Kindness," supports the scripture texts found in *Genesis 1:26*. President Valerie Bell reminded us in her letter, "A Call to Action," that "...this is a **CALL TO ACTION FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION**, at all levels of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to support and participate." She emphasized that, "[o]ur country is in a very dark place now. What is going on daily in Washington, DC turns out more lights in the world. In Puerto Rico, across the southern borders of the United States of America, families are being ripped apart; in Congress some find no way to call the Executive branch of government to order as required by the Constitution; security clearances are being ripped away from some and threats are being made against others; and the leader of the free world has been recorded as telling over 6,000 lies since occupying the White House."

Many of us are not available to travel to Washington, D.C., September 5-6, 2018, to unite with other AME's and people of faith; however, we are available to get people registered to vote and to take people to the poll to vote in order that they may participate in the November 2018 election. We are available to make a difference in our homes, communities and our churches.

We, as laity of the Western North Carolina Conference, must learn to put everything in God's hand and trust the Lord, **UNCONDITIONALLY**. I encourage those called by God to take up the mantle of authority. The Good News of Jesus Christ demands we take charge of our homes, neighborhoods, communities and the world entrusted to our stewardship by the Creator.

Join us as we petition the Lord at the WNCC-Lay Organization's 11th Annual Prayer Breakfast at St. Matthew's, in Burlington, N.C., September 8, 2018, 10 am. Additionally, we implore you to attend the WNCC-Lay Organization meeting, October 13th, at St. James, Winston-Salem, N.C., 10 am.

"Golgotha", Art by Romare Bearden



Election
Day
Is Less Than
- 70 -
Days Away

AME V-Alert

Vote Like Your Life Depends On It...
Because It Just May!



More Information Available At:

<http://www.amev-alert.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/V-Alert-Guide-2018.pdf>



Second Episcopal District
**17TH ANNUAL LAY
CONVENTION**
Newport News, VA
Marriott at Center City
September 27-29, 2018

*On-site
Registration
\$200*

*For hotel reservations, please call
757-873-9299
Reservation for Lay Organization, A.M.E.
Church.
Room rate is \$124.00 plus tax.*

*Should you have any questions
Contact:
Sister Barbara Smith
Phone: 828-292-9718
Email: smithbarbarar@bellsouth.net.*

Have you purchased the Second Episcopal District
Lay Organization Lapel Pin? If not, it is not too
late.

The pins are \$10.00 each. Checks should be made
payable to the WNCC-Lay Organization.
Contact Jackie Kanipe by email,
jconleyk@bellsouth.net or telephone call,
828-433-8424.

**Western
North
Carolina
Conference
Lay
Organization
Meeting**



October 13, 2018, 10am

Saint James AMEC

**1501 N. Patterson Ave.
Winston-Salem, NC**

**Rev. Shelton Miles
Pastor**

**Bro. Byron Barbre
Local Lay President**



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE



LAY INSTITUTE SAVE

THE DATE

November 10, 2018

Topics of Interest

// Dialogue with WNCC Presiding Elders

Presiding Elder Conrad Pridgen, Western District
Presiding Elder Anita Thompson, Eastern District

// How to Bridge the Gap between Clergy & Laity

// The Lay Electoral College

Reverends Henry & Arnita Davis
Host Pastors

Brother Woodrow Winchester
Lay President

Mount Zion AME Church
1452 Huffine Mill Road
Greensboro, NC, 27405

Registration
\$10



www.wncclay.org

Happy 102nd Birthday

Mother Joanna



Mrs. Joanna Leach, formerly “Joanna Moore”, is the last surviving of 9 children of Lugenia Williams Moore and Joseph Moore. She was born on September 29, 1915 in Pittsboro, North Carolina, the town in which she has lived for

over 102 years. Joanna was the 5th of the nine children. As a young child, Joanna loved playing tennis, jack rocks, jumping rope and hopscotch with her friends. Though Pittsboro was segregated during this time, Joanna recalls sometimes playing with white children as well as her black friends. She also spent much of her time working when she was not in school.

At a very early age, Joanna dedicated her life to the Lord and joined the Mt. Sinai A.M.E. church family of which she remains a member to this day. Joanna recalls she loved attending Sunday School. She would go to Sunday School at Mt. Sinai in the morning, and then at St. James Episcopal church in the evening. Over her years of faithful service, Joanna was an active member of several organizations, including the Stewardess Board and the Bible Band, where she served as President, the Usher Board of which she was an Officer, the Helping Hand Club which she and others organized, the Mt. Sinai Choir, Busy Bee, Mother of the Church and Leach Educational Fund, a family based organization that provides mentorship, fellowship and even scholarships to college-bound persons in need of assistance.

Joanna had 3 children, Jeanette Marie, Robert Louis and Peggy Ann with her husband, Robert. Her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren have benefited from Joanna’s commitment to service, education and the Lord. Joanna has proudly travelled to multiple states to attend the college and post-graduation commencement services of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

At 102, Joanna is still blessed to have a sharp mind and wonderful memory.



History of Gaines Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

In 1904, several aggressive laypersons began to meet from house to house to discuss building a church in their community. These individuals included two local ministers, Rev. Julious Tate and Rev. Sam Allison. Other participants who joined them in their venture were Mr. Albert Riley, Mr. Sherman Morrow, Mr. Robert Watson, Mr. Cornelius "Babe" Tate, Mr. Arthur McDade and Mr. Robert Megager Enoch. These individuals are considered the founding fathers of Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church.

Mr. Albert Riley donated the land to the community to build a place of worship. Upon this plot of land, a "Brush Arbor" was erected for worshipping until a sanctuary could be built.

From these pioneers, great works were accomplished, such as purchasing a small "Storehouse" from Mr. D. E. Forrest. The "Storehouse" was moved and restored on the land that was donated by Mr. Albert Riley. With much motivation, determination and aspiration, these founders remodeled the "Storehouse" and added a "Belfry".

After much remodeling and cosmetic furnishings, the church was ready for dedication. From Bishop Gaines ministering and leadership, the church was dedicated and named in his honor, Gaines Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Through prayer, faith, unity and dedication, the church prospered and grew in the following years.

In 1905, the Cornerstone was laid and engraved by Rev. A. J. Corde.

In 1929, Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church was rebuilt at the present location by Rev. H. L. Thomas and faithful members.

In 1964, under the leadership of Rev. S. G. Thompkins, the church was remodeled.

Due to the four local churches in the surrounding vicinity, the "Efland Circuit" name was created. These churches included Hunter's Chapel, White Cross, Harvey's Chapel and Gaines Chapel. Worship services were held once a month at each church with Gaines Chapel's services being held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

In 1967, the "Efland Circuit" was divided, leaving only two churches, Gaines Chapel and Harvey's Chapel. Worship services were then held on the second and fourth Sundays at Gaines Chapel.

In 1967 to 1982, Gaines Chapel was under the leadership of Rev. Aaron White. In 1968, the church parsonage was purchased. In 1971, the land for Gaines Chapel Memorial Garden was



In 1982, under the leadership of Rev. Henry B. Williams, Sr., Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church became a "Station Church." During his leadership, the outer appearance of the church was again remodeled with new semi-circled steps and railings, remodeling of the Altar and a public address system was installed. In 1983 and 1984, beautiful stained glass windows and pews were purchased.

In 1986, under the leadership of Rev. L. S. Werts, plans were outlined for the parking lot and a new piano was purchased.

After Rev. Leroy Miller became pastor, the final stages of the parking lot were completed and the discussion of a new project, the replacement of the front doors.



In 1992, Gaines Chapel graciously welcomed Rev. Ralph Stephens as its pastor and again other projects were completed. They included the installation of the new mirrored front doors, re-carpeting of the floors and remodeling the Fellowship Hall. During Rev. Stephen's pastorate, he was called from his labor to reward.

Presiding Elder Tyson L. Coble rendered services along with other ministers he sent until Rev. Charles Blalock was appointed pastor. Under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Blalock. We continued the upkeep of the church, the parking lot and the cemetery.

After Rev. Charles Blalock's pastorate, Rev. Wade Morrison was sent to pastor Gaines Chapel. Under his leadership, the parsonage was remodeled, the Fellowship Hall was re-decorated and a new utility house was purchased.

In 2005, Rev. George Cheek continued the legacy of this great church and the initiation and the discussion of the purchase of property surrounding the church.

At the Midyear Conference of October 1, 2009, Gaines Chapel again experienced a change in pastors and Rev. Dr. Barbaretta W. McGill assumed her duties here on Sunday November 1, 2009. She brought new ideas, new hope and untiring energy to continue this legacy. She instituted a music ministry, a food ministry, couple's ministry, newsletter "The Lantern", and making sure that all legal documents were updated. A new furnace was purchased, a new roof, new tables and chairs for the Fellowship Hall, and a bus.

During the 2013 Midyear Conference, Rev. David P. Lowe was appointed pastor of Gaines Chapel Church. A new lighted sign was installed on the church grounds.

We are continuing the great works of our forefathers through this great spiritual leader. As we look around today from 1905 to 2018, 113 years, our ancestors worshipped at the "Brush Arbor," we hold these years of history in these walls. We are the children, children's children continuing this great legacy through the Founding Father's Scholarship funds to help educate our youth, train and guide them through Christian Education, the Missionary Society Young People's Department, Church School, Bible Study, Lay Organization and other programs of the church. We gather between these sacred walls with the spirit and tenacity of our ancestors and the spirit of unconditional love and sacrifice to continue this great legacy.



Hidden Figures

Gaines Chapel



Maggie Holman Loftin, born and raised in Efland, N.C., the fourteenth child of fifteen born to the late Alvis and Luza Tate Holman. She attended segregated schools. She was hired as the first teacher's aide for the first Kindergarten in North Carolina at Efland Cheek School. This Kindergarten class was a pilot program initiated by UNC in Chapel Hill, N.C.

After being out of school for twelve years and a teacher's aide for four years, Sister Loftin was encouraged by the teachers and the Superintendent to go to college and get a degree.

She entered North Carolina College in Durham, N. C., now North Carolina Central University earning a B. A. degree in English and Library Science. Later, she pursued post-graduate studies and completed work for a Master's degree in Library Science, May 1975, and further studies in Educational Technology and Instructional Development.

She retired from C. W. Stanford Middle School, Hillsborough, N.C., in June 2000, after 31 years of service.

Sister Loftin believes, "if you set your goals and aim high, it is never too late nor are you too old to pursue an education", because she was in college with



Does your church have members (living or deceased) who have done exemplary things in the community, or who are/were trailblazers in their profession(s)?

Well... the *Lay Express* want to know who they are, and what they did.

Each month the *Lay Express* will highlight a church in the Western North Carolina Conference and feature the church's "Hidden Figures"

Just send the individual's name (layperson or clergy), a picture (if available), and a very brief description of your church's "Hidden Figures".

You never know when your church will enter the spotlight, so ***the SOONER*** you submit your "Hidden Figure(s)" ***the BETTER!***



365 DAYS OF BLACK HISTORY

The September Edition

September 1, 1867

Robert T. Freeman becomes the first Black person to graduate from Harvard Dental School.

September 1, 1875

White Democrats attacked Republicans at Yazoo City, Mississippi. One white and three Blacks were killed.

September 2, 1911

Romare Bearden, one of the major contributors to the world of art and literature, was born in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Romare Bearden

September 2, 1975

Joseph W. Hatchett sworn in as first Black supreme court justice in the South in the twentieth century.

September 3, 1783

Richard Allen, founder of the AME Church, purchases his freedom with his earnings as a self-employed teamster.

September 3, 1838

Frederick Douglass, disguised as a sailor escapes from slavery.

September 4, 1875

Clinton Massacre, Clinton, Mississippi. Twenty to thirty Blacks killed.

September 4, 2001

Katherine Dunham (1910-). With the "Aida" production in 1963, Katherine Dunham was the first Black choreographer for the Metropolitan Opera.



Katherine Dunham

September 5, 1804

Absalom Jones ordained a priest in the Protestant Episcopal Church.

September 5, 1895

George Washington Murray was elected to Congress by South Carolina, 1895.

September 6, 1826

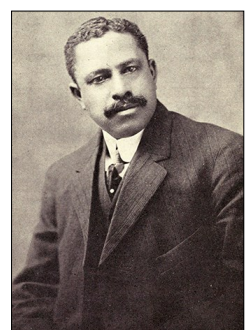
John Brown Russwurm becomes the first Black to graduate from Bowdoin College.

September 6, 1848

National Black Convention met in Cleveland with some seventy delegates. Frederick Douglass was elected president of the convention.

September 7, 1859

John Merrick, co-organizer of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, was born.



John Merrick

September 7, 1954

The start of Integration for MD public schools, and Washington DC public school, 1954

September 8, 1957

Althea Gibson, becomes the first Black athlete to win a US national tennis Championship.

September 8, 1993

Dr. Joycelyn Elders (born Minnie Lee Jones), is nominated to the highest medical office in the land, U.S. Surgeon General, by President Bill Clinton.



Dr. Joycelyn Elders

September 9, 1739

Slave Freedom Movement occurred, Stono, South Carolina, led by rebel named Jemmy. Twenty-five whites were killed before the insurrection was put down.

September 9, 1817

Alexander Lucius Twilight becomes the first Black to graduate from Middlebury College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

September 10, 1913

George W. Buckner, a physician from Indiana, named minister to Liberia.

September 10, 1962

Supreme Court Justice, Hugo Black, vacated an order of a lower court, ruling that the University of Mississippi had to admit James H. Meredith, a Black Air Force veteran whose application for admission had been on file and in the courts for fourteen months.

September 11, 1885

Moses A. Hopkins, minister and educator, named minister to Liberia.

September 11, 1959

"Duke" Ellington gets the Spingarn Medal for his musical achievements.

September 12, 1977

One of the greatest sons of Africa was brutally murdered by the government of apartheid in South Africa.

September 12, 1992

Dr. Mae Jemison became the first African-American woman in space when she launched from the Kennedy Center to join Spacelab J, a joint U.S.-Japanese mission.

September 13, 1663

First known serious slave conspiracy in colonial America. Plot of white servants and slaves in Gloucester County, Va., was betrayed by an indentured servant.

September 13, 1886

Alain Leroy Locke, a leading black intellectual during the early twentieth century and an important supporter of the Harlem Renaissance, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

September 14, 1921

Constance Baker Motley, US Cabinet member, was born.

September 14, 1940

Blacks were allowed to enter all branches of the US Military Service, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Selective Service Act.



Alain Leroy Locke

September 15, 1945

Known for her stage presence, vocal range, and her ability to convey emotion, Jessye Norman is one of the world's most respected opera singers.

September 15, 1964

Rev. K.L. Buford and Dr. Stanley Smith were elected to Tuskegee City Council and became first Black elected officials in Alabama in twentieth century.

September 16, 1848

The French abolish Slavery in all their territories.

September 16, 1925

Riley B. King, better known by his stage name “B.B. King”, was born.

September 17, 1787

U.S. Constitution approved at Philadelphia convention with three clauses protecting slavery.

September 17, 1983

Vanessa Williams becomes the 1st African American to be crowned Miss America.



Vanessa Williams

September 18, 1850

As part of the Compromise of 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, 1850.

September 18, 1919

Fritz Pollard becomes the first black to play Professional football for a major team, the Akron Indians.

September 19, 1881

Booker T. Washington opens Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

September 19, 1951

Otis Redding was born in Dawson, GA.

September 20, 1830

First National Black convention met at Philadelphia's Bethel AME church and elected Richard Allen president. Thirty-eight delegates from eight states attended the first national meeting of Blacks.

September 20, 1885

Pianist, Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton was born in New Orleans, Louisiana.

September 21, 1832

Maria W. Stewart (1803-1879) addressed the New England Anti-Slavery Society meeting in Boston's Franklin Hall on the evils of slavery and the oppression of free blacks.



Maria W. Stewart

September 21, 1872

John Henry Conyers of South Carolina became the first Black student at Annapolis Naval Academy.

September 22, 1868

Race riot occurred in New Orleans.

September 22, 1905

In a race riot in Atlanta, ten Blacks and two whites killed. Martial law proclaimed.

September 23, 1884

Judy W. Reed received a United States patent for a patent on her “Dough Kneader and Roller.” She is considered to be the first African American woman receive a patent.

September 23, 1926

John William Coltrane was born in Hamlet, North Carolina.

September 24, 1894

Edward Franklin Frazier was born on this day.

September 24, 1957

Nine Black students start high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.

September 25, 1974

Barbara W. Hancock becomes the first Black woman named a White House fellow.

September 25, 1991

Spencer Williams's 1942 movie, *Blood of Jesus*, is among the third group of 25 films added to the Library of Congress's National Film Registry.

September 26, 1962

A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., becomes the first African American member of the Federal Trade Commission. He was also appointed a federal district judge and U.S. Circuit Judge of the Third Circuit.



Maggie L. Walker

September 26, 1867

Maggie L. Walker, business and civic leader, was born. Named president of Richmond's St. Luke Bank and Trust Company, she became the first Black woman to head a bank.

September 27, 1817

Hiram R. Revels, first Black U.S. senator, born free in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

September 27, 1812

WC Handy publishes, *Memphis Blue*, the first blues song.

September 28, 1785

David Walker, abolitionist and writer of *The Appeal*, was born free in Wilmington, North Carolina.

September 28, 1829

David Walker first publishes his fiery tract *The Appeal*. Its eloquence and uncompromising defiance was a source of great inspiration to African people, free and slave, as well as cause for alarm for Southern slave owners and many Northern abolitionists who favored more gradual change.



David Walker

September 29, 1784

The First African Lodge, #459, was established with Prince Hall as its Worshipful Master.

September 29, 1979

Sir William Arthur Lewis, Professor of Economics Princeton University, became the first black to receive the Nobel Prize in Economics. This award represents the highest level of accomplishment for an economist.

September 30, 1962

Large force of federal marshals escorted James H. Meredith to the campus of the University of Mississippi. President Kennedy federalized the Mississippi National Guard and urged Mississippians to accept the orders of the court in a radio-TV address.

University of Mississippi students and adults from Oxford, Miss., and other Southern communities rioted on the university campus. Two persons were killed and one hundred or more were wounded.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE CONNECTION



- September 5-6, 2018.....Call to Consciousness: Forward to Action Rally**
Glenn Dale, MD & Washington, DC
- September 8, 2018.....WNCC Lay Organization Prayer Breakfast**
St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, Burlington, NC
Rev. Patrice Fields, Pastor / Sis. Emma White, Lay President
- September 13-15, 2018Western District Conference**
St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Lenoir, NC
Presiding Elder Conrad Pridgen/ Rev. Dr. Byron Grayson, Pastor
- September 20-22, 2018Eastern District Conference**
Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Hillsborough, NC
Presiding Elder Anita Thompson/ Rev. Dr. Steven Lyons, Pastor
- September 27-29, 2018.....SED Lay Organization Convention**
Newport News Marriott at City Center, Newport News, Virginia
Sis. Barbara Smith, WNCC Registrar
- October 13, 2018WNCC-LO Meeting**
St. James A.M.E. Church, Winston-Salem, NC
Rev. Shelton Miles, Pastor/ Bro. Byron Barbre, Lay President
- November 10, 2018.....WNCC-LO Lay Institute**
Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Greensboro, NC
Revs. Henry & Arnita Davis, Pastor / Bro. Woodrow Winchester, Lay President
- December 8, 2018.....Christmas with the Bishop**
TBA
- May 1-4, 2019..... 127th Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference**
Location Forthcoming
- June 9, 2019..... 2019 Pentecost**
Baltimore, MD

UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars
EVENTS



St. Paul Church Safety Training Seminar	St. Paul AME Church Rev. Dr. Michael A. Cousin, Pastor 101 North Merritt Mill Road Chapel Hill, NC	September 8, 2018, 1:30pm
Gaines Chapel Church Anniversary	Gaines Chapel AME Church Rev. David P. Lowe, Pastor 4024 US Highway 70 W Efland, NC	September 16, 2018, 3pm For more information call: 919.563.5648
Pearson Memorial Church Homecoming	Pearson Memorial AME Church Rev. Maye E. Reddick. Pastor 804 E. Washington Drive High Point, NC	September 16, 2018 11am & 3pm For more information contact: 336.841.3032
Pearson Memorial Church Revival	Pearson Memorial AME Church Rev. Maye E. Reddick. Pastor 804 E. Washington Drive High Point, NC	September 17-19, 2018, 7pm For more information contact: 336.841.3032
100 Women in Red Masquerade	Willow Tree AME Church Rev. W. L. Howell, Pastor 2500 Willow Tree Church Avenue Morganton, NC	October 6, 2018, 7:00pm 12 noon // Afternoon Delight Smorgasbord 2pm //Worship Service \$15.00 Seed Offering For more information contact: 828.301.3771
Emmanuel Lay Day	Emmanuel AME Church Rev. John D. Burton, Pastor 2018 Riddle Road Durham, NC	October 14. 2018, 10:00am Lay President: Sister Sandra DeGeneste Guest Speaker: Brother Dwyane Elam For more information contact: 919.596.8891
Lincolnvillle Lay Day	Lincolnvillle AME Church Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Beatty, Pastor 6400 Chapel Hill Road Raleigh, NC	October 14. 2018, 11:00am For more information contact: 919.851.6085

REMINERS



"The Annunciation" Art by Romare Bearden

- Open an account at a Black Bank.
- Support ERT.

For additional information on conference events,
Please visit the Second Episcopal District website,
www.ame2.com,
and/or the website of the WNCCLay Organization,
www.wncclay.org.

WE NEED YOUR "CHURCH HISTORY",
"HIDDEN FIGURES",
& "CHURCH EVENTS"

BY SEPTEMBER 26TH

FOR PUBLICATION IN THE UPCOMING NEWSLETTER.

Angela Elam ~ allendur@aol.com