



From  
*the desk*  
of...

*Penny S. Oliver, President*



I always liked Church School and Bible Study. Both permit you to engage and to listen and grasp what the Word is teaching. Below is the introduction from Bible Study, taught by Rev. Bridgett Gloster, Senior Pastor of Springdale AMEC (my home church) Thursday, November 15, at 6:45 pm:

“As we come toward the holiday season and the concluding of another year, it seem like a great time for us to begin a process of cleaning out the closets. It’s a great time to get rid of baggage that would weigh us down as we start a journey into a new year and a new season of our lives. The thing that weighs so many of us down is the baggage of unforgiveness.”

“Unforgiveness becomes our quiet little secret. The thing no one else can see, but the thing that colors so many of our interactions and relationships. More importantly, it is something that impacts our relationship with God.”

“To be forgiven, we must be forgiving! A simple statement that is more challenging than it appears to be on the surface. The whole notion that we are obligated to offer the olive branch of forgiveness to those who have hurt us creates some angst in many of us. It’s one thing to forgive somebody for picking us up a few minutes late or for forgetting to call us on our birthday. It’s another thing when the thing they did was of a more serious nature – when they broke your heart, abused you, took away something vital and meaningful. How do you forgive them then? How do you forgive what you have not healed from? How do you forgive what still makes you cry? What happens when the person you most need to forgive is the same person that looks back from the mirror?”

Scripture Focus – Ephesians 4:31-32, Luke 7:40-43, Mathew 18:21-35

“Forgiveness is surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me” (Archibald Hart)

This Christmas and New Year, let’s forgive the person that you see in the mirror and then make a choice of letting go of a right to get even. “I’ll do the judging,” says God. “I’ll take care of it” – Romans 12:19 MSG

Let us be in fervent prayer for our nation and its people, as we forgive and pray for the world in which we live. Let us put on the Mantle of Unity, use all of our God-given gifts of the Spirit and live not as man over man but as God-Fearing people working together. Let us work together to allow God to be lifted up, and glorified the mission and purpose of our Lay Organization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Carlene L. Douglas

### First Sunday of Advent



**Young Adult:** Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is the liturgical season of the year when we reflect on, and prepare ourselves anew, for the second coming of Jesus Christ. The theme for this Sunday is HOPE.

**Leader:** The Lord has promised justice and righteousness in the land. The days are surely coming. Let the redeemed of the Lord rejoice in God's promise!

**Congregation:** Our eyes are open, our hearts are ready. The present will not distract our focus, for we believe that a day of justice will come!

**Leader:** Our strength is in our hope. We live as liberated people for our hope is in the Lord. We light this candle today, confident that Jesus will return to reward our hope in Him.

**Young Adult:** (Light a purple candle)

**Congregation:** The cares of today will not rob us of our hope in Jesus Christ's return. Jesus is our Light, and through Him we are empowered to eradicate despair, expose injustice, and be liberated by the Gospel!

### Second Sunday of Advent



**Leader:** Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. Our focus this Sunday is on PEACE – the peace of God. Jesus has given us peace to sustain us in these days, but Jesus' second coming will bring a lasting peace.

**Congregation:** Who can endure the day of Jesus coming? No foe, no strife. No

conflict, no war. No oppression, no bondage. No 'us', no 'them'!

**Leader:** Even now, Lord, give us peace in this day that lions and lambs will co-exist, bearing witness of your love and power. We light this candle hopeful of the day of everlasting peace.

(Senior Adult to light two purple candles)

**Leader:** The candles we lit today remind us that though the terrors of injustice and inequality seek to rob us of our peace, we have peace in our hearts.

**Congregation:** Come Lord Jesus, come! We yearn for everlasting peace when injustice will lose its grip, and you will reign forever and ever!

### Third Sunday of Advent



(Group of young children): This is the Third Sunday of Advent. Today our focus is on JOY. Jesus is our joy. Jesus brings us joy.

**Leader:** Rejoice with all your heart for Jesus is our joy! In this season of reflection and repentance we can have joy knowing that Jesus has forgiven us and restored our joy.

**Congregation:** Joy is liberating. Joy sets us free. We will rejoice with gladness, eager for the day of Jesus' return when we will have perpetual joy.

**Leader:** Today we light the pink candle of joy, signifying our joyful focus on Jesus' second coming. Let every heart rejoice!

(Two purple and 1 pink candle are lit)

**Congregation:** Joy liberates! Joy gives confidence! God has given us His joy. In this season of Advent let us share joy with the unloved and the outcast, the discriminated and the unwanted, the

overlooked and the underserved. We praise you God, for your liberating joy!

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

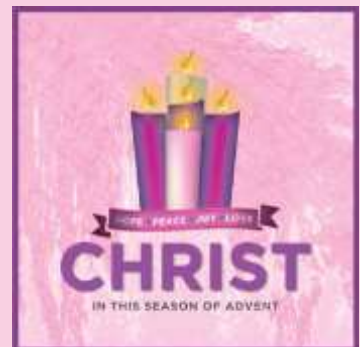


**Leader:** Today, the last Sunday in the season of Advent we will focus on LOVE. When we light these candles today, we remember that Jesus is the Light of the world. During the Christmas Season we celebrate Jesus' birth – Jesus our Savior, born to live and die and come again. Born to give perfect life in an imperfect and unjust world.

**Congregation:** Come let us adore Him.

**Leader:** The God of hope, peace, joy and love calls us to unity, to deck others' lives with boughs of justice. Justice was born in a manger to bring hope to the hopeless, to bring love to the unloved.

**Response:** Emmanuel, God with us!



**Leader:** Today we will light the Christ candle in the center of the wreath, reminding us that Jesus Christ is the center of our lives.

(Light all the candles)

**Young Adult:** As we prepare for this Christmas season, give of yourself, give gifts as a reminder of the greatest Gift given to us by God — Jesus Christ. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

All sing:

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.



**2018**

**WNCC**

**Christmas**

**Banquet**

***Saint  
Paul***

**402 W. Edenton St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603**

**Saturday**

**12 | 8 | 2018**

**12 NOON**

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PASTOR FOR TICKET INFORMATION



## National Alliance on Mental Illness

Open enrollment runs through December 15, or longer for some state exchanges. The annual open enrollment period allows people to enroll in or renew their health insurance coverage.

All health plans offered through HealthCare.gov must cover mental health and substance use services at the same level as other health conditions. Additionally, 8 out of 10 people who sign up on Healthcare.gov qualify for financial help, which can lower monthly premiums by about \$50 to \$100.

More skimpy health plans will be available for people to purchase than in recent years. These short-term, limited duration (STLD) plans are available during **this year's open enrollment** period and some websites or insurance brokers may encourage people to buy these plans.



STLD plans do not have to comply with mental health parity and are allowed to:

- Deny coverage for any pre-existing condition, including mental illness;
- Charge higher premiums for people with a history of mental health conditions;
- Not cover mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and
- Deny coverage of services resulting from self-inflicted injury.

NAMI joined a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the federal rule that expanded these dangerous STLD plans. The lawsuit is making its way through the court system. In the meantime, more STLD plans will be available during open enrollment in many states.

NAMI is encouraging people with mental health conditions to PLAY IT SAFE and start their enrollment process at HealthCare.gov.





# L a y

Organization



# INSTITUTE

Video Available @:

[www.facebook.com/wncclayame](https://www.facebook.com/wncclayame)



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**C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S ,**  
**B r o t h e r A d a m J o h n s t o n**  
of St. Joseph, AMEC, Durham, NC, on your  
**E L E C T I O N** **T O S e r v e** as  
Young Adult Representative (YAR) for  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Episcopal **D i s t r i c t** at the **S P E C I A L**  
**S E S S I O N**, on **N o v e m b e r 3, 2018**,  
at 3rd Street Bethel AME Church, in Richmond,  
VA.

# 2019 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



L A Y  
ORGANIZATION

- Membership dues must be current for voting and election privileges.
- Dues are \$6.00 for adults.

Please send your membership dues to the Credential/Membership Chair:  
Sister Shontea Smith | 309 Cherry Grove Street | Durham, NC 27703

**STOP** When service begins take a moment to just STOP and be present in the moment

**LOOK** around



**ASSESS** your population of 18-35 years old. Are they there? Do you have at least 10 present? Are they actively participating?

**PROCEED** with a Plan based on your assessment



*S.L.A.P. yourself every Sunday until the new year and periodically after. We know there is a decline in the youth and young adult participation in our churches and we need a S.L.A.P. In an effort to grow the youth and young adult membership in our churches at the start of your morning worship service in the coming weeks please S.L.A.P. yourself!*

Mary Harris, WNCC-LO YAR  
Penny Oliver, WNCC-LO President

## Second Episcopal District 2019 Mid-Winter Gathering

Hotel Block of Special Rate  
Rooms Now Open!

Special SED Group Rate  
119.00 USD/NIGHT

**Renaissance  
Portsmouth-Norfolk  
Waterfront Hotel**  
425 Water Street,  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
Phone: 1-888-839-1775

**February 21-23, 2019**

Must Book by January 18, 2019 Rooms are Limited, So Book Now!

# Ebony Duell of Bennett's JMS Department interviews NC Congressional candidate **Kathy Manning** & **Rep. Ted Budd**

Available at: [www.bennett.edu/news/bennett-college-jms-students-interview-nc-congress-candidates-kathy-manning-and-ted-budd/](http://www.bennett.edu/news/bennett-college-jms-students-interview-nc-congress-candidates-kathy-manning-and-ted-budd/)



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY  
New Year



**November 21, 2018,**  
the abridged version of  
**Shontea Smith's**  
article, "The Miracle of our Church's Growth is  
Cloaked in our Vulnerability," was published  
in the ***Christian Recorder***.

Available [www.thechristianrecorder.com/the-miracle-of-our-churchs-growth-is-cloaked-in-our-vulnerability/?](http://www.thechristianrecorder.com/the-miracle-of-our-churchs-growth-is-cloaked-in-our-vulnerability/?utm_source=The+Christian+Recorder&utm_campaign=b4ce277aaa-NEW%21%21%21+AME+News+Digest+1203..2017_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1b584cea2e-b4ce277aaa-47391865)

[utm\\_source=The+Christian+Recorder&utm\\_campaign=b4ce277aaa-NEW%21%21%21+AME+News+Digest+1203..2017\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_1b584cea2e-b4ce277aaa-47391865](http://www.thechristianrecorder.com/the-miracle-of-our-churchs-growth-is-cloaked-in-our-vulnerability/?utm_source=The+Christian+Recorder&utm_campaign=b4ce277aaa-NEW%21%21%21+AME+News+Digest+1203..2017_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1b584cea2e-b4ce277aaa-47391865)







# History of Rock Creek African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rock Creek A.M.E. Church became a reality in 1881 when Charles Patterson, Hinton Tinnin, Peter Patterson, Samuel Rouch, and Essex Garner together purchased one acre of land from George Greggs for a church.

The first structure of the Rock Creek A.M.E. Church was completed in 1883 and used until 1907. In 1907, the cornerstone was laid for a new structure which was renovated in 1957 and served as our sanctuary until its demolition in 1997. In 1983, a new wing was added onto the church that remains standing today and utilized as our Educational Fellowship Hall and served as our temporary sanctuary during construction.

Rock Creek A.M.E. Church was a part of the Western North Carolina Conference, Liberty Circuit, until the arrival of Reverend Phillip R. Lynch. Other churches of the Liberty Circuit included Friendship A.M.E. in Ramseur, St. Stephen A.M.E. in Liberty, and Allen's Temple A.M.E. in Asheboro. Allen's Temple was eliminated from the Liberty Circuit when Reverend Edmond was pastor at Rock Creek A.M.E.

The construction of the new edifice, which connected to the Educational Fellowship Hall, began in 1996 under the leadership of Steward, Bro. William Paul Hunter, serving as contractor.

The laying of the cornerstone and dedication ceremony was observed on November 7, 1999 with the Right Reverend Vinton R. Anderson, Presiding Bishop of the Second Episcopal District. The mortgage burning of the new edifice was held on Sunday, April 30, 2006, with Rev. Benjamin S. Foust, Presiding Elder of the Western District-Western North Carolina Conference.

Under the leadership of Interim Pastor, Rev. Issac J. Irving, and Presiding Elder, Rev. J. Bernard Wilder, and with the blessing and support of our pastor, Rev. Archie T. Evans, while recuperating from a kidney transplant, the visions of a paved parking lot and church marquee became reality in 2009. The first phase, paving of the church front perimeter, was completed in February 2009. The second phase, installation of the church marquee, was completed in April 2010. The third phase, paving of the church parking lot, was completed in the summer of 2015.

The pastors of Rock Creek A.M.E. Church have each made their own mark on the Rock Creek community as well as the A.M.E. Church. We are thankful for their leadership. The pastoral list (in chronological order) follows:

Rev. Elijah Jeffries

Elder Josiah D. Davis

Rev. E. F. King

Rev. Calvin A. Steele

Rev. P. O. James

Rev. Allen Dilworth

Rev. Joseph Jowers

Rev. H. L. Edmond





Rev. G. W. Troublefield

Rev. C. A. Holt

Rev. C. W. Parker

Rev. Randolph P. Lynch

Rev. John D. Burton

Rev. Cashmire Brown

Rev. Mary F. Peterson

Rev. Henry Williams

Rev. Archie T. Evans (Our current Pastor appointed in 1992)

Rev. Issac J. Irving, Retired (interim pastor while Rev. Evans recuperated)

The church is also blessed with the leadership of Assistant Pastor George R. Steward and  
Exhorter Patricia D. Foust.

# Veterans' Day at Rock Creek



# In the Spotlight

## Hidden Figures *Rock Creek*



*Mother Nannie Mae Patterson*

Join Rock Creek AME Church and the community, as we celebrate the 100th birthday of Miss Nannie Mae Patterson, “Mother of the Church”.

Miss Nannie Mae was born January 25, 1919. She is an active church member. She enjoys sharing her life’s journeys and she still continues to drive. “To God Be The Glory”!



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 December Edition*

**December 1, 1955**

Rosa Parks refused to change seats on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus.



Rosa Parks

**December 2, 1923**

Roland Hayes became the first Black to sing in the Symphony Hall in Boston.

**December 3, 1847**

Frederick Douglass, along with Martin R Delaney, started "The North Star", an anti-slavery paper.

**December 4, 1906**

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was founded on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

**December 5, 1955**

Historic bus boycott began in Montgomery.

**December 6, 1865**

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished chattel slavery, was adopted by the 38th Congress.

**December 7, 1972**

W. Sterling Cary elected president of the Nation Council of Churches.



W. Sterling Cary

**December 8, 1953**

Thurgood Marshall, the chief legal counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) gave the argument before the U.S. Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education.

**December 9, 1971**

Bill Pickett became the first Black elected to the National Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame.

**December 10, 1950**

Ralph Bunche, a political scientist by training and then an official of the United Nations, became the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

**December 11, 1872**

P.B.S Pinchback became the 1st African American governor of an American state, Louisiana.

**December 12, 1899**

African- American George F. Grant, dentist and avid golfer, receives patent No. 638,920 for a wooden golf tee.



George F. Grant



## December 13, 1903

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Ella Baker is a civil rights worker who directed the New York branch of the NAACP, Baker became executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership

Conference in the 1960's during student integration of lunch counters in the southern states, and played a key role in the formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.



Ella Baker

## December 14, 1939

Star running back at Syracuse University and the first black player to win the Heisman Trophy in 1961, Ernie Davis is born.

## December 15, 1887

Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Phoenix, founded by African American settlers who came to Arizona Territory to escape racism, oppression, and violence in the post-Reconstruction South, is the first African American Church in the State of Arizona.

## December 16, 1859

The last slave ship, the Clothilde, lands with shipment of slaves at Mobile Bay, Alabama.

## December 17, 1633

Anna Nzinga dies. She was born the same year that the Ndongo people, led by her father, began fighting against Portuguese who were raiding their territory for slaves and attempting to conquer territory they believed included silver mines.



Anna Nzinga

## December 18, 1917

Ozzie Davis is born in Cogdell, Clinch County, Georgia.

## December 19, 1828

David Walker delivers an address before the Massachusetts General Colored Association, an organization founded two years earlier in Boston to oppose slavery and discrimination against free blacks

## December 20, 1893

Paul Lawrence Dunbar publishes Oak and Ivy.

## December 21, 1976

Patricia R. Harris is named secretary of housing and urban development by President-elect Carter.

## December 22, 1943

W.E.B. Du Bois becomes the first Black elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

## December 23, 1867

Madame C.J. Walker, is born, Sarah Breedlove, on this day.

## December 24, 1832

The Georgia Infirmary becomes the first hospital for African Americans built in the United States.



Patricia R. Harris

## December 25, 1875

Charles Caldwell was assassinated in Clinton, Mississippi. He was the first Black in the state of Mississippi to be accused of the murder of a white man and found "not guilty" by an all-white jury. He was later elected to the state senate.

# December 26, 1966 - January 1, 1967

Kwanzaa, originated by Dr. Maulana Karenga, begins. Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce seven basic values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing family, community and culture among African American people as well as Africans throughout the world African community. These values are called the Nguzo Saba which in Swahili means the Seven Principles. Kwanzaa also has seven basic symbols which represent values and concepts reflective of African culture. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.



## SEVEN PRINCIPLES

### DAY ONE



*TO STRIVE FOR AND MAINTAIN UNITY IN THE FAMILY, COMMUNITY, NATION, AND RACE.*

### DAY TWO



*TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN OUR OWN STORES, SHOPS, AND OTHER BUSINESSES AND TO PROFIT FROM THEM TOGETHER.*

### DAY THREE



*TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND MAKE OUR BROTHER'S AND SISTER'S PROBLEMS OUR PROBLEMS AND TO SOLVE THEM TOGETHER.*

### DAY FOUR



*TO DEFINE OURSELVES, NAME OURSELVES, CREATE FOR OURSELVES, AND SPEAK FOR OURSELVES.*

### DAY FIVE



*TO MAKE OUR COLLECTIVE VOCATION THE BUILDING AND DEVELOPING OF OUR COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO RESTORE OUR PEOPLE TO THEIR TRADITIONAL GREATNESS.*

### DAY SIX



*TO DO ALWAYS AS MUCH AS WE CAN, IN THE WAY WE CAN, IN ORDER TO LEAVE OUR COMMUNITY MORE BEAUTIFUL AND BENEFICIAL THAN WE INHERITED IT.*

### DAY SEVEN



*TO BELIEVE WITH ALL OUR HEART IN OUR PEOPLE, OUR PARENTS, OUR TEACHERS, OUR LEADERS, AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND VICTORY*



# Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events Around the Connection



December 8, 2018.....	<b>Christmas with the Bishop</b> Saint Paul AMEC Raleigh, NC
January 12, 2019 .....	<b>WNCC Lay Organization Meeting</b> Persimmon Grove Greensboro, NC 10AM
February 21-23, 2019.....	<b>Mid Winter Meeting</b> Portsmouth-Norfolk, VA
March 9, 2019.....	<b>WNCC Lay Organization Meeting</b> Poplar Grove Greensboro, NC 10AM
April 13, 2019.....	<b>WNCC Lay Organization Meeting</b> Turner's Chapel High Point, NC 10AM
May 1-4, 2019.....	<b>127<sup>th</sup> Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference</b> Location Forthcoming
June 9, 2019.....	<b>2019 Pentecost</b> Baltimore, MD
June 14-15, 2019.....	<b>Springdale Bus Trip visiting Washington, D.C.'s National Museum of African American History &amp; Culture</b> Rev. Dr. Bridgette Gloster, Pastor For more information contact: Penny Oliver: (336) 565-0367
June 30, 2019 - July 4, 2019.....	<b>CLO Biennial 2019</b> Seattle, WA
July 23, 2019 - July 27, 2019.....	<b>YPD Quadrennial Convention 2019</b> Columbus, OH
July 27, 2019 - August 1, 2019.....	<b>WMS Quadrennial Convention 2019</b> Columbus, OH
July 8-20, 2020.....	<b>AMEC 51<sup>st</sup> Quadrennial Session</b> Orlando, FL



# REMINDERS



Father Kevin Carroll, *Yoruba Nativity*, 1948

- *S.L.A.P.* Yourself
- Book Your Room for 2019 Mid Winter Meeting before 1 | 18 | 19
- 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](http://www.ame2.com),

and/or the website of the WNCC Lay Organization,

[www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org).

**WE NEED YOUR “CHURCH HISTORY”,**

**“HIDDEN FIGURES”,**

**& “CHURCH EVENTS”**

**BY DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**FOR PUBLICATION IN THE UPCOMING NEWSLETTER.**

Angela Elam ~ [allendur@aol.com](mailto:allendur@aol.com)