

THE LAY EXPRESS

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



Website: http://wncclay.org/

VOLUME V AUGUST 2019 ISSUE 8



Penny S. Oliver, President



Most of you know my favorite song is, "Nobody Greater", by VaShawn Mitchell. The lyrics state:

Searched all over, couldn't find nobody
I looked high and low, still couldn't find nobody
Nobody greater, nobody greater no, nobody greater than You
Searched all over, couldn't find nobody
I looked high and low, still couldn't find nobody
Nobody greater, nobody greater than You

Those words are true for me, there is nobody greater than Jesus, NOBODY. Yes, I love my son, Nick, and my two grands, but the truth is there is nobody greater than Jesus. Nick, Katie, and Jasmine can't do what Jesus can do for me. The lyrics of the song continue saying:

Nobody can heal, like you can
Oh Most Holy One, You are the Great I Am
Awesome in all Your ways and mighty is Your hand
You are He who carried out redemption's plan
You are He who carried out redemption's plan

My question to you, if we worship Jesus inside the 4 walls of the church at least weekly, why don't we take that worship outside the 4 walls and share it with others who are *Searching all over, that* You *can't find nobody or nothing* Greater than Jesus. They can look *high and low, still They will find nobody* Greater than Jesus.

It's what Jesus did and would do, if He were physically still among us. He would love and serve people in tangible ways.

It's a break for people who devote time "within the walls" to be free to go outside the walls, which is where our Greater focus lies.

It's an introduction to serving, and we heard repeatedly, "I'd like to do this more often, not just on this Sunday." Bulls eye!

It gives us a chance to practice "with reach." That is, we can serve alongside non-members and even non-believers, creating community so that people can belong, even before they believe.

It's a bonding time for the people serving together on a project.

It's a way to communicate that "giving" involves more than the offering plate. It also involves our time and talents.

It blesses people around us, earning the church a bit of trust for the hearing of the Gospel when we open our doors.

It's fun. This wasn't our primary motive, but it certainly will be fun!

Continued on Page 2

The world is in desperate need of Christians willing to show the love of Christ through their actions. Jesus said the second greatest commandment was to love others—not sentimentally, but tangibly. Every action performed out of kindness, empowered by the understanding of Christ and His love, is Christian service.

Bishop Davis has challenged the lay organization of each annual conference to celebrate "New Lives in Christ" who have given their life to Christ during the conference year and have joined the AMEC family. We encourage you to take photos of the "New Lives in Christ" in your churches. We want to celebrate and welcome them on Lay Night in their journey to do God's Will.

We look forward to you joining us on August 10, 2019, at Mt. Sinai AME Church, Pittsboro, NC, at 10 AM for our regular conference lay meeting.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

President Oliver WNCC Lay Organization





Our Pledge

We come to celebrate "**New Lives in Christ**" with those who have given their lives to Christ during this past conference year and have joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church Family. We welcome you and we pledge to nurture you as we assist in your preparation for discipleship. We shall offer to you the study of the Holy Scriptures, as well as the study of the rich history and the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We will support you in your quest to do God's will as you offer yourself to the ministry of your local church and community. "It is our prayer that as God orders your steps; you will walk in His way, grow in His Spirit, and serve well in ministry and mission as a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church."



UPDATE FROM THE E C O N O M I C R E A D I N E S S T E A M

Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise!

Psalm 145:3a

The Second Episcopal District closed on the first of two Revenue Producing Properties, July 15, 2019.





Historically, the African Methodist Episcopal Church engaged in economic development. Throughout the years, this wealth building, began over two centuries ago by our Founder, Bishop Richard Allen served as stepping stones to revenue streams that allowed the AME Church to establish colleges, seminaries, K -12 schools, affordable housing, outreach centers, houses of worship, shopping centers. Revenues from these institutions advanced social justice, supported ministries to the least of these, built hospitals, and created a better future for congregants and the communities we serve. SUPPORT ERT at: ame2.com



Has the President Declared War on the Poor and People of Color?: The AME Church Response to the verbal attacks on "the Squad" and Baltimore

The Bishops, Social Action Commission, members and servant leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church are appalled by the continued use of racist language and attacks on the poor and people of color by the President of the United States. The months of June and July have seen the President's intolerance of people of color, women and the poor reach new levels of white supremacist insanity.

The President's racist and sexist attacks on Representatives Ilana Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib are vile, vicious and unprecedented verbal violence against American citizens and Congressional leaders by a sitting occupant of the Oval Office. The President's remarks about these extraordinary women were not only disrespectful and destructive; they demean his office that he holds.

The President's latest diatribe against Congressman Elijah Cummings and the city of Baltimore is another racist declaration showing his intent to divide America along racial and economic lines. Has the President of the United States declared war on the poor and people of color?

In 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson declared a "War On Poverty." In 2019, the current President's attack on Representative Cummings and Baltimore showed an intensification of the Republican "War on the Poor." In 2019, the President continues to blame the victims of ever-increasing economic inequality for the political and economic policies laced with White Supremacy that create living conditions which his stereotypical remarks about Baltimore describe.

In 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act. In 2019, the leadership of the United Senate and the current President are continuing their attacks and attempts to destroy the voting rights of people of color. Has the President of the United States of America declared war on the poor and people of color?

The Council of Bishops and the Social Action Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church are asking our members and ecumenical partners to keep their eyes on the November 2020 prize. We will not be distracted by the President's torrent of political lies, false equivalencies, and racist attacks. We must be pro-active, not reactive. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "We are anointed to fight the good fight of faith " (1 Timothy 6:12). We must keep showing up for this fight together.

We call upon the President and his administration to do the following:

- 1. Publicly apologize to Representatives Cummings, Omar, Ocasio-Cortez, Pressley, Tlaib and the citizens of Baltimore.
- Change his inhumane concentration camp immigrant policies.
- 3. Renounce and repent his racist language.
- 4. Articulate policies that will bring peace, power, and prosperity to all Americans.
- 5. Support reparations.

Finally, we call on the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and our partners in the struggle for spiritual and social justice to come together and organize our communities across racial, economic and generational lines to become encouraged, equipped and empowered voting blocs for the 2020 General Elections.

Bishop Harry L. Seawright, President of the Council of Bishops
Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, President of the General Board
Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. Senior Bishop
Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Chair of the Commission on Social Action
Mrs. Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Director/Consultant of Social Action

LAY TEACHING MOMENT Jackie Kanipe WNC-CLO, Director of Lay Activities



"STEWARDS IN THE AME CHURCH"

By now, all of our churches may have completely organized for this conference year, 2019-2020.

MASHING

Within the church, who is the chairperson of the Steward Board? Yes, it is the Pastor who was appointed by the Bishop to serve the local church. The Pastor is the chairperson. He/she may appoint a chairperson *pro tem* to serve in his/her absence. However, the Pastor may veto any action transacted by the Board of Stewards.

The Pastor, who is in charge, shall nominate the number of stewards needed for the church. They are presented to the Quarterly Conference to be confirmed or rejected. Once the Steward has been confirmed he/she shall serve for one year. The same persons may be nominated annually.

A Steward shall be elected at the first Quarterly Conference to represent the church at the District Conference, the Presiding Elder's conference.

Please read your *Doctrine and Discipline of the A.M.E. Church, 2016,* for more information on the Steward. Additional documents were provided at the Summer Summit, perhaps your Steward who attended will share the information with you.

2019

Western North Carolina Conference LAY ORGANIZATION Prayer Breakfast



WNCC DELEGATES ELECTED TO
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020
WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE BREAKFAST



Rev. Kelvin Royster, *Pastor*Sis. Joan Brandon, *Local Lay President*Tickets \$20/person
See your Local Lay President
for tickets!

Macedonia AME Church 4164 Yarboroughs Mill Road Milton, NC 27305



Hotels are filling up quickly so please book your rooms soon!

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
OF THE
2ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PRESIDING ELDER REV. DR. ANITA THOMPSON

Eastern District conference september 19th - 21st, 2019



H 0 S T S REV. WAYNE & SIS. FREDIA JOHNSON

HOTEL INFORMATION: (BOTH INCLUDE BREAKFAST)

Hampton Inn & Suites (I-40 @ Exit 105) 115 Bush Drive

> Morganton, NC 28655 (828) 432-2000

Rates: \$119.00 King - \$119.00 Double

Code: Eastern District AME

Comfort Inn & Suites (I-40 @ Exit 103) 1273 Burkemont Avenue Morganton, NC 28655 (828) 430-4000

Rates: \$109.99 King - \$119.99 Double

Code: Eastern District AME

HOST CHURCH:

SHILOH AME CHURCH - 1323 N POWERHOUSE RD MORGANTON, NC 28655 - (828) 584-3962

Please Visit the Eastern Districts Website Site for the Latest Info on What is Happening at:

Easternwncc2ndamec.org

Send Event Information for the Eastern District to Webmasters:

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE



PRESIDING ELDER REV. DR. CONRAD K. PRIDGEN

SEPT. 26-29, 2019

Bishop James Davis Presiding Prelate of 2nd Episcopal District Preaching Opening Service



HOSTS
Reverend Shelton and First Lady Rosazyn Miles



SECOND DISTRICT LEGACY FEST & PLANNING MEETING

MAY 28-31, 2020

EBENEZER AME CHURCH



5	28	2nd District Ordination
5	29	Dedication of New Building
5	30	2 nd District Pentecost
5	I 31	Pentecost Sunday

When Pentecost Day arrived,
they were all together in one place.
...They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in other languages as
the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Acts 1:1

The History of Bethel A frican Methodist E piscopal Church (Pleasant Garden)



In the year of 1886, Mr. Joe Herbin donated land to build Bethel AME Church. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1887 by the pastor, members, and friends. Some of the late officers to be remembered are the late Mr. Sam Taylor, Mack McCadden, James Jarrell, and Sam Glenn. There were many members and friends who passed through the doors of this little church.

This little wooden church served with some happiness through many storms and hardships. Some of the ministers to remember are the late Rev. J. O. Foster, W. T. Harris, and J. A. Hunter. In the year of 1945, we talked about building a new church. Rev. Hunter reorganized the church, and we began to work. Rev. Hunter left us in 1946.

Rev. J. R. Cheek came to pastor in March, 1946. He reorganized the church. The late Mr. Wood Benton was our treasurer. We continued with our plans to build. The members decided to pay cash, for the materials, as they were needed. The members made pledges. Friends in Pleasant Garden and Greensboro, NC, gave us a helping hand in raising money for our new church. The footing and basement were dug, and material was put on the yard.

For a while we were like lost sheep. In the year of 1955, we began to work, and in 1957, we built the walls of the church about 3 feet. It stood until September 8, 1966, at which time Rev. Cheek organized building committees. They were Jasper Davis, George Cheek, Hugh Kendall, Gilbert Moore, and Leonard Davis. The committees worked hard, filled the basement, and finished the walls, and then added the roof.

In November, 1966, the hand of God moved and sent us Rev. R. E. Sharp. He was a man with understanding. He encouraged us to work hard and the building continued to move. The members decided to do the work themselves, and by the help of the Lord and prayers, on the third Sunday in August, 1968, we had our revival meeting in our new sanctuary. Rev. Monroe Fuller conducted the services that week, and eight souls were added to our membership. Our associate pastor was Rev. Annie Mae Glover Shoffner.

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Bethel AME Church—Pleasant Garden History ~ Continued

Other ministers to be mentioned were Rev. E. C. McClellan, Rev. George Turner, in which we constructed our Fellowship Hall. After Rev. Turner, Rev. Slade, Rev. J. D. Coble, in which we added air condition to the Sanctuary, later came Rev. Herbert Carter who was a very Spiritual man of God, and really lifted our spirits to the highest. Other ministers to mention were Rev. Benjamin Clay, Rev. Lula Williams, Rev. Mattie Smith, and Rev. Shirley DeCoster. Under Rev. DeCoster, we added the stained glass windows, and carpet in the Fellowship Hall.

We don't want to forget our women of the church who played a very important part of the church; just to mention a few, Mrs. Viola Avant, known to many as Muh, was very inspirational to all whom she came in contact with. Mrs. Virginia Davis was church clerk for many years, educational director, long term missionary worker, which now is named, in her honor, as the Virginia Davis Missionary Society. We've been inspired by many women: Inez Crawford, Roxie Hobbs, Evelyn Moore, Lizzie Hopkins, Mary McCaden, Naomi Motley, Lillian Johnson, Maude Glenn, Katrina Cheek, and Annie Patterson. The work that they have done, and the memories, will never be forgotten. There were many others, to many to mention here, but we appreciate all persons who have come through these doors and contributed of their substance to bless our church, which still stands, because of the love they shared for their church.

Our current Pastor is Rev. William V. Alston, Sr. We are surely blessed to be under the leadership of such a dynamic man of God, who is 2nd to none. He is appreciated and loved for his leadership, and godly wisdom. He leads the church with the love of God, and is a great example of one who serves the Lord, in humbleness and meekness. He is fun loving; always brings a smile; and we love, honor, and respect his strong leadership. Rev. Alston has added so much to our church. We have new lighting, new restrooms, vans, remodeling of the sanctuary and fellowship hall, air conditioning in the fellowship hall and offices, new roof, a musician, sound system, new chairs in choir stand, bible study, etc... We have 3 associates: Rev. Selena Bostic, Rev. Syretha Clark, and Rev. Eugene Moore. We were blessed with one Pastor Retired, who returned home, Rev. George C. Cheek. Rev. Cheek was called from labor to reward on February 20, 2018. He is greatly missed.

Rev. Alston is so instrumental to this church body, we look forward to a deeper relationship, and in going to higher heights, in the name of the Lord under his leadership.

We wish to thank each and every one for the contributions which they have made toward our success, for without God and you, our efforts would have been in vain. The officers and members of Bethel AME Church, join in the hope that the people who read these pages and enter our doors, will find information, inspiration, and Christian fellowship. Let us labor together, as a church family, in spirit, truth, and love, so that men may see Jesus in our lives. No matter the struggle or sacrifice, we have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord.

Most humbly submitted, The Members of Bethel AME Church – Pleasant Garden



The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. Earn extra income while helping your community.

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.



95% of households will receive their census invitation in the mail.





Almost 5% of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).



Less than 1% of households will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person.

Note: We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

APPLICATION AVAILABLE AT:

https://recruitment.2020census.gov/ats/careersite/census.aspx?site=1&c=census

Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events



Around the Connection





August 5- 7, 2019 7 PM Hunter's Chapel Revival 213 Buckhorn Rd., Mebane, NC Rev. Vernon P. Burns, <i>Pastor</i>
August 9, 2019
August 9, 2019
August 10, 2019
August 10, 2019
August 11, 2019 11AM & 3PM Springdale's Homecoming/Family & Friends Day 5554 S NC HWY62, Burlington, NC Rev. Bridgette Gloster, Pastor
August 11, 2019 11AM & 3PM White Cross Homecoming/Family & Friends Day 4604 Lebanon Rd., Efland, NC Rev. Myraette McGibbonney, Pastor
August 11, 2019
August 14- 16, 20197 PM
August 14- 16, 2019 7 PM

Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events Around the Connection





August 14- 16, 2019 7 PM				
	4604 Lebanon Rd., Efland, NC			
	Rev. Myraette McGibbonney, Pastor			
August 15, 22, & 29, 2019 7PM				
	5554 S NC HWY62, Burlington, NC Rev. Bridgette Gloster, <i>Pastor</i>			
	-			
August 17, 2019 11AM-1PN	#Women on the Move for God			
	5554 S NC HWY62, Burlington, NC			
	Rev. Bridgette Gloster, Pastor			
August 18, 2019 3PM New	Vision United Choir 20th Anniversary Concert			
7 ta 3 a c a c a c a a a a a a a a a a a a a	Emmanuel — 2018 Riddle Rd., Durham, NC			
	Rev. John Burton, <i>Pastor</i>			
August 24, 2019 10AM-2PM	Back 2 School Community Day			
	White Cross — 4604 Lebanon Rd., Efland, NC			
	Rev. Myraette McGibbonney, <i>Pastor</i>			
August 25, 2019 10AM 10AM	Emmanuel Family and Friends Day 2018 Riddle Rd, Durham, NC			
	Rev. John Burton, <i>Pastor</i>			
September 8, 2019 10:30	OAM & 3PM Shiloh Homecoming			
	1323 N. Powerhouse Rd., Morganton, NC			
	Rev. Dr. Wayne Author Johnson, Sr., Pastor			
September 9- 11, 2019				
	1323 N. Powerhouse Rd., Morganton, NC Rev. Dr. Wayne Author Johnson, Sr., <i>Pastor</i>			
September 14, 2019 10 AM	WNCC-LO Annual Prayer Breakfast			
	lacedonia— Milton, NC — Rev. Kelvin Royster, <i>Pastor</i>			
	Sis. Joan Brandon, <i>Local Lay President</i> Tickets \$20/person			
	Πολοίο ψ2ο/ μοι σοι τ			
May 5- 9, 2020	128th Session of the WNC Annual Conference			
,	Embassy Suites. Greensboro, NC			
	Details Forthcoming			
May 28-30, 2020				
	Ebenezer— Fort Washington, MD Details Forthcoming			
July 8- 20, 2020				
July 0-20, 2020	Orlando, FL			



- Continue Mirroring Part III
- Support ERT
- Open an account at a Black Bank.

For additional information on scholarships & conference events,

Please visit the Second Episcopal District website, www.ame2.com, and/or the website of the WNCC Lay Organization, www.wncclay.org.

WE NEED YOUR "CHURCH HISTORY", & "CHURCH EVENTS" BY AUGUST 26TH

FOR PUBLICATION IN THE UPCOMING NEWSLETTER.

Angela Elam, Director of Public Relations ~ allendur@aol.com