



# THE LAY EXPRESS



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

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

*"Laity walking humbly with God to do justice and to love kindness"*

*Micah 6:8 (ESV)*

**VOLUME V  
ISSUE 12**

**DECEMBER 2019**



*From  
the desk  
of*

*Penny S. Oliver, President*

I believe Christmas and the reason for the coming of Christ should be a source of encouragement to us as a nation. Jesus came to bring hope to a people who were experiencing darkness at the hands of their king and his foot soldiers.

The people were impoverished and burdened with heavy taxation while those who ruled lived luxuriously, but the coming of Christ ushered in a new day in the lives of many. He brought a message of hope. Despite the darkness we have experienced this year, we must draw from the Christmas message of hope and look forward to a brighter day ahead. Jesus' very birth was a miracle so why not a miracle for our nation, our churches, with the things that now plague us disappearing into the past.

I received hope at our Lay and Clergy Institute as we openly discussed relationship building with the pew and the pulpit. I also received hope during my visit to Willow Tree AME Church. I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people that were in Church School. Yes, Church School! Not only does Willow Tree have an adult class but, also a primary class, youth, and teenager class with a total attendance of twenty eight during my visit. I was informed that many of the youth were absent.

It is said "if only you can believe, all things are possible."

I join with all those who would like to see sunny days ahead. The Christmas season is right for this as it is the time of year when millions around the world are hoping for better days ahead. As a church and country, let us join together and do the same. The light is here, let us all embrace it and allow joy, peace, freedom, prosperity and hope to once more fill the land.

Join us as we come together 10:00 a.m. on January 11, 2020 at Persimmon Grove, Greensboro, NC to discuss and implement the business of the church.

***Merry Christmas and thank you for your willingness to serve!***





## **WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION**



December 2019

I greet you in the Mighty and Matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization 2020 membership drive has begun! Membership dues are \$6.00 for adults. Membership dues must be current for voting and election privileges.

**The election of offices for the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is scheduled for April 11, 2020 at 10 am at St. James AMEC, 1501 North Patterson Street, Winston Salem, North Carolina 27105.**

**Membership dues must be received on or before March 20, 2020 or post marked no later than March 18, 2020 for election and voting privileges. Please send your membership dues and names to the Credential/Membership Chair, Sister Shontea Smith, 309 Cherry Grove Street, Durham, NC 27703.**

Let us be in fervent prayer for our nation and its people, as we pray for the world in which we live. Thus, I implore YOU, to join the WNCCLLO, let us put on the Mantle of Unity and use all of our God-given gifts of the Spirit. Let us work together to allow God to be lifted up, and glorified the mission and purpose of our Lay Organization:

1. To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15);
2. To advance the present ministry of Jesus Christ, particularly as it is embodied by the mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2 Corinthians 5:14-20; see mission, vision, and purposes at <http://www.ame-church.com/about-us/mission.php>);
3. To encourage Bible study and to uphold the Bible as our only source for faith and doctrine (2 Timothy 3:16-17; see article of faith #5 at <http://www.ame-church.com/about-us/beliefs.php>);
4. To promote an understanding of The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012 as an organized source of our laws, government, and belief statements (1 Corinthians 12:4-6; <http://www.ame-church.com/about-us/structure.php>);
5. To teach good stewardship and respect for constituted authority (Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Timothy 2:1-7);
6. To engage the laity in social action ministry, reaching beyond the walls of the Church to champion goodwill toward all (Galatians 6:9-10).

I thank you for your willingness to serve!

The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization  
Sister Penny Oliver, President



*Penny S. Oliver, President*

*Betty Parker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

*Diane Foy, Recording Secretary*

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

**It is Election Year for the WNCCLO!**

The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization election will take place Saturday April 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. for the offices of the Lay Organization

**Host Church: St James A M E Church  
1501 N. Patterson St.  
Winston Salem, N.C. 27105**

If you are seeking an office in the WNCCLO complete the *Letter of Intent*. The *Letter of Intent* a copy of *Article VI NOMINATION and ELECTION PROCEDURES, sections 1- 8 and Article IV Membership* are on the website <http://www.wncclay.org/>.

Mail the *Letter of Intent* with the signature of the Local Church President to the nominating committee chair. The certified letter must be postmarked or received by the chair of the Nominating Committee no later than March 11, 2020 (1 month) prior to the convening of the Conference Meeting, April 11, 2020.

**2020 Nominating Committee:**

Sis. Stephanie Gause

Sis. Shontea Smith

Bro. John Smith

Bro. Dale Wragg

Sis. Gertrude Upperman: Chairperson Email- [gjupper@aol.com](mailto:gjupper@aol.com)  
4509 Harvard Ave, Greensboro, N. C. 27407 Cell 336-337-5495

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Sister Penny Oliver,  
President WNCCLO

Sis. Gertrude Upperman  
Chairperson of 2018 Nominating Committee

**Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization**

**2020 Election Year**

**LETTER OF INTENT**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am a paid member in good and regular standing at: (see Article IV – Membership)

**Name of Church:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have attended at least (4) four Conference meetings of WNCCLay Organization in the past (2) years: **Yes** \_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_

1. \_\_\_ I am presently serving as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the WNCCLO.

2. \_\_\_ I plan to seek the same office in the upcoming election in 2020. I have served in this position for \_\_\_ years beginning in \_\_\_\_\_. According to the Constitution and By-Laws, I cannot serve more than (8) eight Years.

3. \_\_\_ I do not plan to seek re-election to the position I have held.

4. \_\_\_ I wish to have my name placed in nomination for the position of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information if you plan to seek an elective office.

Listed below are my qualifications for this position that responds to the requirements in the WNCCLO Constitutions and By-Laws. (see the Constitution and By-Laws @ [www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org) that list the requirements and qualifications for your elected office). Feel free to attach another sheet of paper, if needed, for more space.

**Nominee Signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Print Nominee Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Local Church President Signature**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Letter of Intent to:**

**Gertrude Upperman**

**Or**

**Email to [gjupper@aol.com](mailto:gjupper@aol.com)**



# PRAYER BREAKFAST

## WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION



Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday, September 12, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**WNCC-LO is accepting bids for our annual Prayer Breakfast. All bids must be submitted before April 4, 2020. For consideration, event spaces must seat comfortably at least 250 people.**

Tentative Agenda @ Glance Executive Board Meeting

Hilton Atlanta Airport

1031 Virginia Avenue, Hapeville GA 30354

December 5<sup>th</sup> - December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019



LAITY WALKING HUMBLY  
WITH GOD TO DO JUSTICE AND TO LOVE KINDNESS  
MICAH 6:8

Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr., Lay Commission Chairperson

Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, President

Ms. Ametta Lorene Reaves, Director of Lay Activities

Ms. Jamesha J. Williams, Young Adult Representative

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Host Bishop

Mr. Michael Brown, Host President

Mrs. Janice Stewart, Host Director of Lay Activities

Ms. Martinique Mix, Host Young Adult Representative



CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2019 CLO Executive Board Meeting

December 5, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. - December 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Hosted by: The Sixth Episcopal District Lay Organization

Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel, 1031 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30354 – Phone: (404) 767-9000

**REGULAR REGISTRATION (BEFORE November 15, 2019): \$175.00 per person**  
**LATE & ONSITE REGISTRATION (AFTER November 15, 2019): \$200.00 per person**  
Young Adult Registration: \$125.00 per person

**\*\*Registration must be paid prior to making hotel reservations\*\***

Registration includes meeting materials and meals

Individual Registration form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Conference: \_\_\_\_\_  First Time Attendee  Young Adult

Roommate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Arrival & Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Departure & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs (Please Check One):  No Beef  No Pork  No Meat

Affiliation: (Please Check One)

Bishop  General Officer  Connectional Officer  Episcopal District Member  
 Annual Conference Member  Clergy  CLO Committee Member Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send Registration Form and Payment to:

Mrs. Lyndia Mayo  
1832 Greenway Avenue North  
Columbus, OH 43219  
[clofinancialsecy@gmail.com](mailto:clofinancialsecy@gmail.com)

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The Connectional Lay Organization is not responsible for reserving your hotel accommodations.

Hilton Atlanta Airport, 1031 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30354- Phone: 404-767-9000

Hotel Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at the number listed above.

Hotel Rate: \$140.00 + tax

Complimentary Airport Shuttle available and will run every 20 mins from 5:00am-11:00 pm

Self-Parking: \$22.00 (Parking Lot) or Valet Parking: \$27.99

**Group Name: Connectional Lay Organization of the AME Church**

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Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr., Lay Commission Chairperson  
Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell, Connectional Lay President  
Ms. Ametta Lorene Reaves, Connectional Director of Lay Activities  
Ms. Jamesha Williams, Connectional Young Adult Representative

## Mission Statement

The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is commissioned to teach, train and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

## Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church so that lay persons may maximally utilize their God given abilities and skills to improve and extend the kingdom to create happiness, peace, and harmony among its members.

## Executive Board Meeting Connectional Lay Organization Tentative Agenda @ Glance

### Thursday - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019

8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Personal Devotion/Wellness & Preparation for the Day/Travel
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Registration
	<b>Executive Board Meeting – CLO Elected Officers, District President &amp; Advisors Only</b>
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Biennial Evaluation Organizational and Officer Effectiveness Next Steps

### Friday - 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

6:00 am to 8:45 am	Personal Devotion/Wellness & Preparation for the Day
7:00 am to 8:45 am	Breakfast on your own
	Transition and Prepare for Business Session I
8:45 am to 9:00 am	Assemble/Musical Prelude
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Opening Devotions & Business Session I
<b>12:00 pm to 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch -Included in Registration</b>
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Business Session II
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm	Dinner (on your own)

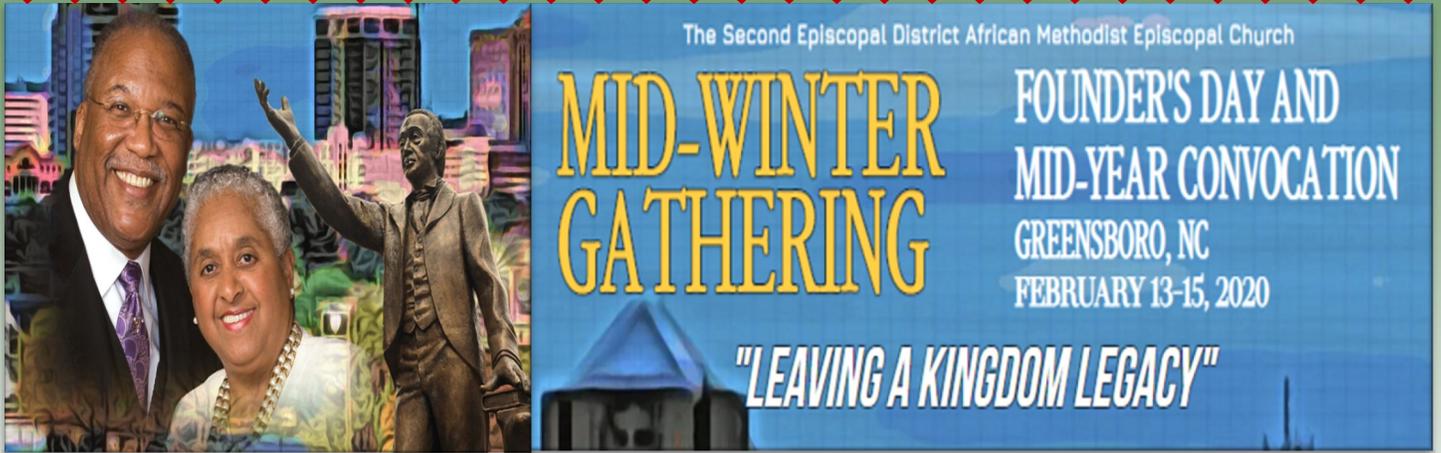
### Saturday - 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019

6:00 am to 8:45 am	Personal Devotion/Wellness & Preparation for the Day
7:00 am to 8:45 am	<b>Breakfast (Included in Registration)</b>
8:45 am to 9:00 am	Transition and Prepare for Business Session III
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Opening Devotions, Business Session III, Learning Lab Plenary - Called to Serve
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	<b>"Sending Forth" ~Closing Remarks</b> <b>Love Circle ~ Departing to Serve</b>

#### Onward to Greater

#### What You Need To Know for Executive Board

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLO Elected Officers, District Presidents, Advisors are expected to attend the Thursday, December 5, 2019 session.</li> <li>• Plan to arrive by 5 pm Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> if you are a CLO Executive Officers, District President or Advisor.</li> <li>• All others plan to arrive by 8:00 am on Friday, December 6, 2019</li> <li>• Plan to depart after 1:00 pm on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Suggest Attire – Business Casual (day)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to meet 2 new people</li> <li>• Don't forget to take your prescribed medication</li> <li>• What you will need to bring: Your Bible; Doctrine and Discipline 2016 Edition; Notes from the Biennial; Great Attitude; Note Pad</li> <li>• Plan to arrive by 5-10 minutes before each Business Sessions</li> <li>• Plan to enjoy, learn and grow with the Lay Organization.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|



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Greensboro,  
North Carolina  
27407



**Group Name:** AME Mid-Winter Gathering 2020

**Group Room Rate:** \$134.00 per night (*Double & King*)

**Group Rate Cut-off Date:** *January 13, 2020*



# Advent

*A Season of Hope  
& Expectation*

The word "advent," from the Latin *adventus* (Greek *parousia*), means "coming" or "arrival." The **Advent Season** is focused on anticipating the arrival of Jesus as Messiah (Christ or King). The worship, scripture readings, and prayers not only prepare us spiritually for Christmas (his first coming), but also for his second coming. This is why the Scripture readings during Advent include both Old Testament passages related to the expected Messiah, and New Testament passages concerning Jesus' second coming as judge of all.

Christmas is not meant to be an isolated day, but a festival of the Incarnation in the midst of the Church year. Christmas is only properly understood after having the preparation provided by Advent. In the midst of the secular excesses leading up to Christmas, Advent provides a welcome solace and an opportunity to continually re-orient ourselves to God's will as we expectantly wait for the true meaning of Christmas: the Incarnation of God the Son.

HOPE

**Week 1**  
**Candle Name:** Prophet's Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Hope  
**Reminds Us:** Jesus is coming

**Verse:** Romans 15:12-13

**Prayer:** O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

PEACE

**Week 4**  
**Candle Name:** Angel's Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Peace  
**Reminds us:** The message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

**Verse:** John 3:16-17

**Prayer:** O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

FAITH

**Week 2**  
**Candle Name:** Bethlehem Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Faith  
**Reminds Us:** Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

**Verse:** Luke 3:4-6

**Prayer:** O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

JOY

**Week 3**  
**Candle Name:** Shepherd's Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Joy  
**Reminds Us:** The Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus

**Verse:** Luke 2:7-15

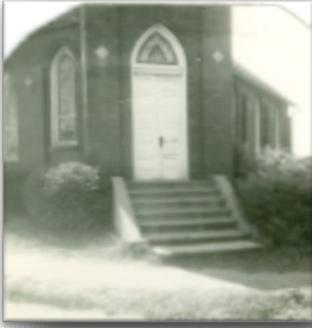
**Prayer:** O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.



**Christ Candle**  
Light on Christmas Eve

**Verse:** John 1:29

## St. James AME Church History – Historic Method – Raleigh, NC



Saint James African Methodist Episcopal Church is a Gothic Revival brick structure, which received its historical landmark status from the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission (RHDC) on September 1, 2009. The church is historically significant as an important example of the spirit of community-building and individual and collective improvement, supported by African-American residents, entrepreneurs, and as the only church that still occupies its early-twentieth-century structure.

As an early settlement, the Mason Village or Masonville population grew, so did the need for a place of worship. The community was comprised of hard working people, earning wages from farming, janitorial work, construction jobs, house cleaners, and laborers at the local state college. During this Reconstruction era, people would gather at individual homes, outside, or any other available space to practice their Christian beliefs. Therefore, in 1872, a group of courageous men, Louis Atwater, Zaney Coggins, Lewis Mason, Bennett Powell, John Rhone, and Henry Wood, set their sight on a parcel of property for a holy place. Through God's blessings, the first wooden structure was erected. County records indicate that the church had been in existence six years prior to the building of the actual foundational structure, making the founding year 1866. These records also show additional land was acquired at the rear of the church in later years. It is believed that either the Norfolk Southern Railway or the United States Postal Service changed the name of Mason Village to Method around 1890.

The current edifice, built in 1923, is one of nine buildings and athletic facilities that are a part of Berry O'Kelly Historic District and School Campus. The land for the new structure had been donated by one of Method's most prominent businessmen, Berry O'Kelly. The church has architectural significance and is built of solid red brick masonry, an irregular form, a front-gable roof, and a tall tower and steeple. The building remains well-preserved and retains much of its original features on the exterior, including its pointed-arch, stained-glass windows, doorways, and brick-framed sign. St. James served as the site where numerous Berry O'Kelly School graduation ceremonies were held, during the tenure of the school's operation. The church has a rich history, but we realize there are still some missing pieces. We know from banking documentation that a church parsonage was acquired during the early 1950s.



Several Sunday School conventions and district meetings have been held at the church. Under the pastorate of Rev. James N. Sheares and Mrs. Shirley Sheares, St. James' youth member, Sharon Taylor, won several oratorical contests. St. James was a circuit church during those years, rendering services only on the first and third Sundays. Rev. Sheares was also the overseer at Piney Grove AME on the second Sunday, and Boylan Chapel AME Church on the fourth Sunday. The Reverend Mary Frazier, A.J. Turner, J. Bernard Wilder, Whalen Hogan, and Robert Walker, all served as Associate Ministers under Rev. James N. Sheares.



## ***St. James AME Church History ~ Continued***

The list of other circuit pastors include: Reverend Murray, Hadden, Easterling, Wallace, Dr. R. W. Wisner, David Jackson, Jasper D. Hill, Jr., J.O. Smith, J. J. Baker, B. H. Lucas, C. C. Scott, B. F. Pickett, A. J. Mattison, Sidney Williams, Josiah Davis, Joseph Hunter, S. A. Thompson, and Nathaniel Gaylord.

Sister Dora Stroud, for whom our Missionary Society is named after, invited all into the house of the Lord, whether you were a regular attendee, or not. She worked diligently to build the Men's Sunday School class and Missionary Society. Miss Dora, as she was affectionately called, was known throughout Method and the greater AME community, for sponsoring youth plays, assigning Easter speeches, organizing baby contests, mock weddings, and other rewarding dramas. Even through difficult times, Miss Dora and other willing workers joined together to provide spiritual growth and physical needs of the early church. They wanted to maintain the integrity and dedication of the early parishioners. These pioneers include, Lonnie and Beulah Atwater, Bertha Edwards, Fred and Florence Hackney, Lorena Money Hall, Ethel Banks Harris, Mary Ida Harris, Roxie Parrish Lee, Wiley and Lillie Rogers, Ida and Mary P. Thomas, Kathleen Utley, Savannah Rogers, Louise Muckle, Thomas Wilcox, Deck Mason, and Jack Hicks.

Rev. James N. Sheares departed St. James in 1972, after his appointment as a Presiding Elder of the Western North Carolina Conference of the AME Church. He left our congregation much wiser and stronger. St. James became a station church, after the closure of Boylan Chapel. As years passed, the church continued to move forward under the tutelage of Rev. William E. Diggs, Rev. Allen D. Terrell, Rev. David L. Morrison, Rev. Samuel T. Wilson, Rev. Thomas G. Weatherford, Rev. James Beard, Rev. Casimir K. Brown, Rev. Kelvin Royster, and Rev. Leodis Strong.

The Rev. J. Bernard Wilder was the only shepherd who served St. James as an Associate Pastor, Senior Pastor, and as its Presiding Elder. The church sanctuary was carpeted, new hymnals and bibles were purchased, the church parsonage was sold, and a stationary telephone line was added during his administration.

After the arrival of Rev. A.J. Holman, the church body voted to begin a building project. The congregation wanted a fellowship hall, a new Pastor Study, and separate bathrooms. The people had the mind to work, but the task was an uphill battle. The church decided not to borrow the money for the addition, but rather pay out of pocket because of bad business dealings. After countless fundraising efforts, the addition was completed under the direction of Rev. Randolph Phillip Lynch, Sr. The additional space was dedicated by Bishop Vinton R. Anderson, Presiding Prelate of the Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Church on June 6, 1999. There are many family members and friends who helped to complete this venture.



## **St. James AME Church History ~ Continued**



The history of St. James would not be complete without sharing the story of Bro. Joseph Clyde Atwater. He was a trustee, steward, and the longest serving Sunday School Superintendent in the history of the church, at over 20 years. During his 95+ years as a member, he inspired all who came in contact with him. He believed in the Proverb 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." He and his wife, Mrs. Lula Pearl Atwater donated many items to the church, including an organ, a heating and air conditioner unit, and a kitchen suite.

The Sons of Allen auxiliary was organized under the pastorate of Rev. Harry J. Simpson. The purpose of the SOA Fellowship group is to foster closer relationships between men of the church, to equip men of the church for meaningful service, to reach unchurched men, and to present positive role models for our youth.

In May 2012, the membership welcomed Reverend Phyllis T. Royal. The congregation embraced her vision of outreach ministry and expansion of the Christian Education Department, to make it a more vital entity of the church. Pastor Royal and her husband, Dr. Erroll Royal, have sponsored several workshops for the community. Under her leadership, a website has been developed; a non-profit community alliance has been established, which includes a scholarship component. The alliance also conducted its first summer daycare program. The church sanctuary has had a facelift with new carpet, refaced padded pews, a new pulpit altar set, new roof, new steps for the entryway, painting of the fellowship hall, and re-facing of the brick exterior and church sign.

Throughout the years, the church has faced many trials, but God is our refuge and only through faith in him, we remain to serve the community. We spread the Gospel through outreach ministry at local assisted living/rehabilitation facilities, provide food security at the local shelters and the AME empowerment center, send school supplies/snacks to local classrooms, host mentoring sessions for our youth and enrichment workshops for adults, support victims of domestic violence, and give gifts for the prison angel tree ministry. May God's rich blessings continue to rein over St. James and its congregation.



## HONORING OUR HEROES: GREATER BETHEL VETERANS' DAY WORSHIP SERVICE



On Sunday November 10, 2019 Greater Bethel AME Church, Charlotte NC under the leadership of Dr. Abdue Knox I, Pastor, honored our heroes through a powerful worship experience led by Veterans as worship participants. As a part of the worship experience, The 208<sup>th</sup> Army Band Brass Quintet provided patriotic music that ushered in a spirit of God and patriotism for everyone present.



As the service continued, Reverend Dr. Calvin Sydnor III, 20<sup>th</sup> Editor of The Christian Recorder and retired Army chaplain, preached a dynamic sermon entitled "Too Busy". He inspired everyone by reminding the congregation that "We need to be about God's business. It's not the problem of being busy, but what we are busy about." He encouraged the church to "be busy about God's business."



As the worship experience concluded, the congregation left inspired and renewed; committed to doing God's work and being busy taking care of God's business. The Veterans left

feeling honored and proud of the sacrifice that they made for their country. The Veterans and their family fellowshiped with each other in a luncheon sponsored and served by the Class Leaders Council, Ruth J. Youngblood, President. Greater Bethel AME Church is proud of our Veterans and the sacrifice of these brave men and women. . We thank our Veterans for their service. To God be the glory!

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Paramount celebrates Black History Month  
honoring the:

**150-YEAR COMMEMORATION  
OF WYATT OUTLAW**

**FREEDOM TALKS\***  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2020 AT 3:00 PM**

**WYATT OUTLAW SCREENING\*\***  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2020 AT 7:00 PM**

**ALL EVENTS ARE FAMILY FRIENDLY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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WAYMAN CHAPEL AME**

**\*\*TICKETS \$5 FOR SCREENING; SPONSORSHIP AND PROCEEDS ARE FOR AACAHC**

# Mark Your Calendars

## Upcoming Events

### Around the Connection



**December 5-7, 2019 .....Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board Meeting**  
Atlanta, GA

**December 8, 2019 ..... 2:30PM.....Church Anniversary**  
Macedonia— Milton, NC — Rev. Kelvin Royster, *Pastor*  
4164 Yarboroughs Mills Road—Milton, NC  
Guest Preacher, Rev. Larry McDonald, Pastor of Allen Chapel AMEC—Roxboro, NC

**December 14, 2019.....11AM-3PM.....WNCC Christmas Luncheon With The Bishop**  
St. Joseph—Durham, NC—Rev. Dr. Jonathan Augustine, *Pastor*  
2521 Fayetteville Street—Durham, NC

**December 31, 2019 .....8:00PM.....Watch Night Service**  
Macedonia— Milton, NC — Rev. Kelvin Royster, *Pastor*  
Guest Preacher, Rev. Angel Lea, Pastor of High Street Baptist Church—Milton, NC

**March 31, 2020 ..... Lay Organization Evangelism Sunday**

**May 5-9, 2020 ..... 128th Session of the WNC Annual Conference**  
Embassy Suites—Greensboro, NC

**May 28-30, 2020 ..... 2nd District Legacy Fest & Planning Meeting**  
Ebenezer— Fort Washington, MD

**July 8-20, 2020 ..... AMEC 51<sup>st</sup> Quadrennial Session**  
Orlando, FL

# Merry Christmas

from our family to yours...

And the angel said to them,  
“Fear not, for behold, I bring  
you good news of great joy that  
will be for all the people. For  
unto you is born this day in the  
city of David a Savior, who is  
Christ the Lord.

~ Luke 2:10-11

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Articles, church history, events, and hidden  
figures to be considered for the January  
THE LAY EXPRESS newsletter:

**DEADLINE— DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>**

Email to Sister Angela Elam  
[allendur@aol.com](mailto:allendur@aol.com)

