

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 VI MARCH 2020 ISSUE 3



Penny S. Oliver, President

It's easy to lose faith when pain is plaguing your mind, body, and soul. But it's never too late to begin bettering yourself and pushing past this pain. For many, that means healing — from hardships, personal problems, or even just a rough month. The word of God says in 3 John 1:2 "Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well". **The Good News is** a pure soul is one that not only wishes wellness on himself, but on others. We have lost

two pillars of the AMEC, President Valerie Bell and Sister Shirley Sheares. Let us come together and pray for one another:

I'm coming to you today as your child, longing to hear from you and asking for your divine healing. There's so much I don't understand about life. But I do know that with one touch, one word, you can make me whole. Please forgive me of my sins, cleanse me of my unrighteousness, and begin your healing from the inside out.

I don't always know what your will is Lord, especially in times like now, when I desperately seek your face. I offer you no promises, no bargains, no deals to exchange for my health. I simply bow my heart before you to tell you the desire of my heart: that I want to spend as many years as I can loving you here, loving others, and wanting to become more like you. However you choose to accomplish that is up to you—and okay with me. If you use doctors to provide healing, give them wisdom to know what to do. Regardless of how you accomplish it, the healing you give is always miraculous. And you deserve all the praise.

I absolutely believe you have the power to heal. You demonstrated that on earth, and you still heal in mi-

I absolutely believe you have the power to heal. You demonstrated that on earth, and you still heal in miraculous ways today. Even when my faith is weak, you say it is enough, and my love for you is strong. And I know you already hold my heart and life in your hands. It's up to you. If I can bring you more glory through healing, then that's what I ask for. That's what I desire.

But if your answer is no, or not now, I know that your grace is sufficient for me. Ultimately, I want your will to be my will. I look forward to spending an eternity with you. But Lord, if you have planned still more for me to do here on this earth, I not only need and want your physical healing, Lord, but a thorough, deepdown cleansing and strengthening—a whole-hearted renewal of all that I am. Because all that I am is yours. Use this trial to strengthen me from a "what-if" faith to a "no-matter-what" faith. And no matter what, I choose to honor you and give you glory. In Jesus's name, Amen. -Written by Rebecca Barlow Jordan

2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV reads "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Join us on March 14, 2020 at, Bethel, AMEC, 200 North Regan St., Greensboro, at 10 am for our bi-monthly lay meeting, where we strive to humble ourselves, pray, and work together not as man over man but as lay persons working with God. Thank you for your willingness to serve!



Sister Valerie Gary Bell Connectional bay Organization President



We Salute You!



The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization salutes President Valerie Gary Bell as a woman who loved the Lord, her family, the AME Church as a whole and served as a Prayer Warrior, a dedicated Teacher, a compassionate Leader and a friend to all. She gave her full sup-

compassionate Leader and a friend to all. She gave her full support on all levels and encouraged ALL to work to their full potential and strive for excellence inside and outside of the church. She encouraged others to read, teach and live the Word of God, while also standing for truth and righteousness.



The Lay Organization of the Western North Carolina Conference will remember President Bell for her selfless work to make the church of Allen a more excellent and Spirit-filled place to worship. We thank God for gracing us with a loving and outstanding leader. Thank you President Bell for answering God's call to be a witness and leader for the A.M.E. Church Lay Organization.

Rest In Peace, President Bell!













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



"Know Your Church"

A Political and Social Activist Moment for the AME Church

Bishop James Lavert Davis had a number of electrifying and enlightening workshops, panel discussions and presentations at our recent Second District Founders Day - Mid-Year Meeting held in Greensboro, NC. One such panel discussion, presented by the Political and Social Action Committee, was lead by the Rev. Kendal McBroom, a young and newly appointed Pastor of Turner Chapel AME Church in High Point, NC. Rev. McBroom's opening remarks were so profound that as Director of Public Relations for the Washington Conference Lay Organization, I felt compelled to share this important and vital information with you. It is hoped that you too will find the information so on point that you will share it with others to support the get out the **Vote** campaign and participate in the upcoming **2020 Census**.

The Rev. McBroom shared the following statement before introducing the two panelists for the Political and Social Action discussion:

The 2016 election opened many of our eyes and minds to the deep division and danger in the midst of our communities and country. The election of Donald John Trump revealed that although we had come a significant way in the election of Barack Hussein Obama, the first self-identifying African-American President, those achievements were now under threat. Gerrymandering, the roll back of civil rights legislation, and other actions by this administration over the past four years have revealed that these fears were and are legitimate. And, lest we place emphasis on the symptom of a deeper issue, many state legislatures throughout this country have people in political leadership whose ideologies and policies are contrary to the uplift of our congregants and congregations. According to a study carried out by the National Conference on State Legislatures in 2015, while African-Americans comprise 13% of the national population, they only represent 9% within state legislatures, nationally.

Statistically and otherwise, the vote of our communities and congregations matter. When we vote, we upend decades and sometimes century long ways of doing business as usual. When we vote, we change the tone of the political conversation. When we vote, our neighborhoods see the changes and investments necessary. When we vote, the overall health of our communities becomes better. When we vote, our congregants are closer to living that life, and life more abundantly that Jesus discusses in the gospel of Matthew. Likewise, when we participate in the Census, resources—funding, housing, initiatives—are invested into our communities. When we participate in the Census, our concerns as well as our strengths are documented. When we participate in the Census, we are accounted for in the national conversation and registry.

This is why it is vital in the year 2020 for us to do two things that will have an impact beyond Donald Trump's presidency and our very own lifetimes: we must vote and participate in the census. Census records have historically been used to allocate funding for citizens, document population trends, and help in ancestry research. You and I want it to be known for future generations to come that there were some AMEs in 2020 that stood up to the demonic structures of their time and fought back to ensure a better life for them.

Please note, in mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. Your immediate action is necessary and we are counting on you.

The Washington Conference Lay Organization (WCLO) <u>"Know Your Church Series"</u> - 3/17/2020
Sister Glen White, WCLO President
Researched and Compiled by Brother William "Bill" Ayers, WCLO Director of Public Relations. *WCLO.ORG*Sources— Rev. Kendal McBroom, Pastor - Turner Chapel AME Church - High Point, NC - 2nd District Political and Social Action Chair.
United States Census Bureau.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Second Episcopal District Clergy and Congregations

FROM: home til

James Levert Davis, Servant Bishop

DATE: March 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Church Preparation and Response to Communicable Disease

Outbreak including Coronavirus

This Memorandum is being sent to you as a follow-up to an Email from Rev. Dr. Jeffery Cooper, General Secretary/CIO, African Methodist (AME) Church. Dr. Cooper issued Coronavirus and Influenza Recommendations citing ways to respond to the Coronavirus and other communicable diseases; urging those who are responsible for the safety of our churches and members to take precautionary measures to decrease the spread of Coronavirus and other communicable diseases.

Based on Dr. Cooper's email, We recommend that you adhere to the following precautionary measures:

- Click on the following link <u>Churches_response_to_pandemics.pdf</u> to view and share a comprehensive article regarding "<u>Church Preparation and Response to Potential Pandemics</u>," such as the Coronavirus and Influenza, from Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MDiv., MPH, Medical Director, AME Church International Health Commission President.
- 2. Utilize the prefilled communion packs (cup & wafer) for minimal handling and disposal.
- 3. Local churches purchase sanitation stations with Purell sanitizers for use by congregants
- 4. Encourage members to cease greeting with handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, etc.

Additionally, we are approaching our Annual Conference season. We are instructing all host pastors and host committees to provide multiple sanitation stations with Purell sanitizers for easy access in central locations. We will take all precautions to ensure as much as lies within us possible to decrease the spread in efforts to assure the well-being of the people.

Lastly, but certainly not least, let us pray! Pray that God will lift this plague from His people all around the nation and the world. Ultimately, it is in His hands and within His will. "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14). IT'S PRAYER TIME!

SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1134 11th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20001 P.O. Box 34247, Washington, DC 20043(Auto 2004) P.O. Box 34247, Washington, DC 20043(Auto 2004) P.O. Baitimore Conference P. North Carolina Conference Virginia Conference Washington Conference Western North Carolina Conference IId123bishop@yahoo.com Pwww.ame2.com



THE 2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS **UNDERWAY!**

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 1808 Chapel Hill Road, Apt A9 Durham, NC 27707

* WNCC Lay Organization elections scheduled for April 11, 2020, 10am, at St. James AME Church 5201 N. Patterson Street, Winston-Salem, NC



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.

Please contact Sister Jacqueline Kanipe at jconleyk70@gmail.com.

SPRING FORWARD!





On the next page is a resolution from Old North State Medical Society in support of expanding Medicare. This resolution is designed to encourage members of the State Assembly to support this effort.

Please complete the resolution on the next page and return to your Pastor.



Resolution in Support of Closing the Coverage Gap in North Carolina

WHEREAS, North Carolina has the opportunity to expand affordable health insurance to approximately 400,000 of the 1 million uninsured people; and.

WHEREAS, several hundred thousand of the approximately 400,000 of these individuals and families are childless adults who are working and have no other affordable insurance options available to them, which has created a coverage gapⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, the development of a North Carolina solution for closing this coverage gap in our state will allow us to strengthen and protect our economic prosperity and preserve the freedoms and opportunities that are cherished by the people and businesses of our state; and,

WHEREAS, covering the uninsured means better premium value for North Carolinians with private health insurance by lowering costs for everyone; and.

WHEREAS, providing health insurance coverage will help people, especially women of child bearing age, gain access to the care they need, which improves health outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap will provide health care for a considerable number of very low-income, childless adults who are not eligible for any state or federal health care assistance; and

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap will promote access to behavioral and physical health therapy and treatment for low-income citizens struggling with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, a North Carolina plan to close the coverage gap could create as many as 37,200 new jobs statewideⁱⁱ, according to a study by the Center for Health Policy Research at The George Washington University; and,

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap in North Carolina will bring \$11.7 billion in federal funding to the state between 2020 and 2022; and,

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap could generate \$500 million in additional state revenue, and \$100 million in additional county revenue from 2020 to 2022, due to the additional economic and job growth; and

WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap could strengthen the economic that the content of the content	onomy and bolster j	ob growth in counties across North Car	olina, as well as improve
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT supports seeking a North Carolina strategy for closing the co Federal Poverty Level, in accordance with provisions of the fe	verage gap for all No		w 138 percent of the
Please print/type:			
Organization:	Staff Signer:		
Address:	City:	State: Zip Code:	
Phone: Email:			

https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/82786/2000866-What-if-More-States-Expanded-Medicaid-in-2017-Changes-in-

EligibilityEnrollment-and-the-Uninsured.pdf

https://www.conehealthfoundation.com/app/files/public/11568/expanding-medicaid-in-north-carolina---2019.pdf

http://www.kff.org/uninsured/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/

ii https://www.conehealthfoundation.com/app/files/public/11568/expanding-medicaid-in-north-carolina---2019.pdf

iii https://www.conehealthfoundation.com/app/files/public/11568/expanding-medicaid-in-north-carolina---2019.pdf

http://www.conehealthfoundation.com/app/files/public/4202/The-Economic-and-Employment-Costs-of-Not-Expanding-Medicaid-in-NorthCarolina.pdf

wi http://www.conehealthfoundation.com/app/files/public/4202/The-Economic-and-Employment-Costs-of-Not-Expanding-Medicaid-in-North-Carolina.pdf



Presents

FREE ADMISSION GARRETT DAVIS' ADDY'S BOYS

Has Toured 14 Cities Across the Country!



EDUCATING THROUGH ENTERTAINMENT

With highly entertaining music, drama and comedy, the Broadway-Style Stage Play "Daddy's Boys" tells the story of a widowed father and his sons coming together through fractured relationships when faced with prostate cancer.

"Amazing! Entertaining! Engaging!" "Excellent performance to raise prostate cancer awareness!"

Carolina Theatre

300 W. Morgan St., Durham, NC March 21st, 2020 at 5 PM

Free Tickets Available Online www.daddysboys.org

PHEN, based in Boston, MA, is the nation's leading prostate cancer patient education and advocacy organization focusing on the needs of African Americans.



Council of Bishops African Methodist Episcopal Church

Lent 2020

Lent is a time of repentance, renewal, a chance to reflect, seek a closer walk with Christ, discipline our spirit, deepen our commitment and show a stronger love to our family, friends, and, most of all, to God. You probably heard of all these objectives. Each is just as important as the other. Lent leads us to the cross of Calvary, the act of the crucifixion, and the hope of our faith, Easter resurrection Sunday.

As I think of the goodness of God, I praise Him that at the right time God gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you and me. What a precious sacrifice, all for love! My prayer is this: God make us aware of Your far-reaching love toward us. May we come to the realization that Your love encompasses the whole world. Your love breaks down barriers that separate us as the people of God. Society's evils cannot stand against the force of Christ's love for this world: His love covers a multitude of faults. Love puts everybody on equal footing. Love draws us to the foot of the cross in humility and confession. Love lifts us to a higher calling to be more, do more, and embrace a life of abundance. Jesus says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10b KJV).

Therefore, we will stay positive, strive to live life with purpose, stay focused on pleasing God, and cultivate an atmosphere of peace and serenity. We will strive harder to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We will pray more for the ability to do unto others as we want others to do unto us. We will strive to respect ourselves and others. We will pray harder for the will of God to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. We will seek the Kingdom of God and trust God to provide our every need according to His riches in glory. Jesus is the source of our hope, the joy of our living, and the center of our well-being.

We will trust God more. We will be responsible citizens by voting, supporting our church and community while empowering each other. We will encourage healthy living and economic development. We will show the love of God that has been shed abroad in our hearts and pour that same love into a world that desperately needs it. We will be steadfast and unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord!

I join with you for a wonderful Lenten season that will bring forth a blessed Resurrection Easter Sunday! "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6 KJV).

Because of Christ, I am,

Harry L. Seawright
Presiding Bishop, 9th Episcopal District.
President of the Bishop's Council

Permission courtesy of:





The 128th Session of the Western North Carolina Conference

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 WMS Annual Convention

Tuesday – Saturday, May 5 – May 9, 2020 Business, Training & Worship

Opening Annual Service Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Greensboro Airport 204 Centreport Drive Greensboro, NC 27409



** GETTING PREPARED TO WORK **



The church

Connectional Lay Organization

Evangelism Sunday
Sunday, May 31, 2020

has left the building.

Theme: G.R.O.W. Give Radical Outreach Work

Acts 2:38—Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Community Development Corporation

THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE 2019 SUMMER SUMMIT:

We the members of the SED Community Development Corporation submit the following report of activities since the 2019 Summer Summit:

- 1. The purchase of the building at 7610 Pennsylvania Avenue was completed.
- 2. At this property now owned by the 2nd Episcopal District, 15 or 16 suites are rented, some with multi-year agreements. Two potential tenants are interested in the remaining suite.
- 3. Major renovations were completed in the building. Services were also updated and upgraded that had a profound effect on the desire of the tenants to keep renting at this property.
- 4. A management organization is in place to handle general operations of our property.
- 5. In these first 6 months we report a positive income stream that aligns with our projections
- 6. We need to reach and maintain a cash reserve for capital expense and to create a sustaining cash flow for local church budget adjustments.

We celebrate the success of this first endeavor to generate capital. It has only been 6 months, yet we are realizing a net profit. We are at the point where churches could receive modest benefits but we recommend that we wait a full year's cycle before we make any distributions. However, the purchase of the building at 7610 Pennsylvania Avenue, strategically places the district in the position to keep the promise of shared wealth. As we build cash reserve, we move toward not just removing financial burdens of local churches. Our success lifts and enlightens us to push forward with greater collective energy to change the financial landscape of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church.





GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

Office of the General Secretary/CIO Rev. Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper

Registration Fees for Observers

\$120 - January 1, 2020 - March 31, 2020

\$125 - April 1, 2020 until start of Registration at 2020 General Conference

Note: AME member card is required for discount

Student with Valid ID:

\$50 - Increases to \$60 at site of the General Conference

Youth - (Age 5-18):

\$25 - Increases to \$35 at site of the General Conference

Delegates and Alternates: Register through their District Office



SUMMER SUMMIT MEETING

MINISTERS' RETREAT CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP & TRAINING (CEC)

Monday-Thursday, August 3 - 6, 2020

HAMPTON ROADS CONVENTION CENTER

1610 Coliseum Drive Hampton, Virginia 23666

EMBASSY SUITES By HILTON

1700 Coliseum Drive Hampton, Virginia 23666

Group Name – 2nd Episcopal District Summer Summit Reservation by Telephone: 1-800-362-2779 Reservation by website:

www.hamptonroadsconventioncenter.embassysuites.com

(3 Night Stay Requirement)

Room Rate: \$143.00+Tax (Double/King Occupancy)

Group Rate Cut-off Date - July 1, 2020

Courtesy of The Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal District Website https://www.ame2.com/





		Veteran's Shoppers Delight (free items), Charlotte, NC ~ Rev. Dr. Abdue L. Knox, Pastor
•	DinnerDramaSpirit	African American Historical Production cualsDance—Donations welcome at the door Raleigh, NC ~ Rev. Dr. Robert L. Hodges, Pastor
Speake	er: The Honorable Cheri Beas	ley, Chief Justice, North Carolina Supreme Court urham, NC ~ Rev. Jonathan C. Augustine, Pastor
		WNCC Lay Organization Meeting Greensboro, NC ~ Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Barbara R.	Chisolm (Candidate for Bish	op), Pastor of Greater Zion AMEC, Awendaw, SC, Charlotte, NC ~ Rev. Dr. Abdue L. Knox, Pastor
Speak	er: Rev. Dr. Anita M. Thompso	Annual Women's Day Program on, WNCC AMEC Eastern District Presiding Elder Road, Durham, NC ~ Rev. John D. Burton, Pastor
		Addie G. Stroud WMS Annual Day Raleigh, NC ~ Rev. Dr. Robert L. Hodges, Pastor
	Speaker: Rev. Wanda Howe	II, Pastor of Clapp's Chapel AMEC, Whitsett, NC Road, Mebane, NC ~ Rev. Timothy Boone, Pastor
Spe	aker: Rev. Kendal McBroom,	. K. P. Rigsbee's Pastor's Appreciation Program Pastor of Turner's Chapel AMEC, High Point, NC reet, Burlington, NC ~ Rev. K. P. Rigsbee, Pastor
•		Rev. John D. Burton's Service of Retirement Road, Durham, NC ~ Rev. John D. Burton, Pastor
March 28, 2020		St. Paul AMEC Gospel Fest
		Tickets \$25 General Admission / \$50 VIP
St. Paul Al	MEC, 402 W. Edenton Street,	Raleigh, NC ~ Rev. Dr. Robert L. Hodges, Pastor





March 28, 2020
March 29, 2020
April 11, 2020
April 19, 2020
April 24, 2020
April 26, 2020
April 26, 202011:00AM / 3:00PMWhite Cross AMEC 138th Anniversary Program 11AM Speaker: Rev. Myraette McGibboney, Pastor 3PM Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anita M. Thompson, WNCC AMEC Eastern District Presiding Elder White Cross AMEC, 4604 Lebanon Road, Efland, NC
May 5-9, 2020
May 28-31, 2020
July 8-15, 2020AMEC 51st Quadrennial Session General Conference
Orange County Convention Center, 9800 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819
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DEADLINE for information considered for the APRIL newsletter: MARCH 28th

Email to Sister Angela Elam ~ <u>allendur@aol.com</u>