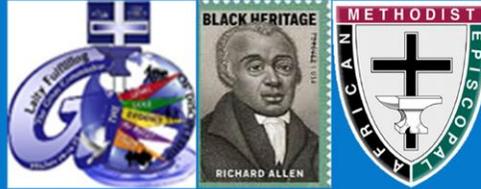


# Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization



## LAY EXPRESS

Volume III

March 2017

Issue 3



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1-2	Jack & Jill Information
3-6	Church Spotlight
7	Calendar * Concerns
8	Announcements
9-11	SED Lay Breakfast Highlights
12-14	Scholarship Information
15	Crusade for Souls

*“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” ~Ephesians 4:16*

Greetings In the Name of the Most High God:

We the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization invite ALL Pastors, Laity, Family and Friends to join us for “Empowering Our Young: Turning Passion Into Action! On April 8, 2017 at St. James A.M.E. Church Winston–Salem, NC.

Registration will begin at 9:00 am and our day will begin with a workshop entitled: **“Engage, Retain and Grow”**. The workshop is centered around our 18-35 age group and how to not only involve them, but grow and keep them within our churches. We will have a presenter from the Laity and one from the Clergy.

We will then proceed to kick start our annual Jack and Jill with a baby contest for infant up to 5 years old. Next, we will crown Jack and Jill where participants can be 5-35 years old and present a talent of his/her choice; scrap booking, power point presentation, oratorical, singing, dancing and, mime the categories are endless! Baby Contest and Jack and Jill participants will need to arrive no later than 10:30 am to ensure accurate and timely reporting of funds raised. Please complete the form attached with this letter to confirm participation. Lunch will be provided to persons attending and we look forward to seeing you there!

Church registration can be mailed in prior to the event day even if your church does not have anyone participating in the baby contest or competing for the Jack and Jill crown. This program is fundamental in the awarding of scholarships. We are requesting the support of every church in the Western

North Carolina Conference (Example: A Churches - \$300, B Churches- \$200, C Churches- \$100).

We will conclude our afternoon with a soul-stirring Empowerment Message to **Recharge, Refuel and Recommit** our-selves as **Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission**.

Yours In Christ and Christian Love,

Mary Royster Harris  
Young Adult Representative, Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

Adam Johnston  
3rd Vice President, Western North Carolina Conference and Program Co-Chair

Penny Oliver  
President, Western North Carolina Conference

**“LAITY FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION”**

**WNCC Lay Organization**  
**“Empowering Our Young: Turning Passion Into Action”**  
**St. James A.M.E. Church, Winston Salem, NC**  
**April 8, 2017**

**Please complete this form and return to:**

**Mary Royster Harris ([maryrharris11@gmail.com](mailto:maryrharris11@gmail.com))**  
**3508 Panarama Drive**  
**Greensboro, NC 27405**

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age** \_\_\_\_\_ **Church Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor’s Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you a baby contest participant? Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **or** **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you participating in the Jack and Jill Extravaganza? Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **or** **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**Talent** (*Mime, Singing, Playing an Instrument, Scrapbook, Oratorical, Liturgical, PowerPoint etc.*):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide a brief biography for Baby and Jack and Jill Contestants.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Clover Garden A.M.E. Church



The history of Clover Garden A.M.E. Church dates back to about 1880, at which time the pioneers worshipped here, first, under a bush arbor. At that time our forefathers, led by the late Rev. Jiles Foster, who was not pastoring a charge at that time, set out to help establish this church along with Brothers John C. Harvey, G.F. Harvey, Robert Ireland, Joe Madkins, and others.

After worshipping here for a while, bringing their families by horse, carts and mule-drawn wagons; engaging in prayer meetings with occasional sermons by Rev. Foster, the group decided to purchase land and build a better place of worship. During the summer of 1890, when the crimson clover was in full bloom, the land was purchased. The deed signed by the late Robert Ireland and Joe Madkins is still visible on our church records today.

As the Brothers walked slowly through the green plush grass, filled with clover and flowers and thanking God for this Blessing, they said to one another, "What shall we call this church that is about to come into being?" After some moments of consideration and thought from a group of dedicated men, from the lips of Brother John C. Harvey came these words, "Clover Garden", which must have been readily accepted by the group.

These men labored until the first frame church was built under the late Rev. Rudisal, followed by Rev. Donnie Smith, Rev. Poole, Rev. Davis, Rev. Simpson Jones, and Rev. C.S. Stroud, who

came to us in 1899 followed by Rev. John Tate. By this time, the early church was off to a glorious start with the help of Stewards William Madkins, W.J. Shaw, Isaac Wilson, Simon Slade, W.H. Gramack, Henry Ireland and Rev. Yancey Turner, who was a dedicated Missionary Baptist Minister, but loved the A.M.E. Church and worshipped with them as did many others in the 1880's.

Around 1913 the following ministers came, served and moved on:

Rev. C.A. Stroud	Rev. Parlely	
Rev. C.L. Stevens	Rev. Murray	
Rev. E. Jeffries (built 2 <sup>nd</sup> frame church)		Rev. Thomas Chrismon
Rev. J.O. Foster		Rev. P.O. Jones
Rev. R.C. Crutchfield		Rev. Morris
Rev. W.T. Harris		Rev. C.L. Steele
Rev. W.T. Hunter		Rev. C.R. Malloy

Rev. J.N. Reives started the present brick structure which was completed by Rev. C.S. Stroud on his second term as pastor. The faithful laymen were:

**Brothers:**

P.E. Turner	Virgle Turner
W.B. Slade	Andrew Turner
Huston Turner	Holt Wilson
Floyd Turner	Lee Ireland
Marvin Slade	Lannie Madkins
Dewey Slade	C.W. Waddell
E.D. Gant	George Russell
Stranger Allison	Willie Ireland

**And others...**

The following gave time and materials that we might be able to have a better place to worship:

Brooks Chrismon    Norman Fuller    James Johnson    Rev. Lacy Gant

Our past leadership speaks well for itself. Rev. H.J. Jeter, Rev. C.A. Holt, Rev. G.W. Troublefield, these like many others fell with the staff in hand; thus, the mantle fell on Rev. G.E. Turner, one of our very own, who served well until the coming of Rev. F.R. Pauling.

Rev. Pauling had the loyal support of the following officers: Seawell Wilson, LeRoy Ratliff, Phillip Ratliff, Albert Johnson, Preston Miles, Cletis Faucette, Ernest Moore, Jr., and now deceased, Leon Ratliff, George Moore Sr., Ortha Bradshaw, Charlie Shaw Sr., Elijah Shaw, Steve Ratliff, John, H. Garrison, John Madkins, Lester Pinnix, Nathaniel Slade, John D. Moore and W.D. Moore.

Rev. J. H. Torain came to us feeding our souls with Bread from Heaven. Through his careful guidance we accomplished many things long needed here at Clover Garden. Such accomplishments included: Church additions, fellowship hall, classrooms, Pastor's Study, steward's room, kitchen, bathrooms, choir room, Baptismal Pool, church van, church bus, the establishment of a Parsonage Fund and the organization of the Young People's Department which was an extension of the Women's Missionary Society. Souls were saved and the membership continued to grow.

Rev. Randolph P. Lynch was then sent to shepherd the flock. Under his leadership we were able to accomplish the following: the purchase of land from Sister Ressie Shaw, organization of the Mass Choir, changed the name of the Young Adult Choir to the Clover Garden Gospel Choir, consolidated the Junior and Senior Usher Boards to more efficiently work as an organization, allowed the purchase of certificates to be set aside for the Parsonage Fund and spiritual guidance. The membership also grew tremendously under Rev. Lynch's leadership.

We were later graced with another fine leader to take us to higher heights and greater depths in the Lord. Some of his accomplishments included the construction of the parsonage and along with Sis Toni Shaw, who was instrumental in the development of the Clover Garden A.M.E. Scholarship Fund. This fund allowed us to help many of our college students financially over the years. Under the leadership of Rev. John T. Broadnax we grew spiritually in the Lord.

Under the leadership of Rev. Robert L. Goode, we continued to grow spiritually in the Lord. We worked hard and accomplished many projects to include: Organization of the Children's Church, organized new members classes, interior of church painted, florescent lighting in hallways, fellowship hall, steward room, pastor's study and conference room, new furniture in the pastor's study, conference and stewards rooms, paved parking lot, purchase of new sound system and baby grand piano, elevated choir stand, started Tithing and Offering envelope system, reconstruction of Communion Rail, purchased concession machines, and many other projects.

Rev. Frank W. Sanders fed our souls with the word of God before the Lord saw a greater need for him. He helped many lost souls find their way to Christ while he shepherded our flock. His rendition of "Blessed Assurance" can still be felt in the walls so our sanctuary.

In 1999 Rev. Dr. H.S. Williams brought to us stability that is found in God's wise men. He is a man of integrity and truth and a firm believer of God and His Son. His leadership and direction was steadfast, relying only on the vision that God presented to him. Rev. Williams came to Clover Garden offering encouragement to the members of this church. With his guidance and Sister Tiney Garrison's assistance, our Mortgage Burning Rally efficiently fell in place. He gave his heartfelt support to the project spiritually and financially. Rev. Williams strived to spread unity and the love of God among his congregation and through his encouragement we continued to move forward.

In 2004 Clover Garden was blessed with a leader of spiritual awakening. The Rev. Mary F. Peterson had taken the reigns, leading us to bigger and better things. We were excited about the teaching that this woman of God had to offer. We were moving forward to the wonderful blessings from the Lord. Souls continued to be feed with the bread from Heaven. Membership increased tremendously and people held fast about the many things yet to come.

Under Rev. Peterson's leadership the members were trained and redirected through her teaching to help us achieve the maximum experience as an A.M.E. member. Her focus was about restructuring and reconciliation. Acolytes were trained and served faithfully each Sunday under Rev. Peterson's direction. Rev. Peterson also led the way to the reconstruction and re-carpeting of the pulpit. Rev. Peterson was a firm believer in working hard for the upkeep of God's Kingdom. Her vision for Clover Garden was to organize a strong Women's Ministry and establish a Building Fund to help us capture a new vision of "The Garden".

The motto of Rev. Milton O. Battle was “You are always welcome”. Rev. Battle brought excitement and joy to our congregation. He was instrumental in including the children in each service. He, along with his daughter, Starr, delighted our youth each Sunday with their rendition of “Children’s Church”. He encouraged our youth to be more in tuned with the Bible. Each Sunday it was a joy to see the children excel in learning and sharing their bible verses each week. Rev. Battle and his lovely wife Doris were a blessing in our continued growth.

In 2012 another righteous minister was sent to lead and direct our great congregation on our path to Christianity. Rev. Wanda L. Howell has graced us with her spirituality and love for her people. We were first introduced to Rev. Howell when she led back to back revivals here at Clover Garden A.M.E. Church and little did we know that she would one day lead and direct our congregation to share in her visions and messages of salvation and liberation. We are truly blessed to be delivered a word from the Lord each Sunday as well as to hear her angelic voice as she ministers her divine soul-stirring renditions of songs. Her firm belief that everyone has a talent to share has inspired members to stand up and be accounted for what they can contribute to flourish the spirituality of the church. She has installed our Church School and has grown our bible study group in a rapid fashion in just a few short months. Rev. Howell has inspired, through her leadership, members to step forward and to be instrumental in the continued growth of Clover Garden A.M.E. Church. To God be the Glory for her warm spirit and love for her flock. Her vision is uncompromisingly clear, with one central principle; to build and develop a kingdom of empowered people for God.







# SED LAY BREAKFAST HIGHLIGHTS

## Second Episcopal District Lay Legacy Breakfast

It was a glorious morning for the Second Episcopal District Lay Legacy Breakfast, held in Greensboro, NC at the Sheraton Greensboro Koury Center and continuing on the overall theme, *"Restoring Hope"*.

Mrs. Mary Harris, Young Adult Representative (WNCCLCLO) served as the worship leader. Opening song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" followed by prayer from Mr. Larry Rhodes, Parliamentarian (SEDLO).

The occasion by Ms. Adrienne Warren, Advisor, and (SEDLO) gave us a glimpse into "HOPE". As she quoted from Maya Angelou's **Still I Rise**, *"We come bringing gifts that our ancestors gave because we are the dreamers and hope. We come discovering the Hidden Figures in our churches throughout the Second Episcopal District. We come with grateful hearts and the close of the chapter of our 44<sup>th</sup> President, THE HONORABLE BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA, who shares the audacity of HOPE.*

*We are now at the beginning of a new chapter of servant in the Second Episcopal District, a servant, Bishop James Levert Davis and Mother Arelis B. Davis, Supervisor, who is leading the District through a restoration of HOPE. We sit at the table with thankful hearts and appreciation of our servant Bishop James Davis, who will lead us further in reflecting upon our past, embracing the changes of the present and preparing to continue the legacy. Thank you, Bishop Davis and **Still We Rise**".*

The blessing of the meal was given by Ms. Jean Richie, President (BCLO); the breakfast was served and the program continued with the introduction of the speaker by Ms. Robin Angela Smith, Young Adult Representative, (WCLO) who stated that she didn't know much about the bishop, but two things stood out about this man: 1. He has a heart for service. He talks to people and not at people. He makes you feel that your question is important. 2. His Integrity. He's transparent and gives everyone information and for that Ms. Smith says to Bishop - *"Brother I like your style"*.

Ms. Pamela Jones Watford, Chaplain (SEDLO) rendered two selections before our speaker, Bishop James Levert Davis, Servant Bishop, with the message entitled "What Can You See", scripture Nehemiah 1.

Bishop Davis made a statement that, "nobody sitting in this room, can't say these aren't challenging times in which we never witnessed before in our lives"! From the White House to your house, from the State House to the School House, even with alternative truth, still trying to find out what that means. Noting that new words and phrases that Webster hasn't caught up with yet. We have become people with no vision and poor sight. Bishop Davis told the story of a motivational speaker, who asked 23 to 27 persons to look at the board and there was a circle and then he asked the question. "What do you see?" Each one replied, a dot on the board. Here lied the problem, a seven foot board and there you see the board that can have more to be written. Opportunity is all around us, "What is your VISION". We work on the dot; never work the board, dream and vision. You see the sickness, but never see the discovery of the cure. You see unemployment, you don't see God's restless point to give you the means to think or start your own business. You see racism, never as a person with respect and demand RESPECT, WHAT CAN YOU SEE!!! As he got permission from Nehemiah, Nehemiah states that when you are able to see there are certain things you should be aware of. All persons fall into four categories: 1. Persons that have no vision, 2. Other folks have lost their vision, 3. Persons with limited vision and 4. 20/20 vision. Everybody will not have a vision. God only shares visions with those he can trust with the vision. Don't get mad because people can't see what you see. Vision is born out of your struggles. Vision is born through the birth canal of challenging difficulties. Also, one will need a partner, but be careful of some of the partners, ask God for a partner. The size of your vision tells the story of you. Your vision can't be bigger than GOD. There's no failure in God. Always talk to the person who gave you the vision. Have unscheduled time with God, to talk with him. Watch what God can do....."WHAT CAN YOU SEE".

There were remarks from SEDLO President, Ms. Valerie Bell, with closing by reciting the Lay Benediction.

Sonia P. Barbre, WNCCLCLO Historiographer



**The Western North Carolina Conference Lay was in the house!**



## It's SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

The following scholarships are available on the Connectional Lay website located on the front page at [www.connectionallay-amec.org](http://www.connectionallay-amec.org).

**Please read each eligibility carefully to ensure that you are applying for the correct scholarship.**

### 2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The A.M.E. Connectional Lay Organization offers the following scholarships to deserving students:

#### **Joseph C. McKinney Scholarship**

The Joseph C. McKinney Scholarship was established by the Connectional Lay Organization for the purpose of assisting young men and women of the Christian Faith in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in obtaining a college education. The funds for this scholarship will be administered by the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Deadline:** April 30, 2017

---

#### **J.D. Williams Scholarship**

The J.D. Williams Scholarship was established by the Connectional Lay Organization for the purpose of assisting young men and women in obtaining a college education. The funds for the scholarship will be administered by the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This scholarship is designated for a student planning to attend a four year A.M.E. college, university, or seminary.

**Deadline:** April 30, 2017

---

#### **Dr. Jamye Coleman Williams Scholarship**

The Jamye C. Williams Scholarship was established by the Connectional Lay Organization for the purpose of assisting young men and women of the Christian Faith in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in obtaining a college education. The funds for this scholarship will be administered by the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Deadline:** April 30, 2017

---

#### **National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.**

**Scholarships** The NANBPWC founded in 1935, emerged as a national non-profit organization in light of the need to promote and protect the interests of women business owners and professionals. The following scholarships are offered by the organization: National Scholarship, Dr. Julianne Malveaux Scholarship, Dr. Blanca Moore-Velez Woman of Substance Scholarship, and the Peola Smith-Smith Educational Leadership Scholarship.

**Deadline:** March 1, 2017

#### **Sonia P. Barbre**

WNCC Scholarship Chair  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2<sup>ND</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
LAY ORGANIZATION



DAVIS/M<sup>C</sup>KINNEY SCHOLARSHIP

2017–2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017

CONTACT: Dr. V. Susie Oliphant  
Ph. (301) 559-9488  
[vsfo@verizon.net](mailto:vsfo@verizon.net)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents:

- (1) The completed application form, using word processed or typed text;
- (2) A current official High School transcript of grades and SAT scores;
- (3) A minimum of (3) letters of recommendation (Pastor or Youth Pastor; responsible adult from his/her local church; and a responsible adult, non-relative outside of church;
- (4) A one page biographical statement including career goals; and
- (5) Evidence of financial need must be submitted.

Completed applications **MUST BE** received by stated deadline. Applications with missing components will not be considered in the final evaluation.

*See the WNCCLO website for the application and instructions.*

Western District of Western North Carolina Conference



# 2nd Annual CRUSADE FOR SOULS

Rev. Tony Lee,  
Guest Revivalist  
Community of Hope  
Temple Hills, MD



**DYNAMIC PREACHING - ANOINTED PRAISE & WORSHIP - LIVES CHANGED**



Turner's Chapel A.M.E. Church  
7615 Florence School Drive  
High Point, NC

March 30 - 31  
6:30 p.m. Nightly

Hosted by: Presiding Elder Conrad K. Pridgen &  
The Members of the Western District of the WNCC

WESTERN DISTRICT OF THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE  
African Methodist Episcopal Church