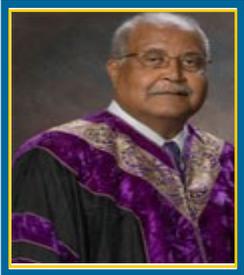


LAY EXPRESS

JANUARY 10, 2015

Western North Carolina Conference



*Bishop William Phillips DeVeaux Sr.
Chairperson, Lay Commission*



*Ms. Myrtle Mayo
Elected Outstanding
District Lay Person
November 6, 2014*

SPRINGDALE A.M.E. CHURCH HISTORY

We thank God for the spiritual insight and wisdom that He gave to a young slave named Sam Holt. In 1863, and at the age of 31, Sam, who was obviously a spirit-filled young man, found a rock and built his temple. He built a tiny log cabin called "Uncle Sam's Meeting House", where other slaves in the community could worship and praise God. That temple is now known as Springdale African Methodist Episcopal Church.

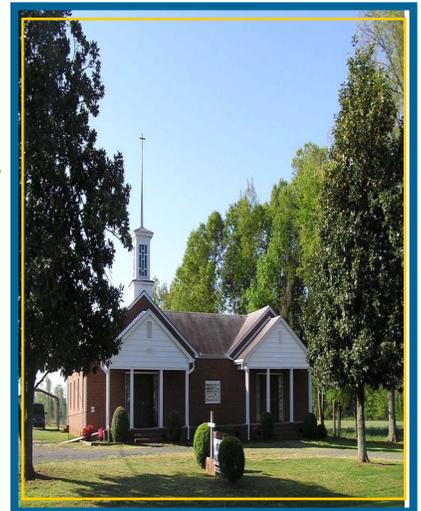
Springdale A.M.E. Church sits on well-groomed grounds and a cemetery is

a part of the property. In that cemetery are many old headstones, some of which carry almost illegible names of slaves and names of soldiers of several wars.

In the days of slavery, it was the practice of some slave owners to allow certain slaves to attend the worship services in their white churches. Sam Holt was given that privilege. He attended services at Low's Lutheran Church, a few miles south of the Springdale location.

Uncle Sam (as he was called) could neither read nor write, but it is said that he would memorize scriptures and sermons, then he would return to the little Springdale Church and preach them to the other slaves.

It was another custom in those days that the black churches would take the denominational names of white churches, so Springdale actually was a Lutheran church until near the turn of the century when it affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. (next page)



LAY PRAYER BREAKFAST HELD AT EMMANUEL A.M.E. CHURCH

It was a beautiful Saturday morning on September 13, 2014 at Emmanuel A.M.E. Church, in Durham, North Carolina, where host Lay President Adolphus Kelley, Rev. Anita Thompson and members welcome the Western North Carolina Conference Annual Prayer Breakfast, chaired by Sister Mary Locklear and Theresa Watson. The event recognized each local church active lay man of the year, who received a certificate from President Penny Oliver.

The scholarship winners were Joi Legrand, Jada McCoy, Khadija Mumford, Courtney Tate, Drew Winfield. Emmanuel Male Choir gave various musical selections and praise dance by brother Joshua Weaver of St. Paul-Chapel Hill. Prayer is the KEY and FAITH unlocks many doors. Praying for healing of the world by the disciples for the mission of carrying out the work were as followed; (page 3)



LAY EXPRESS

SPRINGDALE HISTORY

It is not known how many families attended the small log church in the early days, but in addition to Sam's other first generation families are known to be those of his brothers: Caswell, Orange, Jerry and Henry Holt. Others include those of Pleasant Shoffner, Rufus Shoffner, Richard Clapp, Stan Griffins, Reuben Summers, Stephen

Holt, Washington Holt, Henry Keck, Mike Coble, the Garrets, Shepard and Woods. First names of the latter three are not known.

Today, membership of the church represents the third, fourth and fifth generations of most families and the sixth generation of Sam Holt, the Shepard and Summers families.

It was in 1911 that a second church building was erected and this one was built with the name of Springdale A.M.E. Church. It was laid out in the pattern of a cross and there were two wings. These were the "a-men corners." Men sat to the left of the pulpit and women to the right. Boys and girls were seated together in the front rows and that meant



Returning to the circuit with Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church in Mebane, NC

they had to be on their best behavior. There was a pot-bellied wood stove near the center of the church to provide the only heat.

After Springdale affiliated with the A.M.E. Church, it, like many other small churches, was on a circuit. For many years, Springdale and St. Matthews A.M.E.

Church of Burlington were sister churches. For a brief period in the mid-fifties, Springdale was stationed, but not self-sustaining. It was returned to a circuit with Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church in Mebane, N.C.

In 1994 it was declared self-sustaining the Western North Carolina Conference and

became stationed once again.

Marvin Holt was Sam's grandson and his wife was named Mamie. Soon after they were married, they bought the first church piano from a Mr. Keck. They paid \$1.50 for it.



THE BIRTH OF SPRINGDALE A.M.E. CHURCH

Mamie Holt played the piano for the church until her oldest daughter, Mary, learned to play. Mary then became church pianist. Two other daughters, Jeanette Hunter and Helen Evans, also became church musicians.

In the early 1950s, it became obvious that the church

family needed a new building. That would be a tremendous task, because most were domestic workers. The only means of financing a new building was to sell chicken and fish dinners and to sponsor special events, such as a baby contest.

But, members went to work, and in 1958, solicited the help of white congregations in the community. Prayers were answered. Churches sent donations, and some of their members who were businessmen donated time and materials.

In 1960, the new Springdale A.M.E. Church was a reality.

PRAYER BREAKFAST CONTINUE



Praying for Healing of the World

Church— Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Conrad K. Pridgen, Unity— Rev. Donald Holman, Community— Presiding Elder J. Bernard Wilder, Family—Presiding Elder Emeritus Rev. Lonnie G. Horton, Sr., Youth —Ryan Wade ,and World Leaders—Mr. Roger Echols. The Memorial Service was led by Dr. Reginald Hildebrand, and reading of the deceased members by Sister Shirley Smith. Thanking God for 210 laymen in attendances.

“ Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
James 5:16

CHANGING DYNAMICS OF LEADERSHIP -LEE P. WASHINGTON

Definition of Christian Leadership:

- It's rare to attend a church conference in the 21st century and not hear some mention of leadership. Leadership has become the hot button topic at many Christian gatherings.
- Leadership has become a mantra that turns heads and grab's people's attention. So, let's begin with a definition of a Christian leader.
- A Christian leader is a servant who uses his or her credibility and capabilities to influence people in a particular context to pursue their God-given direction.
- Leadership isn't all about us. It's all about other people. We're not to lead for what we can get out of it, but what others, followers, can get out of it that will glorify God.

“What is needed to fulfill the Great Commission”

Church Leadership and Praxis:

- Christian leaders are tentative. They want to empower people, but not that much. They are concerned that people won't lead....the way they were trained or that they won't stay faithful to the vision.
- They are afraid that someone might decide things are better another way, teaching ideas contrary to the church and leading them to leave the church.
- Training, expectations, loyalty, strict rules—these ideas are the ministry modus operandi for much of the leadership in the body of Christ.
- The attitude of not granting that much power to the people sitting on the pews of modern churches is a natural reaction for those trained in a hierarchical mindset of ministry leadership.





LAY THEME:
**“LAITY FULFILLING THE GREAT
COMMISSION”**
MATTHEW 28:16-20

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Sonia P. Barbre— Historiographer*