



Western North Carolina Conference LAY EXPRESS



Volume II

July 2016

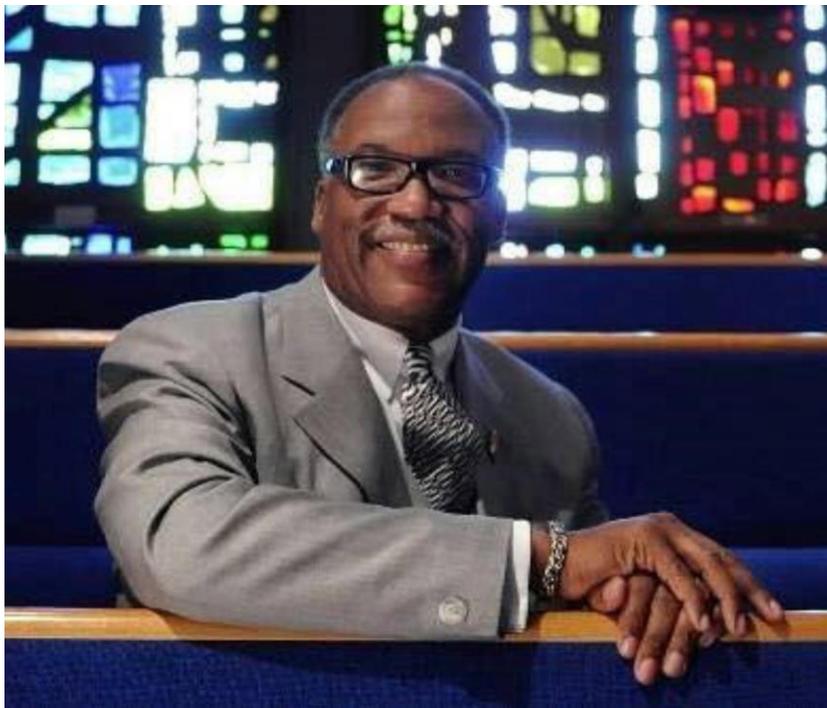
Issue 5

GENERAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to all of the persons who contributed to this report. Many of the pictures were placed on Facebook by members of the WNCC delegation. Until we get the official reports from our delegates, here are some highlights.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BISHOP

The 2nd Episcopal District Bishop is *The Right Reverend James LeVert Davis*.



James LeVert Davis is the 123rd elected and consecrated bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was elected to the office of bishop at the 47th General Conference of the AME Church in 2004. The 9th District honored him. Check it out on YouTube!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=js1irnc8Y0k>

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The Second Episcopal District should be very proud. The following were elected from the 2nd Episcopal District as new Bishops of the AME Church

The Reverend Dr. Harry Seawright.
The Reverend Dr. Frank M. Reid, III.

Mrs. Starr Battle (Lay Alternate to the Judicial Council)

The following Bishop's retired:

The Right Reverend John R. Bryant
The Right Reverend William P. DeVeaux, Sr.
The Right Reverend Theodore L. Kirkland
The Right Reverend Richard F. Norris
The Right Reverend Preston W. Williams, II

**The Right Reverend Sarah Frances Davis (Deceased)*

The 51st Session of the General Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida in 2020.

MORE PICTURES FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The elected Bishops are pictured below: (from right to left)

133rd. Bishop Harry L. Seawright

134th. Bishop Michael L. Mitchell

135th. Bishop Ann Henning-Byfield

136th. Bishop Ronnie S. Brailsford

137th. Bishop Stafford J. Wicker

138th. Bishop Frank M. Reid, III



We were blessed with the presence of the presumptive democratic presidential candidate, Secretary Of State and Former First Lady Hillary Rodman-Clinton (see picture below with the Bishops praying for Clinton)

The following General Officers retired:

The Reverend Dr. Calvin Sydnor (Christian Recorder)

The Reverend Dr. Darryl Ingram (Director of Christian Education)

Judge The Reverend Francine Brookins (Judicial Council)

The following persons were elected:

The Reverend Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper (General Secretary)

The Reverend Dr. George Flowers (Global Witness)

The Reverend Dr. Richard Allen Lewis (Treasurer)

Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, Historgrapher

The Reverend Dr. Roderick Belin (President/Publisher Sunday School Union)

The Reverend John Thomas, III (Editor Christian Recorder)

The Reverend Dr. Garland F. Pierce (Department/Director of Christian Education)

The Reverend Dr. James Wade (Church Growth and Development)

The Reverend Thomas Leon Bess (Judicial Council)

The Reverend Edwardo Curry (Judicial Council)

The Reverend Patricia M. Mayberry (Judicial Council)

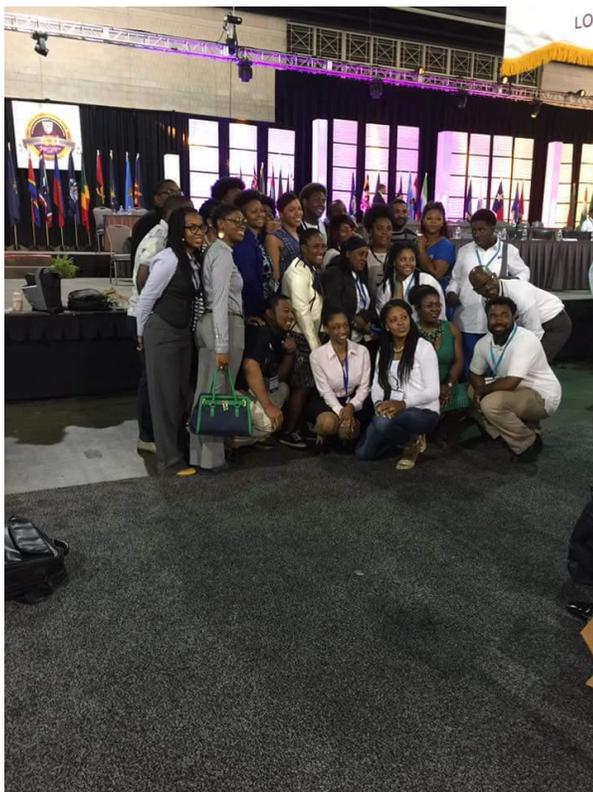
The Reverend Tania E. Wright (Judicial Council)

The Reverend Derek H. Anderson (Judicial Council)

The Reverend Warren H. Dawson (Judicial Council)

Mrs. Starr Battle (Lay Alternate to the Judicial Council)

The new Lay Commissioner is Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr.



Youth Delegation

Pastor Moss & Some NC Delegation



The History of Elizabeth AME Church

Elizabeth AME Church was founded in the 1800's when a small group of Christian believers gathered in Julian, between Old Alamance Road and Coble Church Road to worship and lift their voices in praise. The church was moved to its present location in 1872, when Bro. Huck Smith donated three acres of land to reconstruct the original building at this location. The frame building was disassembled and rebuilt facing the railroad tracks. The stewards and trustees during this time were: Thomas Shoffner, Guilford Shoffner, Samuel Smith, Alston Smith, Ciscero Smith and Huck Smith.

The Church was reorganized in 1893. Many pastors have served the flock at Elizabeth. The first recorded pastor was Rev. E.T. Jeffers, who served for six years. Other pastors, on the Liberty Circuit, who served were: Rev. Powell, Rev. J.D. Davis, and Rev. Hunter.

In 1926, Elizabeth was added to the Whitsett Circuit and the pastors that served were: Rev. J.R. Reid, Rev. Foster, Rev. Smith, Rev. Bowlin, and Rev. Grady.

The conference was changed once again to the Mount Zion Circuit and the following pastors served: Rev. Bailey and Rev. J.R. Cheek. Rev. Cheek served at Elizabeth for more than twenty years.

Presiding Elder, Dr. C.C. Scott and Rev. Sharp wanted to help the members of Elizabeth build a new church. So, the sisters Elma Rankin, Maggie Shoffner, Susan Thomas, and Bro. Leroy Shoffner went to work to build a new church. The new church was completed in 1978. Rev. E.C. McCellan was pastor from 1977-1981. In 1981, Rev. George Turner was sent to Elizabeth. Under Rev. Turner's leadership, a well was dug, plumbing added, carpet installed and a deed was established for the property.

Rev. E. Slade was the pastor 1983-1984. Rev. J.D. Coble continued improvements by finishing the bathrooms and adding ceiling fans to the sanctuary. Later, Rev. Coble asked the membership if they wanted a fellowship hall. Stating that, "if the membership wanted it, God would provide it." By the grace of God the construction of the fellowship hall began thanks to generous Christians that donated money and labor.

In 1988, the conference sent another spiritual man, Rev. J.A. Hemby. In the early 1990's Rev. Willie Sellars was appointed to Elizabeth. Further improvements were made with Carpet, heating and air conditioning, a porch and ramp added, and completion of the fellowship hall. Rev. Mattie Smith then served as pastor of Elizabeth 1996-1997.

Rev. Tony Henderson was appointed in 1998 and served as pastor for six years. During this time new doors were installed, structure support improvements, and a new choir room ceiling

The conference year 2004-2005 ushered in a new change of leadership. The Rev. Myraetta Keith-Pearson was appointed to serve as pastor. She worked diligently to develop Sunday School and another water pump was purchased to enhance the water supply to the church.

Conference years 2005-2008, Rev. Maye Riddick served as pastor. The church enjoyed spiritual growth under her pastorate. New ministries were developed. Rev. Riddick organized an active Missionary Society, YPD, and a 15-member youth choir. During this time a small piece of land was donated to the church cemetery by our neighbor, Mr. Ferguson.

During conference years 2009-2012, Rev. Camelia Eaves brought forth several changes. She wanted to ensure that everyone was on one accord and the term “Team Elizabeth” became the motto for Elizabeth. The roof was partially repaired, a pump house cover was purchased, water pipes winterized, and a new sign was donated by Rev. Eaves.

In 2012, Rev. Sarah Springs served as pastor. Rev. Springs focused on bridging the gap in faith with our youth, the sick and the shut in, as well as our neighboring churches.

Rev. Brenda Prince was sent to serve in 2013 and continued the trend of bridging the gap. Under Rev. Prince’s leadership, the choir rooms were repaired. An investigation into the church’s history showed that the church is physically located in Liberty, NC.

Our current pastor, Rev. John Capers, has served since 2014. Many physical changes have taken place at Elizabeth. A heat pump unit has been installed, the pews painted and reupholstered and the ceiling painted. The roof was completed with monetary donations by the WNCCLay Organization, Nehemiah Funds, and fund-raising efforts of the church.

The Lord has brought us a long way and God has been good to Elizabeth AME Church. That is why we say, “O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD: FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOREVER.” (Psalms 118:29)



Upcoming Events

- Jul 25-27 SEDLO Executive Board Meeting
Leadership Congress
Planning Meeting - Hampton, VA
- Jul 31 Kittrell-Allen-Adams Scholarship &
the James C. Johnson Scholarship
Deadline
- Jul 31 Deadline for compiled list of
churches who participated in the
eyeglasses project - info to
President Valerie Bell
- Aug 6 Conference Meeting at Springdale,
5554 S NC Highway 62,
Burlington – 10:00 am
- Sep 10 Prayer Breakfast - Macedonia,
4164 Yarboroughs Mill Rd, Milton -
10am - Tickets - \$15.00
- Oct 22 Lay Institute - Bethel, 200 N.
Regan Street, Greensboro
9:30am – 12:30pm
- Nov 1 Presidential Election - **VOTE!**
- Nov 2-3 SED Convention
- Nov 4-5 SED Mid-year Conference
Portsmouth Renaissance
425 Water Street
Portsmouth, VA
Room Rate = \$99.00 per night
757-673-3000



APPEAL – JOB OPENINGS

We still need reporters to help us make this newsletter successful and to get the news of the great things that are happening in the WNCC to The Christian Recorder and “We Speak”.

This is where you come in. Looking for local churches to have a public relations person or ask the secretary to make sure I get all your **“Good News”**. Try asking a young person to do the job especially if they can use their social media to do it. Just email to me at so-b-it1@hotmail.com. Send us birth and wedding announcements. Tell us about senior citizens celebrating a milestone birthday. If you want to submit obituaries, that is okay, too. The news is only as good as the persons who supply it. **Just send news!**

We resumed the church spotlight in this issue. If you would like your church featured, please have that submitted as soon as possible.

Thanks. Your Public Relations Director, Bobbi Hague



CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Second Vice President, Betty Parker was voted to serve on the Trustee Board of the Kittrell-Allen-Adams Scholarship Fund. The WNCCLO is proud to have her representing the Conference.

CONDOLENCES

The funeral arrangements for Presiding Elder Emeritus Tyson Coble is as follows:

WHEN FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2016

WHERE: MT. ZION-HILLSBORO

TIME: VIEWING 1:00pm -2:00pm - FUNERAL 2:00 PM

Cards and words of comfort should be directed to:

Sis. Robbie Coble
111 S. Shambley Road
Mebane, NC 27302
919-563-2601