



# WNCC LAY EXPRESS

Volume 2 Issue 1

OCTOBER 2015



## PRAYER BREAKFAST AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

IT'S OFFICIAL



2016, first quarter, Richard Allen. The 2016 forever stamp in the Black Heritage series will commemorate preacher, activist and civic leader Richard Allen (1760-1831). The stamp, in a pane of 20, coincides with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Allen's founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church in Raleigh, NC, Rev. Marion Robinson, pastor and members, welcome the Western North Carolina Conference as it hosted the Annual Prayer Breakfast on September 12, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Prayer Breakfast chaired by Third Vice-President, Theresa Watson and Committee.

Musical selections from Brother David Davis and Assemble set your heart on a peaceful shore of long ago, singing those old songs of Zion. Prayer and grace by Rev. Robinson and scripture reading Sister Linda Dixon .

President Penny Oliver gave the purpose of the occasion and recognition of visitors and pastors. Sister Lenora Woods, local lay president words of welcome and direction to gather our excellent breakfast.

Prayers was lead by layman, pastors, and youth for every part of the world. Candles were lite to remember those who has gone before us but not forgot.

Yes, it was a morning of being leaded by the Holy Spirit and witnessing a 2005 winner of Jack-N-Jill, Brother Sean Beaty, who presented his oratorical /power point, "*What Do You See When You Look at Me*". Presently a freshman at UNC-Chaplin Hill, graduated from Franklin



High School with a 4.65.

## JAMES C. JOHNSON LAY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The James C. Johnson Scholarship winners for 2015 are as follow.

First Place: Anthony Williams, Living Waters AME, Rev. Allonia H. Holmes, pastor, attending William Peace University, major Business Management.

Second Place: Mercedes Holiday, Union Bethel AME, Rev. H.S. Williams, pastor, attending Livingston College, major Nursing.

Third Place: Ziasia Breeze, Springdale AME, Rev. Robert L. Goode, pastor, attending North Carolina A&T, major, Food and Nutrition Sciences Dietetics.

Fourth Place: Charnel Donnell, Mt. Zion AME, Rev. Henry Davis, pastor, attending Fayetteville State University, major, Nursing.

### PRAYER BREAKFAST 2015



### JAMES C. JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2015



Scholarship Winner –1st Place  
Anthony Williams



Scholarship Winner- 3rd Place  
Ziasia Breeze



Scholarship Winner-4th Place  
Charnel Donnell

## Persimmon Grove A M E Church-Rev. Debora L. Smith-Pastor



Persimmon Grove A M E Church was Founded 1910, our first church was started under a grove of persimmon trees( hence or name was derived) on what is known as hwy 421 by a dedicated group of persons determined to establish a church of their own.

Relocating to our current address in 1958 with the excitement of a wedding looming as the final touches were being applied to the structure.

Persimmon Grove A M E Church has had a long and rich history of involvement within the Quaker Community of Guilford College and the Guilford County area, being among the first churches in the area to allow the creation and implementation of the first school to be established on our grounds for the purpose of educating our children, both Quaker and then Negro. Education

has always been seen as a vital part of our existence at PG as it does even to this day with our involvement with the (FCP) Friendship Community Partnership serving it needs and interest of the surrounding religious communities in the Guilford College area.

Our church has had the distinction of being among the leaders of the A M E Church in support of all of the affairs of the church both on the conference and connectional levels, hosting many events and activities for the church as we continued to see our great church of Zion grow to the level that it stands today, our church has grown with the help of many outstanding individuals on whom shoulders we stand today with pride, gratitude and appreciation for their efforts to see the church grow and prosper into one great body for Christ.

We give thanks to the many leaders who have gone before us, Meekins, Moore's , Meachum, Raleigh's, Judd's , Taggerts, Jessup's Moorhead's, Staples just to name a few families that sacrificed their time efforts and finances to the church that we know have to worship.

We thank the many Pastors who served our church , most notable the

Rev. M.L. Johnson who served for 34 years and was instrumental in the relocation to our current position, Rev. Mary F. Peterson our first female Pastor, Heads of State (Gov.,Bishops, Presiding Elders, State Senators and Local and county government Representatives.

Many of our members were employed by Guilford College, to see one of our children become the first graduate of color to march across the stage to receive their degree marked a sense of achievement and pride not only for the family but the entire church body (Gertrude Upperman was that standard barrier who later became the youngest Lay Organization President on both local and connectional levels.

The road has not been easy, but we have persevered, the trials have been difficult but we have continued onward, on the long road traveled we have lost a few truly dedicated men and women because of their sacrifice we will continue to be the church of the Living God.

Lamont W. Upperman  
Lay President

## SPEAKERS FOR "LIBERTY AND JUSTICE"

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Chair Social Action Commission AME, New Jersey, Dr. Staccato Powell, AME Zion Church, North Carolina, Bishop Lawrence Reddick, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Illinois Mr. Jim Winkler, National Council of Churches and Bishop George Battle, AME Zion Church, Arkansas.



**JOIN THE LAY**

“Laity Fulfilling the Great Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church”  
Matthew 28:16-20

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
CONFERENCE LAY

[www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org)



## THE LAY INSTITUTE

Saturday, November 14, 2015

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bethel A.M.E. Church

Greensboro, North Carolina

Rev. Alphonso McGlen, Pastor

*Please bring your 2012 A.M.E. Doctrine & Discipline*

Registration \$10.00

Sponsored by the Western North Carolina Conference  
LAY ORGANIZATION -Penny Oliver, President  
Committee Members: Bettie Duell, Mary Royster Harris, Betty Parker, Dwight Patterson, Gertrude Upperman, Renee White, Kenneth Woods, J. Dale Wragg, and Jackie C. Kanipe

## AME CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CARD

The African Methodist Episcopal Church family recently unveiled its new Member card. The card is the conduit for amassing demographic information for the Church. Knowing the true membership strength and the age, income and education levels of our constituency enables the Church to leverage its buying and negotiation power when entering into contractual arrangements with potential vendors and sponsors.”

Benefits with the Member Card are not one-sided. With the Card, you will receive a discount on General Conference registration. On the local, conference, district and connectional levels, discounts can be arranged with hotels, restaurants and other vendors.”



“To sign up for your free Member Card simply visit [www.ame-church.com](http://www.ame-church.com) and complete the quick and user-friendly application process. Upon completion of your application, you will receive an email with your digital Member Card. All personal information is confidential and will not be sold or shared with any other enterprise.”

