

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization



LAY EXPRESS

Volume III

HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February 2017

Issue 2

Founder's Day Tentative Schedule

Thursday, February 9th

8:00am - 1:30pm - **Meetings**

Board of Examiners

RED, Inc. Board of Trustees

Presiding Elders, Clergy with the Bishop

Components and Ministries

10:15am - **Lay Component Meeting**

3:00pm - 5:00pm - **Business Session**

6:30pm - 8:30pm - **Opening Worship - Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie** - 10th Episcopal District

Friday, February 10th

8:30am - 9:45am - **Bible Study**

10:00am - 12:00pm - **Workshops**

12:00pm - 1:30pm - **Reports**

3:00pm - 5:00pm - **Business Session**

6:30pm - 8:30pm - **Evening Worship**

Saturday, February 11th

7:30am - 9:00am - Founder's Day Breakfast (see flyer)

9:00am - 10:00am - **Bible Study**

10:00am - 12:00pm - **Business Session**

12:00pm - 1:30pm - **Closing Meditation**

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2016 Lay Convention Highlights

The Western North Carolina Lay Organization sent 8 persons to the Annual Lay Convention in Portsmouth, VA in November. The 5 delegates were asked to make a report in regards to the workshops they attended and the events that took place while they were there.

The reports have been uploaded to the Lay website for you to review at your leisure. Here are a couple pictures of special moments during the Convention. The website address is www.wncclay.org.





2017 A.M.E. COLLEGE FAIR



JOIN US!!!
Saturday,
March 18, 2017
10:00am-1:00pm

Location: Saint Matthew A.M.E. Church
1629 Bennet Street, Raleigh, NC 27604



Sponsored by: Synergy Training Solutions – 109 N. Graham St. Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Phone: (919) 240-7135 Website: WWW.SynergyTrainingSolutions.Org E-Mail: info@SynergyTrainingSolutions.Org

I continue to seek opportunities to share with AME members, information about the 8 colleges and universities that God has ENTRUSTED the AME members with. Please let the local lay presidents know that I am asking each church to purchase 15 AME institution calendars for \$10.00. 80% of the sale will go to our AME institutions. They can send a request and we will invoice them. Thank you,

Theresa Watson, Synergy Training Solutions Rhonda@SynergyTrainingSolutions.Org - 919-240-7135

ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Paul A.M.E. church is located in the northwestern part of Caldwell County. The history of this congregation is built around hard work, a love for Christ and service to the community. In the year 1876, a small group of people assembled at the county school house in Freedman (a section of the City of Lenoir) and there Lewis Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. The first frame building was named Lewis Chapel in honor of Mr. Monroe Lewis, the Pioneer and representative of the A.M.E. Church.

The original workers of the church were: Robert (Bob) Suddreth, Sr., James (Jim) Gaither, Samuel Forney, Sr., London Erwin Shade, Lawson Corpening, Weslyn Berry and others. The present building site was purchased on July 11, 1894. On this ground the second frame building was built in 1895. This frame structure became a vital part of the community. Some of the early members and their families were: James Patterson, Miles Patterson, James Gaither, Robert (Bob) Suddreth, Sr., Robert (Nick) Suddreth, Jr., Wilson Forney, Sr., Samuel Forney, Jr., Matt Shade, Richard Forney, Calvin Cannon, Sr., Nathaniel Corpening, Arthur Horton, Arnie Lipford, Columbus Estes, Daniel Patterson, Seymour Patterson, Arthur Patterson, Will Aikens, Walter Patterson, Will Propst, Henry Love, The Horton, Kincaid, Yount, Harper, Abernathy, Bowers, Hedrick and Scott Families.

In 1922, the Rev. J. N. Clement built a block church. Annual Conference was entertained in 1893 and in 1901. Later Lewis Chapel changed name to Saint Paul but no date is available as to when. In November 1934, our membership was 207 from the recorded secretary's book. Under the leadership of Rev. J. S. T. Decker, the present building was built in 1962.

The mortgage on St. Paul A.M.E. Church was paid off under the leadership of Rev. W. W. Edwards. Later in 1980, Rev. Edwards was re-appointed to St. Paul and under his leadership a beautiful parsonage was built and furnished. During Rev. J. Bernard Wilder's leadership, the parsonage was paid off.

Pastors who have served St. Paul - Reverends Timberlake, P. B. Walker, P. O. James, Dr. J. W. Cowan, C. S. Stroud, K. C. Holt, S. F. Thompson, E. L. Smith, M. T. Phillips, C. W. Hunt, J.S.T. Decker, W. W. Edwards, Ronald W. Murph, J. B. Wilder, and Thomas O. Nixon, Rev. Alphonso McGlen, Rev. Wanda L. Howell. Rev. Howell was the first female to pastor St. Paul. Our current pastor is Rev. Dr. Byron J. Grayson, Sr.

Ministers who are sons and daughters of St. Paul are: Rev. Rupert Ferguson, Rev. Richard Corpening, Rev. Gwendolyn Minor, Rev. Renee' Shade, Rev. Carla Patterson, Rev. Verdell Patterson, Minister Myrtle Carlton and Rev. Dottie Hartso.

During these years many distinguished pastors have contributed to St. Paul's growth and development and service to God and mankind.



HAPPY BORN-DAY, RICHARD ALLEN

Minister, educator and writer **Richard Allen** was born into slavery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on **February 14, 1760**. Known as "Negro Richard," he and his family were sold to a Delaware farmer, Stokeley Sturgis, in 1767. He did not have the opportunity to attend public or private school and was not a high school graduate. He purchased his freedom by the time he was 20 years old. Allen never attended college, did not have an opportunity to attend seminary, had no Wall Street investments, was considered a second-class citizen because of his race, was rejected by his fellow church members at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, pulled off of his knees while in prayer, and criticized, even when he attempted to do the right thing.

Allen converted to Methodism at the age of 17, after hearing a white itinerant Methodist preacher rail against slavery. His owner, who had already sold Richard's mother and three siblings, also converted and eventually allowed Richard and his brother to purchase their freedom for \$2,000 each. After attaining his freedom, Richard took the last name "Allen" and returned to Philadelphia. There, he worked at odd jobs, as a shoemaker and as manager of a chimney-sweeping company.

Allen soon joined St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, where blacks and whites worshiped together. There, he became an assistant minister and conducted prayer meetings for blacks. Frustrated with the limitations the church placed on him and black parishioners, in 1787 Allen left the church with the intention of creating an independent Methodist church.

That same year, along with the Reverend Absalom Jones, Allen helped found the Free African Society, a non-denominational religious mutual-aid society dedicated to helping the black community. A century later, NAACP founder W.E.B. Du Bois called the FAS "the first wavering step of a people toward organized social life." In 1794, Allen and 10 other black Methodists founded the Bethel Church, a black Episcopal meeting, in an old blacksmith's shop. Bethel Church became known as "Mother Bethel" because it birthed the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1816). Helped by his wife, Sarah, Bishop Allen helped to hide escaped slaves. The basement of the Bethel Church was a stop on the "Underground Railroad" for blacks fleeing slavery.

Located at 6th & Lombard Streets, Mother Bethel AME Church is the cornerstone of the nation's oldest African American denomination. The Church has locations in **39** countries on five continents.



CONCERNS

Upcoming Events

Feb 6 **Happy Birthday to our WNCCLO President, Sister Penny Oliver**

Feb 9-11 SED Founder's Day Observance
Koury Convention Center - G'boro

Sheraton 4 Seasons Greensboro
Phone: 336-292-9161
\$122.00 Basic Room Rate
Mention AME Founder's Day

Feb 12 **FOUNDER'S DAY OBSERVED**

Feb 14 Happy Valentine's Day

Feb 14 Happy Birthday, Richard Allen

Feb 17 Deadline to get Lay membership money to Sis. Niki Allen (see flyer)

Feb 20 Presidents' Day

Mar 1 Ash Wednesday

Mar 11 WNCCLO meeting Mt. Zion, G'boro - Election of Biennial delegates

Mar 18 College Fair - St. Matthew-Raleigh

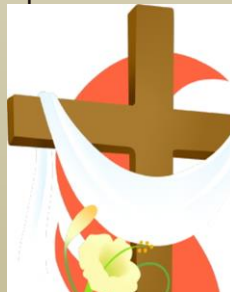
Apr 1 Final Payment - Spring Break Trip

Apr 5 Baltimore Annual Conf. Starts

Apr 9 Palm Sunday

Apr 14 Good Friday

Apr 16 **HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY**



"He came from Heaven to Earth,
To show the way; From the earth
to the Cross, My debt to pay;
From the Cross to the grave; From
the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift
Your Name on high!"



Continued Prayers for:

Elder J. Bernard Wilder * Elder C. K. Pridgen *
Lamont Upperman * Crestian Johnson *
Reverend Willis Camp * Dwight Patterson *
Barbara Smith & Family * Rev. Leroy Smith *
Banks & Smith Families * Niki Allen & Family *
Woodrow Winchester * Family of Janie Wilson *
Family of Betty Chrisp * Leavie Davis *
Wilbert Hooker * Joan Suddreth * Aisha Lide *
Emma Devine * Adolphus Kelly * Family of Mozell
Weston * St. James AMEC W/S Church Family *
Family of Wade Hamilton Parham *



The Postal Service announced on Tuesday, November 22, 2016, the new subjects for the 2017 Forever stamps and we are proud to say that our beloved 4th National President and National Chair, **Dr. Dorothy Irene Height** is on the 40th stamp in the Black Heritage series.

Dr. Height was one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century, who dedicated her life to fighting for civil rights and gender equality. However, we know her best as a devoted and accomplished leader, who served at the helm of NCNW for over 50 years. We are delighted that she will be honored in this way.

This is a proud moment in NCNW history and a lasting tribute to Dr. Dorothy I. Height. She will never be forgotten.

We are forwarding the Postal Service press release along with this memo for your review.

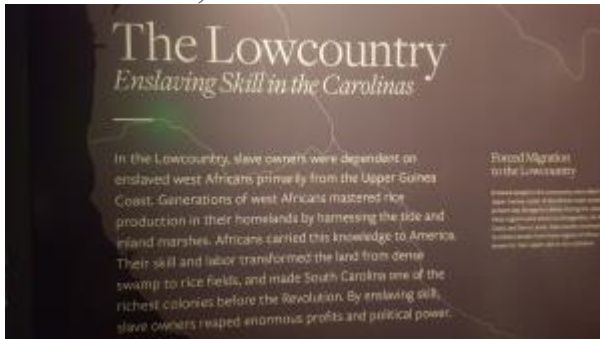
[Postal Service Showcases more 2017 Stamps Honoring Civil Rights Icon, Prolific Writer and Pioneer in Deaf Studies](#)

National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
633 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

ncnwhq@ncnw.org

Smithsonian African American History Museum Inspired Anger Then Pride

December 14, 2016



Source: Tonya Jameson / Tonya Jameson Commentary

I thought I was ready for the Smithsonian's newly opened [The National Museum of African American History and Culture](#). After all, I'd seen the original "Roots," "Twelve Years A Slave" and "Django." I've immersed myself in Black history from visiting arts museum, Civil Rights Museums and reading countless books.

I know my Black history.

Still, the Museum of African-American and Culture history shook me. Mind you, I've only been to the history gallery. It's the main one that tells our story from the Middle Passage to [President Obama](#). That's kind of sobering to think about isn't it? Our people were brought to this country as slaves only to have one of our own become President of the United States. But, I'll get back to that point.

So, what was it about the museum that touched me? It was definitely the bottom levels of the history galleries. The bottom floors tell the history of slavery from what it was like to be aboard a slave ship to what it was like to live as a slave. Seeing real artifacts, listening to the audio story and reading the text on the walls (there's lots to read), made it seem more real. I could linger in the

I tuned out everyone else, and just absorbed the information.

The museum features the Carolinas prominently from the rice plantations in Charleston to segregation in Wilmington. There is a slave cabin from Edisto Island. I was also fascinated by the section on black towns that sprung up during segregation.

The entire museum was sobering, but seeing Emmet Till's coffin took my breath away. It's set up as if you're entering a real church. Gospel music plays over the speakers, but it's eerily quiet in the exhibit area. The coffin is refurbished and looks pristine. I've seen images of Till's disfigured and bloated body zillions of times in documentaries and books. Yet, to imagine that his mother had to see her 14-year-old baby like that was almost too much.

The history galleries are almost too much. The museum doesn't just tell our story. It makes you feel our story from the ground floor. But, it's what I needed right now. As I looked at the bales of cotton and read, re-read how my ancestors spilled their blood to build America, I became angry and determined. African-Americans have overcome so much; have endured the wrath and aftermath of racism and its enduring legacy. When I hear people say they want to leave America if Donald Trump is president, the police continue to kill black people; I shake my head in frustration. I'm not going anywhere. We built this country, and I will be part of the movement that ensures that lifts up my community to help America be stronger.

To see pictures, use the link below.

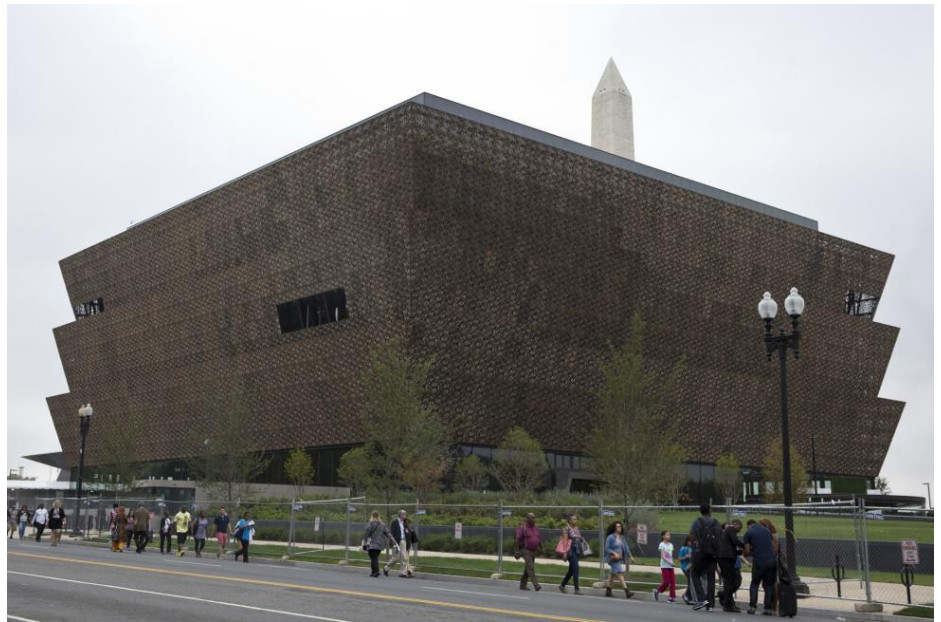
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Tonya Jameson submitted this article to Praise 100.9.

The genius of DC's African-American museum

By [F.H. Buckley](#)
December 28, 2016 | 8:21pm



Christmas is a time when Washingtonians welcome visiting friends and family, and that's when we do the tourist stuff. The museums are

wonderful, but mostly we don't notice them. Don't get me wrong. We love them. We just save them for the time when we play tourist guide for the out-of-towners.

And that's what took me to the Smithsonian's new African-American museum, when my daughter and her husband came to visit. It wouldn't have been my first choice. I had read about how the museum made a big deal about Anita Hill and ignored Clarence Thomas, and thought that gave me a permission slip to ignore it. But then tourist guides don't get to choose, so off we went.

I'm happy I did. Whoever put it together is a genius.

From the outside, the building looks small; its size limited by the Mall's available real estate. From the inside, however, it's huge, with not an inch wasted. The exhibits are tightly packed, and yet there's an illusion of space. The visitor is pulled from one iconic display and one fascinating artifact to another, without ever feeling overwhelmed.

The contrast with the American History Museum, across 14th Street, is striking. With twice the footprint, it has only a fraction of the exhibits, and they're separated by a lot of empty space. Now we'll show you this amazing thing, it says, and then over there we'll show you another. But after all, how often do you want to see Archie Bunker's chair, or the dresses of the First Ladies?

With the African-American museum, by contrast, there's so much happening that after a two-hour visit you come away thinking you've only seen part of it; that you need to return if you want to get it all.

There's another big difference between the two museums. The African-American museum features a heavy emphasis on the Civil Rights revolution in the 1950s and 1960s, as you'd expect — but it's not about Lyndon Johnson or the white federal judges who enforced the law at personal risk to themselves. Rather, it's about Martin Luther King, Bayard Rustin and Stokely Carmichael.

You see Dwight Eisenhower sending federal troops to Little Rock, and some white faces amongst the civil-rights protestors, but mostly it's an entirely African-American affair. Mercifully, I didn't see anything of Jesse Jackson.

And all that seemed right to me. Even the Nation of Islam and the 1995 Million Man March. Where everything else preaches inclusiveness, what else should the African-American museum be but African-American?

And yet the museum in one respect is a failure, though a magnificent one. For even if the museum had been designed with solely African-Americans in mind, the visitor from other races and cultures will come away with the feeling that you can't understand American culture and history without appreciating how integral the African-American contribution is.

The museum first draws you to the top floor, dedicated mostly to pop music. From Louis Armstrong to hip-hop, it's impossible to separate out black music from American music. Can you imagine American rock shorn of African-American influences? Actually, you can. It's called Canadian rock. More lyrical maybe, but less rhythmic, less urgent, less American. And less popular.

The floor below is largely devoted to sports, and it's the same thing all over again, from Jackie Robinson and Muhammad Ali to Tiger Woods and the latest Olympic athletes. It can blow you away, which may explain why the biggest crowds gather round to see a video of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Leaving the singers, the sports celebrities, the novelists and poets, the visitor descends on a huge elevator to the underground levels where the story begins the third floor down with the arrival of African slaves. From there one ascends to the Revolutionary War, where blacks fought on both sides, some seeking their freedom by joining loyalist forces, and from there to the slave revolts, the underground railway, the Civil War and finally the Civil Rights movement.

It's not about you if you're not black, and yet it is about you if you're an American. It's about a history, an experience that is unequivocally American, that is American to its core.

That's why all Americans should see it. Maybe next time if they visit us for the Inauguration.

F.H. Buckley teaches at Scalia Law School. His latest book is "The Way Back: Restoring the Promise of America."



Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization



January 18, 2017

I greet you in the Mighty and Matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization 2017 membership drive has begun! Membership dues are \$6.00 for adults. Membership dues must be current for voting and election privileges.

The membership roster and dues must be submitted and received by Credential/Membership Chair, Sister Niki Allen, on or before February 17, 2017 for election and voting privileges for lay delegates to the 35th Lay Biennial. Her address is as follows:
Credential/Membership Chair, Sister Niki Allen, 2913 Ashwell Court, Raleigh, NC 27603.

The election of delegates to the Connectional Lay Biennial Convention will be held on March 11, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, Huffine Mill Road, Greensboro, North Carolina. A brief business meeting will be held after the election.

As President of the Lay Organization, I look forward to you joining the March conference meeting as members of African Methodist Episcopal Church to join hands with me to continue embracing and up-holding the purpose and mission of the Lay Organization.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

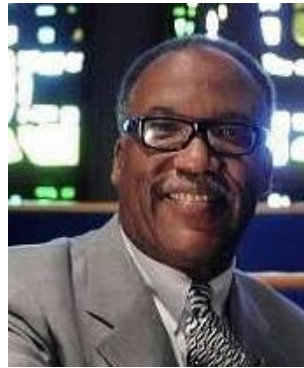
The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization
Sister Penny Oliver, President



Second Episcopal District Lay Organization



“Founder's Day Legacy Breakfast” Speaker



Bishop James L. Davis **Presiding Prelate of Second Episcopal District**

Saturday, February 11, 2017 * 7:30am-9:00am

Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons

Cost: **\$40.00**

For Tickets Please Contact:

Jacqueline C. Kanipe

Director of Lay Activities

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

jconleyk@bellsouth.net or telephone 828-433-8424