



THE LAY EXPRESS

Second Episcopal District ~ African Methodist Episcopal Church
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Website: <http://wncclay.org/>

VOLUME IV

JANUARY 2018

ISSUE 1

HAPPY New Year

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

PHIL 4:4

**** NEW ****

LAY ORGANIZATION THEME

"Laity walking humbly with God to do justice and to love kindness."

Scripture:

"...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8 ESV

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This update was provided by Bro. Dwight Patterson, President of the Second Episcopal District Lay Organization.

From
the desk
of...

Penny S. Oliver, President



It's that time of year again! We're going to lose weight, exercise more, get out of debt, stick to a budget, stop smoking, save for the future and spend more time with family. We make resolutions because we want to bring change to bear on our circumstances. We want to improve ourselves and our quality of life. The top resolutions, for most people, tend to revolve around the same three poles: money, health and family. But what would a set of New Year's resolutions look like for you and your church, your role as a leader, or simply as someone who wants to live a life of strategic Kingdom investment?

The *Mirroring Project* introduced to us by Bishop James L Davis leads us in that direction . . . what our ministry is, who our ministry is for, how our ministry is organized and conducted, and the settings in which we live them. Before making our New Year's resolution, let's examine ourselves and make the diagnosis.

MIRRORING: THE JOURNEY TO MAXIMAL CHURCH GROWTH



As we complete the first phase of the Mirroring Project, populating the Presiding Elder's Template with demographic, population trends, job market, schools, neighboring churches and job market, etc., the journey will continue as we redirect the flow of attention, energy, and resources to an intense concentration on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The 2nd phase of the Mirroring Project allows us to perform a health check-up on our ministry. The Mirroring Ministry calls the church to examine how ministry happens and how we assess the effectiveness of what we do. Just like water that begins as a trickle from melting snow in the mountains into a river that gains strength as it flows downstream toward the disciple-making process has a flow/progression to it.

Example: The church bazaar and auction may have served well as a fellowship event and fundraiser in past decades, but it gets discouraging when it is no longer raising sufficient funds, few people are coming and it's more work than fun. What was the expected outcome? To increase membership activity, to raise necessary funds, or was there an expectation at all? WWJD?

The Mirroring Project allows us to look at ourselves (we are the church) and to review what we see. The local church is to reach out to both members and non-members to receive; to give and receive love; forgive; nurture them in the faith both with information (Bible study, and with experiences and practices that relate them to God); equip them to perceive their own call from God that lives out the gifts and strengths that God has given; and send them into the world to use those gift for the transformation . People go through various stages in their Christian growth and the church has a responsibility to guide that growth.

Let's make living a life of strategic Kingdom investment our New Year's Resolution!

Happy New Year and thank you for your willingness to serve!



Think Strong Be Strong FINISH STRONG



James L. Davis, Servant Bishop

Arelis B. Davis, WMS Supervisor



I DARE YOU to TRUST GOD 90-Day Challenge

November 1, 2017—January 31, 2018

“Pray—Ask God how you can trust Him with your *RESOURCES*-in your *WITNESS*-with your *BODY*-with your *INTELLECT*-in your *RELATIONSHIPS*....every pastor, every clergyperson, every leader, every compo-

Month/Dates	Stewardship Component	Text	Action Steps	Desired Outcomes
January 2-13, 2018 I Dare You to Trust God with Your <u>Intellect</u>	Christian Education <i>Spiritual Development</i>	Proverbs 9:10	Select 3 books for your congregation to read as part of a Bible Study Series <i>Encourage members to attend Bible Study, Church School and Learning Institute</i>	<i>Increase attendance to spiritual development activities</i> Increase scripture memorization <i>Encourage members to utilize weekly spiritual disciplines, such as fasting or solitude; share experiences with cluster members</i>
January 14-31, 2018 I Dare You to Trust God with Your <u>Relationships</u>	Mission <i>Build your Circle of Trust</i>		Be Intentional <i>Increase your Circle of Trust</i> Invite and welcome others to your circle <i>Reach out and be supportive of others as they mature spiritually</i> Missional—Help those that are in need of tangible assistance <i>Become a mentor to those needing mentorship</i>	<i>Expand Circles of Trust to include others needing guidance, fellowship, mentorship, support, etc.</i> Encourage cluster prayer and outreach ministry groups



Pre-RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

February 24, 2018 / 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Presiding Elder Rev. J. Bernard Wilder, Eastern District Presiding Elder
Western North Carolina Conference—Second Episcopal District
Bishop James L. Davis, Speaker

Providence Baptist Church

1106 Tuscaloosa Street ~ Greensboro, NC 27406

TICKETS: \$75 per person

Tickets CAN be ordered/purchased by individuals or by the local church

Send **ALL** monies to: PO Box 40763, Raleigh, NC 27629 ~ **Attn:** Rev. Phyllis T. Royal

by JANUARY 10, 2018

Make checks payable to “Eastern District”

On the memo line, write: “Retirement Banquet Ticket(s)”

SOUVENIR JOURNAL ADVERTISEMENTS:

Full Page: \$125 ~ **1/2 Page:** \$80 ~ **1/4 Page:** \$53 ~ **Patron:** \$25

Please email camera ready ads in JPEG or PDF to conniep525@gmail.com

by JANUARY 10, 2018

*PORTION OF TICKET PROCEEDS WILL BE USED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AT SHAW AND
ST. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITIES IN RALEIGH, NC*

Have questions? Please email: pewilderretirementsteeringcom@gmail.com

To Do List

* **Renew Lay Organization Membership dues NOW {\$6 Adults} for 2018. Membership dues must be current by March 18th for voting and election privileges.**

* Reserve room at Sheraton Greensboro Four Seasons Hotel (1-800-242-6556) for the SED Mid-Winter Gathering **by Jan. 15th** under block "2nd District AME Church Mid-Winter Gathering". (Double/King Room \$129 + tax). Gathering is scheduled for February 15-17.

* **Open an account at a black bank on the next "Black Bank Sunday" - January 21, 2018**

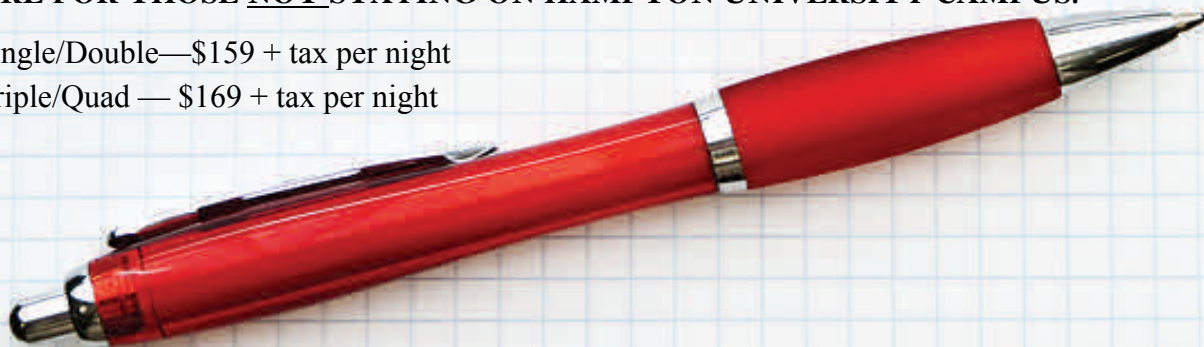
* Complete and submit the WNCC Lay Organization "Letter of Intent" for WNCC election **by March 14th**. The form and additional information can be found on the www.wncclay.org

* Reserve room at Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown (1-800-446-6677) for the Western NC Annual Conference **by April 13th** (Single/Double Room \$117 + tax). The Annual Conference is scheduled for May 16-19, 2018.

* Reserve room **ASAP** at Embassy Suites by Hilton Hotel (757-827-8200 or at www.embassysuiteshampton.com) in Hampton, VA for the Summer Summit under block "2nd Episcopal Summer Summit". The Summer Summit is scheduled for July 16-19. **A one-night non-refundable deposit is due at the time reservations are made. THESE ROOMS ARE FOR THOSE NOT STAYING ON HAMPTON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.**

Single/Double—\$159 + tax per night

Triple/Quad — \$169 + tax per night



For additional information on the events above, please visit the Second Episcopal District website, www.ame2.com, and/or the website of the WNCC Lay Organization, www.wncclay.org.



LAY ORGANIZATION

January 13, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.....WNCC Lay Organization Meeting
 Greater Bethel AME Church ~ Charlotte, NC
 Rev. Morris Reddon, Pastor
 Sis. Betty Parker, Lay President

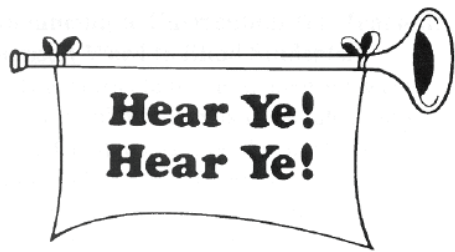
January 27, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.....WNCC Lay Organization Workshop
 Shiloh A.M.E. Church ~ Morganton, NC
 Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Johnson, Sr., Pastor
 Sis. Carolyn Fleming, Lay President

February 15-17, 2018.....2nd Episcopal District Mid-Winter Meeting
 February 17, 2018.....SED Lay Organization Legacy Prayer Breakfast ~ Tickets \$40
 Sheraton Four Seasons ~ Greensboro, NC

March 10, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.....WNCC Lay Organization Meeting
 St James AME Church ~ Asheville, NC
 Rev. Brent Edwards, Pastor
 Sis. Renee White, Lay President

April 14, 2018 ~ 10:00 a.m.....WNCC Lay Organization Meeting (*Election of Officers*)
 Springdale AME Church ~ Burlington, NC
 Rev. Robert L. Goode, Pastor
 Sis. Penny Oliver, Lay President

April 21, 2018 ~ 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.....YAR Gospel Explosion “For Your Glory”
 Turners Chapel AMC Church ~ High Point, NC



WNCC LOCAL A.M.E. CHURCH LAY PRESIDENT WINS BIG ON WHEEL OF FORTUNE GAME SHOW

Margie Holt Alston, Lay President for Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church, Mebane NC, appeared on an episode of the Wheel of Fortune Game Show. Ms. Alston travelled to Sony Studios in Los Angeles, California on November 10th to tape the show. The episode which she appeared aired on national television Monday, December 11, 2017.

Ms. Alston has watched Wheel of Fortune all her life. It has always been a dream of hers to be a contestant on the show. She applied in August 2017, auditioned on August 29th in Raleigh NC at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel, then flew to LA on November 8th taping.

This was a once in a lifetime experience for her. She met the Iconic Host, Pat Sajak and the beautiful Vanna White. She enjoyed the courtesy of the Wheel of Fortune staff: the game show coordinators, the make-up artists, the hair stylists, and even the security team.



Photo Credit: Carol Kaelson

The contestants were asked to draw a number from a closed container to determine who would appear on the first taping. Ms. Alston drew number one.

Then the contestants drew numbers to determine the order the group of three would stand. Ms. Alston drew number one. This position would stand next to the host, Pat Sajak. Ms. Alston gives credit to the green wrist band she wore on her left wrist. Printed on the wristband is the proclamation "I Dare You to Trust God". The wristband was issued to all A.M.E. members by the Rev. James L. Davis, Servant Bishop of the 2nd Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church.

Ms. Alston played the game, answered the questions to solve the most puzzles, which led her to win cash, and a trip to Aruba totaling \$13,700.00.

Ms. Alston stated, "I am so grateful to have been so blessed to have travelled on this unforgettable journey"

In the Spotlight

Hidden Figures

Trailblazer Mrs. Annie Brewer

The youngest and only survivor of ten siblings, born May 5, 1924 in Morganton, NC to the late John and Maldonia Fullwood.

Mrs. Brewer attended the Public Schools of Morganton; married for 53 years to the late Harvey G. Brewer.

Mrs. Brewer was elected to the State Executive Committee member for the Burke Democratic Party. She served as President of the Burke County Democratic Women's Club, term ended December 1972.

She is a lifelong and active member of Gaston Chapel AME Church, in Morganton, NC where the Pastor is Rev. Gwendolyn Benjamin. Mrs. Brewer has served as Steward Pro-Tem, member of the Rainbow Club, Willing Workers Club, Finance Commission, and the Kitchen Committee. She continues to serve in the Missionary Society and the Lay Organization.

Mrs. Brewer has been an active participant in the life of the Morganton Community as a member of her children's School PTA, the Burke County NAACP, she sat on the Board of Directors of the Morganton Housing Authority and served as an Officer in the Burke County Democratic Party.



First African-American Seamstress Mrs. Audrey McCain



Mrs. McCain worked at the manufacturing company, Kings Point Manufacturing in Fayetteville, NC that made (sewn) some of the U.S. Astronaut's suits. She was a part of the production line. The company acquired many contracts for the Defense Personnel Support Center, in Philadelphia, PA. Mrs. McCain was the first African American Seamstress hired at the plant making \$1.25 an hour minimum wage. In addition, Mrs. McCain was the first African American, years later, in charge of more than 125 government contracts at that same location shipping goods in lots to service persons all over the world. Mrs. McCain is a member of Wayman Chapel AME Church, Graham, NC where Reverend Milton O. Battle is the Pastor.

Trailblazer
Mr. Coral J. Judd



Mr. Coral J. Judd was an instrumental leader in the history of Persimmon Grove AME Church. One of his loves was the Lay Organization and was the Founder of Persimmon Grove's Lay Organization and served as the Western District Coordinator when the Lay Organization was just developing.



Hidden Figures from Persimmon Grove A.M.E. Church



First African American Full-Time Teacher
Ms. Barbara Raleigh

Ms. Barbara Raleigh is a woman of many talents and she has used these God-given gifts to help others. In 1966, God continued to bless her to become the first black full-time teacher in the integrated school systems of Guilford County, Greensboro City and High Point.

Trailblazer
Mrs. Gertrude Judd Upperman



Mrs. Gertrude J. Upperman continues in her father's footsteps in the Lay Organization. She became the youngest President of the WNCC Lay Organization, was President of the 2nd Episcopal District Lay Organization and founded the Jack and Jill Extravaganza of the WNCC Lay Organization. In her efforts, the Laity and Ministers have been brought together in harmony and unity. Today, she continues to use her God-given talents to be an advocate and leader as others are empowered to serve in kingdom building.



12 MONTHS
52 WEEKS
365 DAYS
8,760 HOURS
525,600 MINUTES
31,536,000 SECONDS



January 1, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation

January 2, 1965 - Martin Luther King, Jr. calls for non-violent protests if Alabama Blacks are not allowed to register and vote.

January 3, 1624 - William Tucker first African American child born in America.

January 4, 1971 - Congressional Black Caucus formed.

January 5, 1943 - George Washington Carver, agricultural scientist, died.

January 6, 1831 - [The World Anti-Slavery Convention](#) opens in London.

January 7, 1890 - William B. Purvis patents fountain pen.

January 8, 1811 - Charles Deslandes leads slave revolt in Louisiana.

January 9, 1866 - [Fisk University](#) is founded in Nashville.

January 10, 1864 - [George Washington Carver](#), agricultural scientist, born.

January 11, 1985 - Reuben V. Anderson, first African American to be appointed to Mississippi Supreme Court.

January 12, 1948 - U.S. Supreme Court rules that African Americans have the right to study law at state institutions.

January 13, 1990 - L. Douglas Wilder becomes first African American U.S. governor (Virginia) since Reconstruction.
1913 - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated becomes the 2nd Black Greek Letter Organization.

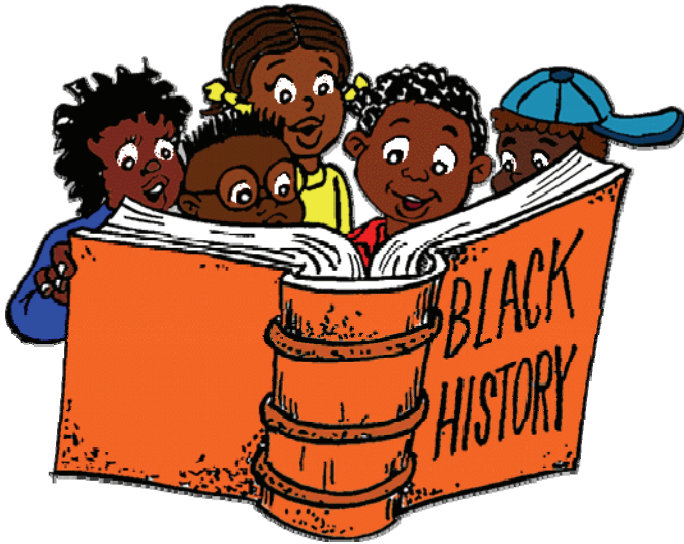
January 14, 1975 - William T. Coleman named U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

January 15, 1908 - Alpha Kappa Alpha, first African American sorority, is founded at Howard University.

January 16, 1978 - NASA names Black astronauts: Maj. Frederick D. Gregory, Maj. Guion S. Bluford, and Dr. Ronald McNair.

January 17, 1942 - Three-time heavyweight boxing champion [Muhammad Ali](#) born.

January 18, 1856 - [Dr. Daniel Hale Williams](#), pioneer heart surgeon, born.



“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.

We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

President #44 Barack Obama, U.S.A.

January 19, 1969 - UCLA renames its social science buildings to honor alumnus [Ralph Bunche](#).

January 20, 1977 - Patricia Roberts Harris becomes U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the first black woman to hold a Cabinet position.

January 20, 2009 - The first inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America and the first African American to be elected in this position. Based on the combined attendance numbers, television viewership, and Internet traffic, it was among the most-observed events ever by the global audience.

January 21, 1936 - Former Congressman [Barbara Jordan](#) born.

January 22, 1949 - James Robert Gladden becomes first African American certified in orthopedic surgery.

January 23, 1891 - [Dr. Daniel Hale Williams](#) founds Provident Hospital in Chicago, one of the first schools of nursing for black students in the U. S.

January 24, 1865 - Congress passes [13th Amendment](#) which, on ratification, abolished slavery in America.

January 25, 1851 - [Sojourner Truth](#) addresses the first Black Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.

January 26, 1954 - Dr. Theodore K. Lawless, dermatologist, awarded the Springarn Medal for his research in skin-related diseases.

January 27, 1961 - [Leontyne Price](#) made her Metropolitan Opera debut.

January 28, 1787 - Free Africa Society organized in Philadelphia.

January 29, 1926 - Violette Nealy Anderson becomes the first Black woman lawyer to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

January 30, 1979 - [Franklin Thomas](#) named president of Ford Foundation.

January 31, 1986 - [August Wilson's Fences](#), starring James Earl Jones, opens at Chicago's Goodman Theatre

<http://www.theblackmarket.com/january.htm>



JANUARY LOCAL CHURCH EVENTS AND OTHER SPECIAL DAYS

Jan. 1st	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Jan. 15th	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday and holiday
Jan. 21st	Family and Friends’ Day Celebration – 10:00 a.m. St. James AMEC ~ Winston-Salem, NC ~ Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons, Pastor
Jan. 21st	Lay Day Program~ 3:00 p.m. ~ Sis. Sonia Barbre, Speaker White Cross AMEC ~ Efland NC ~ Rev. Myraette McGibboney, Pastor
Jan. 22nd	“The Reality of Money” Workshop—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Lunch provided) FREE to any youth in grades 8-12. Pre-registration required ~ (919) 832-2709 St. Paul AMEC ~ Raleigh, NC ~ Rev. Robert L. Hodges, Sr., Pastor
Jan. 27th	“Rise Up To Glory:From Africa to America” Celebration~ 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. N.C. Museum of History, Raleigh, NC ~ Youth from St. Paul AMEC, Raleigh, NC will provide a presentation at 11:00 a.m. (FREE) ~ Rev. Robert L. Hodges, Sr., Pastor
Feb. 11th	Men’s Day Program —10:00 a.m. St. James AMEC ~ Winston-Salem, NC ~ Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons, Pastor
Feb. 25th	Community Health Faire in coordination with Challenged by HIV/AIDS Ministry of Love/Faith Christian Fellowship — 1:00-4:00 p.m. St. Stephen AMEC ~ Liberty, NC ~ Rev. Kevin M. Odom, Pastor
Mar. 24th	AME Colleges and Universities College Fair — 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Register at www.synergytrainingsolutions.org . Support students by purchasing beauty products manufactured by Dudley at www.coalescebeauty.com . Please note 16% of your purchase will go to the AME Colleges and Universities for SCHOLARSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY. Promo Code: AME123 valid through March 19, 2018 . Lunch will be served. Bethel AME Church ~ Greensboro, NC ~ Rev. Alphonso McGlen, Pastor

JANUARY AWARENESS MONTH OBSERVANCES

Cervical Health
 Glaucoma
 National Birth Defects Prevention
 National Blood Donor

PLEASE SEND YOUR “CHURCH HISTORY”,
 “HIDDEN FIGURES”, & “CHURCH EVENTS”

by Jan. 26th

Angela Elam ~ allendur@aol.com