



# THE LAY EXPRESS



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

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



VOLUME V

FEBRUARY 2019

ISSUE 2

From  
*the desk*  
of...

*Penny S. Oliver, President*



Give yourself a hug! Life can sap your heart and soul! Remember, in the midst of your hectic schedule that the Lord is with you. Be encouraged and take comfort in knowing that God's WORD says...

*"I am your hiding place. Take time to be Still and know that I am God. Come to me when you're worn out, and stressed out. I'll refresh you and show you how to live freely and lightly. In My presence, you'll find satisfying joy. Filling you, your God of Hope."* (from Psalms 32:7; 46:10; Matthew 11:28-30; Psalm 16:11).

Ahh...relaxation...renewal. Do these words describe your condition or do they merely conjure up fading memories? When was the last time you took a break from it all? If you can't remember, you're overdue.

Close your eyes and imagine your ideal getaway. Do you see yourself on a deserted island, penning the novel you never found time to write? Or rock climbing in the desert, feeling exhilarated as you approach the summit?

You don't need an expensive excursion to feel refreshed, but you do need an escape. Sometimes all it takes is a change of scenery. You could find it at a park or in your backyard. The key is finding a place where you can think without interruption. Dream without distraction. Indulge in tranquil solitude and remind yourself that you are worthy of rest.

Our calendar is full of commitments to others. It's time to make a date with yourself. Set aside time to do something you love but haven't allowed yourself the luxury of lately. Pamper the precious soul that is you. *YOU* deserve it!

See you on March 9, 2019, 10 am, at Poplar Grove AMEC, Greensboro, NC, for our regular WNC conference meeting.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

February 6, 2019

*“THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU;*

*HIS POWER GIVES YOU VICTORY.*

*THE LORD WILL TAKE DELIGHT IN YOU,*

*AND IN HIS LOVE HE WILL GIVE YOU NEW LIFE.*

*HE WILL SING AND BE JOYFUL OVER YOU...”*

*Zephaniah 3:17  
Good News Translation*

**Happy Birthday  
Madam President Penny Oliver**



2019 .....

Western North Carolina Conference  
**LAY ORGANIZATION**  
Prayer Breakfast



.....

*WNCC-LO is accepting bids  
for our annual Prayer Breakfast,  
Saturday, September 14, 2019, at  
10 am.*

*All bids must be submitted before  
April 6, 2019. For consideration  
event spaces must seat comfortably  
at least 250 people.*

See the WNCC-LO website or  
page 17 to submit your bid.



MORAL MARCH ON RALEIGH

# *HKonJ*

## *People's Assembly Coalition*

02|09|19



### ***EVENT SCHEDULE***

- 8:30 am***                      ***Begin Gathering***
  
- 9:00 am***                      ***Pre Rally/People's Assembly***  
***Corner of Wilmington & South***  
***Streets near Shaw University***
  
- 10:00 am***                      ***March begins followed by Rally/***  
***People's Assembly***



WWW.NAACP.ORG

# **NAACP**

VISIT [NAACP.ORG](http://NAACP.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION

**#MORALMARCH2019**

*Forward Together, Not One Step Back*

# 2019 UPCOMING SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS



February 21-23, 2019

## Mid-Winter Gathering

*RENAISSANCE  
PORTSMOUTH-NORFOLK  
WATERFRONT HOTEL*

*425 Water Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704*



April 30—May 4, 2019

## WNC Annual Conference

*SHERATON GREENSBORO AT  
FOUR SEASONS*

*3121 W. Gate City Boulevard  
Greensboro, NC 27407  
(800) 325 -3535 / (336) 292-9161*

*RATE: \$129 plus tax per night  
Reservation Code: WESTERN NC AME*



July 7-11, 2019

## The Summer Summit

*NORFOLK SHERATON WATERFRONT*

*777 Waterside Dr  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-6664*

*RATE: \$139 plus tax per night  
Reservation Code: AME CHURCH 2nd DISTRICT*

Complete Schedule available at: [ame2.com](http://ame2.com)





***“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 33:1 NKJV***

Greetings, in the Name of the Most High God:

Every year we anticipate scholarship time! The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization provided 9 students with scholarships last year and we could not be more proud of them and their accomplishments.

We are asking every church in the conference for a \$300 scholarship donation. We are elated about the scholarship awards given last year, but we would love to do more; and to do that, we need the support of every local church in the conference. The young adults who have received scholarships from us are change agents on their various campuses, and we are honored to be a part of each of their stories.

Please have a representative from your church Lay Organization in attendance at **the WNCC Lay Organization Meeting at Turner’s Chapel A.M.E. Church, Saturday April 13, 2019 at 10 am**. If you are unable to attend the Lay meeting, monies can be mailed to *Bro. Woodrow Winchester at 912 Fairgreen Road, Greensboro, NC 27410*.

Also, we ended last year by imploring everyone to **S.L.A.P.** themselves as it relates to the youth and young adult presence or lack thereof in your local church. It is a new year and it is time once again to Stop, Look around, Assess, and Proceed with a plan for your local young adults. The WNCC young adults will have a **SPRING FLING** on April 13, 2019 at 1:00 pm at Florence Elementary School (located beside **Turner’s Chapel A.M.E. Church**) **to assess and plan! This would be a great time for all young adults to come to the Lay meeting and attend our “SPRING FLING”. We will have icebreakers, games, FOOD and fun while we get to know one another and assess our current state. Our prayer is at the conclusion of our Spring Fling we will have a plan to not only grow the Lay Organization, but our local churches as well. So, if you would like to engage in this epic adventure and have your opinions heard we urge you to come and join us!**

We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours In Christ and Christian Love,

Mary Royster Harris, WNCC- LO Young Adult Representative

Adam Johnston, SED-LO Young Adult Representative

Whitney Johnson Brown, Committee Member

Brandon Owens, Committee Member

Shontea Smith, Committee Member

Jacqueline Kanipe, WNCC-LO Director of Lay Activities

Penny S. Oliver, President of Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization



The SED Lay Organization will not host its “Legacy Luncheon” during the 2019 Mid-Winter Gathering, in Portsmouth, Virginia; instead, there will be a “Working Lunch”



**2019 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE & ELECTION OF WNCC CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO 36TH BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION (CLO) OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

- The election is scheduled for March 9, 2019, at Poplar Grove, Greensboro, North Carolina.
- Membership dues must be current for voting and election privileges.
- Dues are \$6.00 for adults.
- All local church membership rosters & dues must be received on or before February 25, 2019, or post marked no later than February 23, 2019 for election and voting privileges.

Please send your membership dues to the Credential/Membership Chair:  
Sister Shontea Smith | 309 Cherry Grove Street | Durham, NC 27703

*STOP* When service begins take a moment to just *STOP* and be present in the moment

*LOOK* around

*ASSESS* your population of 18-35 years old. Are they there? Do you have at least 10 present? Are they actively participating?

*PROCEED* with a Plan based on your assessment

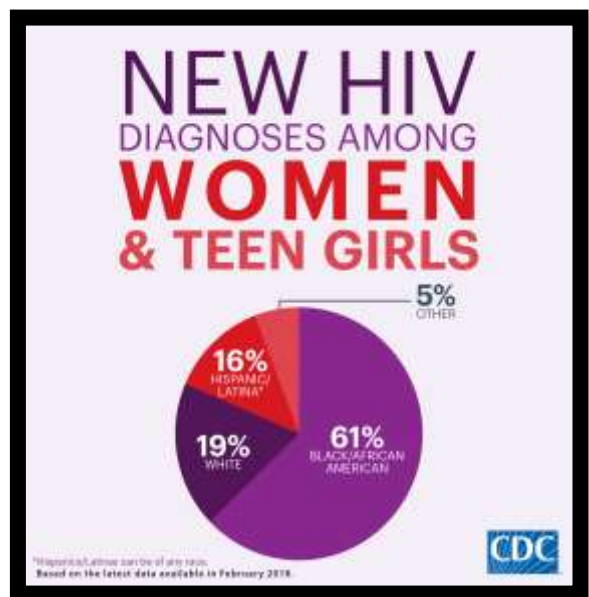
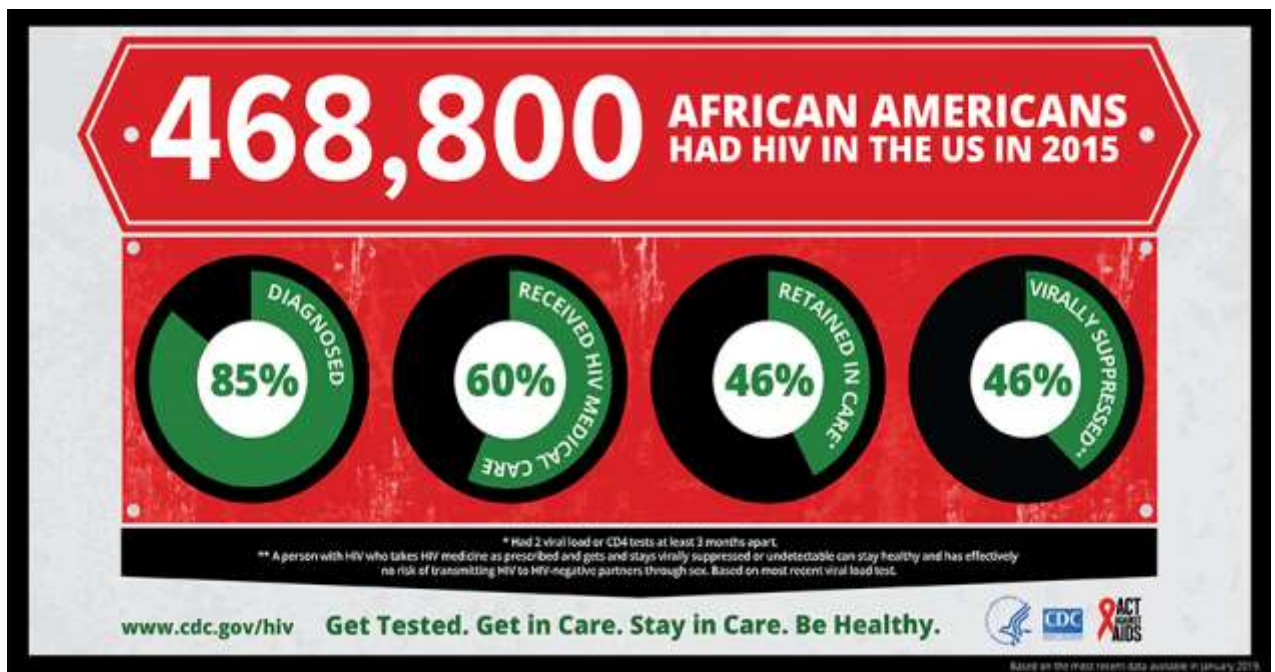


*S.L.A.P. yourself every Sunday until the new year and periodically after. We know there is a decline in the youth and young adult participation in our churches and we need a S.L.A.P. In an effort to grow the youth and young adult membership in our churches at the start of your morning worship service in the coming weeks please S.L.A.P. yourself!*

Mary Harris, WNCC-LO YAR  
Penny Oliver, WNCC-LO President



**MONDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>**



GET EDUCATED. GET TESTED. GET INVOLVED. GET TREATED.





# History of Pearson Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church

The first African Methodist Episcopal Church in High Point was organized in the first Colored School House on Perry Street by the late Rev. R. H. W. Leake and Rev. John Tate about 1880. Services were held in the First Baptist Church and later land was bought on south Main Street, that Church was lost. Later some of the members got together and bought a lot on Leonard Street and built another Church which was burned down. The members scattered, but a few kept the faith and met at the home of Mr. J. C. Crawford on Price Street and organized an A. M. E. Church. Rev. John Tate was sent as Pastor and Rev. J. W. Walker as Presiding Elder. Mr. Crawford and Dr. Gerran were the first Trustees. Services were held in the Odd Fellows Building and the Hoover Building, while the old Eccle home was being prepared to hold service, in which the first Sunday School was organized by Mrs. M. M. Gerran. She served as Superintendent and Teacher.

Later the "HUT" was built by the Missionary Society of the Western North Carolina Conference and named the Women's Memorial, later changed to Minnie S. Pearson Memorial for the first president of the Missionary Society of which she served for forty years. Then in 1935, under the direction of Rev. David Williamson another building was erected. The late Mr. Hal Huling as an officer led out in the building of the New Church. Rev. G. F. Gibson pastored from 1936-1938, Rev. A. M. Jones pastored from 1938-1947, at which the basement was dug and the frame work completed. Rev. G. S. Gant from 1947-1948. Then J. D. Treadwell and Mr. F. Peterson completed the brickwork, and then the interior was completed. The building later burned down on January 8, 1957.

In 1957, Rev. C. L. Stephens built another church on the Eccle Street property. This church was later torn down due to urban development. The building the congregation worships in today was erected in 1975, by the Rev. T. M. Brown and Zack Holmes. This building was constructed under the supervision of Presiding Elder Nathaniel Gaylord and Bishop John Hurst Adams. Rev. James Swain, Jr., was sent to pastor in May 1978. Rev. Swain continued to work to complete this building along with the members.



Pearson Memorial has truly been blessed to have worshipped in at least five different buildings and remained faithful to God. Many pastors and members have passed our way. The Rev. L. S. Werts, Rev. James Swain, Rev. Mayo Rich, Rev. Richard L. Corpening, Rev. J. R. Gwynn, Rev. Eddie Hughes, Rev. George Pass, Sr., Rev. Gwendolyn Benjamin, Rev. Christopher Robinson, and Rev. Esther Johnson encouraged us to strive to greater heights and to keep the faith. Today we are being led by Rev. Maye E. Riddick whose dedication, loving spirit, and dynamic preaching and teaching continue to build Pearson Memorial physically and spiritually.

We praise the LORD for His many blessings. We give thanks to our forefathers for having the determination and faith to want an African Methodist Episcopal Church in High Point. Many prayers and dreams have come to fruition because great is thy faithfulness. We pray that God will continue to direct and guide us.

# In the Spotlight

## Hidden Figure

### *Pearson Memorial AME Church*



Dr. G. A. Gerran is the first Black physician in High Point, North Carolina. He was a member and trustee as Pearson Memorial. Dr. Gerran, Pearson Memorial, and Pastor Maye E. Reddick are featured in 2019 Commemorative Calendar, commemorating 400 years of African American History.

Does your church have members (living or deceased) who have done exemplary things in the community, or who are/were trailblazers in their profession(s)?

Well... the *Lay Express* wants to know who they are, and what they did.

Each month the *Lay Express* highlights a church in the Western North Carolina Conference that gets featured as the WNC "Hidden Figure"

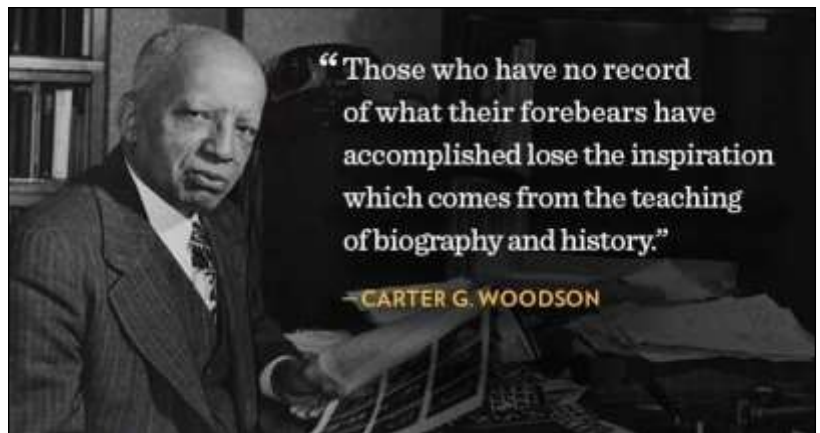
Just send the individual's name (layperson or clergy), a picture (if available), and a *very brief* description of your church's "Hidden Figures".

You never know when we will spotlight your Church, so *the SOONER* you submit your "Hidden Figure(s)" *the BETTER!*

# 365 DAYS OF BLACK HISTORY

## *The February Edition*

Feb. 1, 1865 - The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted by the 38th Congress.



Feb. 1, 1926 - What is now known as Black History Month was first a week-long celebration established by Carter G. Woodson. The recognition became a month long celebration in 1976.

Feb. 2, 1862 - District of Columbia abolishes slavery.

Feb. 2, 1914 - Ernest Just, genetic biologist, wins the Spingarn Medal. He received this same medal on this day in 1915 for his pioneering in cell division and fertilization.

Feb. 3, 1903 - Jack Johnson wins the Negro Heavyweight title.

Feb. 3, 1965 - Geraldine McCullough, sculptor, wins the Widener Gold Medal Award.

Feb. 4, 1913 - Rosa Parks (born Rosa Louise McCauley) was born on this day.

Feb. 4, 1971 - National Guard mobilized to quell rioting in Wilmington, N.C. Two persons killed.



Geraldine McCullough

Feb. 5, 1866 - Congressman Thaddeus Stevens offered an amendment to Freedmen's Bureau Bill authorizing the distribution of public land and confiscated land to freedmen and loyal refugees in 40- acre lots.



Feb. 6, 1820 - "Mayflower of Liberia" sailed from New York City with eighty six Blacks. Black population: 1,771,656 (18.4%)

Feb. 6, 1867 - Robert Tanner Jackson becomes first African American to receive a degree in dentistry.

Feb. 7, 1926 - The week-long celebration of Negro History Week concludes for the first time.

Feb. 8, 1944 - Harry S. McAlphin, first African American to be accredited to attend the White House press conference.



Harry S. McAlphin

Feb. 8, 1986 - Oprah Winfrey becomes the first African American woman to host a nationally syndicated talk show

Feb. 9, 1971 - Leroy "Satchel" Paige is inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Feb. 9, 1995 - Bernard Harris, African American astronaut, takes space walk.

Feb 10, 1927 - Leontyne Price, who became an internationally acclaimed opera singer, was born in Laurel, Miss.

Feb. 10, 1966 - Economist Andrew Brimer is appointed to the Federal Reserve Board.

Feb. 11, 1976 - Clifford Alexander Jr. confirmed as the first black secretary of the United States Army.

Feb. 11, 1990 - Nelson Mandela is released from a South African prison after being detained for 27 years as political prisoner.

Feb. 12, 1865 - Henry Highland Garnet, first black to speak in the Capitol, delivered memorial sermon on the abolition of slavery at services in the House of Representatives.



1st Lt. Nancy Leftneant

Feb. 12, 1948 - First Lt. Nancy C. Leftneant became the first black accepted in the regular Army Nursing Corps.

Feb. 13, 1957 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized at New Orleans meeting with Martin Luther King Jr. as president.

Feb 13, 1970 - The New York Stock Exchange admits its first black member, Joseph Searles.

Feb. 14, 1760 - Bishop Richard Allen, the founder and first consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Bishop Richard Allen

Feb. 14, 1817 - Frederick Douglass, "The Great Emancipator," is born.

Feb. 15, 1848 - Sarah Roberts barred from white school in Boston. Her father, Benjamin Roberts, filed the first school integration suit on her behalf.

Feb. 15, 1968 - Henry Lewis becomes the first black to lead a symphony orchestra in the United States.

Feb. 16, 1857 - Frederick Douglass elected President of Freeman Bank and Trust.

Feb. 16, 1923 - Bessie Smith makes her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues, which sells 800,000 copies for Columbia Records.

Feb. 17, 1870 - Congress passed resolution readmitting Mississippi on condition that it would never change its constitution to disenfranchise blacks.

Feb. 17, 1997 - Virginia House of Delegates votes unanimously to retire the state song, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," a tune that glorifies slavery.

Feb. 18, 1865 - Rebels abandoned Charleston. First Union troops to enter the city included twenty-first U.S.C.T., followed by two companies of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers.

Feb. 18, 1931 - Toni Morrison (born Chloe Anthony Wofford), who will win the Pulitzer Prize for her novel *Beloved*, was born on this day in Lorain, Ohio.



Toni Morrison

Feb. 19, 1919 - Pan-African Congress, organized by W.E.B. DuBois, met at the Grand Hotel, Paris. There were 57 delegates- -16 from the United States and 14 from Africa as well as others from 16 countries and colonies.

Feb. 20, 1895 - Death of Frederick Douglass. Douglass was the leading black spokesman for almost 50 years. He was a major abolitionist, lecturer, and editor.

Feb. 21, 1895 - North Carolina Legislature, dominated by black Republicans and white Populists, adjourned for the day to mark the death of Frederick Douglass.

Feb. 22, 1979 - Frank E. Peterson, Jr., named the first black general in the Marine Corps.

Feb. 23, 1965 - Constance Baker Motley elected Manhattan Borough president, the highest elective office held by a black woman in a major American city.

Feb. 24, 1864 - Rebecca Lee Crumpler became the first black woman to receive an M.D. degree.

Feb. 25, 1870 - Hirman R. Revels of Mississippi was sworn in as first black U.S. Senator and first black Representative in Congress.

Feb. 26, 1869 - Fifteenth Amendment guaranteeing the right to vote sent to the states for ratification.

Feb. 27, 1988 - Figure skater Debi Thomas becomes the first African American to win a medal (bronze) at the winter Olympic Games.

Feb. 28, 1859 - Arkansas legislature required free blacks to choose between exile and enslavement.



“Whereas our ancestors (not of choice) were the first successful cultivators of the wilds of America, we their descendants feel ourselves entitled to participate in the blessings of her luxuriant soil.”

Bishop Richard Allen



# Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events Around the Connection



- February 9, 2019 ..... **Elizabeth Keckley, African Methodism, & the Meaning of Freedom**  
**Public Lecture**  
Saint Paul — Chapel Hill, NC  
Sister Teresa Merritt-Watson, *Lay Pres.*  
Rev. Dr. Michael A. Cousin, *Pastor*  
2PM
- February 10, 2019 ..... **Annual Men's Day**  
Emmanuel — Durham, NC  
Speaker: Apostle Robert Joy  
10AM
- February 10, 2019 ..... **Freedom Talks— Black History Month**  
**Haw River Ballroom**  
1711 Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Rd -- Saxapahaw, NC  
Hosted by Maxwell Chapel, Rev. Tamara Kearsey, *Pastor*  
3PM
- February 21-23, 2019 ..... **Mid Winter Meeting**  
Portsmouth-Norfolk, VA
- March 9, 2019 ..... **WNCC Lay Organization Meeting**  
Poplar Grove — Greensboro, NC  
10AM
- March 10, 2019 ..... **Annual WMS Day**  
Emmanuel — Durham, NC  
10AM
- March 17, 2019 ..... **Annual Lay Day**  
Dickerson Chapel — Hillsborough, NC  
Speaker: Angela Elam
- March 23, 2019 ..... **Fruit of the Spirit Program**  
Hunter's Chapel — Mebane, NC
- April 13, 2019 ..... **WNCC Lay Organization Meeting**  
Turner's Chapel — High Point, NC  
10AM
- April 30-May 4, 2019 ..... **127<sup>th</sup> Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference**  
Koury Convention Center/Four Seasons Sheraton — Greensboro, NC
- June 9, 2019 ..... **2019 Pentecost**  
Baltimore, MD
- June 14-15, 2019 ..... **Springdale Bus Trip visiting Washington, D.C.'s**  
**National Museum of African American History & Culture**  
Rev. Dr. Bridgette Gloster, *Pastor*  
For more information contact: Penny Oliver — (336) 565-0367
- June 30, 2019 - July 4, 2019 ..... **CLO Biennial 2019**  
Seattle, WA
- July 23, 2019 - July 27, 2019 ..... **YPD Quadrennial Convention 2019**  
Columbus, OH
- July 27, 2019 - August 1, 2019 ..... **WMS Quadrennial Convention 2019**  
Columbus, OH
- July 8-20, 2020 ..... **AMEC 51<sup>st</sup> Quadrennial Session**  
Orlando, FL

# REMINNDERS



Jacob Lawrence, From the *Migration Series*, 1940s

- Election of Conference Delegates, March 9, 2019, at Poplar Grove, 10am.
- *S.L.A.P.* Yourself
- Book Your Rooms for the Annual Conference & the Summer Summit
- Open an account at a Black Bank
- Support ERT
- **Take the 90 Day "I Dare You To Trust God" Challenge**

For additional information on conference events,  
Please visit the Second Episcopal District website,  
[www.ame2.com](http://www.ame2.com),  
and/or the website of the WNCC Lay Organization,  
[www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org).

**WE NEED YOUR "CHURCH HISTORY",  
"HIDDEN FIGURES",  
& "CHURCH EVENTS"**

**BY FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

FOR PUBLICATION IN THE UPCOMING NEWSLETTER.

Angela Elam ~ [allendur@aol.com](mailto:allendur@aol.com)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO HOST  
PRAYER BREAKFAST 2019  
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

Date of Agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

(between host Lay President and WNCCLC Prayer Breakfast chairperson)

WNCCLC Prayer Breakfast chairperson: Jackie C. Kanipe Phone: # (Home) 828-433-8424 or (Cell) 828-403-1762

Email: [jconleyk@bellsouth.net](mailto:jconleyk@bellsouth.net)

WNCCLC President: Penny Oliver

Phone # (Cell) 336-348-3259

Email: [penny.oliver52@yahoo.com](mailto:penny.oliver52@yahoo.com)

**Date of function:** September 14, 2019

**Location of Function:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Starting time of Function:** 10:00 a.m.

**Approximate Number of Guests:** 250 comfortably

**Total Cost:**

Amount of Deposit:

Date Deposit Paid:

**Menu:**

Meats	Eggs	Other
Pastry/Bread	Grits	
Drink(s)	Fruit	

**Program Specifications:**

The host president is responsible for the printing of the WNCCLC Prayer Breakfast programs Y/N

Number of programs to be printed: 250

Printed Program Review: 2 weeks before printing (date)

**Room Set-Up Specifications:**

Head Table for how many:

Entry Table (collection of funds/tickets) Y/N

Other Decorations: Tables (covering for the tables, etc).

Audio/Visual Equipment: Microphone

**Host President or Authorized Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name and Position in Church:** \_\_\_\_\_