

THE

# REFLECTOR

NOVEMBER 2017

SISTER GARNET  
HICKS WALLACE  
100TH BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION

PROJECT POSSIBLE  
RENAMED

Learning Experience  
2018

46TH ANNUAL YPD  
DISTRICT MEETING

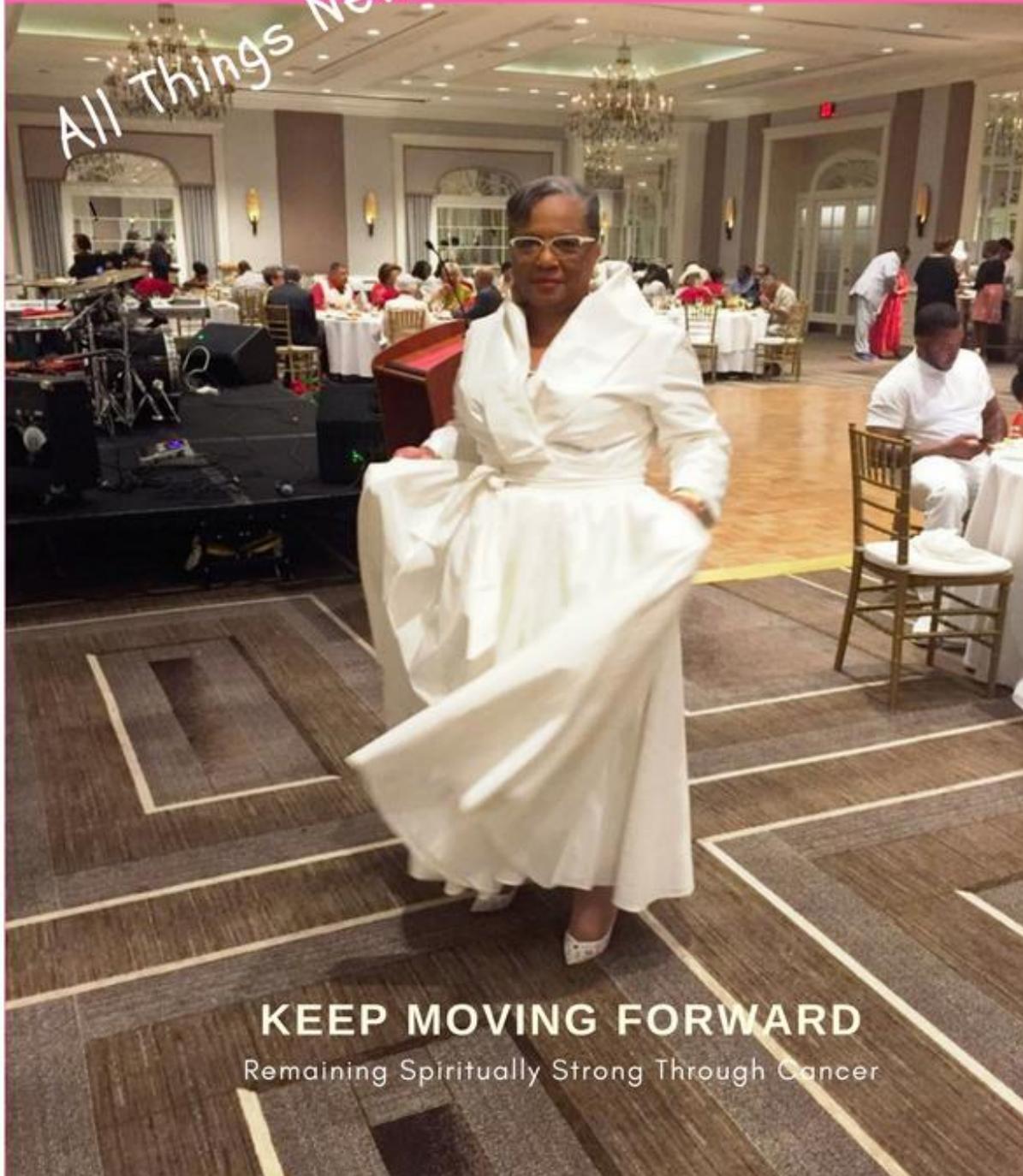
ANNUAL WMS  
QUEEN'S CONTEST

YOUNG ADULT  
MISSIONARY BLOG

MASS MEETING  
REPORTS

ANNUAL WMS  
FALL LUNCHEON

All Things New!



**KEEP MOVING FORWARD**

Remaining Spiritually Strong Through Cancer

**FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT WMS MAGAZINE**

REV. DR. JESSICA KENDALL INGRAM  
EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR

MRS. PATRICIA NIRA SMITH  
1ST DISTRICT WMS PRESIDENT

BISHOP GREGORY G.M. INGRAM  
PRESIDING PRELATE



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## *Greetings* FROM THE **Supervisor**

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I am writing these greetings while I am on the train riding to Providence, Rhode Island for Bethel AME Women's Conference. Although I have either planned and implemented conferences or ministered at them for over 40 years, I still get excited about going to them. My excitement is because I have learned God is faithful. If we hear God's voice, execute the plans God speaks to us, God will bless the work of our hands.

The same is true about my excitement as we have now entered another conference year. We have heard God's voice, we are in the process of implementing God's plan and we already know God will bless our work. Thus, we know the work of the WMS for the 2017-2018 year will make a difference in the lives of hundreds of persons. We have taken seriously, the district theme of, "All Things New." While we will continue to hold on to some of our traditional projects, we are very much open to new ones. I am encouraging every local president to try something new-not just to do something different but to make a major impact in the church and in the community.

Our calling, our mission is to always be open to creative and innovative concepts. I am equally excited about Project Possible. This summer we spent on full day in critical thinking about how we can fine tune each project. We were open to being critiqued about our past work and were willing to accept suggestions for improvement.

This year we will try some new ideas: designing SMART goals, creating marketing plans and writing grants for funding. Our 2nd Vice President, Teresa Jenkins and all the conference project coordinators have been exceptional. We look forward to their unveiling more of their plans to us. I am encouraging every missionary to contact your conference coordinator and work with her. We can make the mission possible!!

Finally, I cannot contain the excitement I have about LE2018. I believe for the first time since I have been the Supervisor, we will reach our numerical goal. This is because of our past track record and because we have some hard-working chairpersons. Because of their labor of love, women who attend the LE will leave knowing no matter what happens to them in life, they can move forward.

Allow me to give kudos to Nicole Smith and Sister Philippa Olofintuyi who has taken on the task of producing this Reflector. I think they are doing a great job. When you see let them know!!

Be blessed,

*Rev. Jessica*





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## *A Word* FROM THE **President**

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*“I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad”.* Psalm 34: 1-2

*What a wonderful God we serve. I greet you with the love and joy of Jesus. I am blessed to serve Him as the President of this marvelous 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District Women’s Missionary Society.*

This edition of the Reflector highlights the work God has allowed us to do since our June 2017 meeting in each conference through the Women’s Missionary Society and the Young People’s Division.

The articles in the Fall Convocation Edition of the **Reflector** shows that each Conference Branch WMS. (**Bermuda, New England, Western New York, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Philadelphia**) is doing the ministry of Jesus Christ in their churches, communities, and in the world. Each **Conference WMS** continues their unique outreach programs to assist God’s people in need. I thank each **Local and Conference Branch President** for all you do. God is pleased because you are helping the least, lost, and left behind by extending yourselves beyond the local and community efforts through **Project Possible** and **Partners in Missions**.

The **YPD Directors, officers, and members** of the 1<sup>st</sup> District are amazing! I salute each of them for being mission minded as you connect with other young people across the Connection of the AME Church, your communities and churches. Some of the great work they do is presented. Special thanks for your social justice concerns and for a wonderful 46<sup>th</sup> Annual 1<sup>st</sup> District Annual Meeting.

The Commissions on **Christian Social Action, Missionary Education and Interpretation, and Member and Recruitment** continue to be work very hard. Their articles show the effectiveness of working though the commission structure to address many of the social, and spiritual concerns is the 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District.

Last, but not least, I thank the editor of **The Reflector Sister Nicole Smith and Sister Philippa Olofintuyi** for putting together this communication for each of our meetings.

Be Blessed,  
President Pat



# THE RUTH HENDERSON HUGHES LEARNING EXPERIENCE 2018 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

JANUARY 19-21, 2018  
HYATT REGENCY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS DECEMBER 7, 2017

REGISTER @ [WWW.1STDISTRICTWMS.COM](http://WWW.1STDISTRICTWMS.COM)



Rev. Tracey Brown



Rev. Dr. JoAnn Browning



Rev. Dr. Elaine Flake



Rev. Sheleta Fomby



Rev. Conitras Houston



Rev. Eyesha Marable



Dr. Shirley Cason Reed



Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart



Rev. Myra Billips



Rev. Lisa Williamson, M.D.

*Moving  
Phil. 3:14  
Forward*



## LIFE CHANGING WORKSHOPS FOR THE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

- Moving Forward In My Marriage
- Moving Forward By Myself
- Moving Forward To My Destiny
- Moving Forward Through My Losses

And So Much More...

# Carrying on the Education Mission of Sarah Bass Allen

Dr. Lola Ames,  
1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District Scholarship Director

The mission of Women's Missionary Society (WMS) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church states: *We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.* One way to fulfill the mission and purpose is to: *Provide training and education that develop and inspire responsible and visionary leadership that is motivated to witness or advocate for the global mission community; and advocate for peace, justice, and human rights for women, children, elderly and families.*

The First Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society supervisor, Reverend Doctor Jessica Kendall Ingram, president, Mrs. Patricia Nira Smith, and devoted missionaries

have made a profound decision to fulfill every aspect of this mission and purpose. As one body, they are committed

to this objective by providing a pathway to higher education for high school seniors and undergraduate college students. This pathway to higher education will potentially provide the recipients with the foundation needed to continue to full the mission and purpose of the WMS of the African Methodist Church and uplift our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Each year the First Episcopal District WMS provide high school seniors and undergraduates who are active participants in



their AME church and community with the opportunity to compete for academic scholarships in various monetary increments. To receive these scholarships, the applicants must engage in a comprehensive application process. In 2017, 18 missionaries decided to take on the challenge. The missionaries responded by contributing \$14,200.00 to those applicants to assist them in their pursuit of higher education. The scholarships were the Current Supervisor: Reverend Doctor Jessica Kendall Ingram, O. W. Dandridge, Past Supervisor, Carol Kirkland Fubler and Book Scholarships.

The arduous task of selecting the recipient of each scholarship is entrusted to a very diverse scholarship committee. They are: Dr. Lola Ames, First Episcopal Scholarship Commissioner, Sylvia Caines-Bermuda Conference, Karen Lewis-Delaware Conference, E. Dewarner Dunston-Crawford-New England Conference, Renee Bryant-New Jersey Conference, Maggie Stevenson-New York Conference, Charmaine Cohen Johnson (Interim)-Western New York, and Tameko Patten-Philadelphia Conference.

In response to the generosity of the First Episcopal District WMS, the recipients are working hard to complete their education. Most importantly, they remembered to say thank you. That is a profound way to carry on the mission and purpose of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



# Women's Missionary Society ~ Bermuda Conference

Sister Cynthy A. Thompson,

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bermuda Conference WMS

## Bermuda Conference Learning Experience 2017

The Bermuda Conference WMS held its Learning Experience 2017 on Saturday, October 21 under the leadership of Sister Cynthy Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The venue was Allen Temple AME Church. The Theme was "Good Health and Prosperity". The Scripture was 3 John v. 2. A



Meditation, based on the theme, was led by Sister Candice Clarke, Conference Worship Director.

There was a very informative and educational workshop on Ovarian Health presented by Dr. Terry-Lynne Emery. A survivor of ovarian cancer gave her personal testimony.

President, Sister Eunice Jones led us in a discussion and quiz on Heart Health. This was followed by a session entitled "Sharing From the Heart" where members shared some very touching and personal experiences when they saw God move in



their lives. We concluded with a session of prayer. Members prayed for and about

various situations they are dealing with as well as for one another. There were about 56 in attendance.

## Bermuda Conference Community Partnership

Rose Bell WMS at St. Paul A.M.E. Church have partnered with the Department of Child and Family Services to provide much needed assistance to the Foster Care Program. This partnership came about because of the Department head Mrs. Selena Simons having a conversation with Rev. Nicholas Genevieve-Tweed at the Foster Care Program Christmas Party that was held at no cost in Centennial Hall in December of 2016. After hearing of the budget cuts and strain put on the Foster Care staff, Rev. Tweed shared with the missionary president and the partnership was formed.

To financially support this initiative, part of the proceeds from fundraising projects were



allocated to facilitate the support of the Foster Care Program.

In addition, Rose Bell WMS was contacted by the Head of the Department of Child and Family Services with a request to provide items needed for an unborn child that would be born into the Foster Care System. Rose Bell WMS could purchase all the items requested, which included pampers, wipes, jumpers, socks, hats onesies, burping cloths and a few outfits. As this will be an ongoing

## Community Partnership Continued

partnership, Rose Bell WMS welcomes donations of funds or gift cards for the People's Pharmacy, Market Place, Gibbons Company or Lindo's Market which will enable us to continue to assist the Foster Care Program.

The People's Pharmacy Gift cards are to enable the acquisition of medicine after Acute Medical appointments in which the doctor has prescribed a medication to be started immediately and the red tape of bureaucracy causes a necessary delay in acquiring medicine. The grocery gift cards are used to purchase snack items for when children are being held at the office waiting for parents to show for their visits or the child/children are being interviewed for an investigation.

Rose Bell WMS is also providing supplies for emergency placement kits. There are two categories for these kits, Infant/Toddler Kits and School Aged Children. The kits contain, Baby Bath/Wash, Baby Shampoo, Baby Lotion, Baby Wipes, Cotton Balls, Baby Towel Set, A Stuffed Animal for the infant/toddler kits; and Coloring Book, Crayons, Bubble Bath, Lotion, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Comb & Brush, Towel Set and Body Spray for the School Aged Children.

## New York Conference Young People's Division

### It's Never Too Late To Give Joy!

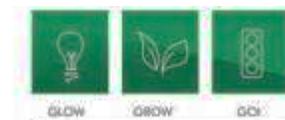
Sometime about a year ago, we held a service entitled Teens for Jeans, where the youth collected new and barely new jeans for youth in Foster Care. Well we collect over 300 jeans of all sizes. At the time we were busy trying to hit all seven areas with

a little joy! We were very successful in most of areas and of course it helps if you are a social worker who worked with community action organizations, to have contacts who can lead us to the right place.



Well that worked except for this one area where someone had

promised to connect me to the right place and never came through! Well, when I was invited to the graduation ceremony for the Women's Opportunity Resource Center aka WORC, which is the New York Conference WMS project possible. WORC is a community corrections program that offers an alternative for female offenders in and around Nassau County. The women receive an intensive 9-month program. By the time they reach graduation, they are standing on two feet. Most women who have children find them in foster care. They must work hard to show their children, family and the system that they are ready to receive their children back. I was truly impressed by the number of ladies who are attending college, going to work and attempting to make a better world! Well you have guessed it; the last two oversized bags of jeans went to WORC! The joy was received when we heard from WORC where they talked about the "simple" joy that the women had in just receiving the gift of the jeans that they could share as gifts with their children! God knew where those last two bags needed to go but I just needed to be led there! Thank you Lord for the push!



## Ministry Beyond the White Delaware Conference WMS

Sept.16, 2017 The DCBWMS honored the following missionaries from across the conference that have given twenty years or more of service to the Ministry of Missions: Alpine Wilson, Mt. Friendship; Margaret Bowers, Mt. Plymouth; Cliffonia Gaines, Macedonia; Charlotte Collins, Dickerson Chapel; Rosalie Macklin, New Zion, Ellendale; Ruth Palmer, Mt. Calvary; Janet Stewart, St. Paul; Caroline Stanley, Mt. Zion, Dover; Gerry Horsey, Mt. Pisgah; Della Sharp, Bethel, Milford; Hera Shockley,



Siloam; Delema Carter, St. James Union; Helen Scott, Bethel, Wilmington; Betty Wisner, Emmanuel; Josephine Reynolds, New Elizabeth; Bernice Covert, Asbury; Henrietta Fields-Wilson,

Trinity;  
Marguerite Harris, Byrd's.

The Delaware Conference is indeed glad for the commitment of service and witness by the above listed women. We were proud to give these ladies their flowers and accolades while they were alive to receive them.

## New England Conference Young People's Division

The New England Conference Branch Young People's & Children's Division and guest boarded AME Airlines and took a trip around the World, August 5, 2017 beginning their journey at AMF Lanes Cranston, RI. Our Pilot, Sis. Kaitlin Oliver (Bethel Norwalk), greeted us on United States soil near the Statue of Liberty and



provided us with an all-time American Favorite, Cupcakes. Once our journey began all passengers were provided with their passport while Flight Entertainment was provided by one of our Flight Attendants, Bro. Trevor Jones (St. James Danbury), who sang "We Are the World."

Each stop we were able to learn various facts about their cultures and traditions of the various Countries.

Where did we go?

- **Barbados**, Sis. Jhanelle Bynoe (St. Paul) had prepared for us some delicious homemade sweet bread.
- **Liberia**, Sis. Rachel Clarke & Natalie Hinton (Bethel Norwalk) teamed up with Tyler Genece (Bethel New Haven) showed us some of their traditional garments along with Art from Liberia.
- **Haiti**, Bro. Evans Genece and Sis. Ashliegh Genece (Bethel New Haven) entertained us with music and dance.
- **Jamaica**, Sis. Nyasia Wade (Bethel Bloomfield) entertained us with music and poetry.
- **India**, Sis. Marquita Glasscock (Allen Chapel) displayed the soft fabric made in India
- **Germany**, Rev. Carlitta Cotton (Allen Chapel) educated us on the

## New England Conference YPD Continued

- Black Culture in Germany and treated us with a variety of sweets

We were Blessed to have our District YPD Director, Sis. Susan Butler and President, Sean Lewis join us for our trip around the world on AME Airlines.

In addition to our trip around the world

YPD'ers collected Back to School Supplies during our Annual Event that were donated to various classrooms throughout New England.

SAVE THE DATE!!! We will be boarding AME Airlines August 4, 2018 at AMF Lanes in Cranston, RI.

LE 2018

## Spiritual Preparation

Rev. Vera Worthy,  
1<sup>st</sup> District WMS Worship Director

The "Spiritual Preparation Committee" cordially invites everyone to fast with us each Monday from 6:00 P.M. (or after your dinner hour) until Tuesday at 6:00 P.M., and then join the Intercessory Prayer Conference call at 9:00 P.M. Tuesday evenings.

**It is my pleasure to announce that Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram will bring the meditations for the entire month of November. December meditation speakers will be announced shortly.**

*The theme for the month of November "Moving Forward with Thanksgiving"*

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Immediately following the meditation, we will begin intercessory prayer for LE 2018, and any special needs throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District.

Please dial **515-739-1015**, when prompted, dial the access code **892.544.305#**. Please announce yourself so that your presence can be acknowledged.

Should you miss the Prayer Conference Call, please dial **605-475-3273** access code **892.544.305#** and follow the prompt.

**STAY WOKE**

# YPD Annual District Meeting

Brother Sean Lewis, President

Sister Susan Butler, 1<sup>st</sup> District Director

## \* 46<sup>th</sup> Annual District Meeting

The First Episcopal District YPD Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting was empowering and life changing. It was held on October 5-8, 2017 in Southampton, Bermuda hosted by the Bermuda Conference at the Fairmont Southampton Resort. The annual weekend honored our theme



“#StayWoke” with Mission Projects, Worship Services, Workshops and our Afro Caribbean Banquet.

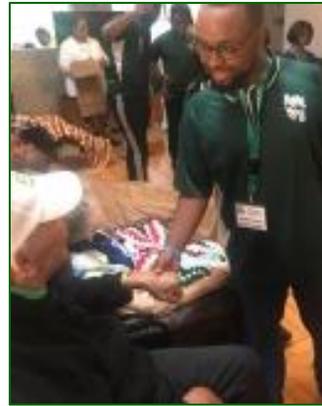
This year the First District YPD, instead of our usual spotlight awards, we did a Social Justice award and each conference chose an awardee worthy of the award. We also Facebooked live, both Opening and Morning Glory Service and reached 491 people. We had 653 registered for the meeting. The Annual Meeting had a lot of unforgettable moments that will not be forgotten.

On Thursday evening the YPDers first gathered in the Fairmont Southampton, Bermuda Resort (Mid-Ocean Amphitheater) for the welcome ceremony. The praise and worship were led by the



Bermuda Conference President Micah Anderson and the YPDers of the Bermuda

Conference. The Bermuda Conference gave us a Caribbean culture welcome with Gombay dancers and drums. On Friday



morning, everyone had breakfast and The First District YPD E-Board, along with a host of Conference Directors, First District YPD Director

Susan Butler, Bermuda Conference WMS President Eunice Jones, First District WMS President Patricia Smith and Rev. Jessica Ingram attended The Matilda Smith Williams Senior Residence. We had devotions and prayer with the residents and they also shared their testimonies and encouraging words. Many people spent Friday afternoon touring the island before having dinner and then preparing for



service. St. Paul AME Praise Team led the Opening Worship service in Praise and Worship. The Processional was a beautiful sea of Green and White, led by the Bermuda Conference



Director and President. Our Worship Leader was our First District

**YPD Annual Meeting Continued**

YPD President, Brother Sean Lewis. Some of the highlights from the service were Audrey Rose Wooden reading a poem that she wrote called,



“Praying in Public” and Reverend Dr. Anton Elwood, Pastor of New Mount Zion AME Church in Tallahassee, FL., preaching the Word of God. His title was “Friends”. After the worship service, we moved into the Business Session. Each conference president gave their report and along with Connectional Global Social Relations Chair, Richard Norris, III. Then our President Sean Lewis gave his first District President Report. The reports were followed by the Committee Reports and elections of 1<sup>st</sup> District YPD officers. Our Connectional YPD President, Chinelo Tyler, shared some words of encouragement. The meeting was over, and our President Sean Lewis adjourned the meeting.



Saturday Morning was Morning Glory and our Conference Presidents and our District YPD Worship Director, Earl Knight led us into Praise and Worship and our Worship Leader was Sister Jazlyn Crawford-McBride, President of Delaware

Conference YPD. Our Hour of Power speaker was Reverend Orsella Cooper-Hughes, Pastor of St. James AME Church in Danbury, CT. Her message was “#StayWoke”. Next, we had our newly elected officers’ installation and YPD Pledge. After the morning worship service, we broke out into our group workshops. Some of the workshop topics were #YPDLivesMatter, #StayWoke, #BlackExcellence, #RaiseYourVoice and #BuildingStrongYoungPeople. After the Workshops were over the young people went to Vernon Temple AME Church for Lunch. The last and final event of the night was our YPD Afro Caribbean Banquet. It was the event that everyone was able to participate in. We gave out Social Justice Awards; we presented 1<sup>st</sup> District YPD Scholarships and Book awards and we also honored our outgoing officers that would be aging out of the YPD. Bishop and Supervisor Ingram were presented with the very First Edition Yearbook of the First District YPD, made by Enoch Gatling. The Executive Board together honored our President Sean Lewis as well as Sis Susan Butler. The Mother Sunbeams and Allen

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## YPD Annual Meeting Continued

Stars came and sang a song they learned in their workshop called, "I Know Who I Am". The night ended with a social that will be remembered forever.

On Sunday we had Closing Prayer and Praise Service on the back lawn of the Fairmont Resort. We were led in Praise and Worship by the Philadelphia Conference YPD President Ms. Dominique Silas. We had opening prayer by Ms.



Dionne Green and Prayer for the YPD by our District YPD President, Bro. Sean Lewis. Rev Jessica shared some encouraging words with a closing song, "Be

Blessed". We closed with the Missionary Benediction.

The Bermuda Conference did a wonderful job hosting and we are looking forward to the hosting of the Forty-seventh Annual Meeting in the Empire State, New York in



2018. We want to thank our Connectional leadership, Brother Chinelo Tyler, Connectional YPD President, Dzestinee Glenn-Bland, Connectional YPD Second Vice President and

our past District Presidents Brother Keith Coston Jr. and Brother Lamone Gibson, our past District Director L. Lynn Rochester-Devine (Aunt Toppi) and all our other



guest for coming out and supporting our annual meeting. Also, we would like to thank our Episcopal Leadership Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram and Reverend Dr.

Jessica K. Ingram, Episcopal Supervisor. Lastly, we would also like to thank our First Episcopal District WMS President Mrs. Patricia Smith and our First Episcopal District President and Director Brother Sean Lewis and Sister Susan Butler and the Executive Board for all their hard work.



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# New Jersey Conference WMS Mass Meeting 2017 Reflections

Sister Renee Bryant,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President New Jersey Conference WMS

## Meeting Reflection

The New NJ Conference WMS held its Annual Mass Meeting on Saturday, October 7, 2017, hosted by the Rev. Charles E. Wilkins Bethel, Millville, New Jersey. Presiding Elder Winton Hill of the Newark District and Sister Janis Hill, Newark District Consultant, and other pastors were in attendance.



Our day began with First Lady Donna Hayes of Friendship AMEC in Browns Mill, NJ who presented a powerful meditation and declared, "#Stay Woke" She challenged us to stay informed and always remain ready to act when needed.

We were honored to have the Rev. Dr. Melinda Contreras-Byrd NJ State Licensed Psychologist, and owner of the Generations Center, located in New Jersey. She also works with her husband, Rev. Vernon R Byrd



Jr. in pastoral ministry at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, PA. Rev. Dr. Contreras-Byrd discussed the two major factors influencing depression and suicide treatment for black Christian women in the

United States. Due to the startling suicide rate in the United States, she challenged us to become more supportive and look at the realities of depression and suicide among black Christian women. Rev. Dr. Contreras-Byrd also noted that there are times when pastors may need to refer others to seek professional help.

Sister Danielle Hale, Residential Supervisor for the Cumberland County SERV Program



also presented on the complex topic of domestic violence.

Sis Hale manages the domestic violence safe house, the crisis hotline and advocacy services. She highlighted the five types: Physical, Emotional, Sexual, Financial, and Psychological Abuse which can create feelings of helplessness. She declared that it is necessary to "Love the victim where they are until they are able to make better decisions for themselves".

Sister Moriah Akrong and Sister Memphis



Madden are both active members of the Young People's Division at Mt. Pisgah AME Church,

Princeton. They delivered an informative workshop highlighting the use of social media to enhance missions work.

## NJ Mass Meeting cont.

Sister Nina Burnett is a member of Friendship AME Church, Browns Mills, NJ. She currently teaches ballet, and tap dance at the church. She is also head of the God's Grace Liturgical Dance Ministry at Friendship AMEC. She provided a low impact exercise for the missionaries and they embraced the moments of active movement.

In addition to learning from various presenters, some missionaries were afforded the opportunity to engage in the following work:

- Visited, prayed, and gave care packages to the Veterans Memorial Home led by First Lady Donna Hayes and Sis. Jackie James

### *Reflection from First Lady Donna Hayes:*

We sang songs, we prayed, took pictures and left them with gift bags that included hygiene items and socks. The veterans and in some cases the spouse of a veteran was extremely excited and grateful for our presence. They were happy to have us there to listen to them tell us amazing stories of great sacrifice to our nation and their willingness despite missing limbs, and being wheelchair bound to do it all over again without question. We took their names and room numbers down in order to continue our fellowship with them via letters and cards. I must say the joy the veterans exemplified was a true testament to Nehemiah 8:10 where it states, "The joy of the Lord is my strength." They all gave God glory and Praise despite it



all and we give God Glory and Praise for them all!

- Assembled care packets for the Veterans led by Leticia Spicer-Ricks
- Assembled care packets for Bethel Clients led by Philippa Olofintuyi
- Bagged groceries and distributed to Bethel Millville Clients
- Served lunch to Bethel Millville Clients

After having an exciting morning and engaging with the community, we transitioned into the mid-day worship service. In honoring First Lady Laura Wilkins, we placed a picture, rose, and lit a candle during service to remember our faithful sister who shared God's love with gladness. Rev. Charles E. Wilkins then preached with holy ghost power, sharing the Joy of Serving! God used him mightily; Rev. Wilkins was totally engaged throughout the entire day. He epitomized how to trust in God in the midst of trials and tribulations.

### *Mass Meeting Recap from Moriah Akrong:*

Participating in this year's annual mass meeting was a blessing. Often in church we leave conversations behind that are important, but deemed too sensitive. I was so appreciative to be in a setting where topics like domestic violence, depression, and suicide were being talked about. As a presenter it was so awesome to have the missionaries in the audience participate and excited about what we were talking about.

Sis. Wilma Robinson, our New Jersey Conference Branch President, was thrilled about the "WMS Doing a New Thing." Again, she acknowledged, "I am Peacock Proud and Elephant Elated, What another AWE-INSPIRING MASS MEETING!"

*Submitted by Sister Renee Bryant*

# Remaining Spiritually Strong Through Cancer

Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram,  
1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District Supervisor

## Keep Moving Forward

I don't say these words with a sense of arrogance, but with humility. People keep saying to me, "You look good", and I say to them, "I don't look like what I have been through." The reason is simple, but profound. I have learned to keep moving forward in the midst of the difficult challenges in my life.



In December of 2016, my husband and I were at the General Board meeting in Chicago when he got a call from his doctor. As I looked at the expression on his face, I could tell it was not good news. He was told his PSA was over 13 and he needed to make an appointment ASAP to see the doctor. When we made the visit, the doctor confirmed our concerns. The prostate cancer had returned. Bishop Ingram had been diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2005, had

surgery for it, and we thought, in ignorance, it would not return, but it did. The doctor said he needed to have at least 35 daily radiation treatments. This was in February of 2017. We were getting ready to enter the annual conference series and Bishop Ingram told the doctor there was no way he could start then. I cannot describe the expression on the doctor's face. He reluctantly agreed to wait until the summer to start the treatment.

Once my husband was diagnosed with prostate cancer, I knew I had to go into a deeper place in prayer. Fortunately for me, I was already accustomed to getting up in the morning, having my time of meditation, and then seeking the face of God in prayer. This spiritual discipline gave me exactly what I needed to make it through this season in my life. And so, I faced the next several months with a



Keep Moving Forward cont.

peace that really did pass all understanding. Bishop Ingram



Bermuda Annual Conference

chose not to share his health status with the district. We went through seven annual conferences carrying the weight of the diagnosis. Because he delayed getting the radiation treatment the doctor gave him a hormone therapy shot. This shot causes him to have “hot flashes” many times a day (He says he now understands what women go through). Throughout the annual conferences, I watched him preside while sweat was running down his face. I sat, and I prayed. I watched, and I prayed. Finally, at the Planning Meeting in June, we shared his diagnosis with the district. The response was amazing. People

surrounded us with their prayers.

On July 12, Bishop Ingram began proton therapy. For 39 days, every day of the week until September 6th, we got up early and was on our way to the cancer center at 6 a.m. During this time, I never once fretted, I never was anxious, and I was never concerned about his condition. I simply prayed and kept pressing forward. People



still ask me how I could keep looking “so good.” Well, memory

helps. I can remember how God kept me when my husband was in a life-threatening accident in South Africa that resulted in three major surgeries. I remember how God gave me assurance when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer before. I remember how God was so present when he had triple bypass surgery in 2010.

## Keep Moving Forward cont.

And so, my memory of what God is able to do kept me pressing forward when he was diagnosed again with prostate cancer.



Ring of Bell

Pressing forward, moving forward is who I am. It is what I do. It is what I know. God has been with me in all situations. God has been a very present help in my time of trouble, therefore I am not afraid. Moving forward requires an unchanging faith in God in all circumstances. Moving forward means learning to take God at God's word and trusting God in the process. I keep moving forward because I know ultimately God is in control.

*Submitted by Rev. Jessica*

## Signs & Symptoms of Prostate Cancer

Some symptoms that may indicate prostate cancer include:

- Difficult and painful urination
- Having to urinate often, especially at night, and feeling that you need to urinate even when your bladder is empty
- Not completely emptying your bladder, which may lead to dribbling of urine
- Decreased force of urine stream
- Blood in the urine
- Hip and back pain

Most of these problems are more likely to be caused by something other than prostate cancer. For example, trouble urinating is much more often caused by benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a non-cancerous growth of the prostate. Still, it's important to tell your health care provider if you have any of these symptoms so that the cause can be found and treated, if needed.

*Written by*



# New York Conference Missionary Society

GOD'S WORK † OUR HANDS

Sister Mary S. Davis, President

*"Coming Together is the Beginning,  
Keeping Together is Progress,  
Working Together is Success."*

*(Henry Ford)*

Immediately after returning from Fall Convocation, we sponsored our Annual Queen's Contest on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Sis. Sharane Stewart from Allen Temple, Mt. Vernon won the contest and went on to represent the Conference at the First District Queen's Contest in Dover, coming in as first runner-



up. "Hail to Our Queen!"

Our Missionary Training Institute was hosted by and held at the New York LaGuardia Marriott Hotel on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> and our Annual Prayer and Fellowship Breakfast, using some of our Advisors as Worship Participants, was held at Bethel, Freeport on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. First Lady and



Advisor, Sis. Charlene Lewis was our Speaker. "Praise God!"

We give on-going support to the WORC for our Project Possible: WIN Program by donating office supplies and copies of the Daily Bread Magazines along with toiletry

items, clothing, books, toys, etc. to the Clients and their children; attended the Graduation Ceremony on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> and gave gifts to the graduates; collected two barrels of school supplies for our Partner in Missions Project; donated cards to the Cards For Kids Foundation and was blessed to be an honoree at the First Dist. WMS Conference Presidents Luncheon on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>.



As the flames grow brighter, we will "Move Forward the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world. To God be the Glory as the work continues.



I express sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to the Members and Friends of the NYC-WMS for their prayers, cooperation and continued support. May the God of our faith, who gives endurance and encouragement, continue to give us a spirit of unity as we follow the examples of Christ, so that with one heart and one mind we may glorify our Father through the work of Missions.



*Submitted by: Mary S. Davis, President*

# March for Justice for Philando Castile & David Jones

Richard F. Norris III, Chairperson, Global Social Relations Committee International YPD, AME Church

Philando Castile was killed unjustly in 2016 by Officer Jeronimo Yanez during a traffic stop. In mid-June, news spread like wildfire around the country that Officer Yanez was acquitted of all charges brought



Philando Castile

against him concerning Philando Castile's murder. David Jones was killed unjustly in 2017 by Officer Ryan Pownall. Officer Pownall was simply placed on administrative leave. These total disregards for the needless shedding of blood enraged my friend Jazlyn McBride and myself. So, we decided that it would be appropriate to organize a "March for Justice and Memorial Service" for Philando Castile and David Jones.



On the morning of Saturday, July 8, 2017,



Jazlyn, myself, and other YPDers,

Missionaries, and Clergy of the First Episcopal District assembled in front of Independence Hall. Our march route was from Independence Hall, the birthplace of

America, to Mother Bethel AME Church, the birthplace of African Methodism. The spirit-filled march was reminiscent of the Civil

Rights Movement as we sang songs, such as "We Shall Overcome" and "I Will Trust in the Lord 'til I Die." We also chanted, "No Justice, No Peace!" and "Black Lives Matter!" with power and conviction. When we arrived at Mother Bethel, we thanked our police escort and prayed that God would continue to guide us and never allow us to be satisfied until "justice flows like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." (Amos 5:24)



The memorial service was held at Mother Bethel. There were uplifting messages from Ms. Wanda Ringgold, Connectional YPD Director; Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell, First Episcopal District Lay Organization President; Ms. Susan Butler & Mr. Sean Lewis, Director & President, First Episcopal District YPD; Ms. Dominique Silas, Philadelphia YPD President; and Mrs. Connie Smith, Philadelphia WMS President. Jazlyn McBride and I gave closing words of encouragement.



In times where the justice system does not seem to value our lives, we must remember that our lives do matter. It is our duty to never "stand by while [our] neighbor's blood is shed." (Leviticus 19:16) We must continue to stand up and make our voices heard until America responds.

# Saint James AME Church, Newark

## Day of Care and Wellness

At the beginning of the year, Sis. Keisha Sigler was dishartened by the state of our



country. Worn down by the constant distasteful tweets from President 45 and violence she was inspired to have a day of wellness and self care.



Realizing that it is best to help self before others, the day was filled with yoga, massages, good eats and great conversation.

We must realize the importance of self care and promote wellness in our communities. There is nothing wrong with a little pampering and revitalizing the



mind, body and soul. Some ways that we can practice this is by:



- Finding time to pray and meditate.
- Taking the time to practice yoga or other calming stretches
- Eating clean or making subtle changes to your diet.
- Treating yourself to a massage or spa day.



- Relieving yourself of stress
- Drinking plenty of water
- Exercise

Try in your local societies to come up with ways to improve the world around you. Just because the world may be in turmoil,



doesn't mean that we can not find time to experience peace and tranquility.

# THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

## First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Church

### QUEEN'S CORONATION 2017

The fabulous Queen's Coronation was held in Dover, Delaware at the beautiful Dover Downs Hotel site of the Christian Education Congress.



The Queen's Coronation was an evening of fellowship, fun, great music and grand Happy Birthday salute to our Supervisor, Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram. This year's Celebration was a financial blessing and banner year. Monies raised from each of the seven conferences enables



the First District to support many projects: Project Possible, Mission Outreach, and it helped to facilitate very needed financial funding to the First Episcopal District.

Many families and friends help us withstand the cause for mission, but it is the strong ongoing commitment of the Missionaries that sustains our efforts. We are very thankful for the Presidents and

Missionaries of each Conference that keeps the cause of missions foremost.



Congratulations! To The 2017-2018 Queen's, Category A, Sister Cynthy Thompson, from the Bermuda Conference, and Category B, Sister Brenda Clarke, from the New Jersey Conference.

It is with our unwavering appreciation for our Episcopal Leadership as in the persons of Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram for his steadfast support. Likewise, our outstanding and superb Supervisor



Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, additionally, Sister Patricia Nira Smith our fantastic and remarkable District President. As we pause, and reflect on this year's successful event, we are anxiously awaiting the 2018 Queen's Coronation.

*Submitted by: Tina Hines*

# THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Church ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

## HONORING THE CONFERENCE BRANCH WMS PRESIDENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

This year's luncheon was a very special occasion as we celebrated and honored each of the Conference Branch Presidents President of the Bermuda Conference-



#### **EUNICE JONES**

President of the Delaware Conference-

#### **WANDA HUNT**

President of the New England

Conference-**EDWINA MAYS**



#### **CHARMAINE D. COHEN JOHNSON**

President of the New Jersey Conference-

#### **WILMA STUCKEY ROBINSON**

President of the New York Conference-

#### **MARY S. DAVIS**

President of the Philadelphia Conference-

#### **CONSTANCE MARIE SMITH**

Our Presidents were honored with words of wisdom from Bishop Gregory Ingram,



Supervisor, Dr. Jessica and District President Pat. They were given high praise with outstanding service during their tenure, for their strong commitment and unmovable faith in their ability to lead as Conference Branch Presidents. The Presidents were presented with a beautiful bouquet of roses, certificate and trophy for their commitment and years of service. The Presidents were serenaded in songs, presented with a gourmet luncheon



and divine dessert. The luncheon was well attended, the weather was beautiful, and everyone was joyful and thrilled for honor that was bestowed upon the Conference Presidents.

**THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**  
**First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Church**  
**ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON Cont.**

**HONORING THE CONFERENCE BRANCH WMS PRESIDENTS**



**THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**  
**First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Church**  
**Renames Project Possible**

**Project Possible**  
**Renamed**



**Project L.E.A.P**  
**Philadelphia Conference**

**Project Skills that Propel**  
**New Jersey Conference**

**Another Chance –**  
**Standing with Our Sisters**  
**Delaware Conference**

**Project Women In Need**  
**“WIN”**  
**New York Conference**

**Project Shatter**  
**New England Conference**

**Project H.E.A.R.T**  
**Bermuda Conference**

**Project H.O.P.E Enterprises**  
**Western New York Conference**

At Planning Meeting, June 2017, Rev. Jessica, President Pat and the 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District WMS rejoiced in the renaming of Project Possible To **The Peg Davis Project Possible**

# THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY Western New York Conference Celebrates Life Member Sis. Garnet Hicks Wallace 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

On August 3, 2017, the Western New York Conference Women's Missionary Society experienced a centennial and historical moment. Life Member Sis. Garnet Hicks Wallace celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is the conference's oldest and living missionary.



We are blessed to have her amongst us, and we thank God for allowing her to continue to be our living legacy. We're proud to have Sis. Wallace as the namesake for the Garnet Hicks Wallace Service Award. She was joined by her sorority, Links Members, church family, and missionaries.



## Gun Violence Awareness

This summer, local societies along with their congregations promoted gun violence awareness by wearing orange. Societies partnered with Peace Maker Organization and Up-State New York Coalition for Homicide Prevention. Participating churches: Baber-Rochester, Bethel- Buffalo, Bethel-Coxsackie, St. James - Utica.



# THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

## Philadelphia Conference

### Project L.E.A.P.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Empowerment Workshop

The L.E.A.P. project coordinators, Mrs. Fran Jenkins, Mrs. Audrey Nock, Mrs. Rosalie Buckner and Mrs. Paulette Thompson work to help women become



empowered through the achievement of educational goals. This focus on education will help women in their quest for equality, independence and personal growth. Throughout the year



women are supported through workshops, presentations, tutoring, etc. to develop a sense of independence, goal setting and organization in their lives while earning their high school diploma, trade school certification or college degree. Each year an Empowerment Workshop is held. Our guest speaker empowers the ladies to continue the right path toward excellence. This year the honorable Judge Gwendolyn Bright served as our guest speaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual L.E.A.P. Empowerment Workshop held at the Dixon House on May 18, 2017. Judge Bright shared her life story and the patience it took to become a judge in the City of Philadelphia. She told the ladies that they must always strive to overcome obstacles in their lives. They must move

past old mistakes and set goals. She also shared that she is the daughter of a former African Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop. The ladies were very impressed with Judge Bright. She was down to earth, patient and understanding. Her tone was



quiet as she asked them to share their stories and how they plan to move forward in their lives.

Following the presentation by Judge Bright, L.E.A.P. coordinators discussed several topics: Paulette Thompson, presented a session on inspirational literature, poems and quotes for women; Rosalie Buckner shared the needs for healthy living and tutoring their children; and Audrey Nock did a presentation on journal writing. Conference Branch President, Mrs. Connie Smith talked with the ladies about continuing their education.

Following the presentation refreshments were served and Conference Branch President Mrs. Connie Smith presented Judge Bright with the Annual Empowerment Award and flowers. L-R: LEAP Coordinator, Mrs. Paulette Thompson; PCB WMS President Connie Smith; The Honorable Judge Bright; LEAP Coordinator Mrs. Rosalie Buckner; LEAP Coordinator, Mrs. Audrey Nock, LEAP and Volunteer Mrs. Julia B. Robinson. We thank God for Rev. Jessica Ingram's vision and our President, Mrs. Connie Smith.

# The Philadelphia Conference Branch WMS President Sis. Constance Marie Smith honored at The 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society Annual Fall Luncheon



The Philadelphia Conference Branch, Women's Missionary Society President, Mrs. Constance Marie Smith was honored at the First Episcopal District WMS

Annual Fall Luncheon on Saturday,

September 23, 2017, along with the other six Conference Branch Presidents. Beautifully themed colors and floral arrangements set the platform for the celebration at the First Episcopal District ballroom. But more than aesthetically beautiful decorations, the affair was organized with an intense sense of appreciation and expectation of excellence. As guests entered, they were greeted by the pleasant smiles of the hostess committee dressed in white and the delicate balance of sophistication and a refined grandeur as only the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church can do.

The Philadelphia Conference Branch WMS members were so very happy to have had the opportunity to honor our Conference Branch president given her leadership and tireless work. As the honorees entered one at a time along the red carpet, President Constance Marie Smith (affectionately called "Connie") was not only well received, but also simply stunning in her ensemble of fall colors as she turned and waved at the guests. Connie's printed biography indicated that she has been a missionary for over 43 years! Connie was also an active member of the Philadelphia Conference Branch, WMS for over 34 years, having served in several positions, including Parliamentarian and Second Vice President. She was awarded the WMS

Life Membership in 2009 and in 2012 was elected president of the Philadelphia Conference Branch, Women's Missionary Society. Mrs. Smith's progressive leadership continues to move the Conference forward through new initiatives and insightful leadership.

Mrs. Arlene Davis, the Mistress of Ceremonies, shared her sense of humor, which added to the delight of the day and a well-prepared program of participants who represented all the Conferences. Notably present were Connectional, District, Conference and Area officers as well as First Episcopal District presiding elders, spouses, and pastors. Bishop Gregory G. M. & Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram along with First Episcopal District WMS President, Mrs. Patricia Nira Quick Smith, presented President Connie Smith with a plaque and other gifts in appreciation of her service and commitment to the work of missions. As Connie accepted the plaque, she stood not just as an outstanding missionary, but also as the mother of two children, as a grandmother, great-grandmother; and a retired public-school teacher. Coupled with the fact that Connie is a member of Morris Brown AMEC where she serves in various positions including senior trustee, president, and Director of Missions Outreach which include the Soup Kitchen, Shared Foods, and other projects; past President of the Fannie J. Coppin Missionary Society and a visionary leader.

It was a beautiful affair full of love and appreciation, which was evident in all that took place. Following the program, Connie was showered with flowers, envelopes, and gifts from the Philadelphia Conference. She will have so many memories from the day and the

## Philadelphia Continued

abundance of well-wishers. Indeed, she will always be able to look back and know how much she is loved and appreciated because her leadership has been so impactful. Connie always reminds the PCB WMS that we bring joy to her life and we had the opportunity to show her that she

rings joy to our lives. Above all, the celebration illustrated President Connie's undeniable dedication to the PCB WMS. Connie has provided a platform for commitment, renewed interest, and longevity for members, which is also why the PCB WMS continues to grow.



PCB WMS President Mrs. Connie Smith receives award from Bishop Gregory G. M. & Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, with the assistance of First Episcopal District WMS President Mrs. Patricia Nira Quick Smith



L-R: International YPD Director Ms. Wanda Ringgold; First Episcopal District Lay Organization President, Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell greet PCB WMS President Mrs. Connie Smith



L-R: President Smith, is pictured with her son, William and daughter-in-law, Michelle Smith along with Rev. Maxine Johnson, Pastor of Metropolitan AMEC

PCB WMS President Connie Smith is greeted by First Episcopal District WMS Supervisor Reverend Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram and members of the Philadelphia Conference Branch WMS who showered her with flowers



Western New York Conference  
Mass Meeting Weekend  
September 8-9, 2017

# All Things New!

## Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> Worship Service

Rev. Grace Douglass, Guest Speaker  
Zion Hill Baptist Church with Mass  
Choir. Sermon Topic: Mission  
Minded



## Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

Tea Style Luncheon with  
Her Royal Highness:  
WMS Queen Amour Rhea  
Funderburg and Ladies in Waiting





## 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District WMS Roll Call

### **NEW JERSEY**

Sister Ella L. Cumberland  
Sister Bertha L. Dye  
Brother William C. Booze  
Sister Delores Butler  
Sister Edna Clemmons  
Sister Karen Davis  
Sister Toni Devone  
Mother Virginia B. Hunter  
Sister Mary Ann Hines  
Sister Lucille Jones  
Sister Carolyn A. Mann  
Sister Ida Matlida,  
Sister Elander Minus  
Sister Charlotte Gail McNorton  
First Lady Berniece Ragin  
Sister Ruthann Robinson  
Sister Arnetta Elizabeth Shorter  
Sister Naomi Townes  
Sister Brenda L. Wilbon  
First Lady Laura Wilkens

### **NEW YORK**

Sister Thelma Barnhill  
Sister Rosetta Beasley  
Sister Helen Bonner  
Deaconess Pearlene H. Halyard  
Sister. Ethel Joseph  
Sister Corine Johnson  
Sister Ernestine Johnson  
Deaconess Mary Elizabeth King  
Sister. Clara Malone

### **NEW YORK Cont.**

Sister Hazel Watson Medas  
Sister Gladys Robinson  
Sister Leona Small  
Sister Llewellyn L. Simpkins  
Sister Ruth Smith

### **DELAWARE**

None known - Praise be to God!

### **PHILADELPHIA**

Sister Lillian Banks  
Sister Marion Brown  
Sister Florence Galloway  
Brother Bill Golden  
Sister Edith Hopkins  
Sister Mary Hodge  
Brother Walter C. Jeffers  
Rev Dr. Earl R. Jefferson Sr.  
Sister Edith Moore  
Sister Nancy Randolph  
Sister Sandra Turner  
Sister Margaret Duncan Wright

### **WESTERN NEW YORK**

Sister Lenora Johnson  
Sister Eleanor Kithcart  
Sister Marilyn Levy

### **BERMUDA**

Sister Shirlene Tucker Darrell  
Sister Deborah Tannock  
Sister Lucille Zuill

# JOIN THE DISCUSSION, AS GOD PREPARES US FOR ALL THINGS NEW IN FOUR EASY STEPS!

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4. CLICK FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL TO RECEIVE EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS



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The Young Adult Missionaries (YAMs) are on a mission to reach the masses. We are interested in connecting with you, you and you! What is the **Isaiah43Nineteen blog** about? It's about life, faith, encouragement, and doing God's work. We know that He did not intend for us to go through life alone, and that is why we have created an online community for you to connect to. Our current and future blog topics include beauty tips, finding purpose, the struggles of mission work, relationships, etc. We welcome you to read, comment, like and share. The goal is to create healthy dialogue amongst women of all walks of life. In a world that can sometimes seem to be so divided, we want to be the voice that draws us closer to God and each other. Join the conversation by visiting us at [www.isaiah43nineteen.com](http://www.isaiah43nineteen.com)!

# All Things New



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:19