

REFLECTOR

W M S M A G A Z I N E

June 2018

FIRST
DISTRICT

Moving Forward



YOUNG ADULT MISSIONARIES

LEARNING

EXPERIENCE

EDITION

Moving Phil. 3:14 Forward





*Greetings
My
Missionary
Sisters!*

By the grace of God, we have been allowed to see the end of another conference year. It has been a year that has been filled with both joy and sorrow, hopes realized and yet disappointments, success in reaching some goals and failures in our efforts to obtain others. However, we have not allowed the challenge of the work of missions to stop us. We have continued to move forward and to try new things!!

We were challenged by the theme for the 2017-2018 Conference year, “All Things New.” These words served as a guide and a conceptual framework for the work of missions. Embracing our theme meant that we had to engage in some serious examination of our missionary societies. What are the “old things” that we needed to let go and what are the “new things” that we were willing to try? Although this challenge required much of the missionaries, I saw many who were willing to give it a try.

This was evidenced when I heard the reports from the various conferences during our WMS Annual Days. Many of our local missionary societies stepped out of the box and were willing to try something new to take the work of missions to the next level. There were more hands-on experiences, more involvement in the community and more partnering with other organizations. During our annual days, my heart was made glad when I saw one conference present their area reports thru drama, another had actual clients to come and testify about how Project Possible had changed their lives, another had a recording of a woman who had gotten out of prison and was being helped by the conference branch missionary members, and yet another brought in a speaker who enlightened us about human sex trafficking.

Doing “a new thing” was also evidenced at the district level. We changed the format of our district meetings. There was a reorganizing of the committees for the Learning Experiences and the daily schedule was changed and a much-needed Marketing and Networking committee was added. There was an intentional effort to involve more of our young adults in the planning and implementation of the Learning Experience. Because of their

presence, our technology went to another level.

Another “new thing” was The More Than Enough Stewardship Initiative. Through the generosity of our members we received over \$87,000 of which every dime was used to help persons. Funds were given to several overseas districts, we increased the amount given for scholarships, helped survivors of the many hurricanes that took place last summer, and gave money to fire victims who lost many of their possessions. Thus, we ended this conference year feeling good about our efforts to try something new. We will continue to seek God for what God wants us to do and we will be obedient.

It has been my blessing to work with the finest missionaries you can find

anywhere. My thanks go to our District President, Patricia Nira Smith for all her hard work. Susan Butler has worked untiringly with the YPDers and had a very successful Annual Meeting in Bermuda. I could not find a better group of Conference Presidents and YPD Directors. Our district officers have also been outstanding. I am blessed to have a very capable office staff that include my administrative assistant, Ms. Marian Sudler and our receptionist, Brenda Merrill.

As we end the 2017-2018 Conference year, I look forward with much anticipation to the 2018-2018 year.

Yours in God’s Service,



Rev. Jessica





To: *Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram and Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, Presiding Elders. Pastors, and Missionaries serving on all levels.*

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 1st Episcopal District Women’s Missionary Society.

This edition of the Reflector will highlight 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 1st 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 46th Annual 1st 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 1st Episcopal District.

Finally, I thank the editor of the **Reflector, Sister Nicole Griffith Smith and Sister Philippa Olofintuyi** for putting together this communication for each of our meetings.

Be Blessed,
Pres. Pat



“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

Bishop Gregory & Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram



**Happy 41st
Wedding
Anniversary**

On February 23, 2018 the NJYAM, led by NJCWMS Member at Large Leticia Ricks, hosted an **open, real, and judgement free** conversation about questions we have about God, the church and **real issues young adults** deal with as Christians living in this world.



Prior to the event over 100 people of faith were surveyed and got some very interesting results! For example, nearly 60% of identified



Christians between the ages of 18-35 feel people don't attend church because of feelings of judgement. Collecting information like this allowed us to format our discussion around topics that were relevant to



our audience. A panel of young adult women and the audience

spoke to the panel of pastors about young adult struggles with topics ranging from the



presence of millennials in church, choosing to be abstinent or not, church structure and more. The panel of pastors included, Rev. Eric and Myra Billips, Rev. Erika Crawford, Rev. Malcolm Guyton, Rev. Marty Robinson, and Rev. W Golden Carmon Sr. Members of the audience and Pastors opened-up about their joys, various struggles that they face today and hopes they have for the church. The experiences exchanged left everyone feeling encouraged and enlightened.

The next steps are to connect with pastors and



youth ministry groups to create a space that allows for

judgement free, spiritual growth specifically for young adults by expanding this forum throughout the conference and district. The event was an all-inclusive stewardship and missionary initiative which also raised over 200 self-care products for the young adults of the Covenant House in Atlantic City, a home which supports homeless young adults.

ATLANTIC CITY AREA ANNUAL LUNCHEON -

The Atlantic City Area held their Annual Luncheon at The **Smithville Inn** – **Smithville, NJ on March 3, 2018**. They were so delighted to honor the “**Young Adults**” in



our churches. At the luncheon 6 Outstanding Young Adults from the Atlantic City Area were honored. The honorees were presented with a frosted glass plaque with their names displayed on it with the Atlantic City Area WMS Luncheon. The listing of the honorees –**Alyssa Amos and Unique Dawson, Grant**



AME, Chesilhurst, Erica N. Rassmann, St. Paul AME, Pleasantville, Heather Meads, Kyrarah Rene’ McQueen and Ginae’ Ranise Hart, St. James, Atlantic City. This was an awesome opportunity to pause and “Salute” them for all their hard work and commitment to their communities and the work of missions. Each honoree was presented with a crystal plaque for all their hard work. The area was pleased to have Presiding Elder Dr. Larry

E. Dixon in attendance, supporting our young adults as well. In the Words of Area Chairperson Sis. Jaqueline James “We can truly say, we have the **BEST Presiding Elder!**”



The Atlantic City Area WMS’ guiding Scripture is Psalm 86:11-12 “Teach me Your way O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify your name forever.” The scripture reminds us as Missionaries, we need to bless our Young Adults and keep them



engaged and do not hinder them; but for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.





Philadelphia Conference YPD Workshop & Institute

Grow, Glow and Go For Christ

On Saturday, December 2nd, 2017, the Philadelphia



Conference YPD gathered for their annual Workshop & Institute, which was held at St. Matthew AME Church. This year's theme was

“Reclaiming Our Time. The morning mediation was given by South Area YPD President, Bro. Christopher Porter. Through the powerful testimonies given, two young people rededicated their lives to Christ!



The YPDers went to their various workshops based on Bible Bowl, financial planning, personal development, attitudes & behaviors and being a young

Christian in society. Sis. Bernadette Guyton (former NJ Conference YPD Director) conducted a Directors workshop, discussing the current state of YPD and how local societies have an important role in the development of young person's life.

Active YPD societies came together to collect over 150 toys to donate to the children at the Hematology Department of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America National



Ambassador, Kiarra Roseburgh, spoke to the YPD, spreading awareness about sickle cell disease. Kiarra also talked about her personal

journey, battling sickle cell disease.

In addition, the Conference YPD collected a plethora of winter accessories to donate to four shelters within the four areas of Philadelphia (South-Suburban, West-Mainline, Shrine and Harrisburg).



The YPDers enjoyed the carnival theme activities, snacks and props provided throughout the day. The YPDers and Adults ended the day with participating in *YPD Feud* and *AME Jeopardy*, created by Bro.

Marvin Richardson (former First District YPD President), Conference YPD President, Dominique Silas; and First Vice President, Donald K. Travers III. The day was enjoyed by all in attendance!



PAINT AND PUNCH

PARTY

The Asbury Area YPD chose THE PAJAMA PROGRAM for our mission project. THE PAJAMA PROGRAM was started in 2001 by Genevieve Piturro, when she discovered that the children she read to at a local shelter did not have a caring adult to tuck them into bed each night. The children did not have warm, comforting pajamas to change into or a storybook to enjoy before bedtime. Instead, the children she saw there were often relegated to sleeping on a cot or futon, two or three together, still wearing their clothes of the day.

With bags full of new pajamas and storybooks, Genevieve returned to the shelter with pajamas and books for all the children, to bring love and hope to them all in the form of a loving bedtime.



In an effort to support THE PAJAMA PROGRAM the Asbury Area YPD came together for our first Paint and Punch Party. A fun filled Saturday evening to bring out our inner-artistic selves and in support of the children who benefit from THE PAJAMA PROGRAM. The entrance fee to the party was a donation of new pajamas and books. This endeavor was such a great success! The Asbury Area YPDers, Directors and Parents turned out in large numbers. At the end of the evening the children were amazed at

their ability to paint a lighthouse at the edge of the ocean. Even the adults surprised themselves. The YPD, Under the guidance of the Women's Missionary Society, has a heart for God's people and we will always strive to do as God requires of us.

Behold, children are a gift of the LORD. The fruit of the womb is a reward.

Psalm 127:3-5



The Sarah Langhorne Missionary Society, of St. Paul AME Church in Pleasantville, NJ has continued to be committed to carry out the work of the Lord. Their WMS partners with The Mental Health Association of Atlantic County. Through this partnership more than two hundred residents with clothing, shoes, and toiletries to more than two hundred residents. The Sarah Langhorne Missionary Society is grateful to Pastor, Rev. Lynda T Rassmann who supports them in all their outreach and encourages them to continually be a blessing to others. As a part of the Atlantic City Area, they have donated over fifty bags of clothing.



Delaware Conference WMS

Greetings from the Delaware Conference Branch Women's Missionary Society; we continue to be excited about the opportunities to serve and the lives touched as a result of these opportunities. Below are a few highlights of our stewardship as we continue to "*Minister Beyond the White.*"



- Conference PME Director, Sister Carrie Daniel along with Area PME Directors Sisters Shamaine Johnson-Moore (*Dover Area*) and Sharon Burton-Young (*Wilmington Area*) Attended PME Dialogue, December, 2017, Baltimore Maryland
- Wilmington Area held its Annual Christmas Party and Outreach Opportunity. Wilmington Area Chairperson Sister Connie Fleming and the The Louisa Watson WMS of Bethel AME Church, Smyrna, DE, President Sis Linda Needam, hosted this year's fellowship. Through a partnership with the Smyrna School District items were collected and given to bless a group of children for Christmas with needed personal items not just toys.
- LE2018 ~ *Moving Forward*. Once you have been in the presence of such a mighty move of God, *You Can't go back, Won't Go Back* to



- the way things used to be. Our delegation of ladies that attended were truly blessed through the Worship Experiences, Workshops and Fellowship. We extended the invitation and our delegation included women outside of the AME Church. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and plan to attend LE2019 along with other women from their local churches. To God be the Glory.
- Mass Meeting 2018, Hosted by The Frannie J. Coppin WMS, Sister Linda Warren, local President. PME Director Carrie Daniel and her Team prayed, planned and presented an informative meeting to include but not limited to workshops on "*Strengthening Links To Community Services and Organize, Educate, Register, and Vote!*"

We continue to fellowship and offer support within the conference through continued progression of Project Possible, *Another Chance*, Annual days and other Outreach Opportunities.



The Learning Experience Reflection. The Learning Experience was rewarding again this year. It was another year of valuing the power of God moving in many lives of missionaries throughout the district. As one



of the committee chairpersons, I had a front row seat in terms of these life changing moments with the informative workshops and most importantly hearing a relevant word from anointed women of God throughout the



weekend. The purpose of ministry was realized in the planning stages of this heartfelt event. Rev. Dr. Jessica, our Episcopal Supervisor challenged every committee to seek God in doing “A New Thing” for the Kingdom. Prayerful preparation and detailed planning yielded significant results. We were encouraged by Dr. Jessica’s vision in moving forward in our lives despite the challenges we faced.

It was a blessing to share in the 2018 Learning Experience with nearly six hundred women who attended, many of who attended for the first time. This epic experience was



motivational. It was a blessing to see a myriad of missionaries walking the halls of the Hyatt Hotel. The fellowship was refreshing, and the meeting was most



beneficial. Several missionaries shared how they were inspired and empowered about moving forward in doing what God was calling for them to do. With faith in God, the Learning Experience has helped countless women to move forward in terms of empowering others to know Christ and make Him known.

Moving Forward,
Renee’ M. Bryant, Workshop Committee
Chairperson

New York Conference Women's Missionary Society

GOD'S WORK † OUR HANDS

*"Coming Together is the Beginning, Keeping Together
is Progress,
Working Together is Success." (Henry Ford)*

"MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER" - WE continue to meet on our Prayer-Line every Tuesday morning from 6:30am-7am and evening from 8:30pm-9:00pm; attended our Advent Worship and Praise Service, hosted by the St. John Church Family, with an inspiring and challenging message from Bishop Ingram; continue to give on-going support to the Women's Opportunity Rehabilitation Center for our Project Possible: **Women In Need** Program by donating office supplies, water, copies of the Daily Bread Magazines and toiletry items, clothing, books and toys to the clients and their children; attended the WORC Christmas Celebration in December, gave gifts to everyone (clients and children) in our Family Adoption Program and donated \$500.00 to help with their monthly expenses; made and donated approximately 350 Christmas cards to the Cards For Kids Foundation; attended and participated in the 1st District WMS Ruth Henderson Hughes Learning Experience.

The Areas and Local Societies were actively engaged in their annual Thanksgiving Projects - providing gift cards along with food baskets for persons in the community; donated clothing items to a Women's Shelter; reached out to the residents of domestic violence in the "Strengthen Our Sisters" temporary housing Facility, distributed food, gifts and shared testimonies and offered encouragement; sponsored a Night of Healing and Prayer Service and HIV/AIDS Awareness Event and distributed toys and coats to over 25 children; adopted the Providence House and collaborated with three organizations and sponsored a Holiday celebration for the 16 Mothers and 26 Children; donated toys to The Kings Inn Family Center in Queens in their Toys for Tots Drive and provided services to the Tilden Residence and gave gifts and gift cards to 240 children for the

Holiday; distributed scarves to 45 residents of a nearby Nursing home and 60 disabled Veterans; donated 150 coats (provided by a local business) to the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless; 75 coats and other clothing items were given to a nearby Women's Shelter for the residents and their children; donated 107 gifts for children in the Angle Tree Project; donated four U-Haul Boxes filled with toiletry items and warm clothing to the Conference Project Possible: WIN Program at WORC; partnered with the Seniors Ministry to provide transportation to the polls on Election Day; partnered with the Treat-Me-Right Organization against domestic violence and provided food and clothing for the community; donated 10 tickets to the YPD'ers on a team building event; gave a monetary gift to the Bowery Mission and donated coats to the New York Cares Coat Drive; visited the sick and shut ins at home, in the hospitals and nursing homes.

As the flames grow brighter, we will "Move Forward Together" in the spirit of the first group of pioneering women who answered the call to organize this "Great Body." We will light new candles of hope as we continue 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.

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season, we shall reap, if we do not lose heart." —Galatians 6:9

Respectfully Submitted by: *Mary S. Davis,*

President

Still Moving Forward

It's been almost six months since over six hundred women (and some men) gathered at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick for the 2018 Learning Experience. Although the days and the weeks have passed, and we have moved on to the planning of other ministry experiences, the aura of the Learning Experience is still with us. For me, our



coming together for three days is more than a mere gathering

of women who want to get away from the craziness of their jobs or the ongoing never-ending demands of those who live in their homes or even the pressure of serving in our churches. Our times together were about hearing directly from God so that we would receive the strength that we needed to stop



standing still, stop

procrastinating, stop being stuck, stop making excuses and "*Move Forward.*"

The reality is so much happening to us as women until sometimes it is just plain difficult for us to keep going. Now, please know, I am a strong advocate of stopping, of resting, of taking some Sabbath time and engaging in self-care. However, that is

different from our coming to the place where we can't think or hold a complete thought because we are so tired. Sometimes we just can't seem to get energized because we are so



weariness from doing so much or we just don't

care anymore because we are tired of caring for everyone else. When we get to this place we need to have a place where we can go and receive some help, some insight, some wisdom and a direct word from God. We need in these moments to be in the company of our sisters. We need to be surrounded by those who understand where we are emotionally without uttering a word. We need to sit with our sisters, eat with them, laugh and cry with them and process our intentions with them. This is what **Learning Experience 2018** was about.

My prayer for each of you is that you would not let any circumstance in life cause you to stop, to quit or to give up. God has given us all that we need to move in our purpose and our destiny; so, keep "*Moving Forward*".

a shift in our perspective of life. Stay prayerful and stay tuned for another life-changing Learning Experience!

Still Moving Forward,

Rev. Jessica

LE 2018



YAM



Ronald McDonald House

*I Scream, You Scream, We All
Scream, For Sunscreen.*

By: Nicole Smith
Owner of Glamby Nikki

Sun damage is the leading cause of premature aging. It shows on the skin through hyper pigmentation and wrinkles.

Uneven skin tone can be a result of the sun's rays on our skin. By incorporating a sunscreen into your skin regimen, you can combat the sun's damage.



SPF can be used year-round not only in the summer months. "SPF" stands for sun protection factor. The higher the SPF the higher, the better protection you have against the UVB rays which cause sunburn.

A common misconception is that because our skin has melanin, we will not get burned! WRONG! We need sunscreen, just as much as or non-melanin sisters.



Sunscreen can be used all over the body. Especially, on the parts of the skin that will be exposed to the sun for long periods of time.

A few of my favorite products are

For Body:

- Aveeno Protect and Hydrate Broad Spectrum SPF 50. (the SPF in this product goes up to about 80, which is good for those of us that are visiting warmer climates this summer)
- Mary Kay Suncare Line
- For the Face:
- Mary Kay CC Cream w/ SPF 15
- Mary Kay Foundation Primer
- Iman Skin Tone Evener BB Crème SPF 15
- E.L.F. Tinted Moisturizer SPF 20
- Black Radiance True Complexion BB Cream SPF 15
- Clinique CC Cream SPF 30.

The above listed products are reasonably priced and can be easily added to your skin care regimen. The skin is the largest organ on the body and helps to regulate body temperature and protect us from the elements. Why not take care of it?

Be kind to your skin ladies! (Gentlemen too!)

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at: glambynikki14@gmail.com



Until next time, LIVE, LAUGH & LOVE.

*The Magnificent New Jersey Conference
Women's Missionary Society
Sister Wilma Robinson, President
Sister Coleen Williams-Lewis, First Vice
President
Commission on Christian Social Action*

The Camden Area WMS along with the Trenton Area WMS, as well as Sister Claudia Cream, are partnering together to try and make a difference in the lives of those young



people involved in Human Trafficking.

What is Human Trafficking involving children? It is the enslavement of children by force, fraud, or coercion for commercial



sexual or labor exploitation. Children have been trafficked for use in sex industries such as prostitution, pornography, sex tourism and forced marriage. The Children are also used

for domestic work, sweatshop work, migrant farming, begging and armed services.

On April 23, 2018, NJCWMS Annual day, several items were donated to assist Sister Claudia Cream with her efforts to assist those



involved with human trafficking. Sister Claudia Cream is pictured below and for information on human trafficking and her organization please visit the sites listed.

www.missingkids.com; www.justaskva.org;
www.polarisproject.org;
www.scanva.org/prc



NJ Conference YPD Annual Day



YPD Executive Board Meeting 2018

By: Yahnick Barclay – Historian and Statistician

On the cold and crispy morning of January 6th, 2018, the First Episcopal District YPD Executive Board convened together for the winter meeting. We were hosted by Bethel AME Church in New Haven of the New England conference, and warmly welcomed by its members and the Pastor, Rev. Steven Cousins Jr. Their embrace, as they served a delicious breakfast with a side of smiles, made the frigid conditions all the more bearable. The board was joined by the conference directors and graced with the presence of our YPD Director Ms. Susan Butler, WMS president Ms. Patricia Nira Smith, and our District Supervisor Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram. To kick off a progressive meeting, we opened by welcoming the presence of the Holy Spirit to invade our space through praise and worship, sprinkled with a word that was placed on the heart of our worship director Earl King Knight III. He led us all to a place that allowed us to resonate with our personal connection with God and be in the right mindset to have the most productive meeting possible and keeping the overall goal in sight. One of those goals were to give back to the New Haven community through our mission's project. The YPD sought to make 35 care bags filled with toiletries socks and T-shirts for Leeway Nursing facility in New Haven, CT. Leeway was founded in 1995 as Connecticut's first and only standing nursing home solely for the care of patients living with HIV/AIDS. Items that were donated in each bag included, but were not limited to, socks, bars of soap, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, undershirts and underwear. 15 bags were successfully put together on that morning for the patients of Leeway Nursing Home, also known as a place where "Hope Happens". We were grateful to be able to be a blessing to patients of Leeway and

contribute to instilling hope in the hearts of others. Under the leadership of Sean Lewis, YPD President as well as our Vice President Evans Genece, another goal of our meeting was to work on planning for our annual meeting in October, and this was successfully accomplished as everyone worked to be on one accord and move forward swiftly and efficiently in decision making. After working time, the YPD executive board was able to report back sufficient progress made, including themes, workshop ideas, major layout suggestions and more. Finally, our meeting was topped off with a visit by our Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram. Not only was he present to hear the report back of the YPD meeting, but we were given the privilege to celebrate another year of his life with him. He was presented with a



cake, and song of celebration after lunch and fellowship. The YPD executive board would like to express gratitude to Bethel AME Church of New Haven, CT for hosting the winter board meeting, as it wouldn't have been possible without great Stewards like all of you.

YPD Executive Board 2018 Winter meeting
By: Yahnick Barclay – Historian and Statistician

NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE WMS LE 2018 Reflection

I am a member of Saint James AME in Newark, NJ where the Rev. Ronald Slaughter is pastor. I was so glad that I was able to attend the LE2018 this year. The workshops



helped both the young and older adults learn that they could move forward in life after difficult circumstances.

One of the workshops I attended was “All things are working for my good”, the Rev.



Dr. Elaine Flake was the facilitator. God wants us to be able to turn our trials into triumphs. He requires us to walk in faith and trust Him.

This Learning Experience helped me to realize, though I lost a love one, I can move forward with God’s help.



The Young Adult Missionary Luncheon was awesome. The testimonies of the young women were very inspiring. As I listened and absorbed how these young women’s



lives had been impacted yet their faith didn’t falter. I commend them for sharing something we all need to do so others will know that they are not alone. Thank you for letting us know how we too can put the past behind us and trust God as we move forward.

Submitted by Josephine Horton

“Moving Forward” #LE2018

By-Carla Hinds

The Hyatt Hotel in New Brunswick, New Jersey will never be the same after the spirit-filled, empowering, encouraging, powerful display of the Holy Spirit that embraced us all at the 2018 Ruth Henderson Hughes Learning Experience, January 19-21.

The workshops were connected to the theme and



offered numerous areas of focus. I was blessed to attend: “Moving Forward Through

Losses,” and “Moving Forward By Myself.” Both workshops offered more than the title would indicate. Both workshop presenters made each presentation personal. They allowed the participants



to see themselves through each of their journeys. We were able to connect to them and each other in a way that let each us know that we are not alone in our journeys. We are instead, connected not only to the will of God, but to each other. I guess one would say that this life is a tapestry. It is woven and prepared individually by God just for us. As I walked through the halls of the Hyatt and sat in the workshops you

heard laughter. You saw sisters connecting to each other. You saw sisters creating new friendships and supporting each other through their various testimonies of struggle. Blessed indeed!

The worship experiences were phenomenal! The music set the tone and the Word of God just lifted us to a place of absolute euphoria! My God! Opening worship was a kick off to the weekend with a powerful message from the Rev. Sheleta Fomby, Reid Temple AME Church, Glenn Dale, Maryland, set the tone for the weekend. The Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins began our Saturday morning and the



Rev. Myra Turner Billips closed us out with a powerful word...Moving Forward!

Let me send a shout out to the best Young Adults Missionaries anywhere! Oh, how blessed we are in this episcopal district to have powerful, articulate, prepared young women who can lead with an anointing delegated by God. The YAMS’ Luncheon was awesome. Co-Chairs Ashley McBride and Nicole Smith did an outstanding job in designing a program that let us know we are in good hands. The Challenge speakers: Sis. Ashley McBride, Rev. Dr. Lisa Williamson and Rev. Carolyn Cavaness left us seeing God personified in their testimonies of trials and struggles. Glory to God!

This Learning Experience empowered us to see beyond our circumstances. It is and has been over the years a way of growing and stretching. To all the chairs and to our episcopal leadership, may God continue to bless you in this work of love.



Philadelphia Conference WMS Love Luncheon

Sis. Constance Smith, Conference Branch President

What is Love?

In Corinthians 13:4-5, it says “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast; it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered; it keeps no records of wrong.



On Saturday, December 9th, 2017, the Philadelphia Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society gathered together at the Springfield Country Club, to recognize Shining Stars in various local churches; as well as commend local and area YPD Directors on their untiring efforts with our young people and in the work of missions. In addition, special recognition was given to our International YPD Director, Sis. Wanda T. Ringgold; First District YPD Director, Susan Butler (in absentia); First District YPD Worship Director, Bro. Earl Knight III; and Philadelphia Conference YPD Director Sis. Iyana Mapp. The 350+ persons who gathered participated in many Christmas games, door prizes, in laughter and dined exquisitely.



Highlight from this event consisted of our Mistress of Ceremony, Sis. Arlene Roberts, District WMS Recording Secretary, providing comic relief to the audience, making the atmosphere very joyous. Also, our Presiding Elders of the Philadelphia Annual Conference, as well as District/Conference dignitary participated in the classic tune of “Twelve Days of Christmas”.



President Constance Smith and First Vice President Mary Randolph were overjoyed to see the packed banquet room, filled with pastors/Clergy members, Missionaries, YPDers, and Laity. The love and laughter shared at the Springfield Country Club was very affectionate and resonated throughout the entire facility. The fruits of their vision and labor were evident at the Springfield Country Club.



SAYE THE DATE

LEARNING EXPERIENCE 2019

JANUARY 11 - 13, 2019

**HYATT REGENCY
2 ALBANY STREET
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ**

SEE YOU THERE!