



## Thursday, October 25, 2012 Lay Witness Night @ Annual Conference!

The Tennessee Conference Lay Organization will give witness to the service and contributions of laity in the annual worship service during the 145th Annual Session of the Conference. We will continue to celebrate 100 years of the organized laity in the African Methodist Episcopal Church!

Our speaker is John Thomas, III, the first elected Young Adult Representative of the Connectional Lay Organization! He is a product of the Tennessee Conference, having been nurtured in St. John AME Church, Nashville. St. John is the host of this session of the annual Conference. How fitting!



John Thomas, III

Sis. Eddie White, newly re-elected

Conference Director of Lay Activities, has asked the Young Adult Representatives to lead this service. Music will be provided by "The Family" of Jones Chapel AME Church.

We will highlight the 2012 Beyond the Walls recipient — *Mercy Ships*. See more information on **page 6**. Local lay organizations and Conference officers are asked to bring \$100 for this special effort! Others are asked to bring a special offering for this annual act of benevolence.

*"Who'll be a witness for my Lord?"*

## The 2012 OLP Awards!

To use a line from a popular gospel song, if you missed the 2012 OLP Luncheon on August 11th, "*You Shoulda Been There*"! The Nashville Marriott Hotel in Nashville was resplendent with laypersons "dressed up" to celebrate and highlight the contributions of

outstanding laypersons, clergypersons, legacy honorees (*persons 70 years and older*), young scholars who wrote essays, and those who applied for academic scholarships. a music scholarship and the inaugural Richard A.

*(See OLP Awards on p. 9)*

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- Pictures from 2012 OLP Awards
- 13th District Lay Breakfast
- Encouragement for the Journey!
- CLO Executive Board Meeting

## The President's Message

Greetings,

I am grateful for each of you and for the privilege of serving God as your president for 2012-2014 conference years. I look forward, with great anticipation, to all that God has planned for us as we approach the beginning of a new conference year.

My vision is that training and support will be provided to the local lay organizations, existing and those yet to be organized, so that they will be strengthened, encouraged and inspired. To bring this vision to fruition I have set forth some goals and recommendations which will be presented at the 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference.



### 2012-2013 GOALS

- Build on Our Global Legacy of Christ Centered Leadership and Training by...
  - Developing and implementing succession planning.
  - Actively recruiting young adults.
  - Strengthening the local lay organizations through training, workshops, and conference on-site visits and support

### 2012-2013 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Invite your pastor to attend at least four meetings during the conference year.
- Plan to recognize at least one person from your church for the 2013 OLP.
- Focus on recruiting members between ages 18-30.
- Encourage and work with youth to apply for scholarships.
- Consider using the Lay Study Guide as a training resource for your monthly meetings.
- Participate with the conference in developing and implementing succession planning.

I look forward to another great conference year of serving God with each of you. I am excited about how God will work through us to help meet these goals and implement the recommendations.

*Barbara A. Ivory*

Proverbs 16:3



**.....PLEASE VOTE.....EARLY.....AND TAKE PHOTO ID!**

*“Though the colored man is no longer subject to barter and sale, he is surrounded by an adverse settlement which fetters all his movements. In his downward course he meets with no resistance, but his course upward is resented and resisted at every step of his progress. If he comes in ignorance, rags and wretchedness he conforms to the popular belief of his character, and in that character he is welcome; but if he shall come as a gentleman, a scholar and a statesman, he is hailed as a contradiction to the national faith concerning his race, and his coming is resented as impudence. In one case he may provoke contempt and derision, but in the other he is an affront to pride and provokes malice..” — Frederick Douglass, September 25, 1883*

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## *The Director of Lay Activities' Report*

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I personally take this time to thank each of you for your hard work and support in making this 2012 OLP Luncheon the best. Let us continue to acknowledge that there is no "I" in the spelling of TEAM, for "team work makes the dream work". To God we give the glory!

### **2012 OLP Awardees:**

#### **JOSHUA AWARDS:**

Jericho Marcher (12-14)	Nicholas Walker, <i>St. John, Nashville</i>
Jordan Crosser (15-17)	William Eggleton, <i>Kairos Community</i>

#### **OUTSTANDING LAYPERSONS:**

Young Adult (18-23)	Troie Deneen Journigan, Greater Bethel
Young Adult (24-30) -	Christina Carlisle, Lee Chapel
Adult (30 & over)	Vickie Denise Hill, St. John Nashville

#### **OUTSTANDING PASTOR OF THE YEAR**

Rev. Jeffery Norfleet, Sr., St. James, Dickson

#### **OUTSTANDING LAY ORGANIZATION**

Lee Chapel

#### **TICKET AWARDS:**

Highest Ticket Sales Above Quota	Salter's Chapel, Waverly
Highest Ticket Sales Overall	Greater Bethel

#### **LEGACY HONOREES (10):**

Mrs. Maggie Ford	Howard Chapel	Hartsville
Mrs. Lillian Parks	Wayman Chapel	Columbia
Mrs. Mary Falls Scott	St. Peter	Clarksville
Mrs. Margaret L. Johnson	St. Paul	Columbia
Mrs. Margaret Williams	Martin Chapel	Clarksville
Dr. David Terrell	Lee Chapel	Nashville
Dr. Dolores Shockley	St. John	Nashville
Ms. Savannah L. Holmes	Sulphur Spring	Cunningham
Mrs. Billie Dixon Irving	Greater Bethel	Nashville
Mrs. Willa Baxter	New Salem	Nashville

#### **Inaugural RICHARD A. LEWIS ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD**

Cherie Smith—Lee Chapel

***Congratulations to all!***

# The YAR (*Young Adult Representative*) Review

## Sis. Delana Norfleet

With the theme: "Bridging the Gap: Past, Present, and Future" the August 3-6, 2012 Young Adult Retreat (YAR Retreat) was a success in the eyes of many young adults. There were six outstanding workshop presenters that indulged our minds with valuable training that gave us knowledge on what the Young Adult Society is facing in the church today, especially with the low rates of active status in all areas of the church.

The presentations are available to be reviewed upon request. The following is a list of the presenters and the titles of their presentations:

Presentation 1: "Not our Parents' Church": Ms. Donna Williams and Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry.  
 Presentation 2: "Get In Where You Fit In": Ms. L. Ashleigh Bethea and Rev. Marcus Cylar.



Presentation 3: "From Membership to Discipleship": Mrs. Starr Battle and Mrs. Edith Bartley Cartledge.

As a reminder, it was stated that the YAR Office is dedicated to the task of involving younger members. It is also the task of every lay person in the church. That is the idea that we as the Tennessee Conference Young Adults want to instill in all of our members.

As the Tennessee Conference Lay Organization approaches a new conference year and new tasks, it is important that we still keep the ball rolling and involve our young people as well as coordinate things with the Director of Lay Activities that will keep us all together.

If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me, DelanaSNorfleet@gmail.com.



*Delana Norfleet, YAR*

## The 2012 Tennessee Conference OLP Awardees!



**Troie D. Journigan**  
Young Adult 18-23 yrs old

**Rev. Jeffery Norfleet, Sr.**  
Outstanding Pastor

**Christina Carlisle**  
Outstanding Young Adult,  
24-30 years old

**Vickie D. Hill**  
Outstanding Adult

**Cherie Smith**  
Richard A Lewis Entrepreneurial Award

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## Tennessee Conference Lay Organization Elects New Officers! 2012-2014

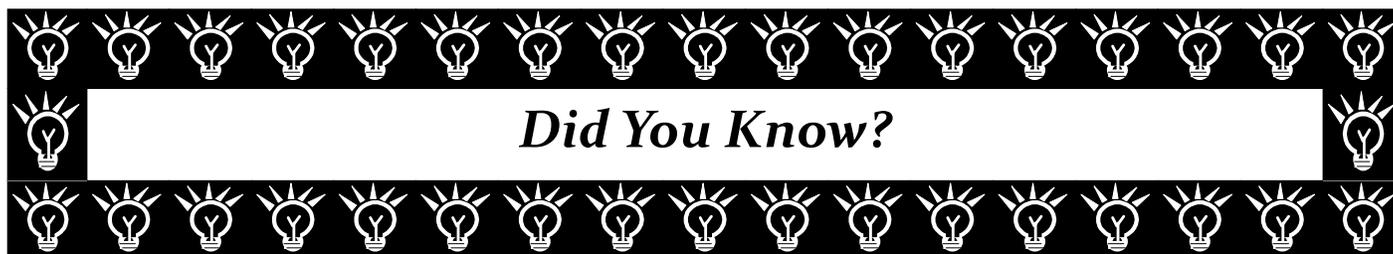
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On September 15, 2012, at the fourth and last quarterly meeting of the 2011-2012 Conference year, new officers were elected for the 2012-2014 Conference Year! District Lay President Anna Johnson conducted the election., and subsequently installed the officers. Fifty three persons representing twenty-three churches voted to elect these officers:

President	Barbara Ivery	Sulphur Spring, Cunningham
1st Vice President	Jeffery Norfleet, II	St. James, Dickson
2nd Vice President	Mary Ann Brame	Woodfork Chapel, Shelbyville
3rd Vice President	Laura Hollerman	St. Luke, Gallatin
Recording Secretary	Walretta Chandler	St. John, Nashville
Asst. Recording Secretary	Donna Holt-Pollard	St. James, Dickson
Corresponding Secretary	Christina Alexander	Greater Bethel, Nashville
Financial Secretary	Juanita Patton	Shorter Chapel, Franklin
Treasurer	Charles Turner	Salter's Chapel, Waverly
Dir. of Lay Activities	Eddie L. White	Kairos Community, Nashville
Dir. of Public Relations	Paula Y. Holmes	St. John, Nashville
Chaplain	Palistine Johnson	Salter's Chapel, Waverly
Parliamentarian	Capri Griffey-Elliott	St. Peter, Clarksville
Historiographer	Ruth Harwell	Canaan, Columbia
Young Adult Rep.	Delana Norfleet	St. James, Dickson

*Congratulations to all! Let the service begin!*

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As we approach the convening of the 145th Annual Session of the Tennessee Conference, October 24-27 just months after hosting the General Conference, some have wondered what are the differences in the various Conferences of the AME Church. In the 2008 Edition of the [Book of Discipline of the AME Church](#), pages 209-235,, we find this information, in part:

There are five Conferences in the A.M.E. Church: Church, Quarterly, District, Annual, and General. The CHURCH Conference is a meeting of

the pastor and members of a local church for the consideration and transaction of local church business, such as ....recommending persons to the presiding elder and members of the quarterly conference for license to preach.....The church conference meets as often as the pastor may call and the pastor presides over the Church Conference.

The QUARTERLY Conference is composed of the traveling preachers, supernumeraries, superannuates, local preachers, exhorters, stewards, stewardesses, trustees, class leaders,

general officers, deaconesses, licensed missionary workers, evangelists, superintendent of the Church School, presidents of the A.C.E. Leagues and missionary society. The heads of each auxiliary shall be answerable to the quarterly Conference for his or her conduct. The presiding elder of the district presides over the Quarterly Conference.

The DISTRICT Conference is composed of all traveling ministers and local preachers, evangelists, presidents of missionary societies

*(cont'd on page 7)*

# Our Service "Beyond the Walls"

Paula Y. Holmes, BTW Commission Chair

"Generosity is changing one's focus from self to others" (John Maxwell).

The Beyond the Walls Commission thanks you in advance for your support of our annual effort to reach beyond the boundaries of African Methodism in the Tennessee Conference and serve others. In the September quarterly meeting, the body elected Mercy Ships as the recipient of our 2012 Beyond the Walls effort on Lay Witness Night.

"Mercy Ships is an international charity that was founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens. It currently operates the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world., providing free health care, community development projects, community health education, mental health program, agriculture projects, and palliative care for terminally ill patients. It has operated in more than 70 developing nations around the world, with a current focus on the countries of West Africa."

Its mission: Bringing Hope and Healing to the World's Forgotten Poor. In August 2012, Africa Mercy reached its new field destination and home for the next ten months in Conakry, Guinea. As they docked, Gerritt Meijerink, Africa Mercy Hospital Director, said: "It is really on my heart that God can make a difference here and we are here to help with that." Patient Life Coordinator Yvonne Riddick also felt God's spirit clearly: "Even though things



Persons in Conakry, Guinea waiting to be seen by Mercy Ships staff, August 2012



are difficult here, God is still faithful. He is concerned about His people, and He is going to do good work for Guinea."

The Tennessee Conference Lay Organization will make a financial contribution to Mercy Ships from the Mission offering collected during Lay Witness Night. Each local lay organization and Conference Lay officer is asked to contribute \$100. Everyone else is asked to be as generous as possible.

In addition to this annual effort, local lay organizations are challenged to do regular work "beyond the walls" of our congregations. Here are reports of some of our endeavors:

*"...God can make a difference here and we are here to help with that."*

**Shorter Chapel, Franklin** "fed the community for the second year. It was an awesome ministry to reach out to persons and families surrounding the church."

**St. Paul, Columbia** – Prepares and serves food to the needy on Tuesday nights, two months each year as a part of "The People's Table" ministry.

**Bethel, Columbia** plans to participate for the second year in feeding the community on No-

vember 8, 2012 in partnership with the Women's Missionary Society. **Howard Chapel, Hartsville** led a clothing drive and a card-writing campaign.

In June 2012, **St. John Nashville** carried out its annual card-writing activity to persons across the country with cards to be mailed in July and August. It will begin its annual coordination and facilitation of the church's five-month participation in ROOM IN THE INN on November 3, 2012.

Lastly, please share information and pictures of the work you're doing "beyond the walls". You can be an inspiration to all of us! Include it in your quarterly reports to the Conference Lay Organization, and/or send it to me

References: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org), [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)



## Encouragement for the Journey

Palistine Johnson, Chaplain

These words were shared with a young girl, Mae Mobley in the movie, *The Help*. Abileen, her nanny, spends a lot of time encouraging this child to believe that she was kind, smart, and important. This message needs to spread to every child and adult on the planet!

When in the valley of the loss of a job or promotion, the loss of a companion or spouse, or the loss of your health and well-being, we sometimes forget that we are wonderfully made. The self-affirmation that you are kind, smart, and important, like many others, empowers us to live our lives to the fullest. But Jesus through the Holy Spirit will send us a reminder through his words, **You are kind!** (Ephesians 4:32) *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* (1 Corinthians 1:30) **You are smart!** (Psalms 8:4-8) **You are important!**



*"You is kind, you is smart, you is important!"*

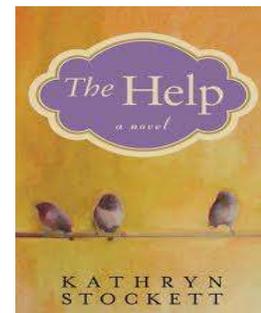
We are loved! This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

New parents will tell you that their child is the most beautiful child that they have ever seen. From odd shaped heads to their funny shaped ears, parents adore their children. This is how

God our Father thinks about us! He loves us and wants us the love Him with all our hearts, minds and souls. Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* Matthew 22:37.

### PRAYER

Father, I thank you for loving a sinner like me. I am humbled to know that you hung, bled and died for me. Help me to live in this knowledge and to accept how you view me as the truth, that we your children are kind, smart, and important. AMEN.



## Did You Know? *(cont'd from page 5)*

and one steward from each Quarterly Conference within a presiding elder district. **Presidents of lay organizations and a youth representative from each church, circuit or station are also members.** It meets once a year. The business of the District Conference includes making provision for obtaining the presiding elder's support; examine applicants for admission into the Annual Conference; examine applicants for local deacons' and elders' orders; consider and discuss the financial, moral and spiritual conditions of the church.

The ANNUAL Conference shall be composed of all traveling elders, deacons, and licentiates and all local elders and local deacons;

the Conference Lay Organization, Missionary Society; Conference Director of Christian Education and YPD Director, Conference Director of Music together with **one elected lay member and at least one elected laypersons between the ages of 18-30**, when possible from each charge within its boundaries. The business of the Annual Conference is largely administrative. The characters of ministers is examined; statistics are gathered, preachers are admitted to membership; ministers are ordained; reports from pastoral charges are made, and pastors, evangelists and missionaries are appointed by the bishop. The bishop of the Episcopal district presides over the Annual Conference.

The GENERAL Conference is the supreme governing and only legislative body of the church. It meets quadrennially and is presided over by the bishops, according to seniority. The chief business of the General Conference includes hearing reports from the heads of all departments; to revise the Discipline; elect bishops and general officers; re-district the connection and assign bishops to their respective districts.

The General Conference is composed of bishops, general officers elected by the General Conference; the presidents of universities and colleges, the deans of theological seminaries, ministerial and lay delegates elected by the Annual Conferences.

*(Other reference: The S.A.T. Manual for African Methodism; (Ingram, 1992)*

# OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Certain women are at a greater risk for breast cancer because of their family tree. Knowing your family history can help you understand that risk, and manage it.

Dr. Jacqueline Miller is a medical director of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "If a woman has a close relative such as a parent, siblings, or children with breast cancer, or if she has relatives who were diagnosed with breast cancer under the age of 50, she will be considered at increased risk."

Women should talk with family members about the family history of breast cancer. "This information should be then discussed with their doctor, to determine their risk factor."

Family history aside, women are at increased risk for breast cancer if they are obese, inactive, or drink too much. Researchers continue to look for other factors that might affect a woman's risk of getting breast cancer. Factors that do not appear to affect a woman's breast cancer risk include:

- Breast implants
- Miscarriage or abortion
- Underarm deodorant and antiperspirants
- Smoking – Although



neither smoking nor secondhand smoke has been shown to increase the risk of breast cancer, they do have other cancer-causing effects. Smoking is the number one risk factor for lung cancer.

If you're looking for ways to lower your breast cancer risk, focus your efforts on a healthy lifestyle. Wholesome and well-balanced meals and regular physical activity can help you to maintain a healthy weight. Limit alcohol to no more than one drink a day. Whether these steps will protect you from breast cancer is not certain. But living a healthy lifestyle is a cornerstone of disease prevention.

**BREAST CANCER IN MEN**  
Breast cancer in men is rare. It happens most often to men who are older than 60. Factors that can increase a man's risk of breast cancer include:

- Exposure to radiation,

such as from prior cancer treatment

- Having a harmful gene mutation or several female family members who have had breast cancer

- Having high estrogen levels, such as from disease or a genetic disorder

Men with breast cancer usually have lumps that can be felt. Treatment can help men with breast cancer, and survival rates for men and women are similar. Yet

breast cancer in men often is diagnosed at a later stage, when the cancer may be harder to treat. Men who find a lump should see a

doctor right away.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Did you know that Tennessee ranks 3rd in the nation in the rate of women killed by men?

Domestic violence is an ongoing epidemic and it is important to know the signs and solutions in order to help yourself and/or your loved ones. Abuse is never deserved, so do not let domestic violence, whether past or present, define your identity.

Domestic violence is an aggressive confrontation between family or household members. These altercations involve physical injury,

*(cont'd on page 12)*

# OLP Awards *(cont'd from page 1)*

## Lewis Entrepreneurial Award! Bro. Joe Turner, CEO of Universal Electronics,

The brother-sister team who led the ceremony – Rondal and Melissa Eldridge of St. Paul, Oakwood, were effervescent in their roles.

Young people were utilized throughout the ceremony! The enter-

tainment included interpretive Christian dance by "God's Creation" from St. John, Nashville, and a solo by Sis. Delana Norfleet of St. James, Dickson.



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The new Presiding Prelate of the 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, gave short and inspiring remarks, challenging us to work together to fulfill the Great Commission – discipleship – without regard for whom the credit is assigned!



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## 13th District Lay News

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1) The 13th District Lay Organization will hold a “Centennial Celebration Breakfast” during the Planning Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky on Saturday, November 3rd at 7:00 A.M. The speaker will be the Connectional Lay President, Dr. Willie Glover. The co-chairpersons of the Connectional Celebration, Dr. Paulette Coleman and Mr. Bill Ayers, will also be in attendance. A Verse-Speaking Choir will present “A Salute to the Connectional Lay Organization” with special emphasis on the contributions of persons from the 13th Episcopal District. **Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased from Tennessee Conference Lay President, Barbara Ivery, [bivery329@att.net](mailto:bivery329@att.net), or 931-287-1128, by Friday, October 26th.**



2) **EARLY NOTICE:** The 13th District Lay Organization will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, March 9, 2013 @ St. John AME Church, 1822 Formosa Street, Nashville, 615-320-1026. The quadrennial election of officers will take place at this meeting. Even though the deadline for receipt of the letters of intent to seek election has not been communicated, persons wishing to run for office on the District level should begin preparing that letter. *District President Johnson has reminded us that one of the new pieces of legislation is that a person can only hold one office above the local Lay organization. For example, if you are a Conference Lay officer, you are ineligible to run for a District Lay office, and vice versa.*

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## Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) News

1) The Connectional Lay Organization's Fall Executive Board meeting will convene in Atlanta, Georgia from November 8 - 11, 2012 in the downtown Marriott Marquis Hotel, 265 Peachtree Center, N.W. 30303. Reservations may be made by calling toll free 1-877-622-3056. The code is "CLO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING" and the group rate is \$125.00 plus tax. **Hotel reservation deadline was October 10th but limited rooms are still available.**

Registration fee is also \$125 which includes four meals and materials. Round trip transportation from the hotel to St. Phillips AMEC. The opening business session starts at 3 p.m. on Thursday, November 8th and adjournment will be Saturday, November 10th at approximately 3:30 p.m.

2) *Connectional Lay Organization Fourth Regional Workshop, JANUARY 18-19, 2013*  
*Mrs. Edith Cartledge, CLO Director of Lay Activities*

SHERATON BIRMINGHAM HOTEL  
2101 RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR. BLVD. NORTH

Room rate \$99. + 17.5 % state and local tax  
Ask for: 9th Episcopal District A.M.E. Lay Organization

Room Block Cut-off Date: January 05, 2013  
WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2012

Mail registration forms and checks to: Mr. Richard Bowden, CLO Financial Secretary 1908 Vaughn Lane, Montgomery, AL 36106 334-467-7358

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# Amenities (July-September 2012)

Donna Holt-Pollard

*Please pray and praise God for these individuals & families!*

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*"The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord Blesses Him people with peace."  
Psalm 29:11*

## Sympathy acknowledgements

Rev. Wanda Kelly & family Mrs. Renee Scott Smith Mrs. Frances Williams	First Pegram AMEC 13 <sup>th</sup> District Lay Org Parliamentarian W. Kentucky Lay President	loss of her brother loss of her mother, Rev. Peola Scott loss of her husband, Mr. Charles Williams
Rev. Reginald and Mrs. Gladys Brock Mrs. Delorse and Dr. Richard Lewis	St. Matthew AMEC Lee Chapel AMEC	loss of his mother, Mrs. Joyce Brock Cal loss of her sister, Mrs. Sylvia Asker Bynum
Rev. Charlotte and Rev. Calvin Sydnor	Woodfork Chapel AMEC	loss of her brother, Mr. Frederick Patterson
Charles Turner	Salter's Chapel AMEC	loss of his grandmother, Mrs. Maggie Goodrich
Rev. John and Janie Dandridge	Webb-Grove AMEC	loss of his mother, Mrs. Doris Dandridge
Presiding Elder Keesee & James Keesee Rev. Deshell Cobin	North Nashville District St. Peter AMEC St. Matthew, Rossvie	loss of aunt, Mrs. Vestoria Keesee loss of aunt, Mrs. Vestoria Keesee loss of grandmother, Mrs. Vestoria Keesee
Bro. Alfuguann and Rev. Benesa Sweat Dr. Jamye Coleman Williams & family	McGavock Chapel AMEC retired General Officers	loss of his mother, Mrs. Johnnie Sweat loss of her nephew, Mr. Frederick D. Coleman, II
Laura Hollerman	St. Luke, Gallatin	loss of her aunt

## Get Well Acknowledgements:

Lynwood Jenkins Timothy Woodard Donald Corlew	Greater Ebenezer AMEC, Clarksville St. James AMEC, Dickson St. James AMEC, Dickson
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## Congratulations:

Mrs. Ella B. Couch Rev. Dr. Calvin & Rev. Dr. Charlotte Sydnor Rev. William & Mrs. Ora Easley	St. Peter AMEC, Clarksville Woodfork Chapel AMEC	102 <sup>nd</sup> birthday 50 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary 42 <sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary
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## Praying For You Acknowledgements:

Mary Falls Scott Capri Griffey-Elliott	St. Peter AMEC, Clarksville St. Peter AMEC Clarksville
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*Thanks to Donna Holt-Pollard for serving as Amenities Committee Chairperson, sending expressions on behalf of the Conference Lay Organization for several years! A job well done!*

## NOTE:

**Going forward, please forward all information regarding amenities — occasions of congratulations, sickness, death, etc. — to our new Corresponding Secretary, Christina Alexander, [alxchris6@aol.com](mailto:alxchris6@aol.com). Please include the person's full name, mailing address for the expression, and church name. Information can also be sent to President Ivery.**



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS *(cont'd from page 8)*

or the fear of physical harm, destruction of property, and sexual assault. These family units may include spouses or former spouses, current or ex-partners, relatives through blood or marriage, and those with birth or legal connections.

### Tennessee Domestic Violence Report 2009-2011 Quick Facts

- Female victims, approximately 72 percent, outnumbering males by three to one.
- Assault offenses combined accounted for 96 percent of all domestic violence offenses reported during the time period.
- Homicides determined to be the result of domestic violence decreased by approximately 11 percent from 108 reported in 2009 to 96 reported in 2011.
- A total of 25,465 juveniles were reported as domestic violence victims during the study period accounting for approximately ten percent of all victims.
- The victim race most often documented at more than 58 percent was white.

Given these staggering statistics, it would seem likely that almost everyone knows someone who is being physically abused in their home—they just don't know it. Victims of domestic violence become experts at hiding their suffering and pretending as if nothing is wrong. They have to, because in most cases they are threatened with more abuse if they share their secret and expose their abusers. Since most abusers were abused themselves, they know how the cycle of abuse works and they become experts at intimidating their victims, convincing them that the abuse is their fault. As a result, abusers and vic-

tims appear friendly affable people in healthy relationships. But behind closed doors, the truth is revealed.



**If you suspect someone is being abused, it is your responsibility to talk to them about your suspicions. But before you do, educate yourself on the subject, especially on the different types of abuse. And be sure to confirm your initial suspicion with more proof.**

**Here are some signs to look for:**

**Bruises**—are the most obvious sign of abuse; victims usually try to hide them with makeup or clothing.

**Clothing**—take notice of change in clothing or unusual fashion choices that would allow marks or bruises to be hidden. For example, if they wear long sleeves during the dog days of summer.

**Jealousy**—victims may not say outright that they are being abused but might try telling in subtle ways. Something they may vent about issues in their relationship but stop short about talking about the abuse. Frequent talk about their partner's temper or jealousy might be a tip-off.

*Myth: "Domestic violence is an epidemic only among the poor and uneducated."*

Prepare yourself for the conversation because it may be unwelcomed and viewed as interfering. Know when to step back, if the person denies the allegation; simply express your concern and willingness to help. Approaching someone and bringing up the topic of abuse is difficult, but worth doing, as you might be saving a life.

**Some myths and facts about domestic violence:**

**MYTH:** Domestic violence is an epidemic only among the poor and uneducated.

**FACT:** Studies show that domestic violence occurs among all types of families, regardless of education, wealth, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. Lower income victims and abusers are indeed over-represented in the statistics, as they are the ones who seek public assistance and services.

**MYTH:** Only men are abusers.

**FACT:** According to the statistics and data of the Bureau of Justice, in 2003, 15 percent of reported victims of intimate partner violence were males. The Bureau believes that the number is greater since men often suffer physical abuse in silence for fear of shame and ridicule, therefore, most of the abuse might go unreported.

**Local lay organizations may want to consider training workshops on these subjects. For more information, here are some websites with great information:**

[http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/tag/domestic-violence/;](http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/tag/domestic-violence/)

[www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org)

# **LOCAL LAY ORGANIZATIONS ON THE MOVE!**

## **Activities July-September 2012; Plans for next quarter**

**Bethel, Columbia.** Sis. TomAnna McClain, President; Rev. Trent Ogilvie, Pastor. Training: “Bullying in our Schools and Neighborhoods”. Will feed community on November 8, 2012. Workshop planned for February-March 2013.

**Howard Chapel, Hartsville.** Sis. Beverly McCadden, President; Rev. Albert Strawther, Pastor. Performed a couple of “Beyond the Walls” activities, and observed Annual Lay Day the first weekend in October.

**St. Paul, Columbia.** Bro. Oliver Goodman, President; Rev. Dr. James Walker, Pastor. Celebrated Annual Lay Day with Sis. Wanda Grandberry as Speaker. Subject: “Laity Trusting God for the Journey”. OLP honorees were recognized. Future plans: To team with Christian Education to provide workshops. To encourage entire membership to become a part of the organized laity. ***Current Lay Organization membership—55!*** To help the Tutorial Ministry feed students. To provide study sessions during Lay meetings.

**Wayman Chapel, Columbia.** Sis. Marsha Miller, President; Rev. Victor Goodman, Pastor. Supported all Conference Lay activities. Recognized five outstanding laypersons during morning worship. Encouraged youth to apply for scholarships! Goals: To increase membership in the organized laity. To encourage young people to participate in all levels of the church.

**Kairos Community, Nashville.** Sis. Eddie White, President; Rev. Roderick Belin, Pastor. Provided

opportunities for voter registration. Encouraged youth to apply for Conference Lay scholarships. Continue to increase membership by having a desire to train and inspire/encourage other members to be a part of this organization and become knowledgeable of our great Zion, the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Salter’s Chapel, Waverly.** Sis. Palistine Johnson, President; Rev. Charles Townsend, Pastor. Set up registration to vote after church. Helped member and community member to get ID and our young black brothers with felonies get back their voting right. Training: God’s Word and the laws of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Goals: To increase membership training, inspire and encourage other members to be a part of this organization. We want to empower members to be leaders and doers of God’s Word.

**Shorter Chapel, Franklin.** Sis. Juanita Patton, President; Rev. Tyrona Burgess, Pastor. Fed the community for the second year. Celebrated annual Lay Day, Sunday, September 16, 2012. Speaker was Bro. Oliver Goodman. Theme, “Kingdom Building”. Goals: Grow our membership while working on teaching and training through the **AME Discipline** about every level of the Connection, Leadership of the church, and organization.

**St. John, Nashville.** Sis. Paula Y. Holmes, President; Rev. W. Antoni Sinkfield, Pastor. Mailed cards of encouragement to persons across

the country in July and August. Joined with the Social Action Commission to register persons to vote. Training activity: Characteristics of a Christian. Goal: To recruit young adults to active membership in the local Organization. Will begin five-month participation in ROOM IN THE INN, November 3rd.



**St. James, Dickson.** Sis. Donna Holt-Pollard, President; Rev. Jeffery Norfleet, Pastor. We are focusing on re-organizing and building our local Lay Organization. We are using the Lay Study Guide and other information.. Goals: Establish a church library. Increase the number of persons who attend TN Conference Lay Organization meetings.

**St. Peter, Clarksville.** Sis. Capri Grifey-Elliott, President; Rev. Dennis Lawson, I, Pastor. The Organization did not meet in July & August. Meetings resumed in September. Will honor seniors in October 2012.

**For future reports, local lay presidents are encouraged to include the titles and a summary of all training activities! We can inspire others by sharing!**





**TENNESSEE CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION**

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**Mission**

The objectives and purpose of the Lay Organization are outlined in its Constitution. The main objectives are stated in summary as follows:

1. To create a love and appreciation of the history and principles of African Methodism.
2. Keep the memory of Richard Allen alive.
3. Respect constituted authority.
4. Stimulate and educate the laity in the total program of the Church.
5. Study the AME Discipline and learn the laws of the Church.
6. Encourage financial support of the Church's program.
7. Teach and practice stewardship and work with the youth to teach them Methodism.
8. These objectives can best be met when one works to understand the program of the church and relate the church to the world around us. Become involved in Social Action such that the church is then our Community - our Job - Our School.

*To sign up for the Connectional Lay Organization newsletter, go to [www.connectionallay-amec.org](http://www.connectionallay-amec.org)*

***Upcoming Events (October—December 2012)***

Tuesday-Saturday, Oct 23-27 <i>(Thursday, October 25)</i>	145th Annual Session of TN Conference <i>Lay Witness Night!</i>	Nashville
Friday-Saturday, November 2-3 <i>Saturday, November 3</i>	13th District Planning Meeting <i>13th District Lay Breakfast, 7 AM</i>	Lexington, KY <i>Lexington, KY</i>
<i>Thursday-Saturday, November 8-10</i> Friday-Sunday, November 16-18 <i>Saturday, November 24</i>	<i>CLO Executive Board Meeting</i> YPD Retreat <i>TN Conf. Lay Executive Board Mtg</i> <i>10 AM—12 noon</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA</i> Antioch, TN <i>Salter's Chapel</i>
Monday-Tuesday, December 3-4  <i>Saturday, December 15</i>	General Board and Celebration of the Installation of the President of the Council of Bishops <i>TN Conference Lay Meeting</i>	Little Rock, AR  <i>Martin Chapel</i>

Health focus for **November**: American Diabetes Month

**December**—Healthy Eating Over the Holidays