It’s a New Season

FUTURE FOCUS:

2012

MISSIONARY MONDAY: Organized and Implemented by First Vice Presidents

JUNE

Youth Mission to Trinidad

JULY

General Conference
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONGRESS: Quantum Faith

Rev. Dr. Cecelia Williams-Bryant, 4th District Supervisor

The President Speaks

It is the season of Lent, a time of commitment and renewal; we have to decide what we will do to make a difference in our lives; a positive change that will impact our lives as well as our families. The change to cook and eat nutritious meals will do that, exercising and living an active lifestyle will as well. So let’s get “Fit to Lead” all over the 4th!

I have another suggestion as well; let’s do something that will bring us closer to Christ and have a lasting impact on our lives and our families. A quotation from the book “Strongman’s his name…. What’s his game?” says; “God’s chief goal in our lives is to make us the best people we can possibly be. Everything He (God) does as He deals with us in our Christian lives is to
develop our potential to the greatest possible degree.” Ephesians 4:27 says: “and do not give the devil a foothold.” So we should live our lives making every attempt to get closer to God. Learn from reading the Scriptures and books from our reading list. Most important, “Pray More”, listen to God and follow His directions.

Mid-Year –

Did you hear about Mid-Year? If you heard that it was Spirit filled, Awesome, Amazing, inspiring, off the chain and BLESSED. I heard and felt that as well.

We started with Purple Reign II on Wednesday evening at St. John – Aurora. Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful! Chanel Ware, Connectional Prayer Director, directed the choir. Our Missionary sessions were outstanding with presentations by Dr. Robert Nicholas, Executive Director of AME SADA, who provided information on needs throughout the world. Attorney Alison Velez-Lane presented “Women Creating Global Paradigms for Sustainability”. Our own Jackie Mitchell Robinson gave an outstanding presentation on the UN Millennium Goals. Bible Study by Rev. Diane Bogues, exciting, inspiring; had everyone on their feet. Excellent presentations!
The Hour of Power each day and evening worship services were great, with interesting speakers. The celebration of our Episcopal Supervisor, Rev. Dr. Cecelia Williams Bryant on Friday evening was wonderful. The speaker was P.E., E. Anne Henning-Byfield, her message, “Rain from a Rock” from 2 Samuel 21: 9-14. She called for some “Gangsta Christians” (You had to be there).
My gratitude to Corlis Moody (President, Chicago Conference) for coordinating the celebration, to Ileta Smith-Knight (WMS Secretary) for arranging the video from Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis and her daughter. Many thanks to the 4th District Music Ministry under the direction of Rev. DaNita Bell and the music ministry from Indiana who presented “Nobody Better than You”. Thanks also to CFO, WIM, the District office staff and the Presiding Elders.

Kudos
To Rhonda Mitchell for arranging the conference call with Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis for our teens addressing teen stress. The call was outstanding! The Q&A session was right on target. So many of the things discussed, could be used by persons of any age. I especially liked her suggestion on journaling.

Christian Education Congress (CEC)
Plans are underway for an exciting time for all and especially our youth, 11-17 and children 6-10. There is basketball, swimming, tennis and many, many other activities that are conducive to the venue. Did I say we will be at Michigan State University in East Lansing. We are expecting 1,000 youth ages 11-17. In addition to “Fit to Lead” activities our youth will have an experience similar to that we had in Cape Coast, Ghana; a “door of no return” experience. There will be experiences planned for adults attending CEC and the dress code is casual for everyone. YWI and YAN will have experiences on Friday and Saturday.
We are asking all to register by Mother’s Day. Registration forms are included in this publication. We are in need of Chaperones; all chaperones will need background checks. All information will be handled in a confidential manner by Presiding Elder Walter Bauldrick. Send information to the Bishop’s office to Elder Bauldrick’s attention.

2013 World of Women Prevailing in Prayer
Plans are underway for the Prayer Convocation, May 25 – June 3, 2013. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and start putting your money away for this exciting experience. It’s in Chicago!

Joyce Keys, President, 4th Episcopal District WMS

Mid-Year WMS Pictorial Highlights

Purple Reign II
YWI IMPACT

Cell Group Capacity Building

AME SADA

Newsletter Photographer,
Debrae Lomax
#3 Saudi Arabia (Five Minute Challenge)

“My father used to beat me to make me pray because the Messenger said in the Hadith:

“Of Umar bin Shuaib, of his father, of his grandfather, who said: ‘The Messenger of God (Peace be upon him) said, ‘Order your children to pray when they are seven years old, and beat them if they do not do so when they are ten years old”, as was told by Ahmed and Abu Dawud’”

I began to pray the obligatory prayer and follow the Sunna, and I performed the night vigil prayer, this as a final attempt – and perhaps I would persevere. I became very depressed, and I was sure that I was of “the People of the Fire” and that I would not be saved from the torment of the grave.

In the year 2009 I bought a computer and one day I searched in YouTube for an interview with Doctor Wifaa’ Sultan. At that time I didn’t know much about Doctor Wifaa’ Sultan, and I didn’t know that she was a former Muslim. I watched a series of interviews with she and other Christians. I became very disillusioned with Islam and its Messenger, and I discovered that I had been tricked, but I didn’t have the courage to say that out loud! (And this is the case for many Muslims). The series broke my barrier of fear, and I confirmed that Islam was not the religion of Allah. And without hesitation, I submitted my life to the Lord Jesus because he is the God of love and peace. The true God looked upon my weakness and answered my prayer and guided me to his path.

Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide

Dear Clergy and Laity:

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus the Christ: I am writing to you on behalf of my wife, Rev. Dr. Marie M. Phillips Braxton who has been diagnosed with kidney failure. Our family is now fervently praying to and waiting on God to send to our mother and wife a kidney donor.

Over 1,300 people in Maryland are waiting for a kidney transplant. The wait time for Rev. Marie (as she is lovingly called) to receive a kidney transplant from the usual source (a deceased donor) could be over five (5) years. Trusting that God already has her donor, I am reaching out to our faith community to explore opportunities for a living kidney donation. Living kidney donors are usually healthy people between the ages of 18-60 who are free from kidney disease, diabetes, cancer and heart disease. Many people who choose to donate a kidney do so because they want to help others. We are believing that God already has someone and our appeal is to that person to please come forward as the donor.

If you are interested in being evaluated as a living kidney donor for Rev. Marie, or for more donor information, please contact Washington Hospital Center - Transplant Services located at 110 Irving Street NW, Washington, DC 20010-2975. Ask for Eloida V. Gonzales, Clinical Transplant Coordinator. She can be reached at 202 877-9035 or 1 800 252-2442. Her fax number is 202 877-2099 and the email address is eloida.gonzales@medstar.net.

I thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter and ask your continued prayers for my wife. May God continue to bless you.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

Yours in His Service, Ronald E. Braxton
In November, 2011, the church Members unanimously approved the naming of the local WMS to be the Anna Whitten Women's Missionary Society (WMS) at Allen Chapel AME Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan. “One of the most brilliant legacies known throughout the AME movement is the decades of good deeds associated with Ms. Anna Whitten; this honor is befitting of someone who exemplifies embracing the spirit our Triune God. Our, 157 year-old historical church will continue to flourish God’s Kingdom when we acknowledge, respect, and take pride in those who serve the Lord,” says the Reverend Gloria Clark, newly appointed Pastor of Allen Chapel AME Church.

Coincidentally, February 2012, The Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) Foundation has announced the Anna Whitten Humanitarian Scholarship, established by Nicole Jennings, Anna’s great granddaughter. Ms. Anna is a pillar in her community while she continues to serve throughout the educational, civic, and spiritual realms. This loving, supportive, warm, and very encouraging “grandmother to multiple generations of neighborhoods” always works and serves with a smile. One of her favorite sayings is “a life is better lived than talked about.”

Always humble and conscious of her reality, she often begins her public speeches with the personal testimony, “this is the day that the Lord has made…” All in all, she inherited the role of “missionary” as it was modeled by her mother and the generations before her birth; she has pledged her life’s work to be revered as a missionary who serves all humanity, whether young and ancient, regardless of race or creed, including men and women, from this continent and beyond. As the matriarch of her lineage, she continues to model the role while praying that the future descendants of her family can continue the missionary legacy that inclines all of us to serve with the passion of Christ.

Ms. Anna Lee Whitten was born in Port Huron, Michigan, to Walter Sherrill and Nellie Crocheron. After high school, she attended Port Huron Community College where she majored in chemistry. In 1950, this “heart full of grace” with a “soul that is generated by love” moved to Kalamazoo, MI where she remains a quiet instrument for positive change, who speaks her mind. With God’s blessings and guidance, she has served her AME church throughout numerous decades in varying capacities which include: President of the Women’s Missionary Society (WMS), Steward, Superintendent of
Church School and Christian Education, Music Ministry Leader and organist, and chairperson of various annual historical events and activities. She currently serves as the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Kalamazoo Valley Community College where the “Anna Whitten” facility stands on the downtown Arcadia campus.

If one were to review a historical list of random acts of kindness throughout the 600 civic and charitable organizations near greater Kalamazoo, most chronicles would reflect that Anna’s commitments are numerous philanthropic gestures and gracious episodes of activism. As a tribute to her great civic contributions, she has received several honors and prestigious awards which include: NAACP Lifetime Achievement and the Irving S. Gilmore Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award. Current WMS President Anna Whitten, currently champions a literacy initiative with the Allen Chapel AME Church WMS and Youth Program Department (YPD) (see some submissions below)!

WRITING TOGETHER LITERACY SUBMISSION SAMPLES
Writing Together is a literacy project that compliments all field trips, competitive games, art, reading, exercise, and other festivities while encouraging the freedom of expression and spiritual reflections. Stop by 804 West North Street, Kalamazoo, during regular church services where all members and friends have the daily opportunity to respond with positive thoughts, actions, and antidotes.

WHY WRITE?
There is a correlation between... chronic incarceration and literacy, life-long poverty and literacy, and expression and literacy.

+ + +
When we literally express ourselves, we host symptoms of a healthy and free society!
We are all connected to the earth!

Jesus is the light
He will make it right.

Fernando Trice

Write a rhyme any old time!
Inspire goodness, Godliness,
And random acts of kindness!
Use antonyms, homonyms, synonyms, and such...
To help express your awesome thoughts!

Bass Ollie and
Anna Whitten

Each One, Teach One
And Reach at Least One!

John Caldwell

Bless the USA
and pray everyday!

Jaidyn Carver

Love your family... with all of your heart, “simply”!

Lori Baker-Wilks
Making a difference in our young women's lives

Our Women's Missionary Society outreach support workers of Grant AME Church Toronto has been working with young women of Rosalie Hall since 2009. Their constant fight against injustice, poverty, violence, and abuse has been one of our missionary mandate.

During the month of February, we celebrated family day and the missionaries collected several bags of baby clothing for the young women and we have been keeping them in our prayers.

On Sunday, March 4th, we presented Rosalie Hall Resource Centre with our gifts for the families and Miss Roma shared the highlights of the programs they provide and thanked us for our commitment to Rosalie Hall and to everyone who supported this event.

The Ophelia Newsome WMS of Bethel AME Church in Madison, Illinois would like to invite you, your church family, your friends and their friends, community leaders, co-workers, and everyone you know to join us as we walk to bring awareness to domestic violence. We have reserved Saturday, June 2, 2012 @ 10:30 a.m. for you to join us. The mile walk will commence at Wilson Park in Granite City, Illinois. This letter comes early because we have a lot of preparation to do.

Our goal is to heighten the awareness of domestic violence in our community. In addition, we recognize that domestic violence has no color, job background, age, or race. Domestic violence can be physical and/or mental. The organization that we choose to acknowledge is The Women's Center, Inc. Their mission is to end domestic violence and sexual assault against women and children in Southern Illinois and to assist survivors of these crimes and their non-offending significant others. We are praying for the eradication of domestic violence and for the deliverance of those women and children who have suffered such offense.

Time is of essence, so we will begin promptly at 10:30. During the first hour, we will be greeted by the director of The Women's Center. We would like to honor and embrace the women who have been victims of domestic violence. We encourage you to seek women who've succumbed domestic violence to join us in this walk. Due to the nature and severity of this violence, we will not single anyone out. If someone wants to come forth and speak, this would be the time to do so.

Lastly, we will have a coordinated dance for the women of domestic violence by Mindy McKinzie, Zumba Instructor. We will begin our walk at 11:30 and be should be done by 12:30. It is a mile walk around the park.

We ask that a contact person make contact ASAP, within a week of receipt of this invitation, so that we may correspond to groups in that manner. Please email your contact information, e-mail address, and phone number. We will have t-shirts made. The cost of individual registration will include the price of the t-shirt and donation to The Women's Center. The registration cost is $26. Please add $2 for each size above XL (i.e. 2XL=$27, 3XL=29).

We strongly encourage you to be a part of this mission! We ask that upon receipt of this invitation, a contact person is chosen to correspond with us and that you begin to spread the word. We are extremely excited about the purpose of our walk and YOU being a part of it. We are taking off the limits and allowing God to work within us to do His work!!!

Linda Thorpe, Local WMS President
Tiwana Ware, 1st Vice President
Rev. Philip L. Ware, Pastor
Honoring Women and Their Outstanding Contributions

"Woman of the Year"

Many women in the 47th Assembly District exemplify professional excellence and help create new opportunities for others while continuing to be a respected leader in the community. For this reason I am proud to announce Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker as the 47th Assembly District, 2012 "Woman of the Year"!

"Jackie" Dupont-Walker, for over 42 years, has been a professional in the public and private sectors. Mrs. Dupont-Walker's strong commitment and calling to "faith centered and empowering" development has made her a prophetic voice locally and nationally.

Early in life she was impacted by the models of an entrepreneurial and visionary father and maternal grandfather who taught her self-determination and self-reliance in the context of a strong faith and a commitment to community service. Her maternal role models included a clever "Sistah," Grandmom and Mother-dear who demonstrated and expected excellence. "Jackie" pioneered in desegregating a major university, and has trail blazed on behalf of women and people of color in many arenas. She is the founding president of Ward Economic Development Corporation and for 25 years has led it in developing over 280 units of affordable housing, 1 major shopping mall, encouraging indigenous leadership, creating neighborhood networks, facilitating job creation, conducting asset mapping, and spearheading an intergenerational community building effort. In addition to WEDC "Jackie" serves as the AME Church international Social Action Officer; Lafayette Square Association (President), Delta Sigma Theta - Century City (Social Action chair) and a host of civic organizations. As a lifelong member of the AME Church, "Jackie" created AME V-Alert (voter mobilization). She is an officer of Ward AME Church in LA where she serves on the Board of Stewards (Membership Education chair), chair - Social Action Commission, Lay and Missionary ministries. She has served on a host of committees and commissions; all with the inspiration she receives from her husband and partner, Buford "Sonny" Walker and their desire to make the world a better place for their blended family of 8 adult children, 24 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

On Monday, March 26, Mrs. Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker will be honored at the Capitol by The California Legislative Women's Caucus for her significant contributions to the district.

THE KOCH BROTHERS & THE TEA PARTY

ADVISORY

The Koch brothers are reportedly withholding their money (money assigned to the banks for U.S. debt relief) until President Obama is not re-elected to the presidency. They want the American people to "Believe" (wrongly so) that President Obama is responsible for the wars, the fragile economy, and the other ills of society.

Let's begin to boycott the Koch enterprise until they have to scream "HELP"! Read the list below and make sure that you do not purchase any of these products. Let's serve the Tea Party with some bitter tea. Make a list of the products below to take with you every time you go shopping, and DO NOT purchase any of these.

Brothers Charles and David Koch, with a combined worth around $35 billion dollars, are waging a war against President Obama. The Koch brothers are the majority owners in Koch Industries, America's second-largest private company with revenues of $100 billion in 2009, and 80,000 employees in 60 countries. Koch Industries main source of revenue is from the manufacturing, refining, and distribution of petroleum. They are major financiers of the Tea Party. They also are providing money to run anti-democratic ads. Do not allow your money to be used to
sponsor the Tea Party.

Don't buy these products by Koch:

1. Industry/Georgia-Pacific Products
2. Angel Soft Toilet Paper
3. Brawny Paper Towels
4. Dixie Plates, Bowls, Napkins and Cups
5. Mardi Gras Napkins and Towels
6. Quilted Northern Toilet Paper
7. Soft 'n Gentle Toilet Paper
8. Sparkle Napkins
9. Vanity Fair Napkins
10. Zee Napkins

BLESSINGS ALWAYS,
Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq., National Chair,
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.,
1251 4th Street, SW,
Washington, DC 20024,
202/678-6788,
E-mail: info@nationalcongressbw.org,
Website: www.nationalcongressbw.org

It is through our struggles that we gain our victories. Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT! ARE YOU REGISTERED?
"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

The power of the ballot we need in sheer defense, else what shall save us from a second slavery?
W. E. B. Du Bois

Peace