

THE LAY COMMUNIQUE



The Official Convention Newsletter of the
Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization

June 13, 2012

2012 Annual Report of the Director of Lay Activities

We began a NEW THING for the Eleventh Episcopal District with the Geographic meetings. It was an unusual and different adventure, but we DID it in four of the six conferences...Between the two meetings held in Tallahassee with the Florida and East Conferences and in Kissimmee held with the West Coast and Central Conferences we had over 200 people registered and attending. That is what is working well! What Needs To Be Refined? A Renewed Look At Our History.

Our Children do not value our church because they do not know the story. We cannot tell them the story because we don't know the story. We do not understand why we believe what we say we believe..We need to embrace the history of our church and review and renew it regularly. As the year began, I met with the Conference Directors of Lay Activities and each was given the task of presenting in some way throughout the year the 25 Articles of Religion to their conference. I tell you so that you will hold them accountable. The idea would be that they Conference Directors would share with the PE district directors and the PE district directors would share with the local directors so that by the end of the year at least all of us would have reviewed the 25 articles. Some of them completed the task; others did not. It is still the task we are working on. It is surprising how many of us have been in this

church for over 30 years and have not a clue what our basic beliefs are. A review of the 25 articles would help us to refocus.

Many years ago there was a TV show called the 6 Million Dollar Man where Steve Austin was made over to run faster, see clearer and farther, and possessed great strength. A favorite phrase from the show's introduction was "WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY." How appropriate that phrase is for our Lay Organization... We have the means to meet our challenges head on and make the Lay Organization a welcoming, vital part of the church. What is working Well... We are as a Lay Family... The successes have come when we have united and pooled our resources on one accord. The challenge is getting the message out and telling our own story through teaching about our history and our legislation and policy and procedures, and remaining loving, and likable during the entire process.

Respectfully,

P.H. Wright

Reported by Evelyn Welch Graham

The YARs Are In The House

The Young Adult Hour of Power at the 68th Annual Convention of the 11th Episcopal District was inspirational, powerful and informative! The theme was "A Spirit of Worship" and the hour was led by Mr. Jai A. Ingraham, the Episcopal District YAR. Two poems were presented: The first by Ms. Tabitha Cobb of the East Conference titled "Our Deepest Fear" and the second was "The Good Shepherd" by Ms.

Auja Bush of the Florida Conference. The musical selection "He Touched Me" was uplifting for all in attendance. A powerful word was delivered by Mr. Jon A. Ingraham, Connectional YPD President, with the subject "Favor in the Presence of my Enemies" taking inspiration from the 23rd Psalms.

Jai A. Ingraham, Presenter
Alicia Cotton, Reporter

LEDC Breakfast

The LEDC Annual Breakfast was a treat for the appetite and spirit. The event's speaker, Brother Jai Ingraham, topic was "Questions Lead to Quality." He stressed questions are important as they give insight. Questions help to bring quality of life. Others expectations can become your limitations if you let them. Your destiny will only take you where you direct it. There is power in your potential and provision for your promise. We must decide are we fishers of men? We need to decide what we want the Lay to be.

Reporter:
Phyllis Filer

2012-2016 EEDLO CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

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Director of Lay Activities:
Patricia H. Wright

Director or Public Relations:
Angela Surcey Garner
Sharon K. Russell

Young Adult Representative:
Eboni N. Curry

Hospitality Room

(Ringling Room, Lower Level)

Hours Are
10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Health Walk



6:30 A.M. -7:30 A.M.

Meet in front of
the hotel.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

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Health Walk: “Energetic Walkers in Motion”

Ten (10) participants from the Florida, East, West Coast, Central and Bahamas Conferences met to begin equipping their whole armor to be servants in God’s kingdom by preparing their physical vessels. President Hugh Yancy, West Coast Conference, provided the leadership by coordinating the walking path (Hyatt Regency Hotel, Scenic Route Downtown Sarasota along the beach across Ben Causeway Bridge). The walk was approximately 5 miles. A group photograph will be taking on Thursday, June 14 and light refreshments will be served in the hospitality room.

The walking schedule for the remainder of Convention is as follows: Thursday, June 14 and Friday, June 15, 6:30-7:30 a.m., please meet promptly in the front of the hotel.

“Ain’t no stopping us now we’re

on the move” – Shout Out!!! to the committed walkers: Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Co-Coordinator, Marie Dixon – Jones, Patricia Kelly, Lionel Merritt, Veronica Whitehead, Shirley Thomas, Douglas Thomas, Debra Outler and Ethel Wooten.

Reported by
Connie E. Jenkins-Pye
Florida Conference



Lay Benevolent Activities Program

As I entered into the ballroom, I was greeted by Turner Chapel’s young men who ushered me in with a smile and offered to pour me a glass of water.

The Worship Leader, Mrs. Shirley Morgan set the tone stating: “We are in the Hyatt, but we are higher in the Lord. The program included some of the finest young people of the West Coast Conference. Ms. Amanda Jackson blessed us with a solo “When Sunday Comes”. We were graced with the elegant liturgical dance by Janaye and Jalynne Brown of Turner Chapel AME, Palmetto to Whitney Houston’s song “I Look to You”. Next we were amazed to hear from Ms. Dwineshia Latimor of Bethel, St. Petersburg that she was An African Princess. This poetic piece

was written by our own Eleventh Episcopal DOLA, (Patricia) P.H. Wright. Minister Franklin Crockett soothes our souls with his solo “I Love the Lord”. Rev. Kenneth Irby gave the Invitation to Discipleship. Lovely remarks of thanks and gratitude was given by Ms. Rosa Powell, West Coast Conference Benevolent Director, Mrs. Lother Cherry, Eleventh Episcopal District Benevolent Director, Mr. Hugh Yancy, Jr., West Coast President, and Mr. Charlie Nichols, Eleventh Episcopal District President. The program was closed with the Layman’s Benediction.

Reported by:
Sis. Coretta Omolola
West Coast Conference

Study the Bible
with us



Devotion

The Bible study began with an inspiring devotion led by Sis. Katherine Gillis, the Episcopal Chaplain. The opening song was “I promised the Lord that I will hold out” followed by prayer and ended by singing I’m still here.” Sis. Evelyn Graham (member of Bethel A.M.E. Church in St. Petersburg, FL, West Coast Conference) presented the Bible study lesson.

The lesson was taken from Mark 4:1-9 using the topic: “The Parable of the Sower” also known as the “The sermon by the sea side.” Sis. Graham first explained the

differences between a fable, a fairytale and a parable. A parable being an “earthly story using a heavenly meaning.” Using pictures her grandchildren drew, she was able to give us a vivid picture of the parable Jesus was teaching the people about the sower planting seeds. The sower being Jesus, the soil being the heart, and the seed being the message/word of God.

All of us can be “sowers” but “God” produces the increase. Our job is to plant the seed whenever and wherever we can. Some hearts will be receptive to the word but some will not. The good soil (a

receptive heart) will not only be an open heart but will also hear the word and obey the word.

The Bible study ended with a prayer that we should be like the good soil and bring forth a beautiful harvest.

Reported by:
Sis. Vickie Edwards
West Coast Conference

