

the CLINTONIAN



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CLINTON A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

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From the Pastor's Desk

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The Gift of Salvation

The coming of the Kingdom of Heaven in Jesus Christ means hope, joy and salvation to all who believe and have faith in him. Salvation is the deliverance or freedom from a threatening force. Sin, oppression, and despair are forces that threaten the wholeness of God's people, and cause brokenness in humankind's relationship with God and each other. God desires the wholeness and well-being of humankind, and sent His Son, Jesus, the Christ, to redeem and save us.

Because God loves us so much, God freely "gave us His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Paul, the apostle writes, "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). This gift of salvation in Jesus Christ is not a gift that is deserved or can be earned. Christ has come because of God's grace and unmerited, undeserved favor toward us. Our good deeds do not warrant this gift of grace in Christ, but are a result of our relationship with God, through Christ.

As much as this gift is free, it is not cheap. Dietrich Bonhoeffer believes that God's gift of grace is costly because it cost God His Son, who died on an old rugged cross for our sins. As we live out our faith, attend to the means of grace, and worship Jesus Christ, may we remember and give thanks that our salvation is a gift of grace from God. □

– Dr. William M. White, Jr.

From the Editor's Desk

First of all let me thank all of those who provided input to this latest (and late!) issue of the Clintonian. Surely many of you were beginning to wonder when and if you would ever see your work in print. Well, here it is—another 16-page publication highlighting many of the programs and activities of the latter half of 2002.

New in this issue are several articles provided by the members of the Youth Department. They have had a very busy year and we appreciate them sharing their experiences and their thoughts with us. Thanks to Damien Brown and to Ma-Waite and Saba Gongbay for their work and to Sis. Sarah Murkey for the encouragement she gave them to express themselves in this way.

From the pastors desk we are given a message that reminds of the “greatest gift.” Read about *The Gift of Salvation* in this opening article.

We can also review and recap activities of the many ministries that are active in our church including, in particular, the new Bereavement Ministry. The readings from Stewardship Month, highlights of the Women's Ministry, the Christian Education Department and the Progressive Club, Class activities and the special recognition of our members all serve to remind us of how blessed we really are.

Thanks again to everyone who contributed in any way to making this publication possible. □

Annette W. Morgan, Editor



Prayer and Praise for Clintonites



Congratulations

To **Doris Chavis** who received her Master of Science Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University. Her concentration was in Health Services.

To **Rev. Adrian V. Nelson, II** who was ordained as a Deacon at the 173rd Annual Session of the Philadelphia-Baltimore Conference.

To the following Elementary School students recognized with certificates from the Childrens' Department for their outstanding achievements:

Faite Ahaghoto—6th Grade—Honor Roll

Ashley Flowers—3rd Grade—Honor Roll

André Hodo—Leadership

Adrian Nelson, III—3rd Grade—Honor Roll

Collin Nelson—1st Grade—Working above grade level

To **Damien Brown** who was inducted to the National Junior Urban league this past September.

To **Adrian Nelson, III** who has been identified for the Gifted and Talented program.

To the following Middle and High School students recognized with certificates from the Youth Department for attaining a 3.0 or better GPA:

Damien Brown

Ebony Garcia

Sienna Garcia

Ma-Waite Gongbay

Saba Gongbay

Rebecca Martinez

Juanita Murkey

Aaron Wilson

Condolences

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES go out to our members and their families who have lost loved ones. Our prayers are with—

Mrs. Evelyn DeGraphenreid
Ms. Bernadette DeBerry
Mrs. Gwen Garcia and Mrs. Julie Hodo

Mrs. Patricia Grant
Mrs. Helen Hawkins

Ms. Annette Morgan
The Ricks Family

Alison and Alfred Vance

Ms. Keyla Washington

Mrs. Maxine Whitehead



Convalescent Members

We continue to remember our sick and shut-in with our prayers, calls, cards and visits. At press time, the following persons were on the sick and shut-in list:

Mrs. Fredda Alexander

Mr. Jasmin Flagg

Ms. Florence Powell

Mrs. Delrotha Turgott

Mr. Julian Washington

Ms. Sarah Williams

Mrs. Edna Yates



Births

Madisen Jaelen Baker to

Jeffrey and Erika Baker

Jeffrey Maurice Kenney, Jr.,

grandson of Sis. Ann Williams

David Flowers, Jr. to David and

Geraldine Flowers

The Clintonian is published by the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, 814 Westmore Avenue, Rockville, MD. Articles for the newsletter may be submitted to the chair of the Publications Ministry, Annette Morgan. Announcements of publication dates and deadlines will be contained in the church bulletin.

News of Classes and Organizations

Adult Christian Education

The Adult Christian Education Department (A.C.E.D.) is actively involved with Spiritual Insights and Dorothy Day Place. Spiritual Insights is a monthly seminar held on the first Friday of each month at the church. Bible Study is held each Monday at Dorothy Day Place, a residential haven for homeless and substance abuse women. This facility is located within the Clinton community.

Spiritual Insights is designed to enhance spiritual growth, encourage fellowship and build a greater relationship with Jesus Christ. In order to meet the goals of A.C.E.D. the following topics have been discussed thus far this conference year:

- In the Beginning – September (John 1:1–18)
- Reaping the Harvest – October (John 4:27–38)
- Praise and Thanksgiving – November (Psalm 100 and Psalm 150)
- The Gift: A Christmas Story – December (Luke 1:26–38)
- Refreshing the Body, Mind and Soul – January (Roman 12:1–2 and Corinthians 6:19–20)

You are encouraged to read the scriptures given for each session so that you will get an understanding of what was being discussed based upon the word of God. From the past sessions we have learned that the holy word is nourishment for our spirit, we must invite others to come to Christ, give praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for all he has done for us, keep the spiritual meaning of Christmas in the season, and care for our bodies as God's temple.

If you have not attended any of these seminars you are invited to come to the next three sessions before the conference year is over. You will be blessed and the experience will help to strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ. The next sessions will focus on the topics/scriptures listed:

- Soaring With the Spirit – March (Isaiah 40:31)
- Showers of Blessing – April (Ezekiel 34:26)

- Proclaiming God's Grace – May (Exodus 33:19)

You will come away with a renewed spirit to work and do the will of God, acknowledge that all things come from God and that we must always proclaim his majesty.

In addition to Spiritual Insights, A.C.E.D. gives support to the women at Dorothy Day Place. We provide weekly Bible instruction for interested residents. Presently, there are ten members attending Bible Study; the attendance has increased since our beginning in September. These women also attend our Friday evening Spiritual Insights activities at the church. They are showing a lot of interest in the word of God and we see it being manifested in their lives. For instance, a former member of the Bible Study Class exited the program at DDP and has joined our Christian fellowship at Clinton. "...*O what a foretaste of glory divine.*"

The Bible and how to use it, Prayer, the Birth of Jesus Christ and presently we are learning how to use "the tongue," but not to use it for verbal abuse. The Bible gives great lessons about the tongue and how it can be used in a positive manner.

During the Christmas Holidays, A.C.E.D. presented each participant and their children with gifts. They were very excited and appreciative for all the love that was shown to them from the members of Clinton A.M. E. Zion Church

There are many success stories of God's grace and mercy shown to the participants in our Bible Study Class. Some have received visitation rights to their children again, felonies have been dropped from their records, jobs have been obtained, and some have been released from the shelter to set up housekeeping again. Due to the fact that these women are still residences of Dorothy Day Place show that they are following the guidelines of DDP. "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.*" We are

News of Classes and Organizations

Fulfilling the Mission - "It's Action Time"

During the month of November the Young Adult Missionary Society (Y.A.M.S.) celebrated the anniversary of their organization becoming a separate department within the missionary society. Throughout the month the Y.A.M.S. participated in several activities. The Y.A.M.S. of Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church were blessed to have participated in a weekend of workshops and a candle light service. In observance of Founders day, the third Sunday morning service at Clinton was lead by the Y.A.M.S.. The preacher of the hour was The Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert, Presiding Elder of the Potomac District.

The Y.A.M.S. were excited about the opportunity to serve as the host church for the Y.A.M.S. workshop. Y.A.M.S. from the Potomac and Washington districts attended the workshop. Wendy Whitaker, Potomac District Coordinator and Antoinette E. Joiner, Washington District Coordinator were the workshop facilitators. Those that attended the workshop found it to be informative and spiritually motivating. The theme for the workshop was "It's Action Time." It is time for us to go out and fulfill the mission through teaching, giving, evangelizing, witnessing, preaching, serving, feeding and praying. This theme carried over to the next afternoon when we traveled to Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion

Church for the candle light service. Our very own Gwen Garcia presided over the worship service, the Rev. Deborah Mosley delivered the opening prayer and Sharon Tucker gave an overview on the history of the Y.A.M.S.

A highlight of the month was the Founders Day service at Clinton. The Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert charged us to go and feed the lambs and the sheep. If we are to be called Christians, missionaries, lovers of Jesus Christ then we must go. We are to go not unprepared but with the power of the Holy Spirit. The sermon was taken from John 21 where Jesus asks Simon Peter the question; "do you love me." Simon Peter answered Jesus with a resounding yes. Then Jesus responded "...Feed my lambs...Feed my sheep...Follow me."

So now "It's Action Time." Time to feed the lambs. Time to feed the sheep. Time to follow Jesus. The Y.A.M.S. at Clinton A.M.E. Zion church have much on the horizon. Sis. Stephanie Burrell Thornwell was elected as the new local Coordinator. We trust that the Lord will continue to guide our steps that we will continue to fulfill the mission. "It's Action Time." □

—Sharon Tucker

CLASS #3 FOCUSING UPON MINISTRY/OUTREACH THIS CONFERENCE YEAR

JESUS SAID: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* Following Jesus' example, Class #3 has been focusing upon ministry/outreach projects during Conference Year.

During the month of September, Class #3 spearheaded a Clinton-wide effort to raise funds in support

Adult Christian Education *Continued from page 3*

related to observe the progress made by these women and to see them returned to independent living again. "To God be the Glory!"

The members contributing to the spiritual enrichment and moral support of the women at Dorothy Day Place are sisters Nell Thompson, Jodi Doneghy, Nadine Woodrick and Fran Armstrong.

"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised." □

— Nell Thompson

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News of Classes and Organizations

Progressive Club News

THE PROGRESSIVE CLUB has re-organized its leadership following the death of long-term president Lillian B. Brown. The new officers are: Shirley Alexis, president; Reginald Coleman, vice president; Marilyn Green, Recording Secretary; and Anna Hebron, Treasurer. Under the new leadership two new members have joined and become active participants: Delores Cole and Dorothy Turner.

The organization established the Lillian B. Brown Book Award in honor of Bea Brown. Bea was a life-long educator who, after serving as a classroom teacher for over 35 years, devoted her last years to helping Clinton's college students. She was passionate about the need for education and worked tirelessly to support those from Clinton who pursued higher education. The book award will continue that support by providing each Clinton undergraduate college student a one-time book award up to \$250. To qualify, a student must be an active member of the Clinton family. For more information, contact Shirley Alexis, club president or Marilyn Green, Book Award Coordinator.

College care packages were recently mailed to six college students in time for their final exams. Packages included various kinds of goodies to ward off hunger pains during the midst of studies. This project was coordinated by Marjoria Eubanks.

The members are currently preparing to award scholarships for the annual Historical Black College Tour that is sponsored by the Montgomery County Pan-Hellenic Council. High School juniors are eligible to apply for this scholarship that pays the basic expenses of the trip. The tour is scheduled for February 15, 2003 to February 19, 2003. Interested students should contact Shirley Alexis or Dr. Mary Jackson for additional information.

Giant gift cards are available on

an on-going basis. Cards are available in the following denominations: \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100. Cards can be used to purchase any items that are sold by Giant Food Store. This includes toiletries, prescriptions, automotive products, magazines, and cards. Cards are available from Shirley Alexis and Beverley Canaday.

The 30th anniversary of the Valentine Tea was held on Sunday, February 9, 2003. Details regarding this service will be available soon. □

– Beverley Canaday



Class 3 News... *Continued from page 4*

of Clinton Junior College's Library Book Fund Drive. The effort raised five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for Clinton Junior College.

In October, Class #3 sponsored a Family and Friends Game Night/Potluck Dinner, which was held at the Twinbrook Community Center. The purpose of the Dinner was to introduce Clinton to our family members and friends who do not have a church home. Nearly 25 members of the class, including children, participated in this outreach ministry. As a result of the effort, the class was able to provide food and small toys to a homeless family that God preordained to be at the community center where the activity was held.

Class #3 prepared Thanksgiving baskets in November. A turkey was provided to a member of the church, a complete Thanksgiving basket was provided to a family in the community, and Thanksgiving fixings were provided to another family in the community.



Class 3's Families Fellowship

News of Classes and Organizations

CLASS 10 AND THE YOUTH MINISTRY

The first class meeting for this conference year was held on Sunday, September 15, 2002. Our officers for the year are:

President: Damien Brown

Vice President: Rebecca Martinez

Recording Secretary: Nakesha Hodo

Corresponding Secretary: Juanita Murkey

Editors: All Members

Chaplains: Ma-Waite Gongbay
Stephanie Eubanks
Saba Gongbay

This year we have started a Youth Ministry Committee. The members of the committee are Emma Smith, Deitra Whitehead, Shirley Alexis, Stephanie Thornwell, Pearl Flowers, Brook Walters, Sarvilla Pope, Dorothy Jackson, Simone Geness, Geraldine Wilson, Frank Ross, Rev. Deborah Mosley and Rev. Adrian Nelson, II.

Youth involved in many Activities and Programs

July – August 2002: They started the year with a Social-Pizza party at the home of the Murkeys. This was a great end of the school year and free for the summer activity. They spent the remainder of their summer traveling, attending summer school, performing community service and enjoying the break. Nekesha Hodo and Mawaite Gongbay represented the group and Clinton at the Christian Education Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina in August. They participated in many activities and learned a lot about the Christian Education programs in the A.M.E. Zion Church. A special Thank you to Rev. Mosely and Mr. Mosely for taking the girls and chaperoning them for three days.

September—December 2002: We had our first planning meeting with the Youth Ministry Committee and our first class meeting for the year. I am extremely excited to have so many people working with our youth.

Fifteen students attended our first class meeting. Mrs. Betty Williams-Hardy coordinated a workshop on

How to make this school year your Best school year yet! It was a great workshop. They all agreed that a positive attitude is the number one factor one must have in order to be successful. Other factors included setting goals and being motivated. Study skills and how to study was discussed at length. They all agreed to the following as good examples of how to study:

Picture in your mind

Use your eyes to see clearly

Read every night

Read your notes every night

Use notes cards

Visualize

Listen in class and ask questions if you do not understand

Complete all homework every night

The class meeting culminated with a pizza dinner and watching two videos.

Four students (Ranual Coleman, Mawaite Gongbay, Saba Gongbay and Juanita Murkey) participated in the **Community Health Festival** sponsored by the Holistic Health and Advisory Ministry on September 13, 2002. They enjoyed the fair and had fun sharing information on the danger of drugs and alcohol, juvenile diabetes, eating healthy and much more. It was a great day for these young people.

The **Potomac District Youth Choir** has been a blessing for four girls, Terry, Nekesha, Juanita and Mawaite. In April, I invited all of the youth to join the district youth choir. These four girls wanted to join. They knew it would be a commitment for them because of the time involved for rehearsals and performances. Since joining the choir they have met and become friends with youth from all of the churches in the District. They do not want to miss a practice or a performance. They love this ministry. In addition to the rehearsals and performances for the choir they attended a **District Choir**

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Youth Ministry... *Continued from page 6*

Retreat in November. In addition to the choir members Stephanie Eubanks attended the retreat along with Rev. Mosely. The retreat ended at 4:00pm.

On the same day as the retreat, the **Liturgical dance group**, under the direction of Rev. Mosely and Mrs. Hodo, performed at Jerusalem Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m. What a full and blessed day that was for our young people. They did not complain once. Praise the Lord.

Our **Mentoring** group is in full swing. Thank you members of class 9, class 6 and the Sons of Varick for agreeing to form a partnership with the youth ministry. This program is designed to provide another adult in the church for the youth to talk with, do things with they enjoy doing, get encouragement from and know that someone, other than their parents, care about how they are doing. Another adult is going to say, "how are things going today?" "Is there anything I can help you with today?" The Mentor Kick-Off day was October 13, 2002. It is in its infant stage but growing. If you would like to be a mentor please see me.

Youth Study night is a blessing for our young people. Miss Brook Walters is the coordinator for this program and is at Clinton A.M.E. Zion church every Monday night from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We have from three to nine students every Monday night. Mrs. Pearl Flowers joined us in October and is there at least three times a month. The high school students love her for her support in math. Class nine member Dorothy Jackson assist every second Tuesday night and Marilyn Green every First Tuesday Night. Brandon Greene joined us last week. We are excited to have him join us in this great Ministry.

Youth Bible Study and Youth Reflection Group Meeting with Rev. Nelson are held once a month. Youth Reflection group meetings with Rev. Dr. White are scheduled throughout the conference year. Our first meeting with Rev. White was on December 17, 2002. Bible study is held the 4th Tuesday night each month from 7:00-8:00PM unless there is a conflict. The Topic for November Bible Study was Prayer. The Scriptures were Matthew 6:9 and Philippians 4:6-7. Part 1 of the lesson was a review of the verses and discussions from previous lessons. Part 2 of the lesson was on "How to Pray".

This was lead by Mrs. Geraldine Wilson, a member of the Youth Ministry Committee. Mrs. Judy Wilson joined us for this session.

Five Youth and seven children participated in the **Potomac District Christian Education Convocation** that was held at Alleyne A.M.E. Zion Church on September 29, 2002. Mrs. Tina Nelson was one of the keynote speakers for the adults. At the youth meeting Nakesha Hodo was elected to the District Youth Executive Board to represent Clinton A.M.E. Zion. **Congratulations Nakesha!**

Our overnight **Youth Retreat** is our major project for this conference year. The retreat will be held on January 31-February 1 at the Marriott Hotel in Gaithersburg, MD. The Theme is "**Kingdom Building: Back To Basics-Salvation, Transformation, Sanctification and Continuation.**" Please support our efforts.

The People Who Walked in Darkness have seen a Great Light. (Isaiah 9:2) □

– Sarah Pinkney-Murkey
Youth Director



Class 3 News... *Continued from page 5*

During December Class #3, along with Class #2, went caroling at the Montgomery Village Rehabilitation Center. The two classes provided 30 gift baskets to the residents of the nursing home.



Classes 2 & 3 bring Christmas cheer to Nursing Home residents

Look for other upcoming Class #3 sponsored ministry projects in the New Year. To God be the glory for the move of His Spirit within Class #3. □

– Rev. Adrian Nelson, II

Women's Ministry

"Sisters in Christ, Abiding in His Love"

THIS CONFERENCE YEAR our theme is "Sisters In Christ, Living for Christ," following the scripture, John 15:12-17.

Sisters in Christ continue to maintain their focus on enriching our body, minds, spirits and our relationship with God and each other. During the summer months we planned our complete calendar for 2002-2003 conference year.

We held our Annual Prayer Breakfast on September 7th, at the Quality Suite Hotel. Rev. Verlie Peters was our preacher for the hour and she blessed us with a message focusing on loving and living for Christ. Much of the success of the breakfast was due to the committee, which included Geraldine Wilson, Jodi Doneghy, and Lillie Martinez. Sister Helen Hawkins prayer offered prayers for our women's ministry, prayer for our Church was given by Sister Geraldine Wilson, prayer for our family was given by Sister Maude Newstead, prayer for all was given by The Rev. Dr. E. Marie Johnson. Others on the program were Sister Tina Nelson, who sang a solo; Sister Thelma Monk who did a reading on Love, Sister Annette Morgan blessed the food, and Sister Jodella Doneghy gave the welcome and purpose. All was conducted under the leadership of our The Rev. Deborah Mosley.

On October 7th we held our African Village gathering at the home of Sister Katherine Burrell. Our focus was on caring for our spirits and body. Sister Gloria Camp, along with Sister Tonia White, our presenters, started the gathering with prayer and recognition of those sisters who have passed since our last gathering. Following a period of meditation, the women were treated to head and back massage and also hand massage therapy. Rev. Mosley also participated in giving hand therapy. During the individual treatments, the others of the group read and gave reflection on the book "I Ask For Intimacy" by The Rev. Renita Weems. Lunch and fellowship followed. The committee persons were Sisters Gina Harrell and Jodi Doneghy.

Annual Woman's Day service was held on Sunday, October 27, 2002. Sisters Stephanie Thornwell and Emma Smith were the co-chairpersons. The theme was "Sisters

In Christ, Living for Christ, through Love, Service and Sacrifice." The women's day choir was under the direction of Sister Beverley Canaday. Our guest preacher was The Rev. Mignonne Snipes (see article below).

We had 10 Golden Wings attend the annual Christmas celebration at the Lula G. Williams Education and Wellness Center in Dinwiddie, VA. We thank our drivers Bro. O. W. Burrell and Sister Mary Alice King. Group caroling, story reading and music were offered by the attending ministers, along with the luncheon meal, gave special meaning to the day's activities. Each person left with a gift bag. Sister Bernice Williams was recognized as the oldest lady present, at 90 years young.

On January 24-25, 2003, we held our annual Women's Retreat at Wellspring Retreat Center. Dr. Phyllis Mayo blessed us with tips on Stress Management and Sis. Angela Brown of Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church gave the empowerment presentation.

We ask for continued support from all our members and friends and pray that God will continue to shine upon His followers. □

—Katherine Burrell, Coordinator

Women's Day 2002

The Rev. Mignonne E. M. Snipes, the Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs and the Dean of Residential Life at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina and Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies,



Rev. Snipes with Pastor White and co-chairs Thornwell and Smith

was the guest speaker at Women's Day 2002. Rev. Snipes, a member of the Salisbury District of the Philadelphia-Baltimore Conference, challenged, not just the women, but all members of the congregation to "Walk into your season, for the best is yet to come." □

Youth Page

The National Achievers Society by Damien Brown

THE URBAN LEAGUE, founded in 1910, is a nonprofit organization that deals with community service and civil rights issues involving blacks throughout the United States. (The Greater Washington Urban League, a branch of the original Urban League, was developed in 1938.) In March of 1997, the Urban League, along with other African American groups, talked about educational and social issues revolving among today's African American children. As a result, they initiated a campaign to acknowledge African American achievement. One piece of this massive campaign was the adoption of the National Achiever's Society. Due to a partnership with the Urban League and the Congress of National Black Churches, a coalition of over 65,000 churches, The Achiever's Society was made to give support to blacks who show determination and achievement in school, in their life, and in their community.

In September of this year I was inducted, with about 180 other inductees, into this prestigious society. After I read about the accomplishments and ideology of the League, it made me feel very blessed to be part of a society that is trying its best to enhance the black youth of America, especially in times of tragedy such as September 11, and the sniper shootings. As I walked upon that stage to receive my award, I felt I now had an obligation to set a good example for the next generation of blacks since they will depend on me and my fellow peers to lead them. I hope that I will make not only my parents proud but all the elders throughout the years that have shaped me to the person I am today. *A foundation is only as strong as the integrity of the pieces that were used to make it.*

As a fitting end to this article, this is the student pledge that all the inductees had to say to solidify their spot in the society:

I believe "Achievement Matters," and that striving for excellence is a daily responsibility.

I believe my reach should exceed my grasp, that

whatever I propose, I can accomplish, wherever my life's journey takes me.

I will not be satisfied with less than my best.

I will not allow anyone or anything to deprive the world of my best efforts.

Therefore, I PLEDGE TO WORK UP TO MY FULLEST POTENTIAL IN SCHOOL, AT HOME, AND IN MY COMMUNITY BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT "ACHIEVEMENT MATTERS."

This is my pledge. This is my promise, so help me God! □

Clinton Youth Attend Christian Education Quadrennial

Nakeisha Hodo and I attended the 20th Quadrennial General Convention on Christian Education in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 3-5, 2002. We attended programs, workshops, luncheons and banquets.

We learned a lot about Christian Education and the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Our trip to North Carolina was wonderful. It was a lot of fun and we learned a lot. We had so much fun, we didn't even want to come home! We got the opportunity of visiting Livingstone College (Salisbury, North Carolina) and Johnson C. Smith University (Charlotte). We also visited the Pastor's (Dr. White's) home church, where we took some pictures.

Everything was a really great experience and my relationship with God has gotten closer. I live each and every day hoping to do everything in His way. □

Ma-Waite Gongbay

District Youth Choir Holds Retreat

The Potomac District Youth Choir held a retreat on November 2, 2002. The retreat was held at Union Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church in Washington, DC. It was called "Whatcha Lookin' 4?" It began at 9:30 a.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m. There were three main sessions in the re-

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Rev. Mosley with Keisha and Ma-Waite

Community News

Clintonite Honored



Wanda Walters

CLINTONITE, WANDA WALTERS, was awarded the prestigious Community Connector Award during the Arc of Montgomery County's Annual Awards Banquet held at the Gaithersburg Hilton on June 9, 2002. This recognition reflects the significant contributions she has made toward enhancing the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities.

Since 2000 Wanda has taken a leadership role in the following: Montgomery College (Graduate Transition Program and Day-time Summer Classes for Transitioning Youth and Young Adults); Metro Movers (traveling by Metro, participants increase their ability to more fully utilize the cultural and recreational resources in the Greater Washington area); Swim with Friends (Monday night swimming

instruction for special needs advanced skilled swimmers at the Montgomery Aquatic Center); and Administrative Assistant for the Special Olympics Aquatic Program.

Wanda is one of the parents who spearheaded the creation of The Graduate Transition Program at Montgomery College and currently serves on its advisory board. On October 24, 2002, this program received the Pyramid Margit Meissner Excellence in Transition Award. This award was sponsored by the Montgomery County Executive's Office, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Human Resources and the Commission on People with Disabilities.

The Clinton Church Family congratulates Wanda for her commitment to these endeavors. At Clinton, she works tirelessly with the children coordinating the activities of the Children's Church and directing the children in their special dramatic productions. She and her husband, Edward, are the parents of two adult children, Brooke and Ryan. □

Class #6 Provides a Community Service

OUR COMMUNITY CRISIS during the fall of 2002 involving a sniper received National attention. The Montgomery County Police Chief, Dr. Charles Moose, led the team of investigators. They worked around the clock investigating as well as providing extra police coverage to protect the citizens of Montgomery County. This effort ultimately produced the identification of the sniper. Because of the long hours, members of Clinton's Class #6 fixed dinner and carried it to the Police Command Post for the chief and all other investigators. Class #6 is led by Sis. Wilma K. Holmes.

This act of kindness was well received and appreciated. A note of thanks came to our pastor, The Rev. Dr. William Milton White, Jr., from Chief Moose. □

Wilma K. Holmes,
Class Leader

Clinton Hosts College Fair

The Silver Spring chapter of The Links, Inc. held its first college fair for students planning to attend college in 2003 at Clinton on October 5, 2002. The University of Maryland and Montgomery College representatives were present to provide the students with information about scholarships opportunities at their schools. A representative from West Point and American Veterans Association was also present. The American Veterans representative explained to the parents and student that any child wishing to attend college that has a veteran in the immediate family can get an annual scholarship.

A Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) counselor and teacher attended and presented students information regarding the preparing to take the SAT. Both presentations gave the student hands on opportunities.

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Community News

The Mothers' Union (MU)

by Mrs. Alice-Maude Newstead



(Ed. Note: Mrs. Newstead is a native of Sierra Leone, in western Africa, currently living in Rockville. She has become a very active member of the Clinton Church Family and recently co-chaired the African Heritage observance at the church.)

Alas! The Mothers' union now has a branch in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Already, there are branches in Boston, New York, Atlanta and Florida.

What is the Mothers' Union? It is a world-wide Anglican Episcopalian organization, whose purpose it is to be concerned with all aspects of Christian life.

Why was the Mothers' Union founded? Mary Sumner, an English woman, founded the Mothers' Union in 1876. From what she saw at the birth of her first child, she became more aware of the responsibility of parents, not only in caring for their children's physical well being, but also for their spiritual nurture and growth.

What is the aim and what are the objectives of the Mothers' Union? The aim is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In order to carry this out, there are five objectives.

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding. Members hold conferences and training sessions, including marriage preparation, in their branches and dioceses. The Society offers spiritual support and development to all, irrespective of color, race or denomination.
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church. In many ways the members give practical support to young families both within the church and the wider community, e.g., running crèches (day nurseries), mother and toddler groups and parenting courses. They also support and lead The Girls Friendly Society (a society which caters to girls between 7–21 years of age) in the Anglican/Episcopalian Church.
3. To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer, worship and service. Members not only give very generously to fund workers and

projects in many parts off the Anglican Communion, but they daily through a wave of prayer for fellow members around the world. Specific countries are identified daily that members pray for—in groups or individually.

4. To promote conditions in society favorable to stable family life and the protection of children. Any proposed legislation affecting the family is discussed and comments passed to the relevant Government Committee. There is active monitoring of all forms of the media.
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity. Many branches are involved in offering practical support, e.g., running prison crèches and tea-bars, debt counseling, providing holidays for those needing a break, child contact centers so that separated families can spend time together. Regular visits are also paid to Old People's Homes, Hospitals, areas frequented by drug addicts, etc.

As a voluntary organization, the Mothers' Union offers friendship, care and unconditional love to thousands of women and men throughout the world, a life-line for many families. It is a praying, teaching and caring society.

Membership is open to both men and women who have been baptized in the name of the Trinity and who support the aims and objectives. Although few men have decided to become members, we do encourage them to join when the opportunity arises.

How it all started in our area—next issue. □

—Alice-Maud Newstead,
Member/Vice-President
M.U. Washington Metropolitan Area

The Sunday School Department “Moving Forward”

On October 13, 2002, the Sunday School Department held its annual “Back-to-Sunday School Breakfast.” Officers for the conference year were elected. They are: Secretary - Saba Gongbay, Assistant Secretary – Ian Nelson, Treasurer – Eugene Coleman, and Assistant Treasurer – Helen Bright. During the Breakfast, the Department recognized its teachers and presented them with a thank-you card, an apple, and a book of prayers. The current Department staff is: Kindergarten & 1st grade – Anna Hebron, 2nd & 3rd grade – Michelle Ross, 4th & 5th grade – Clive Alexis, 6th–8th grades – Rev. Deborah Mosley, High School – Dr. Barbara Quinton, Young Adult – Rev. Adrian Nelson, and Adult – Lorenzo Ricks. Currently there is no Pre-school class because there are no students in that age range who regularly attend. There are plans to staff this class when it becomes necessary. Also recognized and presented with gifts at the Breakfast were Jeanette Gray, who was the teacher for the Kindergarten & 1st grade class for the past five (5) years, and Clyde Williams who serves as Assistant Superintendent, and substitute teacher for the High School and Adult classes.

In an effort to increase attendance, the Department provides incentive awards for students who attain monthly perfect attendance. Incentives include movies, videos, pizza parties, etc. In October, we took five (5) students to see *Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie*. It was a great movie. We had a wonderful time and the children learned the biblical story of Jonah in a manner in which they could relate. Other efforts to be implemented include the creation of a Department brochure to be handed out to visitors along with the church brochure, mailing post cards to habitually absent students and Vacation Bible School attendees, and attending class meetings to encourage attendance. If we haven’t made it to your class meeting yet, don’t worry, we’re on our way!

On Saturday, December 21, 2002, the Department held its annual Christmas party. The afternoon’s activities included craft making, movie watching, and lunching. The Department also assisted the Children’s Catechism class with its annual Christmas play on December 22, 1002.

You are all invited and encouraged to become an active part of our wonderful Department. Sunday School is held each Sunday morning from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. A continental breakfast is sometimes served thanks to our dedicated staff. You’ll have to show up to find out when. As Pastor White says, you have to “know the story to tell the story.” Learning the story begins in Sunday School. See you Sunday!

– Tina Smith Nelson
Superintendent



District Choir Retreat... *Continued from page 9*

treat. The first session was called, “*Ain’t Gonna Let No Rock Out Praise Me*,” or the Biblical Foundations of Music. This session was led by The Rev. Willie Duvall, Pastor of Word of God A.M.E. Zion Church in Bladensburg, MD.

The second session was called “*Only If God Says Yes*,” or Exploring What Makes Music Gospel. This session was led by The Rev. Scot C. Moore, Pastor of Judah Tempe A.M.E. Zion Church, in Mitchellville, MD. Rev. Moore is also the co-director of the Potomac District Youth Choir (PDYC).

The last major session was called “*The Reason Why We Sing*,” or Committed to the Cause. The Session was presented by The Rev. Kathryn G. Brown, Director of Christian Education for the Philadelphia-Baltimore Annual Conference.

While at the retreat we also had time to talk about what we learned in a session called “*Let’s Talk About It*” led by The Rev. Deborah Johnson Mosley of Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, Rockville MD. We also had a chance to “*Sing Praises to the King*” or sing Gospel Karaoke.

I really enjoyed this retreat and felt that it made me closer with God. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to experience the retreat “*Whatcha Looking 4?*,” for the members of the Potomac District Youth Choir.

Saba Gongbay

Stewardship Month Readings—January 2003

“Stewardship of Life, Part II — Trusting God With Our Time”

Clinton Church annually recognizes January as Stewardship Month. Throughout the month, the Board of Stewards will share information with you that pertain to our theme: *“Stewardship of Life, Part II — Trusting God with our Time.”*

Last year we discussed the fact that God has entrusted us with His creation, and we have the privilege and responsibility to be good stewards or caretakers of those things that belong to God. We are mindful that all things come from God, and that we simply return what He has given us in time, talent and tithes.

While we are called to be faithful stewards of what God has created and entrusted to us, we are also called to be faithful stewards of our lives. This means living a life that is pleasing to God through prayer, obedience to His Word, corporate or community worship, and study of the Scriptures.

As we focus on how we spend our time this year, we are also called to examine how we spend our time in service to the Lord through **evangelism**. Evangelism is the responsibility of every Christian believer.

Simply put, evangelism is:

1. Proclamation: which is telling the story of Jesus Christ and his love.
2. Invitation: which is inviting others to share in the story of salvation through Jesus Christ, and making it their own story.
3. Initiation: which is teaching and nurturing the new member of the body of Christ through

Christian education, the Class Leader system and the other ministries of the Church.

Each member is encouraged to invite at least one person a month this year to Christ and his church. Let us spend our time proclaiming, inviting and initiating. For “sheep make other sheep and Christians make other Christians.”

Evangelism

As we tell others what Christ has done for us, we will find ourselves growing by spiritual leaps and bounds. As Christians and followers of Christ, we must tell of the goodness and mercies of Christ.

It is imperative for the continued growth of the Kingdom of God and His church, to witness to those who are inside and outside of the church. As you think of the promises that God has made and given to you, share your testimony with a friend or a colleague, as God puts it on your heart to share. You may never know how your testimony and witness can touch or affect someone else.

Psalm 66:16–17 *“Come and listen, all who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.”*

Time

God has given us the gift of time. Give some of it back to Him. Time spent working in the vineyard is surely rewarded.

Hosea 10:12 says, *“Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.”*

We make time to do for our friends, our families and ourselves; seldom do we make time for God. Not only do we need to make time to do HIS work but also, we must first make time daily to meet HIM in prayer and meditation so that we will know the work he means for us to do.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not ham you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Are you making time for Him?

Talents

Romans 12:6 says that A God has given us the ability to do certain things well. We all have talents big and small. Are you using yours to strengthen God’s church? Your God-given talents are yet another example of God’s promises to you. Use your talents to participate in the life of the church, join one of our ministries, and express your desire to participate in the life of the church, join one of our ministries, and express your desire to the Pastor to serve on a board or in an organization. Evm if you are not currently on a board or organization, offer to assist with an activity. For example, many Clinton family members, who are not Stew-

Continued on page 14

Stewardship Readings... *Continued from page 13*

ards, assisted with the annual Thanksgiving dinner, and those who were not a member of the Health and Holistic Advisory Ministry assisted with the health fair or participated in the Breast Cancer awareness walk.

Romans 8:28 says, *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

Your talents are meant to be shared, work with the Children’s Church, the Youth Department, the Adult Christian Education Department, or the Missionary Society. These are excellent opportunities to share your talents and your testimony of how you have benefited from God’s promises.

Tithes

God will provide all of our “needs,” but we must first trust and believe. How many times have you put your last dollar in the offering or used it to buy something needed for the church only to be blessed financially out of nowhere... Well, it’s not out of “nowhere,” it is another evidence of God’s promises. Because you trusted Him he was true to His word. This is another testimony to give as you evangelize about your trust in God’s promises.

Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Malachi 3:10 says *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that*

there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

Have you let God prove it to you? □



VBS “On-line With Jesus”

The staff and students of the 2002 Vacation Bible School (VBS) session were “On-line With Jesus” from July 8th–19th. This year’s Urban Ministries, Inc. theme was taken from 1 Corinthians 1:9, “God...invited you into this wonderful friendship with His son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” The central theme reminded us that like the Internet, we have daily, 24-hour access to God through Jesus Christ. If we stay connected to him, we will receive power and will always be in worship with him.

Daily sessions began with Devotion from 6:00–6:15 p.m. Classroom instruction was held from 6:15–8:00 p.m., with dinner served from 8:00–8:30 p.m. The weeks’ lessons focused on the following concepts: 1) we are created in God’s image, 2) sinning displeases God, 3) God answers prayer, 4) be proud of who you are, 5) we must care about the plight of others, 6) stand up for what you believe, 7) you can be forgiven, 8) God can use ordinary people, 9) it pays to be loyal to Jesus, and 10) diligence pays off. Through bible study, craft activities, and music,

the students learned how to apply these concepts to their individual lives.

This was the second year that VBS was held for two weeks. With seventy-two registered students, we needed all the hands and hearts we could get. Thanks to a number of dedicated volunteers, we were able to have two separate staffs to cover each week. A few staffers chose to brave both weeks. Many thanks go to all who volunteered. It could not and would not have been done without your commitment and cooperation. Heaven indeed smiled upon you.

“Nana the Storyteller” opened the 2002 session with bible stories and songs. Her unique performance required audience participation including call & response, hand clapping, and foot stomping. Everyone responded well, participated and joined in the fun. The children were treated to “movie night” the first Friday, complete with movie snacks. The last Friday was our annual close out program and picnic. Each class gave a presentation to share with us a little of what they learned through out the two weeks. The Holy Spirit was truly present, and several children gave their lives to Christ during Dr. White’s call to Christian Discipleship. What a blessing to see the fruit of our labor!

A catered dinner to thank the staffers was held in October. Planning for next year has already begun. Don’t miss out on your blessing! Begin now to make plans for VBS 2003. The dates will be July 7– 18, 2003. □

Tina Smith Nelson
Director, VBS

Bits and Pieces

Children's Catechism

IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS of both parents and students, Children's Catechism has been expanded to include the 10–12 year olds. Previously, our children aged out of the existing Catechism program at age 10 and were not eligible to participate in the youth reflection group until age 13. Thus there was a void for the 10–12 year old at this critical stage of their spiritual development. The older children are very excited about their new class and its materials. Often church has ended and they lament, "Oh do we have to go?" What a blessing!

Consequently, Children's Catechism is now experiencing a tremendous growth in attendance. The continued success of this program will depend on expanding our staff. Please contact either Wanda Walters, Tina Nelson, Shirley Alexis, or Julie Hodo if you are able to assist one Sunday a month. All lesson materials and other resources are provided.



College Fair... *Continued from page 10*

Additionally, a retired MCPS Principal discussed preparing for the vocabulary portion of the test.

Fifteen student and parents attended the fair. The concluding evaluations indicated that the information received from the fair was very helpful. A second fair is planned for early March for 10th and 11th graders.

Both Clinton A. M. E. Zion Church and the Silver Spring Chapter of The Links, Inc. give scholarships to deserving high school seniors annually. Currently there are eleven (11) students with 3.5 grade point averages attending colleges around the country receiving scholarship and book money from the Silver Spring Chapter of The Links, Inc.

Both Clinton A. M. E. Zion Church members and The Links, Inc. are committed to supporting African American students in their pursuit of higher education. □

Wilma K. Holmes

The annual Children and Youth Christmas Program took place on December 22, 2002, during the morning worship hour. Many thanks to musicians Stephanie Lawrence-White and Ed Walters, Wilma Holmes for costumes, Jeanette Gray and members of the Children's Catechism staff for their continued support. □

Bereavement Ministry

ONE OF THE NEWEST MINISTRIES formed at Clinton Church is the Bereavement Ministry. This ministry was established with the following stated purposes:

- To provide comfort and support to those who have lost loved ones
- To demonstrate the ministry of presence after a loss
- To give the bereaved a physical sense that they are not alone
- To support the efforts of the Ministers and Class Leaders when someone passes. (It does not, however, take the place of the Class Leaders' responsibilities.)

The nuclear organization is busy now getting themselves prepared for this tremendous task. They have elected the following officers:

President ----- Sis. Fran Armstrong
 Vice-President -- Sis. Mary Alice King
 Secretary ----- Sis. Keyla Washington
 Treasurer ----- Sis. Eless Brown

Their short-term agenda includes Bereavement Training—clarifying the do's and don'ts for counseling/consoling the bereaved; and soliciting information from each member that will help meet the many and varied support needs in our congregation. Information from members, such as, next-of-kin and emergency contact persons, will help them establish a basic data base to facilitate their work.

The support and assistance this ministry will provide will, of course, vary with each individual situation. However, many will benefit greatly from this "extra" level of attention in their time of sorrow.

Let us encourage this ministry by cooperating with their data collection efforts and by supporting their plans as they begin to implement them. □

The Clintonian Back Page

Websites of Interest

for Church Members and
Christian Educators

www.cultureofthecall.com

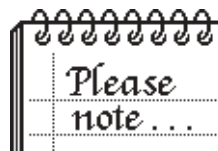
www.aboutrightnow.com

www.wesleyministrynetwork.com

Changed Your Address?

If you have a new address and/or phone number please let us know. Give the updated information to your Class Leader or to Sis. Annette Morgan. Thank you.

UPCOMING



EVENTS

Young Adult Relationships Seminar

Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church

March 29, 2003

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Rockville MD

Potomac District Conference

April 3-5, 2003

Lomax A.M.E. Zion Church (Thursday)

Union Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church (Friday)

Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church (Saturday)

Annual Men's Day

Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church

April 27, 2003

11:00 a.m.

Rockville MD

Philadelphia-Baltimore Conference 174th Annual Session

May 20-24, 2003

Turf Valley Resort & Conference Center
Ellicott City MD

Clinton A. M. E. Zion Church
814 Westmore Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
www.clintnamezion.org

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