

Left: Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., delivered the sermon for the Service of Holy Communion held during the 21st Annual CME Convocation in Las Vegas.



"Together We Can"

The Ninth Episcopal Connection

3844 West Slauson, Suite 1 Los Angeles, CA 90043 323-294-3830/Fax: 323-294-4167 e-mail: ninthhq@sbcglobal.net

Volume V, Issue I

www.ninthdistrictcme.org

October-December 2007

Inside This Issue

Highlights of Annual CME Convocation	1-2
2007 Mid-Winter Council Information	2
Support the 9th District Special Fund	2
Our Students at CME Colleges/Seminary	2
One Church One School 12th Annual Partnership Conference	3
News From Around the Connection & 9th District Regions	4

Mark Your Calendar

2008

January 7-9, 2008

12th Annual Pastors' Conference/ Founders Day Celebration
Atlanta, GA

April 2-4, 2008

9th Episcopal District Spring Convocation Missionary & Leadership Institute
Hosted by:
Hayes Tabernacle
Los Angeles, California
Reverend Joseph C. Gardner, Pastor

May 26-29, 2008

Alaska-Pacific Region Annual Conference
Hosted by First CME Anchorage, Alaska
Reverend Paul Everett, Pastor

The Ninth Episcopal District Host the 21st Annual CME Convocation in Las Vegas, Nevada September 18-21, 2007

"From Good to Great: Developing Christian Disciples and Leaders"

The Ninth Episcopal District did an outstanding job at hosting the 21st Annual CME Convocation, held September 18-21, 2007, at the Rivera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. First CME Williamson Temple, under the leadership of Pastor Dorothy Dykes, was the host church. Thanks is extended to Pastor Dorothy Dykes, Rev. Pansy Washington of Phillips Temple CME (Los Angeles, CA), who served as the local coordinator, and to the members of the 9th District Steering Committee.

On Sunday, September 16, many of our Bishops, General Officers, and Connectional friends worshipped at the host church. Bishop E. Lynn Brown, presiding prelate of the Second Episcopal District, delivered the sermon.

During the Convocation, the College of Bishops and Women's Missionary Council President showed church members

how easy it is to take an HIV Test by demonstrating the test themselves, and to draw attention to the high rate of HIV/AIDS in Black communities across this country. In preparation for World AIDS Day (December 1, 2007) our leaders challenged the members, as well as African Americans nationwide, to join the



Bishop & Mrs. Henry M. Williamson, Sr.



Photo by Marty Frierson

"1 in a Million" campaign, a call-to-action for 1 million Black Americans to get screened for HIV by December 1, 2008 (World AIDS Day). Bishop Henry M. Williamson Sr., Chair of the College of Bishops, stated that, "It is urgent for the Black church to take

the leadership in the HIV/AIDS testing initiative throughout our nation."

Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick III, presiding prelate of the Fifth Episcopal District, delivered an eloquent keynote address. Bishop Williamson

(continued on page 2)

Sunday School motto: *We want to make our Sunday School a school that teaches, a school that reaches every available home, a school that lives, a school that gives to make God's kingdom come.*

21st Annual CME Convocation News *(continued)*

preached a powerful sermon for the service of Holy Communion.

Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., presiding prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District, led the daily bible study sessions, "*Developing Christian Disciples: A Journey of Faith and Perseverance.*"

On Friday, Senior Bishop William H. Graves, Sr. delivered a powerful message for the Commissioning and Covenanting Service.

For the first time, our members and friends from around the world were able to view our Convocation events on the Internet by the efforts of the Department of Lay Ministry's CME TV Network and a partnership with Streaming Faith!

Special thanks is extended to the Ninth District Mass Choir, under the leadership of Mr. Everett Baines, for their hard work in providing excellent balanced music for the worship experience on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Thanks to Mrs. Diana Winton, President of Connectional Ushers, who did an excellent job in coordinating the ushers and leading them in a special march that brought the audience to their feet.

Ninth District Students at CME Colleges and Seminary

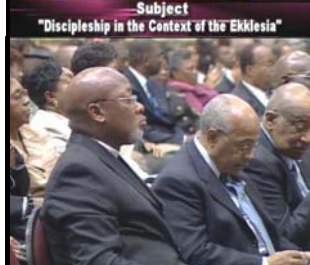
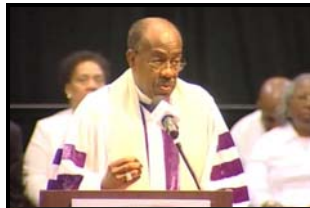
Lane College: Dwayne Cross, Kendall Lewis and Dasha Wickliff

Miles College: Kevin Clark and Michelle Sharperson

Paine College: Katherine Sheppard and Rachel Taylor

Phillips School of Theology: Cornelius Neal, Rev. Reginald Walton and Rev. Bernard Jackson (Candler)

Scenes from the Convocation



Photos are courtesy of CIT Ministry / CME TV Network

Support the 9th District Special Fund

The 9th District Special Fund was established to provide financial stability and reduce debt; support and provide scholarships to young men and women from the Ninth District attending our four CME colleges (Lane, Miles, Paine and Texas) and Phillips School of Theology; and assist churches in each presiding elder's district. Our goal for the 1,000 Club is 1,000 members of the 9th District giving \$100 at the Spring Convocation, and 100 members of the 9th District giving \$1,000 at the annual conferences. Your support is needed and appreciated!

2007 Mid-Winter Councils

Arizona New Mexico Region

November 1-2, 2007

Host Church: Phillips Chapel CME

Rev. Brian Reese, Pastor

Rev. Hurley Grissom, Presiding Elder

Oklahoma Region

November 15-17, 2007

Host Church: Holsey Temple CME

Rev. Dr. Ashanti Alexander, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stacy Cole, Presiding Elder

Alaska Pacific Region

November 29-December 1, 2007

Host Churches: Christ Temple and Greater Love CME

Rev. Carolyn Thomas and Rev.

Robert McIntyre, Jr., Pastors

Rev. Dr. Leroy Haynes, Jr., Presiding Elder

Northern and Southern California Regions

December 7-9, 2007

Host Church: Davis Chapel CME

Rev. Dr. Nicholas Betts, Pastor

Rev. Thurston Callier, Presiding Elder

Mark your calendar for the Ninth District Spring Convocation—April 2-4, 2008;

For additional information, contact the Episcopal office at 323-294-3830 or e-mail ninthhq@sbcglobal.net



Mr. Kerry Van Isom, center, receives Volunteer of the Year Award from Mrs. Phedonia Johnson and Bishop Williamson

12th Annual One Church One School Partnership Conference

“Church/School Partnerships: Teaching the Value of Life”

The 12th Annual One Church One School Partnership Conference was held Thursday, October through Friday, October 26, 2007, at the Oak Lawn Hilton Hotel Conference Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois. This 15 year old child advocacy organization, founded by Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., has established church/school partnerships across the nation and been a catalyst for the organization of other faith based, civic and community partnerships that serve children and support schools. Mrs. Phedonia Johnson is the National Education Director.

The conference began on Thursday morning with a high energy Student Empowerment Seminar. Approximately 500 students from the Chicago area and Gary, Indiana high schools attended the seminar at the University of Chicago’s International House.



Mr. Enoch Muhammad, creator of **Hip Hop Detoxx**, led the students to explore the impact of Hip Hop on behavior and achievement.

Bishops E. Lynn Brown; Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr.; Paul A.G. Stewart; Lawrence L. Reddick, III; Henry M. Williamson, Sr.; Ronald M. Cunningham; Thomas L. Brown, Sr.; and Dotcy I. Isom, Jr. were in attendance at the Conference.



Photos courtesy of Norm Staples
© 2007

The Julian High School Choir, under the direction of Ms. Kelli Williamson, chair of the Music department, provided the musical selections at the Empowerment Seminar and the Friday award banquet.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards banquet was held on Thursday evening. The dynamic guest speaker was **Dr. Wesley McClure**, President of Lane College (Jackson, TN).

This year’s awardees were **Dr. Wesley McClure**; **Senator Emil Jones**, President Illinois State Senate; and **Dr. Terry Mason**, Commissioner of Health, City of Chicago.



On Friday, **Bishop Paul A. G. Stewart, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Third Episcopal District CME Church**, was the plenary speaker on Friday. Following the plenary were dynamic workshops (*Hip-Hop*; *Health, Black History*; *Mentoring*).

The conference closed out with an Awards Luncheon. **Rev. Otis Moss, III**, pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, was the dynamic guest preacher.



This year’s awardees were **Dr. Mary Steele-Agee – Education** (shown above); **Bishop Jerry Jones – Religion**; **Mr. Kerry Van Isom – Volunteer**; and **Mr. Clifton Hurt** and **Ms. Sharence Griffin – Students of the Year**.



*C-ME for Jesus***IN THE NEWS***Proud To Be CME***News around the CME Connection and Ninth District Regions****Congratulations to:**

Ms. Theresa Duhart of the Alaska-Pacific Region for being elected Assistant Secretary of the Women's Missionary Council.

Ms. Heidi Faulk of the Northern California Region for being elected Secretary of the Rossi T. Hollis Department of the Women's Missionary Council.

Mrs. Renee Woodruff of the Southern California Region for being appointed the Ninth Episcopal District Missionary Institute Director.

Highlights of Annual Conferences**Alaska-Pacific Region**

The annual conference was held in Portland, Oregon and hosted by Allen Temple CME, pastor and presiding elder Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr. The speaker for the service of Holy Communion was Rev. Paul Everett, pastor of First CME, Anchorage, Alaska. Rev. Ava Gaines, currently the pastor of St. Paul Evangelical CME in Anchorage, was the speaker for the Ordination Service. Mrs. Mattie Powell led the missionaries and the annual Lena Jones Rice March. Dr. Ruth Kelly of Greater Love CME Church (Tacoma, WA) was the guest speaker. Mr. Christopher Ruff, Lay leader, led the 100 Men in Black March, and Rev. Freeman McKindra, currently the pastor of Miles Memorial CME in Tacoma, WA, was the speaker for the annual Lay program.

Arizona-New Mexico Region

The Annual Conference was held in Tucson, AZ and hosted by Phillips Chapel CME, Pastor Brian Reese. Rev. Dr. William W. Dorn, Jr. delivered the sermon for the service of Holy Communion sermon. Rev. Michael Grady was the speaker for the Ordination Service. The missionaries, under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Jones, planned a very special service and the guest speaker was Rev. Felix Jones. Rev. Kwesi Kamau, the Regional Administrator and pastor of Amos Temple CME in Los Angeles, CA, was the speaker for the Lay Banquet. The instructor for the week was Rev. Phillip S. Nelson of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Oklahoma Region

The conference was hosted by Israel Chapel CME, Rev. R.C. Laskey pastor and presiding elder. The speaker for the Holy Communion service was Rev. Dr. Bobby Best, pastor of greater Cleaves CME, Oklahoma, City, OK. Bishop Ronald Cunningham, presiding prelate of the Eighth Episcopal District, delivered the Ordination sermon. Mrs. Eloise Lee led the missionary service, and Mrs. Clarice Cunningham, First Lady of the Eighth Episcopal District, was the speaker. Mrs. Gloria Coles, First Lady of Christ Temple CME Church and the Tulsa District, was the speaker for the ministers' spouses, widows and widowers worship service. A play, *The History of the CME Church*, was presented by Rev. Anthony Walker of St. John CME Church.

Northern California Region

The conference was hosted by Phillips Temple CME (Berkley, CA), Rev. Dr. Claude Bass, pastor. Rev. Michael Peyton delivered the sermon at the service of Holy Communion. The Ordination speaker was Rev. Larry Batie, chaplain of Miles College (Birmingham, AL). Mrs. Simmie Johnson, First Lady of Missionary Temple CME, was the speaker for the ministers' spouses, widows and widowers service. Mrs. Sallie Lindsey led the Northern California missionaries at the Lena Jones Rice March, and Rev. Dr. Princella Brady was the guest speaker. Rev. Reginald Walton was the Youth Day speaker. The Kings and Queens of Africa parade featured our young persons. Rev. David C. Isom delivered the closing sermon and was assigned to St. Stephens CME, Fairfield, CA.

Southern California Region

The conference was held in Victorville, CA, and hosted by Emmanuel Temple CME Church, pastor Rev. Dr. James Markham. The Holy Communion service speaker was Rev. John DeRon Johnson, pastor of Phillips Temple CME, Los Angeles. An outside reception was held with over 400 persons in attendance. Pastor Markham was the speaker for the Ordination service. Mrs. Alfreda Davis led the missionary service, and the guest speaker was Mrs. Emma Burris, Annual Conference Secretary. Mrs. Norma J. Cummings was the speaker for the ministers' spouses and widowers' service. Mr. Leo Pinkett, General Secretary, Department of Ministry to Men, was the speaker for the Lay program. The closing sermon was by Rev. D'Andre Bell of the Eighth Episcopal District.

Visit our Connectional Web sites

Official Web site: www.c-m-e.org

The Christian Index Online: www.thechristianindexonline.blogspot.com/