

THE LAYMEN'S VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWS
of the Fifth Episcopal District
of the
AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH
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Send all news releases to your
conference president by the 20th
of each month.

President Neb. Conference

Mr. J. J. Parks, a resident of Kansas City, Kas., has proven himself worthy of commendation for the fine leadership he has given in his church, in civic and social affairs of the community, and as a promoter of clean politics.

He has been a faithful member of Trinity A. M. E. church for 26 years and has served in the capacities of steward, trustee and class leader. Each year for 20 years, Mr. Parks has represented his church at the District and Annual Conferences and has been elected five consecutive times to represent the church at the General Conference.

As a layman in the African Methodist church, he has championed the cause of the laymen and is now serving as president of the Laymen's League of Trinity and as president of the Nebraska Conference Laymen's League. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Wilberforce university, an active member of the N.A.A.C.P. and a 32nd Degree Mason.

Several civic, social and political clubs have been organized by Mr. Parks for the uplifting of the people of the community and are doing a fine work.

As Superintendent of Buildings at the County Court House in Kansas City, Mr. Parks is the only Negro who has held the position. For six years he held that position and made a record that is an example for every one.

The people of Kansas City are very proud of Mr. Parks and consider him to be a good citizen and a dependable Christian gentleman who is definitely for right.

S.W. Missouri Conference

Daniel L. Shakespeare, member of Bethel Lay league, Kansas City, Mo., brings greetings to Lincoln and The Voice staff.

It is Renewal Time for many—
Paid Be sure your Subscription is
Up.

Our Aim—

President Jones Writes Open Letter

If you haven't already received the very fine first issue of the Laymen's Voice which was off the press August 10, write your conference president and subscribe for it from your president or send direct to Mrs. Rubie W. Shakespeare, Box 2023, Lincoln, Neb.

Lay Members, we voted in June at our Kansas City meeting to support this paper. I hope this project gets your successful support.

It will not in any way hinder your support of your church papers. This laymen sheet is where I will look for news from you and you will find official news from your officers. **Subscribe for it through your conference president.**

5th District Chaplain Serves Church Well

Mrs. Lucy Wilton Minor was born in Carrollton, Miss., the daughter of Professor and Mrs. J. C. Wilson. She received her education there and in Mound Bayou Industrial College. She taught in the public schools in Leflore county for seven years. She married the Rev. L. W. Minor, a pastor in the Southern California Conference for 23 years. As a member of St. Mark A.M.E. church, Los Angeles, she serves as conference evangelist, chaplain of the conference branch missionary, parliamentarian of Los Angeles district, missionary society area No. 1, and president of the Lay League of the local church where she also serves as steward and trustee.

Mrs. Minor was lay delegate to the 1948 General Conference, Kansas City, Kas. As Lay dele-

Food For Thought

It's the Church's special function
To uphold the finer things
To teach the way of living
From which all that's noble springs.

"But the minister can't do it
Single-handed and alone
For the laymen of the country
Are the church's cornerstones,

"When you see a church
that's empty
Though its doors are open wide
It's not the church that's dying
It's the laymen who have died.

"For it's not by song or sermon
That the church's work is done
It's the laymen of the country
Who, for God, must carry on."

gate to the First district meeting of the Fifth District Laymen League which was held in Kansas City, she was elected chaplain. She is also a member of the United Council of Church Women, Inc.

St. Mark A.M.E. Church

Rev. Ferguson, Minister
Mrs. Minor, President
Southern California Conference

The Laymen's League is progressing under the leadership of our very worthy and active president. We are 12 in number and we have learned more about the organic laws of our church since becoming members of the league than ever before.

It gives us a broader vision and the laity is looking forward to a better day for our Zion.

Mrs. Lucy W. Minor is president and the Rev. W. H. Ferguson is minister.

Members of Executive Board



Pictured above is a group of the members of the Executive Board of the Laymen's League of the Southern California Conference of the A.M.E. Church. Left to right, front row: Mrs. Mabel Norman, conference branch secretary; Mrs. Cora Ross, member of executive board; Presiding-Elder A. K. Quinn; Mrs. Pinkie Wilson, conference branch chaplain; Rev. J. W. Price, founder and pastor of Price Chapel; Mrs. Camilla Leftridge, member of executive board; Mrs. Helen Maupin, field director of Los Angeles County X-ray Service. Standing: C. W. Stafford, conference president; John R. Wright, conference vice-president; Benj. W. Inghram, mem-

ber of executive board and chairman of league committee; James Crafton, member of executive board; Mrs. Vassar L. Burks, member of executive board; Donald A. Brunson, vice-president and member of executive boards of conference and district; Dr. William A. Beck, respiratory diseases specialist; M. E. Webb, member of executive board; Mr. Evans, member of executive board; Henry H. Pettigrew, member of executive board and district president's advisory board and Wm. Thos. Person, member of executive board. Not shown: Mrs. Edna Willis, Mrs. Jos. C. Ellis, Mrs. Lucy Minor, and Mrs. Sadie Wilson, members of executive board.

Present Health Program

By President Coley W. Stafford
Los Angeles, Calif.

A health program is underway in collaboration with the Laymen's League of Price Chapel A.M.E. Church, founded and pastored by the Rev. J. W. Price, who,

Geo. Jones Chairs Homecoming

By R. W. Shakespeare

It was a privilege to be among the guests at the 10th Annual Reunion and Homecoming of St. Paul A.M.E. church, Oskaloosa, Kansas which was held Sunday, August 27, with approximately 400 relatives, friends and former citizens traveling for miles around to share in the celebration.

The little town with less than 50 Negro residents remaining, 'does things in a big way.' The all-day meeting was held in the high school auditorium and a big free country dinner, more than enough for all, was served from the cafeteria.

Mayor Fred M. Thompson who welcomed the guests paid tribute to President George Jones, who was in charge of the entire program, when he said that "George Jones was Oskaloosa."

The morning worship was in charge of Mrs. Robert Hammand, elder of the Church of God, Junction City, Kas. She was accompanied by her singers. The Rev. W. W. Betton, pastor of New Bethel A.M.E. church, Leavenworth, Kansas, rendered service for the afternoon. He was accompanied by his choir, who gave the worshippers a great spiritual treat.

Rev. Mr. McKibben, Twilight Baptist church, Kansas City, Mo., assisted.

Remarks to veterans were made by Commander Morgan of Topeka and a brief memorial to deceased veterans of Oskaloosa and vicinity was given with remarks by Capt. S. W. Jones, Wichita, Kas.

Among special guests were Dr. and Mrs. J. Louis Ransom, Topeka, Kas. and Mrs. Lena I. Wilson, Evanston, Ill.

After a very delightful service at the homecoming, I was privileged to visit with Mr. Jones at his office. There we shared the great anticipation he has for the Laymen's League of the Fifth District. He would have each president to report frequently on his work in his conference in order that he might lend inspiration to the district. Mr. Jones emphasized, as he always does, the obligation and responsibility of an officer to the people who elected him. "They should never allow their supporters to be disappointed or to lose confidence," he stated.

Mrs. Jones was one, among the many very gracious hosts who assisted Mr. Jones during the day.

Bishop Walker Speaks to Laymen

On Tuesday, Aug. 29, the Rt. Rev. D. Ormonde Walker addressed the laymen of the Southern California Conference in a special meeting held in Los Angeles. The effective work in organization done by Coley W. Stafford, president, and his staff of special significance.

after fifty years in the ministry in the state of California caught inspiration from the famous sermons by Dinah M. Craik on the church in which the writer declared:

"Work, work, work, that is the grand panacea for sorrow, of work to be done in this world, if anybody will do it."

Thus, this venerable minister of the gospel gives to African Methodism a beautiful church.

It was in that spirit that the Executive Board of the Laymen's League of the Southern California Conference joined with the league of Price Chapel to present to the church's community a health educational program featuring Dr. William A. Beck, specialist in respiratory diseases and Mrs. Helen Maupin, field representative of the Los Angeles County X-Ray Service.

Dr. Beck presented some startling statistics, pointing out that sixty thousand deaths in the nation were caused by tuberculosis in 1940, of which fifteen thousand or twenty per cent were Negroes.

The laymen of the Southern California Conference of the A.M.E. Church believe the health of the community is a challenge to Christianity and are going to implement their belief by making this one of their projects.

Paper for Laymen

Articles of primary interest to Laymen are usually few and far between in the average church paper. Every basic principle of good journalism requires that the interests of the majority should receive the major attention of the editor.

At many points and in many areas, of course, the interests of the laity and those of the clergy are identical. In other cases they diverge.

The layman, for example, is not particularly interested in sermonic material as such. He does not face the necessity of making preparation for a 30 minute pulpit presentation every week. Nor is the layman ordinarily interested in a discussion of the theological issues which quite rightly may be of absorbing interest to the clergyman. His religious needs and interests are usually very practical, never professional.

The average hard-pressed pastor is eager for suggestions as to how to make his ministry more effective and his church program more serviceable. He is concerned with problems of the worship service, theoretical of religious education, denominational policies, and theological problems.

If the layman finds in his church paper an article designed distinctly for the clergy, he is likely to lay the paper aside in the belief that it has nothing for him. The preacher, on the other hand, feels that the paper has failed him if it does not minister to his professional needs.

In view of these difficulties it is of utmost importance that a paper for laymen be published with close co-operation with publications which serve the personal as well as the pastoral religious needs of pastors.

An Active Lay Organization In Every Church

By Benjamine W. Ingham Southern California Conference