

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.

8th and Towne Laymen Organize

Southern California Conference

The Laymen's League of Historic 8th and Towne Church, Los Angeles, Calif., was organized following the meeting of the Southern California Annual Conference in September, 1949. Following the rules of organization of the League as stipulated in the Discipline of the A.M.E. church as amended in Kansas City, Kas., in 1948, the election of officers was held by the Rev. Frederick D. Jordan, esteemed pastor of the church. Brother W. Thomas Person, one of the leading officers of the church, was elected president of the League for the year. Sister Pinkie Wilson was elected vice-president. Other officers of the League include Sister Hallie Randell, secretary; Sister Jay Fairchild, assistant secretary; Brother Paul H. Greenway, treasurer; Brother Clarence Jones, chaplain.

Brother Person immediately launched his program for the year pointing to the Annual Laymen's Day and the Episcopal District meeting in Kansas City, Kas., in June, 1950.

The Laymen's Day program was an unusually successful day. Attorney Bernard Jefferson, a local Layman and outstanding attorney in the community, was the principal speaker at the morning worship period. He brought an inspiring and challenging message to the Laymen. The afternoon program was devoted to a preview of outstanding political candidates in the city who brought views of how we as laymen could improve our community with explanations of pending and proposed legislation immediately facing the people of the community. Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas and Attorney Vince M. Townsend, jr., were participants on the program. Mrs. Juanita Miller was also a guest speaker on the program. Mr. George Beavers, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Golden State Life Insurance Company, was the moderator of the panel discussion for the afternoon. Without a doubt, this Laymen's Day program was a complete success spiritually, informatively and financially.

Notes on Colorado Annual Conf.

By James A. Atkins

"Meeting the Leadership Needs of a New Era" was the central theme of the sixty-fourth annual session of the Colorado A.M.E. conference at Prince Chapel, Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 20-24th, the Rt. Rev. D. Ormonde Walker, bishop of the Fifth A.M.E. district, presiding.

Business of the Conference was considered under several general headings:

Improving the leadership of the Colorado Conference, with special reference to the needs of the small churches.

Meeting the increasing financial obligations of the General Conference.

Extending the influence of the A.M.E. church through larger lay participation.

Working with Youth Greater Church and Community co-operation.

In a special session with the laymen, Bishop Walker made an urgent plea for their strong and undivided support of his program to revitalize the Church in the Fifth District by providing a higher caliber of leaders. The first item on his agenda was to increase the salaries of the Presiding Elders of the area.

Liberal contributions were made by the Conference to the missionary work of the A.M.E. Church in foreign fields and to Douglas Hospital in Kansas City, Kas.

Results of the Laymen's League annual election:

A. L. Mitchell, president, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

R. C. Pearce, vice president, Casper, Wyoming.

Mrs. Ruth Snow, secretary, Pueblo, Colorado.

Mrs. Fannie Harper, correspondent secretary, Tucson, Arizona.

Mrs. Katie Streilen, assistant secretary, Phoenix, Ariz.

Mrs. Juanita Gregory, treasurer, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mrs. Clotela Lawrence, chaplain, McNary, Arizona.

Election of lay delegates to the quadrennium will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 17, 1951.

Sixty-fifth annual conference will be at Shorter A.M.E. church, Denver.

Review of South California Conf.

C. A. Gibbs, presiding bishop of the 14th Episcopal district and W. R. Wilkes, presiding bishop of the 16th district, were present as special guests of Bishop Walker. They all were of accord preaching against sin; calling the church to repentance and to come back to the old land mark. Bishop Walker in stating that we cannot even please ourselves when we please God reminded us of Peter when he said it is better to obey God than man. He saw the conditions of each church and acted with the spirit in moving ministers who had served their appointments well. I am sure that when we all get adjusted we will say all things work together for good to them that love God.

Bishop Walker told us to stop "jazzing our songs" but sing out of the Methodist Hymnals.

Three good sermons each day and good singing lifted our souls during the conference.

General officers present were the Rev. Fred A. Hughes, editor of the Western Recorder and the

Blessed Is the Leader

Blessed is the leader who has not sought the high places, but who has been drafted into service, because of his ability and willingness to serve.

Blessed is the leader who knows where he is going, why he is going, and how to get there. knows no discouragement, who presents no alibi.

Blessed is the leader who knows how to lead without being dictatorial; true leaders are humble.

Blessed is the leader who seeks for the best of those he serves.

Blessed is the leader who leads for the good of the most concerned, and not for personal gratification of his own ideas.

Blessed is the leader who develops leaders while leading.

Blessed is the leader who marches with the group, interprets correctly the signs on the pathway that leads to success.

Blessed is the leader who has his head in the clouds, but his feet on the ground.

Blessed is the leader who considers leadership an opportunity for service.

—Author Unknown.

Laymen League of Emmanuel Church

Ralph R. King, pastor

So. Calif. Conference

Sunday, July 30th, the Laymen Organization of the So. Calif. Conference assembled for the purpose of organizing the laymen of the local churches. The conference president, Mr. Coley W. Stafford, Mr. Benjamin W. Ingraham, Mr. Henry Pettigrew were present and a number of laymen from local churches. The meeting opened with a program of Spiritual and Gospel songs, by "The Greater New Hope Singers" sponsored by Mrs. Elorisse Cooper. After an enjoyable song feast, Mr. Ingraham acting as master of ceremonies, introduced the speaker, Mr. Henry Pettigrew of Wards Chapel A.M.E. church who gave a very spirited and informative message. After electing officers the meeting closed with remarks by the president, Mrs. Pauline Jones. All left with a determination to go forward.

Mrs. Juanita Lee Sommers,
Secretary.

League Organized At Annual Conf.

An organization of Laymen was held at the seat of the Puget Sound Annual Conference in Tacoma, Washington, August 9th. The following officers were elected. Mrs. Fannie Cook, president, Seattle; Mrs. S. Strong, vice president and Mrs. D. M. Woods, treasurer.

John A. Woods reporter
809 No. 2nd Street
Yakima, Washington.

Senate Group Approves Edith Sampson for UN

WASHINGTON (ANP). The Senate Foreign Relations committee has approved the presidential appointment of Atty. Edith Sampson as alternate U. S. delegate to the UN, it was disclosed here last Wednesday.

Rev. J. S. Brookens, editor of the A.M.E. Review.

Camilla Leftridge,
Reporter.

The Apostle Of Freedom

by

Effie Lockhart Clark

Perhaps if we draw some common-place parallels to the life of Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, we will find them a source of inspiration to the work and program of this laymen movement.

Let us sketch a brief picture of the man first. Richard Allen was a small physical stature; there was nothing in his outward appearance to suggest that he possessed extraordinary talents. His speech was ordinary. Yet his life summed up to an extraordinary achievement. Allen purchased his freedom for \$2,000 at the age of 26. He purchased the lot at the corner of Sixth and Lombard Streets in Philadelphia where he brought a blacksmith shop and converted its humble appointments, out of his own means into a place of worship. Allen did not just limit his work to the building of a church; he saw an urgent need for his people to acquire the tools for raising their citizenship status from that of servitude to men of free pursuits.

Allen, therefore proceeded to dovetail a formal educational program with the church program. Regular night classes were instituted where adults could be taught their 3 Rs. He utilized his influence to help make education available to colored children. In those days they did not have free public schools as we of today.

Allen also had time to touch upon the economic needs of his people by helping other leaders show them how through cooperative pooling of their savings, they could provide safeguards for each other in times of illness and bereavement. Out of this movement grew one of the first Colored burial societies or lodges.

This very ordinary and plain looking man also had time for looking the larger community which should be everyone's concern. During the height of the Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia, Allen helped nurse hundreds of the sick and bury the dead. His services were so outstanding that Dr. Benjamin Rush made public reference to them in his writings. And when Richard Allen died, he was worth—mind you—\$40,000. This is just a bare sketch of the life of a humble slave who started out with nothing—but his bare hands. He did not even possess any constitutional rights as a man.

What parallels can we draw from this character which would be applicable to the work of our present-day movement?

First, if the goal which we set for ourselves is right and it is meant that we should accomplish that end—then we should make no excuses for ourselves.

(To be continued next week.)

Editorially Speaking

Too much can not be said about the program of expansion and the amount of interest displayed during the seven annual conferences already held.

We can now sing "The Church is Moving On" with momentum and power. After many years of work the missionary ministers who receive very little salary will be paid this year, a quarterly allotment which will help them along at their post of duty. Presiding Elders will have an increase in salary and churches may receive aid from the conference in their building programs. We are in a great program of Kingdom building. Let us not only contribute and give but sacrifice.



RICHARD ALLEN

Trinity Church

Kansas City, Kas.

Rev. S. M. Pointer, Pastor

Nebraska Conference

The first appreciation week for the pastor was held Sept. 18 to 24. All organizations and many neighbor churches participated.

Rev. Pointer was highly pleased that the members showed they had appreciated his work and that we admire him and his queenly wife. He stated that he wants to become a bishop from Trinity church.

He preached an inspiring message on Sunday morning on "The Door of Life," Text I Am the Door, John 10:9, and the senior choir was at its best under the direction of Mrs. Eunice Jackson and Mrs. Cozeta Kirkland at the organ. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Daily of Rt. No. 1, K.C.K., united with the church.

Sunday, Oct. 1, 1950 was Rev. Pointer's last message for the conference year. All clubs and organizations made their annual reports Sunday night.

The last event of the conference year was a banquet by the Nebraska Conference Laymen's League, honoring Bishop D. Ormande Walker and his family. It was sponsored by the Laymen's League of Trinity church, Mr. J. J. Parks presided, Monday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m.

Wednesday Oct. 4, Rev. Pointer preached the opening sermon at the 13th annual session of the Nebraska Annual Conference of the A.M.E. church, held at Bethel A.M.E. church, Leavenworth, Kas.

In the last quarterly conference the Laymen empowered the presiding elder to request to the bishop the return of Rev. E. W. Newton as presiding elder and Rev. S. M. Pointer pastor.

The Laymen meet the first Sunday of each month and the attendance is increasing as the members want to know more about the church and help in its program.

Mr. Leora Grayson, reporter.
Editor's Note—Rev. Pointer and Presiding Elder Newton were both returned.

Tenth District Has Lay Publication

The Laymen's Voice Texas extends congratulations to the Texas Layman who now have their second edition of the Texas Layman publication off the press. It is a monthly, adopted by the Texas Laymen's organization as their official mouthpiece.