

THE LAYMEN'S VOICE

VOL. 1, NO. 1

JULY, 1951

PRICE 10c

CONFERENCE EDITION

Address Theme A.M.E. Laymen Meet in St. Louis July 30-August 4

Church Papers

Dr. Alfred Farrell, associate professor of English at Lincoln University, will be one of the principal speakers at the Second Annual Laymen's Convention of the Fifth Episcopal District of the A. M. E. Church in St. Louis July 31 through August 4. At the meeting last year Dr. Farrell substituted for Dr. Charles Hill, president of Wilberforce University, and, on the strength of the impression that he made, he was invited this year to speak in his own right. He will speak on the



DR. FARRELL

importance of church papers in the spread of African Methodism.

Dr. Farrell is president of the Laymen's League of Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church of Jefferson City, Missouri, one of the most active of the lay groups in the Missouri Conference. He is also active in other church activities, particularly the Men's Club and the Building Committee, and in community affairs. He is president of the Jefferson City branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and first vice president of the Missouri State Conference of Branches.

An honor graduate of Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, Dr. Farrell holds the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State University, and has been a member of the Lincoln (Mo.) faculty since 1948.

Report on Operation Of A.M.E. Pension Board

NEW YORK—Over two thousand ministers, widows, and orphans receive regular stipends from the Pension Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. For the year 1950-51 the total amount paid out for such grants was \$191,490. All funds were disbursed through the office of the Pension Department. Bishop D. Ward Nichols of New York is president of the board of governors. The Rev. Jesse L. Beard of Nashville, Tenn., is secretary-treasurer.

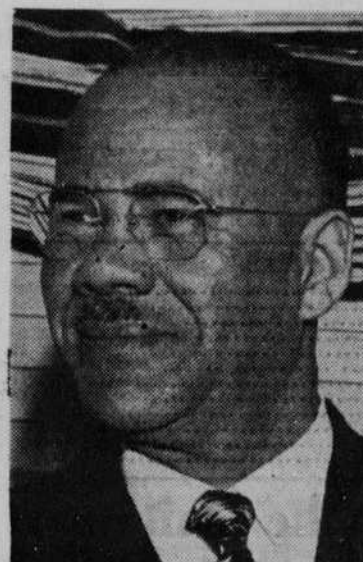
Established in 1946, the Pension Department of the A.M.E. Church is subsidized through collections from the sixteen Episcopal Districts of the church with 31½ per cent of all-dollar monies collected at annual conferences earmarked for pensions. Income for this fiscal period of \$215,431.94, representing an increase of over \$3,000 over the previous period.



ATTY. DUDLEY



GEORGE JONES



BISHOP WALKER

Arrangements are nearing completion for the 5th A.M.E. District Laymen meeting which will open Monday, July 30, and continue through Saturday, August 4. The sessions will be opened Monday with a dinner to be given at St. Paul A.M.E. church by George "Farmer" Jones of Oskaloosa, Kas. president of 5th district lay organization.

District officers and elected lay delegates to the A.M.E. general conference in Chicago, Ill., in 1952 will be guests.

The meetings will be officially opened on Tuesday, July 31, at 10 a.m. by Bishop D. Ormonde Walker of the 5th district after which district laymen will take over the meetings.

This will be the last assembling of laymen in this area before the general conference next year.

President Jones stated last week that he hoped for great accomplishments from the meetings. He cited the work done by laymen in other districts and added it would be a spur to those of his own area.

The prominent churchman pointed out that the 5th district lay organization would take Douglass hospital as its project since it was within the boundaries.

"In my report my main recommendation will be that laymen turn their attention to the struggling Douglass hospital and help it in the name of the laymen of the 5th district," stated Mr. Jones in an interview, "and in addition we are stressing race business in order to have a more secure layman, thus a more secure church. I have asked several successful business firms to be present on Wednesday, August 1, and give a history of their beginnings. I feel it will inspire others to think of a business career."

Attorney Freeman L. Martin, president of the Missouri Conference of Laymen, has informed President Jones that a welcome program has been arranged for Tuesday night, July 31, and will have some of the best talent from the Missouri laymen's group. The youth program will be held on Wednesday, August 1.

The district gathering will close Wednesday night. On Thursday morning the connectional lay

(Continued on P. 3, Col 2)

Notice Extraordinary!!!

The Connectional Laymen's Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church will hold its biennial meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1941 at St. Paul A. M. E. Church Leffingwell Avenue and Lawton Boulevard, St. Louis 3, Missouri.

All Episcopal Districts, Conferences and local Lay Organizations are specially urged to send as many delegates as possible to attend this important and epochal meeting which will convene on the dates and place aforementioned. All A. M. E. Laymen representing local churches and societies are urged to send as many representatives as possible. Outstanding speakers, panel discussion and formative workshops will be some

of the chief features of this meeting.

The official meeting will begin promptly on Thursday morning, August 2, 1951. Consequently, all those who are planning attending are urged and advised to arrive in St. Louis in time to register and receive their credentials prior to this time. Registration fees will be \$1.00 per delegate or representative. Episcopal District Lay Organizations are expected to report their full assessment. Those planning to attend should contact Attorney Freeman L. Martin, Chairman of Arrangements, 5245 Cates Avenue, St. Louis 8, Missouri.

It is urgently hoped that the Laymen throughout the connection will avail themselves of the opportunity to attend this last meeting of our Connectional Lay Organization prior to the General Conference in 1952. Please address all communications to Attorney Freeman L. Martin or to me.

Herbert L. Dudley,
Connectional President.

Highlights of Women's Meet

Mrs. Anne E. Health, president and Mrs. Alma A. Polk, director of Young People's activities, were re-elected by acclamation following their reports presented to the second quadrennial sessions of the A.M.E. Women's Missionary society held in Memphis, Tenn., July 7-12.

Many inspiring sermons and addresses were delivered during the meeting by leading church men and women of the nation.

Dr. Martha Keyes, chaplain of the organization did a magnificent job in conducting a series of worship programs of great inspiration to the delegates.

The highlight of the session was the Sunday services that filled Clayborn Temple to its capacity.

Governor Gordon W. Browning thrilled the audience with his words of welcome on Tuesday evening.

Young people's activities were religious, yet included active phases that included a humanitarian touch to their work. They visited hospitals, went on sightseeing trips, conducted pageants and fashion shows and published Flash, a daily news journal of the session's activities.

The pageant presented by the conference branches under the direction of Mrs. Ann Davis was most unique.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Mrs. Anne E. Health, president; Mrs. Hazel Gomez, Tenth District, first vice president; Mrs. Flossie K. Bailey, Fourth District, second vice; Mrs. C. E. Bennett, Sixth District, third vice; Mrs. A. B. Bemem, Thirteenth District, fourth vice; Mrs. Minnie L. McEaddy, Second District, fifth vice; Mrs. Cora Black, Seventh District, sixth vice; Mrs. Cleo Love, Fifth District, seventh vice; Mrs. Romayne A. Portlock, First District, eighth vice; Mrs. Bessie R. Walker, Ninth District, ninth vice; Mrs. Irene Shumpert, Twelfth District, tenth vice; Mrs. L. C. Jefferson, Eighth District, eleventh vice; Mrs. Emma Johnson, Third District, twelfth vice; Mrs. Jane Epperson, Eleventh District, thirteenth vice; Mrs. F. R. Trough, Sixteenth District, fourteenth vice; Mrs. Nora W.

(Continued on P. 4, Col. 2)

South American Film Shown

The '51 session of the Women's Missionary Society beheld the South American film which was taken by Dr. H. Thomas Primm, host Pastor of the First Quadrennial Convention, while attending the series of annual conferences of the Sixteenth Episcopal District. Dr. Primm, it seems, will be sailing for Oxford, London, around July 28th to attend the Ecumenical conference where he is a 1951 Delegate.

New Day for Youth

In Mrs. Alma Polk's second Quadrennial report which was given in Claborn Temple on July 10, 1951, it was brought out that young people the connection over from recent statistical reports are progressing spiritually, mentally, and morally. According to Mrs. Polk's report, a New Day is being realized in African Methodism as it regards the Y.P.D. Young people, says Mrs. Polk, "are visual aids." To the senior society we are sending new blood. Mrs. Polk was lauded by a congenial audience.

Feeling does not become stronger in the religious life by waiting, but by using it.—H. W. Beecher. Feeling hearts, touch them but rightly, pour a thousand melodies unheard before.—Rogers.

Laymen's Task

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 corner-
stones.

"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 ser-
mon
That the church's work is
done
It's the laymen of the
country
Who, for God must carry
on."

Wilberforce Uni Has an ROTC Unit

BY CHARLES L. HILL
President

Wilberforce university is one of the few church-related colleges that has an ROTC unit. We take pride in the fact that our unit is the oldest among Negro colleges in America and is staffed by highly efficient military personnel.

I wish that you would make a special appeal to the young men in your community and in your parish to the effect that enrollment in our ROTC unit is tantamount to deferment for some time. Young men who elect to come to Wilberforce university will have an opportunity to pursue their college work uninterrupted and will be commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the Reserve Corps.