

The Laymen's Voice

official news of the

Fifth Episcopal District
of the African Methodist Church

George Jones President

Fifth District Lay Organization

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Editorial and Executive Offices
2225 S Street, Lincoln 3, Nebraska

Rubie W. Shakespeare, Managing Editor

The Rt. Rev. D. Ormonde Walker,
Presiding Bishop

George Jones, President
Box 281
OSKALOOSA, KANSAS

Herbert L. Dudley, President Connecticut Laymen's League, Detroit, Michigan
Conference Presidents

Mrs. A. L. Cooke, Puget Sound Conference, Seattle, Wash.
Mrs. Georgia Marsall, California Conference, 4210 Market Street, Oakland, Calif.
C. A. Stafford, Southern California, 1594 E. 45 Street, Los Angeles 31, Calif.
Mrs. Elizabeth Twyman, Colorado Conference
Dr. J. Louis Ransom, Kansas Conference 2251 Iopeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas
J. J. Parks, Nebraska Conference, 2044 N. 14th Street, Kansas City, Kansas
Joseph T. Ansel, North Missouri Conference, 106 South Wintz, Macon, Missouri
Clarence E. Owens, Southwest Missouri Conference, 2134 E. 27th St., Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Odessa W. Farrell, Missouri Conference, 1901 Cora Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

SPECIAL WRITERS

Mr. P. G. Porter Olatha, Kansas
Dr. J. Louis Ransom Topeka, Kansas
Mrs. Ida M. Moton Kansas City, Missouri
Mrs. Ester Hearn Smith Omana, Nebr.
Mrs. Wm. M. Blount Kansas City, Kansas
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Mrs. Camilla Leftridge Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Hattie Jefferson Cheyenne, Wyo.
Mrs. Thelma De Witte Seattle, Wash.
Atty. F. L. Martin St. Louis, Mo.

Your Lay Publication

I hope the effort to organize our laymen in the support of a lay publication may be successful, to the end that Christianity may be more fully applied in our total living.

One can almost sense the cry on the lips of the people of the world—people tired of strife, tired of deception, tired of hate, tired of hunger—people pleading for a Christian church in the twentieth century to meet realistically the issues of the day. Such a church needs men and women who will do more than vocally condemn the evil practices of our church; or-

ganized men and women who will take the offensive for Jesus Christ. You should be glad that The Laymen's Voice is not a journal of religious romanticism, reveling in the good old days, but a crusading organ of vital, realistic Christ-centered denomination.

Congratulations—to laymen and ministers who have supported this project of the Fifth District, but much more support is needed. Remember this is your project to do with as your district desires. It is also your responsibility to encourage and (enlist) additional support throughout the conferences of the district.

Call to United Christian Youth Action

One of the most significant current ventures in co-operative Christian youth work is the program of the United Christian Youth Movement to enlist one million young people and their leaders in the cause of Christ and His church. The entire year of 1952 will be used to carry the call to young people all over America. The purpose of the call is to help young people to get a clearer understanding of what it means to be a Christian in times like these. These young people will be invited to enlist in a united program of Christian action.

The position and deep challenge of The Call are best reflected in the covenant with God which A. M. E. youth will have an opportunity to make their own

beginning with Allen Jubilee Week, February 3-10.

"Believing that God's power is my strength, because of my faith in Jesus Christ, I join with other youth in a united effort to demonstrate the significance and power of the Christian fellowship."

"For us there is no alternative but to serve God in every moment of our lives, to treat all men as brothers, to work toward the day when suffering and strife will be replaced with co-operation and love and when peace shall abide in place of war."

"We are not alone in this task. The strength of Christ is ours. Divine resources flow through us, and human fellowship sustains us as we give ourselves to the Church of Christ and its mission in the world."

Dr. F. D. Jordan Urges AME To Prepare For Unsegregated

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Dr. Frederick D. Jordan, minister of Los Angeles, Calif., delivered the ordination sermon at the annual Memphis conference of the AME Church.

Speaking at Avery Temple Church on the theme, "The Meaning of Methodism," Dr. Jordan urged his audience to get ready for an unsegregated society. He called upon the ministers to support the movement for better educational opportunities.

He advised them to continue to file suits until the court calendars became too crowded to handle the cases. He added:

"When the unsegregated school room door at last comes open let us be sure that there is also the open church door . . ."

Upon a motion by the Rev. Herold Nelson, leader of the conference, and with the approval of Bishop John H. Clayborn, the 13th Episcopal district voted to support Dr. Jordan for the bishopric at the General Conference of the AME Church to be held in Chicago next May.

Mrs. Anna Harris Dies at Age 69

Mrs. Anna Harris, 69, of 2303 So. 8th, a resident of Lincoln for 25 years, died here Wednesday.

A native of Oklahoma, she came to Lincoln in 1927. She was a member of the O.E.S. and the M.E. church.

Surviving is her husband, Henry, of Lincoln.

Funeral services were held Sat-

St. Paul, St. Louis Elects Officers

The Laymen's league of St. Paul A.M.E. church in their regular monthly meeting elected officers for the ensuing year. As follows:

Mrs. J. E. Bell, president.
Mrs. Beatrice Atkins, vice-president.
Miss Celeste Smith, recording secretary.
Mrs. Ardella J. Bailey, correspondent sec'y.
Mr. Edgar E. Cooper, financial secretary.
Mr. J. D. Rodgers, treasurer.
Mr. Joseph Clifford, chaplain.
Mrs. Barbara Davis, reporter.
Messengers, Bell Rodgers and Clifford were re-elected to their respective offices.

Plans are being laid for a definite program of renovation of a committee room in the parish house and many constructive ideas have been introduced for the betterment of the church. There is much organized Laymen can do constructively for the spiritual as well as the temporal. We were most happy to have as our guests and be host to the connectional body last August. It gave us a chance to greet old friends and make new ones in Methodism.

We pray God's blessing upon our connectional president, Atty. H. E. Dudley, and officers whose program we are happy to support. May he continue to give inspiration to us and may we all give thanks to God for our blessings of His ever loving care. We shall attempt to keep you informed of our progress and successes.

MRS. BARBARA BROOKS,
Reporter,
4463 Labadee Ave.,
St. Louis 15, Mo.

Attend Church In Work Clothes

TULSA, Okla. (ANP) — Responding to a request of their minister, members of the Tulsa A.M.E. church congregation last week attended church service dressed in their daily work clothes.

Preaching on the subject, "The Common Touch," the Rev. Benjamin Hill, pastor of the church, compared the different occupations represented among the congregation of various trees in the forest. They all are different but their roots are entwined, he said. He called upon members of the church to forget all class distinctions and think in terms of common quality.

The Rev. Mr. Hill is a graduate of the University of Nebraska. CHICAGO — The Rev. C. E. Baker Pearle, radio minister on the "Altar of the Air" program broadcast each Sunday morning on station WCFI here, has been named one of 26 religious leaders whose "Prayer for the Day" will be syndicated in 1,800 newspapers throughout the nation and Canada.

Friday at Quinn Chapel A.M.E. church with the Rev. J. B. Brooks officiating, assisted by the Rev. W. I. Monroe. Amaranth Chapter O.E.S., also held a service. Burial was in Wyuka.

Our Sympathy

We the Laymen of the Southern California are in deep sympathy with Mrs. Vassar Lee Freeman in the sudden passing of her husband, Mr. Charles Freeman, January 2nd, with a heart attack. Mrs. Freeman went to High Point, N. C., to join the sister of the deceased, Mrs. Mary Love for the funeral. Mrs. Freeman was accompanied by her sister from Los Angeles, Mrs. Alice Herndon.

Coley W. Stafford,
president
Mable Norman,
secretary

Choice of the Church



Dr. Frederick D. Jordan
Los Angeles, California
The Choice of the Church for Bishop
... At this General Conference

Wayman Chapel AME Observed Laymen's Day

FORT SCOTT, Kas.—Dr. J. Louis Ransom, M.D., president of the Laymen Leagues of the Kansas Conference, his wife, Rev. Mrs. Polly Bland, evangelist, and Mr. Sammie Wilson, blind singer, all of Topeka, were guests of Wayman Chapel AME Church and pastor and wife, Rev. and Mrs. M. C. Knight, according to schedule for "Laymen's Day," Sunday, Dec. 2. "Building" was the theme for the day.

Dr. J. Louis Ransom, M.D., delivered the main address at the 3 o'clock service and program. His subject, "Rebuilding African Methodism in the AME Church."

Dr. Ransom, with the consent and co-operation of the pastor and members, reorganized the Lay-

man League of the church. Officers elected: Mrs. Lida Wells, wife of the principal of Hawkins school and sponsor of the usher board of the church, was elected president; Mr. Vernon Smith, vice president; Dr. J. T. Lewis, M.D., secretary; Mrs. Doris Mack, assistant secretary; Mrs. Corene Humes, treasurer and Mrs. Leota Wright, chaplain.

Methodists Total Over 9 Million

CHICAGO.—Membership in the Methodist church in the United States and its possessions passed the nine million mark in 1951.

Rev. Albert C. Hoover, director of the church's statistical office, says the membership jumped from 8,935,647 in 1950 to 9,065,727 this year.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service reported a membership of 1,630,666, a gain of 54,619.

Dusting Off the Truth

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is a church of rising sons out in the west where the sun sets: the sons of Allen rise. They can and are rising from every point of the compass. While we speak of suns, we must not overlook the stars. Astronomers have recently reported a new star one hundred and thirty-five million miles in diameter. Some of these stars are seen, others are lost in the deep blue.

While some stars to us are new, there are old ones also: Arcturus and his sons still circle around the pole, Orion, with his blazing bands still climb the steep of the eastern sky; the sweet influences of Pleiades are still unbound, signs and seasons are still upon the glittering belt of Mazaroth. Yes, night marshals forth God's host with their beacon-fires burning upon the plains of heaven, undimmed by time.

Likewise in the constellation of human beings, there are the sons that shine on, others who go into eclipse; some stars are changed into suns, while others fall, but the stars are with us, like those that were with men from the guarded gates Eden, and from the blasted plains of Shinar, wherever men have chosen to rest or roam: whether in the crowded



REV. L. S. GOOLSBY
city, in solitude of the wilderness or upon the waste of ocean, the stars have kept company with men.

The time is not far distant in which additional men, and measures, will be before the church. In regards to them it seems, "We are undecided now, what are we going to do?" In the church of Allen are many shining lights who will be a credit in the firmament of African Methodism.

L. S. Goolsby, of St. Louis, Kirkwood 22, is a delegate from the North Missouri Conference and Candidate for the Western Christian Recorder.