

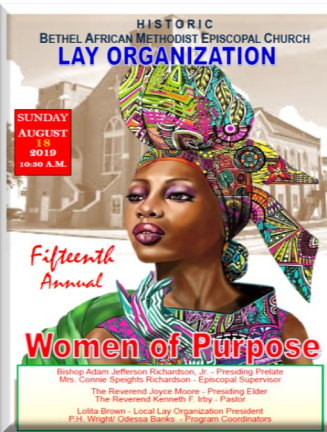
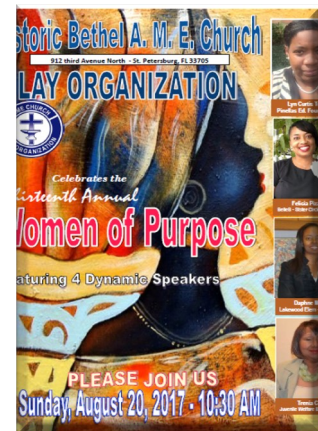
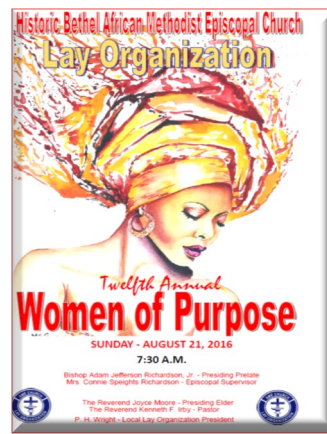
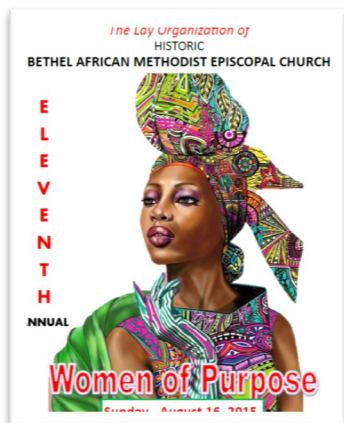
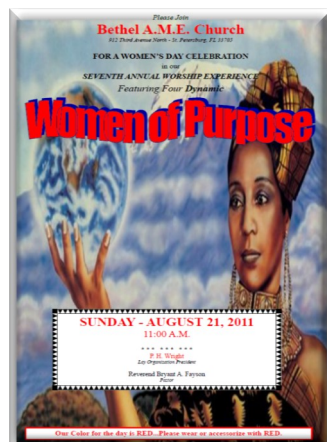
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Everette, Brenda Postell, Janet Lee, Judy Roberts, Rene Brown and Linnell Baker. For more than 30 years the Marching 100, an effort to liquidate the mortgage, has been coordinated by Altamease Cannon and Marion Church.

The 25-year Dine With Men Who Cook event was created and chaired for ten years by two women – Lena Brown and Patricia Wright, before being passed into the hands of Altamease Cannon and Suzanne Felton who kept it for five years. Faith Walker has co-chaired it for the last 10 years. The prayer line ministry, in its 7th year, was the dream child of Delceda Walker. There are so many more we could name!

Clearly, the threads that unravel from the hearts of Bethel’s Women of Purpose are intricately woven into the fabric of our lives, hearts, hopes and memories

In this brief writing there is **NO WAY** to capture all the names and contributions made by Women of Purpose. Perhaps there is someone near and dear to you who was not mentioned. **Think of her right NOW.** Say her name aloud. Pray a prayer of gratitude and thank GOD for the blessing of her life and how she has added to your life.

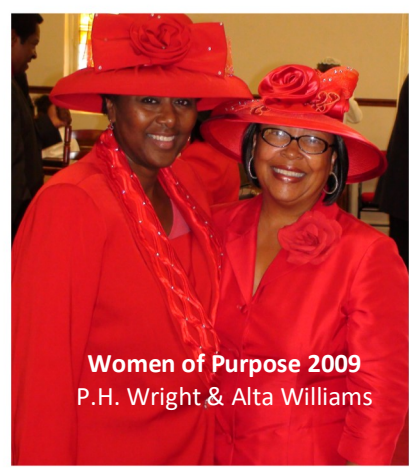


Do you remember these Women of Purpose?

- Adlyn Ayers
- Mabel Reese
- Ophelia Campbell
- Edith Grogan
- Elizabeth Jones
- Emma Peaten
- Katheryn Coger
- Arrie Favors
- Marilyn Jackson



CALENDAR TEA



Women of Purpose 2009  
P.H. Wright & Alta Williams

# Historic Bethel A.M.E. Church Women of Purpose

Celebrating 16 Years of Praise

The Reverend Kenny Irby - Pastor

Lolita D. Brown - Lay Organization President

For several years the third Sunday in August has been the day the Lay Organization held its Annual Women of Purpose Worship Experience. This year would have been the 16<sup>th</sup> occasion of such. As its perennial chair, I could not let this year pass by without any mention of it. To that end, although this year is vastly unlike any other we have known, there is still good cause to celebrate. It is from that posture that I began to mull over the numerous contributions and embellishments that Women of Purpose have made to Historic Bethel AME Church. Throughout the history of the church, there is tremendous evidence that the hands and hearts of women have been instrumental in the illustrious life of our Zion.

**Women of Purpose - PAST and PRESENT are a source of Congregational blessings galore! The list is endless.**

The literal support of our backs is owed to women, as the actual pew cushions upon which we comfortably sit were sewn and refurbished by Ada Kelly and Violet Scruggs during different time periods.

It was 1928, when first lady Annie E. Heath began to serve the church and surrounding areas as a leader in missionary ministry; she later went on to become president of the Connectional Women’s Missionary Society. Just as her name is legendary when it comes to missionary work, so are the names Hattie Lilly, Lena Brown, Violet Scruggs and Mary Ann Jones. Their legacies continue through the missionary units named for them.

Over the years the music department has been hugely enhanced under the direction of gifted women musicians. There was Olive B. McLin whose name is commemorated on the Johnathan C. Gibbs High School little theater. I am told pianist Amanda Howard livened up the service, while pianist Ruth Lockett beguiled us with her dramatic lyrical plays. Frankie Minnis added a flare of elegance to the choir and its dynamics. Yvonne King’s melodic soprano voice has soothed many a soul.

Annie Reddick presented the idea for and became the first curator of the church archives. Every Sunday, for years, prior to the announcements, we were welcomed with “How you do, everybody?” and a cute poem or memorable saying from Florzelle Howell.

More often than not, key component boards such as Trustees were composed of leading women like Ann Q.

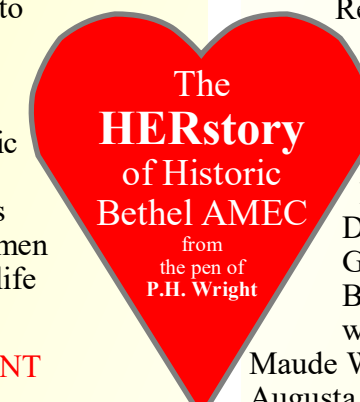
Gore, Florzelle Howell, Dorothy Wertz, LaRose T. Moss, Faith Walker, Altermease Williams, Plexie Brown, Rosa Nesbitt, and Jan Nelson. Among the countless stewards are the names Joanna Lee, Jessie Hamond, Gladys Wright, Poet Laureate Lois Norton Bryant, Josephine Persha, Betty Thompson, Mildred Reed, Lolita Brown and Debra Still.

Many remember Sunday School teachers named Mrs. Katie Lou Postell, Mrs. Janet Stamper, and Mrs. Roberta McQueen. Remember Sunday School Superintendent Linda Watkins? A review of past Women’s Day programs reveals the names of Evelyn Graham, Alva Osburne, and Yolanda ‘Missy’ Byrd as chairpersons. The stewardess corner was home to Pearl Cox, Rose Franklin, Annie

Maude Wright, Evelyn C. Clark, Essie Norton, Augusta ‘Tootsie’ Davis, Therae Baten, Juanita ‘Mama Doll’ Jackson, Emma Swain. It remains a corner of humble servants with Emma Abernethy, Flordey Nelson, Archie Ferguson, Patricia Sweat, Cynthia Swain, Juanita Cooper, Thelma Kendrick, Betty Smith, Marion Church, Joan Webb, Sarah Ellis, Vesta Ellerbe, Karen Irby and Cathy Takdari on the board.

Calendar teas that started in homes and evolved to the church were the talk of the town and lead and supported over the years by Ann Quinn Gore, Annie Sue Brinson, Edith Brantley, Patricia Taliaferro, Rhunette Steward and J. Birice Packer. Lena Brown’s special punch was the treat everyone looked forward to, along with pink and blue sandwiches from the hand of Inez Rodriguez, The kitchen was a flurry of skilled culinary experts. There you would find Alma Miles, Maggie Russ, Katherine Britt, Faith Walker, most recently, Jennifer Goodlow. Just outside the kitchen door would be all-around-helper Ruth Faison in her motorized chair, helping to do whatever was needed.

Among the ushers who would greet and seat you were Mattie Stockton, Mable Peterson, Annie B. Stockton, Jessie Roberson, Helen Bradley, Kay B. Hall, Lillian Houston, Gussie Randolph, Helen Henry, and Evelyn Keel. Currently, doorkeepers include Karen Irby, Wanda Williams, Carrie Shirley, Terri Swain and Alicia Cotton. Our children have been well trained and cared for in the capable care of YPD and Christian education directors Anie Maude Wright, Mattie



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(Continued on back page)



**WE SPEAK YOUR NAMES**

**Women of Purpose**

**Women of Purpose travel many roads of life. Since 2004, they have been sharing their stories of victory.**

- 2004** Sister Sheryll Norwood - Sisterhood  
The Reverend Patricia Nelson - Ministerial  
Sister Nevada Adams - Minister's Wife  
Sister Valerie Lee - Missionary
- 2005** Sister Joyce Robinson - Motherhood  
Sister Faith Williams - Performing Arts  
Sister Drudella Patterson - Corporate  
Sister Hope Felder Crews - Uniformed Svc  
Sister Ada McFarley - Ministerial
- 2006** Sister Hope Felder Crews - Administration  
Sister Edwina Oliver - Missionary  
Sister Paulette Johnson - Performing Arts  
Sister Cynthia M. Davis - Public Service  
Sister Rhonda Jackson - Motherhood
- 2007** Sister LaShawn Moore - Education/Counselor  
Sister K. Renee Oliver - Real Estate  
Sister Kaycia Latimore - Public Service  
Sister Odessa Banks - Health Care Services
- 2008** Sister Deana Mobley - Public Service  
Sister Linda Hardaway Watkins - Cancer Survivor  
Sister Teresa Anderson - Education/Principal  
Sister Colette King - Health Care  
Sister Julia Latimore - Motherhood
- 2009** Sister Sonja Felton - Administration  
Sister Rinita Anderson - Entrepreneur  
Sister Crystal Pruitt - Sisterhood  
Sister Angela Bolds - Education
- 2010** Sister Susan Canty - Service  
Sister Linell Middleton - First Lady  
Sister Barbara Hires - Leadership  
Sister Evelyn W. Graham - Grandmother
- 2011** Sister Kilivia Davis  
Sister Angela Bolds
- \*2013** Sister Lakesha Falana - Principal  
Sister Cydney Davis - Young Adult/Student
- 2012** Sister Bonnie Marshall  
Sister Priscilla McFadden  
Sister Lakita Hamilton
- 2013** Sister Gloria Peelar - Retired nurse  
Sister Sakeenah Martin - Student  
Sister Tamika Tomalin - Deputy Mayor  
Sister Stephanie Hartman - Post Master
- 2014** Sister Constance Shaw - Truancy Navigator  
Sister Kara Irby - News writer FSU  
Sister Nikita Reed - Principal, Melrose
- 2015** Sister Lyn Curtis Turk - Pinel Ed Foundation  
Sister Felicia Pizana - Belle B Sister Circle  
Sister Daphne Miles - Principal  
Sister Trenia Cox - JWB - retired
- 2016** President Cassandra Williams - AKA  
President Shameka Jones - ΔΣΘ  
President Andrea Y. Allen - ΣΓΡ  
Sister Lisa Wilson - ΖΦΒ
- 2017** Dr. Marilyn Fudge - Obstetrician  
Dr. Athena Richardson - Pediatrician  
Dr. Nathalia Jeffrey-Forte - Dentist
- 2018** We reflect on the Women of Purpose who have intersected with our lives...AND We celebrate, not in Pandemic Isolation but with **Praise and Jubilation!**

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