



The Metropolitan Spirit

Church Newsletter

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METROPOLITAN CELEBRATES 2010 AND 2009 GRADUATES

Congratulations to the 2010 and 2009 graduates. We are honored to recognize your accomplishments in this edition of "The Metropolitan Spirit." May God continue to bless each of you in your endeavors.

2010 High School Graduates

Arianna N. Beard, daughter of LaTonya Cavitt-Beard and John Beard, graduated from South County Secondary School, Lorton, VA. Arianna was a member of the Varsity Basketball team (2007-2010), Junior Varsity Basketball team (2006-2007), Grand Classroom Photography Club (2007-2009), Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Club (2007-2010), Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Girls Basketball team (2004-2009), and was a student of the Tae Kwon Do Academy. At Metropolitan, Arianna was a member of the Young People's Division (YPD) of the Sarah Allen Missionary Society (SAMS), Young Adult Ministries (YAMS), and a Food Bank volunteer. She is attending Shenandoah University and pursuing a major in Biology. Arianna's goal is to

become a physical therapist.

Taylor-Ann N. Robinson, daughter of Denise A. Robinson, graduated from McKinley Technology High School. In high school, she was a performing member of "Techites in Theatre" and a member of the softball team. At Metropolitan, Taylor is a member of the Sunday Church School, and was a member of the Liturgical Dance Ministry. Taylor, a student at Virginia State University, presently is undecided about her major. She has a strong interest in theatre arts. Taylor's goal is to become an actress.

Lauren Evans, daughter of Marcus J. Curry, granddaughter of Kirk and Rose Gaskins, graduated from Arundel Senior High School. She was a member of AVID, the choir, and peer mediator in SPIRIT. At Metropolitan, Lauren is a member of the Sunday Church School. She is pursuing a degree in nursing. Lauren's goal is to earn a Master's degree in Pediatric Nursing.

2010 College Graduates

Taylor Cecile Corley, daughter of Richard and Shelley Corley, graduated from Spelman College with a cumulative 3.3 average.

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Taylor earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. At Spelman, Taylor was a member of the Science and Biology Club. At Metropolitan, she participates in the Sunday Church School. Taylor is employed at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Medical School for the upcoming year. She recently completed an eight-week summer program for minorities in medicine and dentistry. Taylor is studying hard preparing to retake the MCAT exam in September. Her goal is to enter medical school as soon as possible, God permitting.

Elijah D. Huggins, son of Jerome and Janet Oakley Huggins, graduated from the Florida A&M University (FAMU) School of Business (August 2010). At FAMU, Elijah was the DC Metro Club chaplain. He was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), FAMU Chapter and supervisor of the African American Literature Section in the FAMU Library. At Metropolitan, Elijah is a member of the Sunday Church School and the Young Adult Restoration Network (YARN). Elijah earned a degree in Business Finance and Administration. His goal is to work at a corporation or Fortune 500 company for a few years before ultimately starting his own business.

2010 Graduate School Graduates

Ali Holness, daughter of Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness and Allan D. Holness, Jr., graduated from Trinity University (DC), where she was a member of the National Honor Society. At Metropolitan, Ali was a member of the Ethel P. Hall Club, Sunday Church School, Young Adult Ministries (YAMS), and served as Connectional Director for the YPD Global Missions. Ali earned her Bachelor degree from Spelman College and a Master of Arts degree in International Securities Studies from Trinity University. She is attending law school.

2009 High School Graduates

Brittany C. Bell, daughter of Shadawn K. Bell, graduated from High Point High School where she was a member of the Cheerleading Squad, Modern Dance Theater, Mock Trial, and Foreign Language Honor Society. Brittany, in her second year at Towson University, is being inducted in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is a SAGE mentor. At Metropolitan, she was a member of the Liturgical Dance Ministry and Girl Scout Troop 3089. Brittany is majoring in Mass Communication and her minor is Business Communications/Liberal Arts. Her main goal in life is to become an entertainment lawyer so that she can assist others with their legal needs. Brittany says, "it's not about the money for me, but in my opinion and by the way I feel, it is very satisfying work. I believe that my education and experience, combined with my enthusiasm and aptitude for a legal career, makes me uniquely suited for this type of hands on work."

Elliott Cleveland, son of William and Reba Cleveland, graduated from Accotink Academy ALC, Springfield, VA. He was a three year academic scholar, member of the photography and CSI club, and twice was first place winner in the Science Fair. At Metropolitan, Elliott is a member of the Sunday Church School, Junior Usher Board, was YPD parliamentarian (2007-2009) and participated in the Rites of Passage. During the 2009 school year, Elliott attended Northern Virginia Community College. This fall he is a student at The Art Institute of Washington and will major in video production. Elliott intends to work in video production/editing and his goal is to eventually own a video company.

Monica Fikes, daughter of Adrienne Fikes, a graduate of T.C. Williams High School, is currently attending Virginia Tech. In high school, Monica was a member of the Varsity Basketball, Track, and Lacrosse teams; National Honor Society; Student Government Association; and Symphonic/Marching Band. At Virginia

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Tech, she is secretary of the VaTech chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), a member of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Inter-mural Basketball and Flag Football teams. At Metropolitan, Monica was a member of the Youth Orchestra. Her major is Engineering Science and Mechanics: Biomechanics Option. Monica's goal is to find her passions and to pursue them.

Micah Hogan, son of Drs. Michal Young and John Hogan.

Camille J. Huggins, daughter of Jerome and Janet Oakley Huggins, graduated from Wilson Senior High School Science and Math Academy. At Wilson, Camille was high school captain, American Red Cross Blood Drive; member of the dance team and volleyball team; peer facilitator; youth poll worker; and Capital Area Food Bank volunteer. At Metropolitan, she was financial secretary, Junior Usher Board; a member of the Sunday Church School, Youth Leadership Program, and Youth Ministry. Camille is attending the Florida A&M University where she is majoring in Business Finance and Administration and is a member of the Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Her goal is to become a lawyer.

Adam David Alphonzo Johnston, son of Loretta Ruth Johnston, graduated from St. John's College High School. He was a member of St. John's Board, Multicultural Student Alliance, and the track and field team. At Metropolitan, Adam was secretary, Junior Usher Board; secretary, YPD; and a member of Ezekiel's Mighty Men Ministry. Adam was awarded a full scholarship to Grinnell College (Iowa) where he is majoring in Religious Studies. At Grinnell, he is active in Concerned Black Students, Black Church Committee, peer mentor, track and field team, and the NAACP. Adam's goal is to become a lawyer.

Richard Henry Jones, son of Leon and Barbara Jones, graduated from Eastern High School. While in high school, Richard was a member of the track team and played Junior

Varsity basketball. Richard's goal is to become a music producer.

Vashti Jo'Mae Little, daughter of ReeseWandell Little and Johnnie Mae Smoots-Little, graduated from Archbishop Carroll High School. She is currently a sophomore at St. John's University, Jamaica, NY. During her freshman year at St. John's, Vashti was a member of the Campus Ministry, NAACP, and Haraya - Pan-African American Society. She has a dual major in Government/Politics and English. At Metropolitan, Vashti is a member of the Stewardess Board, Sunday Church School, Global Ministry and Restoration Special Events Committee. She was a member of the YPD, Liturgical Dance Ministry, Girl Scout Troop 3089, and Junior Usher Board. Vashti's goal is to become an entertainment lawyer.

Shannon Nichole Washington, daughter of Anthony O. and Theresa B. Washington, graduated from Archbishop Carroll High School, where she was a member of the track team, debate team, and president of the Stock (Market) team. At Metropolitan, Shannon was active in Girl Scout Troop 3089, where she was a Brownie, Girl Scout, and Senior Scout worship leader. She also has served as Mistress of Ceremonies for several church events, including Christmas and Easter programs. Shannon, a student at Morgan State University, was awarded a partial academic scholarship. Shannon's major is Finance and her goal is to become an investment banker, financier, and/or a financial planner.

2009 College Graduates

Adisa J. Aarons, son of Clayton and Linda Bryant Aarons, graduated from the Ohio State University (Winter 2009). He was vice president of the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) – Ohio State Chapter; member of the NAACP – Ohio Chapter; and Band of Brothers. At Metropolitan, Adisa was active in the Sunday Church School, Audio Visual Ministry, and other

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youth activities. Adisa earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Systems Management and is currently employed with Turner Construction Company in Columbus, Ohio. Adisa's goal is to become a senior officer at a major construction management firm.

2009 Graduate School Graduates

Selena Elise Fizer, daughter of Tyrone and Ellen Fizer, graduated from Bowie State University. She was a member of the Doctoral Cohort 10, Maryland State Teachers Association (National Education Association), and coach of a 5th and 6th grade coed step team at Deerfield Run Elementary School, Laurel, MD. At Metropolitan, Selena is a member/teacher of the Sunday Church School; member of the Young Adult Choir and Young Adult Restoration Network (YARN). She earned a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership. Selena is excited as she begins her 8th year teaching kindergarten students. Her goal is to continue being an outstanding change agent in the field of Early Childhood Education, one who prepares students with the necessary concepts of a good education.

Shelby Fizer, daughter of Tyrone and Ellen Fizer, graduated from the University of Phoenix. She was a member of the Golden Key International Honors Society and Toastmasters International. Shelby earned a Master's degree in Health Administration. Her goal is to continue to evolve both professionally and personally.

To our graduates, "[T]he future doesn't lie ahead of you, waiting to happen – It lies deep inside of you, [W]aiting to be discovered. You should be proud of yourself... not only for what you've done but for your spirit and determination. Congratulations!" (Hallmark)

Carolyn McClain

JUST TRUSTING

I normally like to be in control of things. I like the feeling of knowing circumstances are flowing smoothly, I'm accomplishing the projects I set out to do, and generally moving in the direction I want to go. I like it when, in other words, life is going my way.

Life, however, doesn't go my way too often. I've tried many remedies to fix this disconnect, none of which were successful. More recently, I've decided to adopt another remedy: relinquishing my control to God and just trusting.

I now ask God to help me when I'm in the midst of an unbearable situation. I spend less time trying to figure things out or asking why. Instead, I now ask "how," as in how, God, am I to deal with this problem or how can I fix this situation?

I say "at least," more often, as in at least it wasn't more serious or at least I still have a job, my health, my home, or fill in the blank.

More importantly, I'm learning, though slowly, to just trust.

I now know that the words in the Bible are real sources of comfort in an increasingly stressful world:

- "He will keep in perfect peace all those whose thoughts are stayed on thee."
- "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear. The Lord is the strength of my life of whom shall I be afraid."

Just trusting is finally the remedy that I seek.

R.D. Ford

**Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds.
(Orison Swett Marden)**

KEEP YOUR HAND ON THE PLOW, HOLD ON

Mahalia Jackson – October 26, 1911 – January 27, 1972

Mahalia Jackson, born in New Orleans, LA, was blessed with a powerful contralto voice. Ms. Jackson, the first queen of gospel music, became one of the most influential gospel singers in the world. During her career, Ms. Jackson recorded about 35 albums; her catalog of 45-rpm records included a dozen recordings that each sold a million copies.

In 1929, Jackson met composer and vocalist, the Rev. Thomas A. Dorsey. Rev. Dorsey, the Father of Gospel Music, gave her musical advice. During the mid-1930s they began a touring relationship that lasted fourteen years, with Jackson singing Dorsey's songs for church programs and conventions.

Rev. Dorsey's arrangement, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," was Ms. Jackson's signature song. In 1947, Jackson signed with the Apollo label, and in 1948 recorded the William Herbert Brewster song "Move on up A Little Higher."

This recording was so very popular that inventories could not be maintained to meet demands; an astonishing eight million copies were sold. In 1998, the song was honored with the Grammy Hall of Fame Award.

Mahalia Jackson, in 1950, became the first gospel singer to perform at New York's Carnegie Hall when Joe Bostic produced the "Negro Gospel and Religious Music Festival." Jackson began to perform in Europe in 1952 and critics hailed her as the "world's greatest gospel singer." Throughout the continent she sang to capacity audiences. In Paris, Jackson was called the Angel of Peace.

Mahalia Jackson died in Chicago, IL. To honor her life, Chicago and New Orleans each held special memorial services. In Chicago, at the Greater Salem Baptist Church, 50,000 people filed silently past Jackson's mahogany, glass-topped coffin in final tribute to the queen of gospel song.

The next day, 6,000 or more people filled

every seat or stood along the walls of the Arie Crown Theater of McCormick Place, Chicago's public concert hall, for a two-hour funeral service. Participants during the service were Mahalia's pastor, the Rev. Leon Jenkins, Mayor Richard J. Daley, Mrs. Coretta Scott King; entertainers Sammy Davis, Jr. and Ella Fitzgerald; eulogist Dr. Joseph H. Jackson, president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.; and Aretha Franklin closed the service with a moving rendition of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand."

Three days later, and a thousand miles away from Chicago, the scene was repeated, the long lines, the silent tribute, and thousands who filled the great hall of the downtown New Orleans Rivergate Convention Center.

While Ms. Jackson was well known for her rendition of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," another of her songs, "Keep Your Hand on the Plow," tells more about Mahalia Jackson and is actually reminiscent of her rural roots. The admonishments in the words to this song continue to bear witness for us today. Jesus himself said, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (Luke 9: 62)

The words in "Keep Your Hand on the Plow" says,

**"Heard the voice of Jesus say
Come unto me, I am the way.
When my way gets dark as night,
I know the Lord will be my light,"**

The message in this song is like a clarion call that was resonant in a mighty way to the forerunner of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. One hundred seventy two years ago (in 1838), free blacks and slaves aided by those who supported their cause to build a mighty church, surely faced a dark way.

How would they raise the funds to build the church? Who would develop the plans; construct the church; design and cast the stained glass windows; and forge the steeple?

What would be the process for building

this edifice in a location that at that time was on the western outskirts of a growing city?

History tells us that these congregants were tired of walking five miles to attend the A.M.E. church on Capitol Hill. They desired to build a church that would be located closer to the Foggy Bottom, Georgetown area of Washington, DC. They put their hand on the plow, and did not take it off.

The words in this song continue,

"You can talk about me much as you please/...more you talk, gonna stay on my knees."

Metropolitan's historian and a modern day griot, Mrs. Thelma Dean Jacobs described the turmoil and split in the congregation when, in 1881, it was time to build this edifice. There were three different congregational factions; one group left the A.M.E. Connection; another 140 members withdrew to form Plymouth Congregational Church, and the remaining members stayed to build Metropolitan.

Mrs. Jacobs calls this last group the "faithful stalwarts" who kept the faith and stayed the course. They kept their hand on the plow; in the face of doubt and division, they still kept their hand on the plow.

In our current season of restoration, as the true extent of repairs was revealed, it was evident that this need was greater than merely redressing the invaluable stained glass windows. The restoration would entail refitting the infrastructure of the building – heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, as well as repairing extensive water damages and bringing the facility up to current local codes and standards.

As restoration work items were identified to the congregation there was murmuring and doubts about the costs and the necessary level of restoration. The total restoration estimate is \$11 million or \$5 million if only the essential structural tasks are completed. Though confronted with challenges, external and internal issues and concerns, the pastor, stewards, trustees, and membership still kept their hand on the plow.

During this period, the way for

Metropolitan may have seemed dark, or if not dark then most certainly it seemed unsure. The clergy in the pulpit and congregants in the pews indeed wondered and openly questioned how will the church get it all done; where will the funds come from? Yet, the people are faithful to keep "their hand on the plow" in the face of uncertainty, not knowing exactly where or when resources will manifest.

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians states, "For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope" (1 Corinthians 9:10). This belief is echoed in Mahalia Jackson's music when she exclaims,

**"When I get to heaven, gonna sing and shout/
Be nobody there to put me out."**

The A.M.E. denomination was birthed from challenges. We must not forget that Richard Allen, knowing that he would surely encounter obstacles, still chose to walk out of the Methodist Episcopal Church and organize the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He wanted a place where people of color could worship freely and openly. These Christians of African descent desired a church home where they would enjoy freedom of worship.

It is not surprising to be told that Metropolitan, in the past, has been approached to sell the church property. The church is obviously located on prime real estate in this nation's capital city. This property is surrounded by high rise commercial buildings whose construction has contributed to some structural issues that the church now faces.

These issues, exacerbated by many years of construction reverberations and the steady stream of heavy vehicular traffic, have escalated and contributed to the jarring of the church's foundation. In spite of it all, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church is still here on the same site some 100 plus years later and more so, was recently designated a national historical property. High rise buildings aside, offers to purchase the property aside, and structural needs aside, the church has continued to keep

its hand on the plow.

In the song Mahalia testifies,
"I know my robe's gonna fit me well,
I tried it on at the gates of Hell."

Our ancestors endured inhumane treatment on the middle passage. They had no idea what was in store for them. They were involuntarily tightly packed into the bowels of ships and transported to foreign shores. They were sold as slaves, roped, and beaten. Yet, our ancestors heard the voice of Jesus say, "come unto me, I am the way; keep your hand on the plow-hold on...just hold on." And they kept their hand on the plow.

Metropolitan, certainly has confronted challenges of "how are we going to raise needed funds?" Bills are due, funds are low, and it may seem as if we are looking into a deep abyss, no light to be seen. With determination, Metropolitan has pressed on and kept its hand on the plow.

Mahalia Jackson has reminded us that the Lord will hold your hand as you keep it on the plow. So it was with those who built Metropolitan; so it is with those who seek to build upon that legacy one hundred seventy-two years later. Metropolitan, always remember you must keep your hand on the plow.

Dr. Anne Bouie

BEST WISHES TO: MRS. PEARL A. ALLEN AND MRS. ROSEMARY TATE WHO RETIRED FROM TEACHING SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL AFTER SERVING OVER 40 AND 30 YEARS, RESPECTIVELY. CONGRATULATIONS TO: DR. SELENA FIZER AND MS. TERIA DRAYTON, LIFELONG STUDENTS OF THE SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL AND NOW THE NEW TEACHERS.

NOTE: The current status of restoration work is ever evolving and progressing. Each week the church is blessed to witness the evidence of additional construction being undertaken and tasks being completed.

RESTORATION Frequently Asked Questions

This article presents updated information on Metropolitan's restoration efforts. It responds to some questions/issues raised regarding construction projects and financing.

Restoration expenses are being paid with funds raised through membership sacrificial giving, donations, a SunTrust Bank loan, cash advances from the Rogers Memorial Trust and the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Endowment Trust, and the Capital Campaign. Financial donations also have been received from friends in the Connectional A.M.E. Church.

- **What is the status of the restoration construction project?**

Extensive renovations and repairs are being undertaken to restore the structural integrity of this more than a century-old church. Work is also being done to upgrade the physical plant by installing and using 21st century materials and technology. Metropolitan is involved in at least a twelve-month general construction contract, and the work is more than forty-five percent complete. The contractor reports that the construction work is on schedule, and Phases I and II of the restoration should be completed by the end of the year.

Some work that was intended to be done in Phase III of the construction was approved by the Church Official Board to be reassigned to the current work phases. With these changes when Phases I and II are completed the church sanctuary will be restored to its original appearance.

The construction work is being monitored by a qualified and experienced group of contractors, architects, and designers. The group includes the firms of Devroux and Purnell, Gilford Construction Corporation, and Bryant Mitchell, PLLC who meet weekly with several Metropolitan officers and members to manage and oversee the work of the restoration project. The meetings have been held most Wednesdays since the construction first began.

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Sanctuary

A new sprinkler system and piping have been installed throughout the sanctuary as part of the fire suppression, detection, and safety measures that are needed to bring the building into full compliance with DC codes. After scaffolding was erected, the sanctuary ceiling was completely removed. A new metal ceiling with fire-rated drywall backing and new light fixtures have been installed.

The scaffolding is now being removed since the ceiling has been replaced. Wiring for sanctuary lighting is close to being completed.

Work in the attic is underway. This construction includes installation of a staging and walking platform, a large attic louver, and new electrical wiring.

Previously, the temperature in the sanctuary and Douglass Hall were controlled jointly by one heating system and one air conditioning system. These old systems have been removed. Air conditioning condenser-compressor units have been installed and are located in the church's exterior rear yard.

The air handler units associated with air conditioning are installed in the attic. These units will provide zoned air conditioning for the sanctuary and Douglass Hall and will have separate controls for each area.

During these summer months, as an attempt to cool the sanctuary, electric industrial fans and individual air conditioning window units were purchased. In May, the air conditioning units were installed in the lower windows on both the 15th and 16th Street sides of the sanctuary. These purchases were made possible through private donations.

There had been limited access to the side aisles of the church sanctuary. It was discovered that some floor areas had weakened beneath the old cast iron radiators that were removed to allow for repair work on the water damaged floor. The sanctuary heating system is being converted from steam to forced hot air. This will eliminate the problem of moisture in the flooring. New, individually controlled baseboard heating units will be installed. Two new gas-fired

boilers for the heating system have arrived and will be connected to supply heat to Douglass Hall and the sanctuary.

Before work could be done to restore the sanctuary walls, lead based paint had to be abated. Companies were solicited to perform the abatement work and the church received three estimates of \$46,000, \$32,000, and \$17,000. The lowest bidder provided the best proposal and was chosen to perform the work. Lead abatement work is evidenced by wall patching in the sanctuary. This work is primarily completed and the drywall has been installed.

Ground Floor and Basement Levels

Access to the first floor level rooms, including Douglass Hall, will continue to be restricted. This requires that most activities should be scheduled off site for the next few months. Members are strongly advised to contact the church office for guidance. The contractors have demolished the old ceilings, old piping, and existing partitions in Douglass Hall. Two handicapped accessible restrooms are being constructed in the area. The supply lines for the toilets have been inspected and the required permits have been obtained. The first floor level men's restroom is being enlarged and completely renovated.

A new sprinkler system is being installed. Ductwork for the new air conditioning system is close to being complete, and so are the heat plumbing lines for the new heating system.

Construction work is being done in the first floor level boardroom and the office space directly across the hallway.

Church Steeple

After the scaffolding was installed in the sanctuary, the contractors could see that the steeple was tilting and in dire need of repair. This was not known at the time of the original construction contract; thus, a change order had to be issued. The steeple is now completely renovated, primed, and painted.

- **What was the purpose of the scaffolding in front of the church?**

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Scaffolding and decking were erected on the front of the church for tuck-pointing work being done on the exterior. Once completed that scaffolding was removed. Exterior scaffolding that was subsequently erected was then used for the reinstallation of the stained glass Episcopacy Window.

- **What is the restoration status of the Episcopacy Window?**

After a brief church ceremony that highlighted the significance of the historic stained glass window, the Episcopacy Window was removed for an estimated five-month glass restoration process. The contractor transported the window sections to the restoration company for wood stripping, art glass restoration, re-leading, and the application of a protective safety glass covering.

The window remained with the contractor, Higgins and Associates for safety and security, until re-pointing of the exterior front façade on the M Street front side of the church was finished. The window has now been completed and reinstalled.

Restoration of the Episcopacy Window completed the first phase of a five- to six-year effort to restore all twenty-nine stained glass windows in the church.

- **What costs have been incurred to date for restoration of the Episcopacy Window?**

Metropolitan has paid \$94,356.76 for work done to the Episcopacy Window; there is a remaining balance of \$40,438.61. The final payment will be due since the window was successfully re-installed at the end of August.

- **How will the remaining construction be financed?**

Two concurrent contracts were signed with Gilford Construction. Contract I (code and safety construction work), for \$2.5 million is being financed from the SunTrust Bank loan; Contract II (code and safety construction work), was originally estimated at the amount of \$950,000, and now at \$1,100,000 due to unforeseen issues, is to be paid by Metropolitan. The church must

raise these funds. Metropolitan's long-term strategy for paying the total financial amount of the restoration work is through the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Capital Campaign, which has an established fundraising goal of \$11,000,000. That amount was estimated to be needed to render this edifice historically restored and functionally up-to-date.

As of July 15, 2010, the church's treasurer reported that there was approximately \$230,000 remaining in the Restoration account. After making the June payment, there remained a balance of \$582,000 in Phase II expenses to be paid by the church. Phase II is scheduled to be completed in December 2010.

Metropolitan's original intent was to fund Gilford's Contract II construction through a combination of church membership efforts – Leadership campaign, Easter Pledge campaign, and finally, the sale of the Sudbury Road residential property for at least \$800,000.

- **What is the schedule of payments to complete the Phase II work?**

The schedule and amount of payments due on a monthly basis between July 2010 and January 2011 is as follows: July, \$201,433; August, \$189,255; September, \$134,289; October, \$135,940; November, \$ 87,138; December, \$ 30,520; and January, \$17,549.

- **Who should members contact to answer questions concerning contributions they made to the restoration project?**

Persons with questions about their personal donations should contact members of the Restoration Finance Committee: Thedford Collins, Isiah Dupree, Ulysses Little, or Peggy Peagler. Any questions concerning Easter pledges, sacrificial giving, restoration offerings, and the recording of contributions may be directed to Isiah Dupree and Thedford Collins.

- **Has the Sudbury property been sold?**

The sale of this property has been delayed because of DC landlord/tenant issues. Therefore, to satisfy contractual obligations with the Gilford Corporation, an interim funding source

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needed to be identified. At an open Church Official Board meeting on July 15, 2010, the church's membership accepted the proposal that the most expedient approach to secure these needed funds was to seek cash advances from the church membership through a formal agreement (promissory note) that specified that these persons would be repaid with interest after the sale of the Sudbury property.

Metropolitan has a professional estimate that the sale of this property should net approximately \$650,000 (after commission, real estate taxes, and other closing costs). The church has received funds from the Rogers Memorial Trust and the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Endowment. The amount of \$210,000 will be repaid with interest to these entities. Given the amount of this cash advance and the described offsets (sales commission, real estate taxes, and other closing costs), the maximum unencumbered equity from the sale of the Sudbury Road property will be \$400,000. Thus, \$400,000 is the upper limit of the church's ability to cover congregational cash advances which will be used to fund the Gilford obligation.

- **What is the significance of the new historical designations the church has received?**

The church has received two historic designations: (1) National Historic Landmark Designation, which positions the church to receive corporate gifts and grants from foundations; and (2) National Trust for Historic Preservation's List of Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites in the United States, which heightens awareness of this church and affords charitable giving opportunities for individuals and entities that choose to donate to historic sites. Six individuals who responded to this online appeal have contributed a total of \$1,200 to the church.

- **What is the status of grant applications for fundraising?**

In May 2010, a request for funding was submitted to the US Department of Interior Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant program.

Entities to receive this funding will be announced soon.

- **What are other outreach sources to raise funds?**

Several strategic steps are being taken to heighten awareness through public relations projects and marketing. A marketing brochure with photos and a letter that gives historic and restoration information on the church is being finalized for distribution to corporations.

In addition to soliciting funding grants from the federal and District of Columbia governments, Metropolitan is seeking financial support from the Connectional A.M.E. Church, corporate donors, community partners, grass roots organizations, historic preservation philanthropists, and church ministries.

One result of Metropolitan being included on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's List of Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites in the United States, is that direct donations can be made to the church through the National Trust's website at www.preservationnation.org. There is also a link on the church's website that informs potential donors and supporters on how to make online contributions. The Metropolitan link is www.PreserveMetropolitan.org.

Janet Oakley Huggins

References: Materials distributed at Open Board Meetings – April 19, 2010 and July 15, 2010; Church Conference on June 26, 2010; information presented and provided by Trustees Terry Johnson, Gwendolyn Kimbrough, Leroy Nesbitt, Jr., and Willie Oxendine; Stewards Thedford Collins, Wade Dugger, Willie D. Elliott, Marie Johns, Rollie Kimbrough, and Walter Morris; and church members Dina Curtis, Vernard Dixon, Alton Green, and Anthony Hawkins, Church Administrator.

A GIFT FROM GOD TO SHARE WITH OTHERS

Some of us surely remember when Kimberly Brown became a part of the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church family. Kimberly united with Metropolitan when she was a graduate student at Howard University. She was

a member of the A.M.E. College Ministry on Howard's campus, which was headed by Rev. Constance Wheeler (now Evans) who was then an assistant pastor at Metropolitan.

We watched as Kimberly grew and matured in her Christian journey. Her love for the Lord and His word became more evident. It wasn't too long before she was in the pulpit, a place where she looked right at home and immediately had a sense of command. Then she was gone for a short while and returned as Rev. Mrs. Kimberly Barnes (it's nice when you don't have to change the initials on your luggage). And many of us were hopeful that she was home, at Metropolitan, for good.

As a Metropolitan assistant pastor, Rev. Barnes was responsible for Pastoral Care and the Youth Ministry. Additionally, she became the church's voice against the atrocities in Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which brought her both national and international recognition. Once again, Rev. Barnes' assumption of these roles was so natural, as she carried out her duties with finesse and what appeared to observers as gentle ease. Rev. Kim was at home - but, not for long.

At the 60th session of the Washington Annual Conference in April 2010, Bishop A.J. Richardson appointed the Reverend Kimberly Brown Barnes to pastor the Gethsemane African Methodist Episcopal Church in Landover, MD. So, she and her husband, Rev. Rodney Barnes have a new church home.

On the fourth Sunday in May, this writer, along with a group from Metropolitan, visited the Barnes at their new church home. Our group included young adults: Dakarai Aarons; Sharmica Drayton; Teria Drayton and her oldest daughter, Nadeeya; Selena Fizer; Aja Holmes and her friend Consquella Phillips; Britney Jones; and Jennifer Tate. In addition to this writer, Sister Rosemary Tate, was also at this service, trying to hang with these young adults.

The Gethsemane worship service is being held in the cafeteria/auditorium of the Kenmoor Elementary School. That Sunday morning, the Metropolitan visitors joined

approximately 20 Gethsemane members, including children. A drummer was the sole musician present that Sunday.

Rev. Barnes' sermon topic was "Do You Still Have the Spirit?" and the scriptural reference was Acts 2:1-11. As I sat there and watched Rev. Kim conduct the service, once again, she appeared to be right at home, in full command carrying out her duties as usual with finesse and a sense of gentle ease.

Rev. Kim spoke about the purpose of Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit. She pointed out that God sends the Holy Spirit to us as a gift to energize us; to share with others; and to empower others to serve God. There was no doubt that on that Sunday morning the Holy Spirit was there at Gethsemane A.M.E., in that elementary school auditorium, in the preacher, and in us. There was no need for a pianist or a vocalist because the music was in our spirits.

In speaking with Rev. Kim after the service, she described her pastorate as an humbling experience because "you're it." While, at the same time, she added that it is exciting because she is serving the Lord in a different setting and there are so many new opportunities. Her goals for Gethsemane are to touch the community and make an impact. The members also hope to get their own church building.

Rev. Rodney Barnes commented that he was so proud; they are having so much fun. "Things are happening for us and this is where we are to be - we're in a good place." Jokingly, Rev. Rodney says "you can call me 'the First Man'." It really doesn't matter because this is a team effort and God is good.

We may surely continue to miss Rev. Kim and Rev. Rodney from the Metropolitan pulpit on Sunday mornings. Yet, as Rev. Kim preached that Sunday, God does send us the Holy Spirit as a gift to share with others. Likewise, Rev. Kim's gifts and talents must be shared with others. Best wishes and congratulations to Rev. Kimberly and Rev. Rodney from your Metropolitan family!!!

Ellen A. Fizer

DANIEL ALEXANDER PAYNE RECLAMATION PROGRAM (DAPRP) STILL JOURNEYING

At times it is hard to believe that the Daniel Alexander Payne Reclamation Program (DAPRP) is five years old; but it is! DAPRP, rooted in Metropolitan's Men's Day 2005 celebration, marked a glorious 5th Year Anniversary in September 2010!

The theme for the 2005 Men's Day occasion was "*Ministering at Ground Zero, A Call Beyond Alms.*" The focus was on the Prison Industrial Complex and Its Impacts on Our Community. This topic generated great enthusiasm in the men of Metropolitan.

The Men's Day events included a day of workshops, speakers, and discussions. There was a special session on reclamation led by Evans D. Hopkins, author of "*Life After Life: A Story of Rage and Redemption*" (Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2005). This discussion motivated many men to action. DAPRP subsequently was founded to address the needs of our brothers returning from prison to the Washington metropolitan area.

Since its inception, DAPRP has established and maintained an environment of continuous learning and growth opportunities for any/all to be a part of the DAPRP vision and service mission. In the development stages DAPRP had to generate needed and vital funds. These funds were used to create and execute a Life Skills Training Program (Class 1) for a group of seven young men returning from prison. The initial fundraiser was a Fashion Show that featured male participants.

Another seven young men participated in the subsequent Class 2 Life Skills Training Program. These classes focused on small group training and allowed increased opportunities to establish relationships with the individual. It is believed that successful transition from prison to community is a process that requires long-term commitments by all involved.

As a safety-net and/or support system, DAPRP assures that each 'graduate' of the program receives continuous assistance in an

attempt to reduce the rate of recidivism. To date, DAPRP maintains contact with approximately 70 percent of the graduates from Classes 1 and 2. Fewer than 20 percent of these former class participants are currently incarcerated.

In addition to administering the Life Skills Training Programs, in 2008, DAPRP was awarded funding from the Court Services and Supervision Agency (CSOSA). This federal contractual agreement initially required DAPRP to identify and then to coordinate the mentoring activities and services provided to recently released prisoners by all faith-based institutions and service providers throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

This first experience with federal contracting required DAPRP to establish a service oriented infrastructure. The infrastructure had to provide human resource capability to assess and hire staff, create a professional work space, as well as, develop payroll and reporting expertise.

From this relationship with CSOSA, DAPRP learned first-hand and directly how federal requirements must be addressed. A major federal contracting emphasis was on meeting metrics requirements. These requirements are set to determine the 'success' of a contract organized to coordinate and provide a myriad of 'services' to a targeted population.

In addition to Life Skills Training and administering the CSOSA contract, DAPRP, in conjunction with the DC Fatherhood Initiative, successfully created and implemented another program. It is known as the First Saturday Program, and is conducted on the first Saturday of each month. The objective is direct interaction and real time service to specific clientele.

The primary means used to outreach to the target population is word of mouth. Since the program's inception in 2008, there has been continuous and tremendous growth in participant numbers and the amount of services.

The program encourages participants to self-assess where they are on their respective paths to being productive members of the community.

The participants are encouraged to identify any encountered impediments. Such identification enables DAPRP, in conjunction with the participant, to develop action plans. These plans provide solutions and pathways for effective resolution to these impediments.

To date DAPRP has empowered individuals to navigate life skills issues in addition to pursuing education/GED requirements; securing personal identification items – license, Social Security cards; advising how to seek job training that provides certifications, apprenticeships applications, food handling opportunities; developing individual skills in completing computer-based job applications, writing a resume; ensuring computer literacy in addition to providing long term mentor-support.

Metropolitan continuously has provided current and pertinent information and has developed expertise in addressing the service needs of the target community. The church encourages DAPRP to pursue the challenges of government bureaucracy and professional health and human resource services. DAPRP strives to achieve a clear understanding and interpretation of legal ramifications and fiduciary accountability.

The dedicated members of the Daniel Alexander Payne Community Development Corporation (DAPCDC), the church not-for profit organization, have contributed invaluable support and long, late, and labor (L³) intensive hours to the DAPRP. DAPRP is under the umbrella of the DAPCDC. This has created a mighty partnership between these entities, which empowers DAPRP to maintain and advance a growing ministry of service. Yet, above all, DAPRP remains keenly aware and sure that the Lord has kept a close vigil over its “comings and goings” and remains a guiding lamp unto DAPRP’s path.

DAPRP always has sought to be faithful. As its mission is carried out, this biblical verse provides inspiration. *Speaking to Jeremiah, the Lord said, “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is,*

and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16 NIV)

Gregory Johnson

WASHINGTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE REPORT

The 60th session of the Washington Annual Conference opened on Tuesday, April 20th, 2010, at Martin’s Crosswinds, Greenbelt, Maryland. The session began with the convening of the Annual Convention Meeting of the Women’s Missionary Society (WMS), Washington Conference Branch. The daylong convention included worship service, workshops, the annual luncheon, and election of delegates to the 2011 WMS Quadrennial Convention. This annual meeting concluded with “Night in White,” Missionary Witness and Capping Service, which was held at Reid Temple African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Glendale, Maryland.

Women in Ministry conducted its business session at Martin’s Crosswinds on April 20th. After the session they had a joint luncheon with the WMS. At the conclusion of “Night in White,” the final session of this day was the Bishop’s Roll Call of all conference ordained elders, deacons, and delegates.

The official opening of the conference on Wednesday, April 21st, was called into session by Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Presiding Prelate. The Rev. Dr. Barbara Glenn, pastor, First A.M.E. Church, Gaithersburg, MD, preached the Annual Sermon.

In the afternoon, the first of 80 pastors of churches in the Capitol and Potomac Districts of the Washington Conference began to present their annual report. These reports described the stewardship, services, and activities of the local churches. Metropolitan’s pastor, Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Braxton’s report addressed the physical restoration of the church. He thanked the conference and Bishop Richardson for their support.

The Sons of Allen Men’s Night Celebration on Wednesday featured

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The Rev. Dr. Samuel E. Hayward, III, pastor, Hemingway Memorial A.M.E. Church, District Heights, Maryland, as the preacher. Adult men and young men who had been recommended by their local church were honored at this service. Metropolitan's adult man and young man of the year were Brothers Anthony Hawkins and Tony Tue, respectively.

After pastoral reports were completed on Thursday, April 22nd, the order of the day included conducting Conference business, presenting various committee reports, and reviewing administrative adjudications.

During a very uplifting mid-day Ecumenical Service, The Rev. Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Washington, DC, preached a mighty message. His sermon was inspirational and soul stirring.

The Annual Lay Witness and Installation of Officers Service was held Thursday night. Metropolitan's Brother Darwin Curry and Sister Maria Wallace were installed as 2nd and 3rd vice presidents of the Washington Conference Lay Organization (WCLO), respectively, and Brother Matthew Douglas as WCLO president.

Friday morning began with a Memorial Service and the Necrology Report. The Rev. Dr. Norman V. Osborne, Presiding Elder, 4th Episcopal District, preached the sermon for the Ordination. At the actual service of ordination of Itinerant Elders and Deacons, Bishop Richardson was joined by Bishop S. Garnett Henning, Presiding Prelate of the 3rd Episcopal District, A.M.E. Church.

Additional committee reports were given in the afternoon. The day ended after a Youth Night service, at which Rev. Carey James, Youth Minister at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church, through his dynamic message inspired all, but specifically he touched the youth, our future church leaders. Souls were saved at this moving service.

Brother James Ealey of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church was guest lecturer at the Lay Organization's workshop on Saturday morning. Brother Ealey discussed thoroughly Blacks in the Bible.

Bishop Richardson was preacher for the Closing Worship Service. This service was followed by reading of the remaining reports, presentation of resolutions, and the Commissioning Service. Bishop Richardson then made pastoral appointments; there were several changes announced, including the assignment of Rev. Kimberly Brown Barnes, Metropolitan's Assistant Pastor for Pastoral Care and the Youth Minister, to the Gethsemane A.M.E. Church, Landover, Maryland. Rev. Ronald E. Braxton was reassigned Senior Pastor at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. With the Benediction, the 60th session of the Washington Annual Conference closed.

It was an honor to have served as my church's delegate to this Conference. I thank the church for confidence in my service. Though I could cite many highlights of this session, I will only share three in this article.

One notable highlight that was very significant for me was the retirement of Chaplain Carroll R. Chambliss, member of the clergy at Metropolitan, from active ministry. For many years, Rev. Chambliss and his wife, Mrs. Christene Chambliss have served this church and the Connectional A.M.E Church in various roles. I am most proud to acknowledge Rev. Carroll and Sister Christene as one of the finest teams in African Methodism.

Another highlight, music rendered by the Conference Choir under the direction of Mrs. Susan Todd Edwards, was just magnificent. The choir sang at the ordination and closing services and never failed to be most electrifying with its songs of praise. Several Metropolitan members sing in this choir. Brother Danny Hodge was director of the music at the opening worship service.

This highlight I share with pride and some sadness. Congratulations to Rev. Kimberly and husband, Rev. Rodney Barnes, upon her first pastoral assignment as minister to the congregation of Gethsemane A.M.E. Church. Rev. Kim served Metropolitan for over 15 years and has blessed this church with her spirit, dedication, and highly effective ministry. I wish

this ministerial team the very best.

Organization of the Annual Conference was the foresight of our founding fathers and after these many years it still has a purpose to fulfill. I look forward to the 61st session of the Washington Annual Conference scheduled for April 2011.

James F. Robinson

MY JOURNEY TO METROPOLITAN A.M.E. CHURCH

I was born into a loving Christian family. My mother was a member of an A.M.E. Zion Church; my father was a member of an A.M.E. Church. Though they each attended their respective churches regularly throughout their lives, on special occasions they went to the other's church. My father was a Steward, Superintendent of the Sunday School, and the Scout Master of his church's Boy Scout troop. My mother was a member of several organizations in her church.

My older brother and I were baptized in my father's church, Bethel A.M.E., which was within walking distance of our home. We needed transportation to go to Trinity A.M.E. Zion, my mother's church. My mother was unable to attend church each Sunday because she taught school out of town and often was at home for just a part of the weekend. Occasionally she would "show us off" at her church for service. My brother and I joined the A.M.E. church when we were young.

As early as I can remember, through high school and some of my college years until my brother was drafted into the Army, we were very active in all aspects of the church. These activities included Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, church plays, scouting, glee club, and the Allen Christian Endeavor League.

I entered the Air Force after college graduation and shortly afterwards married the love of my life. Over a ten-year period we

parented three children. We attended church and sent our children to Sunday School at churches throughout this nation and overseas. Although my wife was raised in the Baptist tradition, she was not fanatical about it. We attended A.M.E. churches in Waco and Bryan, TX; Sacramento, CA; Wichita, KS; and Seat Pleasant, MD.

A military assignment took our family to Greensboro, NC shortly after the death of my father. In Greensboro, we joined Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church, which was my mother's church. We traveled and lived in various places, and when there were no A.M.E. or A.M.E. Zion churches in the area, we attended the nondenominational churches on the military bases.

My last Air Force tour of duty brought our family to the Washington, DC area in 1980, and we lived in Fairfax County, VA. At that time, our two older children were away in college, and the youngest was in middle school. In selecting a place of worship my wife decided to return to her Baptist roots. She and our youngest child joined Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA.

Although I did not join Alfred Street, I did attend on an irregular basis. The men at Alfred Street were accepting and seemed to have a spirituality that I wanted. Looking back, I think I was jealous of what they had and I didn't know how to get it. I allowed secular things, such as playing golf with my friends, to get in my way of developing a true relationship with God.

After my wife of 41 years died in 1999, my attendance at Alfred Street Baptist just about stopped. It was painful to attend without her; it was painful to see our friends together when I was alone. Golf became my Sunday retreat. Friends invited me to worship at their church, and I did attend different churches when it rained or was too cold to play golf.

Deep down inside I knew that something of importance was missing in my life. I felt guilty

that I wasn't routinely going to church. I had gone to church on a regular basis for most of my life. I felt that maybe going back to my A.M.E. roots might be an answer. I found very few A.M.E. churches in Fairfax County, VA. So initially and infrequently during several months, I attended First A.M.E. Church of Manassas, VA. Likewise, I periodically attended Ward Memorial A.M.E. Church in northeast Washington, DC.

During my search for an A.M.E. church, I decided to come to Metropolitan. I had mapped out and driven the route to Metropolitan the day before church service to ensure that I would arrive timely for the early worship. On that Sunday, as the service proceeded I began to feel at home. This was a feeling I hadn't experienced for what seemed like an eternity. The members seemed genuinely happy to see me and they extended greetings during the welcome period of the service. At the conclusion of worship, those persons seated nearby asked a few questions and invited me back. The pastor and ministerial staff also greeted me with reverence and asked me to come again.

Frequently during the next week my thoughts went back to my experience at Metropolitan, to the wonderful A.M.E. service, the sermon, and the members. I could not wait for the upcoming Sunday. My second visit was more of the same that I had experienced on the previous Sunday, yet better. I no longer felt like a total stranger. Rather, I was beginning to feel like I was at home. I returned to the same pew where I sat the preceding Sunday. The members who once again were seated in that area welcomed me back with even more enthusiasm. After worship when I left Metropolitan, I knew I had found a church home.

I accepted within myself that on my third Sunday attending worship service I would join Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. On that Sunday morning, when the pastor extended the invitation to Christian Discipleship, inviting persons to join the church, I walked forward to meet him at the altar. While walking up the aisle a multitude of feelings overcame me. There was a feeling of God holding my hand leading me to the altar, a

vision of my father and my wife both in white robes and large smiles of approval hovering over me, and a solemnest within me that I hadn't felt in years, if ever.

A few weeks later my pew mate, Ms. Dorothy Gilliam, suggested that I not just be a pew warmer, but I should become active in at least one organization in this church. She specifically suggested the Mighty Men of Metropolitan. I took Ms. Gilliam's advice and joined the Mighty Men of Metropolitan. Even though most of the members seemed much younger than me, there was an immediate bond. These men had something that I wanted and needed, that being a firm relationship with God. They were not ashamed to show their reverence. They didn't have to say it, their actions reflected it.

The Mighty Men of Metropolitan's September 2007 retreat was a huge turning point in my spiritual life. In addition to the fellowship and seminars on health and financial planning, I became acutely aware of a newly found inner spirituality. I set a self-goal to focus and improve on three things – Praise of God, Bible Study, and Prayer.

Was it a coincidence or God's intervention that at a Mighty Men's Saturday Prayer Breakfast I mentioned my goal to Brother Al Spicer? On the very next Sunday Al gave me the book, "Thirty Days of Praise." Shortly afterwards the pastor announced that his weekly Bible Study class was starting. I attend this study without fail. We studied the 6th chapter of Matthew where Jesus tells his disciples both how to pray and how not to pray. God was listening to me and provided access to each part of my goal – Praise, Bible Study, and Prayer. I guess I should have asked for more.

My journey to Metropolitan A.M.E. Church and salvation was mapped out by God. I took a few detours along the way but I feel as though I am now back on track. I love being in this Christian church as a member of a community of people who believe in God and who have accepted the Lord as the guide and master of their lives.

JOURNEY from P. 16

My journey is not over, it has just begun.

Charles Summers

AND THE WINNER IS...

"Everything happens for a reason and you'll understand it by and by" is the credo of MacKenzie Ann Green, Miss DC USA 2010. MacKenzie grew up in Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. Wise beyond her years, MacKenzie has set some admirable standards, and we would all benefit by emulating her high level of confidence and true down to earth genuine sincerity.

MacKenzie is devoted to providing service, and in her bio, she states that she has chosen to champion teen self-esteem and health and fitness for low income families. She intends to pursue these goals under the umbrella of education, preparing to meet life's challenges.

A fearless lifelong competitor, MacKenzie's athletic excellence seems to have been another of her goals. When she was younger she won swimming and equestrian awards – at the age of eight competing in the pool and as a middle-school student competing on horseback. All helped to mold this compassionate yet fierce competitor.

MacKenzie serves on Metropolitan's Stewardess Board and has been a member of the Liturgical Dance Ministry. This young Christian woman says that her recently acquired crown is just a part of what has made her a role model; MacKenzie's life so far also defines that role. She shares this advice:

- ✚ *Never let anyone tell you that your dreams are too big*
- ✚ *You can't lose sight of the big picture*
- ✚ *Surround yourself with positive people*
- ✚ *Never let anyone steal your joy*
- ✚ *Be thankful for everything even your setbacks.*

We proudly salute MacKenzie Ann Green!!

Pat Rogier

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. GLADYS GARY VAUGHN

I am pleased to introduce you to the personable Dr. Gladys Gary Vaughn. The following are Dr. Vaughn's responses to questions that I submitted to her.

Q1. Tell me about yourself.

Gladys: My roots are in the agrarian community—I grew up on a large farm in Central Florida (Ocala), one of five children (four girls and a boy) of Homer F. and Ollie Colden Gary. Educational excellence and community service were expectations, for which we did not fail. We are all college graduates – four doctorates and one Bachelor's degree. Each of us earned baccalaureate degrees from historically black institutions (Florida A&M, Spelman, and Paine); and our graduate degrees are in service professions, earned from a range of institutions. I am also the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Fontbonne University, St. Louis, Missouri.

I am a widow since 2000. I was married for 34 years to Dr. Joseph B. Vaughn, Jr., a successful physician who practiced in Prince George's County, MD.

Organizations through which I give service include, but are not limited to, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., The Black Women's Agenda, Habitat for Humanity International, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Daniel Alexander Payne Community Development Corporation, and the Coalition for Black Development in Family and Consumer Sciences.

I am employed by the US Department of Agriculture in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. I have traveled extensively to all 50 states in this country and Puerto Rico; internationally, I have traveled to more than 30 countries.

Q2. Describe how your Christian journey began.

Gladys: I am among those whose faith was "inherited" ...my grandfather, William Primus Gary

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("PaPa"), until his death, was an active member of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Ocala, Florida. His son, my father (Homer A. Gary), was also a member of Mt. Zion. My father attended most services even on Sunday evenings (a majority of churches in the South had Sunday evening services during my childhood). My siblings and I went to Sunday School and worship service "every Sunday the Lord sent" with "PaPa." After my grandfather's death, my parents continued this practice. My faith flourished through things I learned in the A.M.E. church, growing up under my grandfather and father's active participation in the denomination, and included my mother's faith and unfailing belief in the Missionary Baptist Church.

It was through my early involvement in the A.M.E. church that I learned and accepted the teachings of Christ.

Q3. How does your faith in Christ impact your daily life?

Gladys: My daily journey is guided by constant prayer, the Bible, and biblical scriptures such as Galatians 6; 1Corinthians 13; Romans 8; Proverbs 29; and Psalms 46 among others and the "Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Church." I try to live my faith through my work, my giving, and my service.

Q4. How would you discuss issues of faith with others?

Gladys: I probably would discuss issues of faith a variety of ways, including through reviewing messages from some sermons, reading the Bible with others, and through telephone conversations with various friends and colleagues. Sometimes I forward inspirational messages based in scripture via email. Other times I engage in discussions about my faith with persons over meals, via telephone calls, in Bible study and Church School classes, and through my work with members of the Daniel Alexander Payne Community Development Corporation (DAPCDC) and the Daniel Alexander Payne Reclamation Program (DAPRP).

Q5. What are your favorite books of the Bible?

Gladys: The Books of Isaiah, Esther, Psalms, Corinthians, and Timothy.

Q6. Do you have a favorite prayer?

Gladys: Yes. It is a grace I created.

Q7. How do you use the Bible in reaching God's solution to a problem?

Gladys: Sometimes I refer to favorite scriptures; or I review old Church School quarterlies and messages from sermons; sometimes I have conversations with friends who are deeply spiritual and who have studied the Bible. Most often I pray and talk to God for direction to and through His word.

Q8. Who are your theological heroes?

Gladys: There are many! Among them are: Richard Allen, John Hurst Adams, Henry Ward Beecher, Calvin Butts, Cain Hope Felder, Vernon Johns, Clarence Jordan, Martin Luther King, Jr., Samuel DeWitt Proctor, Benjamin Mays, Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Otis Moss, Sr., Reinhold Niebuhr, Gardner C. Taylor, Mother Theresa, Paul Tillich, and Desmond Tutu.

Q9. How do you define your role as a church member?

Gladys: As a member of this congregation, currently I am actively involved in the usual and customary services and activities such as tithing, Church School, restoration fundraising, writing testimonials for published Lenten and Advent pamphlets, etc. I also participate in special events (e.g., serving on the 2009 Revival Committee, attending activities including the Global Ministry Tea). I anticipate continuing my involvement in church functions in this manner.

As appointed by the pastor, I chair the Board of Directors of the Daniel Alexander Payne Community Development Corporation. DAPCDC implements the Daniel Alexander Payne Reclamation Program, a critical initiative focused on the needs of men recently released from prison. Our intent is to build a strong DAPCDC that will partner with and fund community-based programs to improve life options for children and families in the District. As DAPCDC is strengthened, we envision a stronger, broader vehicle for outreach, one that involves more

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members of the church and community.

Being an active member of Habitat for Humanity and on the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity International, I hope to continue to build a partnership with the Connectional A.M.E. Church to increase the number of houses built/renovated/improved for people in need, especially those of African descent, living in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States.

As both leader and follower, I want to continue to use my expertise, experience, and networks to expand the church's outreach and to deepen its legacy. I hope to broker opportunities for Metropolitan A.M.E. Church (MAMEC) to become a partner in innovative new concepts that demonstrate our faith in practical ways to build and strengthen families and communities.

Q10. In your opinion, what poses difficulty for the church?

Gladys: Several pastoral/congregation relationships have not boded well for the church, causing the pendulums of attendance at weekly services, attention to the maintenance of the physical structure, community service, and constant revitalization of the spiritual church to swing widely...rarely to the benefit of MAMEC.

Q11. What do you consider a joyful time for the church?

Gladys: The annual performance of Handel's Messiah, presentation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) choirs, 2009 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Prayer Service, activities of the DAPRP initiative, announcements of church members' achievements, and seeing/talking with stalwart members who are staying the course to restore this historic edifice.

Q12. What hopes do you have for this church?

Gladys: That the phrase "Cathedral of African Methodism" will hold meaning beyond being a 100+ year-old physical structure connected to the history of the A.M.E. church. Rather, that MAMEC will be known as a dynamic, innovative, caring, socially conscious, thriving congregation whose house is clearly imprinted with God's

imprimatur – evident through each day's activities as a new and lasting legacy of community service and social justice is built. That MAMEC will be the "go to" grass roots congregation for views of the black community on issues of national and international importance.

Q13. For you, what is a good day at church?

Gladys: When I leave feeling better than I did when I arrived! When the activities of the church are used to help build community; lead to the improvement of the lives of those most in need; when the message from the sermon "teaches" and helps direct my journey; and when the music is spirit-filled and includes Negro spirituals. It is also a good day when I see members smiling and laughing, and wishing each other well; when the "spirit" of the church is evident in the people of the church; and when someone accepts Christ or becomes a member of MAMEC.

Q14. Where do you find peer support?

Gladys: I am an active member of several women's organizations and professional societies; I have built many enduring friendships among members of these groups. I am active in several national charities in addition; and I have cultivated strong relationships through those networks.

Q15. What are you reading?

Gladys: I am an avid reader and I read almost anything. I recently read the piercing historical book, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," which is about a black woman from Baltimore from whom the HeLa cell strain was derived in the 1950's. These cells were critically important to most scientific advances in combating disease. I love mysteries, and Walter Mosley is among my favorites; I am a devotee of Stephen Carter's writing; and I have a collection of inspirational books by/for women that I frequently revisit I read inspirational literature (Bible, devotional books, etc.) and the comics every day!

Dolores Zimmerman-Jeter

NOTE: DR. GLADYS G. VAUGHN IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF METROPOLITAN'S CIRCLE OF TWELVE. THIS GROUP OF WOMEN IS ORGANIZING THE NEW CONCEPT — "SUNDAYS WITH THE MET."

ALMANAC

Historic Events That Occurred at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church

1881 Last service held at the "old" Union Bethel A.M.E. Church. Church was demolished and construction of the new Metropolitan A.M.E. Church began.

1881 Cornerstone laying ceremony held at site of the new Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, 1518 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. Bishop Alexander Wayman and other eminent A.M.E. church Divines conducted the ceremony.

1886 New "national" Metropolitan A.M.E. Church building dedicated. Senior A.M.E. Bishop Daniel Alexander Payne preached dedicatory sermon.

1887 Funeral service held for The Right Reverend Richard Harvey Cain, 14th A.M.E. bishop.

1887 Funeral service held for The Right Reverend James Shorter, 9th A.M.E. bishop.

1887 Memorial service held for US Army Civil War General John A. Logan. He is credited with starting Memorial Day observance to honor the deceased who served this country.

1887 Service held to commemorate the 65th birthday of the late US President Ulysses S. Grant, former president and US Army Civil War General who died in 1885.

1889 A grand testimonial concert of vocal and instrumental music and a drill exhibition was hosted to honor US Army Major Christian Abraham Fleetwood. Major Fleetwood was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Civil War when he was a Sergeant Major with the 4th US Colored Troops.

1890 Frederick Douglass delivered a lecture "The Race Question." This speech was widely read, reprinted, and distributed nationwide. In 1996, during Metropolitan's African American History Month celebration a copy of the 1890 printed text of this speech was donated to the church archives from the Mark Mitchell Collection.

1891 The Second Session of the World Ecumenical Methodist Conference met in Washington, DC, and an evening program and reception for the delegates was hosted.

1891 The Honorable Frederick Douglass, US Minister and Consul General to Haiti, discussed his two years in Haiti and gave reasons he resigned the appointment and returned home in July 1891.

1893 Ida B. Wells, newspaper reporter, delivered a speech condemning lynching.

1894 Frederick Douglass delivered his last great

speech "*The Lesson of the Hour*" from the pulpit of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. The statesman assailed lynching of African Americans in the United States.

1894 Memorial service held for The Rt. Rev. Thomas M.D. Ward, 10th A.M.E. bishop.

1895 Funeral service held for Frederick Douglass. The Douglass family was joined by US Senators, Supreme Court Justices, the President of Howard University, and other dignitaries at the requiem for the then best known African American in the world.

1895 Funeral service held for Mrs. Laura Cain, widow of The Rt. Rev. Richard Cain, 14th A.M.E. bishop.

1896 Mrs. Grover Cleveland, wife of the US President, attended and was a patroness for a concert benefitting a Colored Girl's Orphan Home.

1898 Blanche Kelso Bruce died in Washington, DC. Elected in 1874 to represent Mississippi, he was the first African American to serve a full term in the US Senate. Bruce's funeral was attended by over 3,000 mourners.

1901 A testimonial evening was held for former US Congressman George Henry White (R-NC), one of the last African Americans elected in the 19th century to serve in the Congress. No African American served in Congress from 1901-1929.

1903 An inaugural concert of Washington, DC's "Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Choral Society" was hosted. The Society, named for the Afro-British composer, featured his oratorio "Hiawatha" with soloists and orchestra in this Washington debut. Harry Thacker Burleigh was a soloist and Metropolitan's Professor John Layton was choir director.

1904 A citation was presented to Booker T. Washington; church's Trustee Board saluted educator for his work at Tuskegee Institute (now University). Citation now hangs in Booker T. Washington's home on the Tuskegee campus in Alabama.

1909 Tribute held for Ex-Senator Joseph B. Foraker (R-Ohio), a Union Army Civil War officer, honored for his support of the African American US Army soldiers who were summarily discharged without a hearing by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906.

1909 Funeral service held for The Rev. John H.

Welch, Metropolitan's first incumbent pastor to pass.

1912 Abdul-Baha, Persian born world Bahai leader, delivered an address on unity and social justice. He was on a two year (1911-13) tour of Europe and the Americas promoting universal peace.

1913 Madame C.J. Walker convened a meeting of her current and future beauty product sales agents.

1913 NAACP held a mass meeting entitled "To Protest Against Segregation – the New Slavery." Earlier in the year, President Woodrow Wilson began to introduce segregation into the long time integrated federal government workforce.

1915 "The Atonement," a sacred cantata, by Afro-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was performed on Easter Sunday evening. An acclaimed classical composer and symphony orchestra conductor, Coleridge-Taylor had visited Washington, DC when he toured the United States in 1904 and 1906. In 1912, he tragically died at the age of 32 in London.

1916 Memorial service was held for educator Booker T. Washington who died in late 1915. An integrated audience of over 3,000 attended the service.

1918 Madame C.J. Walker attended a National Race Congress meeting. The Congress promoted the liberation of African colonies after World War I.

1925 Dr. W.E.B. DuBois addressed the congregation in an NAACP membership drive.

1925 Contralto Marian Anderson gave a concert.

1925 Tenor Roland Hayes was presented in a recital.

1928 Rededication services were held. John Lankford, one of the first registered Black architects in the United States, supervised the three year long restoration and renovation. The Rt. Rev. John Albert Johnson, 34th A.M.E. bishop, preached the rededication sermon. The bishop was the pastor at Metropolitan A.M.E. from 1896-1901.

1930 A college baccalaureate service was hosted where Frelinghuysen University installed Dr. Anna Cooper as president. Dr. Cooper, a former teacher at Washington's Dunbar Senior High School, was the first African American

woman awarded a doctorate in French from the Sorbonne.

1933 The "Frederick Douglass" pew was dedicated; ceremony, organized by Julia West Hamilton, was a part of Metropolitan's 96th anniversary celebration.

1939 Funeral service held for John R. Hawkins, A.M.E. Financial Secretary (treasurer) and first lay man to become treasurer. Hawkins was elected in 1912 and managed the connectional church's financial affairs for 27 years.

1942 First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt told a standing room only audience that racial and religious unity was needed to win World War II.

1947 A Washington Community Chorus concert was hosted. Warner Lawson, Dean of Howard University School of Music, conducted the chorus in Dett's "The Ordering of Moses."

1955 Diva Leontyne Price was in concert. This was her debut performance in Washington, DC.

1964 Memorial concert held to honor the late President John F. Kennedy and African American educator Lemuel Penn of Washington, DC. Penn was killed in a racial attack while on US Army Reserve training assignment in Georgia.

1972 Funeral service held for The Rt. Rev. George Dewey Robinson, 85th A.M.E. bishop and former pastor of Metropolitan (1951-1968).

1972 Funeral service held for Dr. Samuel Zasa Westerfield, US Ambassador to Liberia. He was the son of Metropolitan's long time member Mrs. Rachel Valentine. The Rt. Rev. Frank Madison Reid, Jr., newly appointed bishop of the A.M.E. churches in Liberia, delivered the eulogy. Bishop Reid was pastor of Metropolitan (1968-1972).

1973 Church honored with National Historic Site designation and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places for DC.

1978 Stamp Issuance Commemorative Ceremony was hosted for new stamp to honor Harriet Tubman the "Moses of her People." Stamp was first in a series from US Postal Service honoring African Americans. Nine hundred DC public school students including Amy Carter, daughter of President Jimmy Carter, attended the ceremony.

1979 Memorial service was held for A. Philip Randolph, labor leader and civil rights activist. President Carter spoke and opera star Leontyne Price was a soloist for this tribute. Mr. Randolph's father, The Rev. James William Randolph, was an A.M.E. church minister.

1979 Mrs. Effi Barry, wife of Washington, DC mayor Marion Barry, was Women's Day speaker.

1981 Vice President George H.W. Bush and Mrs. Barbara Bush worshipped at the 11:00 a.m. service where Rev. Thaddeus Garrett, a vice presidential assistant, was the preacher.

1993 First Presidential Inaugural worship service at an African American church was hosted for honorees President-elect William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton and Vice President-elect Albert "Al" Gore, Jr.; the Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Dean of African American preachers, delivered the sermon, and the Rev. Dr. William P. DeVeaux (now bishop) was host pastor.

1994 Frederick Douglass "speaks again" to a nationwide television audience on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) Bill Moyers' Journal. This taped program featured actor Fred Morsell portraying Frederick Douglass delivering the statesman's last great speech "The Lesson of the Hour" which originally had been given by Mr. Douglass from Metropolitan's pulpit on January 9, 1894, 100 years earlier.

1994 Church elevator, planned and completed under pastorate of the Rev. Dr. William P. DeVeaux, became fully operational and was dedicated by Bishop Frederick C. James.

1995 Site of Myrlie Evers-Williams installation ceremony as Board Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

1996 First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attended a meeting that addressed improving low income housing in the District of Columbia.

1997 Second US Presidential Inaugural worship service was hosted for President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton and Vice President Albert "Al" Gore, Jr. Service participants included The Rt. Rev. Vinton R. Anderson, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, and Rev. Anthony Compolo; The Rev. Dr. Louis-Charles Harvey (now Presiding Elder) was host pastor.

1997 Funeral service held for The Rt. Rev. Robert Lee Pruitt, 103rd A.M.E. bishop and former pastor of Metropolitan (1972-1984).

1998 Author Toni Morrison held a reading of her newest novel "Paradise," her first book that was published since she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

2002 Vernon Jordan, Jr., Esq., held a lecture and book signing for his autobiography "Vernon Can Read."

2003 Maryland's Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele, first African American elected statewide in Maryland, spoke at a worship service.

2005 Funeral service held for former A.M.E. Church Treasurer Joseph McKinney, who had been treasurer 1972 until 1996. He had also served as a Washington Conference and Connectional Lay Organization officer.

2005 Funeral service held for A.M.E. Deaconess Rosa Parks, "Mother of the Modern Civil Rights" movement.

2007 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation held worship service in conjunction with the opening of 110th Congress.

2009 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation held a multi-faith religious service to honor both the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama, first African American US President, and the 80th birthday anniversary of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu was featured speaker.

2010 Metropolitan was awarded national historic landmark designation by the DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office.

2010 National Trust for Historic Preservation placed Metropolitan on the Trust's List of Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites in the US, which affords church visibility and prominence to entities that donate and make funds available to historic places.

2010 Episcopacy Stained Glass Window was removed, restored, and reinstalled.

Thelma Dean Jacobs

PERSONALLY METROPOLITAN PERSONALITY ROUNDUP

People Making a Difference; Ordinary People
Doing Extraordinary Things

Maurita Coley, was named Executive Director of the Capital Area Asset Builders (CAAB) by the board of directors. Coley, an attorney and former operations executive for Black Entertainment Television (BET) Holdings, Inc., was selected to help guide the CAAB's continued growth after 13 years of having provided financial education, tax preparation, one-on-one financial counseling and matched savings programs to low and moderate income Washington, DC residents. CAAB provides an

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invaluable service to the Washington community, particularly during these challenging economic times. Ms. Coley's "goal is to ensure that CAAB attracts the resources that it needs to meet the incredible demands for its services, and to expand its capacity to serve even more."

Dorothy B. Gilliam, received the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award given by the board of directors of the Washington Press Club Foundation. Gilliam, a trailblazer for women and minorities in the media, was the first black woman to report for "The Washington Post" newspaper. She is the founder of the Post's Young Journalist Development Program and the George Washington University Prime Movers Program, which partners established journalists with student journalists to start and revitalize high school media. In addition to having a long career as a Washington Post columnist, Dorothy was an activist dedicated to public service, from her days helping to organize protests against the New York Daily News after it fired two thirds of its African American staff, to her tenure as president of the National Association of Black Journalists and the board of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. Throughout her career, Ms. Gilliam emphasized the importance of diversity in the newsroom so that all Americans are represented in the press.

J.J. Green, national security correspondent at WTOP radio, received two regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for his investigative reporting. These awards were given for his series about the terrorists efforts to infiltrate the United States and a news feature on a US military mission in Afghanistan. Mr. Green hosts the weekly program, "The Hunt for Osama Bin Laden and the War on Terror." Green has covered national security matters and travelled extensively to the Middle East, Central Asia, Europe, and Africa. During the Summer 2006, J.J. journeyed with the military 18,000 miles to 10 countries in 31 days while reporting for his continuing series "Combat, Counter-terrorism and Compassion." J.J. has had exclusive interviews with both US and international top military and intelligence officials.

Marie C. Johns, distinguished and honored business executive and community advocate, is Deputy Administrator of the US Small Business Administration (SBA). At SBA, Ms. Johns contributes to the management of the agency and development of SBA policy. Marie has a long record of business and civic leadership. While serving as president of Verizon, DC, she created the Students Educated for Economic Development Success (SEEDS) program. The SEEDS program has prepared over 200 high school dropouts for entry-level positions in the telecommunications industry. Ms. Johns is also founder of the Washington, DC Technology Council, former chair of Leadership Greater Washington, and a member of the board of Girl Scouts USA. As chair of the DC Chamber of Commerce, as well as chair of its Small Business Committee, Marie helped small businesses to get technical assistance and mentoring from larger area firms, and helped create a Visitors Center to encourage tourists to explore more of Washington's many vibrant neighborhoods and to patronize local small businesses. Marie Johns was named one of the Washington areas "100 Most Powerful Women" by Washingtonian Magazine and was inducted in the Greater Washington Business Hall of Fame (2004).

Rev. Aisha Karimah, awarded the 2010 NBC Universal Award, was the only Washington, DC metropolitan area recipient of this award. The award recognizes "NBCU employees who promote, incorporate or innovate diversity and inclusion best practices within the NBCU Company." Rev. Karimah was nominated by her colleagues as the most inclusive employee that they know, and who continues to support diversity and inclusion at NBCU.

Dr. Elsie Scott, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) and formerly CBCF Vice President for Research and Programs, was awarded a Living Hope Award by Greater Mt. Nebo A.M.E. Church, Bowie, MD. In her present position, Scott has overseen the successful launch of several CBCF projects to

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broaden and elevate the influence of African Americans in the political, legislative, and public policy arenas. These programs include the Black Health Empowerment Project (BHEP), an obesity awareness program, and Avoice: African American Voices in Congress, a virtual library designed to capture and preserve the contributions of black lawmakers for future generations. Under Elsie's leadership the CBCF signature internship program has expanded and the number and types of scholarships offered has increased.

We are proud to spotlight these persons who are making a difference for others.

Carolyn McClain

WHAT IS THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN???

On July 11, 2010, during the 172nd Church Anniversary Service, Metropolitan launched its National Capital Campaign, which is an initiative to raise significant funds on a national level. The stated objective of the campaign is to develop and implement a major strategy for raising critical funds to repair, renovate, and restore Metropolitan.

The Capital Campaign is tasked to raise approximately \$11 million to cover all phases of the historic restoration project and the repayment of all outstanding loans associated with the restoration. To reach this goal, the Capital Campaign Committee, which was established to lead the campaign, will seek donations from various sources, including the Connectional A.M.E. Church; corporate donors; community partners; grants; federal and District of Columbia funding; and historic preservation philanthropists.

For the purposes of fundraising and heightening awareness of Metropolitan, outreach efforts will include grassroots sources, church ministries, public relations marketing, Metropolitan's listing on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's List of Eleven Most Endangered Sites in the US; and advertising on

CAPITAL

Facebook, Twitter, and other social network media.

An Honorary Committee, to aid in fundraising is being formed and includes The Honorable Horace G. Dawson, Jr., Ms. Lorraine Miller, Ms. Faye Fields, Ms. Bitsey Folger, Mr. Ernest Green, Mr. Michael Matthews, Mr. Rodney Slater, Congressman James E. Clyburn, Ms. Mignon Clyburn, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton.

The Honorary Committee will lend its support by attending events that promote Metropolitan, as their schedules permit; assist with identifying potential donors; and provide input to all branding materials and information posted on the website that highlights the importance of historical preservation and preserving Metropolitan.

Please contact Mr. Ernest Green if you have information or know of potential donors who require Federal tax exemption documentation in order to support the Capital Campaign.

The members of the Capital Campaign invite you to make your donation through our website: www.PreserveMetropolitan.org or you may contact Dr. Elsie Scott or Ms. Dina Curtis at (202) 331-1426.

Janet Oakley Huggins

Kudos and accolades to the South Carolina Club for remembering the church's sick and shut in members.

The Club provided a potted chrysanthemum ("mum") plant that was delivered by a church member to persons who are unable to attend church on a regular basis.

This kind gesture was done in memory of Sister Dorothy Spells, a faithful member of the Club, who passed on January 10, 2010. She would have celebrated her birthday on September 14.

Sincere thanks to persons who made financial donations to memorialize Sister Spells. Your generosity made this effort very successful!