



# MISSIONS FORWARD

The Official Newsletter of the 9th Episcopal District WMS

**April 2024**

*Ms. Sherryl Stovall Whiting, President*

*Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Supervisor*

*The Right Reverend Harry Lee Seawright, Presiding Prelate*

*We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of  
Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.*



Hello 9<sup>th</sup> District WMS & YPD,

God blessed us to see another month. April kicked off with an anointed 9<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Year Convocation hosted by the Southeast Alabama Conference. God's Spirit reigned, and blessings flowed. President Whiting and Director Weatherspoon presented activity reports that presented concrete and undeniable evidence of our ministries in action.

The YPD represented us well at the Connectional LTI. Ninth District President Joshua Williams proudly led the 9<sup>th</sup> District's team. Connectional Communications Secretary Tra'Nyce Jones and Reading and Literacy Committee Chairperson Kierra Giles represented the Connectional YPD and the 9<sup>th</sup> District. Thank you to the YPDers and adults who attended the LTI.

April marks the beginning of the WMS/YPD Mid-Year. As I begin my final series of Conference Institutes, I look forward to sharing in fellowship with you. President Whiting, I welcome you to your first Conference Institutes as Episcopal District President. Based on previous Institutes, we're in for a treat.

Missionaries and YPDers, thank you for your consistent commitment to missions. Your ministries of service bless so many people. With all the commissions in place, the 9<sup>th</sup> District can only go higher in serving God's people.

God is faithful!  
Rev. Sherita



Greetings,

Thank you, Bishop Seawright and Supervisor Seawright, for this opportunity to serve. You have done an impeccable job leading us, and we look forward to honoring you.

Ninth District WMS, we want to show our appreciation to Bishop Seawright and Supervisor Seawright during the Gala to be held on July 14, 2024. They have truly been a blessing to the 9th Episcopal District.  
Thank you and to God be the Glory!

God continues to bless the 9th Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society to be a blessing to others. You are "Lending a Hand, Lifting Others Up, and Linking Communities". Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, you continue to serve one another with whatever gift you have received.  
Thank you and to God be the Glory!

The YPDers are to be commended for the exceptional way they represented the District during the Connectional LTI held in Denver, Colorado led by our Episcopal YPD Director, Sister Debra Weatherspoon. Our Episcopal President, Joshua Williams; our Connectional Communication Secretary, Tra'Nyce Jones; and our Connectional Reading and Literacy Chair, Kierra Giles, were always in place and doing what was required of them in an excellent way.  
Thank you and to God be the Glory!

Luke 6:38 says "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over [with no space left for more]. For with the standard of measurement you use [when you do good to others], it will be measured to you in return."

Blessings,  
Sherryl Whiting

Remember,  
God First, Missions Forward, Love Unconditionally

# APRIL STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

The stress response is the body's way of protecting you. When working properly, it helps you stay focused, energetic, and alert. In emergency situations, stress can save your life. Feeling constantly stressed can start to feel familiar, even normal. You don't notice how much it's affecting you, even as it takes a heavy toll on your health and well-being.



**Recognize the symptoms**

Our bodies give us signals that we are over stressed. Know when your body is telling you to take a break.

Headaches, muscle tension and pain, trouble remembering, moodiness, sleep problems, stomach problems, fatigue, depression, feeling overwhelmed.

The sooner you recognize symptoms of chronic stress, the sooner you can take charge to reverse the effects.

**to manage stress effectively**

- Eat healthy
- Exercise regularly
- Practice mindfulness
- Keep a journal
- Stay connected to loved ones
- Find a hobby
- Manage your time more effectively
- Spend time in nature
- Keep a positive attitude

**to avoid the consequences**

HEART DISEASE  
HEART ATTACK  
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE  
STROKE

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, Chair, Global Witness & Ministry  
Dr Deborah Taylor King, WMS Connectional President  
Mrs Charolett Biggs Martin, Chair, Christian Social Action

Additional Details to follow!



## SAVE-THE-DATE

The Women's Missionary Society of the AME Church

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AT THE SEAT OF THE

2024 General Conference for our

# *Sesquicentennial* CELEBRATORY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 @ 7:00AM

COLUMBUS, OH

PREMIUM TABLE & SPONSOR: \$1,200.00  
GENERAL TICKETS: \$100.50

150 YEARS OF MISSION AND SERVICE  
CELEBRATING A LEGENDARY PAST...  
CASTING A PHENOMENAL FUTURE

BISHOP MICHAEL L. MITCHELL, COMMISSION CHAIR, GLOBAL WITNESS & MINISTRY  
DR. JOHN F. GREEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL WITNESS & MINISTRY  
DR. DEBORAH TAYLOR KING, CONNECTIONAL WMS AMEC PRESIDENT  
MRS. RICHELLE FRY SKINNER, CONNECTIONAL YPD AMEC DIRECTOR





## FISTULA CAMPAIGN 2024

"Because We Care"

**Mother's Day**  
**May 12, 2024**

Help give a woman a new life!  
by Donating to the Fistula Campaign  
"Surgery is the only cure."

Donations should be sent to your Conference!  
Thank you for your generous donations to this year's campaign!

9TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT WMS



*PRESENTS*



# YOUR HEALTH IS WEALTH *COOKING TO LIVE*

ZOOM: 894 5211 8110

PASSWORD: 442150

16th **APRIL**  
**TUES** DAY  
7 P.M. CST

SIS. EBONY SMITH, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT 9TH DISTRICT WMS

SIS. SHERRYL WHITING, PRESIDENT 9TH DISTRICT WMS

REV. SHERITA MOON SEAWRIGHT, EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR 9TH DISTRICT WMS

THE RIGHT REV. HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT, PRESIDING BISHOP 9TH DISTRICT



The American Theatre of BEing Foundation



The Tonea Stewart Scholarship Fund



# SUITED FOR SUCCESS

FROM THE CLOTHING LINE OF

HENRI FAYES CLOSET



## MISSION

Suited For Success is part of celebrated Actress and Educator Dr. Tonea Stewart's initiative to implement a scholarship fund for high school and college-age students pursuing an undergraduate and graduate education or career in performing arts.

As crucial as attaining a college degree is for career seeking graduates, having a successful in-person encounter with a potential employer is equally as crucial as first impressions are lasting ones that can seal the pathway towards success.



Bestowed with over 150 suits, ties, belts, shirts, and slacks from Henri Faye's Closet of Georgia, it is our desire to provide new attire to any performing arts student seeking career opportunities within the job marketplace.



✉ TSScholarship24@gmail.com  
<http://www.tommietoneastewart.com>

## THE GOAL

Our goal is to partner with as many sorority/ fraternities, celebrities, churches, civic and community organizations, to join us in growing Suited For Success in a nationally sustained campaign.

"As an educator, actress, and businesswoman, suiting up for success is a key factor for our youth's next steps in their professional lives"

~Tonea Stewart



AMERICAN  
THEATRE  
OF BEing



## THE STORY

In June of 2023, Dr. Stewart was contacted by the heir of Henri Faye's Closet, whose family matriarch wanted her store of new men's suits and accessories to be put in Dr. Stewart's trust to make sure that high school and college aged young men would be able to get new clothing for their further educational and career pursuits.

## HOW IT WORKS

Starting locally in the state of Alabama as part of Dr. Stewart's 501c3 Theater of BEing Foundation and The Tonea Stewart Scholarship Fund, the organization plans to issue these new suits to any performing arts students whose academic officials, church, or community leaders would recommend a student for this head start.



# 9th District PME DIALOGUE



*Presented by*  
**Ramadanah M. Salaam-Jones**  
**SEAC PME Director**

**"Finding Wholeness"**  
**2023 Mission Education**  
**Curriculum p. 31**

**Saturday**  
**April 20, 2024**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 865 1030 9337**

**Passcode: 657696**

**Join by phone: +1 312 626 6799**

**Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President**  
**Rev. Sherita M. Seawright, Episcopal WMS Supervisor**  
**The Right Rev. Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate**



## WRITERS NEEDED!

### 2025 Study Guide Themes

General Theme:

**“Champions For Our Youth: Meeting Them Where They Are”**

Geographic Theme:

**Jamaica**

### WORSHIP/DEVOTION SUBMISSIONS

General Theme Based or Geographic Theme Based  
Prayers~Litanies~Devotions~Reflections~Poems

### YPD SPEAKS

The only restrictions for YPD speaks are that each submission must be theme specific, either general or geographic, should include biblical references and adhere to pronoun capitalization of “He, His, You & Yours”.

### GUIDELINES FOR LESSON WRITERS

FORMAT: Lesson title, author’s name, Episcopal District, and Conference. Also include a recent photograph. Include email address and phone number with lesson (not in lesson).

WHAT TO SEND: All should be sent via e-mail as attachments in a word document. Photos should be sent with high resolution and preferably plain backgrounds as jpg or png file attachments.

**WRITINGS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 2024**

to

Arthenia Lewis: [abridgeslewis@gmail.com](mailto:abridgeslewis@gmail.com)

and

Sherryl Whiting: [srs@comcast.net](mailto:srs@comcast.net)



# DAY AT THE *Capitol*

**Thursday  
4/18/24**

**8:00 am -  
2:00 pm**

**COME ENJOY YOUR DAY**



**What is Day at the Capitol**

Every day while in session the Alabama State Legislators meet with different groups requesting support. NWAC WMS & NCBW will be meeting with legislators on April 18, 2024 from 8 am - 2pm to advocate for "What Matters to US."

**Yes! I want to participate in Day at the Capitol!**

You can register by :

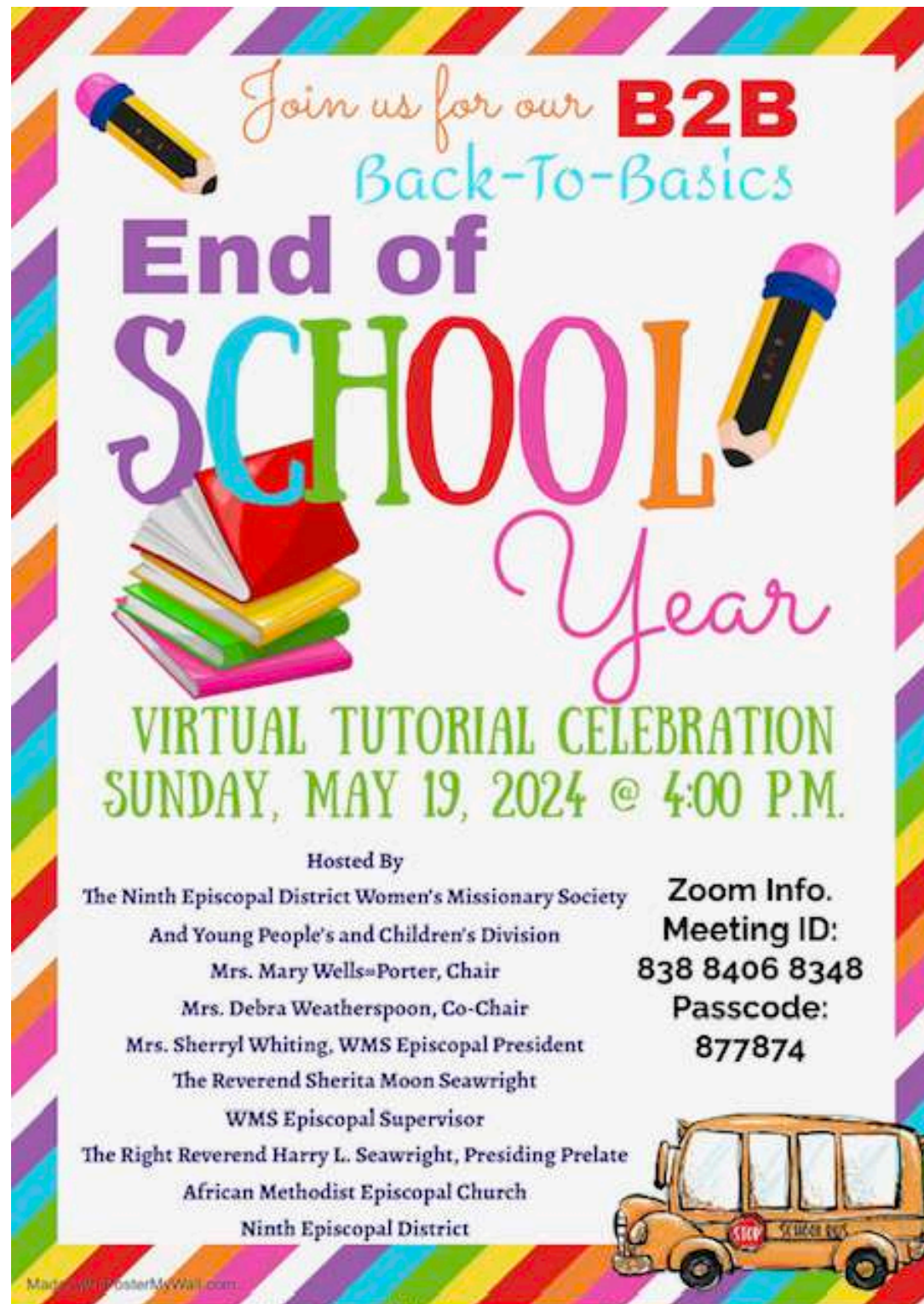
1. Scanning the QR Code or
2. Go to the link :  
<https://form.jotform.com/240945848127162>
3. Email. [wms.tjackson@gmail.com](mailto:wms.tjackson@gmail.com)
4. Call 205-213-4966





Mrs. Elaine Burton, President NEAC WMS  
Mrs. Thomasine Jackson, President NWAC WMS  
Judge Patricia Stephens, President NCBS Metro B'ham Chapter

Mrs. Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor  
Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate



Join us for our **B2B**  
Back-To-Basics

End of  
**SCHOOL**  
Year

VIRTUAL TUTORIAL CELEBRATION  
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024 @ 4:00 P.M.

Hosted By  
The Ninth Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society  
And Young People's and Children's Division  
Mrs. Mary Wells-Porter, Chair  
Mrs. Debra Weatherspoon, Co-Chair  
Mrs. Sherryl Whiting, WMS Episcopal President  
The Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright  
WMS Episcopal Supervisor  
The Right Reverend Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Ninth Episcopal District

Zoom Info.  
Meeting ID:  
838 8406 8348  
Passcode:  
877874

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## The Connectional LTI Denver, Colorado



The 2024 LTI proved to be a memorable experience, marking my first Connectional event in my position as the Connectional Communication Secretary of the YPD. The weekend included various activities including worship services, visionary labs, a lively Glow Party, delicious food from food trucks, engaging in mission projects, and the elegant YPD in Black Gala. Throughout the weekend, we had the privilege of mingling with YPDers from other districts, developing connections beyond our own. Among the various events, the visionary labs and the gala ended up being my favorite. In the visionary labs we had discussions centered on the significance of mental health advocacy and amplifying and uplifting the voices of YPDers within the church, recognizing our role as future leaders. The YPD Gala was an entertaining event consisting of singing, dining, and fellowship as well as celebrating the hard work and dedication of graduates and directors, while we were dressed in our black attire. While every event and activity was entertaining, those two proved to be my favorite. Along with entertainment, this LTI provided me with invaluable hands-on-experience in the role, enriching my understanding of leadership dynamics. While experiencing the vibrant atmosphere of the YPD of the AME Church, while in the beautiful city of Denver, I found inspiration alongside like-minded peers. Sharing this experience with fellow 9th district YPDers, including Kierra Giles, our Connectional Reading and Literacy Chair, and Joshua Williams, our 9th District President, as well as the entire Connectional Executive Board, amplified the sense of camaraderie. Looking ahead, I am so eager to witness the journey unfolding for my counterparts and myself at the Connectional level. I am also excited to explore new approaches for implementing our newfound knowledge within the 9th District. Proudly representing the 9th District within the Connectional YPD, I reflect on our achievements at LTI 2024 with a sense of accomplishment, knowing that this marks just the beginning of our journey together!

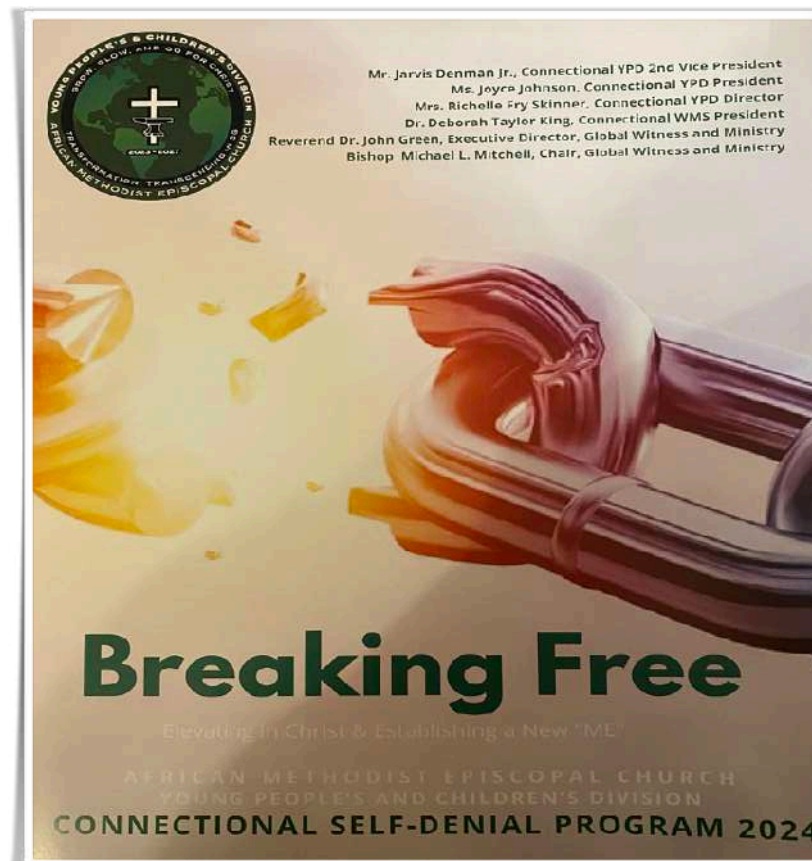
Tra'Nyce Jones, Connectional YPD Communication Secretary



## The Connectional LTI Denver, Colorado



Please encourage participation and support!



May 7-14, 2024  
**Self Denial**

Kits are available!

Please encourage  
participation from the Local  
Church to the Episcopal  
District!



Greetings Connectional YPD!

Get ready for our NEW Campus Ministry Initiative. We are looking for all High School Seniors & Collegiate Level YPD'ers. We want you to be a part of but also establish connections with YPD'ers you may not have known within the area. To kick it off we need some information from you, so please fill out the interest form **by Thursday, April 25th**. We can't wait and don't forget we need YOU to make it happen 🍏💚

[Click Here for Interest Form](#)

THE CONNECTIONAL YPD  
PRESENTS

CAMPUS MINISTRY INTERESTS



CALLING  
ALL  
YPD'ERS

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS & COLLEGE  
STUDENTS

WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF THE CONNECTIONAL YPD CAMPUS MINISTRY. AS WE  
BEGIN THE WORK WE FIRST NEED TO GATHER SOME INFORMATION. SO PLEASE BE ON  
THE LOOKOUT AND COMPLETE THE GOOGLE FORM. SO WE ARE ABLE TO ACCURAT  
SHARE INFORMATION ACROSS THE CONNECTION.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE INTEREST FORM BY  
APRIL 25, 2024 @ 11:59 PM

GET READY TO HAVE FUN AND MEET  
YPDERS ACROSS THE CONNECTION

ARJAI RIVERA, CAMPUS MINISTRY CO-CHAIR  
MAMELLO SEREI, CAMPUS MINISTRY CO-CHAIR  
MR. JARVIS BENMAN JR., CONNECTIONAL YPD 2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
MS. JOYCE JOHNSON, CONNECTIONAL YPD PRESIDENT  
MRS. RICHELLE TRY SKINNER, CONNECTIONAL YPD DIRECTOR

# CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS!

## CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

April 20th  
Alabama River Region  
Wayman Chapel, Selma-Valley Grande

April 27th  
Northwest  
St. Paul, Smithfield

May 4th  
Northeast  
Person Chapel, Midway

May 25th  
Southwest  
ST. Paul, Mobile

June 1st  
Southeast  
Johns Chapel, Enterprise



# KUDOS

to the

Northwest Alabama Conference WMS

## BUNNY AIDE PROJECT

Providing for those who are Sick & Shut-in and in Shelters!





*Theme: A "Calling to Fulfill"—Ephesians 4:1-3*



*Sherryl Whiting, President  
Ninth Episcopal District WMS*



*Women's Missionary Society  
of the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

*Ethel M. Howard*

*Women's Missionary Society  
Annual Day*

**Sunday, April, 14, 2024 — 10:30 a.m.**

**St. Paul AME Church**

**706 E. Patton Avenue — Montgomery, AL**

**334-286-8577**

**Reverend Agnes Lover, Lead Pastor**

**Mattie Frizell, President ARRC WMS**

**Mary Salaam, President, EMH WMS**



St. Mark  
African Methodist Episcopal  
Church  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

# MISSIONARY SUNDAY

*"Touching People-Changing Lives"*  
Sunday, April 21, 2024 @ 10:00 A.M.



Guest Speaker  
The Reverend Sherita Moon Seawright  
Supervisor, Women's Missionary Society  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Ninth Episcopal District

Saint Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church  
2715 18th Street  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
1-205 -759-2361  
Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Sumbry, Pastor



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**ALABAMA RIVER REGION  
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
Sis. Mattie M. Frizzell, President**

# 15th ANNUAL WMS CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

**SAT. APRIL 20, 2024**

**WAYMAN CHAPEL AMEC  
Selma - Valley Grande**

REGISTRATION - 8:30AM  
BUSINESS & WORKSHOPS - 9AM  
MISSIONARY MESSAGE - NOON

**Guest Preacher - Rev. Lenise Stanton  
Pastor of Quinn Chapel AMEC Uniontown**



Rev. Dr. Cathey Bruce, Host Pastor Wayman Chapel AMEC  
Sis. Melinda Page, Host WMS President Wayman Chapel  
Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Presiding Elder  
Sis. Mattie M. Frizzell, ARRC WMS President  
Sis. Hazel Bellamy, ARRC YPD Director  
Sis. Sherryl Whiting, 9th Episcopal District WMS President  
Sis. Debra Weatherspoon, 9th Episcopal District YPD Director  
Rev. Sherita M. Seawright 9th Episcopal District Supervisor  
Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate



Ninth Episcopal District  
Northwest Alabama Conference  
Women's Missionary Society  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
**2024 Conference Institute**

**“When Sistas Gather Together in Mission”**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.



**St. Paul AME Church**  
300 4<sup>th</sup> Court North, Birmingham, Al 35204

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**  
**9 am**

Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate  
Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, WMS Episcopal Supervisor  
Dr. Monica Dillihunt, Connectional WMS Historiographer/Statistician  
Dr. Djuanna Duncombe-Paden, Connectional WMS Worship Leader  
Miss TraNyce Jones, Connectional YPD Communication Secretary  
Sis. Deborah Weatherspoon, YPD Episcopal Director  
Bro. Joshua Williams, YPD Episcopal President  
Sis. Sherryl Whitting, WMS Episcopal President  
  
Sis. Thomasine Jackson, NWAC WMS President  
Sis. Rose Williams Edward, NWAC WMS Program Coordinator  
Sis. LaVarne McReynolds, NWAC YPD Director  
Bro. Seven Mitchell, YPD Conference President  
Sis. Tamara Giles, Host WMS President St. Paul AMEC  
  
Rev. Brian Blackwell, Host Pastor St. Pau AMEC  
Rev. Dwight E. Dillard, P. E. Birmingham Florence Tuscaloosa District  
Rev. Bruce Hunter., P. E. South Birmingham-Huntsville Bessemer District  
Rev. Gloria Hall, P. E. West Birmingham Ensley Greensboro District



# COVID-19

## STILL RELEVANT?


"As long as there is a COVID-19 outbreak somewhere in the world, there is going to be something new that emerges."

- Nathan Grubaugh, PhD, an epidemiologist at the Yale School of Public Health

### Current Variants - HV.1 & JN.1

Descendants of Omicron  
Highly transmissible  
Detected by COVID-19 tests

Protect yourself - TEST, ISOLATE, BOOST!



Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, Commission Chair, Global Witness & Ministry  
Dr Deborah Taylor King, International WMS President  
Mrs Charolett Biggs Martin, Commission Chair, Christian Social Action