



# MISSIONS FORWARD

The Official Newsletter of the 9th Episcopal District WMS

**March 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.*



Happy March,

The Ninth District Missionaries & YPDers continue to soar. My March greetings focus on the Young People's and Children's Division. Our 2024 YPD Leadership Training Institute proved to be exciting and informative. Hosted by Samuel Chapel AME Church in the Southwest Annual Conference, YPDers received challenges to grow stronger in their Christian walk. With workshops for all ages, the registrants learned about civic engagement, fiscal responsibility, how to dress properly, interact with law enforcement, and strengthening their relationship with God.

The YPDers saluted Episcopal District President Kierra Giles who completed her term of service. After the election, the new Episcopal President Joshua Williams (Northeast Alabama Annual Conference) stepped into his role with the new officers. Bro. Derrick Tiller preached the closing sermon.

Thank you Episcopal YPD Director Deborah Scott Weatherspoon, your cabinet of Conference Directors, the youth, and all who lend support. I look forward to partnering with the YPD to share in ministries in our Episcopal District. Let's pray for the YPDers who will attend the Connectional LTI later this month.

God is faithful!  
Rev. Sherita



Greetings,

Thank you for your continued support as we build on the foundation already laid. During this Women's History Month, let us CELEBRATE someone upon whose shoulders we stand. In the 9th Episcopal District, we stand on the shoulders of so many Missionaries who gave and give of their time, talent, and treasure. Reflect on these contributions!

God has been good to each of us and we must give of ourselves and our resources. 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8 says "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work;"

Let's extend OUR hand to the community and world that God uses to bless us!

Blessings,  
Sherryl Whiting

Remember,  
God First, Missions Forward, Love Unconditionally

Let's support OUR YAMS!

# "BREAK MY SOUL"

## WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

UNWIND AND RECHARGE: SELF-CARE STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 8:00 PM EST



DR. RIKESHA FRY BROWN  
WOMEN'S WELLNESS CURATOR

ZOOM

MEETING ID: 845 1646 5652  
PASSCODE: WMSYAMS

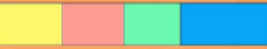


Women's HISTORY MONTH

# RENAISSANCE

## ACT III: SELF - CARE

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH ENGAGING SELF-CARE ACTIVITIES.



## RENAISSANCE ACT III: SELF - CARE Calendar

					1 Exercise	2 Drink Water Only
3 Go to Church with Friends & Have Lunch	4 Positive Affirmations	5 Write in Your Journal/ Start a Journal	6 Take a Shower/ Bath by Candlelight	7 Make a Goal List	8 Read a Book	9 Spend Time in Nature/ Grow Something
10 Say a Prayer of Gratitude	11 Break a Bad Habit/ Start a Good Habit	12 Compliment Someone / Random Act of Kindness	13 Get 8 Hours of Sleep	14 Deep Condition Your Crown	15 Watch Your Favorite Show	16 Do a DIY Project
17 Social Media Detox	18 Meditate/ Do Yoga	19 Declutter Your Space	20 Eat a Healthy Meal	21 Call or Visit a Family Member	22 Listen to a Podcast/ Music Playlist	23 Do Something Creative/ Artsy
24 Read Your Bible	25 Tame Negative Thoughts Through Prayer	26 Write Someone a Letter	27 Start a New Self Care Routine	28 Watch a Comedy Show/ Stan-Up/ Reel	29 Play with Your Pet / Play a Game	30 Drink Your Favorite Cup of Coffee / Tea
31 Donate to a Charity						

INTERNATIONAL

# WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 8TH

## Rock your Purple

Hashtag and Tag us in your Photos  
#YAMSGOPurple



# 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)

**9th District PME Dialogue**

March 16, 2024 at 4pm

Presenter - **Arthenia Lewis**

**9th District PME Director**

Zoom Meeting ID: 84088225866

Passcode: 193057

Water can create peace or spark conflict. Prosperity and peace rely on water. Water can lead us out of crisis.

HOW MUCH DO YOU  
**VALUE WATER?**

# WORLD WATER

**DAY** 22ND MARCH



*Join Us!*



771 million (1 in 10) people do not have access to safe water.

About 4 billion people, representing nearly two-thirds of the world population, experience severe water scarcity during at least one month of the year.

If nothing changes, intense water scarcity could displace 700 million people by 2030.

## 2 week Water Challenge

For two weeks replace, coffee, tea, soda or whatever with water. The money you save collect and donate to

[water.org](http://water.org)

[planet-water.org](http://planet-water.org)

[thewaterproject.org](http://thewaterproject.org)

**SDG 6**



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



# 9TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT WMS *PRESENTS*

## YOUR HEALTH IS WEALTH

### *A DAY IN THE LIFE LIVING WITH*

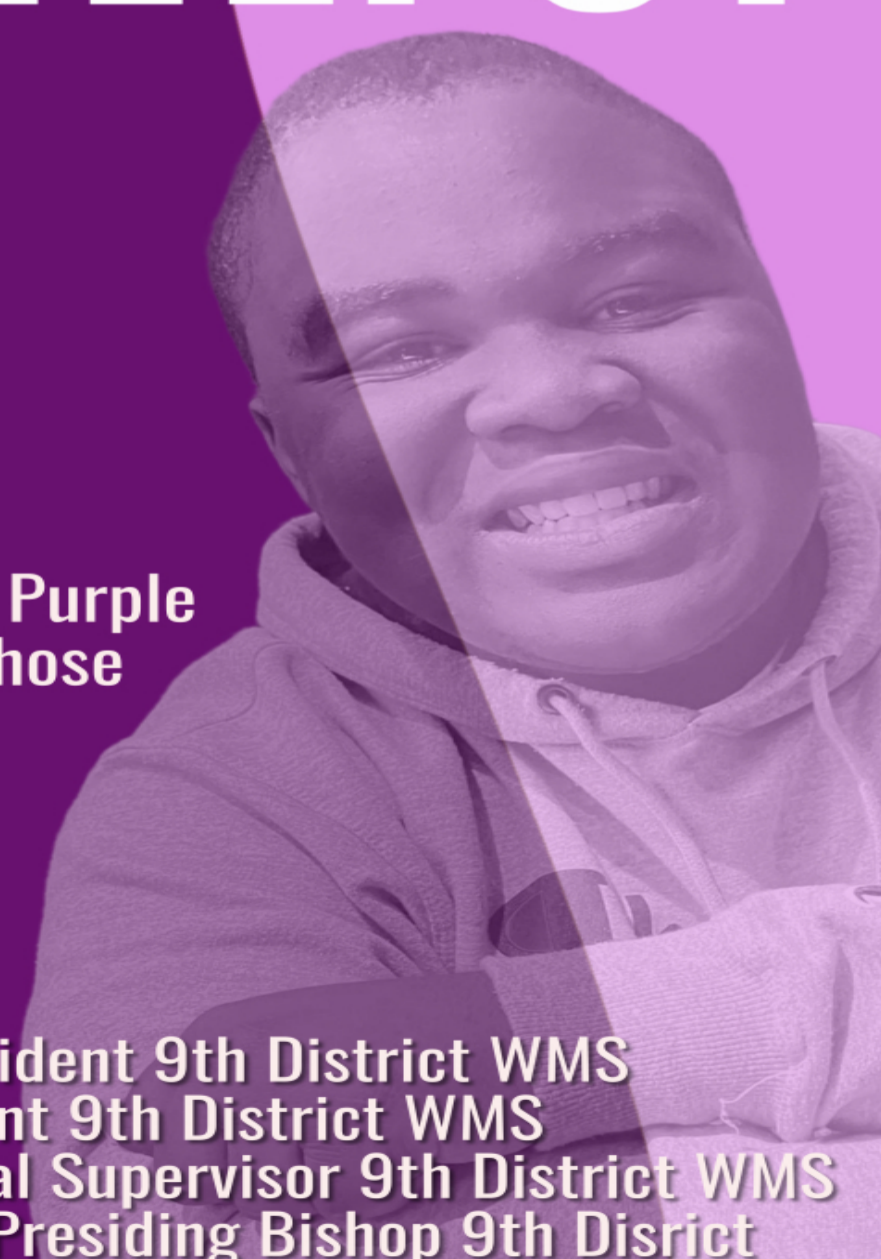


# EPILEPSY

**Tuesday March 26, 2024  
7 pm CST  
Zoom ID: 870 4066 0146  
Password: 958461**

**All Missionaries are asked to Wear Purple  
on March 26, 2024 in honor of those  
living with Epilepsy.**

**Ms. Ebony Smith, 1st Vice President 9th District WMS  
Ms. Sheryl Whiting, President 9th District WMS  
Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor 9th District WMS  
The Right Rev. Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Bishop 9th District**



## COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

President, Sherryl Whiting  
1st VP, Ebony Smith  
2nd VP, Mary Porter  
3rd VP, Sharon Massingale  
Recording Secretary, Evelyn Beasley  
Assist. Rec. Secretary, Marge Simmons  
Corresponding Secretary, Joyce O'Neal  
Treasurer, Catherine Jordan  
Financial Secretary, Jackie Carter  
PME Director, Arthenia Lewis  
Historiographer-Statistician, Mary James  
Worship Director, Lue Ellen McCrary  
Parliamentarian, Bettye West  
Member At Large, Denise Woolridge  
YPD Director, Debra Weatherspoon  
ARRAC President, Mattie Frizzell  
NWAC President, Thomasine Jackson  
SEAC President, Martha Roseboro  
NEAC President, Elaine Burton  
SWAC President, Rosemary Lamar  
ARR Local President, Sherlene Leonard  
NW Local President, Demetria Scott  
SE Local President, Jewel Woodard  
NE Local President, Linda Williams  
SW Local President, Jean Daffin

### MEETING

**MARCH 14, 2024 7:00 P.M.**

Zoom information and Agenda to follow

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Zoom ID: 86477244274

Password: 103549

Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Everyone is Invited!!!

Coming Soon!

The American Theatre of BEing Foundation  
  
 The Tonia Stewart Scholarship Fund  


# SUITED FOR SUCCESS

FROM THE CLOTHING LINE OF  
**HENRI FAYE'S CLOSET**



## MISSION

Suited For Success is part of celebrated Actress and Educator Dr. Tonia 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](mailto: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"

-Tonia Stewart



## 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 Tonia 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.

 **AMERICAN THEATRE OF BEing**





Please encourage participation and support!


Connectional Young People's and Children's Division

# Save the Date!


March 22-24 | Denver, Colorado

# LTI'24

Omni Interlocken Hotel  
Registration Opens January 24th



Mr. Jarvis Denman Jr., Connectional YPD 2nd Vice President  
Ms. Joyce Johnson, Connectional YPD President  
Mrs. Richelle Fry Skinner, Connectional YPD Director  
Dr. Deborah Taylor King, Connectional WMS President  
Reverend Dr. John Green, Executive Director, Global Witness and Ministry  
Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, Chair, Global Witness and Ministry



# Breaking Free

Elevating in Christ & Establishing a New "ME"

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION  
CONNECTIONAL SELF-DENIAL PROGRAM 2024

May 7-14, 2024

## Self Denial

Kits are available!

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

Let's Support Kierra Giles, our  
Connectional YPD Reading and Literacy Chair!  
We are PROUD of YOU!



# READ ACROSS THE CONNECTION

In celebration of Read Across America Day

Theme: *Ready, Set, Read!*

## BOOK & POETRY READING LINEUP:

Mother Sunbeams

Reader: MaKayla Patton - 13th Episcopal District

Book: *I Got a New Friend*

By Karl Newsom Edwards

GO

Allen Stars

Reader: Mamello Serei - 19th Episcopal District

Book: *Evelyn del Rey Is Moving Away*

By Meg Medina

Youth Auxiliary

Reader: Mesai James - 4th Episcopal District

Poem: "We Wear the Mask"

By Paul Laurence Dunbar

Young Adults

Reader: A'Yana Smith - 10th Episcopal District

Poem: "Caged Bird"

By Maya Angelou

Turn into the Connectional YPD social media pages on March 2, 2024!

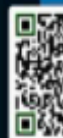
## READ ACROSS THE CONNECTION CHALLENGE

### CHALLENGE:

How many literary works can you read? Let's find out! Grab your favorite books, poems, etc. and record how many you read between March 2nd and March 9th.

### RULES:

- Literary works must be read between March 2nd and March 9th to qualify
- Once you have finished reading all of your literary works, complete the brief Google Form to share how many you have read. Scan the QR code or use the link in the caption to access the Google form.
- The deadline to submit the Google Form is **March 9, 2024 @ 11:59 pm CST.**
- The YPDer and the district with the most works read will be announced after March 9th.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED  
9TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT YPD OFFICERS!!!

**Kudos to**  
**DEBRA WEATHERSPOON**  
for a job well done!

Thank You  
**KIERRA GILES**  
for your service as our  
Episcopal YPD President!

President, Joshua Williams  
1st Vice-President, Dyshunta McDaniel  
2nd Vice-President, Jasmine Heard  
3rd Vice-President, Jordan Bellamy  
Assistant Recording Secretary, Gabrielle Buffer  
Financial Secretary, Vanasha Miles  
Worship Leader, Trinity Wilson  
Parliamentarian, Tia Avery  
Historiographer-Statistician, TaKayla Taylor



# CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS!

## CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

April 20th  
Alabama River Region  
Grant Chapel, Valley Grande

April 27th  
Northwest  
St. Paul, Smithfield


May 4th  
Northeast

May 25th  
Southwest

June 1st  
Southeast  
Johns Chapel, Enterprise




# Advocates for Change



ESTABLISHED  
1816

## BLOODY SUNDAY

### Sunday, March 3, 2024







**NWAC WMS & YPD Officers**  
**AME Legacy Footsteps**  
**Selma Alabama**

*Mother & Son*  
*Ms. Valencia King & Mr. Zaiderick Hayes*


**"We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; we must understand why and how we came to be who we are today."**

**"I am what I am because of who we all are."**



FAITH IN ACTION  
ALABAMA



# Ubuntu

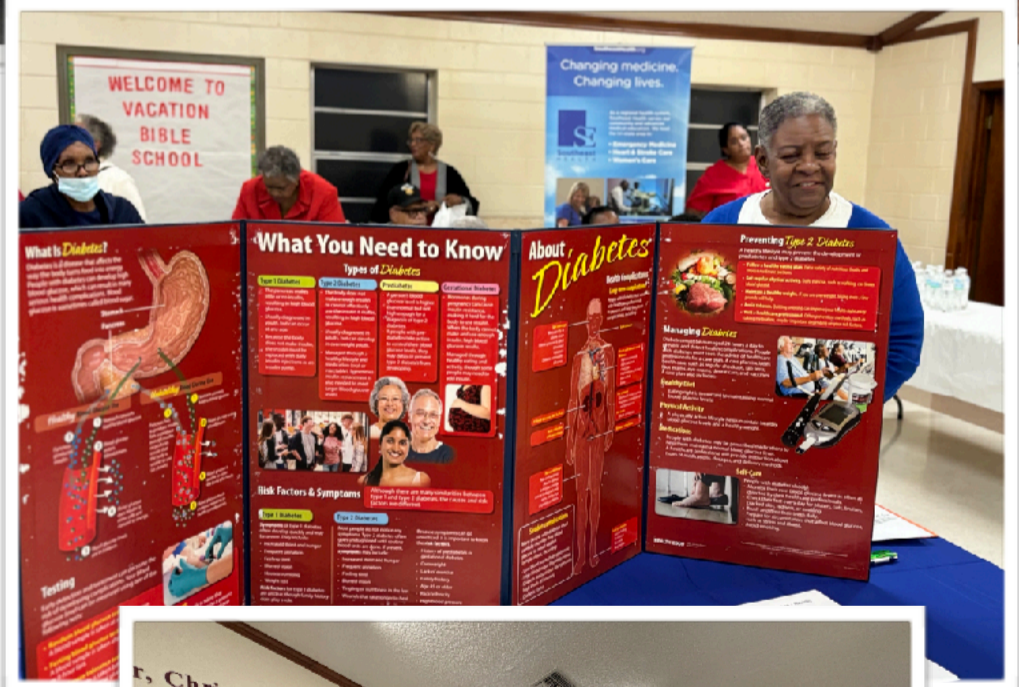
Northwest  
Alabama  
Conference  
WMS  
continues  
the Legacy  
with our  
YPDers

Southeast  
Alabama  
Conference  
YPDers  
displayed  
their talent  
during  
Black  
History  
Program





Southeast Alabama  
Conference WMS brings  
awareness to Heart Disease





## Dumas Wesley Community Center

7h · 🌐



March is National Reading Month! Rosemary Lamar has been giving back to youth in the After School Achievement Program (ASAP). She volunteers each week as a reading buddy to promote reading fluency and literacy skills. "I look forward to my time with the children, especially since I have no children of my own. When I'm reading, I hope the children feel transported to a new place or a new experience. Reading enhances understanding. And it is good for the soul - it keeps children focused on the right things to do in life. These kids add joy to my life. They have been such a blessing to me as we read and learn together," said Lamar.

Rosemary Lamar, member of Dumas Wesley's Board of Directors, has been involved with Dumas Wesley for many years. "I accepted the invitation to join Dumas Wesley's Board of Directors with enthusiasm," said Lamar. "It's been a blessing for me to carry out my mission of service to my community. As a board member, I've gained so much insight into the strategic planning and day-to-day financial responsibilities necessary for Dumas Wesley to continue to serve those in need. I feel blessed to be on the Board and am so grateful for the opportunity to serve and help others."



Please keep ALL of our  
**BEREAVED FAMILIES**



in your prayers!



# 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





On Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 9am EDT  
Reverend Sherita will teach  
“AME Church School at Home”.

The Zoom Meeting ID: 829 9325 1894

View the Zoom video:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82993251894>

Please join the session and stay online after the  
lesson and vote for the 9th District.