



# MISSIONS FORWARD

The Official Newsletter of the 9th Episcopal District WMS

**February 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.*



## FROM OUR SUPERVISOR:

Missionaries,

We're already in the second month of the new year. The 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal WMS hit the ground with missions on our mind.

At our December 2023 Annual Convention, Sis. Susie Bonner ended 8 years of outstanding leadership. I am grateful for her teaching me the “whats and hows” of serving as an Episcopal Supervisor. Thank you, Sis. Bonner! You left a strong legacy.

On December 2, 2023, Bishop Seawright appointed Sis. Sherryl Whiting to serve as the new 9<sup>th</sup> District's WMS Episcopal District President. Sis. Whiting hails from the Southeast Alabama Annual Conference and is a member of Cherry Street AME Church in Dothan, Alabama. Most of us know her for leading the 9<sup>th</sup> District's Debs and Masters Commission. As evidenced in the initial address to the District WMS, President Whiting demonstrated her awareness and commitment to missions. In her first 2 months at the helm, President Whiting met with Conference Presidents and the finance team, and made administrative appointments and decisions. I certainly look forward to continuing partnering with the new president.

As the 9<sup>th</sup> District presented our report at the 2024 WMS Executive Board and Training Session in Little Rock, Arkansas, God blessed me to stand with Bishop Seawright, President Whiting, Immediate Past President Bonner, 9<sup>th</sup> District Connectional and District leadership and delegation members. I offer a big “Thank you!” to all missionaries whose work made the report possible and those who attended this Connectional meeting.

After Bishop Seawright re-appointed her, 9<sup>th</sup> District YPD Director Debra Scott Weatherspoon joined President Whiting, Connectional Communication Secretary Tra’Nyce Jones and Connectional Special Committee Reading and Literacy Chair Kierra Giles in attending the Connectional YPD Executive Board Meeting (also in Little Rock). Connectional Historiographer Monica Dillihunt and Connectional Worship Director Djuana Duncombe Paden.

Since missions never ends, I encourage WMS and YPD members to serve in a way that pleases God and blesses God's people.

Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Episcopal WMS Supervisor



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in the 9th Episcopal District, and it is the Spirit of the Lord.

Thank you, Bishop Seawright and Supervisor Seawright, for this opportunity to serve, trusting me to lead the 9th Episcopal District WMS.

What an awesome task we have before us to grow in faith and to continue Jesus' ministry by serving and witnessing.

As we move forward, thanks for your support of this administration by way of our officers and our programs.

Together Everyone Achieves More!

God has truly blessed the 9th Episcopal District with talented, hard-working Missionaries who are on the battlefield doing the work of Missions!

A special thanks to Sister Susie Bonner, our Immediate Past President, who did a phenomenal job! Also, thank you Sister Hattie Nathan for continuing to support and train! There are big shoes to be filled!

Please share across the District that we appreciate everything done for Missions!

If assistance is needed at any time, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Blessings,  
Sherryl Stovall Whiting

"When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me."

Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask, "When did we give you something to eat or drink? When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear or visit you while you were sick or in jail?"

The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

Matthew 25: 35-40





From 2015-2023, Immediate Past Episcopal District President Susie Bonner led the 9<sup>th</sup> District WMS and YPD. During those 8 years she started and supported ministries that positively impacted our communities. As president, Sis. Bonner embraced projects that focused on domestic violence, hunger, women's incarceration, and education. Her time in office reflected her commitment to honesty, integrity, strong communication, and efficiency. She focused on timely and informative meeting initiatives that allowed us to grow in missions. One of her strongest gifts was planning well in advance. Sis. Bonner left office with all administrative obligations having been met and all financial records reviewed by a third party with no issues or discrepancies.

Sis. Bonner, thank you for serving us with Kingdom purpose: you remembered and reminded us that we are the church. Please share our gratitude with your husband, Bro. James Bonner, Jr., who drove you all over the State of Alabama. Your legacy remains and forms a strong foundation on which President Sherryl Whiting may continue to move the 9<sup>th</sup> District's missionaries and YPDers forward.





*Highlights from the Connectional Executive Board Meeting  
January 24-27, 2024  
Little Rock, Arkansas*

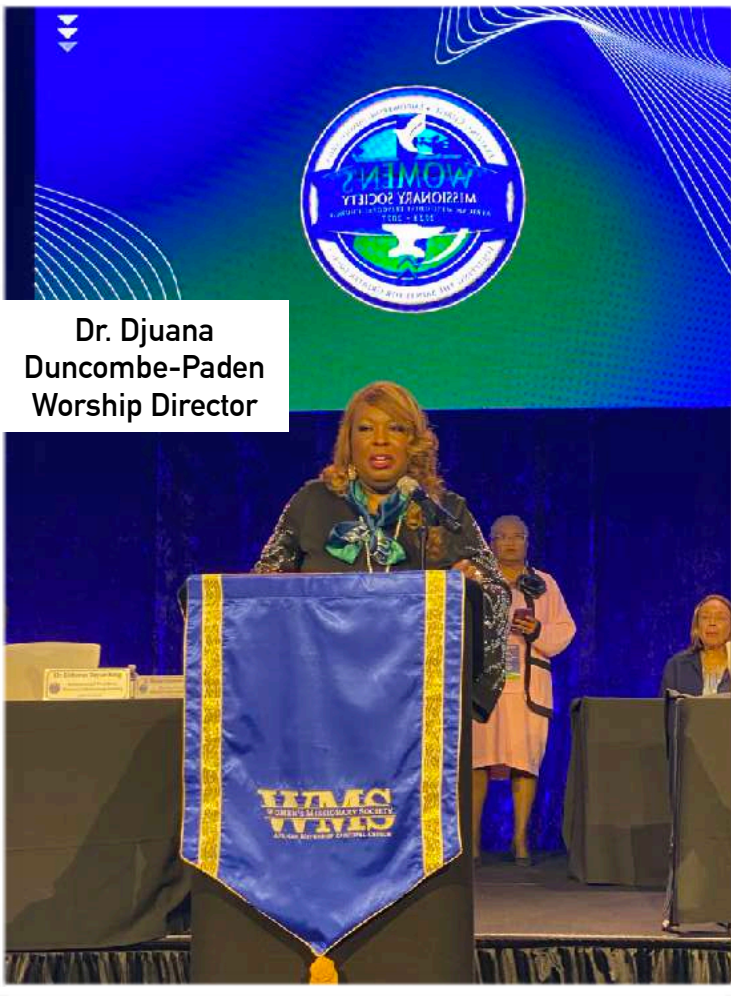


***The Service of Word and Sacrament***

Bishop Seawright, The Stewardship Responsive Reading  
Supervisor Seawright and President Whiting Preparing for Worship  
Bishop Michael Mitchell proclaimed “We Need to do Better” Luke 10:37



We are extremely proud  
of our Connectional  
Officers!







We were pleased to have Dr. William Greenfield, far left, to serve as one of the panelist for “Black Women’s Health and Wellness”

He is a former YPDer and member of Historic Cherry Street A.M.E. Church in Dothan, AL

He is currently a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Medical Director for Family Health at the Arkansas Department of Health.



## PRESIDENTIAL JEWELS LUNCHEON (8 YEARS OF SERVICE)



### 8-YEAR JEWELS:

#### Area Chairpersons:

1. Maggie Koroma
2. Melinda Page
3. Sherita Gullatte
4. Evadna Moment
5. Beverly Nobles
6. Mary L. Turner James
7. Lora Porter
8. Sylvia Montgomery

#### Local Presidents:

1. Constance Jones
2. Carolyn Beasley
3. Dorothy Harrison
4. Eva France
5. Burnice Perry
6. Janice Watts
7. Linda C. Williams
8. Barbara Washington

Susie

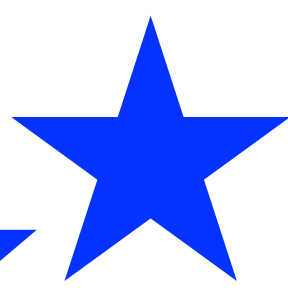
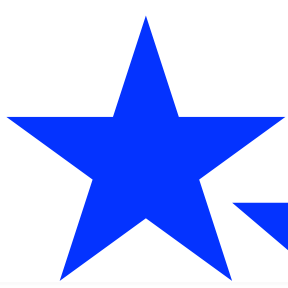
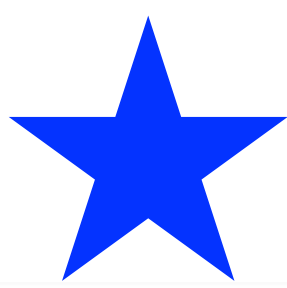
Bonner served the 9th Episcopal District WMS for 8 stellar years!

Pictured with Connectional President, Dr. Deborah Taylor King, left and Connectional 1st VP, Charolett Martin



Pictured from left to right Susie Bonner, Supervisor Seawright, President Whiting and Bishop Seawright





The  
9th District  
Reports



We donated \$1,000 in gift cards to Watershed Human and Community Development Agency.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Sister Lue Ellen McCrary represented the 9th!



Handy Simmons Scholarship Recipient  
**Congratulations Greta Sutton \$1,500!**



**274 donated to the WMS Foundation \$1,370**  
**The campaign continues...**  
**The mission of the WMS Foundation is to provide organizations, groups and persons a place to contribute to the purpose and mission of the AMEC-WMS in the world with a priority interest in the people of the Diaspora in developing areas.**



# SUPERVISORS' PRAYER BREAKFAST

Rev. Sherita was a member of the SuperVoice Choir  
and  
the YPDers served as Hostesses!





The YPDers held their  
Connectional Executive  
Board Meeting on Saturday,  
January 27, 2024



Tra'Nyce Jones, Connectional Communications Secretary  
Kierra Giles, Connectional Reading & Literacy Chair  
Debra Scott Weatherspoon, YPD Director




Left to right  
Sherryl Whiting, Debra Weatherspoon, Kierra Giles, Tra'Nyce Jones,  
Djuana Paden, Monica Dillihunt



Kierra Giles



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH




February

#LOVEISRESPECT

STOP TEEN DATING VIOLENCE BEFORE IT HAPPENS

Let's TALK about it!



42-87% of dating violence occurs on school grounds

1/3


of high school students have been in an abusive relationship

2/3

of teens don't tell or ask for help

81%

of parents believe teen dating violence is NOT an issue



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

Care For The Caregiver

Join us as we discuss tips and resources on avoiding Caregiver burnout.

02/29/2024 @ 6pm cst

Zoom ID: 83383721919

Password: 574586




Ms. Ebony Smith, 1st Vice President 9th District WMS

Ms. Sherryl Whiting, President 9th District WMS

Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor 9th District

The Right Rev. Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Bishop 9th District



Go Red for women.

Since 2004, the American Heart Association's signature women's initiative, Go Red for Women, has addressed the awareness and clinical care gaps of women's greatest health threat, cardiovascular disease (CVD). We are prepared to meet the evolving needs of women now, and at every age, every stage and every season of their lives as their trusted, relevant source for credible, equitable health solutions.

Signs and Symptoms of Heart Attack

If you have any of these signs, call 9-1-1 and get to a hospital right away.

1. Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest. It lasts more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back.

2. Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

3. Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.

4. Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

5. As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort.

But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.

Learn more about Heart Attack in Women & Men

>

Signs and Symptoms of Stroke

If you have any of these signs, call 9-1-1 and get to a hospital right away.

1. Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body

2. Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

3. Sudden trouble seeing or blurred vision in one or both eyes

4. Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

5. Sudden severe headache with no known cause

Learn the Symptoms of a Stroke in Women & Men

>

American Heart Association



2024 Officers

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

Upcoming Executive Board Meetings  
2025 – Phoenix, Arizona  
2026 – Baltimore, Maryland

Quadrennial Convention  
2027 – Dallas, Texas

We hope that you will be able to  
attend!

GENERAL THEME  
Embracing Wholeness in a Pandemic World

*Mission Education Curriculum*



**9th District PME Dialogue**  
February 17, 2024 at 4pm  
Presenter - **Susie Bonner**  
Immediate Past President  
Zoom Meeting ID: 84427492804  
Passcode: 083161

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

**Members:** Supervisor, President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, YPD Director, PME Director, Historiographer-Statistician, Worship Director, Member-At-Large, Parliamentarian, Conference Presidents, and a Local President from each Conference appointed by the Episcopal President.

BEREAVED FAMILY

Life Member Charlie Lassiter  
1/17/2024 🙏🙏🙏

Please keep the family in your prayers!





Please encourage participation and support!

Connectional Young People's and Children's Division

Save the Date!

March 22-24 | Denver, Colorado

# LT'24

Omni Interlocken Hotel

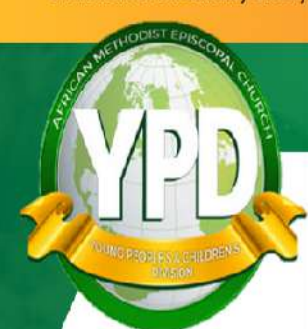
Registration Opens January 24th



**9TH**  
**EPISCOPAL**  
**DISTRICT LTI**

LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE


**African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
*Young People's & Children's Division*  
of the Women's Missionary Society



**Samuel Chapel AME Church**  
717 West Prichard Avenue Mobile, AL

**JOIN US FOR A GOD EXPERIENCE**


- ~ Workshops
- ~ Trainings
- ~ Team Building Activities
- ~ Musical Workshops
- ~ Food
- ~ Fun

 **SATURDAY**  
**02 MARCH 2024**


Deadline for Letter of Intent  
**January 15th**


*Ms. Kierra Giles, Episcopal YPD President*  
*Mrs. Debra Scott Weatherspoon, Episcopal YPD Director*  
*Ms. Sherry Whiting, Episcopal WMS President*  
*Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor*  
*Pt. Rev. Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate*

**REGISTRATION \$40**  
\$30 Allen Stars and Mother Sunbeams




*Debra Scott Weatherspoon*  
YPD Director

 Like Us on Facebook  
9th District YPD of AMEC



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!

## Souper Bowl of Caring

2/11/2024

## Service Project in each Conference



# CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS!

## Southeast

Sister Martha Roseboro, President

### YPD Black History Program

February 10, 2024 10 a.m.

St. Paul AMEC, Ozark, AL

### Heart Health Program

February 15, 2024

Health Fair 5 p.m. Program 6 p.m.

Stringer Street AMEC, Dothan, AL



## 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