

WARD AME CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2009

SAVE THE DATE:

- **May 16:**
Daughters of Destiny Workshop
- **May 16-17:**
Annual Lay Activities
- **July 25:**
Church Picnic
- **July 26:**
Church in the Street

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Pastor's Corner

From the Desk of Dr. C. Dennis Williams, Senior Pastor of Ward AME Church

Shalom To All,

First, permit me to commend the Newsletter Ministry as we celebrate their first publication with them. This publication will serve as a compass of navigation and information for our local congregation at Ward AME. I think that it is both prophetic and divine that our first edition is released during Mother's Day week. As I reflect about the significance of mothers, I am keenly aware of the fact that mothers have made tremendous historical contributions. Countless articles have been written about the mothers of prominent men such as George Washington, James Garfield, Dwight L. Moody, and William Penn and how their mothers

taught them about prayer, the scriptures, and God. Much has been written about how these mothers worked in fields, and some, as widows, raised their sons to be successful ambassadors for the nation. We have spent so much time in deliberating about the affairs of others that we have been remiss in honoring our own. Having said that, I would like to dedicate the rest of my column to a woman who is as remarkable as she is beautiful. My wife, Lady Yvette Williams, is the epitome of the word wife and an icon as it relates to being a pastor's wife. She has made tremendous sacrifices in her life so that she might indeed be the helpmate that God has established her to be — always behind the scene, pushing me, encouraging me, and praying for me, never complaining about my sometimes, impractical, and

exhaustive schedule. My wife is always there taking care of the kids when I am away and continues to love the people I serve and interacts with them. She is to me personally what I am to the congregation collectively — always a friend, support system, encourager, and confidant. I am a good Pastor today because of the love of my life, who is the same person each and every day; our children are happy, friendly, outgoing, and loving because they see those attributes in their mother. I love you Yvette; Happy Mother's Day and keep being the example to all pastors' wives. To all the mothers of Ward AME Church, Happy Mother's Day from the First Family: Pastor, Yvette, Desiree, Faith, and C.D.

In His Love,
Pastor

Daughters of Destiny: Virtuous Women in Training

Daughters of Destiny is an 8-week sexual abstinence ministry designed to educate and empower young ladies into making right choices and to recognize the consequences once wrong decisions are made. We also focus on building the young ladies' self-esteem and encourage them to recognize their self-worth.

Ward first started Daughters

of Destiny in 2001 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Cecilia Bryant and Rev. Rosalyn Brookins. To date, more than 60 young ladies have gone through the program.

This year, on May 16, we will sponsor a one day conference entitled "Virtuous Women in Training." Young ladies between the ages of 11 and 18 from all over Los Angeles and

surrounding areas have been invited to participate.

Some of Los Angeles' most influential women will facilitate the workshops: Rev. Rosalyn Brookins, Rev. Najuma Smith, Rev. Joyce Johnson Kitchen, Rev. Marian Wright-Young, Sister Jacqueline Everett, and Sister Rochelle Griffin.

AME Church Legacy Builders: Bold Leadership in “Trying Times”

By SIsTah “Jackie” Dupont-Walker



Photo of Reverdy Cassius Ransom (1861-1959)

SOURCES: ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA, AME CHURCH REVIEW

Ward AME Newsletter Ministry

Tanya Marie Anderson
Joyce Clarke
Dianne Kerford
Julianne Lusain
Barbara Morgan
Ramona Toliver

We invite you to join us for Sunday School each week. Classes are held in the Sanctuary and the Educational Building every Sunday morning from 8:30 to 9:45.

Brenda Harvey-Williams, Superintendent
Joyce Clarke, Asst. Superintendent

Reverdy Cassius Ransom was a **civil rights leader, editor and the 48th bishop of the AME Church.** Ransom was born in Flushing, Ohio to George and Harriet (Johnson) Ransom. In 1869, Ransom’s family moved to Cambridge, Ohio, where he spent several years in segregated public schools. As his mother did not believe this education to be equal to education whites were receiving, she had young Ransom tutored by some of the white family members for whom she worked as a domestic servant. Due to the determination of his mother, who deemed that if young white men and women were able to enter college, then her son should as well, Ransom enrolled at Wilberforce University, an all-black institution, in 1881. In 1882, Ransom transferred to Oberlin College, an

ostensibly integrated Institution which nonetheless still segregated its social and recreational activities. After addressing a protest meeting to fight the college’s recent decision to segregate the Ladies Dining Hall, he lost his scholarship at Oberlin, transferred back to Wilberforce, and graduated in 1886. Three years before his graduation, Ransom had been licensed to preach. He was ordained as a deacon in 1886 and in 1924 was elected the 48th bishop of the AME Church. He remained an active bishop until 1952.

After holding the pastoral position in several different churches, Ransom settled in Chicago in 1896 where he set up numerous programs to help blacks migrate from the South. He established a Men’s Sunday Club and bought a large church

building in which he created a gymnasium, various reading rooms, a kindergarten, and youth clubs. The building was bombed when Ransom spoke out publicly against gambling.

In 1905 Ransom joined the **Niagara Movement** organized by W.E.B. Dubois and other prominent African American leaders in opposition to Booker T. Washington’s conservative stance on the position of Negroes in the American society. Washington argued for Negroes to bend to white American’s needs; he believed they should remain quiet and not agitate for their rights. Ransom fervently disagreed and spoke out against these views; his oration is credited with outlining the key principles that served to shape the NAACP.

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Sunday School: It’s Not Just For Kids

Age or Grade	Class/Room	Teacher(s)
2 years old - Kindergarten	Nursery/Kindergarten - Room 102	Eleanor Asberry Sharon Johnson
1st and 2nd Grades	Elementary I - Room 306	Prentice & Lora Brand
3rd, 4th and 5th Grades	Elementary II - Room 305	Roy Walker Luthereen Moore
6th, 7th, and 8th Grades	Middle School - Room 310	Clide Quinney
9th - 12th Grades	Adv. Placement Teens - Room 303	Rochele Griffin
Ages 18-27	College and Career - Balcony	William Nelson
Ages 27 - up	Christian Discipleship - Room 101	Rotating Teachers
Adults	Ewell/Wilborn Class - Room 304	Rev. Elvin Sanders
Adults	Through the Bible Sanctuary/Breezeway	Rev. Ronea Crockett-Williams
Adults/Senior Citizens	Seniors Sanctuary/North Chapel	Bridget Quilter

Youth Corner: Let's Feast on the Word

By Sister Marsha Myers

Young People, Old People. ARE YOU SAVED? Parents, ARE YOU SAVED? It is often assumed that those of us who attend church on a regular basis are saved and on our way to Heaven. I submit to you today that this is a dangerous assumption. Our churches are filled with people (young and old alike), who mistake church membership and good works as a substitute for salvation. We MUST accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior in order to be saved, otherwise we are eternally lost. Titus 3:5 says *He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did.* This scripture clearly tells us that we are NOT saved by our works but only by what Jesus did on the cross.

Salvation can only be found in Jesus. Not works, not being a good person, not volunteer work, not singing in the choir or serving on the usher board, not preparing and serving chicken dinners, none of these things will save you. Acts 4:12: *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no*

other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. You may ask, how do I become saved or how do I accept Christ as my personal Savior? Here is the plan:

No one is good enough: There is no one righteous, not even one. Romans 3:10

You are a sinner: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

God loves us, even though we are sinners: But God demonstrates His Love for us, in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

The provision - God's Gift: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.

There must be repentance of sin (turning away from sin): Repent and believe the Good News! Mark 1:15

The required action—believe and confess: That if you confess with

your mouth, Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:9-10

The result—**SALVATION:** Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord WILL BE SAVED. Romans 10:13.

Accept Christ today! If you choose Christ, and in so doing choose eternal life over death and destruction, pray this prayer:

Dear Lord, I know that I have sinned and done wrong. I want to turn away from those sins and I need your help. I believe that you died on the cross to wash away those sins and you did it just for me. I believe that you were raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. I ask you to come into my life today and take control of it. Please forgive me of my sins and help me to turn away from them and completely toward you. I receive you as my Lord and Savior right now. If I died today, I know I would go to heaven to be with you forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ward AME Youth Ministry exists to bring young people to Christ, instruct them on how to be Godly through the development of a Christ-like mind, and equip them through the teaching of the scripture for ministry in order to magnify the name of the Lord and honor God with their lives.

Spotlight on the Career Ministry

By Sister Loretta Malone

The mission of the Career Ministry is to help prepare high school students and adults to enter an institution of higher learning and/or enter/re-enter the workforce. On October 25, 2008, the Career Ministry hosted a Professional Workshop on writing a resume and putting together a portfolio. The presenters were Monica Warren and Loretta Malone.

Each participant received valuable information which enabled them to create the tools to present at their next interview. The second Professional Workshop, Dressing for Success and Mock Interviews, was held on March 28, 2009. The presenters included Monica Warren, Mary Fletcher, John Hall, and Kweli Umoja. In addition to the presentation, each person was given the opportunity to

participate in an interview situation. Members of the Career Ministry are Shirley Phillips, Beryl Moore, Mae Taylor Johnson, Monica Warren, Bernice Sanders, Kweli Umoja, and Loretta Malone.



Members of the Career Ministry

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Mission Statement: A giving and serving church that will serve the spiritual needs of God's people through church, community and family.



AME Church Legacy

Builders (cont from page 2)

He eventually was elected editor of **The A.M.E Church Review** in which articles concerning these issues often appeared.

In 1913, Ransom established a mission in Manhattan called the Church of Simon of Cyrene from which he ministered to the urban poor. One of the young men aided by Ransom was poet **Paul Laurence Dunbar**, whose first book, *Oak and Ivy*, Ransom helped sell at his church when Dunbar could not afford to pay the printer.

Ransom was married three times and had two children. After a long and successful career and lifetime of aiding others, Ransom died at the age of 98 at his home in Wilberforce, Ohio.

Quick Tidbits

- **Church Security:** Praise God that the Trustees and Pastor Williams have hired security for the benefit of keeping the church safe. The Security Team was hired within the approved budget.
- **Youth Choir:** Kudos to the Jubilant Praise Youth Choir and their director, Millicent Collins, on their concert held on April 26, 2009.
- **Church in the Street:** Connecting with community is the AME Church's legacy. Ward takes to the street in **WORSHIP** on July 26th at 10am. Join us!
- **Name That Newsletter:** We're looking for a title and a logo for our newsletter. Have any ideas? Submit them via e-mail to **wardamenewsletter@yahoo.com**. Be sure to include a reference scripture.
- **Alert! May 19 Special Election:** This special election includes six propositions that affect the California budget and services in our local communities. Voter Registration deadline is May 4.
- **Let's Save Some Paper:** Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically? If so, send an e-mail to **wardamenewsletter@yahoo.com**. Include your name and e-mail address. Your e-mail address will only be used to send a copy of the newsletter.