

# The Word at Ward

Save the Date:

Volume 1, Issue 2

Summer 2009

- **Sept 13:**  
Pastor's Appreciation
- **Sept 13:**  
Sunday School Promotion
- **Oct 25 - Nov 1st:**  
Southern California Annual Conference

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## Pastor's Corner

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

Shalom To All:

It is such a joy to celebrate with you the 107th Church Anniversary of Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church. For over a century, we have served as a beacon of hope and light for both weary souls and communities that are suffering from a declining infrastructure. Surely with the songwriter of ancient days, we can proclaim, "Through Many

Danger's Toils and Snares," for certainly we have endured — we have endured such perils as riots, economic downsizing, fires, and other cataclysmic events, and yet through it all, the church still stands. I think that it is important that we not only celebrate the history of Ward AME Church but also, we need to celebrate all of the lives that we have ministered to through Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals, and other ecclesiastical events that Ward has been apart of. Often times, we

celebrate the historicity of the church, but too often, we forget about the accomplishments of the pioneers and people who have built Ward into the church that it is. So we celebrate on this historical date the members — to those who have gone to their resting place, and to those who remain, we celebrate each member. We thank you for your contribution in making Ward the kind of church that we have grown into.

In His Love  
Pastor

## Celebrating Ward's Man of the Year— Gamel Mumford

Sisters and Brothers of Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church, it is my distinct privilege to place our 2009 Clyde C. Collins Man of the Year recipient in the spotlight of the Ward AME Newsletter.

Brother Gamel Mumford was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He has been a member of Ward AME for 13 years and is very active in church activities — he attends

Bible Study, feeds the homeless, and is a member of the Steward Board and Usher Board #2. He is a loving father, and his children (and their friends) love and respect him.

His two daughters recognize him as a "hard worker" and one who "graces us with knowledge from the Bible." They also recognize him as a father figure to some of the ladies that attend church with

them. He also makes, according to his daughters, "the best spaghetti" in the world. We will look forward to that at our next church picnic.

Pastor Williams simply describes him as a "quiet strength" and a man who consistently attends Wednesday evening Bible study. Other men of Ward recognize Brother Mumford for his humility,

*(Continued on page 8)*

“Every true believer should have a song in their heart and spirit.”

#### Ward AME Newsletter Ministry

Tanya Marie Anderson  
Joyce Clarke  
Jackie Dupont-Walker  
Dianne Kerford  
Julianne Lusain  
Barbara Morgan  
Ramona Toliver

A special ‘thank you’ to Sister Alton Glaze for naming the newsletter.

## A Song in My Heart — A 🎵 from the Minister of Music

The song praise of God is a prominent feature of Scripture, indicating that it should be a prominent feature in the lives of Christians and the Church. Every true believer should have a song in their heart and spirit. The song praise of God has the effect of keeping our minds stayed on the things of God and allows us to be filled or guided by the Holy Spirit. When we come together for corporate worship, psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs enhance the worship service not merely because of their intricate harmonies, distinct rhythms, or beautiful melodies but

because they have meaningful roots in the hearts, lives, and minds of individual Spirit-filled Believers who have committed themselves (as individuals) to praise God.

We are so blessed at Ward AME to have a music ministry that strives diligently to incorporate a diverse repertoire of music, including traditional and contemporary gospel music, anthems, spirituals, and hymns, to meet the spiritual needs of our congregation. The aggregation of voices from the Adult Choir, Praise Team, Jubilant Praise Choir, Male

Chorus, and Angels Without Wings Children’s Choir has a threefold purpose in the worship experience— they speak to God “for” the congregation; they speak “to” the congregation; and they speak “with” the congregation. The praise and worship period, hymns, and service music involves participation from the entire congregation, and I am deeply moved when everyone lifts their voice to God in musical praise.

I am thoroughly convinced that everyone has a special song. One of my favorite songs is  
*(Continued on page 7)*

## Asked & Answered: The Feeding Ministry

The Word at Ward spoke with Pamela Sanders, chair of the Feeding Ministry, to learn how this ministry serves Ward and the community.

**What is the mission of the Feeding Ministry?** The Feeding Ministry provides words of encouragement to those we serve and shows those not familiar with the church that there is a caring spirit in the world.

**Tell us more about who receives the meals.** We serve Ward’s own Sick and Shut-in members who are listed in the bulletin. Not all of the members can accept

lunches, but for those who can, we also provide a lunch for family members and caregivers. We serve HIV/AIDS patients and the staff at the Oasis Clinic, which is located in South Los Angeles. A few years ago, the Oasis Clinic asked Ward to provide some type of service, and we were able to begin serving meals at the clinic and provide literature about Ward to the patients. Finally, we serve meals at the Downtown Women’s Center, which is a shelter located in Downtown Los Angeles that provides temporary housing for homeless women. I

sought out places where we could serve, and my cousin, who is the Director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Department, gave me a contact name for the Center.

**How often do you serve meals?** We serve members on the Sick and Shut-in list one Saturday per month; the Oasis Clinic every 3rd Thursday from 12-1pm; and the Downtown Women’s Center one Saturday per month from 12-1pm. The Saturday in which we serve our Sick and Shut-in members and the Downtown

*(Continued on page 7)*

## An Attitude of Rest

We may sometimes wonder in the midst of hard times and losses about how we find rest when there has been a loss of jobs, homes, finances, or death of loved ones, etc. Do not despair or lose hope. The Sovereign God is true to every one of his promises (2 Corinthians 1:20). God wants the prominence in our lives. He never intended that any other sources become our source.

The word of God is a sure foundation on which to build hope and find rest. If you, or someone you know, are experiencing a restless situation, take a little time and read the following suggested passages of Scriptures and know that the Word is Powerful and Healing.

***When you need a Friend***

John 15:13-15

***When you feel Lonely***

Heb.13: 5

***When you are in Danger***

Psalm 91:1-7

***When you need Peace***

Philippians 4: 6-7

***When you need Encouragement***

Isaiah 41:10,13

***When you need Love***

Zephaniah 3:14

***When you need Healing***

1 Peter 2:24

***When you need Direction***

Proverbs 3: 5-6

***When you have lost your Joy***

Acts 2:28

***When you are Fearful***

2 Timothy 1: 7

***When you are Burdened***

Matthew 11: 28-30

***When you feel Hopeless***

Jeremiah 29:11

***When you are Waiting on God***

Isaiah 30: 18

***When you need a Blessing***

Malachi 3:10

“The word of God is a sure foundation on which to build hope and find rest.”

**PRAYER:**

Our Father, you have been my help in times past and you are my very present help. Today, I ask you Lord to heal the pain, hopelessness, and brokenness. Thank you Father for helping me to trust you more and to place full confidence in you through your Word. I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Dessie Dantzler, Chairperson  
5th District Missionary Prayer Teams*

## Sunday School News Bits

**Graduates:** Our best wishes to those high school students heading off to college, as well as to those students returning to college. We also salute our college graduates as they embark on another new adventure — whether it be further education or employment.

**Job Opening:** We are looking for two teachers: one

to co-teach grades 3, 4 and 5 with Brother Roy Walker and one to serve as an on-call substitute teacher to teach any of our classes as needed.

**Calling All Parents:** If your child is between the ages of 2 and 5, we would love to see them in Sunday School. Let us help you teach your child about the goodness of the Lord. They

receive Bible-based instruction and a healthy snack. The class is taught by Sister Sharon Johnson and Sister Eleanor Asberry, two academic school teachers.

**Reminder:** Sunday School classes for ages 2 to senior citizen are held every Sunday morning from 8:45 to 9:45.

# A Guide for Life



Former home of Ward AME Church  
1250 E. 25th Street

My son, keep your father's commands, and don't forget your mother's teaching. Keep their words in mind forever as though you had them tied around your neck. They will guide you when you walk. They will guide you when you sleep. They will speak to you when you are awake. These commands are like a lamp; this teaching is like a light. And the correction that comes from them will help you have life.

**Proverbs 6: 20-23**

Current home of Ward AME Church  
1177 W. 25th Street



Brothers and Sisters, Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church has been a guide for life for 107 years, and this is how it all started:

This church began in 1902 as a mission named "The Los Angeles Mission" in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Pryor. As the mission grew, God blessed its members and resources, and as the member's enthusiasm for worship increased, the Los Angeles Mission congregation acquired a building at Santa Fe and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. This was their first move and with it came a new name, "Calvary Mission."

In 1906, Reverend E. F. Hubbard organized Bethel Mission. In 1910, Calvary and Bethel Missions merged and made one big mission. Presiding Elder J. H. Wilson brought the mission into the conference in 1910 under presiding Bishop John A. Gregg. The name "Ward Chapel" was given by Rev. A. Milton Ward.

The first pastor of Ward Chapel was Rev. Duncan, followed by Reverends Herron, Moten, and J. W. Price. In 1919, Rev. J. H. Green became Pastor, and he moved the church to 1250 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street.

In 1923, the building at 1250 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street was destroyed by fire, but in 1926, a new building was

erected at that same location, and Rev. Albert Lyles became Pastor. **The cornerstone was laid in 1928.**

Rev. W. Howard served as Pastor from 1929-1934, and Rev. A. Harris served from 1934-1937. In 1937, Rev. J. W. Price was re-appointed. Under his leadership, the church realized its greatest growth since its beginning in 1902. Rev. J. W. Price remained the Pastor until 1948. Rev. Henry White followed and served from 1948-1950. Rev. Frederick D. Jordan, who served from 1950-1952, dedicated the two years of his pastoral service to the acquisition of the present location at 1177 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street in February, 1951.

This is the story of how we got to the location at 25<sup>th</sup> and Magnolia. Since then, we have been shepherded by: Rev. Fred Steven (1952-1956), Rev. Jerry Ford (1956-1959), Rev. Larry S. Odom (1959-1962), Rev. C. Wayne Love (1962-1972), Rev. C. Garnett Henning, Sr. (1972-1980), Rev. Frank Madison Reid (1980-1988), Rev. Dr. Howard S. Gloyd (1988-1994), Rev. Norman D. Copeland (1994-2004), Rev. Sylvester Laudermill (2004 - 2006), and Rev. Dr. C. Dennis Williams (2006 - present).

Since 2006, Rev. Dr. C.

Dennis Williams has brought to Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church a unique style of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, using the New International Version of the Holy Bible. He is educating and spreading light and information to his church members and others through Holy Scripture. His congregation has deeply benefited from his teachings along with his tremendous talent that accompanies him wherever he goes.

Ward, we appreciate and celebrate the 107 years of leaders who taught God's message. We remember their faith in Jesus Christ as we remain, "A House Built on a Firm Foundation ... with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone."

*Ephesians 2: 19-21.*

*Ward AME 107th Church Anniversary Committee*

Chair

Freddie Underwood

Committee

Joyce Fitzpatrick  
Michael Hale  
Karen Peterkin  
Frank Smith, Jr.  
Dorsie Weston

# Members in the Light...Coming This Far by Faith

By Sister Dianne Kerford

As we celebrate the 107th anniversary of Ward AME Church, we recognize our long-standing members for their strong ability to remain steadfast.



A native of Tree Rivers Michigan who attended Wilberforce University and Lincoln University School of Journalism in Jefferson City, MO, he co-founded the St. Louis Publishing Co.

Willis Pursley moved to Los Angeles in 1976 and along with his wife, Clevern, joined Ward under now Bishop C. Garnett Henning. He has served as a Steward, Trustee, Bible Study teacher, Sunday School teacher, and writer of the church newsletter. He is a Class Leader and a member of the Band of Men and the Lay Organization.

Mr. Pursley is civic-minded and committed to serving his community. He has served as

the Los Angeles 8<sup>th</sup> District Representative for the city's Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Group, Inc., President of the Halldale block club, news editor of the Federation of Retired Union Members, Corresponding Secretary of the Lincoln University Alumni Association, Coordinator of AARP/Vote, a literacy tutor at the Vernon branch library, and Past President of Community Clubs, Inc.

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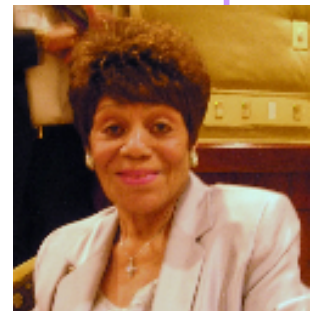
You can look for her in the North Chapel section of the sanctuary.

As a member of Bethel AME Church in Dallas, Texas, her home state, Margaret Langston remembers Official Board meetings being held every week. She, her husband, and young son joined Ward AME Church in

1954, under Rev. Fred Stephens. She witnessed the burning of the church mortgage under Rev. C. Wayne Love.

She and her husband, Dale, worked together in the church — singing in the Celestial Choir, working as Class Leaders, and being active adults with the YPD.

They also worked with the Sunday School Department — he a teacher, she the Secretary. They held bible study in their home. When Dale, a Trustee, departed this side of life, Margaret became a Trustee.



*(Continued on page 7)*

<p><b>60+ Years</b>                  David Bowman—67 years                  Billie J. O'Neal—67 years                  Edward C. Shaw—64 years                  Mattie L. Wilson—63 years</p>	<p><b>50-59 Years</b>                  Georgia M. Brame                  Tom Brown                  Katie Collins                  Norma J. Cook                  Marguerite Davis                  Emma M. Golden                  Floyd Henry                  Ira Kelley                  Margaret Langston                  Eloise McDaniel-Blanton                  Thelma Morris                  Clide Quinney                  Mary E. Scates</p>	<p><b>40-49 Years</b>                  Dr. Carlton Blanton                  Verna Bowman                  Shirley Bowser-Phillips                  Henry and Gertrude Burr                  Dorothy M. Evans                  Stacey D. Evans                  Shirley Knox-Barnett                  Gloria J. Randolph</p> <p><b>30-39 Years</b>                  Linda Brookfield                  Jacqueline Dupont-Walker                  J. Anita Mitchell                  William Nelson, Jr.                  Willis E. Pursley                  Nathaniel Randolph                  Bessie R. West</p>	<p><b>25-29 Years</b>                  John Edward Brown                  Joyce Clarke                  Audrey Fletcher                  John and Susie Frierson                  Rev. Sandra Harrell                  Brenda Harvey-Williams                  Maceo Hayes                  Donzella P. Lee                  Devron Lewis                  Roseland Lewis                  Clara Love                  Pinkie Nichols                  Naima Olugbala                  Calvin and Velda Quartman                  Ella Reid Bell Gory                  James Richardson                  Jacqui Sanford-Hynds                  Ramona Toliver</p>
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*107th Church Anniversary*

# YOUTH CORNER

**THIS AND THAT... Congratulations to Ryan Sanders** for qualifying for the triple jump at the Junior Olympics held on July 30th on the campus of North Carolina A&T University... **Youth Cell Bible Fellowship** kicks off on **Friday, August 21st** and continues every 3rd Friday of the month for youth in grades 6-12. Contact Sister Marsha Myers at [adeevasani@aol.com](mailto:adeevasani@aol.com) for more information.

## Ward Hosts Successful Daughter's of Destiny Conference

By Sister Clide Quinney

On May 16th, eighty-five young ladies aged 11-18 and from around the Southern California Conference attended the Daughters of Destiny "Virtuous Women in Training" Conference.

The day started by ensuring that the young ladies had committed their lives to Christ and understood the meaning of sexual abstinence. Rev. Marian Wright-Young then taught the young ladies that their bodies were not their

own but belonged to God. Rev. Najuma Smith led a session on self-esteem — learning to love and appreciate themselves both spiritually and physically and to know who they are in Christ Jesus. Rev. Joyce Johnson-Kitchen taught on true beauty, how to honor their beauty and recognize that real beauty begins on the inside and radiates out. Sister Jackie Everett helped the young ladies understand that they are God's precious property; no

one should ever be verbally or physically abusive to them. Sister Rochele Griffin discussed how to unmask sexual con games, set appropriate boundaries, and conduct themselves as women of God.

After the young ladies recited the Daughters of Destiny Litany, Sister Lessie Thompson presented each young lady with a sterling silver bracelet which symbolizes "True Love Waits."

## Youth Serving God

Wondering how you as a youth member of Ward (or your child, if you are a parent) can begin to praise and serve God? Ward has a variety of ministries and auxiliaries geared towards our younger members.

Ministry / Auxiliary	Mission	Ages / Grades	Meeting Date / Time	Contact
Angels Without Wings Children's Choir	To start children at an early age to understand how to praise God and to minister to the congregation.	3 years old—3rd grade	Thursdays at 7pm	Ramona Toliver
Children's Church	To teach children how to worship and love the Lord.	6-12 years old	1st and 3rd Sundays during worship	Rochele Griffin
Jubilant Praise Choir	To minister in song on Sunday morning and to uplift and motivate praise and worship.	9-18 years old	2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays at 7pm	Millicent Collins
Praise Dancers	Let the Spirit Move Us Romans 8:1-2, 5-6, 16	10-17 years old	Thursdays at 6pm (Resumes in September)	Dawn Comer Kymberly Evans
Youth Usher Board	To serve as doorkeepers of God's House and to maintain order and structure within the worship service.	6-17 years old	3rd Saturdays at 10am	Tina Marie Littleton
YPD / Youth Ministry	To instruct youth on how to be Godly through the development of a Christ-like mind and equip them for ministry through the teaching of scripture.	2-26 years old	TBD	Marsha Myers

# Members in the Light—Mrs. Margaret Langston

(cont from page 5)

She served on Usher Board #2 for 40 years, served on many Men & Women’s Day committees, usually as the Finance Chair, and has been a member of the Cleo B. Love unit of the Artishia Wilkerson Jordan Women’s Missionary Society.

Mrs. Langston is proud to be one of the founding committee members of one of Ward’s former signature events, the Prayer Breakfast, and served for 11 consecutive

years. This event convened 1,000 people annually to feast on prayer, praise and share in a meal.

Her favorite scripture is the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalms which begins, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” “Beam of Heaven” is the hymn she holds most sacred.

Mrs. Langston has remained at Ward because she has

enjoyed laboring in the vineyard while having fun. On the Sundays that she is unable to attend, she reads her daily devotionals, sends in her tithe, and on special days like Easter, sends candy gifts for the youth. When asked how she remains steadfast, her reply is: “Be true to yourself, be peaceful, and be honest. You’ve got to have the right spirit!” She is a witness that has “come this far by faith.”

“The Feeding Ministry provides words of encouragement to those we serve and shows those not familiar with the church that there is a caring spirit in the world.”

## The Feeding Ministry

(cont from page 2)

Women’s Center varies each month.

**How many people do you serve each month?** We serve between 20 and 30 people at the Oasis Clinic and between 50 and 80 women at the Downtown Women’s Center. The number of members we serve on the Sick and Shut-in list varies.

**What are the future**

**plans for the ministry?**

We would like to setup right in front of the church on a quarterly basis and serve whoever is in need of a meal for 2 hours. During this time, we would provide some spiritual food as well.

**How can members get involved in the Feeding Ministry?**

Members can get involved by helping either prepare, serve, or deliver

meals.

*For more information about the Feeding Ministry, contact Pamela Sanders at sandsnp@yahoo.com.*

Ministry Members: Linda Brookfield, Joyce Clarke, Susie Frierson, Wanda Fritz, Jacqui Hynds, Frankie Mitchell, Karen Nance, Willi Ogles, Lester Powell, Alberta Russell, Bernice Sanders, Scott Sanders (Head Chef), David Washington, Lucinda Washington, Pamela Wyatt

## A Song in My Heart

(cont from page 2)

“Blessed Assurance.” The words were written by Fanny Crosby, the great hymn writer of over 8,000 gospel songs/hymns.

The Music Ministry solicits your fervent prayers as we continue to work in His vineyard. And remember to always keep a song in your heart and spirit!

(1)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.

(2)

Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
(Did you know Fanny Crosby was blind?)  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(3)

Perfect submission, all is at rest!  
I in my Savior am happy and blest.  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with his goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

## Ward AME Church

1177 West 25th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
Phone: 213-747-1367  
Fax: 213-748-1783

**Mission Statement:** A giving and serving church that will serve the Spiritual needs of God's people



## Man of the Year

(cont from page 1)

honesty, and his skills on the domino table.

Sisters and Brothers, please take a moment with me to recognize Brother Gamel Mumford as the Clyde C. Collins 2009 Man of the Year. Please take the time (if you have not already) to greet him with a handshake or a hug.

Brother Mumford, the Band of Men sees your commitment to the church, your love to your family, and, most of all, your love to God the Father. Here's wishing you many blessings in the name of Jesus.

*Submitted by  
Rev. Swayne Cofield*

## Members in the Light—Mr. Willis Pursley

(cont from page 5)

He is affiliated with the Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch of the NAACP, National Council of Senior Citizens, Community Coalition Against Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, and the Community Coalition Committee, protesting against gang violence.

His political activism increased when he actively campaigned with the South L.A. Affirmative Action project in an attempt to defeat Prop. 209. He's received a number of honors for his service in the community, including being honored by the History Committee for Senior Citizens' observance of Black American history month, the Willowbrook Senior Citizens for commitment and dedicated

service in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district, a commendation from the City of Compton for outstanding citizenship and for community activities in the City of L.A., and a special Certificate of Congressional recognition for outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

Mr. Pursley is an unassuming, humble, extremely generous, and caring person who is always willing to help whenever and wherever. He is witty, poetic, and talented, making his own Christmas and birthday cards.

When asked for his favorite scripture, he paused for a moment, then said, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5).