



The Anvil

A Quarterly Publication

of the St. Paul AME Church Lay Organization – 4th Quarter

Moving from Church to Ministry -

"...for the people worked with all their heart." –

Nehemiah 4:6



Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is
born...and He will be
called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of
Peace.

- From the desk of Pastor Hodges
 - First Lady's Message
- Season's Thoughts from Lay President
 - Recent Events: Lay Witness Sunday
 - Highlights from Pastoral Anniversary
 - Bible Knowledge Activity
 - Featured Recipe
 - Preparedness Pop-Up!

- St. Paul AME Church, Raleigh, NC www.stpaulamechurchraleighnc.org
- Western North Carolina Lay Organization <http://wncclay.org/>
- [Link to Sunday Sermons on church website](#)

The Anvil is published in January, April, July, and October

Content submission deadlines:

December 15th, March 15th, June 15th, September 15th

Send content in MS-Word, or images files in .jpg or .png

to Pam Kelly pamkellyrtpnc@gmail.com or Cecilia Johnson crj3227@gmail.com

From the desk of Reverend Hodges...



Greetings,

I praise God for allowing me to be the Pastor of St. Paul for 3 years. I would like to thank the Stewards, Trustees and all the members of St. Paul for all your prayers, encouragement and support for the last three years.

Well it was two and one half years into my pastoring here at St. Paul and out of the blue comes a pandemic of

which we have never experienced. What do we do? In house church came to an abrupt stop, meetings stopped.

Then I prayed and the Lord said keep them together and keep praying. It's been difficult but through the pandemic we have been praying. The song writer says, "through it all I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God."

That's the message today, learn something from what you are going through. If you don't learn anything from the lessons of life know that God is in control and we must wait on Him to change our circumstances. We must keep the faith. Faith in God, Faith in Life, and Faith in ourselves.

Romans 8:28- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Pastor Hodges

A Message from our First Lady, Delores Hodges...



"Faith"

As I reflect upon the past three years journey, I'm grateful for so many reasons. I am grateful for my family, my church family, life abundantly, good health, good friends and so much more.

But I live in a world of fear, fear of the past and terror of the future grip me. My mind cannot comprehend the new and strange powers of this world. Did the world of politics, science and technology not see the warning signs? I'm sure we have asked this question over and over.

Stop asking. We are God's children and our God knows when and what to do. We must have faith that masters fear. How do we acquire this faith that defeats fear? Keep praying without ceasing and asking our Lord for strength and power. Keep giving him your fears and watch them melt away. Fear will knock at the door, and faith will answer but rest assuredly there's

no one there. I want to encourage you this day, change your heart. Faith and fear cannot exist in the same heart. - Delores Hodges

Lay Organization News

The St. Paul AME Lay Organization, of Raleigh, NC, is comprised of the laity (non-clergy) of the church. It operates on all levels of the church: local church, conference, district and connectional levels. The local activities include A.M.E. training at monthly meetings, coordinating the local effort for [AME-V Alert](#), which includes A.M.E Public Service Announcements, and sponsoring Voter Education Webinars.

The LAY ORGANIZATION has resumed monthly meetings 1st Mondays, at 6:30 p.m.

Via St. Paul's Zoom Room www.zoom.us or call 929-205-6099

ID: 9199190001 Access: 518051

Reminder: Our Lay Member Drive is in progress. Annual Dues are \$20

Holiday Season Message from St. Paul AME Lay President Carol Davenport



Hello, my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. It is a pleasure to bring greetings from the St. Paul AME Church Lay Organization. I pray all is well with you and your loved ones and you are keeping safe.

As I began preparing this greeting, I pondered as to what I wanted to say to my Church family. Since October is the month the AME Church Lay Organization observes witnessing for God and Lay membership, I decided I would speak about being a Lay Organization member who

witnesses for God.

Every Church member who is not Clergy is Lay, therefore, every member should consider joining the Lay. You will then be a member of a group dedicated to learning the history, tradition, and principles of African Methodism. You will also be able to utilize to the maximum the abilities and skills granted by God, in assisting with the improvement and extension of God's kingdom. The Lay Organization strives to create an atmosphere of happiness, peace and harmony among our members. As a group, the Lay promotes the spread of personal evangelism through activities designed to prepare Lay members for appropriately conveying

God's word. If God had wanted to, He could have taken us directly to heaven the moment we trusted Christ as Savior. But He left us on the earth that we might be His witnesses. God wants us to speak for Him and share the gospel with others. We can witness to others about what Christ has done in our lives. Our experience is a powerful witness which nobody can refute. Many may say, I do not need to join the Lay, I can witness by myself. That is true, but the bible teaches us that there is power in numbers. 1Corinthians 12:7-8, teaches us that working in a group benefits more people and helps those persons in a group to be more productive.

"The evidence of the Spirit's presence is given to each person for the common good of everyone. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom. The same Spirit gives another person the ability to speak with knowledge."

Please consider becoming a member of the St. Paul AME Church Lay Organization.

Love and Blessings to All,

Carol Davenport, President



Lay Witness Sunday was observed at St. Paul AME on October 11th. Our theme this year is "I am a Witness" with scripture reference [Matthew 28:19-20](#). Our own Sister Diana Jones Wilson was guest speaker for Lay Witness Sunday. Her message, "Witnessing from the Pew: The Blessing of a Heavy Burden", was very relevant and uplifting for the times we are currently experiencing. You can visit our [Facebook page](#) to hear Sis. Wilson's entire message!



Early Voting
October 15 –
October 31st

[Early Voting Info](#)
[for North](#)
[Carolina](#)



ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The Walk is **VIRTUAL**, but the **NEEDS** could not be more **REAL**.

WE WALK FOR THEM!

We give thanks for you as together we imagine a world where no one must go hungry

WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN WATER, YOUR IMPACT IS **clear.**

Make donations here: https://www.crophungerwalk.org/trianglenc/sp_ame

Greater Triangle Area CROP Hunger Walk 10/25/2020

ST. PAUL'S WALK AT 1:00 P.M. KNIGHTDALE STATION PARK

SUPPORT OUR TEAM ST. PAUL AME STRIDERS

DONATE TODAY! Call 919-832-2709

Join and support the St. Paul AME Striders, Sunday, October 25th, for the [Greater Triangle Area Crop Hunger Walk](#). Begins at 1pm



St. Paul AME Youth "Striders" from 2019

YPD

"Growing, Glowing and Going for Christ"

The YPD performs community service at the Food Bank and delivers food to Seniors. They meet on the second Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Upcoming youth training programs and opportunities for leadership experiences will be announced. Please contact Mrs. Lola Houston Hager, YPD Director for more information. She can be reached at 704.305.9101 or by email at lyhousto@yahoo.com

Visit our Community Billboard for updates on St. Paul AME events and other event of community interest



Community Billboard

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church
402 West Edenton St., Raleigh, NC 27603
www.stpaulamechurchraleighnc.org
<https://stpaulamechurch.wildapricot.org/Billboard>

Featured Recipe



Holiday Beef Stew



Beef Stew is the perfect meal for a few or many on Thanksgiving, Christmas or through the holidays. It's healthy, economical, easy-peasy, and often associated with good family memories. My Dad used to make a french variation of this called Beef Ragout, to which he substituted merlot wine for 1 cup of water!

Here's a basic recipe. I add bay leaf to mine, instead of parsley!

Prepare in crock pot or stock pot. 10 Servings. Enjoy!

Happy Holidays! – Pam Kelly

- ☐ 2 pounds cubed beef stew meat
- ☐ 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ☐ 4 cubes beef bouillon, crumbled
- ☐ 4 cups water
- ☐ 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- ☐ 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- ☐ ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ☐ 3 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
- ☐ 4 medium (blank)s carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- ☐ 4 stalks celery, cut into 1-inch pieces
- ☐ 1 large onion, chopped
- ☐ 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- ☐ 2 teaspoons cold water

In a large pot or dutch oven, cook beef in oil over medium heat until brown.

Dissolve bouillon in water and pour into pot. Stir in rosemary, parsley and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer 1 hour.

Stir potatoes, carrots, celery, and onion into the pot. Dissolve cornstarch in 2 teaspoons cold water and stir into stew.

Cover and simmer 1 hour more.

Courtesy of AllRecipes.com

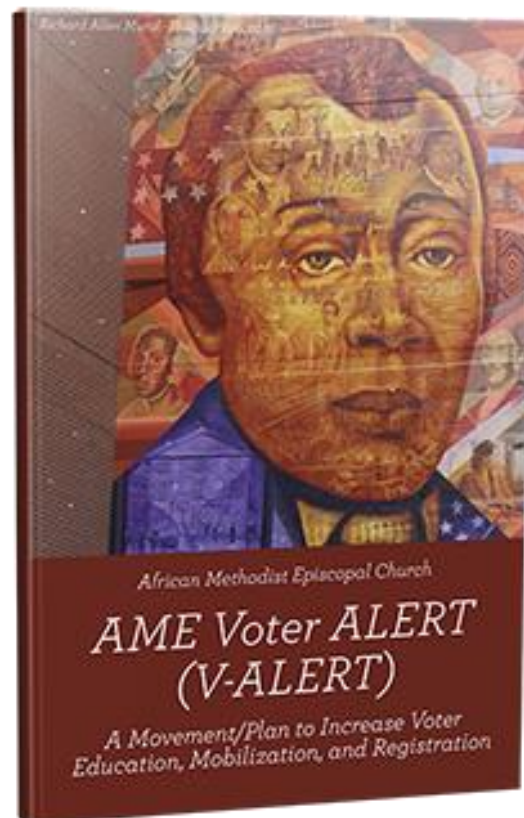
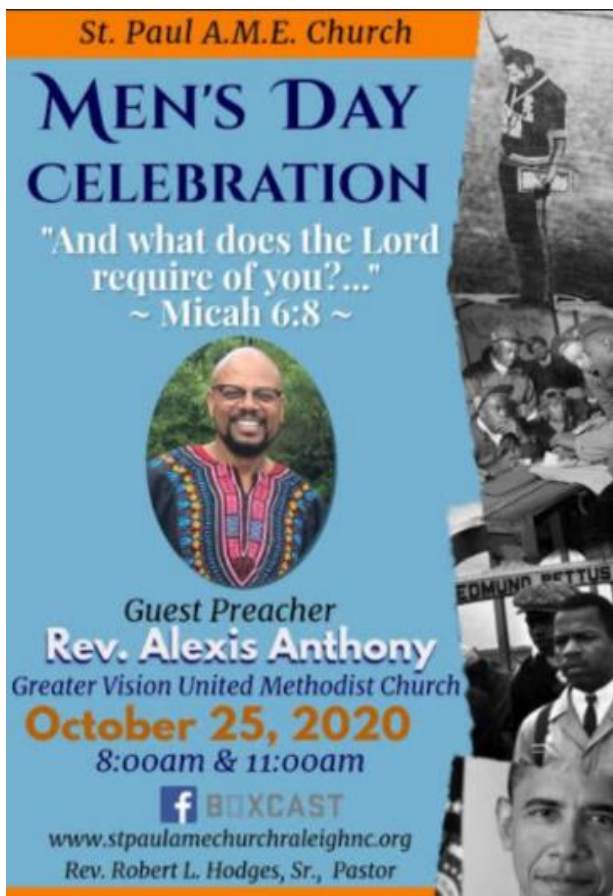


BIBLE IQ - DAYS OF CREATION contributed by Cecilia Johnson



1. In the beginning _____ created the heaven and the earth.
2. According to the Gospel of John. Who participated in creation along with the Father?
3. Who moved upon the face of a dark and formless world?
4. After separating land and water, the Creator called the land _____ and the water_____.
5. What did God call the two “great lights” that separated day from night?
6. After God created sea monsters and all manner of birds, what did God command them to do?
7. After creating man in His image, God assigned man ____ over all He had created.
8. God finished creation in ____ days and rested on the _____.
9. Where did God place man after he was created?
10. What reason did God give for creating a companion for Adam?

**Answers on
last page!**



www.AMEV-Alert.org



On Saturday, September 26th, the St. Paul AME Church family joyfully celebrated Reverend and 1st. Lady Mrs. Hodges 3rd Pastoral Anniversary at St. Paul AME, with an outstanding “Drive-Thru Reception”.



Everyone who drove through to wish Reverend and Mrs. Hodges a Happy 3rd Pastoral Anniversary received “Reception Boxes” with a delicious meal prepared by our Kitchen Ministry!



We
♥
You

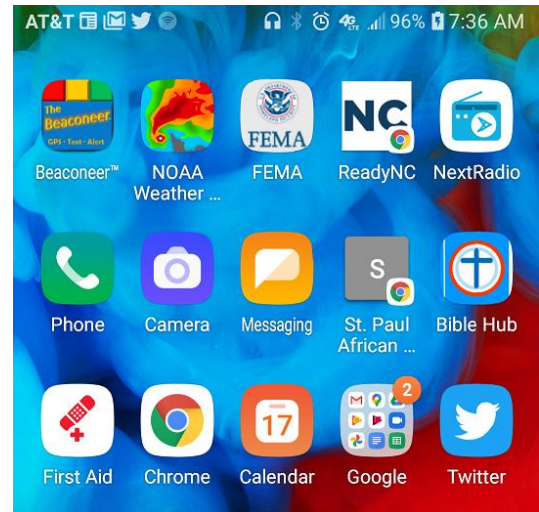
*Pastor and
1st Lady!*

Photos courtesy of Bro. Lester Nichols

Preparedness POP-UP! by Pam Kelly

Can you quickly access all of your safety communications resources on your phone, when the need arises?

- At your next family gathering this holiday season, **fortify** your phones together! Prepare your Android phone or iPhone to be an essential aid in your safety & preparedness communications.
 - Dedicate a screen on your phone, as shown here for these communications resources.
- (1) [Beaconeer™ App](#) (sends your GPS location, an Alert & Text Message at the same time!)
(2) [NOAA Weather App](#) (3) [FEMA](#) app, (4) ReadyNC [Emergency Alert System](#) , (5) [Next Radio](#) for Android, for [iPhone](#), (6) Phone, Camera, & Text Message icons. (7) [Red Cross Apps](#)
(8) [Twitter](#), yes, for posting private family tweets! (9) Last, but not least, don't forget your favorite apps that offer words of spiritual resilience, comfort, and calm.



Live by faith, today. Prepare, by faith, for tomorrow! – Pam Kelly

Answers to Bible Knowledge Questions...

1. God (Genesis 1:1)
2. The Son (John 1:1-3)
3. Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2)
4. Earth, Seas (Genesis 1:10)
5. Greater light/sun & lesser light/moon (Genesis 1:16)
6. Multiply/reproduce (Genesis 1:26,28)
7. Dominion (Genesis 1:26,28)
8. Six, seventh (Genesis 2:2)
9. The Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8)
10. It was not good that he should be alone (Genesis 2:18)

