



**The Anvil** A Quarterly Publication  
of the [St. Paul AME Church](#) Lay Organization  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter February – April  
*Moving from Church to Ministry -*  
*"...for the people worked with all their heart." –*  
*Nehemiah 4:6*



Reverend Robert L. Hodges, Sr.  
& First Lady Delores Hodges

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## Message from our First Lady, Sis. Delores Hodges



### *“Shabby or Intentional thinking”*

“The younger son... wasted his substance with riotous living.” Luke 15:13

Outwardly life has changed since Jesus walked among men, but inwardly it is the same.

You remember the story about the prodigal son. He ran wild, had his fling and then came the end. He thought he was acting wisely but he was just reshuffling his prejudices. He was living a shabby life. He did not take the time to learn the facts that would be beneficial to the parties involved. “I go on my merry way because this makes me happy.”

This is shabby thinking. How does one learn to think intentionally? Intention signifies a course of action that one proposes to follow. We need to live with intention. We need to love, worship, serve and give praise with intention.

From this day forward change your way of thinking. Let every word that comes out of your mouth be intentional. What are you going to do with the information you get? Be intentional in your thinking and action.

*Sister Delores Hodges*



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### **Message from St. Paul AME Lay President Carol Davenport**

Blessings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ. I bring you greetings from St. Paul AME Church Lay Organization. Praise God, because of His Grace and Mercy we are living in a brand-new year, 2023.

In 2022, many of us went through some valleys, and many of us may still be in those same valleys or have some different ones. You or someone you know may be in the valley of grief, health concerns, financial woes, worries about our children and aging parents, or even worries about this world. Valleys are hard places along our journey, and it may be easy to doubt or overlook God's goodness. As children of God, we can always trust that God walks with us through the valleys, and He promised to bring us through to the other side. Three truths we should remember when we are in the valley:

1. We are not alone. God is with us. (John 8:12)
2. God has a good purpose for our valley. (Romans 5: 3-5)
3. The reward will last forever. (2 Corinthians 4: 17)

As the Bible says, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all". Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

Know that you are loved,

*Carol Davenport, Lay President*

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### **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.

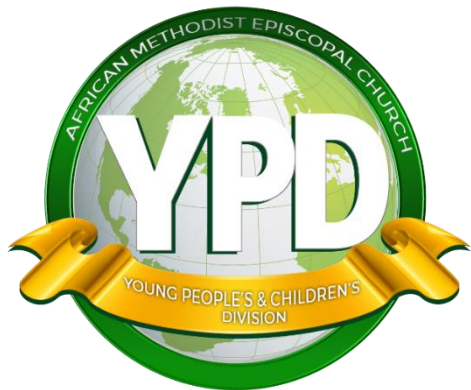
## THE LAY ORGANIZATION MONTHLY MEETINGS 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays at 6:30 P.M.

Via St. Paul's Zoom Room [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) or call 929-205-6099

ID: 9199190001 Access: 518051

Annual Dues are \$20. Have your renewed yet? It's easy to forget. Check your records. or contact us!

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**Young Peoples Division (YPD)** of the AME Church is one of the Church's most prized possessions. At our Church (St. Paul AME, Raleigh) and in the AME Church you can remain a member of the YPD until the age of 26. Throughout the conference year you may see requests or summaries of YPD activities. One of the things that the

YPD does for every major holiday that centers around Jesus Christ is hold events to help children and young adults understand how they should honor Him at young ages.

The YPD is appreciative of all the assistance it receives when holding events. It would not be possible without the support of the full church body. Next to close out the conference year, the YPD will be holding a summer food drive to assist in feeding seniors, those in shelters, and day programs in the surrounding area during the summer months. The event will be held April 22, 2022, to May 20, 2022. Stay tuned for more details and information on how you can support this effort.

You can contact Lola Hager for more information on how to remain an active member or join the YPD at [lyhousto@yahoo.com](mailto:lyhousto@yahoo.com) or text or call at 704-305-9101.

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**The YPD is sponsored their annual Trunk O' Treat on Monday October 31, 2022**, in the church parking lot. WMS also volunteered with their cars/SUV's to provide treats and recreation! An enjoyable time was had by all.







## **Recent Events**

### **St. Paul AME Striders Crop Walk**

It was a perfect day for our walk with a purpose, CROP Hunger Walk at Pullen Park on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Check out our team picture attached.

Thank you for your support to bring awareness of the food insecurity issues and raising funds to help those in need, locally and globally. Because of YOU people's lives are being impacted in a positive way.

We had 18 adults and 7 youths for a total of 25 St Paul AME Striders who participated in the walk. You helped us to exceed our goal! As of Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, we raised \$2,013 of which 25% will remain in greater Raleigh area to support agencies with programs fighting hunger. Again, many thanks to YOU for making the Walk and the Fundraiser a success. – WMS CROP Hunger Walk TEAM





## The St. Paul AME Church Choir Participated in the City of Raleigh Museum's 160 Years Emancipation Day Celebration

On January 1, 1892, formally enslaved people of Wake County gathered to celebrate their 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of emancipation. Prayer for that special occasion was provided by St. Paul's pastor, Rev. J. W. Telfair.

**This year, on January 7, 2023**, St. Paul's choir continued the tradition of participating in an emancipation celebration as they rendered music at a 160-year Emancipation Day Celebration held at the City of Raleigh Museum. The choir sang "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" and "Lord Help Me to Hold Out."

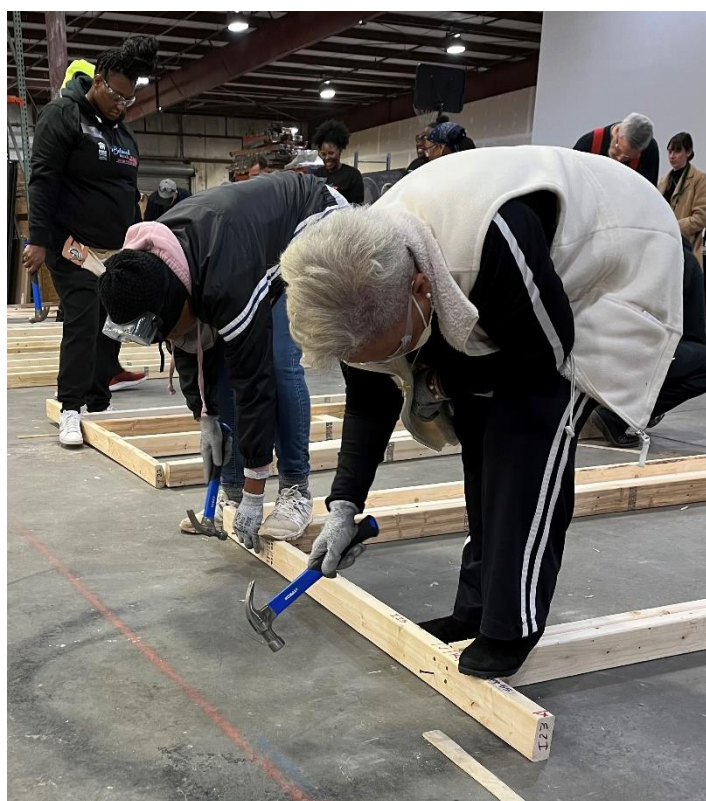
The program also included a narrator and orators who spoke about the history of slavery, emancipation, politics, and the progression of formerly enslaved people. The program's narrator also provided information about the 1865 and 1866 Freedmen's Conventions which were held at historic St. Paul AME Church. The program set a precedent for the City of Raleigh Museum's Emancipation Day Celebrations in future years.



Choir members left to right: Gail McDowell, First Lady Delores Hodges, Orlando Hankins, Gerald Parrish, Bennett Arnold, Gwen Allen, Bettina Pope, and Jacinta Frank Parrish Musicians: Dessalines Ford (music director and keyboardist); Ernie Donadelle (guitarist); and Cedric Hardin (drummer)



**On Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, The Addie G. Stroud WMS participated in the MLK Day of Service Habitat Wall Build. A HUGE Thank You to everyone who showed up today and helped to build all the outside and inside walls of the house. We had a huge group which included missionaries, male associates, young adults and St. Paul members. Great Job everybody! – Faye Hooker, WMS**



## Upcoming Events

Heritage / Founder's Day, February 12th

### FEBRUARY

2 Cell Phone Features Clinic  
9 Tablet Features Clinic  
12 Heritage/Founders' Day  
14 Valentine's Day  
19 Youth-Led Worship Service  
22 ASH WEDNESDAY Service, St. Joseph, Durham



### MARCH

1,8,16,22,29 Wednesday Lent Services  
19 Annual Missionary Day Service

### APRIL

2 Palm Sunday  
6 Maundy Thursday Service  
7 Good Friday  
9 Easter Sunday services  
23 Women's Day Service



The history of St. Paul AME Church will be featured in a film titled *We Built This*, which is a film about African American architects and builders in North Carolina. During the filming, Melody Hunter-Pillion will talk about the history of St. Paul and its builders, Stewart Ellison and Gaston Alonzo Edwards. Frank Weldon, a woods craftsman, will also be interviewed for the film. He will tell his story about his experiences as he and other St. Paul's members reupholstered the pulpit chairs.

The project is being presented by Preservation North Carolina. Other historic buildings throughout North Carolina, which were built by African American architects and builders, will be included in the film. Chris Everett, the filmmaker, also created the film, *Wilmington on Fire*.

The release date for *We Built This* is yet to be determined. – contributed by Sarah A. Moses

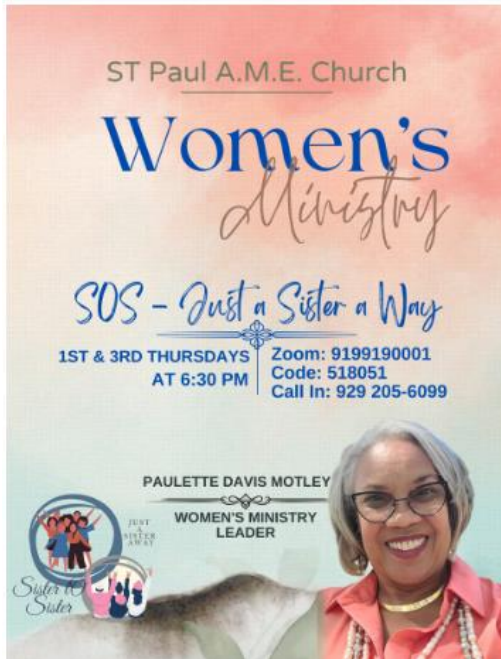




**What's a missionary's favorite type of car? ... A convertible.**

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## Women's Ministry



Women's Ministry has started back and will continue every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. We have found that women need relationship builders to compliment life's many paths. With all the roles YOU cover such as Mom, Sister, Boss, Taxi, Teacher, and Wife to name a few; the bible has provided many witnesses for us to glean examples to follow. Our weekly Thursday sessions are designed to provide the affirmation and connection Sisters need today through Bible scriptures, open worship, and relationship building discussions /activities.

Hope to see you there so you can experience the life of these wise women thru a 2023 lens. If you have any questions or would like to join the Women's Ministry

team, just contact the church office or feel free to email me at

[SistertoSisterJASA@gmail.com](mailto:SistertoSisterJASA@gmail.com)

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## BIBLE Knowledge

**1. What was God's punishment to the Israelites because of their constant complaining in the wilderness?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ everyone 20 years and up would die in the desert
- \_\_\_\_\_ God brought a plague on the people
- \_\_\_\_\_ those who complained were killed
- \_\_\_\_\_ God caused the manna to stop falling

**2. Fill in the blanks: "And I saw a new \_\_\_\_\_ and a new \_\_\_\_\_: for the first \_\_\_\_\_ and the first \_\_\_\_\_ were passed away; "**

- \_\_\_\_\_ land, sea, land, sea
- \_\_\_\_\_ heaven, hell, heaven, hell
- \_\_\_\_\_ sea, sky, sea, sky
- \_\_\_\_\_ heaven, earth, heaven, earth

**3. Paul urged Timothy to remain in what city?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Colossae
- \_\_\_\_\_ Philippi



\_\_\_\_\_Thessalonica

**4. What was God's punishment to the Israelites because of their constant complaining in the wilderness?**

- \_\_\_\_\_everyone 20 years and up would die in the desert
- \_\_\_\_\_God brought a plague on the people
- \_\_\_\_\_those who complained were killed
- \_\_\_\_\_God caused the manna to stop falling

**5. The city of Jerusalem that John saw in his dream had 12 foundations on its wall and in them were written these names.**

- \_\_\_\_\_12 plagues
- \_\_\_\_\_12 saints
- \_\_\_\_\_the 12 tribes of Judah
- \_\_\_\_\_the 12 apostles of Christ

Answers on page 13`

## **Featured Recipe**

Sesame Ginger Dressing – an immunity booster! – Courtesy [EverydayHealth.com](http://EverydayHealth.com)

- 1/2 cup + 2 tablespoons water
- 5 Tablespoons tahini
- 4 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 Tablespoon minced fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Sea salt and pepper, to taste (about 1/2 teaspoon each)

[Prior research](#) suggests that ginger may activate immune cells and have antibacterial properties, while a [past study](#) also indicated it can help fight inflammation, which can play a role in [cancer prevention](#). Translation: Time to sprinkle some atop your next savory

1. In food processor or blender, puree dressing ingredients until smooth.
2. Note: Add more or less water to get desired consistency.
3. Store dressing in refrigerator for up to 7 days.
4. Use this dressing over rice and veggies, salmon, chicken, or beef.



## **Parents & Youth**

Be sure to check out our [Scholarships & Internships](#) page on the St. Paul AME Website for opportunities for students and graduates.


## Preparedness Pop Up!

[The FEMA Preparedness Calendar is now available as a handy PDF download.](#) The calendar is a great planning tool that marks preparedness activities and provides customizable resources to help promote preparedness throughout the year. Have a Family Preparedness Meeting at least twice a year to stay preparedness-strong!

### **February**

**National Canned Food Month**  
**Winter Safety**



Check canned foods and filter out those with expired dates, high sodium, and fructose. Don't forget to check grain-based dry goods. Often, the expiration date on these products is more of a red flag to avoid growth of unwanted "[drugstore beetles](#)"  than an indicator of spoiled or rancid taste. ***Please check pantries of elderly family members for expired canned & dry grain goods too!***

### **March**

**"It's Not Luck" Campaign**  
**Spring and Flood Safety**  
**National Tsunami Awareness Week**



### **April**

**Severe Weather Safety**  
**#SafePlaceSelfie Day**  
**National Financial Capability Month**



[As of September 2022, 63%](#) of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. 40% of 100K wage earners are included in that statistic! For many, this condition has become a tolerable & acceptable risk, *until* #SHTF (*stuff hits the fan*).

### **Nat'l. Financial Capability Month**

provides a great "excuse" to have *the other* "Talk" with teens about financial preparedness & debt.

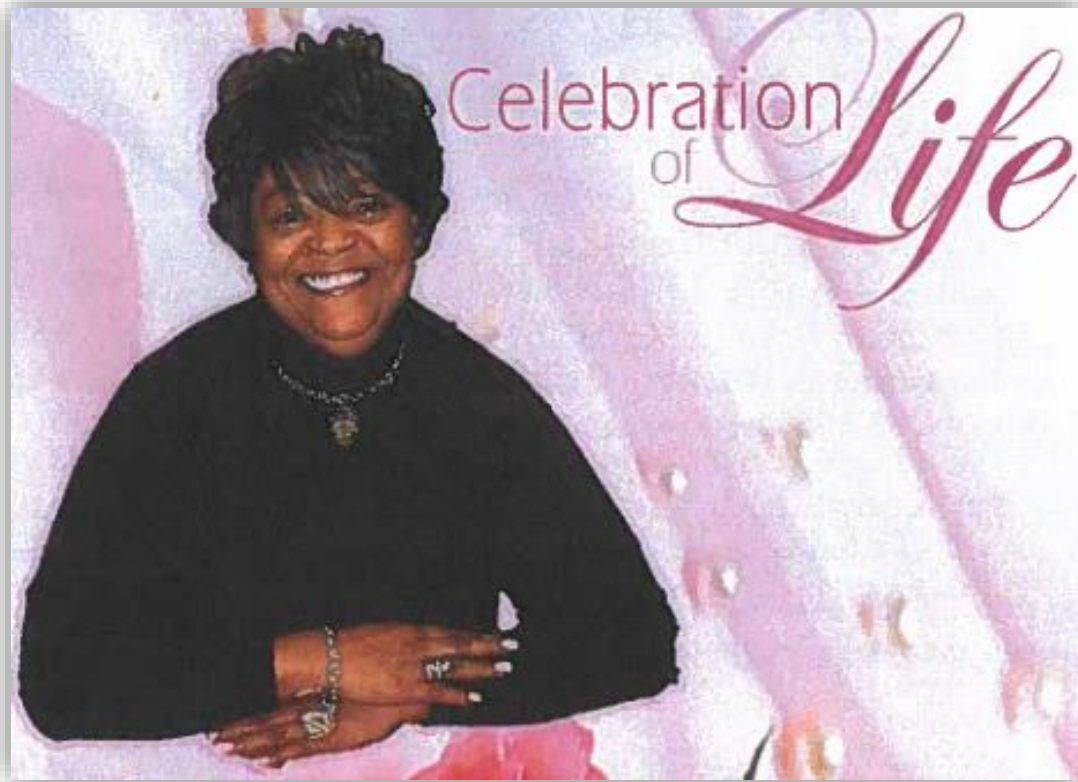
By high school and college young adults are bombarded by credit card offers, buy-now-pay-later plans, and personal loan advertising!

Regularly encourage our young people to never spend 100% of their dollar! **Save, Give, Spend Smart, Invest, and they'll likely prosper!**



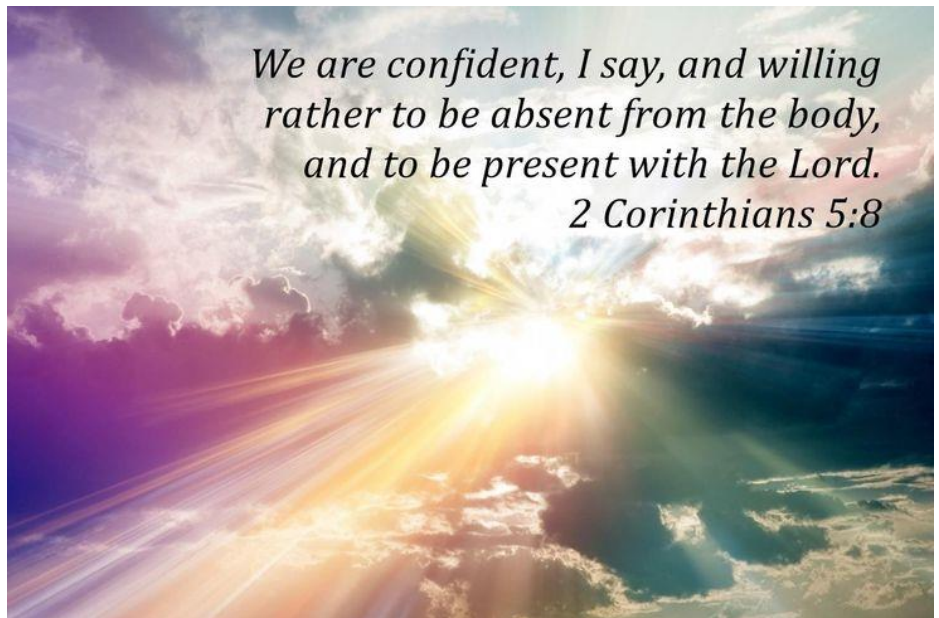


## Tribute in Memory of Cecilia Johnson



The Anvil 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter issue is dedicated in memory of Ms. Cecilia Johnson who transitioned on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Sis. Cecilia served as Co-Editor of the Anvil, since its resumption in 2019. We made a great team. Cecilia provided bible knowledge questions, inspiring content & made sure every edition was grammatically correct. Cecilia was great at that!



Cecilia was a wonderful soul, with a calm nature that I admired. Sister Johnson's continual contributions to the Anvil, are now part of St. Paul AME's archival record. Rest in Heaven Cecilia. Your life is fondly remembered. – Pam Kelly, Co-Editor, The Anvil.

**ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH**

*Women In God's Service*

**Bible Study**

**Every Saturday Morning**

**10:40 a.m.**



P.E. (Ret.) Ella Samuels

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**  
[www.stpaulamechurchraleighnc.org](http://www.stpaulamechurchraleighnc.org)

**REMINDER**

To Sign Up for  
**TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS**

Complete the form below  
 and email to  
[www.spamechurch@aol.com](mailto:www.spamechurch@aol.com)

Service Starts 12/1/22

for questions call: 919-832-2709

**Golden Jewels!**

**WEDNESDAYS 10-11 AM**

- \* Consumer Information Exchange
- \* Monthly Challenges and Prizes
- \* Mind Games and Activities
- \* Life Hacks
- \* Chair Exercises





**ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH**

**ATTENTION SENIORS**

Join us on February 2nd to learn more of the many features on your Cell Phone (both iPhone and Android)



**Thursday, February 2nd 10:30a**

Call 919-832-2709 to Reserve your seat!  
 Attendance is FREE!

**ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH, Raleigh**



**ZOOM NIGHTLY PRAYERS**

**8:00 P.M.**

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) or call 929-205-6099

ID: 9199190001 Code: 518051

**Join Us Every Night!**



ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH  
INVITES ALL MEN FOR

# Men's BIBLE Study

9:30 AM  
SATURDAY MORNINGS





Host  
Rev. Wilmot Taylor


Dial: 605-313-5111 Access: 800519  
Video: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/mensbiblestudy>

Tuesdays  
6:30 p.m.

# ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



Rev. Ronald Ivey



Zoom: [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) or  
Call In: 253-215-8782  
ID: 84191580014  
Code: 214306

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ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH  
402 W. Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27603 - 919-832-2709

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

## Bible Knowledge Answers!


- 1 Answer : everyone 20 years and up would die in the desert [Numbers 14:29-30](#)
2. Answer : heaven, earth, heaven, earth  
[Revelation 21:1](#)
- 3, Answer: Ephesus [1 Timothy 1:3](#)
4. Answer : everyone 20 years and up would die in the desert [Numbers 14:29-30](#)
5. Answer : the 12 apostles of Christ  
[Revelation 21:14](#)

## St. Paul A.M.E. Church


JOIN US ....

### YOUTH PRAYER LINE

Every  
Sunday Evening  
8:00 PM



Rev. Robert L. Hodges



TELECONFERENCE  
ACCESS CODE: 596536  
DIAL: 605-472-5703

402 W. Edenton St, Raleigh, NC  
919-832-2709

The Anvil is published May (1st Qtr.), August (2nd Qtr.), November (3rd Qtr.), February (4th Qtr.)

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As a friendly reminder, self-prepare to submit information by the following deadline dates: **January 25<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup>** Send content in MS-Word, or images files in .jpg or .png to Pam Kelly [pamkellyrtpnc@gmail.com](mailto:pamkellyrtpnc@gmail.com) Thank YOU!

- St. Paul AME Church, Raleigh, NC [www.stpaulamechurchraleighnc.org](http://www.stpaulamechurchraleighnc.org)
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- Western North Carolina Lay Organization <http://wncclay.org/>

