



THE WESLEY MESSENGER

WESLEY AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

REV. DR. LEO GRIFFIN, SENIOR PASTOR

JULY 2017 – VOLUME 15.2

United Together in Kingdom Building (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

August 1st A Special Day for Two Special People It's Pastor Leo Griffin's Birthday

August 1st is an incredibly remarkable day for Pastor Leo Griffin. First, it's his Birthday and second, He's blessed to have married his soul mate on this day; Two of life's most precious events.

It's Pastor Leo and Evangelist Mary's Wedding Anniversary



Happy Birthday Pastor Griffin and Congratulations to you and Evangelist Mary as you celebrate another year of wedded bliss. May God continue to rain down his blessings on you and your family. We wish you All Good Things on your Special Day.

With Love and Gratitude

The Officers, Ministerial Staff, Members, and Friends of Wesley A.M.E

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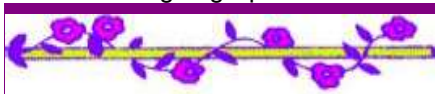
In Loving Memory

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

II Timothy 4: 7



Rudy Williams
Homegoing April 2017



Wynderlyn Harvey
May 5, 1937 – April 26, 2017

The Wesley Church Family extends sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the Family of Rudy Williams and the Family of Wynderlyn Harvey. Wesley also extends condolences to the following members whose loved ones transitioned;

Mattie Johnson.....Brother
Sharon BranchMother
Jimmie Haynes.....Brother
Carolyn Ward.....Nephew
Minister Fred Reed.....Cousin
Rev. Ewart Jones.....Sister

A Prayer

**Shared By
Mary Warner**

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive.
There is no cost but lots of rewards.

Let's continue praying for one another:

Father, I ask you to bless my friends and family members. Lord, show them a new revelation of your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask you to minister to their spirit at this very moment.

Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self doubting, release a renewed confidence in your ability to work through them.

Where there is tiredness or exhaustion, I ask you to give them understanding, patience, and strength as they learn submission to your leading.

Where there is spiritual stagnation, I ask you to renew them by revealing your nearness, and by drawing them into greater intimacy with you.

Where there is fear, reveal your love, and release to them your courage.

Where there is sin blocking them, reveal it, and break its hold over their lives.

Bless their finances, give them greater vision, and raise up leaders and friends to support, and encourage them. Give each of them discernment to recognize the demonic forces around them, and reveal to them the power they have in you to defeat it. I ask you to do these things in Jesus' name.

Amen



MEMORY SCRIPTURES



July 30 – August 12 – Philippians 3:14

“Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

August 13 – 26 – Isaiah 43:18

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.”

August 27 – September 9 – Philippians 2:12-13

“Therefore my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but also much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you to will and act in order to fulfill its good purpose.”

September 10 – September 23 – 1 Corinthians 1: 19

‘For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.’

September 24 – October 7 – Psalm 119:110

“The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precept.”

October 8 – October 21 – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: (a) The old is gone, the new is here!”

THE BIBLE

Did you know that
When you carry "the Bible",
Satan has a headache,
When you open it, he collapses,
When he sees you reading it,
he loses his strength,
AND
When you stand on the Word of God,
Satan can't hurt you!

In Times Like These We Need to Stop Finding Ways to Kill Almost Any Organization

Reprint Submitted

By
Mary Warner

1. Don't attend meeting, but when you do arrive late
2. Be sure to leave before the meeting is over.
3. Never have anything to say at the meeting – wait until you get Outside
4. When at the meeting, vote for everything then go home and do nothing.
5. The next day find fault with the officers and other members.
6. Take no part in the organization's affairs.
7. Be sure to sit in the back so you can talk freely to another member.
8. Get all the organization will give you but don't give the organization Anything.
9. Never ask anyone to join the organization.
10. At every opportunity threaten to resign and try to get others to also
11. Talk cooperation but don't cooperate
12. If asked to help, say you don't have time.
13. Never read anything pertaining to the Organization.
14. Never accept an office; it is easier to criticize than to do things.
15. If appointed to a committee, never give any time or service to it.
16. If there are finances to pay, just ignore it.
17. Don't do any more than you have to, and when others willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help the good cause along, and then Complain that the organization is run by a clique.

SITES AND SCENES AT RE-DEDICATION OF EMANCIPATION PARK JUNE 17, 2017



VERY CUTE COUPLES



DOWLING STREET BECOMES EMANCIPATION AVENUE



CROWDS LINE BENCHES WAITING NEXT PERFORMANCE



NEW COMMUNITY CENTER



NEW POOL AT EMANCIPATION PARK



RE-DEDICATION OF EMANCIPATION PARK

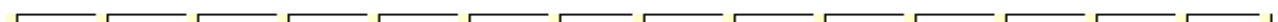
By

Brenda Watkins

Rev. Jack Yates (1828-1875) of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Elias Dibble (1811-1885) of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church and St. Paul AME Church served as the core leadership. They had the organizational skills along with the business and political savvy to raise funds for the Colored People of Harris County Festival Association. They were successful and the 10 acre property was purchased for \$800, (oh if we could do that now). The Colored Emancipation Park was named and born. The purpose was to allow Black former slaves to have an area to socialize and enjoy family time together. This was the VERY first state park in Texas. It officially opened in 1872, which today is known as 3rd Ward, Texas.



Wesley AME Church Choir was well represented and stood proud under the musical leadership and direction of Tangy Reed.



WESLEY'S LAY ORGANIZATION "RE-IGNITING AND REKINDLING"

LAY MEMBERS ATTEND THE TENTH DISTRICT SPRING CONVOCATION 2017

Wesley's Lay Organization members attended the 10th District Spring Convocation 2017 held in Dallas, Texas. As the state Lay president, Wesley's, Larry Hollie led the The Lay Component Meeting and President Kennedy-Malveaux assisted the worship leader in the devotion. Wesley's Lay Organization was also represented by Carolyn Ward and Richard Green.

Most of the meeting was focused on the upcoming Lay Biennial in Columbus, OH in August. This is an election year and information was provided on the presidential candidates. In addition delegates were given their committee assignments and other pertinent information on the Biennial was provided during the meeting.



Lay members pictured (l to r) Thelma Kennedy-Malveaux, Carolyn Ward and Richard Green

LAY ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATES IN SHD STEAK COOKOUT 2017

Congratulations to Wesley's Lay Organization!

The Lay sold a record 148 dinners, sold the most dinners (20% of the total dinners sold) which was the most dinners sold of all the SHD churches. We also sold 50% more dinners than in 2016. Cheryl Murray served as Wesley's Steak Cookout Coordinator. She along with other lay members, Thelma Kennedy-Malveaux, Brenda Watkins, John Fisher and Jerome Malveaux also assisted with the preparation and distribution of dinners at South Wesley AME Church.



Lay president Thelma Kennedy-Malveaux with other SHD Lay members helps to prepare steak dinners.



Wesley's Director Of Lay Activities (DOLA) Brenda Watkins assists in preparing dinners.

The Lay Organization is a teaching and training ministry whose main objectives are to

- 1) Uplift the rich history of the AME Church
- 2) Learn/teach others about the Discipline and principles of African Methodism
- 3) Help promote fellowship among the members of Wesley's congregation
- 4) Foster, influence and support constructive and progressive legislation for the church
- 5) Support the vision of our Pastor here at Wesley



Lay meetings are held at 6:30pm on the 4th Mondays of every month. Contact any Lay member for more information. Come join us!



“Order in this Church!” The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church *“A Lay Lesson by Wesley’s Lay Organization”*

Do you ever wonder how a church denomination established over 200 years ago, in 39 nations, on 5 continents, with 20 Episcopal Districts led by 21 Bishops and 9 general officers, including 9000 ministers, 7000 churches and over 4.0 million members, maintain its traditions and beliefs as well as keeps **Order in this Church?**

Well, it's in the Book! Everything you ever wanted to know about the A.M.E. Church but were afraid to ask is in “The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church”.

When the A.M.E. church received its independence, the book of Discipline was adopted because it was deemed “expedient to have a form of discipline, whereby we may guide our people in the fear of God, in the unity of the Spirit, and in the bonds of peace”. Today, this book of Discipline is published every four years by the A.M.E. Church and is called the “Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church” or “The Discipline”. The first edition was published and issued in 1817 by Bishop Richard Allen and others of Philadelphia, and is one of the oldest books published by American Blacks.

The Discipline serves as our ecclesiastical constitution – the A.M.E. Church “how to” book or reference guide. It is a relatively small but definitive guide to the history, beliefs, and practices of the Church. It outlines the Articles of Religion, the general rules and rituals and other services of the church. The book begins with a brief history of the A.M.E. Church and its mission and purpose. The next section is a presentation of the 25 “Articles of Religion” immediately followed by an extended four-part catechism that more fully explain the meanings and implications of the doctrinal statements.

The remaining part of the book addresses the practical matters of a denominational organization. It provides information on church membership, ministries and rules for “giving”. The Discipline includes specific qualifications and duties of superintendents, elders, and preachers, also providing advice for preaching and the education of children. Qualifications, duties and responsibilities of officers of the local, conference, district and connectional church are also included. In addition it provides expectations of its members in terms of proper conduct for both clergy and laity. Public worship, rituals and music are included, to provide for orderly and spiritual services. It gives guidelines for the composition and agenda of the “General Conference” and “Annual Conferences.”

The Discipline provides the mission, purpose, constitution and by-laws for the various connectional organizations and societies. Sacramental services are included in the book providing scripture, text, prayer, and order of service for the “Lord’s Supper,” baptisms, weddings, funerals, and ordinations. The Discipline also addresses proper practice and beliefs concerning marriage, divorce, dress, and other concerns, issues and challenges facing today’s church including same sex marriage.

While some of the content and areas of emphasis have changed throughout the years, the basic format, beliefs, rituals and doctrine remain the same. The book is kept current and relevant through revisions adopted every four years at the General Conference. The revisions are edited, approved and published by the compilation committee the year following the General Conference. **In addition to the Bible, the Discipline is an important part of every AME’s reading list and/or library.**

The year 2016 marked the bicentennial of the A.M.E. Church as a denomination with the publication of a commemorative **2016 Bicentennial Edition of the Discipline**. This edition will include a “new look” and notable changes to some of its content. This keepsake will be a tangible witness to the faith of the founders of the A.M.E. Church and its global legacy. It will be available soon and we encourage you to purchase your printed copy or online version as an essential A.M.E. reference book.

MISSIONARIES ON THE MOVE

BY
PAMELA JOHNSON

Wesley WMS and the Houston Texans On Saturday May 6, 2017, the Missionary Society of Wesley A.M.E. Church partnered with the Houston Texans players, cheerleaders and other volunteers to help build homes for worthy families in need of homes.

The missionaries literally worked on houses, cutting boards, then putting them up and nailing them in. The end result will be a brand new home for a well-deserving family. This is all courtesy of Habitat for Humanity and the wonderful volunteers who help by giving their time and expertise.



Kenyatta McKenzie, Shannon Warner



Mary Warner, Mattie Johnson, Francis Grant -



Marilyn Henry

Ronald McDonald House: On Saturday June 10, 2017, the WMS visited the Ronald McDonald House on Holcombe Boulevard to share in some fun serving different flavors of ice cream with a variety of trimmings and toppings for the children and their parents. The Ronald McDonald House is a housing facility for seriously ill children. They help keep families close when they need it the most.



Madelyn Robertson, Karen Gardiner, Billie Blackmon, Shannon Warner, Kenyatta McKenzie, Glenna Oliver
Serve up delicious combinations of ice cream to patients and family

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE “YOUNG AT HEART” AND “GOLDEN GIRLS”

Congratulations to the Wesley “Golden Girls” of Houston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Wesley members Shirley Barnaby and Rachael Hall celebrated 50+ years of public service in DST. Fellow Wesley members Thelma Kennedy-Malveaux and Laurel Thomas were happy to celebrate the animal print theme with them and are looking forward to reaching that milestone and becoming Golden Girls in Delta.



WHEATLEY WORSHIPS AT WESLEY



Wesley choir member Leatrice Jones is a proud member of the Phyllis Wheatley Class of 1980 and he invited his alumni group to worship at Wesley. The class has a very simple but effective way of staying in touch. They meet quarterly. Part of the quarterly meeting includes attending church services at one of the members' church and this quarter, it was Leatrice Jones. Wesley thanks Leatrice and the Phyllis Wheatley Class of 1980 for worshipping with them. Visitors are always welcome.. After a good Word for the soul, the next best thing is good food to nourish the body which they enjoyed at Pappas Restaurant.

CONGRATULATIONS SHANNON WARNER



Pastor Leo Griffin presented Shannon Warner with a dozen red roses for the terrific job she's done as Wesley's Church Secretary for the past 4 years. Shannon resigned recently to accept a promotion on her part time job. Her leaving is bittersweet; we will miss her in the office and at the same time we are so happy for her and wish her the best in her new position. Congratulations are indeed in order.

Congratulations Queen Esther 2017: Michelle Green

By Pamela Johnson



Michelle Green

The WMS Spring Convocation was held at the Westin DFW in Dallas, Texas May 18 – 20, 2017. The Queen Esther Coronation Service was held on Thursday night. . With the crowning of Michelle Green, this reporter is happy to announce that Wesley A.M.E. Church brought the crown back for the third year in a row, a three-peat. Congratulations to Michelle Green and all the supporters who made this possible.

Since the inception of Queen Esther, this year marks the fifth time Wesley has taken the crown. Previous Queen Esther winners are: Bernice Griffin, Jackie Beck, Mytra Grant, and Shannon Warner

Other Wesley candidates who ran but came in second were Geraldine Jones and LaQuondra Patterson. All of our Queen Esther Candidates are to be congratulated for stepping up to the challenge which takes commitment, dedication and hard work to run the race.

Funds raised for the Queen Esther Initiative will be used to support the programs, services, operations and outreach missions of the 10th Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society



Bernice Griffin - 2007



Jacquelyn Beck - 2009



Shannon Warner - 2014



Mytra Grant - 2015



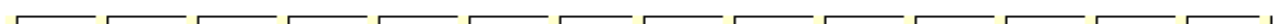
Michelle Green - 2017



Juanita Williams: They Call Her Blessed



Many family members and friends were at Wesley on Sunday June 10 as Pastor Leo Griffin paid tribute to Sister Juanita Williams



THEY CALL HER BLESSED

By

Mary Warner

On Sunday June 11, 2017 during the Worship hour, a presentation was done to honor one of Wesley's members that worked and is still working in the church on the Usher Board. This individual we're speaking of is the matriarch of her family; she is the mother of one son, one daughter-in-law, one grandson, three granddaughters, one great granddaughter, three great grandsons, nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews. All of these family members came to worship with her during this special occasion.

Juanita Williams joined Wesley Chapel in 1940 and served under Rev. T.J. Clements, Rev. W.D. Williams, Rev. Dr. E.E. Coates and presently Rev. Dr. Leo Griffin who initiated the name change from Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church to Wesley A.M.E Church -Houston.

Juanita has served under more than twelve Bishops 9list is in no particular order); Bishop William Ball, Se., Bishop Odie Lee Sherman, Bishop John Hurst Adams, the late Bishop Robert Lee Pruitt, the late Bishop Harold Wendell

Murph, the late Bishop James H. Mayo, Bishop John Richard Bryant, Bishop McKinley Young, Bishop G.M. Ingram, and Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie.

Juanita served as WMS under the late Melinda Stinson and worked within the Elnita McClain House when Mrs. McClain first donated it to the 10th Episcopal District. She was also a member of the Dorcas Club back in the day when Wesley has clubs and auxiliaries.

Juanita still drives herself to church every Sunday for Church School and Worship Service and on Wednesdays for noon Bible Study. She continues serving the Lord in any and all capacities. And she walks two plus miles a day.



Juanita Williams, center, is surrounded by Evangelist Mary Griffin, Pastor Leo Griffin and Supervisor Claytie Davis

There is so much to say about this woman of God that it would take some time to tell her life story. On Sunday, June 11, 2017, Pastor Griffin acknowledged Sister Juanita Williams with two dozen red roses and a beautiful plaque for her 95th Birthday Celebration. What a Beautiful Celebration in her honor.

Her family and church family rose and gave her a standing ovation on reaching this milestone.

Wesley salutes you Sister Juanita Williams for God's favor is upon you, blessing you with Good Health, the Ability to be Self-Sufficient and a Long Life.



Congratulations from Thelma Kennedy-Malveaux and niece Tselane

Blessed



The Ice Cream Social

By

Mary Warner

Wesley celebrated in the lower auditorium with those persons that had birthdays during the months of January, February and March and the months of April, May and June. These Wesley members were able to fellowship with other members that shared their special day and with other well-wishers.

The quarterly concept of celebrating members' birthdays has come a long way. Acknowledging members on their special day and enjoying an hour of fellowship with one another is truly a blessing. It is indeed a blessing for it was six years ago in February that this concept was born. During that first year there were about 100 members that shared their birthday to the list. Today we have over 300 members on our list and it is steadily growing.

We say "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to all those members that celebrated over the last two quarters – January, February, and March and just recently on July 2nd, April, May, and June.

We Wish You HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY

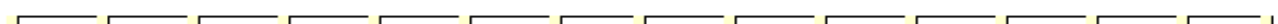
Eugene Allen	Janis Burley	Gregory Hamilton	Mattie Johnson
Robin Allen	Deborah W. Coates	Danny Harvey	Rosa Louis
Hester Anderson	Edward E. Coates	Joyce Hobbs	Britney Porter
Imani Barlow	Ronald Cole	Ruthie Jackson	Madelyn Robinson
Vera Batiste	Lisa Evans	Donald Jones	Greg Sims
Kristina Bell	Connie Edwards	Felicia Jones	Dameon D.S. Thomas
Anitra Brazzle	Ulysses "Jay" Gardner	Danny Johnson	Maya Thomas
Darla Broden	Robert Greene	Joyce Johnson	Clyde Warner, Jr.
Linda Brown	Maudene Hallmon		

FEBRUARY

LaTeri Alexander	Millicent Conyers	Jennifer Johnson	Louis W. Searcy
Carrie Allen	Keisha Groggs	Jessica Jones	Johnnie B. Swift
Christopher Balque	Carl Hill	Valerie Kennedy	Joyce Thomas
Orlando Berry	Peggy Hollie	James Lattimore	Aubrey Warner, Sr.
Althalo Blackmon	Willie Jackson	Phyllis Mays	Margaret Warner
Gerrard Carson	Carl Jennings	Gabrielle Moore	Laura Washington
			Laurel Westcarth

MARCH

Callie Anderson	Anita Davis	Francis Grant	Maurielle Moore
Rosalind Baldwin	Joshua Ekbo	Ida Hainsworth	Joseph Paul
Elizabeth Beasley	John Fisher	Marilyn Henry	Lillie Preston
Sharon Branch	LaVonda Fletcher	Marvin Lee	Elizabeth Ross
Faye Bryant	Maxine Francis	Hayley Leonard	Arlene Sweet
Gemari Carson	Billye Gardner	Brandon LeVias	Frank Tyrrell
Lucille Carter	Taris Gordon	Chuyone McGuire	Cornel Warner



APRIL

Nell Dalton-Johnson
Trenita Jackson
Prince Washington
Lisa Alexis
Ernest Anderson
Dennis Bowman
Gerald Allen

Rosalind Williams
Kenyatta McKinney
April Thompson
Ericka Fuller
Pete Patterson
Lois Davis
Jon'Tay Warner

Rev. Walter Cuby
Evang Mary Warner
Aniyah Graham
Sandra Green
Jacqueline Beck
Melanie Price
Jordan Allen

Janice Warner
Wynona Burrell
Rene Farrow
Sammie Price
Althanesa Canada
Shirley Wilson
Simone Carr
Devon Gaines

MAY

Isaiah King, Jr.
Marcia Loggins
Evan Moore
Windell Hall
Vanessa Stepney
Jo Ann McFarlin

LaKeisha McCoy
Rose Broome
Doris Jean Hayes
Darlean Brown
Dora Culberson
Chris Compton, Sr.

Tonya Mayes
Lernette Patterson
Marian Wesley
Cayla Warner
Michael Knighten
Van Richardson

Gennella Gray
Michelle Green
Autrey Groggs
Larry Hollie
Vernon Alexis
Bonnie Fitch

JUNE

Glenna Oliver
Juanita Williams
Bernice Griffin
Beverly Evans

Sammye Hughes
Pamela Jones
Dorothy Armstead
Charles Gonzales

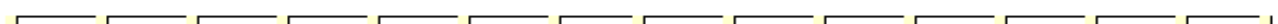
Kendra Johnson
Columbia George
Celeste Oliver
Helen Berry

Charles Connors
Erica Bates
India Argo



Pastor Leo Griffin
August 1, 2017

We Wish You A Wonderful Birthday With Many More To Come!



The Magic of Tidiness

Submitted by Glenna F. Oliver

(Article from MetLife Life Advice: Spring 2017 Edition)

Tidy Home, Tidy Mind

Your physical environment has a profound effect on you physically and emotionally. Clutter in your surroundings can cause you to feel overwhelmed and tired, even depressed. If you've ever spent time you could have better used elsewhere searching for something in a pile of papers, a crammed closet or a disheveled drawer, you know how frustrating it is to deal with clutter.

Long before researching this topic, I learned my lesson the hard way. Although my homes have always looked neat to visitors, I knew the truth. My closets and drawers were often in disarray. One junk drawer grew to two, then three. Before I knew I had boxes and boxes of junk. I kept repurchasing things- including books, tools, clothing, and holiday decorations-I already owned because I couldn't find the items amid the clutter. Clutter cost me money, time, energy, and even health. My clutter made me feel sick.

Here's the good news, though: Tidying up can be fun. Having a place for everything and having everything in its place can lead to joy, healthier self-esteem, and savings. Being conscious of your possessions and holding on only to things you love or need can change your life.

Discard First

For many, letting go of things you don't need nor really want is the hardest part of the tidying up process. Be fearless in your letting go. Be ruthless in saying goodbye to stuff. When deciding what to keep, ask yourself, "Does this bring me joy?" If you have things you don't need and that don't bring you joy, throw them out. Or donate them. It doesn't matter which, as long as you get rid of them.

If you are holding on to things thinking you'll pass them on to your children or grandchildren one day consider this: If you don't need it, neither does your family.

Start with non-sentimental objects. If you start with mementos, you are doomed to fail. Once you let go of things that have no emotional charge, it becomes easier to let go of things you are keeping just because someone you love gave them to you. You can hold on to memories without holding on to the clutter.

Don't let your family see you discarding objects – otherwise they may try to convince you to hold on to things. They may ask you to hold on to things for them. If they want anything you no longer want, ask them to take it immediately. When you put your own welfare first by de-cluttering and tidying up, you are no longer a storage unit for others.

Benefits of Being Tidy

- You may feel less stress in a neat house where you know how to locate everything
- Neat desks and workspaces are linked to increased creativity.
- Non-cluttered homes help guard against tripping and falling.
- When you let go of things you don't need or that don't bring you joy, what's left are things that make you feel happy when you see them.
- Your home will be more pleasant visually without clutter
- You'll have more space, and that space will be easier to clean.
- You may have more money. If you have valuables you don't love, you can sell them.
- De-cluttering brings a tremendous sense of accomplishment, even joy.



HOW TO HANDLE HATERS:

Submitted By Mary Warner

A hater is someone that is jealous and envious and spends all their time trying to make you look small so they can look tall.

When you make your mark, you will always attract some haters... That's why you have to be careful who you share your blessings and your dreams with because some folk can't handle seeing you blessed...

It's dangerous to be like somebody else... If God wanted you to be like somebody else He would have given you what he gave them.

You don't know what people have gone through to get what they have... (The problem I have with haters is that they see my glory, but they don't know my story...) If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, you can rest assured that the water bill is higher there too.

We've all got some haters among us:
Some people don't like it that you can

- * Come to church
- * Get your praise on
- * Bless His Holy Name
- * Haters don't want to see you happy
- * Haters don't want to see you succeed
- * Haters don't want you get the victory

Most of our haters are people that are supposed to be on our side. How do you handle the haters who you least expect to have your guard up against? You can handle your haters by:

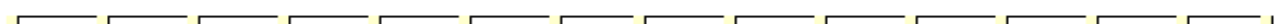
1. Knowing who you are and who your true friends are
2. Having a purpose
3. By remembering what you have is by divine prerogative and not human manipulation.

Purpose does not mean having a job. You can have a job and still be unfilled. A purpose is having a clear sense of what God has called you to be. Your purpose is not defined by what others think about you.

You will always be trying to get stuff because the more stuff you have will improve what others think about you, but what others think will last as long as the stuff last.

When God gives you favor, you can tell your haters,
"Don't look at me...
Look at who is in charge of me..."

Remember, it ain't about you, but it's all about God.



WESLEY CONGRATULATES 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Lisa Alexis and the coordinators of the Graduation Program for 2017 added a bit of a twist to the program. Like Major League Sports, where teams are trying to get the best players available, that's what the graduates did with college choices. This year, the graduates made their draft picks from the many universities and colleges available to them. Sunday July 9, 2017 was "College Draft Day." AND THE RESULTS ARE IN!!!

High School Graduates 2017



Jordan Allen



Charles Gonzales



Lanelle Kennard



Tyler Rondeno

Jordan Allen graduated from the High School for Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) where achieved academic excellence and was a member of the 2012-2013 All Region Choir under the Texas At Wesley Jordan was an active member of the YPD, Praise Team, Praise Dancers, WAY Productions Her draft pick - **Columbia College Hollywood (CCH)**. Jordan plans to major in Music Supervision.

Charles Gonzales graduated from Northshore Senior High School where he excelled in football winning the UIL State Championship in 2015 - 2016. He recently received certification for 911 communications. At Wesley Charles was an active member of Usher Board

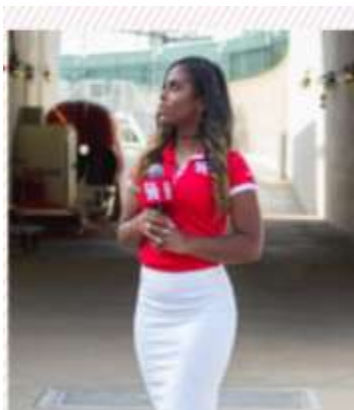
His draft pick - **Stephen F. Austin State University**. Charles will major in Sports Management / Physical Therapy

Lanelle Kennard graduated from Barbara Jordan High School where she was a member of ROTC, received academic awards and honored as a Top Chef. At Wesley she was an active member of the YPD, Youth Choir, Praise Dancers and WAY Productions.

Her draft pick - **Texas Southern University (TSU)**. Lanelle plans to major in Biology leading to a career as a Pediatrician.

Tyler Rondeno graduated from Manvel High School. where she received academic and sports awards. She was an active participant in all sports and a member of the school choir. At Wesley Tyler was an active member of YPD, Youth choir and WAY Productions Her draft pick - **The University of Texas, San Antonio (UTSA)**. Tyler plans to major in sports management leading to a career as a Physical Therapist.

Congratulations to Wesley's College Graduates



Latasha Nicole Jones graduated from the University of Houston where she was a member of the National Honor society and a Side-Line Sports Reporter. She plans to study abroad in Ghana this summer. She currently works as Promotional Assistant and Social Media Director for ESPN radio, 97.5. She has her own talk show "In the Game" on KYND radio Saturdays from 2 – 3pm. Her ultimate goal is to become a Professional Side Line Reporter for the NFL or NBA.



Matthew Maurice McKinney-Levell graduated from Prairie View A&M University in August 2016 with a degree in Accounting. He is currently working on his MBA in Accounting and CPA at his Alma Mater Prairie View A&M University. His ultimate goal is to use his background in Accounting and CPA to work in the Entertainment Industry.



Jon'Tay N. Warner graduated from Southern University. She is continuing her education at her Alma Mater, Southern University. She has plans to pursue a career in Nursing. She also plans to open a Dance Studio to help young girls enhance their dancing abilities.



Pamela Jones and daughter Latasha Jones, Matthew McKinney-Levell and mother Kenyatta McKinney, Shannon Warner accepting for her daughter Jon'Tay Warner.

TO THE GRADUATES

Watch your thoughts; they become Words.

Watch your words; they become Actions

Watch your actions; they become Habits.

Watch your habits; they become Character.

Watch your character; it becomes your Destiny

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

—B.B. KING



Bible Bowl

By
Mary Warner

On Thursday June 22, 2017, Wesley AME Church had two groups of students to participate in the District Bible Bowl and make it to the Finals. Wesley's Intermediate Class, representing the 9 -11 year old age group and the Senior High School group entered the Bible Bowl. Although the Senior High Group didn't win the competition, they gave it their all. And, we applaud them for their valiant effort.

I am pleased to announce that Wesley's Intermediate Class won their competition. We also extend credos to both our children and their Intermediate Class Instructor, Celeste Oliver, for her work with the students enabling them to achieve the goal of winning the Bible Bowl Trophy for Wesley against the North District. It was an honor for our church as Mrs. Oliver presented the trophy to Rev. Dr. Leo Griffin during the Morning Worship Service on Youth Sunday June 25th.



Celeste Oliver, Pastor Leo Griffin

The students that participated in Wesley's Intermediate Group Bible Bowl were Simone Carr, Sherrod Carr, Tera Reed and Kyron Thomas. The alternates were Kennedi Groggs and Aniyah Graham. Again, we at Wesley AME

Church are proud of our children and Mrs. Celeste Oliver for their hard work in winning the Bible Bowl Tournament. Take a bow Mrs. Oliver and students on A Job Well Done.



Pins received by Intermediate Group Winners

KYRON THOMAS in the SPOTLIGHT

Submitted by Laurel Thomas

At KIPP, the Science Fair Project is a promotional requirement to advance to the next grade. Each grade level's top three presentations are entered in the city-wide competition. Kyronn was a top 10 finalist and came in 4th place for the 6th grade.

His project was "To Cook or Not to Cook" -To discover if cooked beans will grow faster than raw beans or at all. The cooked beans did not grow but the raw beans did.



KyRonn also came in 1st place and received an A+ on his PROJECT LIFE presentation and display. KIPP also requires each student to perform community service log hours and write reflections on service performed. It is mandatory for promotion. Each student must prepare a display or PowerPoint and reflect their experience to the class. They are judged and graded. KyRonn performed 39 hours. Only 32 were required.

Finally, KyRonn was a member of Wesley's Intermediate Bible Bowl team. They participated in the Texas Conference District Bible Bowl Competition on June 23rd and won first place.

Congratulations KyRonn!

THE HEALING LIST

Dorothy Jackson	Camilla Neblett
Sylvia Jackson	Rene Singleton
Gloria Matlock	Ella Upshaw
Mattie McCarty	Rosalind Williams



Continue to Pray for All of Our Members
Who Are Experiencing Health Issues.

MEN'S DAY

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017



Bishop John R. Bryant
Guest Speaker

- **Sept. 17, 2017 – Presiding Elder's Appreciation: Wesley A.M.E. Church**
- **Oct. 7, 2017 – Church Picnic**
El Franco Lee Park
- **Oct 24 -28 – Texas Annual Conference: Evangelist Chapel**

GET READY WESLEY
The Young at Heart Seniors
Present a Talent Extravaganza
'SENIORS GOT TALENT'
Saturday November 4, 2017
12 noon - 2:00pm

Wesley AME Church Calendar 2017

AUGUST

- ❖ 08/01 – Pastor Leo Griffin's Birthday
- ❖ 08/05 – WMS Meeting
- ❖ 08/13 – Presiding Elder's Appreciation
- ❖ 08/26 – Pastor's Appreciation
- ❖ 08/27 – Youth Sunday, 1000 Hills
- ❖ 08/30 - Bishop and Supervisor McKenzie's 49th Wedding Anniversary

SEPTEMBER

- ❖ 09/02 – WMS Meeting
- ❖ 09/10 – Grandparents Day
- ❖ 09/10 – South Houston District Joint Fellowship & Presiding Elder's Appreciation – Place: TBA
- ❖ 09/12-16 - Northwest Texas Annual Conference; Anderson Chapel A.M.E.C. Killeen, TX
- ❖ 09/16 – Men of Faith Meeting-(:00am
- ❖ 09/24 – Youth Sunday, 1000 Hills
- ❖ 09/26 – 30 – North Texas Annual Conference, Ebenezer A.M.E. C., Tyler, TX

OCTOBER

- ❖ 10/06 – Supervisor Stan's Birthday
- ❖ 10/07 – WMS Meeting, Church Picnic
- ❖ 10/10 – 14 – Southwest Texas Annual Conference, Bethel & Emmanuel A.M.E.C, San Antonio, TX
- ❖ 10/22 – Youth Sunday
- ❖ 10/24-28 – Texas Annual Conference, Evangelist Chapel A.M.E.C., Houston, TX
- ❖ 10/29 – WMS Sunday, 1000 Hills

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“TAKING THE CHURCH TO THE PEOPLE”

The Wesley Messenger is published for the members and friends of WESLEY A.M.E. CHURCH.
Leo Griffin, Pastor; Darlean Brown, Editor; Prince Washington, Assistant Editor; Janice Taylor, Proofreader
Rosalind Baldwin, Allyson Cannon, Pamela Johnson, Mary Warner

VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of Wesley African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church
Is to make the church and the community it serves a better place,
For individuals and families through spiritual growth,
Economic empowerment, community development,
Political awareness, academic achievement,
Cultural enrichment and social development.

WESLEY CELEBRATES 2017 COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Graduates, Parents, Pastor Griffin, Program Committee – More on Page 16

Vacation Bible School

Wesley A.M.E. CHURCH

August 7 – 11, 2017

6:30 – 8:30pm

PASTOR'S APPRECIATION

August 27, 2017



Wesley Men's Day

September 10, 2017



Bishop John R. Bryant Guest Speaker

