117th Annual Session of
The New Jersey Conference Branch
Women’s Missionary Society
The Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick, NJ

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Sister Juanita Moss, NJCB Worship Director led our devotion. Our music was rendered by Sister Wilma Greason. We were led in prayer by Sister Debbie Patin of North Stelton AME Church, Piscataway, NJ. The reading of the Old Testament was by Sister Stacey Wright of Allen AME Church, Newark, NJ. The reading of the New Testament was by Sister De Ann Stanton of Grant Chislehurst, Atlantic City, NJ. Sister Juanita Moss introduced our Bible study presenter, Rev. Jean Bonds of Mt. Zion AME Church, Riverton, NJ. Rev. Bonds delivered the message from Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom, of God”. Rev. Bonds reminded us that we should begin to trust God for our needs and then thank Him for meeting those needs.

President Patricia Nira Smith called the 117th Annual Session of the New Jersey Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society of the First Episcopal District to order at 9:05 AM. We were greeted by chairpersons Sister Elizabeth Anderson (Asbury Area) and Sister LaTonya Blue (Elizabeth Area). First Vice President Sister Wilma Robinson presented and outlined the agenda. A motion was made to accept the agenda and seconded.

Roll Call by Secretary:

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President Smith asked that the minutes from 2012-2013 be read silently with any corrections given to the Secretary. The motion was made by Mother Melvin Wynn and seconded by Sister Carolyn Wade.

Commission on Administration

Sister Patricia N. Smith, President

Coordinator

(The full reports are in the Harvest Book, here are some highlights)

Treasurer’s Report – Sister Lois Perren reported a beginning balance of $36,793.50 June 14, 2012 through March 1, 2013 reflecting an ending balance of $26,587.67. We heard the reading of the Treasurer’s report and it was accepted as information

YPD – Sister Laverne Mackey Merritt

...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator

Colossians 3:10

A highlight of this Conference year was hosting the 1st Episcopal District YPD meeting. We started by entertaining our Bermuda and other out of Conference guests at Israel Memorial AME Church under the leadership of Rev. Robert A. Jackson and YPD Director Ms. Terri Cobbs Cohen. My church family sponsored a gourmet dinner and comedy show featuring Mother Jones. The meeting was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Elizabeth, NJ. The welcome reception began with a mini concert featuring Mr. Samar Biggham an anointed and praise worship leader followed by a welcome reception sponsored by every Presiding Elder’s District. Marcus Beckett was newly elected to the office of 2nd Vice President. We had several youth to receive a scholarship or book award from the District’s new scholarship award program. We exceeded our original goal with a total attendance of 301. As a conference we held two executive board meetings and directors meetings. Our last event before conference was Souper Bowl of Caring. We reported $1,974.00 to this initiative. In closing, Sister Mackey thanked the Conference for sacrificing of time, talents and resources, the YPD are forever grateful. Greater accomplishments are expected in the year to come.
Area Chairpersons Reports

(The full reports are in the Harvest Book, here are some highlights)

Sister Elizabeth Anderson (Asbury Area)

“To serve the present age, thy calling to fulfill, O may it all my power engage to do my Master’s will”

We were blessed to meet all financial obligations to the New Jersey Conference. We were supportive of all activities on all levels of the Women’s Missionary Society. Our retreat was interrupted by hurricane Sandy, but through it all we were still blessed. Though many homes were either damaged or destroyed, community persons sought relief from local churches who opened their doors providing shelter, cooked meals, coffee, cleaning items and monetary gifts. Sister Bonita Cuff, Advisor, Sojourner Truth WMS, Trinity, Long Branch is now a Life Member of the Women’s Missionary Society. Young women attendance and involvement in area projects have increased. The Asbury Area mission minded Missionaries continue to let their light shine through the wok of missions. Thank you for all that you do. Your support, prayers, and steadfast faith. It is because of your loyalty and dedication that all we do is possible.

Sister Geri Munson (Atlantic City Area)

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” Galatians 6:7-9

The area goals continue to be consistent. In the midst of a storm, Super Storm Sandy proved we were strong, steadfast, and Missionary workers. The Atlantic City Area attended and participated in most of the conference and area events. Each Society worked hard to fulfill their financial obligations. We attended the 116th Annual Session of the WMS Annual Day Program in Atlantic City. We had first rate attendance at the 49th Quadrennial of the General Conference. Life Members Sister Margaret Burton and Sister Alma A. Walker were our delegates and represented well. The Area participated in the Christian Education Congress in Dover Delaware and the NJCB YPD Gratitude Service and Brunch that honored the former directors and executive board. The NGO, an association of the United Nations was well attended by this Area. The Atlantic City Area believes that by reaching out and showing our support helps all to grow, we show by example. We attended the Learning Experience and had a good time in the name of the Lord. The Atlantic City Area WMS lights a symbolic perpetual candle for those Missionary sisters who walked their final journey here on earth this year. We know they are doing God’s work and we will miss them until we meet again.
Sister Penelope Berringer (Camden Area)

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

We started our term as a team thanking God for all the blessings that were flowing through the Camden Area. We supported the Conference on all levels. We participated in the Supervisors Luncheon, Advent, the Learning Experience, in addition to meeting all financial obligations set before us. Some accomplishments were bread pantries, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, helping fire victims in the city of Camden, nursing home/sick & shut-in visitations, just to name a few. The Camden Area had its Annual Area Missionary day the second Sunday in October. Our preacher was Reverend Tynisha Drennon. To the Camden Area Missionary Societies and YPD, I thank each of you for your continued support. It is a blessing and honor to serve the New Jersey Conference. To Sister Patricia N. Smith, thank God for you and your leadership.

Sister LaTonya Blue (Elizabeth Area)

“When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality” Romans 12:13

October 27, 2012 was designated “Make a Difference Day” because no child should go hungry by United Way of Central Jersey. The Elizabeth Area provided nutritious snacks to take home for the 32 weeks during the school year for an elementary school in Middlesex County. The Elizabeth Area was blessed with twelve new members and inducted six Missionaries to the NJ Conference WMS Sarah Allen Silver Stars. The Officers, Members, YPD, and Clergy of the Elizabeth Area thank you for all you have done and will do for missions. Special thanks to the Elizabeth Area Life Members Sister Bernadette Guyton, Lois Mitchell, and Mother Melvyn Wynn for continued guidance and wisdom. Thank you to Rev. Stephen Bryant Sr. and my St. Mark AME Cranford Church family for your continued love and support, thank you to Presiding Elder and Mrs. Leak for your love and support to the Elizabeth Area.

Sister Deborah Suiter (Gouldtown Area)

“Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially our Christian brothers and sisters” Galatians 6:10

The eleven churches in the Gouldtown Area WMS are the second to none. Our Mission goal was to do what was necessary to help others. God truly blessed the Area as well as the Local Churches. The Area met all financial obligations and has supported all Local, Conference, Episcopal, and District programs. Although small in numbers, with God’s help the Area has been mighty. After searching for a new YPD Director, Sister Monica Miller transferred to the Gouldtown Area and consented to take the helm of being the new YPD Director. Sister Miller comes to the Area with YPD experience. The Dorcas Philyah WMS of St. Stephen AME, Newtonville lost a Missionary Sister, Sister Gwendolyn White. Our Local Annual Day was an outstanding event, “Soaring with Jesus”. Each Local Society selected a bird from the
Bible to represent. The Gouldtown Area held our Annual Banquet where we paid tribute to Missionary members who worked as Missionaries for twenty-five years or more. The speaker for this occasion was the Area’s former Area Chairperson, Sister Lois Perren. To God be the Glory for all He has allowed us to do.

Rev. George Ann Alston (Morristown Area)

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever”. Psalm 136:1

On behalf of the twelve Women’s Missionary Societies in the Morristown Area, I am pleased to report that the Morristown Area continues to do missions with joy and compassion. Our Annual Day, “The Old Ship of Zion” worship service was held on February 22, 2013 at Bethel, Morristown. We were fed both spiritually and physically. Special thanks to Sister Joyce Ebb for chairing the event. The Missionaries in the Morristown Area continue to support all programs of the Connectional church, Episcopal, Conference, Area, Local, and the Newark District. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to serve in His vineyard. I express a heartfelt thanks to President Patricia N. Smith for her leadership and support. Thank you to Presiding Elder Howard Grant, Sister Roberta Grant, all the Pastors and Advisors, and all the hard working supportive Local Presidents, Missionaries and friends.

Sister Yvonne Turnbull (Newark Area)

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven”. Matthew 5:16

We have been blessed with many Missionaries with gifts, talents, and resources which were evidenced in the many mission projects such as soup kitchens, clothing distributions, and food pantries. During Hurricane Sandy, some Missionaries provided shelter for displaced families, and group meals were provided at area churches. The Newark YPD is expanding and are doing wonderful mission work under the guidance of their Area Director, Sister Sharon Chapman. They are visiting nursing homes and other sick and shut-in members. We are supportive of all mission projects and events on all levels of the Women’s Missionary Society. The Lord increased our Missionaries by approximately sixteen new members and approximately twelve new YPD members. See what the Lord has done. All these achievements could not have been possible if we did not work as one unit for the Glory of God.
Sister Linda Burroughs (Trenton Area)

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ”. Corinthians 12:12

We are twelve churches in one location. Our work began immediately after Annual Conference. We participated in the NJ Conference Queen’s Contest, 1st Episcopal District WMS Institute and Queen’s Contest in July, 1st District Annual Luncheon in September, NJ Conference Mass Meeting in September, the NJ Conference Advent Service in December and the 1st District’s Learning Experience. The Trenton Area held a “Thank You” Luncheon for our outgoing Area Chairperson, Sister Patricia Thomas. In December we held our Annual Day services with a Christmas Candlelight Service at Bethel AME Church in Beverly. We partnered with Trinity AME Church, Long Branch and the offering taken was distributed to seven families of the church and community who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. We thank our Presiding Elder, Rev. Robert C. Wade and our consultant, Sister Prudence H. Wade, the Pastors of the Trenton Area, Local Presidents, and the Missionaries of the Trenton Area for the support given. We look forward to a bigger and better year in 2013-2014.

Commission on Christian Social Action Reports

(The full reports are in the Harvest Book, here are some highlights)

Sister Wilma S. Robinson – New Jersey Conference Branch WMS First Vice President

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven”. Matthew 5:16

We continue to carry out the goals and objectives of the Commission on Christian Social Action. We continue to partner with organizations and agencies involved in eradicating poverty and hunger. We are grateful to the many churches that provide not only food baskets for Thanksgiving, but daily food pantries and soup kitchens. We continue to address health issues affecting families. Health Fairs, Walks, and Blood Drives are held throughout the New Jersey Conference and have become very popular. We continue to promote good health awareness and encourage families to assume responsibility for their own health. There is affordable health coverage and quality care offered by the state of New Jersey. NJ Family Care offers full health care coverage through established Health Maintenance Organizations that operates throughout the state. Trenton Central High’s Gospel Chorus highlighted a program that emphasized the importance of being aware of your partner’s history and that both abstinence and safe sex are the best HIV/AIDS deterrents. Family life has been difficult, food banks have helped many families throughout the NJ Conference and not just the AME Church, But all those in need. Information has been provided for families in need of housing assistance. Learning is a lifelong experience. Create a safe and supportive environment for learning. Parent involvement has a positive
effect on your child’s success in school. During the past election many obstacles were presented to
discourage the voter turnout in many areas of the United States. Despite setbacks the turnout was
overwhelming and allowed the first African American President, Barack Husain Obama to be re-elected
for a second term. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve the WMS on all levels and to serve
under the dynamic leadership of President Patricia N. Smith. Special thanks to Presiding Elder Vernard
R. Leak, Sister Sarah Leak, Pastors, Spouses, WMS Officers, Missionaries, Brothers, Sisters, and my
husband Bert.

Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation Report
(The full reports are in the Harvest Book, here are some highlights)

Sister Darlene Justice – New Jersey Conference Branch WMS Second Vice President

“He who is the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be
humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted”. Matthew 23:11-12

Through this journey I have come to realize that we all fall short of perfection, and the only way we can
close the gap between where we are and that perfection, is through a relationship with Jesus. The New
Jersey Conference WMS held their Mass Meeting September 29, 2012 at Israel Memorial AME Church
where Rev. Robert A. Jackson is the Pastor. First lady, Sister Moniya Jackson and the fine members of
Israel Memorial welcomed us with open arms. Our theme was “We are one in the body of Christ,
Serving our Churches and Communities with Love and Compassion”. We had several workshops. It was
a day enjoyed by all. I would like to thank everyone who served under my commission, and a very
special thanks to our President who is truly a diamond, whose sparkle attracts all of us to her. I thank
God for all of her help and support.

PME Director – Sister Bernice Dillings

The 2012 PME study brought about the much needed awareness of inequalities and injustices against
women and children locally and globally in the form of domestic violence/child abuse. Our awareness
has also been heightened by what we now face known as bullying. The 2013 PME Curriculum general
theme is “Health Matters” and our geographical theme is “Mexico”. We sincerely thank the Area PME
Directors, Area Chairpersons, Local PME Directors, and each Missionary for continuing to purchase and
use WMS Educational Curriculum. May God continue to smile upon us.
"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”.  1 Corinthians 15:57

This year the local societies have begun to explore who and why of their name in hopes that we may compile a booklet.  We praise God for the growth.  Attended the NJ Conference YPD Gratitude Service and Brunch honoring YPD former Directors and Executive Board Members at Cedar Gardens, Hamilton, WMS Institute held in Dover, Delaware a day of Missionary education and fellowship.  The Morristown Area WMS hosted NJ Conference WMS Mass meeting at Israel Memorial AME, Newark, NJ. , attended Gouldtown Area Fall Luncheon recognizing non-life members with 25 years of Missionary service at Masso’s Crystal Manor, Glassboro, NJ, Sister Lois Perren was the guest speaker.  The NJCB WMS hosted the Ruth Henderson Hughes Learning Experience 2013 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, NJ.  The theme was “First Things First”. Special thanks to the Area Chairpersons and Sister Darlene Justice for leadership as Coordinator of the Commission on Mission and Education and Interpretation, Area Chairpersons, Local Presidents, and Sister Frances L. Smith, past historiographer for their support in providing information.  Thanks to NJCB President Patricia N. Smith for her support and awesome leadership.

Commission on Membership and Recruitment Reports

(The full reports are in the Harvest Book, here are some highlights)

Sister Gloria Pettiford – New Jersey Conference Branch WMS Third Vice President

As we continue our work in missions, we give God all the glory.  Our goal this year was to have each Missionary Society bring in at least two new members.  Prayerfully our goal was met.  A special thank you to our President Sister Patricia N. Smith.  You have been a rock in times of storms.  Keep up the good work.  May God continue to bless and keep us in our journey here in the New Jersey Conference Women’s Missionary Society as we keep our eyes on the prize; the prize is Jesus; Our Lord and Savior.

Life Members – Sister Margaret Burton

“Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good for His mercy endureth forever”.  Psalms 107:1

A salute to each Life Member for the many years of meritorious service to the New Jersey Conference.  Our aim is to promote and encourage participation in the Endowment Fund, and to remember the WMS as beneficiary of legacies.  It is our goal to place a memorial in the churches of our deceased Life Members.  We also plan to give a contribution to our New Jersey Conference WMS to further the work
of missions. Deceased members since last annual conference are Sister Edith Jackson Campbell and Sister Madge Taylor. Our prayer is that they are resting in the arms of Jesus.

President Smith said we have heard reports from all Commissions and asked what our pleasure is. Sister Josephine Horton moved to accept the reports from all Commissions; the motion was seconded by Sister Brenda Lazier. Sister Wilma Robinson, First Vice President, presented our President, Sister Patricia Nira Smith.

The Report of the President

Sister Patricia Nira Smith

(The President’s full report is in the Harvest Book, here are some highlights)

“In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy path”. Proverbs 3:6

“For we are more that conquerors in Christ Jesus”. Romans 8:37

I greet you in the name of the Risen Savior, Jesus the Christ! I am humbled and honored to give my first report as the President of the New Jersey Conference Women’s Missionary Society. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve. It is important I acknowledge a few of the ancestors who guided and nurtured me during my spiritual journey. First, I acknowledge my Great Grandmother Martha B. Edwards. To my Aunt Annabelle Person and my Grandmother Mary J. Quick for being stabilizers in my life during my formative years. And to my mom, Dolores Quick and Geneva Anderson my other Grandmother who built on the foundation my Great Grandmother laid. I attended meetings, special programs, and annual days. Wherever I go, I represent the New Jersey Conference Women's Missionary Society and I will also represent you with pride, dignity and integrity. The New Jersey Conference WMS has also supported the activities of the Connectional WMS such as the AARP campaign, the $0.50 a day initiative, and Missions on the Move. The New Jersey Conference WMS has supported the Queen’s Contest, WMS Institute, LE 2013 and all other requested of the District. Our events for the 2012-2013 conference year made our theme “We are one in the body of Christ serving our churches and communities with love and compassion”. We partnered with other agencies. The Share Network, Health First Insurance, Harvest of Hope, and other agencies working with the New Jersey Conference WMS to get messages out about health issues and social needs to our communities. Established the Area Chairpersons Only meeting. Communicated with Missionaries who worked in schools, community centers, homes, and their churches to provide food, clothes, and shelter to Hurricane Sandy survivors.
Created the bi-weekly Presidents email, this was a good way to keep Missionaries informed of the mission events. Donations to Sierra House and Women Aware. I believe our theme is a living testimony. Many thanks to Bishop Ingram, Rev. Jessica, and Sister Jewel for giving me guidance and support. Thanks to the elected Conference Officers, Area Chairpersons, Conference Members, Past Conference Presidents Sister Carolyn Wade and Sister Gloria Cartwright for the leadership they provided to the conference. To my Pastor Rev. Anthony Mitchell Sr., Sister Lynda Mitchell, and my entire Union Chapel Church Family for their support. Thanks to my husband J. Roger Smith, my son William G. Smith, my daughter Sharonda Smith-Sims, and to my grandsons Micah Christopher Turner Sims II and Christopher George Roger Sims, all for being supportive. My prayer is that we continue this Missionary journey together. We will continue to pray for God’s guidance, work together in love, remember we are servant leaders, and remember our theme: We are one in the body of Christ serving our churches and communities with love and compassion, as we do the work of missions.

Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram said we have heard the report of the President, what is our pleasure. Sister Carolyn Wade moved that the President’s report be accepted with commendations. It was seconded by Sister Yvonne Turnbull.

11:00 AM Worship Service

Rev. Tammy M. Mitchell of Bethel AME Church, Lakewood, NJ served as the Worship Leader. Our opening hymn was “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” which was lined by Sister Adrienne Robinson of the Elizabeth Area. We were led in prayer by Sister Marcia Gibson of the Morristown Area. We were blessed with a selection by the WMS Choir. The scripture was read by Sister Geraldine Lane of the Gouldtown Area, followed by a responsive reading from Sister Wilma Farmer of the Camden Area. Gifts for Missions were lifted by Sister Brenda Lazier (Newark Area), Sister Lois Perren (NJCB Treasurer), and the Finance Task Force Committee. Presentation of the Bishop was done by Rev. Myra T. Billips, Co-Pastor of Mt. Zion AME Church, New Brunswick, and NJ. Another selection was rendered by the WMS Choir. Bishop Ingram presented the Preacher of the hour, Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, First Episcopal District Episcopal Supervisor. Rev. Dr. Jessica’s message was moving to all. The invitational hymn was “Come Unto Jesus”.

The “More Excellent Way” Grand March was led by Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram. Rev. Pearl Patillo of the Trenton Area recognized our guests. Sister Gayle Averheart presented our First Episcopal District President, Sister Jewel McAshan. Sister McAshan greeted everyone. Sister Edith Barnett of the Atlantic City Area presented our Episcopal Supervisor of Missions for remarks. Remarks and announcements were made by Bishop Ingram. Closing prayer and grace was given by Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram.
2:30 Afternoon Session

Sister Darlene Justice, Second Vice President of the NJCB Women’s Missionary Society presided over our afternoon session. Devotion was led by Sister Juanita Moss our Worship Director. Presentation of our Supervisor of Missions, Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram was done by Sister Darlene Justice. Rev. Dr. Jessica presented Project Possible. The Healthy Heart Project was presented by Sister Margaret Kamarari of the American Heart and Stroke Association. Health First Insurance was presented by Sister Aviva Woog. African American Health Awareness was presented by Sister Robin Risen-McCoy. Harvest of Hope was presented by Sister Maureen Archibald. Share Network was presented by Sister Edith Baker Jackson, and “Women Aware: Moving Beyond Abuse” was presented by Sister LaTonya Blue.

The program was turned over to President Smith who called for The Tanner Turner Memorial Service.

Tanner Turner Memorial Report – Sister C. DeAnn Stanton

“Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God, the maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them... the Lord, who remains faithful forever”. Psalms 146:5, 6

Sister Gloria J. Pettiford, Third Vice President presided over the service. The opening hymn was “When Peace Like a River”. The prayer was rendered by Sister Helena Monroe of North Stelton AME Church, Piscataway, NJ. The scripture was read by Sister Toylene Person from Jacobs Chapel, Marlton, NJ. The candle lighters were the Area Chairpersons. The Memorial statement was read by Sister Margaret Lewis from Greater Mt. Zion AME Church, Trenton, NJ. Roll call was by The Tanner Turner Commission members. The closing hymn was “On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand”.

The Election

President Smith presented First Episcopal District Supervisor, Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram and First Episcopal District President, Sister Jewel McAshan. Rev. Dr. Jessica called for the election of the New Jersey Conference Officers. The following reports were given:

Registration Report – Sister Hazel A. Hare reported 527 persons registered. A motion was made by Sister Shelly Lyrie (Asbury Area) to accept registration report. Motion was seconded by Sister Willitta Thomas (Morristown Area).

Credential Report – Sister Joyce Ebb reported 413 persons were eligible to vote. A motion by Sister Andrea Robinson (Elizabeth Area) was made to accept credential report. Motion was seconded by Sister Liz Anderson (Asbury Area).
Nominating Report – Sister Cheryl Brown-Peters presented the candidates for election as NJCB Women’s Missionary Society officers for 2013-2014:

Sister Patricia Nira Smith President, Sister Wilma Robinson, First Vice President, Sister Darlene Justice, Second Vice President, Sister Gloria J. Pettiford, Third Vice President, Sister Brenda Y. Green, Recording Secretary, Sister Gloria D. McClain, Assistant Recording Secretary, Sister Victoria C. Gandy, Corresponding Secretary, Sister Lois Perren, Treasurer, Sister Josephine Horton, Historiographer/Statistician, Sister Bernice Dillings, PME Director, Sister Laverne Mackey Merritt, YPD Director, Sister Courtney Maribel, Member-at-Large.

The officers were sworn in. Prayer of re-commitment to Missions was performed by Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, and encouragements were given by Episcopal President Sister Jewel McAshan.

The Commissioning Meditation Service was closed with the Missionary Benediction.

Prayerfully Submitted by,

Brenda Y. Green

NJCB WMS Recording Secretary