

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MINISTERS' WIVES AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

1ST QUARTER 2024

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- Locals Alliances
- Hall of Honor Inductees
- IAMWMW Founder's Day in DC
- The Grace Walk

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## *Greetings VAMWMW Sisters,*

We have come to the end of my tenure, “Leading Ladies Gracefully Making a Difference for Such a Time as This.” How time flies. I would like to take this opportunity to express heartfelt gratitude to the Virginia Association of Ministers’ Wives and Ministers Widows for allowing me an opportunity to serve as your 16<sup>th</sup> State President. Your support has been invaluable, and I will cherish each memory and milestone.

The journey has been enlightening and enriching and by the Grace of God, we made it. You kept a great spirit throughout the difficulties of COVID-19, a global pandemic, multiple deaths, and sickness, but you put faith in action. We have enjoyed exceptional retreats, and remarkable conventions, virtually and now in-person. The Lord blessed us abundantly and the experiences made us more determined to keep working for the Lord and continue the work that was set before us. To God be the glory!

We are preparing for our State Convention at the Bella Vista Hotel & Suites in Lynchburg, Virginia on April 25-27, 2024. The theme, “Overcoming for Such a Time as This” is a testament of the victories won and it was worth it all. The state of Virginia will host the International President’s Night honoring our own, Dr. Margaret Brown Payton, on June 26, 2024, in Houston, Texas as she culminates her tenure.

Thank you for the moments we shared. Thank you for the learning experiences. Thank you for the bonds of sisterhood. Thank you for the friendship. Thank you for showing love in action. I am grateful and now ready to take my seat with the past presidents but will continue to work to build this wonderful organization. Love you, my Sistas!

God bless and keep you!

Dr. Ellen Jamerson  
VAMWMW President





## *Greetings.*

I am honored that Dr. Jamerson chose me to be the Newsletter Chair. I am grateful that she entrusted me to transition our newsletter to a digital format, eliminating the need for hard copies and printing. The digital format saves money, allows for greater accessibility and interaction for our members, and ensures information is delivered in real time, anywhere or anytime.

I genuinely appreciate Dr. Jamerson's positive attitude and outstanding support with this effort. Thank you to the excellent collaboration with WebCo where Mrs. Erica O'Neil-Scott provided excellent service with the digital formatting. Her knowledge, expertise and skills are unmatched!

Thank you to the Local Presidents and others that provided the information that made our Newsletter successful. We all worked well together, and I want to express my appreciation to each of you for a job well done.

It was an absolute pleasure working with my sisters. The love, patience, dedication, and positive energy made every issue enjoyable and productive. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to serve these past four years. I pray God's richest blessing upon you, your family, and our Sisterhood.

With love and warm regards,

*Hattie*

Hattie C. Blackmon  
Chair

**VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION  
OF MINISTERS' WIVES AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS, INC.**



**73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention**  
*"Overcoming For Such a Time as This"*

**Thursday, April 25**

**7:00 PM - A Masquerade Fun Night**

**Friday, April 26**

**7:00 PM - \$60 (Open to the Public)**

**Ada M. Palmer Awards Banquet**

**Crowning VAMWMW Queen 2024**

**Minister's Wife of the Year**

**Minister's Widow of the Year**

**Humanitarian Award**

**Youth Achiever Award**

**Saturday, April 27**

**7:30 AM - \$25 (Open to the Public)**

**The President's Breakfast**

**Empowerment Sessions**

**10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**



**"Living Life to the Fullest"**  
**Dr. Yemaja Jubilee**

**Business Luncheon**

**12:30 PM (Members Only)**



**EVANGELIST TONI RAMEY WEBSTER**  
PSALMIST



**MRS. RENITA LUCK**  
PSALMIST



**"Integrity"**  
**Rev. Cynthia Arkord**



**DR. ELLEN JAMERSON**  
STATE PRESIDENT



*In Loving Memory of*  
**MRS. DEBORAH ROBINSON**  
HOST PRESIDENT  
MWMW Martinsville-Henry County & Vicinity

**MRS. ERICA O'NEIL-SCOTT**  
CONVENTION CHAIR

**DR. EDNA F. GRIFFITH**  
CONVENTION CO-CHAIR

**For Tickets and More Information**  
**(434) 341-0477**

**CashApp: \$mwmwmartinsville**

**Bella Vista Hotel & Suites • 2900 Candler's Mountain Road • Lynchburg • VA • 24502**





Get ready for an unforgettable experience!  
**IAMWMW President's Night 2024!**

Hosted by the Virginia Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows. We are ecstatic and delighted to present a night to remember. The night will be nothing short of extraordinary as we honor our "Pearl"

*Dr. Margaret Brown Payton,*

as her tenure has come to an end. Like a precious pearl, she is a treasure worth cherishing and honoring as Jesus described in Matthew 13:45-46.

Whether this is your first IAMWMW Convention or you have attended the convention for many years, this event promises to be a night of reflection and appreciation as we celebrate our president and look forward with anticipation to the future of our great organization.

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.** Our colors will be **Coral** and **Teal**. You will be inspired and empowered after this experience. We look forward to seeing you there!

#SaveTheDate #ExcitingTimesAhead  
#GetReadyToCelebrate



# OFFICIAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINISTERS' WIVES and MINISTERS' WIDOWS, Incorporated  
Dr. Margaret Brown Payton, International President

<b>1</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION</b> (Please print legibly or type)		
Membership Number _____	Date _____		
Name _____	Phone _____		
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____	
Email Address _____			
Church _____	Denomination _____		

<b>2</b>	<b>FEES</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP MUST BE PAID TO ATTEND</b>	
1. Convention Registration .....	\$ 100.00 _____
2. Late Convention Registration Fee (POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 30) .....	\$ 25.00 _____
3. Not attending Convention.....	\$ 100.00 _____
4. Executive Board Meeting (Must be paid to attend) .....	\$ 10.00 _____
(Only International Officers, Local, State/Nation Presidents, Life Members and Chairpersons of International Committees and Commissions are eligible to attend.) <b>I am a (Please check one)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> IAMWMW Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Local, State/Nation President <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> IAMWMW Chairperson	
5. Herald Honor Roll .....	\$ 10.00 _____
6. Calendar-Birthday Month _____ Day _____	\$ 5.00 _____
Anniversary Month _____ Day _____	\$ 5.00 _____
7. Life Membership (One Time Fee) .....	\$ 500.00 _____
8. Individual Scholarship Contribution	
• E.C. Bouey .....	\$ _____
• Ada Palmer .....	\$ _____
• Gladden Johnson .....	\$ _____
• Rendella L. Gayton .....	\$ _____
9. Headquarters .....	\$ _____
10. Ticketed Events	
LEGACY LUNCHEON – Tuesday Afternoon .....	\$ 60.00 _____
PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST – Wednesday Morning .....	\$ 60.00 _____
AWARDS GALA BANQUET – Thursday Evening .....	\$ 85.00 _____
	<b>TOTAL</b> _____

<b>3</b>	<b>EDUCATION DEPARTMENT</b>
I am a (year) _____ graduation candidate. I understand I must have white clothes, a white robe, and white shoes to participate in the graduation program.	
Graduation Requirements... Three years of study in the same Module = Graduation from Module with certificate Nine years of study (graduation from all three Modules) = Alumnae may purchase a Stole Twelve years of study = Alumnae can purchase the Medallion <b>(ONE CLASS ONLY)</b>	
<b>MODULE: Honoring the Temple</b>	
Life Changes – Living a Legacy .....	AA-1 _____
Three D's: Defeating Dominant Diseases .....	AA-2 _____
It's All About You .....	AA-3 _____
Physical Fitness .....	AA-4 _____
<b>MODULE: Minding the Ministry</b>	
Christian Leaders Lead .....	BB-1 _____
Targeting Today's Youth .....	BB-2 _____
Cyberspace and You .....	BB-3 _____
Women's Ministry: Leading and Lifting .....	BB-4 _____
<b>MODULE: Celebrating the Spirit</b>	
Women as Ministry Partners .....	CC-1 _____
Meaningful Melodies .....	CC-2 _____
Praise in Motion .....	CC-3 _____
New Beginnings: Life Beyond Death (Widowhood) .....	CC-4 _____

<b>4</b>	<b>MAKE ALL FORMS OF PAYMENT PAYABLE TO IAMWMW</b>	<b>IAMWMW OFFICE USE ONLY</b>
SEND CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO <b>Dr. Loretta H. Dennis</b> 3925 River Bluffs Place Richmond, VA 23223		Date Received _____ Total \$ _____
<b>NO PERSONAL CHECKS</b>		Method of Payment. Cash _____ Credit Card _____
On Site Registration: Cash/Credit Card/Money Order/ Organizational Check /Cashier Check		Money Order # _____ Organization Check # _____
		Cashier Check # _____
		Receipt # _____



# Local Alliances

Charlottesville

Danville

E.C. Bouey

E.C. Thompson

Fredericksburg

Lynchburg

Martinsville  
Convention Host 2024

Northern Virginia

Petersburg

Richmond

Suffolk

Tidewater

Wayland Blue Ridge

# The Fabulous Ministers' Wives & Widows of C'ville & Vicinity



Spring 2024 Edition

Dr. Brenda Arrington, Editor



President Helen Carter

## Words From The President ~

Another era of leadership is forthcoming. It has been a blessed tenure as we were led under the guidance of our gracious leader, Dr. Ellen Jamerson, our 16th VAMMW President. In retrospect, considering the past four years of my tenure as president of our local MWMW Alliance, I am thankful that my objectives were aligned with God's intentions for the sisterhood. I believe that our Alliance was strengthened and empowered through the days of Covid 19 and virtual communication that kept us separated, but not isolated. Through Faith, Love and Prayer, the sisterhood will continue to endure. This encourages us to appreciate and use God's gifts.

*"When they were filled He said unto His disciples, gather up the fragments that remain that nothing be lost." John 6:12*

## Editor's Letter ~ Mindful Meditation: Encouraging the Saints by Dr. Brenda Arrington



Throughout the years, the wives of those in ministry have worked alongside their husbands to build up the Body of Christ and help repair broken spirits. In a practical sense, the Charlottesville Alliance has fed the hungry through the local Food Bank, tutored in Literacy programs, provided warm clothing for homeless families, traveled abroad to promote cultural awareness; specifically to Ghana and Senegal, held spiritual growth and mental health workshops and enjoyed lots of wonderful fellowship, whether after a meeting, during Juneteenth or at the Annual Christmas gathering. It has been a pleasure to produce a newsletter detailing the exemplary work of the Charlottesville Ladies and the accomplishments of our PKs and grandchildren.

Let us be **MINDFUL** of the works the Ministers' Wives & Widows have accomplished in the past, and the plans to continue serving communities in need with excellence. **Mindfulness** is being present in the moment, paying attention to what we do as God "orders our steps" (*Psalm 37:23*) to serve others. We are to **Meditate**, meaning to think deeply, on those acts of kindness. The scriptures tell us to meditate,

*"For then you will make your way prosperous, and you will have good success." (Joshua 1:8)*

Let us **BE MINDFUL** of . . .

**Whom** we are serving, **How** we are serving and **What** we expect to see as a result of our work.

Then ask the question: **What does the Lord require of us?**

*"But to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before God." (Micah 6:8)*

The Most High has given us a "mind to work," (*Nehemiah 4:6*); to heal the issues inherent in our society. Therefore, "Whatsoever is of a good report . . . Think on these things." (*Philippians 4:8*) **Meditate.**



## *A Minister's Wife Answered the Call*

**Janice Spellman** was stopped by CBS19 News as she walked toward Charlottesville High School. She was one of 40 volunteers who responded to the need for community intervention. Violence at CHS caused teachers to call in a "sick day" in protest of an atmosphere of uncontrolled school violence, causing the Superintendent to close the school for several days. When school resumed, several people from the community arrived to help bring peace, including the University of Virginia Athletic Director, Carla Williams and former Vice Mayor, Wes Bellamy. School administrators from neighboring Albemarle County also participated.



In her interview, Sister Janice Spellman fervently admonished that, "Teachers educate, but we are to discipline our children and send them [to school] ready to learn." She was emphatic in saying, "It is important that they know they are loved, and that we have great expectations for them." Janice Spellman is wife of the late Rev. Doctor Otis Spellman.

*Modeling for Talbots, a national women's clothing chain.*

**Isn't She Lovely? Isn't She *Fabulous*?**



**Minister Mildred Best** has modeled for Talbots, a national women's clothing chain representing a classy look in a local show. Recently, Minister Best has served as Director of Chaplaincy Services for University of Virginia Hospital, retiring in 2021. She also provides supply preaching. In addition to all of that, she is a participant in the Silver Swans Ballet I class at the Center at Belvedere in Charlottesville, which she says is good exercise. How ***Fabulous*** is that? Minister Best is the wife of the late Rev. Dr. E. K. Best, III.



**SISTER DELORES HUBERT-CHRISTMAS**

**Attends an Adult Prom Fundraiser for a Local Middle School  
And Celebrates her Aunt Ruth's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



**Delores Hubert and Ruth Megginson**

Simply **FABULOUS** !

*Sister Delores Hubert-Christmas* is the immediate past President of the Fluvanna County Rotary Club and is currently serving as Treasurer. She is owner of several businesses where she employs a number of people. Because of her success as an entrepreneur and her extensive volunteer work, she has been recognized as a business woman who is vested in serving others. She volunteers for LOVE, INC., the Fluvanna Food Pantry, the *Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA)*, where she used hammer and nails to help install shelves, the Clothes Closet, and at a local Middle School. In addition to that, Sister Delores was a judge in the Chili Cook-off for St. James Baptist Church. **WOW!**

As a reward for all of her hard labor, she decided that a Christmas cruise with family and friends would top off a successful year. Delores Hubert-Christmas is wife of the Late Elder Edward J. Christmas.



**VAMMW Chucks & Pearls**  
President Ellen Jamerson &  
Sister Barbara Henson

Posing together while  
enjoying an evening of fun,  
games and sisterly fellowship.

Our **FABULOUS** First Ladies.



*Bahama Cruising . . . for Christmas*

**LOOKING FABULOUS AT THE  
ADULT PROM**



**Delores Hubert-Christmas**



## Our Kids are *Amazing*



**Sister Mary Brown** is a proud Nanny to Malachi Fields, a young black Christian scholar, dedicated to education and honing his craft in college football at the University of Virginia. Malachi is the son of Catrina and Steven Fields, God-fearing parents who stressed the importance of putting God first. As a UVA Football standout, he gives all credit to God and his Christian upbringing. He is always willing to give back to the community by helping young students to achieve their goals, and strives to be a good leader and a man of God. He is a wonderful example of a young person who can do both and still have fun.

Currently, Malachi is matriculating at the University of Virginia toward a degree in Social Psychology. He is excited to see what God has prepared for his life and always looks forward to hearing these words from his Nanny,

"DO YOUR BEST AND LET GOD DO THE REST."

Malachi is the grandson of Sister Mary and the Rev. Dr. Halliard Brown.



**Sister Mary Brown  
& Grandson, Malachi Fields**

### Boys and Girls Club Junior Youth of the Year



**Jeremiah Jackson**



My name is **Christine Brown**. I am the Superintendent of Sunday School at Mount Zion First African Baptist Church, where the Rev. Dr. Alvin Edwards is Pastor. I would like to give recognition to one of our Sunday school students, Jeremiah Jackson, for being nominated as, "Junior Youth of the Year."

Editor's Note: While we cannot print the entire speech, we have included the bulk of his narrative. We applaud this outstanding young man. His speech is below.

Dear Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia,  
Thank you for nominating me for Junior Youth of the Year. It would be an honor to represent our organization for Boys and Girls Club. Let me tell you a little bit about myself. Growing up in my grandmother's house, sports have always been a huge deal and, of course, getting a good education. My Gigi has always taught me that a good education can take you a lot of places. Sports are great and being a great athlete is a blessing, but you should always have a backup plan. I have grown up playing sports all my life. I attended a Sports Camp in Maine. It was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. I learned a lot about myself: how to accept losing a game, how to be responsible, how to keep my area neat, how to clean a bathroom and how to enjoy all kinds of sports. I have also had the blessing of being part of a football team that made it to two Albemarle Youth Football League Super Bowls consecutively. We happened to lose both and that's okay.

### **KUDOS!**

I am also very active in my church, Mount Zion FAB Church. I am a member of the Junior Usher Board at Mount Zion. We went to a nursing home with my Sunday school and I got to help plant flowers for the elderly. I'm working on continuing with community service. I think it is fun to cook. One of my favorite cooking projects was when Torch Club made dog biscuits for the SPCA.

I am pleased to report that Jeremiah won the competition and is now, "**Junior Youth of the Year!**" Congratulations, Jeremiah!!!! We are so very proud of you! Submitted By Deaconess Christine Brown





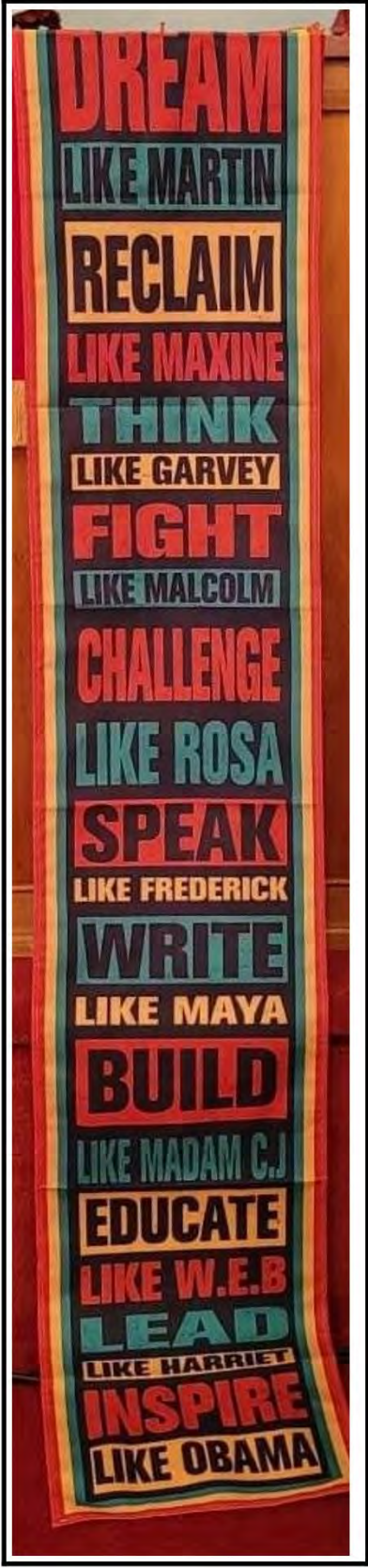
*(L to R) Helen L. Carter, President of MWMW Alliance of Charlottesville Vicinity, Evangelist Lucille Harris, Co-Pastor of Burning Bush Christian Church and Mozell Booker, Former Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors Chair*

The candidates were chosen as “Iconic Women of Fluvanna County” because of their contributions in making the county a desirable habitation for all, especially women who wish to be leaders in the community.

**Helen L. Carter** was chosen for having served on the Fluvanna County Social Service Board as Director, in Fluvanna County Government, as Meals on Wheels Board Director and for forty-two years of service to the Fluvanna School System. Many students at schools still refer to her as “Mom” because she made sure they had school supplies, lunch and a ride home, if they were involved in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Sister Carter also sets a wonderful example of a pastor’s wife who works alongside her husband in ministry. They are often referred to as “Team Carter.” In this capacity, she has not only served in her home church, she has been a great support of community churches. Moreover, she is an excellent example of a Mother and a Grandmother. Being the oldest female child of her family, she supported her parents in the care-taking and nurturing of five siblings.

We honor Helen Carter for having served as President of the Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows Alliance of Charlottesville and Vicinity for a total of nineteen years during various terms.





## ***Beneath the Skin*** (Christian Romance Novel)

by The Reverend Rickey Eugene White

Reverend Doctor Rickey E. White introduces three captivating books under the pen name R. Eugene White: "Beneath the Skin" (Christian Romance Novel), "Beneath the Skin- My Poetry," and "Cori Candle and the Vowel Family Quest" (Children's Book). For those eager to delve into these literary creations, the Christian Romance Novel is available on Amazon, or you can connect with Dr. R. E. White directly at [beneaththeskincreations@gmail.com](mailto:beneaththeskincreations@gmail.com).

Dr White is the devoted husband to Rev. Dr. Natalie J. White, Third Vice President of the VAMWW.



**R. Eugene White**

**UpDate** ~ In the last newsletter, **Pastor Caruso Brown** shared his thoughts about taking on the responsibility to become interim Pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church. He shares the following:



**Pastor Caruso Brown**

I believe when the Lord blesses you and shows favor in your life, that you should testify that others might hear and experience the Goodness of the Lord. It is for this reason that I share my testimony. As an associate minister, one does not often have the opportunity to preach. In December of 2022, I was invited to preach at Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Faber, Virginia. I was asked if I would be willing to commit to preaching there for the next six months, as they were without a pastor, Not long after that, I was asked to consider pastoring full time. In the past, I had answered that question by saying "no, the Lord has not called me to be a pastor", but this time I appropriately said, "Let me pray about it." So I prayed and prayed and continue to pray to receive a sure answer from God. Through my life, the way that God usually speaks to me is by bringing peace to my spirit.

Now, after over 13 months of working with Cedar Grove, my love for the church and my love for the people has continued to grow. It is that love that brings peace to my soul. I have not shared with the officers of Cedar Grove as of yet my sense of readiness, but I will share with you that my heart and spirit say "I'm ready!" To God be the Glory for His peaceful whispers of affirmation.

Pastor Brown is the loving husband of Sister Christine Brown.

*Charlottesville*  
— VIRGINIA —



# Danville Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Yolanda Coppage - President



The Lord continues to bless the Danville Chapter. He continues to bless us with New Members and we are thankful. We were able to celebrate multiple Pastoral Anniversaries and Pastoral Installations. We are thankful and grateful for the many blessings.

To God Be the Glory!



Mineral Springs Baptist Church  
OFFICERS & MEMBERS ANNOUNCE



**PASTORAL  
INSTALLATION**

Rev. Dr. Ernest Coppage & 1st Lady Yolanda Coppage

**SATURDAY JANUARY 27, 2024 | 2:00PM**

*"I will give you spiritual sheperds after my own heart"*  
Jeremiah 3:15

INSTALLATION PROCLAIMER  
**Dr. Rufus Fuller, III**  
EAST NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
DANVILLE, VA



Location : 774 Mineral Springs Rd., Pelham, NC 27311 / (336) 694-4323

Union Street Missionary Baptist Church



**Pastoral  
INSTALLATION**



Rev. Vax Atavis Allen  
&  
**First Family**

Rev. Dwight Wilkerson  
Pastor, Dan River Bethel Baptist  
Church, South Boston VA  
Installation Officiant

Rev. Dr. George Crews III  
Pastor, Lattisville Grove Baptist  
Church, Hurlle Mills NC  
Installation Preacher

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND 2024** **12:00  
Noon**

100 Sycamore Street, Danville Virginia 24541



S<sup>T</sup> JOHN  
Missionary  
Baptist Church

MARCH  
03



**First PASTORAL  
ANNIVERSARY**  
OF Reverend Zachary T. Dark

10:30 AM - Morning Worship  
Dr. James Henry Wilkes Jr.  
Elon First Baptist Church

3PM Evening Service  
Dr. Charles Whitfield  
First Baptist Church

7470 AXTON RD. AXTON, VA



### **Southside Rappahannock, Northern Neck & Middle Peninsula**

Sister Patricia L. Johnson, President  
Recording Secretary Sister Julia M. Jones

Tappahannock, VA 22560

#### **VAMWMW Dr. Ellen Jamerson, State President**

Under the leadership of Dr. Ellen Jamerson, E. C. Bouey MWMW Alliance has accomplished and attended the following:

- 2024 Dr. Eleanor R. Morris has served as Chairperson of “More Than A Cookbook” being published by Fund Craft Sister Marlene Jackson, along with Sister Patricia Johnson also worked diligently with the Cookbook.
- 2023 72<sup>nd</sup> VMWMW Convention in Fredericksburg, VA
- 2023 82<sup>nd</sup> IAMWMW Annual Convention in Pittsburg, VA for the first time
- 2023 The VAMWMW Retreat in Richmond
- 2023 VAMWMW Executive Board Meeting
- 2023 All the local president’s meetings with the VAMWMW
- 2023 Sister Gwenda Graham served as Chairperson of our Silent Action
- 2022 Sister Patricia Johnson won the Second Runner Up in VAMWMW Queen’s Contest with support of the Alliance.
- 2022 Dr. Eleanor R. Morris was appointed by President Jamerson as Chairperson of the VAMWMW Widows Ministry.
- 2022 The Northeast Regional Conference in Arlington, VA for the first time.
- 2021 Sister Gwenda Graham served as Chairperson of VAMWMW Worship Committee



- 2019 Sister Gwenda Graham was very instrumental in assigning the new president by transferring the training manual established by our state President, Dr. Ellen Jamerson.
- 2019 “More Than A Cookbook” project was first initiated by Dr. Eleanor R. Morris, Chairperson along with the Past President Sister Gwenda Graham, committee members, Sister Marlene Jackson, Sister Valerie Kelly and Sister Patricia Johnson
- 2018 The VAMWMW Prayer Committee Dr. Natalie White Chair, Charlottesville, VA; members Sister Alice Bryant, E. C. Bouey, Dr. Eleanor Morris, E. C. Bouey, Sister Marlene Jackson, E.C. Bouey, Minister Cheryl Edwards, Lynchburg designed the prayer for the Northeast Regional.



**E. C. Thompson Alliance of Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows of  
Kenbridge, Blackstone & Vicinity  
Jean S. Hobbs, President**



**Greetings from our beloved Sisterhood. The ladies in our local, thou few, continue to ensure that our local remain active and thriving as we endeavor to do the will of God. Matthew 18:20 states where there are two or three gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them. He has certainly proven true to His promise to E. C. Thompson Alliance.**

**The following are just a few projects we were able to accomplish thus far in 2023-24:**

**Scholarship Presentation**



**Khanya Moore was presented a scholarship by Sister Barbara Green. She is a member of Pleasant Oak Baptist Church, Victoria, VA and will be attend Virginia State University, majoring in Family and Consumer Science.**

**She is the daughter of Stephen & Avis Edmonds.**

**Ministry of Service**

**In November and December members presented Care Packages to two nursing homes, Heritage Hall in Blackstone, Hundley Center in South Hill, and to DaVita Dialysis Center in Amelia where one of our members, Sister Hazel Hill attends. The Care Packages included items for men and women, socks, caps, gloves, and Fleece Throws. A local church, Springhill Baptist Church,**



**Blackstone, donated 225 pairs of Bombas socks to our local for our Care Packages after receiving a grant from the company.**

**E. C. Thompson Members Preparing Care Packages!**



**An additional service project is our support of the Community Resource Service, CRS, a food pantry located in our area. We give monthly donations along with volunteering when needed.**

**Founder's Day 2023- Washington, DC**



## Christmas Celebration

E. C. Thompson's members and their husbands celebrated Christmas by attending a brunch at Cracker Barrel in South Hill, VA. The fellowship and camaraderie were enjoyed by everyone.

## Celebrating Black History

E. C. Thompson's Black History Celebrating is usually held on the fourth Saturday in February. This year Sister Hobbs was asked to serve as Worship Leader on the same day at a local church, Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Blackstone, that is very supportive of our local. Members voted unanimously to attend their Black History Program. What a beautiful celebration!

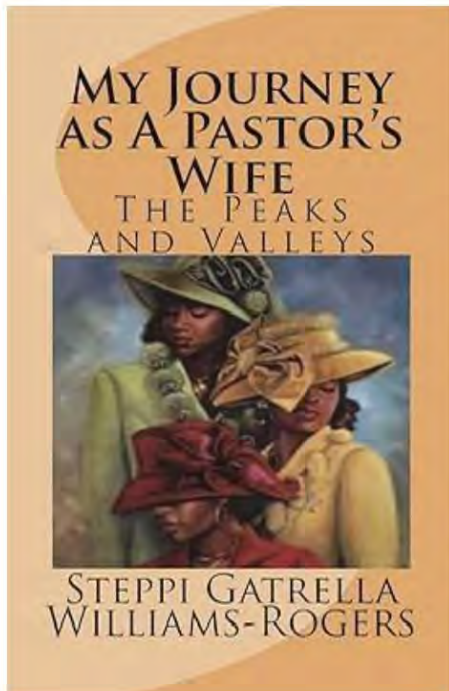


God has blessed us again to have a stellar year. We give all praises and honor to Him, our Savior!



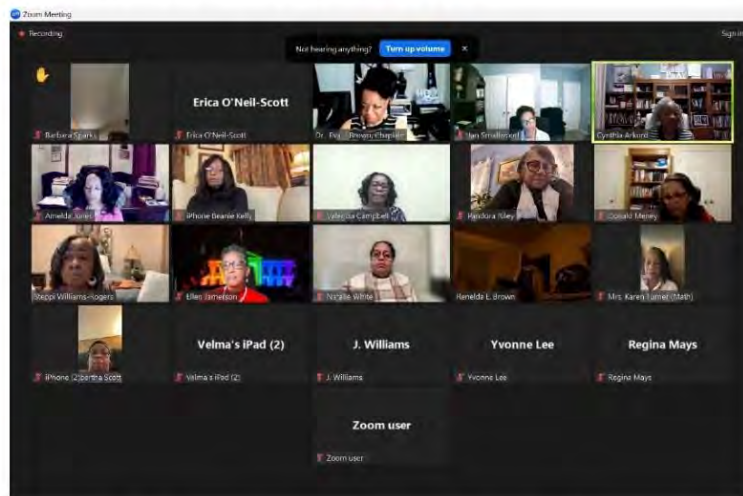
MWMW ALLIANCE OF FREDERICKSBURG AND VICINITY  
 DR. EVA J. BROWN, PRESIDENT

MWMW Fredericksburg supports the Cinderella & Prince Charming Experience –  
 March 2024



This book shares with its reader relevant and biblical insights that will enlighten, educate, and encourage the pastor's wife.

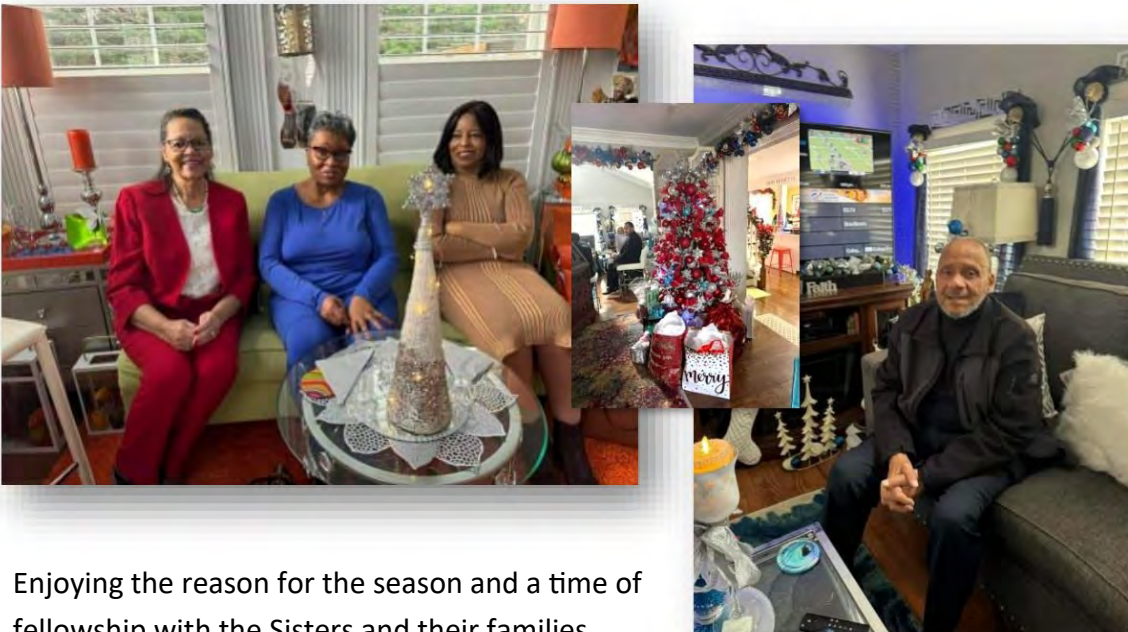
This book is loaded with wealth of knowledge about the author's experience as a pastor's wife, along with the insights of other Pastor's Wives.



MWMW Fredericksburg enjoys an evening of inspiration and fellowship with renowned Author Steppi Gatrella Williams-Rogers and Sisters from various Virginia Alliances.



## A Christmas to Remember



Enjoying the reason for the season and a time of fellowship with the Sisters and their families.



MWMW Fredericksburg partners with Jacob's Ladder - November 2023





IAMWMW Founder's Day 2023 at  
 The National Museum of African American History and Culture  
 Washington, District of Columbia



**Founder's Weekend Celebration**

*Dr. Margaret Brown Payne*  
 Foundational President

*Dr. Elizabeth Soto Bony*  
 Founder and First President

*Living a Legacy of Faith, Love, and Prayer™*

**FRIDAY**  
 December 1st  
 "A Day at the Museum: The National Museum of African American History and Culture"  
 Memorial Service - Remembering Our Founder and Past Presidents

**SATURDAY**  
 December 2nd  
 Annual Founder's Day Luncheon™™™  
 Hall of Honor Inductees  
 Bishop Award  
 Beloved Sister Award

**ANGEL TREE**  
 Ministry of Service  
 Give a gift and share the Gospel to children of an incarcerated parent.  
 Annual Founder's Day Luncheon  
 \$80.00  
 Tickets must be reserved by November 30th

**December 1 - 2, 2023**

**Omi Shoreham Hotel**  
 2000 Calvert Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20008  
 (202) 291-8900  
 1-800-862-8888  
 Group Code: IAMWMW  
 Group Rate: \$159  
 Breakfast is available from Wednesday, Nov. 22nd - Sunday, Dec. 3rd





Alene B. Godwin Retreat, Richmond, Virginia – October 2023



# MINISTERS' WIVES AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS ASSOCIATION OF LYNCHBURG & VINCITY



We thank God for one more day and one more time to share with the Sisterhood the activities of our Association. Since our last time of putting something in the newsletter, we have been still carrying out our duties as a Lady of Grace in our churches. We have tried to keep our Community Service Projects up to date and bring in new activities.

As president, I have been honoring the following ladies each month: Dr. Harriett Johnson, Dr. Mary Holmes, Sister Janet Higgins, and Sister Clara Jones. These are the widows in our organization, and we want them to know that we care for and love them. We would like to thank Reverend Dr. Ernest Scott, Jr, who has taken on as a project to carry them out to lunch each month.

In November for Bouey-Gayton Day, we had a Mary Kay makeover session. In December we had our annual Ada M. Palmer Christmas Banquet. The banquet was titled as an "All Star Gospel Banquet." We had different people to represent a gospel singer and it was a delight to see them singing and praising God. During the banquet we surprised and bestowed the Honor of President Emeritus upon Dr. Mary G. Holmes one of our Presidents that served this organization from 1993- 1997. Her daughters surprised her and escorted her to receive the award. Our banquet would not be complete if we didn't have the ministers to sing, they are a powerful group as they sing to the glory of God. The fun for everyone is the calling of names to receive prizes, everyone looks forward to hearing their name called.

We are now preparing for the upcoming conventions and looking forward to seeing our sisters we haven't seen since last year.

We pray that as we attend these conferences that we carry Jesus with us in our travels and our time away from home.

*President Sherleen Scott*





*Congratulations*  
*Dr. Ellen C. Jamerson*  
*President*  
*of the*  
*Virginia Association of*  
*Ministers' Wives and*  
*Ministers' Widows*

*"It is time to relax, rest, and  
take your heels off. You are  
now moving from the upper  
dais to the lower one. Enjoy  
your move. "We Love you,"  
and "you were chosen for  
such a time as this."*

*2020-2024*

**MWMW Association of  
Lynchburg & Vicinity**

*Rev. Dr. Sherleen B. Scott*

MWMW Martinsville-Henry County & Vicinity  
Mrs. Erica O'Neil-Scott Acting, President

MWMW Martinsville-Henry County is excited to be your host for the 73rd Annual VAMWMW Convention to be held in Lynchburg, Virginia on April 26-April 27. We are expecting God to do great things and hope you would join us. Our theme, "Overcoming For Such a Time as This" is a testament of the victories we've won in the past four years. God is faithful.

We submit to the will of the Lord who came to claim His own, our president, Mrs. Deborah Robinson. Earth has no sorrow that the God of heaven cannot heal. We pray that her family is comforted at this time.



*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

It is with profound sorrow that we announce  
the transition of  
*Mrs. Deborah Robinson*

Our Beloved Local President of  
MWMW of Martinsville-Henry County & Vicinity  
who has gone from labor to reward.

Our sincere thoughts and prayers are for her husband  
Rev. Willie Robinson and Family.

Arrangements are pending.



*Celebrating The Life Of*  
*Deborah D. Robinson*



*Sunrise*  
March 10, 1959

*Sunset*  
February 25, 2024

*Friday, March 1st, 2024*  
Visitation: 11:30 a.m. Service 12:00 p.m.  
C.R.V. Memorial Chapel  
Hairston Funeral Home  
301 Fayette Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
Pastor Charles Whitfield, Eulogist





IN LOVING  
*Memory*

I am home in Heaven dear ones;

Oh, so *happy and bright!*

There is perfect joy and beauty

In this everlasting light.

All pain and grief is over,

Every restless tossing passed;

I am now at

*peace forever.*

Safely home in Heaven at last.

There is work still waiting for you,

So you must not idly stand,

Do it now, while life remaineth -

You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,

He will gently call you Home;

Oh, the rapture of that meeting,

*Oh the joy to see you come!*

Lady Deborah D. Robinson

Lovingly dedicated by the Sisters of  
MWMW Martinsville-Henry County & Vicinity

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES**

to

**Dr. Margaret Brown Payton**

**9<sup>th</sup> International President**

**For 6 years**

**of Faithful and Dedicated Service**



**“Living a Legacy of Faith, Love, and Prayer”**

**Member of MWMW Fellowship Northern Virginia**



## **Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows of Petersburg and Vicinity**

To God be the Glory!!!!!!!!!!!!

Because of His mercies, we are not consumed. They are new each morning.  
(Lamentations 3:22-23)

We are so grateful for our "beloved" and "devoted" President, M. Alice Johnson, and we honor her for her strong and steadfast leadership. Our members/numbers are very few and they continue to dwindle BUT our President ALWAYS delivers above and beyond as she keeps us focused on Unity.

### **Membership Participation**

The James Solomon Russell Museum/Saint Paul's College Museum and Archives hosted a Community Prayer Breakfast on January 6, 2024. Gloria Wesson Menyweather-Woods, Museum Board Member, and a member of MWMW of Petersburg and Vicinity served as Convenor.

Our President, M. Alice Johnson, attended a Martin Luther King Celebration at the Petersburg Library on Sunday, January 14, 2024, donating canned goods as requested. Our President's husband, Dr. Clyde Johnson, was speaker for Martin Luther King Day at First Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA. Our President is also an active member of the Nursing Home Ministry.

MWMW of Petersburg and Vicinity donates to CARES (Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter) in Petersburg, VA.

MWMW member Sister Wendy Dudley has had some challenging health issues requiring her to be hospitalized several times. But God has been good and faithful to her, and she continues to serve our organization, her church and people. She is also an Advance Lifestyle Coach certified through CDC to teach people how to delay, prevent, and control diabetes.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!!!!

NINETY PLUS YEARS is the magic number for four of our Petersburg ladies who will celebrate birthdays in 2024. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!!!!!!!

Gloria Wesson Menyweather-Woods - Reporter

# RICHMOND MWMW FELLOWSHIP

Valerie Thomas, President



## Accomplishments and Acknowledgements

- A. Won the Queens Contest for years 2022 and 2023. The 2022 Queen was Dr. Sylvia Hathaway. The 2023 Queen was Dr. Dolores Whitaker.
- B. The local presents two \$1,000 scholarships and one \$500.00 scholarship to any student attending Virginia Union University.
- C. Awarded the IAMWMW 100% Member Participation Award in 2022 and 2023.
- D. Birthday Cards are sent each month to members and they are recognized at monthly meetings.
- E. Richmond Fellowship helps Ministers' Widows who are in financial need.
- F. The Local President, Mrs. Valerie Thomas, and Dr. Eleanor Morris visited five local Ministers' Widows aged ninety years and above. They were Mrs. Marian Garrard, Mrs. Mary Green (now deceased), Reverend Helen Edwards, Dr. Mary Gordon West, and Mrs. Beulah Blake. We also had the opportunity to visit with Dr. West on her ninety-first birthday.

We thank God and give Him the glory for enabling us to make the foregoing noteworthy accomplishments.





**Suffolk & Vicinity Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows**  
**Rev. Dr. Gloria Phillips Diggs, President**

To God be all The Glory for The Great Things He continues to do. We've had some "great" times, also some sad times; we've had some hills to climb; but when we think things over we realize God has truly been good to us.

Our chain was broken in November, Mother Margaret T. Colander went home to be with the Lord. "Ma" was 98 years young. She is truly missed. ❤️

Our local continues to move upward and forward. We served as a vendor at The Citywide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. This gave us the opportunity to display our organization and our mission to serve our community.

After three years We were able to return to an "in-person" gathering for our Annual Naomi P. Chambers Prayer Breakfast. What a success! Hallelujah! Glory to God! Every seat was taken, Dr. Anita Lewis delivered a dynamic message, and the physical food was delicious. Our theme was "Refresh-Renew-Rejoice in 2024.



During the prayer breakfast we presented The Carol B. Diggs Humanitarian Award to Deacon Percy Person who has done some great and outstanding community service. Job well done - Congratulations Deacon Person!!

This year we recognized the husband of our member Dr. Mary Warren, who is with us and assists in everything we do. Elder Dr. Robert Warren, Jr. was awarded the Gloria Phillips Diggs "Watchman on The Wall Award" He is there to help us load up cars and transports items as we carry out our ministries of services.



We were blessed to be able to present two \$1,000.00 scholarships to young ladies furthering their education. The recipients of our Addie M. Word Scholarships were Aaliyah Evans, who is now attending VA State University and Alexis Drayton, attending Old Dominion University.

We Continue to give God Honor, Praise and Glory for all He has done and we Worship Him for His sovereignty. God is able to do far more than we can ask or think and He deserves all Glory for all things at all times.

Humbly submitted,

Gloria Phillips Diggs



# Wayland Blue Ridge Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Inc., President Mary Tinsley



Officials, Faith-Based and Community Organizations,  
Spotsylvania County, VA  
Salute Heroes:  
Rev. Dr. Charles W. Wormley, Sr.,  
Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Wormley  
Over 50 Years of Community Service

On September 30, 2023, a celebration was held for Rev. Drs. Charles and Patricia Wormley to honor over 50 years of community service. The event was attended by several organizations, including the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors, Spotsylvania School Board, Spotsylvania Sheriff's Department, U.S. Senator

Mark Warner, Spotsylvania Branch NAACP, City of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Sunday School Union, Mattaponi Baptist Association, and the Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Inc. The Ministers' Wives Organization was represented by locals from Charlottesville, District of Columbia, Fredericksburg, Martinsville, Northern Virginia, and Richmond, as well as by State President, Dr. Ellen Jamerson; NE Region VP, Mrs. Andrea Logan; and International President, Dr. Margaret Brown Payton. Among the gifts presented were citations, congratulatory statements, plaques, and flowers.





# Wayland Blue Ridge Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Inc., President Mary Tinsley



Presentation of a \$1,000 Scholarship Award Memory of Reverend Douglas T. Pinkar husband of Sister Doris Pinkard.

At the State Convention, Dr. Eleanor Morris and the Widow's Committee expressed their appreciation to the widows.



28<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary  
Pastor Charles and  
First Lady Patricia Wormley  
celebrated on Sunday,  
March 8, 2024, at 11:00 A.M.

Mount Zion Baptist Church,  
Fredericksburg, VA



# Wayland Blue Ridge Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Inc., President Mary Tinsley 2023 Service Projects



Wayland Blue Ridge Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows, Inc. prepare and present eleven stuffed bags of toiletries to the Choices Pregnancy Center in Fredericksburg, Virginia and had prayer for the staff before we departed.



Also presented two hundred and twenty-nine pairs of socks to Micah Ministries, who serve our homeless population in the city of Fredericksburg, Virginia, passed our salvation tracks to some of the homeless who were there when we went to deliver the socks, and prayed for the staff before we departed.



# Wayland Blue Ridge Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Inc., President Mary Tinsley



2023 Christmas and Summer Outings



Sister Conchita Shorts  
designed a logo for the  
Wayland Blue Ridge  
Ministers' Wives and  
Ministers' Widows, Inc.

President Mary Tinsley; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Vacant); Shirley Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President;  
Marvis Baker Pitts, Recording Secretary; Janice Kilby, Corresponding Secretary;  
Martha Johnson, Ways & Means; Doris Pinkard, Widows; Marilyn Belle, Hospitality;  
Conchita Shorts, Executive Board; Dr. Patricia Wormley, Budget; Alfreda Dean, Chaplain.  
New Members: Dedria White, Barbara Evans, and Stephanie Craddock.



# SPOTLIGHT

Highlighting the accomplishments of our sisters.

- **“Lady of Grace”**
- **IAMWMW Hall of Honor Inductees**
- **PK Poet**
- **VAMWMW at Founder’s Weekend**

## “Lady of Grace” Dr. Ellen Jamerson

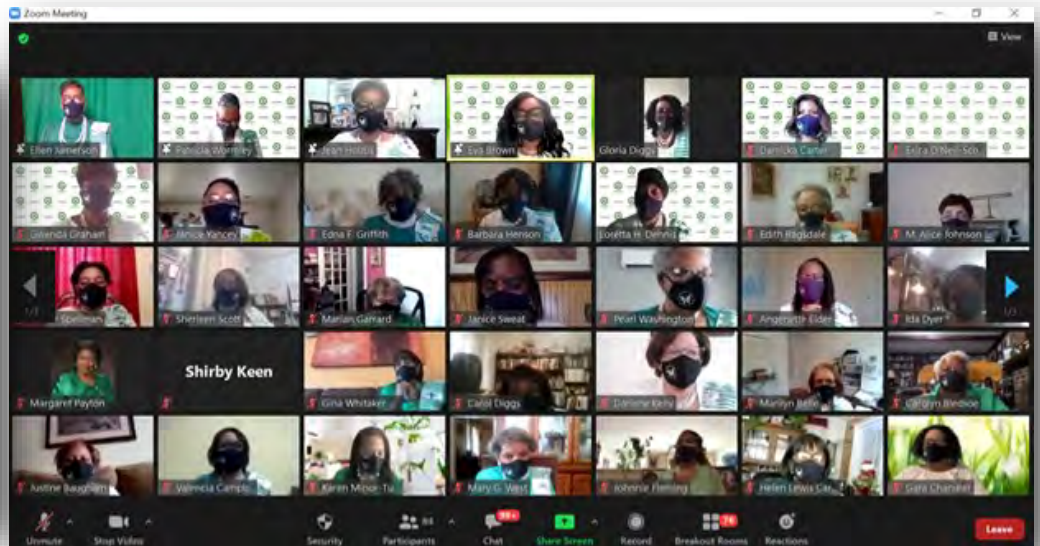


Dr. Ellen Jamerson took the reigns of the Virginia Association of Ministers Wives and Ministers' Widows in the height of a global pandemic. She prayed and asked God to lead and guide her as she would have to conduct business in an unusual and untraditional way. God quieted her spirit and the theme came forth, “Leading Ladies Gracefully Making a Difference: For Such a Time as This.”

The walk of grace was met with a few challenges, but with God's help, Sisterly encouragement and perseverance, God saw her through. Conventions, Retreats, and meetings were held virtually via ZOOM and Phone Conference. “Oh, Happy Day” sung by President Jamerson and the Vice Presidents and Go Pink were a few of highlights of that time. The method was different, but each task was completed with careful planning, professionalism and Godly excellence.

We salute you, Dr. Jamerson, for a job well done!

The Virginia Association Sisterhood





*Thank you, Dr. Ellen Jamerson,*

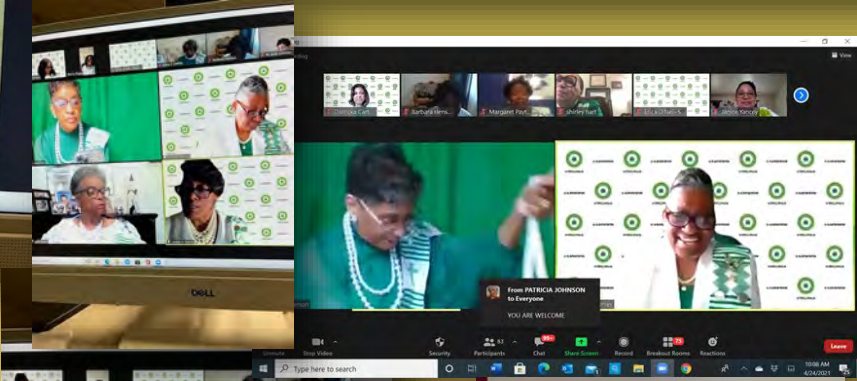
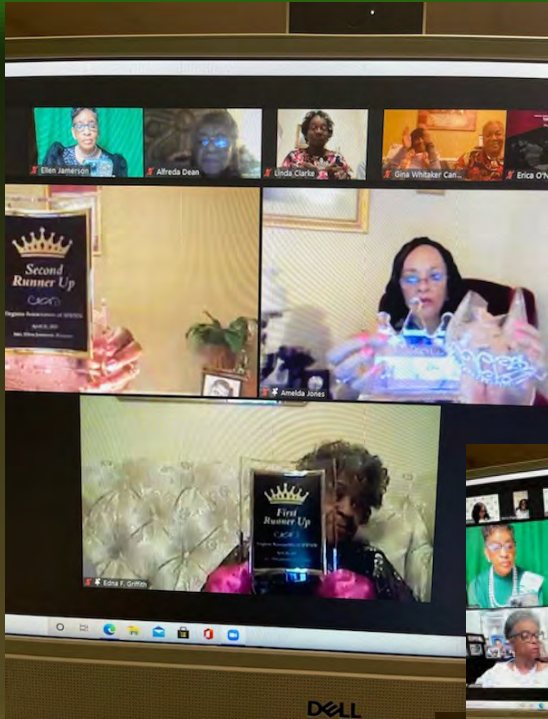
for four years of stellar leadership. It has been our honor, privilege, and pleasure to be a part of your tenure as President of the Virginia Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows (VAMWMW). Your presidency, defined by TEAMWORK, was always inclusive and allowed us to share in the decision-making process. You were diligent, committed, communicative, and you served the VAMWMW with honor, integrity and vision. We are grateful that you trusted and empowered us to fulfill our roles as members of your executive team. You are now able to exit the leadership of this august body of sisters with pride and a feeling of accomplishment. CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!



## **VAMWMW VICE PRESIDENTS**

Reverend Dr. Patricia A. Wormley, First Vice President  
Elder, Dr. Lynette Galloway Branch, Second Vice President  
Reverend Dr. Natalie J. White, Third Vice President





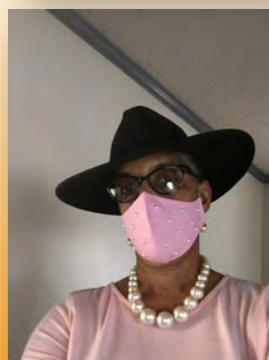
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MINISTERS' WIVES AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS, INC.  
**Annual Conference 2021**  
**Praying, Praising**  
**Persevering**  
*In Such A Time As This*  
**April 25**  
**5 - 8 PM**  
*Open to the Public*  
**Awards**  
**Queen Procession**  
**April 24**  
**9 - 12 PM**  
*State Registrants Only*  
**The President Speaks**  
**Business**  
**Education**  
*Miss Ellen Jamerson*  
 Virginia State President  
 State Registration Required  
[www.vamwmw.org/praise](http://www.vamwmw.org/praise)



















## *Hall of Honor*

### *Lady Hattie C. Blackmon*

First Lady Hattie C. Blackmon is a native of Vanceboro, North Carolina and was educated in the Craven County public school systems located in Eastern North Carolina. She earned an associate degree from Lenoir County Community College, Kinston, NC and worked for the U.S. Government for 35<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years, beginning as a clerical assistant, eventually becoming an Executive Secretary, and after much training and development courses, transitioned to a Budget Analyst position until retirement.

First Lady Blackmon is a Prayer Intercessor and keeps her husband, family, and church lifted up in prayer daily. She believes all things are made possible through prayer because the power of effectual prayer and faith moves God.

In 1986, First Lady Blackmon was given "divine direction" to start a prayer organization. Excited about this and being a woman of prayer and great faith, this vision became a reality when she stretched forth her hands of faith and introduced this vision to the other women in the congregation. Thus, "Women-in-Prayer" was organized. All agreed that prayer is necessary; therefore, the third Saturday of every month was designated as "Women-In-Prayer." Even today, the women continue to intercede in prayer for the Pastor, the Church, the World, the Nation, the State, and the Community.

First Lady Blackmon is the wife of Pastor John E. Blackmon, Sr., and First Lady of First New Birth Baptist Church in Manassas, VA. First Lady Blackmon is an epitome of a servant of Christ as she serves her church and community as one with a caring and compassion heart. She is a member of the Deaconess Board at First New Birth Baptist Church. Also, she oversees the Women's Ministry which is comprised of the Annual Prayer Breakfast, Women's Day Program, Women's Conference and Women Retreat. She also assists in feeding the homeless. One of First Lady Blackmon quotes is "You got to stay one step ahead of the devil!" Prayer is her lifeline, and she strongly believes prayer should precede everything you do.

She is the past President and past Financial Secretary of the Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows Fellowship of Northern Virginia & Vicinity. She is an active member of the Virginia Association of Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows, and served as a Worship Chairperson, and is currently the Correspondence Secretary. She is an active member of The International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Inc. and serves as chair of the ushers. In addition, she serves as her husband's helpmate (50 years of marriage) and is the mother of three daughters: Reverend Dr. Catina Blackmon Jackson; Reverend Charita B. Eley; Christie J. Blackmon, and one son, John E. Blackmon, Jr. She has five grandchildren, Tiana, Jasmine and Chloe Jackson: Nyemah King, and George Kevin Eley,





*Hall of Honor*  
*Dr. Loretta H. Dennis*

Dr. Loretta H. Dennis was born in Richmond, Virginia. She is the youngest daughter of the late Raymond E. Hewlett, Sr., and the late Charlotte W. Hewlett. She is the widow of the late Rev. Dr. Kenneth Eugene Dennis, Sr. From this union they have two sons, Kenneth Eugene Dennis, Jr., and Kendall Edwin Dennis, two grandsons, Zaylen RaeJon Abrams-Dennis, and Mason Carter Abrams-Dennis, one granddaughter, Kennadi Zyien Abrams-Dennis. Dr. Loretta is an active member of Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, where her husband served as Senior Pastor for 33 years. At GMMBC, she is the chair of the Trustee Ministry, a member of the Constitution Committee, a member of the Beautification Ministry, a member of the Media Ministry, and a member of the Finance Committee. She is currently the Reimbursement Manager at Richmond Behavioral Health Authority where she has been employed for the past 37 years.

Dr. Loretta has dedicated over 20 years of service to the Metropolitan Youth Football League, a civic organization organized for training and developing, both mentally and physically, today's youth through organized football and cheerleading. She was the first female to hold the position of Commissioner of Football for two years and later advanced into the role of Commissioner of Cheerleaders until her retirement in 2018.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Morgan State University in 1979. In May 2021, she completed a two-year program at Faith Landmarks Bible Institute, under the directorship of Dr. Randy Gilbert. On June 13, 2021, she received her certificate of Ordination, having proved a Divine gift and calling to the Ministry of the Gospel of Christ from Faith Landmarks Ministries. In October 2021 was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Eastern Theological Seminary.

Dr. Loretta has served on all four levels of the IAMWMMW, Inc. organization. Her service accomplishments are as Financial Secretary and Treasurer for her local organization, Richmond Fellowship MWMW; Financial Secretary and Budget Chair for the state, Virginia Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows; and Financial Secretary for the Northeast Region. On the International level, she has served as appointed Headquarters Committee Chair, Assistant Financial Secretary and currently is the Financial Secretary. Dr. Loretta's favorite scripture is Isaiah 40:31.

She enjoys watching the Lifetime Movie channel and loves sports. Her favorite football team is the "Pittsburgh Steelers and her favorite basketball team is the "Los Angeles Lakers."

*Hall of Honor*

*Elder Dr. Lynette Galloway Branch*



Lynette Galloway Branch is an ordained Elder and serves as Executive Pastor with her husband, Bishop Larry Levi Branch, at the Love Center of Unity Full Gospel Church, International in Richmond, Virginia. She has been married to Bishop Branch for 49 years and they have three sons, Saeed, Omari, and Armon; three grandsons, Alexander Levi, Zyriee and Malcolm and one granddaughter, Alyssa.

Elder Branch is a retired clinician and nursing educator. She graduated from Norfolk State University with an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing. She later graduated, with honors, with a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science Degree in Nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been a registered nurse for 50 years and worked as a family

nurse practitioner for 36 years. She is also a graduate of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University where she received a Master of Divinity Degree. She received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Eastern Theological University and was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Elder Branch is a member of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows of Richmond and Vicinity where she has served in numerous positions including recording and financial secretary and has chaired multiple committees. She is the second vice president of the Virginia Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows and serves as the Administrative Assistant to the 9<sup>th</sup> International President of the International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Incorporated, Dr. Margaret Brown Payton. Elder Branch taught Praise and Worship in the Music Department of the IAMWMW for six years and sang in the IAMWMW Choir during that time. She is Director of Health for the State of Virginia Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship.

Elder Branch has a special interest and love for ministries that serve women, the elderly and adolescent females. Along with pastoral duties she established the women's ministry and served on the praise team ministry at her church. She has developed a passion for prayer and has witnessed the deliverance that effectual, fervent prayer will bring. She is a patron of two local schools in Richmond, Virginia; one of which is a school specifically adopted by her and her husband where she reads to students each month. She uses her skills as a trained clinician and educator to serve the people of God both inside and outside of the church walls while she fulfills God's call on her life.



# Congratulations

Dr. Ellen Jamerson  
on Four Years of Committed Service as our President  
and the Sisterhood of Virginia

*And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand  
him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.  
Ecclesiastes 4:12*



Dr. Cheryl R. Evans

**CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT**

International Association of Ministers'  
Wives and Ministers' Widows, Inc.

*"Revolutionizing, Revitalizing, and Reaffirming Our Cords of  
Sisterhood Through Faith, Love, and Prayer"*

## JOIN ME IN BEING GOD'S CORD

- Making our HQ a historical site
- Implement digital financing across our organization
- Use Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an interactive tool during conferences
- Help build Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Strategize our yearly data to tackle our low membership
- Develop/Implement an electronic annual assessment of IAMWMW
- Expose our PKs to STEM programs



Scan for more  
information

[HTTPS://CANDIDATE4PREZ.SQUARESPACE.COM](https://candidate4prez.squarespace.com)



Greetings President Jamerson and My Dear Sisters of the VAMWMW Inc.,


As you may well know by now, I am a candidate for the office of the Vice President At-Large in this year's 2024 election, to be held in Houston, TX. I am excited for Virginia and myself! This is the home state that our beloved founder Dr. Elizabeth Coles Bouey resided in. I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing and working with so many of you over the last 23 years of my time in this august body.

I hope you'll consider supporting my candidacy for the Vice President At-Large position in the IAMWMW, Inc. Your vote in the 2024 election in Houston, Texas, would be greatly appreciated.

My campaign platform is outlined below:

- Assist the incoming International President with her vision and platform.
- Continued growth and focus on our "Organizational Pillars" that have sustained us to include: (Our Founder & Presidents, Emblem, Constitution and By-laws, Convention and Conferences, Charity, Real Estate, Education Dept., Leadership Academy, Husbands, and Technology).
- Advocate to amend our constitution to allow all paying members the opportunity to vote in the IAMWMW Presidential Elections via electronic means, mail-in or absentee ballot.
- Strategic planning to increase financial solvency of the organization, while maintaining 501C3 status.
- Enhancing PK division of the Education Department to promote family and PK and Grand PK attendance.
- Continued technological innovation to streamline as well as enhance processes and communications.
- Promoting recruitment and retention!
- Promoting Faith, love, and prayer!

I invite you to visit my website online at [www.gettoknowlisa.com](http://www.gettoknowlisa.com). It will give you information about my campaign platform as well as more information about me. I will be updating it periodically as we head into the June stretch of campaigning. You may access it as often as you choose. Unless the LORD says otherwise, I will see those who are attending in Houston, TX!

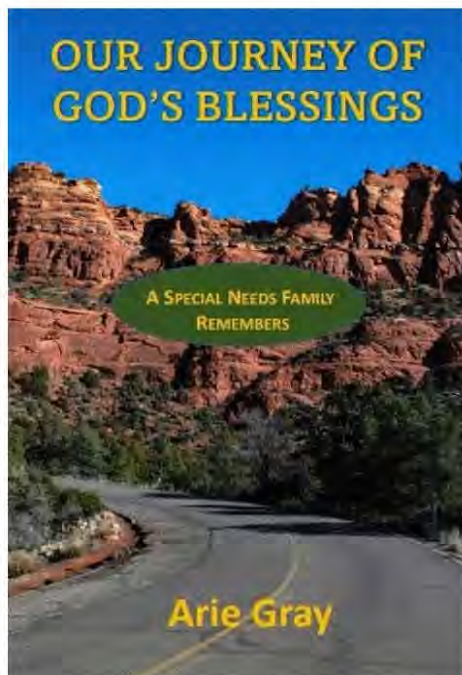
In Faith, Love and Prayer 



## Our Journey Of God's Blessings: A Special Needs Family Remembers



Our Sister, Arie Gray, has written a book entitled **Our Journey Of God's Blessings: A Special Needs Family Remembers**. It begins with these words: *"Remember when we were children, how we used to tease our classmates? Some of the things we said were funny, but some were rather crude. We may remember kids insulting other kids, joking about them riding the "little yellow school bus." Little did we know what the future would bring and that some of us that laughed at these insults would someday see our own children riding a "little yellow school bus."*



In **Our Journey of God's Blessings**, Arie takes you into the challenges and God's blessings of a family with special needs children. It contains tragedy, despair, miracles and joy. But most of all, it reveals the supernatural power of God, the blessings He has provided, and His love for us as we all journey through our lives! This book will encourage you and strengthen your faith! As one reader stated in their review, "my spirit was down before I read this book. My spirit has gone up measurably since. I never feel alone now".

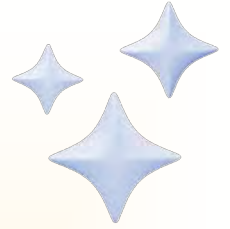
Arie is member of the Northern Va. Ministers' Wives & Widows (NOVAMWMW), where she heads the Widow's Ministry Committee. She is a member of the VAMWMW Widow's Committee, and the IAMWMW. In 2015, she and her family provided the music for the VAMWMW's convention in Williamsburg, Va. Arie is the daughter in-law of the late Pauline V. Gray, who

served as president of the VAMWMW for two consecutive terms and the niece of Dr. Eleanor Morris. Arie and her husband, Pastor Charles Gray, are the proud parents of Geoffrey Spriggs and twin daughters, Jasmine and Jessica. Arie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Hampton University and a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Maryland. In addition to being a choir director, she has been a keyboardist, singer, gospel recording artist, and composer for decades.

The book is available via Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

## “BE STILL”

By Fekcia Y. Scott  
Daughter of Reverend Dr. Sherleen B. Scott



Searching for a sign that you are still here,  
For it is your presence I seek.  
Seeking a place to find peace of mind.  
Searching for myself, I have not seen me in a while.  
Feeling lost and losing sleep,  
As I watch the world crumble at my feet.  
Yet I still find myself alone,  
With no one to talk to and nowhere to go.  
Alone by myself, trying not to give up,  
Searching for someone I can just touch.  
I am stirring around in the wrong mix,  
By searching for a worldly fix.  
Still trying to handle everyday life,  
While struggling with insecurities deep inside.  
You have allowed the enemy to get in  
And he surely does not want you to win.  
Those memories buried inside your mind,  
Are things that have bothered you years at a time.  
A broken spirit, and a crushed heart are reminders of pain,  
And constantly speaking negative about your name.  
Like a mural on the wall, you begin to fade away,  
Into the chaos and confusion, of that day.  
Alone in your tears surrounded by pain,  
Crying because you cannot take it again.  
You cannot handle this, I heard the enemy say,  
All because I am standing in your way.  
The more I whispered in your ear,  
You stood and shuttered in fear.  
That is why I am getting in your head.  
Because you think I want you dead.  
Unequipped to fight that is your will,  
But God is telling you be still.  
I will give you the wisdom to endure,  
And for this remember my promises are sure.  
The will is stand and not fight,  
But to do those things that are right.  
Your victory has already been won,  
If you keep your eyes on the son.  
Say yes and obey His will,  
And do what the Master said, “Be Still.”





International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Inc.

# Founder's Weekend Celebration



*Dr. Margaret Brown Payton*  
International President



*Dr. Elizabeth Coles Bouey*  
Founder and First President

*"Living a Legacy of Faith, Love, and Prayer"*



## FRIDAY

December 1st

"A Day at the Museum"  
The National Museum of African American History and Culture

Memorial Service – Remembering Our Founder and Past Presidents



## SATURDAY

December 2nd

Annual Founder's Day Luncheon \*\*\*

Hall of Honor Inductees  
Bouey Awardee  
Beloved Sister Awardee



## ANGEL TREE

Ministry of Service

Give a gift and share the Gospel to children of an incarcerated parent.

Be an angel. \$20.00

## Omni Shoreham Hotel

2500 Calvert Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

(202) 234-0700  
1-800-843-6664

Group Code: IAMWMW

Group Rate: \$159

Room block is available from  
Wednesday, Nov. 29th – Sunday, Dec. 3rd



\*\*\* Annual Founder's Day Luncheon  
\$60.00

Tickets must be reserved by  
November 17th

Go to [www.iamwmw.org](http://www.iamwmw.org)  
for Luncheon Ticket information  
and Form

# December 1 - 2, 2023







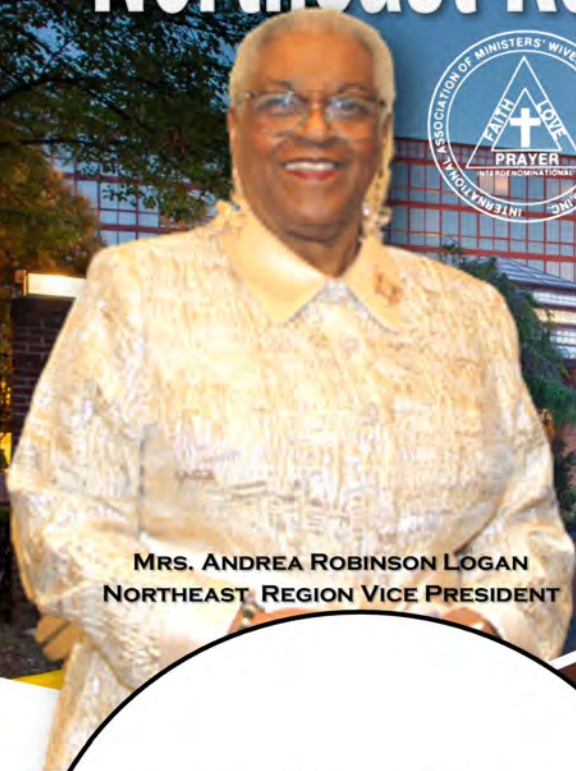




INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINISTERS' WIVES AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS, INC.  
DR. MARGARET BROWN PAYTON, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

# Northeast Regional Conference

## March 22-23, 2024



MRS. ANDREA ROBINSON LOGAN  
NORTHEAST REGION VICE PRESIDENT



LACUARDIA PLAZA HOTEL

**LaGuardia Plaza Hotel**

**104-04 Ditmars Blvd.**

**East Elmhurst, NY 11369**

**(718) 457-6300**

**Room  
Rate**

**\$179.00**

**Hotel  
Parking  
\$15.00**

**Free  
Shuttle  
from the  
Airport**



**Hosted by the**

**New York State Association**

**of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widow, Inc.**

**Min. Delorise Finerson**

**New York State President**

**For more information go to [www.neriamwmw.org](http://www.neriamwmw.org)**













## Seasoned with Love

### **Fruit Salad**

2 boxes French vanilla instant pudding pie & filling mix (dry)

1 large (16-oz) sour cream

1 large Cool Whip

1 small Cool Whip

2 large cans fruit cocktail

2 small cans diced pineapple

1 large can peaches, chopped up

1 small can peaches, chopped up

2 small can mandarin oranges

1 bag miniature marshmallows

Drain fruit, save juice. Mix dry pudding mix and sour cream, slowly add some juice until mixture is like pudding, very smooth and no lumps. Add Cool Whip and mix until very fluffy. Add drained fruit last. Refrigerate. This make a big bowl and is delicious!

---

### **Spinach Dip**

Ingredients:

2 (8-oz) packages Philadelphia cream cheese

1 Tablespoon sour cream, room temp

1 package Knorr Vegetable Soup Mix (dry)

2 (10-oz) package frozen spinach, thawed and drained

Preparation:

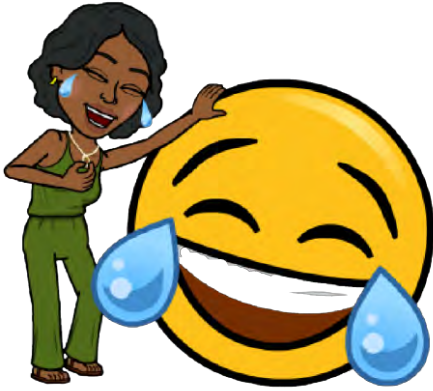
Squeeze spinach until dry.

In a medium bowl, stir all ingredient in the order listed. Cover and refrigerate at least for 2 hours.

Stir before serving.

Delicious with crackers, pumpernickel bread, or chopped vegetables.





## TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine:  
but a broken spirit drieth the bones. Proverbs 17:22

What happened when a faucet, a  
tomato, and some lettuce ran a  
race together?

The lettuce was ahead, the faucet  
was running, and the tomato was  
trying to ketchup.

WHAT KIND OF CAR  
WOULD JESUS DRIVE?

A CHRISTLER

You heard the rumor going  
around about butter?  
Never mind, I shouldn't  
spread it.

What does a house wear?  
Address!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Women of the Bible

## Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
**ALL CAP NAMES**  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.

G	R	Y	T	R	A	P	H	A	R	R	R	D	N	B	N	Q	I	M
Y	H	V	B	O	I	T	S	A	R	A	H	E	M	L	R	K	Z	G
Y	R	A	M	P	P	L	D	L	J	J	J	B	A	F	T	U	Y	H
S	O	D	K	D	H	E	D	E	M	I	J	O	L	Q	P	E	T	E
G	D	E	R	W	L	M	W	B	Z	H	R	R	V	G	E	D	S	H
I	T	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	C	A	W	U	B	T	A	N
H	S	V	L	H	A	V	K	Z	G	M	W	H	G	F	H	N	V	F
D	T	A	E	Y	T	H	Z	E	I	C	J	R	D	E	N	B	R	R
J	H	D	S	X	Y	N	A	J	G	O	M	I	R	A	Q	A	R	E
N	M	I	R	I	A	M	G	C	C	L	W	L	H	M	C	H	V	I
I	D	B	P	O	X	Q	P	H	C	A	Y	A	Z	H	U	E	P	L
M	A	R	Y	O	F	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y	E	Y	U	U	G	U
Z	X	E	H	E	H	B	R	M	H	R	Z	L	G	B	M	D	O	C
I	N	O	A	Q	E	A	K	E	B	M	U	U	R	A	H	A	B	T
E	I	S	E	D	V	F	K	I	M	A	R	T	H	A	I	Y	T	R
X	J	J	L	Z	U	X	P	E	M	F	D	I	I	Q	F	X	W	H
Q	B	V	F	J	X	L	I	F	B	K	Q	I	Z	G	B	Z	Y	Q
J	L	J	U	E	E	O	L	A	B	E	H	S	H	T	A	B	P	X
H	E	N	E	L	A	D	G	A	M	Y	R	A	M	S	K	O	Z	Q

**EVE:** First woman created by God

**SARAH:** Mother of the Jewish nation

**REBEKAH:** Wife of Isaac

**RACHEL:** Wife of Jacob and mother of Joseph

**LEAH:** Wife of Jacob through deceit

**JOCHEBED:** Mother of Moses

**MIRIAM:** Sister of Moses

**RAHAB:** Ancestor of Jesus

**DEBORAH:** Influential female judge

**DELILAH:** Influence on Samson

**RUTH:** Ancestor of Jesus

**HANNAH:** Mother of Samuel

**BATHSHEBA:** Mother of Solomon

**JEZEBEL:** Queen of Israel

**ESTHER:** Persian queen

**MARY:** Mother of Jesus

**ELIZABETH:** Mother of John the Baptist

**MARTHA:** Sister of Lazarus

**MARY OF BETHANY:** Follower of Jesus

**MARY MAGDALENE:** Disciple of Jesus





# A SCRIPTURE A DAY KEEPS THE DEVIL AWAY

## The Grace of God

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

### **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

### **Hebrews 4:15-16**

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### **John 1:16-17**

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

### **1 Corinthians 15:10**

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

### **Jonah 3:10**

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

### **Ezekiel 33:11**

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

### **Ezekiel 18:32**

For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

### **Jeremiah 26:3**

If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings.



# Praise Hymn

**'Pass Me Not'**

Author: Fanny Crosby

Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915) “set the standard for the ‘successful’ writing of gospel hymns,” according to *UM Hymnal* editor Carlton R. Young. She was the author of over 8,500 gospel songs.

Blind at six weeks of age, Crosby began composing texts at age 6. She began her study at age 12 at the New York School for the Blind, a school she later served as a teacher. A friend of several presidents, Crosby became one of the most important advocates for the cause of the blind in the United States, addressing a session of Congress on the topic.

Her texts were set to the compositions of some of the most prominent gospel composers of the day including William Bradbury, William Doane, Robert Lowry and Ira Sankey. Crosby composed under a number of pen names. She married blind musician Alexander Van Alstyne, and British hymnals insist on using her married name, Frances Van Alstyne.

“Pass me not” (1868) first appeared in *Songs of Devotion* for Christian Associations (1870), a collection compiled by William H. Doane (1832-1915). The late hymnologist William J. Reynolds discovered that the inspiration for this hymn was the result of a visit to a prison by the poet during spring 1868. He notes: “After she had spoken and some of her hymns had been sung, she heard one of the prisoners cry out in a pleading voice, ‘Good Lord, do not pass me by’; Following Doane’s suggestion, she wrote a hymn that evening incorporating the line, “Pass me not, O gentle Savior.”

The hymn gained international recognition when introduced by Dwight L. Moody and Ira D. Sankey during their London revivals. According to Dr. Young, “This is Crosby’s first hymn to win worldwide acclaim.”

The text would seem to have a biblical basis on the blind beggars’ plea to Christ: “And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David” (Matthew 20:29-31; See also Mark 10:46-52 and Luke 18: 35-43).

Putting herself in the place of the suffering and disregarded, Crosby understood that some had been so rejected that it took faith to realize that Christ is the one who would never pass anyone by. His actions in so many cases bore witness that he cared for those forgotten by others including women, Samaritans and lepers, to name a few, who were deemed to be outcasts in their day.



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