



ASSOCIATIONAL VOICE

March 2019 *Renewal and Restoration of the Church facing a Culture of Change* Volume XIX Issue 4

“Blessed be the name of the Lord”



Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. I am honored and blessed beyond measure to have the privilege to greet each of you on behalf of the greatest Association in the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, **Incorporated (First South Florida Missionary Baptist District Association).**

Let me start by saying **thank you** and **God bless you** to Pastor Clifton Dollison and the First Missionary Baptist Church of Winter Haven for an outstanding job of hosting our 130th Annual Session (Nov. 13-16, 2018). Your kindness and hospitality was phenomenal and allowed us to have an awesome time in the Lord. And please allow me to say thank you for not only the love that you displayed during the Moderator’s Hour, but that you always give to Sister Harper and me.

Next, I want to thank all of First South Florida for your representation and participation in the 105th Annual Session of our State Convention. If tradition holds true, our Association will have the most Churches enrolled out of all the sixteen Associations. However, we are most proud of the many Pastors of First South Florida who preached, facilitated workshops, as well as our Ministry Leaders and delegates who served and attended. A special appreciation goes to Pastor Marques Gundy, Brother Joseph Pierce, Minister DeShawn Henderson and the First South Florida Mass Choir for singing during the Educational Emphasis Program.

But now there’s no time for us to rest because we’re getting ready for our 52nd Annual Session of our Congress of Christian Education, scheduled for June 12-14, 2019 in Lakeland, Florida. We’re asking all of our Pastors, Congress Presidents, Ministry Leaders, and Constituents to secure your hotel and lodging arrangements as soon as possible. Please know that Congress Director Dr. Alex Harper, Assistant Director Rev. Avery McCree, and Youth Director Rev. Deldrick Leonard are diligently working to prepare a great Session of Teaching, Instructions, Learning, and Christian Education for us.

Finally, I look forward to our annual Oratorical Contest. Pastors and parents please help us encourage our youth to take advantage of this excellent training opportunity. Let us remember one another in our prayers and do all that we can to lift up the name of **Jesus!**

May “the Lord watch between me and thee, while we’re absent one from another.” God bless you and our **“Grande Ole Association.”**

Yours in Christ,

Rayford Harper

Associational Voice Article 2019 Deadline

Deadline	Newsletter available
June 8	June 22
September 14	September 28
December 14	December 28

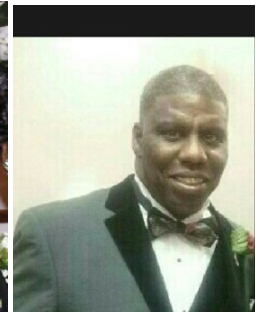
Please email your articles and other information by the deadline each quarter to smathis5704@gmail.com. Please continue to be a part of our newsletter with your exciting recaps, awesome fellowship opportunities, and pertinent information from you to our grand ole association.

In His Service,

Cynthia Downing

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Congress One

President
Rev. L. Wilson

Mar. 20-23, 2019

Session to convene with
Macedonia M. B.
Eatonville, FL

Rev. Willie Barnes,
Pastor

Congress Two

President
Rev. R. Murray

Mar. 20-23, 2019

Session to convene with Mt.
Pleasant M. B.
Church,
Orlando

Rev. Morrison,
Pastor

Congress Three

President
Rev. C. Dollison

Mar. 20-23, 2019

Session to convene with
Bethel Missionary
Baptist Church,
Plant City

Rev. E. L.
Wiseman, Pastor

Congress Four

President
Rev. C. Bell

Mar. 20-23, 2019

Session to convene with
Bethel M. B.
Church,
Brooksville, FL

Rev. Cecil
Hubbard, Pastor

Congress Five

President
Rev. A. Shepherd

Mar. 20-23, 2019

Session to convene with
Galilee M. B.
Church,
Ft. Meade, FL

Rev. Ronald
Williams, Pastor

Deaconess Council News Updates



It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most high. Psalm 92:1

Happy New Year to you! The Lord has granted us another year to serve him. We praise Him for his goodness and mercy that He has extended unto us. As we look back over the past year, we have many blessings to count. Therefore, we must praise God because every good and perfect gift comes from Him.

I want to say “thank you” to The First Missionary Baptist Church Family and their Deaconess members who showed us great hospitality during the Association. Your generous donation of blankets allowed us to bring joy to many of the nursing home patients. Thanks to the members of the Deaconess Council for your support throughout the years, and I am excited that we will continue to work together for the cause of Christ. There is still a great need for Christians to go and share the good news of our Risen Savior. The harvest is plentiful, and there is something for each of us to do.

Remember to pray without ceasing because we all stand in need of prayer. God hears and will answer prayer. Let us not forget those that served faithfully among us and may not be able to attend as they desire. Call and let them know that you appreciate their work and are praying for them.

Mount Moriah of Winter Park will host the Fifth Sunday Fellowship on March 31, 2019. Make plans to join our brothers and sisters from throughout the Association to lift up the name of Christ with one voice.

All roads will lead to Tampa on April 27, 2019. Congress #4 will host our Seasonal Fellowship Feast at the New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2511 E. Columbus Drive. All of you are invited to join us for a spiritual uplifting service and a delicious buffet. Please see the flyer for additional details.

The Congress of Christian Education will be held June 12-14. Mt. Calvary and First Baptist Institutional Church in Lakeland are the hosts. Our workshop facilitator is prepared to share the good news about Jesus Christ. Deaconess workshops are scheduled Wednesday and Thursday.

The Brotherhood will join us in hosting our annual Praise & Fellowship Workshop Retreat October 4-5. Plans are being finalized, and we will notify you of our location during the Congress of Christian Education. It is a good thing to praise God with one voice because there is strength in unity.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Gal. 6:9

Be Blessed,
Mary Priester



Senior Mission Newsletter Information – March 2019

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, CHRIST JESUS!

I trust each of you are prospering and in good health!To God be the Glory for all of the things he has done through you for this Ministry. We are honored to serve as your Servant for another Year and are looking to forward for Him to do a greater work within each of us! Amen, Amen, Amen

May 24-26, 2019. The Annual Session of the National Area Field Missionaries Conference of the Sr. Women Missionary Union of the National Baptist Convention of America International, Incorporated is scheduled, Florida is hosting the National Field Missionary Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Sister Cynthia Lester is Florida Area Chairperson. What a joy divine for Florida to be the official State to host this event at Host of this year’s Conference at the Historic Simmons College of Kentucky. We are blessed to be the Headquarters of the National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc.

In order to make this 26th Annual Session of the Field Missionaries Council the best ever, everyone in the State of Florida is asked to participate in our Souvenir Book Campaign. Each State Convention District Association, Church, Business and Person is asked to participate in this historical event. The costs are:

- FULL PAGE\$125.00
- HALF PAGE\$75.00
- QUARTER PAGE\$35.00
- BUSINESS CARD\$20.00
- PATRON\$10.00

Please email COPY READY ads to: **Cynthialester333@gmail.com**; By US DEADLINE FOR AD - - - Wednesday, April 10, 2019 (Post -- Cynthia Lester, 6005 N 39th St., Tampa, FL 33610) Checks should be made payable to: Progressive M&E Field Mission.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 7, 2019; Early Hotel check-in available for Thursday, May 23

Hyatt Regency Louisville 320 W. Jefferson St. Louisville, KY 40223 502.217.6089’ Room Rate, \$129.00/night; plus, 16.07%; Food and Beverage service fee - 24%, (If you are not traveling on a church/group bus) Airport taxi: \$20 one way.

June 12-14, 2019, District Congress of Christian Education, Mt. Calvary, The Reverend McCree and First Baptist Institutional Church, Lakeland, The Reverend Dr. Alex Harper are the host pastors. This session is well-planned with dynamic preaching, teaching and studying throughout the session.

First South Florida is blessed to have the President of the Senior Women Union of the National Convention of America International, Inc., Dr. Barbara F. Wright, in our midst. Dr. Wright is graciously serving as the facilitator of the Senior Women’s sessions during the Congress of Christian Education, Plan now to attend the Congress and especially the Senior Women’s sessions, scheduled Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, June 12 and 13th , from 1:00-3:00 PM. Let us be to be good stewards of the gift and blessing of our Lord and Savior. As He has given to this ministry blessings with the President of the National Baptist Convention of America, International in our session, Amen? Amen! Keep in mind that the personal enrollment for this session is \$20.00

“Do not become weary in well doing; for in due season we will reap if we faint not”



WOMEN'S INTERMEDIATE AUXILIARY

First South Florida Missionary Baptist District Association

Reverend Dr. Rayford Harper, Moderator

Reverend Dr. Harold Bennett, III, Advisor

Sister Cynthia Downing, Ministry Leader



Greetings to each of you in the Name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

God is great and greatly to be praised. I wanted to thank Congress 3, Sister Christine Brown, First Baptist, Winter Haven, and Sister Erica Leslie for a job well done in hosting our 130th Annual Session. We had inspiring time of study and praise & worship. I wanted to thank you for the hard work and love shown. Your generosity and kindness was on full display, as we visited Bridges of Florida to take supplies to female residences.

I would like to congratulate Sister Lafonya Stallworth on being honored with the Women's Intermediate Auxiliary leadership award at our Annual Unity Banquet on February 8, 2019. Sis. Stallworth is a hard working and dedicated sister to the sisterhood.

I would like to thank Sister Jerolie Strong, Congress 5 and St. Paul M. B. Church, and Sister Sharon Mathis for a awesome job hosting our 7th Annual Spring Fellowship on March 9, 2019. Sister Jacqueline Harper did an outstanding job as mistress of ceremony and St. Paul choir sang beautifully. Our guest speaker Rev. Konrad Mcree, Jr. shared a mighty word. We are grateful to everyone for making our fellowship a success.

I would like to congratulate Congress 3 and Sister Brown for a job well done, as the winners of the fund raising award and attendance award at our Spring Fellowship.

I am excited about what God is doing in this ministry. I look forward to what He has for us in the future.

In The Master's Service,
Cynthia Downing



"Save The Dates"

July 13, 2019 @ 4 pm and join FSF Women Intermediate Auxiliary as we celebrate 6th Annual Women in Blue . FSF WIA will also have a mission outing on Saturday, May 18 @ 12 – 4 pm as we visit Ronald McDonald House as "Baking Buddies". District Congress June 12 & 13, 2019 Guest Facilitator – Rev. Timothy Chaneyfield, New Mount Zion Haines City, FL. July 19 & 20, 2019 Queen Weekend Fund Raiser. Seats still available for the bus trip to 20th Annual WIA Conference on April 5, 2019. Please contact Sister Cynthia Downing.



JWA - Junior Women's Auxiliary



To God be the Glory for the things he has done.

Giving Honor to God who is the Head of my life. First South Florida Jr. Women are planning to have another successful year. We started off at the One Day Praise Session held in Plant City, as well as being in attendance at FSFDA Annual Unity Banquet. CONGRATULATIONS to the 2019 recipient of FSFDA YWA/Jr. Women Auxillary Most Dedicated Member Trinika Lewis, Treasurer from Congress #4 and a member of New. Mt. Zion, Rev. Roundtree, Pastor.

I would like to encourage FSFDA women from ages 18-40 to partake in the Progressive M&E State Convention, held at Double Tree by Hilton at Universal Studios 5780 Major Blvd, in Orlando Fl on March 18th -22nd 2019.

Our first event will be held on May 18th, 2019 Hosted by Congress #1. Please be on the look out for more information on this upcoming event.

As we continue this journey for Christ, He has truly been blessing, teaching, and sustaining our ministry. The blessings of the Lord have provided growth, fellowship, and a closer sisterhood in this ministry. My commitment to the ministry continues to build on the bond that grows therein.

Thank you all again for your support and prayers for this ministry as we continue to grow and continued prayers for the entire First South Florida District Association.

Humbly Submitted,

Lakina Bass-Butler,

Ministry Leader

District Brotherhood Ministry

Deacon Keith Haygood, Ministry Leader

Rev. Dr. Rayford Harper, Moderator



FIRST SOUTH FLORIDA MISSIONARY BAPTIST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION BROTHERHOOD MINISTRY – PRESENTS 8 TH ANNIVERSARY & MEMORIAL SERVICE The FSFMBDA Brotherhood Ministry held its 8th Anniversary/Memorial Service at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Rollie Murray, Senior Pastor.

This year's theme was "Remembering Our Faithful Brothers Who've Gone to a Better Country" Hebrews 11:12-16.

Brother Keith Haygood, Brotherhood President was the presider of this spirited filled program. The spirit was high beginning with the devotion which was led by the Brothers of Congress #2, follow with a spirited fill welcome by Brother Frank Spaulding, the memorial service and culminating the evening was a dynamic sermon by the Reverend Rollie Murray.

Our President Brother Haygood expounded on the purpose of our theme. Here are some of the highlights.

"I pray and hope all of us are looking forward to going to a better place, for this place is not our home. God's word talks about A Sabbath-Rest, since the promise of entering his rest still stands. Let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us. Just as they did. For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rest from their works, just as God did from his.

The most highlighted area of the evening was displayed by the Memorial Service led by Brother Birke Bryant and Brother Paul Shelton from Mount Moriah M.B. Church, Winter Park, FL. As the names were called and the bell toad Nearly 30 church members from various churches were given tribute.

Reverend Rollie Murray, Pastor, Bethel M.B. Church, Orlando Florida was the keynote speaker. And did he speak very graciously from Psalms 32:1-2. He spoke on three topics: 1. A Blessed Man 2. The reason for a Blessed Man and 3. The Revelation of a Blessed Man. A very timely message and was well received by the many people in the congregation.

This year's program continued a high note when Brother Keith Haygood presented a Distinguished Service Award to Brother Birke Bryant, for his Outstanding Contribution, Dedication, and Faithful Service. Brother Bryant received a standing ovation from everyone, especially, those from his home church. A REWARD WELL DESERVED.

The program ended with Brother Haygood giving thanks to Rev. Rollie Murray and Congress #2 and the Bethel MBC Family for hosting this great event. We ask God's continue blessings upon you and our blessings on all of you who made up this congregation.

Keep the faith and "NEVER LET YOUR BEST BE YOUR BEST"

**FIRST SOUTH FLORIDA MISSIONARY
BAPTIST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
USHER MINISTRIES**



The Reverend Dr. Rayford Harper, Moderator
The Reverend Dr. Ronald I. Williams, Ministry Advisor
Sister Georgia R. Smith, President

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: The Ushers Ministry has had a blessed time so far in this new year. We were blessed in our One Day Session and the Annual Awards banquet. This year, just like others promises to busy as well as fruitful for the Ushers Ministry as well as the entire Association. This Ushers Ministry continues to be committed to serving God and His people at every Associational session and/or worship service.

Our prayer is that each of you will join us the fourth Sunday, April 28, 2019 at Mt. Moriah M. B. Church Plant City @ 4 pm. as we come together in fellowship with the Health Awareness Team (HAT). We are still working out the details but we have faith that it is going to be a blessed time in the Lord.

May the Lord Continue to Bless each of You!

Georgia R. Smith Georgia R. Smith,

President



**FIRST SOUTH FLORIDA MISSIONARY BAPTIST
DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
HEALTH AWARENESS MINISTRY**

Greetings,

**AMERICAN DIABETES
ASSOCIATION ALERT DAY**

National American Diabetes Association Alert Day is observed annually on the fourth Tuesday in March. This day is a one-day “wake-up call” to inform the American public about the seriousness of diabetes and encourages all to take the diabetes risk test and learn about your family’s history of diabetes.

For more information:

[Diabetes Alert Day](#)

May we encourage you to discover if you or loved ones are at risk for type 2 diabetes.

Consider taking this fast and easy [Diabetes Risk Test](#).

HOW TO OBSERVE

Use #AmericanDiabetesAssociationAlertDay to post on social media to share the news about the opportunities all have to check and manage their health risks.

HISTORY

The American Diabetes Association created Alert Day as part of its awareness programs in 1986. It has been a part of their growing diabetes education and prevention efforts in the United States ever since.

There are over 1,500 national days. Don’t miss a single one. Celebrate Every Day® with [National Day Calendar®](#)!

Servant of God,
Wilma Garvin, President HAT

Hospitality Ministry
"Servants of the Most High God"
2019 3rd Annual Unity Banquet
Ministry Leader: Sister Gloria Terry



Hospitality As It Relates to Being a Christian

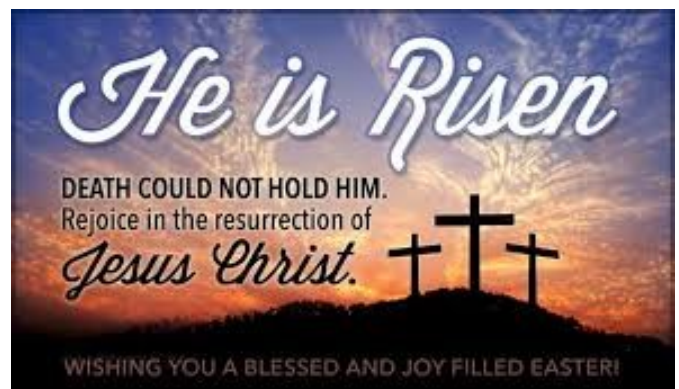
If one stops to think about it, hospitality is synonymous with one's 'heart for God.' In some instances, hospitality may come in the form of a warm welcome for family we have not seen for months or years. We prepare a lovely table setting, with our best china, stemware, silverware, napkins, tablecloth and add a vase of colorful flowers to the table ~ to express our joy at their arrival. In many ways, it reflects the stories of the women in the Bible who prepared food and lodging for family, friends and strangers who traveled many miles from their homes. These women killed, skinned and prepared the animal for consumption: theirs was not an easy task. Today, our task is easier but the message is the same: *Welcome!*

In other ways hospitality speaks to what Jesus has taught us: The first and most poignant one I am thinking of is: "You shall love the Lord, thy God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind"...this is the first and greatest commandment. ***Deuteronomy 6: 5 and Matthew 22: 37. And the second is similar: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Leviticus 19: 18 and Matthew 22: 39.***



Moderator Harper is asking that every church and pastor support our 5th Sunday Fellowship Service. The service will be 4pm, Sunday, March 31st at Mt. Moriah M. B. Church, Winter Park, Rev. Weaver Blondin, pastor. Guest Speaker Rev. Willie C. Barnes.

We are asking each church for a financial gift of \$200.00 (\$100 for church and \$100 for pastor). If by chance you cannot be in attendance at this fellowship service, we are asking that you will send a financial gift of \$200.00 or whatever you can afford to FSFMBDA P. O. Box 4878 Tampa, FL 33607.



First South Florida Missionary Baptist District Association



Rev. Dr. Rayford Harper, Moderator
52nd Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education
Wednesday, June 12 – Friday, June 14, 2019



Rev. Dr. Alex Harper, Sr., Director & Co-Host Pastor
First Baptist Inst. Church
932 MLK, Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815



Rev. Avery McCree, Asst. Director & Host Pastor
Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
1452 Amos Ave., Lakeland, FL 33805

There is a discount for those that enroll early. The discount enrollment fee is \$275.00 and the deadline for early enrollment is May 17, 2019. Make check payable to First South Florida M.B. District Association. Mailing address is First South FL M.B. District Association, P. O. Box 4878, Tampa, FL 33607.

LAQUINTA INNS & SUITES
1024 LAKELAND PARK CENTER DRIVE
LAKELAND, FLORIDA
PROUDLY WELCOMES FSFMBDA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 – THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019



PLEASE CALL TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY MAY 12, 2019
(863) 859-2866
SPECIAL GROUP RATE \$72.00

First South Florida MBDA Youth & Children's Auxiliary



Greetings and Salutations

I pray that all is well with each of you. Assistant Director Aaron Pickle and I are excited about our upcoming 52nd Annual Session of the Congress of Christian Education Auxiliary to the First South Florida Missionary Baptist District Association, The Reverend Dr. Rayford Harper, Moderator, The Reverend Dr. Alex Harper, Sr., Director, The Reverend D. Arthur Leonard, Youth Director and Brother Aaron Pickle, Assistant Youth Director on June 12-14, 2019. We are being hosted by Rev. Dr. Alex Harper and the First Baptist Institutional Church as well as Pastor Avery McCree, Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church both in Lakeland, FL

This year, Congress Youth Directors, youth workers, youth from the district, Assistant Director Pickle and I have met and planned a very interactive and invigorating session for all who will attend. In a separate email, you will find this year Registration forms, competitive activity forms and t-shirt order forms. I am asking that each church register **EARLY**, you **DO NOT** have to send in payment, we will handle your payment upon your arrival to pick up your church's registration packets. Also, this year, we will continue our Competitive Bible Activities, please note that **each church MUST REGISTER EARLY** in order to compete. An explanation of each of the activities can be found in the packet as well. Also, if your youth is interested in being a Youth Officers this year, the application is included in this packet as well. The due date for Youth Officer Application will be **May 26**, please email all applications to Assistant Director Pickle at aaron.pickle@scouting.org.

Moreover, we are in need of pencils, crayons, paper, a paper cutter, hole punch, white boards, white board markers, printing paper, construction paper, pens, clipboards, paper clips, glue, Kleenex, masking tape, pencil sharpener, safety scissors, folders, tablets, hand sanitizer, staplers, staples, lace, buttons, religions coloring books for Beginner and Primary students, plus other arts/craft supplies. This list is not a "catch" all, but those items that we know will be needed.

In closing, I extend prayers to our God who can do any and everything! I pray for a successful and productive session this year. I am hopeful that you will be able to glean from words given by our chosen speakers and teachers. Furthermore, I encourage each of you to expand your efforts and use the knowledge gained as an aid in becoming strong disciples and Christian leaders in the many years to come. May the love of our Lord and Savior be with you always!

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Arthur Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. D. Arthur Leonard
Youth Director