

Fayetteville District Monthly Newsletter

Keeping You Informed and Inspired

Welcome to This Month's Edition May 2026

We are thrilled to bring you this month's newsletter, packed with updates, insights, and inspiration to help you stay informed and connected. Whether you're here to catch up on the latest trends, uncover valuable tips, or simply enjoy a moment of reflection, we've got something special for everyone.

From the Presiding Elder:

Greetings:

Hope all of you are doing well as we remain in the spirit of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus the Christ. Remember He overcame so that we can overcome whatever obstacles that may come our way, however, let Jesus fight our battles and the victory will be ours.

The month of April had many events. Many thanks to all of you for your support. The Fayetteville District Choir provided music for the Maundy Thursday and Sunrise services. They did an excellent job. Keep it going and hopefully more of you will join the District Choir.

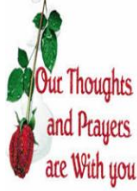
Reverend Michael McMillan was appointed Pastor of Snow Hill Church. Congratulations Reverend McMillan and we are praying for you in this new area of ministry you have entered.

The month of May is not as full as April I ask as you supported events in April, please do so in May.

To all Mothers, Happy Mother's Day!! Take a moment to say thank you Mom whether she is here or with the Lord.

Peace!!

JCBsr/ spb



SICK AND SHUT-IN

Mrs. Mary Wells.

Bereavement

Highlights of the Month of May

2nd Regional Christian Education Meeting cancelled.

2nd 9:00am District Lay Council at Evans Metropolitan church. If you are not a preacher, you are a layman so please plan to attend. If you are a preacher, please come and support our laity. **Please stick around and support two other happenings:**

10:00am -2:00pm District Farmer’s Market with several vendors on hand and candidates for political office will be around to shake a few hands. **Stick around:**

The Minister’s Spouses will be selling desserts. You need desserts for Sunday dinner. Please support our spouses. Get on the phone and start calling people asking them to come to Evans Saturday. Lot going on!!

10th Mother’s Day

21st 7:00pm Lay Council Hour of Prayer by Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0074 1362
Passcode: faylay call -in 1-929-202-6099 ID: 836 0074 1362 Passcode: 814583

25th Memorial Day Take a moment to remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice for the Freedom we enjoy.

26th Sunday School Lesson Overview Zoom Meeting ID: 498 845 3978 Passcode:
FAYCED Dial by location +1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 498 845 3978 Passcode: 570722

31st Fayetteville District Men’s Choir Singing Union at Hood Memorial. All Men Choirs of the District are asked to participate.

Other May Dates

Eastertide (Liturgical Color: white) April 6th – May 23rd

Family Month

Women's Home and Overseas Missionary (W.H.OM Society) Anniversary Month

- 1st May Friendship Day (CWU)
- 2nd Clinton College Commencement
- 4th Livingstone College Commencement
- 7th National Day of Prayer
- 10th Emma Clarissa Clement Day

feature Story: Spotlight on Creativity

10 Historical Facts About Black History on Martha's Vineyard

1. The Legacy of Oak Bluffs

Oak Bluffs, one of the most vibrant towns on Martha's Vineyard, has a long-standing tradition as a summer haven for African Americans. During the early 20th century, it became a popular destination for middle-class Black families seeking a reprieve from segregation and discrimination. This tradition continues today, with Oak Bluffs serving as a cultural hub for African Americans.

2. The Harlem Renaissance Connection

Many prominent figures of the Harlem Renaissance, including poets, writers, and musicians, frequented Martha's Vineyard. Langston Hughes, a leading poet of the era, was known to visit the island, finding inspiration in its serene environment and engaging in intellectual exchanges with other artists and thinkers.

3. The Inkwell Beach

Inkwell Beach, located in Oak Bluffs, has been a central gathering place for African American residents and visitors since the early 20th century. The beach got its name as a subtle nod to the exclusionary practices of the era, and it has since become a symbol of community and cultural pride.

4. The Shearer Cottage

Shearer Cottage, established in 1912 by Charles and Henrietta Shearer, was one of the first inns on the island to welcome African American guests. The Shearers were pioneers in providing a welcoming space for Black vacationers at a time when segregation was widespread. The cottage remains a significant historical landmark.

5. Dorothy West's Literary Contributions

Dorothy West, a notable author and one of the last surviving members of the Harlem Renaissance, made Martha's Vineyard her home. Her novel "The Wedding," set on the island, explores themes of race and class within a tight-knit Black community, drawing on her own experiences on Martha's Vineyard.

6. The Importance of Union Chapel

Union Chapel in Oak Bluffs has served as a spiritual and cultural center for the African American community since its construction in 1870. The non-denominational chapel hosts an array of events, including lectures, concerts, and community gatherings, fostering a sense of unity and continuity.

7. The Contribution of African American Farmers

In the 18th and 19th centuries, African American farmers played a crucial role in the island's agricultural development. Despite the challenges of slavery and discrimination, these farmers cultivated the land and contributed to the island's economic growth and sustainability.

8. The Influence of the Polar Bear Club

Founded in the 1940s, the Polar Bear Club is a group of swimmers, predominantly African American, who meet daily at Inkwell Beach for morning swims. This tradition not only promotes health and camaraderie but also serves as a testament to the enduring presence and resilience of the Black community on the island.

9. African American Education Pioneers

In the early 19th century, African American families on Martha's Vineyard advocated for the education of their children. Notable figures such as Nancy Michael, a former slave who became a respected teacher, contributed significantly to the island's educational landscape, ensuring access to learning for all children.

10. The Civil Rights Movement

Martha's Vineyard played a role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The island hosted numerous discussions and meetings involving key figures of the movement. Its relatively progressive stance on race relations provided a supportive backdrop for strategizing and planning efforts to combat racial inequality.

The rich tapestry of Black history on Martha's Vineyard is woven with stories of resilience, creativity, and community. From the cultural hub of Oak Bluffs to the educational strides made by African American pioneers, the island's history is deeply enriched by the contributions of its Black residents and visitors. As we reflect on these historical facts, we honor the legacy and celebrate the vibrant future of the African American community on Martha's Vineyard.

Community Voices

Your stories and feedback keep this newsletter alive. If something exciting is happening in your church share your story, and you might be featured in our next edition! Per approval of the Presiding Elder. Send your story to sandydog32@hotmail.com.

FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT – “THE BIG HEART”

By Rev. Helen Gilchrist

FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT, You Have Done It Again! With Reaching Hands and an extremely Big Heart, you have blessed the Fayetteville State University Broncos Campus Food Pantry One More Time!

With many thanks and gratefulness, the Home Mission and Conference Workers of the Fayetteville District extend many cheers of joy to our Visionary Leader, Rev. Dr. Joseph C. Brown, Sr., Presiding Elder of the Fayetteville District, the Pastors, ministers, and laity of all local churches for the donations for the Food Pantry Project. You continue to reach deep into your pockets and with your big hearts you continue to provide provisions and pour into the lives of many students who visit the Food Pantry at Fayetteville State University.

Due to a necessity, the FSU's Bronco Campus Food Pantry was established to combat food insecurity caused by limited or uncertain access to nutritious, and safe foods for the students to lead a healthy lifestyle. The FSU Pantry continues to provide healthy, culturally appropriate emergency foods ensuring the dignity and well-being of the students.

Although students continue to face economic challenges, and at times go without food due to extenuating circumstances, which negatively impact their academic performance, the Grand Ole Fayetteville District has become a vital part of the initiative to meet the economic challenges faced by the students in the Fayetteville community.

Since September 9, 2019, this Project, initiated by Ms. Jalisha Pone, (former FSU Associate Director of Development) in collaboration with Mr. Wesley Fountain (former Director of the Constituent & Community Relations) has been very humbling, rewarding, and successful. The Fayetteville District has shown up and showed out with “Overflow.”

In April of this year, we provided 3,528 food items to the Pantry. The items were pre-ordered from Sam’s Club by Reverend Broxie Pone. After loading the items in our vehicles, Reverend Broxie Pone, Mr. Gerald Pone, and Rev. Helen Gilchrist proceeded to Fayetteville State University Bronco Food Pantry to deliver the items.

As we arrived on campus, we were elated with sheer joy as we were greeted by the President of the University, Dr. Darrell T. Allison, and Mrs. Lisa Wallace, who wears many hats, to include the Director of Student Conduct as well as Director of the FSU Bronco Food Pantry. Shout out to the following persons who assisted in stocking the Food Pantry with the purchased items: Ms. Linda Haywood (Home Mission Workers President), Reverend Helen Gilchrist (Conference Workers President), Mrs. Janice Chance (Conference Worker), Mrs. Carmeta Clarke (Conference Worker), Mr. Gerald Pone & Reverend Broxie Pone (Pastor of Moore’s Chapel A. M. E. Zion), Ms. Dorothy McLean (WHOMS President), and Mrs. Lisa Wallace and her wonderful FSU team.

Many thanks again for the Fayetteville District’s “Big Heart ” in sharing and providing for our future generations to come!

Upcoming Events June 2026

Mark your calendar for these exciting events happening this month:

1st- 4th 9:00am -12:30pm Acolyte Training at Simon Temple

6th 8:00am Missionary Department Walk-A-Mile

9:00am – 12:00pm CED Men’s Conference at Hood Memorial

7th 4:00pm Acolyte Graduation at Simon Temple

9th 6:30pm – 9:00pm 7th Session Local Preachers Classes Zoom Meeting ID 856 146 5919

9th 7:00pm WHOMS Executive Board Meeting

13th 10:00am -2:00pm Farmer’s Market at Clarks Chapel

19th -20th Church School Convention

20th Pre-Checkup Meeting at Hood Memorial

21st Father’s Day

25th -27th E N C E D Summer Institute at Simon Temple

From Our Team

Stay Connected

Don’t miss a single update—follow us on our social media platforms and subscribe to receive our newsletter directly in your inbox. Together, let’s make this a vibrant community of learning and growth.

If you know people that are members of our District and not getting the Monthly Reminder. Please send email addresses to sandydog32@hotmail.com.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Until next month, stay curious and be inspired!

The Fayetteville District “Telling the Old Old Story to the 21st Century”.

The Fayetteville District please follow us on Facebook, Website and Twitter.

Warm regards,

The Newsletter Team:

Ms. Kally Robinson, Editor

Ms. Sherice Alford, Tech Advisor

Reverend Dr. Joseph C. Brown, Sr., Presiding Elder.