

New York-Washington Region Ministers' Spouses, Widows & Widowers

~~ At a Glance ~~

The Henry C. Bunton Scholarship Fund

The Henry C. Bunton Scholarship Fund (HCBSF) was organized under the leadership of the late Bishop Nathaniel Linsey in 1979. The mission is to raise funds to assist our ministers to further their education. In 1982, the late Bishop Oree Broomfield, Sr. was assigned to the 7th Episcopal District and he asked the Ministers' Spouses to spearhead the effort. At that time, the work of the Ministers' Spouses was part of the Connectional Missionary Society's Departmental Wheel. Officers included: the late Mrs. Carrie Isom, Ministers' Spouses Missionary Secretary for the New York-Washington Annual Conference; Mrs. Josephine Champion, Secretary-Treasurer; and Mrs. Pauline Graves, Chairperson of the HCBSF. Hundreds of ministers have been recipients of the HCBSF since its inception in 1979. The Henry C. Bunton Scholarship is administered by the Bishop.

The Barbara H. Sommerville Scholarship

In 1994, the Ministers' Spouses, Widows, & Widowers Department was designated as a Connectional organization of the CME Church. During that transition as an independent Department, spouses began to sponsor the Barbara Sommerville Scholarship which is for the children of ministers' spouses. Each year, a single \$1,000 scholarship is awarded, on a rotation, between the New York-Washington Region and the Carolina Region, to a high school graduate. The recipient is selected from submitted applications from the spouses' children; and the scholarship check is presented during the annual CME Convocation.

Cradle Care

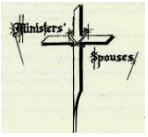
Ministers' Spouses began sponsoring child care services for young children ages 3 months to 5 years of age during the 2006 Annual Conference. Mrs. Lavette Ballard and Mrs. Michelle Bonner presented the initial proposal to offer this ministry during the presidency of Mrs. Cheryl Oldham. Since the first season of providing this service, the Ministers' Spouses, Widows, & Widowers began to underwrite the costs and charge no fee to families who use the service.

Advocacy Efforts

Spouses are involved in efforts to promote awareness of resources that advocate for healthy breast care, prevention of domestic violence, and addressing depression. They have also spear-headed and coordinated several retreats for ministers and spouses. As quiet supporters of their spouses (pastors) and their congregations, spouses are now being encouraged to also take care of themselves and to promote the same for their congregations through spiritual meditation, healthy eating, and exercise.

Spouses also reach out to widows and retired spouses through calls, cards, and tokens of love. They remain listed in directories and receive correspondence through mailings and email blasts.

In addition to traditional hard copy postal mailings, technology is increasingly being incorporated in communications including this web site and electronic mail. Social networking will be next phase of moving the organization into greater communications and ministry outreach to and with each other as well as to the wider church ministry.



**New York-Washington Region
Ministers' Spouses, Widows, & Widowers**

Officers: 2010-2011

Mrs. Ocie Hoyt, First Lady & Advisor

Dr. Denise Cummings-Clay, 7th Episcopal District Representative

Mrs. Deloris Belcher, First Lady, New York-New England District

Mrs. Annette Dillard, First Lady, Philadelphia District

Mrs. Marilyn D. Thomas, President

Mrs. Gwenette Jones, Vice President

Mrs. Gwendolyn Agee, 1st Vice President

Mrs. Delores Brown, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Marion Edwards, Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Debra Williamson, Financial Secretary

Mrs. Annette Dillard, Treasurer

Mrs. Evelyn Scott, Parliamentarian

Mrs. Vashunda Richardson, Worship Leader

Mrs. Debra Brown, President, Washington-Virginia District

Mrs. M. Ellen Jenifer, President, Philadelphia District

Mrs. Gwendolyn Agee, President, New York-New England District

~~~~~

***In Loving Memory:***

*Mrs. Lillian Carter  
Mrs. Darlena Hudson  
Mrs. Sandra Kay Lewis  
Bro. Holton Naylor  
Mrs. Seresa McEwan  
Mrs. Hattie Mitchell  
Bro. Holton Naylor  
Rev. Henrietta Wynn*



***New York- Washington Region  
Ministers' Spouses, Widows, & Widowers***

***Presidents***

*Mrs. Carrie Isom\**

*Dr. Bester Bonner*

*Mrs. Cheryl Oldham*

*Mrs. Marilyn D. Thomas*

\*Deceased