



# Bishop Stith and Heritage Center Honored at Gala



AFRICAN AMERICAN METHODIST HERITAGE CENTER

## Heritage News



Dr. Leonard L. Haynes, III congratulated Bishop Stith

By John W. Coleman

For a decade Bishop Forrest C. Stith, has led the AAMHC in assembling a trove of Black Methodist archival treasures. The Center celebrated both its own 10 year history and the service of its unpaid President and CEO at a December 9, 2011 Washington, D.C., gala that featured a concert of revered African American sacred music.

The Heritage Center's repository of books, periodicals, documents, photographs and other memorabilia is nestled in the care of the General Commission on Archives and History, located on the campus of Drew University in Madison, NJ.

Asbury UMC in Washington, which recently celebrated its

175th anniversary and where Stith serves as Bishop in Residence aided in providing music for this venue. Asbury's Music Director, Everett Williams, gathered and led a chorus of professional vocalists in serenading the gala audience of nearly 200 people. Interspersed among their crowd-pleasing renditions of favorite spirituals and gospel hymns was eloquent narration by Rev. Jack Heyward who recounted the history of black sacred music.

Washington area Bishop, John R. Schol began the tribute quoting lines from a favorite Charles Tindley hymn, "Beams of Heaven." He extolled the Heritage Center as "a gift for our future" and lauded Stith as "a visionary leader, whose determination, hard work and partnering with others has brought us to this place."

The gala gave Center Board Members a chance to signify the institution's achievements, as well as its future plans. Board member, Barbara Thompson, a member of Mt. Zion UMC in Georgetown, cited some achievements from receiving

prize acquisitions like a century-old book, *Methodism and the Negro*, donated by the widow of Baltimore pastor the Rev. Irvin Lockman, to persuading the United Methodist Publishing House to reprint *Black United Methodism: Retrospect and Prospect*, the landmark book by John Graham first published 30 years ago.

Moreover, Thompson reported on progress in partnering with church scholars and United Methodist-related Black colleges to do historical research and presentations. She also mentioned plans to establish an endowment to aid the Center's development as an archive for exhibition, education and research. But the center's most important work, she said, is helping and encouraging Black churches "to recover and share their own stories."

Dr. Leonard L. Haynes, III, Heritage Center's Foundation Chair, announced plans to establish a traveling exhibit in Stith's name. The exhibit will visit historically Black colleges and other venues as a "satellite outpost" of the Heritage Center.



Rev. Jack Heyward, Orator of Musical Journey



Mr. Everett Williams and Ensemble



Bishop Violet Fisher sharing remarks

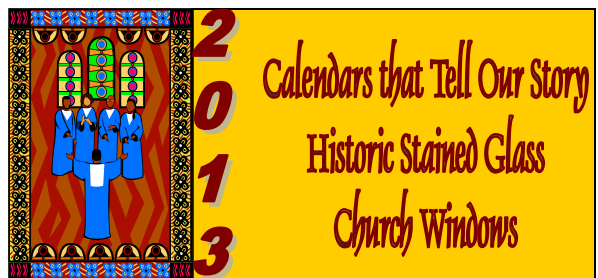
# HAPPENINGS AT AAMHC

DID YOU KNOW?

- Interim President, Barbara Ricks Thompson
- North Central Jurisdiction Local Church Workshop held in Cleveland, OH with 40 participants
- 2013 Calendar "Stained Glass Windows" following the successful 2012 "Stones of Promise"



Research Project, Nine Academics gathered at Gammon Seminary



## How to Become a "Partner" With The Heritage Center

The Heritage Center is an approved project of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church of 2008 which provided a \$100,000.00 per year grant. It is an approved Advance Special project of the United Methodist Church. Local Churches may also send their contributions for the Heritage Center directly to Advance Special Office for General Church/Shared Giving Credit.

Become a partner as together we seek to preserve, protect and promote the rich stories of African Americans in Methodism.

- Write your local church history and share it with us
- Take an offering for the Heritage Center. Make checks payable to "ADVANCE GCFA" and write "African American Methodist Heritage Center, Code #3020514" in the memo.
- Gather materials and artifacts, and if desired send them to the Heritage Center to assure their perpetuity, in our state of the art facilities.
- Become a partner, member or a friend.

**Information and membership fees may be sent directly to AAMHC.**

**You can count on me for:**

- \$100.00 Sustaining Membership
- Endowment Contributor
  - \$250.00     \$500.00     \$1,000.00
  - other amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want more information about programs and services for the Center
- I want to give material and memorabilia to the Center.
- Please send me an order form for DVD's and CD's

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number (home, work or mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

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