

ST PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH

# ROSE BELL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY



*“We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.”*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023



**Presiding Prelate First District**  
Rt. Rev. Julius H. McAllester, Sr.

**Episcopal Supervisor**  
Mother Joan Marla McAllister

**Presiding Elder**  
Rev. Howard H. L. Dill

**Pastor**  
Rev. Nicholas Genevieve-Tweed

**Bermuda Conference Women's  
Missionary Society President**  
Sis. Candace Clarke

**Rose Bell Women's Missionary  
Society President**  
Sis. Lee-Ann Ingram

**Rose Bell Women's Missionary  
Society Treasurer**  
Sis. Wilma Lowe

**Rose Bell Women's Missionary  
Society Recording Secretary**  
Sis. Brenda Rowling

**Rose Bell Women's Missionary  
Society PME**  
Sis. Chrislyn Philip



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Greetings,*

To all those who have any connection with the 100th Anniversary of the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church Hamilton, Bermuda, to the families of all the members who have served over the ten decades we have existed, to the descendants of those willing workers, and to those who have been the beneficiaries of those who were called to be missionaries. To those who have moved on from labour to reward, and the legacy they have left in their wake, and to those who have taken up the mantle to carry on with the same selfless labours; to those who have worked tirelessly, for the unseen acts of caring, compassion, and personal sacrifice; I take this time to say a very humble "Thank You!" On behalf of The Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church.

As a fourth-generation member of Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society, it is with immense pride and responsibility that I stand on the shoulders of my mother, Mrs. D. Lorraine Ingram, my granny Mrs. Dorothy R. Ingram, my great-grandmother Mrs. Mary D. Clarke and the chief celebrant for today, Mrs. Rose H. Bell.

While "missionary" conjures many images for people; being called to developing countries, working in places with no hot water, or running water at all, working in dangerous countries under dangerous conditions, or enjoying hot water and Internet in the developed world. Whatever the situation a missionary's true calling begins with a commitment to the Kingdom of God and then working to transform the world we live in to become more like the world we strive for. This is achieved through ministry which begins with seeing the needs of others, seeing these moments as opportunities to demonstrate God's Kingdom by responding to people's needs hence showing what God's Kingdom will look like. Matilda Smith and Helena Williams did this when they started a home for elderly women in the community. As did Sis. Celeste Jones, who recognized that black entrepreneurs needed a space to showcase their ingenuity and wares and started the Annual Christmas Fair which lasted for more than twenty years.

Interestingly, Cambridge dictionary defines 'Missionary' as 'a person who has been sent to a foreign country to teach their religion to the people who live there.' The truth is a missionary is called to serve people. Missionaries serve wherever, and in whatever capacity God needs them to serve in. It means humbling oneself and allowing God to move you into position so that God can use you. The work is much, and the labourers truly are few. To those who have managed to stay the course, I salute you. For those who baked dozens and dozens of cookies, cakes, pies, puddings, who fried chicken and fish, who knit hats, scarves and booties, who sacrificed time away from their biological families, to those who gave to feed others when they could barely afford to feed themselves; To all of those YPD Directors who gave up their Friday nights to sow seeds into the younger generations, to all of those women whose names have faded into history, but whose labours we still treasure, *I salute you!*

To the current members of Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society, I thank you for all for your support over the years and wish Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society at least another 100 years of service, witness and legacy in the islands of Bermuda and beyond.

*"In the name of the triune God, may the spirit of  
Christian Missions enter every heart."*

Sis. Lee-Ann L. Ingram  
Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society, President





**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

**JULIUS H. MCALLISTER, SR.**  
**BISHOP**

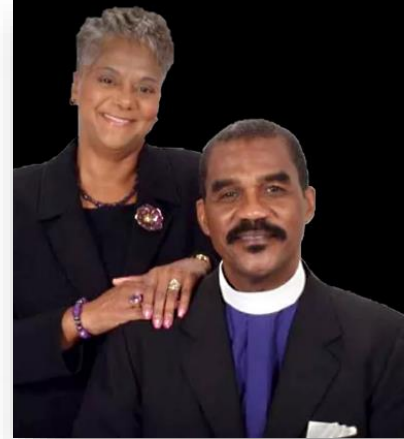
FIRST DISTRICT PLAZA • 3801 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300  
**PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104**

TELEPHONE  
**(215) 662 - 0506**  
FAX **(215) 662 - 0199**

October 29, 2023

Ms. Lee-Ann Ingram, President  
Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society  
Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church  
59 Court Street  
Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda

Dear Sister Ingram:



*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people. ~ Galatians 6:10*

Mother McAllister and I greet and extend best wishes to you, and the innovative, spiritually empowered and productive members of the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society as you gather for your festive One Hundredth Anniversary Celebration. Let us commend you for your years of productive Christian leadership, service and witness, and the outstanding quality of service that you continue to render to meet the needs of the community.

The Missionaries of our church are very special. You provide that unique, little something that no other group can provide. You energize the church, you give it stability, you give it staying power; striving through love to bring more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done.

Amidst the many life threatening situations which have caused us uncertainty in the past, and the wars and rumors of war that are causing us concern right now, you as an organization are right "at your post." You seem to remain stayed and focused on God who created us, has sustained us and who will certainly be with us, even now.

God has entrusted many talents, abilities and material possessions to your care, and the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society has been faithful with your entrustments. It is expected that you will continue to develop what you have, so as to provide a return for the betterment of humankind, and continue the ministry of Jesus Christ through your service and witness to the world. "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant(s)."

We pray that this wonderful 100th Anniversary celebration, will catapult the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society to even greater Christian service, life and witness.

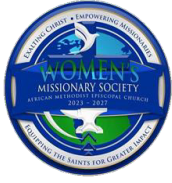
Yours in His service.

*Julius H. McAllister, Sr.*

Julius H. McAllister, Sr.  
Presiding Bishop

Mother Joan Marla McAllister  
Episcopal Supervisor

**ANNUAL CONFERENCES: BERMUDA • DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY • NEW ENGLAND**  
**NEW YORK • WESTERN NEW YORK • PHILADELPHIA**



# First Episcopal District WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

## *African Methodist Episcopal Church*

October 29, 2023

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr. – Presiding Prelate  
Mother Joan Marla McAllister – Episcopal Supervisor  
Patricia Nira Smith – First District WMS President  
Susan Butler – First District YPD Director

Greetings:

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr. and I wish to extend greetings and congratulatory blessings on behalf of the First Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society!

We are delighted to share in the **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society recognizing the work and service of Mrs. Rose Bell. She served faithfully with her husband, the 17<sup>th</sup> Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church from 1923-1931.**

As you gather today, we are honored to reflect upon the rich heritage of the early Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society. The work of Sister Rose Bell pioneered her call to the missions' ministry at St. Paul A.M.E. Church and as the first President of the Bermuda Conference Women's Missionary Society. Her work was pivotal, long-lasting and promoted a spirit of self-sufficiency as even today her work serves as a blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> century work of missions. How precious, we remember the historical contributions of this women servant of God and African Methodism!

We want to take this opportunity to thank President Lee-Ann Ingram for her vision and incredible leadership of the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society. We applaud and affirm you and your society for celebrating the legacy and mission of one woman who made the difference in the lives of many others. Additionally, we wish to recognize Bermuda Conference Branch WMS President, Sister Candice Clarke for her leadership and service as she leads with this model of excellence before her. Today, as you celebrate be assured we join you and the Heavenly chorus of Matthew 25:23 *"Well done, good and faithful servant...."*

**Blessed to be a Blessing!**

*Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.*

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate  
First Episcopal District

*Mother Joan Marla McAllister*

Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor  
First Episcopal District





Patricia Nira Smith, President



*O Give Thanks unto the Lord; For He is Good and His Mercies Endure Forever.* Psalms 139:1

Because of His mercy and Grace, we are more than conquerors in His Son, Jesus Christ!

To the Officers and Members of Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society, St. Paul A.M.E.C.

Blessing to you all!

It is with happiness and joy that I greet you as you celebrate 100 years of service and witness to your communities on the island of Bermuda. Maya Angelou said, *"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."* I am positive that there are thousands of people in Bermuda who remember how your acts of kindness made them feel during your one hundred years of mission work.

The Bible says the harvest is plentiful, but the labors are few. Thank you for using your time, talents, and treasures to be a labor for God.

My prayer is that you will continue the work that God has placed before for another 100 years and beyond.

Yours in Mission Service.  
Pres. Pat



**BERMUDA CONFERENCE - EAST WEST DISTRICT  
FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH**



***Rev. Howard H.L. Dill, Presiding Elder***

Ph: (h) 1 441 234-2587 (w) 1441 234-0433 (c) 1 441 538-1866  
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October 29, 2023

Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society  
St. Paul AME Church  
Cnr. Victoria and Court Streets  
Hamilton

**Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society Centennial Greetings**

Pastor Tweed, President Ingram, Officers and Members of the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society, on behalf of the Bermuda Conference, Rev. Dr. Emily Gail Dill and myself please allow me to offer congratulations on celebrating 100 years of ministry in missions, both overseas and here in Bermuda.

Your founder, Sis. Rose Bell and the newly organized Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society rendered quintessential service during her time in Bermuda under the pastorate of her husband, Rev. Charles Bell the 17<sup>th</sup> Pastor of St. Paul.

Throughout the years, the Society has insightfully pursued the ministry of missions with vigor and zeal meeting the needs of the Bermuda community and overseas mission projects, to the honor and glory of God.

It is heartwarming to see that the Society in meeting the various needs has been assiduous in the work of missions and had the foresight to pivot in the wake of the recent pandemic.

It is our prayer that you will continue your diligence in the work of missions as you minister in this part of God's vineyard.

Yours in the Master's service

Rev. Howard H.L. Dill  
Presiding Elder  
East West District Bermuda Conference

**EPISCOPAL DISTRICT YEAR THEME:**

**“THE CHURCH IS MOVING ON”**



## St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church

59 Court Street  
Hamilton HM 11  
Bermuda

Telephone: (441)292-0505 Fax: (441) 292-9247

Email: [stpaulamebda@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulamebda@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stpaulamechurch.org](http://www.stpaulamechurch.org)

*For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.  
How great are your works, O Lord!*

Psalm 92:4-5

Thy various works, imperial queen, we see,  
How bright their forms! how deck'd with pomp by thee!  
Thy wond'rous acts in beauteous order stand,  
And all attest how potent is thine hand.

-Phillis Wheatley, On Imagination (1773)

We take this moment to pause, salute, and celebrate this landmark moment of the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church it should be taken for granted how significant an occasion this is. This is a signal moment not just because of the length of time that has passed for duration by itself is no achievement. It is one hundred years marked by women of faith driven by vision, consecrated through sacrifice and service to God and Church.

The Mission of the Women's Missionary Society is states,

*"We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry  
of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world."*

Rose Bell WMS has for the past century pursued the fulfilment of this Mission under the sterling leadership of its founding President Rose Bell, and successive Presidents all of whom have left an indelible legacy and advanced the work of the organization. Whether it be witnessing through providing for those in need, "*feeding the hungry, clothing the naked;*" or providing opportunities for black entrepreneurs in a segregated society to have a place to market their products; having the vision, determination to provide for those who have served and in later life needed a sanctuary with the establishment of the Matilda Smith Williams Resident Care Home; providing financial support for overseas missions in Africa and the Caribbean; supporting local organizations such as Center for Abuse, Child and Family Services and Home (homeless shelter).

I would like to commend and salute the current President, Lee-Ann Ingram for her continued service, for her work uncovering the history of Rose Bell's founder and providing leadership in terms facilitating the dedication of the plaque that will be unveiled in Rose Bell's honour.

During this watershed Anniversary let us look back and honour those upon whose shoulders we stand, let us take up the challenge their legacy presents as we respond to the call in our time as they have done in theirs to advance the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

I the pastor, along with the officers and members of St. Paul salute the Officers and members of this distinguished Society on the occasion of your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, "*Thy wond'rous acts in beauteous order stand, And all attest how potent is thine hand,*" and we join with the Psalmist in praise and thanksgiving to YHWH as we celebrate the handiwork of these missionaries who have placed themselves in the hand of the Lord as we declare "*at the works of your hands we sing for joy. How great are the works of your hand.*"

Keep the Faith!

Rev. Nicholas Genevieve-Tweed  
33<sup>rd</sup> Pastor, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church

God Our Father

Christ our Redeemer

The Holy Spirit Our Comforter

Humankind Our Brother



On behalf of the Bermuda Conference Women's Missionary Society, it gives me great pleasure to bring greetings and congratulations to the Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society, of St. Paul AME Church. on the occasion of your one hundred Anniversary Celebration.

This is a remarkable milestone that deserves to be celebrated with joy and gratitude for God has brought you a mighty long way.

We commend you for your work of missions and are most grateful for the support you give to the Bermuda Conference WMS.

As you build on the foundation which was laid by such pioneers as Rose Bell, Matilda Smith, Helena Williams, Celeste Jones and Lorraine Fubler, our prayer is that God would continue to pour out his blessings upon The Rose Bell WMS as you engage in the work of missions.

*For "We are called to strengthen our faith, and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world."*

Blessings  
Sis. Candice V. Clarke  
BCWMS President



# ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH

## The Vision: “Building on a Strong Foundation”

59 Court Street, Hamilton, Bermuda HM 12  
Ph: 441-292-0505 – Email: [stpaulamebda@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulamebda@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stpaulamechurchbermuda.org](http://www.stpaulamechurchbermuda.org)



## “A Transitioning Church” The Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society

Sunday, October 29, 2023  
10:55 a.m.

*The Rt. Rev. Julius H. McAllister, Presiding Prelate 1<sup>st</sup> District*  
*The Rev. Howard H. L Dill, Presiding Elder*  
*The Rev. Nicholas Genevieve Tweed, Pastor*

Service Broadcast Live on Magic 102.7  
Service Streamed on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/stpaulamebermuda/](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulamebermuda/)



# ST PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH

***“Let Us Worship the Lord with Reverence!”***

***The Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost***

Season: After Pentecost

Color: **Green**

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

### THE WORSHIP LEADER

Rev. Nicholas Tweed

### \*THE GATHERING

The St. Paul Praise Team

*“Press Along Saints”* (unknown)

### \*\*THE INTROIT

*“Bow Down and Worship”* (Morton)

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL

*“Lift Every Voice and Sing”* (Franklin & Philip)

### THE DOXOLOGY

#647 *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”* (Old 100)

### \*\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Sis. Eunice Jones

L: Worship the Lord with jubilant hearts –

P: **Not to please one another, but to praise our God!**

L: Worship the Lord with jubilant minds –

P: **Not to gratify our neighbor, but to glorify God!**

All: **Worship the Lord with your heart, soul and mind!**

**Come, let us worship the Lord!**

### \*THE OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE

#430 *“Faith of our Mothers”* (Hemy)

### \*\*\*THE INVOCATION

Ministerial Staff

### THE CHORAL RESPONSE

*“Alpha and Omega”* Houghton

### \*\*\*THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The St. Paul Praise Team

*“You Must Come in at the Door”* (Wright)

### \*\*\*THE SCRIPTURE

**Matt. 22:34-46**

### \*\*THE GLORIA PATRI

### THE ANNIVERSARY LITANY

Sis. Diane Outerbridge

**Leader:** Let us remember before God and one another, the missionary sisters who have gone from labour to reward and on whose shoulders we now stand.

**People: We remember and give thanks.**

**Leader:** For the missionary founders and trailblazers both here and abroad; such as Bishop Richard and

Sarah Allen, Mary Cooper, Rev. T. J. Askew, Bishop William T. Vernon, Rose Bell, Ida J. Smith, Matilda and Mattie Smith and Wenona Jennings,

**People: We remember and give thanks.**

**Leader:** For those who labour for the Church; under the banner of missions, both overseas and locally. Championing the widows and orphans. The weak and the lowly, and giving a voice to the voiceless,

**People: We remember and give thanks.**

**Leader:** For the diversity of ministries; for those who work for justice and peace; those who offer themselves in charity and out reach providing food, shelter, and medicine to those in need; people of vision and action who build shelters, schools, and clinics, through whom our God of abundant blessing makes provision for needs,

**People: We remember and give thanks.**

**Leader:** For those who enrich the Church and the world with their intellectual and creative gifts; those who create, provide, and preserve the arts; and who tend the earth and protect its resources,

**People: We remember and give thanks.**

**Leader:** For those who offer hospitality, fellowship, and nurture as parents, friends, and neighbors, people of spiritual wisdom and prayer; those who are ministers of healing, to the sick, the troubled, the homebound, and the grieving,

**People: We remember and give thanks.**

**Leader:** For the years that women those who sustain the life of the Church by quiet acts of service, with children and youth, in worship, in the kitchen, in the classrooms, in meeting rooms, and in the offices,

**People: We remember and give thanks.**

**Leader:** Gracious God, source of life and giver of all good gifts, we thank you for all those who have ministered in your name throughout the ages. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage and compassion that we may stand ever receptive to your grace and faithful to your call.

# WHERE THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERYONE

**All:** For all those who have set the example for us, on whose shoulders we stand. We give thanks for their example and pray that we too can continue a life of service that will be an example to the generations to come. Amen.

**THE WELCOME** Mother Sunbeams & Allen Stars  
"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever" (Hillsong)

**THE MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP**  
"Bring ye all the Tithes" (George)

**\*\*THE OFFERTORY**  
"Give Thanks" (Moen)

**\*\*\*THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC** St. Paul Praise Team  
"Beautiful Feet" (Lawerence)

**\*\*\*THE SPECIAL PRAYER**  
"God is Good" (McReynolds)  
Sis. Candace Clarke, BCWMS President

**THE PRAYER RESPONSE**  
"Glory Glory Hallelujah" (Unknown)

**\*\*THE SERMONIC SELECTION**  
#292 "Take My Life, and Let It Be" (Malan)

**\*\*\*THE PREACHED WORD** Rev. Nicholas Tweed

**\*THE INVITATION**  
(Please do not leave during the invitation)

**\*\*\*THE DEDICATION**  
Rev. Nicholas Tweed

**THE RECESSIONAL** "Jesus be a Fence" (Hammond)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Special Notice

**Women's Day:** Women's Day will be held on **Sunday, November 19th.** "Women of Unchangeable Faith. Overcoming Challenging Times". Heb. 10:23-24. **Commitment \$150.** Lunch will be served after the service. Further details will be announced.

**Tithes and Offering** - please use the following guidelines for your contributions: Payments should be made to St. Paul A.M.E. Church **HSBC Account #010-369 007-002.** Be sure to include your name, i.e., John Doe, and description and purpose of the funds: e.g., Tithes, Offering, alternatively you can drop your tithing envelopes at the church.

Direct Deposit for **Count Me In – St. Paul A.M.E. Church**

**Clarion Bank A/C # 4710911505.**

The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **The Office is closed on Thursdays.**

## THE SICK AND SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Sis. Elvia Eve, Sis. Maybelline Fubler, Sis. Lois Weeks.

## THE MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES/HOSPITAL

Sis. Betty John - *Easter Lily Residential Home*

Sis. Ivy Woods - *C.C. KEMH*

Sis. Sheila Looby, Joy White *KEMH.*

Sis. Andrea Tucker - *MSWSR, Devonshire*

Sis. Beulah White – *Sylvia Richardson Care Facility*

## BOARDS ON DUTY

**Officers:- (Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>)** - Bro. Ed Dyer, Sis. Thelma Trott, Andrea Isaac, Nadine Lapsley-Dyer, Charlene Tyrrell.  
**(Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>)** Bro. Ed Dyer, Ted Darrell, Sis. Eunice Jones, Lynell Furbert, Diane Outerbridge.

**Ushers: (Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>)** Bro. Eugene Creighton, Sis. Lynell Furbert, Carolyn Cooper, Donna Joell, Marionette Furbert, June Pitt, Kharziman Daniels.  
**(Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>)** - Sis. Ruby Walker, Kimberley Tweed, Doreen Gardner, Joan Ming, Janice Khan, Bro. Reginald Hewey.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY & STUDY

**BIBLE STUDY** (Via Zoom) Wednesdays 6:30 pm

**CHURCH SCHOOL** Sundays 9:30 am

**YPD** Fridays 6:30pm

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. It is our honour to greet you in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ. We pray your worship experience was a blessing to you.

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become a part of the St. Paul Church family, "Where there is room for everyone."

**Keep the Faith!**

*Rev. Nicholas Genevieve Tweed*

[illegible]

## THE MISSIONARY BENEDICTION

\*\*\*\* *No standing or walking*



# PORTRAIT OF A FIRST LADY

It is difficult for people today to imagine what life might have been like 100 years ago, it is even more difficult imagining the lives of Black people in the South thirteen years after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution which Abolished slavery, followed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments in 1866 and 1869 respectively which defined Citizenship, and Prohibited the denial of the vote to Citizens. Yet it was this post-Civil War turbulent period pregnant with hope and possibility yet entrenched in social norms and traditions that threatened to stall progress for the formerly enslaved Black people in America that in Plymouth, Washington County North Carolina, many families were living in small wooden dwellings and struggled to carve out meaningful lives in the face of an uncertain future.

It was not uncommon for the entire family to live in one or two room dwellings, particularly if you were a former slave, or a child of a former slave. It was also not out of the ordinary for these homes to not have windows. Flushing toilets only reached eight percent of the state's residents by the 1940's. Electricity did not reach many of these rural places until the 1950's and 1960's. It was into this world of rural agricultural communities formed by poor whites, former slaves and their descendants that etched out a living on crops such as cotton, rice, sweet potatoes, wood and pork, that on Thursday, February 28th, 1878 Roselane (also spelled Roselaine<sup>1</sup>, aka Rosa aka Rose) Hayman Harrison was born to Mr. Abram (aka Abraham) & Mrs. Lusettie (aka Lousria) Cottie Harrison (aka Harris).

While no known records exist of Rose's life in Plymouth, North Carolina outside of Federal Census Records that we can refer to, through research of the region, the culture, and the history of the post-Civil War south, we can deduce what Plymouth, North Carolina was like when Rose entered the world. Rose was the oldest child of Abraham and Lusettie. History records the events of October 22 – 24, 1878 as the 'Great Gale of 1878'<sup>2</sup>, which saw two nights of terror in North Carolina that left a path of destruction from North Carolina to New England. While there had been ten hurricanes recorded that year, none were as destructive as the eleventh tropical system. As Bermuda is no stranger to tropical storms and hurri-

canes, it is not hard to imagine the destruction and devastation such a storm inflicted on an agricultural dependent economy and its surrounding buildings and towns, particularly in the poorer areas with meagre wooden shacks and cabins. Take a moment to think about Abraham, a shingle maker and Cottie, a housekeeper sheltered with their young baby girl while North Carolina was battered with torrential rains and tropical force winds for two days in a scanty wooden shack in rural North Carolina.

In the decade between the 1880 Census and the 1900 Census, the Harrison household had expanded to include Rose's younger sisters, Cattie, born in January 1881, Nahomi, born in February 1882. Lusettie, born in January 1885, Carrie B born June 1887 and Olympia who was born in July 1888. We have no way of knowing specifically how Rose and her siblings, young black girls living in rural North Carolina were taught or to what level any of the Harrison girls had been educated, however, we do know that by the age of twelve Rose and her siblings were listed as 'literate' in the 1900 Census<sup>3</sup>.

Rose and her sisters were born into a world where their futures were predetermined by their colour if they remained in the post-Civil war south. They were female and black in rural North Carolina in the 1900's, or how limited their dreams of their futures must been. Rose probably never heard of a place called Bermuda, let alone dreamt of having the opportunity to live, serve and minister there. History provides us with some insight to the hopes and dreams of the former slaves and their descendants, by the Great Migration that began around 1900 with the introduction of the Industrial age. Many Negroes migrated from the rural south to the big cities of the north in search of a better life away from the hard labor and long hours working the land on farms they more than likely did not own.

While we cannot say for sure why or when Rose left North Carolina, or what circumstances prompted her to leave, we do know that by 1904 she had made her way to Brooklyn, New York where she resided at 329 W 62nd Street in Brooklyn<sup>4</sup>, at the time of her marriage to Charles Henry Bell on March 14th, 1904. At that time Charles was residing in Scranton, Pennsyl-



vania where he made a living as a waiter. Given this geographical difference it is difficult to pinpoint where and when they met. One can speculate that as they were both southerners who migrated north, they may have had mutual acquaintances or relatives who could have facilitated their meeting. However, they met, it is evident that they were both committed to each other, and to whatever future lay ahead for them.

Eight years later Charles and Rose Bell had rented a home at 126 Walnut Street South Bend, Ward 2, Saint Joseph, Indiana<sup>5</sup>, where at the age of thirty-two Rose listed her occupation as a cook in a hotel. At some point during the years between 1910 and 1920, Charles was called into the ministry. He attended the University of Chicago in Illinois. While we do not know if Rose moved with him to Illinois during that time, we do know that Charles's only brother James did reside in Illinois and that by 1918 Charles had become a Reverend as listed on his Registration Card for the World War I draft dated September 7th 1918<sup>6</sup>. Rev. Bell's Registrar's Report notes a loss of sight in his left eye which disqualified from serving.

By 1920 Charles' mother Marisa (aka Maria) had moved from Savannah, Georgia to live with Charles and Rose in the home they had purchased on 624 La Porte Ave. South Bend Ward 2, St. Joseph, Indiana<sup>7</sup>. It is now a vacant lot<sup>8</sup>. By 1920 Rev. Bell supplemented his income having worked as a janitor while Rose continued with her career as a cook. Let us take a moment to imagine the delicious soul food dishes she must have created from her upbringing in the South. Hot water cornbread, collard greens with ham hocks, grits, fried chicken, and as North Carolina was known for pork farms I am sure she could prepare a mean pork chop. Whatever she cooked, it had provided her with steady employment for at least a decade.

In 1923, Rev Charles H. Bell was sent to a little outpost in the north Atlantic. In November Rev. & Mrs. Bell boarded a ship out of the port of New York headed for Bermuda and on arrival was prepared take his charge as the 17th pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church and the position of Presiding Elder\* (*Writer's note: There is a story there but that will have to be told when Rev. Bell is profiled*). The Bells were greeted by a very excited membership of St. Paul. The membership was eager to get on with the work of the church as reported by the Bermuda Recorder [Rev. Bell] "[Arrived] at a time when conditions were exceptional, he at an early date

*exhibited that he was the necessary man needed for the occasion and soon had the church working smoothly.... [From the time he arrived] until he left Bermuda...he continued to be the ideal pastor. He was always referred to as the "People's Pastor," a cognomen which fitly described him.... A fine executive. He built the church up spiritually socially and financially as well as improving it physically. ... The large number of members admitted to the communion of the church during his administration is a glowing testimony to the spiritual influence wielded by the deceased, taking in one service alone, 125 members. ... He left Bermuda to the regret of all after a period of eight years of service."*<sup>9</sup> These accolades that were bestowed upon Rev. Bell did not diminish in any way the light that shined on his "*popular wife, and co-labourer*"<sup>10</sup> By all accounts the Bells were a well-loved popular couple and team, and both were blessed with the ability to lead and inspire.

Under the direction of Bishop William Tecumseh Vernon at the age of forty-five, Rose was tasked with reorganizing the defunct Bermuda Conference Women's Mite Society while she simultaneously organized the willing women of St. Paul and formed a Women's Missionary Mite Society. Rose discharged her duties not only of being the first lady of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, but she was also the president of the Women's Mite Missionary Society at St. Paul A.M.E., the President of the Bermuda Conference Women's Mite Missionary Society and the wife of the Presiding Elder. As such she embraced her duties of hostess, and organizer with such sincerity that she was truly beloved by all who knew her. Rev.& Mrs. Bell never had any children of their own, yet they have left an indelible legacy marking their eight years of service laboring in this part of God's vineyard at St. Paul A.M.E. in Hamilton, Bermuda.

Unfortunately, the Bermuda Recorder, which reported on many of the comings and goings and events in the black church during that time, does not have any digital records for the years 1923 – 1931, the eight years that the Bells served at St. Paul, Hamilton, Bermuda, but we are able to learn something of their works from the glowing comments about them when their deaths were reported.

After leaving St. Paul A.M.E., Hamilton, Bermuda in November of 1931, Rev. Bell was assigned to St. Paul A.M.E. in Zanesville, Muskingum County, Ohio. Sadly, after leaving Bermuda Rose suffered from heart

issues that eventually took her life on Wednesday, October 12, 1932, at 6:10 pm at her home on 231 South Street in Zanesville.<sup>11</sup> Her passing came as a complete shock to everyone who knew her as noted in the New York Age newspaper. At the time of her death Rose Hayman Harrison Bell was fifty-four years young, having been called from the church militant to the church triumphant. “Well done, Thy good and faithful servant.”

Rose left to mourn her passing, her husband of twenty-eight years, Rev. Charles (Chas) H. Bell, her father Abram ‘Abraham’ Harrison, her mother L. Cottie Harrison both residing in Plymouth North Carolina, her sisters Mrs. Cattie ‘Kate’ Anthony of North Carolina, Mrs. Lusettie ‘Lusette’ Winn of New York City and Mrs. Olympia Frazier of Hartford Connecticut. Rose Bell was laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery on Saturday, October 15th, 1932.

Lovingly compiled by  
Sis. Lee-Ann L. Ingram  
16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> President  
Rose Bell Women’s Missionary Society



*Rosa A Bell*

## PRESIDENTS OF ROSE BELL WMS 1923 - 2023

1. 1923 – 1931 Mrs. Rose Bell wife of Rev. Charles H. Bell
2. 1931 – 1936 Mrs. Eunice Pottinger wife of Rev. Leo Pottinger
3. 1936 – 1940 Mrs. Blanche Galloway – wife of Rev. B. A. Galloway
4. 1940 – 1945 Mrs. Mary Owens - wife of Rev. D. M. Owens
5. 1945 – 1948 Mrs. Sadie Thornley – wife of Rev. E. N. Thornley
6. 1948 - 1951 Mrs. Gertrude Foster – wife of J. Edward Foster
7. 1951 - 1957 Mrs. Katherine Collins – wife of Rev. Kelly A. Collins
8. 1957 - 1967 Mrs. Ida. J. Smith
9. 1967 - 1970 Mrs. Cora Trott
10. 1970 - 1973 Mrs. Aubra White – Wife of Rev. Harry White Jr.
11. 1973 - 1980 Mrs. Celeste Jones (7 years)
12. 1980 - 1988 Mrs. Lorraine Fubler (8 years)
13. 1988 - 1992 Mrs. Lucille Ming
14. 1992 - 2000 Mrs. Eunice L. Jones
15. 2000 - 2008 Mrs. Madree Sampson
16. 2008 - 2010 Ms. Lee-Ann Ingram
17. 2010 - 2014 Mrs. Madree Lindsay
18. 2014 - present Ms. Lee-Ann Ingram

*\* dates in blue are unverified as of the publishing of this document.*

## SOURCES

1. Translated/transcribed 1880 Federal Census Washington County, North Carolina Page No. 13 Enumeration Dist. Number 138 Schedule 1 Inhabitants in Town of Plymouth
2. Great Gale of 1878 Brought Nights of Terror 10/09/2020 by Kip Tabb
3. Twelfth Census of the United States 1900 Schedule No. 1 Population Plymouth Township 18th June 1900
4. State of New York Certificate and Record of Marriage Certificate number 5493
5. Thirteenth Census of the United States 1910 – Population April 24, 1910
6. Registration Card & Registrar’s Report Serial Number 655 Order number 1648
7. Fourteenth United States Federal Census 1920 – Population January 2, 1920, St. Joseph County
8. Google Maps
9. The Bermuda Recorder Newspaper, March 10th, 1934 – Front Page
10. The Bermuda Recorder Newspaper, March 10th, 1934 – Front Page
11. The Times Recorder, Newspaper, Zanesville Ohio, Thursday October 13, 1932, Page 2

# ROSE BELL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

## ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH

### 1923 – 2023

*"We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world."* - Mission Statement

*"The Rose Bell Missionary Society, [W.M.S.] formerly the Mite Missionary Society, was organized in October 1923, during the administration of the late Rev. Charles H. Bell, pastor of the St. Paul A.M.E.C. Hamilton, and the Presiding Elder of the Bermuda Annual Conference. The first president was Mrs. Rose Bell, wife of the pastor, and one whom the women respected and admired, in her they observed qualities of sincere Christianity and because of this they were unanimous in their decision to name the society for her."*<sup>1</sup>

In the beginning, the President of Rose Bell W.M.S. was always held by the wife of the pastor of St. Paul. The president of the Society also served as the President of the Bermuda Conference W. M.S. This was the established custom and practice until 1957 when Mrs. Ida J. Smith broke the mold. Mrs. Ida J. Smith became the first non-pastor's spouse to preside over Rose Bell W.M.S. and the Bermuda Conference W.M.S.

From its humble beginnings, the members of Rose Bell have always valued education, and the education of the people in the community the organization serves. *"In 1962, the society adopted [a Mr.] Lester McClain of Monrovia, Liberia. Lester's ambition was to obtain an education so that he would be prepared to help his people. At the time of his "adoption" he was a student at the University of Liberia."*<sup>2</sup>

In the 1960's, Sis. Winona Jennings of Heard Chapel A.M.E. was called to the mission field in Monrovia, Liberia. Rose Bell W.M.S. supported Sis. Winona in her calling through financial support generated by many fundraisers the proceeds of which were sent to Sis Winona who used the funds to build an orphanage and a school. Rose Bell W.M.S. supported this venture for many years. Matilda Smith and Helena Williams were also members of the Rose Bell W.M.S., they started a home to provide care for aging sin-

gle women on Union Street that became the Matilda Smith Williams Seniors Home. Since that time, the home moved to its present location 3 Kent Avenue and is now The Matilda Smith Williams Seniors Residence. The Bermuda Recorder featured an article entitled "Annual Thanksgiving Service" which was an annual event hosted by the Rose Bell WMS. *"The Rose Bell Women's Missionary Society of St. Paul A.M.E. Church will be holding their annual Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, December 9 at 4 pm at the church.... Mrs. Rose Bell, wife of the late Rev. Charles Bell who saw the invaluable service needed to help families and senior citizens in various emergencies both here and abroad. Since that time the Society has continued in that work by trying to reach as far as they can."*<sup>3</sup>

Under the leadership of President Celeste Jones, who in the early 1980's had the vision to assist young black entrepreneurs and an annual Christmas Fair was organized. This annual fair provided a forum for entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their goods. From the beginning, this proved to be a very lucrative venture for many budding entrepreneurs and for two decades, this became the cornerstone event for Rose Bell WMS. Unfortunately, due to increased competition, interest began to wane, but the record has been set straight, that it all began from a vision from the president of Rose Bell W.M.S.

Many women of St. Paul A.M.E. have been called in serve as part of the missionary society. Many of the names have been lost through time and space, but their work continues, some through their children and grandchildren. It is not uncommon for mothers and daughters to work side by side in missionary societies.

As we enter another century of service and witness, the members of Rose Bell W.M.S. continue to strive to stay true to our mission of **service** and **witness**.

1. St. Paul A.M.E. Church Bulletin Missionary Sunday, October 18, 1987

2. 75th Annual Conference of the A.M.E. Churches

3. The Bermuda Recorder Newspaper, December 1, 1973



# THE MEMBERS OF ROSE BELL WMS THROUGH THE YEARS



1962



1986



1995



2000



2003



2014





2015



2016



2017



2018



2019



2023



ALLEN STARS 2000



YPD 2015



2019





## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

### 2023 - 2024

#### ACTIVE

SUZETTE BUTTERFIELD  
JULIA FAMOUS  
MARIONETTE FURBERT  
PAULA FRAY  
LEE-ANN INGRAM  
MADREE LINDSAY  
WILMA LOWE  
EUNICE L. JONES  
WILFREDA LIGHTBOURNE  
ILYS MORTON  
CHRISLYN PHILIP  
CEITA ROCHESTER  
BRENDA ROWLING  
JOAN SIMMONS, EVANG.

#### INACTIVE

LUCILLE BEAN  
MELVINA BURGESS  
SYLVIA CAINES  
WINSOME DAVIS  
EDITH DOUGLAS  
ELVIA EVE  
JUNE FAMOUS  
ROSINA HARDTMAN  
LOIS JACOBS  
JENNIFER JACKSON  
LAVINIA JONES  
DIANNE OUTERBRIDGE, EVANG  
CORINNE PARRIS  
DELORES SIMMONS  
BETTY SMITH  
CARLA SMITH  
CYNTHIA STOVELL  
ANDREA TUCKER  
CARLENE TUCKER  
CAROL WADE  
CORAL WILSON  
LAVERNE WILSON  
LOIS WEEKS



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