

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2026

VOLUMN 3

MISSION

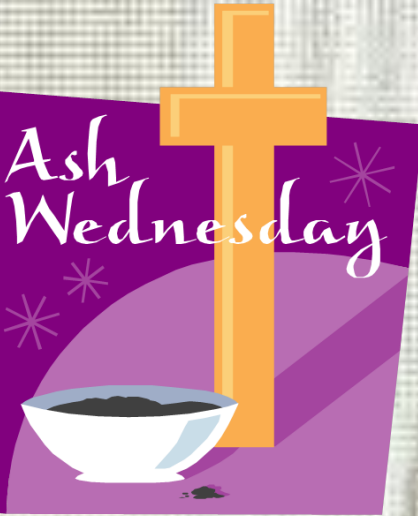
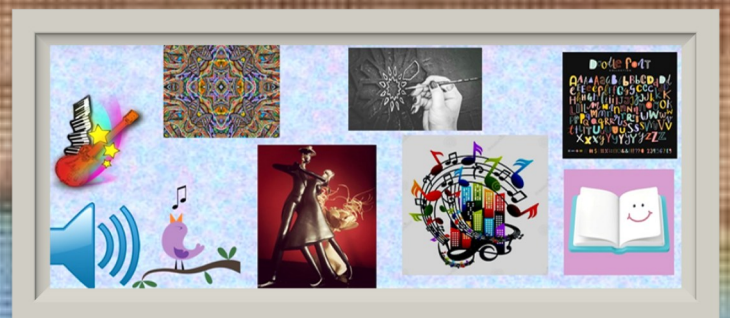
MID-YEAR RISE UP And Sing

MOVEMENT



MUSIC

CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL A SHOWCASE OF TALENTS



Women History Month



MENTAL HEALTH



INSIDE EDITION

PAGE

INSIDE EDITION	2
LAY COUNCIL WORKSHOP	3—4
COMMUNITY LENTEN CARAVAN — ASH WEDNESDAY	5
CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL FLYER	6
WOMEN HISTORY MONTH FLYER	7
SCACLO CONVENTION FACT SHEET	8
NO KINGS DAY FLYER	9
LENT FLYER	10
ALIZEMHIER AWARENESS FLYER	11
PAINT AND SIP FLYER	12
PRIMM AME CHURCH LAY DAY FLYER	13
SCHOLARSHIP FLYERS	14
NEWSLETTER STAFF	15



Too many Americans who struggle with mental health illnesses are suffering in silence rather than seeking help, and we need to see to it that men and women who would never hesitate to go see a doctor if they had a broken arm or came down with the flu, that they have that same attitude when it comes to their mental health. [BARACK OBAMA]

On Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Walker Temple AME Church, Los Angeles, Rev. Patricia Freeman, host pastor; the Southern California Annual Conference Lay Organization (SCACLO) presented a “Lay Council,” the first Lay Conference training of the year. It was highly successful with insightful workshops.

A needed training for all laity and clergy who want to be part of a God centered, organized and effective “AME Ministry” based upon methodist mandates .

Two presenters, Sister Charlotte Ned, President of the 5th Episcopal District Women’s Missionary Society (WMS), and Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler, Pastor of First AME Church, Los Angeles; delivered a thoroughly captivating and entertaining workshop on the topics: *The Functions of the Five AME Church Conferences* by Sister Ned. The second half of the workshop was conducted by Rev. Dr. Tyler based on *Who are the Constituents of each of the Conferences?* and *What is the Difference Between the Official Board and Church Conference?*

Information gained from these topics made for an enlightenment about effective administrations, engaging and participating congregations, and means for spiritual leadership for both clergy and laity. Where there is “Social Justice” along with the ethos of “Social Holiness.” (social holiness means ‘set the captives free’). “ These two terms are described by Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Dickenson – Ret., General Officer (1988—2012 AME Global Church), during another presentation [2/10/26] on the topic of *Methodism*.

A valuable part of this day was the teaching and comments made as Rev. Dr. Tyler discussed the constituents of the Annual Conference — clergy delegates as members of the Annual Conference and laity delegates being representatives at the conference. Sister Jackie DuPont Walker, Connectional Director of Social Action, added that the work of the Annual Conference is in the committees. Delegates should do more than just appear for reports, they should take the recommendations back to the local churches, share them with their congregations, and work on them all year long, until the next Annual Conference.

In addition, an equally valuable discussion concerned the differences between the Official Board and the Church Conference. Many AME clergy and laity are not aware of the differences between the duties and responsibilities of these components. The core of the matter is: the **Official Board** is the chief administrative and operational body of the local AME church. While the **Local Church Conference governs**, the **Official Board manages**.

Dr. Tyler presented a chart that showed the differences between the local church conference and official board.

	<u>LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE</u>	<u>OFFICIAL BOARD</u>
PRESIDING OFFICER:	Pastor	Pastor
SCOPE:	Congregational	Administrative
WHO PARTICIPATES:	All Members	Elected/Appointed Officers
PRIMARY ROLE:	Governing	Managing
DECISION TYPE:	Major, Church-wide	Day-to-Day Operations
FREQUENCY:	As Called	Regular (monthly)

AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

Authority is **administrative**, not **governing**
 Cannot make decisions reserved for the **Local Church Conference**
 Cannot act independently of the Pastor or the *Discipline*.
 Serves as a steward, **not a substitute**, for the congregation

“The **Primary Responsibilities** of the **Local Church Conference**” presented by Rev. Dr. Tyler included:

- Electing local church officers
- Receiving reports on the spiritual, financial, and administrative life of the church
- Approving major financial actions that affect the congregation
- Authorizing property-related actions (subject to episcopal and disciplinary approval)
- Providing a forum for accountability and transparency [Discipline: page 309-310, section: A,B,C]

Traditionally, vote to approve a licentiate after a trail sermon. (This is not written in the discipline)

The Authority of the Local Church Conference.

Highest authority within the local congregation (*The Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church*)

Cannot override the *Doctrine and Discipline*

Cannot hire or fire the Pastor

Must act in compliance with episcopal authority and connectional requirements

Note: The items highlighted in red are usually thought to be the responsibilities and authority of official boards, not so. These functions of the church conference provide for the congregation to support the church's vision — “democratization of the church body.” The different roles and functions of the “Local Church Conference” allows for accessibility to everyone, thus introducing a more democratic system with spiritual harmony.

“Constituents of each Conference”

Local Church Conference: Local Pastor (Presiding Officer), all members of the local church in *good standing*, elected officers and leaders, stewards, trustees, and ministry leaders. **Note: Pastor has no vote. Members can override a decision by a 2/3 majority vote according to *Discipline*.** [Part V page112-112, section:B(5a)]

“Key Principle: Every member has a voice, but the Conference is conducted under the authority of the Pastor and in harmony with the *Discipline*.”

Official Board: Pastor (Chair) Stewards, Stewardesses (at the pleasure of the Steward Board), Trustees, Class Leaders, Department and Ministry Leaders, Church Secretary and Treasurer (from the trustees' board). Local preachers are honorary members. [page 111, section1:B1c]

“Key Principle: The Official Board acts collectively and always under pastoral leadership”

During the Q&A session, two key questions were asked: the question about the service time of Stewards and Pastors. The answer is Stewards are nominated and approved at the first quarterly conference. Therefore, they are serving from the first quarter of the conference year until the first quarter of the next conference year. Pastors are members of the Annual Conference and appointed; thereby serving from the appointment by the Bishop at Annual Conference until they are appointed at the closing of the following Annual Conference unless otherwise re-assigned by the Bishop before this time.

Closing Reflection (by Rev. Dr. Tyler)

He stated:, “The AME Church’s governance model protects both **voice** and **order**. When the Local Church Conference governs, and the Official Board administers— each according to the *Doctrine and Discipline*—the church is positioned to thrive in unity and purpose.” Let all things be done decently and in order.[1 Corinthians 14:40]

This reflection as quoted by Rev. Dr. Tyler adds to the statement made by the former Presiding Prelate, Bishop Fugh. He refers to the “democratization of the church after the induction of church conferences.

In a workshop on “The Work of the *Doctrine and Discipline*” (January 13, 2026), Bishop Fugh stated, “when the AME Church turned from an Episcopate model (Bishop’s rule) to the Episcopal with Conferences model, it democratized the church — making it a more democratic body.”

Lay leaders, you have your job laid out for you. Train your members utilizing *The AME Doctrine and Discipline*. Ensure that your church is functioning according to the AME doctrine and not directions and doctrines that come from other denominations or popular trends.

The *Discipline* is law and it is Biblically based. Do not be misled by the comment: ‘that you love the discipline more than the Bible.’ Both are important in the church of Allen. As quoted by Rev. Dr. Dickerson: “Social Action and Social Holliness are both necessary.”

PRICE CHAPEL AME CHOIR, REV. CLARK, PASTOR, AND
CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, SISTER KATHY GREEN USHERING

COMMUNITY LENTEN CARAVAN

2026 ASH WEDNESDAY



CELEBRATING

WOMEN'S

History Month

CELEBRATING

WOMEN'S

History Month

CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
History Month

Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

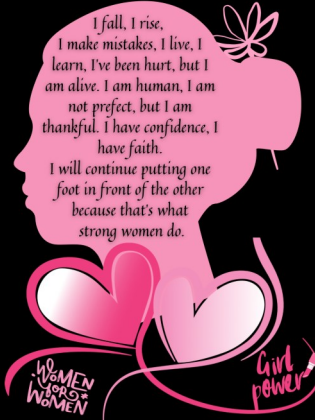
Dear Heavenly Father, we come together to honor and celebrate the achievements of women throughout history. We thank You for the strength and resilience You have instilled in them. May their contributions continue to inspire and empower all.

prayerslife.com



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY
8 MARCH

I fall, I rise,
I make mistakes, I live, I learn,
I've been hurt, but I am alive.
I am human, I am not perfect,
but I am thankful. I have confidence,
I have faith.
I will continue putting one foot in front of the other
because that's what strong women do.



Prayers for Women

A Prayer for Single Women

Lord, I pray for single women to find their hope and strength in you. May they seek your face with all their heart, and call upon you in times of need. Restore their joy and remind them of your unending love for them. Let them know that you have a bright hope and future in store for them. Amen.

A Prayer for Married Women

Lord, I pray for married women, and ask that you will unify them together with their husbands for your honor and glory. Help them to communicate well and express their needs to gain understanding of how to better serve each other. May they respect one another with sincere love and affection, and may their families reflect the beauty and character of Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for Women with Children

Lord, I pray for women with children of all ages. Give them the strength each day to love their children with joy and grace. Help them to enjoy each stage of their children's lives, and to establish beautiful relationships as their children grow and develop into adulthood. Amen.



Heavenly Father, we lift up women around the world, praying that they may be empowered with wisdom, courage, and the confidence to pursue their dreams. May they find their true purpose in You..

prayerslife.com

Proverbs 31:25

“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.” .

Proverbs 31:30

“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”



Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL CONVENTION FACT SHEET



77th Annual Lay Convention Registration and Hotel Information

SCACLO 77th Annual Lay Convention – June 4-6, 2026 – Parks Chapel AME Church, San Fernando, CA

Registration \$135.00 includes six (6) meals and snacks – **Deadline May 23, 2026**
Meals - Thurs-Dinner, Fri-Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Sat-Breakfast & Lunch

Giving Platforms:

Cash App: **\$SCACLO5**

Zelle: scclayorganization5@gmail.com

Make checks payable to SCACLO:

Mail checks to:

Dionne Thompson - Financial Secretary

6935 Aliante Parkway, Suite #104-336

North Las Vegas, NV 89084

Hotel - Hampton Inn and Suites - Porter Ranch - Los Angeles area

Room rate \$188.38 (exclude 14.00% tax per night) - **Deadline May 10, 2026**

- **Complimentary Breakfast**
- **\$50 incidental charge per night**

FREE Parking

RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY!

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/77thscacloannuallayconvention/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Blessings,

Kathy Green
SCACLO President
(323) 397-1558

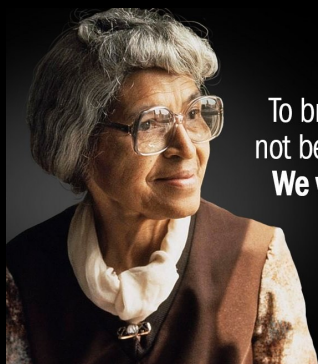
"Ask not what the Lay Organization can do for you; but what we can do for the Lay Organization together!"

NO KING DAY — A SCREAM FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

MARCH 28, 2026 — NO KING DAY MARCHES

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PEACE AND QUIET. QUIET MEANS SHUT UP. QUIET MEANS SUFFER IN SILENCE. PEACE MEANS JUSTICE. WE WANT PEACE, BUT WE WON'T GET QUIET UNTIL WE GET JUSTICE.

- AL SHARPTON -



To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the **first step**.
We will fail when we fail to try.

- Rosa Parks

In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

Martin Luther King Jr.



THE COACHING TOOLS COMPANY.COM

I've seen too much in life to give up.

- Al Sharpton -

AZ QUOTES

Hold your head high, stick your chest out. You can make it. It gets dark sometimes, but morning comes. Keep hope alive. Don't you surrender! Suffering breeds character, character breeds faith. In the end faith will not disappoint.

- Jesse Jackson



AZ QUOTES

I agree with Dante, that the hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in a period of moral crisis maintain their neutrality. There comes a time when silence becomes betrayal.

[*"Why I Am Opposed to the War in Vietnam"*. Sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, April 30, 1967.] Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.]

You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.

(Shirley Chisholm)

ixquotes.com

There is no shame in confusion or fear. "There was only shame in the silence fear had produced.... It was the silence that betrayed us."

- Barack Obama -

AZ QUOTES



God Is Still Speaking

by Francine Brookins

INLAND EMPIRE A.M.E.
MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

PRESENTS



REV. RETHIS MURRY
SPEAKER

LENT

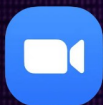
Prayer) Fast) Giving



LIVE

Bethel AME Perris

zoom



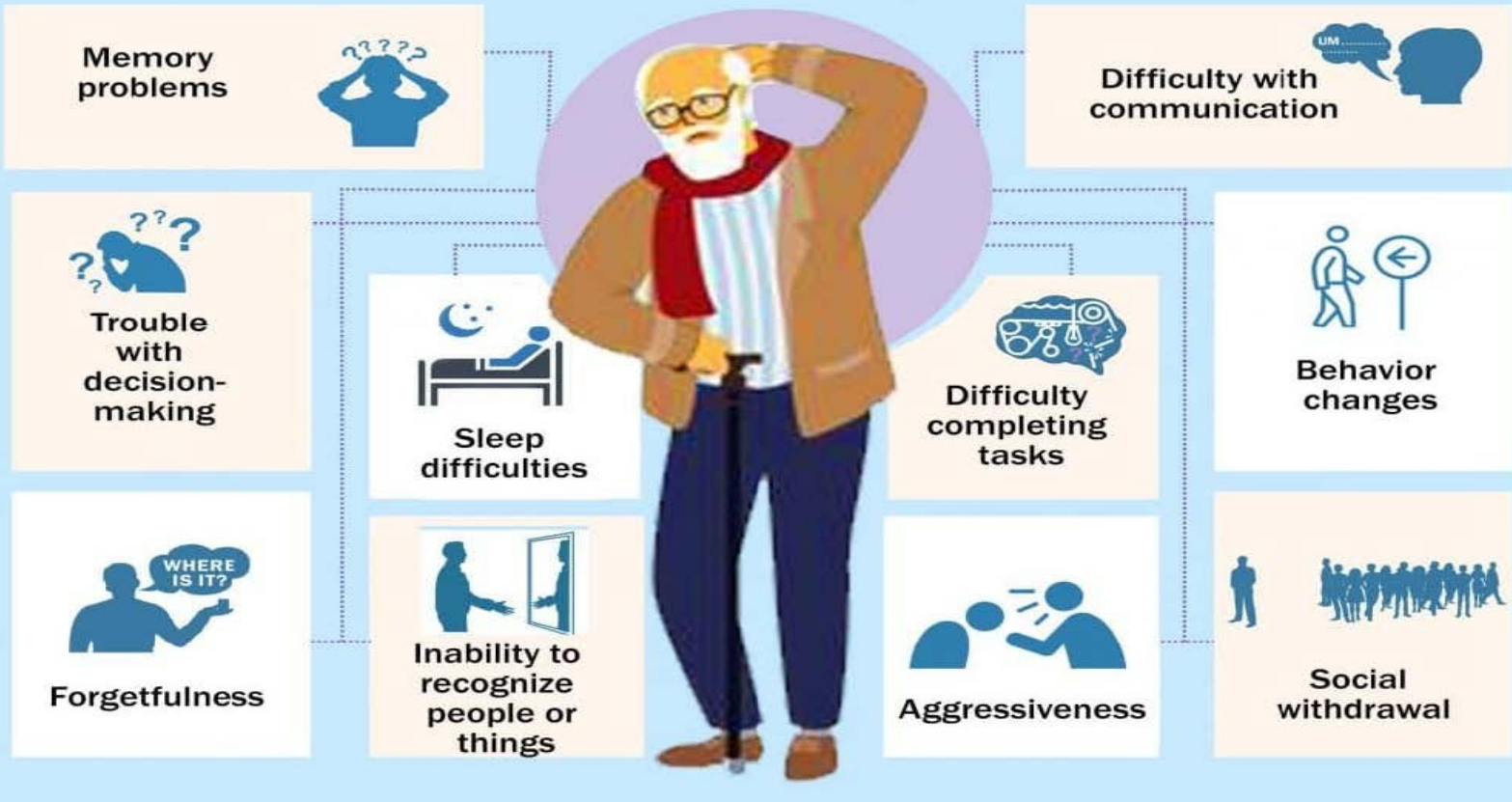
829 397 4945 Passcode 091421

Giving Via Givelify:
Inland Empire
Ministerial Alliance

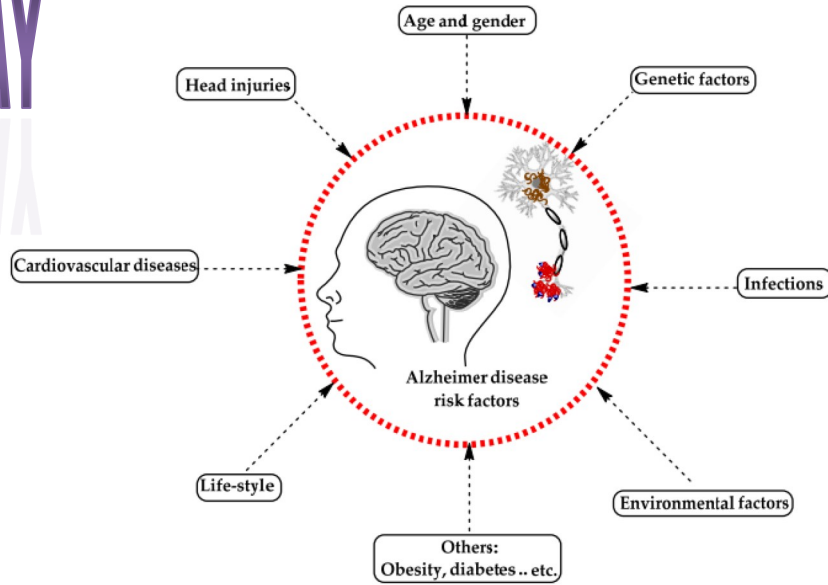
Bethel A.M.E.
Church Perris
24480 Sophie St.
Perris, CA 92470

3:00PM
8 MARCH
2026

Symptoms Of Alzheimer's Disease



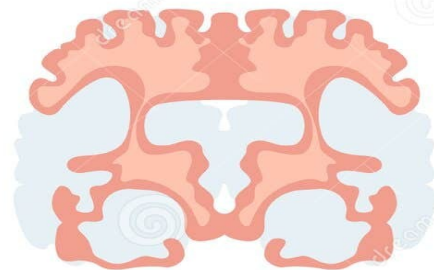
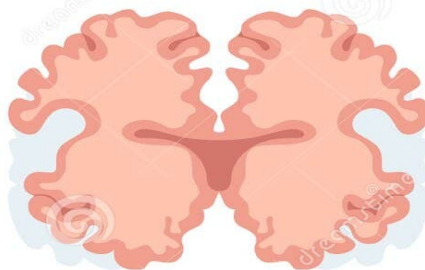
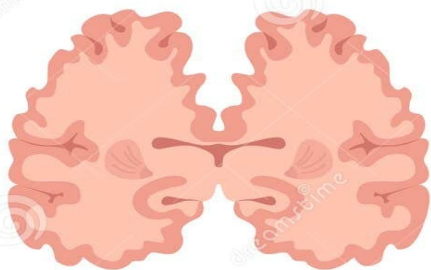
AME CHURCH PURPLE SUNDAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026
WEAR PURPLE IN SUPPORT OF
ALZHEIMER AWARENESS



Healthy Brain

Mild Cognitive Dysfunction

Alzheimer's Disease



PAINT AND SIP ELIZA GILLARD WMS Faith-Raiser



SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026
TIME: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
BETHEL A.M.E CHURCH PERRIS
24480 Sophie St, Perris, CA 92570
DONATION: \$25.00



Seating is limited.
Please RSVP by March 1, 2026 to:
Reverend Versie McGee (951) 529-0900

A light lunch will be provided



Primm Tabernacle AME Church
Lay Organization
Annual Lay Day



“Called to Serve, Equipped to Lead”

March 8, 2026

2:30pm

Primm Tabernacle AME Church

Rev. Raichera Baker, Pastor

Wendell Talley, Lay President

Guest Speaker

Rev. Andross Milteer, Pastor

A.K. Quinn AME Church, Moreno Valley



1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV) - “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

Lunch will be served at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Primm Tabernacle AME Church

1938 S Towne Ave, Pomona, CA 91766





Microsoft Disability Scholarship

Delivering on the mission of the Microsoft cross disability employee resource group to empower and enable people with disabilities.

Microsoft Disability Scholarship

Deadline to Apply: Mar. 16, 2026 • 3pm CT

Award Amount: \$5,000 each for up to 11 students (renewable for 4 years)

E-mail: microsoft-disability@scholarshipamerica.org

The Seattle Foundation and the Disability at Microsoft Inclusion Network have established a scholarship program to assist current high school seniors who plan to continue their education in college or vocational school programs and pursue various eligible areas of study.

<https://scholarshipamerica.org/.../microsoft-disability/...>



March of Dimes Nursing Scholarship

Deadline to Apply: Mar. 14, 2026

Award Amount: \$10,000

Established in 1998, the March of Dimes Nursing Scholarships recognize and promote excellence in nursing, reflecting our commitment to improving maternal and infant health for all families.

Scholarships are awarded to top-scoring applicants who demonstrate dedication to improving maternal and infant health. Each recipient receives a \$10,000 scholarship supported by Pampers®, a valued March of Dimes partner.

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/.../awa.../nursing-scholarships>

NEWSLETTER



ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Carolyn Hall, Park Chapel AME Church, San Fernando, Editor
Sybel Tompkins, Bethel AME Church, Perris, Contributor and Editor.

Disclaimer : Information in this newsletter is for educational purposes only. All art work comes from clip art, Bing, or the www. Photos are taken with permission of individuals posing for pictures. This is for entertainment and enjoyment of the members of the Southern California Lay Organization of the AME Church and all other community members. No monetary profits are gained from the distribution of this work. Comments, publicity, or any other information is based upon writers/editors and are their own personal intellectual prosperities.