



# Holsey Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

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## Press Release

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### **YOUTH CONVENTION BRINGS 300+ GUESTS TO FITZGERALD**

FITZGERALD, GEORGIA – APRIL 20, 2009: Over 300 persons gathered at Holsey

Chapel C.M.E. Church on Saturday, April 18, 2009 for the Annual Moultrie-McRae-Brunswick Sunday School & Christian Youth Fellowship Convention. The Moultrie-McRae-



Brunswick (MMB) District comprises 30+ Christian Methodist Episcopal churches and pastors in southeastern Georgia counties. The theme for this year's event was "Behold, I am Doing A New Thing."

The main objective of the Sunday School & Christian Youth Fellowship Convention is to facilitate an exchange of ideas across the district’s young people. The convention blends social interaction with cultural and educational components into one cohesive experience. Our district believes in the learning method of direct, hands-on experience. In our activities and classes, students have the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills, debate current issues, deliver speeches, make life decisions, and realize “Doing A New Thing” in their Christian faith. By participating in the convention, youth begin to understand their faith through practice as



opposed to theory. Their interaction provokes communication and dialogue that, throughout the convention, provides an unparalleled learning experience and spiritual

adventure. Ms. Audrey Gibbons from Brunswick, Georgia is the District Director of Christian Education and has the

Christian Education Leadership (from left to right): Charles Coney, Holsey Chapel Director of Christian Education; Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield, General Secretary of Christian Education—Memphis, Tenn.; Audrey Gibbons, District Director of Christian Education—Brunswick, Ga.; Dr. Willa Ross, Executive Assistant of Christian Education—Memphis, Tenn.; LaJuana Colvin, Convention Treasurer—Brunswick, Ga.; Alice Blount, Holsey Chapel Christian Youth Fellowship Director; and Presiding Elder Robert Yarbrough, Moultrie-McRae-Brunswick District—Statesboro, Ga.

responsibility for this meeting. She comments, “The Board of Christian Education has a rich history in preparing our membership for discipleship. We embrace our children, youth, women, and men as we are “Doing A New Thing.”

With a wide range of experts participating in the convention, the convention stressed understanding and an open-minded exchange of different perspectives on contemporary issues. The individuals that create the convention are each other’s best resource in uncovering the similarities and among youth from different backgrounds coming from diverse locations. By bringing over 30+ churches together, and exposing them to real world issues, the District is strengthening relationships and cooperation between youth in the District and creating a

network between the future leaders. Presiding Elder Robert Yarbrough is the leader for the district and offers, “It is encouraging to see more and more participants at our Annual Convention. The church’s attendance shows commitment to church growth and “Doing A New Thing.” I applaud the pastors and congregations.”

The program format for the convention included plenary sessions, recreational activities, and age-appropriate study lessons. “In preparing for this year’s convention, we attempted to make the curriculum relevant and youth-oriented with contemporary subjects as, “Baggin, Saggin’, and Braggin’” for

the young boys, “Young, Scared, and Pregnant” for the young girls, “All Eyez on Me” for the juniors, and “Me & My Shadow” for the Primary Group,” comments Charles Coney, Host Church Director of Christian Education. The adults were broken in to focus groups based upon their roles in the church. Pastors were led by special guest Dr. Carmichael



Winning collage as submitted by the young people at Mt. Zion C.M.E. Church in Graham, Ga. Rev. Wanda Thomas is their pastor.

Crutchfield from Memphis, Tennessee, General Secretary of Christian Education for the entire C.M.E. Church. Christian educators were taught by Rev. Cindy Causey from Conyers, Georgia. She is a trainer in the Sixth Episcopal District’s Christian Training Institute. Brian Magwood from Lithonia, Georgia is the Connectional Young Adult President and his lesson, “Serving the Present Age” was for the Young Adults who attended. The adult classes used the reference, “Christianity for the Rest of Us—How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith” by Diana Butler. This was a continuation of the book study from the C.M.E. Convocation held last fall in Louisville, Kentucky.

The convention planners partnered with the Ben Hill County Abstinence Program sponsored by Communities in Schools to bring a dynamic motivational speaker to the audience of young people. Jackie Brewton, CEO of MotivationN3D, is on a mission to educate, empower and equip both young and old to dream bigger dreams, make better decisions and discover their destinies. Her rave reviews from previous sessions in Ben Hill County made her a desired highlight for the convention. Following sessions with young people, she held work groups with the parents and youth leaders to provide perspectives and guidance for strategies in delivering the abstinence message. Assembly entertainment could be described as high-energy with gospel rappers ABAAM (“A Brother And A Minister”) from Jacksonville, Florida taking the stage along a talent showcase from churches in the District.



Motivational Speaker and Abstinence Educator Jackie Brewton addressing parents following training sessions with the young people.

Overall, the convention survey results were quite favorable...noting 90%+ satisfaction in most categories. The lowest rating was in the area of Convention Organization with an 85.4% positive opinion. The highest rating was in the area of Convention Session Appropriateness and Information with a 97.6% positive opinion. Host Pastor, Rev. Dr. Marvin J. Howard shares, “we are pleased to have hosted the Convention and hope that the time with us was an enjoyable experience. Here at “The Chapel”, we are all God’s Children.”

*The Moultrie-McRae-Brunswick District is a geographical segment of the Sixth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church led by Presiding Prelate Bishop Othal Hawthorne Lakey. More information is available on the Holsey Chapel website, [www.cmefitzgerald.org](http://www.cmefitzgerald.org) or on the MMB District’s website, [www.cmesixthmmb.org](http://www.cmesixthmmb.org) .*

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