

**Women's Home and Overseas  
Missionary Society**  
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

**MARY GAITHER MEEKS**  
*Agape*  
**LUNCHEON**

February 2016  
*Second Mile Anniversary*

**Quadrennial Theme:**

**"The Great Commission- A Global Outreach"  
Personal Calling, Personal Transformation,  
Personal Instruction, Personal Commitment**

## Mary Gaither Meeks Agape Luncheon

### **The Call to Worship:**

**Leader: Jesus said, I tell you this so that my joy may be in you**

*People: Love one another as I loved you*

**Leader: Jesus said, You are my friends do what I ask you**

*People: Love one another as I loved you*

**Leader: Jesus said, I have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last**

*People: Love one another as I have loved you*

**Leader: As we gather in worship, we know that Christ laid down his life for us**

*All: We are called to be a community where his love lives and grows!*

### **The Invocation:**

Loving God, we have come together in this place with Jesus Christ in our midst. Our hands are open to receive, our hearts are open to give, our minds long to learn and our souls reach out to one another, when we pray: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **\*The Litany of Love:**

**Leader: God is love, God is Love**

*People: The Lord is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and rich in love. (Psalm 15:8)*

**Leader: The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of God's unfailing love. (Psalm 33:5)**

*People: God is Love*

**Leader: Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. (Psalm 36:5)**

*People: We will sing of the Lord's great love forever, with our mouths we will make Your faithfulness known through all generations. (Psalm 89:1)*

**Leader: God is Love**

All: Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us...*(1 John 4:7-10)*

**The Hymn: "Victory in Jesus" #638**

**The Meditation:**

**The Blessing and Sharing of Bread:** *(a meager meal is suggested)*

**The Sacrificial Offering:** *(special appeal for second mile offering)*

**The Remarks:**

**The Missionary Benediction:**

**God be merciful unto us and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us and give us peace. Amen.**

Program prepared by:

Angela Davis-Baxter, First Vice President  
Dr. Sandra L. Gadson, International President

***My life purpose is to live responsively to God's call and God's purposes.***

# Mary Gaither Meeks

## (Conceived Idea of Agape Luncheon)

Mary Gaither Meeks, daughter of Israel Lee Gaither, Sr. and Carmilla Nichols Gaither was born in Mocksville, North Carolina, May 27, 1911. She received her formal education in the public schools of Mocksville, Price High School and Livingstone College.

Mrs. Meeks began her missionary journey under Anna Hauser who was then serving as District President of the Salisbury District, Western North Carolina Conference. She was District President of the Akron District of the Ohio Conference (1949-1957) and of the Chicago District of the Michigan Conference (1957-1978). Committed to the preparation and inspiration of youth, she served as District Secretary of the Y's and District Chairman of the Life Members Council of the Michigan Conference and as Dean of the Leadership Training Institutes at Clinton Junior College and Lomax Hannon Junior College (1970-1974).

In 1971, she was elected First Vice President of the W. H. & O.M. Society and re-elected in 1975. She brought to that role; a richness of creativity, a wealth of experience and a commitment to excellence. One of her most successful ideas was a resolution she presented to the Executive Board for the Agape Luncheon to be established as a fundraiser for the Second Mile Project in 1973.

She served as a member of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Salvation Army and was a Vice President of the Illinois Council of Churches (1971-1972), served as First Vice President of Church Women United in Illinois (1968-1970). She was the first African American to serve as State President (1971-1974), a member of the National Board of Managers of that organization, a member of the World Federation of Methodist Women, and the National Council of Negro Women.

Mrs. Meeks died on May 6, 1978, while in office. Her quadrennial report to the 1979 Convention was read by President Willa Mae Rice who lifted up Mrs. Meeks' contributions to Second Mile via the promotion of the Agape Luncheon. The delegates to this convention in 1979 voted to name the Agape Luncheon: **The Mary Gaither Meeks Agape Luncheon.**

Source: *Historical Highlights, Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society: Mattie Wilson Taylor*

District Presidents please submit funds to the Office of the Executive Director.

WHO&MS

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