

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

**Mary Gather Meeks
Agape Luncheon**



2018
Second Mile Anniversary

Quadrennial Theme:
Personal Instruction

Mary Gaither Meeks Agape Luncheon

Call to Worship: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3

Opening Selection: “I am Thine O Lord”

#433

Invocation: Oh God, We come before you today with thanksgiving in our hearts, Grateful for the opportunity to share with each other and to give to each other. Grateful for the example of Jesus, who teaches us to love our neighbors and serve those around us. Please open our eyes, to your instruction of service and faithful living. Thank you for the opportunity to expand our hearts, our communities, and our lives through your instructions for our lives. Amen.

***The Litany**

Leader: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

People: God will show us the path of life. (Psalm 16:11)

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not lack. (Psalm 23:1)

People: God will instruct me and teach me in the way I should go. He will guide me with His eye. (Psalm 32:8)

Leader: My steps are ordered by the Lord. (Psalm 37:23)

People: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Leader: I shall hear a word behind me, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever I turn to the right or the left. (Isaiah 30:21)

People: I follow Jesus so I shall not walk in darkness, but I have the light of life. (John 8:12)

Leader: The Lord will guide me continually. (Isaiah 58:11)

All: I trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding. In all my ways I acknowledge Him and He will direct my paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Selection: “I LOVE YOU LORD, (Today)”

I love You, I love You, I love You Lord today because You cared for me in such a special way, That's why I praise You I lift You up And I magnify Your name. That's why my heart is filled with praise

The Meditation:

The Gifts of Love: (special appeal for second mile offering)

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

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

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*

Sources

District Presidents please submit funds to the Office of the Executive Director.
WHOMS, PO Box 26846 Charlotte, North Carolina 28221