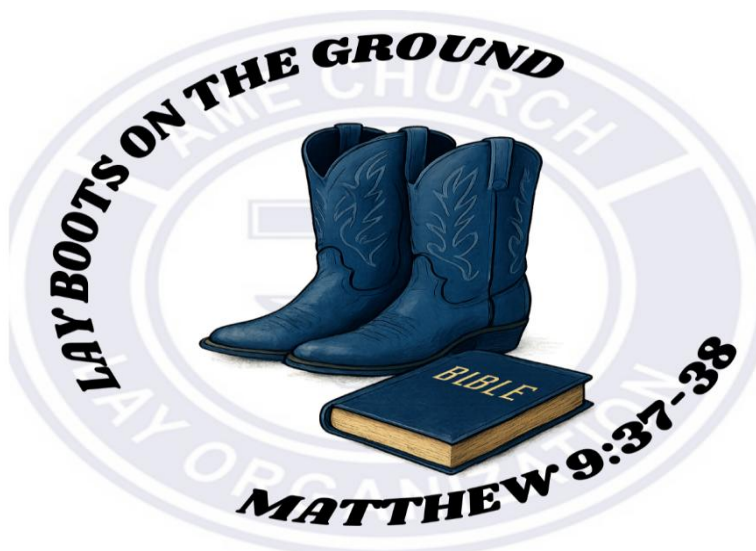


THE 16th SESSION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 -- 6:00 PM



“Lay Boots on the Ground: Where Is Your Faith?”

He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

Matthew 9:37-38 (NLT)

SAMUEL CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH
717 W. PRICHARD AVENUE
PRICHARD, ALABAMA 36502

The Right Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor
Mrs. Dianne Battle, CLO Director of Public Relations
The Reverend Charles A. Lewis, Host Presiding Elder
The Reverend Antonio Thomas, Associate Presiding Elder
The Reverend Vernon McLeod, Host Pastor
Mr. Robert L. Turner, 9th District Lay President
Mr. James C. Bonner, 9th District President Emeritus
Mrs. Dorothy Sconiers-Bevel, 9th District Director of Lay Activities
Mr. Cortez Thomas, 9th District Young Adult Representative
Mrs. Betty W. Davis, Southwest Conference Lay President
Mrs. Denise S. Woolridge, Southwest Conference Director of Lay Activities
Mrs. Cassandra Hughley, Host Lay President



To: Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate, Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor, Mrs. Dianne Battle, Connectional Director of Public Relations, Mr. Charlie Nichols, Connectional Chaplain, Mr. Robert Turner, Episcopal President, Mr. James C. Bonner, Episcopal President Emeritus, Mrs. Dorothy Bevel, Episcopal Director of Lay Activities, Rev. Charles Lewis, Host Presiding Elder, and Rev. Dr. G. Dianne Lewis, Rev. Antonio Thomas, Associate Presiding Elder, Mrs. Denise Woolridge, Conference Director of Lay Activities, Board of Examiners, Rev. Vernon McLeod, Host Pastor, and Mrs. Virginia McLeod, Mrs. Cassandra Hughley, Host Lay President, Clergy and Laity of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7

I am pleased and grateful to greet you on behalf of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference Lay Organization. Thank you for traveling from various places to attend the 16th Session Annual Lay Night. Special thanks to CLO Chaplain Charlie Nichols for agreeing to speak, and to members visiting from the Eleventh Episcopal District.

The Ninth Episcopal District Lay Organization comprises five conferences. We are delighted to welcome our out-of-conference lay members, where we strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship as we teach, train, and empower the laity for greater service.

To the members of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference, both clergy and laity, thank you for your dedication to the organized and active Lay Organization. You inspire me to continue the race, knowing our labor is not in vain, in the Lord.

As Conference Director of Lay Activities, Sister Denise Woolridge served diligently. She understood her role and carried it out with dedication. The Southwest Lay Organization is stronger because of Sister Denise, and we will greatly miss her passionate and cheerful spirit. We pray that God will open doors of opportunity for her in future endeavors.

We are very optimistic about the upcoming conference year. God blessed us to reap the harvest in 2024 -2025. He will do the same in 2025-2026. “He will not forget how hard you have worked for him...” As we walk by faith, we can expect nothing but showers of blessings from our Lord and Savior. “Where Is Your Faith?” The best is yet to come!

Blessings,

Betty W. Davis
President
Southwest Conference Lay Organization

THE 16th SESSION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 23, 2025
6:00 PM

Worship Leader
Mrs. Denise S. Woolridge

“Lay Boots on the Ground: Where Is Your Faith?”
Scripture: Matthew 9:37-38 (NLT)

The Doxology.....“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

The Call to Worship.....Mrs. Leontyne Jones

Leader: God calls us to do good, seek justice, and defend the oppressed.

People: We are not here for comfort alone.

Leader: We gather to be equipped for love and service.

People: We come to grow in courage and compassion.

Leader: Let us worship not only in words

People: But in lives shaped by grace.

Leader: Jesus met the hurting, the lonely, and the forgotten.

People: He healed them and sent them with purpose.

Leader: He restores what is broken

People: And calls us into lives of love and service.

Leader: Today, we come for healing and calling

ALL: We worship the One who makes all things new.

The Opening Hymn.....The Laymen’s Song

Laymen now have thus assembled, In Thy blessed name, O God.

Guide us in our true endeavor, Light the pathway that we trod;

Give us strength to ever labor for Thy cause,

Give us strength to ever labor for Thy cause.

We are banded one in union, to fulfill Thy just command,

May we be Thy true disciples, holding to Thy mighty hand;

Give us blessings from the fountain of Thy love,

Give us blessings from the fountain of Thy love.

As we walk this Christian journey, let us keep our armor bright.
Let our words be pure and holy, that we stand within Thy sight.
Laymen Soldiers, strong in unity and love.
Laymen Soldiers, strong in unity and love.

May we stand before Thine altar, pledging, Lord, to work for Thee.
In the Vineyard, in the pastures, let us, Lord, Thy Pilgrims be:
Let us lift the Cross forever to the skies,
Let us lift the Cross forever to the skies.
Amen.

The Invocation.....Mr. James Rivers

Choral Response.....Southwest Conference Choir

The Scripture..... **Matthew 9:35-38**Ms. Sharon Kennedy

The Summary of the Decalogue.....Mr. Chris Norman

The Worship through Music..... Southwest Conference Choir

The Litany.....Mrs. Karen Williams

LAY BOOTS ON THE GROUND
Written by Denise S. Woolridge,
Southwest Alabama Conference Director of Lay Activities

Leader: O Lord of the harvest, send your servants into the harvest fields where the lost cry out, where the broken need healing, where peace must be sown, where your Word must go, for the harvest is plentiful...

People: But the laborers are few.

Leader: O Lord of the harvest, send us into the streets, the schools, the prisons, the highways, and byways, where hearts are hungry for the truth and souls are ready for your Word, for the harvest is plentiful...

People: But the laborers are few.

Leader: O Lord of the harvest, send us to transcend the barriers that divide, to transform hearts with the power of your Gospel, to liberate the captives and set the oppressed free, for the harvest is plentiful...

People: But the laborers are few.

Leader: Lord, we go in your power, we go in your love, we go in your truth. Until every knee shall bow, every ear has heard, every tongue has confessed, and every heart is made whole.

ALL: Lord, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Send us, Lord, to transcend, transform, and liberate. Send us into all the world to gather in your harvest as we put our boots on the ground for your Kingdom.

The Public Service Announcement.....“The Harvest is Plentiful”

The Memorial.....Mrs. Cassandra Hughley

The Introduction of the Challenger.....Mr. Ervin Simmons

The Worship through Music..... Southwest Conference Choir

The Challenger

Mr. Charlie Nichols

Connectional Lay Organization Chaplain

Former President of the 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship..... Rev. Vernon McLeod

The Financial Appeal.....Conference Finance Committee

The Acknowledgement of Visitors.....Mrs. Cheryl Sutton-Robinson

The Presentation of Awards.....Mrs. Betty W. Davis

The Remarks..... Mrs. Betty W. Davis

Mr. Robert L. Turner

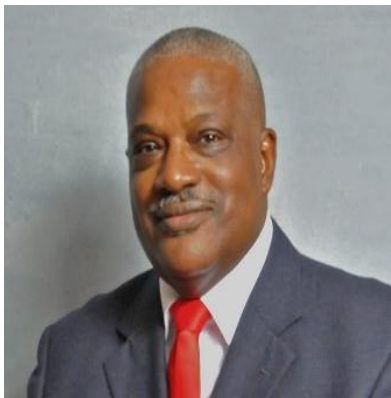
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

The Lay Benediction.....The Congregation

“May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity, that we may live together
not as man over man, but as Lay persons working with God.”

Biography



Charlie Nichols, a native of Pensacola, Florida, grew up as the fifth of eight children in the family of Rev. Charlie E. and Agnes Nichols. As a preacher's son, his childhood was shaped by faith, family, and a deep commitment to community. In the early 1960s, Charlie and his sister, Juanita, made history as the first African Americans to integrate A.V. Clubbs Junior High School, placing him at the heart of the civil rights movement during a pivotal moment in history.

Charlie is married to Dr. Joyce C. Nichols, retired Associate Professor in the Department of Research and Advanced Studies at the University of West Florida. Together, they are the proud parents of six children.

A devoted member of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Pensacola and Mobile while a student at the University of South Alabama. Charlie has served the congregation and the church at large in numerous leadership roles: Steward, usher, choir member, Director of Lay Activities (local and conference levels), Parliamentarian (Episcopal level), former District Lay President, President of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization, and currently as Chaplain of the Connectional Lay Organization.

Education

- Pensacola High School – High School Diploma
- Pensacola State College – Associate of Arts, Education
- University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL – Bachelor of Arts
- University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL – Educational Leadership

Professional Experience

- Served honorably in the United States Army
- Retired School Administrator, Escambia County Schools

Community Involvement & Leadership

- Life Member, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
- United States Army (Honorably Discharged and Retired Army Reservist)
- Escambia Education Association Bargaining Team
- Health and Human Services Board, Escambia County (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- Board of Directors, Children Services Center of Escambia County
- Judicial Nomination Commission, First Judicial Circuit (Gubernatorial Appointment)
- Northwest Florida Girl Scout Board of Directors
- Child Abuse Death Review Team
- Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Citizen Review Advisory Council
- Guardian Ad Litem Program
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters
- Former General Board Member, African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Former Member, Pensacola City Recreation Advisory Council
- Chair, Senior Advisory Council with the Council on Aging
- Board Member, Council on Aging
- Board Member, Northwest Florida Area Housing of Aging
- Board Member, Chappie James Museum

Charlie Nichols is recognized for his lifelong dedication to faith, education, public service, and advancing justice and equity in his community.

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S E R M O N A P P L I C A T I O N
H E A R I N G G O D ' S W O R D I N T H E S E R M O N

Since we forget 90% of what we hear, it has been suggested that note-taking will double the percentage of what we may receive during the hearing of God's Word.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SERMON

SERMON SCRIPTURE: _____

SERMON TITLE: _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: _____

THE OUTLINE OF THE MAIN POINTS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?
