

## **Rock Hill Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Alliance**

The Rock Hill Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Alliance (Alliance) was organized December 20, 1964 at Mount Prospect Baptist Church in Rock Hill. The Rev. J. H. Lewis presided over the initial meeting. Other ministers attending the initial meeting were Rev. J. D. Rucker, Rev. W. B. Knox, and Rev. H. B. Washington. At this time, Mrs. Sadie Rucker was appointed President. The other appointed officers were:

- Mrs. Hazel McArthur, Vice President
- Mrs. Geraldine Walker, Secretary-Treasure
- Mrs. Ernestine Sanders, Reporter

Charter members are:

- Mrs. Sadie Rucker
- Mrs. Jessie lee Strong
- Mrs. Geraldine Walker
- Mrs. J. H. Lewis
- Mrs. Marie Washington
- Mrs. Ernestine Sanders
- Mrs. Mary C. Jones
- Mrs. Hazel McArthur
- Mrs. A. V. Kettles
- Mrs. H. M. McLaughlin
- Mrs. Josephine Parker

In 1967, Mrs. Sadie Rucker was elected President. Mrs. A. V. Kettles was elected Vice President; Mrs. Hazel McArthur was elected Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Ernestine Sanders was elected Organist, and Mrs. Jessie Lee Strong was elected Chaplain. When Mrs. McArthur moved to Washington, DC, Mrs. Marian Baxter was elected Secretary-Treasurer in 1968.

In 1969, the Alliance elected the following officers:

- Mrs. Mary C. Jones, President
- Mrs. G. M. McLaughlin, Vice President
- Mrs. Marion Baxter, Secretary-Treasurer
- Mrs. Helen McClure, Assistant Secretary

In September 1973, Mrs. Juanita Toatley was elected President. Other officers were:

- Mrs. A. V. Kettles, Vice President
- Mrs. Helen McClure, Secretary
- Mrs. Mattie Ellison, Assistant Secretary
- Mrs. Annie Lee Massey, Treasurer
- Mrs. Fledora Anderson, Chaplain

Mrs. A. V. Kettles was elected President on October 20, 1975. The following Alliance members were also elected at this time:

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- Mrs. Marie Washington, Vice President
- Mrs. Froneberger, Secretary
- Mrs. Helen McClure, Assistant Secretary
- Mrs. Vastula Gray, Treasurer

During the following years, the following Alliance members were elected President:

- Mrs. Marian Baxter            1982 -1988
- Mrs. Mamie Burris            1988 -1990
- Mrs. Teresa Roddey           1990.-1996
- Mrs. Barbara Boulware       1996 -2005
- Mrs. Teresa Roddey           2005 -2009
- Mrs. LaSaine M. Yates       2009-Present

### **State Participation**

Members of the Rock Hill Interdenominational Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows Alliance have been dedicated to the SC Association of Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows. Several Alliance members held state offices as listed below:

- 1966 – 1968 - Mrs. A. V. Kettles, President  
1972 – 1974 - Mrs. Sadie Rucker, President  
                  Mrs. Mary C. Jones, Treasurer  
1982 – 1984 - Mrs. A. V. Kettles, Historian  
                  Mrs. Sadie Rucker, Dean of the Educational Dept.  
1994 – 1998 - Mrs. Teresa Roddey, Third Vice President  
                  Mrs. Yvonne Patton, Secretary  
2002 – 2004 - Mrs. Barbara Boulware, Financial Secretary  
2004 – 2007 - Mrs. Barbara Boulware, First Vice President  
2004 – 2008 - Mrs. Jackie Baxter, Treasurer  
2007 – 2012 - Mrs. Barbara Boulware served as State President  
2008 – 2012 - Mrs. Yvonne Patton served as Corresponding Secretary.

### **Local Programs**

The Alliance's first Anniversary Church Service was held at Langrum Baptist Church in York, SC. Rev. Dr. Osbey Roddey, church pastor, was the speaker. Subsequently, Anniversary Church Services were held annually at various churches in the Rock Hill vicinity. The second service was at Mount Prospect Baptist Church. The third service was at Boyd Hill Baptist Church. Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion in Lansford hosted the fourth Anniversary Church Service. Other locations for Alliance Anniversary Church Services are Jerusalem Baptist Church in Fort Mill, Union Baptist Church in Rock Hill, Harmony United Methodist Church in Edgemoor, Great Joy Baptist Church in McConnells,

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Ebenezer Baptist Church, Nazareth Baptist and Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Rock Hill.

Dr. Vickie Kerr was the keynote speaker for the Alliance's first Christmas Banquet at Clinton Jr. College in December 1987. On December 16, 1988, Dr. Bertha Maxwell Roddey was the keynote speaker at McBryde Hall at Winthrop University. Other banquets were held at Boyd Hill Center and Northside Center. Other keynote speakers were Rev. S. C. Cureton and Sister Beatrice Thompson.

One of the annual fundraisers of the Alliance is "Hats on Parade". The first "Hats on Parade" was November 1999 at Rock Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Rock Hill. Other "Hats on Parade" programs have been at Hermon Presbyterian, Boyd Hill Baptist, and Union Baptist Churches which are in Rock Hill. Other signature fundraisers sponsored by the Alliance are the "Shining Stars", "Sweethearts on Parade" and Twelve Tribes Programs. The first "Shining Stars" program occurred at Rock Grove AME Zion Church in 2003. The first Twelve Tribe Program was held November 2009 at Ebenezer Baptist Church. The second Twelve Tribe Program was held November 2010 at Mt. Prospect Baptist Church.

A scholarship fund was added to the Alliance in September 2010. Local high school senior or college students will benefit from these funds. In May 2011, the first scholarship fundraiser was a Softball Tournament held at The Jefferson Park in York, SC. Mrs. Florence Bankhead was instrumental in making preparation and gathering teams to play in the games. Several Alliance members played while other cheered and operated the concession stand. This was awesome fun activity for the Alliance members as well as funds raised for scholarships.

### **State Conferences**

In 1973, the Alliance hosted the first SC State MWMW Association Conference at Clinton Jr. College in Rock Hill. Dr. J.F.K. McCormick, National President of the IMW & MW Association, was the banquet keynote speaker. In 1982, the Alliance hosted the State Conference Banquet at New Mt. Olivet A. M. E. Zion Church in Rock Hill. Dr. Bertha Maxwell Roddey was the keynote speaker for the State Conference Banquet at Pope John Center in Rock Hill. State Conference was also held at the St. John United Methodist Church Life Center.

The Alliance last hosted the State Conference in April 2006 at the Holiday Inn in Rock Hill. Minister Linda Sprouse of Jehovah Baptist Church in Sumter was the banquet keynote speaker. The first workshop for ministers was initiated at this conference and was held at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Fort Mill, SC where Rev. M. N. Baxter is pastor. Mrs. Hilda Gadsden, Dean of Education, planned the workshops and was facilitated by Rev. Mack Gadsden of New Hope Baptist Church in Charleston, SC. Workshop presenters were Rev. Dr. Osbey Roddey, the late Rev. Dr. Willie Boulware, and Rev. Alvis Yates all of

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Rock Hill, SC.

The Alliance is hosting the State Conference in 2012 at the Holiday Inn Rock Hill, SC. On April 13, 2012, Rock Hill will host the SCAMWMW's first "President's Night" Banquet. Our own, Mrs. Barbara Boulware will be the speaker for the evening and honored at this special occasion. Mrs. Boulware served five years as the state president.

### **International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows**

Over the past several years Alliance members and their spouses have attended the week long IAMWMW Conventions. Some of the states visited were: Philadelphia, PA; Nassau, Bahamas; Cincinnati Ohio; Buffalo, New York; Atlanta, GA and Los Angeles, CA. Mrs. Barbara Boulware has served as a member of the nominating committee and chairperson of the Necrology IAMWMW committees. On February 25, 2012 at the Southeast Regional Conference held in Charlotte, NC, Mrs. Boulware was elected as the nominee for Vice President of IAMWMW Southeast Regional.

### **Community Service**

The Alliance is involved in various community service projects, sponsors community outreach programs and gives donations annually to non-profit organizations. A few are listed below:

#### Projects Donations

- School Supplies to students of Rock Hill School District #3.
- Coats for the Needy
- The Havens Men Shelter in Rock Hill
- Family Promise of York County

#### Charitable Donations

- NAACP
- Pilgrims Inn
- American Red Cross
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life
- Dr. W. G. Boulware Scholarship Fund, Rock Hill School District #3
- Christmas Gifts to Children with HIV/AIDS
- Family Promise of York County
- Tender Heart Ministry York, SC

#### Sponsored Community Outreach Programs

- HIV/AIDS Workshop at Union Baptist Church on July 19, 2008
- Bouey-Gayton Day Program on November 17, 2008
- IAMWMW Day of Service each year in April
- 2010 Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen -volunteers four times a year on 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday

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- 2011 Craft and singing at Agape Nursing Center
- 2010 – 2011 MWMW Scholarship Program

The Rock Hill Interdenominational Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Alliance continues to grow spiritually and educationally. The Alliance also continues to grow in membership, in service to the community and giving of our time and funds to local non-profits organizations.

Submitted by History Committee:

Mary Jones

Joyce Massey

Teresa Roddey

LaSaine Yates, President RHIMWMW