

STAR NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

*Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star for the State of North Carolina
An Affiliate of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Its Jurisdiction, Inc.*



Mary R. McGhee
*24th Grand Worthy Matron
Jurisdiction of North Carolina*



...from the Grand East



Greetings,

I am your 24th GWM Mary R. McGhee for Order of Eastern Star Right of Adoption for the State of North Carolina an affiliation of the Most worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and accepted Masons of North Carolina & its Jurisdiction, Inc.

My plea to you today is to remain encouraged, stay supportive and stay protected during this devastating “Storm of life; Covid-19 Virus.”



I strongly encourage you, at all times, to follow the CDC steps:



- Stay Home



- Maintain the 6ft social distancing when In Public



- Wear face covering in public



- Wash your hands, Wash your hands

It is critical that we follow these rules in order to slow the speed of the virus and help protect others from the transmitting of the **Covid-19 Virus**. Stay Safe!!

Just a few words of encouragement

I know that most of us have heard this familiar hymn “In times like these we need a Savior, in times like these we need an anchor; Be very sure, be very sure, our anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock! This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One, This Rock is Jesus, the only One; Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!”

Sisters and Brothers, I am writing to encourage everyone to grip the solid rock by having daily talks with God. Read your Bible and continue to let God guide you in everything you do. As a leader, I have a deep and genuine concern for the safety and well-being of all of us during this devastating Storm of life.

The Lord is the One who looks after, guides, and protects us. He allows many of us to rest in pleasant surroundings with our family as we seek relief from this raging sea of the Corona Virus. All we have to do is ask God to lead us into peaceful situations while renewing and strengthening our body’s energy.

As Sisters and Brothers, let’s continue to ask God to keep us on the path that will bring honor to His name. Remember that God requires us to love, show kindness, and walk humbly with Him. Call and check on your Sisters and Brothers. Your words of encouragement may be the only thing to keep them from falling into depression or thinking about things that can harm them.

In conclusion, even in your darkest times, fear not; God is with you every step of the way. The Corona Virus may try to destroy us, but God has Supreme Power. Regardless of what man says; God has the final say. He will grant us the victory.

Wait on the Lord and be of good courage. His anointing is so great that our life overflows with His provision and goodness. I do not doubt that His overwhelming compassion and unfailing love will preserve and guide us all the days of our life and that we will spend eternity with the Lord.

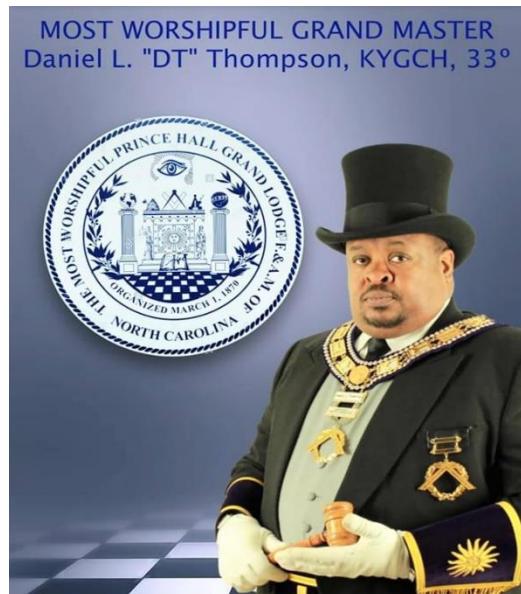
I know I cannot promise to call everyone, but I can promise to pray. Please keep all of us in your prayers.



A Time to Remember

The 150th (Sesquicentennial) Anniversary Celebration

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1



How good and pleasant it was for those who were in attendance at the 150th Celebration of Prince Hall Masonry in North Carolina. The celebration was held on February 28th, 29th and March 1st in Wilmington, NC – when Grand Worthy Matron Mary McGhee and Stars of this Grand Jurisdiction came out to join in with Most Worshipful Grand Master Daniel L. "DT" Thompson, our Grand Worthy Patron Reginald McClenton and the Brothers of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

The festivities began on Friday evening with a "Meet and Greet" – a time set aside for the Sisters and Brothers to fellowship one with another. There were conversations, laughter, picture taking and just a wonderful time spent together as a Prince Hall Family. The evening was light, informal and unscripted; almost like the first day of a family reunion. Our Grand Worthy Matron was radiant, adorned in her yellow and royal blue, but most noticeable was the light of her smile

as she greeted her Sisters and Brothers; thanking those who were able to take time out of their busy schedules to support this celebration.



On Saturday morning, a Prayer Breakfast was held. MWGM Thompson greeted and thanked the Sisters, Brothers and visitors who were in attendance on this momentous occasion and declared that on this day, he wanted the Brothers and Sisters of this jurisdiction to see "*What Right Looks Like.*" He called up Past MWGM Toby Fitch to bring the morning message. PMWGM Fitch took us on a stroll down "memory lane" as he recapped some of the history leading up to this weekend's celebration. At the conclusion of the message, MWGM Thompson explained the non-existence of a Charter for the PHGL of North Carolina. In the beauty of new beginnings, another history-making moment was captured as Brothers and Sisters looked on, to witness the signing of a document that will go down in history as the "Declaration of Organization" of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Even more historical and memorable was to behold the "unity" of the only three living Most Worshipful Grand Masters for the State of North Carolina; who before the eyes of those present, signed a document that symbolized the charter for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Pictures will never be able to capture the true essence and emotions of the moment. Oh, what a morning!

The Stars shone brightly on Saturday night, as we entered a dimly lit room; dressed in our formal attire, to enjoy the festivities of the evening. In a nearly filled room; Past Most Worshipful Grand Master Marvin Chambers delivered his message of "From Whence We Have Come". He commended the works of our 24th Grand Master and encouraged him and Grand Worthy Matron to continue to work together. At the conclusion, MWGM Thompson shared his appreciation and desire to take this jurisdiction to higher heights and deeper depths; and solicited our support in helping to make this jurisdiction all it is capable of being.



The weekend climaxed on Sunday Morning with Worship Service at St. Stephens AME Zion Church. Many of our Brothers and Sisters who had not been able to attend some of the earlier events pressed their way to participate in the worship service, fellowship and Holy Communion. What a Word....What a Weekend.....What a Fellowship!



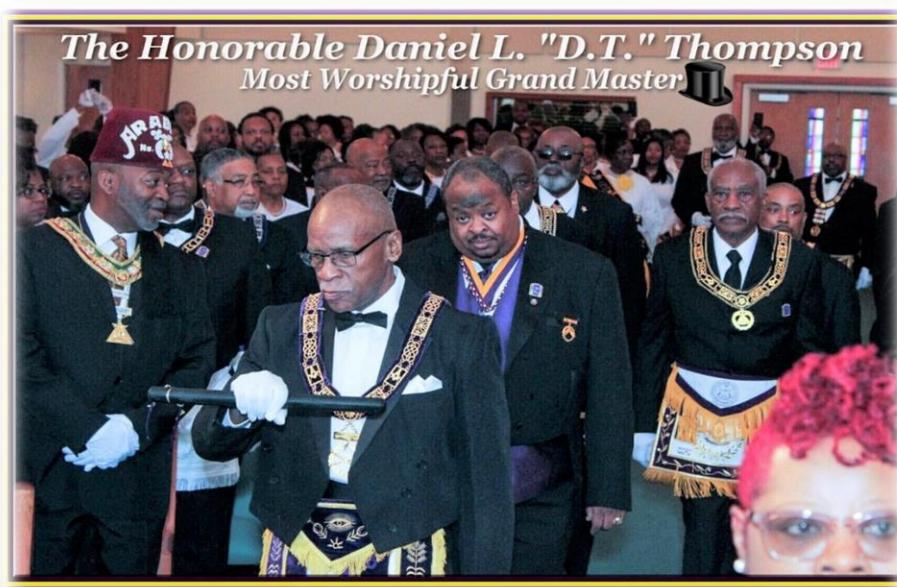
As history is read; many years from now; those of us who were present will be forever grateful to have been a part of this 150th Anniversary Celebration and will truly be able to say "it was good for us to have been there!"

Let us continue to follow and support our great organization and its leadership whenever we can, wherever we can and in whatever way we can; being "*Available Accountable and Acceptable*". In closing, let us also be reminded of Grand Worthy Matron's guiding scripture:

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Let us not just talk the talk, but walk the walk as we strive to show others: "What Right Looks Like." It was truly "A Time to Remember".

Sister Cynthia L. Powell ~ Grand Associate Conductress



Miss OES – 2019-2020 State Queens



Sister Tamar Lipscomb and Sister Diane Cook

Sister Tamar Lipscomb is Category One - State Queen. She is a member of the Beauty of Reidsville #477 located in District #28. Janice Timpson is her Worthy Matron and Ruth B. Webb, her District Deputy Grand Matron. Sister Lipscomb currently serves as Associate Matron of her Chapter.

Sis. Lipscomb is using her queen platform to promote community service. Such service projects include "blankets of love" to dialysis patients in the county and heart health awareness month in February with a balloon release. With the help of our PHA family, videos were produced to show appreciation for our essential workers who are on the front line working during the COVID-19 pandemic and to commemorate National Day of Prayer (<https://gopro.com/v/zPv2aodqnowzG>). Future events for this Queen include a Family Fun Day for the community and Voter Registration drives. "Thank you to my OES PHA family for your continued support. Together we can "Catch a falling Star".



*Sis. Tamar Lipscomb
Miss OES – Category One*

Category Two State Queen is Sister Diane Cook. She is a member of Magnolia #23 (Greensboro, NC) located in District #27. Carolyn Alston Daniels is her Worthy Matron and Linda Goins is her District Deputy Grand Matron. Sister Cook currently serves as Conductress.

Since retirement, Sister Cook's volunteer activities with her chapter and church (Mt. Zion Baptist of Greensboro) keep her busy. Sister Cook is a seamstress and quilter. She is heavily involved in a ministry that provides quilts for homeless children. In response to the pandemic, Sister Cook is using her talents to make masks for the protection of medical personnel and the public. Her proudest moment as an Eastern Star is being crowned State Queen.



*Sis. Diane Cook
Miss OES – Category Two*

2020 Grand Session

119th Session

CANCELLED!

Thursday September 10 - Saturday September 12, 2020
Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, NC

Marriott Hotel – (336)725-3600
Embassy Suites – (336)724-2300



Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star Rite of Adoption for the State of North Carolina

An Affiliate of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina & Jurisdiction, Inc.

Mary R. McGhee
Grand Worthy Matron

Reginald W. McClenton
Grand Worthy Patron

Cancellation of the 2020 Grand Session

May 26, 2020

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

It is with regrets that I bring you the following announcement:
Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and Government Regulations, the 119th Annual Grand Chapter Session for the Jurisdiction of North Carolina is cancelled.

We have received the following information below from the Twin City Quarters (Marriott and Embassy hotels) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. I urge you to cancel your request forthwith.

- We are asking individuals to cancel their individual reservations at each hotel, when a reservation is cancelled an email goes to the email address on file.
- Reservations made by rooming list may be cancelled by your event planner, when a reservation is cancelled an email goes to the email address on file.
- We are able to continue to provide rooming list and pick up numbers after the conference has cancelled in order to identify reservations that have not cancelled.

Please spread the word.

We look forward to your attendance in 2021.

Be safe, stay healthy and know we are in this together!

Yours in Peace, Harmony, and Love,
Mary R. McGhee
Grand Worthy Matron

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Sister Arjenae Jones Williams

“Something 2 Someone”



And So, She Shines

By Sister Andrea E. Williams
Grand Newsletter



Our beautiful Order recognizes our very own members who lead, manage, and operate their own nonprofit organizations. On Saturday, May 2, 2020, I had the pleasure of interviewing Sister Arjenae Jones Williams. She is from Greenville, NC (Home of the Pirates—ECU). She is a Past Matron of Ladies Delight # 10 in District 10. She served five years as Worthy Matron and is currently serving as the District Deputy Grand Matron for her District. She wants you to know that she is a wife, mother, and child of God.

Her nonprofit organization is called “Something 2 Somebody”. The name derives from a conversation in which she wanted help feeding some residents in a shelter. She was told that she couldn’t be everything to everybody. She knew she couldn’t be everything to everybody so she decided that she could be “Something 2 Somebody”.

Their mission statement is, “Ending hunger by feeding our community one plate at a time.” In the beginning, four years ago, they served the homeless population. Since that time, they have expanded their demographic to feed everyone in the community that needs a meal. Every Sunday, she and her volunteers go to the park to feed the members in the community.

Because of Sister Jones Williams’ friendly demeanor, people feel relaxed enough to share their stories with her. They give her updates on their situations and she continuously encourages them. One of her organization’s long-term goals is to offer the homeless population a day program. Her short-term goal is to have a ‘She-shed’ where she can have a makeshift kitchen and storage area that supports the Sunday feedings.

A word of advice that Sister Jones Williams offered if your heart feels moved to start an organization or offer a service to others, is simply “Just do it. Don’t wait on others. Just do it. You can bless one person or 100 people and it’s still a blessing to someone.”

If you would like to volunteer with Something 2 Somebody, the feedings are at 2:00 P.M. every Sunday at the park in Greenville. Please contact Sister Jones Williams directly if you would like your Chapter, Lodge, or community organization to serve. You can also make a monetary donation through Cashapp. Their Cashapp tag is **\$Something2Somebody**. You can also send a check or money order payable to Something 2 Somebody to 2101 Sidney Street Greenville, 27834.

(Something2Somebody received the 2020 Piedmont Charity Award at the Piedmont Regional Meeting, February 22, 2020.)

STAY MENTALLY FIT DURING COVID-19



EXERCISE

Regular exercise can reduce stress.



STAY CONNECTED

Talk to your friends or family about your stressors.



READ A BOOK

Take a ride to another world.



LIMIT NEWS

Constant reading of COVID-19 news can raise anxiety levels.



TAKE A CLASS

Online classes remain available.



CLEAN YOUR HOME

Take the extra time inside the home to do spring cleaning.



MAKE A ROUTINE

Keeping a routine can boost productivity levels.



JOURNAL

Writing your feelings down can be therapeutic.



RELAX

You're not alone.



NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE?

Call the COVID-19 Stress Hotline Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Commercial: 06371-47-9001, Option 3 or DSN: 480-9001, Option 3

Food for thought...

A number of years ago, Bryan Dyson, then the President and CEO of Coca-Cola Enterprises, delivered a commencement speech at Georgia Tech. In it, he discussed the difference between glass and rubber balls. His insight is as valuable today as it was then.

"Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air. You name them - work, family, health, friends and spirit - and you're keeping all of these in the air. You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls - family, health, friends and spirit - are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life."

There Was Once a Boy...

The Story:

There was once a boy who was growing up in a very wealthy family. One day, his father decided to take him on a trip to show him how others lived who were less fortunate. His father's goal was to help his son appreciate everything that he has been given in life. The boy and his father pulled up to a farm where a very poor family lived. They spent several days on the farm, helping the family work for their food and take care of their land. When they left the farm, his dad asked his son if he enjoyed their trip and if he had learned anything during the time they spent with this other family.

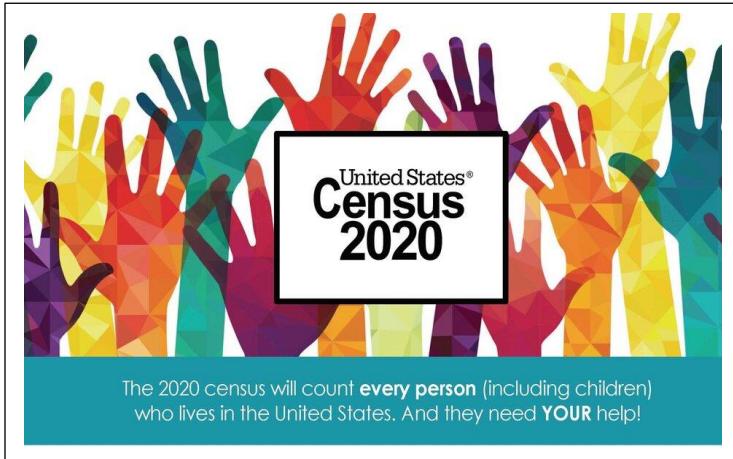
The boy quickly replied, "It was fantastic, that family is so lucky!" Confused, his father asked what he meant by that. The boy said, "Well, we only have one dog, but that family has four—and they have chickens! We have four people in our home, but they have 12! **They have so many people to play with!** We have a pool in our yard, but they have **a river running through their property that is endless**. We have lanterns outside so we can see at night, but **they have the wide open sky and the beautiful stars to give them wonder and light**. We have a patio, but they have **the entire horizon** to enjoy—they have **endless fields to run around in and play**. We have to go to the grocery store, but they are **able to grow their own food**. Our high fence protects our property and our family, but they don't need such a limiting structure, because **their friends protect them.**" The father was speechless. Finally, the boy added, "Thank you for showing me how rich people live, they're so lucky."

The Moral:

True wealth and happiness aren't measured by material belongings. Being around the people you love, enjoying the beautiful, natural environment, and having freedom are much more valuable.

A rich life can mean different things to different people. What are your values and priorities? **If you have whatever is important to you, you can consider yourself to be wealthy.**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Self-Response Phase

Online, phone and mailed self-responses continue throughout the data collection process.

Revised Schedule

March 12 – October 31

<https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html>





Dr. William Barber, II

REV. WILLIAM BARBER II: We want everybody to join poor and low-wealth people.

Go to:

PoorPeoplesCampaign.org or June2020.org

We are calling — we were going to be physically on Pennsylvania Avenue, but — and we were thinking about not doing it, and people said, “No, we have to do it.” We’re going to put a face and a voice on poverty.

Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
& MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON

SAVE
THE DATE

Saturday, June 20, 2020

The National Mall, Washington DC



**MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY &
MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON
IS GOING DIGITAL!**

JUNE 20, 2020

www.June2020.org

REDACTED

Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

REDACTED

Twitter: @UniteThePoor | Facebook: @anewppc | Website: poorpeopescampaign.org

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT IN 2020?



👉 Pick who's on the ballot in the General Election

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

is March 3, 2020.

Save Time, Vote Early

Feb. 13-Feb. 29, 2020

No matter what you care about, **YOUR ISSUES** are on the ballot in 2020.

👉 Pick who represents you in the years to come

GENERAL ELECTION DAY

is November 3, 2020.

Save Time, Vote Early

Oct. 15-Oct. 31, 2020

⌚ REMEMBER: Start with the Locals

The races at the bottom of your ballot that touch our everyday lives should be a top priority for all voters.

LOCAL JUDGES

Have the power to do everything from felony and misdemeanor criminal cases to business disputes to divorce and child custody.

LOCAL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Hold the purse strings for your community, determining everything from local funding for your elections to setting your property taxes.

LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD

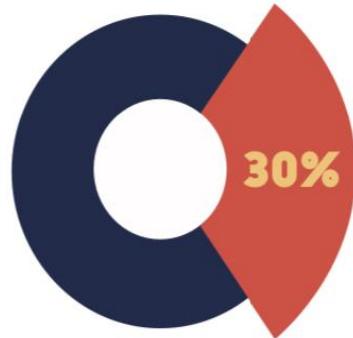
Sets the school system budget and decides who runs your schools, where kids go to school, how big classes are, and even what textbooks are used.

LOCAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SUPERVISORS

Establishes local conservation priorities and works with landowners on things like soil preservation, flood prevention and protecting clean water.

PRO-TIP: The more you know about the races on your ballot – the less you leave blank.

Take your time, mark your choices in EVERY race, and encourage others to do the same. Learn more at demnc.co/ontheballot.



More than 30% of voters fail to complete their ballot*

Don't be one of them.

*Based on research from the University of Virginia Center for Politics



⌚ HEALTH CARE IS ON THE BALLOT.

From Congressional Medicaid funding to your county's budget for social services, your physical and mental health is in the balance.

⌚ CLEAN AIR & WATER ARE ON THE BALLOT.

From the President's climate policies to your local leader's conservation priorities, what you're breathing and drinking is on the line.

⌚ SAFE COMMUNITIES ARE ON THE BALLOT.

From state and federal lawmakers to local judges, politicians who control whether your community feels fearful or secure are seeking your vote.

Find your ballot, check your registration, and see your voting precinct at demnc.co/lookup. Problems or questions? Call 888-OUR-VOTE.

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN 2020?

Races on this year's ballot will affect you and **YOUR COMMUNITY** for generations to come.

REMEMBER: Set Who Runs Our State

All North Carolinians will be affected by these co-equal branches of government.

COUNCIL OF STATE

(Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Labor)

Includes the top 10 officials in NC's executive branch, is led by the governor, and can call for special legislative sessions and determine the state's financial future.

STATE JUDGES AND JUSTICES:

NC COURT OF APPEALS AND SUPREME COURT

The state's highest courts hold the governor and legislature accountable, make life or death decisions in death penalty appeals, and are the final word on other appeals and interpretations of state laws.

STATE LEGISLATURE: NC SENATE AND NC HOUSE

The two chambers of the NC General Assembly hold the power to make state laws on everything from voting maps to environmental decisions to how many North Carolinians receive health care. They also use your taxpayer dollars to set the state budget, including resources for everything from roads to schools.



DID YOU KNOW?

NC's governor, who is elected by the entire state, has the power to stop (or veto) legislation passed by lawmakers elected in districts? The Lt. Governor, who is not necessarily in the same party as the governor, can assume the governor's duties if he or she is unable to serve and can cast tie-breaking votes in the NC Senate.

FACT: Who became North Carolina's governor in 2016 was determined by a less than 1% vote margin (or 10,277 votes) of over 4.7 million votes cast.



REMEMBER: Don't Forget Your Federal Picks

Everything from the future of the economy to the fate of the planet is at the front of your ballot.

US PRESIDENT (AND VICE PRESIDENT)

America's chief executive determines the fate of our armed forces, appoints federal judges — all the way up to the US Supreme Court — and has the power to stop laws passed by Congress.

CONGRESS: US SENATE AND US HOUSE

With the ability to make US law and oversee federal agencies, Congress' powers include spending your tax dollars, taking the country to war, deciding who gets health care and environmental protections, and when to hold the President accountable — from appointments to impeachments.

FACT: Only 14,177 votes of the over 4.2 million North Carolina votes cast in November 2008 determined which presidential candidate received the state's 15 electoral votes, and who would ultimately go on to win the election.



...and in parting...

FROM THE DESK OF GRAND WORTHY MATRON MARY R. MCGHEE

"Wait on the Lord be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart."

To My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

When I opened my phone and saw all the deaths and sick notices tears began to roll down my eyes for these families. I was just like David, I was reaching a breaking point." I WOULD HAVE LOST HEART, UNLESS I HAD BELIEVED THAT I WOULD SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING".

I immediately turned to God. Let's all continue to look to the hills from whence cometh our help. Nothing catches God off guard, and nothing is too hard for Him. We are all going to get through this. I ask that each of you stop worrying about things we have no control over. Let's continue to look out for our brothers and sisters. We need each other.

I can't tell no one what's going to happen tomorrow, but I do know who holds tomorrow in His hands. We need to continue to follow the Governor's Executive orders: PLEASE stay away from mass gatherings, wash your hands and do six feet social distancing.

I will be sending out further directives along with the Grand Worthy Patron and the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Love will keep all of us lifted up.

Yours in Peace, Harmony, and Love,

Mary R. McGhee



Grand Newsletter Committee
Sis. Portia Parris, PM – Chair (District #28)
starnews14@gmail.com

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." – Barack Obama

The Prince Hall Leadership of the Jurisdiction of North Carolina stands united, arms locked together, all ranks and titles, to say IT'S ABOUT LIFE!

We lift up the family of George Floyd in prayer. We pray God blesses and keeps the Floyd family in his loving arms and gives them the strength to endure during these trying times. We know he is a God of mercy.

Our country, cities and states experience civil disturbance. Our communities are hurting. Our brothers and sisters are suffering. The distress and pain are real. We acknowledge and understand the anguish, outrage and sorrow. We share those feelings.

We advocate, encourage and support the exercise of peaceful protests. It is important that we stand up and voice our discontent with injustices. We must express ourselves lawfully, legally and during this pandemic, safely.

We, the Prince Hall Leadership, do not support the destruction of property, the disrespect and/or taunting of law enforcement officials or any other activity that brings dishonor and disrespect to our communities and/or the memories of those whom the protests honor.

We, the Prince Hall Leadership, pledge our energies and time to assist and educate our communities how to achieve the social change(s) to eliminate the injustices we witness. Our greatest weapon is our VOTE!!!

The arms of Prince Hall Leadership reach across the state of North Carolina and are ready to assist our communities in the realization of justice.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Daniel L. DT" Thompson, KYGCH, 33°
Grand Worthy Matron Mary R. McGhee
Grand Worthy Patron Reginald McClenton, 32°
Most Excellent Grand High Priest Clinton L. Hamm, KYGCH
Grand Most Ancient Matron Tiffany Lathan, PYCH
Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master Alford L. Mack, KYGCH, 33°
Royal Grand Perfect Matron Phyllis McLeod, PYCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander Lee Capehart, 33°
Royal Grand Princess Commandress Gwendolyn Joyner, PYCH
Illustrious Deputy for the Orient (TN) SGIG James Upchurch, 33°
State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler (TN) Linda Tucker-Gooding
Illustrious Deputy for the Orient (DC) D. Larnell Thompson, 33°
State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler (DC) Vanessa Murchison
Imperial Deputy of the Desert William A. Cooke, KYGCH, 33°
Imperial Deputy Daughters Deborah Bellamy