March 2021

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 1 Peter 5:6 {KJV}

Dear Fellow Doorkeeper:

I Greet you in the Precious Name of Jesus The Christ!

As we await Spring—a season of full transformation—let’s thank God for just life. Life is a precious gift from God. Instead of being stressed and concerned over what you don’t have, enjoy the gifts that God has given you. Cherish your family and loved ones. They will not be here forever, and neither will you. Take time to see how unique and beautiful each person is, and remember what each one means to you. Focus on the good, and be patient with the less than perfect. Treasure sweet memories and make each moment memorable.

As we are in the Lenten Season during our Conference, let’s rededicate ourselves to God, and on how to strengthen His ushering ministry.

Congratulations to this year’s honorees, for your service truly speaks for you!

Continue to encourage and to empower others of your good works through this medium called, “The Glove.”

Have a most blessed Resurrection Sunday!

Yours in Christ’s Service,

Charles J. Brown

Charles J. Brown
National First Vice President
Eastern Region Director

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In March 2020, our lives changed forever. We were faced with something we had never heard of that was extremely dangerous—the COVID-19 coronavirus. It is an ongoing pandemic caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. At that time, we had no idea what was in store for us. There was so much we didn’t know, and we were afraid. We have never faced anything like this in our lifetime. The coronavirus affected not only the United States, but the world. There were mass limitations on essential items such as toilet tissue, paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc.—things we take for granted. The death totals from the coronavirus are the worst in the history of the United States. Many people—young and old—have lost their lives. There are now more than 28 million cases of the coronavirus, and over 500,000 deaths in the United States. There will be more to come. We are now operating under a “new normal.” Things will never be the way they were. We extend our profound sympathies to all of the families that lost loved ones due to the coronavirus. However, we know that our God is in control. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Our Annual Conference was scheduled for March 2020 in Wilmington, Delaware. We were immediately faced with a challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the coronavirus spreading rapidly, we were unsure about our Conference. Director Charles J. Brown informed us that the only way we could cancel our Conference without losing money was if the Governor of Delaware declared a State of Emergency. We proceeded with plans to attend the Conference. Many of us arrived early on Thursday—March 12, 2020. While assisting with the assembly of the kits, we received word that the Governor had just declared a State of Emergency in Delaware. Our Conference was then canceled, and rescheduled for October 2020. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic was still raging at that time, so the 2020 Eastern Region Conference was canceled entirely. The decision was made to host the 2021 Conference virtually, and for only 1 day. Thanks to Director Brown for his wisdom, foresight, and willingness to do things differently! The NUCUAA Convention was also canceled for 2020. The March 2020 Issue of The Glove was posted on the Eastern Region Website, and copies were mailed to State Presidents and Correspondents.

Many of our churches have shut down to ensure the safety of their parishioners. Many people lost their jobs or were furloughed, schools were closed, and children had to attend school and learn virtually. Pastors had to think outside the box for ways to keep their churches running, and still minister to their congregations and save souls. Thank God we are living in the age of technology. Social Media has been a lifesaver. Worship Services are being held live on Facebook, Video on Demand, Zoom, You Tube, and conference call. Some churches have returned to worshipping in the Sanctuary with limited capacity. Bible Study and Sunday School are using the same methods. In response to the devastation caused by the COVID-19 coronavirus, many churches have begun outreach projects to provide food and other much needed items to their members and the community.

Guidelines issued by the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) encourage us to stay safe and healthy by wearing face masks, social distancing, and repeatedly washing our hands. Please continue to follow these guidelines to protect yourselves and your families—especially those persons with underlying health challenges. Hopefully all of us will receive one of the two Vaccines that were made available—Pfizer and Moderna, along with the recently added Vaccine by Johnson and Johnson. We know there are limited supplies, so we must be patient, but remain vigilant.

Thanks to Director Brown who allowed me to publish a “Special Edition” Issue of The Glove. I wanted to give the States an opportunity to share with us how they have conducted business during the COVID-19 pandemic, how they are encouraging their members, and what the various churches are doing.

Please enjoy this “Special Edition” Issue.
Greetings from the State of Maryland:

We all have been sheltering in place, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Praise be to God that we came through 2020 to see 2021. But, we know that God is in control of all things. Let’s continue to keep our faith and trust in Him.

Thanks to modern technology, we are able to keep in touch with each other through conference calls and Virtual meetings. We continue to do the will of the Lord with our Outreach Projects.

Elizabeth Lane Education Department

Congratulations to Junior Usher Kiera A. C. Wingfield, the recipient of the Allen E. Morse Scholarship. She is a faithful member of Hall United Methodist Church in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Kiera is currently attending Anne Arundel Community College. Also, Si’Niya Stroble is the recipient of the R. E. Harshaw Grant. She is a faithful member of Peter’s United Methodist Church in Dunkirk, Maryland. Si’Niya attends Southern High School, and will graduate May 2021.

The State of Maryland donated 500 books to the State of Delaware as our Outreach to the Eastern Region Mabel A. Grey Education Department.

Sister Ollie Mae Danage—Chairman

Mary McLenon Alumni Department

A monetary donation was given to “Girl Talk Empowerment 4 Teens,” a program that trains young girls of color in life skills and self-esteem for today’s society, and encourages them to use their talent.

For Thanksgiving, a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings was given to a family of five. The Mother and Father were out of work due to COVID-19.

At Christmas, we gave food and toys to a Grandmother who is raising five grandchildren.

The Levites supplied Sarah’s House—a shelter on Ft. Meade for women and children—with paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates and cups, napkins, and plastic utensils. A love offering was given to the food pantry at Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick, Maryland. A monetary donation was given to the Paris Foundation in Elkton, Maryland. They feed the homeless and anyone who is in need of a hot meal. Lifestyles of Maryland, Inc., a transitional home for men, were supplied with toiletries and cleaning supplies.

Levite Ada K. McCoy—Chairman

Outreach Committee

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to have our Annual Senior Christmas Dinner. So instead, we gave 10 Families gift cards in the amount of $125.00, each. Also, we donated diapers and baby wipes to “Diaper Drive to Families in Need.”

Sister Alice Wilson—Chairman
Uns Outreach

Anne Arundel......The Alverta Darden Education Committee gives grants and scholarships to students every year. The 2020 Grant went to Junior Usher Kiera A. C. Wingfield. The Verdella White Memorial Scholarship was awarded to two students: Alaysha Hazelwood and Kaylee N. Henson. Alaysha is a student at Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland. Kaylee is attending the University of Maryland-College Park. Congratulations to both of these young ladies!

Donations were made to Sarah’s House for their newly renovated bedrooms: Twin sheet sets, comforter sets, pillows, towels, facecloths, plants, and inspirational books.

Levite Ada K. McCoy—Chairman

At Christmas, 20 gift cards were given to different churches in the County to be given to needy families.

Sister Sherry Blackstone—President

Baltimore.....The Morning Star Baptist Church of Catonsville, Maryland, where Bishop Dwayne C. Debnam is the Pastor, has given 1,500 boxes of food to needy families between July and November 2020. We donated articles of clothing, household products, toys, and basic essentials to Francis House in Baltimore, Maryland. Francis House (for Women and Children) is a recovery program for overcoming domestic violence and homelessness that helps women transition, while maintaining a job and housing. We supported “The Elizabeth Jones Spread the Warmth,” which started 14 years ago in Baltimore City, Maryland. On December 25, 2020, at Ames United Methodist Church, 615 Baker Street, Baltimore, Maryland, we gave out clothing, basic essentials, toys, and lunch.

Brother Lamar Garrett—President
On October 31, 2020, we donated cleaning supplies, paper goods, plastic utensils, trash bags, latex gloves, and other items to The Autism Project. The Autism Project is a nonprofit Organization that works with and houses students of all ages through adulthood that are diagnosed with autism.

Sister Delores Sewell—President

We participated in the Chosen Community Development Corporation each month with a food drive that is given out to families from Harford and Cecil Counties. We provided tools that can assist families with critical needs, prepare and develop families to be self-sufficient, and nurture them learning towards spiritual growth.

Sister Ollie M. Danage—President

Our first event for 2021 was our Annual Organization Day, held on Zoom, on January 10, 2021. We renewed our membership and fellowship with dinner. However, we were unable to have dinner together this year. Our Host Pastor was Rev. Dr. Cleveland T. A. Mason, Pastor of the Perkin Square Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. His Sermon topic was “Hope,” and the scripture came from Isaiah 40:31. We were blessed to have in attendance our National President, Sister Ruth I. Jones, and our Assistant Eastern Region Director, Sister Jessie M. Cole. Thank you so very much! Your presence was really appreciated by the Ushers of Maryland.

Special Recognition to Brother Lamar Garrett—Baltimore Unit President—on his graduation from the Baltimore School of the Bible. The Baltimore School of the Bible was organized in 1931 to provide students with the fundamentals of biblical teaching, which is evangelical in its beliefs, nondenominational in its scope, evangelistic in its purpose, and missionary in its outlook.

Essential Worker still on the move....

Usher Gerald Hill, Sr. works closely with high-risk individuals living on Baltimore City streets, in encampment shelters, and in other unsafe conditions. He also provides educational literature, teaches safe sex practices, and encourages abstinence from all harmful substances.

State President and Reporter—Sister Julia A. Kitchen

“Ushers United Together Serving As One”
Brooklyn Unit

The Brooklyn Unit held their last in-person Business Meeting on March 17, 2020. Due to the Global Pandemic, we have been holding our Business Meetings via conference calls on a monthly basis with good attendance at each meeting.

Many of the small groups continue to hold monthly meetings and Bible classes via conference calls and Zoom.

During the Summer, the Board of Directors completed their project, which was an updated "Ushers' Directory Booklet." The project was very successful, and copies have been distributed to all of our member Church Pastors, and members of the Association.

There were six churches that had a Virtual Ushers’ Annual Day:

⇒ Mt. Ollie Baptist Church—Rebecca Harrison, President
⇒ Little Zion Baptist Church—Emily Brown, President
⇒ First Baptist Church of Crown Heights—Betty R. Butler, President
⇒ Mt Sinai Baptist Church—Nancy Armstrong, President
⇒ Salem Missionary Baptist Church—Janice Nibbs, President
⇒ Berean Baptist Church—Brenda Davis, President

In October 2020, the School of Ushering began their 2021 Class. They are currently meeting via Zoom, and anticipating having a June 2021 in-person graduation. Due to the death of Chairman Annette R. Reid, Loretta Syville will be serving as Acting Chairman for the duration of this year.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our 100th Celebration Banquet that was scheduled for October 4, 2020, has been rescheduled for October 9, 2021. Detailed information will be forthcoming soon.

Three Ushers from our Unit completed the George T. Grier School of Ushering Master’s Degree Program in December:

Jacquelyn Mock—Antioch Baptist Church
Mary R. McNair—First Baptist Church of Crown Heights
Annette R. Reid—First Baptist Church of Crown Heights

On Sunday—January 24, 2021, the MB Mathis Male Chorus celebrated their 9th Annual Day at Hope For All Outreach Christian Center, Brooklyn, New York. Bishop Christopher E. Finch, Pastor. Accolades and a plaque were presented to outgoing Chairman John Forrest for his 7 years of dedicated service. He is now Chairman Emeritus of the MB Mathis Male Chorus. We thank Brother Forrest for his service, and extend Best Wishes to the new Chairman—Norman Whitfield.
So far in 2021, one Church has held their Virtual Ushers’ Annual Day: Washington Temple Church of God in Christ—John McCall, Advisor

The **Timothy Douglas Men's Fellowship Committee** held a successful *Coat Drive* at our Ushers’ Headquarters on January 16, 2021. Chairman Michael Jacocks thanks everyone for their donations! All coats have been donated to a Charity Organization for distribution.

The **Alumni Committee** is in the midst of their Annual Event, which will be a "Cash Giveaway" on Saturday—March 27, 2021. Jacquelyn Mock—Chairman.

The Vice Presidential Staff held a very successful Fundraiser *"Gourmet Popcorn Sale"* February 16—19, 2021. The Vice Presidents “thank you” for the outstanding support! They will be having this event again very soon.

_Congratulations to our 1st Vice President Filmore F. Gregory_

_Thank you, National Board of Directors!_

We welcome the following new Pastors:

- Reverend Reginald L. Bachus—Interim Pastor, Mt. Ollie Baptist Church
- Reverend Scharlise Dorsey—Pastor, Newman Memorial United Methodist Church
- Reverend Teresa Williams—Interim Pastor, Zion Baptist Church

We mourn the passing of our School of Ushering Chairman Annette R. Reid, and are uplifting in prayers all bereaved families along with those who are sick and shut-in.

Wishing each of you a wonderful Easter Season. Have a safe and blessed year.

_Imogene Jones_

Greetings from the “Grand” State!!!

We hope and pray everyone is continuing to be well, and following all the protocols of their State, City, and Town. We are truly missing everyone terribly, and are having major Usher withdrawals. We cannot wait until we can all gather together, and exchange hugs and kisses and tons and tons of love. Please stay safe, stay sanitized, and stay socially distant—praying one for another. Have a wonderful and blessed Lenten Season and Resurrection Sunday!!! Much Love!!! Much Peace!!! Much Blessings!!!
**The Queens Unit**

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.” Psalm 122:1 {KJV}

_Sandra McLamb_

When we all get to heaven, Oh what a grand day that will be. Our journey has just begun in this new year of 2021. We have so much to be thankful for—even though there is much grief, sickness, and animosity around us. Our Lord will protect us if we just believe. I bring you greetings from my home Church, The Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, where Reverend Michael Gittens is my Pastor. I also bring greetings from Queens & Vicinity. I will keep you in prayer, and you keep me in prayer. We all pray for each other. Jesus has that fence all around us, and all we need to do is succumb to His Word.

_Sandra McLamb_

1st Vice President of the Church Ushers Association of New York State

Jesus is on the main line and we need to tell Him what we want.

Exciting news from the Queens Unit. Sandra McLamb, from The Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, also graduated from the George T. Grier School of Ushering Department Master’s Program along with the ladies from the Brooklyn Unit: Jacqueline Mock, Mary R. McNair, and Annette R. Reid. Also from The Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, our New York State Junior and Young People’s President—Nyicia Morgan—has been accepted to several prestigious colleges, and received from most of them full or partial scholarships for the next 4 years. The colleges and universities are:

- **Norfolk State University**
- **University of Maryland Eastern Shore**
- **Harrisburg University**—$14,000 / year—total of $56,000 **FULL RIDE**
- **Harris Stowe State University**—**FULL RIDE**
- **Rider University** $18,000 / year—total of $72,000
- **College of Saint Rose**—$19,000 Presidential and $2,5000 housing yearly = $86,000
- **Adelphi Presidential Award**—$112,000
- **LeMoyne Academic**—$80,000 for 4 years and $10,000 + mentor, internship, and job interview
- **Wells College Trustee Scholarship**—$18,000; **NY Leaders Award**—$1,200; **Collegiate Honor Award**—$2,000 = $21,200
- **College of Mount Saint Vincent**—Dean’s Merit Scholarship $22,500; President Scholarship—$5,000 = $110,000
- **University of Albany**
- **Roberts Wesleyan Dean’s Academic Scholarship**—$64,000
- **Hofstra University Provost Scholarship**—$116,000
- **St. John’s University - St. Vincent de Paul Scholarship** $25,000 annually
- **Manhattan College**
Jamar Ligon from The Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica is also graduating from high school in 2021. The colleges that have accepted Jamar for enrollment in September 2021 are:

- Kingsborough Community College
- Medgar Evers College
- Queensborough Community College
- City Technology
- SUNY Broome Community College
- SUNY Morrisville State College
- SUNY Monroe Community College

Nyicia Morgan

Greetings to all my fellow Ushers. I hope everyone is well amidst the chaos of our current circumstances, and I hope I may see all of your beautiful smiling faces soon when it is safe to do so.

I first bring you greetings from Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica where Reverend Michael Gittens serves as my Pastor, and Dr. Floristeane Anthony serves as the President of our Ushers’ Ministry. I also bring greetings from Queens & Vicinity where Usher Olivia Jeter serves as our President. I also bring greetings from the Junior and Young People’s Department of New York State where I currently serve as President, and Usher Rashein McDonald is our Supervisor.

The Juniors between the three Units—Brooklyn, Buffalo, and Queens—continue to keep in touch within their own Units virtually, or by telephone. Most of the New York Juniors are college students or college-bound, and have been studying and attending school via online or by Zoom. We are currently in the process of planning for our upcoming New York State Convention.

I have been continuing my school courses and remaining at the top of my class, in which I graduate in June 2021. I have been accepted to 16 colleges so far, and offered multiple scholarships—even a full ride to Harrisburg University and Harris Stowe State University. Please keep me and my fellow Juniors in your prayers as we try to make the right decision in which college to attend. Stay safe, and continue to serve God.

Nyicia Morgan
President Junior and Young People’s Department
Church Ushers Association of New York State
Matthew 5:16 (NIV) “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The Young Adult Department of the Church Ushers Association of New York State is prospering through the pandemic. We have launched our BTG Program where we mentor the Officers of the Junior and Young People’s Department. This Program has been a great way for Juniors and Young Adults to stay connected, and it has also enhanced communication.

Our Young Adult State President—Jordan Nichols—has not returned home since his fire as of yet. Construction was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has resumed, and he looks forward to being home within the next month.

Congratulations to Immediate Past Young Adult President Argustus Steven on his new job at BPE—a Construction and Demolition Company.

Young Adult Financial Secretary Shanequa Ravenell has done great work within her community. She has received an "Exceptional Impact" Rating for her annual performance evaluation, which is only given to a handful of people each year within her 100+ staff Department. Also, she will be doing her part to help the NYC community by volunteering at vaccination distribution sites in the five Boroughs. These are 13-hour shifts, so please pray for her strength and safety!!

Usher Deanna Morgan graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from Medger Evers University, and is working on obtaining her Master’s Degree in Social Work.

The Young Adults that are members of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church have been feeding the homeless twice a month throughout the pandemic.

We are all striving to do our best, and be our best.

Thank You to The Glove for allowing us to keep everyone informed!

Blessings,
Jordan Nichols
President—Young Adult Department

Antoinette A. Guerrero

On behalf of the extraordinary and astonishing Young Adult Department of the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., we want to take the time and welcome you all to another year. We have all faced a societal trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic, and lost so many of our family, friends, and loved ones, but through God's grace and mercy, some of us are still here to serve the Lord as Ushers in Christ.

It is truly an honor and pleasure serving as your 26th National Young Adult President. We will be fellowshipping with each other soon for our first Virtual National Convention in 2021. I pray you continue to remain safe in your household, and keep holding on to God's unchanging hand. I love you all. Be blessed and be well.

Giving God all the honor and the praise.

In Christian Love,
Antoinette A. Guerrero
National Young Adult President
“O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” Psalm 107:1 {KJV}

We give praise and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—thanking Him for our blessings, and keeping us during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Without His grace and His mercy, we would not have survived.

We did not have the opportunity of doing as much as we would have if conditions were different. However, this gave us the opportunity of working closer with each other, and our churches. Although churches were closed and some are still closed, we assisted with some outreach initiatives:

- We did have our State Election—2019 Officers were elected and installed by Reverend Jeff Powell, our Spiritual Advisor.
- Donated books to Bloomfield’s Metacomet Elementary School.
- Donated masks and other items (hand sanitizers, vinyl gloves, tissue) to the sick and shut-in, and convalescent homes.
- Awards of $500.00 each to a couple of students entering college; an Award was given to an Usher for the years of service performed in the Ushering Ministry.
- Assisted in providing breakfast to those in need on a weekly basis (Saturdays).
- Assisted the Salvation Army during the holidays in a couple of their projects.
- Brother George Jones was instrumental in preparing a video on ushering during the pandemic. A job well done. It is being shared with area churches as they plan to reopen.

We have had several Zoom meetings to keep our membership updated on activities being planned for the Eastern Region, as well as the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc. The Zoom meetings have been a very excellent tool in keeping our lines of communication open. When we met, we could see other.

When we look back and see how good God has been during this period, we should rejoice. It has made families spend more time with Him, each other, and appreciate being together. We know when the pandemic is over and we get to see those family members we were unable to see in almost a year, a good time will be had by all.

We want you to know that we love you, and will continue to keep each of you in prayer as we continue looking forward to a better 2021.
Greetings Doorkeepers,

Two of our members—Dolores R. Wallace and Eunice B. Wise—were selected as 2020 Eastern Region Honorees. Since the Conference was canceled due to the pandemic, they will be honored at the Virtual 2021 Conference.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the Catherine E. Mills School of Ushering offered a special Seminar on Church Ushering. The Seminar was designed to introduce the Ministry of Church Ushering to Pastors and Ministers. The primary focus of the Seminar was a familiarization to the Silent Method of Church Ushering. The Seminar was conducted by President Pansy Bradley-Cooper, and Instructor Ronald L. Jones.

The 71st Alternative Graduation Commencement Program was held on Saturday—September 26, 2020, in the Parking Lot of Central Baptist Church of Camp Springs. It was truly a wonderful Drive-By Graduation.

The Catherine E. Mills School of Ushering has begun weekly Virtual classes for the 2020-2021 school year. There are two classes being offered: Beginners and Post I.

Members of the 2nd George T. Grier School of Ushering Department Master’s Degree Class completed their studies. Congratulations to our graduates:

♦ Beverly N. Buggs
♦ Jacqueline P. Byrd-Tillman
♦ Cynthia L. Green
♦ Ronald L. Jones
♦ Betsy H. Parrish
♦ Frances S. Penn
♦ Juanita Prophet
♦ Jeannette S. Riddick

A few of our monthly Business Meetings were canceled due to the pandemic. However, President Pansy Bradley-Cooper continued to meet with the Executive Committee on a regular basis. On Monday—October 12, 2020, the ICUA held its first Business Meeting since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Slate of Officers was presented for the 2021 Election of Officers.
During this meeting, Vice President Brenda Gilliam announced the “Guardian of the Year” for 2020. Congratulations to Sandi Dotson from Matthews Memorial Baptist Church in Washington, DC on being the 2020 recipient of the “Guardian of the Year” Award!

Our Annual Annie B. Bailey Memorial Service was held on Sunday—March 14, 2021. There were 49 deceased Ushers for the period 2019-2021. The Memorial Message was delivered by Rev. Dr. Paula Miller-Lester—an Associate Minister at The First Baptist Church of Deanwood in the Northeast sector of the City. Her topic was “You Do The New You,” and her scriptural reference was 2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV).

During the October 2020 Virtual Business Meeting, the membership voted to name Honorary President Christine E. Ford President Emeritus of our Association.

On Saturday—November 21, 2020, the ICUA hosted a Virtual Presentation on “Ushering And The New Normal—A Roundtable Discussion.” There were several Presenters—including National George T. Grier School of Ushering Chairman Thomas E. Troupe, and Ms. Natalie Suttles—a Certified Nurse and member of Miles Memorial C. M. E. Church in Washington, DC—who shared informative tips on protection from the COVID-19 coronavirus.

President Pansy Bradley-Cooper stressed the importance of “Outreach” during her presidency. The ICUA launched a Christmas Outreach Project to assist families in need during the Christmas Holiday Season with gift cards. Member churches were asked to identify one family in need. We were blessed to received $2,400. On December 12, 2020, gift cards totaling $100.00 each were distributed to 24 families.

On Sunday—December 6, 2020, the ICUA held its Virtual Awards Program. President Pansy Bradley-Cooper presented her Special Awards for the year.

The recipient of the 2020 Alma Cooper Hawkins “Woman of the Year” Award was Vice President Brenda Gilliam of Hemingway Memorial A. M. E. Church in District Heights, Maryland.

The recipient of the 2020 Archie A. Anderson “Man of the Year” Award was Trustee Eric J. Kirby of First Baptist Church-Randolph in the Northwest Sector of the City.

Congratulations to both recipients! The recognition is well-deserved.
Senior President Pansy Bradley-Cooper and Junior President Jayvon Peach gave their Presidential Address to the membership—recounting their accomplishments. President Pansy Bradley-Cooper thanked the members for 4 great years serving as President! She thanked the members for embracing her Vision, and supporting each of the activities and events.

The Election Committee provided the results of the 2020 Election of Officers. Unopposed candidates were duly elected. The Officers for 2021 are as follows:

- Brenda Gilliam—President / Hemingway Memorial A. M. E. Church
- Ronald L. Jones—Vice President / Brown Memorial A. M. E. Church

Usher Michael G. Dunn, First Baptist Church-Landover, was elected President of the Junior and Young People’s Department.

Our Virtual Installation Service was held on Sunday—January 3, 2021. Joining us for our Installation of Officers were National President Ruth I. Jones, First National Vice President Charles J. Brown, National Correspondence Secretary Paulette Batiste-Little, and representatives of other State Ushers’ Associations.

The Installation of Officers and the Installation Prayer were given by Rev. Dr. Gerald Folsom—Pastor, Hemingway Memorial A. M. E. Church.

The ICUA’s first Virtual Business Meeting of the year was held on Monday—January 11, 2021. The membership voted that Immediate Past President Pansy Bradley-Cooper be named an Honorary President.

During our February Business Meeting on Monday—February 8, 2021, a special presentation was given about ICUA members for Black History Month. During the March Business Meeting on Monday—March 8, 2021, a special presentation featuring the women of the ICUA was given in honor of Women’s History Month.

In honor of Black History Month, the Pastor of Purity Baptist Church and Urban Center honored one of his faithful Ushers on Sunday—February 28, 2021. Brother Jessie C. Hairston has served as an Usher at Purity for more than 50 years. At the age of 90, he is still serving. On the day he was honored, Jessie was in Service Position on the door. He is an example to all of us. Congratulations, Jessie!
Even during this pandemic, the ICUA is still doing great things. There is much to be excited about. We have lost many family and friends during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue to keep the sick, shut-in, and bereaved members in prayer.

Continue to wear your mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing. Stay safe!

Greetings Eastern Region Church Ushers,

The ICUA of New Jersey Ushers Association held its first State Conference Call Meeting of the year on Monday—February 8, 2021, at 8:00 PM. There was a wonderful turnout of 30 Ushers on the call. Everyone was so excited to hear each other's voices, and know what's going on in our respective churches.

The Association is looking to start another Unit that would be called Unit 4 in the Central part of New Jersey. Also, there are five new churches interested in joining the New Jersey Ushers Association. Two churches would be in Unit 1, and three churches in the newly established Unit 4.

We have decided to begin having our State meetings monthly going forward.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey lost three of our oldest Ushers:

- Sister Catherine Wright—102 years old—John Wesley UM Church in Bridgeton New Jersey
- Sister Henson—100 years old—Grant A. M. E. Church in Chesilhurst, New Jersey
- Sister Winchester—100 years old—Union Baptist Temple of Bridgeton, New Jersey
9 Things To Consider As We Move On From One of the Most Horrible Years of Our Lifetime—2020

⇒ The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!

⇒ This morning, I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house, and told my cat. We laughed a lot.

⇒ Every few days, try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

⇒ Does anyone know if we can take showers yet, or should we just keep washing our hands?

⇒ I never thought the comment “I wouldn’t touch him / her with a 6-foot pole” would become a National policy, but here we are!

⇒ I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

⇒ I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the backyard. I’m getting tired of the living room.

⇒ Never in a million years would I have imagined going up to a bank teller wearing a mask, and ask for money.

⇒ You are never too old to set another goal, or to dream a new dream.—C. S. Lewis