

**Dr. Theodora Shippy Smith**  
(Conceived Idea of Agape Sunday Celebration)

“The essence of being here is to love and serve Him and His people,” says Theodora Shippy Smith. Mrs. Smith’s life is a testament of her commitment to that belief. The sixth child of twelve children, her spiritual growth began at home and continued in both her private and professional life. Later, God provided an opportunity for her to serve through a process of teamwork, with her husband, the Reverend Dr. C. Mifflin Smith, Sr., in the church and academic communities.

Her experience in the church community included rendering services at the local, district, conference and international levels in varied capacities. During her tenure as First Vice President of the W. H. & O. M. Society, she founded the celebration of Agape Sunday, a Second Mile Offering Ministry. Agape Sunday was inaugurated in 1982 on the second Sunday in February. This ministry provided an opportunity for every A. M. E. Zion Church in every city, town and hamlet to be involved concurrently in an annual love-in-action, worldwide worship service each second Sunday in February. During the first quadrennium of its existence, the Second Mile Offering increased by seventy-five percent.

In 1981 Mrs. Smith envisioned and designed the official banner for the Society. The banner, a needle-point painting made of gold and purple Persian wool yarn, serves as a lasting and sacred symbol of the missionary movement in the A. M. E. Zion Church. Mrs. Smith’s ecumenical service includes representing the W. H. & O. M. Society on the North America Area Executive Committee of the World Federation of Methodist Women, 1984-1987. Immediately following her appointment to the executive committee, she founded the celebration of World Federation Day, the first in the 200 year history of Lancaster County, South Carolina. A report of the celebration was reprinted in the first edition of the North America Area Handbook to be used as a model for future celebrations of World Federation Day.

The North America Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women set precedence by re-electing Mrs. Smith as secretary of the Executive Committee after her denominational term as First Vice President of the W. H. & O. M. Society expired in August 1987. “In the interest of stability in the work of the secretary...of the area. It is deemed advisable to designate this officer to continue her highly commendable work...” was the rationale given for this unprecedented action. In 1994, Mrs. Smith presented the records of the proceedings of the North America Area Executive Committee meetings (January 1987-December 1991) to the curator of the World Methodist Council Department of Archives at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina to be presented for posterity (Smith 1998).

Theodora Smith, a native of Gaffney, South Carolina, has lived in Lancaster most of her adult life. She earned the Baccalaureate Degree at South Carolina College, the Master of Science at Winthrop College and the University of South Carolina. She was the first Black woman administrator in the unitary Lancaster school system. For twelve years (1972-1984), Theodora Smith served as Director of Federal Projects at Lomax-Hannon Junior College, Greenville, Alabama. Among her many awards and citations, Mrs. Smith received an award for Outstanding Service in Christian Missions at home and overseas, Who’s Who Among Black Americans and was awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree by Clinton Junior College in 1994.

Source: Historical Highlights, Women’s Home and Oversea Missionary Society;  
Mattie Wilson Taylor

# Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

## Agape Sunday Celebration



February 14, 2010  
Second Mile Anniversary

Quadrennial Theme: 2007~2011

“Victorious Living, Prayer and Fasting, Praise and  
Worship, Purpose and Power”

## The Agape Sunday Second Mile Anniversary

The Order of Worship:

The Musical Prelude:

The Processional: *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"* #33

The Congregational Call to Worship:

**"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise."**

The Invocation: Gracious Lord and Father of all mankind forgive us our transgressions now and prepare our hearts to be receptive of your holy word that we may worship you in spirit and in truth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

The Choral Response: *"Hear our Prayer O Lord"* #688

The Hymn of Praise: *"Once More We Come Before Our God"* # 7

The Responsive Reading: *Psalm 150 (NIV)*

The Leader: Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty heavens.

The People: Praise Him for His mighty acts of power; Praise Him for His surpassing greatness.

The Leader: Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet; Praise Him with the harp and lyre.

The People: Praise Him with tambourine and dancing. Praise Him with the strings and flute.

The Leader: Praise Him with the clash of cymbals. Praise Him with resounding cymbals.

All: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

The Gloria Patri: #702/703/704

The Affirmation of Faith: *"The Apostle's Creed"*

The Scripture:

The Prayer:

The Choral Response: *"He is Lord"* #689

The Ministry of Kindness:

The Announcements:

The Choral Selection:

The Offerings: *(special appeal for Second Mile Offering)*

The Hymn of Preparation:

The Message:

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship:

The Hymn of Invitation: *"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"* #415

The Recessional and Missionary Benediction:

**God be merciful unto us and bless us and cause His face to Shine upon us and give us peace. Amen.**



Offerings are to be sent by the District President to:  
Mrs. Rosetta Dunham, Executive Secretary for the benefit of home and overseas missions. Your assistance is needed in these efforts.

Program prepared by:  
Gloria G. Williams, First Vice President

Dr. Barbara L. Shaw, General President

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