

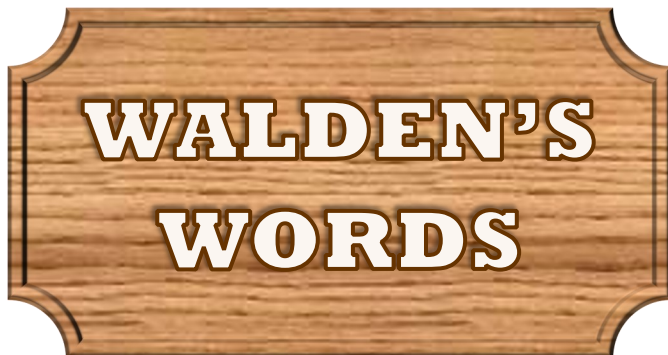


# theBellRinger

Newsletter of Holman UMC



Holman United Methodist Church | November 2020 | Church of the Bells



## “BE THANKFUL”

Greetings! Many wonderful things are happening at Holman UMC! For example, we have children and youth participating in our Poetry Contests. I believe we are encouraging a younger generation of poets to follow in the footsteps of Nikki Giovanni, Nikki Finney, and Langston Hughes. I am thankful we have a congregation intentional about engaging the younger generations and encouraging them to discover their interests and talents.

During October 2020, Holman UMC partnered with the Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce, along with other organizations, to help distribute fresh food to the larger Los Angeles community. I am thankful we have a congregation that believes in doing ministry beyond Sunday worship services. We will continue to partner with local and international organizations to build bridges for the betterment of all of humanity.

Effective November 1, 2020, Rev. Lewis Chase will join the Holman UMC as the Interim Minister of Community Outreach. We are thankful Rev. Chase will bring his gifts and talents to share with us in ministry, let's give him a warm Holman UMC welcome!

What are you thankful for during this season of your life? Join me in writing at least seven things you are thankful for during this season. I will start by sharing my list below:

1. The *Holy Trinity*; in the form of *God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit*
2. My *Family*, especially my beautiful wife *Michelle*
3. The *Holman UMC* church family and friends of our historic faith community
4. Good *Physical and Mental Health*
5. The gift of *Nature* and all things God created
6. The way *Poetry* can soothe the soul and ease the spirit
7. The *Right to Vote* to express my opinions on local community and national leadership

I pray the month of November brings you a peaceful Thanksgiving Holiday Season! COVID-19 has impacted Holman UMC, but COVID-19 has not stopped the good works happening at Holman UMC. I am thankful Covid-19 will never become stronger than God's power.

Grace and Peace,  
**Rev. Dr. Ken Walden**  
Senior Pastor  
Holman United Methodist Church





## MESSAGE from SPPRC

Fellow Holmanites, let's give praise for the blessing we have in Holman United Methodist Church! Although affected as most institutions by the COVID-19 pandemic, HUMC still stands strong! When asked by a non-member how Holman is functioning under this challenging season, we had cause to reflect upon and count our blessings. Although we cannot enjoy in-person worship, through current technology and our excellent tech staff we have:

- A great website!
- Ongoing communication through HOT OFF THE PRESS (the E-ringer), Sunday worship bulletins, The Bellringer
- Continuing Sunday worship service radio broadcasts
- Video streaming of Sunday worship service
- YouTube of our Sunday morning worship videos
- Virtual Thursday Bible study
- Virtual Friday Morning Intercessory Prayer
- Virtual DISCIPLE Bible classes
- Regular zoom meetings of our administrative committee
- Regular meeting of our Sunday Adult Church School (Adult Bible Study & Book Talk) via Zoom

How blessed we are! Despite our many blessings, HUMC has not escaped the disruptions caused by the pandemic. As you can imagine we are experiencing financial difficulties, especially with the significant losses of external revenue from the use of our wonderful facilities and campus which we have enjoyed over the years. With these losses of income, it has become necessary to cut many of our expenses which has included the loss of some of our employees. We are saddened by the loss of these employees who have been part of the Holman family over many years, and with whom we hope to continue that relationship. We are grateful for their valued services to HUMC. Please keep them in prayer for their overall well-being in these difficult times.

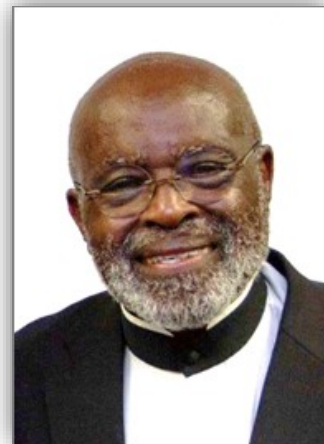
Let us maintain faithful that Holman UMC "will have a strong finish in 2020 and a bright and even stronger 2021." Remember: "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see."

God Bless You!!!

# November Celebrants

- 2 SANDRA GOLDSMITH
- 2 MARY LOUISE BATISTE
- 3 ANNIE B. THOMAS
- 3 DAVID A. HILL
- 6 DAVID BROWN
- 6 SHAMAYA POLLARD
- 6 PEGGY DAMMOND PREACELY
- 6 GLORIA F. BAILEY
- 6 ROBERT HALL
- 7 ZEPHRA DUNN SPARKS
- 8 VALERIE NORWOOD
- 10 LENA HOOE
- 11 BEVERLY S. PARKER
- 11 JOHN SWEENEY
- 11 MICHAEL PETERS
- 13 DONNA HARPE
- 14 JACQUELINE JONES
- 13 KATHERRINA J. HAYES
- 14 LUISA CLARK-HARRIS
- 14 MARTHA WATSON
- 14 NANCY LAVERNE ALLEN
- 15 LEOPOLD POLLARD
- 16 MICHAEL B. STEWARD
- 16 PRINCE ROY H. FERGUSON
- 17 SHEENA SETTLE
- 17 ROSALIND JACKSON
- 17 ALEASE H. PARKER
- 17 GLORIA J. SMITH
- 17 DONALD L. BREAKENRIDGE
- 18 CAROLYN WOODS
- 18 REGINALD FIELDS, SR.
- 18 LINDA J. MARSHALL
- 19 KIMBERLY KIMSEY
- 19 VILMA BABB DAWSON
- 19 IVOR DAWSON
- 20 BRENDA WILSON
- 20 OVIS MASSEY
- 20 MARGARET A. CUMMINGS
- 20 AUDRAE BROADNAUX
- 20 MARY JOHNSON
- 20 DORIS WOODS
- 21 SEANA WRIGHT
- 21 MARCIA JAMES
- 22 MARY L. SMITH
- 22 MURIEL BROWN-PARKER
- 24 SUE BARNER
- 25 VIRGINIA BROWN
- 25 MELBA GARDNER
- 26 CHERYL SWEENEY
- 29 GIANNA MACK
- 30 DOROTHY GRIGGS
- 30 KIMBERLY N. GREEN
- 30 NANCY HARRIS
- 30 RENEE SETTLE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## **WELCOME REV. LOUIS A. CHASE!**

SPPRC is pleased to announce that of Rev. Louis A. Chase will serve as the Interim Minister of Community Outreach for Holman UMC. Rev. Chase is no stranger to Holman, having served as Intern / Assistant Pastor under Rev. James M. Lawson. He has since served as senior pastor in other UMC churches in Greater Los Angeles over the past 25+ years. Thus, he is very familiar with social, cultural, and environmental concerns of the area.

Rev. Chase is well equipped to fit the job as Minister of Community Outreach with a long history in participation in the Lawson Workshop on Nonviolence and with a strong background of involvement in social and environmental justice in leadership roles in:

- SCLC
- BMCR
- Methodist Federation for Social Action
- Cobb Institute of Claremont environmental advocacy

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Chase back to Holman!

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Faith Formation

Deborah A. Mitchell—Director, Children's Ministry



### Upside Down

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

*When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;  
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.*

*Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:*

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.*

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.*

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you  
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same  
way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

I'm sure you have played a game where you stand on your head (or tried to). If you have, everything should look different-turned upside down.

If you have a snow globe or seen one in a store you notice it is a ball with a scene inside. You see them a lot during Christmas time. There are some with Santa and his reindeers, others with a snowman and miniature kids playing in the snow. There is a large variety of different sceneries. Whatever the scene, the fun of a snow globe happens when you turn it upside down. When you turn it upside down the snow begins to fall and cover the objects inside the globe. Everything inside the globe looks a bit different after it has been turned upside down.

In today's scripture, we are learning something new about God's kingdom; nothing is as it seems. We may think that the happiest people are those who win, are strong, are rich, do well, and have everything they want. On the contrary, Jesus taught his disciples that this is not so. In God's kingdom,

(Continued on page 6—Children's Ministry: Faith Formation)



## FOND FAREWELL TO MRS. EVELYN M. FREEMAN

### HANDBELL CHOIR

By Keith McGruder

From its humble beginnings in 1979, Mrs. Evelyn M. Freeman brought the Handbell Choir to Holman United Methodist Church and over the years has graced us with her dedication, time and talent. Not only has the Handbell Choir ministered on the second Sunday of the month for our worship celebrations, the choir has also participated in other programs throughout Los Angeles.

The Handbell Choir members range in age from the youth to adult and also it is intergenerational. After 41 years of dedicated service, our illustrious leader has decided to move on to another journey. The Handbell Choir as a family will miss her. Farewell to you Mrs. Freeman and we love you.



### HER MINISTRY OF SERVICE

By Joni Arlain

Mrs. Freeman's music journey at Holman included membership in the Holman Choir, where she lent her alto voice for many years to this group.

And let's not forget the Cherub Choir, for which she has served as accompanist for 40 plus years, maybe even 50. We have generations of Holmanites that have been nurtured by her through the Cherub Choir and the Chimes.

Whenever an accompanist was needed, Mrs. Freeman made herself available, including Friday Morning Prayer Group, fellowship events in L.L. White Hall, and more. And then there was the Holman Arts Council's annual Youth Instrumental Recital, where she faithfully assisted in recruiting her piano students to participate.

Mrs. Evelyn M. Freeman, you will indeed be missed!!! We pray blessings upon you as you move into this new chapter of your life. We give thanks for your legacy, and the unconditional love that you have shared with us for all these years. We love you, and there's nothing you can do about it!!



(Continued from page 4 —  
Children's Ministry: Faith Formation)

these ideas are turned upside down. He said those who are discouraged and sad; who struggle and suffer; who are humble, kind, and try to do the right thing, will be blessed.

Everything is not always the way we wish it to be. We may feel sad and discouraged because of something that has happened. We may experience difficult situations and struggle to do what is right. But through the Beatitudes, Jesus is saying that when bad things happen we will be comforted and blessed. The Beatitudes are there to encourage us, to make us feel better when we don't feel so good. When you feel down, or at a loss and don't understand what is going on, remember these words from Jesus, "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven."

Jesus teaches us that when this happens we will be comforted and blessed. This lesson gives us encouragement – cheers us on as we feel “poor in spirit.” Jesus says, “Rejoice and be glad. You have a great reward waiting for you in heaven.” Matthew 5:12 (ICB)

**Interactive Activities:**

**How-to-make-a-snow-globe/**

Click the link above for an easy-to-make snow globe. They make perfect Christmas gifts!

**Questions for Reflection:**

- What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
- The Good News translation of the Bible uses the word "happy" in place of "blessed". Try replacing each sentence above with the word "happy" then read it out loud.

**Memory Verse:**

**Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward  
is great in heaven**

**Matthew 5:12, NRSV**

**CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRY**

*Deborah A. Mitchell*  
Director, Children's Ministry

It is with joy for the Holman Children's Ministry to announce the results of our First Annual *Poetic Nuggets* Poetry Contest. The theme for the contest was COVID-19. We had three entries from three children who don't attend Holman but have relatives who do.

1<sup>st</sup> place award was presented to Tatiana Hunter, 8, the great-niece of Mrs. Ruby Brown. Tatiana's poem is entitled: "*Is This the New Normal?*"

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> place award went to Rylee Belleus, 12, granddaughter of Holmanite, Ms. Barbara Neal. Her poem is entitled "*Six Months of COVID.*"

3<sup>rd</sup> place was awarded Ayana Maria Pruss, 9, great-niece of Mrs. Ruby Brown. Ayana submitted two poems, "*My Life with COVID,*" Part 1 and Part 2.

Our poets / writers were presented with a Certificate of Recognition, Amazon gift card, and a copy of the following books:

- ♦ Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull illustrated by Yuyi Morales
- ♦ Light in the Darkness—A Story About How Slaves Learned in Secret by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome
- ♦ What Color Is My World? The Lost History of African American Inventors By Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld Illustrated By Ben Boos and A.G. Ford (This book courtesy of Holman / A-MAN, Inc. Technology Center)

The Holman Children's Ministry is committed to continue teaching God's word during this pandemic and beyond. The contest was a way for us to engage the children in church activities even though we are not able to meet together physically, and to reach out beyond our four walls to children in the community near and far.

Kudos to these three young ladies for answering the call and submitting their entries. Their poems are included in this November issue of the Bellringer on page 5.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## POETIC NUGGETS

POETRY  
*contest*

## WINNERS

### Is This The New Normal?

by Tatiana Hunter, age 9

COVID-19 affected me because I can't see my friends  
COVID-19 affected me because I can't play with friends  
COVID-19 affected me because I can't hug my friends  
COVID-19 affected me because I can't say good morning to my friends  
And how it changed the way I see my friends  
So I will be praying to God for my friends.

(Parent: Chandra Louis / Referred by her great aunt, Holman member Ruby Brown)

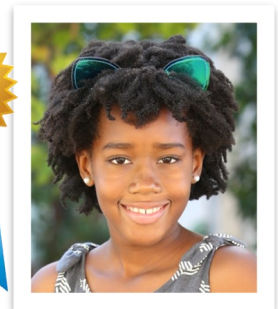


### Six months of COVID

by Rylee Belleus, age 12

COVID-19 is killing us, Quarantine is draining us slowly  
Quarantine is depressing us, rotting our brains, making life unholy  
We share the desire to go outside if only, if only  
Tomorrow can be a better day  
But the only way is if we follow the rules  
"Wash your hands!" "Don't go to school!"  
Then our lives can be back to normal  
Until then, make sure you aren't bored out of your skull.

(Parent: Garland Fuller / Referred by grandmother, Holman member Barbara Neal)



### My Life with COVID, Part 1

By Ayana Maria Pruss, age 9

Well I was on my way  
to my mom  
I wanted to play  
with my friends  
But she said  
I wish COVID wasn't a thing

All I want in life  
now, is,  
a cure,  
and...

I don't know.

(Parent: Kendra Pruss /  
Referred by her great Aunt,  
Holman member Ruby Brown)

### My Life with COVID, Part 2

By Ayana Maria Pruss, age 9

A prose, a poem that does not rhyme

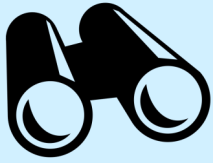
I really don't like COVID 19  
I don't like that many people get it  
people think China is responsible for  
eating bad bats  
I don't like bats.

I just want a cure  
I wish COVID wasn't a thing

All I want in life  
now, is,  
a cure,  
and...

I don't know.





## LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. Nov. 1

Worship: 11 am

**All Saints Sunday**

**Holy Communion Sunday**

**“God’s Love Endures Forever”**

**Psalm 107:1-2; Matthew 5:1-12**

Sun. Nov. 8

Worship: 11 am

**Veterans Sunday**

**“A Soldier’s Faith”**

**Psalm 70; Matthew 8:5-13**

Sun. Nov. 15

Worship: 11 am

**“Investment for the Common Good”**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

Sun. Nov. 22

Worship: 11 am

**Christ the King Sunday**

**“The Least of These”**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

Thu. Nov. 22

**THANKSGIVING DAY**

Sun. Nov. 29

Worship: 11 am

**1st Sunday of Advent**

**“Keep Watch!”**

**Mark 13:32-37**

## THE HOLMAN TOUCH!



In our pre-COVID-19 season, these were some of our “seasoned” attendees who gathered every Friday morning at 7:00 am in the Johnson Chapel for our Friday Morning Prayer Service.

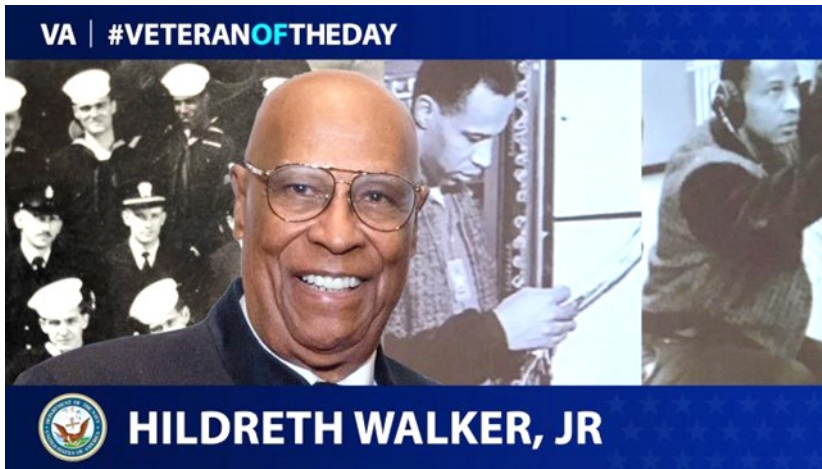
Pictured here in front row from left to right are Marie Blair, Mabel Wesley and Vivian Hall. Standing in back row from left to right are Evelyn M. Freeman, Quinton James, Rosa Hill and Esther Robinson.

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

Acts 2:42

## U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs recognizes #VeteranOfTheDay – Navy Veteran Hildreth Walker Jr.

(Posted on Friday, October 16, 2020 11:30 am)



*“Today’s #VeteranOfTheDay is Navy Veteran Hildreth Walker Jr., who loved science and contributed to the development of notable technological innovations.”*

Hildreth Walker Jr. served as an electrician’s mate in the Navy. Walker’s lifelong dedication to science put him at the forefront of groundbreaking innovations being made in military and laser technology.

When Walker was a child, his father gave him a Buck Rogers ray gun that let off sparks, which made him curious about the science behind it. He started middle school in Alexandria, Louisiana, where he hoped to learn more about math and science. However, most of Walker’s textbooks, usually hand-me-downs from other schools, came in tatters. He learned by studying with the incomplete educational material he had and supplemented his knowledge with the hands-on experience he gained while working at a local electronics shop.

Right after high school, Walker landed a position in the Navy working with electronics. He completed basic training in San Diego. Much of Walker’s time in the Navy was spent as an electrician’s mate aboard the USS Redova, where he worked with some of the most advanced technology at the time. Walker served until 1955.

After leaving the Navy, he sought to work with machines he had never operated before and took a job in aerospace technology with Douglas Aircraft Company.

In 1957, Walker received a rare opportunity to work with the RCA Corporation and their Ballistic Missile Early Warning System. He moved to Alaska to help develop the largest radar system in the world, returning to the lower 48 in 1961 once the project was complete.

Walker then went to work for the Korad Corporation, which specialized in laser technology. Within a few years, Walker became proficient in working with lasers and soon found himself leading a team in charge of measuring the distance between the moon and the Earth during the 1969 Apollo 11 mission. Under his leadership, the team rendered the most accurate measurement to date.

Once he retired, Walker dedicated his life toward fostering an interest in science and math within underrepresented communities. In 1990, Walker and his wife, Dr. Bettye Walker, founded the African American Male Achievers Network. The organization remains active today and has helped thousands of students from several different countries attend and graduate from renowned academic institutions around the world.

Thank you for your service!

Source: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/79713/veteranoftheday-navy-veteran-hildreth-walker-jr/>

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# WHAT HOLMAN MEANS TO US

BY KEVIN KEELE and MARK CLAY

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It is hard to express in words all that Holman means to us. To designate the milestones in our life we found it easier to use the ministers as a point of reference. Mark's experiences with Holman goes back to his teenage years when he and his mother Helen joined Holman. He has fond memories of those years that began with Reverends L.L. White and Edward S. Williams. As Mark got involved in the life of the church, he met and became friends to fellow youth Regina Roberts (later Rev. Roberts), who started the first Youth Usher Board, and he became the president.

When Rev. Don Guerrant became the Assistant Pastor of Holman (under Rev. Lawson), he and Mark became friends. Then at the birth of his first son David, Mark became Godfather. To this day David is an intricate part of our life. During the difficulties of life Holman has always been there. When Mark lost his adopted son Mark-David, Rev. Lawson and Thomas Hill were there. It was only natural that Mark became uncle to Rev. Thomas and Carla Hill's children. Then after the death of Mark's parents, Rev. Jim and Dorothy Lawson became his parents and made him a part of the family.

When I met Mark 35 years ago, it was only natural that I would join him at Holman. To our knowledge, we were the first same sex couple to join the Holman Family and their support has been constant. It was our love for children that led us to expand our family and adopt Robin and Crystal at birth. It was Mrs. Lawson who used her parental guidance to motivate us to join Adult Sunday School when our children started Sunday School. The village of Holman, with the Youth Choir and Youth Group helped us raise our children. It was our involvement in Youth Ministries that allowed us to expand our family to include (the new Associate Pastor) Rev. Paul and Allyson Hill. Holman was our parent support group.

Our special relationship with Holman continued when Rev. Allison Mark became Associate Pastor under Rev. Kelvin Sauls. Rev. Allison jokes and tells the story that her daughter Kiara adopted us as her new parents. Then relegated her to the title of Nanny. It was also during this time that I got to serve as a member of SPPRC.

When our grand-nephew Matthew came into our life the Holman family shared this joy. At the same time Rev. Zan and Carrie Holmes adopted their daughter Savannah, which allowed us to have many common experiences. To this day, Mark and Carrie talk weekly on the phone.

Our involvement in Holman ministries continued when I joined and served in the Holman Choir for 20 years. Mark has worked on various ministries such as Africa University Scholarship Committee (under Rev. Masters) and has been a Sunday School teacher. For over 25 years, he has been actively involved in the Holman Arts Council and served as president for 13 years. Adult Sunday School (Book Talk) remains an intricate part of our life for over 30 years. There so many members of Holman who have touched us in this journey and continue to enrich our life in more ways than we can express.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## Holman United Methodist Women presents

### *United Methodist Women Suffragette Virtual Gold Tea*

Sunday, November 22, 2020

4:00 PM

\$25 Donation

HONORING OUR  
"MODERN DAY SUFFRAGETTE"  
AND INVITED GUEST



HON. MAXINE WATERS  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

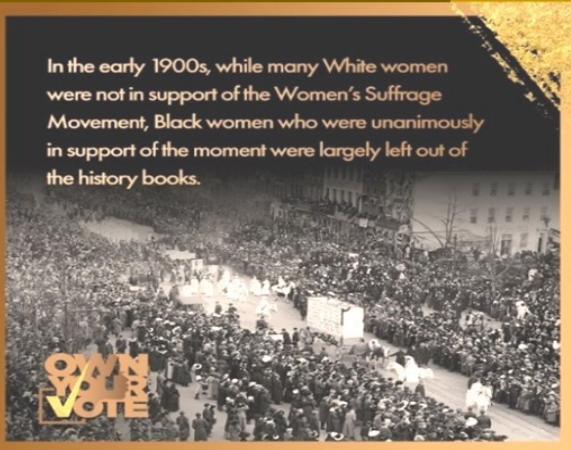


Frances Ellen  
Watkins Harper

Anna Julia Cooper

Ida B Wells

In the early 1900s, while many White women were not in support of the Women's Suffrage Movement, Black women who were unanimously in support of the moment were largely left out of the history books.



Sojourner Truth

Nannie Helen  
Burroughs

Elizabeth  
Piper Easley

Attire: Sunday's Best  
(Hats, Pearls & Gloves would be nice!)  
Men, women & families are welcome!!



#### ~ THE CONTESTS ~

- ◆ The table representing our theme
- ◆ The most dramatic hat
- ◆ The most dapper male guest

Please make your donation through Holman UMC website.

Once on the Holman UMC website, find the Givelify link. Select payment amount (ex. \$25.00)

Select "Other". Select "Add memo". Select "create your own" and add "UMW Tea."

RSVP with a copy of your Givelify receipt to Govote321@gmail.com.

Make check donations payable to Holman United Methodist Women; add "UMW Tea" in the memo line of your check along with your email address. Mail to:

**Holman UMW**  
3320 W. Adams Blvd., L.A., CA 90018

**HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
(www.holmanumc.com)  
Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden, Senior Pastor

# What does Holman mean to me!

By Ruby C. Brown



I came to visit Holman with my then 5-year old son on MLK Jr. Sunday in 1976. It was my intent to visit several churches to find a new church home, as I had been away from regular church attendance for several years and my son had never been to Sunday School. At that time the 8:00 a.m. service and Sunday School were at the same time and so my son went to the Kindergarten Class. The service at Holman reminded me of the church I had grown up in in Washington, D.C. The Holman Choir sang anthems and Rev. Lawson's sermon was thought provoking. My son enjoyed Sunday School and showed me his homework and he asked if we could return to the church the following Sunday. The homework, as I recall, had to do with recording the weather during the week. The Kindergarten Class had two teachers, a team, that engaged the children in learning about God's world. We did return to Holman the following Sunday and many Sundays after that. We found a home at Holman and we joined Holman, I think in 1977.

Holman offered many activities for families. I joined United Methodist Women and the Parent Support Group and other time-limited activities. My son grew up, was baptized and confirmed at Holman. He was in the Cherub Choir, Cub Scouts and other music related activities. He attended Holman until about age 21.

For me Holman is the place where I rekindled my faith and my trust in God. The strength I received by becoming a member of Holman and sharing in its ministries and fellowship, has served me well and has kept me grounded through the loss of my daughter and countless relatives and friends.

The past twenty years at Holman have been different from the Holman I discovered in 1976. Holman has lost lots of members through death, attrition and changes in leadership. Still, I count my discovery of Holman as a seminal event in my life and it has changed my life forever.



## What does Holman UMC mean to me?

Hi! My name is Kimberly Green-Russell. I have been a member of Holman UMC all of my life. I am an active member at Holman and have served and/or led various ministries at Holman including Lay Leadership Committee, Facilities Naming Committee, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Young Adult Ministry (FUSE), Young Adult Dance Ministry (FUSE Dance), Young Adult Small Group, Stewardship Committee, Hand Bell Choir, Disciple Bible Study, Hospitality Committee, United Methodist Women and Lay Speaker.

Holman has a very specific meaning to me. We all know that the church is the Lord's house and to me the church is also the body of Christ, with each member having a specific function and obligation, all working together unto the same spirit and all characterized by service and love. I remain active and involved in my church because Holman is a part of me; it's part of my culture and community. Holman is my church home and the people of Holman are my church family.

I have several memories at Holman as a young child in the nursery in the old mansion before the Lawson building was built, to more recent memories of my own wedding in the sanctuary. I was Christened at Holman, confirmed at Holman and experienced many milestones at Holman; becoming a teenager, graduating high school, graduating college and graduate school and so on. I've had the support, always, of my family and my church family.

I have grown spiritually and in faith at Holman, over the years, and have made lifelong friendships with sisters and brothers of faith. I've grown closer to Christ, in knowing Him, loving Him and fearing Him through nurture, outreach and witness opportunities at Holman during worship service and beyond.

# WHAT DOES HOLMAN MEAN TO ME?

By Jeïña Brito

To me, Holman means FAMILY. I was baptized, raised, confirmed, was a camper, a choir member and employed by Holman United Methodist Church. I don't know any other church that I could call home.

When I think about COVID-19 and everything it has taken from us, I think about Holman. Right before COVID hit, I was looking into making my way back home for service since I had taken a short break to focus on my health. I had been attending Elevation Church online and although I love Pastor Steven Furtick and his praise and worship team, it just didn't feel regular for me. Being a musician my first love is music, especially praise and worship. When I found out that Steven Furtick was born and raised United Methodist, a connection clicked. One Sunday they opened service with a song called "The Blessing." At that moment, I immediately felt like I had walked back into Holman. Growing up we always ended service with Numbers 6:24-26, *"May the Lord bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord turn his face towards you, and give you peace."*

"The Blessing" was Numbers 6:24-26. Something I memorized as a child stuck with me throughout time. I put the song on repeat for about an hour and the more I listened to it the more I realized that I needed to put more focus on God and his blessings instead of the lack of actually being in the sanctuary. In all reality, I believe that COVID-19 was a gift and a curse. Around the world, COVID-19 is a plague, but to me COVID-19 became a blessing because it allowed me to understand that a room / sanctuary is not what makes "church," but church is within you, within US.

Having to stay at home under quarantine has done nothing but bring me closer to God and hopefully others as well. When COVID-19 settles itself enough to where we are able to make it back in the sanctuary, I cannot WAIT to see all of my Holman Church Family! It's been a long time but I'M COMING HOME!!!!!!

(Continued on page 14—  
What Does Holman mean to me?



(Continued from page 13—What Does Holman mean to me? —by Jeiña Brito)

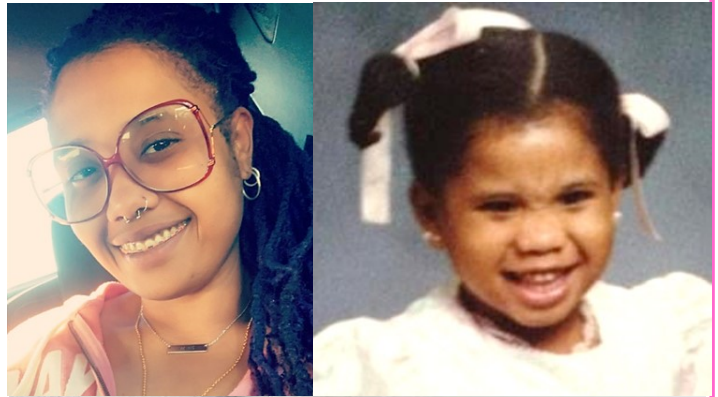
## ¿QUÉ SIGNIFICA HOLMAN PARA MÍ?

Para mí, Holman significa FAMILIA. Fui bautizada, criada, confirmada, fui campista, miembro del coro y empleada de Holman. No conozco ninguna otra iglesia a la que pueda llamar hogar.

Cuando pienso en COVID-19 y todo lo que nos ha quitado, pienso en Holman. Justo antes de que llegara COVID, estaba pensando en volver a la iglesia para el servicio dominical, ya que había tomado un breve descanso para concentrarme en mi salud. Había estado asistiendo a Elevation Church en línea y, aunque amo a Steven Furtick y su equipo de alabanza y adoración, simplemente no me pareció normal. Como músico, mi primer amor es la música, especialmente la alabanza y la adoración. Cuando descubrí que Steven Furtick nació y se crió como metodista, se hizo clic en una conexión. Un domingo abrieron el servicio con una canción llamada “La Bendición”. En ese momento, inmediatamente me sentí como si hubiera regresado a Holman. Al crecer siempre terminamos el servicio con Números 6: 24-26, “Que el Señor te bendiga y te guarde, haga brillar su rostro sobre ti y tenga misericordia de ti, que el Señor vuelva su rostro hacia ti y te dé paz. ”

“La Bendición” era Números 6: 24-26. Algo que memoricé de niña se me quedó grabado a lo largo del tiempo. Puse la canción en repetición durante aproximadamente una hora y cuanto más la escuchaba, más me di cuenta de que necesitaba poner más atención a Dios y sus bendiciones en lugar de la falta de estar realmente en el santuario. En realidad, creo que COVID-19 fue un regalo y una maldición. En todo el mundo, el COVID-19 es una plaga, pero para mí el COVID-19 se convirtió en una bendición porque me permitió entender que una habitación / santuario no es lo que hace a la “iglesia”, sino que la iglesia está dentro de ti, dentro de USTED.

Tener que quedarme en casa en cuarentena no ha hecho más que acercarme a Dios y, con suerte, a otros también. Cuando COVID-19 se asiente lo suficiente como para que podamos regresar al santuario, ¡no puedo ESPERAR para ver a toda mi Familia de la Iglesia Holman! Ha pasado mucho tiempo pero ¡¡¡¡¡VUELVO A CASA!!!!!!



## ESTHER LEE ROBINSON "One of God's Good People"

By Valeria Robinson Norwood

All of you, the Holman Family, have your story with Esther, this is only a snippet of my story with her.

I don't remember when I met Esther, but that is one of the good things about Holman, you just connect and become attached to each other. Esther Lee Robinson was born in Edna, Texas, and YES—you'll need to Google that.

However, all I ever heard from her mouth was Bay City, where she grew up as "Pumpkin" and Princess in a Christian household of loving brothers and parents. She attended Langston University (HBCU) in Langston, Oklahoma. I always told her "she had to leave Texas to get a good education, in Oklahoma" (I'm an Oklahoman).

Esther received her "calling" when she came to Los Angeles to help care for a family member. Becoming a nurse, serving 46 plus years, her compassion for helping others became her ministry and mission.

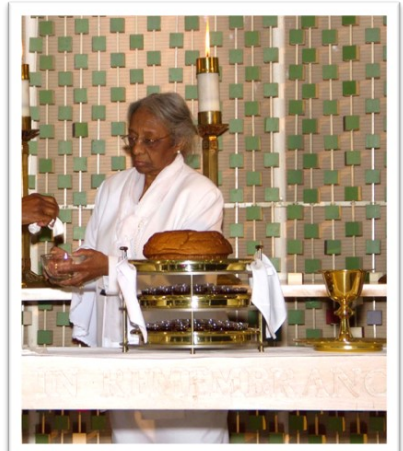
Esther's 92 years have been busy! She is usually at Holman three or four days a week. Monday is Storehouse Day. She tends to the needs of the persons that come, and shares her kindness and gentle spirit with all that enter. We know that lunch time is family time for the team and each member has their food specialty. Esther's specialty is the green salad and BOY can she make a salad! (We all know that Esther does not cook). I have had the good fortune to drive Esther to get the vegetables, yes, three different markets. I know I should say Esther can cook grits. She makes a big pot for the Friday Morning Prayer Group Breakfast and a small pot for Dr. James to take home.

Thursday is Bible Study, followed by preparing the Communion elements for Friday Morning Prayer Service. She arrives early on Friday morning to set up Communion before the service begins. Sometimes along the way, she will inventory supplies needed and see that they are ordered. Before Esther leaves for her annual months long trip to Texas, she gets all the supplies that will be needed while she is gone. I know she trusts the Communion stewards, but why take a chance?

Now here comes the Saturday before the first Sunday—the most important day of the month. Everything has to be right. As a leader, Esther, is the best. Would you think a petite lady is so strong and will always be there to help everyone. Just ask the UMW. She answers the call. What about the non-violence workshop—Esther is a member helping with the refreshments and extending hospitality.

There is a life outside of Holman. Esther loves the theatre, the museum, and fine dining. Esther and I have shared many good times together as family. When I need to go someplace, Esther tells me when she will arrive at my home to stay with Breegan (before she left to college) and Kerry. Finally, along with many of you, Esther lets us pick her up instead of riding the bus everywhere. I jokingly questioned Esther on her ethnicity because she doesn't eat chicken!! So this is just a small window of the blessings that God has shared with me through Esther.

Truly, Esther Lee Robinson is "One of God's Good People." (We share the same maiden name)



## WORTH REPEATING

# *A Letter to my Friend, Holman*

By Donna Richardson

Dear Holman,

We have been friends forever...at least as long as I can remember. We grew up together, you and I. You were born in February 1945. I was born in March a few years later. My Mom and Dad taught me my home address, 3610 and your address, 3320, also. They thought I should know both.

Holman, you were always kind and loving. Along with my other friends, Cheryl, Jessica and Don, you welcomed us as we ran and laughed on your spacious green lawn and played hide and seek under your mulberry trees. (Of course that was before the big sanctuary building and all the cement.)

We ran up and down the stairs and explored the basement of the beautiful old mansion. You were patient and gentle...sending grown-ups to keep us in check. You generously provided space in your big backyard for family barbecues and square dances. You even let us teenagers hold dances on Friday nights as long as we showed up to sing in the junior choir or serve on the junior usher board on Sunday morning.

And Holman, you delighted everyone with some of the most beautiful music I have ever heard. You even sent friends to visit and comfort me when I was ill.

Time passed, and I found myself introducing my own children to you. Like me, they too learned to love from their new friend, Holman.

We are seniors now; we are still friends. Still loving, still sharing, still laughing and sometimes crying...but still hopeful. And by the Grace of God... Still Here! My dear friend Holman, you mean so much to me!!!

Joyfully,  
*DONNA*



Little Donna Collins Richardson and the late Mr. Elihu Sloan on the grounds that now occupy the Holman Sanctuary.



# STRONG FINISH IN 2020

## WHAT DOES HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEAN TO YOU?

2020 has been a year with experiences that none of us would have imagined. COVID-19, racial unrest, hurricanes, fires, police brutality, etc., have all impacted our lives in many different ways.

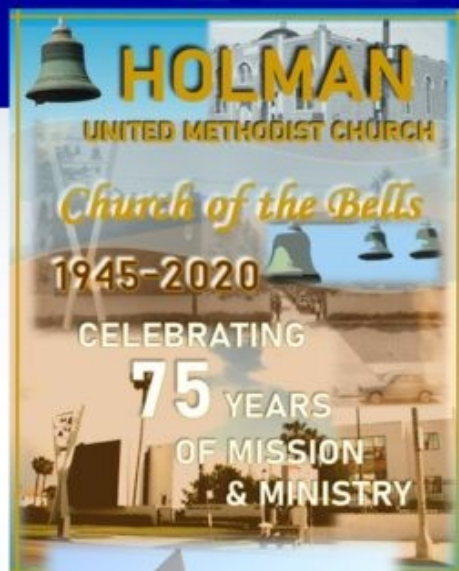
For us as a church family, the fact that we have not been able to gather together for worship and fellowship in one place / space has been a very different normal, one that has probably caused you to think about your life and ministry with the church and the significance of that journey and relationship.

So we ask the question:

*What does  
Holman United Methodist Church  
mean to you?*

We invite you to share your thoughts  
via a video recording (2-5 minutes), a poem, or written reflection.

Submit your videos to [jules@holmanumc.com](mailto:jules@holmanumc.com)  
& your written entries to [joniarlain@holmanumc.com](mailto:joniarlain@holmanumc.com)



# Holman United Methodist Women: *Letting our Lights Shine*

By Claudia Spears

The California-Pacific Conference United Methodist Women conducted the 2020 Annual Celebration on October 24th, anew this year by virtual experience. United Methodist Women from our Cal-Pac conference were led in Worship and Installation of 2021 Officers, by Rev. Dr. Sandra Olewine, of Pasadena First United Methodist Church. Many will remember Rev. Olewine as a former Associate Pastor of Holman.

A highlight of each United Methodist Women's Conference Annual Celebration is the yearly Candle of Commitment Observance. Holman's Local Organization of United Methodist Women honored eleven women from our organization who made their transition from their earthly labor to God's promise and reward. These Women are our angelic lights and it was a special privilege to honor each of them by making a donation in each of their names. The United Methodist Women's Candle of Commitment serves as an avenue of giving to the national organization for the ongoing mission work. It represents the cost of the National Organizations mission work for Women, Children, and Youth in the US and around the world. The donation this year was \$21.61 for each minute that the candle burned.

Holman Women so honored and memorialized were Jean Brown, Carolyn Jenkins, Elfrida Kamara, Evelyn G. Freeman, Faye Jackson, Juanita Crattic, Kathryn Carr, Kathryn Davis, Katie Catron, Mary E. Wade, and Merle Davis.

These Women are etched in the spiritual memory of Holman Church and Holman United Methodist Women. They are indeed examples of the Candle of Commitment and shining lights of our Holman Ministry.




**RADIO BROADCAST MINISTRY**  
SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM  
KJLH RADIO 102.3 FM or  
WWW.KJLHRADIO.COM

Our Holman Radio Broadcast has been a blessing for us and the community during this COVID-19 season of social / physical distancing.

We reach a broad audience with our radio listeners in Los Angeles and beyond, which is the 2nd largest city in the United States of America. We are especially grateful for this opportunity to come together in worship on Sunday morning.

We are grateful for the generosity of our radio sponsors, and invite you to support this ministry by sponsoring a Sunday broadcast, or making a special donation to the ministry.

**WE GIVE THANKS  
FOR OUR CONNECTION WITH YOU!**  
323.703.5868 WWW.HOLMANUMC.COM



**3FN**  
Faith Foster Families  
Network

**Calling All Caregivers**  
Join us for our  
**"INVITE A CAREGIVER WEDNESDAY"**  
**VIRTUAL CAREGIVER CHECK-IN**  
Wednesday, NOVEMBER 11, 2020  
6 pm—7:15 pm  
**A time to connect and share!**

About the Faith Foster Families Network (3FN)  
3FN is a collaborative of six faith-based organizations and churches in South Los Angeles whose mission is to sustain a faith collaborative that provides resources, well-being, and safety for families and children impacted by the child welfare system. The work of 3FN is focused in four areas: education, human support, tangible resource distribution and recruitment of new resource families.  
3FN members are The Biddy Mason Charitable Foundation, Center of Hope LA, Crossroads United Methodist Church, Holman Community Development Corp., West Angeles Community Development Corp. and Associate Member City of Refuge.

To register contact [info@faithfosterfamilies.org](mailto:info@faithfosterfamilies.org)  
or call at 323-531-7900



## FAITH IN ACTION

News and Views from the United Methodist  
General Board of Church and Society

## Young United Methodists call voting an act of faith

During National Voter Education Week, young United Methodists reflect on why it's important to vote—and how.

Emily Newman October 7, 2020

We are in an election year where our ability to vote feels more important than ever. At the same time, pandemic worries have us more stressed about the process of voting than we ever have been before.

I have voted absentee several times as a student living away from home, but this year, I wanted to make doubly sure I could vote safely, and my vote would be counted. I looked up my voter registration online and was able to update my registration address and double-check my mailing address. I received a new voter registration card in less than a week. Then, I put in a request for an absentee ballot by filling out a form online and emailing it to the absentee ballot office in my county, and then received my ballot this week.

I found this process to be easier than expected, and I also appreciate the way the absentee ballot allows me to spend some time looking over the ballot and researching candidates who are less familiar to me. I plan to go over my ballot and all the instructions in detail to make sure that I complete everything correctly, and I will mail my ballot by placing it directly in the USPS mailbox near my home.

The Book of Resolutions affirms our civic responsibility: "While declaring our ultimate allegiance is to God, Scripture recognizes that faithfulness to God requires political engagement by the people of God." (#5012)

As a United Methodist, I believe voting is an important way we raise our voices not only for our individual interests but also to uphold the rights and sacred worth of all our neighbors. Our United Methodist Social Creed states, "*We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disability; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.*"

We can enact this commitment by educating ourselves about candidates and policies, then voting out of this knowledge with the quality of life of all our neighbors in mind. Voting is also a part of caring for God's creation entrusted to our stewardship. As the Social Principles state, "*All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings.*" - ¶160 I plan to vote keeping this care for God's creation in mind.

Young people have an incredibly important voice in this election. As a former youth minister, I know many United Methodist students voting for the first or second time in this election, and I got the chance to talk with a few young women about why and how they plan to vote.

**OLIVIA SKAGGS, FIRST YEAR STUDENT AT MEREDITH COLLEGE IN RALEIGH, NC, IS VOTING FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR, AND PLANS TO VOTE IN PERSON.**

Olivia's faith as a United Methodist shapes the values that inform her vote. She will vote in ways she believes will uphold "*equal rights for every single human being... I'm voting because absolutely NOTHING makes one person better than another.*"

**ERIN MCINTYRE, SOPHOMORE AT APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY IN BOONE, NC, WILL BE VOTING FOR THE FIRST TIME AS WELL, THROUGH AN ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

She believes voting is our duty as citizens, saying, "*Not everyone has the opportunity to be a part of making decisions for their country, so we need to take advantage of our privilege.*" Erin grew up in the church as well, and she's not sure either presidential candidate's policies fully conform to the values of the United Methodist Church. "*However,*" she says, "*I believe that Christianity is meant to be about love.*" Erin plans to vote in ways that she feels are "*in line with showing love and compassion to other people.*"

**GRACE FINE, ALSO AN APPALACHIAN STATE SOPHOMORE, IS PLANNING TO VOTE ABSENTEE DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS AROUND COVID-19.**

Voting is important to Grace because "*Voting lets the people have a voice in who they wish to serve them.*" She is voting based on her United Methodist upbringing and values, which means, "*I want everyone to be included in all aspects of life, no matter the color of their skin, religious background, sexual orientation... My hope for this election is that it will bring everyone together.*"

Along with Olivia, Erin, and Grace, I see my vote as an act of faith, and as a way of enacting hope and love for my community and my country.

Source: <https://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/young-united-methodists-call-voting-an-act-of-faith-1118>

# Inviting ALL into Discipleship with Jesus Christ!!

## FOR YOUR SPIRIT

*God is my strength  
and my power  
and he maketh  
my way perfect.*

2 Samuel 22:33 KJV

## WORD FOR THE SOUL

Find what sparks  
a light in you so that you,  
in your own way,  
can illuminate the world.



The DEADLINE for the next Issue of the Bellringer is Sunday, **November 15, 2020** for the **DECEMBER** publication. Bellringer deadline is **every THIRD** Sunday.

*“A Hub of Hope & Healing,  
A Center of Wellness & Wholeness”*

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