**WAYMAN AME CHURCH**

**509 W. Elm St.**

**Chicago, IL 60610**

**THE MARY JANE DAVISMISSIONARY SOCIETY**

**Founded 1931**

**HISTORY**

The Mary Jane Davis Missionary Society of Wayman AME Church was established on August 1931, under the leadership of Rev. W.T. Coleman who was the church pastor. Four members were in attendance that included:

Sisters: Ida B. Austin, Dorabelle, Addie Coleman and Ressie Brewer. The Society was formed to raise funds to purchase coal to heat the church during the winter months. The first elected officers were as following:

Sis. Ida Austin, President

Sis. Mimie Dorabelle, Secretary

The “One More Effort” Club of Wayman held a yearly Valentine party to raise monies also for the church and was presented to the Missionary society.

The following information was given by Mary Williams, former president.

In the early days, the Missionary Department did do ‘Missionary Work.’ Sis. Eliza Sims served as president and the contact person for the sick and shut in. They checked on the sick and shut in regularly and if help was needed, they were there to provide whatever the situation called for. If the sick could not prepare food for themselves, they were there. Missionaries who served faithfully in this capacity, other than Sis. Eliza sims were: Sisters Lucille Williams and Mary Williams.

The Missionaries often participated in the Annual Conference ‘Night in White’ Services where Missionaries marched in with lit candles. Sis. Alice Rainey was our president and made sure that Wayman Church was represented. (This was really a beautiful service).

The Missionary Department has ‘spear headed’ many endeavors of the church. Some events are as following:

* Repast for bereaved families was handed over to the Missionary Department. Sisters Jonnie Perry and Lola Hall were head of the ‘kitchen committee’ and served faithfully for many years and missionaries supplied desserts.
* Under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Cooper, the department would decorate the Fellowship Hall, with Sis. Listenbee as hall decorator, and missionaries would prepare food when the Bishop or Presiding Elder would visit.
* During Lenten Season, the department prepared and hosted the ‘Silent Supper’ that was held at the church. Rev. Thomas Copper pastor.
* The church held Thanksgiving food baskets giveaway yearly to those who were in need.
* Under the leadership of Rev. Julius Keys, Sis. Bertha Keys introduced the Society to ‘Community Women United’ and the church was entered as part of the organization. Sister Jewel Jones was appointed Missionary President by Rev. Keys and Missionaries took part in the Annual Spring Programs, also Lenten Readings that were broadcasted over Racine radio station each year. Participants were Sisters Bertha Keys and Judy Petty.
* The Society began a ‘Back to School Drive.’ All school supplies for the coming school year were donated from members of the church.
* Under the leadership of Rev. James Wade, Wayman Church held Annual Fruit Sales to raise monies for the church and this mission was given to the Missionary department. Sister Clemmie Foots was president of the society and coordinator of the fund raiser.
* Rev. Ozetta Kirby served on the `Choice Program’ that supplied help to single mothers. She and Rev. Emmitt Lee, pastor at the time, asked for help from the Missionary Department to supply Thanksgiving meals for the Choice Program. Missionaries were happy to sponsor the event for a few years.
* Sisters Willie Mae Cameron and Lucille Williams were recipients of a surprise recognition day sponsored by the Missionaries. We were a little `dishonest’ in telling each the event was for the other. Ms. Cameron sang with a singing group known as the Odamiers and she was so surprised when her name was called, she could not sing. That was the first time I believe Sis. Lucille was unable to say a word. When she heard, her name called. We had to help her stand up to receive her award.
* We also presented Sis. Eliza Sims with a recognition day celebration dinner and she was informed about the event. We did not want to do the same for her as we did for Sis. Cameron and Sis Williams.
* Under the leadership of Rev. Charlene Mills, Sis. Shenelle Waters was appointed Missionary President. Sis. Waters was dedicated to supporting the Bethany Apartments, this group also supplied help to single mothers. Sis. Waters got the department involved in different fund raising events for the program also donation gloves, hats and socks.
* Under the leadership of Rev. Earnest NI’A, the church was approached to see if it would be able to supply 10,000 pounds of food to the community that would be donated to the church. Missionary Department was asked to host this event that was held for two years. Sis. Waters was the coordinator.
* The Society held three events yearly. A Spring Tea, that was suggested by Sis. Archie Lee, was held in May and in August, A Prayer Breakfast on Saturday before our Annual Day the following Sunday.

Women who served as Missionary President are as following:

**Sisters**: Ressie Brewer, Lucille Williams, Alice Rainey, Eliza Sims, Mary Williams, Juanita Wray, two four terms, Clemmie Foots, two four terms, Jewel Jones, two four year terms, Shenelle Waters, two four year terms and our current present, Patricia Cotton.

Women of Wayman that have served/serving as a Missionary are as following: Deceased are recorded on the Memorial Roll

Callie Adams Connie Fisher

Doniele Benson Clemmie Foots (S&SI)

Katherine Brown Lois Hanks

Dorothy Cotton Pauline Jackson

Paulette Davis Jewel Jones

Ruth Farmer Willie A. Kirkwood

Jonnie Perry (S&SI) Barbara Wray

Louise Pinson (S&SI) Juanita Wray (S&SI)

Audrey Smith Marilyn Webb

Terry Thomas

**MEMORIAL ROLL**

Willie Mae Cameron Ann Riley

Norma Hampton Eliza Sims

Vivian Ora Betty Stinson

Corinne Owens Lucille Williams

Annabelle Parran

Sis. Marilyn Webb, Historiography

Revised:

Reviewed: MEC, September, 2018