

**3<sup>rd</sup> Episcopal District Founder's Day Services -2012**

**February 11 and February 12**

**February 18 and February 19**

<b>Annual Conference</b>	<b>Presiding Elder</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Guest Speaker</b>
<b>W VA</b> <i>Wheeling District</i>	<b>Rev. Alton Dillard</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>18 Feb 2012</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Wayman AME Church</b> <b>1136 Eoff Street</b> <b>Wheeling , WVA</b>	
<b>W VA</b> <i>Charleston District</i>	<b>Rev. Alton Dillard</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>18 Feb 2012</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>St. Paul AME Church</b> <b>1108 Second Street</b> <b>Charleston, WVA</b>	
<b>Pittsburgh</b> <i>Allegheny/Scranton District</i>	<b>Rev. Eric L. Brown</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>12 Feb 2012</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Greater Allen AME Church</b> <b>3600 California Ave</b> <b>Pittsburgh, PA</b>	<b>Rev.</b> <b>Trevor L. Woolrich</b>
<b>South Ohio</b> <i>Cincinnati District</i>	<b>Rev. Wilton Blake</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>12 Feb 2012</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Quinn Chapel AME Church</b> <b>10998 Southland Blvd</b> <b>Forest Park OH</b>	<b>Bishop</b> <b>John F. White</b>
<b>Ohio</b> <i>Springfield/Xenia District</i>	<b>Rev. Betty Holly</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>12 Feb 2012</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>New North Street</b> <b>901 S. Center Street</b> <b>Springfield, Ohio</b>	<b>Bishop</b> <b>C. Garnett Henning</b>
<b>Ohio</b> <i>Columbus District</i>	<b>Rev. L.A. Gatewood</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>12 Feb 2012</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>St. Mark AME Church</b> <b>480 Trevitt Street</b> <b>Columbus Ohio</b>	<b>"A Preach Around" 4</b> <b>guest speakers</b>
<b>North Ohio</b> <i>Youngstown Cleveland Districts</i>	<b>Rev. P. Robert Tate</b> <b>Rev. James H. Harris</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>11 Feb 2012</b> <b>11:00AM</b>	<b>Lee Memorial AME Church</b> <b>861 East 105<sup>th</sup> Street</b> <b>Cleveland, Ohio</b>	<b>Rev.</b> <b>Eric L. Brown</b>



# FOUNDER'S DAY BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN

FOUNDER OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
&  
THE FREE AFRICAN SOCIETY (1<sup>ST</sup> CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION)



FEBRUARY 14, 1760 ~ MARCH 26, 1831



**“THIS LAND, WHICH WE HAVE  
WATERED WITH OUR TEARS AND OUR  
BLOOD, IS NOW OUR MOTHER COUNTRY,  
AND WE ARE WELL SATISFIED TO SAY  
WHERE WISDOM ABOUNDS AND THE  
GOSPEL IS FREE.”**

**BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN**





# BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN

BORN FEBRUARY 14, 1760

DIED MARCH 26, 1831

FOUNDER OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOUNDER OF THE FREE AFRICAN SOCIETY (1<sup>ST</sup> CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN THE US)

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*Born as a slave to Colonial Chief Justice Benjamin Chew, owner of the Cliveden Estate in Germantown, Allen later purchased his freedom from a Delaware slave owner who bought him as a child. He went on to distinguish himself as more than just a church leader. He hauled salt for the Continental Army during the American Revolution; he acted bravely in caring for the dying and burying the dead in the Yellow Fever Outbreak of 1793; he and Absalom Jones were the holders of the first copyright by African Americans when they published their rebuttal to Matthew Carey's account of the Yellow Fever Outbreak; he was a successful entrepreneur, claiming George Washington's Executive Mansion on 6th and Market Streets as a customer of his chimney sweep business; he opened his doors to those fleeing slavery on what would become known as the Underground Railroad as an Abolitionist; he organized one of the first major protests by African Americans when 3,000 people gathered at Mother Bethel Church to denounce the American Colonization Society's plan to send free Blacks to Africa; and, he had an active correspondence with the president of Haiti to the point that he sent missionaries to that nation in the 1820s to help them organize and build a infrastructure.*

*Bishop Allen is most known for his bold act of independence against the racial and religious intolerance of his time when he walked out of the segregated pews at St. George's Methodist Church in the late 1700s. This act ultimately led to the establishment of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This was America's first denomination established by African Americans and Allen became the first Bishop.*

*Source: The Richard Allen Film*

## BIRTH OF THE AME CHURCH

*The African Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of the Free African Society (FAS) which **Richard Allen**, Absalom Jones, and others established in Philadelphia in 1787. When officials at St. George's MEC pulled blacks off their knees while praying, FAS members discovered just how far American Methodists would go to enforce racial discrimination against African Americans. Hence, these members of St. George's made plans to transform their mutual aid society into an African congregation. Although most wanted to affiliate with the Protestant Episcopal Church, Allen led a small group who resolved to remain Methodists. In 1794 Bethel AME was dedicated with Allen as pastor. To establish Bethel's independence from interfering white Methodists, Allen, a former Delaware slave, successfully sued in the Pennsylvania courts in 1807 and 1815 for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution. Because black Methodists in other middle Atlantic communities encountered racism and desired religious autonomy, Allen called them to meet in Philadelphia to form a new Wesleyan denomination, the AME. *Source: Dr. Dennis Dickerson, Executive Director of Research and Scholarship of the AME Church For additional information: <http://www.ame-church.com/about-us/history.php> or [www.motherbethel.org](http://www.motherbethel.org)**

