

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Concert

# *He's Worthy*

**Psalms 113:3**



## *AKOMA*

*Rochester's African American Women's Gospel Choir*

**Saturday, June 8, 2013 - 6:30 PM**

**Bethel Christian Fellowship**

**321 East Avenue - Rochester, New York**

And With My Song ...



# AKOMA: A HERSTORJCAL CHRONOLOGY

## AKOMA HERSTORY 2012-2013

I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed Woman" that God wants to use.  
I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.  
My face is set; my gait is fast; my goal is heaven; my road is narrow.... my guide reliable.... my mission clear.  
I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice; hesitate in the presence of adversity; negotiate at the table of the enemy; ponder at the pool of popularity.  
I won't give up, shut up, let up, or slow up...  
Till I'm preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ.  
I am an anointed woman of God: I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed Woman" that God wants to use. -Author Unknown

### OVERVIEW

AKOMA is Rochester's African American Women's Gospel Choir whose West African Akan name means patience, endurance, consistency and faithfulness. AKOMA's adinkra symbol, the heart, indicates compassion, tenderness and charity. AKOMA's vocal and spoken word ministry is rooted in the African American sacred song and oral traditions.

After a debut performance in August of 1995 for Woman Fest-a day-long celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Right to vote-the group of thirty-five women decided to embrace a musical ministry that reflects their diverse faith traditions and love for gospel music. The group adopted the name AKOMA because it symbolizes their African heritage, spiritual roots and desire to serve the Rochester community. Dr. David A. Anderson/Sankofa recommended the name AKOMA, based on research and knowledge of the group's mission. Twenty-seven Rochester area churches currently are represented on AKOMA's 2013 roster of more than 50 active sister-members.

On June 22, 1996, AKOMA made her debut concert and established the Nona Patterson Chambers (NPC) Scholarship in honor of her elder member and adopted mother. Three recipients received the Mother Nona Scholarship in its first year. Since that time and including the 2012 recipients, AKOMA has awarded eighty college-bound young African American women, a portion of the \$62,000 collected as a part of the NPC Scholarship fund.

### AUGUST, 2013-2012

In August of 2012, AKOMA endorsed her third executive music director, Ms. Gloria Brooks who began her work with the sister-ministry in September. In October, AKOMA provided music for the Young Women of Color Empowerment Conference's worship service that was held at Elim Christian Fellowship. In February, AKOMA and the Voices of Thunder were featured at the Annual Heritage Gospel Concert that was held at Immaculate Conception Church. In March, AKOMA traveled to Spencerport where she gave a featured concert at St. John's the Evangelist Church. August will find the sisters planning and relaxing at their annual retreat. The theme is "Mind, Body, Spirit Investing in You". AKOMA lost two of her founding members: Hattie Welch (January 5, 2013) & Marguerite B. Lucas (April 16, 2013).

February of 2012, AKOMA was featured with the Voices of Thunder in Rochester's Annual Heritage Concert. AKOMA created the theme--- STEPPING OUT, LIFTING UP, and MOVING THROUGH: A CHORAL CELEBRATION OF BLACK WOMEN--- in recognition of the 2012 national focus on Black women in American history & culture. At the end of the 2012 Scholarship Concert, AKOMA said good bye to her second executive music director, KAREN C. SUMMERS who decided to retire.

### ADDITIONAL CHRONOLOGY

On December 24, 2011, AKOMA bid a sad farewell to 101 year old Mother Nona Patterson Chambers, their oldest and most cherished member & for whom their scholarship was named.

At the 2011 scholarship concert, AKOMA celebrated the 16 years of musical service provided by her founding conductor and principal soloist, DR. CHERYL MCGRUDER HOLLOWAY, as well as the tireless dedication to the sisterhood of Sister Cheryl's spouse, Attorney Oscar Holloway. On Sunday, October 24, 2010, AKOMA presented the last performance of the Bicentennial Concert Series of the First Presbyterian Church of Avon. The series was supported in part by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. In February, AKOMA was featured, along with the Voices of Thunder, for the Annual Heritage Concert hosted by the City of Rochester and the Heritage Committee. In March, AKOMA was the sole performer for the Music of the Movement Concert for Strong Museum's Making American Music Concert Series.

From July through March of 2009, AKOMA brought gospel music to the Greater Rochester community in six concerts: On July 31, we were featured at the River City Rhythms Concert at Corn Hill Landing where we invited the Nat Turner Drum Circle and the Immaculate Conception Liturgical Dancers to join us; On August 15, 2009, the sisters sang at the annual Clarissa Street Reunion; then on November 1, we traveled to the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fairport; Less than two weeks later, we provided an evening concert at St. John's Church in Spencerport; On February 20, we joined our brothers--- the Voices of Thunder--- for the Annual Heritage Concert held at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church; and finally on March 24, we ended our outside engagements with a full concert at Keuka College. We then hosted our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Concert. Early in 2009, AKOMA added to her wonderful store of memorable experiences: January of 2009 found the Sisters at SUNY-Geneseo where they presented the Martin Luther King, Jr.

*(Continued on page 3)*

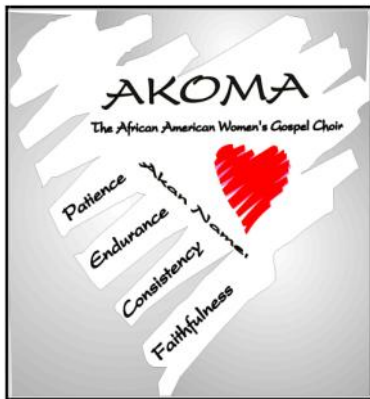
(AKOMA Herstory Continued from page 2)

Commemorative Program. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Arlette Miller Smith, followed by the concert: “Lifting Weary Voices, Raising Freedom’s Song: Black Sacred Music as Resistance in the Civil Rights Movement.” On April 23, 2009, AKOMA and their adopted brothers- in- Christ group, the Voices of Thunder, joined the Rochester Philharmonic, under the direction of Jeff Tyzik, at the Eastman School of Music for TOTAL PRAISE, a gospel concert that celebrated the City’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A diverse and enthusiastic audience of more than 2,200 supported the collaboration between AKOMA, the RPO and the Voices of Thunder.

In September, we said “Hello” to several new members and a teary, heartfelt yet jubilant “Goodbye” to our then president Nancy Walters, who went to her heavenly home in September, 2009. We honor Nancy as a dedicated, faith-filled leader of AKOMA whose example of Christian living and sisterly love blessed us and who will be in our heart forever. And in October, AKOMA also lost her first videographer, Bro. Ben Pinkston— son-in-law of Mother Nona & husband of sister-member Esther Pinkston.

In January, 2008 AKOMA created a herstorical concert called “Women Voicing in the Dream” at Hobart William Smith Colleges for their Annual Martin Luther King address. The keynote address, “Armored Resisters: African American Women in the Modern Civil Rights Movement,” was delivered by AKOMA’s founder and executive director, Dr. Arlette Miller Smith. The Sisters also joined the Voices of Thunder again for the Annual Heritage Gospel Concert, which was held in February at Mt Olivet Baptist Church.

In 2006-2007, AKOMA’s ministry schedule expanded with a number of new outreach venues including singing at St. John’s Catholic Church in Brockport and at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fairport. In February, the Sisters joined the Brothers of the Voices of Thunder in a combined concert as a part of the heritage celebration. Even the summer of 2007 was filled with AKOMA’s music and cultural messages as she traveled to Buffalo to provide a music ministry for the National Black Catholic Congress, in addition to two other summer engagements. The most significance change in the life of AKOMA during 2006-2007 was the home-going of four dedicated long-time members who are now “Sisters on the Other Side”: Brenda Robinson, Martha Davis-Wilcox, Sharon Williams, and Eula Bostick.



During 2005-2006, AKOMA’s ministry included the following engagements: the annual Pennington-Moye VFW Post concert; the Penfield Symphony Annual Christmas Concert; the William Warfield Scholarship Concert; Memorial Art Gallery’s & the Arts & Cultural Council’s *Women’s Voices: African American Gospel Singers Program* in honor of National Women’s History Month (*Sacred Songs of the Sisterhood*); and the Alpha Phi Alpha 74th Eastern Regional Conference Sunday Worship Service.

In 2004, at the Strong Museum AKOMA participated in a major production titled, “From Struggle to Strength: Gospel Then and Now,” in which the group chronicled in song the evolution of gospel music as a means of strength through the struggle for freedom. As a part of Strong Museum’s, “Creating American Music,” Series *Struggle* was written and arranged by AKOMA’s executive

director, Dr. Arlette Miller Smith with assistance from sister-member Ramona Moore.

Since her 1995 inception year, AKOMA has been privileged to sing with Grammy Award winner Larnelle Harris; to appear on a number of local television shows; to provide music for a program featuring Seattle poet laureate Mona Lake Jones who wrote the poem, “A Room Full of Sisters” which AKOMA uses as her spoken word anthem; to provide the music for programs honoring Bishop Desmond Tutu; to sing with the Penfield Symphony at several of their annual holiday concerts; and to be featured at the National Black Catholic Congress Conference in Buffalo, New York. Early in her spiritual life, AKOMA also was blessed to present a commissioned docudrama, “Stirring the Waters, Tending the Pots,” written by her founder, Arlette Miller Smith. “Stirring,” a suffrage-related drama, was performed at Geva Theatre as a part of the 150th anniversary of the women’s rights convention at Seneca Falls.

AKOMA’s current executive music director is Gloria Brooks; the Scholarship Commission chair is Rita Mitchell; the director of bookings and concert confirmation is Ruth Anderson. The founder, executive & artistic director is Dr. Arlette Miller Smith.

The herstory of AKOMA’s evolution as an organization is the title of the unpublished dissertation: *Speaking the Song, Spreading the Word, Lifting the People---The Reimagination of Community Through Vocal Music Activism* (2005) by Dr. Arlette Miller Smith.

For AKOMA concert bookings, please email [akomagc@gmail.com](mailto:akomagc@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.akoma.org](http://www.akoma.org).

*And with my song... will I praise Him. (Ps. 28:7)*



~ MEMORIAM ~

**Marguerite B. Lucas**

**May 18, 1927 – April 16, 2013**



**Marguerite Ruth (Bell) Lucas was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 18, 1927. At the age of 12 she moved to Avon, New York and attended school in the Avon school district. Marguerite graduated in 1944 from Avon High School, Avon, New York as a member of the National Honor Society. From 1944-1947, she attended Virginia State College majoring in Music and Business. Later, she attended RIT and in 1978 received an Associate's Degree with Honors in the Arts.**

**Marguerite married Franklin W. Lucas in 1947 in Geneseo, New York. They moved to Rochester, New York where they bought a home and raised 5 children. After her youngest child started school, Marguerite worked in the receiving room at Casual Corners in Midtown Plaza, Rochester, New York. She then began a career in 1964 as a Research Tester at Lawyer's Co-op Publishing Company where she retired in 1989 with 25 1/2 years of service. During her retirement (1996- 1997), she became a part-time paraprofessional for the Rochester City School District in. She also earned a certificate from the Center for Professional Advancement.**



**Marguerite enjoyed gardening, music, dancing, traveling, writing poems, shopping and singing. Music was a big influence in her life, so she took started piano lessons as a child in Chicago. She continued her lessons when she moved with her family to New York State and studied at the Eastman School of Music. Marguerite was a longtime member of Second Baptist Church in Mumford, New York and sang with the Chancel Choir. She also was an editor for the Church Newsletter in her earlier years. She was an original member of AKOMA, the African American Women's Gospel Choir, and she also sang for several years with the Martin Luther King Community choir.**

*Biographical text submitted by Shelley Lucas*

# In MEMORIAM

## The Heart of AKOMA --- Our Sisters on the Other Side

*Edna Rice, Brenda Robinson, Martha Davis-Wilcox, Sharon Williams, Zula Bostic Nancy Walters,  
Pat Swails-Dillard, Mother Nona Patterson Chambers & Marguerite B. Lucas*

You are gone from our presence, but the treasured memories of you will always remain strong.  
So many times we rejoiced together with you, lifting our voices to God in song.

You epitomized AKOMA and everything for which we have stood,  
Patience, endurance, consistency, faithfulness...the traits you lovingly shared with the sisterhood.

God has called you to Him, and now in His heavenly choir you sing  
With your beautiful voices, praising our magnificent Savior and King.

Written by Kathy Damann, May 2008

Picture not  
available

♥ Hattie Welch  
From December 8, 1927 — To January 5, 2013  
Second Baptist Church - Mumford

♥ Mother Nona Patterson Chambers  
June 30, 1910 — December 24, 2011  
Faith Covenant National Church of God



♥ Patricia A. Swails-Dillard  
October 22, 1951— March 14, 2012  
Jefferson Avenue SDA Church

♥ Nancy Walters, AKOMA President  
January 4, 1947— September 8, 2009  
Memorial AME Zion Church



The sisters of AKOMA also  
acknowledge the passing of affiliate  
member Viola Kribich-Brown  
who was unable to continue in our  
ministry for health-related reasons.

♥ Zula Bostic  
September 23, 1926 — September 26, 2007  
Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church



## IN MEMORIAM (CONT'D)



♥ Sharon Louise Hurst Williams  
March 10, 1941 — April 16, 2007  
Jefferson Avenue SDA Church

♥ Martha Davis-Wilcox  
November 27, 1941 — January 13, 2007  
Miracle Outreach Church of God



♥ Brenda Denise Fields Robinson  
December 16, 1951 — August 17, 2006  
Second Baptist Church-Mumford

♥ Edna Mae Lattimore Rice  
September 23, 1933 — December 29, 2000  
Second Baptist Church-Mumford



### The Rose That Blooms Forever

Lord, please pause awhile  
And rejoice with us in this place.  
Look Down, Oh Lord, and smile  
See your love on each face.

Like a beautiful rose in bloom  
Thirsting for sun and rain  
Lord, we've weathered our share of gloom  
We've also felt the pain.

Pain of prickling hands so rough  
Snapping, plucking and breaking us apart.  
But wonder of wonders our stems are tough  
You made them so Lord, from your heart.

Divine love and everlasting life  
Hope, salvation, strength you give.  
Though flowers fade, drop from strife  
Your roots will stay and live.

They live to strengthen and nourish us here  
For ninety and ninety score.  
To bring the Celestial Rose so dear  
That blooms forever more.

-- Marguerite B. Lucas

## ♥♥♥ GUEST BIOS ♥♥♥

### **ST. MARTIN'S PLACE CHOIR**

St. Martin's Place, located on Ontario Street in the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish School, is an outreach ministry, a place of welcome and hospitality. Since 1984, St. Martin's Place is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In 2001 we began our youth gospel choir. Our goal was to provide the children of our neighborhood and the parish with a positive and exciting opportunity that would involve them in music and performance arts. Miss Gloria Brooks has directed the choir since its inception.

Through the years, our choir has performed at churches, nursing homes, Dr. Freddie Thomas High School, PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse and at STAGES at the Auditorium Theater. Singing at St. Martin's Place on Thanksgiving Day is always a special performance for our choir members and their families.

**THE JOINT HEIRS KINGDOM YOUTH CHOIR** has been in existence for less than a year. The Choir gave its first performance at their local church in October of 2012, under the Direction of Evangelist Gloria Brooks. Sister Ann Demps is the Choir's Conductor. This group of young people are committed to singing God's praises and have already been active in sharing their music ministry in the Rochester community.

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH CHOIR** has been in existence, though not continuously, since the early 1980's. As music ministers have come to Immaculate, they have found small, but strong, groups of youths willing to learn and to serve the Lord through music. Most recently, Minister Gloria Brooks has gathered a diverse group of youths at Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church to continue this legacy of praise.

### **AVERY CHUBB COUNCIL**

Avery began playing bass at a young age at church with the choir. Later he played with his Dad's gospel group "The Bright Clouds". Because of the work with the Bright Clouds, Avery has appeared on many recordings, both locally and nationally. He currently plays with Divine Nature, several choirs and as a solo artist!

### **FREDERICK DICKS**

Frederick Dicks began finding his musical talent as a little boy by beating on his parents' furniture with pencils. His parents soon realized that in order to cultivate his talent and save their furniture they should buy him a drum set. At age eleven, Frederick began playing on this drum set every day and has not looked back since. He took classes at Hochstein School of Music when he first started playing drums. After becoming a professional drummer at a very young age, he began to explore other instruments such as bass guitar, alto sax, clarinet, piano and organ. This journey led him to accept several positions as Music Director and Minister of Music at many churches in the Rochester area. He has recorded and written original gospel pieces.

He is currently the Music Director at New Bethel CME Church and has begun a new journey into ministry. While he still has a passion for music He now attends Colgate Divinity School and has completed his first year in the M.Div. program.

### **ELDER DAVID STARKS**

Elder David Starks is a born-again believer. He became a member of the Full Gospel Fellowship Church, under the pastorate of the Late Bishop David H. Hird when he relocated to Rochester, New York in 1967. He is currently an Associate Elder at the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church, Rochester, New York and serves under the pastorate of Reverend Ira White. In addition to serving as an Associate Elder and the Missionary Auxiliary, he is the Sunday School Superintendent. Elder Starks also has a passion for prison ministry and is currently committed to rendering spiritual service as a volunteer at the Attica Correctional Facility; moreover, he was certified, in October 2007, by the Monroe County Office of the Sheriff to function as a volunteer at the Monroe County Jail and Monroe County Correctional Facility in Rochester, New York.

Since retiring from Gleason Works Corporation in 2006, Elder Starks enjoys working as a substitute at the Williamson Senior High School, located in Williamson, New York.

He has been engaged in this work for over 30 years, along with several members of the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church's Missionary Auxiliary.

### **PASTOR DARRYL EDWARD CARTER**

Pastor Darryl Edward Carter, a fourth generation preacher, is the Senior Pastor and Founder of Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries, Inc., which is located in Rochester, NY. Pastor Carter has served faithfully in ministry for over 15 years, and also has served the Lord faithfully as the Shepherd of Joint Heirs since April of 2009. Though called to be a Shepherd and to edify the Body of Christ, Pastor Carter also continues in his mandate to work aggressively outside the walls of the church and in the community as well. Pastor Carter has over 13 years of dedicated Prison Ministry experience, which has included faithful service done at the Attica and Orleans Correctional Facilities in the State of New York. He has had the privilege of working and ministering for many years in the Juvenile Justice System.

Pastor Carter has a deep love for God and for people; his assignment and heart's desire is to "Build & Empower People to live out their God Given Purpose."

# He's Worthy

## AKOMA's 18th Annual Scholarship Concert Programme

Psalms 113:3 ... "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised."

### ♥♥♥ Praise, Prayer, Preparation ♥♥♥

*Enter In/Medley*

**Narration:** Esther Pinkston

**Conductor:** Gloria Brooks

*Director of Ceremonies*

**Dr. Arlette Miller Smith**

*Opening Prayer*

**Pastor Carl Wager**

**Bethel Christian Fellowship**

**Scripture**

**Elder David Starks**

**Full Gospel Tabernacle**

*Welcome*

**Dr. Arlette Miller Smith**

### ♥♥♥ Part I ♥♥♥

*Selections* - "I Love Jesus More Today"

**Soloist:** Barbara Johnson

**Conductor:** Colette Hardaway

- "Awesome God"

**Conductor:** Gloria Brooks

**Pianist:** Yvonne Lewis-McDonald

- "I told The Storm"

**Soloist:** Patricia Starks II

**Conductor:** Colette Hardaway

- "Hallelujah, You're Worthy To Be Praised"

**Conductor:** Kathy Damann

### ♥♥♥ Nona Patterson Scholarship Recognition ♥♥♥

*Scholarship Presentations*

**Rita Mitchell: Scholarship Commission Chair**

- "The Best Is Yet To Come"

**Conductor:** Colette Hardaway

### ♥♥♥ Scholarship Offering ♥♥♥

**"Three In One" Choir** - Conductor: Gloria Brooks  
(Immaculate Conception Youth Choir, Joint Heirs Kingdom Youth Choir  
& St. Martin's Gospel Youth Choir)

*"Let's Celebrate" (Offering)*

**Soloist:** Diamond Carter

*Offering Prayer*

**Elder David Starks**

**"THREE IN ONE" Selections**

- "Awesome"

**Soloist:** Lionna Wingo

- "There Is Hope"

**Soloist:** Julia Gleason

- "Twelve Gates"



♥♥♥ Part II ♥♥♥

**“Amazing Grace”**

**Conductor: Gloria Brooks**  
**Pianist: Yvonne Lewis-McDonald**

**Signature Song**

- “Stand Still”\*

**Soloist: Terri Hammond**  
**Conductor: Kathy Damann**

**Invitation “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”**

**Soloist: Sylvia Walker**  
**Conductor: Kathy Damann**

**“The Blessing of Abraham”**

**Narration: Esther Pinkston**  
**Conductor: Colette Hardaway**

**Invitation/Benediction**

**Pastor Darryl Carter**  
**Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries**

*\*All former & on-leave AKOMA sisters please join us in song*

♥♥♥ GLORIA ANN BROOKS ♥♥♥

GLORIA ANN BROOKS, AKOMA’s third executive music director, is first and foremost, a woman of God. Brooks considers her musical expertise & passion to be a ministry that is her primary mission in life ---that is, healing the sick, delivering the captives and encouraging the saints.

Brooks is a native of Florida. She completed a Master’s Degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

After completing the teacher certification program, Brooks was hired by the Rochester City School District as a full – time music teacher. Brooks also has served as both a musician and a choir director at Immaculate Conception Church, where she currently serves as the Music Director. She is a faithful member, musician and evangelist at Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries where she was ordained by Pastor Darryl Carter.

Brooks gives God all the glory for her many accomplishments and believes He will continue to do even greater things in and through her life. The following excerpt is from her favorite scripture Romans 4:17 “.... [God] calleth those things which [are] not as though they were.”





*If you plan for a year, sow a seed;  
 If you plan for a decade, plant a tree;  
 If you plan for a century, educate the people.*  
 - Dr. Addie Mitchell

## Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship (June 30, 1910—December 24, 2011)

The Nona Patterson Chambers Scholarship was named in honor of our *AKOMA* mother, Nona Patterson Chambers. Mother Nona’s life exemplified the meaning of the word *AKOMA*. She demonstrated patience, endurance, consistency and faithfulness. Mother Nona, a revered elder of Faith Covenant National Church of God in Christ, was an encouragement to all of their youth. She served as an example of what it really means to be a dedicated and humble Christian. Mother Nona received a third grade education but returned to school as an adult to complete her education. Her quiet manner, Christian beliefs, and steadfast loyalty to her family and choir make it fitting that *AKOMA*’s scholarship be named in her honor.

### 2012-2013 *AKOMA* SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION

*Rita Mitchell - Chairperson*

Ruth Anderson  
 Emma “Cheri” Miller

Patricia Floyd  
 Rose Stokes

### Ministry Through Music: An *AKOMA* Chronology

2013	He’s Worthy	Psalms 113:3
2012	Wait On The Lord	Isaiah 40:28-31
2011	Cast Your Cares Upon The Lord	I Peter 5:7
2010	Give Thanks to The Lord	I Chronicles 16:8
2009	Rest in Him	Matthew 11:28
2008	Blessed & Highly Favored	Luke 1:28
2007	Love One Another	John 13:34-35
2006	From Struggle to Strength: Sacred Songs of the Sisterhood	2 Corinthians 12:10
2005	...And With My Song Will I Praise Him	Psalms 28:7
2004	Let Everything That Hath Breath Praise The Lord	Psalms 150
2003	With My Whole Heart	Psalms 138:1
2002	Constant Blessings	Ephesians 1:3
2001	More Than Enough	Isaiah 12:2
2000	We Give You Praise	Psalms 63:3-4
1999	Better Than Blessed	Psalms 34:8-10
1998	Perpetual Praise	Psalms 34:1
1997	I Have Hope	Hosea 2:15
1996	Come Let Us Sing	Psalms 28:7

# 2013 AKOMA Scholarship Recipients

## Gabrielle Reid

**Gabrielle Reid** is the daughter of Terrence and Kandace Reid. She will graduate as a Black Scholar and member of the National Honor Society from Eastridge Senior High School. Gabrielle has participated in track and field, the school band, mentoring incoming freshmen and the all-county choir.

As an active member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Gabrielle is President of the Youth Choir and has participated in Vacation Bible School.

Gabrielle will attend Hampton University, major in Political Science and hopes to practice family law upon graduation.

## Jordanae Smith

**Jordanae Smith** is the daughter of Joseph and Marie Smith. She was inducted into the International Baccalaureate program at Wilson Magnet High School and will graduate from there in June. Her school activities include the Math League, Photo Club and College Bound club. She was a teen ambassador in Peru. She is also the teen host of the local television show "Talk Back 4 Teens".

Jordanae is active in the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church as she participates in the Young Adult Bible Study and the Flag Ministry, as well as community outreach programs sponsored by her church.

Her plans include attending Rochester Institute of Technology as a Visual Art and Design Major. She intends to own her own clothing store and donate a portion of her earnings to a women's charity.

## Sable Stewart

**Sable Stewart** is the daughter of William and Joan Stewart. She is a Black Scholar who will graduate from Greece Athena High School with a Regents Diploma with Advanced Honors Designation. Her school activities include track and field, the Greece Athena Show Choir and Biology Club.

As a member of Destiny Preparation Church, Sable participates in the Worship Team, is an administrative assistant, a childcare worker and a singer in the church's ensemble.

Sable has been accepted to Nazareth College's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. She plans to enter private practice and open a health center.

## Sidnee McDonald

**Sidnee McDonald** is the daughter of Mary Graim and Calvin McDonald. She will graduate this June from School of the Arts where she has completed Advanced Placement courses, plays violin in the orchestra and has performed in musicals. Her additional school activities include volleyball and service to the Student Government Association as its Vice-President.

Sidnee's church home is Open Door Baptist Church. She is active with the youth group, Vacation Bible School and in particular takes care of the toddler class on Sundays.

She will attend State College at Brockport and major in Biology. Her future plans include a return to Rochester to set up her own practice as a General Practitioner.

## Nialah Owens

**Nialah Owens** is the daughter of Alvin and Katrina Owens. She is a senior at Penfield High School where she earned an Advanced Regents Diploma. Some of her extra-curricular activities include track and field, the Step Team and Students Against Destructive Decisions.

Nialah is an active member of New Bethel CME Church. While attending New Bethel, she has been a youth usher, an acolyte, a participant in the Christian Youth Fellowship, as well as the Church's Girl Scout Troop.

Nialah's future plans include attending North Carolina A & T College as Engineering major with an interest in Industrial Design. Upon graduation, she plans to become involved with programs which support and encourage students interested in the engineering field.



*The 2013 recipients have been awarded scholarships by the AKOMA Scholarship Committee based on their grade point averages; written essay; school and community activities; letters of reference and personal interviews. The recipients' biographical information provided by Commissioner Ruth Anderson.*

*\*All five NPC awardees are 2013 Urban League Black Scholars.*

# Past AKOMA Scholarship Recipients

## 2012 AKOMA Scholarship Recipients

Fallon Brooks                      Tiara Jackson  
Kaila Knight                      Camaria Long  
Jasmine Williams

## 2011 AKOMA Scholarship Recipients

CleAnn Davis                      Moiet James  
Amonee Read                      Shanice Taylor  
Dionna Warfield

## 2010 AKOMA Scholarship Recipients

Tiffany Bakou                      Robertha Barnes  
Renada Bertram                      Dominique Donadelle  
Donielle Kelly                      Maya Smith  
Chantelle White

## 2009 Scholarship Recipients

Meghan Cornwall                      Brittney Johnson  
Isis Mounts                      Deneshia Samuda  
Jocelyn Williams

## 2008 Scholarship Recipients

Michelle Fletcher                      Courtney Green  
Angela Ketterer                      Tara McCracken  
Ebony Robinson

## 2007 Scholarship Recipients

Brittney Hills  
Danielle Richardson  
Sherrita Wilkins

## 2006 Scholarship Recipients

Porsha Coaxm  
Katrina Griffith  
Alyshia Thomas

## 2005 Scholarship Recipients

Ashley Brass                      Angelica Davis  
Tiffany Ellis

## 2004 Scholarship Recipients

Krystal Crawford  
Desiree Israel  
Leslie Pierre-Philippe

## 2003 Scholarship Recipients

Kierstyn Blair  
Kari McCree  
Lauryn Minter

## 2002 Scholarship Recipients

Kekeria Achola Bitek                      Porcia Nicole Hartzog  
Tiffany Nicole Jackson                      Tyra Victoria Kelly  
Starr Celeste Myers  
Nathalie Martin Pierre-Philippe  
Angela Yvonne Stockdale                      Yolanda Renee Uter

## 2001 Scholarship Recipients

Peta-Gae Andrade                      Shemeka Davis  
LaTia Dukes                      Takara Gray  
Aja Houston                      Brandi Howard  
Shakira Nelson                      Natasha Nichole Stevens  
Delora Nicole Turner                      Kirkshintina Turnipseed  
Uwem Udofa

## 2000 Scholarship Recipients

Tyanisha Brown                      Margaret Neal Enis  
Lindsey Green                      Deidre Hill  
Brandy Rosier                      Sherell Scott  
Leah Thompson                      Re'shawna Turner  
Naomi Woffard

## 1999 Scholarship Recipients

Johnique Ter'esa Billups  
Erica Michelle Bryant  
Kimberly Alecia Thurman  
Sonia Elizabeth Uter

## 1998 Scholarship Recipients

La-Toya Dukes  
Katrina Louise Jones  
Tamisha N. Smith  
Melody Terese Williams

## 1997 Scholarship Recipients

Tameka Avant                      Danielle Gaston  
Yuressa Hubbard                      Rashida Moore

## 1996 Scholarship Recipients

April N. Anderson                      Donnye Graham  
Shalewa Hardaway

## AKOMA's Support Team/Acknowledgements

### Officers/Committee Chairs

**Exec. Director/Founder-Dr. Arlette Miller Smith**  
**Exec. Music Director & Music Committee Chair-Gloria Brooks**  
**Co-Pres.-Ruth Anderson & Deseree Bliss**  
**Vice President -Carmen Allen**  
**Secretary-Regina Fowler**  
**Co-Treasurers- Myrtle Day & Gloria Wilson**  
**Attendance Clerk-Anita Simpson**  
**Chaplain-Clara Warfield**  
**Parliamentarian- Julia Lawson**  
**Herstorian- Eunice White**  
**Membership Comm. Co-Chairs-Carolyn Butts & Kathy Damann**  
**Scholarship Comm. Chair-Rita Mitchell**  
**PR Comm.-Anita Simpson & Rose Stokes**  
**Tech. Support Comm. Co-Chairs- Julia Lawson & Anita Simpson**  
**Hospitality Comm. Chair-Sylvia Walker**  
**Retreat Comm.-Deseree Bliss**

### Conductors

- Gloria Brooks
- Kathy Damann
- Colette Hardaway

### Drummer

- Frederick Dicks

### Bass Player

- Avery Chubb Council

### Special Guests

- Three In One Choir:
- Immaculate Conception Youth Choir
- Joint Heirs Kingdom Youth Choir
- St. Martin's Gospel Youth Choir

### Ushers

Abraham Butts	Lonnie Day
Rev. Terry Holley	John McCullough
Linda Phillips	Georgia Ann Prescott

### Offering

Abraham Butts	Lonnie Day
Rev. Terry Holley	Art Smith
Elder David Starks (Prayer)	

### Nurse

Gloria McCullough

### Technical Other/Support

Lonnie Day	Julia Lawson
Esther Pinkston	Anita Simpson

### Photographer

Royal Chamberlain

### Layout & Design/Web Support

Art Smith

### Scholarship Booklet

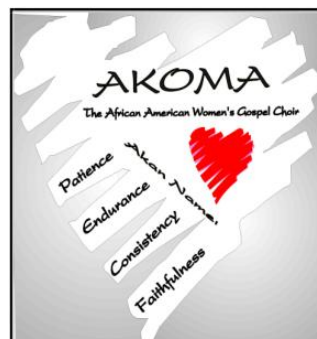
Ruth Anderson, Co-editor	
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith, Co-editor	
Myrtle Day	Gloria Wilson

### Printing

Art Smith/Larry Wells  
 St. John Fisher College Print Center

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 Pastor Carl Wager and the Bethel Christian Fellowship officers & members**

**AKOMA gratefully acknowledges all of her special guests---vocal ,musical & ministerial; the parents, guardians & other supporters of the youth choirs; her AKOMA men; the ushers; the offering collectors; friends of AKOMA; and you, our 18<sup>th</sup> audience of supporters.**



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Psalms 113:3

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# "He's Worthy" Supporters

Psalms 113:3

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♥ **Congratulations, Rose Stokes & Dr. Arlette Miller Smith,  
you are our top two AKOMA sister solicitors for 2013.** ♥

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## **Advent Bible Fellowship**

*Pastor: Louis Shorter*  
Cecille Shorter

## **Aeon Baptist**

*Pastor: Rev. James Cherry, Sr.*  
Debra E. W. Bell

## **Breath of Life SDA**

*Pastor: Willie Wright, Jr.*  
Deseree Bliss  
Carolyn Butts  
Evelyn Greenwade Boltwood  
Cheryl Y. Johnson  
Roxanne Wright

## **Bridge Builders Ministries**

*Pastor: Phil Harlow*  
Phyllis Griffin

## **Fairport Community Baptist**

*Pastor: Brian Warner*  
Dr. Arlette Miller Smith

## **Faith Covenant National Church of God**

*Pastor: Bishop Lewis Brown, Jr.*  
Esther Pinkston

## **First Bible Baptist**

*Pastor: George Grace*  
Sharon Barber

## **First Church of God**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dwight Fowler*  
Myrtle Day  
Regina Fowler  
Gloria McCullough

## **Full Gospel Tabernacle**

*Pastor: Rev. Ira White*  
Patricia Starks  
Clara Warfield

## **Genesee Baptist**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Vera Miller*  
Ruth Scott

## **Goodwill Baptist**

*Pastor: Rev. James L. Cuyler*  
Terrilyn (Terri) Hammond  
Emma "Cheri" Miller  
Michelle Antionette Miller

## **Grace Episcopal**

*Pastor: The Rev. Christopher Streeter*  
Nina Johnson

## **Immaculate Conception**

*Pastor: Father Robert Bradler*  
Musette Castle  
Rose Stokes

## **Jefferson Avenue SDA**

*Pastor: Kenneth Green*  
Lolita (Betty) Costner  
Valerie White-Whittick

## **Joint Heirs Kingdom Ministries**

*Pastor: Darryl Carter*  
Gloria Brooks  
Barbara Johnson

## **Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ**

*Pastor: Leon Tate*  
Patricia Starks II

## **Memorial AME Zion**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kenneth Q. James*  
Carmen C. Allen  
Amanda Darden  
Rosa Lee Dukes  
Ella Reed  
Sylvia Walker  
Eunice White

## **Mt. Olivet Baptist Church**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rickey Harvey*  
Adeanna Tazell

## **Mt. Vernon Baptist**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Harmon E. Stockdale*  
Rita Mitchell

## **New Bethel CME**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Weldon G. Thomas*  
Colette Hardaway  
Julia A. Lawson  
Anita Simpson  
Gloria Wilson

## **Parkminister Presbyterian**

*Pastor: Fritz Longabaugh*  
Yvonne Lewis-McDonald

## **Second Baptist - Mumford**

*Pastor: TBA*  
Marilyn Johnson  
Shelley Lucas

## **Simple Truth Ministries**

*Pastor: Jerry Holley*  
Maggie Moore-Holley

## **Spiritus Christi**

*Pastor: Rev. Mary Rammerman*  
Elaine Lane

## **St. Luke/St. Simon's Cyrene**

*Pastor: Rev. Michael Hopkins*  
Ruth Anderson  
Irene Marrero

## **West Henrietta Baptist Church**

*Pastor: Rev. Dr. C. David Hess*  
Patricia Floyd