

«The LORD himself watches over you!
The LORD stands beside you as your
protective shade.» **Psalms 121:5**

**GOD ONLY ACTS, IF YOU ACT FOR
A SHADE ONLY MOVES IF YOU MOVE!**

THE STAR OF ZION

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“WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?”

Alabama Florida Episcopal Address - 2021



Bishop George D. Crenshaw
Alabama-Florida District

In a moment, of uncomfortable transparency, I must confess, some of the best sleep, I have ever had in church, has come at the time, of the Episcopal Address. Even if, you are not tired or sleepy, it just seems, that this address, has a way, of relaxing you, into a state of unconsciousness. I am praying, that the significance, of this moment, will jostle you, to a place of Alertness, and Complete Focus.

The Episcopal Address historically has covered a number of subjects. National politics, Pandemics, Racism, Environmental catastrophes, and Religious Matters, have long served, as sources of materials, to be covered by the Episcopate, at the time, of the Episcopal Address.

Having endured, the Trump presidency, for four years, there are many, political items, I could seize upon, during this time of sharing. I could likewise, tout the massive success, of the Biden's presidency, in

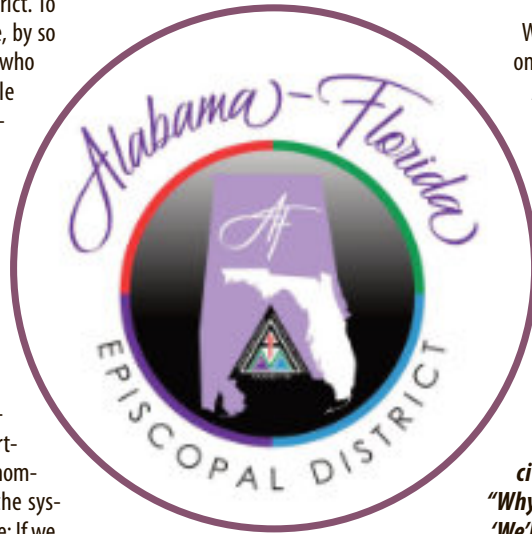
vaccinating over half of the country, in less than 100 Days!

However, as an Episcopal District, we do not have the luxury, of focusing on, any subject matter, other than Ourselves. I cannot express, what a privilege it is for me, to preside in my home episcopal district. To see the seeds, deposited within me, by so many who are still alive, and those who are now members of the invisible cloud of witnesses, to be the Manifestation, of those Seeds, Growing from Bud to Blooming Flower, is inexpressibly humbling.

Yet I recognize, that after 35 years, of serving in foreign lands, God has returned me home, “For such a time as this!” Honestly speaking, Our Zion, like most other denominations, is dealing with congregations who are, Discouraged, Disenchanted, and Departing! And while I can agree, anti-denominationalism, is certainly One, of the systemic causes, of membership decline; If we are truthful, a great portion of our decline is self-induced and self-caused! Our decline can be traced back to inadequately trained clergy and laity. Our decline, unfortunately, was caused by Leadership, Which was not as sensitive, to the feelings of others.

Finally, our decline has been caused, by our refusal to acknowledge, “Tradition, is a springboard, to the future, not an ankleweight, to the past. I remember, attending the 1982 Christian education quadrennial

assembly, on the campus of Livingstone College. I remember the North Alabama Youth delegation, joining hands as we walked across, the campus of Livingstone, chanting as loudly as we could,



“I am Zion born, and Zion bred, and I will be a Zionite, until I am Zion dead!”

However, that denominational determination, to remain with the church of their Birth, it's not guaranteed with our, children and grandchildren. And we can debate and discuss, the contributing factors, of our Connectional decline.

WE CAN EXAMINE:

1. **Worship Styles.**
2. **Music, and the lack thereof.**
3. **Inadequate Facilities.**
4. **Misappropriated financial resources.**

We can have that discussion, for the one-hundredth time, or we can ask, the Absolutely Critically important question; “Where do we go from here?” Do we continue, to simply dialogue, about our situation, or do we muster the courage, to address it? I was reminded the other day, of an old testament passage, that seems to parallel the situation, that Zion faces today! It is found in **2 Kings 7:3-4 (NIV)**, Listen to the words of the text?

“Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. They said to each other, ‘Why stay here until we die? If we say, ‘We’ll go into the city’—the famine is there, and we will die. And if we stay here, we will die. So let’s go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender. If they spare us, we live; if they kill us, then we die.”

For this Episcopal Address, I want to ask the question:

“Where Do We Go From Here?”

The Deuteronomistic Historian, who is responsible, for the collection of work, we

call First and Second Kings, tells the story of four tragic individuals. The tragedy is not only that, they have Leprosy, but the greater tragedy is, leprosy has them. Their very lives are controlled by, the situation in which, they find themselves. Although they are yet alive, they previously made

“The next 20 years, will determine, the permanent trajectory, of our Zion!”

the decision, to quit living.

We are assured of that, because when we catch up to them, they are domiciled, in the place where those, with a terminal diagnosis, were required to remain, until the time of their Passing. Not only have they conceded, their best days are behind, but by Willingly, remaining in place, they are testifying, their only meaningful days, are behind them.

They are Alive, yet they have Decided, to Quit Living!

1. **Their Hearts are Beating!**
2. **Their Lungs are Pumping!**
3. **Their Eyes are Focusing!**
4. **Their Ears are discerning Sounds!**

They are Alive, But they have Decided,

Continues on Pg. 8

“For we are God’ workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life” – Ephesians 2:10

Rev. L. Samuel (Sam) Brown,
Star of Zion

Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church (formally Beaver Creek) was deeded on November 18, 1873. A piece of land was sold by Henry McDonald, signed by Isaac McDonald, Isaac Baker, Thomas McKoy, and Robert Kelly to Beaver Creek Chapel which became a part of the A.M.E. Zion Church, which was established in 1796 in New York. Simon Temple has had 10 appointed pastors with the Reverend Brian R. Thompson serving the longest term of 20 years.

Before Reverend Thompson's appointment, approximately 175 members joined the church under Reverend Franklin Rush's pastorship. During the 2001 Annual Conference, Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. appointed Reverend Brian R. Thompson as pastor of Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church. Simon Temple was a traditional



A.M.E. Zion church with limited outreach to millennials.

Approximately 300 persons were on the church role with approximately 150 to 175 attending early worship and 11:00

worship service. Under his dynamic Christian leadership, Rev. Thompson quickly built a firm foundation and the church experienced over 1,000 souls led to Christ

and more than 3, 500 have joined the church during his leadership.

Many outreach ministries, community and business partnerships, grants and programs have been developed and con-

tinue to function effectively. Many physical improvements had been made to the facilities inside and out.

Due to the explosive growth of the church from 2002 to 2006, we had to add 300 seats to our sanctuary to accommodate seating 750 persons. An office suite was added for the Pastor and his office staff. In addition, we included a bookstore, steward/trustee room, and office for the First Lady of our church. This was a million-dollar construction project. This expansion opened the floodgates and within two years we had to transition from two to three worship services to accommodate the enormous growth. Over 30 ministers were birthed out of Simon Temple under the leadership of Reverend Brian R. Thompson.

“Look at God”, became or church

Continues on Pg. 8

God's Plan



Mr. Darin "DK" Kent
Chief Communications Officer,
A.M.E. Zion Church
Editor, Star of Zion

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ZION SPOTLIGHT

Meet the New Chief Operating Officer of Zion

By Rev. Simon Ajose

At the 2021 General Conference, the Reverend Julius Walls, Jr. was elected to serve as the Chief Operating Officer of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Many will look upon this as a major accomplishment, something to be brandished like a glittering trophy. Yet, Rev. Walls sees it not as a personal triumph, but as a continuation of his life of service to God and church.

Journalistic integrity would dictate that I disclose my personal friendship with Rev. Walls. We preached our trial sermons together and served on the same ministerial staff together. We then each pastored churches in the not only the same district, but within 3 miles of each other. I'm proud to call him a brother and a friend.

So when Rev. Walls speaks unpretentiously about the honor of serving the church as new Chief Operating Officer, I know firsthand that his humility is not feigned or contrived, the mark of a true servant who is simply following where God leads him.

And in God's mysterious way of working, Julius has been lead through the boardrooms porations, the halls of academia, the construction sites of real estate development, the pits of the Lord's church, and now to the headquarters of our beloved Zion.

What a journey! Who says God doesn't use every experience we have for His glory and His purposes? Before being ordained in the AME Zion Church, Rev. Walls worked in business academia. In business, Rev. Walls has served as CEO of Greyston Bakery, a \$7 million cial enterprise, as Senior Vice President of Greyston Foundation, a \$13 million cial services and real estate development and management company. He also served as Vice President of Operations for a \$23 million chocolate manufacturing company.

In academia, Walls has served as an adjunct business graduate schools at New York University, Institute, and Eastern University. He is also a on several local and national non-profit and

But like many of those who have served in age that there was a calling upon his life. He nurtured by transplanted South Carolinian the violent, crack-filled streets by his parents

His parents eschewed public schools so head and soul in religious schools. This his calling, leading him to attend semi-

Yet, like many before him, and many was not right for him, so he transferred but history has proven that God was

Rev. Walls achieved much in busi- held. But the calling to preach the left. He found himself continually creating opportunities to share with others who God was and how God could change their lives.

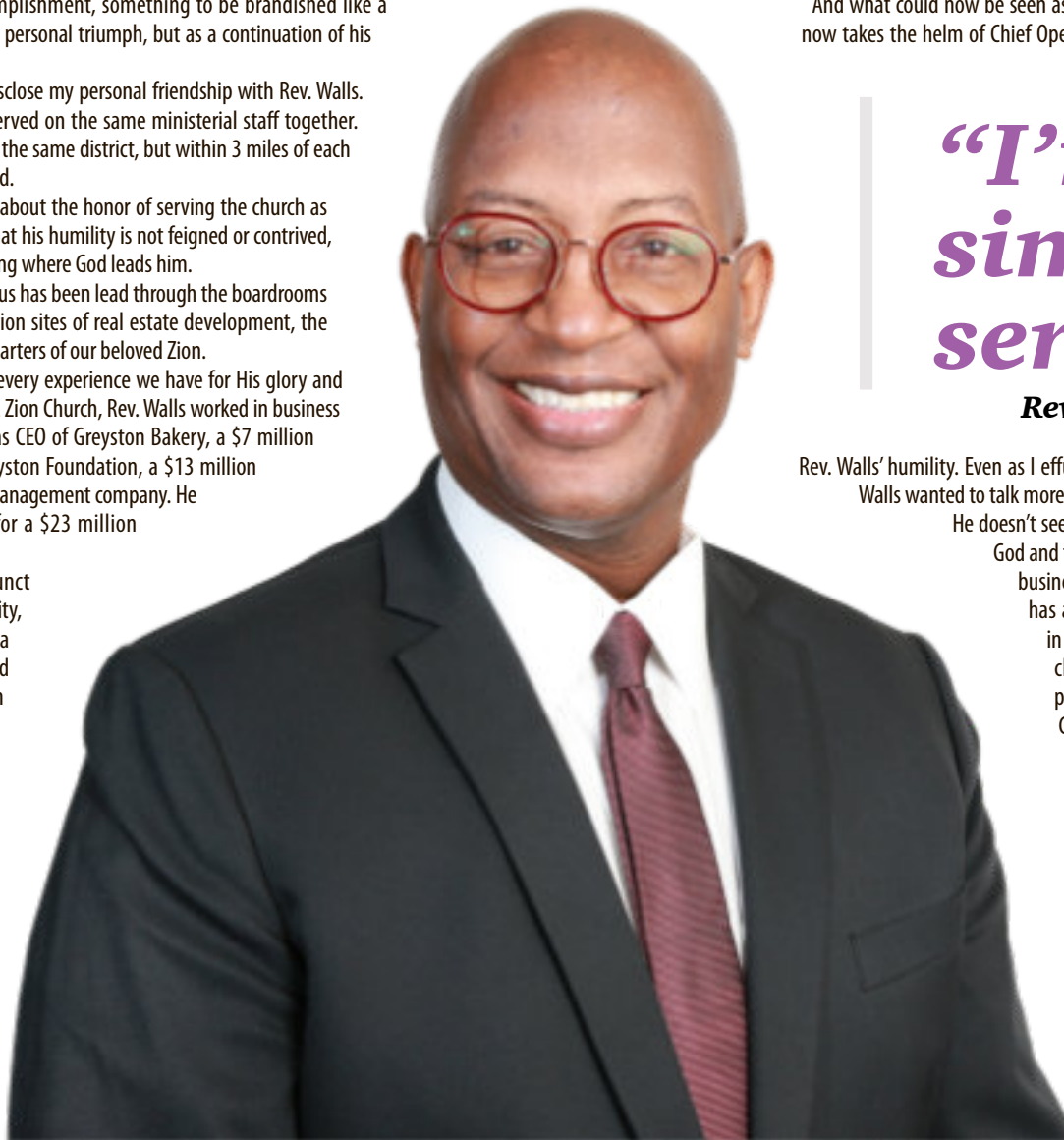
And the good work that God began in Rev. Walls was destined to continue at the Greater Centennial AME Zion Church in Mount Vernon, NY. It was there

that Rev. Walls reconfirmed his calling to formal ministry, preached his trial sermon, and served on the ministerial staff, eventually rising to the position of Chief of Staff/Assistant to the Pastor.

God continued the good work through Rev. Walls as he pastored Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church in Yonkers, doubling their attendance and tripling their budget. Rev. Walls was then appointed to serve as pastor of Greater Hood A.M.E. Zion Church, where membership and budget have tripled during his tenure.

And, God used Rev. Walls' lessons learned from the business world to have him serve as the president of Greater Centennial Community Development Corp. (GCCDC), overseeing the strategic and operational direction of the 501(c)3, non-profit organization. During his time as president, GCCDC completed the gut rehabilitation of 4 contiguous buildings containing 7 apartments each for which Rev. Walls secured significant government funding.

And what could now be seen as the divine confluence of calling and gifting, Rev. Walls now takes the helm of Chief Operating Officer of the AME Zion Church. Again, I refer to



“I’m here simply to serve,”

Reverend Julius Walls, Jr.

Rev. Walls' humility. Even as I effusively congratulated him on this accomplishment, Rev. Walls wanted to talk more about others than himself.

He doesn't see his position as one of authority, but rather as a servant God and to church. “I'm here simply to serve,” He shares. “And not businessman, but as a Pastor.” Rev. Walls explains to me that has always been to pastor people, to help them in hearing in God, and in fulfilling their purpose in God.

church, my constant thought and prayer is in discerning preaching or teaching or counseling moment, and then God. One of my greatest blessings is being able to walk of their life, to be a witness of what God is doing in their Rev. Walls says.

tion of Chief Operating Officer as an extension of my ness, administration, and industrial organization. . . now is to shift from the local church to the denomina- to support our Bishops, and to enable the other Gen- churches to move effectively and efficiently in their

that my calling is to help people be the best that Officer, my calling is to provide resources, ments of the AME Zion Church so they can do what they do best.”

Helping others do what they do best. . . That statement seems to sum up what Rev. Walls does best. I hope I speak for the entire denomination when I pray that God will

continue using Rev. Walls to help our beloved Zion be the best of who we can be, for the glory of the Lord. Amen

A Global Servant Leader Serving With Grace and Distinction

By Cynthia Brown

The Concord District of the West Central NC Conference, Piedmont Episcopal District gathered at the Rock Hill AME Zion Church in Concord, NC to celebrate, Mrs. Alice Steele-Robinson. The celebration was held on Saturday, September 25, 2021 with many coming from the District, Conference and the General Level of the church to be in attendance. Mrs. Steele-Robinson stepped down as District President in 2020 after 55 (+) years in leadership in the WH&OMS. But due to the pandemic, the recognition of her service was postponed until we could meet in person. District Presiding Elder, Dr. Kevin McGill, Sr. appointed a committee to plan the event, having a desire to give her, her flowers while she can still smell them. Committee Chair, Dr. Joy L. Kennedy, General and District Coordinator of the YAMS brought the committee together to plan the Grand Affair.

Master of Ceremony, the Rev. Dr. George E. McKain, II lead those gathered through the program as only he can do. We received the Honoree as she was escorted in by her husband, Rev. Harold O. Robinson. After the

Welcome and Occasion were given we lifted our voices to sing one of her favorite songs, “Walk in the Light”. Recognition of the Special Guests was given by one of the committee members. Tributes then came from persons from Mrs. Steele-Robinson's life and areas that she has been a part of; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Mrs. Shirley Phifer, Barber-Scotia College/Community, Rev. Ruth Brooks, Concord District WH&OMS Board Members, Mrs. Johanna Hinson and Mrs. JoAnn Gresham, Wadesboro-Monroe District President, Mrs. Thomasena Spencer, Dept. of Global Missions, Rev Dr. Dwight B. Cannon, and lastly her husband, Rev. Robinson Harold.

The Introduction of our Guest speaker was given by the 1st Vice President of WH&OMS, Mrs. Angela Davis-Baxter, followed by a Solo Tribute from the Concord District Minister of Music, Edmund C. Brown. The Song, “My Tribute-To God be the



Glory” lead into the Tribute Message from, International President of the WH&OMS, Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder.

She blessed us with the message centering in on God's Grace on us and especially the Honoree. Various presentations were given from the District Missionaries and The Concord District as a whole, with a Bouquet of Roses given.

We were also honored to have in attendance our Episcopal Leaders of the Pied-

mont District, Bishop Darryl and Sister Camille Starnes also making a presentation to the honoree. Mrs. Steele-Robinson gave her remarks and thanksgiving to the Presiding Elder and the Committee for the honor. She really had been kept in the dark about what was to take place at the celebration. She just knew the time to be there and to wear the color theme of Purple & Gold. So yes, she was surprised with all in attendance, including her extended family from near and far. Also other members of the General WH&OMS, Mrs. J. L. Anthony and Ms. Renee Fulton-Pullen. Mrs. Steele-Robinson was grateful to be able to hear the tributes while on this side of heaven and yes to say, To God be the Glory!!!

The service came to an end by singing not just the WH&OMS theme hymn, but one of the honorees favorites also, “Lift Him Up”. And as we were still in a social distance atmosphere, most of those in attendance were given a grab-n-go meal while Mrs. Steele-Robinson greeted them as they departed. The Special Guest and Family gathered in the fellowship hall to continue and conclude the celebration.



Submitted by
Patricia Mathews,
District President

Despite Covid-19 restrictions and geographical distances of the Chattanooga District, Tennessee Annual Conference, the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society held their 12th "Around the World Tea" on September 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Our dearly, departed Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Ingrid Hunter, challenged the District Officers to develop an activity that would bring all Churches together in fellowship. The past two occasions have been virtual. The format for the 2020 tea was tea settings, formal to casual, displayed on coffee tables, dining room tables and tables in fellowship rooms of churches. This year, churches traveled to their Episcopal area via Life Members train or plane owned and operated by CEO Veronica Clark, Chairman of Life Members Council.

Each church was given an Episcopal area as their destination. The CEO gave each church permission to be entertaining while traveling. A special ticket was purchased with detailed instructions for creativity, fun, and exciting presentation while traveling. Instructions were to include:

- **Name of the Bishop and Missionary Supervisor**
- **Number of annual conferences in the Episcopal area**
- **Specific outreaches of the area**
- **Current events**
- **What foods/drinks were being served**

• **Other facts deemed interesting**

The boarding pass required a biblical question, asked by the Assistant CEO, Priscilla Dixon, 2nd Mile Chairman, be answered. The accommodations on the train included an atmosphere filled with an assortment of music. The first song heard was "People Get Ready There's A Train A Coming" by The Impression. The D.J. kept each delegation very comfortable as music was piped in for them.

When a stop was made at each Episcopal destination, an educational presentation was given. As the train pulled into the Piedmont Episcopal District, "Carolina on My Mind" was heard playing through the intercom. On route to Eastern North Carolina, a stop was made at Livingstone College where we heard the band playing the school Alma Mater.

Onward to the Midwest hearing "Rocky Top" as we rolled into Tennessee.

Rolling along to the North Eastern Episcopal area the travelers heard The O'Jays singing "The Love Train" "People Get Ready, There's a Train A Coming" was once again heard by the Mid Atlantic delegation.

It could not be resisted, "Sweet Home Alabama" for the Alabama-Florida Episcopal District "Midnight Train to Georgia" was being heard as the South-Atlantic travelers approached their destination. And wouldn't you know it, the D.J. could resist playing "Georgia on My Mind" upon arrival. "Hallelujah, Anyhow" played for South Western Delta Episcopal District

Moving along to the Western Episcopal District was heard "Rocky Mountain High."

The 3 groups headed for Africa arrived in New York and prepared to board Life Members Plane, Flight 2021 to hear "Up, Up, and Away" by The Fifth Dimensions

Eastern West Africa traveled hearing the song by The Soweto Gospel Choir, "Umbombela Central Southern Africa hears "You're Bigger"

Western West Africa received the Ghana Version of "Stand, Stand Up for Jesus"

Creative reports on episcopal areas varied from round table discussions, individual reports at requested stops for each Conference, regional dialect and skits with cultural dress, dance, and native animal sounds.

All Episcopal areas were visited and now, ready to go home. ALL ABOARD. "PEOPLE GET READY, THERE'S A TRAIN A COMING".

As all prepared to depart the train, the CEO stepped boarded and passed out LMC #2021 forms. Life Members Month was being promoted. Additionally, an urgent request for 272 stoles by November had been received from Mrs. Dogbe of the Western West Africa Episcopal area. From the intercom was heard a male voice with an accent giving a challenge to match his purchase of two stoles. Now the Champaign was on and an immediate response for the purchase of 16 stoles was received. The delegations departed the train "Throwing Out the Lifeline" with the goal of EACH ONE, MAKE ON



Meet the New Presiding Elder of the Trinidad and Tobago District of the A.M.E. Zion Church

Under the leadership of Bishop Michael Frencher, Sr., Rev. Dr. Anthony Witherspoon was appointed Presiding Elder of the Trinidad and Tobago District during the Midwest Joint Check-Up meeting on October 2, 2021. Dr. Witherspoon, who has nearly 40 years of ministry in the AME Zion Church, currently serves as the pastor of Washington Metropolitan in Saint Louis, Missouri, and as President of the International Ministers and Lay Association. Dr. Witherspoon expressed, "I am honored to serve having followed the outstanding leadership of Rev. Dr. Eleazar Merriweather and others who successfully served in this position, and I am extremely thankful to Bishop and Mrs. Frencher for such an auspicious appointment."

This appointment comes after Witherspoon's 22-year history of extensive travel in overseas

missions within the denomination. His journey began in 1999 to South and Central Africa and continued with impactful undertakings to these nations, later adding Mozambique and Trinidad and Tobago. Moreover, he traveled to Seoul, Korea as an alternate delegate to the World Methodist Council. Witherspoon lends a high level of insight to overseas operations that stems from his experience in the United States Navy.

The newly appointed Presiding Elder inherits a Conference started by Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw in 1975. Churches include Shaw Temple and Redeeming Grace; and formerly Saint Catherine, Grace, Strickland Temple, Turure Community, and Lighthouse. Leadership in Trinidad has found members of like minds and spirit, working to build the kingdom of God. Pastor Mariam Williams-

Thomas of Shaw Temple stated, "We are excited for this appointment because Trinidad and Tobago is a multicultural society. We believe every creed and race find an equal place." Dr. Witherspoon is a spirit-led leader who understands us and he embraces unity."

Grounded in Zion Methodism, under Witherspoon's leadership, the Church will fully engage in the fight for social, economic, environmental, and psychological warfare - with the spiritual weapons of the word and practices of Jesus Christ.

(Please note the graphic created should say "District" instead of "Conference".)



ZIONITE RECEIVES GOVERNOR APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Charlean Batten Mapson, appointed by Governor Roy Cooper of North Carolina, to serve on the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Mapson is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University with a B.S. in Chemistry and a minor in Engineering, a graduate of Hood Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree and a 2021 graduate of Duke Divinity School with a Doctor of Ministry degree. She is the mother of a son with Autism and her doctoral thesis is entitled, "Inclusion of the Autism Population in Churches, Schools and Communities." We wish Dr. Mapson well and offer prayers of support as she serves the state of North Carolina in this very needful purpose.



Connectional Lay Sunday was a Social Media Success



On Sunday, October 17, the Connectional Lay Council held its 2nd virtual Lay Sunday Observance across several different platforms. Thanks to the assistance and hosting capabilities provided by Zion's newly elected Chief Communications Officer, Darin Kent, the Connectional Lay Council was able to broadcast the event on five Facebook pages, the Star of Zion YouTube webpage, and the Star of Zion website.

Ms. Portia Jacobs, Regional Director for the Central South Africa Episcopal District served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the Lay Day celebration. Members of the CLC Executive Board participated in different capacities on the program. Invocation by Mrs. Dorothy Gill-Smith; Old Testament reading by Mr. Ervin Reid; New Testament reading by Mrs. Patricia Jackson; Prayer by Mr. Jerry L McCombs; Affirmation of the Laity by Dr. Larry B. Johnson; Welcome by Mrs. Loranda Melton; and the Re-dedication of the Laity by Mrs. Rynette Nixon and Mr. Thomas "Chuck" Williams. We thank all of the program participants.

The Immediate Past CLC International President, Dr. Mary J. Matthews extended greetings to the laity. Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Chairman of the Board of Lay Activities, provided the introduction of our speaker. The newly elected CLC International President, Mr. Joseph King Davis, Jr. delivered a challenging and rousing address to the laity.

CLC Financial Secretary, Mr. Ned Highsmith encouraged all to contribute to the 2021 Connectional Lay Council Offering Appeal to raise \$50,000 to support those areas ravaged by natural disasters. All laity and all churches are asked to help us meet the goal by sending donations on or before by December 31, 2021 by any one of the following venues:

- Cash App: \$clcamez
- Givify: Connectional Lay Council
- Checks: Payable to CLC
- Mail To: Connectional Lay Council
P.O. Box 26770
Charlotte, NC 28221

Announcements and upcoming activities were shared by Mrs. Mireille Landrum on the following:

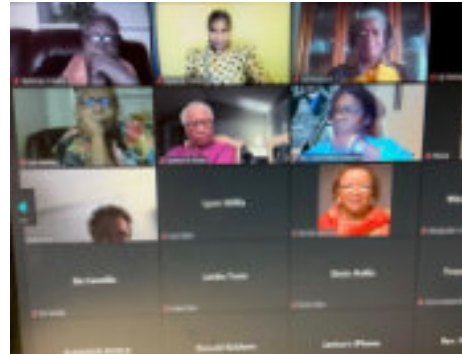
- Becoming a CLC Life Member
- Special Projects Fall Sale
- Website status and challenges

Closing remarks were given by Mrs. Leondras "Lele" Davis, CLC First Vice President, and Board Chairman Bishop Michael A. Frencher. Mr. Malcolm Russell led the Lay Council closing prayer.

The Connectional Lay Council would like to express its gratitude and thanks to Mr. Darin Kent and the AME Zion Communications Department for hosting and partnering with the Connectional Lay Council IT Team, Mr. Chuck Williams, and Ms. Patricia Hunter. We look forward to the opportunities to work together in the future.

We're grateful to the 400 plus people who logged in for the virtual Connectional Lay Day Observance. This program gave the CLC the opportunity for Zion's laity throughout the United States and across the globe (from Eastern West Africa and other overseas areas) to log in and view the Connectional Lay Day Service.

A recording of the event can be viewed at the Star of Zion YouTube site, or by clicking the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH4NMIF3W5M>



1885 Society Virtual Celebration

The 1885 Society Virtual Celebration at Hood Theological Seminary is the signature fundraiser of the Hood Theological Seminary National Alumni Association (HTSNAA) with a goal of raising funds for HTS Student Scholarships. Those who complete the \$1,885.00 donation will be honored as a "Founding Member", during the 1885 Society Virtual Celebration. The "1885 Society" donations can be made in (10) installments of \$188.50 or a one-time donation of \$1,885.00.

This year's virtual celebration will be on Friday, November 19, 2021 at 7:00pm. This is a ticketed event, which will be an additional way to raise funds to support Student Scholarships. For more information, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/VirtualCelebrationNov19-2021> The 1885 Society Celebration is the signature fundraiser for the HTSNAA. All the funds raised from this annual event support the HTSNAA Student Scholarship Fund. If you have questions please contact Rev. Dr. David A. McLean at

704-242-1885 or Mrs. Carmen Harper at 704-314-4970.

Hood Theological Seminary, located at 1810 Lutheran Synod Drive in Salisbury, NC, is a graduate and professional school where intellectual discourse and ministerial preparation occur in tandem within the framework of a community of faith. Sponsored by the A.M.E. Zion Church, and approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church, its student body currently comprises persons from many different denominations. Hood's mission is to prepare women and men for bold and creative leadership for the Christian church for a diverse world.

For Immediate Release

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Scholarships named for local entrepreneur



PHOTO BY LAURA GREEN | HPE

By ENTERPRISE STAFF
Sep 14, 2021

HIGH POINT — A new scholarship endowment for minority students at High Point University has been named in honor of a local philanthropist and entrepreneur.

The scholarships named for Robert J. "Bob" Brown, who also is chairman of the HPU Board of Trustees, will provide eight to 10 scholarships a year, the university said.

Brown said he grew up not far from the university's campus and felt inspired when riding by.

"Education is essential to moving forward, and I'm honored to have this scholarship in my name. My grandmother taught me that life was about serving and giving, and that's what HPU does, which is why I love this university," he said.

High Point University President Nido Qubein and Coca-Cola Consolidated Chairman and CEO Frank Harrison, along with business associates and friends of Brown, contributed \$3 million to establish the scholarships.

Brown is CEO and founder of B&C International, a global business management consulting firm headquartered in High Point. He has served on numerous boards and foundations, and his memoir is titled "You Can't Go Wrong Doing Right." He has been recognized with six national achievement awards, including being selected as a member of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, was a special assistant to President Richard Nixon and was an advisor to each succeeding president.

Harrison said, "This scholarship will give young people the chance to go to college, get educated and go out and do what Bob has done — to have a major impact for good, for God and for the growth of the community."

The Robert J. Brown Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide students with great opportunities, Qubein said.

"HPU is committed to diversity and inclusivity, and this scholarship honoring Bob's legacy to help minority students attend High Point University is one reflection of that," Qubein said. "When you think of an individual like Bob, planting a seed in the heart of one person, that one person can go out and change the world."

A TIME OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Bishop W. Darin Moore & Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr. Celebrate with the Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church On It's 138th Anniversary!

By Diane Commander

CHARLOTTE, NC The Ministerial Staff, Officers and Members of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church praise God for sustaining, redeeming and never leaving us throughout these 138 years. The history of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church is so grand and glorious that the essence of its greatness can never be fully captured or retold. So many courageous, dedicated and visionary men and women have made immeasurable contributions to this bright "Star of Zion".

After Bishop George Junius Leake, III assumed the Episcopacy, Reverend William M. White was appointed as Pastor in June 1972 and Pastored Little Rock for 16 years. Reverend Dr. James R. Samuel was next appointed and Pastored for 16 years. We thank God for our Pastor, Reverend Dr. Dwayne A. Walker who guides his flock with inspirational and effectual leadership. We praise God for returning him to us on May 29, 2021 for his 17th appointment.

"Accomplishments made in the past and even now would not be possible without the blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors who laid a strong foundation with their resources, commitment and dedication. Through spiritual will and fortitude, they bought land and built facilities that we now occupy," said Dr. Walker. Their prayers, determination and amazing faith in God allowed them to overcome the difficult and challenging times of their day. They have bequeathed to us a marvelous legacy that we must embrace and maintain.

Under Dr. Walker's leadership Little Rock has 51+ ministries that serve the needs of its members (in-reach), and the community at large (outreach), to win souls for Christ.

Little Rock's current theme is "A Healthy Church Seeking To Heal A Sick World" Psalm 34:19.

Through Dr. Walker vision of "Excellence in Ministry" whereas, God is Glorified • Jesus is Magnified • The People are Edified • Faith is Fortified • and Ministry is Multiplied, the Little Rock church family continually worship God physically, mentally, and spiritually in church and virtually while remaining actively vigilant during this pandemic. Through technology, we are fulfilling the spiritual needs of our church family. We held Drive Through Ash Wednesday, and continue Drive Through Communion, as well as in church Communion.



Through Zoom we continue to hold Bible Study sessions for all age groups; children and youth annual activities and many of our board and ministry meetings. Little Rock has served as a Testing and Vaccination Site where more than 400 persons have been vaccinated. Under the leadership of Pastor Walker, Little Rock's Out-Reach Ministries collaborated to consistently provide boxes of food to the community and other churches, as well as hot meals, toiletries, and clothes to the homeless including Tent City. Toiletry items were given to the inmates at the Mecklenburg County Jail; 378 lbs. of food to Second Harvest Food Bank and a 40 gallon bag of clothing to Crisis Assistance throughout the year. We continue to "Be The Church" even though we were out of church for a year. We are still holding on to God's unchanging hand.

The Ground-breaking Ceremony for our affordable housing was held on April 28, 2021, and the housing complex received the name, "Varick on 7th". Construction is slated to begin on the U-shaped development in a few weeks from now. Fifty of the 105 apartment units in the five-story building will be income-restricted with the remaining 55 will be available at market rate.

Our 138th Church Anniversary began with a three-night revival. Our Guest Revivalist for the past 17 years has been none other than Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, A.M.E. Zion Church. He was accompanied by his beautiful wife and Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Devieta

Moore. His mother, Mrs. Connie Farrow also attended the revival. Bishop Moore preached motivational and transformational sermons throughout the revival. He used Revelation 5:11-14 to preach the Subject, "Keep The Main Thing The Main Thing!"; Mark 8:22-26 with the subject, "What Do You See!"; and Psalm 34:19-22 with the subject, "Your Good is Guaranteed!"

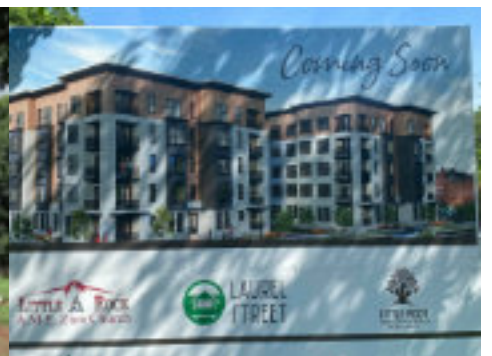
Bishop Moore let us know that "When believers become family in the household of faith, our

maturity comes with spiritual growth. Knowing who Jesus is acknowledges your vision and we can see clearly, because our good is guaranteed". Our in-church and virtual service, worshippers were "Revived Again!"

Our remarkable 138th Church Anniversary culminated on September 12, 2021. Our Guest Speaker was Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., the 96th Bishop in the Line of Succession, and Presiding Prelate Piedmont Episcopal District A.M.E. Zion Church. Bishop Starnes was accompanied by his lovely wife and Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Camille C. Starnes. Reverend Dr. J. Wardell Henderson,

Jr., Presiding Elder of the North Charlotte District along with his lovely wife, Mrs. Myrtle Henderson, First Lady of the District were in attendance. Visiting with us also was Reverend Stephen Howard, Retired Pastor Watkins Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. Bishop Starnes used 1 Peter 2:4-5 to preach a powerful, thought-provoking sermon with the Subject, "Living Stones, Not Dead Rocks"! He shared that God is using a chosen people to build a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to win souls for Christ and bring glory to God.

We praise God for members of the Ministerial Staff, Sanctuary Choir Ensemble, Minister of Music, our Drummer, our AV Ministry Team and our Minister of Technology, who were not only with us through the anniversary celebration, but has participated in the worship service since the beginning of the pandemic. We are also grateful to our Leader of Leaders and the Council of Leaders who served as Chairpersons for our anniversary celebration. Oh God we love You, we adore You, we praise You, we Bless Your Name for leading and guiding us through these 138 years. God Gets The Glory!





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PLANETARIUM

Livingstone College receives \$2.24M STEM grant, largest in college history

SALISBURY – Livingstone College has received \$2.24 million from the National Science Foundation, the largest single grant received in the history of the college.

The grant will fund a program called “Livingwell@Livingstone,” a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) innovation ecosystem to enhance persistence, retention and graduation rates in underrepresented minority students.

“Livingwell@Livingstone” will create opportunities, as early as freshman year, for students to explore the commercial potential of research and how it addresses community challenges. The program will leverage partnerships with community science entrepreneurs to create a “Science Mastermind,” providing tools and resources to expand bench research into the entrepreneurial space.

Using a convergent research design, the project advances the capability to meet current and future challenges of food production/ accessibility, renewable energy and artificial intelligence, said Dawn McNair, dean of the Division of Mathematics and Science and principal investigator of the project. In addition, it will provide a collegial support structure to share wins, set goals, and solve peer challenges related to the STEM student experience.

“We are excited about the opportunity to implement ‘Livingwell@Livingstone.’ This project will equip students with the needed skills to meet the STEM workforce demand

and be valuable contributors to the future of scientific enterprise,” McNair said.

The award comes just as Livingstone College is poised to occupy its new 16,000-square-foot F. George Shipman Science Annex. The annex will feature dedicated laboratory/research spaces for microbiology, human anatomy/ physiology, biochemistry and general chemistry, with smaller laboratory spaces for specialized research and a tissue culture lab.

One of the significant highlights of the new annex is the planetarium/immersion theater with SciDome IQ 2400 technology, where students have a virtual-reality experience in human anatomy, physics, astronomy and earth science

In addition to the planetarium, the annex includes a SCALE-UP classroom that facilitates active and collaborative learning, and a hydroponic greenhouse.

“This new space provides a state-of-the art environment to support ‘Livingwell@Livingstone’ and opportunities to engage with the community,” McNair said.

“This grant is fundamental in support of our renewed focus on the STEM curriculum,” said Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. “We are grateful to the National Science Foundation for this historic and generous grant award, and for their investment in Livingstone College.”

Black student enrollment in STEM fields are declining. The proportion of bachelor’s degrees in science awarded to black graduates

remained flat at about 9 percent from 2001 to 2016, according to the most recent figures from the National Science Foundation. In engineering, it declined from 5 percent to 4 percent; and in math, it dropped from 7 percent to 4 percent.

In response to that, Livingstone College is offering grant-in-aid to any new student who chooses a STEM major, meaning their education is free after federal financial aid is considered.

“We are intentional in creating concrete solutions to assist students who are interested in these majors by making college affordable,” Jenkins said. “Furthermore, this grant will provide our STEM students with research opportunities and experience that will position them to be more marketable post-graduation for viable employment in their field.”

About Livingstone College

Livingstone College is a private historically black college that is secured by a strong commitment to quality instruction, academic excellence and student success. Through a Christian-based environment suitable for holistic learning, Livingstone provides excellent business, liberal arts, STEAM, teacher education and workforce development programs for students from all ethnic backgrounds designed to promote lifelong learning, and to develop student potential for leadership and service to a global community. For more information, visit www.livingstone.edu.

Episcopal Address - 2021, from Pg. 1

to Quit Living! They have determined their future, will be as miserable as their Present. And their Present, Will Never Equal their Past! And if I can be, absolutely honest with you, I am afraid, The A.M.E. Zion Church, is well on her way, to conceding, to this pattern of defeated thinking. And I honestly believe, God has brought us together, that we might serve as, the "denominational pioneers," leading our great Zion, to her new destiny! If not Us, then who? If not now, then when? And I recognize this will take a measure of, "Audacity and Boldness," but it is not, hyperbolic to state, "The next 20 years, will determine, the permanent trajectory, of our Zion!"

As I have prayerfully considered our options, this is what God has, "Pressed into my Spirit!"

I. We Can Relive Our Past!

There is no episcopal district within all of Zion that has a more glorious history! Our place, within the civil rights movement, has been written with, clarity and forthrightness. The Roll Call of Zionites, both living and deceased, populate the pages of American history!

You cannot have, an honest conversation, about the most consequential Movement, in American history, "The Civil Rights Movement," without calling the litany of names that have a direct connection to the Alabama Florida Episcopal District.

However, as glorious as our past is, we can never forget the wise words, share it with us by Roy T. Bennett: "The past is a place of reference, not a place of residence; The past is a place of learning, not a place of living."

I wholeheartedly agree the "Heroes and Heroines of our Past," served with such distinction that when we called their names, "We should place our hands over our hearts!" But the truth is they did not share their valuable contributions for us to live in the place where they served!

They placed everything on the line that we might have a more, "Glorious Future!" We owe it to them, to pick up the baton, of forwarding progress, and followed the godly admonition of Charles Wesley; "To Serve This Present Age!"

These four lepers had to make a decision. Would they remain, in the place, that had provided, acceptance and security, but now, that no longer, fulfill their needs? Would they continue, to Pay an, Inexhaustible debt, to individuals who never requested, or considered recompense?

Would they forfeit, the benefits their leprous ancestors fought for, that their Offspring, might be entitled, to a future, their ancestors never considered, as a possibility? Would they, forfeit everything, in order to, "Relive their Past?" And the reason, I am required to press this point, is because, all of Zion, Alabama /Florida included, must make a "Firm and Final Decision;" "Will our Past, as Glorious as it is, "Be the Place, of our Reference, or the Place, of our Residence?"

Let me ask the question another way?

1. Did Dr. King give his life, that one day we may, "Eat at any Lunch counter? Or did he make the ultimate sacrifice, that one day, "We could Own, any Lunch Counter?"

2. Did Dr. H. K. Matthews, become a "Leader of the Movement," and a "Servant of the People," that we might have the Privilege, "Of Depositing our Money in their Banks?" Or did he envision the day, "They would Deposit their Coins, in Ours?"

I would like to sagaciously suggest that, "We Dishonor those, Who lived Sacrificially before us, When we refuse, to go Go farther, than they left us!" They Achieved, too much, with Little, for us to, accomplish so Little, with Much! Those four leprous men, and our ancestors, who have bequeathed, this rich heritage unto us, each of them, would advise us, to take our rich, historic Tradition, and allow it, to Springboard us, into a More Glorious Future!

II. Not only can we, "Relive Our Past," we have the option of, "Resenting Our Present!"

Never in the history of our church, have we had, so many people, disenchanted with where we are. Not only do we have a demographic, who refused to move beyond, what we were, and where we were; we also have, a large contingency, who believe, where we currently are, is synonymous,

with the Israelites, being Lost, in the wilderness. But I have discovered, A large part of this Resentment is the result of, External Pressure. For over 200 years, America in general, but the African-American community in particular, was evangelized by, Denominational Churches.

As a matter of fact, in the middle '70s, and early '80s, if persons, did not belong to a denominational church, they were simply considered heretical. Now of course, we were incorrect in our assessment, but the point remains, America in general, and the African American community in particular, was a Denominational Establishment. Song mistakenly believes that the rise of Pentecostalism reversed the stronghold, Denominationalism had on American Cultural. In their rush to judgment, they have forgotten, Pentecostalism is a Denomination! Yet, in the middle '80s, we saw a number of persons, including Young adult members, of our denomination, gravitate to an association of churches, that consider themselves to be, non-denominational.

Although they adhered, to a common core, of beliefs and practices, because they did not have, a systematic approach, to assigning or, electing Pastors. And additionally, Their resentment of, judicatory leadership, which Possessed the ability, to remove or transfer Pastors, fueled their Resentment of denominations. And they begin to, proudly refer to themselves as, "Non-denominational." Obviously, overlooking the fact, that any association of churches, that Hold in common both, "Polity and Doctrine," is, in fact, itself, a Denomination! But beginning, in the early 90s, After evolving from, Denominationalism, to Non-Denominationalism, Both, Denominational and Non-Denominational Churches, found themselves the target, of Anti-Denominational Churches. And this period, in which, these Churches, mandate absolute Autonomy, establishing their Pastor, of a single congregation, as either Bishop or King, continues to this day. And because, there is no judicatory, to which the leadership, is ultimately responsible, many persons, some of whom serve within our denomination, find those ministries attractive.

King James Says, "Where there is no vision, the people Perish!" But the Newer Translations, state it more clearly; "Where there is no Vision, the People cast off Restraints!" And now denominational churches, Zion, in particular, have both leadership and fellowship, Serving in our denominational church, With anti-denominational hearts and minds! And as a consequence, our membership, either is trying to, "Relive their Past," or they Simply, "Resent their Present!" And the telltale sign, my assessment is correct, is the Apathy, we find in our, Zion Churches, across this Country! And persons of influence, within many of our local churches, "Clergy and Lay," have come to the unfortunate conclusion, and now Teach, because Denominational churches are no longer, the Majority of American congregations, "Our Difference, means we are, Deficient!" And I contend, with Many Members Choosing to, "Relive our Past," and other Members, "Resenting our Present," the Decline in our Membership, while unfortunate, was Absolutely Predictable!

So, Bishop Crenshaw, you have, "Announced where we Were," and you Have, "Articulated where we Are;" "But Where do we, Go from Here?"

Well, the Answer is Clear!

III. We can "Relive Our Past," we can "Resent Our Present" or we can, "Relish, in Our Future!"

Regardless of what anyone says. Regardless of what studies indicate. Regardless of what the Barna group forecast; "I yet believe our, Greatest days are still Ahead of us!" Although Jesus, made this proclamation, over 2000 years ago, I believe his word is yet true today; "The Harvest is Plentiful, but the Laborers are Few!" And if the God we serve, is able to fill up churches, all around us, then someone tells me, where is the mandate, that our churches should be empty! I thought y'all told me, "The Lord, is no respecter of persons!" And if that, is still true, and I know it is, "Then why Can the Lord, fill up Baptist churches, Pentecostal churches, Non-denominational churches, and yet Zion, is running on Empty! And I sincerely asked God, "How can Our Church, Love You, as sincerely as We Do, and yet face, Attendance Challenges and Financial Hardships?" And God Pressed into my spirit, this response, "Your Message is Current," but your, "Methods are Outdated!"

Bear with me a moment, while I, Hypothesize out loud!

Kingdom Mentality - from Pg. 1

motto, known throughout the community, Zion, and around the World.

The pastor led us under the umbrella of our motto and as we kept our eyes on God, we saw exactly what he had promised. Pastor Thompson shared with us in November 2001 that there would be a mega-church on this property to accommodate all the members that would flock to the church. The pastor also shared with us that we would own the ten-unit mall beside the church, the vacant seven acres adjacent to the church, as well as the homes that surrounded the church. Today, God has allowed this vision to birth and prosper. Today, Simon Temple owns all that was shared in Pastor's vision to the people.

Reverend Thompson not only convinced the people that we're currently a part of the congregation of the vision and dream that God had given him to help the church grow, but he also attracted, maintained, and sustained the many visitors that came weekly to worship and serve. He gave of himself unselfishly to the community and visitors that this was not the same church that they had passed by for years. It was Reverend Thompson's mission to make sure that the members remained faithful while making a "spiritual mind shift." The goal was set and accomplished, that as we transformed mentally, that the new and the old would be able to worship harmoniously as we survived the shift of growth.

The planning for the new megachurch began in April 2009 and ended Easter Sunday morning, 2014, when we wor-

shipped in our new 30,000 square foot, 1,500-seat sanctuary. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 11, 2010. Bishop Richard K. Thompson's message was "When there is an "I" moment in your life." The construction of the sanctuary began on March 6, 2013, and the dedication service was held on May 4, 2014. Reverend James M. Sloan and Reverend Franklin L. Rush were in attendance and participated in the dedication by Bishop Kenneth Monroe.

Transition

It is the growth of "Kingdom Mentality" that will result in Simon Temple having a smooth and effective transition from one pastor to the next. A Transition Team is in place consisting of approximately 30 members to include Pastor Thompson. The

Preacher's Steward is the Chairperson, with four Co-chairs. The Team consists of four Committees consisting of ministers, laypersons, trustees, preacher stewards, and administrative and office staff. Standard of Operation (SOP) Committee (Organizations' policies and procedures for every Department, Ministry, Board, Club)

- The Relocation Committee for the new pastor and family
- Package Salary/Compensation Package Committee for the new pastor
- Administrative/Logistic Committee
- Ministerial Committee
- A full audit of the church finances is in place
- The hiring of two office staff due to retirement and relocation. activities and

1. Is it possible, in our earnest desire, to hold fast, to our Tradition, we now find Ourselves, "Residing, Where God Was?"

2. Is it possible, in a Genuine Attempt, to Follow our, "Order of Worship," We Now Find, that our "Worship has Order, but No Power?"

3. Finally, do we really Honor God, or our Founders, when we fail to, "Contemporize our Worship," that we Might be Able, "To Serve Our Present Age," as Faithfully, "As they were Willing, to Serve Theirs?"

These for lepers discovered, they did not, honor their ancestors, by remaining, in the same place. They did, however, Demonstrate a level, of Gratefulness, by taking that, which was, Bequeath to them, To its "Next Level!"

We owe it to those, Who left to us, this rich, "Legacy of Faith," to "Explore Every Option," To expand our, current congregations, and to Plant New Ones! The truth of the matter is, "The Harvest is Plentiful, but the Laborers, are Discouraged!" And there are a Plethora of Reasons, for this Discouragement! But none of them are good enough for us to turn our back on our Calling!

As I heard, an Older Preacher says, in Rural South Carolina, "It's too Soon to Quit!" When this pandemic finally Leaves, Saints will be looking, for a place to Worship!" Because Children of God are, "Communal by Nature," True Saints, who were Dissatisfied, with their, Place of Worship Will be looking, for a Place, to "Connect and Serve!" But they're not looking for a place, That has erected a shrine, to Yesterday!

And they're not looking for a place, That Who so Discouraged by Past Events, that they're, "Too Bitter to Serve!"

1. But they will be looking for a place, That's willing to declare, "The Joy of the Lord, is the Strength, of my Life!"

2. After two years of dealing with COVID, The world is looking for a Place, where every Saint, is willing to Declare, "If it had not been, for the Lord, on my side!"

3. After being, Locked out of, Most Sanctuaries, and being required to Worship, over "Zoom and the Internet," people are looking, for a Church, where every Member, is willing to sing, "I'm Glad, to be in the Service, One More Time!"

And although each of us, have Some Reason, to be disenchanted, God has been, Too Good tours, to Allow some, "Bitter Experience," to Block, our View of God! God has Opened, too Many Doors, for us to Permit, Some unkind Leader or Follower, to Diminish our Calling, and Assignment!

Where Do We Go From Here?

1. We're Going Forward!
2. We're Going Upward!
3. We're Going, to our Next Level!
4. We're Going, to Fulfill our Destiny!
5. We're Going, to Retrieve, What the devil, has Stolen!
6. We've Cried, about this Situation, our Last Day!
7. We've Complained, about our Dilemma, our Last Night!

We're Going, to Get Up From Here!

Like those Lepers, we're Going into the City, for Ourselves!

1. The God we Serve didn't Bring us, this Far, just to leave us!
2. The God we Serve, Hasn't Changed His Mind!
3. The God we Serve, Word is Still True;

If I be Lifted, Up From the Earth, I'll Draw all Men, Unto Me! I Don't Care, what the Critics and Skeptics Declare!

1. Our best days, are not behind us, they're ahead of us!
2. If we're Willing, to Leave, our Comfort Zone!
3. If we're Willing, to Try Something Different!
4. If we're Willing, to be Led, by the Spirit!

Eyes haven't Seen, Ears haven't Heard, what God, is getting ready, to do in this Episcopal Area! And I Don't Know, How You Feel About it; But I don't Feel, no ways tired...

outreach ministries are scheduled for October, November and are being activated.

Pastor Thompson charged the members of Simon Temple to maintain a spiritual attitude of "Kingdom Mentality". He said that God will continue to elevate his work through the next Pastor if we remain faithful. He instructed us to continue to love each other and work together and strongly support the vision and mission of our next Pastor.

The members of Simon Temple believe in faith that Simon Temple is God's House and God will send His next preacher to lead us to our next level according to God's will and purpose. We are a strong body of believers and by the grace of God work well together through love and fellowship. Quoting Reverend Thompson, "We make it do what it do!"

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ARTISTS ALREADY CONFIRMED INCLUDE:
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Tyron McAllister / Amanda Wood / Beverly McKenzie
Keith Baily & ANT / Latoya Jones / Brotha Remix
Cassandra Cazeau / Bryon Reeves / Lex



Nicolle Harris
HOSTED BY NICOLLE HARRIS

By: Rev. Nicolle D. Harris, M.Div.
Pastor of Duryee Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church,
Schenectady, NY

Rev. Harris is a graduate of Drew University,
where she received her M.Div. and is currently
studying for her D. Min at United Theological
Seminary.

In the early 1990s, an influx of Haitian immigrants moved to the small city of Asbury Park, New Jersey. It was a noticeable change. Suddenly half of the students in my fifth-grade class had exquisite French last names; Toussaint, Jean-Baptiste, and Pierre. My classmates became my playmates and

subsequently my friends. I fell in love with the language, food, culture, and people. More than 30 decades later and the Haitian community remains the third-largest population in my hometown.

In 2002 I had an opportunity to visit this country I had heard so much about. I went vacationing in the Dominican Republic and a one-day tour was offered to visit Haiti. I

jumped at the opportunity. The small countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the same island. We rode in an unairconditioned fifteen-passenger van to the border. As uncomfortable as it was, the sweltering journey did not diminish my eagerness to get to Haiti. At the border, there was an exchange of money and a case of beer between the tour guide and border patrol officers. And, with that, we crossed

I wanted to do something to help. So, I organized a concert that was held at Second Baptist Church in Asbury Park the month following the earthquake. I partnered with a local organization in New Jersey and all proceeds from the concert went to the earthquake relief efforts. Little did I know that God would continue to direct my path towards Haiti. Over the years I have made contributions and celebrated Haiti on many occasions. In 2018 I met my fiancé who migrated from Haiti in 2008. Effortlessly, we started to work together to do outreach work in the country of his birth which happened to be a country that, years before meeting him, also captured my heart.



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lives. My heart went out to my friends as they frantically tried to reach loved ones. My heart continued to sink as I recalled the children I met in Haiti. I thought about the frail homes on the side of the road. I was certain such delicate structures could not withstand an earthquake of that magnitude. If the homes in Léogâne, the epicenter of the earthquake in 2010, were anything like the homes I saw in Jimani, likely not many people survived.

I now pastor Duryee Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Schenectady, New York. Since March of 2020, we have been collaborating with Missionaries in Haiti. Working together to provide meals to hospital patients, orphans, and prison inmates. When the earthquake occurred in August of this year, our missionary partners were already on the ground prepared to travel to the most devastated areas. To learn more about our outreach work visit www.zion4haiti.com

AFRICA AND CARIBBEAN CONNECTIONS

Rev. Ronald A. Nathan, Pastor
Hoggard African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Jackson, St. Michael, Barbados.

As I listen to the address of the Kenyan Defense Minister, Monica Juma to her Caribbean audience in Barbados, my mind drifted to the 51ST General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, where we expanded our missions outreach in Africa to Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda.

Ms. Juma said, "I think there are big issues around what are the types of partnerships and connections we need to develop in order that we can reduce the pressure that is upon our nations and communities". She was speaking of building on the historical connections and partnerships between nations some 6,240 to 7,200 miles apart.

The AME Zion Church has congregations in eight (8) Caribbean nations and in fifteen (15) African countries. As we rejoice over church growth in Africa we must also pay attention as to how we build on these partnerships and connections to the benefit of the whole of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Recently, the Africa Union which represents 55 nations and the Caribbean Community representing 20 nations, both regional bodies, have been reaching out to each another. I have observed four aspects of their collaborations that I believe could be helpful to us, the AME Zion church, as we move forward in this quadrennial. Their collaborations has led to talks, mutual concerns, infrastructural development and concrete projects that would encourage people to people interactions.

1. Partnerships and Connections lead to talks.
On Tuesday 7th October, 2021 Africa through the African Union reached across the Atlantic Ocean to hold the 1st ever AFRICA-CARICOM SUMMIT virtually. At this summit 12 African national leaders spoke directly to 11 Caribbean national leaders. The AME Zion Church has to create new and innovative ways that allows our churches in Washington DC, USA; Accra, Ghana; London, England and Georgetown, Guyana to communicate with each other.

2. Partnership and Connections leads to mutuality.
These leaders in full view of nearly one thousand onlookers on a zoom platform heard the various delegates speak of common concerns in Africa and the Caribbean.
Surely our presiding elders, church administrators, pastors, women leaders, departmental heads, youth leaders and business persons in Africa and the Caribbean would benefit from the sharing of good practice and



developing of fraternal networks.
3. Partnerships and Connections lead to infrastructure development.

In Bridgetown, Barbados on the 9th October 2021 the president of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the Government of Barbados signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This led to the signing of three agreements on Trade and Investment, Bilateral Air Service and the International Section of the National Botanical Garden. There is also the proposal of a multimillion dollar investment facility for loans to businesses trading between the two regions.

I am convince that there are AME Zion Church missional, educational and business possibilities that can be created between Africa and its Diaspora. These would strengthen our connexion, resource our organization and develop a new missions arm. Our failure in establishing partnerships is in our vision, our communications, and lack of trust building exercises.

4. Partnerships and connections prepare the way for others.
A major initiative of the partnerships and connections between Africa and the Caribbean nations is to facilitate direct airline links between the two regions. Allowing for hundreds of thousands of persons to travel annually between African countries and the Caribbean and vis-e-versa for personal contacts and business developments.
These facilities would allow for Caribbean and African Zionites to engage in new and potentially mutually beneficial partnerships and conditions.

What is going to become increasingly important for us in the AME Zion Church is our willingness to transform our systems and structures to take advantage of these changing geo-political developments.
As we consider church expansion, through missions and evangelism we must redefine our mission strategies to include the development of trade, vocational and professional services.

Our partnerships and connections with the Eastern West Africa, Western West Africa, Central South Africa, Alabama-Florida, Eastern Carolina, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, North Eastern and Piedmont episcopal districts that cover our African and Caribbean conferences will indeed need to be creative and flexible. These Episcopal areas would require collaboration between each other and a commitment to developing not only indigenous Episcopal leadership but also strategies for establishing indigenous churches, indigenous missions, indigenous para-church ministries, indigenous economic industries, indigenous business networks and social movements. That certainly would be building on the legacy of our founding mothers and fathers and taking our partnerships and connections to another level and to their logical conclusions.



THE MOTHER OF MANKIND

“SANKOFA”

LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

PAINTING BY ARTIST BRALDT BRALDS

Written by, Dr. Asa G. Hilliard, III
Presented by, Rev. Dr. Sarah Fleming

As 1986 came to a close, a new door in world history was opened. This newly opened door could lead to a greater understanding of humanity and mankind if it is recognized as such.

The sign on the door is rather simplistic, but its significance must be recognized as very profound. It reads, All Family Trees Lead To An African.

About 200,000 years ago there lived one woman who was the maternal ancestor of every human being on this planet. This was the conclusion reached by a team of a biologist at the University of California at Berkeley. They reached this conclusion after analyzing special genes in the cells of people from all the world's major racial and ethnic groups.

What this means is that all people of the world are of African descent. This is a claim that the late African scholar Cheikh Anta Diop and European anthropologist George Leakey, stated for years.

Now that this theory has been “proven” by the scientific community, it can be regarded as truth. The truth is that the first humans came from the Great Lakes region of central Africa. From there they migrated to all four corners of the Earth and evolved into the various races of mankind.

The word human can be divided into two basic words, hue and man. This literally means “man from the humus” (soil, the earth)—a fancy way of saying Black man or man of color (hue). Mankind is composed of the words man and kind, which describes the kinds of man that evolved from a human.

Basic genetics state that all colors are contained within the melaninated or dark cells and that white cells contain no color. Simply put, it is possible for a race of brown, yellow and white people to be produced

from the cells of black people. But, it is impossible for a race of black to be produced from the cells of brown, yellow, or white races of people.

All the early references speak of man as coming from the Earth. Adam, the Biblical first man, is a word that means “Man of the Earth.” speaks of man as coming from the earth, Adam, the Biblical first man, is a word which means “Man of the Earth.” The original name for Egypt was Kemet, which means “people of the black land.” The ancient Kemetian word Africa literally meant the “birthplace” of humanity.

As late as the mid-1600s the entire continent of Africa was called Ethiopia—a Greek word which meant sun-burnt or dark-skinned people. This definition gives new meaning to Psalms 68:51, “princes shall come out of Egypt (the land of the Blacks); Ethiopia (the land of the sun-burnt people) and shall stretch forth her hands unto God.” Science has now proven that an African woman has stretched forth her hands unto the world.

The question is often asked, “If the first humans originated in Africa, and all other people descended from an African source, how did the different races of people evolve?” The late Senegalese scientist, Cheikh Anta Diop, discussed this phenomenon in his book, *The Cultural Unity of Black Africa*. He explained that as Africans migrated down the Nile, out of Africa, and into Europe, populating various regions of the world, they experienced profound physical and psychological changes as a result of changes in climate and environment.

These physical changes evolved over thousands of years. For example, in a warm, tropical environment, skin cells are darker to protect the body from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. Hair is naturally curly and short to cool the scalp and protect the brain from overheating. Noses and lips are broad to take in the warm and humid air.

However, in a cold environment where there is less sunlight, skin cells become lighter in color. Since the sun's rays are blocked by heavy clothing worn to protect the body from cold weather, the skin becomes even lighter. Hair is straight and long to insulate the body from the cold. Noses are pointed and thin because cold air must be warmed in the nostrils before entering the lungs.

In the south, the abundance of warmth and sunlight produced a very broad selection of food. Inhabitants saw the creator of the universe as a generous Being and an ally of man. Life in this type of environment was much more conducive to the development of a higher civilization and society. In cold climatic conditions, people saw nature and the environment as enemies to be fought and conquered on a regular basis. They were forced to protect themselves from cold weather, wild animals, and sometimes, each other.

The “Children of the Sun,” in Africa, developed a great affinity toward life and their Creator. While the Ice People, living in the caves of northern Europe, felt the creative force was something far removed from them.

Diop's theory explains the basic differences between people of the northern and southern regions. He spoke of “culture unity” binding all Africans together. Since all people are descendants of the original humans of Africa, there must also exist a cultural bond between all people.

Martin Luther King Jr. often spoke of a “brotherhood of humanity.” But true brotherhood cannot exist in the shadow of ignorance.

Each year during Black History Month, we have a new truth that must be told as a part of our Black (African/African American) History. We now know our history is also a part of the entire world's history.

This is a truth which we should not allow to slip through our fingers. We should hold this truth for all

the world to see, that we are all African people. This is indeed Black history in its most significant form.

Commentary

In the fall of 1997, a geologist found the oldest human in a desolate area near Cape Town, South Africa. This find, coupled with the discovery of human bones in caves near Johannesburg, South Africa has led paleontologists to conclude that the first humans probably lived in southern Africa.

President Clinton briefly mentioned these findings during his six-nation tour in the spring of 1998. With the world spotlight on him in West Africa, Clinton told the world that Africa was the birthplace of mankind. During an interview with BET's Tavis Smiley, in Cape Town, South Africa, Clinton commented on the recent discovery of the world's oldest footprints. What a difference 200 years makes.

In the eighteenth century, racist scientists used biology and anthropology in a fraudulent attempt to prove that the negro was inferior to Caucasians. Politicians used their data to justify the passing of laws legalizing slavery, segregation, apartheid, and Jim Crow. But in the last quarter of the twentieth century scientist began stepping out of the shadow of their racist predecessors. They've revised their views of the African world, and a few politicians have been willing to publicly acknowledge their findings.

Every living creature has a natural affinity for its mother. Birds, bears, and human beings all share a common bond with the female who was their gateway into existence. It's time humans acknowledge the primacy of the African woman and show greater respect to all of her offspring. This would be the best Mother's Day gift a mother could ever receive.

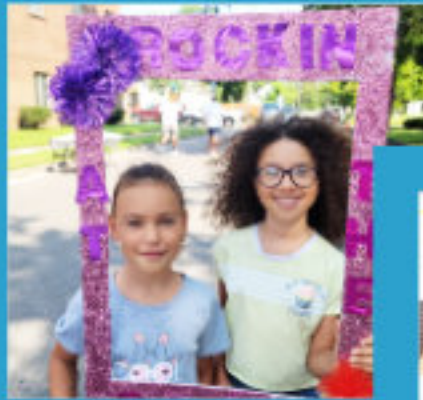
Rockinn With The Rock

“Each One. Reach One”

Brighton Rock AME Zion Church's motto is "Each One. Reach One", and our vision is that our church/community would prosper spirituality, physically, mentally, and financially. Our goal is for our ministries to provide outreach that would benefit individuals, families and communities in one of these domains. In September, we collaborated with several community partners to bring a comprehensive resource fair to the city of Portsmouth.

We were honored to have several city officials to greet us: Mayor Shannon Glover, Police Chief Renada Prince, Sheriff Moore, and Master Fire Fighter Charrise Horton to name a few. The community also benefited from resources provided through The Up Center, Portsmouth YWCA, Portsmouth V-H, Navy Recruiting, FalTon Solutions, State Farm, Spirit Enhancers Cheer Group, Earthside Doula Services, Voter Registration, and Brighton Rock's Prayer Request Box. There were more than 100 attendees, who enjoyed entertainment by Astro DJ, and fun refreshments for all: pizza, cotton candy, and ice cream.

Most importantly, we were able to join the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19 by hosting a vaccine clinic provided by the Portsmouth Health department. We were blessed to facilitate first and second time vaccinations, as well as booster shots to help stop the spread of the ongoing pandemic!



COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR 2021



HEALTHNUT CONFERENCE

The conference was created because of the need for more information on how to have and live a healthier life.




Special **To The Star**

Transformation African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (Dover, DE), a new church plant founded by the Rev. Dr. R. J. Chandler Sr. in 2016 held its first annual HealthNUT Virtual Conference on September 23rd and 24th, 2021. Produced by the Star of Zion, the health conference boasted of over 280 viewers from the United States, the United Kingdom, Trinidad, and beyond.

The HealthNUT Conference is the visionary genius of Bro. Adrian Howard, Local Preacher, and Chair of the COVID-19 Food Relief Program at the Transformation AME Zion Church. The conference was created because of the need for more information on how to have and live a healthier life. Furthermore, access to vital health information became very apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic as the COVID-19 Food Relief Committee fed approximately 10 families per month since June 2020. With a membership of 58, Pastor Chandler continues to lead this small church to make a big impact in the community through COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, vaccination hesitancy education, and clothing drives. The producers of the HealthNut Conference believed that this event would be instrumental in communities in Delaware and across the nation. The conference addressed COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy, testing, and booster shots. Additionally, it addressed the health disparities in the community such as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, etc.

Among the many sponsors such as the United Way and the American Cancer Society was the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District's Team Ujima under the leadership of the Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore. Guest appearances include, but not are limited to: Bishop Eric Leake, Dr. Sandra Gadson, Mrs. Joy Williamson Foster, RN, and Dr. Velma Scantlebury.



The conference addressed COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy, testing, and booster shots. Additionally, it addressed the health disparities in the community such as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, etc.

INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

State of North Carolina Op-Ed: Every Baby Guilford

For Immediate Release:
September 24, 2021

PRESS CONTACT:
Joy Cook, (336) 970-8131
info@joycookpr.com



every baby
guilford

ELIMINATING DISPARITIES.
ENDING INFANT DEATHS.
EMPOWERING FAMILIES.

Ty Jackson's most recent pregnancy didn't have to be so difficult.

When a blood clot in her lungs 20 weeks into her pregnancy caused her to pass out at home, Jackson's obstetrician dumped her. The 38-year-old mother of two was too high-risk, the doctor told her.

When Jackson asked that a new blood pressure medicine be considered — the drug she was taking has potentially troubling side effects — the doctor retreated behind a wall of medical jargon and shrugged off her concerns.

And when doctors repeatedly admitted Jackson to the hospital because of her medical condition, a social worker one day peppered her with questions: Are you on government assistance? Where's the baby's father? After Jackson answered "no" and "at home with the children," the social worker offered no help. Jackson, who is Black, felt unfairly singled out by this inquisition.

Worse, Jackson was still dealing with the trauma stemming from the loss of her

third child four years earlier. Jackson's daughter Tahira was born four months prematurely and died moments after she was born.

These sorts of troubling tales are all too familiar to many mothers, especially Black women, who can too easily recount uncomfortable and sometimes biased treatment throughout their pregnancies.

To better address the racial disparities around the care of pregnant women and young children, the Guilford County Coalition on Infant Mortality marked its 30th year this summer by adopting a new name and a new strategic vision.

The organization now known as Every Baby Guilford emerged from a year-long collaborative process that involved numerous public- and private-sector stakeholders from throughout the community. While the organization is still part of Guilford County's health department, a new mis-

sion emerged: to ignite and mobilize Guilford County through partnerships and unified strategies to eliminate racial disparities and prevent infant deaths.

Every Baby Guilford is now focused on tackling the immense disparities that have existed for families of color in Guilford County for the past three decades. Mortality rates of Black infants are twice that of whites and six times higher than those of Hispanics. Of the 56 babies who died in Guilford County in 2019 before their first birthday, 66% were born to Black families. That's far too many.

For numerous historical, social and economic reasons, Black women experience the health care system in different and sometimes negative ways, and blanket solutions to this issue haven't worked. Black women are more likely to get prenatal care late or not at all, give birth early and have babies who weigh too little.

These variables are closely linked to infant mortality, which is why Every Baby Guilford has committed to reducing the racial differences in these three areas by 50 percent over the next five years. To reduce overall infant mortality rates in Guilford County, we must focus on where the numbers are highest.

Every Baby Guilford's role in this countywide effort is that of an orchestra conductor — directing community conversations, addressing systemic racism and implicit bias that affects the health of mothers and infants and building racially inclusive partnerships among health care providers, local foundations and universities, faith-based organizations, local government and social service agencies as well as pregnant women and new mothers.

During National Infant Mortality Awareness Month in September, Every

Baby Guilford used social media to educate the community and held a virtual town hall discussion on breastfeeding and alternatives. We are currently recruiting community members to join our advisory groups and action teams that will help do this vital work.

In coming months we will promote programs to help women advocate on their own behalf as they seek care for themselves and their newborns. We also plan to launch community circles and a storytelling project called Giving Voice to Mothers to hear about the health care system experiences of Black women — women like Ty Jackson.

Jackson's story ended happily: She's now a member of Every Baby Guilford's board of directors, and her youngest child, 3-year-old daughter Taylor, is healthy and well.

But Jackson's experience tells us that when women are able to speak up and be heard, communication will open up between patient and provider, misinformation will be reduced, trust will increase, and the system of care will improve.

By listening to these stories and giving mothers a voice — by creating a healthy community for Black babies — we can create a healthy Guilford County for all of us.

Refocus Restore and Refine



Nutrition & Life Coach,
Alonzo Hill
for a life changing
healthier lifestyle.

It is challenging not to get sucked into the constant movement around us. We can be moved off course easily. It often starts with a comment, how we are treated, challenges, the weather or the effects of a meal that we have eaten. If we want to achieve certain goals in life, it is necessary to become a master at rebooting. To reboot your computer you have to press CTRL, ALT, DEL to get a fresh start. We have to take steps to reboot when our lives shift off course and I have personally experienced taking three steps to accomplish living a successful quality life.

To get back on course and to stay on course, one of the first steps to take is to Refocus. When we refocus, we take another look in the direction of our intended course. Refocusing aids in removing obstacles for clarity. In order to proceed with purpose and intent, clarity is pertinent. Refocusing and clarity causes so many positive effects. Your enthusiasm for life is elevated and your defined purpose is escalated.

Now that you see the importance and benefits of refocusing, the next step to take is Restore. Restoring means to bring back. Restoring is bringing things back to the point where you lost focus. When I was not focused on living a healthy life. I was not focused and I was not moving in the direction of a healthy life. I performed decades of damage to my body with poor choices. After getting to a point of near death. I set a goal of living a healthy life. I removed most if not all of my damaging habits which allowed my health to be restored. I have a better quality of life now. I have taken steps of reading and learning about healthy living. I have accomplished way more than I have ever imagined. As a result, I am married to a beautiful intelligent loving successful wife Robin Hill Author "Urban Joy," "The Making of A Beast"/Motivational Speaker. I am a Certified Health, Nutrition & Life Coach that allows me to help change peoples lives for the better. I have my own brand of products that promote healing Zolingo's Spice For Life Spice Blends, Zolingo's Skin Care & CBD products. I have a wonderful opportunity every month to share life enhancing information in this prestigious

publication. Refocus, and Restore should be a common practice in our lives. The more you do it, the sharper you will become climbing that mountain of success in life.

Once Refocused and Restored, Refine is one more step in fulfilling your goals. The definition of Refine is to make small changes of improvement. Eliminate the things that will not assist in reaching your goal. Sharpen, retweek, make better all working components. Take only the things that will be useful in your journey. Excess baggage may be useful in surviving the aftermath of a hurricane but it hinders accomplishing goals. For instance, launching a rocket into outer space. It takes a lot to get that baby off the ground. Once the rocket reaches a certain altitude, it has to shed off excess weight to reach its projected goal into outer space. On a more serious note, when I have a goal to have a romantic date night with my wife, I cannot bring my excess baggage of reading material on learning about plants and healing foods. I know I would not get very far with her that night if I do that. Take only what you need for each goal and remember to commonly practice the Refining process. Taking the steps of Refocus, Restore and Refine, you will accomplish far more than what you can think or imagine.

Zolingo's Spice for Life Recipe of the month

Zo's Shrimp and Mixed Vegetables
2 lb bag of shrimp (peeled and deveined)
2 bunches of Broccoli
10 asparagus spears
2 onions
5 mushrooms
6 Mini Sweet Peppers
3 carrots
Zolingo's Spice for Life Herb Blend
2 cups brown rice
½ tsp Pink Himalayan Sea Salt
2 tbsps Coconut Oil

Steam 2 cups of brown rice with 1 tablespoon coconut oil ½ tsp Pink Himalayan Sea Salt Cut Broccoli, Asparagus, Sweet Peppers, Onions, Carrots and Mushrooms in bitesize chunks Saute in a large skillet with 1 tbsp coconut oil Serve Shrimp & vegetables over a bed of brown rice.



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JOHN WESLEY AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

The National Church of Zion Methodism

Washington, DC 20009

Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Zacharias, Pastor

GOD is good, **God** is Awesome and Greatly to be Praised! **GOD is forever Praised!** This Coronavirus Pandemic has impacted our church families lives in many, many ways. We have suffered loss of lives within John Wesley Church in great proportion during this period. In chatting with many of our senior members, they can't recall a period in the life of our church that we have experienced as many losses as are facing today. These are prominent Christian followers of Christ who are committed to the life of the church. They have made numerous, remarkable and significant contributions to the church on the local, District and Connectional and Global levels also including their communities.

With these unprecedented times, most of these deaths were not Covid-19 related, but sad losses none the less. To highlight **some** of these members' varied life's commitments, we begin with some of the recent departures:

DR. HELEN C. SCOTT-CARTER October 30, 1936 - April 13, 2020

Washington, DC Public School teacher – Bible Teacher, Christian Education Director, Deaconess, Founder and International of Director of Varick's Children, Life-long JWC Member, Historical Society

LEILA WYATT BROWN September 1, 1922 – August 10, 2020

Chartered Member of JWAMEZC Federal Credit Union, Class Leader, General Chairperson of Calendar Club, Dr. Josephine Humble Kyles "Woman of the Year" Recipient, Committed Community Activist

DR. JANETTE HOSTON HARRIS, Ph.D. September 7, 1939 - November 2, 2019

Univ. Professor, Founder of the Washington, DC Hall of Fame, Washington, DC City Historian, Political Appointee, Community Activist, Leader of Church Fellowship Programs

JOHN HENRY MOREHEAD – June 7, 1932- April 20, 2021

Teacher, US Government Servant, Sportsman

JOSEPH G. LEAK November 21, 1957 - AUGUST 3, 2021

Community Program (Housing) Developer/Organizer, Chairman of JWC Board of Trustees, Chorister, Fellowship Leader

M. CLAYBORNE "M.C. HOLTON" December 5, 1935 – August 14, 2021

Community Activist/Volunteer, Church Volunteer Staff, JWC Board of Stewards, Chorister

CLENNIE H. MURPHY, JR. July 13, 1936 - August 19, 2021

U.S Federal Government Employee, Community Activist, Chairman of Trustee Board, Christian Education Board, Man of the Year Recipient, Life-long member of JWAMEZC, Property Adviser/Consultant for JWC, Historical Society, Sunday School Leader

DR. E. DEWEY WISEMAN July 5, 1930 – September 11, 2021

Secondary Educator & Principal in Wash, DC Public School System, Christian Education Director, Bible Class Teacher, Sunday School Teacher, Historical Society, Chorister, Man of the Year Recipient, Huge Stewardship/Supporter, Community Activist



Dr. Helen C. Scott-Carter

10/30/1936 - 4/13/2020

Celebrating the Life & Legacy



Leila Wyatt Brown

9/1/1922 - 8/10/2020

Going Home



Janette Houston Harris, Ph.D.

9/7/1939 - 11/2/2018

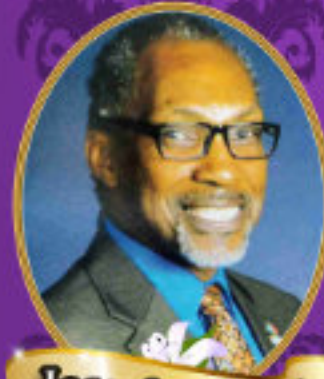
*She Walked Among the People
She Was the People*



John Henry Morhead

6/7/1932 - 4/20/2021

Celebrating the Life & Legacy



Joseph G. Leak

11/21/1957 - 8/3/2021

Celebrating the Life & Legacy



M. Clayborn "M.C." Holton

12/5/1935 - 8/14/2021

Touchdown into Heaven



Glennie H. Murphy, Jr.

7/13/1936 - 8/19/2021

Celebrating the Life & Legacy



Dr. E. Dewey Wiseman, Jr.

7/05/1930 - 9/11/2021

Celebrating the Life & Legacy

| MAY THEY REST IN PEACE |

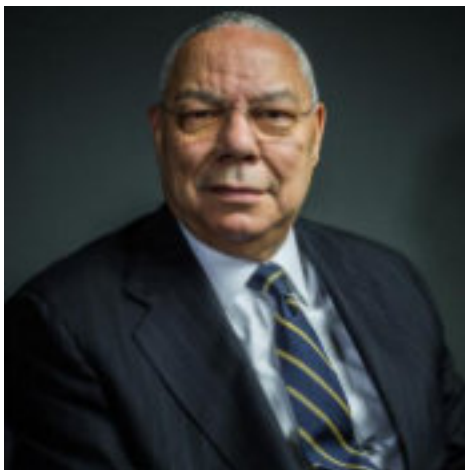
"If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

| ROMANS 14:8

Board of Bishops Statement on the Death of Colin Powell

We the Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church are grieved and in sorrow about the death of Colin Luther Powell an American politician, diplomat and retired four-star general who served as the 65th United States Secretary of State from 2001 to 2005. Colin Powell helped to shape U.S. National Security. Mr. Powell was a path breaker serving as the country's first African American National Security Adviser, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State.

General Colin Powell was known as a problem-solver; teaching soldiers to resolve an array of challenges. He is a historical figure and an icon in African-American and American history. We shall long remember



his wit, frankness, military leadership, strength and courage.

We offer our prayers, sympathy and condolences to his wife, Alma Vivian Johnson Powell, his two daughters, Linda Powell and Annmarie Lyons and his son, Michael Powell along with their grandchildren.

We join all leaders throughout the world in remembering this giant and prince of a public servant. We proclaim, a prince and a great man in Colin Powell has fallen this day in America and throughout the world.

“And the king said unto his servants, know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?”

2 Samuel 3:38

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Artelia Marsh Perry

March 25, 1922 – September 20, 2021

Mrs. Artelia Belle Marsh Perry, age 99, Durham District

President Emerita of the Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society, peacefully transitioned from this life into eternity early Monday morning, September 20, 2021.

Mrs. Perry was blessed by an ancestry of four Zionite families, who were leaders in AME Zion churches in Chatham County, NC, as soon as they were established after the end of the era of slavery. A niece of Bishop Edgar Benton Watson, Mrs. Perry's grandmother, Sarah Womble Marsh, was the initiating founder of St. Mark AME Zion Church, Durham, NC. Her beloved father, Isiah H. Marsh, was the 37-year preacher steward at St. Mark. Her Christian faith, as well as her academic and social skills, were enriched during her five years at Palmer Memorial Institute, the esteemed secondary school for African Americans in Sedalia, North Carolina, under the direction of the renowned Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown.

Mrs. Perry was the faithful helpmeet of the late Reverend Lawrence P. Perry, who distinguished himself by saving the Grace A.M.E. Zion Church in Raleigh for our Zion. She herself was an esteemed church leader. Among her many ministries at St. Mark Church in Durham after Rev. Perry's retirement were those as deaconess, trustee, steward, stewardess, and director of the St. Mark Nursery and 1st Grade. She also served in various leadership capacities at the district, conference and connectional levels, including as president of the Durham District WH&OMS for 28 years.

In 1972, she founded the Durham & Vicinity Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows (Interdenominational). As in her other fields of endeavor in church and community, she received numerous awards for outstanding service in this organization at the state, regional and international levels. In 1976, she was selected as a Durham Mother of the Year.

Mrs. Perry is survived by 15 of her 16 offspring and their 12 spouses, including seven and their spouses who are faithful members of St. Mark: Dr. Joyce Perry Edwards (Rev. Dr. Murray L. Edwards), Stilwyn Perry Brown, Artelia Perry Burt-Alston (Timothy E. Alston), Dr. Dwight D. Perry (Dr. Veronica Ray), Pamela Y. Perry, Still Preston Perry, Alexander S. Perry, Esq. (Nichelle J. Perry, Esq.), 49 grandchildren, 73 great grandchildren, and 10 great great grandchildren.

Her life was celebrated on Saturday, September 25, 2:00 p.m. at St. Mark AME Zion Church, Durham, the Rev. Julian C. Pridgen, pastor and eulogist. Bishop Kenneth Monroe gave poignant remarks, highlighting the history of Rev. and Mrs. Perry in the Zion Church. Dr. Johnson O. Akinleye, Chancellor, North Carolina Central University, emphasized the legacy she bequeathed to Durham and the University.

The family welcomes expressions of sympathy honoring the memory of Artelia Perry in the form of contributions to the Lawrence & Artelia Perry Scholarship Fund (PO Box 2131, Durham, NC 27702 or www.perryscholarshipfund.com), which supports meritorious students with need at Bennett College, Livingstone College, and North Carolina Central University.

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BLACK LIVES MATTER, JUST A BEGINNING

By Reverend William McKenith, Ph. D.

Black Lives Matter embodies a countercultural movement to Taney's ever prevalent ideology that Black people have "no rights which the white man was bound to respect"—not even the right to life. The conscious or unconscious ease of gunning down unarmed Black people, "knee-on-the-neck," and "choke holds until death" evidences a deeply embedded indifference towards Black people's humanity.

The counterarguments of "Blue Lives Matter" and "All Lives Matter" ignore the obvious—to Black people—the historicity of systemic Black subjugation and exploitation of Black people at the hands of whites. The richness of Black Lives Matter protests is its peeling back of America's unimaginable—ironically speaking—racial sheathing gradually exposing a consciousness of white superiority to Black inferiority.

The adage "the more things change, the more they stay the same" is as true today as it ever was. In the congressional debates of 1865 over the 13th Amendment, a contentious argument ensued over Black "equality under law" and Black "social equality with whites." America barely envisaged Black equality under law. The nation could not countenance the idea of social equality, not only for fear of interracial sensual relationships but also because they subscribed to the belief that whites are a superior race.

The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Report in 1970 posed a dilemma that the lesser economic, political, and social status of Black people were either attributable to their inferiority or racist social policies. The Commission concluded that institutional racism was the culprit, debunking the widely held notion of Black racial inferiority.

The fact that in pre-Trumpian days no one roared aloud epithets of Black racial inferiority, does not mean that the epistemology of white superiority yielded to an equality between the races. The idea of white superiority persists. If widespread police brutality perpetrated against Black people and Black mass incarceration does not reveal a white superiority ethos, Charlottesville's presidential decree "there are very fine people on both sides," with hordes of supporters singing along in the background, does. As does the recent rash of voter suppression laws targeting Black communities.

Historically Caucasians embraced racial superiority machinations that it would take Black Lives Matter protests of injustice, accompanied by evil's imagery, to shaken them from their dogmatic stupor. In this, Black Lives Matter's protests have proven invaluable. The Black Lives Matter movement, however, needs to go further than solely protesting against anti-Black violence in its pursuit of social justice legislation.

Without a change in white people's way of thinking of their self-identity and their non-identity of the "Other," Black Lives Matters ideals will pass with the changing news cycle. There is the additional need for a Black Lives Matter's ideology or theology of social equality between the races. While you cannot legislate social equality with whites, it can become the standard bearer for social policy which is legislative. It can also provide justification for mandating the accurate teaching of American and Black history in the classroom.

"Without a change in white people's way of thinking of their self-identity and their nonidentity of the "Other," Black Lives Matters ideals will pass with the changing news cycle."



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THESTAROFZION

How Helena Got Her Name

By, Ms. Portia Jacobs,
Episcopal Director of Christian Education,
Eastern NC Episcopal District

As someone who can never find their name on keychains or Coca-Cola bottles, How Helena Got Her Name had my attention as soon as I read the title. Our names often enter rooms before we do and people make all kinds of assumptions about us based on them. How Helena Got Her Name encourages children (and adults!) to embrace their names and the stories behind that help make us who we are.

The author, Shawnteyana Johnson, is an educator, entrepreneur, and creative force. As someone who grew up as a little girl with a big name, Shawnteyana is sensitive to the feelings of children and is committed to the work of making each and every child feel special and included. A

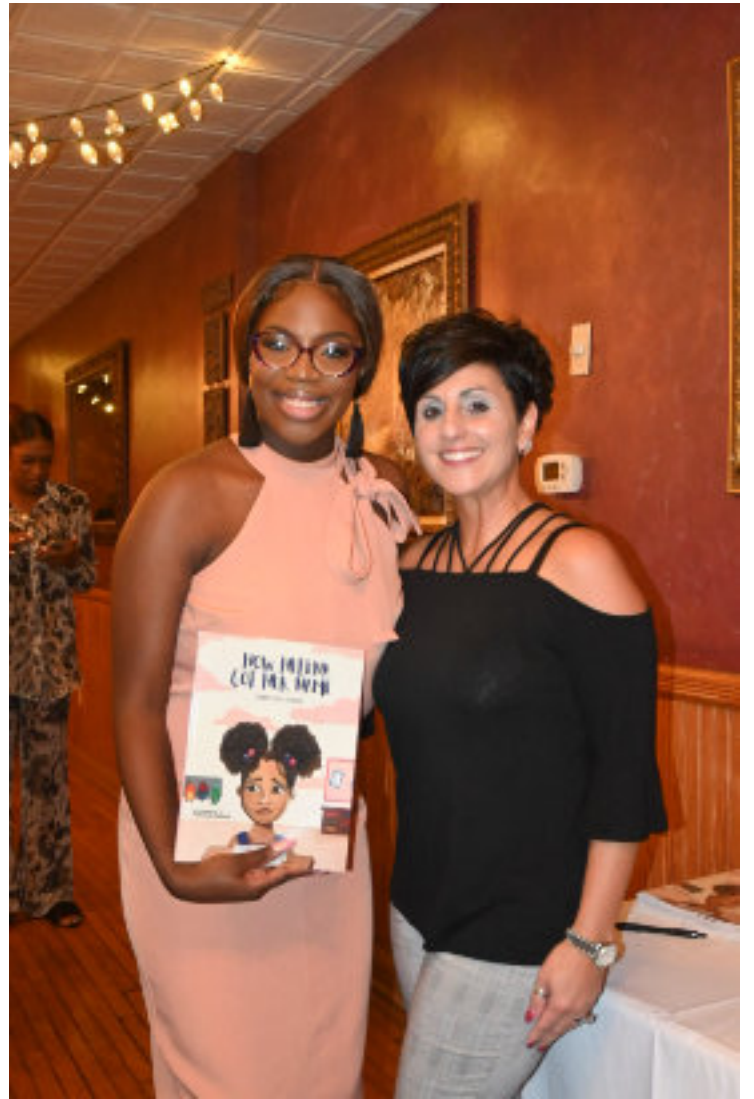
personal story of acceptance and self-love told through the eyes of the person she loves most, her Nana, writing How Helena Got Her Name was a true labor of love. Helena Ruth Prawl, Shawnteyana's Nana, was a woman of great intellect, generous heart, and unselfish sacrifice, and this beautifully illustrated and well-written book honors her in an amazingly beautiful way.

On Saturday September 18, 2021, Shawnteyana celebrated the release of her book with family and friends in her hometown of Middletown, New York. The event was not just to launch her wonderful book, but also served to honor her loving grandparents as well as the dedicated educators in her life who helped to mold her into the hard working and ambitious woman that she is today. An example of the long last-

ing and loving relationships that Shawnteyana has maintained with those who have influenced her the most was the presence of her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Letizia, and her husband. Announcing the outstanding news that her book will be in all English - Language Arts classrooms for grades Kindergarten - 12 throughout the entire school district where she grew up, Shawnteyana and many of those who love her spent the evening loving, laughing, and celebrating.

The multitalented illustrator of How Helena Got Her Name is Sis. Tasharah Person, a Local Preacher at the Judah Temple AME Zion Church, pastored by Rev. Scot C. Moore, and Director of Young Adults for the Baltimore District Christian Education Department. Shawnteyana is a member of the Woods Memorial AME Zion Church, where the Rev. Dr. A. Alfred Carson is the pastor, and a past Vice-President of the New York Annual Conference Varick International Christian Youth Council (VCYC). Currently, she serves as the Director of Public Relations for the Eastern Region Steering Committee of the Young Adults in Christian Ministries (YACM) and is a member of the North Eastern Episcopal District Tech Team.

How Helena Got Her Name is available for purchase now both on Amazon and Shawnteyana.com.



CALL FOR PAPERS

For The *Quarterly Review*

April 2022 Issue

Deadline for Submission January 31, 2022

The *Quarterly Review* Is Zion's Scholarly Witness To The Global Ecumenical Community. Sharing Theological, Biblical, Historical, And Religio-Cultural Insights From Zion's Episcopates, Clergy, And Laity!

Please submit articles to Dr. William McKenith, Editor, at wmmckenith@aol.com

Submitted articles should be 2,500-7,500 words, 12-point type, double-spaced with citations in a Word format document. Yearly Publication Deadlines: **January Issue**, October 31st; **April Issue**, January 31st; **July Issue**, April 30th; and **October Issue**, July 31st

Submit Your Article For The April 2022 Issue Today!

“Glory and Honor to God”

“Glory and Honor to God” were the first words of her acceptance speech. As parents who raised our child in the church but to also be the church, we were so incredibly proud to know how important it was to her to put God first when Adrienne was awarded the “Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical” for her role as Tina Turner in “Tina, The Tina Turner Musical.” Adrienne accepted the award at the 74th Tony Awards at The Winter Garden Theater. Seeing Adrienne’s journey from humble beginnings at our family church Beulah Land AME Zion Church of the Virginia Conference, started by her great great grandparents in 1900 to growing up in the St. Thomas AME Zion Church in Norfolk Virginia to being a big part of the church I pastor, Hood Chapel AME Zion has been an incredible gift from God. My wife Dr. Andrea Warren put it best when she said, “Seeing a child grow into this industry with a childhood dream of one day getting that recognition and actually seeing it happen brings tears of joy.” Joy in knowing it was God who gave us this gift of a child when the doctors said no. Joy in watching God order her steps along the way. The joy in trusting that God would sustain her during her time away in Europe where the show began. The joy of watching her come home and work with untiring commitment to bring the show to Broadway. The joy of seeing God help her finish this leg of their journey together and mostly the joy of knowing that she understands that from the beginning she was a covenant child and God will always be there even if mom and dad cannot.

The journey began in London England where Tina Turner handpicked Adrienne to tell her story in 2016. Adrienne put it like this during her acceptance speech, “I am so thankful to Tina Turner for trusting me to bring her story home.” The show began at the Aldwych Theater in the West End on April 17, 2017. Adrienne opened the Broadway performances on November 7, 2019. It closed in March after Covid-19 forced the shutdown of Broadway. “Tina” reopened again to sold out excited crowds at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, NYC on October 8. Adrienne leaves Tina at the end of October to travel to South Africa to tell yet another story of our people as part of the cast of “Woman King” starring Viola Davis. In January she stars in “Women of the Movement” on ABC where she plays Mamie Till, the mother of Emmett Till.

We are so proud of our little storyteller. God has truly made room for her gifts. As a family we recognize that it still takes a village to raise a child. The Virginia Conference and all of Zion are big a part of our village. All Glory and Honor to God.



Tim Umstead GC's New Ministry Leader

Timothy M. Umstead has recently received the well-deserved promotion to Director of Media and Communications of Greater Centennial African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 312 South 8th Avenue in Mount Vernon, New York.

Timothy brings extensive experience in experiential media, entertainment & events, and communications to his position, along with over ten years of experience in the Greater Centennial Media Ministry.

"I am looking forward to working with Tim," Reverend Stephen W. Pogue, Pastor of Greater Centennial shared with the Star Of Zion. "He is going to bring a new paradigm of ministry excellence to our media ministry. Tim has the

foresight to lead this ministry to higher heights. His trust and reliance of God is the key to his success."

Tim is married to Theresa Umstead (President of Deaconess Board at Greater Centennial), they just celebrated their 25th anniversary on May 18th. Tim and Theresa have 3 daughters; Brionna Umstead (26 Yrs. Old) who is currently pursuing Master of Science: Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) at Emory University, Kayla Umstead (24 Yrs. Old) who has a Bachelor of Science: Exercise Science Education from THE Ohio State University and Tiffany Umstead (20 Yrs. Old) who is currently pursuing Bachelor of Arts- Biology (Pre-Med) at University of Pittsburgh. All members in the Nu Prayze Dance

Ministry as part of the Youth Ministry and then in Prayze in Motion, the main dance ministry when they were older.

Tim has followed Proverbs 23:24 when it comes to raising children according to God's Plan, "The father of godly children has cause for joy. The bible tells us in Luke 6:44 that "For every tree is known by its fruits..." The aforementioned success of their children serves as an example of that type of man Timothy Umstead is and what type of Ministry Leader he will be. As Rev. Pogue eloquently stated, Tim's 'trust and reliance of God is the key to his success' as he brings 'a new paradigm of ministry excellence to the Media Ministry' of Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church.



LIKE



SHARE



SUBSCRIBE

Click, Like, Share and Subscribe

If you don't consider yourself to be "tech savvy" then the words, "click, like, share or subscribe" won't mean very much. However, in today's world of social media they mean a lot. For example, research studies show that youth with low self-worth are at an even greater risk to suffer from depression when they don't receive "Likes" and feedback from their peers. Also, studies show that getting likes releases dopamine in adults providing them a rewarding sensation whenever their posts are received well.

Many users have based their livelihoods on verifiable metrics that potential business partners could see by simply visiting their page and assessing the number of followers and "Likes" they've garnered. "Likes" have become a way to distinguish internet worth and even self worth from someone else's. Yet, the announcement that Facebook and its sister platform Instagram made to consider hiding the "Likes" sent shock waves and uproars on social media. Many believe that the damage has already been done and with the removal of the like button, users will

simply find another way to keep "competition" alive.

As we consider these findings, imagine if the church put a positive spin on the meaning, uses and effects of these buttons. Have you ever had someone walk up to you in church and say, "Oh, you aint gone speak?" We all know how people feel when they aren't acknowledged. In the social world, just because someone doesn't click the button doesn't mean they haven't viewed the content. However, it may feel the same as seeing a person yet walking right past them. "Like" generally means that someone enjoys or supports certain content. But what if we made it feel more like we're speaking, acknowledging a person's virtual presence and supporting them? At first it may seem weird, but imagine the positive change and difference it could make on someone who could use a boost. Not saying that you will agree or like everything on their page but rather than scroll by stop and like something.

The "share button" is often used to help increase visibility, drive traffic to your website and expand the reach of your audience. "Share"

also allows you to add a personal message to links before you share them on your timeline. What if we used "share" to drive traffic to our church websites, virtual discipleship groups and on-line events? We could encourage others to share with others who can share with others. In today's world information travels fast. Sharing could possibly increase views, participation, revenue and subscribers. To subscribe is similar to joining the church; it shows a stronger interest in what is being offered than that of a random viewer. People subscribe to certain websites to learn more about a topic that interests them. It expresses interest in receiving notifications and staying up-to-date on the latest content. There should be a subscribe button on all of our church's websites, newsletters or blogs.

Social media can have both negative and positive effects. Let's use it to support each other, expand our reach, and change the world.

From the Office of the General Secretary-Auditor

By Dr. J. Elvin Sadler

Technology to Serve this Present Age

The last 22 months have been one for the annals of history. In a matter of weeks, the culture of the world changed. We went from meeting in churches to digital worship. Streamyard, OBS, Box and Facebook, and YouTube Live became our best friends. Members, who would scurry to eat, get dressed, drive to church and sit amongst other congregants, all of a sudden watched worship from the comfort and confines of their homes. The time of the worship experience was cut dramatically from 2 ½ hours to one. Board and Ministry meetings were now held via conference call, Teams, Zoom, Google Meet, and other virtual platforms. No more driving to the church to have meetings: everyone began to understand the benefits of technology to serve this present age.

The same is true for the Office of the General Secretary. We are positioning ourselves to assist The A.M.E. Zion Church to serve this present age. Along with the Chief Communications and Chief Operating Officers, we will present some exciting tools and resources we believe and hope will be of benefit to our Denomination. For this article, we will focus on the resources from the Office of the General Secretary-Auditor.

Quarterly Conference Management System (QCMS) 2.0

My team, under the leadership of our Project Manager, Mrs. Angela Joseph, and our software developers, have developed a platform, built for us, according to our specifications (native), to totally automate our Quarterly Conference data gathering system. Historically, our forms were entered manually, mostly on paper, with some variations on computers. There was no standardization and consistency of forms. Even though my predecessor had updated forms, some reverted to using older forms, even on the same Presiding Elder Districts or Annual Conferences. Churches would have reams of paper and stacks of reports that were prepared to give to the Presiding Elder for the Quarter. Presiding Elders had file cabinets filled with notebooks from previous years, kept for reference purposes, due to the legal nature of the Quarterly Conference documents. Although Quarters were held. and for the most part, not much was done with the information received.

The new system has been developed to achieve several goals: 1) Total system automation, 2) Standardization of all forms, 3) Ease of use, and 4) Cloud-based

archiving (no more need for those file cabinets). One of the greatest benefits it will provide for church leaders is the ability to effectively evaluate ministry leaders, ministry, and congregational and contextual needs to help churches to grow, meet the needs of its members, and provide relevance for the present and future generations, through comparative and predictive analytics. The good news is that 85% of congregations in the Continental United States have been trained on the systems and the remainder will be trained by the end of this calendar year. We plan to train the global community congregations in 2022.

Upcoming Projects

We are also excited about several other projects in our pipeline, such as a learning management system (LMS) to effectively track and manage clergy and laity in leadership development and Conference Studies, as well as a CRM (Church Resource Management), which is a database management system to house vital information for clergy of all categories. All of these resources will provide the technological relevance we will need to serve present and future ages. The Best is yet to come!

My Family's Favorite Aspect of Celebrating Thanksgiving



Christine Johnson McNair

Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church Jacksonville District South Florida Conference Alabama/Florida Episcopal District

capal District

Togetherness has been the focus of my family's Thanksgiving celebration for as long as I can remember. From childhood in Mobile, Alabama, to adult life in Jacksonville, Florida, when we couldn't gather in person, phone calls were the standard substitution. The emphasis was on expressing thanks for all that God has done throughout the year and over time. Din-

ner was special but not extravagant! There was chicken or turkey with dressing and fresh garden vegetables, highlighting the colors of fall. There was always dessert to compliment the meal. Sweet potato pie was my mother's special sweet—but I settled for cake, since I did not master baking pies. Sharing was and continues to be a part of our thanksgiving. We participated in food drives at school, church and community. We always extended an invitation to others to join in our meal. Neighbors and friends would get a take-out plate if not available to dine with us. Whatever the situation, we gathered together to ask and thank the Lord for his blessings!

I am pleased to share my mother, Charlie F. Johnson's "Million Dollar Pound Cake" recipe with Star readers.

MILLION DOLLAR POUND CAKE

3 cups sugar
4 cups flour
1 lb. butter, softened
¾ cup milk
6 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon almond extract

Combine sugar, butter and cream until fluffy and light. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each egg. Add Flour to creamed mixture alternately with milk, beating Well after each addition. Stir in flavoring. Pour in well grease and Floured 10 inch tube pan. Bake at 300 for 1 hour and forty minutes.



Clinton College Receives Grant Award from NNSA



Rock Hill, SC — The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) awarded \$7 million for workforce development and training supporting plutonium pit production to minority-serving educational institutions in New Mexico and South Carolina. NNSA provided \$3.5 million for partnerships in each state to be distributed among selected institutions, including historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges and universities.

"NNSA is dedicated to building a diverse capable workforce, and these partnerships ensure a diverse pipeline of talented next-generation professionals who will help us meet our current and future pit production goals," said NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby.

"Clinton College is proud to partner with NNSA and Savannah River in its mission to create a more diverse workforce," said Dr. Lester McCorn, President of Clinton College. "This grant will help Clinton enhance its work program in efforts of becoming a federally designated work college while preparing students for work in the business services area."

Some of the funds will be used to purchase equipment and supplies like those used at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Savannah River

Site to train those pursuing careers within the Nuclear Security Enterprise. "The grant will help bolster existing STEM and trade programs and facilitate the development of new course content to educate students and better prepare the incoming workforce," said Robert Haldeman, Director of NNSA's Plutonium Program Office.

New Mexico MSIs:

- Central New Mexico Community College
- Clovis Community College
- Luna Community College
- Navajo Technical University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- New Mexico State University
- Northern New Mexico College
- San Juan College
- Santa Fe Community College
- University of New Mexico

South Carolina MSIs:

- Allen University
- Benedict College
- Claflin University
- Clinton College
- Denmark Technical College
- Morris College
- South Carolina State University
- Voorhees College

"I was pleased to have worked with the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Department of Energy to make funding available to all eight historically black colleges and universities in South Carolina," said Rep. James E. Clyburn. "Partnerships and investments like these are essential in order to create a future workforce that is not only skilled but reflects the diversity of America and ensures workers' access to good paying jobs."

"It is exciting to see these funds directed towards fulfilling a critical and diverse workforce channel that supports new missions at the Savannah River Site. I appreciate the National Nuclear Security Administration, in partnership with the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization, recognizing the talent in our region and investing these dollars to support good-paying jobs for decades to come," said Rep. Joe Wilson.

The New Mexico Academic Consortium will administer funding awards for the program in the state and the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) will manage the grant in South Carolina. The SRSCRO also manages the Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers grant program supported by NNSA and administered through DOE's Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center.



LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE

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www.livingstone.edu

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Bishop Monroe gives a lesson on 'waiting to exhale' at Livingstone College's Fall Convocation

Oct. 15, 2021

SALISBURY — As the world "waits to exhale," Bishop Kenneth Monroe gave some important insight at Livingstone College's Fall Convocation on how to breathe during uncertain times.

The new senior bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church and new chairman of the Livingstone College Board of Trustees was guest speaker at the annual program, which serves as a rite of passage for freshmen students and recognizes the senior class.

Monroe spoke from the subject, "Waiting to Exhale," a book title by author Terry McMillan that was adapted into an American film.

"People in this world are anxious, afraid, apprehensive, angered, argumentative and adverse as we wait to see the final results of COVID-19," Monroe said.

This pandemic has brought with it death, cough, fever, difficulty breathing, fatigue, and loss of income, property and physical security. Respirators are in high

demand. Intensive care units are overwhelmed, he said.

"Each day, we're hoping and praying, waiting for the pandemic to be over. Looking for a solution and waiting to exhale," he said.

The biblical Scripture of Romans 8:18-30, of which Monroe took his text, offers hope. The 18th verse says that the "sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us."

"Whatever may befall us is not always designed to destroy us," he said, suggesting that perhaps this pandemic is designed to change us and that financial problems could be designed to awaken us.

"God is waiting for us to respond to him," Monroe said. "It would be very sad and disheartening to go through a struggle and come out worse than we were before we experienced it. We are not in a position to miss any lessons — in school or in this world.

"Sometimes when we are surrounded by what appears to be many difficulties, we are surrounded by many opportunities,"

he said. "My faith tells me to wait, to hold on. The time to exhale is approaching. Our faith in God tells us to exhale as we exhibit our faith; exhale as we express our disagreements; exhale as we extend our help; exhale as we examine our purpose; exhale as we excite those who are uncomfortable in their wrongs; and exhale as we exalt the name of God."

The convocation serves as the official start of the freshman class's collegiate journey. Fourteen students representing the class participated in an induction ceremony, highlighting the qualities of wisdom, love, compassion, tenacity, truth, justice, art, beauty, character, equality, knowledge, faith, hope and scholarship.

In his remarks, SGA President Justin Wade told the freshman class that time would pass quickly and in a blink, they would be seniors. "Make every moment count," he said. "Livingstone is the school where chances and possibilities are endless based on your ability to tap into your destiny. Simply put, Livingstone is not a second chance, Livingstone is your chance."

Broadcast legend, William Reid "Bill"



Rollins was awarded an honorary doctorate degree at the program. The former president of the Suburban Radio Group recently donated \$200,000 toward the college's proposed communications program.

"I am honored and thankful to receive this honorary doctorate degree from this historically great institution," Rollins said. "I'm proud to be a Blue Bear and now a member of the Livingstone College family. I am forever indebted to Livingstone College for this distinction."

About Livingstone College

Livingstone College is a private historically black college that is secured by a strong commitment to quality instruction, academic excellence and student success. Through a Christian-based environment suitable for holistic learning, Livingstone provides excellent business, liberal arts, STEAM, teacher education and workforce development programs for students from all ethnic backgrounds designed to promote lifelong learning, and to develop student potential for leadership and service to a global community. For more information, visit www.livingstone.edu.

A Quarterback to Watch: Columbia-Camden District's Youth Director

By Linda P. Jones, District Reporter
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Columbia-Camden District



Timel Benton of Columbia, SC was selected as one of the best and brightest from the college gridiron as announced by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. According to Gallaudet Sports Information News, Timel is one of 176 semifinalists honored from the Football Bowl Subdivision, Football Championship Subdivision, Division II, Division III, and NAIA. The 176 candidates comprise the list of semifinalists for the 2021 William V. Campbell Trophy which recognizes an individual as the absolute best scholar-athlete in the nation. Timel shares this coveted honor with the likes of Florida's Tim Tebow and Tennessee's Peyton Manning. The candidate for this award is nominated by the school's Sports Information Office, and must be a senior or graduate student in the final year of eligibility and have at least a 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. The candidate must demonstrate strong citi-

zenship and leadership skills as well as have exceptional football ability as a first-team player.

Timel is a five-year letter winner in football at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, the world's only university with programs and services specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students. This quarterback has played in the excess of 31 games and tallied more than 2,637 passing yards and 26 touchdowns through the air. He was named an Eastern Collegiate Football Conference all-conference honorable mention twice, and he has been named to the ECFC All-Academic list for the past two seasons.

As Gallaudet's senior quarterback, Timel Benton was named to the DC Touchdown Club's Metro College Football Player of the Week Honor Roll. He ran for career-high 232 yards and scored four touch-

downs to lead Gallaudet to a 42-35 victory last week. According to Gallaudet Head Football Coach Chuck Goldstein, Timel has been a mainstay on offense for the Bison Team for the past five years. Coach Goldstein also noted that "Timel is a great role model for the younger players on the team and he has been a leader on and off the field". When discussing his impressive performance against Dean College, Benton stated, "My teammates opened lanes for me, and I was able to get out in space to help lead us to a win. Without them this win would not have been possible against such an athletic Bulldog defense".

This young Christian Educator/Outstanding Quarterback has proven to be a team player, an awesome role model, and a transformational leader. All of these attributes will be invaluable as he leads the youth of the Columbia-Camden District to become credible and committed disci-

ples for Christ. Recently, when he was interviewed by a reporter from Noontime Sports, Timel stated that God continues to open doors for him. He serves as Chaplain and prayer minister for the team and never hesitates to attribute the success of the team to his teammates and to God, to whom he gives all the praise! Timel also expresses his gratitude for the unwavering support of his friends and family. He is the son of Reverend Dr. Robert T. and Rev. Melissa S. Benton, who along with his brother Kenny are members of Antioch AME Zion Church in Eastover, SC where Dr. Benton has begun his 16th year as the shepherd of this Church. Timel is the grandson of Presiding Elder Reverend Dr. Sandra and Mr. Robert Benton, Cheraw, SC, and Bishop Joseph and Mrs. Deborah Stringfellow, Chester, SC.

Livingstone College alumna Quanera Hayes makes U.S. Olympic Team after first-place finish in 400-meter race

Livingstone College News Service
Published 7:54 pm Monday, June 21, 2021

SALISBURY — Livingstone College alumna and track star Quanera Hayes is headed to the Tokyo Olympics after finishing first, with a time of 49.78 seconds, in the 400-meter race during the U.S. Olympic Team Trials Sunday in Oregon.

The 2015 Livingstone College graduate and Hope Mills native beat Olympic champion Allyson Felix, who came in second at 50.2 seconds. Wadelene Jonathas rounded out the top three. All three women qualified for a spot at the Tokyo Olympics next month. Hayes' win also makes her the national champion.

Justin Davis, Livingstone track coach, said he was glued to the TV all weekend for the Olympic Trials, cheering on his former student-athlete.

"I have followed Quanera's career extensively since she left Livingstone. I have always known she would make an Olympic team," Davis said. "She has the experience because I was able to travel with her to two USA Outdoor Championships while she was a Blue Bear."

In an interview posted by HBCU Gameday after advancing to the final round, Hayes was asked what it would mean to represent Livingstone College at the Olympics.

"Honestly, it would mean everything. And for me, it wouldn't be just representing Livingstone College, it would be representing the CIAA and all Division II



schools," Hayes said. "A lot of people out here — they're from HBCUs — but I'm literally the only one from a Division II school. So it's much bigger than me just representing HBCUs, it's me representing Division II as well. And letting them know, hey, just because we're in Division II, people don't look at us as being one of the best or top-tier athletes. But, look where I am. Look how far I've gotten coming from a Division II school. So it's much bigger than the HBCU thing. That's just a bonus."

Davis said Hayes' win shows that athletes don't have to go to the biggest and most recognized college

or university to achieve greatness.

"If you have talent, drive, and motivation, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to," he said.

Davis recruited Hayes from Cumberland County's Grey's Creek High School in 2010. She redshirted her freshman year and competed at Livingstone from 2011 to 2015. Davis as well as Tim Dunlap, sprint-

ing coach at the time, served as her coaches.

"When I first saw Quanera, I knew that she was different because she was so far ahead of all the competition she had in high school," Davis said.

When Hayes came to Livingstone, she was able to run against the men's team in practice and always right there with them, he said. Her main events were the 200 and 400 meters, but she also competed in the 100 meters, in relay and cross country.

Her collegiate personal bests times were 11.99 seconds in the 100 meters; 23.29 in the 200 meters; and 51.54 in the 400 meters.

She was a 12-time NCAA All-American — indoor and outdoor track; a four-time NCAA Outdoor Track Champion (three times in 400 meters and once in the 200 meters); an eight-time school record holder; and USTFCCA (US Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association) Athlete of the Year Indoor and Outdoor.

"Livingstone College is proud of Quanera Hayes and honored that she is a part of the Blue Bear family," said Livingstone President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins Sr. "She is a testament to the type of student-athletes we produce and is proof that with drive, tenacity, and perseverance, success will chase you down no matter where you start running. I want to commend her for the exposure she is giving to the CIAA, to Division II schools, and especially to Livingstone College, where defying the odds is our business."

In June 2017, Hayes won the 400 meter sprint title at the U.S.A. track and field outdoor championship in Sacramento, California, posting the fastest time in the event in the world during that season at 49.72 seconds.

Then in August 2017, Hayes, along with Allyson Felix, Shakima Wimbley, and Phyllis Francis, represented Team USA and won the 4x400 meter at the IAAF World Championships. The team won by the largest margin of victory in world championships history — male or female — to capture the first Team USA gold medal in the event since 2011.

BY NEWS SERVICE REPORT
PUBLISHED 7:54 PM MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021

AMEZ GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PAGES

AMEZ GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PAGES

AMEZ GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PAGES

IT'S SO HARD, TO SAY GOODBYE...



FAREWELL

Submitted by: Rev. Penny Mucker-Williams, Reporter

Thank you

for your patience as we are working to provide more information about this year's Winter Meeting.

I am excited to share that Truthville 2021 is coming!

Plan now to join us for

TRUTHVILLE 2021

Life After Exile

PSALM 126:1

ON DECEMBER 27-29TH

Due to safety concerns, the meeting will be held virtually, but you do not want to miss this!!

More details concerning registration are forthcoming.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING IN CHICAGO, IL,
NEXT YEAR FOR TRUTHVILLE 2022!**

I know I can count on you to join us in prayer for God's favor on our first fully virtual Winter Meeting!!



REV. PATRICK BARRETT II

*General Secretary of Christian Education
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

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