

WHOMIS  
Leadership  
Institute  
The Explosion  
of Agape  
Love.

Pg.  
4

THE RIGHT TO  
**VOTE**  
IS SACRED  
- OBAMA

Voting is  
a Black  
Sacrament

Pg.  
14

# THE STAR OF ZION

JUNE | VOL 146 No. 6 | STAROFZION.ORG | THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH




## Christ's Passion Through A Pioneer



BISHOP

*Mildred & Bonnie Hines*



**THE STAR OF ZION**  
Official Voice of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

The Star of Zion is an award-winning newspaper and journalistic media organization, published by The A.M.E. Zion Church as its official organ since 1876.

Being guided by the core values of truth, faith, and love, the Star seeks to raise the consciousness of readers with news that is current, relevant, and dependable.

**THE STAR OF ZION**  
(ISSN 0038-9870)  
PUBLICATION NUMBER  
05 19-200

The Official organ of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; Periodicals Postage Paid at Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1876 and published once monthly from the A.M.E. Zion Church Headquarters, 3225 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC 28269.

**POSTMASTER:** Send Change of Address to THE STAR OF ZION, Post Office Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770.

**THE STAR OF ZION**  
Published monthly from the A.M.E. Zion Church Headquarters, 3225 W. Sugar Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC 28269. Paid circulation 5,000. Member of the Associated Church Press.

Accelerating Communication About The Freedom Church

Since 1876 Over 126 Years

★ The Star of Zion ★

**COMMUNICATIONS BOARD**

**Chairman:**

Bishop George D. Crenshaw

**First Vice Chairman:**

Bishop Brian R. Thompson, Sr.

**Second Vice Chairman:**

Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.

**Third Vice Chairperson (Layperson):**

TBD

**PIED** Rev. Dr. David A. Williams  
Ms. Carlous Tyrance

**ENC** Rev. Dr. Florence S. Brown  
Ms. Nora K. McNeill

**MW** Rev. Todd Jarrett  
Ms. Martha Scudder

**NE** Rev. Kenneth Lewis  
Mrs. Mattie Taylor

**SA** Rev. Sandra Sistare  
Ms. Marilyn Graham

**MA** Rev. D'Andre W. James-Daniels  
Mrs. Debra P. Dennison

**AL/FL** Rev. Dr. Erskine Faush, Jr.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson

**SWD** Rev. Gary Adams  
Ms. Pamela Brown

**WD** Rev. Kaloma Smith  
Mr. Clyde Ellis Virges

**CSA** Rev. Seth Moulton  
Mrs. Melanie Parker

**WWA** Rev. Sharon Mitchell  
Mr. Daniel Brown

**EWA** Rev. Johnny Ruff  
Mr. Nse Joseph Edem

**Editor in Chief**

Mr. Darin Kent

[editor@starofzion.org](mailto:editor@starofzion.org)

**Managing Editor**

Rev. Samuel Brown

[admin@starofzion.org](mailto:admin@starofzion.org)

**Social Justice Editor**

Rev. Dr. Allison Lee

[socialjustice@starofzion.org](mailto:socialjustice@starofzion.org)

**Subscriptions Department**

704-688-2561

[subscribe@starofzion.org](mailto:subscribe@starofzion.org)

**ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE STAR OF ZION**

Rate Space..... Times  
\$12.00 Per Col. Inch..... 1-3

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

One Year - \$38.00

Single Copy - \$4.00

Bundle (50 Copies): \$100.00

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

**Notice to Star of Zion Reporters**

**Article/Ad Submission Deadline Dates**

July 2022 Issue..... June 15, 2022

August 2022 Issue..... July 15, 2022

September 2022 Issue..... August 15, 2022

October 2022 Issue..... September 15, 2022

November 2022 Issue..... October 15, 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

LOOK INSIDE

PAGES

02-08

ZION SPOTLIGHT

09-10

EDUCATION

11

HEALTH & WELLNESS

12-17

SOCIAL JUSTICE

19-21

OBITUARIES

24-25

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

26-27

ECUMENICAL NEWS

28-30

LIFESTYLE

# Christ's Passion Through a Pioneer

*Bishop Mildred “Bonnie” Hines*, the 98th Bishop in succession of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church died Monday, May 23, 2022 in Los Angeles, California. Elected and consecrated in Atlanta, Georgia at the denomination’s 48th General Conference in 2008, Hines is the first and only woman elected to the church’s highest office in its over 225-year history which dates back to 1796.

The Communications Office of the A.M. E. Zion Church released an official statement Tuesday, from The Board of Bishops- “We are glad because she is free from her infirmities and is in the presence of her Lord; whom she served so faithfully.” These sentiments were expressed by Board of Bishops President, Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Piedmont Episcopal District.

A native of Mount Airy, North Carolina Bishop Hines served in every capacity with diligence and excellence. Bishop Hines was formally educated in the public county schools in Surry County, North Carolina. She always credited Miss Virginia Galloway, her first-grade teacher, for instilling in her a thirst for learning and a passion for speaking. Her favorite subjects were English, chemistry, history, and home economics at North Surry High School. After receiving an academic and athletic scholarship, Bishop Hines attended Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, North Carolina, where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Home Economics Education. She received her Master of Arts in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She was awarded a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and certification in Clinical Pastoral Counseling from the Colgate Rochester School of Divinity in Rochester, New York. She was awarded a Doctor of Ministry from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. Dr. Anthony Witherspoon, President of the International Ministers and Lay Association remembered Bishop Hines- “Zion has lost a giant who is leaving an indelible legacy that changed the trajectory of our church denomination. Not only was Bishop Hines a staunch supporter of The International Ministers and Lay Association, but she also championed all we stand for even in the face of opposition. Bishop had no problem standing alone for the good of others if need be. Our association has been made all the better because of her courage, strength and tenacity. Servant, well done.”

Once a buyer for Belk Department Stores, she said an illness forced her to leave the fashion world behind. “I bargained with God,” she said, saying she would follow divine guidance if she survived. Bishop Hines pastored First A.M.E. Zion Church in Los Angeles, California, prior to her election to the episcopacy. Previous Pastoral assignments include: Walls Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, NC, Saint Peter's Tabernacle A.M.E. Zion Church, Gastonia, NC, and Waddell Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Shelby, NC. Rev. Dr. Darius

Continues on page 26

# The Promise of Pentecost



*“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:1-2*

For churches, Pentecost preparation sometimes seems more like party planning than Christian formation. *Are there enough speakers to read in a different language? Do we have enough cake plates? What if the red frosting gets on someone’s alb? If it’s raining, can we blow bubbles in the sanctuary? ...*You get the idea. But Pentecost is more than a set of customs. Below is some background, meaning, and points to keep in mind when teaching Pentecost.

Pentecost literally means “fiftieth day.” As a Jewish religious celebration, it first marked the fifty days after Passover with a harvest festival. Pentecost also commemorated the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. This moment still celebrated in the Jewish tradition as Shavuot.

In the Christian tradition, Pentecost marks the end of the 50 Days of Easter. Acts 2 describes how the apostles and friends were gathered together in Jerusalem. Suddenly there is a great rushing of wind, and tongues of fire rest on each of the apostles. They begin to speak in different languages, and the crowds around them – Jews from across the diaspora having come to Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks – understand them. It was at this moment that Peter stood up and preached, revealing the will of God in Jesus Christ, as prophesied by Joel, and affirming a continual outpouring of the Holy Spirit through repentance and Baptism.

Pentecost was a turning point. Before that moment, the

apostles were a group of followers who had listened to Jesus and assisted in his ministry. But without Jesus, they were aimless and confused. That all changed on Pentecost. After the Holy Spirit entered the room, and after Peter preached, the apostles no longer looked inward. Filled with the Holy Spirit – the spirit of Jesus – they looked out and forward as ministers.

The end of Acts 2 records how the apostles devoted themselves to teaching and to fellowship; to performing wonders and signs; and giving to others in need. It is no wonder that the Lord “added to their number daily those who were saved”! The Holy Spirit gave the apostles direction and power to form the Christian community, which would become the Church. It is in this sense that Pentecost can be called a birthday.

Christian theology is grounded in a doctrine of three in one, the Holy Trinity: often described as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Pentecost was a big Trinity moment! The Father sends the Spirit to make the Son present. On Pentecost we can teach and celebrate the Trinity.

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus told his followers, “I will be with you always, even until the end of the age.” He promptly ascended into heaven, and his followers could no longer see him. What gives? Well, in John 15:26 Jesus promised, “I will send you the Advocate – the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me” (NLT). When the Holy Spirit moves, Jesus is present *through that Holy Spirit*. So it is that Pentecost marks the fulfillment of Christ’s promise.

---

## Parrish to serve as Regional President

Alpha Kappa Mu (AKM) Honor Society is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and serve as the nation’s only certifying agency for college and university honor societies. Founded in 1937, the organization’s establishment is a response to the denial of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society’s willingness to establish an organization of such on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) campuses. Today, Alpha Kappa Mu thrives with eight regions and over 90 thousand members in over 70 active chapters.

Region I of North Carolina and Region V of Georgia, convened on Saturday, April 23, 2022 for the Annual Regional Meeting. Representing over 20 institutions, faculty advisors and student scholars met to discuss the state of the organization, academic and professional opportunities, regional activities, and the upcoming 2023 convention. Most of all, the institutions elected officers whereas Da’Tarvia Parrish of the Alpha Psi Chapter at Livingstone College was elected as Region I President. Retired educator of NC A&T State University and regional director of AKM Sandra Williamson said, “We have the right person as president.” In this capacity, Dr. Parrish will govern Bennett College, Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, Johnson C. Smith, North Carolina A&T State, North Carolina

Central, Shaw, and Winston-Salem State Universities.

Dr. Parrish is not new to academic leadership in Honors. She previously served as the 2018 President of the National Association of African American Honors Programs (NAAHP), and is a current board member of the organization. Moreover, she serves as a national evaluator for Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, and has membership in Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society for the social sciences. Accepting the AKM nomination and ballot results, Dr. Parrish stated, “I am elated to serve an organization with a legacy of extraordinary impact. Alpha Kappa Mu has roots that confronts and resists marginalization, while promoting and reshaping our nation’s academic arena whereas engaging in a community that share in the ideals of such ingenuity and design, reflects my values to push and expand the boundaries of Black excellence. Thank you. I am excited about leading servant-leaders with a record of academic achievement and faculty who are committed to investing in our future.”

Alpha Kappa Mu is a general scholarship honor society open to juniors and seniors ranked in the upper 10 percent of the class; members must exemplify great character and potential for leadership and service. [www.alphakappamu.org](http://www.alphakappamu.org)

# Making a Difference



## Collaborative Report from Good News Editor and 2nd Vice President WH&OMS

The Explosion of Agape Love, which captured the WHOMS Leadership Institute. The YAMS Empowerment, the Dorothy S. Johnson Youth Retreat and the initiation of the Women's Clergy Ministry being included, was held at the Ridgecrest Conference Center held in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina. That in itself was an explosion, held Thursday April 21 to Sunday Morning, and when you added the Holy Spirit, what a time it was.

The kickoff session began with humorous yet informative Workshop by Dr. Sandra Coleman, Presiding Elder, Birmingham District, Alabama/Florida Episcopal District, and Mrs. Joy M. Dennis, former District President. They took a hard look at Women uplifting Women as they are elevated. Small group discussions with report outs made this a very interactive session.

Sis. Camille Starnes, host Missionary Supervisor, Piedmont Episcopal District, presided over the evening sessions which included creative expressions from the Piedmont Episcopal area, and greetings from the International President, Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder. The evening speaker was The Rev. Felica Thompson Missionary Supervisor, Western Episcopal District, who spoke about "The Fragrance That Changed the Atmosphere." This started the flickering of the Explosions and the temperament of our minds as she stressed that we should not have a crab mentality, but we must lift our sisters up with our words.

Just before the session ended, with graphics and sounds of an explosion the Dean, Renee Felton Pullen entered clarifying the definition of an explosion stating that it was. an impact, the shattering or blowing a part of something. It can create damage in something that is not good. It changes the potential energy to work, which transfers to its surroundings in the form of a rapidly moving rise in pressure, like a shock wave. It shows a vigorous outward release of energy. It also sounds like the Holy

Spirit making his presence known, breaking chains, and renewing relationships, healing, teaching, praising, and dancing!

Friday morning started with the **Departmental Workshops**. Each were informative concentrating on Agape Love and giving emphasizes on how that department works. The Parent Body also gave an overview of the other elected officer positions as well as the Executive Director's responsibilities.

The **Agape Moment** session led by the First Vice President, Ms. Angela Davis Baxter included historical information about the Agape Observance and Second Mile, and how Second Mile funds are received and disbursed to the Episcopal Areas.

The workshop "**Agape Love: Intergenerational Inclusion**" led by Dr. Kamea Shorter Gooden, Ph. D in Clinical Community Psychology, shared a statement that many of our church (memberships) are more like Senior Centers and discussed how this might be. We can set goals to address: Share what we know about generational differences; Focus on expectations, needs, desires, etc. of Black youth; Address what older adults can do to create inclusive church culture; and Take away something from this workshop to create a more inclusive church, We then reviewed five of the seven generations generally found in our churches and shared traits: Traditionalists, born between 1928-1945; Boomers between 1946-1964; Generation Ys 1965-1980; Millennials/ Generation Xs 1981-1996; Generation Zs 1997-2012. The focus was on Black Gen Zs and Millennials, research statistics, concerns, general beliefs stressing inclusions and describing what Inclusion looks like.

The second afternoon Workshop "**Continuing Agape Love with Global Missions**" led by Rev. Antoinette Joiner, who presented for Dr. Dwight B. Cannon, General Director, Department of Global Missions, AME Zion Church. Rev. Joiner reminded us that we are a global church, and the Society has six departments to help do the work we have to do. She defined, and explained Agape Love, and asked the question, what does Agape love mean to you?



# with Agape Love



The **Worship Explosion** was ignited by the tag team of Sis. Candace Hills and Rev. Hanna Broome from the New Jersey Conference (NEED). The explosion was “The Love Challenge, #It’s Time to Love,” suggestions were given to the attendees on how to show love. We are urged to think beyond ourselves and cancel the culture that we have to kill everyone to get promoted.

The night session closed with the video introduction of the Society’s 140th Anniversary Documentary introduced by Co-Chairs, Mrs. Gelenia Frencher and Ms. Angela Davis Baxter. **\$70,630 was received for the 140th anniversary celebration.**

The Dorothy S. Johnson Retreat, and the YAMS empowerment session met after the night session ended.

Saturday was the **Vilma D. Leake Walk-A-Mile for Second Mile** that included a challenge between the departments and a challenge between Districts. After the walk a unique Heart Health Fitness WHOMS Line Dance Missionary Shuffle was introduced with all of the Executive Board in attendance participating and wearing the new WH&OM Society Logo Leggings. The ladies in attendance once again joined the departments and participated with the Missionary Shuffle. This was truly an intergenerational activity which include the Youth. Afterwards, the youth began the retreat.

The **Panel Discussion** facilitated by Dean Felton Pullen, focused on “Effective Missionaries and Intentionally Mission-minded Missionaries.” Panelists were Rev. Edith Mayfield, North Eastern Episcopal District; Ms. Virginia Adams, Mid-West ED; Mrs. Victoria Fisher, Western ED; Ms. Marie Miller, Mid-Atlantic ED, Ms. Michelle Morton, South Atlantic ED. Information was shared on questions of, what is the definition of a mission minded missionary and What are the core components that every missionary should strive to have to be effective?

Connectional Supply Secretary JoAnn Monroe introduced the **Explosion Outreach Project: Gift Cards for the Black Mountain Home for Children.** Loretta Shelton, Director of

Development & Community Service, received the cards and shared information about the Home, its program, residents, and accomplishments. Over \$10,000 in gift cards from the Missionaries across the AME Zion Church were donated to the Black Mountain Home for Children.

**The State of the Women: Where Do we Go from Here?**, was the afternoon workshop, led by Rev. Dr. Melanie Miller and Ms. Rosalyn Holland. Breakout Groups discussed: How would you describe the current state of women? In what areas do we still struggle? In what ways has our spiritual growth been reversed or stifled? How have restrictions been imposed in the AME Zion Church? What is the competitive nature of women in the church? Is sisterhood a reality in Zion? How can we be more encouraging towards each other? How can we remain encouraged even when we are left out in the wilderness? What do we need to go forward? Empowered women empower women. Is God’s promise enough for us to move forward? Why are we afraid to step out in faith and support the cause of other women in Zion? What will give you the confidence to walk through the door that God has opened for us? What we need to go forward: Plan (prepare), right attitude (Agape Love), support (resources), but the number one thing is ACTION. Put action to our words.

The **WH&OMS Environmental Stewardship Committee**, reviewed the Society’s publication on environmental stewardship, lifted up Earth Day, Global warming, and the realness of climate change

The excitement of the upcoming **30th Quadrennial Convention** of the WH&OM Society was shared by the host Missionary Supervisor of the Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, Mrs. Jean M. Leake through a video from. The following dates were shared: Connectional Council July 18-21, 2023; Emma B. Watson Institute July 17-19, 2023; Quadrennial Convention July 22-28, 2023. The rate at the host hotel, Hilton Riverside will be \$173.81 including taxes & fees. The Winner of the Convention

Continues on page 15



# She Wants The “TEA”

## *Tennessee Education Association Election*

The school year has just wrapped up and with that came a bevy of accolades for Knox County Education Association (KCEA) President Tanya Coats. She’s been recognized by Knox County Schools Superintendent Bob Thomas and recently received the Education Award from the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission.

Thomas called Coats “a strong, passionate and effective advocate on behalf of teachers.” He cited her advocacy for salary increases and said he doesn’t always agree with Coats, but he respects her professionalism.

Coats is serving her third term as KCEA president and is currently vice president of the Tennessee Education Association (TEA). She now has her eyes on the top spot with the TEA, but that election is not until April of next year. But draw a line under this: whatever she is doing, she will never stop advocating for public schools, teachers and students. Especially after the lessons learned coming off 15 months of challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“It was rough. That’s the CliffsNotes version,” Coats said. “It really opened up some wounds, not just in Knox County, but the whole country.”

Coats noted the catch-up game that had to be played when KCS went to all virtual for most the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Just getting laptops into students’ hands wasn’t enough. There were disparities in access to internet and Wifi that had to be addressed. And then there was the extra stress on teachers.

“We’re talking about teachers having to do 4-5 jobs,” she said. “Teaching in person, teaching in class, learning new curriculum via technology, providing those meals, making themselves available to parents. It’s been trying. But we made it. Teachers are just as resilient as students.”

After what teachers endured throughout the Covid crisis, Coats would really like to see some across-the-board raises in the near future. And don’t come at her with talk about private school voucher programs. A soap box will be dragged out.

“It is our right to be educated. We can’t allow public money for private schools,” she said. “How do you justify using that money to pay \$20,000 for a student in private school when we’re barely getting \$9,000 per student in public schools? It’s appalling.”

Another key focus for Coats is making sure educators have a seat at the table when decisions are being made about school funding and curriculum.

“We need to make sure our profession continues to be represented instead of others making those decisions for us,” she said. “Not just locally, but at the state and federal level as well.”



**Tanya Coats**

Coats, 48, also has a laser eye focused on the East Knoxville community after an exceptionally difficult year for the students at Austin-East High School. She said one thing the community needs is support for the organizations already on the ground in the area.

“I worry sometimes that we’re all working in our own silos, whether or not everyone is on the same page,” she said. “I do know these students need to feel and be safe in their own community. There is a long and unsettling mistrust that they are not going to be treated fairly.”

While Coats’ parents are both from Tennessee, she was born in Anchorage, Alaska, where her father was stationed at the time with the U.S. Army. She moved here in 1989 to live with her mother’s parents in New Market and to establish residency to attend the University of Tennessee.

“My father had his retirement in sight, and they both knew they wanted to move back to Tennessee, so I came on ahead of them,” Coats said. “I didn’t want to stay in Fort Sill, Oklahoma.”

Thing is, save for a few classes, she already had enough credits to graduate, but her father wanted her to stay at her grade level with students her own age. So, she took classes at Jefferson County High School as well as Carson-Newman before going on to UT and Lincoln Memorial University. Her impressive resume is too much to fit into this space. But suffice it to say lessons instilled by her parents have carried her far.

“They are both very smart people,” she said. “They instilled a sense of discipline in me.”

It shows. In all the best ways, it shows.

# North Charlotte District Meets for 107th District Conference and Church School Convention

G. Joyner-Johnson, Reporter

CHARLOTTE, NC – On April 29-30, 2022 at Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church, Rev. Dr. Sheldon Shipman, Pastor and congregation hosted the 107<sup>th</sup> North Charlotte District Conference.

Rev. Cathy Henderson and the Evangelism Committee led a highly spirited praise and prayer session. Music for the Conference was provided by the District Choir led by Mr. Sidney Oliver and directed by Ms. Sandra J. Lee.

Rev. Dr. J. Wardell Henderson, Jr., the Presiding Elder had chosen as the conference theme: “Filling Your Dry Wells” from the scripture “Blessed are you who hunger and thirst after righteousness, you shall be filled.” Matt 5:6.

Elder Henderson delivered the sermonic message describing a well as a hole in the ground, but to have a hunger for God and to thirst after righteousness from God, that hole will be filled as if from a spring that will never run dry within you! As he led us through various scriptures, the conclusion was that you must study the Word, have faith, seek God continuously and be blessed with joy of the Lord.

Saturday began with breakfast followed by the Praise and Prayer session. Then, three local preachers delivered three powerful sermonettes. They were Sis. Denisha Alford and Sis.

Nakisha DeShields from Columbus Chapel AME Zion Church and Bro. Donald Davis from Caldwell Chapel AME Zion Church. All sermonettes were delivered enthusiastically received with exuberance from the congregants.

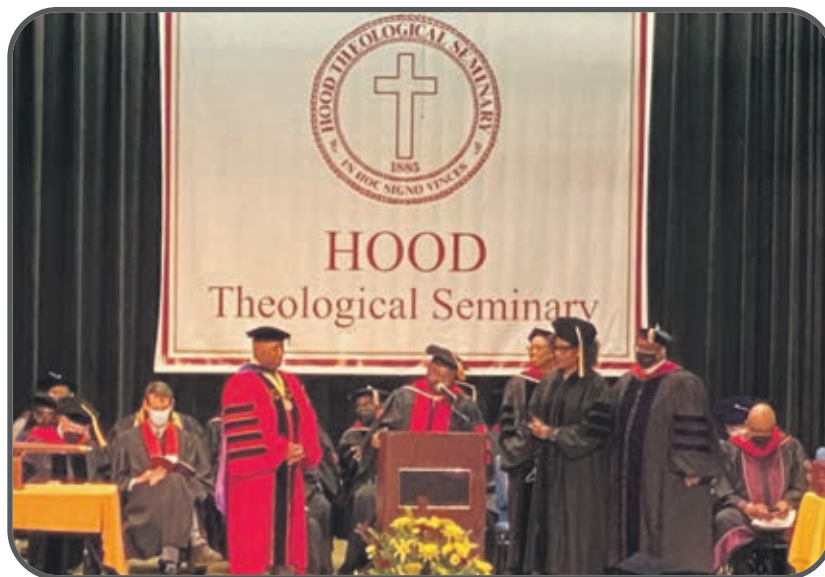
The conference was organized and elected Mr. Gilbert McRae and Mrs. Brenda Sullivan as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively. Reports were received from the various department/committee leaders as well as the lay delegate and pastor of each local church. Rev. Ellison Bowman, pastor of Torrance Chapel AME Zion Church in Cornelius, NC, announced he is retiring after forty years as a pastor and thirty years as the district treasurer. Additionally, Watkins Chapel AMEZ pastored by Rev. Alfred Watson announced their **mortgage has been paid in full**. Additionally, through the tireless efforts of the immediate past pastor, Rev. Steven Howard and his wife Mrs. Deborah Howard, Watkins Chapel has been designated as a historic site by the State of North Carolina! Thank God for all His blessings bestowed on this congregation.

Elder Henderson gave thanks for all reports and the gifts for him and his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Henderson. After the character of the conference officers was passed, he called for announcements and led the conference closing prayer/benediction.

## Hood Theological Seminary Celebrates its Twenty First Commencement

Hood Theological Seminary celebrated its twenty first commencement on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at Varick Auditorium on the campus of Livingstone College. Family and friends gathered to support the 2022 graduating class of Hood Theological Seminary. The day was met with excitement, support, and enthusiasm for the graduates' futures. Reverends Lara Musser Gritter and Josh Musser Gritter, Co-Senior Pastors of First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury, North Carolina were the 2022 Commencement Speakers.

In their address, Reverends Lara Musser Gritter and Josh Musser Gritter discussed the joys, triumphs, hardships, and difficulties ministry offers. They stated that “...with God’s help, the graduates completed their degrees during this time of uncertainty...” As Rev. Lara Musser Gritter stated “Well done good and faithful servants.” She also stated that “You will find God’s power when you are humble, you will find God’s power when you are open, and you will find God’s power when you are weak...Our final charge to you is this, love the Lord your God, with all your heart, mind, and strength. Make your love of God be like an oak tree, planted by streams of water. May its roots grasp deeply into the earth to ground you, and may its branches move out thickly and widely to shade you...You



are the imperfect instrument that God is delighted to work through.” Rev. Josh Musser Gritter also stated “Show the love of Jesus to all people...Preach the word of God in season and out. Teach faithfully watching over your people. Guide them in faith and instruction. Nourish them in wisdom, strengthen them to glorify God. Celebrate their encounters with God, as if they were your own.” Rev. Lara Musser Gritter stated: “Your calling for all its difficulty, let it be a source of joy. Whatever the future holds, remember that God is your beginning and your end. God will show up.”

The Doctor of Humane Letters was awarded to Reverend Dr. Robert Milton Lewis, Carla Maxwell Ray, and Gregory M. Alcorn. The highlight of the graduation service was the conferring of six Doctor of Ministry degrees and fifteen Master of Divinity degrees.

Hood Theological Seminary is a graduate and professional school sponsored by the A.M.E. Zion Church and approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church. Its student body, faculty and staff currently comprise 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.

# The Goldsboro District Christian Education Assembly celebrated a Black History Assembly

**Goldsboro District Christian Education Department**  
*The Reverend Dr. Andrew Dixon Brown, Presiding Elder*  
**District Christian Education**  
 Director, Elnora C. Hogan  
*Reverend Dr. Kenneth Monroe, Bishop*  
**Black History Assembly**  
**Trinity AME Zion Church**  
*Reverend Darius Ballard, Pastor*

The Goldsboro District Christian Education Assembly under the leadership of Presiding Elder A.D. Brown and District Christian Education Director, Elnora C. Hogan celebrated a Black History Assembly beginning with workshops- Presenter for the Adults and Young Adults was Reverend David Elliot, the title was “We Can’t Go Backward.” The Scripture reference,

Luke 9:61-62. We can’t go backward. We must continue to move forward; going back leads to staying back. Be careful what you wish for. We must focus on what is in front of us. What’s in front of us is more important than what’s us.

Workshops for the Youth and Children was presented by the Director of Youth Ms. Laura Badger, Ms. Jacqueline Newton, Director of Young Adult and Reverend Michael A. Ballard, Pastor of St. John AME Zion Church. Title: “What is Lent?” Lent is a forty-day liturgical season that initiates, the most sacred part of the Christian year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on the Great Vigil of Easter. Sundays are not included in the forty-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of our Lord’s resurrection. During Lent, Christians meditate on the great paschal mystery - the salvation God won for us sinners by the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“Ministry in Motion Praise Dancers” performed during transition to Morning Service.

Morning Service 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 noon. Reverend Darius Ballard, presided; Music was rendered by Trinity Youth and Children Choir with Youth Ushers. The Youth and Youth Director was in charge of the Worship service.

Reverend Harry D. Hines of St. Thomas AME Zion Church- Roseboro, NC. was the speaker for the Christian Education Assembly. He spoke on the Title: “The Tragedy of Ignorance” Scripture Judges 2:1-10. Ignorant people in the world make up our family. Ignorance is in our churches, disrespectful manner in our homes, schools, you can have high GPA and still be ignorant. The lack of knowledge in our midst, who just do know, being ignorant about the Lord is a tragedy. We are raising an ignorant generation that don’t know the Lord: Example young mothers, drugs, dropouts, gun violence. We expect other to take the responsibility for our children. We should teach the scripture and liv it before them, have family prayer and have them to pray. We must turn tragedy into triumph, not ignorance “Cause, know my redeemer lives.”

We ended with remarks from our Presiding Elder A.D. Brown.



*Christian Education District Officers*



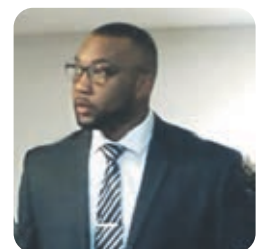
*Pulpit Guest & Choir*



*Workshop participants for Children and Youth*



*Workshop Presenter Rev. Michael A. Ballard for Children and youth, and Rev. David Elliott, Adult and Young Adult workshop Presenter; and Praise Dancers*



*Rev. Harry Hines, Worship Speaker and Rev. Darius Ballard, Host Pastor*



# Malik Yoba receives honorary degree from Livingstone College, shares his 'heart' testimony

*Pledges to partner with college on Yoba Development real estate degree program*

SALISBURY, NC – In the words of actor Malik Yoba, Livingstone College's graduation was the best he has ever experience, and the most memorable for retiring President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr.

"Livingstone College, I've never seen a graduation like this anywhere and I've spoken at hundreds of them ... This is the 'littest' graduation I've ever been to in my life. I ain't lying," the Hollywood veteran said, referring to his emotional and spiritual responses throughout the program.

Malik received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the historic black college in Salisbury after an emotional, tear-jerking program.

Graduating senior and SGA President Justin Wade, who was also co-valetorian, set the stage with a soul-stirring, praise-worthy sermonette. In preacher-style, Wade, on behalf of the graduates, thanked "the haters," who will cause you to look at yourself in the mirror and affirm, "I am that smart, I am that fine, I am that gifted ... thank you for every screenshot, thank you for every lie, thank you for every rumor."

Wade also thanked his help, those brothers and sisters who wouldn't allow him to stay stuck in a negative place; his home, naming his mother, father, relatives and ascended ancestors; and his heavenly father.

Click link to hear his entire speech on Livingstone's official campus radio station YouTube page, WLJZ 107.1: Livingstone College's Justin Wade graduation speech

Moved by Wade and a spiritual song titled "Grateful," sang by soloist Virginia Rush that preceded his speech, an emotional Malik took to the mic and asked the musicians to keep playing. He then started singing in the same tune, "The part that you don't know, it's the part that you don't know. You sing about hearts. You sing about love. We've all been through pain, but remember His name."

"I got three birthdays," he said with gratitude. "I was born on September 17, 1967. I got shot on January 18, 1983. And I had quadruple bypass surgery on Aug. 19, 2021," he shared. He also lost his mother last year, had COVID twice and heart surgery.

He then asked the graduates who were wearing shades to remove them. One graduate, Nequareus Roberts-Simon, referred to as "Q," hesitated to remove them. He asked the audience to pray for "Q" and then sang to him, "Q, I came here for you, even if you didn't want me to."

"It's the trauma that we carry with us. He wants to take those glasses off, but in this moment, he feels vulnerable," Malik said. After a few minutes, "Q" removed the shades. Later in the program, Malik called "Q" up front to speak with him and asked him his major. He responded criminal justice.

Malik then called one of his friends, Scott Esdaile, who was in the audience, up front to meet "Q." Esdaile introduced himself as the national criminal justice chair for the NAACP and the crowd erupted into cheer. "Look at God," Malik said, regarding making connections.

Malik's focus today is his company called Yoba Development, designed to break barriers for people of color in the real estate industry. He intends to collaborate with Livingstone College, which owns hundreds of acres of land.

"I am very interested in working with Livingstone College because there isn't one HBCU that has a real estate development degree program, and I think that it should start here and it should be a partnership with Yoba Development," he said. "Yoba Development builds people, places and things – in that order."

The emerging real estate developer has projects in NYC and Baltimore, and is in post-production for his educational



docuseries, "The Real Estate Mixtape, Volume 1: Build NY." The series follows Malik and a cohort of youth as he navigates his first commercial real estate deal in NYC, which is currently happening in the South Bronx, and includes the building of a new school, sports and wellness center and affordable housing.

"God ain't making no more land, so we need to be the lords of our land," he said. "Livingstone College has equity and agency over its destiny. It doesn't matter that there are under a thousand (students)," he said.

Click link to hear Malik Yoba's entire speech on WLJZ 107.1 official YouTube page: Malik Yoba's Livingstone College graduation speech

A Hollywood veteran with more than three decades of commitment to the arts, Malik has amassed over 50 film credits and more than a dozen lead roles in network/cable TV series. His debut in the Disney classic "Cool Runnings" and his performances as New York police detective J.C. Williams in the groundbreaking police drama, "New York Undercover," catapulted Malik into the fabric of American culture.

He went on to star in films such as "Soul Food," "Ride," and Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married" and "Why Did I Get Married Too." His TV credits include "Blue Bloods," "The Good Wife," "Law and Order," "Empire," "Designated Survivor," "The Last O.G." and "God Friend Me."

Jenkins, who announced his retirement earlier this year, said his final commencement as president was one of the most memorable. Like the graduating class, it is bittersweet as he enters a new stage of his life as a retiree.

In honor of Jenkins' service, Bishop Lartey, a Livingstone College Board of Trustee member and presiding prelate of the Central-Southern Africa Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church, made a special video presentation at the program. He announced that upon the completion of the Central Southern Africa Episcopal District's Unity Headquarters in Lauana, Angola (South Africa), it will house the Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., Transatlantic Distance Learning Center. The Center will be located in Angola and Malawi, South Africa.

"The decision to establish these centers bearing the name of Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., is directly related to the significant impact of Dr. Jenkins on the brand of educational philosophy and theory that views education as a discipline, which should be holistic in nature," Lartey said.

Others receiving honorary degrees were Presiding Elder Joyce Smith of the Oregon-Washington Cascade District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (A.M.E. Zion) Church; and Dr. Takis Etim Caiafas of the Eastern West Africa Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church.



# Livingstone Leaders

Emile Dogbe-Gakpetor will serve as the Senior Class President of the 2023 graduating class of Livingstone College. This senior Business Administration major, is a Presidential Scholar, a member of the men's basketball team, a member of the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Quiz Bowl team, an IFYC Covid-19 Ambassador, and has membership in Alpha Kappa Mu and Phi Beta Lambda Honor societies. A native of Accra, Ghana, Emile is elated to lead his class while embracing the college's Holistic modules in an

effort to chart a strategic direction for student empowerment through cultural appreciation, faith-based programming, academic enrichment, and professional development.

Emile says, "It is my goal to promote and increase awareness of servant-leadership and social responsibility with Christian principles as the framework; while enhancing individual and organizational leadership on my campus and throughout my class. For this opportunity, I am eager and equipped to engage."

Livingstone College is blessed to have Emile Dogbe-Gakpetor as a student. Since a freshman, Emile has served the campus as an astute role model who not only has a record of academic achievement, but a person of value, who exhibits high moral and ethical standards.

Emile is a member of Aggrey Memorial in Accra, Ghana.

## 2022 NCCWSL Scholarship Recipients



Livingstone College is proud to announce three young women have received full scholarships to attend the National Conference for College Women and Student Leaders (NCCWSL), May 24-26, 2022. NCCWSL is a signature program of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of which Livingstone College is a member. The three student-leaders are; Raven McKoy, a junior Sociology major from Charlotte, North Carolina, Nia McDougald, a junior Social Work major from Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Eve Beyan, a freshman Social Work major from Monrovia, Liberia. These Livingstonians will join other college women around the nation to delve in the conference's mission of helping young women develop skills and confidence needed to pursue goals, and drive positive change in the world.

The event is virtual, but the excitement is real! This year's keynote speaker is Nikole Hannah-Jones, Pulitzer-Prize-winning creator of "The 1619 Project" and a staff writer at The New York Times Magazine. Hannah-Jones's groundbreaking work reframed American history by putting the consequences

of slavery at the center of America's national narrative. In addition, a special half-day session on design thinking featuring Symone Barkley, owner of Scientist Symone Services, LLC, and Ela Ben-Ur, founder of the Innovator's Compass, will expose attendees to the art of innovation, a crucial skill needed in today's workplace. Student-leaders will learn new techniques for problem-solving, consensus-building, and people-focused strategies that spell success.

Social Work major Nia McDougald stated, "I am excited to have this opportunity to attend a premier college women's leadership event. As my goal is to sustain and uplift my community, I look forward to networking, learning and developing new skills, and having access to resources beyond the classroom and my community." Eve Beyan of Liberia, another Social Work major added, "I'm ready to join the sessions on activism. My passions are outreach and impact, and as I learn more about ways and measures to include or engage in outreach, I feel better equipped and even empowered."

Livingstone College AAUW faculty representatives are Bessie Hutchins in Criminal Justice and Dr. Da'Tarvia Parrish in English; however, Raven McKoy boasts her Sociology professor Nicole Oehmen influenced her in applying for the scholarship. Raven said, "I saw the advertisements for the scholarship on campus, but Professor O convinced me I was great candidate and should apply. I'm happy I followed her advice." Other Livingstone AAUW members include Latarcia Barnes, Vincia Benjamin-Miller, Teresa Moore-Mitchell, P. Jane Splawn, and Amy Susong,

NCCWSL is nationally known for its workshops and panels that aims to help develop careers, cultivate activism, and embrace diversity and inclusion. More notably, the conference was established over three decades ago whereas attendance includes over 10,000 student leaders, from over 300 colleges, and 48 states. To learn more about NCCWSL, visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/nccwsl/attend/>

# FIT OR FIGHT?



ALONZO HILL



On a bright and sunny day, I was walking toward the clothing store to purchase a suit for my daughter's wedding. A thought came to mind, as it always does, while purchasing clothing. Am I going to have to fight to fit in this suit? I am 6 feet 6 inches tall with 37 length arms and legs. There rarely is a suit, shirt or pants that fit. There is always a limited selection of colors. Most commonly there would be that one neon purple, blue, yellow, green or orange shirt with the extremely wide collar. If you see me wearing one, get me to my wife immediately for observation. I would fight with the thought of trying on items and continuously being rejected by medium shirts and tiny tot suits. Just before I opened the door, I paused and thought to myself, "Not this time." I redirected my thoughts to believing that I would find the suit just right for me. I opened the door and proceeded to the mens section and within a few minutes, there it was, a cream colored suit with just the right fit. YIPPIE!!

The definition of fit means a suitable standard. So I asked myself this life question, "Am I creating a suitable standard for myself or am I allowing someone or something to create one for me." In all honesty, we set standards, be it good or bad for ourselves. We must on purpose make conscious efforts in finding what is suitable for us. Having options, what standards would

be the fit for you? Here are some questions to help you determine your suitable standard:

- What value do you put on your efforts and time?
- Are your efforts producing the outcome you are looking for?
- Are you passionate about it?
- Are my standards good for me and those around me?

Setting healthy standards gives you the foundation for a purpose driven life. Choose standards that will improve the quality of your life and those around you. Create standards of exercise, something as simple as walking. If you are a smoker, you are going to want to quit. If you consume an excessive amount of alcoholic beverages, you are going to want to stop. Read more and do less TV. Have more conversation and less computer and phone activity. Select more fruits and vegetables and experiment with fun recipes. Take more nature trips. Develop new attainable levels to increase your value of living. Prove to yourself you can climb to new heights. If you are really expecting your life to go in the right direction, find your FIT and FIGHT to get there.

To schedule a persona or group consultation or to speak at your special event go to [www.zolingofoodspiceforlife.com](http://www.zolingofoodspiceforlife.com) or contact me at [zolingo1966@gmail.com](mailto:zolingo1966@gmail.com) or 240 393-5515

## ZOLINGO'S *Spice for Life* For the Month





4 beets thoroughly washed and sliced  
 1 tablespoon thyme  
 1 orange  
 1 teaspoon pink Himalayan sea salt  
 1 tablespoon olive oil  
 2 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

Preheat oven to 400, place beets, thyme, olive oil, vinegar, and sea salt in bowl, slice and squeeze orange juice over beets toss place in baking pan roast for 45 min



Juneteenth – officially declared a federal holiday for the first time in June of 2021 – is the day in which we celebrate the true and final emancipation of all enslaved African Americans. It was on June 19, 1865 that federal troops stormed Galveston, Texas more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in order to deliver the news that all who had been and were currently still enslaved were now free.

*Free* is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as “having the legal and political rights of a citizen” and “enjoying personal freedom – not subject to the control and domination of another.” Being free was a complex situation in the United States of America beginning in the late 16th century, and looked different in mindset and reality for every individual who did not have the right. For some held in bondage, the notion of being free was a distant concept. For others, freedom was their heart’s desire, especially after being directly stolen from their homelands and sold into captivity to labor on plantations against their will. The thought of being free was one that many could not afford to let rest in their cerebrum for fear that action toward that thought would result in a sure and certain trouble. The idea of one day being free was an ever-pre-

sent hope discouraged by the reality of at one point being considered only 3/5 of a human being. For some, being free was not the way of life, but slavery was, as it provided shelter and food, and was all that many had ever known, in spite of the horrors. Even still, for certain individuals, the only options were freedom or death, and they would risk their lives to make it out of slavery. Harriet Tubman, conductor of the Underground Railroad, nicknamed “Moses,” is quoted as having said, “I had reasoned this out in my mind - there was one of two things I had a right to: liberty or death. If I could not have one, I would have the other, for no man should take me alive. I should fight for my liberty as long as my strength lasted...” Freedom was an uphill battle, no matter the path taken.

Although Juneteenth has been celebrated within the Black community at large since 1866 (the first anniversary of the emancipation) and was recognized by some states prior to 2021, the federal recognition and implementation of Juneteenth, also known as “Independence Day,” “Freedom Day,” or “Emancipation Day,” is a significant step forward in the acknowledgement of a people who do not and cannot align our independence with the date of July 4th. Juneteenth is a reminder that Black history is American history. It is knowledge spoken aloud that bondage did once take place for the Black man, woman, and child in a country where lawmakers wish to exclude slavery from the history books of K-12 schools. Juneteenth is the seeing of a people who carried the weight of a country that was never built with them in mind on their backs. It is a stepping stone in dismantling systemic racism that is embedded deep within the fabric and layers of the United States of America. Juneteenth is the long-awaited concession of what we have already known - that the experiences and lens of the Black American differs from our White counterparts and that our individual and collective stories matter.

Pierce Harper – a formerly enslaved man – is quoted as having masterfully spoken on the first Juneteenth 77 years

Continues on page 21

 Saint Paul School of Theology

## Is God Calling You for More?

Saint Paul School of Theology is educating tomorrow’s leaders by offering on-campus, online and hybrid learning courses on a FLEXible schedule. Grounded in Christ, we are shaping leaders to make the difference.

**Discover More!**

Call (913) 253-5084 or  
email [admiss@spst.edu](mailto:admiss@spst.edu)

[spst.edu](http://spst.edu)



# Official Statement

## of The Board of Bishops of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Regarding The Act of Domestic Terrorism in Buffalo, NY

*“The problem as God gave Habakkuk to see it: GOD, how long do I have to cryout for help before you listen? How many times do I have to yell, “Help! Murder! Police!” before you come to the rescue? Why do you force me to look at evil, stare trouble in the face day after day? Anarchy and violence break out, quarrels and fights all over the place. Law and order fall to pieces. Justice is a joke. The wicked have the righteous hamstrung and stand justice on its head.” (Habakkuk 1:1-4 MSG)*

Lament, pain, and yes, outrage has once again gripped our people as a terrorist act committed by a young man poisoned by the evils of White supremacy and White Replacement ideologies violently robbed the lives of 10 Black persons and traumatized so many others of us both in Buffalo and across our nation.

One of the beautiful lives taken by this horrific act was Mrs. Ruth Whitfield, a beloved member of Durham A.M.E. Zion Church for more than fifty years. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and devoted Christian. Our grief is deep and our tears are flowing as we mourn the loss of all lives, and yet, this sweet, kind, compassionate woman, personally known to many of us, has been especially heartbreaking.

Yes, we call upon our Church and our nation to a time of prayer and healing. However, our pleas for healing, peace, and prayer must not be misinterpreted as complacency or complicity. We can hold two truths together simultaneously. We are called to pray and to protest, to mourn and to mobilize, to be righteously angry and to non-violently agitate, to worship and to work.

We lament the unending cycle of violence inflicted upon and within our communities by individuals who fail to value life and who have far too easy access to guns, especially assault-style weapons; but we are outraged by politicians who offer empty gestures of “thoughts and prayers” and lack the moral courage to enact any gun safety regulations.

We lament the divisions in our country that have increasingly divided us into partisan camps, leaving many unable and unwilling to celebrate diversity and inclusion; but we are outraged by politicians, media personalities,

and even purported preachers of the Gospel who have employed ugly rhetoric and outright lies about stolen elections and white replacement conspiracies to foment fear, white nationalism, and racial resentment.

We lament the relentless failure of this nation to honestly acknowledge the racism that is so deeply embedded in virtually every aspect of American society and the harsh backlash to any measures to teach our true history, confront white supremacy, and take reasonable steps to address systemic racial and economic inequalities; but we are outraged by the stark silence of many of our white Christian brothers and sisters, particularly from evangelical traditions, who boldly speak out against anything they view as a threat to the authority of Scripture and Christian orthodoxy, however, are muted or absent from the very issues of injustice, racism, and oppression that threaten the lives and wellbeing of Black people in this country. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King stated it correctly; “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

An African proverb says; “When a thorn pierces the foot, the entire body bends over to pull it out.” As it has done continually for more than 400 years in this country, the thorn of racism has pierced our community. Any church, any organization, any institution, and every individual who claims Jesus our Liberator as Lord and earnestly seek the Beloved Community” must now bend over and help pull out the thorn of racism. The Bishops and the membership of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church are done with singing “Kumbaya, My Lord” while holding hands with those who fail to affirm the worth, dignity, and equality of Black lives in this country.

**Yours in sorrow, yet with unwavering determination; we are the Board of Bishops of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church - The Freedom Church:**

Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.,  
President of the Board of Bishops  
Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Senior Bishop  
Bishop Dennis V. Proctor  
Bishop Mildred B. Hines  
Bishop W. Darin Moore  
Bishop Seth O. Lartey

Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr.  
Bishop George D. Crenshaw  
Bishop Hilliard Dogbe  
Bishop Uduak Effiong  
Bishop Brian R. Thompson, Sr.  
Bishop Eric Leake  
Bishop Joseph Johnson, Retired

Bishop Marshall H. Strickland, Retired  
Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett, Jr., Retired  
Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Retired  
Bishop Samuel Chuka Ekemam, Sr., Retired  
Bishop Warren Matthew Brown, Retired  
Bishop George Edward Battle, Jr., Retired

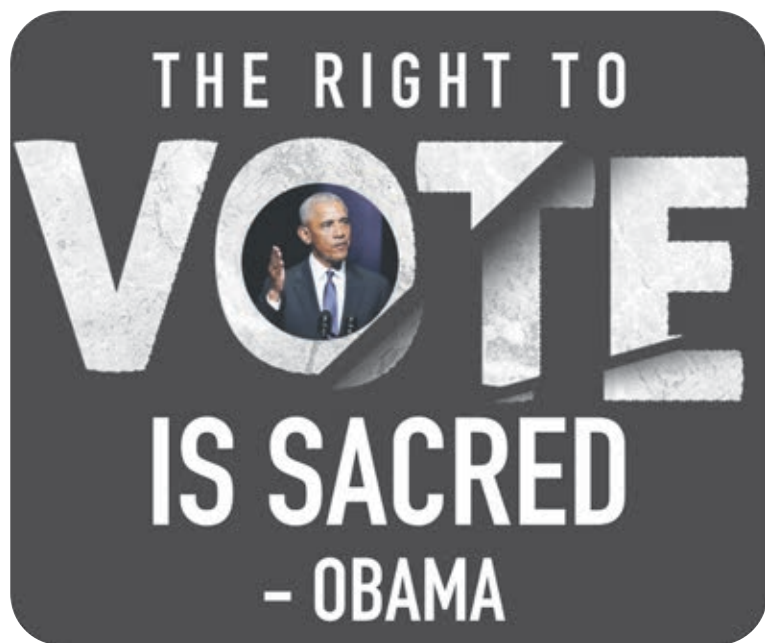
DONE THIS THE 18TH DAY OF MAY, 2022

# Voting is a Black Sacrament

I spend a lot of time thinking and talking about voting. I work for an organization whose mission is to build independent Black political power across the state of North Carolina. To do that, we address a number of policy issues facing Black communities; among them are: economic justice, healthcare, environmental justice, the criminal legal system, education, and more. Although it is not the *whole* solution to the aforementioned issues, we believe that voting must be a part of it.

I have a personal connection to this work. For one, it is deeply rooted in my faith, and what I believe is the mandate of the Church following Jesus, who announced:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-19, CEB)



**The work of justice—and, therefore, voting—is spiritual to me.**

I'm also connected in other ways, having direct ancestors who marched in Selma and Montgomery to secure voting protections for Black Americans. Every time I organize, educate, and mobilize communities, I am honoring and remembering them, especially those whose blood was shed to protect this right.

This last point—remembering and honoring—comes up often in my conversations. Usually from elders, lamenting what they perceive is the lack of interest or participation among young people. “People died to give us this right! Why won't they go out and vote?” Often, the perception is wrong: young people vote in higher numbers than they are given credit for. Still, it is a fair point and one that holds particular sway for me. Remembrance *is* part of the reason we vote. Yet, we miss the point when we leave it there.

Our ancestors were not merely fighting for this one right. Like Jesus and his followers, they were fighting for liberation, and knew that voting was a necessary tactic in the strategy. They knew that no one vote nor election

would solve the issues I named above. They knew that doing so was a long-game that must include other strategies and tactics, as well. Yet, by merely fighting for this right, they proclaimed that their present reality—Jim Crow, segregation, lynching, etc.—would not be the future for them nor the generations to follow. Their fight for the vote was an act of resistance then. Our practice of voting is an act of resistance now.

**The remembrance of the past.**

**The resistance in the present.**

**The Spirit-led movement toward a liberated and liberating future.**

**Taken together, these make me think of voting as a kind of sacrament for the Black Church.**

Theologically, I am following the lead of the early, African theologian, St. Augustine, who described a sacrament as “a visible sign, of an invisible reality.” In this way, voting is a visible sign of an inward belief in a more just and liberating body politic—already living within us—and which we hope for when we pray, “thy kingdom come...on earth, as it is in heaven.”

Historically, I remember that the sacraments of Baptism and Communion, are rooted in a struggle for liberation. They recall the Hebrews' escape from slavery in Egypt. And later, for Jesus, his disciples, and the early church, they were acts of resistance to the Roman Empire, even amid the threat of persecution and crucifixion.

The sacraments belong to the Church universal, but the Black Church has a unique connection to their history. Similarly, though it is a broadly American right, the practice of voting should hold a sacred place for Black Americans and the Black Church, familiar as we are with its transformative power. We must remind ourselves of its importance, because there are those who would use this sacrament in an unworthy manner.

I am completing this article—well past the deadline—on the day of primary elections in North Carolina. Similar elections are unfolding today and in the weeks to come around the nation. We are 3 days after the explicitly racist murder of Black citizens at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY. We are 15 days after a leaked Supreme Court decision that threatens reproductive rights and women's ability to make decisions about their bodies. Throughout the nation, bills loom that would roll back voting protections. Urged on by these trends, there are people preparing to use their vote to continue to divide, to exclude, to oppress. We, however, as people who know the story of liberation, know that voting can be the power of life in our hands. Let us use it!

Bro. Reggie Weaver is a licensed local pastor at Trinity AME-Zion Church in Greensboro. He also works as the Pro-Democracy Program Coordinator for the North Carolina Black Alliance. You can find out more about the Alliance, and its work, at [ncblackalliance.org](http://ncblackalliance.org)

“Continued...Making a difference with agape love”

Jingle contest is Ava Farmer, Statesville District. The jingle written to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In.” Yes, we are going to New Orleans. Going to win the world for Christ. Oh, don’t you see the missionaries marching. Reaching up, Reaching Out, Reaching all.

Missionary Supervisor D. Diane Proctor gave the **Election Information**. All positions are open. Four officers are seeking re-election: International President, Youth Secretary, Supply Secretary and Treasurer. Seven officers will be at the end of their term at the 2023 convention.

Four persons have completed the application process. Each person presented themselves and their platforms. April Davis, Candidate for Buds Superintendent (Piedmont Episcopal District); Joy Foster, candidate for Life Members Chairman (Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District); Rev. Dr. Peggy Owens, candidate for First VP (Eastern NC Episcopal District); Cameron Ivy, candidate for Director of Communications (Piedmont Episcopal District)

The **Culminating EXPLOSION** from each of the six WH&OM Society departments presented creative entertaining and informative activities that highlighted information during the departmental workshop and featured a popular song about Love.

The announcement of the Walk-A-Mile for Second Mile results were, seventy-seven walkers from all six departments participated and over nineteen thousand dollars was raised

The night ended with a question and statement from the Dean:

**What happens after the explosion?** Fallout after an explosion is most dangerous in the first few hours : It takes time for fallout to arrive back to ground level and you have been ignited. Be careful you might get someone excited about Christ. An Explosion can cause damage to the old structure and a new more Christ like soul is being developed.

Because the explosion caused an initial bright flash of light, the light of Christ is showing more through you. You are now a nuclear device for Christ, showing Agape Love for All. **Go forth my Missionary Sisters, Win the World for Christ like an Explosion!**

Sunday morning Sending Forth Meditation was preached by Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Senior Bishop, and Presiding Prelate of Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District. The communion service was held with Bishop Daryl B. Starnes, Presiding Prelate of the Piedmont Episcopal District, and the Presiding Elders of that area.

A special shout out and thanks to the Shine Productions female tech team for connecting the virtual (over 200) and in person attendees.

### **The Dorothy S. Johnson Y Retreat 2022**

We were so excited to hold the Dorothy S. Johnson Y Retreat as a part of the WH&OM Society’s Explosion 2022. It was an amazing event with Youth, YAMS and Parent Body all under one roof in the mountains of North Carolina.

The Y Retreat began on Friday night with a joint worship service. Following the worship service, the Youth Missionaries held a session entitled “What To Love About ME?” Each youth and Y Secretary received a two-sided heart. On the first side, they were to share something that they love about themselves. We shared and found out many things about those around us.

On the flip side each was asked to share something that they thought others love about them. The responses were eye opening for everyone. We concluded the evening with activities centered around the power of non-verbal communication, youth versus adults. The Youth and Youth Secretaries had a great time together.

Saturday morning began with the Walk a Mile for all departments. We had several Youth and Y Secretaries that participated. The Youth Missionaries donated \$205 from our department. Then we all participated in the Missionary Shuffle. The Youth and Y Secs did a fantastic job catching on to the shuffle. It was a great intergenerational activity.

The morning sessions were held for Youth and Y Secretaries simultaneously. The Youth sessions were conducted by Jenna Wright, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher, UP Academy Dorchester, Mass. And Sis. Deanca Crouch, A Chaplain Intern and student at Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, NC. Their morning topic was “Love Your Selfie: A Guide to Loving yourself”. The Y Secs session was facilitated by Mallory Wright, Assistant Principal, Roland Park Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore, MD. Ms. Wright is also a doctoral candidate at Morgan State University in Baltimore. Their morning session was Part 1: What’s Love Got to Do With It?: Re-engaging and Re-energizing our Youth. Each group held an afternoon session as well. The Youth afternoon session centered around social media and its impact on how you love yourself and others. The Y Secretaries afternoon session was Part 2 of Re-engaging and Re-energizing our Youth.

The Y Secretaries and the Youth presented that evening at the culminating event for the Explosion. We were extremely proud of the skit the Youth wrote and acted out. Their sessions centered around the theme of Agape Love. Their skit portrayed that theme well and encouraged us all to think using a modern-day real-life situation. What an amazing event held for the Youth and the Y Secretaries. *We look forward to our next gathering at the 30<sup>th</sup> Quadrennia Convention next summer.*

### **Young Adult Missionary Society Empowerment**

The Y.A.M.S. Empowerment, an initiative of our current International President, Mrs. Sandra Crowder as the Third General Coordinator of the Young Adult Missionary Society (Y.A.M.S.), was first established at the WH&OMS General Leadership Institute in 2001. The purpose of the Y.A.M.S. Empowerment is to provide an opportunity for women to dialogue about culturally relevant topics pertaining to current women’s issues. In this same spirit, Dr. Joy Kennedy, Connectional Coordinator of the Y.A.M.S., planned the 2022 Y.A.M.S. Empowerment, a hybrid event, in alignment with the “Agape Love” theme of the Leadership Training Institute in connection to the spiritual and relational needs of young adult women.

On Friday, April 22, 2022, the Y.A.M.S. Empowerment commenced with a Y.A.M.S. Mixer that was an in-person only social event with karaoke and games for all in attendance. Then, on Saturday, April 23, 2022, the following three workshops were offered for participants: 1) Love & Leadership: #WomenUnited, Ms. Monica Reed, Workshop Facilitator; 2) What’s Next? Love Table Talk, Dr. Joy Kennedy, Workshop Facilitator; and 3) Love & Relationships: Should I Stay or Xscape?, Reverend Adriane Dean, Workshop Facilitator. Overall, the Y.A.M.S. Empowerment continued the legacy in the provision of relational interactions among women leaders of the Y.A.M.S. to foster intergenerational collaborative ministry to “reach out to love and touch others,” specifically young adults in our local, national, and global communities.

# THE ISSUE-BOUND PREACHER

## *Voices from the Contemporary African American Pulpit*



By Reverend Leona Nicholas Welch

The African American preacher today cannot afford to preach *just a sermon*, any sermon, and go home until it is time to preach another sermon, any sermon. The African American preacher is bound by three basic charges. Like all preachers, no matter the race or ethnicity, the black preacher is charged with the responsibility to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls and the building of God's kingdom. Secondly, as with any preacher, the black preacher is charged with the responsibility of encouraging, guiding, admonishing, and edifying the people of God.

A third charge most peculiar to the African American preacher today is to stand with the words of liberation, to stand with a word against social injustice; that is to stand against oppression, alienation, disenfranchisement, and marginalization of the poor and, particularly people of color. The African American preacher is called in a most urgent manner to take up the cause of the underprivileged.

Today's black preacher must stand in the midst of issues. She/he can very seldom enjoy the privilege of preaching sunshine and bright sky sermons. She cannot yet settle for sermons born out of tranquil days, national harmony, and equal representation at the conference table, with a promise of an abundance of food, opportunity, and love for all. He cannot preach around crimes of hatred and police brutality while the killers escape punishment via laws designed to punish and discredit victims of color. The African American preacher today simply cannot preach *just a sermon*, any sermon.

We are African American preachers. We stand, Gospel in heart – in this America – charged with the responsibility to climb mountains of social peril, tread across prairies of atrocious indignities, and swim across oceans white with the foam of mad, raging prejudice demeaning stereotypes, and bigotry, singing *God Bless America*, while America sits complacently in it all. The black preacher must stand inside the issues in order to fight the issues and be an instrument for God to truly bless America the way God wants to bless America.

The issues are not difficult to find. One needs only an

average amount of awareness and a heart to make a difference. For the African American preacher, I list but a few:

1. When the conference tables for justice and equality, opportunity, privilege, survival, and basic rights are occupied by an overwhelming number of Anglo Americans and a mere token number by people of color, *we have an issue*.
2. When a CEO position opens in a firm in the financial district of any city, and the interviewer on the phone says, "come on in;" yet, when the highly qualified black applicant arrives 12 hours later and is told, sight-seen, that the job just closed, *we have an issue*.
3. As long as African Americans are followed through stores owned by people other than black, *we have an issue*.
4. With racial profiling, *we have an issue*.
5. Though we want no one to kill anyone, when we consider that even today blacks who kill whites are more likely to be sentenced to death than those who kill other blacks, (Reiman, 132), *we have an issue*.
6. Reading the statistics that African Americans make up 13% of America's population, yet half of all prisoners are black, and that the majority of all women prisoners are black, (Taylor, 26), *no doubt, we have an issue*.
7. When a white police officer feels privileged to press his knee into the neck of a black man, for nine minutes, causing his death, *we desperately and urgently have an issue*.
8. As long as occupational disease is responsible each year in the United States for 50,000-70,000 deaths, and for just about 350,000 new cases of illness, with blacks and Hispanics predominately holding these positions, (Reiman, 80), *we have an issue*.

As long as black mothers stand in welfare lines, as long as black fathers remain powerless to provide when all their efforts have been exhausted, as long as black daughters are estranged from their homes and walk the streets as daughters of the night, as long as black sons are strung out on drugs, as long as African American high school graduates are still at the bottom of the pole for higher education, as long as there is hunger, as long as there are gangs and high school dropouts, as long as there are elderly people missing proper medication



because the money doesn't stretch as far as the pharmacy; and finally, as long as there are the un-churched, the unsaved, and the unloved among us – as long as all of these debilitating and dreadful, desperate conditions exist, mainly among blacks – *we*, black preachers, *have an issue*. There are issues to be faced, and the black pulpit must become the hall of justice.

I am reminded of a statement from Kathryn. Choy-Wong, a Chinese American professor and preacher. In her book, *Building Bridges: A Handbook for Cross-Cultural Ministry*, Choy-Wong says, *everything is connected...we have a special connection to the creator God (1)*. Reverend Choy-Wong goes on to remind us of Jesus' mandate, *you shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself* (Luke 10:27).

Not until the connections are complete will the preacher's job be complete. Love is the ultimate answer. It is the connector. It is what makes us stand time and time again, hoping to get God's message into the minds, hearts, and souls of God's people. We must, however, understand that love is not always sunshine and bright-day feelings. Love encompasses pain and suffering, as well. Christ loved us so much that He suffered and died for us. How much suffering are we willing to do for the sake of justice? How uncomfortable are we willing to become in the pulpit?

In his sermon, *The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr... As Seen Through the Streams of Prayer* (Psalm 1:3), African American preacher, Harold H. Carter speaks of the collective suffering of black people. Carter speaks of Dr. King and those involved in the Civil Rights marches and sit-ins and their willingness to suffer for the cause of "truth and justice." Carter poses some thought-provoking questions: *What are we collectively suffering for? What causes have we as a people identified today for which we are willing to suffer and even die?... Carter goes on to say, we must realize that the only suffering that makes sense is the suffering that builds lives* (Smith, 14, ed.).

Gilbert L. Caldwell, another African American preacher, puts it this way...*Individual success is never success if persons of color suppress the sharing of individual and collective struggle and hope. (The African American Pulpit, Spring 2000, pg. 53)*.

For Gilbert H. Caldwell, the collective black experience is crucial, and the suffering of black people is an issue. Since King, we have not known a time when black people came together as one voice and struggled together for justice and won for everyone. We must retrieve our oneness. We must retrieve our fight.

Every day, every hour, every minute there is suffering, and an ill-proportioned amount of it is happening in the communities of people of color, in a particular way in the African American community. Every day, every hour, every minute that the African American preacher stands and makes no attempt to address this suffering, to be an instrument of healing and deliverance, an instrument of liberation, time is truly and sadly wasted. Addressing the need for social liberation goes right alongside offering someone liberation in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, Himself, was a victim of an unjust system. Jesus Christ, Himself, preached liberation – radically

so.

Black preachers throughout the decades have realized that the call of Isaiah, the Prophet, to "proclaim good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom to the captives..." (Isaiah 61:1-4:NIV), is the call of all preachers. The African American preachers of this century must not give up the cause. There are too many issues involved to stop now. We must continue to stand and preach, not *just a sermon*, any sermon; but we must preach like Jesus preached, against the evils of a society that liberates some and unjustly imprisons others – both body and soul. Ours is an issue-bound mission.

Theresa L. Fry, in her sermon, *Just Preach, (The African American Pulpit, Spring 2000, pg. 62)*, challenges us with the words, *this preaching thing is not easy. It is not for cowards. It is not for the faint of heart*. I strongly add to Fry's statement that the coward and the faint of heart cannot stand under the pressure of today's issues. For the African American preacher, it is time to get tougher on issues, time to unloose the clergy collar, sweat and tremble in the Kente robe if we must, but stand in the issues and preach!

Dr. J. Alfred Smith, honored African American preacher, questions us as he revisits the faith of Abraham, tested by God, in God's request that Abraham sacrifice his son, Isaac, to God. *How far are we willing to go for God in the new millennium? (The African American Pulpit, Spring, 2000, pg. 27)*.

How far indeed? As far as the nearest crack house to get someone out? As far as the polls to vote against a law or proposition that keeps the poor and people of color deeply imprisoned in an unjust system? As far as city hall or a school board meeting to fight for classrooms and equipment conducive to learning? As far as a pulpit in which we stand to denounce the injustices of this society and help foster peace and wholeness for God's people- one and all? As far as Calvary?

When all is said and done, this is where the issues should end -Calvary. For only then can African American people, be free to stand at the empty tomb. Jesus' death liberated us. His Resurrection empowered us. Liberating and empowering others is our true calling, black preachers. This is issue-confronting work. We are issue-bound preachers. Let's face it.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY – The Issue-Bound Preacher

- . Choy-Wong, Kathryn. *Building Bridges: A Handbook for Cross-Cultural Ministry*. Valley Forge. Judson Press, 1998
- . Taylor, Mark Lewis. *The Executed God: The Way of the Cross in Lockdown America*. Fortress Press, 2001
- . Reiman, Jeffrey. *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice*. Boston. Allyn and Bacon Press. 2001
- . Simmons, Martha and Thomas A, (ed.). *The Africa American Pulpit*. U.S, Judson Press, 2000
- . Smith, J. Alfred (ed.). *No Other Help I know: Sermons on Prayer and Spirituality*. Valley Forge. Judson Press, 1996
- . The Holy Bible: NKJV

Varick's Children Presents:



# JESUS, LIGHT ME UP!!!

**Children's Day Weekend 2022**  
**June 10-12, 2022**

**A Varick's Children Workshop Helping Understand  
How To Serve As Jesus' Flock To Be His Light In a Dark World**

Presented By:  
The Varick's Children Department

Rev. Dr. William Leon Ward,  
Children's Day Liturgist

Rev. Patrick Barrett,  
General Secretary Of Christian Education





**Shirley A. Oggs**

*Passes at age 78*

**Shirley A. Oggs**, age 78 of Spring City, TN passed on Friday, March 18, at her home. She was born in Spring City on

July 14, 1943, the fourteenth child of Gail G. and Bertha E. Howell Gillespie. Shirley lived most of her life in Spring City and was a 1961 graduate of Dayton Carver High School. She retired from La-Z-Boy Chair Company where she was employed for 22+ years. She was an active member of Euchee Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church and a member of the local Women’s Prayer Group. Shirley traveled for many years throughout East Tennessee communities evangelizing through song with her family Gospel group The Gillespie Singers.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents Gail G. and Bertha E. Gillespie and son Joseph V. Oggs. Sisters, Helen Smith, Emma Peoples, Eunice Rankins, Nola Locke, Edna Hickey, Florence Wilkerson, Cleo Jones, Mary Ruth Moore, Brothers, George Gille-

spie, Olen Gillespie, Curtis Gillespie, and William Gillespie.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, James H. Oggs; sons Vashon (Stacey) Oggs and Jason (Nicole) Oggs; grandsons, Kannon Oggs, Xavier Oggs, Braxton Oggs, Jayden Oggs, and Priest Oggs; brothers Booker T. (Carolyn) Gillespie and Alvas Gillespie. Sister-in-law, Mary Scruggs, Mother-in-Law, Corin Lenoir, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 12:00 noon Saturday, March 26th at First Baptist Church, 374 W. Jackson Avenue, Spring City, TN 37381, with Rev. Candice Dendy officiating. Visitation by family and friends will be on Saturday one hour before the service from 11:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Interment will follow the service at Euchee-Gillespie Cemetery in Spring City, TN.



**Rev. Angela Renee Billingsley**

*Passes at age 76*

**Rev. Angela Renee Billingsley** age 76 of Etowah, Tn went home to be with the Lord, Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at her home with her family and loved ones around her.

Rev. Billingsley had a great love for the word of God and she loved the ministry. She grew up singing in the choir at Harwell Chapel Church and Star Bethel Church. She provided her leadership as a pastor and her knowledge and spiritual gift of preaching to many churches in the area. She was a minister of the gospel for over thirty years, with her first sermon being at Star Bethel Baptist Church and her topic was “Route 66”. She pastored at Pikeville Chapel A.M.E. Zion, 13 years at Rice Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Madisonville, TN., 12 years at Lanetown A.M.E. Zion Church, and at Harwell Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Etowah, TN. Pastor Angela graduated from Cook High School class of 1964 and received her certifi-

cate of ministry from Tomlinson College in Cleveland, TN., and completed further studies and received scholastic certificates in seminary training from Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She also worked for over 30 years at Thomas and Betts in Athens, TN.

Rev. Billingsley is proceeded in death by her parents, Harry Hugh Armstrong, and Beatrice Carlock Armstrong Parris, husband Aderon L. Billingsley Sr. two brothers, Harry Armstrong Jr., and Victor Armstrong, and sister Joyce Armstrong, aunts, Lucille Armstrong, Phoebe Smith and Olivia Smith and uncle Hubert Armstrong.

Survivors include her children, James (Taleitha) Billingsley of Etowah, TN., Rev. Charles (Nanette) Billingsley of Chattanooga, TN., Rev. Aderon (Idelia) Billingsley Jr. of Knoxville, Thomas L. (Kathy) Billingsley of Madisonville, TN., and Dennis (Arlene) Billingsley of Sweetwater, TN. Two sisters, Priscilla Armstrong of Etowah, TN., and Charlene Townsend of Dayton, FL., and brother Alvin Armstrong of Athens, TN. Aunts, Lillie Reed of Chattanooga, TN., and Sheila Armstrong of Ooltewah, TN. Sisters-in-law, Shirley Billingsley and Cleo(John) Davis all of Sweetwater, TN. Fourteen grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Homegoing Celebration was be Monday, May 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at Mt. Olive A.M.E. Zion Church with Rev. Aderon Billingsley Jr. delivering the eulogy and Rev. Charles Billingsley officiating and Rev. Benjamin Jackson host pastor. The family will receive friends one hour before the service at the church from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow the service at New Zion Cemetery in Etowah, TN.



**AME Zion Publishing House**

**Grow your relation with**

**GOD**

**by going deeper**

**with Sunday School**

**WE HAVE LESSONS FOR ALL AGES**

**V I S I T**

**www.amezpublishinghouse.org**

**CONTACT**

**Chamos Thompson  
704-688-2563**





**Rev. M. Diana Waddell Charles**  
*Passes at age 75*

**Reverend Martha Diana Waddell Charles** was born on September 23, 1945 to the late Reverend Leroy and Mrs. Rosa Mae Waddell in Cheraw, South Carolina. Raised in a home that revered God, “**Diana**”, as she was affectionately called by her family, accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour. Diana was a life-long member of the Robinson AME Zion Church where she prided herself on receiving the longest Easter speech from Mrs. Julia DeBerry and memorizing it in its entirety for the Easter program. She developed her oratorical skills in the church and gained the confidence she needed to express herself be-

fore an audience. Her work in the church expanded as she grew and matured in Christ to include being an active member of the Christian Education Department and the Robinson Junior and Senior Choirs singing alongside her mother, sisters, and aunts for years before answering her call to preach. When she was not singing at Robinson, she enjoyed blending her voice with the women of the Cheraw Community Women’s Choir. She was a member of the choir until she entered into pastoral ministry.

Diana was educated in the public schools of Chesterfield County. Gifted academically, she graduated from high school at the age of sixteen and entered Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina. She left home to become a nurse and also assisted students in Livingstone’s Infirmary but soon changed her major to Education. Diana’s Christian roots would guide her decision to join and become a charter member of Livingstone College’s Prayer Meeting Choir. She found great joy in singing God’s praises beneath Livingstone’s Maples and Oaks. She graduated from Livingstone College in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Later, she would attain a Master of Education degree from the University of South Carolina in 1984. While

studying at Livingstone, Diana was initiated into the illustrious Alpha Xi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated on April 22, 1964. As a life member and a Golden Soror, she was an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for 57 consecutive years. She served as the president of the Epsilon Chi Omega Chapter in Florence, South Carolina and was a Charter Member and two-term president of the Omicron Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Cheraw, South Carolina. She embodied finer womanhood in all that she did as a sorority member and community activist. In December of 2020, she recalled that her fondest moment in the Sorority was “pinning my daughter” as a newly initiated member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She enjoyed this beloved sisterhood with her sister Deborah, and niece, Lisa.

Professionally, Diana, was affectionately known as “**M. Diana**” by her colleagues. After graduating from Livingstone College, she taught at Rosenwald Elementary. As a retired English Instructor of the former Chesterfield-Marlboro Technical College, M. Diana filled her days with volunteerism and community

Continues on next page

# I believe in marriage!



## About The Author

Tinisha Wharton is a new author of self-help writings. She works full time as an assistant principal, while passionately creating beauty and life content for her YouTube channel. Tinisha is a dedicated member of her local church.

She has a passion for working with children and spreading the knowledge of Christ. God spoke to Tinisha many years ago, telling her that she would author many books. She has always loved writing and journaling, so it was only natural that her first book would combine the two things she enjoys most. Tinisha is so excited to be releasing this journal and she prays that it blesses you the way that it blessed her!

## Message From The Author

I believe in marriage! I also believe that marriage is a big commitment and should not be taken lightly. It saddens me to see that marriage for many, is no longer valued or respected rather a trend. It is my prayer that by helping women prepare themselves for healthy, Godly marriages, marriage will once again be revered. God honors marriage, and he honors those who keep his covenant. This five-week journey will allow the Lord to heal you, grow you, and prepare you for your future mister. **This book in no way guarantees you will get married; however, it will start you on your journey.**



SCAN HERE TO ORDER ON

**amazon**

*Mr. Tim. L. & Reverend Linda Harrington-Wharton would like everyone to know that we are the proud parents of Tinisha L. Wharton. Tinisha was born in Zion. Reverend Harrington-Wharton is the proud pastor of Oak Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, North Carolina.*



## Presiding Elder Charles A. Hawkins

*Passes at age 55*

Presiding Elder Charles A. Hawkins was born on January 25, 1967, in Welch, WV, to Deacon Charles L. “Tom” Hawkins, Jr. and Presiding Elder Doretha Scales Hawkins. Charles was the youngest and only son of five children. He answered God’s final trumpet call on April 24, 2022, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Elder Hawkins preached in many states and churches within various denominations during his ministry, understanding that there is only one

# Presiding Elder Hawkins truly lived his motto of “I want to do the best I can, to do the best I can for the Master!”

Lord, one faith, and one baptism. He conducted several services, workshops, and revivals where lives were changed and souls were blessed. He was a loving and dedicated son, brother, husband, father, musician, preacher, Pastor, mentor, and friend. Many, including other pastors and members outside of his congregation, would say that Elder Hawkins was THEIR Pastor! He had an incredible love for people and ministry with a humble servant’s heart and a considerate, approachable, and compassionate demeanor.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents; mother-in-law, Mrs. Ruth Ford; sisters, Bishop Camille (Kay) Williams and Charlene (Candy) Hairston; niece, Tia Hairston; and nephews, Delshone Ross and Kevin Hairston.

In addition to his wife, Presiding Elder Hawkins is survived by his

children, Stephanie (Shawn) Banks of NC, Hayden Thompson of MD, Ursula Huff, Quindalyn Perry, Payton Thompson, and Scott Huff, all of TN; grandchildren who were “Pop Pop’s sweet babies and big guys,” Zay, Jalaunis, Duvale, and Kingzley all of NC, and Ariel, Julian, and Amaya all of TN; sisters, Lynda Walker (Welford, deceased) Johnson and Marilyn (Ronald) Kennedy all of MD; sisters-in-law, Linda (William, deceased) Alvarez, Lera (Fred, deceased) Williams, and Lisa Ford, all of NYC, and Ruth (Mack) Handy of VA; brothers-in-law, Keith Hairston Sr. and Yealdo Ford of NC, Francisco Ford of NYC, Raphael (Brenda) Ford of MD, and Fernando (Sarah) Ford of NYC; and special brother, Bishop Frederick (Aiesha) Brown of NC; along with a host of godchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives, colleagues, and friends.

.....  
 “Continued...Rev. M. Diana Waddell Charles”

activism. She served as president the Cheraw Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP) for six years and was appointed as a member of the Chesterfield County Election Commission Board by the South Carolina Secretary of State. She enjoyed collaborating with others to find solutions to those challenging issues that plagued the community. She was currently the Worthy Matron of Venus Chapter #51 of the Order of Eastern Star.

Ministry was her life and she was lovingly known as “**Pastor**” or “**Rev. Charles**”. She loved God and God’s people. She answered her call to preach in 1992 and was privileged to serve the Piney Grove AME Zion Church (Pageland, SC), Rock Hill AME Zion Church (Pageland, SC), North Corner AME Zion Church (Lancaster, SC), and White Oak AME Zion Church (Van Wyck, SC). As a servant leader, she led her congregants

in successful building projects and mortgage burnings amongst other things. She successfully led her people with the use of two important books... The Bible and The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She often would begin all of her church meetings holding these two books to set the tone of her meetings. She was appointed as the Chairman of the Conference Board of Christian Education for the Pee Dee Annual Conference, Chairman of Conference Studies of the Pee Dee Conference, and served as the Pee Dee Annual Conference Assistant Secretary for many years, and was recently serving as the Pee Dee Annual Conference Secretary.

Of all her titles, her favorite was “**Mama**”. As a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she made home an amazing place to be. Her home was the place where she taught Brodwynn and Dane life lessons, and the place where

her grandchildren could have and do whatever they wanted without being disciplined.

She leaves behind her husband of 54 years, Mr. Donald D. Charles of Cheraw, SC, her “one and only” daughter, Rev. Brodwynn Charles Roberts (Kevin) of Apex, NC, and her beloved son, Mr. Dane D. Charles of Baltimore, MD. The loves of her life, her grandchildren, Dana S. Winn (Keith) of Dayton, OH, Ethan D. Roberts of Apex, NC, and two great-granddaughters, Kimora and KaMiyah Winn. Two sisters, Ms. Rosa Lee Waddell Friday of Bowie, MD and Rev. Deborah Waddell of Jacksonville, FL, and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Leroy Waddell and two sisters, Rev. Bessie Waddell Simmons and Ms. Regina Waddell Jackson.

.....  
 “Continued...Justice in Juneteenth”

after it took place. He says, “When peace come they read the ‘Manicipation law to the cullud people. [The freed people] spent that night singin’ and shoutin’. They wasn’t slaves no more.” As we celebrate this Juneteenth through parades, cook-outs, marches, and festivals, let us take pause to remember the struggle that led up to this moment and the joy that marks

our independence. Scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. shares of Juneteenth, “By choosing to celebrate the last place in the South that freedom touched, we remember the shining promise of the emancipation, along with the bloody path America took by delaying it.” May we continue to honor our ancestors through celebration while pushing to advance the cause of freedom at every fork in the road.

Join the  
Alabama - Florida Episcopal District African  
Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

An  
Evening  
of

Celebration  
with the Crenshaws

The Official Welcome  
for our  
Episcopal Leaders

Mrs. Laureнна H. Crenshaw, Missionary Supervisor  
Bishop George D. Crenshaw, Presiding Prelate

**FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2022**

**7:00PM CST**

**LOMAX - HANNON CAMPUS**

725 S Conecuh St, Greenville, Alabama 36037

For more information:

Email : [alflamez@bellsouth.net](mailto:alflamez@bellsouth.net)

Episcopal Office : 334 - 269 - 6365

The Nominations Committee of the  
**International Ministers' Spouses Widows(ers) Fellowship**

declares that the following

Executive Board positions will be open as of the  
 July 2022 Quadrennial Convention.



- |                                      |   |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>International President *</b>     |  | <b>Treasurer *</b>                  |
| <b>First Vice President *</b>        |   | <b>Financial Secretary *</b>        |
| <b>Second Vice President *</b>       |   | <b>Historian *</b>                  |
| <b>Third Vice President *</b>        |   | <b>Parliamentarian</b>              |
| <b>Recording Secretary *</b>         |   | <b>Newsletter Editor</b>            |
| <b>Assistant Recording Secretary</b> |   | <b>Spiritual Life Chairperson *</b> |
| <b>Corresponding Secretary</b>       |   | <b>Reporter *</b>                   |

Any person aspiring for office must follow the procedure as follows:  
 All candidate declarations for office must be in writing and emailed to  
 the IMSWF President,

Margaret Anderson ([margaretra08@gmail.com](mailto:margaretra08@gmail.com)), **and** to the  
 Chair of the Nominating Committee,  
 Ava Morrow ([avaj1952@gmail.com](mailto:avaj1952@gmail.com)).

Candidates for IMSWF offices must be a member in good standing for  
 Four (4) consecutive years; and are expected to be thoroughly versed  
 on the qualifications and description for the offices they seek. These  
 Executive Board Member duties are found in the IMSWF Constitution.  
 The deadline for receipt of candidate declarations is no later than  
**June 30, 2022.**

**\* Indicates that as of July 2022, the current incumbents will  
 have served two terms and will be retired from this office.**

Dates, Time and Location of the July IMSWF Quadrennial  
 to be determined with more information to follow.

# A GLOBAL LEADERSHIP VIEW OF THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH



**1. Bishop Kenneth Monroe**  
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
Office: P.O. Box 1167, Fuquay Varina, NC 27526  
Office: (919) 554-8994; Fax: (919) 556-6049  
Email: encedistrict@gmail.com  
District includes: Albermarle, Cape Fear, Central North Carolina, North Carolina, Virgin Islands  
Mrs. Sheila W. Monroe, Missionary Supervisor



**2. Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.**  
PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
3220 Brownes Creek Rd., Charlotte, NC 28269  
Ph: 704-599-8718 Cell: 704-579-4688  
Fax: 704-599-0485 Email: BishopDBStarnes@aol.com  
District includes: Blue Ridge, West Central North Carolina, Western North Carolina, Jamaica (all divisions)  
Mrs. Camille C Starnes, Missionary Supervisor



**3. Bishop Dennis V. Proctor**  
NORTH EASTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
8369 Governor Grayson Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043  
Ph: (410) 418-4364 Fax: (410) 418-5834  
Email: BishopProctor@aol.com  
District includes: New England, New Jersey, New York, Western New York, Bahamas and London-Midland  
Mrs. D. Diane Proctor, Missionary Supervisor



**4. Bishop Mildred B. Hines (Deceased)**  
SOUTH ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
Office address: 5115 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 620, Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 10272, Rock Hill, SC 29730  
Ph: (323) 930-7862; Mobile: (323) 559-0098  
Email: bishopmildred.hines@gmail.com  
District includes: Georgia, Palmetto, Pee Dee, South Carolina, South Korea  
Mrs. Lovetta J. Holmes, Missionary Supervisor



**5. Bishop W. Darin Moore**  
MID-ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
Office: 9701 Apollo Drive - Suite 245, Largo, MD 20774  
Ph: (301) 322-3866 Fax: (301) 322-3862  
Email: office@amezma.org; bishop@amezma.org  
District includes: Allegheny, East Tennessee-Virginia, Ohio, Philadelphia-Baltimore, Virginia, Barbados, Guyana-Suriname, St. Vincent  
Mrs. Devieta Moore, Missionary Supervisor



**6. Bishop Seth O. Lartey**  
CENTRAL SOUTHERN AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
2361 Olivet Church Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106  
Ph: (336) 529-8496  
District includes: East Angola, West Angola, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia  
Mrs. Jacqueline Inez Williams-Lartey, Missionary Supervisor



**7. Bishop Michael Angelo Frencher, Sr.**  
MIDWEST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
2935 Shady View Drive, High Point, NC 27265  
Cell: (336)-312-8245 Fax: (336)-886-4300  
Email: bishopmafrencher@gmail.com  
District includes: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Trinidad-Tobago  
Mrs. Gelenia Aaron Frencher, Missionary Supervisor



**8. Bishop George Crenshaw**  
ALABAMA-FLORIDA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
3600 Dallas Hwy., Suite 230 PMB 321, Marietta, GA 30064  
Office: 770-633-4801 Email: bishopgdcrenshaw@aol.com  
District includes: Alabama, North Alabama, South Alabama, Central Alabama, West Alabama; Cahaba, Florida, S. Florida, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, North Kivu, South Kivu  
Mrs. Laurena Crenshaw, Missionary Supervisor



**9. Bishop Hilliard Dogbe**  
WESTERN WEST AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
West Africa Address: A.M.E. Zion Church Episcopal Residence/Office;  
P.O. Box GP 22220, Accra, Ghana / Aggrey Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church,  
P.O. Box MP 522, Mamprobi-Accra, Ghana, West Africa  
Office: 233-30-703-0241 Cell: 233-24-782-2440 District includes: North Ghana, West Ghana, Mid-Ghana, Liberia, East Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire and Togo  
Mrs. Cynthia Dogbe, Missionary Supervisor



**10. Bishop U. U. Effiong**  
EASTERN W. AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
Office: Anderson Memorial A.M.E Zion Church, Diamond Hill, Calabar  
Annex/Postal: 57 School Road, Satellite Town, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria  
Ph: +234 803 6765 479 Email: effiong\_uduak@yahoo.com District includes:  
Nigeria, Central Nigeria, Rivers Nigeria, Lagos-West Nigeria, Mainland Nigeria, Northern Nigeria, Cross River Nigeria, South-Eastern Nigeria, Southern and Akwa  
Nigeria, Port Harcourt. Mrs. Promise Effiong, Missionary Supervisor



**11. Bishop Brian R. Thompson, Sr.**  
WESTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
Office: 5607 Yadin Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28303  
Ph: (916) 270-6700 Email: bishopthompson106@gmail.com  
District includes: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon-Washington, and Southwest Rocky Mountains  
Rev. Felicia Thompson, Missionary Supervisor



**12. Bishop Eric L. Leake**  
SOUTHWESTERN DELTA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
Episcopal Residence: 123 Sagefield Square, Canton, MS 39046, Illinois  
Residence: 1529 Tina Lane, Flossmoor, IL 60422  
Ph: (708) 724-3017 Email: bishopericleake@gmail.com  
District Includes: Arkansas, India, Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Mississippi, Texas, and West Tennessee-Mississippi, India  
Mrs. Jean McMurray-Leake, Missionary Supervisor



**Bishop Joseph Johnson (Retired)**  
45 Awesome Ridge, Garner, NC 27529  
Ph: (704) 877-9646  
Email: djjj85@windstream.net



**Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett (Retired)**  
18031 South Pheasant Lake Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60477  
Ph: (708) 802-9873  
Email: rtrvjr@aol.com



**Bishop Warren M. Brown (Retired)**  
4010 Castile Square, Austell, GA 30106  
Ph: (678) 574-2725  
Email: brownname@aol.com



**Bishop Marshall H. Strickland (Retired)**  
2000 Cedar Circle Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228  
Ph: (410) 744-7330  
Fax: (410) 788-5510



**Bishop George W. Walker Sr. (Retired)**  
3654 Poplar Road, Flossmoor, IL 60422  
Ph: (708) 799-5599 Fax: (708) 799-5584  
Email: gwalker047@aol.com



**Bishop George E. Battle Jr. (Retired)**  
18403 Dembridge Drive, Davidson, NC 28036  
Ph: (704)-895-2236 (H) (704)-332-7600  
Email: bishop84senior@yahoo.com



**Bishop S. Chuka Ekemam Sr. (Retired)**  
P.O. Box 1149, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria  
Tel: +234-803-213-3767 or +234-803-301-8280  
Email: bishopamezng@yahoo.com  
schukaekemamsr@gmail.com



## GENERAL OFFICERS

- Rev. Dr. J. Elvin Sadler, General Secretary-Auditor**  
P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770  
Ph: (704) 599-4630; Fax: (704) 688-2549. Email: jesadler@amezion.org
- Rev. Al Hamilton, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Finance**  
P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770  
Ph: (704) 599-4630; Fax: (704) 688-2553  
Email: alchamilton@amezion.org
- Rev. Julius Walls, Chief Operating Officer / Business Manager**  
P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770  
Ph: (704) 599-4630 Fax: (704) 688-2541, Email: jwalls@amezion.org
- Mr. Darin Kent, Chief Communications Officer**  
*Editor, The Star of Zion*  
P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770  
Ph: (704) 599-4630, ext. 2577; Email: cco@amezion.org
- Rev. Dr. D.B. Cannon,**  
**Dept. of Global Missions Office & Missionary Seer Editor**  
P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770  
Ph: (704) 599-4630. Email: dbcannon@amezion.org  
For articles/info:missionaryseer@gmail.com
- Rev. Patrick Barrett, Secretary-Treasurer, Christian Education Department**  
P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-677  
Ph: (704) 599-4630; Fax: (704) 688-2550; Email: pbarrett@amezion.org
- Dr. Eleazar Merriweather, Director**  
**Dept. of Church Growth & Development**  
P.O. Box 217258, Charlotte, NC 28221  
Ph: (704) 599-4630; Fax: (704) 688-2547  
Email: emerriw721@amezion.org
- Rev. George E. McKain, Director of Public Affairs & Social Concerns**  
P.O. Box 26770, Charlotte, NC 28221-6770  
Ph: (704) 599-4630, ext. 316 Email: GEMcKain2@amezion.org
- Dr. David A. Aiken, Sr. Executive Director, Zion's Benefit Services**  
P.O. Box 217114, Charlotte, NC 28221  
Ph: (704) 714-1505; Mobile: 917-837-5173  
Email: DAikenSr@amezion.org

## FORMER GENERAL OFFICERS

- Dr. Raymon Hunt  
Dr. W. Robert Johnson, III  
Dr. Kermit DeGraffenreidt  
Dr. Mary Love  
Dr. Shirley Welch  
Dr. Otis McMillian  
Dr. Addie Lisby  
Rev. Dr. Gregory R. Smith  
Dr. Brenda L. G. Smith  
Mr. Herbert Watkins  
Dr. William McKeith

## JUDICIAL COUNCIL

- The Hon. Adele M. Riley, President**  
625 Ellsworth Drive Trotwood, Ohio 45426  
Email: mariley310@yahoo.com
- Rev. Dr. Reid R. White, Jr., Vice-President**  
6608 Cartwright Drive, Columbia, SC 29223
- Rev. Dr. Lisa T. McDow, Esq., Clerk**  
Post Office Box 2541, Wilmington, NC 28402-2541
- Rev. Dr. Derrick R. Anderson, Chaplain**  
7013 Toby Court, Charlotte, NC 28213
- Rev. Dr. Richard Austin, J.D.**  
1415 Earlham Drive, Dayton, OH 45406
- Dr. Marsha C. Grayson, Esq.**  
88 Roberts Street, Philadelphia, PA 15219
- Dr. William Stokes**  
5821 West Tree Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507
- Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Tolbert, Sr., J.D.**  
104 Black Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama 35020
- Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey**  
502 Ferndale Drive, Salisbury, NC 28147

## CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL

- Mr. Joseph King Davis, President**  
1018 Southpoint Crossing Durham, NC  
Ph: (919) 236-3740, Email: jkdjr1911@frontier.com
- Mrs. Leondras "Lele" Davis, 1st Vice President**  
419 Eberle Way, Matthews, NC 28105  
Ph: (704) 321-7022; Cell: (704) 562-0402  
Email: CLC.FVP@gmail.com
- Mrs. Connie Bell Wright, 2nd Vice President**  
822 Polk Street, Charlotte, NC 28206  
Cell: (704) 724-2759,  
Email: CLC2VP.ConniesBellwright@gmail.com
- Mrs. Mireille Landrum, Recording Secretary**  
506 Lincoln Crest Cir., Austell, GA 30106  
Ph: (678) 809-5253; Cell: (678) 420-8919,  
Email: clcsecretary11@gmail.com
- Mr. Ned D. Highsmith, Financial Secretary**  
125 Kenneth Carter Rd, Clinton, NC 28328  
Ph: (910) 592-4294; Cell: (910) 590-9284  
Email: clcfinancialsecretary@aol.com
- Mrs. Cynthia White, Treasurer**  
1257 W. 27th, Norfolk, VA 23508  
Ph: (757) 235-2475; Email: clctreasurer11@aol.com
- Mr. Jerry McCombs, Chaplain**  
P. O. Box 1444 Newton, NC 28658  
(PH); 828-310-6918; Email: dcchaplain21@charter.net

**Mrs. Lula K. Howard, President Emeritus**  
4009 Landside Dr., Louisville, KY 40220  
Ph: (502) 499-7842, Cell: (502) 494-9527  
Email: Lmkhoward330@gmail.com

## WOMEN'S HOME &amp; OVERSEAS MISSIONARY SOCIETY

- Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder, International President**  
Email: sandracrowder@yahoo.com; Ph: 757-761-6280
- Mrs. Angela Davis-Baxter, First Vice President**  
P.O. Box 11302, Rock Hill, SC 29731; Ph: 803-981-2169  
Email: adavisbaxter@yahoo.com
- Ms. Renee Felton-Pullen, Second Vice President**  
P.O. Box 178, Burtonsville, MD 20866; Home: 301-890-0270  
Email: rfp2vp@yahoo.com
- Mrs. Rosetta J. Dunham, Executive Director**  
P.O. Box 26846, Charlotte, NC 28221-6846  
Ph: 704-599-4630, Fax: 704-716-9423; Email: rodunham@amezhqtr.org
- Mrs. Chantay F. Boulter, Recording Secretary**  
114 Pelham Lane, Fort Mill, SC 29715  
Home: 803-548-1774, Cell 803-242-5044;  
Email: cboulter@fortmillsc.gov
- Ms. Verdelle Cunningham, Treasurer**  
1880 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225-5056  
Email: oliver1447@att.net Ph: 917-742-5565
- Dr. Joy Kennedy, General Coordinator of YAMS**  
243-4 Country Club Drive NE, Concord, NC 28025; Ph: 704-232-7963  
Email: joyforyams@gmail.com
- Ms. Melva Polk Wright, Secretary Youth Missionaries**  
438 Parkview Court, Unit C, Salisbury, MD 21804  
Email: principalmelva1960@gmail.com; Ph: 443-880-5728
- Mrs. Cynthia L. Revels-Young, Superintendent, Buds of Promise**  
31 Doty Street, Hammond, IN 46320; Home: 219-933-9432  
Cell: 773-230-1946 Email: whombuds@yahoo.com
- Mrs. Jo-Ann Monroe, Secretary, Bureau of Supplies**  
40 East Sidney Ave., #12B, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550  
Email: jom4supply@gmail.com; Ph: 914-224-7621
- Mrs. Vanessa Clayton, Chairman, Life Members Council**  
10 Wendy Road, Trumbull CT 06611, Ph: 860-930-8843  
Email: claytonvanessa1@gmail.com
- Mrs. Jacqueline L. Anthony, Director of Communications**  
1563 Kingston Drive, Kannapolis, NC 28083  
Ph: 704-352-7248 eFax: 801-880-1749  
Email: ja.comm.whoms@gmail.com

## INTERNATIONAL MINISTERS &amp; LAY ASSOCIATION

- President, Rev. Dr. Anthony Witherspoon**  
4556 Behlmann Farms Blvd., Florissant, MO 63034  
Ph: (314) 533-0316; Email: anwitherspoon1@gmail.com
- First Vice President, Mrs. Lula K. Howard**  
4009 Landside Dr., Louisville, KY 40220-3080  
Ph: (502) 499-7842, Mobile (502) 494-9527;  
Email: lmkhoward330@gmail.com
- Second Vice President, Rev. Dr. Myrtle Bowen**  
12006 Othman Court, Ft. Washington, MD 20744  
Ph: (301) 237-7755; Email: PEBowen50@gmail.com
- Executive Director, Rev. Dorothy Patterson**  
48 West 17th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002  
Email: Kleinz@aol.com
- Secretary, Ms. Marie Denise Niles**  
718 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233; Ph: (917) 373-5237;  
Email: mdn929@gmail.com
- Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Carlous E. Tyrance**  
11508 Turnstone Ct., Charlotte, NC 28226  
Ph: (704) 541-5237; Email: ctyrnc@bellsouth.net
- Treasurer, Rev. David T. Miller**  
P.O. Box 6753, Harrisburg, PA 17112  
Ph: (717) 712-4709; Email: revdmillersigma@icloud.com
- Financial Secretary, Rev. Dr. Maurice Harden**  
6101 Clarks Fork Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616  
Ph: (704) 202-8437; Email: pastormharden@gmail.com
- Chaplain, Rev. J. Martin Boulter, Sr.**  
114 Pelham Lane, Fort Mill, SC 29715  
Ph: (803) 448-7100; Email: jmboulter@comporium.net

## DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Eric Alfonso Smith II, President**  
**Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE)**  
2400 Nicol Circle, Mitchellville, MD 20721  
Email: ericforace@gmail.com; Ph: (240) 401-5459
- Rev. Samuel Brown, Chairperson**  
**Young Adults in Christian Ministries (YACM)**  
2744 Selma Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37853;  
Email: yacmchair@gmail.com; Ph: (865) 456-3357
- Justala Faith Simpson, President**  
Varick International Christian Youth Council (VICYC)  
7009 Cross Bend Court, Montgomery, AL 36117  
Ph: (334) 430-6113;  
Email: justala.simpson@gmail.com; vicycpresident18@gmail.com

## COLLEGES

- Livingstone College, Dr. Jimmie Jenkins, President**  
701 W. Monroe Street, Salisbury, NC 28144  
Ph: (704) 216-6151; Fax: (704) 216-6217  
Internet: www.livingstone.edu

- Hood Theological Seminary, Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President**  
1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144  
Ph: (704) 636-7611; Fax: (704) 636-7685
- Clinton College, Dr. Lester A. McCorn, President**  
1029 Crawford Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730.  
Ph: (803) 327-7402; Fax: (803) 327-3261.

- Lomax-Hannon Junior College, Rev. Wallace L. Noble, President**  
725 Conecuh Street, Greenville, AL 36037. Ph: (334) 382-2115
- A.M.E. Zion University, Rev. Mulbah Gray, President**  
P.O. Box 1960, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. Ph: 011-231-261-071.
- Hood-Speaks Theological Seminary, Dr. Donald J. Ekpo, President**  
Ndon Ebom, Uruan, LGA, P.O. Box 2503, UYO, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

## INTERNATIONAL PRESIDING ELDERS' COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Rev. Dr. Anthony K.R. Gibson, International President**  
7399 N. Shadeland Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46250  
Ph: (317) 362-5387  
Email: 7thInternationalPresident@gmail.com
- Rev. Dr. Florence Brown, First Vice President**  
Post Office Box 1646, Lumberton, NC 28358.  
Ph: (910) 612-7948; Email: Fsbrownyes@gmail.com
- Rev. Fondella A. Leigh, Second Vice President**  
239 Woodville Rd, Hertford, NC 27944. Ph: (252) 312-8733,  
Email: edentondistrictamez@gmail.com
- Rev. Dr. Willa Estell, Executive Secretary**  
414 Smokey Mountain Drive, Maryville, TN 37801.  
Ph: (865) 335-7527,  
Email: we41602@aol.com
- Rev. Lelar H. Johnson, Treasurer**  
7 Spring Hollow Drive, Crystal Springs, MS 39059.  
Ph: (601) 573-4636; Email: brooks4L@yahoo.com
- Rev. Alonzo Braggs, Recording Secretary;**  
38780 Orchid View Place, Apt. 303, Palmdale, California 93550-6526  
Ph: (661) 227-4816 or (910) 262-8382,  
Email: alonzobrags@gmail.com
- Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins, Chaplain;**  
3921 23rd Place, Temple Hills, MD 20748. Ph: (301) 980-8793  
Email: Evalina45@gmail.com
- Rev. Dr. Erlinda Dobson, Parliamentarian;**  
2920 NC Hwy 55 West, New Bern, NC 28562. Ph: (252) 670-1127  
Email: pedobson@newberndistrict.com
- Rev. Dr. Joel D. Miles, Senior Advisor to President;**  
8400 S. Damen Avenue, Chicago, IL 60620. Ph: (773) 405-6375,  
Email: revjdmiles@yahoo.com
- Rev. Hanna Broome, Chief Strategist;**  
P.O. Box 26181, Fayetteville, NC 28314-2967, Ph: (864) 525-4679,  
Email: hrb8792@gmail.com
- Rev. Derrill Blue, Chief Technology Officer;**  
39 Warwick Ave, Rochester, NY 14611  
Cell: 405-821-1333, Fax: 585-546-1652, Office: 585-546-5007,  
Email: derrillblue@gmail.com
- Rev. Rochelle McEntyre, Assistant Recording Secretary**  
702 Whitehead St., Key West, FL 33040. Email: rochellep16@aol.com

## INTERNATIONAL MINISTERS' SPOUSES &amp; WIDOWERS) FELLOWSHIP

- Rev. Margaret R. Anderson, President**  
7013 Toby Court, Charlotte, NC 28213  
Ph: 704-598-7419 (H), 704-493-0046 (C);  
Email: laverne28144@yahoo.com
- Mrs. Ava J. Morrow, First Vice President**  
5105 Ivestone Court; Belmont, NC 28012;  
Ph: 704-825-3784 (H), 704-678-3661 (C); Email: avaj1952@gmail.com
- Mrs. Betty M. Ruth (deceased), Second Vice President,**  
2592 Westchester Way, SE Conyers, GA 30013
- Mrs. Tojuna R. McClendon, Recording Secretary**  
6020 Kempton Court, Salisbury, MD 21801;  
Ph: 443-736-4799 (H), 704-796-2979 (C);  
Email: Tojunamac41@yahoo.com
- Mrs. Bessie Baker, Treasurer**  
10653 Stone Bunker Drive, Charlotte, NC 28227  
Ph: 704-545-0135 (H), 704-562-6857 (C);  
Email: Bbake2@bellsouth.net
- Mrs. Jeryl Anderson, Financial Secretary**  
12803 Bald Eagle Dr., Charlotte, NC 28215  
Ph: 919-749-3000; Email: Jzanderson12@yahoo.com
- Mrs. Syteria Puryear, Newsletter Editor**  
8530 Walden Ridge Drive, Charlotte, NC 28216  
Ph: 704-900-8084 (H), 704-957-0385 (C);  
Email: blessuallover@aol.com
- Rev. Patricia (Patty) Smith, Spiritual Life Chair**  
P.O. Box 1424, Shelby, NC 28151; Ph: 704-281-1544;  
Email: ladiypattysmith@gmail.com
- Rev. Andrea Wiley, Reporter**  
1660 Woodberry Drive, Mobile, AL 36695; Ph: 419-350-6019  
Email: Wiley8726@sbcglobal.net
- Mrs. Belinda Gibson, Parliamentarian**  
7399 N. Shadeland Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46250

## CHIEFS OF PROTOCOL

- Rev. Malcolm Byrd, Chief of Protocol**  
60 Peninsula Blvd., Hempstead, NY 11550  
Ph: (516) 483-2724; Email: Alphadubois@hotmail.com
- Dr. Kathy Thomas McFadden, Assistant Chief of Protocol**  
7025 Brassie Bend, Montgomery, AL 36116;  
Ph: (334) 467-6777; Email: katmcfadden@yahoo.com



The FOUNDATION for  
EVANGELISM

## The Foundation for Evangelism will Award \$230,000 to Local Churches

The Foundation for Evangelism will award 31 grants in June to churches and organizations totaling \$230,000 as part of the inaugural Equipping the Local Church Grant Cycle. From the 100 applications received, the Foundation's grant review committee and board of trustees sought proposals that launched an experiment or initiative to share the Gospel, tell faith stories, and invite others into a relationship with Jesus.

Rev. Dr. Heather Lear, Vice President for Grant Administration shared that, "The selected proposals represent four Wesleyan-tradition denominations including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Nazarene, and The United Methodist Church. We are excited that our grant funding will be received across 17 states – from California to New York – and the projects and initiatives are unique to the needs of applicants' respective communities. No two are the same."

The Equipping the Local Church Grant builds upon The Foundation for Evangelism's 73-year history as a catalyst to equip disciples to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The goal of the grant is to empower pastors, laity, and smaller local congregations to dream, take risks, and partner with God in the transformation of lives and communities.

"The Foundation for Evangelism recognizes that Christian disciple-making happens in the local church. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, the local church invites members of their community to enter a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, grow in grace, and live out their faith by loving and serving God and neighbor," shared Foundation President Jane Boatwright Wood.

While some churches and organizations plan to connect through recognizable efforts such as Fresh Expressions of Church, others plan to build upon lessons learned and skills gained during the pandemic, building ways for people to connect and grow in their faith online. Ranging from work in engaging and empowering minority populations to satisfying spiritual and

physical hunger, from growing churches in rural communities through technology to bringing multi-lingual congregations together to impact their community, the proposals represent the God-sized dream of Christ's church engaged in sharing the Good News, inviting all into life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Foundation for Evangelism's board of trustees is pleased to award the 2022 Equipping the Local Church Grant and will announce the 31 recipients publicly in June. About Equipping the Local Church Grant

The Foundation for Evangelism's Equipping the Local Church Grant has categories for \$5,000 or \$10,000 awarded to small and medium church congregations, or clusters of churches working together, in a Wesleyan-tradition denomination. Selected applicants must show how the grant can launch an experiment or initiative to share the Gospel, tell their faith stories, and invite others into a relationship with Jesus.

### About The Foundation for Evangelism

The Foundation for Evangelism is a Wesleyan-tradition grant-making organization located at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Chartered in 1949 by Dr. Harry Denman, then the General Secretary of the Board of Evangelism of the Methodist Church, and a group of visionary laymen, it was designed to "diffuse the blessing of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Today, we carry out that vision by providing grants that can be a catalyst to equip disciples to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We focus our grant-making in three specific areas: Raising Up Gospel Leaders, Equipping the Local Church, and Engaging the Ministry of the Laity.

For more information about grants from The Foundation for Evangelism, visit our Grants page <https://foundationforevangelism.org/grants>

.....  
"Continued from pg2...Christ's Passion Through a Pioneer"

Benton, Presiding Elder of the Dallas-Fort Worth District and spiritual son to Bishop Hines commented, "She truly exemplified what it was to have a pastor's heart; she made a point to call me every Sunday the entire time I was pursuing my undergraduate studies.

Hines served as Bishop of the Western West Africa Episcopal District and later was assigned to serve the Southwestern Delta Episcopal District which includes churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee. After the sudden death of Bishop Roy Holmes in May of 2013, the New England and the Bahamas Islands Conferences of the North

Eastern Episcopal District were added to her supervision. Most recently, she served the South Atlantic Episcopal District which includes churches in South Carolina and Georgia. "She was a first-class lady who was very meticulous in her leadership and always strived for excellence. It was my honor to serve by her side these past few years as what she called her 'Assisting Bishop'." said Retired Bishop Warren Matthew Brown, Resident Bishop in the Georgia Conference. Hines was also the chairperson of the board of trustees of Clinton College in Rock Hill, South Carolina and a member of the Board of Trustees of Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina. Bishop Hines is fondly remembered by colleagues and constituents alike for her style, intellect, wisdom, and grace.

# NCC Announces Interim President and General Secretary

May 10, 2022, Washington, DC – Today, the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) welcomed Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie to her first business meeting of the NCC Governing Board as Interim President and General Secretary. Bishop McKenzie started in the position on April 1, 2022, and has immersed herself in the work of the organization. This initial period of exploration culminated in a Board retreat held last week in Montgomery, Alabama with programming that built upon NCC’s current priority, the “A.C.T. NOW to End Racism” initiative that was started in 2018.

“The National Council of Churches is blessed to have Bishop McKenzie in this key leadership role. She brings the necessary insight, expertise, and ecumenical commitment to the Council” said Board Chair, Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, who is also the Presiding Bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

“The entire Board is excited to have Bishop McKenzie,” added Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, NCC Governing Board Vice Chair.

“I am honored to have been invited to serve the National Council of Churches. I look forward to the opportunity to enhance the great work that the NCC has already done and look for strategic ways to amplify its voice. It is critical in this season of divisiveness in our country that we remain vigilant and visible advocates and bridge builders.” Bishop McKenzie.

Prior to this assignment Bishop McKenzie served as the 117th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She was the first female elected to episcopal office in the more than two-century-old AME Church and is the first



female to serve as President of the Council of Bishops and President of the General Board. She has served as presiding bishop in Southern Africa – Botswana, Swaziland, Mozambique and Lesotho and in the United States in Tennessee, Kentucky and Texas.

She no stranger to ecumenical ministry. She has been a delegate, preacher and/or presenter to ecumenical bodies including the World Methodist Council and the World Council of Churches.

Bishop McKenzie is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, Howard University, School of Religion and has an earned doctorate from United Theological Seminary.

Bishop McKenzie has been active in social justice issues for more than three decades. She was appointed in 2009 by President Barack Obama to be on the inaugural White House Commission of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnership. This group worked on behalf of Americans committed to improving their communities, no matter their religious or political beliefs. She was named by Huffington Post in 2014 as one of the 50 Most Powerful Women Around the World.

She is the author of six books including Not Without a Struggle and Journey to the Well. Her newest book is The Big Deal of Taking Small Steps to Move Closer to God. The book

shows how to develop a stronger relationship with God with a more effective Christian lifestyle by taking small steps that lead to big changes.

Serving as a leading voice of witness to the living Christ in the public square since 1950, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) brings together 38 member communions and more than 35 million Christians in a common commitment to God’s love and promise of unity.

**THE STAR OF ZION**  
The Official Organ of The A.M.E. Zion Church for Over 145 Years  
**WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS A PART OF OUR FLOCK**  
*Stay in touch, Stay up to date*  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
Visit: [www.starofzion.org/subscribe](http://www.starofzion.org/subscribe)  
Email: [subscribe@starofzion.org](mailto:subscribe@starofzion.org)  
OR call: (704) 688-2561

**PLEASE PROMOTE**  
your church event,  
ministry opportunity, or  
brand Global Reach,  
1000's of Viewers  
**ADS & COMMERCIALS  
SPOTS AVAILABLE**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
[news@starofzion.org](mailto:news@starofzion.org)

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
**THE STAR OF ZION**  
[www.StarOfZion.org](http://www.StarOfZion.org)

# SanKofa

*Looking Back to Move Forward*

## Paying Homage to the Sun

By Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III

Presented By Rev. Dr. Sarah Fleming

It is 93 million miles away, yet it exerts most powerful force on the planet.

It is the radiant day star, which blazes down on us from the heavens, and is the giver of all life.

It has been the oldest and most common object of worship in the history of mankind.

It is the sun.

All living things hunger for the light and warmth of the sun that falls on us like a blanket of love. The first day of the week was named in honor of it. The second day of the week, Monday, means day of the moon, which is illuminated by the sun.

The lengthening of the days and nights during, the course of the year are the hallmarks of our four seasons. The spring, and fall equinoxes signal a time of equal day and night on the planet. The summer and winter solstices represent the longest and shortest days of the year, respectively.

For over 5,000 years, people have acknowledged the sun as a symbol of goodness, strength and spiritual rebirth, and rightfully so. The sun is the power behind the process of photosynthesis, the means by which plants grow. Animals feed on the energy enriched plants, and man uses both plants and animals for food, shelter and clothing.

The sun evaporates water from rivers, lakes and oceans which forms clouds and water falls from these clouds as rain or snow. Clouds are visible are visible bodies of fine droplets of water or particles of ice dispersed in the atmosphere which change the temperature and air pressure, thus influencing the weather on Earth below. After each rainstorm or snowstorm, the sun shines brightly in the sky to repeat the cycle and draw the water back up into the clouds.

If the sun stopped shining, all life would soon perish. The air would freeze and from Horus is derived the word the Earth would become nothing more than an empty waste ball of rock drifting endlessly through space.

Man's interest in the sun goes back to his earliest days of existence in Africa. Africans noticed that the sun was responsible for the recurring pattern of day and night. They became aware also, that the apparent daily path of the sun is high across the sky

during the warmest season, and how during the rainy season, and that the seasons repeat themselves in the same manner as does day and night.

The sun became the guide for agriculture, and was later recognized as the central figure in religious ceremonies and regarded as the symbol of God. The sun was considered benevolent---the giver of light and life, the provider of food and the guardian of justice. One of the earliest manifestations of the sun as a god was the god Amon. We still acknowledge His presence when we end our prayers with "Amen."

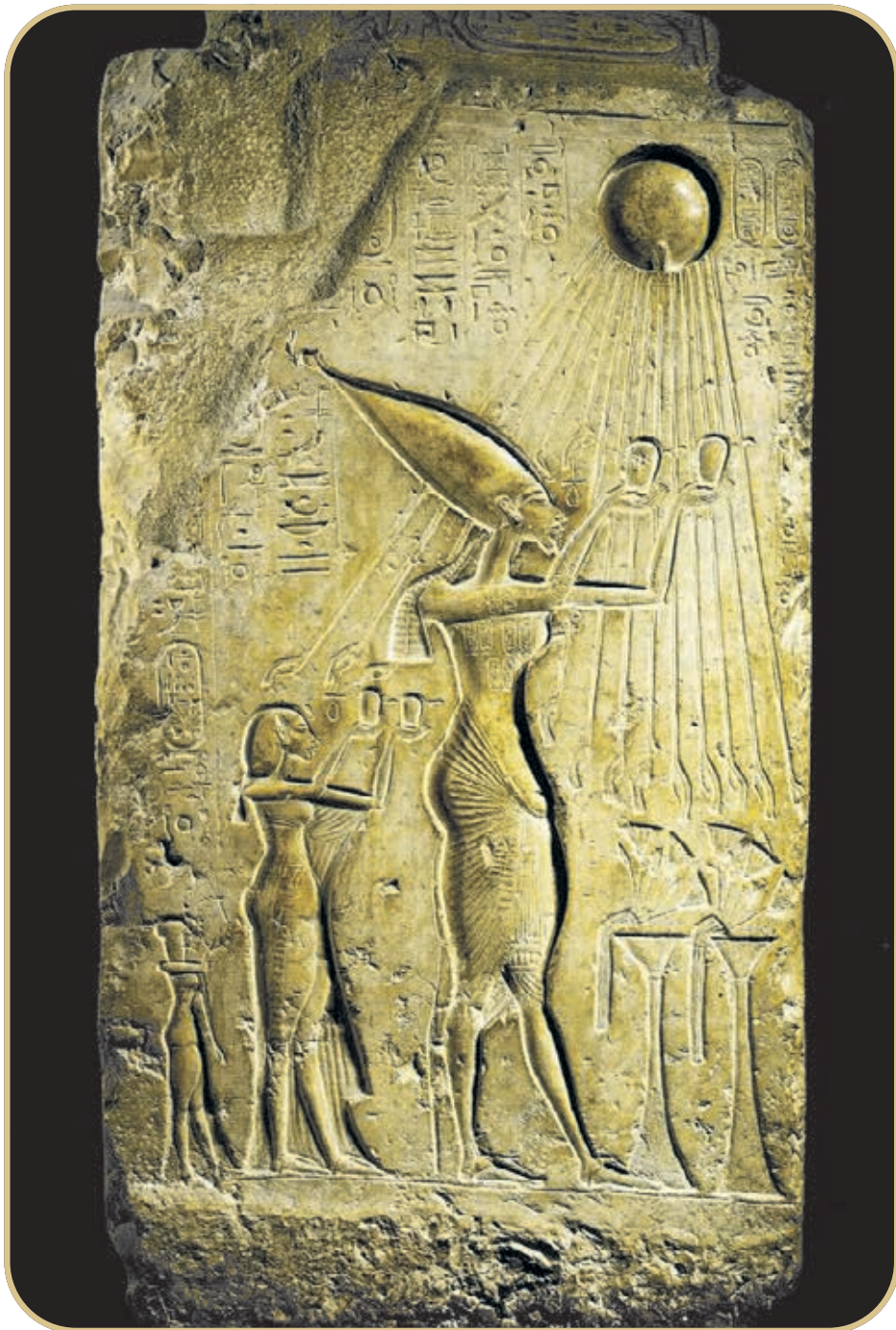
The ancient Egyptians had many names for the sun. These names represented the various positions of the sun during the course of the day. **RA** or **RE** represented the rising sun. This was the origin of the word **RAY**, as in ray of sun. **HORUS** was the God representing the noon sun. And from Horus is derived the word *hour* which indicates the relative position of the sun to the Earth at any given moment. **SET** Represented the setting sun and the coming of darkness. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west, thus the familiar usage of the term *sunset*. **AMON** symbolized the hidden or unseen force of the sun afar setting. As mentioned earlier, the word "AMON," which is the well-known closing for many of our prayers, was taken from one of the earliest names for the SUN-GOD, AMON. We're all very familiar with, "Now and Forever, Amen," as well as, "And Deliver us from Evil, Amen."

In June we celebrate the summer solstice, which marks the longest day of the year and heralds the beginning of the summer. After June 25, the days begin to shorten as the sun appears to move backwards across the heavens. This backward movement was referred to astrologically as the sign Cancer, which like the crab that it symbolizes, also move backwards.

Between the summer solstice and the winter solstice fall two equally important occasions, the spring and fall equinoxes. **Solstice** is a word which means *sun is still*, and equinox means *equal night*, which also implies an increase in the amount of light and power from the sun, and equal disbursement or reduction of this solar energy.

The ancient Egyptians' attraction to the sun was so strong that they often referred to themselves as "Sons and Daughters of light," or "Children of the sun." When a person is exposed to sunlight, it produces an obvious change in skin complexion, but when dark-skinned people are exposed to sunlight, it also produces a physiological change inside the body caused by the release of

Continues... next page



Akhenaten and his family making an offering to the Sun god Aten 1351-1334 B.C. PHOTO FROM PINTEREST

Christ. As a matter of fact, in those days the words *son* and *sun* were synonymous.

Even if we ignore the religious and symbolic significance of the sun, we still cannot deny its impact on our lives. We naturally respond favorably to the increased number of hours of daylight in the summer months and brood over the absence of light and warmth during the winter.

The sun's energy is stored in coal and oil which is commonly used to operate the generators that provide our cities with light, heat and air conditioning. This is also the source for fuel which runs our vehicles. Coal and oil were produced many millions of years ago from decaying remains of plants and animals whose bodies were once exposed to the life-giving rays of the sun.

The earth has experienced 5 billion years of sunrises and sunsets. Whether it falls on the flowers in the garden or on the sunbathers on the beach, the sun's energy has traveled 93 million miles in eight minutes and 20 seconds in order to reach the Earth.

The radiant energy from the sun is so intense that the only thing that prevents this heat from roasting flowers and or baking the sunbathers is a thin protective layer, miles above the Earth's surface called, ozone. A relatively high concentration of ozone absorbs solar ultraviolet radiation that cannot be screened out by other components. Scientists have recently discovered that the protective concentration of the ozone layer has been negatively affected by man-made chemicals. Harmful rays of the sun, which were once filtered out, are now bombarding the planet with increased doses of radiation through an opening in the ozone layer.

This radiation is particularly harmful to people who lack skin pigmentation or melanin. Some groups of people are now experiencing more cases of skin cancer and other skin-related illnesses. Herpes is one such illness which affects primarily Europeans. Recently, the American Cancer Society ran a series of ads targeted specifically towards whites, and warned them that any exposure to the sun can cause skin cancer.

the hormone melatonin. Studies have proven that melatonin increases one's level of perception and spiritually.

The Sun's energy is greatest during the times of the summer and winter solstices, and the spring and fall equinoxes. For this reason, certain Egyptian *holy days*, or *holidays* as they are now called, occurred during these times of year. For example, December 25 is the first day of increased daylight to follow the December 21 solstice. As discussed in the essay on "Little Known Facts About Religion," this Egyptian *holy day* was celebrated more than 4,000 years before the birth of the *son-god* Jesus the

This message against sunbathing was definite and to the point, "If you fry now, you'll pay later!"

Of all our studies, history is most qualified to reward all research. History has shown us that for thousands of years, people of color have lived in harmony with the sun and worshipped it as the source of life. They were blessed by the sun with dark-colored skin, which was seen as a sign of their "special relationship" with the sun. This "special relationship" can only be of benefit when one understands it and lives in harmony with the principles which the sun manifests.

SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE



## THE STAR OF ZION OFFICIAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

YES! I would like The Star of Zion delivered to my home.

Stay up to date on the latest news and happenings in Zion. Subscribe to *The Star of Zion* for only \$38 per year for 12 issues. It will be delivered once a month to the address given below. Don't miss a single issue!

Name: Rev. / Dr.

First

Last

Phone:

Address:

I already subscribe to *The Star*, but would like my address changed to that above.

Please Bill Me  Payment Enclosed

Please send a check or money order, payable to:  
The Star of Zion P.O. Box 26770  
Charlotte, NC 28221-6770

Please allow 4-6 weeks to process your subscription.

Questions or concerns about subscriptions may be directed to [subscribe@starofzion.org](mailto:subscribe@starofzion.org) or call our offices Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm at (704) 688-2561

Visit <https://www.starofzion.org/subscribe> to subscribe online today.



# A Prayer for the World and the People

*Recalling the words to the song: HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS*  
*Reverend Leona Nicholas Welch*

Dear Father in heaven, this is your world. You made it beautiful, verdant, and sustaining. You made it full of all we need to live the abundant lives you promised us. But Lord, we have failed miserably at caring for your world, and for this we are sorry. We pray, Lord that You give us the knowledge, the provisions, and the commitment to restore what we have destroyed. We pray for the world today. It is time we owned our guilt, oh Lord. It is time we told you that we are sorry. We are committed in groups and as individuals to do our part to honor you through caring for the world you gave us. Help us, Dear God, to do our part in restoring the beauty and strength of your world, that you still hold in your hands.

And Dear Father, God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, we confess that we have not only scarred the world we live in, but God we have scarred your people. Dear God, we have not always cared for one another as we should, for those less fortunate, for those marginalized, and those in destitution and despair, living among us in this world that you made, and hold dearly in your hands. Help us, Dear Father, to learn to be more intentional, more deliberate, more constant in carrying one another's burdens, in doing for others as we want them to do for us. Help us to be more, loving – unpretentious in reaching out to the “least” among us.

Father, wars are raging across this world of yours. Wars are raging in our country, wars are raging in our communities, in our churches, and in our homes. Wars are raging in our very hearts, Oh God. We do not use weapons of mass destruction – missiles, and bombs, but God we are guilty of using the weapon of our tongues to blow up someone else's joy and peace. We use the weapon of our cold hearts to shut out people who need us. We use weapons of apathy, weapons of greed, and weapons of sheer carelessness that cause devastation in the lives of others. For this God, we say today, collectively and personally – GOD WE ARE SO SORRY.

We pray for those living in war-torn countries, and we pray for those living in personal war-torn conditions of the heart and soul. Please give us the strength, the courage, the radical love that we need to be vessels of healing for one another.

Dear God, you do hold this world, the land, and people in your Almighty and Magnificent hands. You so loved the world that you gave your Son to die for us. Thank you. Please, Dear Father, help us to love your world so much that we are willing to die to ourselves in order to help bring others

to you- to help bring others to safety, and to peace, and to abundance in this great and mighty world that you crafted just for us.

And Dear God, there are those whom you have put in place to govern and direct your people. All over this world, and here in America, specifically, you have placed leaders to help keep your world and your people in order, in peace and harmony, and in health. Hold your leaders in your hands. Guide them. Sustain them. Fill them with love for your people everywhere. Give them wisdom and understanding of how you want this world to go, and Dear God, protect them all.

Thank You, Dear Father, that you always have, you do now, and you always will, hold this whole wide world in your hands. In Jesus' Name. Amen!

facebook / TheStarOfZion

## BREAKING NEWS

Send News & Announcements  
 you would like posted on the  
 Star's Facebook page  
[news@starofzion.org](mailto:news@starofzion.org)

THE STAR OF ZION

## Now Offers Bundle Subscription

### \$100 for 50 Copies

Get your Bundle Subscription For  
 Church, Ministry, Organizations, etc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
[Subscribe@starofzion.org](mailto:Subscribe@starofzion.org)



# One of the Largest Studies In Adults 75 Years or Older

The purpose of the PREVENTABLE research study is to learn if taking a statin could help older adults live well for longer by preventing dementia, disability, or heart disease. A statin is a commonly used drug to lower cholesterol.

## WHY IS PREVENTABLE IMPORTANT?

The benefits of taking statins for older adults without heart disease are not fully understood. By taking part in the PREVENTABLE study, you could help us learn if taking a statin is helpful for older adults like you.

## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

The study will last about five (5) years. You may be a good fit for the study if you are 75 years or older, not taking a statin, and do not have:

- Heart disease (heart attack or stroke)
- Dementia
- A significant disability that limits your basic everyday activities

## STUDY TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Study Investigator: Lindsay Shade, PA-C  
 Phone: 704-304-7150  
 Email: [Lindsay.Shade@atriumhealth.org](mailto:Lindsay.Shade@atriumhealth.org)

Study Coordinator: Faith Ellerbe  
 Phone: 704-304-3894  
 Email: [Faith.Ellerbe@atriumhealth.org](mailto:Faith.Ellerbe@atriumhealth.org)

[www.preventabletrial.org](http://www.preventabletrial.org)



**PREVENTABLE**

*PRagmatic Evaluation of evENTS And Benefits of Lipid-lowering in oldEr adults*

**LITTLE  ROCK  
 A.M.E. Zion Church**

401 North McDowell Street • Charlotte, NC 28204  
 Office: 704-334-3782 • Fax: 704-334-0712  
[www.littlerockamezion.org](http://www.littlerockamezion.org)

*Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker  
 Pastor*

## EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

5400 John Q. Hammonds Drive NW  
Concord, North Carolina 28027



**BISHOP DARRYL B. STARNES, SR.**  
President, Board of Bishops and Host Bishop

**BISHOP KENNETH MONROE**  
Senior Bishop

# CONNECTIONAL COUNCIL 2022

JULY 25 - 27, 2022

For Reservations Call 704-455-8200 | \$159 PER NIGHT

**BOARD MEETINGS:**  
MONDAY JULY 25

**SERVICES AND SESSIONS:**  
TUESDAY JULY 26 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE**

A.M.E. Zion Church Department  
of Public Affairs & Social Concerns  
704-599-4630 Office | [Zionpage2@aol.com](mailto:Zionpage2@aol.com)

