

*Season's Greetings Zion!*

It's time to spread and share peace, love, and positivity among friends & family.  
We hope you enjoy our Annual Christmas Greetings Issue for the holiday season...

# THE STAR OF ZION

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WE WISH YOU A  
MERRY

*Christmas*  
& A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!

Take in the serene moments spent with friends and loved ones, and let the wonder of Christmas surround you throughout the holiday season.

**Bishop & Mrs.  
Kenneth Monroe**  
*Presiding Prelate  
and Missionary  
Supervisor of the  
Eastern North  
Carolina  
Episcopal District*



# Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel,” Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)



**Rev. Eldren D. Morrison**  
Pastor, Shaw Temple A.M.E. Zion Church  
Smyrna, GA

The Reverend Quavon Newton, the pastor of Rush Temple A.M.E. Zion, Queens, New York, and a friend of mine, has been preaching through Psalms 23 for the weeks leading up to Advent. How significant it has been to consider this world favored Psalm as the global Covid-19 pandemic wanes. We are still seeing infections rise in some areas of the world but we are relieved that in American the numbers are residing.

However, the affects of Covid-19 are tremendous and ongoing. We’ve dealt with and are dealing with waves of downheartedness and depression, as we try to make sense of the deaths, not to mention friends and members dealing with and dying from non-Covid-19 diseases.

How did we make it? How do we rejoice as we celebrate Christmas? And what can we expect as we look to 2022?

Pastor Newton’s presentation of Psalms 23, especially verse 4 continues to bless my soul. It’s where David says, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me;” Here, David transitions from talking about God to taking to God. He progresses from praise to prayerful proclamation. “ You are with me.” God is with us!

We’ve made it through this pandemic because God has been with us. We’ve survived the pandemic of racism against people of color in this country and increased miscarriages of justices that we’re recently experienced because God is with us! Through depression, despair, disease, and death, God is with us!

This Christmas we celebrate in America, in South Korea, in Africa and everywhere because Isaiah’s prophecy that was manifested in a stable in Bethlehem when Mary gave birth to Jesus, is renewed in our lives. This Christmas that prophecy and promise is being reveled anew. We’ve made it! We can make it! And we will make it, because Emmanuel, God is with us!

And because Jesus is Emmanuel, and God is with us, then his power, provisions and promises are all ‘yes and amen’ for us.

“O Come, Thou dayspring, from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh:  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And deaths dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.”

## THE STAR OF ZION

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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.

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

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**Article/Ad Submission Deadline Dates**

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| January 2022 Issue.....   | December 15, 2021 |
| February 2022 Issue ..... | January 15, 2022  |
| March 2022 Issue .....    | February 15, 2022 |
| April 2022 Issue .....    | March 15, 2022    |

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*Wishing all of Zion*

# *Merry Christmas*

*A warm holiday greetings and God's blessing during this glorious time of celebrating Christ's birth.*

*Bishop & Mrs.  
Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.*

*Presiding Prelate  
& Mission Supervisor  
of the Piedmont District*





# Merry Christmas

◆◆◆ AND ◆◆◆  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

*During this time of rejoicing, let us praise God,  
who gave a precious gift in the birth of our Lord.*

**Bishop & Mrs. Dennis V. Proctor**  
*Presiding Bishop and Missionary Supervisor*  
*of the*  
***The North Eastern Episcopal District***



# GOD

## *Bless You*

With a hope you'll be delighted with all that Christmas has in store  
and may you find the New Year brings all you're hoping for.

*Bishop Mildred B. Hines*  
PRESIDING PRELATE

*Mrs. Lovetta Holmes*  
MISSIONARY SUPERVISOR

OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



*As we celebrate the birth of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords*

# JESUS

## The Christ

May you be filled with HOPE,  
experience the PEACE that only  
the Lord can grant, and have a life  
overflowing with JOY!”



Bishop and Mrs.  
W. Darin Moore  
and  
THE MID-ATLANTIC  
EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
CONFERENCES:

*Allegheny*

*East-Tennessee and Virginia*

*Philadelphia and Baltimore*

*Ohio*

*Virginia*

*Barbados*

*Guyana/Suriname*

*Saint Vincent*



# Celebrating THE BIRTH OF Christ

Jesus is the greatest story, the most amazing gift, and the blessed hope of all who believe. May He continue to bless you and keep you safe in his loving care.



Bishop Seth O. &  
Mrs. Jacqueline W.  
Larley

Presiding Prelate &  
Missionary Supervisor  
Central Southern Africa  
Episcopal District

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May the peace and blessings of Christmas  
be yours; And May the coming year be  
filled with happiness.

Bishop & Mrs.  
Michael A. Frencher, Sr.  
Presiding Prelate and Missionary Supervisor  
of the Midwest Episcopal District



# ZION

THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
The Freedom Church



'Glory to God in the highest  
heaven, and on earth peace  
among those whom he  
favors!' - Luke 2:14

**MERRY**  
*Christmas*  
*to all our Lion Family!*

Bishop & Mrs.  
George D. Crenshaw

Presiding Bishop & Missionary Supervisor  
of the Alabama-Florida  
Episcopal District



**ZION**  
THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
*The Freedom Church*

WISHING YOU TO BE FILLED WITH HIS LOVE AND WRAPPED IN HIS PEACE AS WE CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF HIS BIRTH.



# Love Peace & Joy

BISHOP & MRS.  
HILLIARD DOGBE  
PRESIDING PRELATE  
AND  
MISSIONARY  
SUPERVISOR  
OF THE  
WESTERN WEST  
AFRICA EPISCOPAL  
DISTRICT



*A silent night, a star above,  
a wondrous gift of hope and love.  
A blessed Christmas to all of Zion!*



# *Grace & Peace*

*Bishop U. U. & Mrs.  
Promise Effiong  
Presiding Bishop &  
Missionary Supervisor  
of the  
Eastern West Africa  
Episcopal District*



God gave His greatest gift to us  
on that first Christmas day  
and may the wonder of it always  
guide and light your way...

Wishing you

*Joy & Peace*  
AT CHRISTMAS  
AND THROUGHOUT  
THE NEW YEAR

*Bishop Brian R. Thompson,  
Rev. Felica R. Thompson,  
Presiding Prelate  
& Missionary Supervisor  
of the  
Western Episcopal District*

**ZION**  
THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
The Freedom Church





*May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill, And may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.*

***Bishop & Mrs. Eric Leake**  
Presiding Prelate & Missionary Supervisor  
of the Southwestern Delta Episcopal District*



# Merry Christmas

God's Blessing Upon You and Your  
Family This Holiday Season

*Bishop & Mrs. Joseph  
Johnson*

Elected 1992 - Retired 2004



FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

# Happy Holidays

As we celebrate the miracle  
of Christmas, may your  
heart be filled with peace  
and joy, and the season's  
blessings remain  
throughout the year.

**Bishop & Mrs.  
George E. Battle, Jr.**

Elected 1992 - Retired 2021



*Happy Holidays*  
*Rejoice*  
 As We Celebrate  
 The Birth of Our Saviour  
**JESHUA**



*Bishop Marshall  
 H. Strickland*  
 Elected 1992 - Retired 2004



*May your best gifts this  
 holiday be of love, peace,  
 Happiness. May the Grace &  
 Peace of our Lord be with you.*

*Merry  
 Christmas*



*Bishop & Mrs. Nathaniel Jarrett*  
 Elected 1996 - Retired 2008

“For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulders. And His name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

# Christmas Greetings

TO ALL OUR ZION FAMILY

Bishop & Mrs. George W.C. Walker, Sr.  
Elected 1988 - Retired 2012

WISHING ALL A MERRY

# Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

*May you find peace, love,  
and the true spirit of the  
Holiday Season*

*Bishop & Mrs. S. Chuka Ekemam, Sr.*  
Elected 1988 - Retired 2012



# Merry Christmas

*Wishing all of Zion  
peace, joy and prosperity  
this Holiday Season  
and in the coming year.  
God bless.*



**Bishop & Mrs. Warren M. Brown**  
Elected 1996 - Retired 2012



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*Wishing  
A blessed  
Holiday Season  
to all of Zion!*

*Rev. Julius Walls, Jr. and Family*

Chief Operating Officer



ZION

THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
The Freedom Church

Merry  
Christmas  
*Greetings*

from the Department of Records and  
Research of the African Methodist  
Episcopal Zion Church



*Rev. Dr. & Mrs. J. Elvin Sadler*

GENERAL SECRETARY- AUDITOR



# MERRY Christmas GREETINGS

from the Department of Finance  
A.M.E. Zion Headquarters



*Rev. Al & Maguerite  
Hamilton*  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



# MERRY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL MISSIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

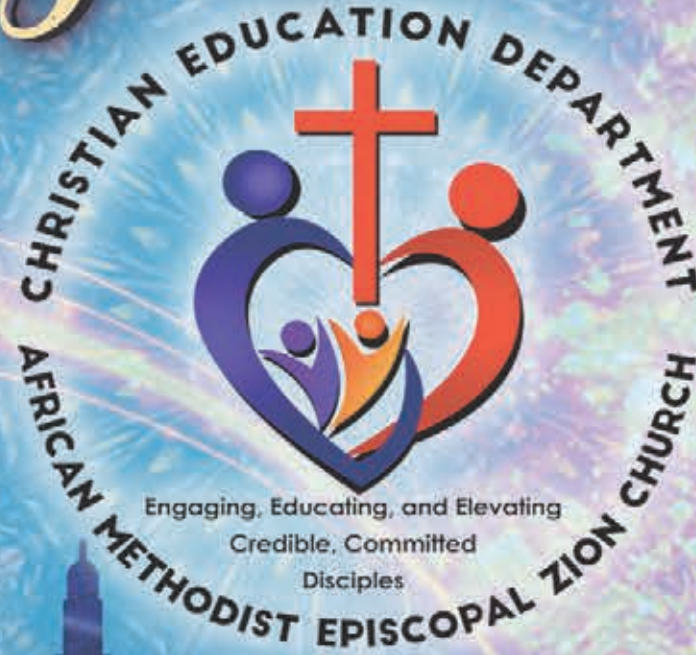


**REV. DR. D.B. CANNON**

Executive Director of the Department of Global Missions  
Editor-in-Chief for The Missionary Seer



# Merry Christmas



*May the love, joy and peace of Christ surround you and your families during this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year*



From  
Rev. Patrick Barrett, II, General Secretary  
and the Christian Education Department





# Merry Christmas Greetings



FROM THE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CHURCH  
GROWTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE AFRICAN  
METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL ZION  
CHURCH

*Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Eleazar Merriweather*

DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

ZION

THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
The Freedom Church

WISHING

MERRY

*Christmas*

TO ALL ZION



Rev. George E. McKain

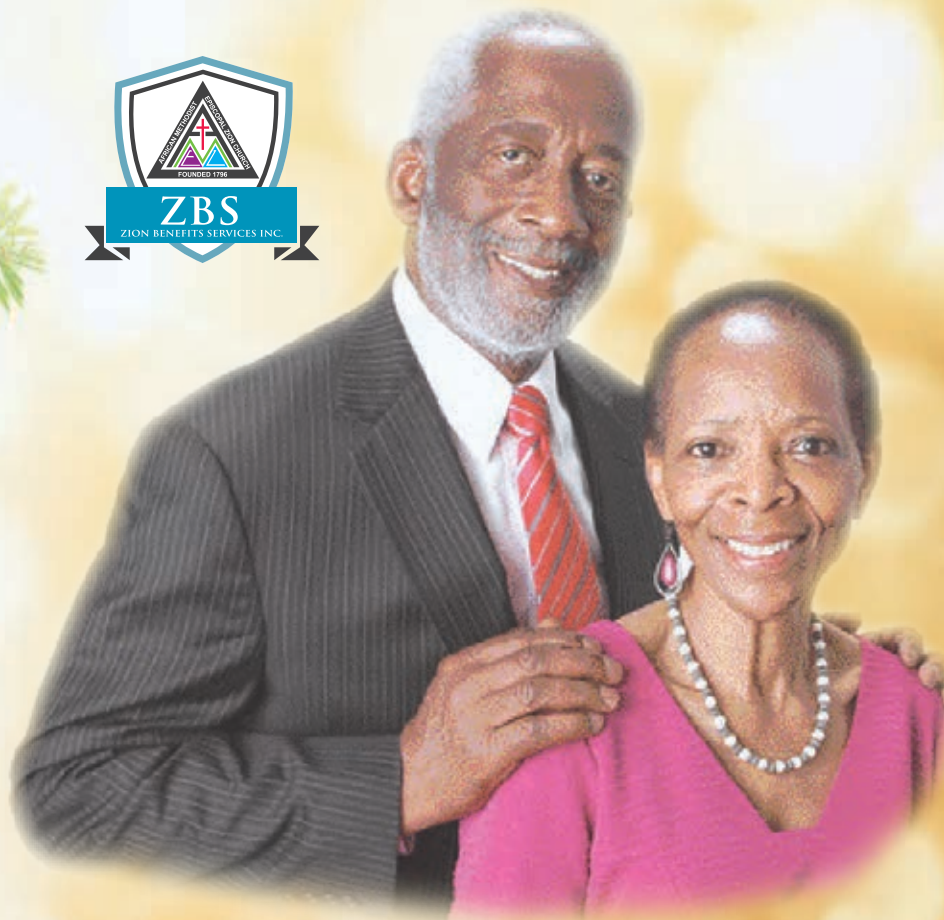
Director of Public Affairs & Social Concerns





# Season's Greetings

*May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill, And may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.*



*Dr. & Mrs. David Aiken, Sr. & the Zion Benefits Services Staff*





# Merry Christmas GREETINGS

FROM THE THE COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH



*Mr. Darin Kent & Family*

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF, THE STAR OF ZION

Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society

# CHRISTMAS

*Celebrating the King of Kings*



**Jesus is the light of our Christmas,  
the joy of our hearts, and  
the hope of our world.**

*"May the beautiful lights of every Christmas  
Season remind us of Him  
who is the source of all light."*

*David A. Bednar*

**Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder, International President  
& the WH&OMS Executive Board**



*The Connectional  
Lay Council!*

*Wishing all a*

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
& A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

*to all Zion*



*Dr. Joseph Ring Davis*

*International Lay Council President  
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

*Unto us a Child is Born...*

*Merry  
Christmas  
and a Blessed  
New Year*

FROM

*Rev. Dr. Charbreaan  
Batten Mapson*



&



PRICE CATHEDRAL

There's a miracle on the corner of 12th and Orange

# *A Christmas* **GREETING**



**SHAW TEMPLE**  
*A.M.E. Zion Church*

"Behold, the virgin shall  
conceive and bear a  
Son, and shall call His  
name Emmanuel."

**(Isaiah 7:14)**

**May the prophecy revealed anew  
to us in the presence of Jesus  
Christ fill you with with joy and  
peace this Christmas**

REVEREND

*Eldren D. Morrison*

**Shaw Temple A.M.E. Zion Church**

WWW.SHAWTEMPLE.ORG



# “BRINGING TO FRUITION A DIVINE VISION!”

## WITH THE PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

**The text and sermonic points for Bishop Starnes' Tuesday night opening sermon:**

**Habakkuk 2:1-4 (NLT):**

**Step 1: Receive the Vision**

**Step 2: Write the Vision**

**Step 3: Interpreting the Vision**

**Step 4: Implementing the Vision**

What comes to mind when you consider the term Vision?

What happens when an entire Episcopal District renews its Vision?

The Piedmont Episcopal district, helmed by the stellar leadership of the Rt. Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Presiding Prelate, and Sister Camille C. Starnes, Missionary Supervisor, led the episcopal area in an endeavor called a Vision Casting Retreat. Instead of our regularly scheduled Leadership Training Institute, the Episcopal team implemented a new thing, which was well-received by all in attendance.

The energy, the excitement, the innovation; were all palpable when the episcopal area gathered jointly, October 26-28, for the first time in recent years due to difficulties and challenges created by the global pandemic known as COVID-19. The Vision Casting Retreat convened at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC, for a time of presentation and discussion. Before the Retreat commenced, teams of individuals with different giftings and insights were formed and given specific tasks to pray, plan and create a vision for fields of concern within the Episcopal area. These teams met through different

platforms, virtual or over a conference call prior to arriving at the Retreat to envision and question our performance and practices as an episcopal area. These visioning groups discussed the branding of Piedmont, our mission of evangelism, and a vast assortment of areas such as the ministries of the Lay Council and music offerings at Episcopal events. The Rev. Dr. Daran H. Mitchell, pastor of the Trinity AME Zion Church, Greensboro, NC, West Central Annual Conference and The Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, pastor of the Gethsemane AME Zion Church, Charlotte, NC, Western North Carolina Annual Conference, served as co-coordinators of the Retreat.

Punctuality was the undertone of the day as each session began and ended promptly. The Wednesday morning meditation was preached to great advantage by The Rev. Dr. J. Ruth Davis, Presiding Elder of the Hendersonville District, Blue Ridge Annual Conference. The Wednesday evening meditation was preached so effectively by The Rev. Carolyn Dewberry-Bratton, MDiv. Pastor of the St. Stephens AME Zion Church, Gastonia, NC, Western North Carolina Annual Conference. The closing meditation on Thursday morning was captivating and delivered by a young adult pastor of the West Central North Carolina Annual Conference, The Rev. Lloyd Nivens, IV, MDiv. Rev. Nivens is the pastor of the Mt. Pisgah AME Zion Church in Rockingham, NC. Before the beginning of each session, there was a deliberate time of prayer and praise to God, led by the district prayer coordinators who serve

throughout the episcopal area. Because of the dutifulness of the prayer coordinators team, the attendees enjoyed a song of worship rendered by young adults in a division of the Jamaica Annual Conference.

Thursday afternoon closed with a Welcome Luncheon for Bishop and Mrs. Starnes.

The Vision Casting Retreat marked a historic first within the Episcopal District. These days of preaching, praying, and offering praise to God, marked the first occasion, an Episcopal area led event was streamed live and made available over a virtual platform for those that could not attend in-person services or for observers through the kingdom of Christendom. Kudos go to Bishop Starnes for allowing this moment to be made available virtually, to our newly appointed Episcopal Director of Communications, Rev. Brandon J. Smith, and the Chief Communications Director of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Mr. Darin Kent; offering his time and resources during the Vision Casting Retreat. The opening sermon, morning meditations, and pictures captured during the Retreat have been made available on the Piedmont Episcopal District Facebook page.

By definition, the term *vision* means: "the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination or wisdom". The Piedmont Episcopal District has received a vision from the wisdom of God, and its members are eagerly working to make it plain.

# Fall Fellowship on the



The Eastern Shore District of the Philadelphia & Baltimore Annual Conference under the dynamic leadership of Presiding Elder William E. Kelly experienced a season of worship, praise, and renewal as our district continues to flourish even during a pandemic. Safety measures, Covid protocols, and the preached word have been present in each gathering of the Eastern Shore saints. Our motto is “There’s more on the Shore” and we certainly lived up to that this Fall.

The prelude to Fall 2021 began with our First District Gathering since the Covid-19 Pandemic. On August 29th with the host church, Liberating Power in Bridgeville, DE serving as the “Holy Ghost” Headquarters. Excitement filled the air as the host pastor, Rev. Dr. Wilford Oney, Jr. served as the energetic worship leader. Rev. Doradean Johnson proclaimed the word of God on this day using the illustration of “going fishing” for disciples. This Worship Service was the prelude to what was in store for the Eastern Shore for the remainder of the Fall.

If the Eastern Shore District were a cruise ship, we would say we set sail in September from the port of

Princess Anne, Maryland where Rev. Daquan Bimbo serves as the Pastor. Rev Bimbo leads the District Christian Education Department and delivered the sermon for the day. Mr. R. J. Chandler, Jr representing the District VICYC served as the worship leader for the day.

The next stop on the Eastern Shore District cruise was the October 3rd Worship Service on the grounds of Wallace Temple AME Zion Church in Vienna, MD. We worshipped under tents in the great outdoors because this congregation is in the process of rebuilding due to structural damage to the edifice that deemed the building uninhabitable. This has not stopped this congregation from Praising the Lord despite the circumstances. The Eastern Shore District Members, Friends, and Supporters have raised over \$10,000 to date to aid in the rebuilding of what Rev. Alisa Tournay refers to as the “Greater” Wallace Temple AME Zion Church. Rev. Tournay and her congregation were gracious hosts and led a march towards the outdoor pulpit when the offering was announced. Our Presiding Elder Kelly was the preacher for Wallace Temple Day.

The Lay Council was at the helm of the Old Ship





# Eastern Shore District

of Zion on Connectional Lay Sunday on October 17th when we pulled into the Port of St. Paul AME Zion Church in Salisbury, MD. The Lay Council under the leadership of Ms. Deborah Stanley, President presided over the Connectional Lay Sunday. As we continued to follow CDC guidelines for the Covid-19 pandemic, the sanctuary was filled with the Laity dressed in the Lay Council colors of Black & Gold. Mr. Sayvon Price, a 17-year-old "junior" Lay Member delivered a message that filled out hearts with the determination to truly go forth in "Strengthening Our Fellowship."

The Super Saturday Meeting featuring the Lay Council and WH& OM Society partnered to bring us to another "cruise" docking station in Salisbury, MD. The St. James AME Zion Church where Rev. Dr. David McLendon leads this flagship congregation on the Eastern Shore District. The Lay Council hosted the Lay Academy with a workshop highlighting the Lay Quadrennial Theme. The presenter was Dr. Larry Johnson, Lay Council Officer.

The WH&OM Society under the leadership of Ms. Melva Polk Wright, District President and Con-

nectional Secretary, Youth Missionaries leads our Missionaries with an emphasis on Transformative Service. The Life Members Dept under the direction of Mrs. Joy Williamson-Foster, District Chairman served as worship leader for the Anna L. Anderson Day Program. Presiding Elder Kelly delivered the sermon for our worship service.

As the Old Ship of Zion on the Eastern Shore District pulled into the final port for this fall cruising season at the port of Princess Anne, MD for our final 5th Sunday Fellowship Service for this year. Rev. Sylvia Ward retired minister who delivered a thought-provoking message fitting for the conclusion of our Fall Fellowship Services.

In the words of the "Captain" of the Eastern Shore District Cruise Lines, Presiding Elder Kelly "The Eastern Shore District has the best of the best in Zion and that's why there's More on the Shore." We thank you for cruising with the Captain and Crew of the Old Ship of Zion on the Eastern Shore.

Submitted by  
**Mrs. Joy Williamson-Foster**

Photography by  
**Mr. Thom Foster**



# Livingstone College links Salisbury with West African country for sister-city venture

Nov. 15, 2021

SALISBURY – Livingstone College joined the City of Salisbury in talks to form a sister city relationship with Monrovia, Liberia in West Africa.

Salisbury Mayor Karen Alexander met with Monrovia Mayor Jefferson Kojee on Nov. 11 at City Hall to discuss a relationship between the two municipalities.

The Liberian Ambassador to the United States George S.W. Patten, Sr., was also in attendance, in addition to Livingstone College's Dr. Anthony Davis, chief operating officer; Dr. State Alexander, vice president of communications and public relations; and Kimberly Harrington, director of public relations.

The mayor also invited Rod Crider, Rowan County's economic development director, and Elaine Spalding, Rowan County Chamber of Commerce president, to the discussion.

The historic meeting transpired after Alexander attended an international press conference Oct. 27 at Livingstone College featuring a Liberian teenager, via Zoom, who found and returned \$50,000 to its rightful owner. Emmanuel Tuloe became an international hero who announced his desire to finish his education. Livingstone College was the first college to offer the teen a full scholarship.

Alexander initiated a dialogue with Patten after the press conference about a potential sister city relationship with Monrovia because of the successful cultural, sister city relationship Salisbury shares with Salisbury, England.

"I wanted this sister city relationship to be economic as well due to Livingstone's partnership with the City of Salisbury through KIVA and the 1MBB program," Alexander said. KIVA is a nonprofit

organization that provides loans to eligible women- and minority-owned businesses. 1MBB, or 1 Million Black Businesses Initiative, aims to give one million black entrepreneurs and small business owners the tools they need to succeed.

"This is a great opportunity for us to advance not only the cultural, but our commitment as a city for racial equity and inclusion," Alexander said. "This could be the beginning of something really big."

"You have taken the bull by the horn to move forward," Kojee told Alexander, adding that on behalf of the City of Monrovia and its council members, he appreciates her sense of diversity and the environment she has created to provide for different types of people.

The entities present, which also included Dr. James Hunder, chair, and Olu Browne, president, of the Winston-Salem-based Liberian Organization of the Piedmont (LOP), went over a draft memorandum of understanding for a cultural, educational and economic relationship between the two governments.

Alexander will present the draft to current City Council members for their input and wisdom, but said it would be the new City Council that will vote on the partnership at its December meeting.

This initiative "speaks to your leadership— always inclusive and being very intentional in making sure everyone has a voice. We appreciate that," said Davis of Livingstone, who spoke on behalf of President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. "That is the spirit in which this document was drafted. It goes beyond just a cultural experience, but perhaps an economic experience — a relationship that would be mutually beneficial."

Livingstone College has relationships with institutions in Liberia, just as it does in India, said State

Alexander. Mayor Alexander has already demonstrated this level of involvement with those institutions in India and "this is the very kind of thing we want to grow and enhance in Liberia," he said.

"Just to think that a young man is the reason that I was there (at Livingstone) to celebrate," Mayor Alexander said. "It just touched my heart that day. Here is an example of someone who is so young and yet has grasped the importance of character, where that when no one else is looking — except God — he's doing the right thing, and that's the way I grew up. It was just wonderful."

The relationship between Liberia and America dates far back. The first freed American slaves who came to Liberia are believed to be from Winston-Salem, NC, and settled in what is today, Monrovia, named after America's fifth president, James Monroe. Liberia is the only country in the world founded by free American slaves and is the first and oldest modern republic in Africa.

"We have a very unique history," Kojee said.

Liberia is preparing to celebrate its bicentennial on next year, and Mayor Alexander and Livingstone College officials are hoping to attend.

## About Livingstone College

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

***"Could be the beginning of something really big" between Livingstone, the City of Salisbury and Liberia, West Africa.***



PHOTO BY: LIVINGSTON COLLEGE

**Mayor talks sister city:** Salisbury Mayor Karen Alexander, center, discusses a sister city relationship with the mayor of Monrovia, Liberia, Jefferson Kojee, left. Livingstone College was also involved in the historic meeting as Dr. Anthony Davis, chief operating officer, is shown right on Nov. 11.

**Mayor amb. and LC officials:** Shown, from left, are Dr. Anthony Davis, Livingstone College chief operating officer; Liberian Ambassador to the US George S.W. PaTen, Sr.; Salisbury Mayor Karen Alexander; mayor of Monrovia, Liberia, Jefferson Kojee; and Dr. State Alexander, Livingstone's vice president of communications and public relations. The group met Nov. 11 at City Hall to discuss a functioning sister city relationship with the West African city of Monrovia.

**"The time is always right  
to do what is right."**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

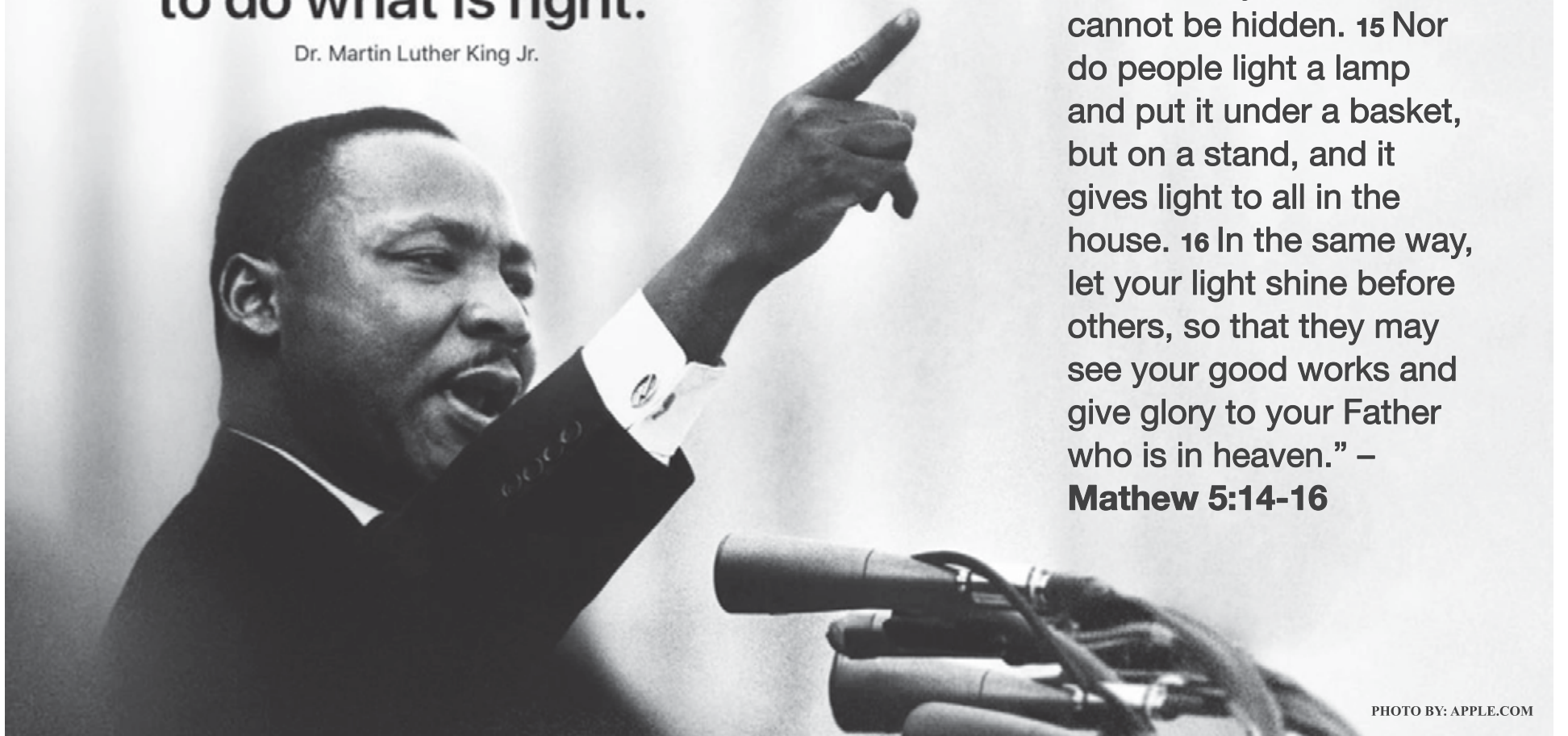


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14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." –  
**Mathew 5:14-16**

## ***Board of Bishops statement regarding the Kyle Rittenhouse verdict***

Once again this nation has witnessed the bias of the American Justice System as Kyle Rittenhouse has been acquitted on all charges. We are not surprised by the outcome but we are righteously angry at the two systems of "justice" in this country.

If a black teenager with an assault rifle killed two people while claiming self-defense, we know the outcome would have been very different. In fact, 12-year old Tamir Rice was killed while playing with a

toy gun, and countless unarmed blacks have been considered dangerous and killed by police. Rittenhouse, armed with an AR-15 benefits from a presumption of innocence that remains unavailable to black and brown people, even unarmed, in this country.

Although some say that the system is broken, we've come to conclude that the system is working as designed. This truth must be boldly acknowledged, confronted, and changed in order for liberty

and justice for all to become actualized.

As we await the outcome of the trial of the three men charged with murdering Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black young man who was jogging through their neighborhood, once again we are reminded of the toxic effects of white privilege.

The verdict in the Rittenhouse Case will only serve to emboldened the use of assault weapons, and increase violence towards peaceful protesters, and others,

under the guise of self-defense. A Republican Congressman from NC, Madison Cawthorn, has already called for his followers to also "be armed and dangerous..."

James Baldwin stated; "To be black and conscious in America is to be in a constant state of rage." It is a tragic reality that it is also spiritually and emotionally exhausting.

However, as people of faith, hope, and love, who are called to GOD-given freedom, we must

never surrender to ultimate despair. We are to constantly confront the evil of institutional racism in the legal system, in education policies, employment practices, in the political arena, and even in the church.

Your Board of Bishops of The Freedom Church invites you to join us in continued praying, advocating, protesting, and working for true justice that produces peace and healing.

### ***The Board of Bishops African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church,***

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## Solution or Resolution What's your Choice?



Nutrition & Life Coach,  
**Alonzo Hill**  
FOR A LIFE CHANGING  
HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE.

**S**olution is a means to solving a problem. This was my main function as an engineer employed in Washington DC. As far back as I can remember, I have always been a person with a knack for solving problems. I got a good amount of my skill set by working on the farm. There were

always new challenges. The tractor, water pump, barn or furnace would need repair. It was my responsibility to troubleshoot each issue. I became very skillful in developing a solution, because calling for a repair man was not an option. The dynamics were constantly changing. I went from repairing the hand crank on a manual washing machine to replacing the computer module on an electric one. Either way, the end result had to be that things worked properly again. Farming was part of how we made a living.

Life always presents challenges and somewhere along the line, I ask myself, "Are you trouble shooting your life properly? Are you looking for the solutions in the right place? Are you saving time or wasting quality time by looking for a short cut?" I have always been a believer in finding the root of any problem to diagnose how something works. Being a student of nature, just as with a plant the answers are in the root. The root is like the stomach of the plant, it is the place where nourishment is received and redistributed to cause the

plant to flourish. Once I find the solution, as time progresses, I make a resolution to stay on course with the right means and methods that aid in my life flourishing. I take the same course of action when I help others.

In life, the dynamics are always changing like in machines and technology. Many times in life we have to make a resolution. To make a resolution you are making a firm decision to do or not to do something. Re means to do-over, refresh or repeat. At the end of every year it is common for people to make resolutions for the new year. They are conjuring up plans to solve some sort of problem that they did not overcome throughout the current year. Every solution is not always the right answer to the problem. For example, many make a resolution to start exercising on a weekly basis to get healthy. However, they never stop eating all of the foods that make them unhealthy.

The dynamics of all of our bodies are the same. We may have different features, colors, shapes and sizes but we all have a stomach. The stomach is our root, our place for nourishment. What we put into our stomachs will determine our health and strength. It will determine and alter our moods, our will and our ability to think properly. So why don't we focus on the root? If we have aspirations to do many things, if we have an aspiration to live a long healthy quality life, if we have an aspiration to fulfill our God given call, we must focus on the root. How are we nourishing ourselves? We have to go beyond just praying for good health. We need to undo learned behavior and re-educate ourselves with the right information that will help us to fulfill our God given dreams and desires with a quality of living.

Some things that I see often puzzle me. For instance, I am invited to different

faith based organizations and I often hear the Leader ask the assembly to pray for sick members suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer etc.. After a faith filled prayer, hands lifted in praise and a hardy amen, following would be an announcement: We are having a reception with fried chicken, hot dogs, chips, sodas, ribs, mac and cheese and a variety of cakes, pies, cookies etc.. Aren't these the things that contributed to the increase in high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, etc? Throughout the year, members pass away from those same diseases. The faith filled prayer and the hardy amen did not stop them from dying. God's Word says, "His people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge". This is a vicious cycle of destruction in our churches and society today. If your aspiration is to grow as a congregation, you must nourish the root correctly. The people are the root of your congregation. There is no other solution for the well being of the people you love, than to give them the proper nourishment both spiritually and naturally.

Learn how to be nourished properly and seek the real solution rather than a resolution that will only prolong your efforts. I have helped many people get back on course on how God has created our bodies to function. I have a wealth of information for solving problems in our bodies and would like to share my solutions with you. I am available for speaking engagements, workshops, single and group consultations covering the proper way to nourish. It's time for a solution and resolution contact Zolingo's Spice for Life at [www.zolingospriceforlife.com](http://www.zolingospriceforlife.com) or 240-393-5515. Start your year off right! Much success to us all and may we live a happy, healthy quality life.

## Zion Lifestyle

ZO'S  
DARK  
CHOCOLATE  
PUDDING

## Monthly Recipe

2/3 Cup - Unsweetened CoCoa Powder  
4 Tbsp - Rice Flour or Cornstarch  
1 Cup - Coconut Sugar  
1/4 Tsp - Pink Himalayan Sea Salt  
4 Cups - Coconut Milk

Mix all dry ingredients in a bowl pour coconut milk in a saucepan on medium heat add dry ingredients and whisk until mixture sticks to spoon pour into serving dish and cool in refrigerator and serve

# KWANZAA

## AN AFRICAN CULTURAL FACILITY

**Rev. Ronald A. Nathan**  
Senior Pastor  
Hoggard AME Zion Church  
Jackson-Barbadosv

Kwanzaa is a festival based on the African first fruits harvests, started in the crucible of racial tensions in the African-American Community in the United States of America in the 1960s.

In the study of Christian missions, students are taught that if they wish to communicate the gospel to any people group effectively they must find a way of doing so within the cultural spaces occupied and utilized by that people group.

Kwanzaa, the 7-day African cultural festival, celebrated from December 26 to January 1, is just such a cultural space for engaging the African-American community and other persons of African descent.

It is helpful for us to remember that with God creating humanity he created human cultures. Human culture is a deliberate by-product of God's creative activity. Human culture preceded the act of human disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Human cultures are not a product of the Fall. We are aware that all factors of humanity have been impacted by sin even as we recognize that there is no human activity that is culture free.

The festival Kwanzaa, established by the Black Power Activist, Maulana Karanga, was created as a holiday for African - Americans to honor their African roots and reaffirm their cultural connections.

The struggles of the 1960s saw widespread civil disturbances as African-Americans sought improvements in their quality of life. The situation grew even worse in 1968 when more than 100 cities would erupt in rioting after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in April 1968.

It was in this turbulent context that the development of Kwanzaa came as a gift to the African - American family to re-

build its sense of community with a focus on African cultural values. In this same turbulent context, the African-American Christian community was presented with another gift, the development of black theology. This gave us the tools to critique white supremacy and Eurocentric views of our God, our faith, and our humanity.

Fast forward to today, 55 years after the creation of Kwanzaa, this festival has become one of the most powerful transmitters of positive African cultural values outside of Africa.

It is therefore sad that many African-American Christians in Black and multi-racial churches have been reluctant to engage in the festival of Kwanzaa. This could very well be due to our rejection of Black Theology. The late Dr. James Cone argued that a socially relevant theology must identify with the racial, cultural, and historical heritage of an oppressed community.

Christians have always struggled with addressing cultural challenges. The National Committee of Negro Churchmen chaired by the AME Zion Church Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw in 1966 spoke up loudly in the era of the black power cultural revolution.

This has not been the first time that people of African descent have had to find creative ways to engage with social and cultural revolutions. This we did with:

The Islamization of Christian North Africa (7th - 9th centuries).

The creation of African institutions in America that looked like us and addressed our needs (18th and 19th centuries).

The Africanisation process of education and theology in Africa (19th and 20th centuries).

We are therefore required to respond to similar cultural challenges in the 21st century with a Christian prophetic response. We, as Africans on the African continent and in the African Diaspora, have to engage and speak within the

context of the culture of our congregations and communities.

So whether we celebrate Kwanzaa or stand on the sideline of African cultural changes we should not be surprised when our communities critique our cultural relevance.

We may choose not to engage in the festival of Kwanzaa. However, we cannot ignore the fact that some four million persons of color occupy the cultural space called Kwanzaa. These members of our congregations and communities will be lifting up positive African cultural values through its symbols and principles.

### The seven (7) core principles of the Kwanzaa festival celebrate:

Umoja - Unity

Kujichagulia - Self-Determination

Ujima - Collective Work & Responsibility

Ujamaa - Cooperative Economics

Nia - Purpose

Kuumba - Creativity

Imani - Faith

The deeper theological, philosophical, and psychological critique offered by Kwanzaa and other Africentric expressions to Christians of African descent is why are we so accommodating to Eurocentric values and models and have such hostility to our own African-ness?

If we hold to the idea that the gospel of Jesus Christ has the capacity to transform culture surely this includes our African-inspired cultural forms and institutions such as Kwanzaa? The question presented by the late Professor of Religion, Robert E. Hood in his book comes to mind. "Must God Remain Greek?"

Merry Christmas  
&  
A HAPPY  
New Year

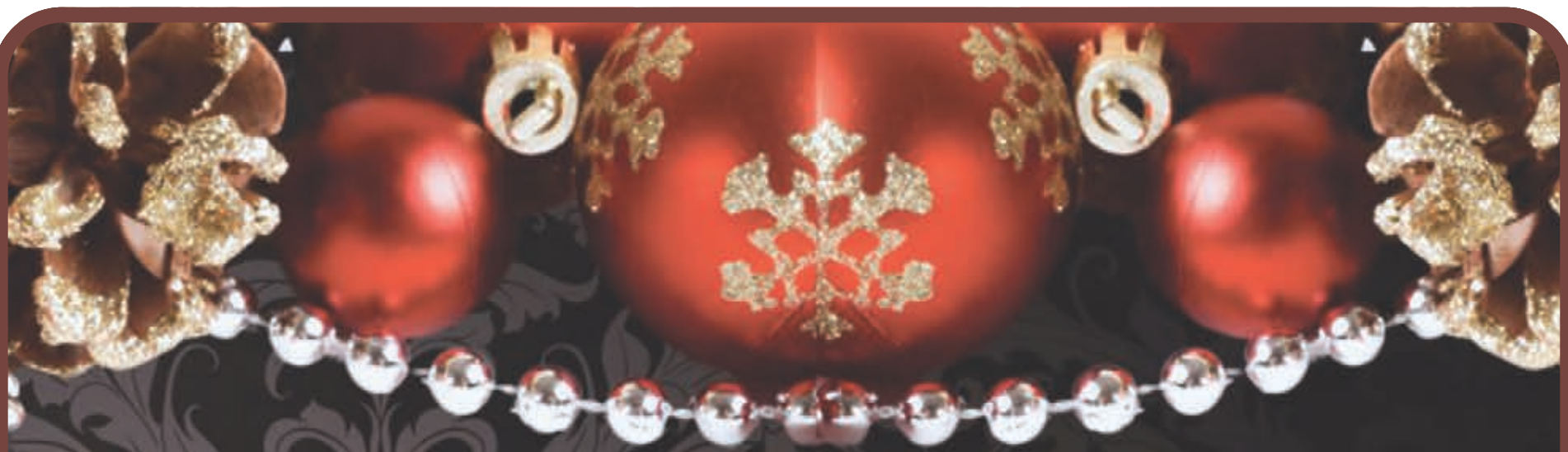
*From our Family to yours!*

REVEREND  
DR. ANTHONY  
WITHERSPOON

Presiding Elder  
Trinidad District of the  
Trinidad & Tobago  
Annual Conference

**ZION**  
THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
The Freedom Church





# MERRY *Christmas*



Executive Team and Members  
of the International Ministers  
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AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

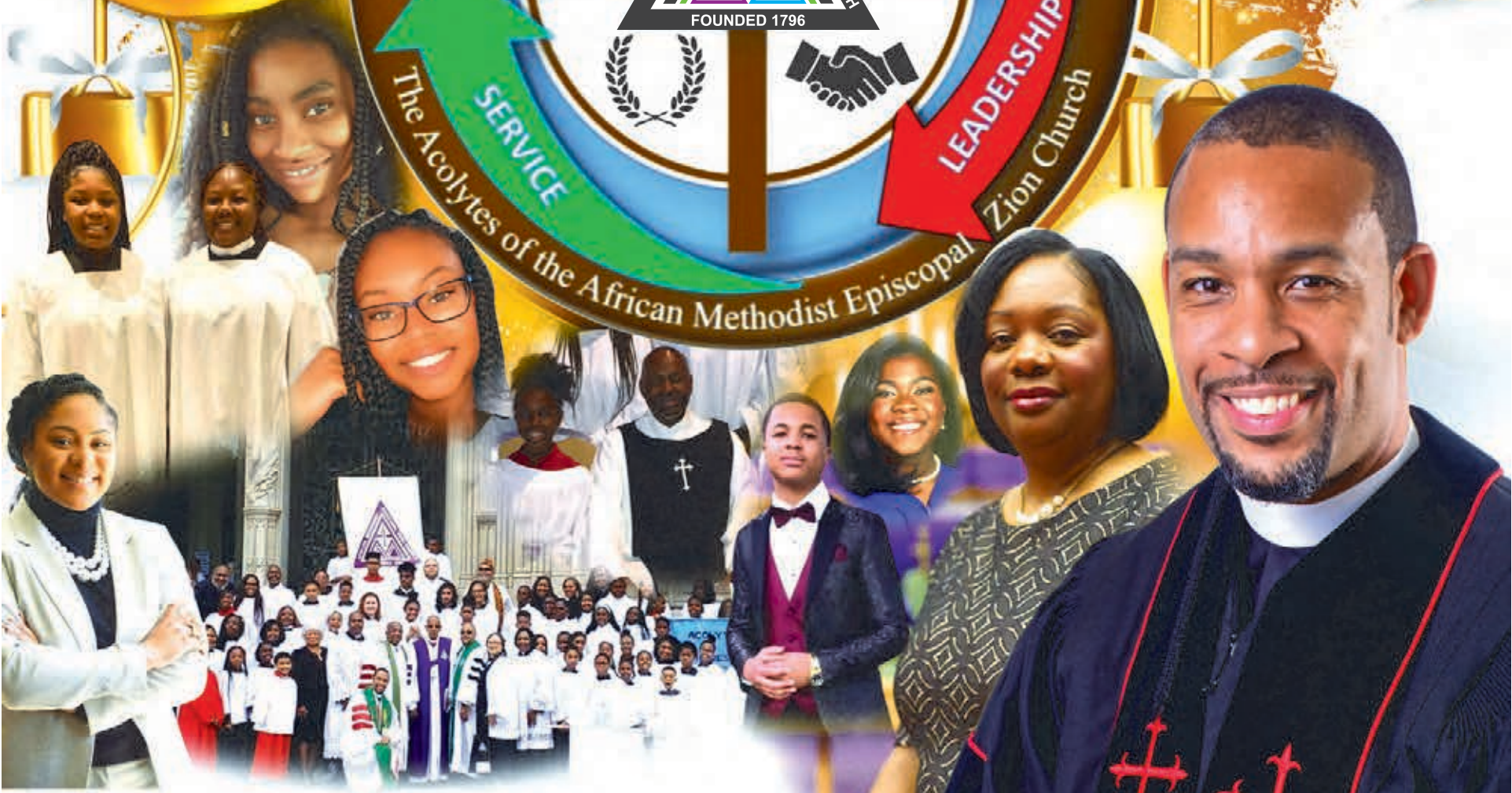
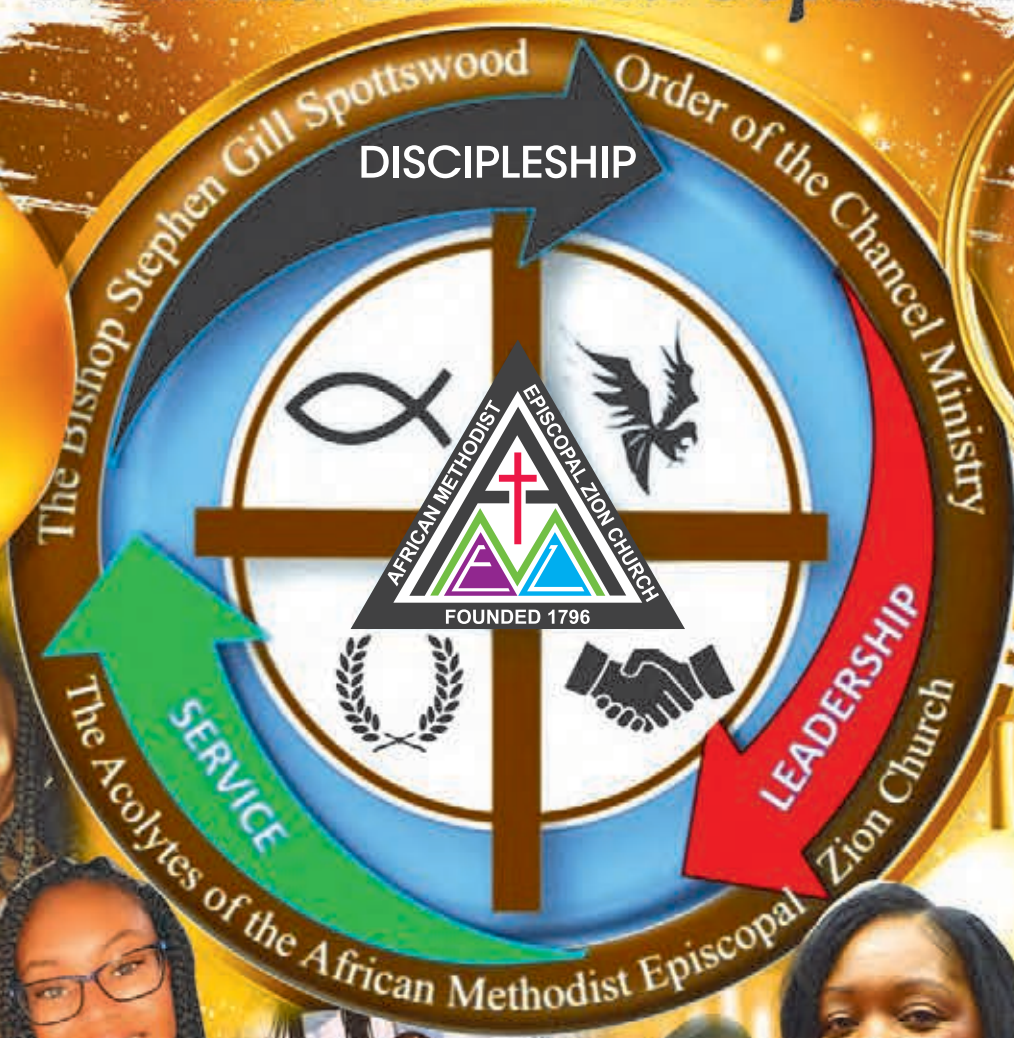




# zionexcellence  
# acolyesamez

# MERRY Christmas

## The Christian Education Department



PLEASE SAVE THE DATES

**MARCH 26  
2022**  
Acolyte Virtual  
Conference  
11AM-3PM EST

**JULY  
2022**  
Zion University

**OCTOBER 7, 8 & 9  
2022**  
National Acolyte Festival  
Washington, DC

**Rev. Dr. R.J. Chandler Sr.**  
Director of Acolytes



ZION

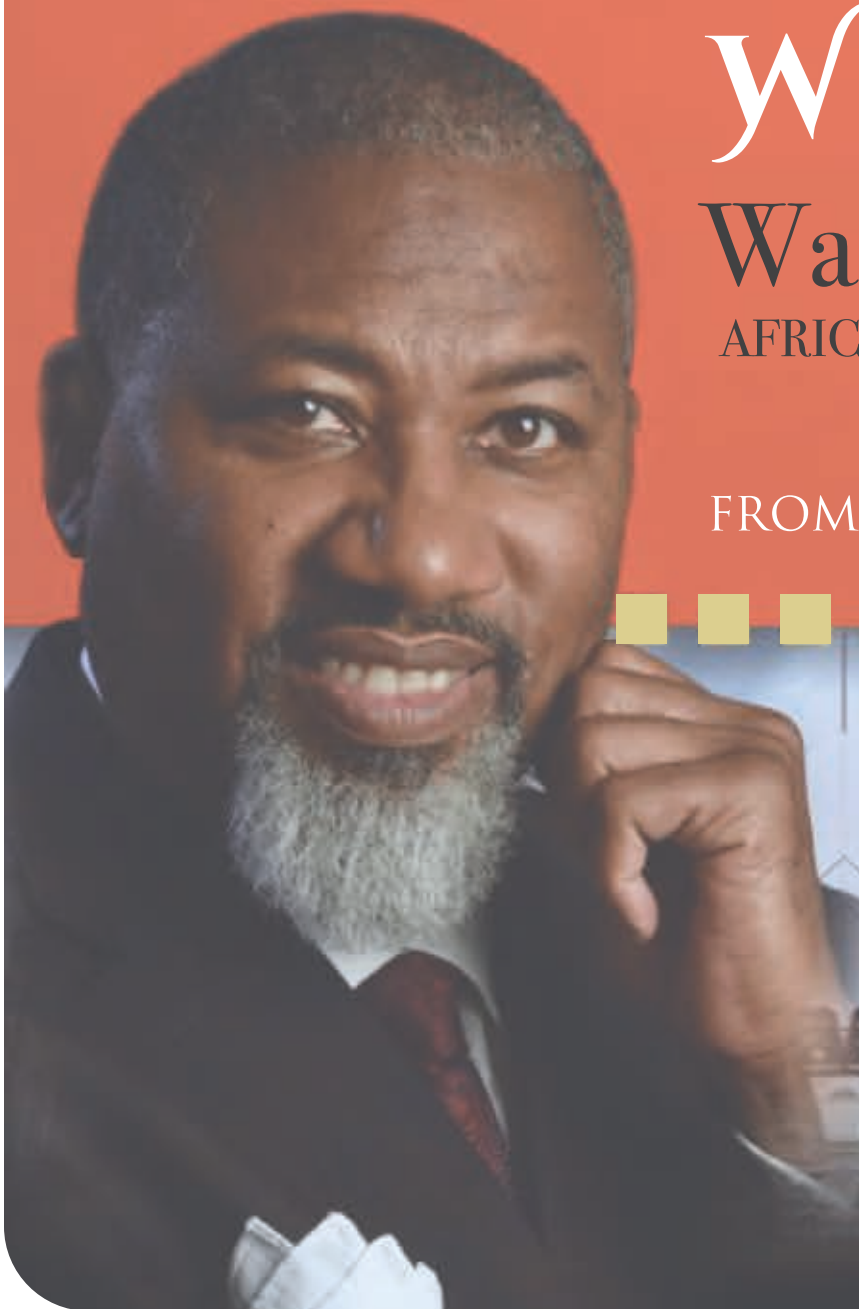
THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
*The Freedom Church*

MERRY  
Christmas

THE REVEREND DR. ANTHONY  
WITHERSPOON

Washington Metropolitan  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH  
St. Louis, Missouri

FROM THE PASTOR, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS



**ZION**  
THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
The Freedom Church

Martin  
Temple  
AME ZION

*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
HAPPY  
*& New Year*

**May this season bring you joy through the purpose of Emmanuel, our redeemer and Savior.**

From Pastor James Davis, family  
and the entire Martin Temple Church.

MERRY

# Christmas



*Mt Lebanon*  
AME Zion Church



*The Reverend*  
Javan J. Leach, MDiv

*We Wish You*

PEACE LOVE JOY HOPE

*This Season!*

*Mt. Lebanon AME Zion Church  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina*



Continued Blessings of peace and joy during this season of Advent, Christmas, and the coming year!

*Love,*

**DR. DARAN, REV. LYNN, AND  
BRO. CAYLEN MITCHELL**

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**HOLIDAY 2021**

*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year*

*F R O M*

**Hood Theological Seminary**



MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY  
WITH PEACE AND JOY FOR THE YEAR TO COME

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



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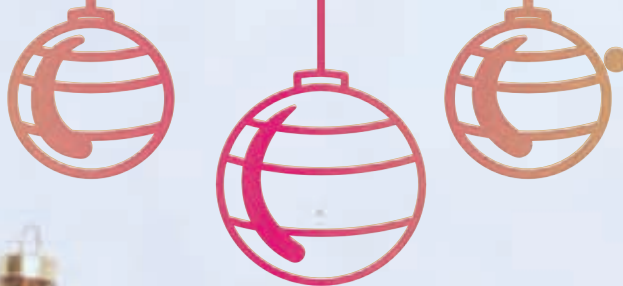


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