

ZION ELECTS
FIVE NEW
BISHOPS AS THREE
BISHOPS RETIRE

Pg
3

V.P. Kamala
Harris Calls
Education
Doing God's Work

Pg
32

THE STAR OF ZION


AUGUST 2024 | VOL 148 NO. 8 | STAROFZION.ORG | THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH



ZION'S SERVANT LEADERSHIP



The Board of Bishops
OF THE A.M.E. 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.

★ The Star of Zion ★

COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

Chairman:

Bishop Anthony N. Witherspoon

First Vice Chairman:

Bishop George D. Crenshaw

Second Vice Chairman:

Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.

Third Vice Chairperson (Layperson):

Ms. Marilyn Graham

- 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

Zion Spotlight Editor

Mrs. Debra Chappelle-Polk
ZionSpotlight@StarOfZion.org

Education Editor

Rev. Roderick J. Josey
Education@StarofZion.org

World Politics Editor

Rev. Ronald Nathan
WorldPolitics@StarOfZion.org

Health and Wellness Editor

Mr. Daman De Leon
Health_Wellness@StarOfZion.org

Social Justice Editor

Rev. Dr. Allison Lee
SocialJustice@StarOfZion.org

Entertainment & The Arts Editor

Rev. Dierdre' R. Parker
Entertainment_Arts@StarofZion.org

Financial Freedom Editor

Dr. Dana Stilley
FinancialFreedom@StarOfZion.org

Lifestyle Editor

Ms. Angel Eason
Lifestyle@StarOfZion.org

Sports Editor

Ms. Alexxis Hutchinson
Sports@StarofZion.org

Star of Zion Office

704-688-2577
Office@StarofZion.org

Subscriptions Department

704-688-2561
Subscribe@StarOfZion.org

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year - \$38.00
Single Copy - \$4.00
Bundle (50 Copies): \$100.00

IN THIS ISSUE PAGES

LOOK INSIDE

03-14 ZION SPOTLIGHT

15-17 EDUCATION

18-19 SOCIAL JUSTICE

19-21 ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS

22-23 HEALTH & WELLNESS

24-25 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

26

LIFESTYLE

26

FINANCIAL FREEDOM

27

SPORTS

28-29

OBITUARIES

29-31

WORLD POLITICS

32-35

OPINION

35

CLASSIFIEDS

President of the Board of Bishops Address

By Bishop Hilliard K. Dela Dogbe, President of the Board of Bishops

Photos by Brian Thompson II of BND Productions

Greensboro, NC - To the Senior Bishop, The Immediate past President, and members of the Board of Bishops, Beloved of Zion, I stand before you with great joy and excitement, yet with humility to accept this responsibility to serve in this historic position of President of the Board of Bishops of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the church of my birth, the church of my conversion and the Church of my calling. Beloved, my address, though brief, is in two parts: My Government and my Vision/Appeal, which is a call to Missions.



MY GOVERNMENT

Some have questioned the eight-year wait for those of us elected under the category of "Indigenous Resident Bishops" before ascending to the presidency of the Board of Bishops. As some of you may know, my response has always been the same: "It doesn't bother me because I didn't offer myself to be president. I offered myself to be Bishop in the Church to live amongst my people in Western West Africa and to serve them. Being president is an added advantage, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

The Second question I need to address is: "How are you going to be president when you live in Africa? Again, my answer remains the same: The A.M.E. Zion Church is a global Church, and the people of Africa also need to have the President live amongst them; see him, feel him, wine, dine, and fellowship with the President. Secondly, COVID-19 has brought with it some great relief with the advantage of virtual meetings, and the Board has effectively utilized this tool in many ways. I will definitely use this mode in providing leadership.

Thirdly, and more importantly, in Ghana (and Africa, for that matter), we have chiefs and kings who have to be away from their jurisdiction of service for several reasons. Two options are often available to them as to governance – one

Notice to Star of Zion Reporters Article/Ad Submission Deadline Dates

- September 2024 Issue.....August 15, 2024
- October 2024 Issue.....September 15, 2024
- November 2024 Issue.....October 15, 2024
- December 2024 Issue.....November 15, 2024
- January 2025 Issue.....December 15, 2024



Mrs. Debra Chappelle-Polk
Zion Spotlight Editor
ZionSpotlight@StarOfZion.org

ZION ELECTS FIVE NEW BISHOPS AS THREE BISHOPS RETIRE

“THEY KNEEL DOWN AS SERVANTS AND RISE AS BISHOPS”



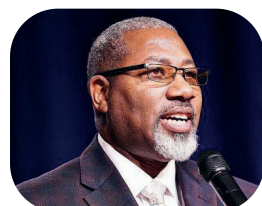
By G. Joyner-Johnson & Mrs. Debra Chappelle-Polk
Photo by Roderick Charles from His Will Photography,
Brian Thompson II of BND Productions

Greensboro, N.C. July 30, 2024—The 52nd General Conference of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was held from July 24th through July 28th. Delegates from Episcopal Districts across the country gathered at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel in Greensboro, NC, to elect Bishops, General Officers, and Administrative and Judicial Board members. The delegation of 638 clergy and laity also adopted legislative and budgetary matters.



The election of Bishops began on Saturday, July 27th. The 108th Bishop elected in the line of succession was Rev. Dr. Daran H. Mitchell from the Piedmont Episcopal District. The 109th Bishop elected was Rev. Dr. Anthony Witherspoon from the Mid-West Episcopal District. The 110th Bishop elected was Rev. Dr. Melanie Rogers Miller from the Northeastern Episcopal District. The 111th Bishop elected was Rev. Dr. Dwayne A. Walker from the Piedmont Episcopal District. The 112th Bishop elected was Rev. Dr. Bernardo Ngunza from the Central Southern Africa Episcopal District.

The Service of Consecration of Bishops and Holy Communion was held on Sunday, July 28th. Bishop Daran H. Mitchell is the Presiding Prelate for the Mid-West Episcopal District, which includes the Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Trinidad and Tobago conferences.



Bishop Anthony Witherspoon is the Presiding Prelate of the Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, which includes the Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Mississippi, Texas, West Tennessee-Mississippi, and India conferences.

Bishop Melanie Miller will serve as Presiding Prelate of the Western Episcopal District, which includes the Alaska, California, Colorado, Oregon-Washington, and the Southwest Rocky Mountain conferences.



Bishop Dwayne A. Walker, son of retired Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., the 81st Bishop in the line of succession, was blessed to have been consecrated by his father. He will serve as the Presiding Prelate for the Alabama-Florida Episcopal District, which includes the Alabama, Cahaba, Central

Alabama, Florida, North Alabama, South Alabama, South Florida, West Alabama, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, North Kuvu, South Kuvu, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Bishop Ngunza is the third Indigenous Bishop to serve on the African continent. He will serve as Presiding Prelate for the Central Southern Africa Continent, which includes the East Angola, West Angola, South Angola, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, and Namibia conferences.

Below is the official list of Episcopal Assignments for The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

- Bishop Darryl B. Starnes Sr. - Piedmont**
- Bishop W. Darin Moore - ENC**
- Bishop George D. Crenshaw - NEED**
- Bishop Hilliard Dogbe - WWA**
- Bishop U.U. Effiong - EWA**
- Bishop Brian Thompson Sr. - MAED**
- Bishop Eric Leake - SAED**
- Bishop Daran Mitchell - Midwest**
- Bishop Anthony Witherspoon - SWD**
- Bishop Melanie Miller - Western**
- Bishop Dwayne Walker - AL/FL**
- Bishop Bernardo Ngunza - CSA**

The 52nd General Conference was also a time to celebrate four retiring Bishops for their dedicated service to God and the denomination: Rev. Dr. Kenneth Moore, Bishop of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District; Rev. Dr. Dennis V. Proctor, Bishop of the North Eastern Episcopal District; Rev. Dr. Michael A. Frencher, Sr., Bishop of the Mid-West Episcopal District; and Bishop Bonnie Hines (deceased) South Atlantic Episcopal District.

In his final Bishop’s Report, retiring Bishop Kenneth Monroe said, “The journey to Bishop has been an awesome experience.” For newly elected Bishop Miller the journey has not only been awesome, but it was also historic. Bishop Monroe said, “She is our second lady Bishop.” She was preceded by Bishop Bonnie Hines, who was the first female elected/ consecrated in 2008 and served until her death in 2022. Bishop Miller’s husband, Rev. Jimmie Miller, Sr., also made history - he will be the first male Missionary Supervisor.

In addition to the election and consecration of five episcopal leaders, new General Officers and Judicial Council members were also installed during the 52nd General Conference session.

Rev. Dr. Darrell Williams is the new Director of Zion Benefits Services, following Dr. David A. Aiken, Sr., who retired after serving in that office since 2016. Williams most recently served as a Presiding Elder in

the Western Episcopal District.

Mr. Ceasar Alvarez follows Rev. Dr. George McKain as the new Convention Manager. Dr. McKain retired after serving in that office for more than 30 years. Mr. Alvarez comes with a great deal of experience and skill as he has worked closely with Dr. McKain for many years and as the Bank of America Corporate Convention Manager.



Also installed were incumbent General Officers: Rev. Dr. Elvin Sadler, General Secretary-Auditor, Department of Records, Research and Archives; Rev. Julius Walls: Chief Operating Officer, A.M.E. Zion Publishing House; Rev. Al C. Hamilton: Chief Financial Officer, Connectional Budget Office;



Mr. Darin Kent: Chief Communications Officer & Editor of The Star of Zion; Rev. Dr. Dwight B. Cannon: Executive Director, Department of Global Missions; Rev. Patrick Barrett: General Secretary, Christian Education Department; Rev. Dr. Eleazar Merriweather: Executive Director, Department of Church Growth and Development.

The Judicial Council added one new member, Rev. Dr. Brandon Fisher, Esq., who most recently served as a presiding elder in the Western Episcopal District. Dr. Fisher was elected by the Council to serve as the Vice President. Installed along with him were the following incumbents: The Honorable Adele M. Riley-President, Rev. Dr. Lisa T. McDow, Esq.-Clerk, Rev. Dr. Derek Anderson-Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Richard Austin, Esq., Dr. Marsha C. Grayson, Esq., Dr. William Stokes, Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Tolbert, Sr., Esq. and Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey.

Bishop George Dwayne Crenshaw, Presiding Prelate, Alabama-Florida Episcopal District, brought the word on the Opening Worship Service on Wednesday, July 24th. His sermon was entitled “I’m on the Waiting List,” taken from Isaiah 49:22-23. Bishop Crenshaw’s message was simple: He said God has not forsaken Zion. He has placed us on “the waiting list and is waiting for us to develop spiritual discernment.” Bishop Brian R. Thompson, Sr. (Western Episcopal District) said the service was moving. “I’m on the waiting list is prophesy for Zion.”



The Thursday Morning Session opened with a Memorial Service. The Devotion was by the North Eastern Episcopal District, Bishop Dennis V. Proctor presiding. Rev. Samuel Blanks, Pastor, Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Hartford, CT, preached the Meditation – “And They Made It.” It was a thoughtful and reflective sermon. Later that morning, the Bishops (retiring and active) presented their reports. The reports, which were pre-recorded videos, were entertaining and thorough.

52nd Quadrennial Highlights and Special Guests

There were several special guests in attendance at the Conference. Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President and General Secretary of the Council of Bishops and President of the General Board, brought greetings on behalf of the National Council of Churches.

Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN) addressed at the Freedom and Social Justice Night Celebration on Thursday, July 25, 2024. As expected, Rev. Sharpton was

prolific and received a standing ovation. Rev. William J. Barber, II, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign, also addressed the Conference. He stressed the importance of voting in the November 2024 elections. Rev. Barber said, “It’s not so much about partisanship, it’s about principle. Instead of looking at candidates through a partisan lens, we look at who is saying, if we get power, we’re going to do living wages, health care, voting rights.” He told the Conference about the Poor People’s Campaign’s National Call for Moral Revival and Demands for 2024, which is an agenda for churches to use to encourage people in their communities to vote.



Mrs. Ventris Gibson, the 40th Director of the United States Mint, was another special guest. Mrs. Gibson is the first African American to lead the U.S. Mint. Mrs. Gibson spoke about the minting of the Harriet Tubman coins. She said, “I wouldn’t be in this position if Harriet Tubman had not done what she did.” Mrs. Karen Hill, President & CEO of Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., and The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, was also in attendance. It is through her efforts that the 2024 Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coins were struck at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia on November 28, 2023. The coins were on display and available for sale. The Star of Zion reported on this historic event in the December 2023 edition.



Parliamentarian Dr. Frances Jackson said, “General Conferences are special. They are a time when its members are most powerful. It is an opportunity for the laity and delegates to provide direction, provide feedback, and be in control.”

First-time delegate Rev. Jennifer Carey (Holy Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church, Nassau Bahamas) said the General Conference “was a rewarding and informative experience.” She quoted Martin Luther King: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” She said the Conference “stood together in their faith and trusting in God.”

Rev. Musooko Moses, who is the Administrative Assistant to the Uganda Annual Conference, Great Lakes Region, said the Conference was “wonderful” and was impressed with the efficiency of the Conference.

Bishop Hilliard K. Dogbe (Western West Africa Episcopal District) was elected President of the Board of Bishops and officially closed the 52nd Quadrennial General Conference on Sunday, July 28, 2024.

Rev. Eldren Morrison, Pastor at Shaw Temple, said, “He sees hope and a bright future for the denomination through faith, education, and prayer.” Well said, Rev. Morrison.

Congratulations

NEWLY ELECTED BISHOPS



BISHOP
DARAN
MITCHELL

108TH ELECTED



BISHOP
ANTHONY
WITHERSPOON

109TH ELECTED



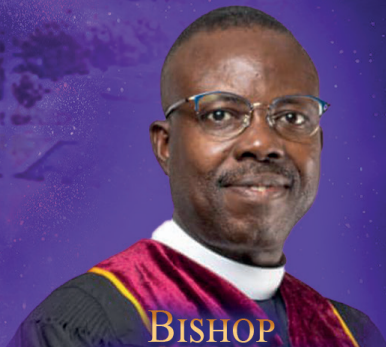
BISHOP
MELANIE
MILLER

110TH ELECTED



BISHOP
DWAYNE A.
WALKER

111TH ELECTED



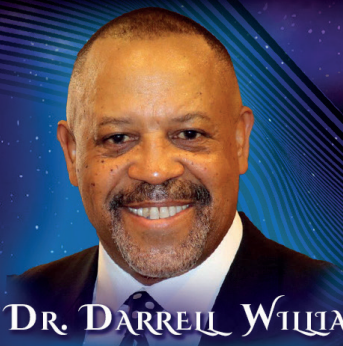
BISHOP
BERNARDO
NGUNZA

112TH ELECTED



NEWLY ELECTED
GENERAL OFFICER

NEWLY ELECTED
JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEMBER



REV. DR. DARRELL WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ZION BENEFITS SERVICES

NEW HIRE



REV. DR. BRANDON FISHER
VICE PRESIDENT,
THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL



MR. CESAR ALVAREZ
CONVENTIONS MANAGER

He Answers the Call....

The Right Reverend Dr. Kenneth Monroe, Retired Bishop of the Eastern North Carolina & South Atlantic Episcopal Districts

By Rev. Debra L. Gray

Photos By Mr. James Feldman

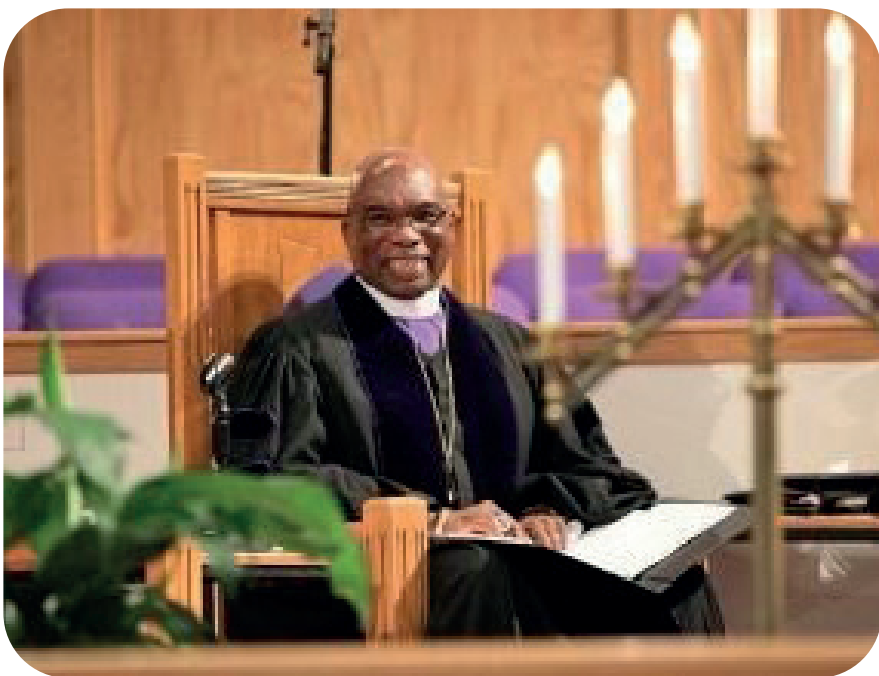
The 144th Session of the Central North Carolina Annual Conference was held on November 8 -12 2023. In the spirit of our connectional life, both lay persons and clergy came together to celebrate the end of one conference year and the beginning of another. The grandeur embedded in the familiarity of the occasion, the music and the jovial greetings framing the stimulating workshops, inspiring sermons, and of course our episcopal address made the experience festive and memorable for yet another year. In addition to the normal business, this year we elected lay and clergy delegates to the General Conference. All in all, however, this year's conference was much the same as it has been every year, except it was not the same as it had been every year. The 95th Bishop in the line of succession in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Presiding Prelate of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District, the Presiding Prelate of the South Atlantic Episcopal District, and the senior bishop of our church was presiding over his last conference with us as our bishop.



He was only 17 years-old when he received the call, but Bishop Monroe answered that call. Although young, he did not allow his youth to prevent him from taking this monumental step. "I was surrounded by people who encouraged me along the way. Sometimes when you're called you don't answer right away," Bishop chuckled, as he reflected on the magnitude of receiving a call from God. He was ordained by Bishop W. A. Hilliard in 1972 as a deacon and then in 1974 as an elder. At 22 years old, he began to pastor two circuit churches – Taylor's Chapel and St. Mary A.M.E. Zion Churches. "God sends people, situations, opportunities around you so you can respond to His call. They cause you to take a look at your life and what God has in store for your life."

Beginning his undergraduate studies in our own Livingstone College where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies, he continued his graduate studies at Duke Divinity School. It was there that he received a Master of Divinity, and at Hartford Seminary, he received a Doctor of Ministry degree.

He spent 31 years pastoring six congregations in North Carolina, Kansas, and Connecticut. Monroe also served as a presiding elder to the Kansas City District which included churches in Kansas City, Kansas,



In honor of his living legacy, we celebrate the man, his ministry, and his uncommon leadership.

Bishop Kenneth Monroe has been a leader of leaders in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He is a wealth of wisdom, prudence, and love. His fatherly inquiry "Are y'all living right?" has been a notable cog in our conference and episcopal gatherings. He hails from Red Springs, North Carolina and is a faithful member of St. James A.M.E. Zion Church, but he proudly admits he has been everywhere. He owes his journey to *the call*. – a call that only God can articulate in one's soul. The call is loud and yet soft, colossal and yet simple.



Des Moines, Iowa, and Omaha Nebraska. He has also served as a presiding elder for the Nassau District of the Bahamas Island Conference. As a pastor and a presiding elder, he experienced the highs and lows within the challenges of ministry. Unlike many though, the driving force behind his service to the church was not a superficial one but one rooted in his call.

Of course, the highs can be really high, and the lows can be difficult, to say the least. After pastoring Taylor's Chapel and St. Mary, Bishop Monroe recalled a congregation he pastored at the age of 23. He gives a gentle laugh as he says, "I ran into some opposition." The church was being changed from a circuit church to a station church. He comments with joy "that it is still a strong church today." Trinity of Southern Pines came next. It was there Bishop enjoyed a nine-year tenure that included a teaching position at Sandhills Community College and a renewed friendship with his classmate, who was then the town manager, Neil Coleman.



Longtime members of Trinity still consider him their young pastor. Our retired bishop was in his early 20's when accepting that call. At 34, he began the call in Kansas City. There were many sweet memories made there, as well as important work accomplished in the community. Bishop Monroe, along with two other Baptist preachers created the Concerned Clergy Coalition. Through their leadership, they were able to secure \$1.2 million for jobs for summer youth employment. He continued his community leadership in organizing a gang summit to address the problems of gang violence. Although, his church, Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion, suffered vandalism (broken window of the glass doors, broken windshield on the church van), the call continued to move Bishop forward. The gang summit was held, and it was a successful venture. It was also here that he met Emanuel Cleaver, the first African American mayor of Kansas City, now serving the United States House of Representatives. Most recently, Bishop was reunited with his friend at Clinton College's Commencement Ceremony earlier this year.

3. Over 200 schools
4. One high school in Cape Coast with more than 2,000 students



In all his pursuits, it was always the call that led the way. "The call is an act of faith because you don't know what you're doing." "It's like when I was a young boy, we lived in the little, small town of Red Springs. Telephones were there, but everybody didn't have one, and you could hear people calling, calling someone's name. You would have to stop and listen to say, 'I think someone is calling me,' and you would respond to that call." Bishop Kenneth Monroe will be retired in the 2024 General Conference of our church, but he will still be answering the call in wherever it leads him and whatever it leads him to do. In Bishop's words responding to that call and moving closer to its sound makes the call clearer and clearer to hear and to understand. Monroe's determination to follow each call he has received has made his leadership one of extraordinary greatness.



I believe that the character of a person is not in all that they say and do in the public's eye, but in the small, seemingly insignificant events done privately. One preacher in our conference shared a story with me about the deaths of his twin infant boys. He was not a preacher then, and he and his wife had not been attending service anywhere, but he knew Rev. Kenneth Monroe. His mother wanted him to ask Rev. Monroe to conduct the service for his infants, but he was reluctant to ask. The day of the babies' burial came. It was a rainy, gloomy day. The parents sat with the funeral director at the cemetery only to see Rev. Monroe walking through the muddy terrain to support the young parents at the grave site. That father was inspired to begin attending church again. This is yet another life that the call has impacted.

Kansas remains a home to this day for his children and grandchildren. From Kansas City, Monroe was sent to Hartford, Connecticut where he served for 10 years.

"You must understand God never stops calling you. It's never a one-time thing. There are so many things that HE has created for us to do. We won't know until we've responded to the calls."

Our retiring Presiding Prelate has answered his calls, and we are left with his living legacy to do the same.

In July of 2004, he was elected the 95th Bishop in the line of succession of our church. He was assigned the Western West Africa Episcopal District. In December of 2005, he was given the responsibility of supervising the Kentucky and Missouri Annual Conferences. In October 2006, he was able to dedicate the new Janie Speaks Hospital in Afrancho, Ghana with the support of the W.H.O.M. Society. From 2008 to 2016, he served as the Presiding Prelate of the South Atlantic Episcopal District. In 2012, Bishop Monroe was assigned the Central North Carolina and Virgin Islands Conferences. During which time in 2014, he completed the Kenneth Monroe Transformational Center in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He was declared the senior bishop of our church in 2021, and in 2022 he was once again assigned the South Atlantic Episcopal District after the death of Bishop Mildred Bonnie Hines.



In Africa, particularly in Ghana, Bishop was able to witness God's work through him overseeing:

1. 300 convocations
2. Two hospitals

4 Miles per Hour: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

By Mrs. Lucy Beamon
Photos By Mr. Antonio Malakia



Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church hosted a Spirit-filled Vacation Bible School from July 9-12, 2024, at 6:00-8:00 pm, and had an awesome experience! Pastor L. Shawni Basnight and the Bethel Christian Education Department and church members shared the A.M.E. Zion VBS Curriculum developed by the A.M.E. Zion Church Christian Education Department Church School Literature. It was packed with information about Biblical and social events to invoke interesting dialog for each age group.

Each day, we opened with worship and devotion, which included the song of the day found in the “1263 Moment” section followed by the daily scripture and Key Affirmation found in the “Faith Formation” section. Our prayer was centered on the Generation for that night found in the “Harambee Circle” section of the curriculum.



After worship, and while wearing foot coverings over our shoes, we went outside and walked around in the parking lot, locating various flags that had the names of cities where Jesus walked, such as Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethany, Samaria, and six others to represent the Holy Land. Everyone was given a Passport with the names of all the cities on it, and when we reached the city, they received a star hole punch on their passport! While outside, we also used the “Rhythm and Flow” section to practice our praise dance to the song, “Lord I Lift Your Name on High,” found in the curriculum. This was also the performance we shared with the parents on our final night

of VBS!

The “Affirmation Litany” found in the “Gathering” section was read and discussed in unison during the individual group sessions. The “Cultural Pride” section was read and discussed in the individual group sessions, which also provided interesting conversations. Additional thought-provoking questions were devised to aid in the discussion in order to promote “thinking outside of the box.”



The “No Desecration Zone” had a “Tip of the Day,” which was affixed to the dinner bags for everyone to take home, along with a movie ticket that had the daily link included in the curriculum of the children’s movie to watch, which corresponded with the lesson taught for that day. Each dinner consisted of nutritious foods and low-sugar fruit drinks.

The “Kuumba Station” was a wonderful opportunity for the students to make different crafts and work on different projects for the day. Each night included a different activity, which gave the students a chance to practice their creative skills!



We truly appreciate our wonderful volunteers and teachers. The Adult Group was led by Rev. Gladys Griffin, the Teens were led by Pastor Basnight and Mrs. Deborah McPherson, and the Children were led by Mrs. Lucy Beamon, Mrs. Valerie McPherson, and Ms. Natoya Williams. Our wonderful cooks were Mrs. Gwen Herring and Mrs. Lillie Elliott. Our photographer was Mr. Antonio Malakia. Rev. Dr. Donald Jones is the Presiding Elder of the Elizabeth City District, which is a part of the Albemarle Conference.

Call To Action Project 2025

By Rev. Roderick J. Josey, Education Editor
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



I write to you with urgency and conviction regarding a matter that profoundly concerns our community and our values as people of faith. Recently, we have become aware of Project 2025, a set of proposed actions that threaten to undermine the progress toward justice and equality that many have fought for. As your pastor, I must shed light on these developments and call us to action in defense of our democracy and the principles of equality.

Project 2025, as outlined by its proponents, includes the following actions:

- Voter Suppression Efforts: Implementing restrictive voting laws that disproportionately affect communities of color, making it harder for many to exercise their fundamental right to vote.
- Gerrymandering: Manipulating electoral district boundaries to dilute the voting power of minority communities, perpetuating systemic inequality in representation.
- Undermining Civil Rights Protections: Rolling back protections against discrimination in housing, employment, and education, which are essential safeguards for marginalized groups.



- Restrictions on Social Justice Movements: Limiting peaceful protests and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing racial injustice and police brutality, stifling voices that call for change.

These actions not only threaten to erode the progress made but also perpetuate systems of white supremacy and injustice. This stands in direct opposition to our Christian values of love, justice, and equality. As a church that has long stood for social justice and community empowerment, we cannot stand idly while such harmful measures are proposed and enacted.

This is a call to action for all of us. We must:

- Educate Ourselves: Understand the specifics of Project 2025 and its potential impact on our community and democracy.
- Advocate: Speak out against these unjust measures through advocacy, community organizing, and engagement with elected officials.
- Protect Voting Rights: Support efforts to expand access to voting and ensure that every voice is heard in our democratic process.
- Pray and Act: Pray for wisdom and courage as we confront these challenges and take practical steps to defend the rights and dignity of all people.

Our faith calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to seek justice for the oppressed. Let us heed this call in the face of injustice and work together to protect our democracy and uphold the rights of all God’s children.

In solidarity and hope,
Pastor Roderick J. Josey

203rd ANNUAL SESSION OF THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE

By Debra Chappelle-Polk, Zion Spotlight Editor

July 2024, Tarrytown, NY - The 203rd Annual Session of the New York Conference was held at the Westchester Marriot Hotel in Tarrytown, New York, from June 20 through June 22, 2024. The host church was Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church (Mt. Vernon, NY), where Reverend Dr. Stephen W. Pogue is Pastor.

The 203rd Session was also the final Annual Conference for the Presiding Prelate Dennis V. Proctor, Bishop of the Northeastern Episcopal District, who will be retiring at the end of the General Conference in July 2024. Throughout the year, retirement celebrations have been held for him and his wife, Missionary Supervisor D. Diane Proctor.

The Service of Holy Communion was led by Reverend Dr. Stephen W. Pogue. The Presiding Elders and Clergy of the New York Conference processed in as the congregation sang, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." The Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church Choir led by Bro. Lorenzo Baker sang a medley, "He Looked Beyond My Faults-Jesus Paid It All-Amazing Grace-At the Cross." The congregants were on their feet getting their praise on! Reverend Pogue said, "It seems like there's a few of us in here who can say He looked beyond your faults and provided what you needed." Presiding Elder Isidoa Branch, Sr. said, "My, my -- what a way to begin an annual conference," as he approached the pulpit to present Bishop Dennis V. Proctor. P.E. Branch, Sr. said it was his honor to present our episcopal leader, "The Right Reverend Dennis V. Proctor, who has served God to the utmost in all of his assignments." The Communion Meditation was preached by the Reverend Leonard A. Edwards (Durham A.M.E. Zion Church).



Christian Education Night was also held on June 20th. Final reports for the Department were presented by Co-Conference Directors Irene Boykin and Terneisa Lynn Calhoun. Before accepting the reports, Katrina Brown, NYC District Co-Director of Christian Education, and Elizabeth Chappelle Meeks, NYC District YACM Director, presented Sisters Boykin and Calhoun with "stress-relief, customized gift baskets." Sis. Calhoun thanked the Department for their thoughtfulness. She also thanked Bishop Proctor with an on-the-spot rendition of "I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together." The stoling ceremony followed. Bishop Proctor introduced the guest speaker, Reverend Lieta Singleton from St. John A.M.E. Zion Church in Highland Falls, NY.

On Friday, June 21, 2024, Presiding Elders Reverend Dr. A. Alfred Carson (NYC Dist.), Reverend Keith I. Harris (Long Island Dist.), and Reverend Isidoa Branch, Sr. (Westchester Dist.) gave reports.

Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. D. Diane Proctor, brought greetings at the WH&OMS Convocation. Presidents' Reports were presented by Mrs. Ruth Young (NYC Dist.), Mrs. Tawanda Harris (Long Island Dist.), and Mrs. Diane Noble (Westchester Dist.) Mrs. Proctor also recognized the Life Members during the Candlelight Service. The speaker for the service was Reverend Dr. Marvin D. Hooks, Pastor (First A.M.E. Zion Church, Brooklyn, NY).

There was a Christian Education Moment on the last day of the Conference on Saturday morning, during which a Graduates Recognition



video was shown. Graduates from Greater Centennial included Caiden Spears, Jeremiah Nelson, Ryan Logan, Makela Simpson, Genesis Bowman, Kori Milan Sutton, and Reverend Julius Walls, Jr. Jackson Memorial's graduates: Arrone Everett Mitchem and Andrew Webb. Jaylen Gilmore, Varick Memorial; Josiah Maddicks, Mother Zion; and Mrs. Dorian Carson, Superintendent Buds of Promise.

The Closing Service began at 11 a.m. The Presiding Elders of the New York Conference and clergy processed into "God of Our Fathers." Reverend Keith I. Harris read the scripture, Luke 2:41-49. The morning prayer was delivered by Presiding Elder Isidoa Branch, Sr. Before presenting Bishop Proctor for the Episcopal Address, P.E. A. Alfred Carson asked the Conference Choir for "some more." The choir obliged, and there was a 10-minute praise-fest at the end of which P.E. Carson said, "the choir has sung us silly."

Bishop Proctor agreed, "When they do their job, it's much easier for us to do ours." He acknowledged clergy, conference delegates, district leaders, members, and his wife, Missionary Supervisor D. Diane Proctor, "in all of her splendor and charm." Bishop Proctor's final sermonic address before the New York Conference entitled, "The Danger of Supposing that Jesus is Always with You," was taken from Luke 2:41-49, wherein Jesus and his parents had traveled to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.



Verse 42 says: "When the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it." Bishop Proctor said, "You don't miss Jesus until you need him," and reminded us that Jesus will never leave nor forsake us.

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

In preparation for the Pastoral Appointments, Bishop Dennis V. Proctor led the conference in singing "A Charge to Keep I Have" and made the following Appointments:



Long Island District

Presiding Elder – The Reverend Keith I. Harris

Jackson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Isidoa Branch, Jr.
Durham A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Leonard A. Edwards
St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church (Great Neck) – The Reverend Kathleen N. Edwards
Westbury A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Gregor Miles

Shaw Temple A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. David I. Robinson

Naomi Temple A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Andrew D. Branch, Sr.

Bell A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Champ Roberts, III
St. Mary A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Tonya Morrissey
Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Natalie R. Wimberly
Goodwill A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend William E. Fields
Grace A.M.E. Zion Church – To Be Supplied
St. Matthew A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Christopher Brown
Ruth A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Lavern White*

Hood A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Linda Vanager

Lakeville A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Keith I. Harris

St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church (Quogue) – The Reverend Gale Williams

Walker Temple A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Shirley Brockman

New York City District

Presiding Elder – The Reverend Dr. A. Alfred Carson

Mother A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Malcolm Byrd

First A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Marvin D. Hooks, Sr.

Rush Temple A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Xavier Hunter

Caldwell Temple A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Denise Davenport

Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Monica H. Marshall

Greater Hood Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Wendell Lancaster

Calvary A.M.E. Zion Church – To Be Supplied

A.M.E. Zion Church on the Hill – The Reverend DeForest L. Raphael

Shaw A.M.E. Zion Church (Corona) – The Reverend Dr. Charles W. Young

Naomi A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Classtine Pendarvis

Mother Walls A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Andrew W. Teagle

St. Peter's/Hunter Temple A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Leslyn Andrews-Roberts

Woods Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend April R. Lewis

Smith-Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church – To Be Supplied

John Jamison Moore's Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Virginia Mackey *

Sojourner Truth A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Kerry Rogers

Williamsburg A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Earl Wallace

Brownsville A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Amanda Lyle

Westchester District

Presiding Elder Emeritus – The Reverend Isidoa Branch, Sr.

Presiding Elder – The Reverend Dr. Stephen W. Pogue*

Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Stephen W. Pogue

St. Catherine A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Wallace Noble

Mt. Hope A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Gregory R. Smith

Smith Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend William Campbell*

A.M.E. Zion Church of Newburgh – The Reverend Milton Stubbs

St. Frances A.M.E. Zion Church (Port Chester) – The Reverend Lawrence D. Alston*

St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church (Spring Valley) – The Reverend Melvin Mungin

St. Philip's A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Jairite Anderson-Cole

Foster Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Andre Bam Upson



Institutional A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Simon Ajose'

Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Elizabeth Morris

St. Francis A.M.E. Zion Church (Mt. Kisco) –

The Reverend Inez N. Thomas*

St. John A.M.E. Zion Church (Highland Falls) –

The Reverend Lieta Singleton

St. John A.M.E. Zion Church (Middletown) – The

Reverend Nicole Rushing

Barry Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Yalonda R. Blakeney

Park Street A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Robert Kilpatrick, II

St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Dr. Brandon D. McLauchlin

State Street A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Darwin Abraham

Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Elizabeth Brantum

St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Tracey Peterson Hanton

A.M.E. Zion Church of Kingston – The Reverend Mary Shelley Bruce

St. Thomas A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend Edward Holmes

St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church (Ellenville) – The Reverend Gary Fuller, Sr.

Dixon A.M.E. Zion Church – The Reverend C. Anthony Hepkins

LAY APPOINTMENTS

NYC District: Christian Education Department, Director, Sis. Katrina Brown*

Special Advisor, Bro. Cartez Johson

Prayer Coordinator, Reverend Tamika Barnes*

Co-Director for Evangelism, Reverend Leslyn Andrews Roberts

Long Island District: Conference Director – Sis. Clarissa L. Smith

Westchester District: Prayer Coordinator, Reverend Hyacinth Rocke.

New Appointment for the Auxiliary Ministries - Harriet Tubman Home – To Be Supplied.




2024 FISHING DIFFERENTLY® NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE HOSTS

REV. DR. SIDNEY WILLIAMS

REV. DR. REGINALD BLOUNT

HOST PASTOR

REV. DR. FREDERICK D. HAYNES III




OPENING WORSHIP

REV. DR. JOSEPH W. DANIELS, JR.
LEAD PASTOR OF THE EMORY FELLOWSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC

WE F.I.S.H. DIFFERENTLY LUNCHEON

DR. GLENELL M. LEE-PRUITT
PRESIDENT
JARVIS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

CLOSING PLENARY

LEAH ROTHSTEIN
CO-AUTHOR: "JUST ACTION: HOW TO CHALLENGE
SEGREGATION ENACTED UNDER THE COLOR OF LAW"

MORNING PREACHER SEPT. 6

REV. DR. BRIANNA K. PARKER
CEO
BLACK MILLENNIAL CAFÉ, LLC

MORNING PREACHER SEPT. 7

REV. DAMIEN DURR
PRESIDENT
DCD EMPOWERMENT & GUS NEWPORT PROJECT

REGISTER AT:
[OIKOSINSTITUTE.ORG/FISHING](https://oikosinstitute.org/fishing)



FRIENDSHIP - WEST BAPTIST CHURCH
2020 W. WHEATLAND RD
DALLAS, TX 75232

DIAMOND SPONSOR


Continued from pg 2

is to appoint a regent from the family who shall sit in for the Chief as his official representative in all matters in his/her absence. The problem with this is sometimes regents have either abdicated or imposed themselves on the people and the stool. The other option for governance is for the most senior elder of the council of elders to provide leadership and superintend over all affairs of the State in the absence of the Chief. This approach is more in tandem with our Book of Discipline regarding conference administration. In this instance, the Board of Bishops is the Council of Elders, and the Senior Bishop is the most senior elder of the Council (Board). To this end, I wish to announce that where I am needed on the States-side, and I cannot be available as president, the Senior Bishop, Bishop Darryl Brewster Starnes, shall be the official representative of the President of the Board of Bishops and shall sit on all matters appertaining to that office (but once I am in town, he yields to me as president).

Beloved, now my Vision:

A CALL TO MISSIONS

One issue we ought to think through as a denomination is the nomenclature used to describe the Church outside the United States. Currently, the Department of Church Growth and Development and some others use aviation language, domestic and international, whereas some other organizations in the Church use the terminology International President for the leader. Our Missionary Society uses the language of Home and Overseas. The denomination adopted to use Global Missions, a name which has seen several metamorphoses and yet does not seem to mean what it is supposed to mean by its adoption. Global Missions would seem to mean the overall missions machinery of the Church. However, it seems to be about the missions' outlook of the Church outside North America, as we still use Home Mission for the mission churches in North America. Let us consider Global Missions:



Records suggest the Department was conceived in 1880 (at the same time as the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society) by Reverend Mark M. Bell. The first name for this ministry was the General Home and Foreign Missions Board. Its purpose and objective was to labor mainly for foreign missions. The Home Missions part of the work was supported largely by the work of the Daughters of Conference. The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society gave little support to Home Missions until 1944, when the General Conference voted that they should give 40% of the Society's budget to Home Missions. Later, the General Conference equalized the 40% for both home and overseas missions.

With time, different name changes took place, which mainly were to use what was appropriate to describe the Church outside North America. The concept was first called Home and Foreign Missions Board, and General Home and Foreign Missions Board was its constitutional label (1880); General Mission Board (1880-1888); Foreign Missions Board (1896-first incorporated in 1920); Board of Missions (1900-1904); Department of Foreign Missions (1904); Foreign Missions separated from Home Missions (1916); Department of Overseas Missions replaced Department of Foreign Missions and it too received a name change in 2012. The necessitation of name changes may be predicated upon the focus of ministry as well as contemporary names for labeling others as foreign in a melting pot society. The name for the Department of Global Missions was changed in 2012 from the Department of Overseas Missions as directed by the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference. Does this include Home Missions? Why Global if it does not include Home Missions? Let us think about this thing!

FUNDING GLOBAL (OVERSEAS) MISSIONS

Indeed, WHOMS is a vital supporter of Global Missions and a vibrant partner in Zion's Missions Enterprise. They supplement the DGM and implore as well as explore others to partner in missional projects. The Department of Global Missions is currently supported in this wise: The Missionary Seer



subscriptions, the Connectional Budget Board, the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, disaster relief donations, Global Missions Sunday donations, mission trips, etc. Certainly, Missions are expensive, and many needs could be met with more support.

It is imperative to remind ourselves that *the mission of the Church is Missions*. God commanded it, Christ Commissioned it, the Apostles committed to it, and the Holy Spirit enabled it; consequently, the Church grew by it. For our sustained growth as a Church, it is imperative to remind ourselves that *Missions is everybody's business*. It is our core Christian mandate; it is what we are to be about. Our programming, constructions, and all services must be in service to our participation in the Mission of God: to go into the world and make disciples.



God is still in the sending business, and if you cannot go out, you can reach out with your money to enable others to go.

According to the Executive Director of Global Missions, Dr. Dwight Cannon, over the years, each Executive Director (formerly Secretary-Treasurer) and each Board of Global Missions has

done well to keep missions a priority in the ministry of Zion Methodism. However, as Rev. Dr. Cannon would say, "Adequacy is inadequate when we see how much more needs to be done." Adequacy may be gauged based on the time, season, and locale for doing missions. A common denominator in measuring the success of fulfilling the mandate for missions is the commitment of the missionaries and financial support from missions' advocates. The mission is both our individual effort and our collective responsibility; it is the responsibility of all, even though only a few have committed to it. Matthew 9:37-38(KJV) helps us: "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few; Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." From this text, we learn: 1. The work of missions is much. 2. The true missionaries are few. 3. The need for prayer to do missions is paramount. 4. The mission's harvest (success/fruit) belongs to God. 5. Only God can send forth missionaries. Beloved people of Zion, we need more missionaries, more prayers, and more support. I, therefore, implore all of you, Zionites across the globe, with this CALL TO PRAYER FOR MISSIONS!!!

Furthermore, considering the cost of Missions and the enormous demand for resources to grow our Mission Churches, Mission Districts, and mission conferences, there is an urgent need to pool resources to save our Missions field and, thereby, the future of our denomination. In consultation with the Chair of the Board of Global Missions, the Executive Director of Global Missions, and my colleagues on the Board of Bishops, of which I am the President, I make this humble plea to all Zionites in North America to make a one-time donation of \$100 to a Special Missions Development Fund. For Conferences outside the United States and other situations in the States where the minimum of \$100 is an impossible feat, Bishops should determine the minimum donation and encourage all members to commit to this. This fund is to be received and paid to the Department of Global Missions on or before January 31. This is not a Missions Sunday appeal, nor is it a substitute for that. Also, it does not in any way replace any of the fundraising activities of the Women's Home and Overseas Missions Society. This is a one-time appeal to provide a reserve fund or investment base for Missions. It is imperative, therefore, for each member of our Church to commit to support this call to Missions.



In furtherance of this, each Bishop shall appoint a Missions Fund Coordinator (listed below) who shall work with their respective Bishop to provide general oversight over these collections and remit the same promptly to the DGM. Bishops shall also appoint conference and District Coordinators to help with the collection and transmission of the collections. The DGM shall establish a Missions Development Fund, which shall be a special fund managed by the Board of Missions. This shall be a reserve fund that can only be assessed upon authorization by the Chairperson of the Board of Global Missions. A report on this shall be presented at our next Board of Bishops Meeting in February.

.....
Continued on next page

Beloved, thank you for your commitment and willingness to support this initiative. I am grateful to God for the privilege to serve, to the Board of Bishops for electing me as your President, and to all of Zion for your willingness to partner with me in this Call to Missions. The hymnist Daniel Marsh puts it succinctly when he wrote:

*Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?
Long and loud the Master calls us,
Rich reward He offers free;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
Here am I, send me, send me?*

*If you cannot cross the ocean,
And the distant lands explore,
You can find the lost around you,
You can help them at your door;
If you cannot give your thousands,
You can give the widow's mite;
What you truly give for Jesus,
Will be precious in His sight.*

*If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked,
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.*

*If you cannot be the watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to Heaven,
Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what Heaven demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.*

*If among the older people,
You may not be apt to teach,*

*Feed My lambs, said Christ, our shepherd,
Place the food within their reach.
And it may be that the children
You have led with trembling hand,
Will be found among your jewels,
When you reach the better land.*

*Let none hear you idly saying,
There is nothing I can do.
While the lost of earth are dying,
And the Master calls for you;
Take the task He gives you gladly;
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calls you,
Here am I, send me, send me.*

Humbly Submitted by His grace and for His glory,
BISHOP HILLIARD K. DELA DOGBE

President, Board of Bishops

The Missions Fund Coordinators of the various Episcopal Districts are:

Piedmont – Rev. Dr. Laticia Godette

Eastern North Carolina – Rev. Dr. Ricky Frazier

Northeast – Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue

Western West Africa & Rwanda – Rev. Daniel M. Doe and Rev. Felix Uwamahoro

Eastern West Africa – Rev. Dr. Umor Olu

Mid-Atlantic – Rev. Dr. Evalina Huggins

South Atlantic – Rev. Eldren Morrison

Midwest – Rev. Dr. Joel D. Miles

Southwestern Delta – Rev. Janice Nelson

Western – Rev. Celest Ary

Alabama-Florida – Rev. Dr. Claude Shuford

Central-Southern Africa – Ana Pedro Cardoso Canda

Thank you for your support!!!

CONGRATS TO DR. KENVI PHILLIPS, NEW DIRECTOR OF THE BARACK OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

By Georgette Williams, SOZ Contributor
Photos by Richie Williams, Designap-
plause.com

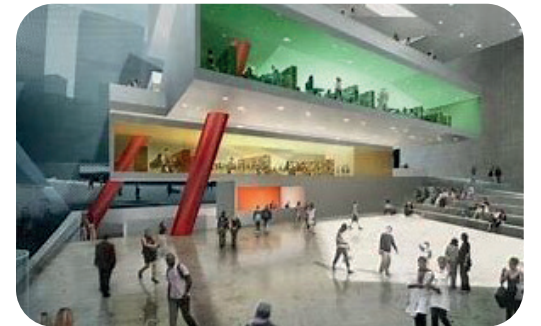


Dr. Kenvi Phillips has been appointed the inaugural Director of the Barack Obama Presidential Library at the National Archives in Chicago. She will lead the planning and administration of all library programs and activities. It is the first fully digital Presidential library. The digital library will change the way we think about access to stories and information that have helped to shape our nation.

Dr. Phillips grew up at Washington Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church in St. Louis, Missouri, where Bishop Anthony Witherspoon is the current pastor. She was involved with the youth ministry and Sunday School, ushered, and sang in the choir. Many of her relatives were lifelong members, and her mom, Cherrye Phillips, is still working and worshipping at the Met.

She graduated from Nerinx Hall High School. Her mother fondly remembers that even back in high school, Kevin wrote several poems and was an avid reader. She has hundreds of books today. Journaling is one of her favorite activities, but the family sport was bowling. It is not a surprise that she has had jobs that follow her passion.

She earned a B.A. in history from the University of Tulsa, a master's degree in public history, and a doctorate in U. S. history, both from Howard University. She has worked in libraries and other historic sites over the last 20 years and served as the first Curator for Race and Ethnicity at Howard University's Schlesinger Library, Assistant Curator of Manuscripts at Howard University, and Director of Diversity and Inclusion for Brown University Libraries, just to name a few.



Congratulations, Dr. Phillips!

The Obama Presidential Library

2500 W. Golf Road,

Hoffman Estates, IL 60169-1114.

Phone: (847) 252-5700.

**For More Information, go to <https://www.obamalibrary.gov/>
Email: obama.library@nara.gov**

An Oasis in a Food Desert: Ministry That Shows Forth the Gospel

By Laverna Hargrove
Photos By Deborah Price



“The Pastor, staff, and so many volunteers have really poured their hearts into these ministries that show forth the Gospel in action. Our Churches have also been blessed by the return of many of the recipients who have joined the church and involved themselves in other

activities of the churches.” Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr., Presiding Elder of the [Wilmington District, Cape Fear Conference](#).

According to [National Geographic](#), an oasis is an area made fertile by a source of fresh water in an otherwise dry and arid region. The water supply is known as an aquifer. The term oasis can certainly be applied to [Saint Luke’s Revive Mart](#) as a food desert, which is a region where people have limited access to healthful and affordable food due to income, location, or transportation issues.

[Saint Luke A.M.E. Zion Church](#), Wilmington, NC, pastored by Reverend Dr. Jermaine Armour, has become an oasis for many living in and around the church area, but also for anyone that comes to the Revive Mart. The Saint Luke food pantry is known as Revive Mart as it reflects the implementation of the church’s mission statement – “Reviving People, Rethinking Ministry and Reforming Families”.



When Pastor Armour was assigned to Saint Luke eleven years ago, he found a thriving food ministry known as Hump Day. Meals were served every Wednesday to anyone who wanted a meal. When [Hurricane Florence](#) hit the coastal area of North Carolina, causing devastation not seen since Hurricane Hazel in 1954, the Saint Luke church family was led to meet the needs of those most affected and already underserved. As Pastor Armour watched the news from his evacuation place in [Atlanta, Georgia](#), he contacted his Director of Ministry/Outreach, Pamela Evans, to see what they could do to help the community. Saint Luke immediately contacted the local food bank of Wilmington and began a partnership to supply food for the community. Unfortunately, in 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic forced a shutdown of many needed community programs per government regulations.

Today, the Revive Mart is a dedicated space of about 500 square feet on the lower level of the church, and a band of dedicated volunteers coordinate a three-day operation: Monday, [SHOPPING](#) at the [Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, Wilmington, NC branch](#); Tuesday [STOCKING](#) food items in inviting and very visible ways; and Wednesday, [SERVING](#) shoppers coming into the Revive Mart. Once the Mart closes, the area that was repurposed for a grocery store is cleaned and made ready for the coming week. Surprisingly, this program is operated by seven to ten volunteers on Monday and Tuesday and seven to nineteen volunteers on Wednesday. Before shoppers enter the Revive Mart, with the volunteers adorned in their identifying Saint Luke aprons, Reverend Armour opens with a prayer and conducts a morning briefing with the volunteers. Periodically, the Program Admin-

istrator, Pamela Evans, pulls the volunteers together for updates on scheduling, operational changes, and needs from the food bank. It’s not unusual to see volunteers escorting shoppers to their vehicles with bags of groceries or mopping up spills, just like in a real grocery store. Rev. Armour’s role varies from bag boy to pastor to CEO. Most of the volunteers are members of Saint Luke, but some are from the community, including members of other churches such as Reverend Clifford Barnett, Pastor of [Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Wilmington, NC](#). Should volunteers be needed, the [Cape Fear Volunteer Center](#) is the emergency ‘go-to.’ All volunteers are well versed in Radical Hospitality and are thankful to serve.



Shoppers come in at 11 am and are greeted in the likes of which any big box store would be envious. The shoppers are given shopping bags, or they bring their own and visit the ten stations for groceries. Records show that the number of shoppers increases each week by 5 to 10. Recently, the number increased by twenty-five new shoppers within one week. The average shopper is an African American female aged twenty-five to forty years of age. Rev. Armour says he has seen an increase in the number of single men. Revive Mart serves sixty to seventy shoppers each week. This translates to 240 to 280 people monthly (average family of four). Included in this number are the seven to ten shoppers who are sick and/or elderly. Saint Luke’s Missionary President notifies those on her list of sick and/or elderly of the available products for the week; they choose what they need, and she delivers the food products to their door.

Items such as fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, canned goods, dry goods, and microwavable products are available every month. Shoppers are not limited to a certain number of items, but they are asked to be reasonable in their shopping. Through the Food Bank, Saint Luke has been awarded grants totaling over \$50,000. These funds have allowed the church to purchase a Commercial Refrigerator, two Freezers, Moving Carts, and a New Paved Parking Lot which will begin construction in the summer of 2024.



According to research, the need for food is increasing (information can be found on the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina website: [foodbankcenc.org](#).) If your church or ministry is within the Central or Eastern North Carolina Area, and you are interested in partnership, please visit their website.

Saint Luke is also a Distribution Site for the [New Hanover County Disaster Coalition](#), the [American Red Cross](#), and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina.

ELIZABETH CITY DISTRICT LAY ACADEMY

Albemarle Conference

Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

By Antonio R. Malakia, President, EC District Lay Council



Prayer, and Benediction.

Mr. Edward Holley, a Whiteville Grove A.M.E.Z. Church Trustee, gave an outstanding presentation on “Getting The Church Back On Target”. The actual full title of the presentation is “Back to the Basics: Getting The Church Back On Target / Rapture Ready”. Are you Rapture Ready?

The Elizabeth City District held a Lay Academy on May 25, 2024, at Whiteville Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. The program started at 10 AM and concluded around 12 noon. Lunch was provided by the Host Church. The theme of the Academy was “Securing Our Future”(which is the 4th component of the Quadrennial Theme). The Laity Workshop was presented by Mr. Edward Holley (Treasurer of the EC District Lay Council), who spoke on the topic of “Getting The Church Back On Target”. In attendance were Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Donald Jones, Mr. Hank Dobson (CLC Regional Director of Eastern NC Episcopal District), Pastors, Officers, Program Participants, and Guests.

The following is a brief summary of the presentation:

- Objectives: To look at what we need to do as individuals to prepare for the second coming of Jesus Christ; and to look at what we need to do as a church to help one another to get on track for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- To achieve the objectives, three things we need to be mindful of:
 - 1) The concept of one another - Are we our brother's keeper? Do we have to look after one another? Read Romans 14:19. And 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 tells us to comfort one another in Christ's coming.
 - 2) The concept of salvation - Through no merit of our own works, God saved us by grace through faith. Read Ephesians 2: 8-10. However, we are judged by our works. Read Revelation 20:11-15. Therefore, we have to produce fruit worthy of our salvation. Read Matthew 3:7-8.
 - 3) The concept of teaching after Baptism - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Read Matthew 28:19-20. Most local churches are doing well with the baptism, but they are failing to teach the new members and the continuous teaching of all members.
- As written in the General Rules of the Book of Discipline, The A.M.E. Zion Church is a united society, which is a company of men (and women) having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, that they may help each other to work out their salvation. Our churches form a united society. Each society, i.e., each local church, is divided into smaller groups called “classes”. And each class shall have a Class Leader whose main purpose is to discern whether their members are indeed working out their salvation and helping one another in achieving it.
- **What is the condition for being a member of this society?** The A.M.E. Zion Discipline requires those who desire admission into the A.M.E. Zion Church to have a desire to flee the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins, and to produce fruits worthy of repentance as evidence of their salvation.

The Academy was presided over by Mr. Antonio Malakia, President of the EC District Lay Council. The program included the following: an **Opening Hymn** – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”; **Scriptures** by Ms. Lucy Beamon, Director of EC District CED; a **Prayer** by Mr. Dempsey Brothers, Lay President of Moses Temple AMEZ Church; the **Welcome** by Ms. Bernadine Wood, Lay President of Whiteville Grove AMEZ Church; and, an **Ice-Breaker** by Ms. Delsey Curtis, 1st VP of the EC District Lay Council. Ms. Mavis Ward, Lay President of Good Hope AMEZ Church, was the Organist. Congregational hymns were sung.



In unison, we recited the **Affirmation for Laity** and the **A.M.E. Zion Church Mission Statement**. A brief business session was conducted after the workshop. This session included a roll call, a membership report, a Treasury report, and a President report. In the end, **Remarks** were provided by Mr. Antonio Malakia, Mr. Hank Dobson, and Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Donald Jones. Finally, Rev. L. Shawni Basnight, Pastor of Bethel AME Zion Church, gave the **Blessing of the Food, Closing**

For a complete detailed presentation, which will give you a full understanding of the subject topic, I strongly recommend that you invite Mr. Holley to come to your church, district or conference to conduct an academy. The academy will be beneficial to both clergy and laity.

“To God Be The Glory!”



Rev. Roderick J. Josey
Education Editor
education@starofzion.org

Livingstone College Announces \$30 Million Campus Renovation Project

By Rev. Roderick J. Josey, Education Editor



LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE

Livingstone College is embarking on a transformative journey with its ambitious \$30 million campus renovation project, which promises to elevate the institution’s facilities and enhance the student experience. Dr. Anthony J. Davis, 13th President of Livingstone College, expressed his excitement and gratitude for the unprecedented support that has made this initiative possible.

“We have not had to put pen to paper,” said Dr. Davis, highlighting that the college has not needed to borrow any money for the project. This achievement is a testament to the generous donations and unwavering support from alums, donors, and other benefactors. Their contributions have provided the financial foundation to undertake this significant endeavor without loans.



The renovation project encompasses several critical areas of the campus, with a particular focus on enhancing student living and dining facilities. Two dormitories are undergoing extensive upgrades, ensuring that students will enjoy modern, comfortable, and conducive living spaces. These improvements will not only enhance the quality of life for current students but also serve as a compelling attraction for prospective students considering Livingstone College for their higher education journey.

In addition to the dormitory renovations, the campus café is also being revitalized. The new and improved dining facility will offer a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere, catering to the diverse culinary preferences of the student body. This renovation aims to create a space where students can gather, relax, and build community over shared meals.



Dr. Davis acknowledged that such a substantial project inevitably comes with some inconveniences. “Pardon the mess; it’s a work in progress,” he remarked, urging students, faculty, and staff to be patient and understanding as the campus undergoes these transformative changes. The temporary disruptions will be well worth the enhanced facilities and the long-term benefits they will bring to the college community.

The renovation project is not just about physical improvements; it reflects Livingstone College’s commitment to providing an exceptional educational environment. Investing in cutting-edge facilities, the college is dedicated to fostering academic excellence, personal growth, and community engagement.

As Livingstone College continues its journey of growth and development, the support from its extended family of alumni and donors remains crucial. Dr. Davis emphasized the importance of this collective effort, stating, “This project is a testament to what we can achieve together. It reflects our shared vision and commitment to the future of Livingstone College.”

With the renovation project well underway, Livingstone College is poised to offer its students an even more enriching and dynamic experience. The campus upgrades symbolize a new chapter in the college’s history, built on community support, visionary leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

<https://www.instagram.com/livingstonecollege/reel/C9SUmizOztf/>

Livingstone College receives \$10 million, The Single Largest Donation In The College’s History

By Garette Hunter

SALISBURY, NC—In unprecedented news, Livingstone College, a Historically Black College (HBCU) located in Salisbury, N.C., has received \$10 million, the single-largest donation in the institution’s history. Dr. Anthony J. Davis, President and CEO, made the announcement Friday morning during the 52nd Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of The A.M.E. Zion Church, held in Greensboro, NC, at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center.

The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, previously gifted the college \$7 million during key events. The first contribution was received during the school’s homecoming celebration, totaling \$17 million given in seven months. This contribution comes at a time when most HBCUs, especially private institutions, are extremely underfunded and lack resources to improve their infrastructure.

“This is an incredible moment for Livingstone College,” said Dr. Davis. “Our anonymous donor has truly believed in our mission and the transformative power of education. This \$10 million donation will ensure that we can complete phase one of our construction projects and move directly into phase two, all from a debt-free position.” The funds will be used for the <Miracle on Monroe Street: Livingstone College Reimagined>



infrastructure and capital projects.

Livingstone College is currently elevating its academic profile with an incoming class of 114 presidential scholars with GPAs of 3.7 to 4.0 and an additional 85 students with GPAs between 3.0 and 3.6. This donation comes at a critical time when many HBCUs are underfunded, especially private institutions that lack resources to improve their infrastructure.

Dr. Davis thanked the donor for their unwavering commitment and support to Livingstone College. “This is an incredible moment for Livingstone College,” said Dr. Davis. “Our anonymous donor has truly believed in our mission and the transformative power of education.”

During his inauguration in September 2023, Dr. Davis promised the college’s students and their families that he would work to improve living conditions and facilities on campus. Phase One of the project, including two residence halls and a dining hall, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2024.

For the latest updates on our ongoing renovations and upcoming capital investments, follow us on our official Instagram page @LivingstoneCollege or subscribe to our YouTube channel @Livingstone-College. Stay connected with us for all the exciting developments at Livingstone College.



The A.M.E. Zion Church Launches Compelling Preachers Institute in Greensboro

Greensboro, NC – July 22-23, 2024 – The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church kicked off the week with the inaugural Compelling Preaching Institute, drawing an impressive attendance of 276 participants. Taken place in Greensboro, North Carolina, this two-day event marked a significant milestone for the Church's ministry by aiming to enhance the preaching skills of its clergy and lay leaders.

Dr. J. Elvin Sadler, the Institute's Director and General Secretary Auditor of The A.M.E. Zion Church, welcomed attendees with a warm address and emphasized the power of the Word to empower individuals to preach and minister effectively. "Through the Word of God, we are given the power to preach to His people," Dr. Sadler stated, setting the tone for the Institute's focus on dynamic and impactful preaching.



The event featured enriching sessions, with The A.M.E. Zion Church International Choir providing inspirational music. Under the direction of Dr. Lisa Moore, the choir blessed us with the songs "For the Rest of My Life I Will Trust Him," led by Mr. Ion Siler, and "You're Worthy to Be Praised."

Dr. Dominique A. Robinson, the Institute's grant manager, reflected on the event's significance. She highlighted the Wesleyan Quadrilateral—Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience—as foundational principles for The A.M.E. Zion Church's preaching and teaching.

Dr. Robinson also expressed the importance of successfully launching the Compelling Preaching Institute, which was made possible by a five-year grant. She emphasized the importance of such initiatives in equipping church leaders with the tools and insights needed to engage and uplift their congregations.



The institute's keynote preacher, Dr. William H. Curtis, Senior Pastor of Mount Ararat Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, delivered a powerful sermon. It was based on Luke 10:36-37 and titled "It's All About the Neighbor." Dr. Curtis emphasized the importance of compassion and neighborly love. Throughout the sermon, he posed thought-provoking questions that challenged attendees to consider their roles in serving others.

Following the evening service, the Institute transitioned into a captivating session of deeper dialogue with Dr. Curtis called the "Homiletic Hangout." This session was moderated by Dr. Robinson and offered valuable insights into Dr. Curtis's approach to preaching, preparation, and personal experiences.

Dr. Curtis emphasized that preaching transcends merely interpreting biblical texts; it involves engaging with contemporary culture. "We don't just exegesis text. We exegesis culture," he remarked. This approach ensures that sermons resonate deeply with the audience's current context and challenges.

Dr. Curtis discussed the levels of scholarship he employs when preparing his sermons, ranging from basic to advanced levels. "The goal is to drive the writer, not just to rely on average scholarship," he noted. Additionally, he acknowledged the evolution of his preaching style, which was influenced by various figures and experiences over the decades.

Reflecting on his journey, Dr. Curtis advised younger preachers to avoid being swayed by external accolades. "Don't be romanced by a robe. Know that you are necessary," he emphasized. This counsel stresses the importance of authenticity and purpose in ministry.



One of his most rewarding experiences came from observing the impact of his sermons on visitors. "Seeing how a sermon resonates with someone new to the church is incredibly fulfilling," he shared.



The Homiletic Hangout with Dr. William H. Curtis provided attendees with profound insights into the art of preaching, blending traditional scholarship with contemporary cultural relevance. As the conversation concluded, it was clear that Dr. Curtis's commitment to impactful, culturally-attuned preaching continues to inspire and shape the future of ministry.

Greensboro, NC – July 23, 2024 – As part of the Compelling Preaching Institute, Dr. Elvin J. Sadler, the Institute's host and General Secretary Auditor of The A.M.E. Zion Church, delivered a profound Centering Moment. "The Incarnation-al Experience Human Flourishing," Dr.



Sadler's reflection, drew from the scripture Luke 6:27-38, emphasizing the embodiment of love and compassion in everyday life.

In his statement, Dr. Sadler explored the concept of incarnation, not just as a theological doctrine but as a lived experience that fosters human flourishing. He urged attendees to embody the teachings of Jesus, particularly those highlighted in the passage, which called for love, mercy, and forgiveness to even be given to one's enemies.



"The essence of the incarnation is about bringing divine love into tangible actions that uplift and nourish the human spirit," Dr. Sadler explained. He stressed that this call to love transcends mere tolerance, pushing believers to actively seek the well-being of others, including those who may oppose them.

He encouraged the attendees to let this message shape their preaching and ministry. "As preachers and leaders, we are called to model this incarnational love, demonstrating through our actions and words the possibility of true human flourishing," Dr. Sadler urged.

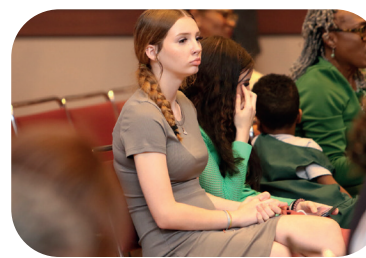
The Centering Moment set a contemplative and inspirational tone for the day's proceedings. It reminded all present of the transformative power of living out the teachings of Jesus in practical, everyday ways. Dr. Sadler's insights provided a fitting foundation for the Institute's focus on compelling and culturally relevant preaching.

After the centering moment with Dr. Sadler, our morning preliminary speaker was Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, a renowned scholar and preacher who delivered an insightful session on "Black Methodist Preaching." Her presentation offered a rich overview of the historical and contemporary dimensions of Black Methodist preaching, exploring its foundations, evolution, and unique characteristics.

Dr. Fry Brown began by tracing the roots of Methodist preaching to the early 1820s, highlighting the Wesleyan model as a response to membership decline. She then delved into the distinctive features of Black Methodist preaching, characterized by a strong oral tradition,



narrative storytelling, and “plantation protocol,” a term she used to describe the historical context and cultural practices that shaped early Black preaching styles. Dr. Fry Brown emphasized the role of Black preachers like Richard Allen, James Varick, and Hoosier, who integrated Quaker quietism with Methodist zeal. This combination created a unique preaching style that resonated with African American congregations.



Dr. Wesley shared various rhetorical tools to enhance preaching, including illustrations, alliteration, intertextuality, and humor. He advised other voices to

She also highlighted the transition from classical to contemporary Black preaching, emphasizing the moral character of the Bible, imaginative elaboration, and the use of call and response. However, she cautioned against potential pitfalls, such as becoming predictable or theologically shallow.



During the Lunch and Learn luncheon, Dr. Howard-John Wesley discussed the topic “Preaching is a Marathon, Not

a Sprint,» which allowed attendees to focus on the continuous development and refinement of preaching skills. Seven essential steps to becoming a better preacher were outlined, including listening to other preachers, persistent study, and living with the Scriptures.

Dr. Wesley stressed the importance of practice in preaching, noting that “practice does not make perfect; practice makes permanent.” He emphasized that excellence in preaching is not accidental but a result of deliberate effort and continual self-assessment.

The session concluded with a discussion on evaluating one’s preaching, underscoring that the pulpit is “the one place we can get away with mediocrity and the last place where it should be found.” Preachers were encouraged to seek feedback and strive for excellence, ensuring their messages were substantive, well-structured, and stylistically compelling.

preachers to listen to broaden their perspectives and enrich their preaching style.

Later that day, attendees broke into groups for different lecturing sessions regarding their time in ministry and academic status. This allowed presenters to gain more insight and provide dialogue with attendees based on the expertise and information provided for them.



The second day concluded with a glory-filled closing service preached by Dr. Dominique A. Robinson, Isaiah 6:1, “The Requirements to be Compelling.” Her sermon focused on seeking God’s presence, and then, in his presence, you can recognize that God has need of you. Dr. Robinson also mentioned that we have to be able to embrace death and embrace what needs and has died. In this new season, we were able to see God even through the pandemic in dark places. She highlighted that we should not be the king. King Uzziah misinterpreted his role, which led him to be struck with leprosy. In our church, we have become the “king” and not until oppressive systems in the Church die that people will see God.

The two-day launch of the Compelling Preaching Institute was an incredible success. From the valuable information shared with the engaging presenters and the enriching fellowship, the event exceeded expectations. The A.M.E. Zion Church is eagerly anticipating the next institute, which will provide an opportunity for scholars, preachers, and laity to embrace and deepen their understanding of the art of preaching.

AFSCME’s Saunders: We Are ‘All In’ For Kamala Harris

By Natalia Pérez Santos

WASHINGTON, DC – American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) President **Lee Saunders** issued the following statement announcing AFSCME’s endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris for president:



Organizing and Empowerment, she developed key policy recommendations to give working people a stronger voice and a more prominent seat at the table.

“Vice President Harris is exactly the right person to meet the moment. She will fight to save American democracy, and she will carry a pro-worker message across the country, making the case that Trump’s Project 2025 would do lasting damage to working people, the economy, and our nation.

“In a unanimous vote at a meeting this afternoon, AFSCME’s International Executive Board endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for president of the United States.

“This is an inspiring and historic candidacy. Vice President Harris has been cracking the glass ceiling her whole career – now she has the opportunity to become the first woman and the first woman of color to hold the highest office in the land. And AFSCME will help her get there.

“Vice President Harris is seasoned, tough, and tenacious. She is a dynamic leader who has been a pro-worker champion throughout her years in elected office. She understands that unions and the working class are the engines of our economy. And she has a deep respect and appreciation for the work AFSCME members do to strengthen our communities.

“We are all in for Kamala Harris. From today until November 5, we will mobilize in communities nationwide, turning out the vote and moving mountains to make Kamala Harris the 47th president of the United States.”

“She has an extraordinary record of accomplishment over the last three and a half years. From the American Rescue Plan, which brought the economy back from the brink, to student debt forgiveness, to reining in health care costs and so much more, she has fought for us time and time and time again. As the chair of the White House Task Force on Worker

AFSCME’s 1.4 million members provide the vital services that make America happen. With members in communities across the nation, serving in hundreds of different occupations — from nurses to corrections officers, child care providers to sanitation workers — AFSCME advocates for fairness in the workplace, excellence in public services, and freedom and opportunity for all working families.



Rev. Dr. Allison Lee
Social Justice Editor
SocialJustice@StarOfZion.org

A.M.E. Zion Juneteenth Showcase

By Rasool Berry Host, Writer of Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom

Frederick Douglass. Sojourner Truth. Harriet Tubman. James Walker Hood. These are just some of the heroes and heroines of the faith who paved the path of faith and freedom in the nation and through the Zion Church. They understood Jesus when he said that he was “anointed to proclaim good news to the poor ... liberty to the captive” (Luke 4:18).

They rejected the wicked distortions that tried to justify injustice with Scripture and proclaimed Jesus and justice throughout the land. Their work provided the moral clarity President Abraham Lincoln needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, which announced freedom to all enslaved in the Confederacy effective January 1, 1863. But this was in the middle of the Civil War, and the Confederate States of America would not end the inhumane practice of slavery without a fight. It would take over 600,000 lives and two and a half years before the end of the Civil War, and the arrival of soldiers brought freedom to Texas.

On June 19, 1865, thousands of soldiers, many of them (upwards to 4,000) Black soldiers, arrived on the shores of Galveston to enforce freedom, a culmination of the work of the A.M.E. Zion luminaries and so many others who fought for freedom.

Juneteenth is also known as Freedom Day because it was the day freedom finally came to those enslaved in the farthest reaches of the Confederacy. There’s no better place, therefore, than A.M.E. Zion, also known as Freedom Church, to host a celebration of Juneteenth. Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom is an award-winning documentary that I got the privilege to host. It highlights the story of Juneteenth through the stories of the descendants of those emancipated in Texas on June 19, 1865.



The A.M.E. Zion Church has partnered with the producers of the film Our Daily Bread Ministries to hold a contest to host a screening of the film at an A.M.E.Z. Church simulcast on AMEZ.TV.

More details will follow. We are excited to celebrate Juneteenth together and recall together the trials and triumphs of those who came before us, prayed for freedom, and experienced a divine deliverance on Juneteenth.

Happy Juneteenth!

Following Saturday’s National Gathering in Washington D.C.,

The Poor People’s Campaign Launches a Season of Outreach to 15 Million Poor & Low-Wage Infrequent Voters

By Joe Ward

Photo by Jemal Countess/Getty Images for Repairers of the Breach

WASHINGTON – Early Saturday morning, buses from across the nation rolled into Washington D.C. as thousands of poor and low-wage voters, advocates, faith leaders and other allies peacefully descended onto the nation’s capital to show a united commitment to activating 15 million poor and low-wage infrequent voters to the polls. Following the “Mass Poor People’s & Low-Wage Workers’ Assembly & Moral March on Washington D.C. and to the Polls,” the Poor People’s Campaign begins a season of outreach to poor and low-wage infrequent voters across the nation who make up nearly one-third of the electorate.



On a hot and sunny day in Washington, activists unloaded buses, shared powerful testimony, and lifted up the intersectional issue agenda they want candidates to address in 2024 and beyond.

“I’m out here today because I am sick and tired of helping American Airlines bring in millions of dollars of revenue while I struggle each and every day,” said **Priscilla Hoyle**, Lead Cabin Cleaner at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and member of Airline Workers United. “I’m also sick and tired of seeing all the working people here today across all the industries struggling off of poverty wages and being left behind. Enough is enough,” she said.

“Last fall Maximus sent out an email asking us to donate clothing to our coworkers in need. Let me say that again. A Maximus company that is paid billions of dollars asking me to donate clothes to coworkers, and that ain’t right,” said **Audrianna Lewis**, Maximus Call Center Worker and member of Communications Workers of America. “It’s unacceptable. In the wealthiest country, it’s gotta stop, now! My coworkers and I demand a living wage that doesn’t force us to rely on charity or government aid programs to get by. We demand coverage that is affordable and

actually helps us stay healthy. We demand the ability to form a union without fear,” she said.

“We work hard while being judged for our situations and being told to work harder,” said **Mindy Bergeron-Lawrence**, McDonald’s employee of 21 years and member of Maine Poor People’s Campaign. “Our hours are cut and at the same time we are being asked to work up to four positions at once, hearing from customers and society that the problem is nobody wants to work anymore. This past year I witnessed a coworker lose their housing because a mistake delayed their paycheck. Pay is so low and housing costs are so high that someone can become homeless because they missed one week’s pay.... We deserve better,” she said.



The powerful gathering was broadcasted online in English and Spanish to hundreds of thousands of viewers, many of whom hosted watch parties in their communities.

Poor and low-wage voters make up at least 30% of the electorate in the majority of states. In so-called battleground states it’s close to and over 40%. As the 2020 study, *Unleashing The Power of Poor And Low-Income Americans* shows, the main reason this voting block doesn’t vote is because politicians and campaigns aren’t speaking to them nor addressing the issues that most impact their lives.



In survey after survey, the overwhelming majority of Americans want living wages, union rights, paid family leave, universal access to healthcare, action on the climate crisis, voting rights protections, equal protection under the law, and tax policy that makes the wealthy pay their fair share. The Poor People’s Campaign calls on all candidates

running for elected office to embrace a 17-point Agenda, which has the power to eliminate poverty and low wealth in America. These policies and demands include:

1. **Abolishing poverty as the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.**
 2. **A living minimum wage of at least \$15 +/hour (indexed for inflation)**
 3. **Full and expanded voting rights**
 4. **No more voter suppression**
 5. **Guaranteed workers' rights & labor rights**
 6. **Healthcare for all**
 7. **Affordable, adequate housing**
 8. **Strong social welfare and safety net programs**
 9. **An end to gun violence, profit, and proliferation**
 10. **Fully protected women's rights**
 11. **Environmental justice that secures clean air & water**
 12. **Justice for all Indigenous nations**
 13. **Fully-funded public education**
 14. **Just immigration laws**
 15. **Addressing militarism and the war economy**
 16. **Standing for peace not war; an immediate ceasefire in Gaza that allows humanitarian relief, the release of all hostages, and peace with justice to be pursued; and an end to genocide around the world**
 17. **An end to hate, division, and the extremist political agenda**
- In the richest nation in the history of the world, 800 people die each



day from poverty and low wealth. This is an unacceptable and abolishable reality that can be eradicated by enacting policies that address the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation and the denial of healthcare, militarism, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism.

“In this time, poor people, low-wage workers, religious leaders and moral advocates are bringing our voices together to tell America that we’re ready for protest and agitation in the street; litigation in the court and legislation in the suite; and we’re bringing our massive swing vote to the ballot box,” said **Bishop William J. Barber, II**, National Co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. “We are not accepting the silence from the media and political establishment that ignores 800 daily deaths of poor and low-wealth people. Together, we will take this nation to higher ground,” he said.

“Poverty is a death sentence in the United States and it doesn’t have to be this way,” said the **Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis**, National Co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. “For too long we have been fed the lie of scarcity when we live in a world of abundance. For too long we have been divided by race, nationality, immigration status, sexuality and gender. For too long, the false narrative of religious and racial nationalism has blessed what is wrong while condemning what is right. We are building power to make this nation better for everyone. When you lift from the bottom, everyone rises,” she said.

Following today’s gathering, the Poor People’s Campaign launched an online pledge calling on moral activists to join the mobilization effort. The national campaign and its state coordinating committees now begin a season of continued intensive field organizing and outreach to mobilize and wake the “sleeping giant” of poor and low-wage infrequent voters, who have the power to shift election outcomes in every state.

ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS

Freedom Day for The Freedom Church



Rev. Dierdre R. Parker
Entertainment & The Arts Editor
Entertainment_Arts@StarofZion.org

By Rev. Dierdre R. Parker, Entertainment and Arts Editor

FREEDOM DAY.

The name alone is impactful. It calls to mind the days when our people walked hand in hand, singing not only in praise to God but in defiance of the tyranny of men. Many of us remember those days firsthand. The days of billy clubs and Bull Connor. Those were the days of cross-burnings and George Wallace blocking the entrance to his state’s university, declaring, “Segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.” We used colored water fountains and restrooms. Many of us were on the movement’s front lines that changed the laws, the country, and the world. We must never forget that all those things were done (marching, sitting in, braving water hoses, and German Shepherds) because we were determined to make a better life for the next generation.

Perhaps it was progressive amnesia or complacency, but our passion for our fight for freedom has bogged down. There is still so much work to be done. Freedom Night came with a fervent passion sure to reignite the wavering flame of the Freedom Church. Every person who stood in front of a microphone reiterated the importance of using our voices in the way that the titans of the movement fought, bled, and even died to give us, which is the vote. Freedom Day was a clarion call to lift our collective voices and shift this country’s trajectory again.

The Service opened with a soul-stirring rendition of Lift Every Voice and Sing by the International Choir of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church under the direction of Dr. Lisa Moore. There is something in the way that seasoned saints sing the Negro National Anthem. Woven into the lyrics of this song are hope, faith, and a declaration of fidelity to the One who brought us thus far on our way. When the seasoned saints sing this song, you can see it on their faces and hear it in their voices. They are remembering their own incident, their own encounter. They are remembering the stories that they heard from their parents and



grandparents. Stories of atrocities we can’t even fathom. The way their voices come together in a beautiful harmonic symphony as they collectively and culturally remember what we have endured to survive gives me chills every time I hear it.

Our guest speaker for the night was the Rev. Al Sharpton. He was pressed for time and had other commitments, so there was an abbreviated version of the service that was initially planned. The Choir sang a familiar spiritual, Walk Together Children. It served to set the tone for the evening.



We were greeted by Rev. Malcolm Byrd, who works with Rev. Al on the National Action Network. His fiery reminder of who we are fired us up and primed the pump for every speaker after him. “If any church in this country will address the issues affecting our community, surely it is The African Methodist Episcopal Church. We are the Freedom Church. I did not say we were the Freedom Church; I said we ARE the Freedom Church.” It was obvious to all in earshot that this preacher was very passionate about the work of social justice, and he challenged us to rise up and walk it like we talk it.

We were then greeted by Maurice “Mo” Green, running for NC Superintendent of Public Instruction. He had the following to say: “The very soul of public education is on the ballot this November. It’s going to take champions of public education to meet the moment. Certainly, in North Carolina, we find ourselves spiraling toward the bottom regarding things like funding our public schools. We’ve got to turn this thing around.”

We were then greeted by Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie. Bishop McKenzie is the first woman elected and consecrated bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She, too, continues to work on the front lines of the move toward social justice. She is the President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. She is the author of six books, including Not Without Struggle: Leadership for African American Women in Ministry.

“They Not Like Us”

What I Learned from Watching the BET Awards

By Rev. Dierdre’ R. Parker, Entertainment & The Arts Editor

It was the Kendrick/Drake Beef that brought me back to Hip-Hop. I remembered the feuds from back in the day: Kool Moe Dee and LL Cool J, Jay-Z and Nas, and the recent ones, Nicki Minaj and Meg Thee Stallion. I started thinking about what drew me to Hip Hop in the first place. It was the lyrics and the flow. Creatively crafted cadences that spit truth and flames and sometimes truth on fire! Hip-hop was about having fun and hyping up the crowd. It gained popularity, and then it became conscious. It grew up. Then it woke up.

From the time I heard Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five say, “Don’t push me ‘cause I’m close to the edge...” I knew that Hip Hop had a destiny beyond just booty-shaking and bravado. There was a truth that needed to be told. A light needed to illuminate what hovered in the darkness around us.



Hip-Hop was that in-your-face, profanity-laced, unapologetic truth-telling vehicle that was starting to bring us together, and we were making millionaires because of the potency of the truth that Hip-Hop was. And with money comes power; we were building empires and bringing others along with us, and we were once again shifting the culture.

But there is a rumor that there was meeting between deep pockets and hip-hop. It is rumored that deep pockets offered Hip-Hop unlimited access to the things they rapped “money, clothes, cars, and (if you know, you know).” The agenda was clear: pander to a specific audience, glorify the use of weapons and sidewalk pharmaceuticals, change the names of queens to that of dogs, and the world will be yours. The darkness of deep pockets engulfed Hip-Hop.

All of Hip- Hop did not follow suit. There has always been a remnant, the resistance if you will. Those who still entertained and spoke the language of hip-hop but used it like a decoder ring to stay ‘woke’ and alert the rest of us to do the same. In that remnant, you find one Kendrick Lamar Duckworth or KDot.

This Beef between Drake and Kendrick is a battle for the soul of Hip-Hop. Drake is Canadian-born and has parlayed his acting career into that of a successful rapper. He is one of, if not the highest-selling artist on the Billboard charts. His music is popular among the mainstream.



I have found some of his lyrics quite cringeworthy, and I’ll leave it at that. I believe his flow is mediocre. There are no dynamics whatsoever, just a nasally sing-song thing.

Kdot, on the other hand, got BARS. They don’t give a Pulitzer Prize to just any old album. His lyrical content in the tracks he dropped during the beef made me believe the hype! With lyrics like “I calculate you’re not as calculated I can even predict your angle (Euphoria), and “But I live in circadian rhythms of a shooting star, the mannerisms of Raphael, I can heal and give you art (6:16 in LA), he is calling out the darkness that hovers around us.

So, I stumbled into the BET Awards, looking for something beyond the beef that would rekindle my love of Hip-Hop, the music, and the culture. I have to admit that I was a little thrown off by the level of skin and wiggling, and I almost let it run me away. Then Killer Mike accepted his award. I don’t know much about Killer Mike, who he is, and what he does, but his speech was a call to action. When I could get past all those things I didn’t want to see, I realized that artist after artist came up and spoke from their hearts on various subjects. Taraji (host) drove home the importance of informing ourselves of issues affecting our lives. The reason Project 2025 was trending is because of Taraji P. Henson.

Why does any of this even matter? Because, my dear brothers and sisters, we are in danger. We are in danger of losing all the progress that we have made over the years. We need to be a people united. A people united can never be defeated. We can pretend that there is no deficit of under 40-year-olds in our churches, or we can try to figure out how to fix the communication between us and them so that we can save our collective future. We must realize that just because we use the same words doesn’t mean we speak the same language.

The generational divide among our people will not be fixed until we learn to communicate. I thought that meant we must all speak the same language. Now, it means we need good interpreters to help us understand each other. I found that in the lyrics of KDot. Hip-hop is again becoming a way for me to understand what young folk are trying to say instead of focusing on how they are saying it.

If you listen, really listen, you will realize that they are more like us than we think.

They’re Playing Kickball

By Rev. Dierdre Parker, Entertainment and Arts Editor

There are many reasons I like calling North Carolina home. One is my hometown. Nestled at the mouth of the Cape Fear River is a picturesque little fishing village called Southport. This is the place that shaped me. The place that made me. St. George Street is where I played tag and baseball and even “kissing man.” We played outside all day and made feasts of red plums and blackberries. This is where I played outside until the streetlights came on, and Daddy whistled that special whistle that every one of my friends knew meant it was time for me to head home. Clarendon Avenue is the place where I laid my head. My parents and 4 siblings shared the space but were one family in separate dwellings. Grandma’s house was two doors down. Aunt Maye’s house was between Grandma’s and Aunt Inez’s houses. On the other side of Grandma’s house was the Café and, eventually, Cousin Tim’s house.



Southport is also the home of the official NC 4th of July Festival. This

festival includes street dancing and live bands of all genres.

Growing up, I found the festival to be the highlight of the summer. Cousins from out of town and even out of state come home for the fun. The adjacent streets around the waterfront park are blocked off. There are



food trucks and vendors of all types. While the festival is centered around the holiday, we don’t focus on the insufficient freedom that this day claims to represent. We, those of us who are blessed to be melanated, use this time of year as a family reunion type of scenario. We gather around the grill and celebrate the fact that we are yet alive to see each other’s faces.

It can be difficult and even disconcerting to return to where you grew up, and it is so extremely gentrified that you get lost driving down a street you have walked all your life. The first time it happened to me, I had a full-on meltdown, crying and snorting because I realized that

my home no longer felt welcoming to me. I was angry that, once again, something that belonged to us was “discovered” by someone with more money and privilege and the wherewithal to change the look of an entire town.



They may be able to change the look, but I am happy to say that the spirit of Southport that I know is not dead. It is being preserved and kept alive by the Southport Unity Committee. I have attended several events the committee has sponsored over the years, and I have been a speaker and emcee for some of them. This year was the first time that I had the opportunity to attend the 5th Annual Kickball Game. This was not just a kickball game.

A.C. Caviness Park was packed with activities. A.C. Caviness Park is significant in our community because Mr. Alvin C. Caviness was the principal of Brunswick County Training School for a long time. This was the school that we, Black Folk, attended in Southport. Everyone of African descent who attended school for who knows how long until the class of 1969 (K-12) went to BTC.



I first noticed two gigantic waterslides at one end of the park and the colorful tents and vendors’ tables strategically located between them. Members of the committee took turns at the grill because there was free food for the kids. Between the tents and vendors’ tables and under cover of the shelter sat my cousins and friends and loved ones and classmates and the children of people I knew or remembered and went to school with and ran with reckless abandon from the park to the waterslide to the field where the games were taking place.



The beautiful thing about this day was that even though it was hot, there was shade, and a tree became the meeting post to catch up on the last 30 years since we’ve seen each other or find out how your friend’s mother is doing or informing the elder who has not been doing well that you prayed for her. It was a place to encourage and give unsolicited advice to the young’uns and to be among people who love each other and celebrate each other. I left there encouraged for our future as a people. It often feels like we cannot speak each other’s language; perhaps the interpreter we need is love.

Juneteenth: Faith and Freedom

By Rasool Berry
Host, Writer of Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom



Frederick Douglass. Sojourner Truth. Harriet Tubman. James Walker Hood. These are just some of the heroes and heroines of the faith who paved the path of faith and freedom in the nation and through the A.M.E. Zion Church. They understood Jesus when he said that he was “anointed to proclaim good news to the poor ... liberty to the captive” (Luke 4:18).

They rejected the wicked distortions that tried to justify injustice with Scripture and proclaimed Jesus and justice throughout the land. Their work provided the moral clarity President Abraham Lincoln needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, which announced freedom to all enslaved in the Confederacy effective January 1, 1863. But this was in the middle of the Civil War, and the Confederate States of America would not end the inhumane practice of slavery without a fight. It would take over 600,000 lives and two and a half years before the end of the Civil War, and the arrival of soldiers brought freedom to Texas.

On June 19, 1865, thousands of soldiers, many of them (upwards to 4,000) Black soldiers, arrived on the shores of Galveston to enforce freedom, a culmination of the work of the AME Zion luminaries and so many others who fought for freedom.

Juneteenth is also known as Freedom Day because it was the day freedom finally came to those enslaved in the farthest reaches of the Confederacy. There’s no better place, therefore, than AME Zion, also known as Freedom Church, to host a celebration of Juneteenth. Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom is an award-winning documentary that I got the privilege to host. It highlights the story of Juneteenth through the stories of the descendants of those emancipated in Texas on June 19, 1865.

The A.M.E. Zion Church has partnered with the producers of the


film, Our Daily Bread Ministries, to hold a contest to host a screening of the film at an A.M.E.Z. church simulcast on AMEZ.TV.



More details will follow. We are excited to celebrate Juneteenth together and recall together the trials and triumphs of those who came before us, prayed for freedom, and experienced a divine deliverance on Juneteenth.



Happy Juneteenth!

The
**Coppinville
Experience**

FROM POVERTY TO GOD’S WILL



The Autobiography of Frederick L. Hamilton



Mr. Daman De Leon
Health and Wellness Editor
Health_Wellness@StarOfZion.org

Health and Wellness in our Education System

By Daman De Leon, Health and Wellness Editor

Well, it's that time of year again. The ever-so-loving hustle of back-to-school antics. For students: shopping for clothes and school supplies, learning a new class schedule, making new friends, learning new teachers, coping with the hormonal stresses of puberty, acquiring new courses in your major (for college students), gathering money for tuition, etc. For educators: arriving back early, thus enduring a shortened vacation, learning a new curriculum, forming a new curriculum, professional development with admin, parent-teacher conferences, meetings....meetings....MEETINGS.

Mental and Emotional Health should be promoted more at school for both students and educators alike.

There are five tips I'd like to focus on for Educators:

#1 Maintain wellness practices.

With the approach of a new school year, it may be easy to leave behind wellness activities developed over the summer to devote more time to planning. However, it is more important than ever to carry key wellness practices into the school year.



Wellness can present in many forms, whether it is exercise, reading a book for fun, ensuring adequate time for sleep, scheduling social activities with friends, attending to your diet, practicing mindfulness, or journaling.

What will you do to maintain a focus on wellness?

#2 Establish boundaries.

Being constantly "on" in a helping profession, like teaching or counseling, is a recipe for burnout. It is important to set personal boundaries between work and personal time and to get some time away from work-related tasks and communications, including email.

What are your personal boundaries, and how can you advocate to maintain them?

#3 Identify your support system.

Identify the people in your life that provide you with support, whether it be an accountability buddy who will help you stay on track with your wellness goals, a person who listens and validates your emotions, or someone whose very presence reduces stress and provides you with a sense of belonging.



Just like self-care, it can be easy to sacrifice the time we devote to relationships when we feel overwhelmed with work.

Who is in your support system, and how will you stay connected even when things get busy?

#4 Plan what you can, and accept imperfection

One of the most common responses to anxiety is avoidance, and getting ready for a new school year can certainly lead to some anxiety. Unfortunately, avoidance or procrastination will heighten the anxiety in the long run, whereas exposure (e.g., getting started on the planning) can reduce the anxiety.

At the same time, life is messy, and not everything goes according to plan, regardless of how detailed our plan is or how many contingencies we include!

An acceptance mindset, wherein we accept what we cannot control and continue to make choices that align with our values, allows us to let go of tension and instead act with psychological flexibility.

How do you demonstrate flexible thinking in your life, and how can you apply that to your work as an educator?

#5 Utilize resources available to you.

Humans are not meant to exist in isolation – we need a community to thrive! In addition to your personal support network, be aware of (and utilize) other community resources available to you in supporting mental health and wellness. These resources could be life-saving for you and the people around you.

References

- Brown, S. 2020. *Overwhelmed: The real campus mental-health crisis and new models for well-being*. Washington, DC: *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. <https://store.chronicle.com/products/overwhelmed> (accessed December 26, 2020).
- American Psychological Association. (2020, February 1). *Building your resil-*

Attaining and Maintaining the Five Themes of Well-being

By Daman De Leon, Health and Wellness Editor

Enough emphasis cannot be placed on how important Self-Care and Maintenance are. We, not just as believers but as humans, are given one body, and we are mandated to be good stewards of our bodies (1 Cor. 6: 19-20).

Ideally, we should strive to be in our best physical shape not just for our own health & merit but to implement Kingdom work as the body of Christ. The month of August is *National Wellness Month*. It's the perfect time for self-care, mental health awareness, healthy fitness routines, stress management, and achieving fitness goals. The following are what nutritionist experts call the *5 Themes of Well-Being*:

- Theme 1 – Connect. Connecting with others can help us feel close to people and valued for who we are.

- Theme 2 – Get active. Many people find that physical activity helps them maintain positive mental health.
- Theme 3 – Take notice
- Theme 4 – Learn
- Theme 5 – Give

Depending on the severity of the stress, the recovery process is different, but it always starts with conscious attention to yourself. Effective self-care and stress management go hand in hand in maintaining a balanced and healthy life.

Resilience is like an inoculation against the uncertainty and unpredictability of life. By training this "muscle," you don't become invincible to stress – but you know how to fix yourself because you understand the causes and nature of your condition. Yes, yes, we all know how to do that! But some things are important to understand. Unlike hair

growth, skin renewal, and soft tissue repair, resilience doesn't happen independently, regardless of us. It starts with our decision to help ourselves. In practice, resilience is always about self-care and being honest with us.

How Can Self-Care Reduce Stress?

How does self-care reduce stress? In a world today, where constant change and uncertainty have become the norm, being able to manage stress and anxiety, is a key skill for maintaining psychological health. Psychological self-help is a set of tools and techniques anyone can use to improve their emotional well-being. Depending on the situation, Mental health treatment options may include various techniques.

Improve Caregiving Abilities

Self-care consists of activities and practices that a person is involved in regularly to maintain their physical, mental, and emotional health. People can build resilience against stressors by prioritizing self-care, enhancing overall well-being and life satisfaction. Regular self-care practices, such as exercise, proper nutrition, and adequate sleep, contribute to a balanced lifestyle, helping to prevent stress before it escalates.

Improve Physical Health

Engaging in physical activities like walking, yoga, or any form of exercise can significantly reduce stress. Exercise releases endorphins, which are natural mood lifters. Additionally, maintaining a healthy diet and ensuring sufficient sleep can improve energy levels and reduce the physical symptoms of stress, such as headaches or muscle tension.

Improve Emotional Health

Emotional self-care includes activities that help you connect, process, and reflect on a full range of emotions. Balancing self-care and stress is essential for maintaining mental and physical health. Practices such as journaling, meditation, or talking to a therapist can help manage stress by providing outlets for emotional expression and promoting mental clarity. These activities can also enhance self-awareness and emotional intelligence. Mental health goals should include steps to



improve emotional well-being. This will help you stay calm in the most unpredictable situations.

Improve Social Health

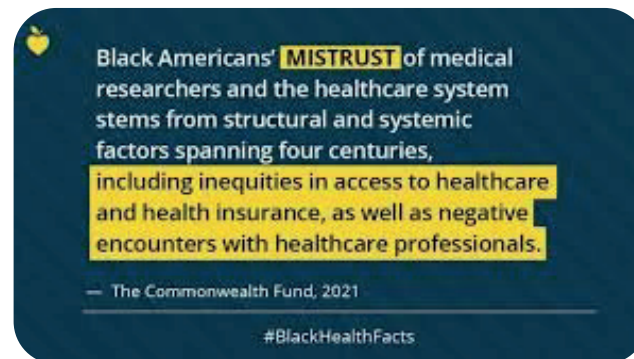
Social connection support is important for anyone, especially if they are under stress. There should be someone to help you cope with difficult life circumstances. Take help from loved ones, spend more time socializing, and participate in a variety of social activities. This will help protect yourself from stress or deal with it more quickly. Practicing self-care and stress management techniques helps to equalize emotions and feelings, and this becomes a strong defense against stressful situations.

Setting Boundaries

Learning to say no and setting personal boundaries are essential self-care practices. Overcommitting can lead to burnout and increased stress. By prioritizing tasks and setting limits, individuals can manage their time and energy more effectively, ensuring they have time for rest and activities that rejuvenate them. This can lead to a more balanced life and a significant reduction in stress levels.

Managing stress and anxiety through self-care takes time and practice, but the results can greatly improve your quality of life. Using

these techniques can help you feel calmer, focused, and balanced in your daily life. Mental health assessments allow you to choose the right techniques that will ease a person's condition and bring his or her thoughts to order. The importance of stress management cannot be overstated, and for one's well-being, this fact cannot be ignored.



Use reframing. There is a positive resource in every situation, and you just have to see it and try to utilize it. You can find something good in any stressful situation. To do this, you just need to turn on your critical thinking ability.

Planning. Numerous studies have shown that stress caused by daily work and household chores can be defeated with proper planning. Make tasks and to-do lists for the day and for the week. Prioritize – think about what needs to be done first and what to postpone or delegate.

Master relaxation techniques. There is no list of ways to deal with stress that is without this point. Because it works, learn what mindfulness is and why this option is most common for stress relief.

Remember your highest values. Experiments have proven that those who think about their main life values and goals (family, children, “world peace”) before a stressful event experience less stress. Incorporating self-care techniques for stress can help control your emotions and wellness.

Capitalize on your strengths. Think about what traits of your character give you an advantage in a stressful situation. For example, everyone notes your coolness, or patience, or ability to make quick decisions, intuition. How does this help? Believing in the uniqueness of your strength, you will overcome a difficult period more easily.

Learn to forgive. The ability to forgive mistakes or bad deeds, both to yourself and others, is one of the main virtues. Those who do not dwell on resentments and failures are less prone to depression and other psychological problems.

Practice mindfulness. Mindfulness helps you adapt better to different situations and increases cognitive flexibility. You can practice mindfulness through books, podcasts, and apps, or you can simply start setting aside at least one minute a day to feel your body, thoughts, and abilities. Practicing self-management techniques for stress can improve mental health and increase productivity.

Be grateful. Positive emotions are a major weapon in the fight against stress. Don't forget to celebrate all the good things that happen to you and thank fate, yourself or others for it.

Take breaks. Be sure to take breaks, even if you are fully immersed in the process and it seems exciting to you. A small break will help to reboot your brain and find new ways to solve the problem. If you force yourself to work when your energy is low, it's easy to burn out physically and emotionally. Don't forget to take a vacation. A stress-free holiday season will help restore your mental health.

Avoid the multitasking. Do not try to do ten things at once. This is a direct path to nervous tension. Learn to respect your time and your efforts and teach others to respect them.

The benefits of stress management include improved mental clarity, enhanced resilience, and overall better health outcomes. Resilience is a crucial component and a reminder always to stay the course!

References

- Davis M. (2000) *The Relaxation and Stress Reduction Work Book*, New Harbinger Inc.
- OHara V. (1995), *Wellness at Work*, New Harbinger Inc.
- Hoffman D. (1992) *Therapeutic Herbalism*

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



1. Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.
PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: West Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28269
Office Ph: (919) 554-8994; Fax: (919) 556-6049
Email: BishopDBStarnes@amezion.org
District includes: Blue Ridge, West Central North Carolina, Western North Carolina, Jamaica (all divisions)
Mrs. Camille C. Starnes, Missionary Supervisor



2. Bishop W. Darin Moore
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: P.O. Box 97395, Raleigh, NC 27624
Office Ph: (910) 773-6491; Fax: (919) 556-6049
Email: BishopWDarinMoore@amezion.org
District includes: Albemarle, Cape Fear, Central North Carolina, North Carolina, Virgin Islands
Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor



3. Bishop George Dwayne Crenshaw
NORTH EASTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: 3605 Sandy Planes Rd. 240-238 Marietta, GA 30066
Office Ph: TBA
Email: BishopGDCrenshaw@amezion.org
District includes: New England, New Jersey, New York, Western New York, Bahamas and London-Midland
Mrs. Laurena H. Crenshaw, Missionary Supervisor



4. Bishop Hilliard K. Dogbe
WESTERN WEST AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office 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 Ph: 233-30-703-0241
Email: BishopHKDogbe@amezion.org
District includes: North Ghana, West Ghana, Mid-Ghana, Liberia, East Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire and Togo
Mrs. Cynthia Dogbe, Missionary Supervisor



5. Bishop U. U. Effiong
EASTERN WEST AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: Anderson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Diamond Hill, Calabar Annex/ Postal: 57 School Road, Satellite Town, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria
Office Ph: +234 803 6765 479 Email: BishopUUEffiong@amezion.org
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



6. Bishop Brian R. Thompson, Sr.
MID-ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: 9701 Apollo Drive - Suite 245, Largo, MD 20774
Office Ph: (301) 322-3866; Fax: (301) 322-3862
Email: BishopThompson106@amezion.org
District includes: Allegheny, East Tennessee-Virginia, Ohio, Philadelphia-Baltimore, Virginia, Barbados, Guyana-Suriname, St. Vincent
Rev. Felica Thompson, Missionary Supervisor



7. Bishop Eric L. Leake
SOUTH ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: 745 Saluda Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730
Office Ph: (803) 980-2462
Email: BishopEricLeake@amezion.org
District includes: Georgia, India, Palmetto, Pee Dee, South Carolina
Mrs. H. Jean McMurray-Leake, Missionary Supervisor



8. Bishop Daran H. Mitchell
MIDWEST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: P.O. Box 79035, Greensboro, NC 27417
Office Ph: TBA
Email: BishopDMitchell108@amezion.org
District includes: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Trinidad-Tobago
Rev. L. Lynn Mitchell, Missionary Supervisor



9. Bishop Anthony Witherspoon
SOUTHWESTERN DELTA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: TBA
Office Ph: TBA
Email: BishopWitherspoon109@amezion.org
District includes: Arkansas, India, Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Mississippi, Texas, and West Tennessee-Mississippi
Rev. Dr. Kay M. Gabriel, Missionary Supervisor



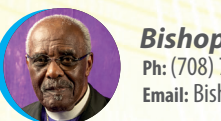
10. Bishop Melanie Rogers-Miller
WESTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: TBA
Office Ph: TBA Fax: (215)-689-0865;
Email: BishopMelanieMiller110@amezion.org
District includes: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon-Washington, and Southwest Rocky Mountains
Mr. Jimmie Lewis Miller Sr. & Mrs. Rosalyn "Terry" Holland



11. Bishop Dwayne A. Walker
ALABAMA-FLORIDA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: 808 South Lawrence, Montgomery AL, 36104-5055
Office Ph: (334)-269-6365; Fax: (334)-269-6369
Email: BishopDwayneAWalker111@amezion.org
District includes: Alabama, North Alabama, South Alabama, Central Alabama, West Alabama, Cahaba, Florida, S. Florida, South Korea
Mrs. Donna Smith-Walker, Missionary Supervisor



12. Bishop Bernardo J. Ngunza
CENTRAL SOUTHERN AFRICA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
Office Address: TBA
Office Ph: TBA
Email: BishopBNgunza112@amezion.org
District Includes: East Angola, West Angola, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia
Ms. Isabel António Ngunza, Missionary Supervisor



Bishop George W. Walker Sr. (Retired)
Ph: (708) 799-5599 Fax: (708) 799-5584
Email: BishopGeorgeWWalkerSr@amezion.org



Bishop Joseph Johnson (Retired)
Ph: (704) 877-9646
Email: BishopJJohnson@amezion.org



Bishop Kenneth Monroe (Retired)
Ph: (919) 554-8994
Email: BishopKMonroe@amezion.org



Bishop S. Chuka Ekemam Sr. (Retired)
Tel: +234-803-213-3767 (Nigeria) or +19802426935 (US)
Email: BishopSChukaEkemamSr@amezion.org



Bishop Marshall H. Strickland (Retired)
Ph: (410) 744-7330 Fax: (410) 788-5510
Email: BishopMHStrickland@amezion.org



Bishop Dennis V. Proctor (Retired)
Ph: (410)-215-8741
Email: BishopProctor@amezion.org



Bishop George E. Battle Jr. (Retired)
Ph: (704)-895-2236 (H) (704)-332-7600
Email: BishopGeorgeEBattleJr@amezion.org



Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett (Retired)
PH: (708) 802-9873
Email: BishopNJarrett@amezion.org



Bishop Michael A. Frencher Sr. (Retired)
Ph: (336)-312-8245
Email: BishopMAFrencher@amezion.org



Bishop Warren M. Brown (Retired)
Ph: (678) 574-2725
Email: BishopWMBrown@amezion.org

.....
See Global Leadership... next page

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) 919-5580; 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 28221-6770

Ph: (704) 599-4630 Fax: (704) 688-2550; Email: pbarrett@amezion.org

**Dr. Eleazar Merriweather, Director
Dept. of Church Growth & Development**

3225 Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28269

Ph: (704) 599-4630; Fax: (704) 688-2547;

Email: emerriw721@amezion.org

Rev. Dr. Darrell Williams, Executive Director, Zion's Benefit Services

P.O. Box 217114, Charlotte, NC 28221; Ph: (704) 714-1505;

Email: dwilliams@amezion.org

FORMER GENERAL OFFICERS

Dr. Raymon Hunt

Dr. W. Robert Johnson, III

Dr. Kermit DeGraffenreid

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 Mckenith

Rev. Dr. Terrence J. Jones

Rev. Dr. George E. McKain II

Dr. David A. Aiken, Sr.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Hon. Adele M. Riley, President

625 Ellsworth Drive, Trotwood, Ohio 45426

Email: mariley310@yahoo.com

Rev. Dr. Brandon Fisher, Vice-President

2940 42nd Street, Sacramento, CA 95817

Rev. Dr. Lisa T. McDow, Esq., Clerk

Post Office Box 2541, Wilmington, NC 28402-2541

Dr. Yvonne A. Tracey, Asst. Clerk

502 Ferndale Drive, Salisbury, NC 28147

Rev. Dr. Derrick R. Anderson, Chaplain

4650 Shookstown Drive, Kannapolis, NC 28081

Rev. Dr. Richard Austin, Esq.

1415 Earlham Drive, Dayton, OH 45406

Dr. Marsha C. Grayson, Esq.

88 Roberts Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Rev. Dr. Reid R. White, Jr., Esq

6608 Cartwright Drive, Columbia, SC 29223

Dr. William Stokes

5821 West Tree Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507

Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Tolbert, Sr., Esq.

104 Black Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama 35020

CONNECTIONAL IAY 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.ConnBellwright@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: clchaplain21@charter.net

Mrs. Lula K. Howard, President Emeritus

4009 Landside Dr., Louisville, KY 40220

Cell: (502) 494-9527; Email: Lmkhoward330@gmail.com

WOMEN'S HOME & OVERSEAS
MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder, International President

100 East Ocean View, Suite 1110, Norfolk, VA 23503

PH: 757-761-6280 Email: sandracrowder@yahoo.com

Dr. Peggy Lindsey-Owens, First Vice President

503 McLean Street, Raeford, NC 28376

Ph: 910-875-5803; Email: mspeggy@earthlink.net

Rev. Patricia "Patty" Surratt-Smith, Second Vice President

PO Box 1424, Shelby, NC 28151 Ph: 704-281-1544;

Email: ladypattysmith@gmail.com

Mrs. Rosetta J. Dunham, Executive Director

P.O. Box 26846, Charlotte, NC 28221-6846

Email: rodunham@amezion.org

Mrs. Effie B. Woodard, Recording Secretary

108 Effie Lane/PO Box 662, Broadway, NC 27505 Cell: 919-356-6608;

Email: effiewoodard@gmail.com

Ms. Verdelle Cunningham, Treasurer

1 Dally Road, Unit 208, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Ph: (917) 742-5565; Email: oliver1447@att.net

Ms. Karleese M. Smalls, Connectional Coordinator of YAMS

1436 McBeth Drive, Kannapolis, NC 28038

Ph: (H) 704-298-0487; (C) 917-371-3464 Email: karleesemails@yahoo.com

Ms. Melva Polk Wright, Connectional Secretary, Youth Missionary Society

438 Parkview Court, Unit C, Salisbury, MD 21804

Ph: (443) 880-5728; Email: principalmelva1960@gmail.com

Mrs. April C. Davis, Connectional Superintendent, Buds of Promise

9233 Mountain Aire Circle, Charlotte, NC 28214; Home: 704-394-0577; Cell:

980-298-0298; Email: aprilDavisforbuds@yahoo.com

Mrs. Jo-Ann Monroe, Connectional Secretary, Bureau of Supply

40 East Sidney Ave., #12B, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550

Ph: 914-224-7621; Email: jom4supply@gmail.com

Mrs. Joy Williamson Foster, Connectional Chairman, Life Members Council

229 Academy Lane, Middletown, DE 19709

Ph: 302-563-0222; Email: mailto:Joy2023LM@gmail.com

Ms. Camryn Ivey, Director of Communications

1610 Cox Road, Matthews, NC 28104

Ph: 704-907-0208; Email: camrynivey@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL MINISTERS
& IAY ASSOCIATION

Rev. Dr. Anthony Witherspoon, President

4556 Behlmann Farms Blvd., Florissant, MO 63034

Ph: (314) 533-0316; Email: anwitherspoon1@gmail.com

Mrs. Lula K. Howard, First Vice President

4009 Landside Dr., Louisville, KY 40220-3080

Cell: (502) 494-9527; Email: lmkhoward330@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Myrtle Bowen, Second Vice President

12006 Othman Court, Ft. Washington, MD 20744

Ph: (301) 237-7755; Email: PEBowen50@gmail.com

Rev. Dorothy Patterson, Executive Director

48 West 17th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002

Ph: (551) 206-1499 Email: Kleinz1@aol.com

Ms. Marie Denise Niles, Secretary

718 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233; Ph: (917) 373-5237

Email: mdn929@gmail.com

Mrs. Carlous E. Tyrance, Assistant Secretary

11508 Turnstone Ct., Charlotte, NC 28226

Ph: (704) 541-5237; Email: ctyrnc@bellsouth.net

Rev. David T. Miller, Treasurer

P.O. Box 6753, Harrisburg, PA 17112

Ph: (717) 712-4709; Email: revdmillersigma@icloud.com

Rev. Dr. Maurice Harden, Financial Secretary

6101 Clarks Fork Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616

Ph: (704) 202-8437; Email: pastormharden@gmail.com

Rev. J. Martin Boulter, Sr., Chaplain

114 Pelham Lane, Fort Mill, SC 29715

Ph: (803) 448-7100; Email: jmboulter@compurium.net

DEPARTMENT OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Rev. Johngerlyn "Jonse" Young, President,
President, Assembly of Christian Educators (ACE)**

Ph: (616) 581-5358; Email: Jyoungace@gmail.com

**Bro. Dion Harris, Chairperson
Young Adults in Christian Ministries (YACM)**

Email: Djharris2012@gmail.com

Mr. Ezekiel A. Perez, President

Varick International Christian Youth Council (VICYC)

Ph: (408) 757-9249 Email: ezekiel1132@gmail.com

Mr. Andre Griffin, Parliamentarian (VICYC)

Phone Number: (336) 660-8745 Email: griffinatf@gmail.com

COLLEGES

Rev. Dr. Anthony Davis, President, Livingstone College

701 W. Monroe Street, Salisbury, NC 28144;

Ph: (704) 216-6151 Fax: (704) 216-6217; Internet: www.livingstone.edu

Dr. Lester A. McCorn, President, Clinton College

1029 Crawford Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730

Ph: (803) 327-7402; Fax: (803) 327-3261; Internet: www.clintoncollege.edu

Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President, Hood Theological Seminary

1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144

Ph: (704) 636-7611; Fax: (704) 636-7685 Internet: www.hoodseminary.edu

Rev. Wallace L. Noble, President, Lomax-Hannon Junior College

725 Conecuh Street, Greenville, AL 36037; Ph: (334) 382-2115

Rev. Mulbah Gray, President, A.M.E. Zion University

P.O. Box 1960, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa; Ph: 011-231-261-071

Dr. Donald J. Ekpo, President, Hood-Speaks Theological Seminary

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 Orchard View Place, Apt. 303, Palmdale, California 93550-6526

Ph: (661) 227-4816 or (910) 262-8382; Email: alonzobraggs@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
& WIDOW(ERS) FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Robin Stitt, International President

3705 Rosedown Dr. Matthews, NC 281

Dating as a Millennial in 2024



Ms. Angel Eason
Lifestyle Editor
Lifestyle@StarOfZion.org

By Angel Eason, Lifestyle Editor

Ghetto! Trash! Awful!

These are three words that millennials use to describe dating today. In conversations with this demographic, oftentimes, I hear, “I hate dating,” “girl, he did not want to pay for my meal on the first date,” “she only wants me to spend money,” and “he/she ghosted me.”

In a Facebook post, I asked people in their late 20s, 30s, and 40s to share their experiences about dating.

The themes that surfaced from this discussion were: Social Media and the Impact on Dating, Unrealistic Expectations, and Authenticity.

Social Media and the Impact on Dating

In the age of DMs, likes, and swipes, it is no secret that social media has an impact on dating. Social media for purposes of this article includes Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and TikTok. These platforms are used for people to post their personal lives and share experiences with the world while receiving compliments through likes, comments, and messages. Some people choose to share who they are dating and their dating experiences on their social media. This can cause conflict due to outsiders offering their opinions based on a post or a 20-second video clip. Another negative impact of social media is that people think they have many options to choose from. Now, meeting people online is not a bad thing, but if you compare people you connect with to others, then it can cause problems and unrealistic expectations.

Unrealistic Expectations

Another theme that stands out is Unrealistic Expectations. There is nothing wrong with having expectations in dating and relationships. It



becomes a problem when people are expected to be perfect as it relates to things that they see on social media or discuss within their friend groups.

For example: “Based on what I see on social media from how lavish and extravagant dates can get, I may ask the person interested in dating me to take me to a Michelin star restaurant along with providing money for clothing for the first date.” This is an unrealistic expectation. Another unrealistic expectation is expecting the person you are dating to read your mind. Communication is important and necessary for dating to work.

Authenticity

What happened to being yourself? When dating, it is important to show up as yourself and not put on a facade of what you think the person wants you to be. In the Facebook discussion, one of the comments shared was that people are not taking the time to invest in themselves to know what they are looking for. This comment stood out to me because I think it is important to know who you are, your values, and your goals to meet someone who is like-minded.

Dating can be complicated. Back in the March edition, I highlighted two couples and their Black love journey. A few things that come to mind from my interviews with them are to keep God first and to make sure you like the person. I know, liking the person seems self-explanatory, but would you be surprised?

Now, onto the next topic in this dating series: Online Dating... stay tuned.

If you want more articles on this topic, let me know at lifestyle@starofzion.org.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Shopping with Smarts



Dr. Dana Stillely
Financial Freedom Editor
FinancialFreedom@StarOfZion.org

By Dana G. Stillely, Financial Freedom Editor

Mid-July was marked by special event shopping days offered by large retailers like [Amazon](#), [Target](#), and [Walmart](#). Days before the sales, these retailers inundated our televisions, email accounts, and social media accounts with reminders of the savings that we could reap on these special shopping days. As I started to make my wish list, it grew larger and larger and larger! I wondered if I would really save any money or end up



buying all kinds of ‘stuff’ on impulse because I didn’t want to miss out on a bargain. While I am not usually an impulse buyer, I kept remembering the old sage advice that you should never go grocery shopping when you are hungry. I knew I had to make a plan to avert a financial disaster or setback.

I considered the following tips to ensure that I did not overspend. In addition to committing to stick to my shopping list, I reviewed my budget. Once I had established my budget, I prioritized the purchases I wanted to make. I also took some time to look around for better bargains before I completed my purchases. Once I had spent the budgeted amount, my shopping spree was over. While there are items that I still would like to have, by sticking to my budget I am not incurring additional credit card fees or worrying about how I will make my payments when the bills arrive.

For many, impulse buying is difficult to stop. If you find that you often buy on impulse, give some thought to what triggers this kind of spending. Are you stressed, lonely, exhausted? Is it a habit that you have been managing for a long time? Track your spending for 6-12 months and see if you gain any useful insight that may help you advance your road to financial freedom.



Alexis Hutchinson
Sports Editor
Sports@StarofZion.org

Court Vision: Niyah Baldwin's Journey of Faith from FAMU to the NBA

By Alexis D. Hutchinson, Sports Editor

Niyah Baldwin, a rising senior at Florida A&M University (FAMU), is making waves in the NBA HBCU Fellowship Program. With her roots firmly planted in Holliday Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church and her faith guiding her every step, Niyah's journey to the fellowship is both inspiring and a testament to her dedication.

"My faith played a huge role in my decision to apply for the Fellowship," Niyah explains. "As I have grown older, I see more and more the impact that God has on my life and how blessed I truly am. I put my complete trust in God and allowed Him to guide me through this process. I'm so thankful that He blessed me with this amazing opportunity."

Out of 11,000 candidates, Niyah was selected as one of 71 students for the 2024 NBA HBCU Fellowship cohort. Reflecting on this achievement, she shares, "I felt amazing. It was truly a blessing, and I immediately thanked God for this opportunity. This was a highly competitive interview process, so being chosen reassured me that I'm on the right path."

Representing FAMU in the fellowship, Niyah is proud to show how hardworking and qualified HBCU students are for such prestigious opportunities. "This gave me the chance to show how hardworking and qualified HBCU students are for these opportunities. Securing this internship put me in the position to make more room for Black women and HBCU students in the sports industry," she says. "I am setting a standard for those that'll come after me and opening doors for more individuals that look like me to have the same opportunity."

During the three-day orientation at the NBA offices, Niyah was inspired by the behind-the-scenes work that goes into maintaining the NBA's success. "My experience at the NBA Offices was so much fun. I truly enjoyed seeing how much goes into the NBA. People don't realize how much behind-the-scenes work goes into the upkeep of NBA teams and the successful flow of NBA games," she recalls. Meeting former Fellows, now working full-time with the NBA, was a highlight for her.

The networking session with over 50 NBA employees opened Niyah's eyes to the vast career opportunities within the organization. "The networking session showed me how many different components there are within the NBA employment-wise. There's a space for everyone to excel and so many departments to choose from," she says.

Interning with the Charlotte Hornets in their Marketing Department, Niyah is excited about her projects, including the Theme Night project and creating a marketing plan for the Hornets Hoops Summer Camp. "I'm most excited about working on my Theme Night project, where I'll be coming up with In-Game and Concourse Activations and a pre-game event for the Buzz City Appreciation theme night. I'm also excited about creating a media and marketing plan for the Hornets Hoops Summer Camp," she shares.

Niyah was pleasantly surprised by how well she adapted to sports marketing. "This is my first time working in sports marketing, but I'm doing so well, and it's such a blessing to watch it unfold and witness my success so far this summer," she reflects.



Diversity and inclusion are crucial values within the NBA, and Niyah believes this fellowship program plays a significant role in promoting these values. "Diversity and Inclusion is important in every corporate and workplace environment. It creates a space where everyone can fit in and feel a sense of belonging within the company they work for," she explains. "This fellowship contributes to those values as it places young, ambitious Black professionals in corporate spaces and gives us the tools to excel and leave our mark."



Her involvement in church has profoundly shaped Niyah's values and approach to leadership. "I have always been a leader within my church, from being a leader within the youth choir, dance group, and holding district level positions," she says. "The church has helped create a foundation and set of values that I follow throughout life. Being in this new work environment, I have walked by faith and not by sight, which is one of my greatest values."

Niyah hopes to inspire her church community to pursue professional opportunities like the NBA HBCU Fellowship by taking leaps of faith and trusting in God's plan. "I hope to bring back the message of taking a leap of faith and trusting God's plan for you. I want to relay that it's so important to invest in yourself and your future by taking the chance to nurture your professional development by seizing opportunities such as this," she advises.



Looking ahead, Niyah plans to leverage her experiences and connections from the fellowship to achieve her long-term career goals and make a significant impact in the sports industry. "I plan to make connections that last beyond my time here. Networking and creating strong relationships are so valuable because you never know how those relationships can assist you along your career path," she says. "I will leave my mark on the sports industry in a tremendous way, and I will do it with God by my side, ordering my steps."

Niyah Baldwin's journey through the NBA HBCU Fellowship Program is a testament to her faith, determination, and the support of her community. She is paving the way for future generations and proving that with hard work and trust in God, anything is possible.



A SKETCH OF HER LIFE: OBITUARY

Noelia Barreras Nieves de Austin

August 5, 1944 – June 25, 2024

Nolly would say that, “This life is the real thing and not a dress rehearsal.”

“Life is a journey and not a destination; we thank God for the “Journey.”



Noelia Barreras Nieves de Austin, affectionately called “Nolly,” was born on the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques on August 5, 1944, the first child of Margarita Nieves and Jose Antonio Barreras.

She moved to the island of St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, at the age of eight and was raised by her paternal grandmother, Josefa Lopez. Nolly attended St. Mary’s Catholic School from Kindergarten to the 12th grade and graduated in the class of 1965. She made many life-long friends at St. Mary’s School, including her ex-husband, Cristobal “Machin” Encarnacion.

Nolly’s work life begins as a teenager with a job at the dry goods store in Sunday Market Square, Christiansted. She worked as a secretary/receptionist at the Department of Health before moving back to Puerto Rico, the Big Island, San Juan. During her 18-year stay in San Juan, she received a cosmetology degree and license. She also worked in a high-management position at an advertising agency for many years. Her delightful personality earned her many friends, and she lived a prosperous and happy life, traveling and purchasing her own auto, condo, and pet dog. She marched with the Baha’i Faith community and went on many missionary trips. Notwithstanding her successful professional and social life in Puerto Rico, she became lonely for her St. Croix family, friends, and home.

Nolly moved back to St. Croix in 1989, where God had positioned a person whom she would meet and live the remainder of her life in total marital bliss. After the devastating Hurricane Hugo in September 1989, Nolly met that person, Richard Austin, at the temporary telephone bank outside of the VITELCO telephone company building on King Street, Christiansted, which was a common congregating place at the time where you could make a telephone call.

Noelia worked for the Virgin Islands Government for many years as an Interpreter at the Territory Courts of the Virgin Islands and as an Executive Assistant with the Departments of Tourism and Human Ser-

vices. She was involved in many civic, political, religious, and community activities. Nolly loved politics and started each day with “Morning Joe.” She loved to dance and “party” and had a contagious personality and a heart of gold.

Sister Nolly was consecrated as a Deaconess in the A.M.E. Zion Church and President of the Virgin Islands District Usher Board. She was also President of the Missionary Society, Usher, Greeter, and First Lady at the Beulah A.M.E. Zion Church, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, where her husband, The Rev. Dr. Richard Austin, Esq. pastored for 18 years, 2000 to 2018. They traveled on many missions and conference trips to the United States and internationally.

Nolly and Richard dated, traveled, and cohabited for nearly five years until Nolly, one good day, using expletives, questioned Richard’s intentions regarding the future of their relationship. Shortly thereafter, they were married on January 22, 1994. The marriage for over 30 years had its ups and downs, as any marriage, but mostly filled with great joy, fun, love, faith, affection, travel, partying, entertaining, and watching “Morning Joe”, MSNBC, and Hallmark movies. Nolly took wings and departed this realm of the ages to be with her Creator on the evening of June 25, 2024, in Pavia Hospital, Santurce, Puerto Rico.

Those who mourn and have great memories of her beautiful life include her husband, Richard Austin; bonus daughters and granddaughter, Stephanie Kate Jackson Williams (Ricardo), Alison Estelle Austin, and Sydney Maxine Jackson; Aunt: 90-year-old Carman Belardo; Uncle: 101-year-old, Carlos “Chambe” Barreras; Sisters: Mercedes Ruiz Nieves, Lisandra Barreras, Miriam Barreras, Mary Gant, Lois P. McGuire, Jean Johnson, Carmen Quinones, Ramonita Quinones; Brothers: Joseph Herndon (Lourdes “Ping”), Willie Barreras and Juan Lopez, Jr.; Nieces, Nephews and Cousins too numerous to name. God Son: Osei Joseph

Special Friends: Mary Roebuck, Stanley Sneed, Francine Bankston Cummings, The St. Croix Beach Group, Paula and Tommie Broadnax, Kenneth Mapp, Maren Roebuck, Joe Bradford, Anita and Luis Davila, Drs. Ivy and Saleem Hylton, Ken and Rita Robertson, Ruth, and Chancy Lang, Ferryneisa Benjamin, Beatrice Gumbs, Carolyn Ama Steele, Benate DeCoux, St. Mary’s School Class of 1963, “61” Forever, Micheal and Veronica Bell, Carlton and Pamala Brown, Judy Phillips, Yadria Tirado, Tina and Edward LaBorde, Cynthia B. Moore, Joan and Duane Pettiford, Deidra and Jerry Banner, Robert Penn, and Alverene Owens.

Many Thanks to Others, Family, Friends, and Well-wishers, too numerous to name.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES L. SHARP

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH 25TH BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

By Rev. Harriet McElvaney, Retired Pastor Campbell Chapel A.M.E. Zion

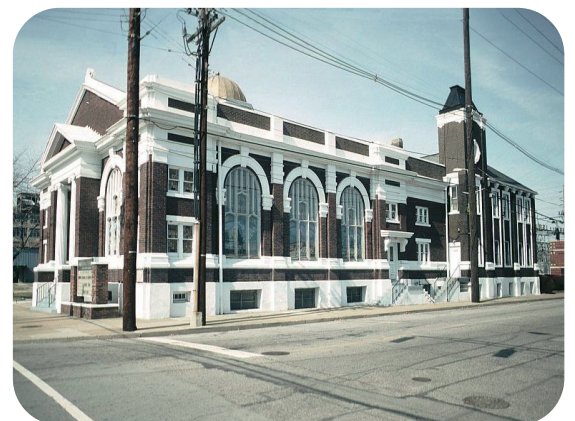
Photos By Rev. Harriet McElvaney, and Facebook

July 2024, Louisville, KY., At 6:00 PM on Sunday, June 23, 2024, the Kentucky Conference assembled for its 25th Baccalaureate Service without the presence of DR. CHARLES LOUIS SHARP.

It was with a sense of profound sadness that we gathered at this 25th Baccalaureate Service of the Kentucky Annual Conference without his presence. This was his baby. His vision and prerogative were to see that the graduating students of the Kentucky Conference – whether it was high school, college, or those who had completed advanced degrees – be recognized as scholars by the Kentucky Conference. I believe Kentucky has the only Baccalaureate

Service for graduates in the Midwest Episcopal District and may be the only one in all of Zion.

Dr. Sharp, being an educator himself, always talked about how he was nurtured in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and the Church, sitting under such educators as Mrs. Ola W. Crawley, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Jackson, and Mrs. Mary Ruth Smith in Madisonville, KY. He valued educational achievements and he desired students of the



A.M.E. Zion Church in Kentucky to know their church valued them.

The concept of a Baccalaureate Service was first hatched around 1997 by Dr. Sharp, who presented it to the Chairperson of the Board, who was then Rev. Dr. Gwendol Faye McCaskill. The question was not, “Can we do it?”; the question was, “Will we do it?” The Board, under Dr. Sharp’s guidance, agreed on three criteria for the Baccalaureate Service:

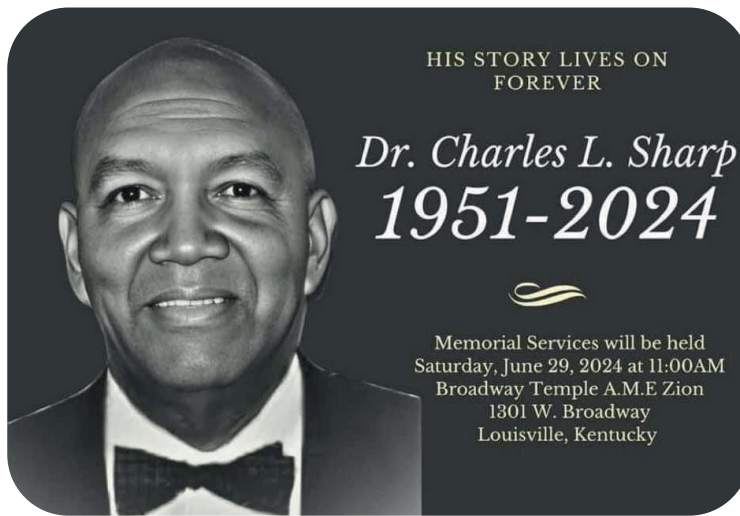
- It was to be held at Broadway Temple – not because Dr. Sharp was a member, but because of its history.
- The service had to be a sacred, solemn, formal affair. Students would wear their caps and gowns; preachers would be robed and
- The Speaker had to be someone with an advanced degree.

And when Dr. Sharp spoke, we listened.

This was not an easy feat, for many letters, phone calls and meetings were held to get names of graduates from the summer and winter of the preceding year, as well as the spring of the current year, encouraging students to come to Broadway Temple in Louisville, Kentucky for this first Baccalaureate Service.

Dr. Sharp insisted on it being a formal affair with the classical music, the palms adorning the pulpit, and the beautiful procession of clergy and graduates. Rev. Vivien Ogburn served as Chief of Protocol, there was always a junior high school student that served as the assistant, and Dr. Sharp outlined the program himself. Bro. Charles Kennedy has served as the photographer down through the years. The very first Baccalaureate Speaker in 1999 was Rev. Dr. Larry Crossland, who was then the pastor of Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church.

There were 22 graduates at that first Baccalaureate Service. Each graduate received a medallion, a Bible inscribed by the Bishop, and a check. On this 25th anniversary of the Baccalaureate Service, the speaker was Rev. Barbara Haigler, the current pastor of Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church.



The Baccalaureate Service has had some notable speakers, such as The Rt. Reverend Nathaniel Jarrett, Jr., Rev. Dr. Anthony Witherspoon, Bishop Kenneth Monroe, Bishop Eric Leake, and others.

After several years, it was the brainchild of Rev. Erich V. Shumake that to recognize the graduates in a tangible way, we should establish a Scholarship Fund. So, the Board of Lay Activities and the Christian Education Department had a banquet establishing the *Rev. Daniel J. Hughlett and Dr. Merrelene Dickerson Scholarship Fund*. Bro. Paul Watson was the chairperson of that first Scholarship Banquet held at Masterson’s Restaurant. A corporate sponsor package was put together, and we raised over \$7000 at that first banquet. Several \$500 scholarships were awarded at the Baccalaureate Service down through the years to

students who were active members of their local church and were recommended by their pastors.

Due to the efforts of Dr. Sharp and the Board of Christian Education, this solemn, sacred, formal Baccalaureate Service has been held for 25 years, excluding 2020, when churches were closed due to the pandemic. However, a workaround the next year honored the graduates who were missed the year before, even though it had to be held with the help of our technology personnel, which enabled it to be broadcast via Zoom.

Every year, Dr. Sharp would give the charge to the graduates, and he would tell them, “Dare to Dream.” In essence, he told them to put no limits on what you can achieve with hard work, determination, dedication, and God’s guidance. This year’s charge to the graduates was given by Rev. Dr. O. Lacy Evans, the Presiding Elder of the Louisville District, Kentucky Conference.

Dr. Sharp also served as the Midwest Episcopal Director of Christian Education until 2022, when his health issues intervened in his duties. Dr. Sharp was the consummate professor, a serious-minded educator, a Christian gentleman, and a humble man of God.

Seasons change, times and circumstances change, people in leadership positions change, but thanks to the efforts of Dr. Charles Louis Sharp, the Kentucky Conference Baccalaureate Service has continued for 25 years. And I am sure that before the Lord took Dr. Sharp to that heavenly university, he was praying for this Baccalaureate Service to be the best ever!

We thank you, Dr. Sharp, for your efforts and pray that the Baccalaureate Service of the Kentucky Conference will continue for many more years to come!

WORLD POLITICS

Journey to Kigali, Rwanda, June 2024 Part 1



Rev. Ronald Nathan
World Politics Editor
WorldPolitics@StarOfZion.org

By **Iyabode (Yabo) Beysolow, MD, MPH, Director, Health Ministry, The A.M.E. Zion Church.**
Photos by **Captured by Chris**, <https://www.capturedbychris.com/>

Bishop George D. Crenshaw, Presiding Prelate, Board of Bishops, A.M.E. Zion Church and Presiding Bishop of the Alabama-Florida Episcopal District and the Great Lakes Region, along with Missionary Supervisor Laurenna Crenshaw, humbly led a team of 27 persons from the United States to Kigali, Rwanda, from June 6 – June 15, 2024.

The Great Lakes Region encompasses Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, North Kivu, South Kivu, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Tanzania, Kenya, and Zambia were welcomed into the region as Provisional Conferences.

The Great Lakes Region, under the leadership of Presiding Elder Felix Uwamahoro, Lady Uwamahoro, their family, and the entire Mount Carmel A.M.E. Zion Church family, welcomed the team from the United States and treated us with the utmost hospitality. The trip to Rwanda was

organized and implemented under the leadership of Dr. Iyabode (Yabo) Beysolow, Reverend Andrea Afolabi-Jallah, RN, co-founders of Life’s Mission, Inc., and Rev. Dr. Sondra Coleman of the Alabama-Florida Episcopal District.

The purpose of the trip was multi-fold:

- to worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Rwanda
- to conduct the business of the second session of the combined Annual Conferences for the Great Lakes Region
- to conduct classes at the Bishop Crenshaw Theological Institute for ministers attending the Annual Conferences
- to provide free health education to hundreds of citizens in Kigali,



.....
Continued on next page

Rwanda, focused on the prevention of hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, pediatric-specific conditions, dental hygiene, mental health, and other general conditions

- to provide free reading glasses (over 2000 pairs), clothing, toiletries, supplies and refreshments to the church congregation, Annual conference attendees and the surrounding community. Donated items were collected by mission team members from across the U.S. and Zion to take with us to Kigali
- to deliver free, donated medical supplies (gloves, masks, etc.) to a clinic serving low-income individuals without insurance.



Several hundred men, women, and children were served daily over the course of 4 (four) days.

Over 300 children and youth were served dinner as they participated in Bread, Books, and Bible on one night of the Conference.

The team from the United States led by Bishop George D. Crenshaw included ministerial staff, laypersons, physicians, and nurses. Members of the team from the United States included:

1. Bishop George D. Crenshaw
2. Missionary Supervisor Laurena Crenshaw
3. Reverend Julius Walls, Chief Operating Officer, The A.M.E. Zion Church
4. Reverend Dr. Thaddeus Steele, Director, Bishop George Crenshaw Theological Institute
5. Iyabode (Yabo) Beysolow, MD, MPH, Director, Health Ministry, The A.M.E. Zion Church
6. Reverend Andrea Afolabi-Jallah, RN, BSN, MPH, Clinical Team

Lead

7. Presiding Elder Dr. Titus Thorn
8. Lady Lourdes Thorn
9. Presiding Elder Dr. Kathy McFadden
10. Presiding Elder Fredna Grimmett
11. Presider Elder Greg Harris
12. Lady Autavia Harris
13. Presiding Elder David Knight
14. Reverend Dr. Sondra Coleman
15. Reverend Dr. Mercuria C. Williams
16. Reverend Milton Stubbs
17. Dr. Valentina Stubbs
18. Reverend Melvin Mungin
19. Reverend Renee Adams
20. Sister Sedia Beysolow
21. Sister Chrissandra Abdullah
22. Sister Jeneh Logan, RN
23. Sister Helene Johnson King
24. Sister Rhonda Swinney, RN
25. Sister Jerusha Perry, RN
26. Sister Ianna Odulaja
27. Sister Tiarra Deveaux



Under the leadership of Bishop George D. Crenshaw, several similar mission trips have occurred: to Liberia (four trips between 2008 and 2013) and Angola (one trip in 2019).

Please enjoy the first of two articles submitted by our Mission team members (Rev. Dr. Thaddeus Steele), who share his perspective and experience.

2nd Annual Conference of The A.M.E. Zion Church Great Lakes Region of Africa: A Resounding Success

By Rev. Dr. Thaddeus Steele

Photos by Captured by Chris, <https://www.capturedbychris.com/>

The 2nd Annual Conference of The A.M.E. Zion Church Great Lakes Region of Africa, under the leadership of Bishop George D. Crenshaw and Missionary Supervisor Ms. Laurena Crenshaw, was a resounding success. The conference convened from June 10-12 at the Mt. Carmel A.M.E. Zion Church in Kigali, Rwanda, hosted by the Rev. Felix Uwamahoro.



The event saw an impressive turnout, with over 300 delegates from the combined Annual Conferences of Rwanda, Burundi, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Uganda, as well as the Provisional Conferences of Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. Adding to the international presence,

more than 25 individuals traveled from the United States with Bishop Crenshaw to Kigali, aiming to serve the people of the region through various initiatives.



A significant highlight of the conference was the Health Education and Supplies Initiatives, spearheaded by Iyabode Beysolow, MD, MPH, Director of the Health Ministry of The A.M.E. Zion Church. This initiative focused on addressing the health needs of the local communities, and providing much-needed supplies, which included over 2,000 pairs of eyeglasses, hundreds of other give-ways, such as clothing items, suitcases, and medical supplies.



In tandem with the health initiatives, the Bishop George D. Crenshaw Theological Institute offered a series of educational sessions. Directed by Rev. Dr. Thaddeus Steele, the Institute featured a cadre of esteemed educators whom Bishop Crenshaw lauded as “among the best and the brightest minds in all Zion.”

Key sessions and their instructors included:

Dr. Sondra Coleman
Dr. Kathy McFadden
Dr. Titus Thorn
Rev. Milton Stubbs
Rev. Melvin Mungin
Rev. Renee Adams
Rev. David Knight

The Do's & Don'ts of Pastoral Council
Effective Listening in Pastoral Care
Life After Death
The Ministry of Presence
Addressing Common Traumas
The Essence of Wellbeing
Dealing with Your Terminal Illness

These sessions provided invaluable insights and practical guidance for pastoral care, reinforcing The A.M.E. Zion Church's commitment to spiritual and community well-being.

Powerful sermons were preached each day of the Conference by the following: Rev. Julius Walls, Chief Operating Officer of The A.M.E. Zion Church; Rev. Dr. Thaddeus Steele, Pastor of Hunter Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Tuscaloosa, AL; Rev. Melvin Mungin, Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church in Spring Valley, NY; Rev. Dr. Kathy McFadden, Presiding Elder of the East Montgomery District in Montgomery, AL; and Rev. Andrea Jallah, Associate Pastor of Shaw Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Atlanta, GA.

Bishop Crenshaw expressed profound gratitude to all who attended and contributed to the success of the conference, emphasizing the importance of unity and collective effort in advancing the mission of the church. The conference not only strengthened the bonds among the delegates and the Zion Church stateside but also left a lasting impact on the communities served.

As the conference concluded, the delegates returned to their respective regions, inspired and equipped to continue their vital work. The success of the 2nd Annual Conference has set a high benchmark for future gatherings, ensuring that The A.M.E. Zion Church remains a beacon of hope and support in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

UK CHURCH SEES RED

By Ronald A. Nathan, World Politics Editor

Photos By Copyright Politico, Ronald A. Nathan, Copyright NCLF Media



The red color of the British Labour Party covered the political board of the United Kingdom's July 4, 2024, general elections. It did this with 34% of the popular vote, which won them 412 seats, beating the incumbent governing Conservative Party by 291 seats. The Labour Party has now formed a new government commitment to change the service of the British public. So says its leader, Sir Keir Starmer, the new prime minister, in his first speech at number 10 Downing Street, London, the traditional home and office of British prime ministers.



The Labour Party has traditionally been the political home of most Black British voters. However, during the last two elections, we have begun to see a steady trickle of black voters turning towards the Conservatives, a party of more traditional conservative values and with a big business bias. The national political climate has become so volatile that political commentators have already warned the new Labour government that they will have a very short honeymoon period.

The Black Church had given notice of its readiness to push back when it comes to the interests and well-being of the Black Community. In

the past year, it had provided two reports to guide black church voters on contemporary issues requiring political attention. Those two reports were the Black Church Political Mobilisation: A Manifesto for Action, which had been circulated to all the former members of Parliament, and the UK2030: A Call to Action. Even as the British voters were queuing to cast their votes, twenty Black Church leaders met one mile away from the British House of Commons, the United Kingdom's parliament, to consider how to operationalize and mobilize the UK Vision 2030: A Call to Action under the next government.



This report states its 'purpose is to provide a roadmap for leaders in the Black Community, policymakers, and professionals to be able to take practical steps toward addressing legacies of inequalities. The advocates for UK Vision 2030's strategic process is to take a proactive posture toward addressing racial inequalities in the Arts, Entertainment and Sports, Business and Economy, Education, Family, Government, Health, Health, Media and Religion.

The new Labour government, irrespective of their stated intentions to be more caring, will be under the watchful scrutiny of the Black Church, who are aware of the shift to the right of politics not only in the United Kingdom but also across Europe. This shift includes an increase in racial discrimination and ethnic profiling, as outlined in the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights report. In the United Kingdom, this shift to the right of politics is reflected in the Reform Party's gaining 14% of the popular vote and its strategic position to influence both the Labour Party and the Conservative parties' policies and initiatives.

The heterogeneous nature of the Black Church in the United Kingdom, which is made up of over a hundred different denominations and church networks, challenged its ability in the past to present a unified agenda for its African and Caribbean constituency. The UK Vision 2030 advocates and the National Church Leaders' Forum are aware that the Black Church can no longer be perceived as the sleeping giant of the Black population; it has to rise to the prophetic call that it has come to the United Kingdom for such a time as this.

ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET

A Message of Compassion

By Leona Nicholas Welch

*Grab your coat and get your hat,
Leave your worries on the doorstep.
Just direct your feet to the sunny side of the street.*

Over a dozen song artists, including Louis Armstrong and Bing Crosby, have swooned and crooned this lyric to thousands of appreciative listeners. This lyric speaks of bright, carefree, unencumbered days and moments in our lives, and that's a good thing. There is a "however" side to this statement.

The word of God tells us that Jesus came to give us life and that more abundantly (John 10:10), and this includes "the sunny side of the street." God wants us happy and at peace, but for the Christian, this provision comes with high expectations from Our Heavenly Father. The biblical reference from John 10:10 sits right beside Galatians 6:2: *Carry one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.* Christ does not expect that His followers will spend all their lives walking on the sunny side of the streets, avoiding the dark and desolate streets on which His lost and unsaved live their lives. True followers of Christ know that they must sometimes remain on or cross the street and reach out to bring a suffering soul into the light - into a brighter life.

Let us take a walk back into biblical times and find there in Jericho three men, all on the same street, on the same day, encountering the same moment of decision. Two of the men respond alike, while the



third one takes a totally different approach. In this account, the bible tells us about a man who falls prey to a band of thieves and is beaten and left for dead (Luke 10:30-36). We are told that both a priest and a Levite came that way, and in seeing the half-dead man, "they passed by on the other side of the street." I contend that though both the priest and the Levite are churchmen and leaders in the community, neither has the compassion to remain on the dark and painfilled side of the street long enough to help carry that man's burden. On the other hand, it is a Samaritan man, one who belongs to a persecuted race of people, who rises to the occasion and not only delivers the hurt man to safety but pays his hospital bill.

As people of God, when we grab our coats and get our hats, as the song says, we must realize that our walk, on any given day, just might take us to the cold, dark side of the street. We might find ourselves walking into a hospital room of a complete stranger, into a nursing home, into a homeless shelter, to a lonely neighbor's house, or to a family entrenched in the tragic loss of a loved one - any of the above, and more, just when we were stepping out, anticipating a day of fun, relaxation, food and fellowship in the sun, with family and friends.

Just at that moment, we might very well be called to walk the less sunny side of life for a while and, for sure, find some of Our Father's lost sheep there. We must always keep our hearts and minds open, for at any given time, Our Father might call us to carry someone over to the SON-ny side of the street.

V.P. Kamala Harris Calls Education Doing God's Work

By Rev. Dr. Garrett M. Thomas

Vice President Kamala Harris, the presumptive democratic nominee for President of the United States, received the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and vows to support the freedom of educators to provide instructional lessons regarding race and social justice issues in public education while she also promised to support the freedom of students to learn the unvarnished truth, to develop their critical thinking skills, and to formulate their own worldview based on an analysis of factual information as opposed to being forced to see America through rose-colored glasses.

Cecily Myart-Cruz, President of the United Teachers of Los Angeles told the New York Times, "I saw people crying" (Goldstein and Nehamas, 2024); she said everyone was looking hopeful and the event was electric as Harris told the educators and her supporters in Houston, Texas on Thursday, July 25th, "You all do God's work, educating our children . . . It is you who have taken on the most noble of work, which is to concern yourself with the well-being of the Children of America" (Harris, 2024). Harris thanked her supporters for their servant leadership and labor of love and said that while they are doing the Work of The Lord, teaching our children about our nation's history, Donald Trump and his MAGA-maniacs are attacking the "freedom to learn and acknowledge our nation's true and full history" by banning books "in this year of Our Lord 2024" (Harris, 2024) and banning Advanced Placement Courses on African American studies in which high school students can earn college credits.

Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina, and Georgia are among the states who have created legislation restricting and causing complications for schools endeavoring to engage in open survey of the multitude of complexities that is American History. Education Week reports that

Georgia is trying to walk back on their stance after first declaring that all AP Courses on African American Studies were ineligible to receive state funding. On Wednesday, July 24th, Richard Woods, the Republican Superintendent of Schools in Georgia announced that schools will be eligible to receive state funding for AP courses if they use the same code issued for courses that are not AP (Najarro, 2024). It remains to be seen if high school courses, which are not coded AP, will be recognized as such by the College Board.

Georgia State Senator Nikki Merritt does not think so and expressed her concerns, saying that financing for the program was only part of the problem and that an AP course on African American Studies should be treated just like every other AP Course. "No other AP class is treated this way," Merritt said (Najarro, 2024). Yet, equity is not one of the values of The Right who have called the Vice President a "D.E.I. hire," (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and have referred to her as a "childless cat lady," while Trump, the man who suggested that people should inject Lysol into their bodies to fight the Corona Virus had the temerity to call Kamala Harris "dumb as a rock." The bigoted, misogynistic mudslinging is expected to get worse; but V.P. Harris is up to the task. Her name, Kamala, means Lotus, one of the world's most beautiful flowers that only grows out of the mud. Many Indian-Americans are proudly boasting, "In Sanskrit, Kamala means lotus; but in America, it means POTUS [President of the United States]" (Das, 2024). So



Trump and the Republicans can keep slinging mud, Kamala shall rise above it all and defeat him in the November election.

Political Analyst, Juanita Tolliver, told MSNBC on 26 July 2024 that former Presidential Candidate, “Shirley Chisholm said in 1969 that the first woman will be elected president when men step aside and women and young people unite.” In response to a cacophony of harsh criticism and many editorials and press releases from high ranking members of the Democratic Party to elicit his resignation from the Presidential Race on the heels of a disastrous, lethargic, debate performance, an incident that appeared to give evidence that The President had grown extremely geriatric and was incapable of serving as chief executive for another term, President Joe Biden assented to step aside and suspend his campaign for re-election and dropped out of the race, consigning all his pledged delegates and all the financial contributions he had received, along with his imprimatur and endorsement to the first female Vice President of the United States of America, causing nearly ninety thousand Black Women to unite on Zoom and raise 1.6 million dollars, approximately forty thousand Black Men to unite on Zoom and raise 1.5 million dollars, and one hundred sixty thousand White Women for Harris, including Cat Ladies for Kamala, to meet on Zoom and raise two million dollars. Asian Women and Latinas for Harris have also united and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars.. There have been more than one hundred thousand new registered voters and more than fifty thousand volunteers who have signed up to work the Harris Campaign in less than a week (Ramer, 2024).

Kamala Harris is poised yet again to make history as the first Female American President. Women were not allowed to vote until the 19th Amendment in 1920 granted them suffrage. One hundred years later Vice President Kamala Harris shattered that glass ceiling. Always facing challenges with class, grace, dignity, and a positive, affirmative attitude, Harris said, I “have been told many times during my career things from ‘you are too young; it’s not your turn; they are not ready for you; no one like you has done it before.’ I have heard all of those things many times over the course of my career, but I didn’t listen. I eat ‘no’ for breakfast” (Harris, 2020).

And now she is ready to eat Donald Trump for lunch. Biden had been losing support in the polls and Trump had been maintaining a steady lead, but Harris has interjected a load of energy into the race and is perfectly prepared to be the next president and to prosecute the case against Donald Trump. She said, “As many of you know, before I was elected as vice president before I was elected as United States senator, I was the elected attorney general; . . . before that I was a courtroom prosecutor. In those roles I took on perpetrators of all kinds, predators who abuse women, fraudsters who ripped off consumers, cheaters who broke the rules for their own gain. So hear me when I say, I know Donald Trump’s type” (Harris, 2024). A demagogue who has used racism and stoked the fiery fears of prejudice to rise to political relevance, Trump took over the Republican Party when Barack Obama was president, acting as his harshest adversary, promulgating the proposition that Obama was not an American and should not be president because his father was an African man from Kenya.

Standing at 5 feet, 4 inches tall, with a diminutive stature, a petite physique, and a powerful, dynamic persona, Kamala Devi Harris was born in Oakland, California on October 20, 1964. She is the child of a Jamaican-American father, Dr. Donald J. Harris, a retired Professor of Economics at Stanford University and an Indian-American mother, Dr. Shyamala Gopalan Harris (12/07/1938 – 02/11/2009), who specialized in breast cancer research. She has one sister, Maya (1/30/1967), who is also a lawyer. As children, the girls often visited their father’s family in Jamaica and their mother’s family in India. The family also moved around a lot as the parents worked at various universities. They lived in the Bay Area and in Illinois, where Maya was born, and where Kamala split her time in elementary school. They then moved to Quebec, Canada when Kamala was twelve years old and where she attended and graduated from middle school and high school. She graduated from HBCU – Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she pledged to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Her alma mater has reported a huge spike in entrance applications since she became Vice President (Byrne, 2020). After Howard, Kamala received her Juris Doctorate Degree from The University of California Hastings College of The Law. She has been married for ten years to Douglas Emhoff, also an attorney, and she is the stepmother to his two grown children, Cole, 30, and Ella, 25, who refuse to call her their stepmother; choosing instead to call her Mamala.

Vice President Kamala Devi Harris promises to sustain our democracy and lead America to live out its creed that “All men and women are

created equal,” that we are a nation of the people, for the people, by the people. She has traversed many obstacles, challenges, and hurdles, all stepping stones, to stand on the platform that has her one step from being the most powerful person in the world. She has shattered glass ceilings, knocked down the walls of subjugation, and kicked open the walls of oppression so that others may follow her lead. She says, “My mother would look at me and she’d say, ‘Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last’” (Harris, 2020).

V.P. Harris is living up to her mother’s advice. When she ran for president in 2020, she proposed a hefty investment of federal money to teacher salary, saying that when she is elected president, the Department of Education will certainly not be disbanded; but will create an elevated baseline teacher salary with federal funding. Under her plan, the average American teacher will have their salary increased by nearly \$14,000 (Herndon, 2019). Harris (2024) said, “You can judge a society by the way it treats its children . . . And one of the greatest expressions of love that a society can give its children is educating those children with the resources they need.” Harris is also doing God’s Work.

WORKS CITED

- Das, A. (2024). *New York Times*. *Harris’s Indian Heritage Is Deeply Felt if Little Advertised*. 24 July 2025. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/24/world/asia/kamala-harris-india.html>
- Byrne, J.A. (2020). *Poets and Quants*. *Why Kamala Harris Will Boost Howard University’s Reputation*. 14 December 2020. <https://poetsandquants.com/2020/12/14/kamala-harris-is-now-howard-universitys-most-famous-alum-that-halo-will-impact-everything/>
- Goldstein, D. and Nehamas, N. (2024). *New York Times*. *Harris Embraces Teachers’ Unions*. *Republicans Sense an Opening*: 25 July 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/25/us/kamala-harris-teachers-education.html>
- Harris, K.D. (2024). *Whitehouse.gov*. *Remarks by Vice President Harris at the American Federation Of Teachers’ 88th National Convention*. 25 July 2024 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2024/07/25/remarks-by-vice-president-harris-at-the-american-federation-of-teachers-88th-national/>
- Harris, K.D. (2020). *On CNBC*. *Kamala Harris on being told ‘it’s not your time’ in her career: ‘I eat ‘no’ for breakfast.’* 2 November 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/02/kamala-harris-on-naysayers-in-her-career-i-eat-no-for-breakfast.html>
- Harris, K.D. (2024). *Whitehouse.gov*. *Remarks by Vice President Harris at a Political Event*. 23 July 2024. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2024/07/23/remarks-by-vice-president-harris-at-a-political-event-10/>
- Harris Biographical Information: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-harris/> <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Kamala-Harris>
- Herndon, A.W. (2019). *New York Times*. *Kamala Harris’s First Campaign Policy: A Raise for Teachers*. 26 March 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/26/us/politics/kamala-harris-teacher-pay.html>
- Najarro, I. (2024). *Education Week*. *Georgia Reverses Course on AP African American Studies*. 25 July 2024. <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/georgia-reverses-course-on-ap-african-american-studies/2024/07>
- Ramer, H. (2024). *APNEWS.COM*. *“We were built for this moment:” Black women rally around Kamala Harris*. [HTTPS://APNEWS.COM/ARTICLE/KAMALA-HARRIS-PRESIDENT-BLACK-WOMEN-SUPPORT-BDD0BA0A19697C7CD-2F183773E97AA6E](https://apnews.com/article/kamala-harris-president-black-women-support-bdd0ba0a19697c7cd-2f183773e97aa6e)

sankofa



Looking Back to Move Forward

Reflections of a Boy Gone Bad Fulfilling The Need To Know

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

Nature often sheds more light on our understanding of the complexities of human behavior when we examine the fascinating life cycles of some insects. The cicada is an unusual, broad winged insect whose newly hatched eggs remain buried many years in the ground before emerging as full grown “17-year” locusts. From time-to-time, I like to take the opportunity to make public service announcements, particularly when I feel I have an important message to share with my readers. Please allow me to present my thoughts on the “Cicada-like” emergence of Michael Jackson.

If a young child had watched the mother cicada bury her newly hatched eggs, I’m sure the child might wait in great anticipation to see what kind of insect would emerge from the ground 17 years later. Similarly, today I find myself wondering just what type of star Michael Jackson has become and just what type of strange behavior will be next to emerge from his ever-evolving personality. In a brief four-year period, his transformation has tainted his image as the world’s most popular celebrity. Now, as the world’s most bizarre celebrity, his current behavior is indicative of someone who should be taking an extended tour of St. Elizabeth’s Mental Institution in Washington, D.C., instead of touring Japan.

Let me begin by saying that, like many of you, I grew up listening to the music of the Jackson 5, which became popular during the early 60s. I remember attending their concerts at the Regal Theater in my home town of Chicago. Even then, Michael was viewed as a child prodigy. The early musical talents he displayed were remarkable and awe-inspiring. The young performer had a voice like Jackie Wilson and he and he moved and danced like James Brown. He was destined to become a star.

His *Thriller* album proved to be a star of the highest magnitude. Over 40 million album, released five years later. This album lived up to its name and was literally *Bad*.

Bad was perceived by music critics as falling short of its expectations. That writing was weak and the music even weaker. All that aside, the record company and promoters were quite successful in generating sales for both the album and the promotional tour.

Armed with a new book titled *Moonwalk*, a new video and a new image, the *Peter Pan of Pop* was out to recapture the minds and hearts of the world. But something was missing. I believe the thrill was gone and that we must make a personal decision as to whether we will accept or reject any future offerings by Michael.

After 23 years in the entertainment business, Michael Jackson has become void of any sense of self. He has become obsessed with an age old mental disorder called *artificial assimilation*---the overwhelming desire to recreate oneself in an image other than one’s own. Michael has perfected the art of *passing* and has given new meaning to the word *crossover*.

By now, everyone is aware of the fact that the boy has physically altered his body through cosmetic plastic surgery. He has radically reconstructed his nose, reshaped his chin and added a dimple. Jackson’s eyes have been tattooed with permanent mascara. His jerry-curl hairstyle, heavily coated with gels and grease, accidentally caught on fire and *thrilled* him with the brief experience of being a human torch.

Now some of you might view these actions as Michael Jackson’s right to do whatever he wishes with his body. But the straw that broke the camel’s back was his decision to lighten his skin color through some bleaching process. Now I ask you. What type of person would take injections to lighten his skin at a time when white are dying of skin cancer by the thousands because they lack adequate skin pigmentation? Are these the actions of someone who is in his right mind? Michael Jackson has literally gone “Bad”

Anyone who sells 40 million copies of a single album is definitely communicating with an awful lot of people. Michael’s desire to become white is not an accident, it is part of a promotional strategy to market him to a predominately non-black audience.

That is reality that we have to recognize.

Since becoming a world-wide commodity, Michael has specifically chosen not to portray the image of a strong black male. Typically, black males are viewed as a threat by Caucasians, therefore, a non-threatening image of Michael had to be created. So now we have a superstar who is neither black nor white, male nor female. His image is that of someone who is sexually neuter and void of any racial ethnicity.

Personally, I feel Mr. Jackson has gone too far. Many others also share my feelings. His new image is considered a joke. The general consensus among young people I’ve talked with is that Michael is trying to imitate his sister Janet. Some say he looks much prettier than his sister Latoya. I recently heard a white dice jockey laughingly remark that he thought he looked like Michael Jackson, and, with an insulting smirk, he commented, “Well at least we have the same color skin.”

Many of you probably feel Michael has the right to do whatever he wants in the privacy of his own personal life. Most will agree that as an entertainer, his performances are beyond comparison. Both statements are correct. However, when a person becomes so popular that he can influence the lives of millions of people, then his image and personal behavior are causes for public concern.

Images are shaped, molded and created by public relations experts. Stars become stars because people buy and support the product created by using their talents. The public is responsible for buying millions of records and millions of concert tickets. These purchases make the stars rich. People in the marketplace determine the popularity of stars and famous people. In order for the career of a celebrity to remain successful, he or she must maintain the continued popular support and approval of fans.

This philosophy is true for all professional. It doesn’t matter whether the person is an entertainer or a politician, they all have a responsibility to project a positive image of the public.

Commentary

What can I say about Michael Jackson? In the years since this essay was written it appears that Michael has gone from bad to worse. Maybe having so much wealth and fame at such a young age distorted Mishaal’s perception of reality. One thing is for sure, he may not be Egyptian, but he’s been living in *denial* for quite some time.

- Perhaps it started when he was accused of sexually molesting a 13-year-old boy and later settled with the child's family in an out-of-court agreement.
- perhaps it was when he married Elvis Presley's daughter and insisted being called the King of Pop." Their marriage lasted 20 months.
- Perhaps it was when he married his second white wife and they produced two children---under questionable circumstances. Their marriage lasted 25 months.
- Perhaps he will finally get his opportunity to be recognized as a white man when he plays Edgar Allen Poe in an upcoming film.

One would be hard pressed to write a fictionalized account of a life more bizarre than Michael Jackson's. He was a brilliant child prodigy wrote about. You know, the two souls at war with each other within the same body. Judging from his recent behavior, I believe the once good Michael Jackson has lost out to the bad.

A white social commentator summed up Michael's life rather interestingly when she said, 'Only in America can a poor black boy like Michael Jackson grow up to be a rich white woman.'

CLASSIFIEDS

Oak Grove A.M.E. Church – Detroit, Michigan

Rev. Cindy Rudolph, Pastor Employment Announcement YOUTH MINISTER

Church Size: 2000

Denomination: African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)

Job Type: Part-Time

Pay Type: Salary

Pay: Competitive

Benefits: The position could transition into a full-time position with benefits.



Description of Church:

Oak Grove A.M.E. Church is a thriving and well-established congregation, which has been serving the greater Detroit area for over 100 years. Oak Grove is a congregation in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) denomination which is a connectional organization with a rich history and strong commitment to spreading Christ's liberating gospel.

Organizational Relationship and Supervision:

The Youth Minister will report to the Pastor and Executive Minister for spiritual and ministry guidance. The Executive Minister, in cooperation with the Pastor, will regularly meet with the Youth Minister to discuss vision, updates and progress to provide an annual evaluation of the Youth Minister's performance. The Youth Minister will be responsible and subject to A.M.E. Church polity and doctrine along with local church policies as outlined in the Oak Grove Employee Handbook.

Job Description

Oak Grove is looking for a Youth Minister to join the ministerial team with strong spiritual and leadership gifts to meet our growing youth ministry needs. This person will be responsible for providing leadership for all aspects of youth ministry to our youth and their families. The ideal candidate is someone who loves God and God's people with a servant's heart who can connect with young people, parents and other stakeholders to actively engage and grow disciples for Jesus Christ.

- Give leadership, direction, support and oversight of all youth ministries.
- Encourage youth to develop their relationship with God and challenge them to respond to God's call to serve in their communities and world.
- Develop and implement programming that will engage, educate and inspire young people to grow in worship, discipleship, evangelism, team building, mission and outreach.
- Teach weekly Bible study and lead weekly Sunday youth service.
- Manage the administrative and budget responsibilities of youth ministries.

- Create and promote compelling communication with youth, parents and staff through timely information (i.e. social media, emails, and other mediums).
- Coordinate with other church leaders to organize the youth component of Vacation Bible School (VBS).
- Develop networks, partnerships and maintain effective relationships with community organizations that can enhance and encourage our ability to support youth and parents to advance the ministry at Oak Grove.

Additional Responsibilities:

- Serve in other traditional ministerial roles as needed.
- Attend staff meetings and regularly evaluate procedures, programs and events.

Qualifications:

- Experience in and a passion for youth ministry.
- A self-motivated leader, capable of casting and imparting a vision for youth ministry, possessing relational skills with youth, parents and staff.
- Possess basic administrative skills and is dedicated to programming excellence.
- Ordination required.
- Minimum of three years of ministerial experience.
- Member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) preferred but not required.
- Bachelor's degree required and seminary degree preferred.

If interested in this position, please submit a cover letter and resume along with an introduction video of no more than three minutes. All inquiries and resumes may be sent to careers@oakgroveame.org.

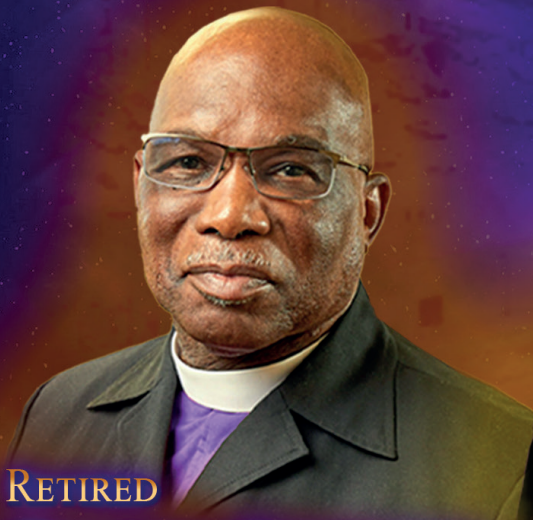
Closing Date: August 30, 2024

Equal Opportunity:

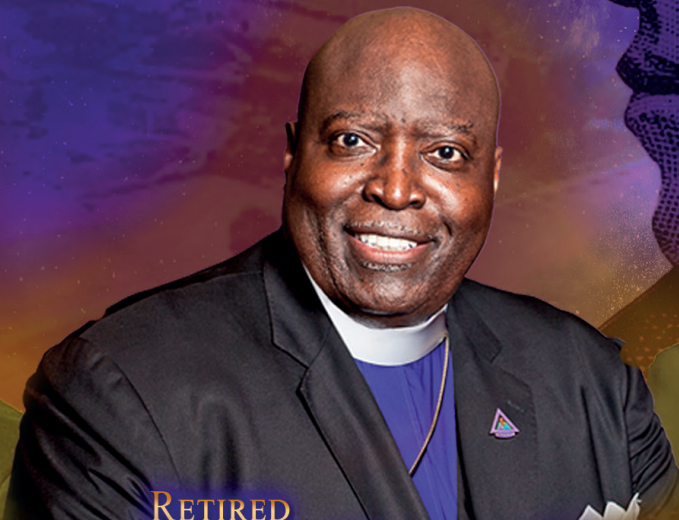
Oak Grove A.M.E. Church is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate due to age, sex, religion, race, color, national origin, disability, marital status, veteran status, or any other factor prohibited by law. Qualified candidates of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

ZION

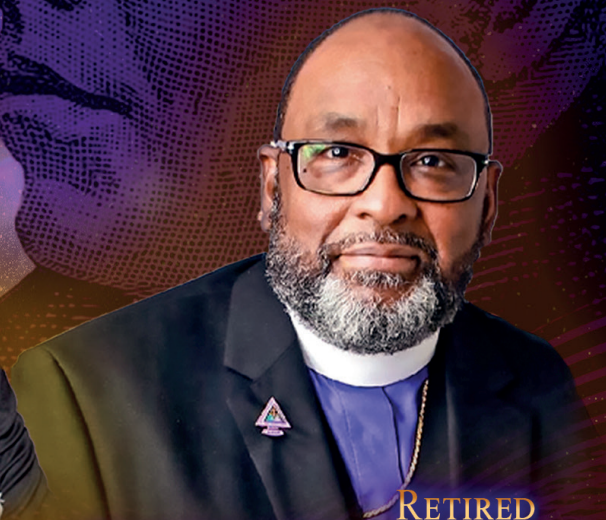
CELEBRATES YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP & SERVICE



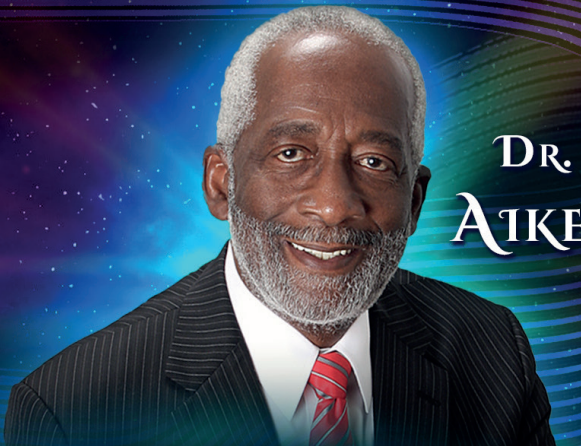
RETIRE
BISHOP KENNETH
MONROE
95TH ELECTED



RETIRE
BISHOP DENNIS V.
PROCTOR
97TH ELECTED



RETIRE
BISHOP MICHAEL A.
FRENCHER, SR.
101ST ELECTED



DR. DAVID
AIKEN, SR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ZION BENEFITS SERVICES

REV. DR. GEORGE
McKAIN, II



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
AFFAIRS & SOCIAL CONCERNS

Thank You