

THE STAR OF ZION

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THANKFUL & BLESSED



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Serving This Present Age

2024 **ZION** 2028



COMMITTING TO OUR MISSION,
BEING CREATIVE IN OUR METHODS,

CONCENTRATING ON OUR MINISTRIES,
CONNECTING THROUGH OUR MEMBERSHIP!



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★ The Star of Zion ★

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I AM STILL HERE: A Poem Concerning Alzheimer

By Reverend Leona Nicholas Welch

I AM STILL HERE, beneath this unfamiliar, quizzical, and often non-responsive face.

I AM HERE, sitting in this maze of vague and undeclared questions.

Questions that can only stir deep down in my still vibrant soul.

Questions, never passing my lips.

Questions, never reaching your anxious, hopeful ears.

I search for us both.

I breathe on yesterday's conversations, stored up between us.

Yes, my mind is more acquainted with oblivion than it is with cognition these days.

But please know that I AM STILL HERE.

Though my laughter may not surface to meet your tremulous smile,

my heart moves toward the love in your eyes.

On some mysterious plain, between us a connection is realized.

Stay. Even when I stare, or when

that blanket of fear grips me and I take stiff, cautious steps away from you- when I turn from your needful embrace.

Even when I boldly and callously ask you who you are, please know that I AM STILL HERE.

My mind has gone off on its own, but my spirit stayed behind and knows you.

Though my mind has retired, my soul is very much on duty - alerting me, deep down to the quick, where my love lives.

It tells me that I have held you close.

It tells me that I have reached and found you there, that we have lived responsively in each other's lives.

It tells me that we have laughed at the meal table and talked late into the night.





Mrs. Debra Chappelle-Polk
Zion Spotlight Editor
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DR. JOHN BATCHMAN: WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN A.M.E. ZION CHURCH'S MUSICAL LEADER

By Georgette Williams

November 2024, St. Louis, MO., Washington Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, in St. Louis, MO, has a history of great music and musicians. Over the years, the Cathedral Choir, Gospel Chorus, Young Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Inspirational Choir, Gospel Choir, and present-day Voices of Zion, have had talented and renowned accompanists. One of whom is Dr. John Batchman.



The pipe organ, coined the "king of instruments" by Mozart, is one of the oldest musical instruments and predates Christianity by approximately 1,000 years. It was more commonly played in Europe, with origins dating back to the 3rd century BC in Ancient Greece. Today, the pipe organ has seen a dramatic market decline and is being replaced by digital or hybrid models. The American Guild of Organists estimates there is currently 1 qualified organist for every 200 paid positions. Notably, there are roughly 120,000 remaining, functional pipe organs in the entire world. One of which is housed at Washington Metropolitan and skillfully played by Dr. Batchman.

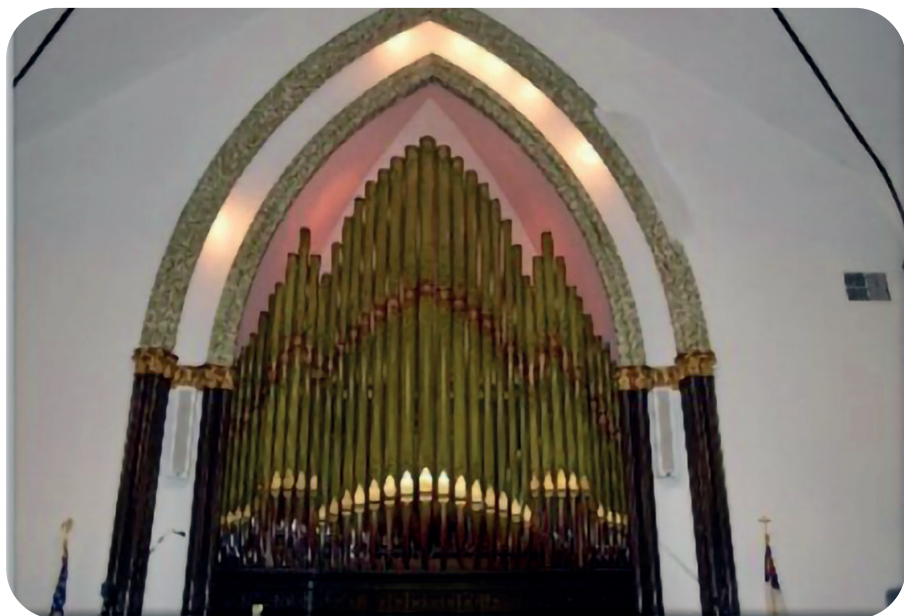
The Washington Metropolitan organ was carefully designed to fill the 600-person capacity sanctuary at the church's current location, which was built in 1911. In 1973, the organ was in disrepair. The late Bishop Richard Fisher contacted

The Wick's Organ Company, (established in the early 1900s) for assistance in keeping the organ functional. Wick's maintained the historical existing pipes while adding a custom-built console with 2 keyboards and pedals, a new power supply, and a blower. Full refurbishment finished on March 26, 1974. The newly minted organ was played for the first time in a concert featuring the Cathedral Choir on April 28, 1974. Today, the organ pipes remain the focal point of Washington Metropolitan's sanctuary with its sound permeating throughout the building and onto the street at the hands of Dr. Batchman.

Dr. Batchman joined the Washington Metropolitan Music Ministry in 2003 as the accompanist for the Cathedral Choir whose primary genre was anthems and spirituals. In 2009, the church's principal organist, Albert Reid, retired and Dr. Batchman assumed the role. Dr. Batchman completed his undergraduate work at the St. Louis Institute of Music, earning degrees in Music Theory and Composition. Today, the institute is known as the Community Music School, a department of Webster University in St. Louis. Upon graduation, Dr. Batchman earned a Master of Art in Teaching (MAT) from Washington University. As he was preparing to continue his education, he received an Individual Augmentee, an order for deployment. He appealed the order to continue his studies; the appeal was denied and he reported for duty in the United States Army serving in Vietnam. His MAT degree was mailed to him. During his tour of duty, he served as the only African American Chaplain's Assistant. He formed and directed the First Field Force Chapel Choir in Nha Trang, Vietnam, and was the organist for 3 different denominations every Sunday. Dr. Batchman extended his tour of duty. He was discharged honorably and awarded the Vietnam Service Award.

Despite his many trials and tribulations, Dr. John Batchman remains a dedicated pipe organist. He is often called upon to play at other churches and accompany musicians throughout the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan area. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, collecting books by Black authors, and collecting anthems by Black authors, among others. He loves spending time with his son, granddaughters, and great-grandchildren.

Washington Metropolitan is deeply honored to have him as our musical leader and thankful to Wick's Organ Company for the preservation of a historic instrument played every Sunday.



Upon returning from active duty, he completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Music Education at Washington University in St. Louis, MO, with an emphasis on African American music. He was the Music Specialist at the Webster Groves School District for 28 years. His most notable musical specialty remains his ability to play the pipe organ.

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THANKSGIVING & FAMILY

By Debra Chappelle-Polk, Zion Spotlight Editor

November 2024, New York, NY...., On September 28, 2024, the Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society (WH&OMS) and Stewardess Board held its 2nd Annual Candlelight Banquet, honoring longevity members and four generational families of Mother A.M.E. Zion Church. I was pleasantly surprised when I learned my family, the Chappelle's, whose church roots were planted at Mother A.M.E. Zion Church around the 1900s, was included as one of the generational families.

Although the banquet was in September, the food and fellowship reminded me of Thanksgiving, a holiday on which families come together to reminisce, eat, drink, and enjoy one another. **I shared one of my early childhood Thanksgiving memories in the November 2023 edition of the Star of Zion.**

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in October 1863, months after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Before that, Thanksgiving was a period during which slaves would attempt to escape due to the end of the crop season. The Emancipation Proclamation made it legal for formerly enslaved African Americans to gather together and celebrate Thanksgiving. However, not all viewed the holiday as a time of celebration and hope. Frederick Douglass described the holiday as "[just] another psychological tool used by the oppressor." See Thanksgiving Day on Slave Plantations: How Enslaved African Americans Celebrated Thanksgiving. YouTube - Life with Dr. Trish Varner Nov. 24, 2021.

For many in the Black community, Thanksgiving is a church-based celebration during which pastors preach about our struggles, hopes, fears, and triumphs.

On November 30, 1876, Rev. Benjamin Arnett,* (pictured) a well-known minister at Urbana Ohio's St. Paul A.M.E. Church, gave a stirring sermon that addressed the importance of Thanksgiving but also called on America to treat its free Black citizens with fairness and dignity in the coming years.

"And in America, the battlefield of modern thought, we can trace the footprints of the one and the tracks of the other. So let us use all of our available forces, and especially our young men, and throw them into the conflict of the Right against the Wrong. Then let the grand Centennial Thanksgiving song be heard and sung in every house of God; and in every home may thanksgiving sounds be heard, for our race has been emancipated, enfranchised and are now educating, and have the gospel preached to them!"

The tradition continues today. On "Thanksgiving Sunday," Black ministers still preach sermons about our struggles, hopes, fears, and triumphs. They also preach sermons about God's goodness and ask congregants to share God's bountifulness with others. Sunday School children perform and, in some cases, write skits about what Thanksgiving means to them. Many churches serve dinner to members and community residents on Thanksgiving Day.

In an article by Zsana Hoskins,** (Howard University News Service) notes that "Thanksgiving has a tragic history, yet many Black people across the nation still choose to celebrate it in their own way. Some reframe it as a day to spend time with family, while others shop." According to an informal poll she conducted for the article, 45 percent of Black respondents, ages 13 to 60, shared that they love celebrating Thanksgiving. One respondent said, "Our culture understands the falsehoods behind the holiday, but we enjoy connecting with family and use it as an opportunity to do so."



Over the years, the family structure has changed; however, Thanksgiving is still considered a family holiday. As we enjoy the turkey dinner with all the fixins --- collard greens, candied yams, and grandma's sweet potato pie --- let's thank God for his blessings. Let's pray for one another and pray for peace in the land. We can still root for our favorite football teams and "shop until we drop" on Black Friday.

"Thanksgiving isn't meant to be a single day of the year, but a life focused on being grateful."

Side Note: Yam cultivation stretches back centuries and is deeply intertwined with the traditional foods of African societies. Beyond mere sustenance, yams embody profound cultural significance and reverence. This reverence is reflected in various culinary traditions. In Africa, yams are celebrated in feasts and ceremonies. See, The Black History Origin Of Yams - The Soul Food Pot; thesoulfoodpot.com/black-history-of-yams/

***Rev. Benjamin W. Arnett was an active civil rights proponent and a member of the Pennsylvania State Equal Rights League. He was also a member of the National Convention of Colored Men, and in 1872, he became the first Black man to serve as a foreman for an all-white jury.**

****Zsana Hoskins is a freelance writer for The Washington Informer. Her editorial journey includes serving as Associate Editor for Cover 2 Cover Magazine and as a campus reporter for The Hilltop at Howard University.**

Reference Sources: Afro News, the Black Media Authority; BlackAmericaWeb.com

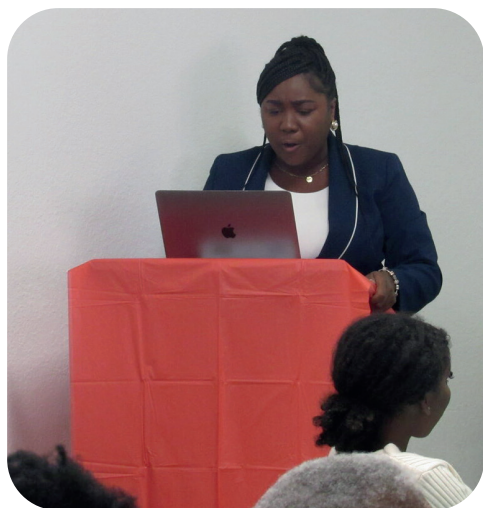


Elizabeth City District Christian Education Department “Shoes Ministry”

By Mrs. Lucy Beamon
Photos By Mrs. Felicia Brittingham-Hill and London Hill

The Elizabeth City District Christian Education Department held a “Shoes Ministry” on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church, where the pastor is Rev. L. Shawni Basnight.

The purpose of our Shoe Ministry was to express that we should let God lead us as we walk to witness for Him. Mrs. Lucy Beamon, District Director of CED, welcomed everyone and introduced the Mistress of Ceremony. Our Mistress of Ceremony was our Albemarle Conference VICYC Secretary, Ms. Savannah Hill, of Good Hope A.M.E. Zion Church, where the pastor is Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Donald Jones of the Elizabeth City District. Scripture was read by Mrs. Lillian Dance, District Director of Adults, followed by Ms. Leah Williams of Mt. Lebanon A.M.E. Zion Church where the pastor is Rev. Javan Leach, who offered the prayer. We had all ages join us as we listened to a wonderful message from Ms. Jayla Hall, former Albemarle Conference VICYC President and member of New McBride A.M.E. Zion Church, where the pastor is Rev. Tavonda Fields.



Jayla spoke on the topic, “Lessons from a Storm.” Her scripture came from Matthew 14:22-33. Her message offered four points:

- Watch the company that you keep
 - Be encouraged by His presence
 - Learn to make your petition to God
 - Don't focus on the storm; focus on the Savior
- Jayla really presented an awesome message, which compelled us to focus on our Savior as we go through life's storms!



The message was followed by a “Pin the Bible Verse on the Shoe” activity. This involved the use of a large shoe banner hanging on the wall, six blindfolds, and six large Bible verses printed on colored

paper. The object was to walk under the direction of Rev. Wanda Johnson, District Director of Young Adults, and Mrs. Lillian Dance, District Director of Adults, as they guided the blindfolded participant to the shoe. We had a total of six participants who were instructed where to place the Bible verse so that it would be correctly attached to the shoe. The purpose of the activity was to let us know that we don't always know where God is going to lead us, but we have to be willing to listen and obey. It's as though we're blindfolded when we walk by faith and not by sight. The participants truly enjoyed the activity and got extremely emotional due to the message it conveyed to them. We experienced a move of God, which was deeply inspiring. After this activity, the youth colored a paper shoe and showed their creativity. Snacks were available, and pumpkins were given to everyone in attendance once the youth had an opportunity to select the ones they wanted. Mrs. Gloria Spence, Conference Director of CED, offered remarks followed by Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Donald Jones. Mrs. Felicia Brittingham-Hill, District Director of Youth, and her son, London Hill, took beautiful pictures of our program.

BETHEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
798 FIRETOWER ROAD
ELIZABETH CITY, NC

“Walking To Witness For Christ”

Shoes Ministry
Saturday
OCT. 12 · 2024
10:00 AM

Please support the EC CED by donating \$1.00 x your shoe size
 (Ex. Size 10 shoes would be \$10.00)

GUEST SPEAKER
MS. JAYLA HALL
FORMER ALBEMARLE CONFERENCE
VICYC PRESIDENT

EPHESIANS 6:15

**ELIZABETH CITY DISTRICT CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**



Thank you, Lord, for a wonderful Ministry!

Continued from pg 2

My spirit attests that we quarreled now and then
and made it right again.
It tells me that we often sat staring out at a world
with plenty of woes but with more of what is worthy.
You - Me- My soul knows.

So please, heart-to-heart, soul-to- soul
Let Us Breathe!

Don't walk cautiously, timidly, or fearfully through my door.
Don't be on guard for the worst.
Don't greet me with a nervous voice.
My spirit hears it all. My soul knows you.
So come, move with loving assurance.
Walk through my door like you know -that I AM STILL HERE.

Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church Welcomes New Pastor: Reverend Dr. Derrill A. Blue

By Dianna Davis

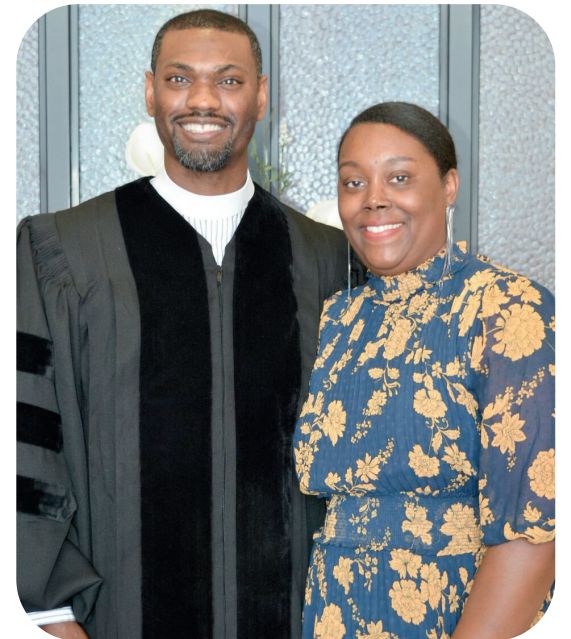


On Sunday, October 13, 2024, Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church welcomed our new Pastor, Reverend Dr. Derrill Antonio Blue, along with his wife, Reverend Paula Blue, and children Makis and Norie. We were blessed and honored to have worshiped with us, Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Piedmont Episcopal District, A.M.E. Zion Church, and his wife, Mrs. Camille C. Starnes, as well as Rev. Dr. Wardell Henderson, Jr., Presiding Elder of the North Charlotte District, and his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Henderson.

Dr. Blue delivered a powerful sermon from Matthew 14:22-33, with the subject "A Focused Faith." We praise God for the electrifying praise experience.



Reverend Dr. Derrill A. Blue and Reverend Paula Bryant Blue bring a wealth of spiritual wisdom, compassion, and leadership to Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church. With deep roots in ministry and a shared dedication to uplifting others, their vision and guidance will play a pivotal role in our church's future. We are confident that under their leadership, our congregation will continue to grow, thrive, and serve the community.



For more information visit -
ABOUT OUR PASTOR

Scan for More
Information about
Rev. Dr. Derrill
Blue



Jones on Jones: An Appreciation of A Man With A Purpose

By Laverna Hargrove
Photos By Deborah Price

On Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 3:00 pm, the clergy, members of the 22 churches, family, and friends gathered in large numbers at the historic St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church, Wilmington, NC to demonstrate their appreciation for the servant leadership of Rev. Dr. Alexander L. Jones, Sr., Presiding Elder of the Wilmington District, Cape Fear Conference for the last twenty-seven years. Through a panorama of Nazarene blue, Rev. Dr. Jones and Mrs. Delma Jones were escorted into the seats of honor by Rev. Corine Brown and her husband, Nathaniel Brown. Rev. Dr. Jermaine Armour, pastor of St. Luke, presiding over the occasion, called the church to focus on the mode of worship and gave the invocation. The worship was opened with the favorite hymn of Presiding Elder Alexander Jones, Sr., I Am Thine O Lord. Following the scripture by Rev. Karen McCracken of Christian Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Winabow, NC, and prayer by the senior pastor of the Wilmington District, Rev. Dr. William Ballard, pastor of Evergreen A.M.E. Zion Church, Delco, NC, the music of the combined choirs of Mt. Pleasant and Graham Chapel of the Lumberton District led the congregation to waves of praise. Rev. Carol Robbins, pastor of the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church, Leland, NC, and chairperson of the Appreciation Committee, welcomed the worshippers and reminded them it is the celebration of what God has done through His servant, Presiding Elder Alexander Jones, we were celebrating.

Reverend Maria Lacewell, pastor of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, Elizabethtown, NC, of the Lumberton District, introduced the messenger, Reverend Dr. Terry Jones, Presiding Elder of the Lumberton



ence (2016-2020). In January 2023, he was appointed Presiding Elder of the Lumberton District, where he now serves. The two Presiding Elder Jones met each other when Rev. Dr. Terry Jones, while pastoring Warner Temple A.M.E Zion Church, Wilmington, NC, welcomed Rev. Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr. to the Wilmington District as the newly appointed pastor of the St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church, Wilmington, NC. Reverend Dr. Terry Jones, Sr., using Psalms 37: 1-5 and 23-25 as the scriptural foundation, spoke from the subject: The Steps of a Good Man. He outlined the character and service of Rev. Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr. as one who knows the power source that allows him to keep going; endowed with the Spirit of God allows him to

exhibit the calm, cool, collected demeanor he is known for because of the Spirit that is working on the inside; he has maintained a steady progression because it is God that directs his steps, not he himself. His perspective is different because he operates from the view that God gives to him. Rev. Dr. Alexander Jones has been operating in the mode of leading God's people because he has been called by God to do so for more than 60 years of ministry. Regardless of circumstances, God has always made a way.

A warm and welcoming invitation to Christian Discipleship was given by Rev. Thomas Williams of St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Bolton, NC. The organizations of the Wilmington District, clergy, and the Jones family, represented by son Alexander Jones, Jr., presented Rev. Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr., and Mrs. Jones with gifts of appreciation. A very special guest, Mrs. Posey Johnson, a centenarian of St. Andrew A.M.E Zion Church, Wilmington, NC, was present to give accolades to her presiding elder. Rev. Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr., was presented by Rev. Dr. Charlean Mapson for his acknowledgments and expressions of thanks for allowing him to be the leader of the Wilmington District for the past 27 years. "You cannot lead people if no one is willing to



District.

Presiding Elder Terry Jones, a native of coastal North Carolina, has served The A.M.E. Zion Church since 1979 as a member of the clergy. He served several pastoral appointments in the Central North Carolina Conference before being transferred to the Cape Fear Conference to pastor Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Wilmington, NC from 1992 to 2004 when he was transferred to the New England Conference, where served the Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, Hartford, CT. for 19 years, (2004 -2023) being elevated to Presiding Elder of the Hartford District in 2017 and the Nassau District of the Bahamas Confer-



follow you. Therefore, I am thankful for your 'fellowship' as we seek to follow God where he leads us," he said. "May God be praised".

A reception featuring Nazarene blue in the decorative elements, denoting the station of presiding elder and further celebrating the ministry of Reverend Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr., was presented by the St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church family hosted by Mrs. Gerotha Spain, Executive Assistant to Rev. Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr. The reception featured a life-size cutout of Reverend Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr., for creating individual photographic records of the occasion.

Ohio Conference 1st Check-Up Meeting Conference Year 2024 – 2025

By Patricia M Wilson
Photos By Patricia M. Wilson



On Saturday, September 28th, the Ohio Conference gathered to report on our labor since the June Annual Conference. The packed-to-the-walls Check-Up meeting was held at Ruth in Sharon, PA, where the Rev. Marion Wheeler was the host pastor and Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr. was the host presiding elder. The morning scripture was John 15:9-17, read by our Presiding Elder, Rev. Dr. Audie V. Simon I. Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr., who then introduced and presented the meditation speaker, Bishop Brian R. Thompson Sr.

Bishop Thompson's meditation was taken from Matthew 14:25-29, and the title was "*What Matters Next is What Matters Most.*" This also happens to be his personal and now our Mid-Atlantic Theme.

Bishop painted a picture of wanting to go to a high-rise restaurant, trying to use an elevator that would not reach the necessary floor. He decided to return to the main floor to get better directions and, with the new directions, was then able to reach the high-rise restaurant. He shared that sometimes, we are not willing to go higher. Bishop told us that we are not at our last destination; it is not our last stop; God has something greater for us. He also reminded us that the Gospel was written by four men who told the story in their own view. However, they all ended up at the same ending.

He stated that sometimes we have "stinky" thinking, and we believe that God can do for everyone else but not for ourselves. We, too, can receive a miracle. Sometimes, things may have to get dark (like during the 4th watch) for God to do some things. That our shouting and praising don't mean that you have seen dark times or been through some things. Each one of us has our own personal storm. Bishop Thompson reminded us that Jesus will come to us sometimes, even before we



know that we need Him.

Bishop's points were:

- **We have to be willing to take some risk**
 - Ministry is risky – how can you go to fraternity, sororities, family reunions, and not church
 - There are things that happen in church that don't happen anywhere else
 - Ohio is about to cause a resurrection and not talk about closing churches
 - We must be careful about people who want to stay on the boat too long
- **We must recollect the radicalization of our redemption**
 - We must step out on faith
 - It is time to move
 - Move and step out even though others may not know where you are going
 - Start praising like you are already there
 - Just because God is with you doesn't mean you won't sink; things may become difficult but don't stop trusting Jesus.
 - Remember Peter, he went in the water; he had faith to take that step
 - Kujichagulia (self-determination)
- **Must remember the realized divine reverence**
 - Some people must see the end miracle
 - Act like it before you are there
 - Act like you are supposed to be there
 - Have a "Peter Attitude"
 - There are no small churches
 - Money problems do not exist it is just a financial transition

Following worship service, we quickly moved into the business session of the Check-Up Meeting. Reports were given by the District Presidents of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society (Lucille Gooden, LaVon Moore, Pamela Valentine), Christian Education (Dr. Monica Posey), Conference Studies (Rev. Dr. Curtis Walker), Home Mission and Conference Workers (Sharon Simmons), and Lay Council (Anita Rankin). Rev. Dr. Michael Posey reported on the Ministry of Kindness, and Rev. George Smith-Whitfield gave an overview of our next





Annual Conference. Our three Presiding Elders, Rev. Dr. Audie Simon, Rev. Dr. Michael Posey, and Rev. Dr. Curtis Walker, reported on the financial and spiritual state of their respective districts. The last report given was the Conference Financial report prior to Bishop giving the benediction.

But hold on, we were not finished!

This was the first meeting with our newly appointed Bishop, and the Grand Ohio Conference welcomed our new Bishop with a program designed just for him and Missionary Supervisor Rev. Felica Thompson.

Our Mistress of Ceremonies for this occasion was the Honorable Judge



Expressions of Welcome were given to Bishop and Rev. Thompson from the Lay Council, Christian Education, W.H.&O.M. Society, Minister's Spouses & Widows, Ministers, and Presiding Elders.



Adele Riley. Judge Riley is a member of St. Paul in Dayton, Ohio, and also the president of the Judicial Council of the A.M.E. Zion Church. Rev. Rosalyn Mitchell-Martin gave the invocation, and Rev. D'Andre James-Daniels eloquently shared the occasion. The St. James Choir from Massillon, Ohio, under the direction of their pastor, Rev. Le-Counte Nedab, blessed everyone with their songs of praise.



Following the Expressions of Welcome, the Missionary Supervisor and Bishop gave remarks. Bishop Thompson shared that he thought that after the worship and/or the business session the church would empty. He doesn't know the Ohio Conference, yet. Not only did everyone stay for the welcome program, but the Columbus-Cincinnati District rented a bus just to travel to the Check-Up Meeting.

Bishop Thompson and Missionary Supervisor Rev. Thompson are excited to be with Mid-Atlantic and the Ohio Conference family. They are looking forward to getting to know each of us and may stop in unannounced at any of our churches on any given Sunday.

Lay Day 2024 is Celebrated on the Wilmington District

By Laverna Hargrove
Photo By Laverna Hargrove

Sunday, September 29, 2024, the Wilmington District Lay Council held its Annual Lay Day Celebration at Bowens Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, pastored by Reverend Valarie Robinson with Stacey Robinson, Host President.

The Devotion was a reflection of the present Lay Council theme, "Securing Our Future." Chaplain Alice Fennell gave the Old Testament Scripture Jeremiah 29:11-12 and prayer; the New Testament Scripture, Romans 15:13, was given by Dorothy Barnett of Bowens Chapel.

The meditation, 'Get You House in Order: It's Later Than You Think,' was brought by Reverend Corine RollsBrown, pastor of Zion Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Wilmington, NC, using the scriptural basis Matthew 24:32-36. Music was provided by the Zion Chapel Gospel Choir.

A pictorial tribute was humbly submitted to the 34 members of the Wilmington District who were called from labor to reward during the 2023-2024 Cape Fear Conference year.

President William Evans retired after 24 years of servant leadership to the Wilmington District Lay Council. Being a pioneer in his own right, Mr. Evans was presented with a 2024 Harriet Tubman coin in appreciation of his service and the designation of President Emeritus by the WDLC under the guidance of Presiding Elder Dr. Alexander Jones, Sr. and the officers of the WDLC. During his presidency, the WDLC presented a visual necrology, instituted the Keeper of the Flame Award, and established a blog, WilmingtonDistrictLayCouncil.blogspot.com, to serve as a vehicle for announcing the activities of churches and organizations of the district. During the pandemic, the Lay Council continued to present its meetings via Zoom. One program presented via Zoom during the pandemic was Christmas around the Wilmington District, which showcased the interiors and exteriors of the homes of members that were decorated for Christmas. Most recently, donations of snacks and water were made to the three Cape Fear Hospice Centers located in our district by individual churches.

Mr. Evans has served not only at the district and local level but on the regional and connectional levels as well. His leadership has been earmarked by his willingness to travel to the church to gain information and guidance for those he served directly. Letters of commendation came from the Cape Fear Conference President, Monte Forte, and ENCED Regional Director Hank Dobson. President Forte noted under Mr. Evans's leadership; the Wilmington District led the Cape Fear Conference in memberships, Life Members lay activities and programs. Regional Director Hank Dobson cited Mr. Evans as a disciplined planner who shares his opinion honestly and forthrightly, always in light of doing what's best for the Lay Council. Mr. Dobson also noted that to successfully lead the WDLC for twenty-four years with great vim and vitality had to be God's purpose for Mr. Evans.

Beginning the 2024-2025 Cape Fear Conference year, the WDLC will be led by the newly elected president, Darryl Dyson. Mr. Dyson serves as president of the Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church Lay Council of Leland, NC, and has served in this position for the past four years. Mr. Dyson brings accounting skills, interpersonal skills, and planning skills to the position that has been honed through his experience as a US Marine and his experience as a track and assistant football coach for North Brunswick High School.

Re-elected to the other positions of leadership of the WDLC are Reginald Ballard, 1st Vice President; Linda Simpson, 2nd Vice President, LaVerna Hargrove, Secretary; Janice Robbins, Treasurer; and Alice Fennell, Chaplain.



The WDLC also celebrated seven new Life Members: Reverend Dr. Jermaine Armour, Pastor of St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church; Rev. Betjean Payton of St. Phillip A.M.E. Zion Church, Wilmington, NC; George Clemmons, Jacqualine Ballard, and Ella Beatty of Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Leland, NC; Belinda Pickett, and Noretta Littlejohn of Evergreen A.M.E. Zion Church, Delco, NC; brings the total number of Life Members to fifty-two.

Reverend Dr. Alexander Jones encouraged the new Life Members to use the gifts God has given them to fulfill their purpose through the Lay Council at the connectional, regional, district, and local level. There is always room for others in the vineyard of the Lord with rewards that are many, many-dimensional, and some everlasting.

The WDLC provided Absentee Ballot Request Forms, Voter Registration Forms, Voting Sites, and Schedules for the three counties that comprise the Wilmington District via hard copies, the WDLC blog spot, and email in an effort to accomplish the objectives of Project 100 of The A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Lay Council of Bowen Chapel welcomed the WDLC with a delicious repast following the Lay Day Service.



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

A New Academy at Livingstone College



By Star of Zion News

Livingstone College celebrated its Presidential Scholars and International students with two welcome receptions hosted by senior leadership. Students, honors advisors, and administration gathered in the college's Event Center to recognize students with a record of academic achievement and welcome international learners to Blue Bear Country.



Honors Program director Dr. Da'Tarvia Parrish greeted students reiterating the mission of Livingstone College with a collective oral recitation by sophomore-level Presidential Scholars. Parrish encouraged the Class of 2028 to be inspired by the forerunners who established national and world stages and challenged them to create their own legacies. Referencing Livingstone's international contribution to the global economy, Parrish stated, "Livingstone's first graduate John A. D. Bloice was of the British West Indies, Solomon Carter Fuller of Liberia made pioneering discoveries in Alzheimer's disease, and James Ag-

grey's leadership influenced the independence of three nations. What will you do with your passion and purpose?"

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dawn McNair motivated students to transform the learning environment as over 30% of the freshmen class are students with a 3.8 grade point average and higher. Also within the class is perhaps Livingstone College's youngest student in history, 14-year-old Afia Owusu-Agyeman of Ghana.



Adding to the college's new direction of academics, President Anthony J. Davis rendered an anecdotal bird flight or fate tale affirming to students, "The future is in your hands."



Professor Felix Adusei-Danso who also serves as the Ashanti Chief of the Carolinas for Ghana lent words of wisdom and shared his nation's anthem that heartened countrymen and united the audience.

Clinton College Awarded a \$400,000 Grant for Mental Health Promotion and Wellness Initiatives

By Dr. Lafarah Frazier



We are excited to announce that The WACH Institute has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the **South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare**, a center of excellence at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine to support our ongoing commitment to mental health promotion and holistic wellness on campus. This grant will fund innovative programs and expand existing initiatives to enhance our students' well-being.

The grant will be used to

- **Launch Mental Health and Stress Management Workshops:** A series of workshops focused on building resilience, managing stress, and improving mental health awareness across campus.
- **Develop Peer Health Education Programs:** A student-led initiative where trained peer educators will provide health and wellness resources, information on healthy habits, and support to fellow students.
- **Expand Access to Wellness Resources:** Additional funding for counseling services, fitness programs, and nutrition counseling to ensure all campus community members have access to vital health

services.

This grant aligns with our college's mission to foster a healthy, supportive, and inclusive environment for all. Good mental health is foundational to academic success.

When students take care of their mental well-being, they can perform better academically, engage more fully in the learning process, and achieve a more balanced and fulfilling educational experience. The new initiatives will begin rolling out in the coming months, and we encourage students and staff to participate in these exciting programs. For more information about these new health initiatives and how you can get involved, contact Dr. Lafarah Frazier, Director of the WACH Institute at Lfrazier@clintoncollege.edu or call 803.909.9176.

We look forward to promoting a healthier campus community together!



A COLLABORATION

THE DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT
THE DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS & RESEARCH

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

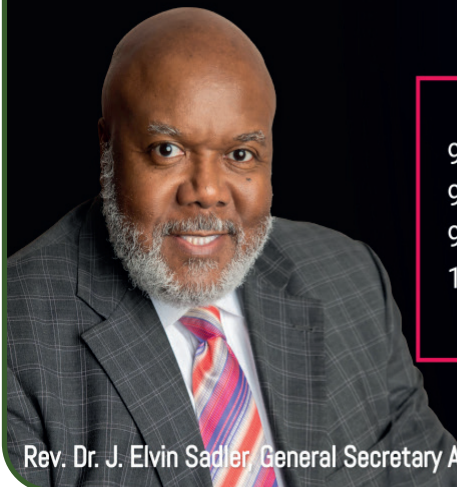
UPCOMING COURSE CURRICULUM:

BLESSING OR BURDEN?
YOU DECIDE...RE-EXAMINING THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

FALL SEMESTER BEGINS **SEPTEMBER 9TH - NOVEMBER 11TH**



Rev. Dr. Eleazar Merriweather, Executive Director



Rev. Dr. J. Elvin Sadler, General Secretary Auditor

9/9	The Global History of the Church	10/14	Part III: The Church (Session 2)
9/16	The Discipline: Salvation and Spiritual Formation	10/21	Part IV: The Conferences
9/23	The History of the A.M.E. Zion Church	10/28	Part V: The Ministry (Session 1)
9/30	Part I & II: The Introduction & Consitution	11/4	Part V: The Ministry (Session 2)
10/7	Part III: The Church (Session 1)	11/11	Soft & Wise: Answering Hard Questions

ALL SESSIONS ARE AT 8:00 PM (ET)

Clinton College Celebrates Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the New Margaret Neely Bookstore

By Rev. Roderick Josey, Education Editor

Clinton College recently celebrated the grand opening of the new Margaret Neely Bookstore, a significant milestone in the institution's ongoing efforts to enrich student life. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by college officials, students, faculty, and local community leaders, all gathered to honor a woman whose legacy continues to inspire future generations of Clinton students.

The bookstore, named after Clinton alumna Margaret Neely, Class of 1955, pays tribute to her remarkable journey of perseverance and service. Margaret's connection to Clinton began under extraordinary circumstances. After a bout with rheumatic fever disrupted her high school education, she received a scholarship to Clinton College with the support of her pastor. Once there, she became an ambassador for her peers, serving as a mentor and chaperone, all while working as a hairdresser to support herself. Her commitment to the Clinton community extended even to styling the hair of Clinton College's president at the time, Dr. Sallie V. Moreland.

Margaret's life is a testament to the power of resilience and the opportunities Clinton College provides its students. Following her gradua-



tion, she pursued further education at the University of Buffalo, where she earned a Master's degree in Counseling. For nearly three decades, she dedicated her career to helping students as a school counselor in Buffalo Public Schools, shaping the lives of countless young people.



In her later years, Margaret remained a steadfast supporter of her alma mater, frequently attributing her success to her experiences at Clinton College. The new Margaret Neely Bookstore stands as a beacon of her legacy, symbolizing not only her personal journey but also the enduring impact of a Clinton education.

As Clinton College celebrates this new addition to campus, the Margaret Neely Bookstore serves as both a practical resource for students and a lasting tribute to one of the school's most cherished alumna.

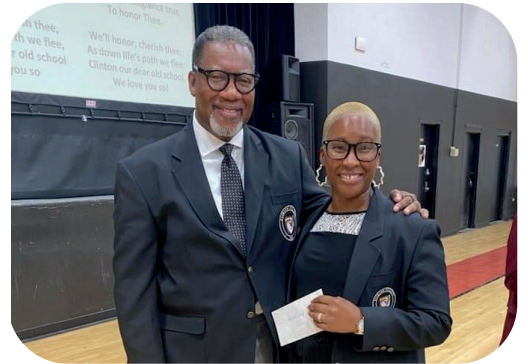
Clinton College Receives \$5,000 in Generous Donations from Freedom Temple Ministries and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

By Rev. Roderick J. Josey, Education Editor



ROCK HILL, S.C. — Clinton College is celebrating a week of generosity after receiving two significant contributions totaling \$5,000. Freedom Temple Ministries and the ETA Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., each made donations to support the college’s mission of providing a high-quality education to its students.

Both organizations are well-known for their commitment to community service and education. Their donations come at a critical time as Clinton College continues to invest in academic programs, scholarships, and campus resources to support student success.



Clinton College expressed its deep gratitude for these contributions, noting that the gifts will go a long way in furthering its mission to serve and uplift students, particularly from underserved communities. These donations not only provide financial assistance but also demonstrate the powerful impact of community partnerships in supporting historically Black institutions.

Clinton College remains committed to its long-standing tradition of academic excellence, and these gifts will enhance the educational experience for current and future scholars.



Democrats are fighting for our rights, and we won't go back.

Our future is on the ballot. Your vote matters.

Make a Plan to Vote.

Visit IWillVote.com to make a plan to vote today.

MY BLACK JOB IS TO VOTE

PAID FOR BY THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE. WWW.DEMOCRATS.ORG. THIS COMMUNICATION IS NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE

Hood Theological Seminary to Host “Stride for Scholars” 2K Walk-A-Thon

HTS Hood Theological Seminary

Lace Up For Our
“Stride for Scholars”
2K
Walk-A-Thon

Friday
November 22, 2024

9:00am - 1:00pm

HTS Campus
1810 Lutheran Synod Dr.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Register Now Visit Our Website
www.hoodseminary.edu

What To Expect?

Registration: \$35

- ✓ All In Person and Virtual participants will receive a T-Shirt (Must be registered by 11/15)
- ✓ Swag Bags for In Person Participants
- ✓ Refreshments

Each participant will walk 8 laps around the campus of HTS to complete the 2K walk

Virtual Participants are asked to send a picture of completed walk to twalker@hoodseminary.edu

By Hood Theological Seminary

Hood Theological Seminary is excited to announce the upcoming “Stride for Scholars” 2K

Walk-A-Thon, set to take place on Friday, November 22, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The walk-a-thon will be held on the beautiful campus of Hood Theological Seminary at 1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC.

This special event invites participants from all walks of life—both in person and virtually—to come together to support Hood Theological Seminary’s mission of preparing bold and creative leaders for the Christian church in a diverse world. Registration for the event is \$35.00, and all participants, whether in person or virtual, will receive an official event t-shirt (registration must be completed by November 15, 2024, to guarantee a t-shirt). In-person participants will also receive swag bags and enjoy refreshments.

Participants will walk 8 laps around the scenic Hood Theological Seminary campus to complete the 2K distance. Virtual participants are encouraged to walk in their own local areas and submit a photo of their completed walk to Ty Walker at twalker@hoodseminary.edu.

The proceeds from the “Stride for Scholars” 2K Walk-A-Thon will

go directly to supporting student scholarships at Hood Theological Seminary. This initiative is essential for providing financial assistance to current and future students, helping them pursue their theological education without financial barriers. By participating in this event, you will be helping to equip the next generation of church leaders, empowering them to serve communities worldwide with bold and inclusive leadership.

Registration Information: To register for the walk-a-thon, visit the Hood Theological Seminary website at: <https://www.hoodseminary.edu/events/2k-walk-a-thon>. For questions, please contact Ty Walker, Director of Donor Relations and Annual Giving, at twalker@hoodseminary.edu or 704-636-6926.

About Hood Theological Seminary: Hood Theological Seminary, located in Salisbury, NC, is a graduate and professional school sponsored by the A.M.E. Zion Church and accredited by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church. The seminary’s diverse student body, faculty, and staff represent various Christian denominations, and the school’s mission is to prepare women and men for bold and creative leadership in the Christian church and a diverse world.

Join us on November 22nd and make your strides count toward the future of theological education!

Hood Theological Seminary to Host 1885 Society Dinner

By Kelly Bryant

This year the Hood Theological Seminary 1885 Society Dinner will take place on November 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. on the campus of Hood Theological Seminary, Aymer Center, 1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144. This is a ticketed event, which will be an additional way to raise funds to support Student Scholarships. The 1885 Society Dinner is the signature fundraiser for the Hood Theological Seminary National Alumni Association (HTSNAA). All the funds raised from this annual event support the HTSNAA Student Scholarship Fund.



The keynote speaker for this event will be Bishop Teresa E Snorton. As the Ecumenical Bishop, Bishop Snorton plays a vital role in representing the CME church at national and global events and overseeing events for special projects. Bishop Snorton's impressive background includes serving as the Presiding Bishop of the Fifth and Eleventh Episcopal Districts and as the Chaplain Endorser for the CME denomination. She also chairs Friendship Press and has previously led

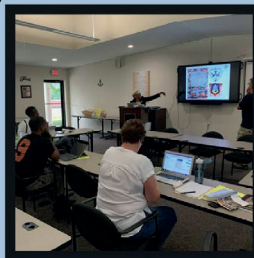
the National Council of Churches USA, the Board of Trustees of the Interdenominational Theological Center, and Miles College. Her service extends to numerous boards and commissions, including the CME Connectional Headquarters and the Pan Methodist Commission. A distinguished scholar and leader, Bishop Snorton holds degrees from Vanderbilt University, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary, among others. She has received the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award from United Seminary and honorary Doctorates from Miles College and Hood Theological Seminary. Bishop Snorton is also the founder of The Academy for Public Theology and an active member of various organizations, including the NAACP and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. In 2024, she was inducted into Morehouse College's Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers.

For more information and to RSVP, go here: <https://www.hoodseminary.edu/alumni--friends/upcoming-events>. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Reginald Boyd, Jr. at rboyd@hoodseminary.edu or 704-636-6455.

Hood Theological Seminary, located at 1810 Lutheran Synod Drive in Salisbury, NC, is a graduate and professional school sponsored by the A.M.E. Zion Church and approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church. Its student body, faculty and staff currently comprise persons from many different denominations. Hood's mission is to prepare women and men for bold and creative leadership for the Christian church for a diverse world.



- Master of Divinity • Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry • Master of Arts in Chaplaincy
- Master of Arts in Christian Education
- Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
- Graduate Certificate Programs • Continuing Education



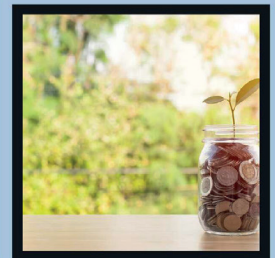
Gifted Faculty



Accessible Campus



Diverse Community



Affordable Tuition

Join the Journey

Hood Theological Seminary is sponsored by the A.M.E. Zion Church, approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church, and fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

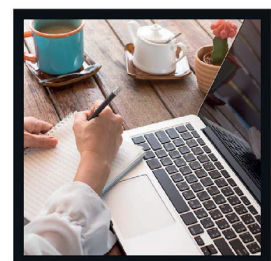
Admissions:

704-636-6455 admissions@hoodseminary.edu

CONTACT US:

1810 Lutheran Synod Drive,
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hoodseminary.edu 704-636-7611



On-Campus and Online Classes Available

Livingstone College Feels at Home with Hood



By Star of Zion News

Women leaders of the Livingstone College Honors Program attended the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Regional Conference September 27-29 in Richmond, Virginia, and were welcomed with open arms by Hood Temple A.M.E. Zion Church. Under the leadership of Livingstone College alumnus Rev. Dr. Lorenza Meekins, college freshmen Leah Alford, Brihanna Epting, TyAnna Robinson, Genice Smith, and advisor Dr. Da'Tarvia Parrish were handled with care upon arrival by members of Hood Temple. From transportation assistance to Sunday worship, the four scholars and advisor enjoyed their conference and were guided with Christian love and Blue

attendees to immerse in AAUW's mission that advocates for federal, state, and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination. In fact, AAUW's advocacy efforts have led to the passage of several laws, including the Equal Pay Act, Title IX, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, whereas current issues regarding voting were also addressed as the policy is being framed.



Bear unity. Scholar Genice Smith of Sacramento, California, said, "I am in awe of this network. I don't know if this is southern hospitality or the Zion connection, but I do know I am enjoying the love."

The AAUW conference hosted sessions to include Title IX, the Equal Rights Amendment, and Women and Girls in STEM, which permitted



"This conference awakened me to many inequities in our nation and helped to build my knowledge and confidence about opportunities I can pursue," said Brihanna Epting, a biology major from Jacksonville, Florida.

At the conference's close, the women worshipped at Hood Temple and celebrated the pastor's last Sunday there. Dr. Meekins preached a rhythmical sermon from Jude that followed with a reception in the dining hall, celebrating and wishing him well in his retirement.

Rev. Dr. Laticia Hill Godette, Esq. Speaks at Hood's Fall 2024 Opening Convocation

By Kelly Bryant

Hood Theological Seminary held its Fall 2024 Opening Convocation on Friday, September 13, 2024. Rev. Dr. Laticia Hill Godette, Esq., Hood alum MDiv'14, was the speaker at this event. Dr. Laticia Hill Godette is the Presiding Elder of the Wadesboro-Monroe District of the Piedmont Episcopal Area of The A.M.E. Zion Church. Rev. Dr. Laticia Hill Godette was the Valedictorian of her 2014 HTS class. She is a law school graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and an HTS Adjunct Faculty in Church History. She is the owner of Godette Health, and she previously served as the Presiding Elder of the Camden District of the New Jersey Annual Conference of The A.M.E. Zion Church. Finally, she has an impressive record as a national philanthropist.

During the event, the first point Dr. Laticia Hill Godette discussed was that many people were just "checking off the boxes" to get by in life and recommended that students and the Hood community "throw away the checklist." She stated that students should "allow the Holy Spirit to lead you, that we would submit ourselves to God." She reminded students to "seek



the Kingdom, and then all these things will be added to you." The second point she discussed was to "team up with power" and to "take off the cape." In relation to this point, she told students to be more transparent and that Hood Theological Seminary is a community and a family. She explained that while she was in seminary, she also had several other duties, and her "professors wrapped their arms around me; they helped me, they nurtured me." Dr. Laticia Hill Godette encouraged new and returning students and told them they were going to make it, but they needed to "take off the cape...you are not alone." The third point she stated was, "Talk to yourself...encourage yourself in the Lord." At the end of her speech, Dr. Laticia Hill Godette said she "prays that this [her sermon] has encouraged someone tonight." Her speech encouraged students, both new and returning, as well as the Hood community.

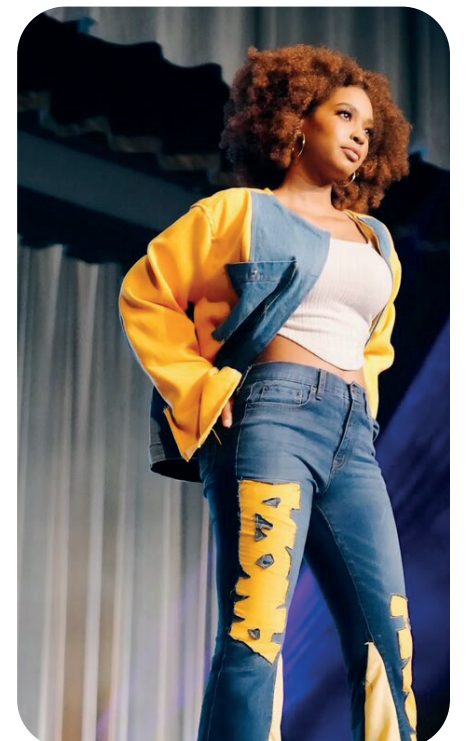
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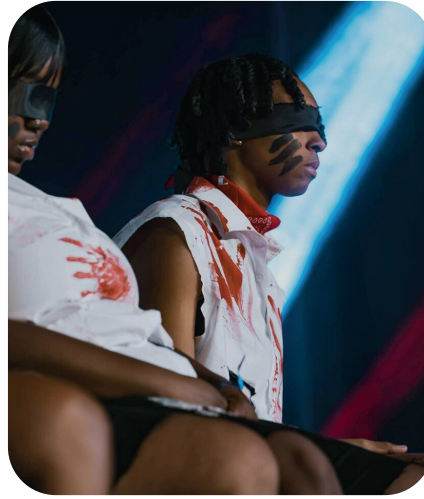
Livingstone College STONECOMING 2024 in the books!

By Rev. Roderick J. Josey, Education Editor

Livingstone College's Stonecoming 2024 was a week of memorable events and celebrations, kicking off from October 6 to October 12. The homecoming festivities featured a wide range of student activities, from the highly anticipated Praise Party and Gospel Jubilee with renowned gospel artist Tye Tribbett, to exciting events like the Fashion

Show, Step Show, and the crowd-favorite Bonfire Rodeo featuring KP.





The climax of the week was Saturday's homecoming football game, where Livingstone triumphed with a thrilling victory against Fayetteville State University at Alumni Memorial Stadium, solidifying their strong season performance. The Blue Bears, under head coach Sean Gilbert, improved their record to 5-2, showing their dominance in conference play.



The celebration didn't end with the game, as students, alumni, and fans were treated to the Stonecoming 2024: The Experience concert. The lineup included performances by Grammy Award-winning artist Anthony Hamilton, the iconic Sugar Hill Gang, and BossMan Dlow, bringing an electrifying close to an unforgettable week.



The festivities highlighted the vibrant spirit of Livingstone College, with students and alumni coming together in celebration of their beloved institution's legacy. The week also brought exciting news, including a \$1 million anonymous donation to support campus projects.



Livingstone College receives another \$1M donation as the campus celebrates its homecoming festivities



By Ms. Garette Hunter

Salisbury, NC | As Livingstone College welcomes back its alumni and friends for its homecoming, a.k.a. Stonecoming, our anonymous donor has once again generously gifted the college \$1 million to support on-going campus improvement projects.

“In 146 years of this institution, we have had unprecedented momentum. In the past 60 days, we’ve received more than \$20M in philanthropic support, with our anonymous donor gifting the college another \$1M donation. Every dime has been invested in the \$50M ‘Miracle on Monroe Street Project,’ a comprehensive campaign that will refurbish 5 residence halls, including 90 beds, at our Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management facility,” Dr. Anthony J. Davis, president and CEO announced via YouTube on Monday.

Additionally, the college has onboarded 441 freshmen and new students this year—the second-largest and most competitive enrollment in our college’s history. With this new incoming class boasting an average GPA of 3.26, Livingstone is strategically positioning itself as one of the top destinations for the country’s best and brightest students who wish to attend an HBCU.

The college is currently observing Stonecoming, which will run from October 6th to 12th. This year’s line-up will feature a Praise Party and

Gospel Jubilee with recording artist Tye Tribbett, a Fashion Show, and a Step Show, culminating with Saturday’s game and Stonecoming 2024 The Experience concert. Recording artists Anthony Hamilton and BossMan Dlow will headline this year’s concert featuring the Sugar Hill Gang.

Join us on Saturday, October 12, as the Blue Bears take on the Broncos of Fayetteville State University.

For more information on how to purchase tickets for Stonecoming events, please visit www.livingstone.edu/homecoming/.

About Us

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

Livingstone College Honors Program hosts Community Think Tank on Project 2025

By Star of Zion News



With many conversations around Project 2025, community members gathered at Livingstone College on Monday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m. in Tubman Theatre with a program hosted by the Honors Program of Livingstone College and Interfaith America Ambassadors with sponsorship by Gethsemane Baptist Church and Salisbury's Divine Nine.

Livingstone freshman honors student Sabrena Hogan welcomed guests, and Rev. Dr. Roy Dennis of Gethsemane opened with prayer. The program continued with honors student Christian Oliver examining the foundation of Project 2025 and its author, The Heritage Foundation. Alyse Stokes introduced the moderator, Dr. Da'Tarvia Parrish, as the audience began to collectively engage in powerful conversations on education, healthcare, civil rights, and economic, criminal, and environmental justice.



The college's 13th President, Dr. Anthony J. Davis, thanked the audience for coming and encouraged them to be informed about legislation and vote. Most of all, President Davis reminded the audience that Livingstone College is a nonpartisan institution that welcomes everyone to campus.

Panelist Rev. Dr. David Camps of First Calvary Baptist Church spoke extensively on issues regarding public education and policies in favor of private and charter schools that undermine educational opportuni-



ties and exacerbate racial disparities in academic achievement. William McKee, a community leader who also serves Winston-Salem State University, delved into the politics of environmental injustice and referenced current topics that directly affect North Carolinians and the nation. Panelist Dr. LaTarcia Barnes, Criminal Justice chair at Livingstone, lent an expert perspective regarding initiatives aimed at addressing systemic racism in the justice system, and student government association president of Livingstone, Ne'Khia Ray, discussed anti-discrimination laws, affirmative action, and equal employment opportunities.

The discussion continued with Salisbury youth Mr. Xavier Brown of Salisbury High, who shared the need for intergenerational relationships and encouraged older generations to share experiences with younger generations to help prepare for tomorrow.



Chris Bennett presented a dramatic rendition of African Americans through the years regarding the loss and gaining of civil rights. Inspired by Bennett's performance, Dr. Parrish stated, "We are not the first generation to gain and lose rights. Particularly during this voting season, we must remember the 15th Amendment of 1870 and the Civil Rights Act of 1965." The audience shared announcements and experiences that centered around voting while the event came to a close.

Attendee Kyonna Kelly said, "This was an awesome event. The information shared was inspiring and eye-opening. I am motivated to vote."

For more information about positions regarding Project 2025, visit <https://nul.org/stop-project-2025> or <https://naacp.org/campaigns/our-2025>



Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Zion Church Donates School Supplies to Avon Grove Charter School

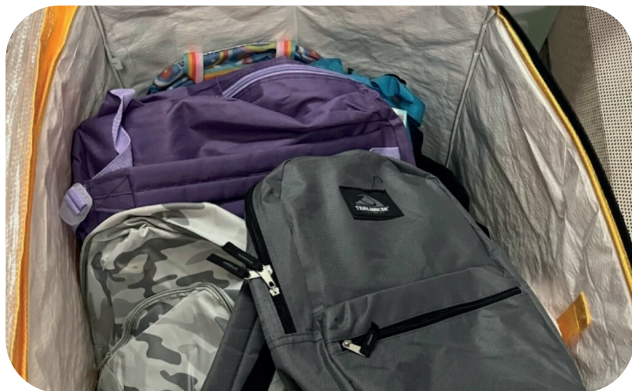


By Rev. Roderick J. Josey, Education Editor

West Grove, PA – In a heartwarming act of community outreach, Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Zion Church partnered with Avon Grove Charter School to provide essential school supplies and backpacks to students. The church, located in Avondale, PA, has long been committed to fostering positive relationships and offering tangible support to local schools.



On September 25th, church members delivered the donations to Avon Grove Charter School, located in West Grove. The supplies, which included notebooks, pencils, and other classroom essentials, were distributed to students in need, ensuring they have the tools necessary for a successful academic year. The partnership between the church and the school reflects a shared dedication to the well-being and success of young scholars.



Rev. Roderick J. Josey, senior pastor of Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Zion

Church, expressed the importance of such initiatives, stating, “Our church is committed to uplifting the youth in our surrounding community. By providing these supplies, we hope to alleviate some of the burdens families face and inspire students to reach their full potential.”



This donation is just one of the many ways Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Zion Church is making a positive impact in the community. The congregation continues to engage in various outreach efforts, seeking to strengthen its partnerships and contribute to the academic success of students in the region.



Avon Grove Charter School administration expressed their gratitude for the generous support. “We are thankful for the ongoing partnership with Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Zion Church. The donations will go a long way in ensuring that our students have what they need to thrive this school year,” said Lower School Assistant Principal.

If you are interested in supporting Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Zion Church to continue its outreach to the Avondale, PA community, please feel free to make a donation by going to mttaboramez.org/give/.



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

Young Adults and Voting

#OurVoicesMatter: The Political Power of The Young Adult Voice!



By **Angelia J. Poole**

Exercising our right to vote is one powerful way we can clearly articulate and consistently confirm commitment to family, church, community, and the world! Linda Sutton (WNCC Voter Registration/Education) passionately educates on the importance of voting: “In the history of this nation, there has never been an election season like we have now. There is so much at stake - the very foundation of our democratic structure is at risk of being turned back; decades of progress made by so many before us, reversed. This consequential election may be one that will erode basic provisions that are designed to help the poor, families, seniors, and youth. At risk are voting rights, social security, health benefits, education, gun control, and more. Only we can ensure our own survival.

But there are those who intend to take us back in time by subverting the election process. Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, ‘Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.’ When we fail to vote, we fail as a people to make lives better for future generations.”

Michael McClain (National Director, African American Faith Engagement) stated, “More young people have registered to vote in NC since the presidential election.” Young Adult voting is up 9%, but their voting numbers are low. Many believe that today’s Young Adults feel casting their vote won’t make any difference. I asked a few Young Adult Zionites, and here are their words:

“I am in the middle because I KNOW that voting and speaking out DOES have the potential to change things and turn tides. However, as a Young Adult I have felt that often our voices are not given the same amount of validation as someone older than us. There have also been times as a young African American girl that I feel like my voice has been silenced and placed on mute as opposed to my young white male or female brothers and sisters.”

“I agree to some point! I believe Young Adults are starting to see the importance-especially the ones voting for the first time! As we are being educated more, we are starting to see that it matters!”

“I agree that many Youth and Young Adults feel like casting votes won’t make a difference. Because it’s a trending topic on social media today, people keep saying it doesn’t matter if we vote.”

“I agree that many young adults may feel as though their vote is but a drop in the ocean, yet I firmly believe that each vote is like a mustard seed—small, but capable of growing into great change. Every voice matters in shaping the future.”

“I believe that many of our Young Adults are under the impression that casting their vote won’t make a difference, but I don’t agree with this mentality. I believe that we are very important in this election and have

the power to make a difference by exercising our right to vote.”

“I agree that casting my vote will make a difference. In fact, it is a way to make sure that my voice and my stance on political issues is heard.”

“I would have to disagree because many Young Adults now make up a vast majority of the working middle-class. And because we now understand the importance that a vote has on one’s socioeconomic welfare and well-being, we take seriously our due diligence and obligation to make our voice matter by voting. While there are many who fall prey to the misinformation that their voice nor their vote matters, I would argue that there are many more who understand the importance of voting.”

“I disagree! I believe our vote does count.”

I then asked, “What is your response to older voters who automatically believe you don’t plan to vote?” The responses were equally engaging.

“To older voters who presume I will not vote, I would gently remind them that we care about our future and seek to make wise decisions for the good of all, even if our approach differs from previous generations.”

“Older people think so less of younger people. We actually know and do more than they think! This election has shown, I believe, that our vote matters. So, for them to think I believe that is totally not true!!!! We do vote way more than they think!”

“I may be young, but I’m ready (lol)! No, really, you can’t group all of us together.”

“My response to older voters would be not to so easily assume that we don’t plan to vote. Instead, talk to us and ask us; educate us if need be from a respectful, loving place, and then we may consider it if we had previously planned not to.”

“My advice would be to take a look around you and really see what’s going on in this current political climate. There is so much at stake. It is of utmost importance that we plan a strategy to encourage and increase knowledge about the importance of this election and work that plan to get people registered and to the polls.”

“My response to older people who automatically believe that I don’t plan to vote is to ask and not assume - just because we’re a younger generation doesn’t mean we don’t understand the importance of letting our voices be heard.”

“I would tell them that if they do not take the opportunity to vote, they lose their right to complain when things do not work out the way they want them to. We should vote in every election. Not just the presidential election.”

“I believe it is an unfair assumption to believe that all young adults are not interested in using our voice as our vote. Many of us are actively engaged in the political arena because, now more than ever, we under-

stand that our power is in our voice, and our voice is heard loud and clear with our vote. We realize that for us to change the future landscape of our country, we must do that on the local and national levels."

And finally, I asked, "What words of encouragement would you share with a Young Adult who doesn't plan to vote?" And they answered:

"Contrary to popular belief, your life and your vote matter!"

"Your freedom is intertwined with your right to vote. Your ancestors fought and died for you to be able to vote and have a voice. Don't silence yourself because you think "They" won't hear you, and your vote won't matter. Be a voice, not an echo! Use your voice to make a change and a difference now! Your Vote IS your Voice!"

"Things may not always go the way you want them to, but if you do nothing, they surely won't get anywhere near it. Take the chance that the change you want to see will happen."

"Vote; vote; vote! If you don't, we lose! Get educated on the candidates and exercise your right to vote to change what you don't like and to keep our democracy!"

"Some words of encouragement that I would give to young adults who don't plan to vote is to PLEASE vote! This election is crucial, and the next few years will depend on it. It's our time to make a difference and make sure our voices are heard very loud and clear. EVERY vote counts, so that includes yours, too!"

"I would tell older voters that I do plan to vote. I vote because someone gave their life for me to have the opportunity to do so. That alone is a reason that I will exercise my right to vote."

"YOU Matter! And because YOU matter, your VOICE matters. And because your voice matters, your VOTE matters. Don't allow the gift that our ancestors gave us to go without appreciation. Appreciate them by lifting your voice and voting!"

"To a young adult not planning to vote, I would say Voting is a way to sow seeds of justice and righteousness for future generations. Your voice, no matter how small it may seem, can help shape the world for the better."

Zion's Young Adults have much to say. Let's encourage them to amplify their voices by casting their vote!

ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS

Happy Mindful Holidays



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By Dierdre R Parker, Entertainment and The Arts Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year... Until it's not.

For many, the upcoming holiday season is a gaping reminder of the hole in your life because someone you love has crossed over into the land of the ancestors. There is a part of you that enjoys the "holly and jolly" that usually engulfs our culture from November 1-January 2 of the following year. The other part of you is desperately wishing that you could turn back the hands of time and get a do-over for that time when you didn't go home because you thought that you would have plenty of time to spend another holiday season with your loved One. Or it may be regret at the things said or left unsaid. I, too, understand this feeling and have experienced its dichotomy every year for the past thirty years. During the first 28 years since my mother passed, my father was still here. Twenty-eight is not thirty. The last two years have been without my dad.

Mindfulness has helped me navigate the happy/sad pendulum that swings our emotions during the holidays. Mindfulness is a mental state achieved by focusing on the present moment while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations. Mindfulness encourages rejecting the tendency to label situations and activities as "good" or "bad ." Instead, mindfulness enables us to be present in the moment. To be present in the moment is more than physical proximity. It is engaging your five senses in the moment that you are in. What are the sights and sounds and smells and tastes around you? Is there anything to be gained by engaging with Cousin Clarence, who is mostly quiet and usually sits on the edge of all the activity? What about the kids and the music they listen to? What they're listening to may have a question that they may want an answer to. What can you find that can ground you in the moment you are in? This is just the way I have learned to navigate the holidays. Find a way that works for you.

The website Green is the New Black offers ten tips on practicing mindfulness during this holiday season.



Cultivate an attitude of Gratitude. As believers, we already know how an attitude of Gratitude can enhance our lives on a regular day. During the holidays, when we make our lists and check them twice, don't forget to look back over your life and think things over. When you do this, you can say, "The Lord has been kind." Gratitude reminds us of our bounteous blessings.

Celebrate the Joy of Giving. I know that we give on the holidays. Some of us give ourselves right into bankruptcy. But what if you give of yourself and not of your substance? What would that look like for you? Who would you help? How would you help them? Power Off. Put the devices down and give some face time to the people around you, not those not there. The latest trend will still be trending after you have fully engaged in the present. (What a gift!)

Take some time for Reflection. Because the holiday emotional pendulum does swing back and forth, please don't deny yourself the opportunity to reflect on how it used to be. Don't remain in that reflective place until it starts interfering with your present in the moment you are in.

Don't let Reflection lead you to "shoulda, woulda, coulda."

Quality Time Over Quantity Time. The amount of time you spend engaging during the holidays is less significant than the quality of the time spent engaging in activities and with people. Choose activities that enhance your overall experience of the holidays. Sing with your children/grandchildren. Make Cookies. Tell Stories about the holidays that you remember. Share time and space with the people who matter to you without a specific expectation. Allow the moments to develop organically.

Communicate Mindfully. Mindful communication involves being fully present, listening actively, and expressing yourself with empathy. As you engage in conversations during holiday gatherings, practice mindful communication by giving your full attention to the speaker, speaking with intention, and being aware of your body language.

Establish Mindful Routines. We all know that holidays can be chaotic.

Establishing mindful morning and evening rituals helps you handle the chaos. Begin your day with a few moments of quiet reflection, deep breathing, or meditation. In the evening, unwind with calming



activities such as reading, gentle stretching, or a gratitude practice.

Mindful Travel. Travel is also a considerable part of the holiday season. Flight delays and cancellations are a thing. If you'd like to travel commercially or privately, please be careful and intentional when choosing flights and travel times. Traveling takes you out of your comfort zone, and mindfulness helps manage the stress of it all.

Take a WUSAH When You Need To. Sometimes holidays can cause you to people too close to the sun (that's what I call it). You become overwhelmed with the activity, all

the noise, and all the smiling and laughing that comes with peopling on that level. Take a moment away from the noise. Take some deep, cleansing, steadying breaths. Trust me, it works.

Set Realistic Expectations. We all know that some of our families put the fun in dysfunction. Don't go expecting The Brady Bunch if you know your family is Meet the Klumps. Focus on the essence of the season—connection, joy, and Reflection—rather than getting caught up in the pursuit of a flawless celebration.

We at the Star of Zion pray that this holiday season will remind us of the bounteous blessings that are ours because we have put our faith in the One who always causes us to triumph. Happy Holidays.



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A Special 90th Birthday Celebration



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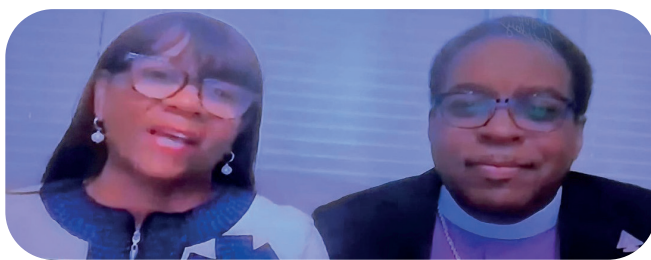
“All my life, God has been so, so, good” - Mrs. Catherine Whitley



I had the opportunity to attend Mrs. Catherine Whitley’s 90th birthday celebration. She is the former first lady of the Norfolk District and wife to the late Presiding Elder Edmund H. Whitley Sr. The celebration was held at St. Thomas A.M.E. Zion Church in Norfolk, VA, and was hosted by her lovely children and church family.

Mrs. Whitley walked into her celebration adorned in purple and gold, escorted by her grandsons, looking beautiful. Rev. Dr. Lamb, Pastor of St. Thomas A.M.E. Zion Church, and First Lady Mrs. Lamb hosted the grand occasion. Guests attended virtually and in person to celebrate Queen Catherine.

At the beginning of the celebration, her son, granddaughters, and other family and friends who joined virtually shared special reflections about Mrs. Whitley via Zoom. Bishop W. Darin Moore and Missionary Supervisor Mrs. Devita Moore, Retired Bishop Dennis Proctor and Missionary Supervisor Mrs. D. Diane Proctor, Bishop Brian Thompson and Missionary Supervisor Rev. Felica Thompson, Bishop Melanie Rodgers Miller, and Missionary Supervisor Rev. Jimmie Miller shared remarks from their respective locations.



After the virtual reflections, Mrs. Whitley’s two daughters spoke of her as the matriarch of the family and referred to her as Queen Mother. The grand affair also included in-person greetings from Presiding Elder and Mrs. friends shared reflections many. Woman of God, best characteristics shared about Mrs.



After the celebration, I spoke to Mrs. Whitley about the love and joy she felt to be celebrated most. She shared, “I felt wonderful, and it was a good feeling to have celebrate my 90th birthday with me.” Mrs. Whitley is a true testament Godly woman.



Vincent Jones and Presiding Elder and Mrs. T.K. Venable. Family and friends shared reflections many. Woman of God, best characteristics shared about Mrs. Whitley. As reflections were shared, Mrs. Whitley smiled.

spoke to Mrs. Whitley about the love and joy she felt to be celebrated most. She shared, “I felt wonderful, and it was a good feeling to have celebrate my 90th birthday with me.” Mrs. Whitley is a true testament Godly woman.



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Start Preparing for Tax Day



By Dana G. Stilley, Financial Freedom Editor

Now that the election cycle has come to a close, we are just weeks away from the holiday season and the end of 2024. Before you get totally immersed in holiday planning and decorating, try to take some time to get a jump on your 2024 tax filing. Here are some tips that may help you decrease your tax liability and keep more money in your pocket. Of course, be sure to consult your tax specialist for the best advice.

First, review your deductions and determine if there is room for you to maximize them. The standard deduction is a blanket amount that you can subtract from your adjusted gross income without having to prove anything to the IRS. For 2024 the standard deduction for those that are single filers is \$14,600, which is also the standard deduction for those that are married and file separately. If you are married and file jointly, the 2024 standard deduction is \$29,200, and the standard deduction for heads of households is \$21,900. There may be times when the standard deduction is not the best choice. Taxpayers may benefit from itemizing

eligible deductions when the itemized deductions exceed the amount of the standard deduction. Potentially eligible itemized deductions include mortgage interest, medical expenses, charitable donations, and certain business expenses.

If you have determined that your itemized deductions are close to or exceed the standard deduction, consider increasing your charitable deductions by the end of the year. You may do this by helping loved ones with a tax-free gift or donating to your church. For 2024, the annual gift tax exclusion is \$18,000, meaning a person can give up to \$18,000 to as many people as he or she wants without having to pay any taxes on the gifts. If you choose to donate to your church, be sure that you have the required documentation to verify your gifts on file.

Making time to review your tax deductions prior to the end of the year is an important step on your journey to financial freedom.



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



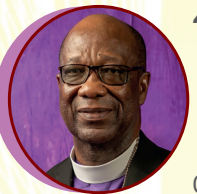
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Celebrating Shirley Chisholm's One Hundredth

By Rev. Dr. Garrett M. Thomas

The Honorable Shirley Anita St. Hill-Chisholm was born one hundred years ago this month, on November 30, 1924, four years after the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted Women's Suffrage. She is the first African American to run for a major party's nomination for President of the United States, and she is the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's Presidential Nomination. Her campaign was underfunded as many Americans did not think the country was ready for a Black woman to be president. She said, "I am not the candidate of Black America, although I am Black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman and equally proud of that. I am the candidate of the people and my presence before you symbolizes a new era in American political history."

Recent political events have catapulted American Political History into a new era, a new stratosphere where most people never thought we would land. Launching a presidential campaign in 1972, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, against great odds of racism and sexism, waged an epic campaign that has gone down in the annals of history as a seminal moment in political activism and feminism that shall forever be hailed as a springboard for women in politics. In 1972, there were only eleven women in Congress; today, there are more than one hundred fifty (CAWP, 2024).

Chisholm was born in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York, to Charles St. Hill, a factory worker from Guyana, and Ruby Seale-St. Hill, a seamstress from Barbados, immigrated to America seeking the American Dream, searching for better lives for themselves and for their future progeny as they no longer desired to live bound and shackled to the impoverished subsistence of sharecropping (Chisholm, 1970). Struggling with the exorbitant cost of childcare, the St. Hill's sent their children to live with their maternal grandmother, Emily St. Hill, a sharecropper in Barbados.

The Vauxhall Village of Barbados appeared to be a millennium behind Brooklyn. There was no indoor plumbing, and outhouses stood tall and proud in the backyards. Where the St. Hills lived, the landlord's crops were also in the backyard, while the front garden consisted of yams, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, cassava, and breadfruit. And there were goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, sheep, and cows (Chisholm, 1970). Whereas just about every child in Bed-Stuy was whisked off to school early in the morning by working parents, without breakfast, then went home for lunch while their parents were still at work, to eat meatless sandwiches, and then later have dinners of processed food, in Barbados, vegetables and fruit were always at the ready and could be grabbed and gobbled on the way down the road. Eggs and milk were also plenty, and fresh meat was in great supply.

At a very young age, Shirley assured herself that she would one day work to make sure that children in Brooklyn and throughout America would have enough to eat, that they would receive a quality education, and that parents could earn enough money to support their families. She would never in her life forget her early upbringing and the beautiful aroma and atmosphere of the farm. She said, "Years later, I would know what an important gift my parents had given me by seeing to it that I had my early education in the strict, traditional, British-style schools of Barbados. If I speak and write easily now, that early education is the main reason" (Chisholm, 1970, p. 27).

Shirley graduated from an all-girls high school in Brooklyn and from Brooklyn College, which was free for high school graduates in the borough with high GPAs. In college, she continued her high academic performance, earning a B.A. in Sociology, cum laude. She pledged to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, then went to graduate school and received her master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Columbia University. She learned to speak Spanish fluently and was a



champion on the debate team in college. Her professors suggested she consider a career in politics, but she did not originally see the feasibility of such a venture, believing that her double handicap of being both Black and female in the turbulent 1940s and 1950s would make such a career a virtual impossibility. Instead, she chose to become an educator and began her career teaching at a daycare Center in Brooklyn from 1946 to 1953 (Chisholm, 1970).

She married Conrad O. Chisholm, a self-employed private investigator who immigrated from Jamaica for the same reasons as Shirley's parents. They wed in 1949 and lost two babies due to miscarriages. Conrad always wanted a family but knew that Shirley also valued having a career. So they compromised and agreed that they would both work and not focus on bearing children (Chisholm, 1970). In the 1950s, Shirley Chisholm became the director of the Friend in Need Nursery School, then the director of the Hamilton-Madison Child Care Center in Lower Manhattan, and then took a position as a consultant with the New York City Division of Day Care, where she supervised ten daycare centers with ten directors, seventy-eight teachers, thirty-eight other employees, and a four hundred thousand dollar budget (Chisholm, 1970).

Chisholm first ventured into politics when her hairdresser introduced her to Wesley "Mac" Holder. A Guyanese-American, Mac was committed to helping Black political candidates win elections in Black communities. Chisholm called him the "shrewdest, toughest, and hardest-working" (Chisholm, 1970, p. 48) political activist in New York City and said that meeting him changed her life. Together, they worked to elect Lewis S. Flagg, Jr., the first Black judge in Brooklyn, and Thomas Jones, Brooklyn's second Black Assemblyman. She was a member of the Seventeenth Assembly District Democratic Club, the Bedford-Stuyvesant Political League (BSPL), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Brooklyn Dem-

ocratic Club, the League of Women Voters, and the Unity Democratic Club. When Jones decided to run for a judgeship on the civil court bench in 1964, Shirley Chisholm ran and became a State Assemblywoman. A Black Female, a top political candidate in this country of racism and misogyny who could successfully accomplish a first could demonstrate the worth of women and others from minoritized communities (Chisholm, 1970).

This was a major victory, giving her a position in the New York State Legislature where she could be the voice of the people living not only in Brooklyn but across the state. She now had political power and could introduce new legislation and have a say in how funds in the state budget were allocated, ensuring financing for New York City school programs and generally making life better for people in her community. In 1968, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American Woman elected to Congress and the first Black Congresswoman from Brooklyn. She faced lots of sexism and racism and was assigned to the House Agriculture Committee and the Rural Development and Forestry Subcommittee, where it was expected she could have the least impact because there were no farms, rural communities, or forests in Brooklyn. She thought it was a ridiculous assignment and wanted to protest vehemently, choosing instead to be a team player, figuring since “the committee had jurisdiction over food stamp and surplus food programs and is concerned with migrant labor” (Chisholm, 1970, p. 98), she could still make a contribution. It could be inferred that the congressional leader had placed her there because she was a Black woman, and he thought it would be funny to put her somewhere where she could be of no significance. But she also knew that if she failed to make an impact, it would make it harder for every Black woman who came behind her.

Fortunately, Shirley Chisholm knew how to make the best of a bad situation. She learned in life that with every challenge comes a chance to shine. There is no such thing as a problem, only opportunities; every stumbling block is a stepping stone, and every bad situation can be a blessing from God. There were loads of surplus food produced by the agricultural society, so Chisholm used it to feed the poor and the hungry throughout America, Bed-Stuy included. She worked to expand the food-stamp program and led the efforts to create the WIC Program – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (Hackett, 2023). She was pleased that she was able to help so many poor families have more food to eat. Soon, Chisholm was rewarded and assigned to the Education and Labor Committee, which greatly aided American schools, particularly Brooklyn and New York City Schools.

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm also provided great aid to a new generation of politicians, doing so with grace and dignity while dealing with sexism and racism. She received extensive criticism from white people but also from some Blacks. She said, “They’ve said I like whitey, that I’m too close to Hispanics, that I’m not black enough . . . I resent people evaluating me on the superficial manifestations of my behavior. Why don’t they ask me to explain?” (Perlez, 1982)

Chisholm explained to her many proteges that they should never relent but remain assiduous in their assent to serve the people. Like many others with formal education, she had received many years of training and guidance in history, philosophy, and psychology, and in her work with grassroots organizations, she had participated in countless political activities to foster change. And all the while, she mentored young people to carry on the fight just like Holder and Jones mentored her. All this was intended to prepare young adults who could see all sides of an issue and act for the greatest good. Chisholm mentored scores of young women who volunteered to work on her campaign, and she hired some of them to work in her office.

Her political career provides the paradigm for the repudiation of puerile pundits and putrid politicians who have the audacity to deny the citizenship of certain Black candidates and deny their racial heritage by claiming they recently turned Black to gain a political advantage. When he presented Chisholm with the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously on November 24, 2015, President Barack Obama



UNBOSSSED AND UNBOUGHT

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm has announced her candidacy for the presidency. She has come to the decision to run without consulting any political bosses.

Her support comes from the millions of Americans who shun the political

clubhouses but believe that our political system can survive.

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The unbossed and the unbought.

said, “Shirley Chisholm’s example transcends her life. When asked how she’d like to be remembered, she had an answer: “I’d like them to say that Shirley Chisholm had guts.” And I’m proud to say it: Shirley Chisholm had guts” (Obama, 2015).

She had guts, and she paved the way for many young Black girls to see themselves as congresswomen, senators, and even president. Shirley Chisholm mentored Congresswoman Barbara Lee from California, who has served since 1988, and Barbara Lee mentored a young woman from her home state named Kamala Harris, who said, “Shirley Chisholm created a path for me and for so many others. Today, I’m thinking about her inspirational words: ‘I am, and always will be a catalyst for change’” (Harris, 2021). As *The Star* goes to print, it is evident that at least half of all Americans are convinced that America is, in fact, ready for a Black female president.

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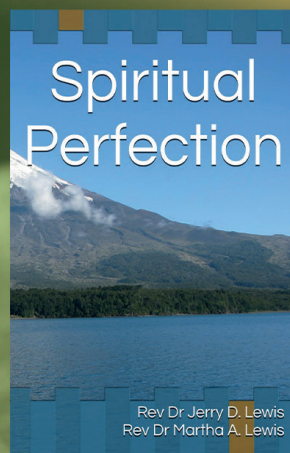
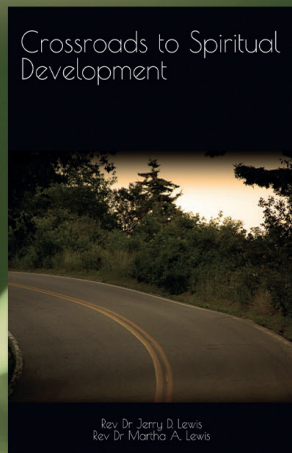
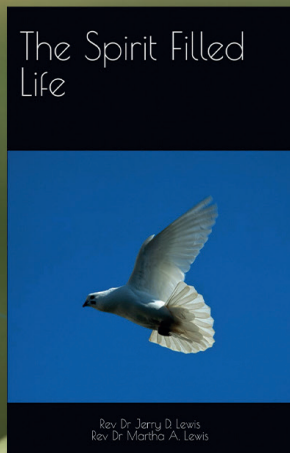
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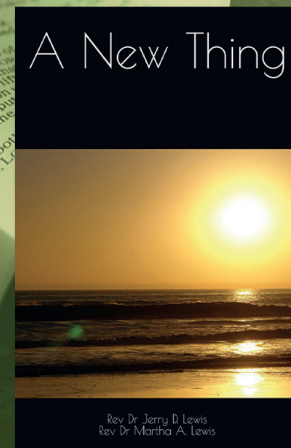
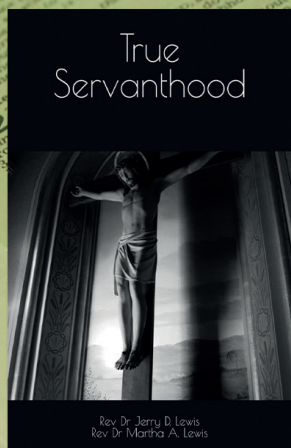
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