



### **Pastor's Perspective**

Grace and Peace from God the Father through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I am extremely grateful to God for the opportunity to serve this great Church and report on my stewardship for this past quarter. As always, we have been busy! Our theme is “Healthy Churches Grow, #letsGROW! It is absolutely wonderful to lead a congregation that WANTS to grow! I continue to celebrate all that is happening in and around Little Rock. We continue to have explosive worship services, impactful ministries and wonderful and committed leaders that hold up my arms and support me and the congregation with their expertise and presence.

We are deliberately finding ways to undergird our ministry by creating methods to generate revenue without compromising our purpose. We have recently partnered with Preferred Parking who will manage our parking lot. They have projected that we could generate 100K/year with 75% of revenue going to the church. We are still looking for other partners for the Little Rock Cultural Center to provide space, and we continue to be proud of the partnership we have with Laurel Street Residential and Little Rock Community Development Corporation for the future housing that will expand our footprint and impact in Uptown Charlotte.

Beginning January 5, 2020, we will offer two services. The first service will begin at 7:45 am and the second service will begin at 10:45 am with Sunday School at 9:30. We will offer this additional service on a trial basis until Easter. If all goes as expected, this will allow us to minister even more effectively to this changing and challenging culture. Please continue to pray for us as we continue to strive for “Excellence in Ministry”.

Humbly submitted,

*Rev. Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker, Pastor*

# The Military Ministry Observes

## Veteran's Day

By Judy Galbreath

In commemoration of Veteran's Day, members of the Military Ministry under the direction of Mrs. Elouise Cummings demonstrated solidarity by sitting together during morning worship and participating in the Liturgy. Veterans who served in the United States Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard were recognized. The Culinary Ministry under the direction of Mrs. Mattie Kluttz prepared a celebratory dinner to honor our veterans.



## Military Ministry (continued)



During the fantastic dinner, several persons gave their perspectives regarding their respective branch of service, and they also received gifts. This ministry collects cell phones which are sold and the profit generated provides calling cards for soldiers.

# Little Rock Celebrates 136th Church Anniversary

By Diane Commander

The history of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church is so grand and glorious that the essence of its greatness can never be fully captured or retold. So many courageous, dedicated and visionary men and women have made immeasurable contributions to this bright "Star of Zion" that only small highlights can be shared.

Little Rock Church was organized in the backyard of Mrs. Mary Ann Hunter after pulling out from the old Clinton Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in 1884. The first church in reality was a little house sitting on a rock, hence the name, Little Rock. The brick edifice, which is now the Little Rock Cultural Center was completed in 1911. After Bishop George Junius Leake, III assumed the Episcopacy, Rev. William White was appointed as pastor, erecting the present building. On Sunday, December 6, 1981, Rev. White led members and friends in a reverent and stately procession from the Old Little Rock Church into the new edifice. Dr. James R. Samuel followed Rev. William White making improvements to the Church and Educational Wing. Little Rock has been truly blessed with ardent and eloquent pastors of which two became bishop, Bishop J.C. Hoggard and Bishop George Junius Leake, III.

In 2005, Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker was appointed pastor and has regained possession of the old church building which is now the Little Rock Cultural Center.

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



## 136th Church Anniversary (cont'd)



All ministries function under the vision of "Excellence in Ministry", whereas, God is Glorified • Jesus is Magnified • The People are Edified • Faith is Fortified • Ministry is Multiplied. In everything that we do, all

members of Little Rock proceed with the purpose of "knowing Jesus and making Him known".

To assist with the homelessness problem in Charlotte, the City of Charlotte has donated land to Little Rock Community Development



Corporation for the purpose of building 100 units of housing.

Little Rock's 136th Anniversary Celebration under the Pastorate of Rev. Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker began with a very powerful, electrifying and spirit-filled three night Fall Revival September 3-5. Our Guest Revivalist, who has been with us for the past 15 years, was none other than Bishop W. Darin Moore, "Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District".

## 136th Church Anniversary (cont'd)

Bishop Moore was accompanied by his lovely wife and Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Devieta Moore, their daughter and his mother, Mrs. Connie Farrow. Bishop Moore reminded us that “with Jesus, we can GET THROUGH our Distractions, our Deceptions and our Discouragements”.



The Anniversary Celebration culminated on Sunday, September 8 with our Guest Preacher, the Rev. Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore, President of Hood Theological Seminary and the first African American Chaplain to reach the rank of Brigadier General In the United States Air Force. Dr.

Lattimore blessed the house and let us know that we are “Growing to Meet Jesus: On A Road to Recovery”! All were spiritually fed.

We praise God for the presence of Rev. Dr. J. Wardell Henderson, Jr. Presiding Elder of the “Nurturing” North Charlotte District and Mrs. Myrtle Henderson, First Lady of the District; Mrs. Addie Lisby, Chief Communications Officer/Editor of the Star of Zion was there sharing her expertise as she captured photos and verbiage of the event and Dr. Lester McCorn, President of Clinton College, Rock Hill, SC.

## 136th Church Anniversary (cont'd)

We also thank God for the many pastors, ministers, choirs, relatives, friends, neighbors, city and county officials who stopped by to share with us during this momentous occasion. A reception followed the service for everyone to mingle and enjoy the wonderful meal prepared by our Culinary Ministry under the direction of Mrs. Mattie Kluttz.

Mr. Gilbert McRae, Leader of Leaders and the Council of Leaders served as Chairpersons for our anniversary celebration.

Little Rock's current theme is “Healthy Church’s Grow... #letsGROW, I Chronicles 4:10

We thank God for leading and guiding us through these 136 years.



## LITTLE ROCK AWARDS C.D. RIPPY SCHOLARSHIPS - \$10,000+

By **G. Joyner Johnson**

Throughout the year, members of Little Rock designate a portion of their offerings to the C.D. Rippy Scholarship Fund. At the beginning of each semester, members enrolled in institutions of higher learning apply for financial aid from this fund.

The fund was initiated by the Rev. Dr. Dwayne A. Walker upon his appointment to Little Rock in 2005.

Dr. C.D. Rippy who served as the General President of the Connectional Lay Council from 1985-1988 was a member at Little Rock and a great educator at Johnson C. Smith University. He encouraged scholars to strive to attain higher levels of education.

On September 1, 2019, (19) student members were awarded over \$10,000.00 total for the fall semester. Recipients are students who are matriculating at colleges and universities pursuing mainly Associate and/or Bachelor Degrees.

The overall focus at Little Rock this conference year is "Healthy Churches Grow...#Let's Grow"! The 2019-2020 scriptural theme, derived from 1 Chronicles 4:10. With God's blessings, the desired goal of this ministry will come to fruition as the students further their education, witness for God and invite others to "Come With Us to Christ" thereby expanding God's Kingdom as we "Retool Our People".

## Little Rock Celebrates Lay Day with U.S. Congresswoman

### The Honorable Alma S. Adams

By **G. Joyner Johnson**

On Connectional Lay Sunday, October 20, 2019, the laity participated in the Liturgy.



## Connectional Lay Sunday (cont'd)

Mrs. Robin Bradford introduced our speaker, Dr. Alma S. Adams who represents the 12<sup>th</sup> district of the

state of North Carolina in the United States Congress.

She served in many capacities including the Hunger Caucus, the Medicaid Caucus, the Congressional HBCU Bi-Partisan Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus and others. She is known as the Conscious of the Congress."

Congresswoman Adams commended Dr. Walker for leading the congregation to the polls to vote and for his leadership in social jus-



tice, education, affordable housing and educational initiatives in Charlotte. She asked that we pray for the family of the late Congressman Elijah Cummings. "Know Your Purpose" was her subject from Esther 4:14-16. She remarked that as the "Freedom Church", with its rich history, we know our purpose is to serve. Service is what you do, not what you say. Do what is right as you serve others. As Mordecai told Esther to "Retool her People" for such a time as this, we are to serve responsibly. Service is generated by love.

## Connectional Lay Sunday (cont'd)

Lean on the heritage of the Freedom Church. Retooling

will not happen if we stand in our own way and not vote. Service is action oriented; therefore we must

be involved to do the work as commissioned by God with prayer, commitment and faith. As we are retooled, we will go beyond and overcome spiritual complacency.

Mrs. Ruby Tarver, presented eight new life members for the stoling ceremony, assisted by the Connectional Lay Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Mrs. Connie Bell Wright. New life members are Mrs. Robin Bradford, Mrs. Jacqueline Glenn, Mrs. Geraldine Lowe, Mrs. Shirley Mack, Mr. Ledger Morissette, Mrs. Shirley Morissette and Mrs. Millie Ruscito. This brings Little Rock's total of Life Members of the Lay Council to forty-two. To God be the Glory!

## 13<sup>TH</sup> Annual Man-Up Summit

By **Ralph Burt**

Man, what a time! The Men's Boosters Ministry of Little Rock AME Zion Church where Mr. Chris Caldwell serves as Chairperson, hosted their 13th Annual Man-Up Summit on November 16, 2019 at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church where Rev. Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker serves as Pastor.

## 13th Man-Up Summit (cont'd)



This year's theme was "Bridging the Gap: Moses to Joshua", talking about how older men of faith need to coordinate with younger men of faith for the greater good and growth of the church.

During the Prayer Breakfast, we had a powerful sermon given by Rev. David Williams, Pastor of Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church. The Prayer Breakfast was followed by a spirited and informative discussion with panelists: Rev. C. Rashard Alexander, Pastor of Mt. Vernon A.M.E. Zion Church, Rev. Freddie Albany, Pastor of Pleasant View A.M.E. Zion Church, Mr. Nathan Roberts, Little Rock Young Adult, Baba Reginald Singleton, Founder & Executive Director of The Males Place, Inc., Rev. Scot C. Moore, Pastor of Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Summit culminated on Sunday, November 17. Rev. Scot C. Moore, Pastor and Founder of Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church Bowie, MD was our Guest Preacher. Rev. Moore was accompanied by First Lady Sharon Moore, his mother, Ms. Connie Farrow, his nephew, niece and family members Mr. and Mrs. W. Daron Moore. Rev. Moore used Joshua 1:5-8 to preach the Subject, "A Strategy for Success" to bless the house.



## 13th Man-Up Summit (cont'd)

"Moses imparted this strategy to Joshua: 1) Live with Courage, 2) Live with Confidence and 3) Live with Consistency", said Rev. Moore. Mr. Ronald Nelson received the President's Man-Up



Achievement Award. Many thanks to the Christian Education Youth, representing the Joshua Generation who served as Liturgist and the Men's Choir under the Direction of Dr. Frances McClain who set the tone for worship.

## OUTREACH

### Substance Abuse Awareness Day

This awesome workshop was held on October 5, 2019 and was hosted by the Little Rock Substance Abuse Ministry where Mr. Jesse Massey is the Chairperson and Rev. Sonya Campbell is the Vice Chairperson.



Panel discussion speakers were from Duke Health and Research and Charlotte Substance Abuse Services.

## Outreach (Continued)

Ms. Kenisha Bethea of Duke University Research introduced the panel. Speakers were: Angela Allen, Center for Prevention Services and Rev. Anthony Redfearn of The Matthew House who presented Substance Abuse

knowledge from a Spiritual Perspective. Hot Topics were: Risk of Using

Opioids and Vaping (electronic cigarettes - E-Cigarettes) shaped like USB Flash Drives are being used by students in school and are very unsafe. A Fact Sheet was provided with diagrams of the E-Cigarettes.

The fact sheet also stated that Parents, educators, & health care providers can help prevent and reduce the use of all tobacco products, including E-Cigarettes by young people. Bethea stated that there needs to be more involvement in the testing process which is regulated by the Federal Government. She further stated that there also needs to be more involvement in the testing of medications for African Americans.

The Substance Abuse Ministry meets on the 3rd Saturday monthly at 10:00 am.



## OUTREACH (Continued)



### THE STREET MINISTRY



### OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

**Bread of Life** - Mr. Keith Bradford

**Heaven's Storehouse** -Ms. Artie Collins

**Street Ministry** - Mrs. Linda Kennedy

& Mr. Michael Washington

Weekly The Bread of Life and the Heaven's Storehouse Ministries collaborate and interface to provide healthy, nutritional meals and clothing, to transient individuals and senior citizens. The Street Ministry also interface with the above ministries, as well as walk the streets of Charlotte, singing, praying and distributing Blessing Bags to the homeless which contains sweat-shirts, toiletries, water, socks, hoodies and sandwiches in order to win souls for Christ. To God Be the Glory for these ministries.

# FRANGelism

## "Reaching the Unsaved and Unchurched"

By Brenda McKie

FRANGelism is celebrated on each Sunday in October and is a time when members make a



concentrated effort to reach the unsaved and/or unchurched by inviting our Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors to church in order to share the love, grace and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker states, "Every ministry is a door for someone to come to know Jesus". This ministry is spearheaded by Rev. Belinda Austin.

To broaden our efforts, this year, we included other activities:

### In-Reach Activities:

**Visitor Packets and gifts** were given to visitors at Sunday Services; To increase membership, members sent out **invitation postcards**; a **door to door mass mailing** was also sent out to the



surrounding community; **Reserved parking spaces were allotted for visitors. Announcers recognized visitors during service and pastoral letters were sent out to all visitors.**

### FRANGelism (Continued)

**Phone calls** were made to visitors by a member of the Frangelism Ministry.

### Out-Reach Activities:

#### **A Community Prayer Walk**

On October 13, 2019, approximately 17 members walked throughout the downtown area, **singing, praying and distributing Blessings Bags and hoodies** to the homeless.

The Blessing Bags were prepared by our **Street Ministry**.



**The Harvest Festival** was held on October 26, 2019 and is coordinated by the

Children's Ministry under the direction of Mrs. Jada Goodwin in collaboration with the FRANGelism Ministry. **Some 200 plus persons attended** this event and enjoyed horseback riding, bouncy houses, games including basketball, prizes, music, good food, fun and fellowship. The children also participated in a costume parade and trunk or treat. **Free Blood Pressure Checks** were performed by the Health Resource Ministry. **Voter registration information** was distributed. A delicious **Sunday School Breakfast** was served on October 27, 2019 to welcome visitors. **All youth were also encouraged to invite their friends to church via social media.** All activities were captured and publicized in the **Star of Zion (Official Voice of the A.M.E. Zion Church)** by the **Public Relations Ministry**. A special thank you to all ministries that collaborated to ensure the effectiveness of FRANGelism Month.

## THE HARVEST FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



# CHRISTMAS AT THE ROCK

“GOD WITH US”  
*John 1:14*

## THE LIVE NATIVITY



During very chilly weather on December 13, 2019, people came to see Little Rock's Live Nativity Scene which told the story of the Birth of Jesus. This beautiful event was coordinated by Mrs. Donna Riley. Mrs. Anika Robinson and the youth also assisted in making this event a huge success. A very special thank you to Mr. Alex Giles of WBTV who provided outstanding coverage.

## THE CHRISTMAS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

### The Christmas Pageant

The entire Christian Education Departments where Mrs. Antionette Cody is Director and Mrs. Jada Goodman is Director of Children, participated in the Annual Christmas Pageant on December 14, 2019 . It was a beautiful night of Liturgical Dancing. Everyone boldly and joyfully performed their respective assignments. Jesus was Magnified.

## The Christmas Pageant (cont'd)



## “THE CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT”



The Annual Christmas Concert was held on December 15, 2019 at 3:00 pm. It was a wonderful representation of all the choirs and musicians who carried us on a spiritual Christmas journey through songs. Mr. Sid Oliver serves as the Minister of Music.

The Bell and Men's Choirs serve under the direction of Dr. Frances McClain; the Children's Choir serves under the direction of Ms. Sandra J. Lee; the Youth/Young Adult Choir serves under the direction of Mr. Dennis Reed, Jr. and Mrs. Deidre Lynch and the Sanctuary Choir serves under the direction of Mr. Sid Oliver. We also praise God for Koinonia, our Instrumental Ensemble. Everyone enjoyed the awesome, spirit-filled performances. God was Glorified!



# CHRISTMAS AT THE ROCK

## THE CHRISTMAS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS (cont'd)

AND THEN CAME THE ...

### PIZZA, SANTA AND GIFTS



### RECITATIONS



The Christian Education Children's Department under the Direction of Mrs. Antionette Cody and Mrs. Jada Goodwin, Director of the Children's Department held their Christmas Breakfast & Recitations on Sunday, December 22, 2019. A delicious breakfast was served by our Culinary Ministry under the direction of Mrs. Mattie Kluttz. The children did a remarkable job with their recitations.

## **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS (cont'd)**

### **THE COOKIE CRAWL**



The Cookie Crawl initiated by the Culinary Ministry under the direction of Mrs. Mattie Kluttz was a NEW Christmas attraction this year. The chairperson of a ministry along with their respective members decorated their tree and provided cookies for the attendees. The trees were donated to persons in the community after the event. There were many beautiful trees and wonderful cookies on display which super enhanced the spirit of Christmas.



### **PRAISING GOD FOR NEW MEMBERS...**



We thank God for the 15 new members that were fellowshipped into full connectional membership on December 8, 2019. Mr. Gilbert McRae serves as the Leader of Leaders to the twelve Class Leaders at Little Rock and also serves as Class Leader to new members Class #13.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS MINISTRY MEMBERS**

Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker

**Pastor**

Dr. J. Wardell Henderson, Jr.

**Presiding Elder**

The Rt. Rev. George Edward Battle, Jr.

**Senior Bishop A.M.E. Zion Church**

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(Youth in Action)

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