

FROM THE PASTOR

REV. DR. DWAYNE A. WALKER

I am pleased to report on the pastoral labors of this great church. As usual, we have been busy! This past quarter has been full of activity as we continue to strive for Excellence in Ministry. I am grateful to all of our ministries and leaders who continue to pour themselves into this church.

I praise God for the worship experiences we have had. We are growing both spiritually and numerically. We had a wonderful Advent Season that culminated in a beautiful concert presented by our Music in Ministry. We were blessed with selections from The Amen Choir, our newly reorganized Youth and Young Adult Choir, and The Sanctuary Choir. We are blessed to have Mr. Sid Oliver as our Minister of Music. We are also grateful for Dr. Frances McClain and Dr. William Crowder for always sharing their musical gifts with us.

Our Evangelism Ministry, led by Rev. Belinda Austin sponsored an "Angel Tree", which supports children of persons who are incarcerated during Christmas. There

was a great response from the congregation for this effort. Many families were blessed. Some have attended and are considering joining because of this effort and gesture of outreach.

We have unfortunately had to suspend serving meals on Wednesdays and Saturdays as we seek grants and other means to consistently support our Bread of Life Ministry. I pray we will resume this much needed outreach, sometimes in the very near future.

I am inspired by the collaboration of our Quilting Ministry and The Street Ministry. Blankets are being made and donated by the Quilting Ministry and our members, as the Street Ministry takes blankets to the unhoused in our community. I'm excited to see other ministries who are also partnering to get the job done. The theme for this year is manifesting, "Together, We Can! We culminated our January focus on Ministry with a Ministry Fair. I'm appreciative of all the ministries who set up tables and the people who signed up to serve.

We are now preparing to celebrate Heritage Month which will culminate with our Annual Cultural and Heritage Awareness Weekend as well as Women's Month in March.

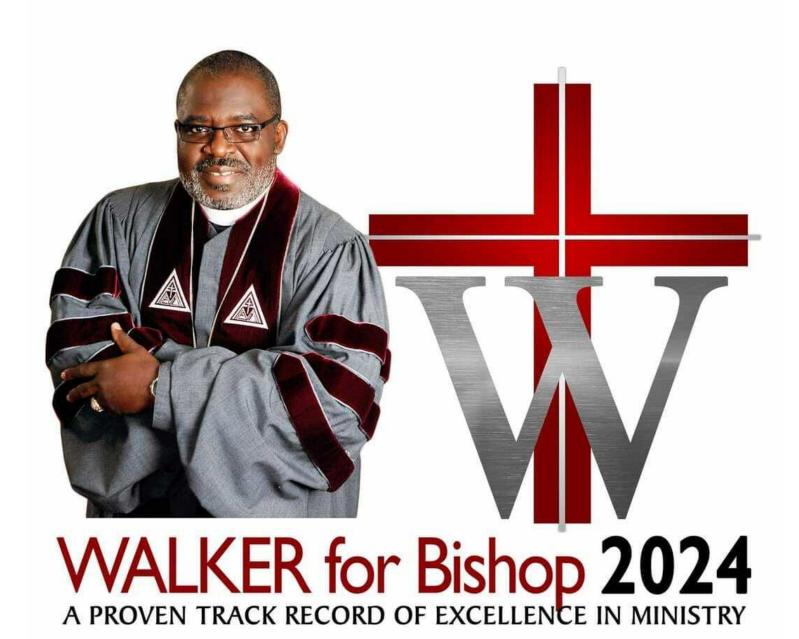
I'm proud to announce that Varick on 7th is almost complete. As a matter of fact, last week the developer said it was 99% completed. We look forward to sharing the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony dates very soon.

We praise God for the 16 persons who have united with us this past quarter. We pray for the families of Mr. Wilbur Lee Randolph, Mrs. Rosie Moore and Mr. Wallace Deese as they have transitioned from labor to reward.

As always, I am so thankful to have the support of a supportive administrative and ministerial staff, as well as a cadre of capable and committed officers who know their jobs and do them well.

Please continue to pray for our church family, that we will remain focused and faithful to our God and Zion.

WALKER FOR BISHOP 2024



Website

THE MILITARY MINISTRY

VOL. 14, NO. 2 NOVEMBER 2023-JANUARY 2024









In recognition of Veterans Day, we extended our deepest gratitude and respect to our beloved veterans for their unwavering dedication and service to our country. Led by the remarkable Mrs. Eloise Cummings, our Military Ministry at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church came together to recognize and honor the brave men and women who have selflessly served in the armed forces.

It was a heartwarming sight to see veterans from our congregation participate in this special recognition event. Their sacrifices, courage, and commitment to defending our freedoms do not go unnoticed, and today, we stand together to express our profound appreciation for their service.

To all veterans, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your bravery and sacrifice. Your dedication to duty and love for our country inspire us all. Let us continue to uphold and support our veterans not just on Veterans Day, but every day, as we honor their legacy and contributions to our nation.

THE 17TH ANNUAL MAN-UP SUMMIT

VOL. 14, NO. 2 NOVEMBER 2023-JANUARY 2024



By Lisa Fuller

The 17th annual Man Up-Summit was held at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church Saturday November 18, and Sunday November 19, 2023. This event is held yearly by the Little Rock Men's Boosters Ministry. The ministry provides a forum for men to come together to discuss issues facing men of all ages in our community. The ministry is led by current president Mr. Ron Nelson who was preceded by former president Mr. Chris Caldwell who recently passed away. Mr. Chris Caldwell did an excellent job as president of the Men's Boosters Ministry and will surely be missed. This year's theme was "Developing Our Faith, From Boys To Men".







Saturday's events began with a delicious breakfast prepared by the Little Rock Culinary Ministry followed by a youth panel discussion. Booster member Ralph Burt was in attendance and proclaimed, "The 2023 Man-Up Summit was another success!" Panelists Isaiah Robinson, Greylyn Goodwin and Myles A. Mackey spoke on the issues facing the young Black men of America. Rev. Dr. Reginald Keitt joined the discussion and spoke to the men about stepping up in the household and in the community.



Pastor of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion, Dr. Dwayne A. Walker, expressed his delight, "Man Up!" Dr. Walker provided words of encouragement and stated that It was awesome hanging out with some of the men of Little Rock and our community. Rev. Dr. Reginald Keitt brought a powerful and thought-provoking meditation, "The Gap Ministry." Attendees were blessed by a poem from Mr. Gervase Caldwell, the son of Mr. Chris and Mrs. Angela Caldwell. The panel discussion was a blessing as these young men of our church expressed themselves in wonderful ways. Hats off to Mr. Ron Nelson and the men of Little Rock for a well-planned and productive event. Dr. Walker thanked everyone that contributed to the event's success and looks forward to next year's summit.







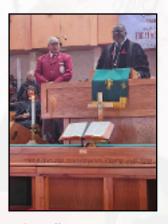


THE 17TH ANNUAL MAN-UP SUMMIT

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By Lisa Fuller

The summit culminated on Sunday with a beautiful worship service. Rev. Diane Commander commented that the Lord was in His holy temple where members, visitors and friends of Little Rock worshipped God in spirit and in truth. Men's Boosters Vice President, Mr. Payton Colclough, and Mr. Blake Mangum participated in the litany. We were wonderfully blessed by the Men's Choir under the direction of Dr. Francis McClain, accompanied by Dr. William Crowder, as well as our Band Koinonia and our Audio-Visual Ministry team.

Dr. Walker along with the Men's Boosters Ministry's new president, Mr. Ronald Nelson, and vice president, Mr. Payton Colclough, as well as all of the Men's Boosters Club members present stood in solidarity as it was announced, The Men's Boosters Ministry "President's Award" has been renamed, "The Chris Caldwell Award" to memorialize his memory here at the church for perpetuity. The first recipient of "The Chris Caldwell Award" was awarded posthumously to Mr. Chris Caldwell. Mrs. Vangela Witherspoon accepted the award on behalf of the family. The guest minister was Rev. Lawrence White, Pastor of Kessler Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Henderson, North Carolina who was accompanied by his wife and other family members. Rev. White used Ephesians 4:11-16 to preach a powerful sermon on staying anchored and matured in the Lord.



Mr. Ronald Nelson

Men's Boosters Ministry President

THE 17TH ANNUAL MAN-UP SUMMIT

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"The Chris Caldwell Award"

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By Reverend Diane Commander

On December 17, 2023, immediately following a wonderful morning worship service, The Board of Stewards and Pastor's Aide Ministry along with other members gathered in the fellowship hall where we shared a fantastic reception with good food and fellowship. During this reception, our Pastor, Reverend Dr. Dwayne A. Walker and Mrs. Donna-Smith Walker, First Lady were presented with Christmas love tokens of cards and money. Thank you to Mrs. Mattie Kluttz and the Culinary Ministry for the delicious meal.



Photos by Dianna Davis

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AMEN CHOIR



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT CHOIR



SANCTUARY CHOIR

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

What a joyous afternoon it was at our Christmas concert! We were blessed to have all in attendance enjoying the remarkable selections from our choirs. The Amen Choir, led by the exceptional Dr. Frances McClain, along with our Youth and Young Adults and Sanctuary Choirs, under the direction of our esteemed Minister of Music, Mr. Sid Oliver, filled the church with heavenly melodies that truly glorified God and spread holiday joy. The spirit of Christmas was alive and well as voices lifted in harmony, hearts were touched, and souls were uplifted. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making the concert a success and to all who came to share in the celebration of this special season. We will continue to carry the spirit of joy, hope, and love throughout this holiday season and beyond!

Photos by Linda Kennedy

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Angel Tree for Children of Incarcerated Parents

The Evangelism Ministry of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, under the leadership of Rev. Belinda Austin, Director, and Rev. Diane Commander, Assistant Director, rendered service to 45 children in the Charlotte area during the Christmas holiday season. Little Rock partnered with the Mecklenburg County Jail to sponsor twelve families of incarcerated parent(s) for Christmas. Members of Little Rock and several organizations (Ushers, Steward Board, Men's Booster Ministry, Sanctuary Choir, and Culinary Ministry) sponsored the children, providing gifts clothing, shoes, and toys. The NAACP under the leadership of Minister Corine Mack also provided toys for each child. Pastor Emily Hartner of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church provided food boxes for each family.

Several other families were also sponsored. The gifts were picked up by family members on Sunday, December 17th after the Annual Christmas Choir Concert. Along with the gifts, each family received a Little Rock brochure and a salvation brochure. The members who sponsored a child were very generous as each child received numerous gifts. As family members received the gifts, they were very grateful, and some even shed tears of joy. Some also said they intended to come to church.

This ministry began in 2022 from a discussion that the pastor, Dr. Walker had with Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden. Dr. Walker asked me to coordinate the effort. A special shout-out to Mrs. Kay Frazier and Dominique Gary, who were a tremendous help and Mr. Dirk Clark who delivered some of the gifts. It has been a blessing and a pleasure to all of us at Little Rock to share our love and resources with others in the community. Members look forward to participating each year.

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DINNER WITH THE PASTOR

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I was extremely blessed by the attendance and the interaction, questions, suggestions, and comments from our young adults. I'm honored to be their pastor! I was also honored that Mr. Tremaine Miller, who leads The Young Adults in Christian Ministry for The Southeast Region, A.M.E Zion Church and Ms. Christal Burns, who leads The Assembly of Christian Educators for The Southeast Region, came from Rock Hill, SC, to participate in our discussion. My wife, Donna, also participated and closed our session with a beautiful prayer. It was a good day!













Photos by Rondah Nelson

DINNER WITH THE PASTOR

VOL. 14, NO. 2 NOVEMBER 2023-JANUARY 2024

By Rondah Nelson

Pastor Dr. Dwayne A. Walker hosted a "Dinner With The Pastor" for young adults on Sunday, January 14, 2024. The young adults were greeted in the fellowship hall by the members of the Culinary Ministry who served spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread for the dinner. The young adults had an opportunity to complete two questionnaire forms, one of which requested information about ministry involvement and interests, the other which asked the following questions:

- 1. What is your impression of the church in general and of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church in particular?
- 2. What do you expect from the church?
- 3. What should the church expect from you?

These questions provided the critical conversation points led by Pastor Walker. The young adults were asked to provide feedback and their opinions of the church as a collective as well as of our specific church. The young adults showed up in substantial numbers and were able to speak freely in a judgment-free zone. The conversation held was filled with passionate expressions of past church experiences, current church experiences, and what the age range of 18-40 would like to see happen in the future. Many of those in attendance shared similar sentiments about the state of the church in general, mentioning that a lot of work still needs to be done, but the strides taken so far have been based on tradition and past efforts. A common theme brought up was that the church today is trying so hard to win people over but has fallen short by allowing the culture to dictate a lot of what happens in the church and what is considered acceptable. Pastor Walker's example of a church in Atlanta that has been a hot topic of discussion in many Christian circles was used to expound upon what he preached about during morning worship. Several concerns were raised by members of the Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church as well as fellow visitors from various churches from near and far. The additional topics of discussion included what is appropriate church attire, the role traditions play in winning souls to Christ and the role the culture plays outside of the church, ministry rejection, self-love and etc. When asked, what the church can expect from the young adults, an overwhelming consensus of "showing up and being present" and "to assist wherever we can, when we are able to" were among the top responses given. Regional christian education representatives Mr. Tremaine Miller, who leads The Young Adults in Christian Ministry for The Southeast Region, A.M.E Zion Church and Ms. Christal Burns, who leads The Assembly of Christian Educators for The Southeast Region graced us with their presence and gave an encouraging word to those in attendance. First Lady Donna Walker led us in our closing prayer. At Little Rock, our young adults are ready to worship and serve in our church and are eager to assist with our surrounding community!

THE 2024 MINISTRY FAIR

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What an incredible afternoon it was at the 2024 Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church Ministry Fair! Little Rock came together under the leadership of Reverend Belinda Austin to showcase the array of ministries that are at work within our congregation. From outreach ministries to worship teams, youth initiatives to community service, our ministries were on full display, shining brightly for all to see!

It was inspiring to witness the dedication and passion of our members as they shared their talents, visions, and hearts for service. Each ministry booth was a testament to our commitment to making a positive impact in our community and spreading the love of God far and wide.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported this event! We will continue to walk hand in hand, united in purpose and faith, as we serve together in the name of love and compassion.

Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Dwayne A. Walker has 51 active ministries. To God be the glory.

Photos by Rondah Nelson

THE 2024 MINISTRY FAIR

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2024 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



PASTOR'S APPRECIATION MINISTRY



TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY



W.H. & O.M.S. BUREAU OF SUPPLY MINISTRY



PUBLIC RELATIONS MINISTRY



LAY COUNCIL MINISTRY



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

THE 2024 MINISTRY FAIR

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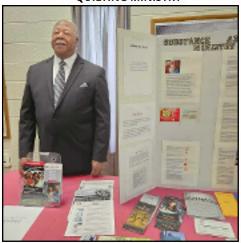
2024 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



QUILTING MINISTRY



LITURGICAL DANCE MINISTRY



SUBSTANCE ABUSE MINISTRY



NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH



HEAVEN'S STOREHOUSE MINISTRY



TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY





Saturday March 9, 2024 | 10:00am

10A Meditation Speaker: Mrs. Donna Smith-Walker @ Fellowship Hall

12N Panel Discussion @ Sanctuary

Menu: Chicken & Waffles, Virgin Mimosa, Quiche and Fruit | Cost: \$10.00

Attire: Casual | All Females Welcome (no age restrictions) Please Invite Others

RSVP: signupgenius.com/go/9040F4EA9AD2AA3FC1-47492733-womens OR with QR code below

Contact Person: Reverend Michelle Courtney 704-281-1661

Sunday March 10, 2024 | 10:00am

Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church Sanctuary

Preacher: Rev. Dr. J. Ruth Davis Shields
Presiding Elder, Hendersonville District



TOGETHER, WE CAN...!

Ephesians 4:11-16

Dr. Dwayne A. Walker, Pastor



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CHRISTIAN INVITATIONS

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TUNE IN WITH OUR VIRTUAL LINKS FACEBOOK - YOUTUBE - WEBSITE

<u>About The Pastor</u> <u>Ministerial Staff</u> <u>Our History</u> <u>Contact Us</u>

Little Rock A. M. E. Zion Church Public Relations Ministry Dianna Davis, Director

Members

Reverend Diane Commander, Gloria Joyner
Ladocia Crowder, Linda Kennedy, Carol Staley
Lisa Fuller, Phyllis Moore, Dearest Price
Rondah Nelson

littlerockamezpr@gmail.com