



LITTLE ROCK A.M.E. Zion Church

EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY

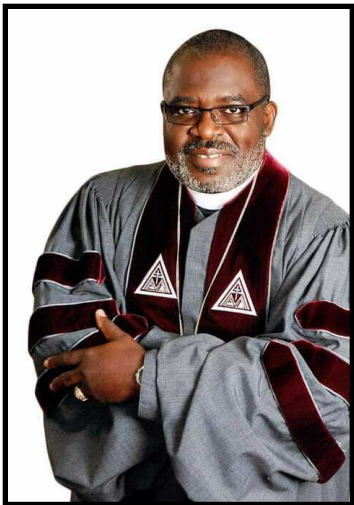
NEWSLETTER

VOL. 14, NO. 3 FEBRUARY 2024-APRIL 2024

401 NORTH MCDOWELL STREET CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 704-334-3782 LITTLEROCK.AMEZION.ORG

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 and a powerful Lenten Season. The Advent Season 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.

Holy Week, during the Lenten Season began with the ribbon cutting on Tuesday, March 26th expanding our campus to include the Varick on 7th Apartments. On Good Friday we had a powerful "Lead Me To Calvary" Service with seven dynamic preachers. On Easter Sunday we were blessed with the Christian Education Department Easter Speeches and a spirit-filled worship service with music by our Little Rock Mass Choir.

Our Evangelism Ministry, led by Rev. Belinda Austin sponsored an "Angel Tree", which supported 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.

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 persons who signed up to serve.

We celebrated Heritage Month which culminated with our Annual Cultural and Heritage Awareness Weekend as well as Women's Month in March.

We are presently in the process of preparing to celebrate Little Rock Day. Our celebration will begin with Spring Revival on May 14th-16th, with Bishop George D. Crenshaw, Presiding Prelate of the Alabama -Florida Episcopal District as our Evangelist. Bishop Dennis V. Proctor, Presiding Prelate of the North Eastern Episcopal District will be our guest preacher on Little Rock Day, May 19th, at 10AM.

This quarter we thank God for 8 new members. While we praise God for the growth we have experienced, we pray for the family of Mrs. Stephanie Harris who 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.

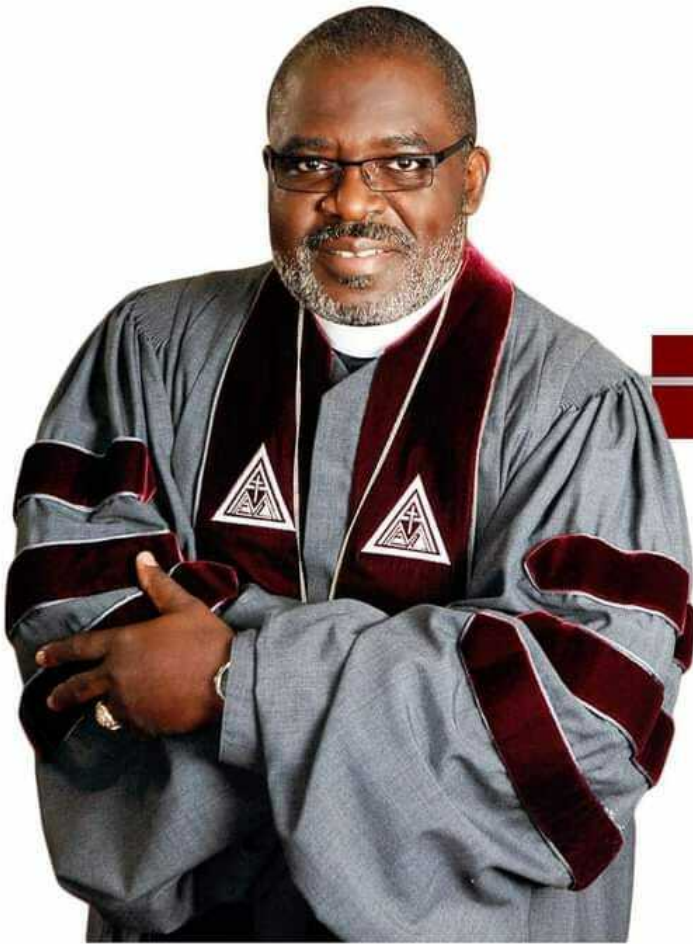
Please continue to pray for our church family, that we will remain focused and faithful to our God and Zion!

Humbly Submitted,

Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker, Pastor

WALKER FOR BISHOP 2024

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WALKER for Bishop 2024

A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY

VISIT

WALKERFORBISHOP2024.COM

HERITAGE WEEKEND

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By Reverend Diane Commander

Photos by Linda Kennedy and Anika Robinson

During the month of February, we focus on our "Heritage." Under the direction of Mrs. Robin and Mr. Keith Bradford, we had a very successful Heritage Celebration. As we focus on the Kwanzaa Principal "Ujamma" (Cooperative Economics) we strive to build and keep our own stores, shops and other businesses and to make money from them together. This celebration also pays homage to the many African-American trailblazers who gave of their blood sweat and tears fighting for equality for their people.



HERITAGE WEEKEND

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Our African Market Place opened on Saturday February 24, 2024, where vendors greeted us with African art, jewelry, clothing, lotions, oils and many other items.



HERITAGE WEEKEND

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The celebration culminated with our Sunday February 25 Morning Worship where members and visitors very proudly and excitedly sang our Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing", which tells our story, acknowledging where the Lord has brought us from.

Among our many visitors, we were blessed and honored to have worshipping with us, Retired Bishop S. Chuka Ekemam, Sr., 83rd Bishop in the Line of Succession, A.M.E. Zion Church and Ms. Black Charlotte



**Robin and Keith Bradford,
Heritage Weekend Chairs**



Lakeva Keel-Ferreira, Miss Black Charlotte



Bishop S. Chuka Ekemam, Sr.



Our Adult Liturgical Dance Ministry blessed us through movement with the song, "My Help Comes from The Lord."

HERITAGE WEEKEND

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Reverend. Dr. Al C. Hamilton

Chief Financial Officer of the A.M.E. Zion Church



Our Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Al C. Hamilton, Chief Financial Officer of the A.M.E. Zion Church was accompanied by his lovely wife Mrs. Marguerite Hamilton. Rev. Hamilton used 2 Samuel 6:13-20 to preach a powerful and uplifting sermon with the Subject, "There Is A Story Behind My Praise". He stated that people look at the glory, but they don't know your story. He reminded us that, when we look back over our lives and see where the Lord has brought us from, we can truly say, "like David, there is a story behind our praise, we have been blessed.

Mrs. Narcissus Lowery, our 96-year-old active Matriarch, has been a member of Little Rock for 70 years. On this day, she rededicated her life to God and sang her favorite song, Nine-nine and a Half (Won't Do). Mrs. Lowery has served as the President of Little Rock's Usher Board for 47 years, and all ushers gathered around her as she sang her song.



We praise God for the two souls that were added to our roll and for the sixteen members who entered "Full Connection". Mr. Gilbert McRae, Leader of Leaders, serves as the Class Leader for new members.

Immediately following morning worship, we greeted our vendors to continue our Heritage shopping spree. It was a good day - God was Glorified, Jesus was Magnified, Faith was Fortified, the People were Edified and Ministry was Multiplied. God Gets the Glory...



STREET MINISTRY PRAYER WALK

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by Linda Kennedy

A huge thank you to Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church Street Ministry, Heaven's Storehouse Ministry, Bread of Life Ministry, Quilting Ministry, and Transportation Ministry for their vital contributions in the mobile outreach at the Wall. Special appreciation to Pastor Dr. Dwayne Anthony Walker, 1st Lady Donna Smith-Walker, and all church members for their unwavering support. May God continue to bless you always. Your collective efforts have made a lasting impact on the unhoused, showcasing unity and care within Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church.

INAUGURAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"Sisterhood Together We Can...!"

VOL. 14, NO. 3 FEBRUARY 2024 - APRIL 2024



Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, "Sisterhood: Together We Can..!"

Women's Conference 2024

by Reverend Michelle Courtney

Photos by Anika Robinson

As the Lord gave and guided the vision, we (God and I) started our journey together in prayer. Our pastor, Dr. Dwayne Walker, gave his blessings and support last year. A LONG summary of the vision below took place on March 9-10, 2024.

Our theme was "Sisterhood: Together We Can..!" Our conference focus comes from I Corinthians 3:1-17 (vs. 6). One plants, one waters, and God brings forth the increase. As sisters in Christ, we want to share love, patience, and kindness through the spoken word of God. Words of positive affirmations to encourage and uplift each other. In a world where others seem to only think of one's self, we are striving to support each other as God commands us to, especially as a Sisterhood working together!

Our brunch was served in the Fellowship Hall, which was filled with wonderful fellowship, laughter, and food. Special thanks to our Culinary Ministry. As we transitioned to the sanctuary, we continued in a spirit of togetherness. As we prepared to carry on, we gave special honor to the women no longer here in remembrance and appreciation for their long-lasting impact on our lives.



INAUGURAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"Sisterhood Together We Can...!"

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We enjoyed being spiritually inspired by our two wonderful soloists: Ms. Carolyn Harrison and Ms. Georgia Woodruff. Followed by our very own Mediation Speaker, Mrs. Donna Smith-Walker. She did an awesome job allowing herself to be open and share her truth, which allowed others to feel inspired to share theirs as well in their own voice - Healing was in the room. Praise God!

Mrs. Donna Smith-Walker

Afterwards, we moved into speaking affirmations into each other's lives. My, my, what a beautiful sight to see, hear, and feel the love shared among each other - TOGETHER. And just when you thought that was enough, Ms. Kennedy Levins shared the importance of taking care of YOU. Her message focused on heart health and awareness. What we eat, drink, and do has a major IMPACT on our health. You are what you eat. We enjoyed listening to a powerful Panel Discussion of women representing a variety of age groups. Each one spoke their truth boldly and impactfully.

So, in closing on Saturday, we had a very engaging agenda designed especially for the WOMEN, and as we started to wrap up our day with a Group Praise and Worship, lifting up our Praise Ribbons, thanking God for His Love, Grace, and Mercy, which resulted in us FEELING ALRIGHT, AND AIN'T GONNA BRING ME DOWN. I must say I don't think I've ever seen the electric slide done in church. However, if King David can dance and praise before the Lord, so can we.



Speaker - Ms. Kennedy Levins
American Heart Association



Panelist:

- Ms. Mikayla Howard (ages 13-20)
- Ms. Stephanie Mackey (ages 21-39)
- Ms. Tonja McKinney (ages 40-50)
- Ms. Lisa Washington (ages 51-70)
- Dr. Angelia J. Fryer (ages 71-up)



Moderator Mrs. Erica Bridges



INAUGURAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"Sisterhood Together We Can...!"

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Reverend Dr. J. Ruth Davis Shields, Presiding Elder
Blue Ridge Hendersonville District.



Reverend Michelle Courtney,
Little Rock Women's Ministry Leader

On Sunday, March 10th, our guest speaker for the morning service was Reverend Dr. J. Ruth Davis Shields, Presiding Elder of the Blue Ridge Conference, Hendersonville District. What a word, what a word!!! She spoke on "Walk in Your Calling: Called to Make a Difference" (John 4:27-42). I receive that confirmation.

I am so thankful for the interfacing of ministries at Little Rock and Together We Can..! and we did. To God be ALL the Glory & Honor! We wanted to feed you Mind, Body, and Soul with inspiration and information while praising and worshipping God.

We had 163 register and over 142 women attend. Can I tell you I am Hallelujah Happy and Peacock Proud!!!

I thank God for entrusting this vision in my heart to bring Him glory as we look forward to seeing you and spending time together as we exemplify "Sisterhood: Together We Can..!" in the near future. Amen. God did it!!!



ANNUAL USHERS CELEBRATION

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Mrs. Narcissus Lowery

By Mrs. Lisa Fuller

Mrs. Anika Robinson, Photographer

"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. Psalm 84:10.

The Usher Boards of Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church celebrated their 68th Annual Usher's Day on Sunday, March 17, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

Mrs. Narcissus Lowery, our 96-year-old active Matriarch, has been a member of Little Rock for 70 years and has served as the Board of Usher's President for 47 years.

Our Guest Preacher, Rev. Mark Evans, Pastor of Johahville A.M.E. Zion Church, Huntersville, N.C. was accompanied by his lovely wife, Mrs. Tamara Evans and their choir. Rev. Evans used Matthew 20:20-28 with the subject, "Ushers One of God's Gifts to the Church" to preach a very powerful sermon, thanking the ushers for their sacrifice and their service to others.

We were blessed and honored to have Rev. Dr. Wardell Henderson, Presiding Elder of the North Charlotte District, and his lovely wife, Mrs. Myrtle Henderson. We were also happy to have Ms. Cindy Saunders, the North Charlotte District's Board of Ushers President in attendance.



Reverend Mark Evans



Johahville A.M.E. Zion Church Choir



Presiding Elder and Mrs. Myrtle Henderson

ANNUAL USHERS CELEBRATION

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Mrs. Narcissus Lowery



Hannah Robinson, Youth Usher Award Honoree

Prayer was given by Nate Roberts and Little Rock Usher Vice President Cynthia Mackey provided the Welcome. Antoinette Cody gave the Statement of Occasion.

Everyone was happy to have the following youth participate in the program: Andrew Robinson read the Scripture and Hannah Robinson received the Youth Usher's Award.

The Board of Usher's presented a plaque and flowers to Mrs. Lowery. The celebration ended with Mrs. Lowery singing her favorite song, "Ninety-Nine and a Half Won't Do. ".



Mr. Nathan Roberts



Mrs. Cynthia Mackey



Ms Antoinette Cody

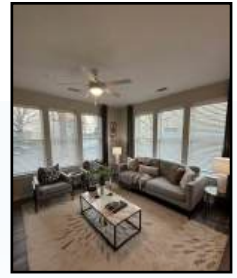
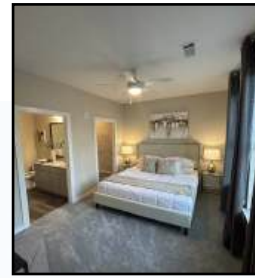


Mr. Andrew Robinson



VARICK ON 7TH GRAND OPENING

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On March 26, 2024, in Charlotte, NC a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the Varick on 7th apartment building. A collaborative effort initiated six years ago by the visionary pastor of Little Rock AME Zion Church; Dr. Dwayne A. Walker came to a fruition.

The opening of the newly built 105-unit apartment building on the Little Rock campus was witnessed by religious leaders and laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church denomination, leaders of Little Rock AME Zion Church, the Little Rock Community Development Corporation board of directors, Charlotte city officials, Laurel Street developers, and multiple community and financial partners.

Fifty-two units will be designated as affordable wherein no renter will pay more than 30% of their income toward housing. The other Fifty-three units will be at the market rate. The structure consists of one-two-three-bedroom luxury units. Amenities include a fully furnished fitness center and an exterior entertainment area with 2 large smoker grills and a glass gas fire pit!

Varick on 7th, the Little Rock Cultural Center and the Little Rock AME Zion Church are located in three contiguous lots on 7th Street in uptown Charlotte extending from North McDowell Street through to Alexander Street. The apartments are within walking distance of the Main Post Office (1 block), about 3 blocks from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg government center and Health and Human Services Department, and about 5 blocks from the main (Charlotte Area Transportation System) CATS center.

VARICK ON 7TH GRAND OPENING

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Seeing the need for affordable housing as large tent cities sprang up all over Charlotte, Dr. Walker shared his vision of expanding Zion's footprint in uptown Charlotte. He met with the leaders of Little Rock Church and the Little Rock Community Development Corporation to ask the city to donate the land adjacent to the Little Rock Cultural Center to build some affordable housing. The church membership voted to proceed with the proposal to the city and on to Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. for approval. Little Rock's membership voted to input some of the parking spaces at the rear of the CDC building into the project as a good faith effort, and the city council voted unanimously to donate the land.

After several years of finalizing paperwork and collaborating with Laurel Street Developers, the Little Rock CDC Board brought on other partners who contributed funds to the project. These partners include Barings, whose Head of Private Assets is Mr. David Mihalick, and Ms. Tiffany Durr, Senior Director of LISC Strategic Investments. They all made brief remarks at the ribbon cutting.



Rev. Dr. Dwayne A. Walker, Pastor
Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church



The Little Rock Community Development Corporation Members

On Tuesday, Dr. Walker declared, "This is the day the Lord has made, and I will rejoice and be glad in it!" What an accomplishment as his vision enlarged Zion's footprint in uptown Charlotte, NC. He offered a Hallelujah praise to God for giving him the vision to enlarge Zion's territory in uptown Charlotte and the tenacity to make multiple requests for the city to give the land to Little Rock to build affordable housing. "We are not meant to be silos," but partnerships were formed to make this a successful venture. He stated this is a day of thanksgiving as his "dream and vision have become a reality."

VARICK ON 7TH GRAND OPENING

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Varick is the name of the first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1822. He declared that we stand on the shoulders of giants of the denomination, which include Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, and many others who are among the "great cloud of witnesses" rejoicing in this accomplishment.

Remarks were made by Bishop Darryl B. Starnes (the 96th Bishop in the line of succession), Presiding Prelate of the Piedmont Episcopal District of the A.M.E Zion Church, which includes the North Charlotte District to which Little Rock belongs. Dr. Walker asked his father, Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr. (the 81st Bishop in the line of succession), Retired Senior Bishop of the A.M.E Zion Church, to make remarks and close the ceremony with a prayer. Bishop Walker, with divine guidance, appointed Dr. Dwayne A. Walker as the pastor of Little Rock in 2005. Besides this venture, it was under Dr. Walker's leadership that the church repurchased the old church structure, now the CDC, from the city of Charlotte, which had used it as the city's first African American Museum of History and Culture before the Gantt Museum was built on Mint Street.



(L-R) Bishop Darin Moore, Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Bishop George W.C. Walker, Sr., Rev. Dr. Dwayne A. Walker
Missionary Supervisor Mrs. Davita Moore and Mrs. Donna Smith-Walker

Bishop W. Darin Moore, the 99th Bishop in the line of succession, the Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, and Missionary Supervisor Mrs. Davita Moore were present. Bishop Moore stated that he is "excited for Zion, Charlotte, Little Rock, and his friend since they met as students at Livingstone College." Bishop Moore stated that this project proves that "faith and community are connected, and it also uplifts the lives of families from different economic levels as they learn from one another. The church must make a difference in the lives of people... what's preached in church on Sunday must impact the lives of people daily from Monday through Saturday." He congratulated Dr. Walker and the leaders of Little Rock on this successful venture between the Church, the community, the city, and developers which will make a profound impact in Charlotte.

General Officers present were Dr. George McKain and Mr. Darin Kent. Presiding Elders present were Dr. Wardell Henderson (North Charlotte District), Dr. Andrew Smoke (Charlotte District), and Dr. Kevin McGill (Concord District). Dr. Vergil Lattimore, President of Hood Theological Seminary, was in attendance as well.

God did it! And Little Rock is thankful!

HOLY WEEK

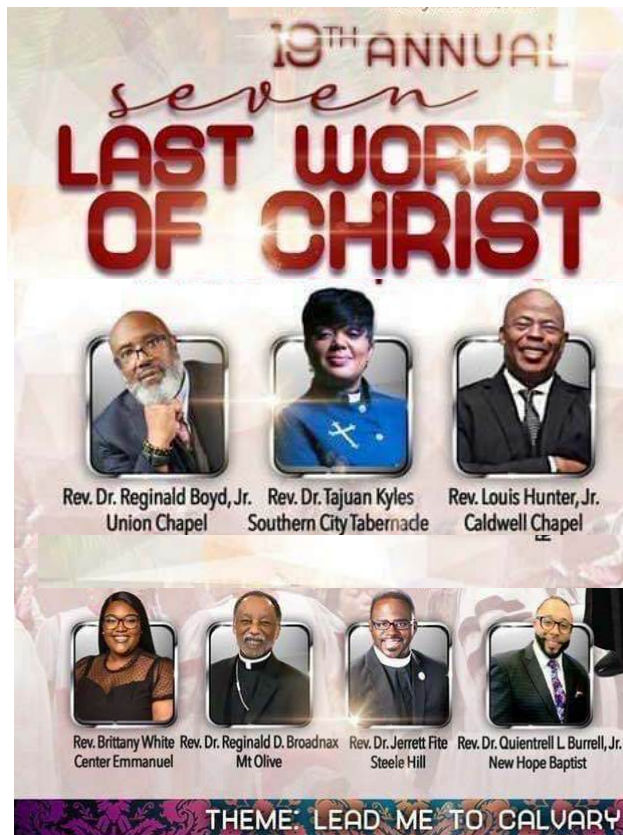
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Palm Sunday



Resurrection Sunday Service



Easter Recitations

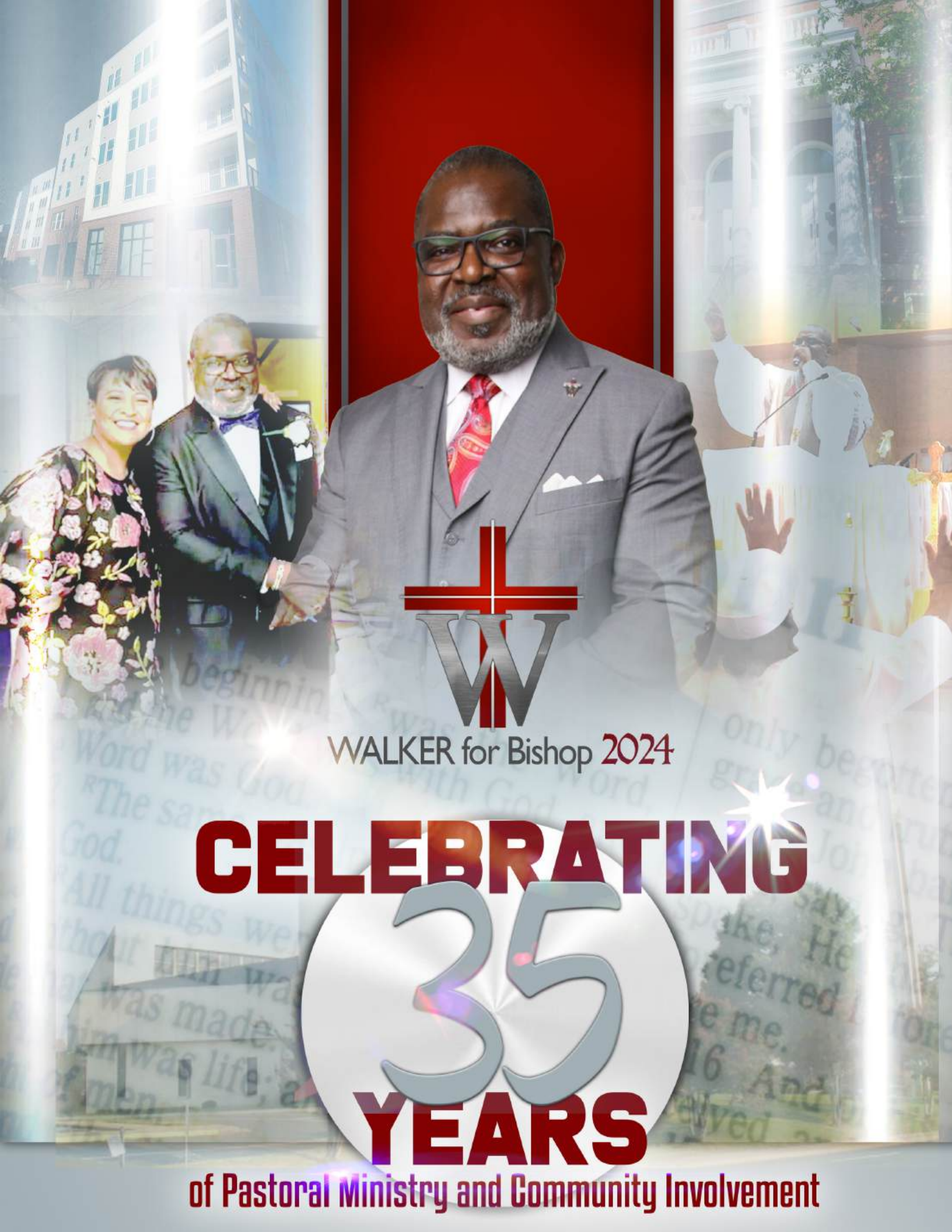
By Mrs. Carol Staley

On Saturday, March 23, 2023, our children at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion participated in a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt. The weather outside was rainy, but it didn't slow down the excitement and fun that was shown by the children on the inside. This event was led by Jada Goodwin, Director of the Children's Ministry, and her staff. The children played games, hid Easter eggs, and enjoyed lots of fun activities and fellowship.

Our children presented Easter recitals on Sunday, March 31, 2024, Easter morning, and showed off their talent. They all were very special and did an excellent job in their delivery. Thanks to all of our children. You are loved!



Youth Liturgical Dancers



WALKER for Bishop 2024

CELEBRATING

35

YEARS

of Pastoral Ministry and Community Involvement

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF PASTORAL MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

VOL. 14, NO. 3 FEBRUARY 2024 - APRIL 2024

By G. Joyner-Johnson

Photographs by Linda Kennedy and Anika Robinson



Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr. and the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Choir along with invited elected officials and community leaders were in attendance to honor Dr. Walker for his accomplishments as a pastor and community leader. The Little Rock Adult liturgical dancers also ministered during the celebration.



Rev. George W.C. Walker, Jr., the younger brother of Dr. Walker, presided over the Service of Celebration. He is the pastor of the St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church inn East Chicago Indiana.

Rev. Belinda Austin, associate minister at Little Rock and the Chairperson of the committee for this occasion gave the welcome and the statement of occasion. She reviewed the accomplishments of Little Rock since Dr. Walker arrived as pastor in 2005. Among those accomplishments was the re-purchase of the old Little Rock church building from the city where-in the mortgage was burned the same day, the growth of the congregation not only numerically but also spiritually to the point where there are now over fifty ministries of which many are of the evangelistic nature reaching out into the community and beyond. The most recent accomplishment under Dr. Walker's leadership was the completed construction of a 110-unit apartment building, Varick on 7th. In collaboration with the city of Charlotte, the Laurel Street Developers and the Little Rock Community Development Corporation. Of those 110 apartments, fifty-six are designated as affordable and the rest will be leased at market rate.



After the invocation and the hymn of praise, the Old Testament scripture was read by Rev. S. Franklin Russell pastor of the Myers Tabernacle A.M.E. Zion church and the New Testament scripture was read by Rev. Henrico White, pastor of the Weeping Willow A.M.E. Zion Church both located in Charlotte, NC. Rev. Dr. Grant Harrison, Presiding Elder of the Salisbury (NC) District offered the prayer.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF PASTORAL MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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Vi Lyles, Charlotte Mayor



Alma Adams, US Congresswoman



**Mark Jerrell, Mecklenburg County
Commission Vice Chair**



**Corine Mack, NAACP Charlotte
Chapter President**



Rev. Kenneth Robinson, Creek Church

Mayor of Charlotte, Honorable Vi Alexander Lyles began her tribute to Dr. Walker by reading from 1 Peter 5:1-2 as it reminds her of Dr. Walker as a compassionate and generous community servant who cares about not only his people but all people whose rights may be infringed upon. Minister Corine Mack, president of the Charlotte Mecklenburg NAACP spoke of the protective nature of Dr. Walker during peaceful demonstrations that have taken place in the city as they marched together to protest many acts of social injustice and/or wrongful actions by police. Rev. Kenneth Robinson the pastor of the Creek Church and president of the Concerned Clergy of Charlotte remarked on the friendship he and Dr. Walker have developed since working together to effect change in the city for social justice and especially the lack of effective public education for people of color in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County schools.

Mr. Mark Jerrell, Vice Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners brought greetings and read a proclamation on the Board's behalf to proclaim April 14, 2024, as "Dr. Dwayne A. Walker Day." This resulted in thunderous applause and a standing ovation!

Congresswoman Alma Adams, representing the 12th District of North Carolina expressed high regard for Dr. Walker as a pastor, community leader and family leader who is as close as a phone call, who is respected not only in the church community but the community at large.

35 YEARS
of Pastoral Ministry and Community Involvement

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF PASTORAL MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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The Walker Family

Ms. DeAndra Walker, the first-born daughter of Dr. Walker, with her sisters Dana, Daivene and Deborah brought many accolades for their father. Then Dylan, the first grandchild gave remarks of love, amazement and awe for his grandfather on behalf of the other grandchildren, Meliya and Aila.

Rev. Dr. Wardell Henderson commented on the remarkable accomplishments of Dr. Walker as the pastor of Little Rock and as the first pastor of the North Charlotte District. He and his wife appreciate the thoughtfulness and many kind expressions from Little Rock under Dr. Walker's leadership. Presiding Elder Henderson presented his friend, the preacher of the afternoon, Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., pastor of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC.

Dr. Jones considers Dr. Walker a "son" and a friend in the ministry. He extolled the characteristics of love, compassion and leadership in the church and the community. He preached from 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21. The title of the sermon was "A Christian Witness for the Kingdom." This requires one to be justified, reconciled through Christ and have salvation. We as Christians are ambassadors for the Kingdom of God. After the word was delivered, the invitation to Christian Discipleship was extended.



Rev. Dr. J. Ruth Davis-Shields, Presiding Elder of the Hendersonville District, pastor of the Zion Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, and co-chair of the Walker for Bishop 2024 Campaign Committee, presented the honoree, Dr. Dwayne A. Walker..

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF PASTORAL MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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Dr. Walker and his wife Donna both expressed their thankfulness for the love and caring spirit expressed to them. His desire and qualifications to become an episcopal leader, bishop, in the A.M.E. Zion Church is on display for anyone to examine. From being a youth pastor at John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church (Washington, DC) to being the pastor of Jones Tabernacle in Chicago then appointed to being the pastor of Little Rock, Dr. Walker has a legacy of leaving ministries better than when he found them, not only spiritually, but civically as well. His compassion and love for people in whatever their condition can be found on display in the lives of his family, church and community. He has been the face and voice of Zion not only locally, but statewide and nationally. Just check the record.

After the benediction by Dr. Jones, everyone was invited to a reception in the fellowship hall. Excellence in Ministry was on display for the entire celebration. Many thanks were extended to Rev. Belinda Austin, Chairperson for the celebration and the members of this committee members Mrs. Glain Lewis, Mrs. Shabara Ellis, Mrs. Kym Johnson, Mrs., Harriett Feimster, Mrs. Antoinette Cody, Dr. Angelia Fryer, Rev. Lea'Ve Jordan, Mrs. Dianna Davis, Ms. Deborah Walker, Mrs. Daivene Cannon and Ms. Stephanie Haynes.

God Did It!



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

VOL. 14, NO. 3 FEBRUARY 2024 - APRIL 2024

Youth and Young Adult Choir on the Rise at Little Rock

A Special Interview with Mr. Sidney Oliver, Minister of Music,
& Youth and Young Adult Choir Director, Ms. Stephanie Mackey

By: Rondah Nelson



Mr. Sid Oliver

Sidney Oliver Interview

Question: What are the age ranges for the Youth and Young Adult Choir?

Answer: 10-40

Question: How do you produce the song selections?

Answer: We have an open-door policy; the young choir members bring songs to my attention that they are interested in singing. I also personally have an ear for a youthful sound and for particular songs that are a good fit for our church. I try to keep everything in line with our ideals for Little Rock and make sure it is in proper alignment. We are also prayerful over the songs that we select, as we always want to bring glory to God.

Question: How did the Youth and Young Adult Choir get re-started?

Answer: When COVID hit, the choir took a break and remained inactive for a period of time. As I began to watch the many young people coming and joining the church, I knew that we needed to start it back up again.

Question: If anyone is interested in joining the Youth and Young Adult Choir, what do they need to do?

Answer: Contact Ms. Crowder, who is the leader of the Youth and Young Adult Choir. She will be able to assist with organizing all essential information, including rehearsal schedules and contact information.



Ms Stephanie Mackey

Ms. Stephanie Mackey Interview

Question: What brings you the most joy as the director of the Youth and Young Adult Choir?

Answer: Directing the Youth and Young Adult Choir is a joyous experience. It allows me to witness the enthusiasm and energy they bring to rehearsals, performances, and praising God through music. It is inspiring to see their passion for singing and their dedication to improving their musical skills, all while growing their faith. Seeing them grow and develop as they utilize their talents to glorify God is truly a blessing!

Question: What would your message of encouragement be to the younger generation?

Answer: My message of encouragement would be rooted in faith. I would tell them to always remember that they are valued and deeply loved by God. I would express to them that God has a unique purpose and plan for each of their lives. I would encourage them to seek God first in all things, to trust in His guidance, and to never lose hope even when facing setbacks and challenges. Above all, I would remind them that faith can move mountains and that with God, all things are possible. It is okay for them to dream big and pursue their passions with boldness, knowing that God is always by their side.



LITTLE ROCK
A.M.E. Zion Church

Excellence In Ministry:

TOGETHER, WE CAN...!

Ephesians 4:11-16

Dr. Dwayne A. Walker, Pastor

19th Annual LITTLE ROCK DAY



Spring Revival

Tues, MAY 14TH - Thurs, MAY 16TH, 7PM

SPRING REVIVALIST

Bishop George D. Crenshaw,
Presiding Prelate, Alabama-Florida
Episcopal District.

Annual Excellence in Ministry Awards Luncheon

Sat, MAY 18TH, 2PM



Little Rock Day Worship Service

Sunday, MAY 19TH 10AM

MORNING PREACHER

Bishop Dennis V. Proctor
Presiding Prelate, Northeastern
Episcopal District

Rev. BELINDA AUSTIN, General Chairperson
401 North McDowell St, Charlotte, NC 28204
(704) 334-3782 | www.littlerockamezion.org



CHRISTIAN INVITATIONS

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TUNE IN WITH OUR

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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, Rondah Nelson, Donnie Henderson,
Sharelle Burt

littlerockamezpr@gmail.com