



Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Chair, Commission on Publications
The Reverend Dr. Johnny Barbour, Jr., Publisher
The Reverend Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor III, the 20th Editor, *The Christian Recorder*

Ebola Update Message from the Rev. A Oveta Fuller, PhD:

“The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared an Ebola public health crisis alert Level 1, which means countries involved and others should use intensive means to get the Ebola outbreak under control.”

1. TCR EDITORIAL – AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY SOME THINGS:

Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor III
The 20th Editor of *The Christian Recorder*

I have been in the ministry for a long time and there have been many occasions when I wished that could have said what was on my mind. I have had to “bite my tongue” and suppress the words that I wanted to utter many times.

I have known a few persons who had a reputation for speaking their minds and I saw the consequences they had to bear because of their actions. Their words and actions not only hurt

others but they were hurt themselves, too.

When I was growing up, I heard the advice of the old folks, “Don’t say everything that comes to your mind.”

Early in my ministry, when young preachers shared some of the contentious situations in their churches, the older preachers advised, “Think about it and sleep on it. Don’t be too quick to respond; just think about it.” And, sometimes they would add, “Pray about it.”

The bottomline of “think about it” or “sleep on it” was sage advice to young preachers for them to avoid the temptation of “saying everything on his or her mind” or saying something inappropriate. It was a reminder that there was a consequence for speaking everything that comes to one’s mind.

Many years before I started in ministry, the writer of Proverbs 29:11 (KJV) said, “*A fool uttereth all his mind, but a wise man keepeth it in until afterwards.*” The Message Bible says, “*A fool lets it all hang out; a sage quietly mulls it over.*”

I have had to “think about it” and “sleep on it” a lot of times in my ministry. And, sometimes, after “sleeping on it,” the situation was not nearly as complicated as I first thought.

Where am I going with this?

I have had some words I wanted to say in my ministry, but I held my peace. And, I figure that many of you have had a lot of things in your mind that you wanted to say, but in the spirit of Proverbs 29:11 and the possible negative consequences, you held your peace. There were probably words you wanted to say and thoughts you wanted to express, but the words and thoughts stayed in your mind.

So, I have decided to share our; yours and my thoughts about the laity, preachers, presiding elders, bishops and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

And, if I hit on some areas that might be germane to your present situation, you can say, “Sydnor said it” and you are off the hook.

My comments are not all of my thoughts, just a few. If I missed some, email what you think I missed to me.

Laity

I wish parishioners would be more spiritual and show more love for the church. I wish they showed their love for the Lord by increased stewardship and what I mean by that is to give more money in the offering plate.

A twenty-dollar bill looks small at the mall, but looks huge in church. I wish parishioners would stop asking for change for a ten dollar bill; a ten dollar bill is change. And Lord, the folks who want to get change for a five dollar bill. I guess they want change for a five dollar bill so they can put a dollar in the offering plate. The folks who want change for a dollar bill so they can put a quarter in the missionary offering ought to be ashamed of themselves.

I wish parishioners would be consistent in their giving, attendance and participation.

I wish parishioners would arrive a few minutes before or on-time for worship. I am tired of seeing late-arriving parishioners Sunday after Sunday. I also wish parishioners would be less disruptive when they arrive. And some parishioners arrive late and can never stay until the end of the worship.

I wish we had more parishioners who would be more regular in their attendance. I wish we could get everyone to be faithful and attend worship every Sunday unless they are sick, have to work or have had some last minute emergency.

Sunday morning is not a time to visit other churches. Support your own church and encourage your friends who are members of another church to do the same. Don't go after folks who already belong to a church because we don't want to “steal other folks' “sheep.” Evangelize the

unchurched. There are enough unchurched folks to fill up a hundred churches in your city.

I wish church members would take some initiative to volunteer to help the church. Preachers appreciate parishioners attending worship, but “service” is a part of worship. The church needs people to help with the children, work with the older members, and in other areas of the church; help with ushering, greeting parishioners, the choir and various boards.

Stop “bad-mouthing” your church’s programs; stop complaining and do something to help the church. Your unchurched friends will be reluctant to join your church if all of your comments about the church are negative.

And, church officers, if your pastor lives in his or her own home, compensate fairly. Try to give the preacher a raise without the preacher having to ask for a raise.

When you have a guest preacher, please don’t say, “We are not trying to pay you...yada, yada, yada!” Try to pay the guest preacher and when you do, the preacher will know that you tried to compensate fairly.

Treat the preacher as a professional.

You may get a woman pastor; treat her and her family with respect. She is a professional and should be treated as a professional. Women bring additional skill-sets to the profession of ministry and most of them are well-trained. When you get a woman clergy, you are not getting a “jack-leg” preacher.

Young Preachers

If you feel a call to the ministry, please plan to be trained for ministry because the ministry is a hard profession.

Please understand that ministry is more than preaching and more than getting folks to “get their praises on.”

When you are asked to pray, read the scripture or lead in other acts of worship, do as you are told and there is no need for you to welcome the people, make extraneous comments, ask the people to say, “Amen” and “Praise the Lord”; get up and do the assigned task of praying, reading the scripture or leading in other acts of worship and sit down.

Please take the time to learn how to pronounce the various names in the Bible. There are pronunciation websites.

Be up-to-date on current events and incorporate appropriate examples and illustration on contemporary issues in your sermons.

Understand that the pastoral ministry is difficult and demanding and you will have some good days, but you will have some bad days; some very bad days.

You don't have all of the answers about life and living. You don't have most of the answers. If you understand that, you will study more aggressively. There are some very smart people sitting in the pews. You don't have to be intimidated, but you have to be prepared.

Set your pastoral goal to be the best clergyperson you can be and do not gauge your ministry on the size of the pastoral appointment.

Pastors

If you would just “love the people, pray, read the Bible,” you would be off to a great start.

Love all of the people: even the ones you know may not like you, including women much older than you and men much younger. My mother and the old folks used to say “Beat them with kindness!” My mother and the old folks used to say “Beat them with kindness!”

Arrive at the church early when you have a meeting, counseling session, and especially on Sunday mornings. Don't arrive huffing, puffing and breathing hard. Arrive early; get settled-down

so you can be in command of your emotional and spiritual space. Take time to pray and petition God for guidance each time you enter the facility.

Preacher, please prepare your sermon. It's obvious if you haven't prepared your sermon. The parishioners and especially the older parishioners will know immediately when you haven't adequately prepared your sermon.

And there is another challenge today - technology. Don't use canned sermons from the internet. Your parishioners, and especially the young adults, will know when you are preaching a canned sermon copied off the internet. When you announce the text and subject and you see folks in the congregation working with their smartphones, all of them are not checking the scripture, some of them might be trying to find the sermon you copied. Experienced preachers and educators can spot plagiarism "a mile away."

Never forget that the pastor's office is appropriately called a "Study"; and for good reason, because pastors are supposed to study. The pastor's office should be called, the "Pastor's Study."

Be cognizant that you have some older folks in your congregation who have various health issues, be sensitive to them and their medical situations. A 20-minute sermon is about the average person's attention-span. A lot of people cannot hold their bladder for two and a half or three hours. Cut out the religious babble, extraneous announcements and other worship distractions. There is probably no need to announce the Baptist church's afternoon program that's being held the same time as your afternoon program.

Be cautious in saying, "The Lord told me thus and so" or "The Holy Spirit spoke to me. I heard a preacher say that the Lord told him not to preach that Sunday. Now, I can't say what the Lord or the Holy Spirit said, but I doubt the Lord told that preacher not to preach. And, please don't use that in a meeting. Do your homework and lay your plans "on the table" trusting God to bless the program.

A lot of your parishioners have a lot of sense and many of them have a lot of formal education,

the day is far past when the preacher was the most educated person in the sanctuary. Respect your parishioners' intelligence and be prepared to feed them a spiritual feast in the form of a well-prepared sermon.

Lord have mercy! Pastors please visit the sick and shut-in members! Don't "farm" out that responsibility to your licentiates. If you have a very large or mega-church that might be a different story, but pastors of small, medium or medium-large churches, visit your sick and shut-in members. The folks will love you for taking your pastoral duties seriously.

And, please at a funeral don't engage in religious babble and please, when people are faced with the death of a loved one, don't tell folks something about God needed another "flower" his heavenly garden; there is nothing biblical about that. If you don't know what to say, remain silent and let your presence comfort those who are grieving.

Try to show your humanness. Take the time to meet people where they are and smile and be down-to-earth with people. Don't be afraid to share your feelings.

Learn to encourage yourself and stay connected to your family because when the ministry is over you will only have God and your family. Parishioners will move on and direct their allegiance to their new pastor.

Be yourself and "grow where you are planted." Everyone cannot be a mega-church pastor. Small churches need outstanding pastors too. And another thing; understand that some parishioners prefer smaller churches and they are members of the church you serve because that's where they want to be; bigger is not always better.

Everybody does not want to "high praise" and everyone does not want to be Pentecostal, Baptist or nondenominational. They are AMEs and they love the AME Church and its worship traditions, but they love worship creativity also! "One size does not fit all" – learn how to minister to the various groups within your congregation. Getting feedback is an excellent "vehicle" for finding out the preferences of your congregation.

Provide specific times when parishioners can visit you in your study. If you are bi-vocational, perhaps on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon or an hour or so before prayer meeting, Bible study or choir rehearsal; specific times when you think you might be in your office. Be accessible to your congregation.

Be more Christlike. Demonstrate holiness and stop coming across so worldly.

Show agape LOVE for all members of the flock in the way you look at them, treat them and talk to or about them. Don't throw people away when you feel they are no longer useful for your personal agenda.

STOP operating on the three "isms"... Favoritism, Cronyism and Nepotism.

Learn to address female parishioners by name and appropriate title, and avoid the use of the proverbial "sister", especially when you use it with that "putdown" or "dress-down" tone that you use! You know how you do!

Show some gratitude toward individual members. A simple "Thank you" will do.

Study the Bible.

Get into the AME annuity program. Pay into the Social Security Program. Make an appointment to see a financial planner. Plan to purchase a home. You can't continue to live in a parsonage when you retire. You need a place for you and your family to call "home."

Women preachers are here to stay. They are colleagues; they are not your "sister, honey, darling or sweetheart." They are professional clergy and you need to treat them as such.

Presiding Elders

Please visit your pastors other than when you hold a quarterly conference. You can't make an intelligent recommendation on whether a pastor should be transferred based upon what you

observe at a quarterly conference. If you have an office or a study, provide times that your pastors can visit you. When I was a pastor a long time ago, my presiding elder did not have an office, but he let us know certain times we could visit with him.

And when you hold quarterly conferences, you are not conducting an annual conference. You don't need to give a sermon on every topic that comes forth. Do the business of the quarterly conference, give the benediction and let the people go home. A quarterly conference need not be longer than an hour.

Please do not engage in frivolous telephone or email conversations with the parishioners of your pastors because that's called "pastoral interference."

Learn to use the computer. Learn to use technology, you just might get to the point that you can hold quarterly conference telephonically – would be easier for you and for your pastors and the local congregation; and you just might have more participation and free up some of your time to make presiding elder visits to the churches on your district.

Have some prayer times with your pastors. Plan some social events with your pastors and their families. Plan a luncheon or dinner social with just your pastors. Make it a social event, not a business meeting. And, guess what? A lot of business will be unofficially accomplished.

Teach and train your pastors, but in an appropriate venue, not necessarily at the quarterly conference.

Bishops

Your election and consecration didn't ...

-- To be continued in Part 2

TCR Editor's Comment: We will provide coverage of the funeral of the late General Officer, the Rev. Dr. Anderson Todd in next week's issue of *TCR Online*

2. READER RESPONSE TO EDITORIAL AND OTHER ISSUES:

-- To the Editor:

RE: TCR Editorial – No Ceasing to be Amazed Yet:

Your continuing editorials make me regret the coming impact on you of the AME Church's mandatory retirement law. You have truly been a blessing to our Zion.

TED NEWMAN
Senior Judge
DC Court of Appeals

-- To the Editor:

RE: *TCR* Editorial – No Ceasing to be Amazed Yet:

The best issue of *TCR* Online I've read.

Your amazing is amazing, get real. Remember, I once told you some churches still need to get into the 20th Century and you want them to be 21st Century. Wait for it..... In my *Obi Wan Kanobe* voice, we have a member who says all technology is *eville*. The sadder part is that member has a following, but owns a cellphone too.

Name Withheld

3. DR. RICHARD LEWIS' REFLECTIONS ON THE GENERAL BOARD MEETING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT GLOVER:

*Dr. Richard A. Lewis, Sr.

I am in receipt of the comments of Dr. Glover. Our Zion can afford a General Conference, but we need to institute a number of adjustments, which I am sharing in upper case text:

- a. Reduce the number of Delegates. WE DID THIS ONCE.
- b. Reduce the time to BUSINESS ONLY.
- c. Set an AMOUNT that we can afford. Charge each Annual conference that amount. It will be more than they are paying now (the TRUE COST).
- d. Offerings are reported on the AUDITED STATEMENT following the General Conference FISCAL YEAR.
- e. General Board Members NEED TO BE Enlightened.
- f. The REAL TRUTH is that, there would have been a NEVER ENDING LEGAL BATTLE had Morris Brown not received a loan to cover our AME support in that Educational Institution. LONG STORY, LONG, LONG!
- g. PLEASE remember that, we are "Episcopal LED but LAITY FED." When will we, understand the RESPONSIBILITY of LAY PEOPLE!!!

THIS IS SHORT BUT TO THE POINT.

*Richard Allen Lewis, Sr., Treasurer/CFO

4. FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE OUTBREAK IN W. AFRICA:

*Dr. George Francis Flowers

Three West Africa nations are struggling to control an outbreak of Ebola. The virus was first discovered nearly four decades ago in Congo in a village near the Ebola River. Since then there

have been sporadic outbreaks. Five things to know about Ebola and how it is spread:

(1) West Africa outbreak now largest in history

The current outbreak in neighboring countries of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone has sickened more than 1,300 people and killed at least 892 since March. The outbreak is unusual for West Africa as the disease is typically found in the center and east of the continent.

(2) Some people have survived Ebola

While the fatality rate for Ebola can be as high as 90 percent, health officials in the three countries say people have recovered from the virus and the current death rate is about 60 percent. Those who fared best sought immediate medical attention and got supportive care to prevent dehydration even though there is no specific treatment for Ebola itself.

(3) Ebola can look like other diseases

Early symptoms of an Ebola infection include fever, headache, muscle aches and sore throat. It can be difficult to distinguish between Ebola and malaria, typhoid fever or cholera. Only in later stages do people with Ebola begin bleeding both internally and externally, often through the nose and ears.

(4) Ebola is only spread through close contact

Ebola is not airborne, so people would have to come into direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person. These include blood, sweat, vomit, feces, urine, saliva or semen – making transmission through casual contact in a public setting unlikely.

(5) Fear, misinformation

Health workers and clinics have come under attack from residents who mistakenly blame foreign doctors and nurses for bringing the virus to remote communities. Family members also have

removed sick Ebola patients from hospitals. Officials have stepped up efforts to isolate patients, educate the public, check travelers and tighten borders to prevent the disease's spread.

The CDC is cautioning international travelers traveling into the regions of West Africa and offering a stern warning not to travel if you are sick. Therefore, The Department of Global Witness and Ministry is urging all to:

Stay Alert* Live Well* Be Well* Stay Healthy!

Dr. George Francis Flowers note: We commend Bishop Clement W. Fugh for taking seriously his commitment to serve his Episcopal District, West Africa, by going to the district checking on the health and wellbeing of his pastors and constituents. We further commend him for having the "good sense" to come out of West Africa before it was too late. Let's lift the people of the Fourteenth Episcopal District and the bishop in our daily devotional moments and prayers.

*Dr. George Francis Flowers, Executive Director, Department of Global Witness and Ministry

5. AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A ROBE GIFTING INITIATIVE BY BECOMING A ROBE GIFTER:

Brother Michael A. McMullen Sr.

Ask yourself the following questions. Are you normally tuned in to what others need? Do you feel compelled to share your wealth of abilities, time, or resources with others? Do you see giving as a privilege rather than an obligation? Do you seek out ways to share what you have? Does giving warm your heart? Do others see you as a generous person working on behalf of God?

If you answered "Yes" to any of them, you may have the spiritual gift of giving that can help "Robe Gifting International" help others.

Many clergy have over time accumulated robes and other vestments that they will never use again. Churches choir robes stored in closets, basements and attics that have not been worn in

year. If this sounds familiar you can help. The collection of unused robes represents economic resources that can make a difference in the lives of others. Robe gifting provides a unique and uplifting way to be of service, become a “Robe Gifter” today.

If you would like to donate robes or become a financial donor please visit our website at www.robegift.org for more information.

Romans 12:13 tells us, "*Share with the Lord's people who are in need.*" NIV – and that's what we love to do.

Our Mission in Robe Gifting International is "To Assist Clergy, Choirs, and Religious Organizations and in maintaining an outward holiness."

The clients we serve are primarily licensed and/or ordained persons who are spiritual in practice and service. Our clientele will range from denominationally affiliated and independent clergy, both female and male. Individuals and groups receive our robes through redistribution are generally economically-challenged and need assistance, domestic and internationally.

There have been no preset qualifications for those requesting or receiving robes, we are prayerful that we can assist all those who indicate a need for help. We have established that there would be no direct cost to the donor and no direct cost to the recipients of refurbished robes. The indicator of “no direct cost” relates to the possible cost of postage for those who may ship their donated robes to our facility, and while we are underwriting the cost of shipping to the recipient's there could be circumstances where we ask if shipping postage is possible. (Such as rush shipping or specific shipping methods)

Our financial underpinning of this effort is incumbent upon our separate marketing arm which solicits individual, businesses and foundations to partner with us in making tax deductible donations. We are developing a nationwide team of “Ambassadors” to work with local communities, businesses, corporate and genuine concerns. We highlight their participation on several formats including our website, newsletters and during our National Annual Campaign which is held during National Clergy month.

Help Us to Help Others – Robe Gifting Mission

Robe Gifting International is a charitable organization birthed in Philadelphia Pennsylvania focused on meeting the liturgical apparel needs of financially challenged Clergy and Choirs. Our mission is to provide FREE refurbished robes to Clergy and Choirs on the basis of need.

Who will we help? Clergy and Church Choirs of all denominations can benefit from this ministry of giving.

The Vision: Robe Gifting International will receive donations at no direct cost to the donor and supply the need at no direct cost to the benefactor.

How can you help? If you would like to donate robes or become a financial donor please visit our website at www.robegift.org for more information.

About Michael A. McMullen Sr.

While this is not an AME-focused program, I am an AME. I have been an AME member for fifty years. I joined Bethel AME Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania under the Rev. Winsmore Mason, was nurtured by my God-father, the Rev. Dr. Theodore S. Clements and since have served as aid and confidant for five pastors of Bethel, the first church of the Harrisburg District. I am very active on the conference and district levels; I proudly serve as Chief Marshall of the Philadelphia conference and have worked closely with several past and present Bishops of the 1st Episcopal District. And, last, but far from least I have been married for the past 37 years to the Reverend Lillie B. McMullen, who has pastored for the last ten years on the Harrisburg District and is currently the pastor of Bethel AME Church in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. So while this is not an AME program AME sure has favor.

My working background has for the most part been very entrepreneurial. I have owned several Christian bookstores and have attended many conferences as a vendor of new Clergy and Choir robes. I sold robes for the last twenty years to many all over the connection including several Bishops and it was through this experience that I came up with the robe gifting concept. So

many preachers I talked with over the years spoke on the many robes they had accumulated, as well many widowed spouses sought outlets for disposing of their loved ones robes with dignity in mind. Almost every church I visited for new choir robes always had old ones, and then somewhere in the church, had really old ones. So as time and economics downturned the new robe market I began to consider a way to recycle the used robe stockpile.

God has blessed me with a skill set to be outgoing, personable and a giving heart. If I have a legacy to finish then I believe it is to be an innovator in helping the household of faith.

I am often mistaken for clergy and most times asked why I did not answer the call. Well, I believe that I have answered "the call," the call to be a support to clergy and a true friend of the clergy. I greatly appreciate and thank God for all that He has allowed and given and if through this platform I can establish something longstanding that does a good work.

My educational background is varied, I have attended several schools including; Harrisburg Area Community College, Northampton Area Community College, Southern New Hampshire University and Ashford University. I maintain a Bachelor's degree in Business and a Master's degree in Marketing and I'm still working on my Doctorates in everyday living.

The video can be viewed at: <http://www.robegift.org/EmailEntry-AME.html>

150th Session of the California Annual Conference September 22 - 28, 2014

Bishop T. Larry Kirkland is the Presiding Prelate for the 5th Episcopal District and Mrs. Mary Kirkland is the Episcopal Supervisor

6. UPDATED INFORMATION FROM THE 150TH SESSION, THE CALIFORNIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4:

Greetings: We bring you updated information from the 150th Session of the California Annual

Conference which will be held September 22 - 28, hosted by Parks Chapel AME, (Rev. Teresa Nelson, Host Pastor) and supported by St. Paul AME, Berkeley (Rev. Anthony L. Hughes, Pastor) and St. James AME, San Jose (the Rev. Andrew Rollins Pastor). Our host Presiding Elder is the Rev. Booker T. Guyton.

Deadlines are extended for Hotel Reservations and Souvenir Journal Ads

The deadline for hotel reservations at the special group rate of \$135 has been extended until August 17. Please note, once the group rate ends the nightly hotel rate increases to \$249. If anyone has problems securing a room at our group rate, please contact Frances Goodson, who will intervene. Frances can be reached at fgoo352@aol.com

The deadline for placing ads in the souvenir journal has also been extended. The new deadline is August 17. Please see the link below for details on submitting ad information for the souvenir journal.

We are excited to announce the Pre-Conference Reception and Musical, which will be held on Sunday, September 21. A Welcome Reception will be held beginning at 3:30 pm and the Concert will begin at 5:00 pm, at Parks Chapel AME Church, Oakland.

The Concert will feature the California Conference Choir, Host Churches Mass Choir consisting of Parks Chapel, St. Paul and St. James AME; Joyful Praise, the St. Paul AME Praise Dance and Flag Team, Parks Chapel Praise Dancers, Dance-a-vision, and special guest Bishop Yvette Flunder.

August 17 is the deadline for special \$135

- Souvenir book deadline is August 17, 2014.
- Hotel reservations deadline is August 17th. The conference rate for hotel rooms is \$135, plus applicable taxes.

For reservations please call: (800) 454-1719. Persons may also contact the Oakland Marriott

Hotel directly. After the deadline, hotel rates will increase to \$249 per night!

Please Support Our Vendors:

Carolyn Jackson - Carolyn's Boutique, Hats and Accessories

Shirley Lyons - Ceramics

Sara's Nail Salon - Purses, Jewelry, Accessories

Sondra Ladner - Designer Knit Clothing

Connie Taylor - Park Lane Jewelry

Ella's Boutique

Mary Guyton - Cookie Lee Jewelry

There's still time to sign up for as a Vendor. Please see the link below for additional information. Please contact us at ccac150pr@gmail.com if you have information you'd like to include in our regular email blasts.

7. AME, TAYLOR DEION JACKSON, ATTENDING THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY:

Taylor is a member of Hamilton Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church 3401 Alexander Ave. in Texarkana, Texas where the Rev. James Anthony Morris serves as pastor. He is the son of Warren and Jackie Jackson and a 2014 graduate of Texas Senior High School in Texarkana, Texas.

Taylor graduated Cum Laude and is in the top 15% of his 492 member class. He is in the B.B. Lawson Chapter of the National Honor Society. He was in Leadership, and a member of the Student Council. He was elected vice-president of his freshman, sophomore, and junior Classes. Taylor was Parliamentarian of his senior class. He was also voted Class Favorite as Most Popular Male all four years. He was a mentor for Special Olympics, and an Outstanding Young Man 2013-2014 of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

In athletics, Taylor was All District outstanding wide receiver 2nd Team in football, All District

forward 1st Team in basketball, and All District left fielder 1st Team in baseball.

Taylor is now attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD where his major is engineering and his minor is Business Administration. He is also a member of the U.S. Navy football team. After graduation he will be a Commissioned Officer in the United States Navy.

His family and the Hamilton Memorial church family are so very proud of Taylor.

8. THE JUBILEE PRAYER TEAM 2016:

Evangelist, Dr. Val Eloby-Slade

For some time now, this *Ad Hoc* Committee has been doing great things for our God and Kingdom-building.

The mission of the committee is to encourage participation throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church for fervent and deliberate prayer and fasting. The prayers are for God's church leaders, local, national and international leaders and for our children.

The objective is to have the members of the prayer team to adhere to II Chronicles 7:14 that states, "*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*" (KJV).

The Prayer Team conducted a Memorial Service of Thanksgiving and Praise for the leadership, service and ministry of the late Bishop Sarah Frances Taylor Davis.

The memorial service was held telephonically by the Jubilee Prayer Team on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 9 p.m. Eastern Time.

The teleconference was led by the team director, the Rev. Dorisalene Hughes; the opening hymn, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" was sung by Sister Althea Williams; the invocation given by

the Rev. James Hailey; and the scripture was read by the Rev. Edna Parker.

Two-minute tributes were given by the Rev. Izora Adamson; Evangelist Iclima Bowen; the Rev. Dorisalene Hughes; Evangelist, Dr. Val Eloby-Slade; the Rev. Sandra G. Whitley and the Rev. Anthony L. Hughes.

The memorial litany was taken from the AMEC Hymnal, No. 730.

The Words of Comfort were given by Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, President of the Council of Bishops and the Presiding Prelate of the 13th Episcopal District.

Bishop Leath reminded us to move forward with the great work in memory of Bishop Sarah Davis, who lived with so much love and encouragement.

The closing remarks were given by Bishop E. Earl McCloud Jr. He reminded us to continue the work of Bishop Davis. Bishop Sarah Davis was an advocate for prayer and wanted to see our Zion become a greater by being kinder and gentler to all people, regardless of color, gender or national origin.

The services ended with all the participants singing, "*Let the Church Say Amen.*"

In April 2014, our new prayer leader, Bishop McKinley Young led the 2014 Connectional Day of Prayer into even higher heights by including April 11- 13, 2014 as "The 2014 Connectional Days of Prayer."

Prayer Services and Programs were conducted in all of the Episcopal Districts. Various prayers services; prayer walks, concerts and programs were held in various Episcopal Districts.

The teleconference Connectional Day of Prayer Service led by Bishop McKinley Young was anointed and breathtaking. Several bishops and general officers participated in the service and each led a prayer that focused on particular issues, prayer for President Obama; our nation's social and economic issues, and concerns around the world.

It was announced at the end of the service that the A.M.E. Anvil of 2014 would include the prayers from each bishop, connectional and general officers.

The Jubilee Prayer Team created beautiful prayer-buttons, which were distributed throughout the connection. The buttons were sky-blue in color with praying hands in the center of the button and the words "Connectional Day of Prayer, April 13," covering around the praying hands. If wish to obtain a button, contact your designated Episcopal District Jubilee Prayer Team 2016 Chairperson.

The first half of the 2014 year has been filled with working on our mission.

You are invited to pray and/or fast with us on the first Monday of each month by dialing into the teleconference number (605) 477-3000, Access code: 833863#.

This midnight time of prayer is held at 12 Midnight Eastern Time.

The midnight prayer leader is the Rev. James Hailey of Quincy, Illinois.

The goals and vision of our Jubilee Prayer Team 2016 are to engage the entire body at every level and all over our connection so that the power of God will reign over all the Episcopal Districts of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the 2016 General Conference.

We hope to witness a massive move and change in the lives of people, healing, miracles, signs and wonders and people converting to Christ.

We are hoping prayer and fasting will become first and foremost, and everyone will be praying without ceasing. What a mighty God we serve!

Bishop McKinley Young is the Commission Chair for Prayer; the Rev. Dorisalene Hughes, Director of *The Jubilee Prayer Team 2016* Ad Hoc Committee; and Evangelist, Dr. Val Eloby-Slade is the writer of this article.

9. GREATER BETHEL STRIVES FOR THE EDGE:

Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, located in South Nashville, Tennessee held its inaugural EDGE Program as an enrichment and tutorial service for the youth in the community and members of the church. EDGE, (Education and Development toward Growth and Excellence), is the brain child of Rev. Edward L. Thompson, Pastor of Greater Bethel. “Our goal is to give children the extra edge for academic success in school,” he said.

The overall goal of the program was to help children improve their performance in Grammar, Reading, Writing and Mathematics, and to provide extra-curricular activities for students in first through sixth grades.

“We strive to help the students develop skills to problem solve, think independently, improve their grades and test scores, build self-confidence and self-esteem and to always acknowledge the Creator, God, said Rev. Thompson.

Field trips and other fun-focused activities were developed to round-off their studies. Marcia Fugh Joseph, coordinator of the program, said “The message to the students and the community was one of helping children be successful in their academic activities and to guide them in a path for a successful school experience”.

“The church and community rallied around this program in an effort to send a message to the children that success in school is paramount,” said Novella Page, program supervisor.

One student who participated in the program, Eli Brown, who will be entering the sixth grade this fall, wrote a letter to the church thanking them for the program and said, “I am glad I was in it.”

With school starting, the EDGE program at Greater Bethel is expected to show positive results in those children who attended, with plans for more programs in the future.

In addition to the EDGE program, Greater Bethel hosted its annual Vacation Bible School, Youth

Retreat and had children in other district-wide and connectional programs. "The reality is that we must invest our time and resources in our children to help them be successful in every possible way. We can do this and we must," said Rev. Thompson.

For more information about this program and other activities at Greater Bethel, contact the Church office at 615.256.1509.

10. HISTORY OF HYMNS: "PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND":

By C. Michael Hawn

The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 474/ AMEC Hymnal, No. 393

Precious Lord, take my hand

*Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

-- Thomas Andrew Dorsey

Many hymns are conceived in the throes of tragedy. "Precious Lord" was written in Chicago in 1932 following the death of Thomas Dorsey's wife Nettie and infant son during childbirth.

Dorsey (1899-1993) was born in Georgia. His father was a Baptist preacher, and his mother a piano teacher. Known as the "Father of Black Gospel Music," Dorsey combined African American church hymns such as those by Methodist minister, Charles A. Tindley (1851-1933), with blues and jazz. This "worldly" combination was not without controversy at first, but set the tone for gospel music for decades to come.

Born in Villa Rica, Georgia, Dorsey was reared in Atlanta from the age of five, where he came in contact with the musical sounds of the blues. He moved to Chicago in 1915 and studied at the Chicago College of Composition and Arranging and began playing in nightclubs under a variety of names as a young man, including, "Georgia Tom," "Texas Tommy" and "Barrelhouse Tom." Dorsey started to play rent parties — house parties in which tenants would hire a musician or band to play for a party and pass the hat to raise money to pay their rent. The rent party played a major role in the development of jazz and blues music.

Dorsey put together the "Wild Cats Jazz Band" to play for Ma Rainey in 1925. His wife, Nettie, was Rainey's wardrobe mistress. After suffering a severe illness in 1926, Dorsey was converted in 1928 and became active in Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago. Beginning in 1932, he served as the church's choir director for forty years. Of his 1,000 musical works, at least 200 were gospel songs. He promoted the gospel song through the formation of the National Association of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, serving as the organization's president. Black musicians during the pre-Civil Rights era often formed their own publishing companies in order to make their music available. He began the Thomas A. Dorsey Gospel Song Music Publishing Company, a publisher of inexpensive gospel blues music.

Even though he had hundreds of jazz and blues songs to his credit, he turned to gospel music, one of the first to use that term, following the tragic death of Nettie and their infant son in 1932. Dorsey provides an account of the circumstances surrounding the composition of this famous song:

"Back in 1932 I was 32 years old and a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago's Southside. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis, where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go. Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child. But a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. . . .

". . . In the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the

envelope. Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED. . . .

"When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart. For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him any more or write gospel songs. I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. . .

"But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially a friend, Professor Frye, who seemed to know what I needed. On the following Saturday evening he took me up to Malone's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows. I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys."

Dorsey remembered an old pentatonic (five-note) melody from his Sunday School days, MAITLAND (The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 424) by George Allen (1812-1877), paired with the text "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone." Arranging this tune and adding his own words, "Precious Lord" became the most famous of his many gospel songs. He gave the song to Frye who introduced it to the choir at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church the next Sunday, an event that, Dorsey later remarked, "tore up the church." Martin Luther King, Sr. was the pastor of Ebenezer at this time, beginning his ministry there in 1931.

The three stanzas capture the grief not only of Dorsey, but also of any who have suffered significant loss. The incipit or opening line of stanza one, "Precious Lord, take my hand...", indicates a suffering soul that is reaching out. The singer acknowledges that they are at the end of their rope: "I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn." Perhaps Dorsey was referring to Matthew 28:23-27, the narrative where Christ stills the storm, when he penned, "Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light."

Stanza two draws upon the imagery of a journey, one in which the "way grows drear." The traveler cries out, and once again reaches for the hand of Christ. The third stanza begins, "When the darkness appears," reminiscent of Psalm 23:4: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..."

By the time we reach the third stanza, the terrain has changed from a stormy sea (stanza one), a long road (stanza two), to a river of hope (stanza three). Upon singing, "at the river I stand," the singer reaches at last the final destination, the symbolic Jordan River. Each stanza concludes effectively with the refrain, "Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home," perhaps an image of the Good Shepherd in the Gospel of John.

"Precious Lord" has been recorded by many famous singers including Elvis Presley, Mahalia Jackson, Roy Rogers, and Tennessee Ernie Ford. Martin Luther King Jr. drew inspiration from this, his favorite song. It was sung at the rally in Memphis the night before the civil-rights leader's assassination. President Lyndon B. Johnson requested that "Precious Lord" be sung at his funeral.

Dorsey was the first African American elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Gospel Music Association's Living Hall of Fame. Fisk University houses his archives as well as those of noted musicians W.C. Handy and George Gershwin.

* © 1938 Hill & Range Songs, renewed Unichappell Music, Inc

C. Michael Hawn is University Distinguished Professor of Church Music, Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

11. THE REV. LARRY HOLLON: TECHNOLOGY AND THEOLOGY:

In a short question and answer session, the Rev. Larry Hollon, the chief executive of United Methodist Communications, speaks about the need for church involvement in providing technology to developing nations.

How do you define information and communications technological development?

The Rev. Larry Hollon: "I think any form of technology that assists people to have information that they don't have access to otherwise, such as digital technology, mobile phones, laptops,

tablets and the solar arrays that power them, are a part of the whole component of information communication technology. When you have that information you're able to develop your community; you're able to experience personal growth and development; and you're able to reach out to the wider world in a way that is not possible otherwise. So I think that it includes mobile phones. It includes laptops. It includes tablets and learning centers and other forms of digital technology."

From your travels and personal experiences, how have you observed the need for this technology in different parts of the world?

The Rev. Larry Hollon: "The example of the need for communication technology that is most emblazoned in my memory is a woman who was a health worker in Uganda in a small village whose only means of communication was word of mouth and the posting of a note on the wall of her hut, so that when people walked by, if they noticed this...this posting on her wall, they could see that the doctor would be in the clinic, where the clinic would be, what time, and the day. And in addition to having that very casual and very unlikely way of learning about this information, they also had to be able to read and they had to be able to read in the language in which she had printed the note. The need for information and communication technology in that setting is very clear and very manifest."

Can you expand on that in terms of why it's so important to the people of The United Methodist Church to be engaged with communications technology for development?

The Rev. Larry Hollon: "My theology is that God intends for every person to flourish, and that when we allow and empower people to have access to technology that allows them to get information that they can use to improve their lives, then we are fulfilling the call of God to be in the world and be a transformative presence in the world. And if the church is to be a part of increasingly intense and diverse conversation, then it must be involved in the communications systems that people are using and in the communications environments where they are comfortable, so that we are communicating to them God's intended purpose for them and providing them with the means to see their lives transformed as a result of that technology and as a result of the theology that we hold, that wants for all of us to grow and flourish and to

experience the fullness of life.

"One of the realities that we have is that we as a church often have access to people that are beyond the end of the road. They're in rural villages where major corporations don't see such a market for profit that they would actually serve these people. We can bring that technology to people at the end of the road and in the bush and equip them so that they can have access to information, and we can put the practitioners in touch with villages for community development that bring the technology and the people together in new ways that are beneficial to the community."

Hollon is a presenter at the upcoming Game Changers Summit, a conference on Information and Communications Technology for Development in Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 3-5.

For more information on the Game Changers Summit, go to www.umcom.org/global.

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12. NAACP STATEMENT ON JULY UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS:

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the monthly report on the overall employment situation. This regular report is a product of two surveys, the Establishment and Household surveys gather information on unemployment levels and job creation across a variety of occupational sectors and demographic classifications.

From Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, Sr. Director of NAACP Economic Department:

"For the first time since 1997, the economy has added 200,000 or more jobs for six straight months. The labor market is slowly recovering from the depths of the "Great Recession." The unemployment rate within the African American community is 11.4 percent, down from the 13.5 percent in June of 2013. The 2 to 1 employment disparity between African Americans and whites is not closing and appears to be a permanent part of the economy. This disparity, as well as the disparity found in Latino unemployment, must be addressed. Stronger and better quality job

creation, particularly in communities that are suffering persistently high unemployment levels, is essential before we can be on a sustainable path to economic recovery.”

Highlights:

- Overall, black unemployment was up again this month to 11.4% after a sharp drop in last month’s report; however it is still far lower than the 13.5% of June of last year.
- Black adult unemployment remains more than double white unemployment (5.3%).
- Black teen unemployment rose to 33.9%, this is less than twice as high as white teen unemployment at 18.3. White teens are far more likely to be working or looking for work, with an employment to population ratio of 29.9%. On the other hand, black teen employment to population ratio continues to decline. This month just 16.5% of black teens were working or looking for work. New data has cast doubt on the assertion that these teens are seeking refuge in school, with both the Wall Street Journal and the Economic Policy Institute noting that many black youths are neither in the workforce nor in school.
- With 209,000 jobs added this month the gains were in line with average over the past year. However, revisions to the already good numbers for last month added about 15,000 more jobs to that report.
- The biggest gainers were again the highly diverse professional and business services sector (47,000), manufacturing (28,000), retail (27,000), and construction (22,000) sectors. The black workers in these sectors are typically concentrated in non-union, low paying positions. Despite the name, the Professional and Business Services sector is comprised largely of low wage positions. These include waste removal, security, and office support.
- Health care, another highly diverse sector which often pays minority workers much more than others, added just 8,000 net jobs. This continues a trend of a slowdown in the rapid expansion of the health care sector over the last two years.

-
- The gains in employment are uneven across educational achievement groups, with college graduates approaching the unemployment levels they experienced pre-2008, while those with a high school diploma or less have far higher unemployment than they did pre-recession.
 - Wages have not increased noticeably this month, adding just a penny to reach \$24.45. We can expect wages to continue to remain stagnant as long as high unemployment remains among workers with lower levels of education. Job gains in unskilled and semi-skilled work such as retail and professional and business services will be offset by the large number of job seekers, keeping wages in check

13. WCC CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION IN IRAQ:

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has issued an urgent call to the United Nations for an immediate response to the killing of Christians and others by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militant fighters.

The call, which was sent to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, follows on the heels of an urgent appeal made by the Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon, Louis Raphael Sako, calling for assistance to Christians from the plain of Nineveh, Iraq, who are fleeing their homes and communities because of ISIS militants conducting a two-day mortar attack.

The WCC also sent a letter to its 345 member churches around the world making them aware of the situation in Nineveh and asking them not only to pray and provide emergency support for the people of Iraq and Nineveh, but to apply pressure on their governments to call for an end to the brutal aggression of ISIS.

“We are deeply disturbed by threats encountered by the ancient Christian churches and other religious and ethnic communities of northern Iraq, and by indications that hundreds of thousands of them have already fled their homes,” said Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, associate and acting general secretary of the WCC, on Thursday 7 August.

“According to the Chaldean Patriarch of Babylon, Louis Raphael Sako, there is an urgent need

for immediate action to protect these people and deploy all efforts to bring them back to their homes,” she said.

“While we are grateful for what is being done already, we appeal urgently to the United Nations to establish and maintain the necessary diplomatic contacts to ensure the rights, dignity and physical survival of the diverse peoples of Iraq and its neighbours,” Phiri said.

“We want to assure you that the people of Iraq, and the leaders of the United Nations, remain in our thoughts and prayers,” she added.

According to the letter from Patriarch Sako, which is dated 7 August, during the night of 6-7 August ISIS militants conducted a mortar assault in the region that has driven as many as one hundred thousand Christians from their homes and villages, most fleeing on foot towards the Kurdish cities of Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah.

Those fleeing include the sick, elderly, infants and pregnant women. There is an urgent need for water, food and shelter, the letter from Sako said.

The letter reports that churches and church properties in the villages were being destroyed by the ISIS militants along with the burning of old manuscripts and desecration of the buildings.

According to Joseph Thomas, the Chaldean archbishop of Kirkuk and Sulaimaniyah, who spoke with Agence France Presse (AFP), whole towns have been emptied of their populations.

The WCC encourages its member churches to support emergency appeal efforts being coordinated by the ACT Alliance, responding to the need of people affected by the conflict.

14. PRAYERS AND SOLIDARITY FOR CHURCHES IN NORTHERN IRAQ:

In an open letter of solidarity to the member churches of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Northern Iraq, Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, the WCC associate and acting general secretary, solicited prayers for the Christians, the church communities and the people on the Plain of

Nineveh in northern Iraq, as well as the surrounding region.

In a letter, issued on Thursday 7 August, Phiri acknowledged reports confirming the forced displacement and indiscriminate killing of Christians, Yazidis and members of other religious and ethnic communities in Iraq by the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Phiri communicated about the WCC's appeal to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon, when she has asked him "to ensure the physical protection of all people there and support for their human rights including the right to religious liberty". She asked the churches to continue supporting the people of Iraq in prayer and advocacy.

"Churches and property belonging to religious communities are being desecrated and destroyed by ISIS, and ancient manuscripts have been burned as an assault on the people's religious beliefs.

According to the Chaldean archbishop of Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah, Joseph Thomas, whole towns in Northern Iraq have been emptied of their populations," said Phiri.

She invited the churches to "join in prayer and unite in action to restore these shattered communities, and to aid their people."

15. FIVE BASIC TAX TIPS ABOUT HOBBIES:

Millions of people enjoy hobbies that are also a source of income. Some examples include stamp and coin collecting, craft making, and horsemanship.

You must report on your tax return the income you earn from a hobby. The rules for how you report the income and expenses depend on whether the activity is a hobby or a business. There are special rules and limits for deductions you can claim for a hobby. Here are five tax tips you should know about hobbies:

1) Is it a Business or a Hobby? A key feature of a business is that you do it to make a profit. You

often engage in a hobby for sport or recreation, not to make a profit. You should consider nine factors when you determine whether your activity is a hobby. Make sure to base your determination on all the facts and circumstances of your situation. For more about 'not-for-profit' rules see Publication 535, Business Expenses.

2) Allowable Hobby Deductions. Within certain limits, you can usually deduct ordinary and necessary hobby expenses. An ordinary expense is one that is common and accepted for the activity. A necessary expense is one that is appropriate for the activity.

3) Limits on Hobby Expenses. Generally, you can only deduct your hobby expenses up to the amount of hobby income. If your hobby expenses are more than your hobby income, you have a loss from the activity. You can't deduct the loss from your other income.

4) How to Deduct Hobby Expenses. You must itemize deductions on your tax return in order to deduct hobby expenses. Your expenses may fall into three types of deductions, and special rules apply to each type. See of Publication 535 for the rules about how you claim them on Schedule A, Itemized Deductions.

5) Use IRS Free File. Hobby rules can be complex and IRS Free File can make filing your tax return easier. IRS Free File is available until Oct. 15. If you make \$58,000 or less, you can use brand-name tax software. If you earn more, you can use Free File Fillable Forms, an electronic version of IRS paper forms. Free File is available only through the IRS.gov website.

For more on these rules see Publication 535. You can get it on IRS.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

16. THE 2014 13TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES (UPDATED):

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath

Susan J. Leath, MD, Episcopal Supervisor

September 17-21, 2014

The 147th Session of The Kentucky Annual Conference

The 134th Session The West Kentucky Annual Conference

Young's Chapel AME Church

1039 South 16th Street

Louisville, KY 40210

Telephone: 502.587-0087

The Rev. Kenneth A. Golphin, Host Pastor

The Reverend Kenneth Hill, Ph.D., Host Presiding Elder

The Reverend Robert Strode, D.Min, Co-Host Presiding Elder

September 24-28, 2014

The 114th Session

The East Tennessee Annual Conference

Shorter Chapel AME Church

402 Southwest Atlantic Street

Tullahoma, TN 37388

Telephone: 931.393-3028

The Reverend Fred Blackwell, Host Pastor

The Reverend Ralph E. Johnson, Host Presiding Elder

October 9-12

140th Session

The West Tennessee Annual Conference

St. James AME Church

600 North 4th Street

Memphis, TN 38107

The Reverend Michael D. Broadnax, Host Pastor

The Reverend C. Robert Finch, Host Presiding Elder

The Reverend Linda F. Thomas Martin, Associate Presiding Elder

October 16-19

147th Session

The Tennessee Annual Conference

Greater Ebenezer AME Church

131 Edmondson Ferry Road

Clarksville, TN 37040

Telephone: 931.648-0881

The Reverend Alexander Gatson, Host Pastor

The Reverend W. Antoni Sinkfield, Host Presiding Elder

The Reverend Walter W. Reid, Jr., Associate Presiding Elder

17. GETTING TO ZERO: EBOLA UPDATE – AUGUST 7, 2014:

Some items which you may or may not know. I appreciate insights you may have especially from people who are on the ground in West Africa who are part of what is happening.

- Liberia declared a state of emergency

- Initial cases in Nigeria are people who first took care of man who died of Ebola after traveling from Liberia by plane. They thought malaria initially. Early symptoms are similar.

- CDC activated level 1 alert for its employees. Two CDC people, an immunologists and a physician, that were invited with me to do a Twitter chat. It had to be changed because they are deployed to West Africa to help track down contacts of infected people for possible exposure.

- An article about the six Tuskegee students in Liberia is on NBC News online

- We need correct info of what it is, what to do if ill and what to do to remain unexposed to go through trained clergy and community health workers who know language, customs and are trusted by people in their urban or peri- urban or village location. AMEC networks can do.

- Major message: Touch no body fluids (those ill and alive and those who died); Monitor temperature daily for fever and headaches as the first symptoms along with feeling weak; Take

anyone with early flu- like symptoms to medical care site; Disinfect linens, worn clothes, areas of contact with Ebola patients and of bodies of the deceased - especially high in virus as tissue is destroyed from virus replication.

- Treatment given to 2 Americans is humanized antibody against Ebola attachment protein (has human Ebola reactive sites put on a mouse protein background). It is mass produced using a recombinant virus propagated in tobacco plants. A three antibody combination is then put in serum and given IV to patients. It's highly experimental in humans but is done now b/c high risk of death otherwise.

*The Rev. Dr. A. Oveta Fuller is a tenured professor in Microbiology and Immunology and faculty in the African Studies Center at the University of Michigan. An Itinerant Elder in the 4th Episcopal District, she served as pastor of Bethel AME Church in Adrian, Michigan for seven years before focusing fully on global health research in Zambia and the USA for HIV/AIDS elimination. At Payne Theological Seminary she teaches a required course, "What Effective Clergy Should Know about HIV/AIDS."

18. PENTECOST - YOU SHOW UP, AND GOD WILL SHOW OUT:

*The Reverend Daryl K. Kearney

We are in the midst of the most powerful season in the life of the church: Pentecost. It is recorded in Acts, Chapter 2 and the Message Bible states:

"When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them."

I am expecting another outpouring, another refill. When we look at the beginning of that story, it lets us know that the spirit came "without warning." Nevertheless, the followers of Christ were "together in one place." They did not know and they were not aware when the spirit was going to

fall; all they had to go on was the word from Jesus himself.

Beloved, sometimes in life, all you have is a “word.” All you have to stand on, depend upon is a “word.” As long as that word is from Jesus, you can be blessedly assured that it will come to pass, and when it happens, it will be “SUDDENLY;” without warning. I tell you the truth; I have experienced the suddenness of God. God will suddenly bless you. God will suddenly deliver you. God will suddenly heal you. Beloved, one thing about our Jesus is that he doesn’t pass out cheap blessings. He is not a “one hit wonder.” God desires something from you, if you want to experience the overflow, there is something that you must do. I think we can find that something in the B clause of verse one. The saints were “together.” They showed up! They did not stay at home, they did not have another appointment, they did not say, “I will go to church next Sunday.” The bible says, “they were together in one place.” They were on one accord. Beloved, isn’t it time for us to come together and be on one accord for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Isn’t it time for us to come together and encourage one another in this walk with Christ, instead of talking and gossiping about each other? On Sundays, can we lay aside our differences and focus on the One who makes a difference in every person’s life? Let’s do it! Because when God pours out The Spirit, mind-blowing events take place.

Get your buckets ready; prepare to drink from your saucers, clean out your barns, but most of all “show up, and god will show out!”

*The Reverend Daryl K. Kearney is the pastor of Campbell African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, DC

19. GET UP OFFA THAT THING:

*The Rev. Jarrett Washington

Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." John 5:8, ESV

This past Friday, my wife and I, decided to head to the local movie theater and catch the latest movie showing. It just so happened the highly anticipated biopic called "Get Up: The Story of

James Brown" opened that very day. The lines for the movie were long and the shows were playing in multiple theaters. As we entered the movie theater everyone seemed ready to see the life of one James Brown displayed on the big screen. As the opening song began to be sung, it felt as if we were literally at a James Brown Concert. Throughout the movie people were humming, clapping, and dancing as if the real James Brown had come to the movie theater and was giving his last and final performance.

The audience was able to watch Mr. Brown dance across the stage singing songs like, "Please, Please, Please;" he wowed the audience when he sang, "I Got the Feelin';" people started swooning when he sang, "Papas Got a Brand New Bag;" some people looked like they wanted to cut the mash potato when he sang "Get on the Good Foot;" I even saw tears when he sang the song, "Try Me." The iconic figure, James Brown, had many songs that seemed to touch the lives of people in and through the movie, but nothing seemed to make the audience move more, than when James Brown sang, "Get up offa that thing." Get up offa that thing was first released in 1976 as a two part single. It reached the top 4 on the R and B Billboard Charts. Brown says the song was inspired by a time in his life where he was performing in a club in Florida and the audience was looking at him strange, and so he began to tell them to get up offa of that thing. And here is where I felt the Spirit; for I was reminded many times God is calling you to get up offa that thing that has you bound. Get up from all the people that have hurt you. Get up from all the situations that were purposed to destroy you. Get up from everything that is trying to hold you back from being all God has called you to be.

John, chapter 5 is the very story of one of the greatest Get Up stories in the Bible. Chapter 5 teaches us by our very nature we are spiritually impotent. Many of our spirits have come to a place where they are tired and fed up with what is going on around us, yet our spirits tell us there is nothing that we can do. Spiritually impotent people get so tired of the status quo. They get tired of doing church as usual. Yet, they see no other way out. So time after time, Sunday after Sunday, they go to church and leave the same way they came. Yes, in fact, their spirits are tired, and they know there is something more for them, but they just can't convict themselves enough to move. And so they are paralyzed, have no use of their spiritual limbs, just as those gathered in the text.

In the text we learn an Angel would come down and trouble the waters almost on a daily basis. When the angel had troubled the waters those who were sick, blind, lame, and in need of healing would wait to be the first one in the pool. Tradition has it that the person who was first in the pool would be healed. It was almost a lottery of sorts because everyone at the pool was taking a chance with how they were going to get up! Well one day Jesus was passing through this area called Bethesda, interpreted as "The House of Mercy." The biblical text says, Jesus looks at the pool, in the Greek, *kolumbethia*, and sees the weak, the helpless, the sick and the people who need to get up offa that thing. And for some reason, not given by the author of the text, Jesus singles out the helpless man who had been suffering for 38 years without use of his limbs.

Jesus turns to the man, and says, 'get up, take up your bed and walk.' I want to speak to your spirit right now and tell you that it's time out for you seeking what you need on the outside, and begin to look within yourself. Your bed then is no longer your place of failure; it is your place of departure. The very place you were demoted can still be the place of your promotion. You ought to believe everything you went through, year after year, month after month, or even day after day, was for God's glory. Jesus never responds to the man's complaints, but rather, Jesus says to the man, Get Up! This man was not to go in the pool, but all he had to do, was get up take his bed and walk. Undoubtedly, Jesus was not trying to make a spectacle for He knew his enemies were plotting against him and anything He did on the Sabbath was subject to questions of protocol.

Decide today you are going to simply "get up." Take the first step towards the place God has for you. The story of this man in John 5 teaches the reader there is no rhyme or reason to your healing. What others have prescribed as the "only way" means nothing to God. God can do what God wants to do when God wants to do it. Get up and have a good day!

Have an amazing week,

*The Rev. Jarrett Washington is the pastor of the New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in the suburb of Red Top of greater Johns Island, South Carolina

20. THE TRUTH IS THE LIGHT

By: Reverend Dr. Charles R. Watkins, Jr.

Based on Biblical Text: Revelation 21:1-6: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

This text is about a glorious Revelation! We are encouraged that the wonderful God we serve is going to destroy Satan and all the ungodliness and evil of this world. Hallelujah, all things will become new as God is going to create a new heaven and a new earth. When God does that we are promised there will be no more tears, sorrow, crying, pain and no more death.

Our text describes for us what this new world will be like. It actually, like a movie trailer, previews for us what is to come. We are let in on the news that things will be different as the heaven and earth that we know are going to pass away. The heavens above, the sun, moon, stars, and planets are going to be destroyed and remade. Can you imagine the implications? God is going to make a new heaven and there will be no more ferocious thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, or other devastating weather patterns. What a new and glorious picture the heavens will present as we look up to a star filled night when God recreates with all the glory and magnificence a perfect universe. Everything will reflect the glory and splendor of God Himself. This will be a new and perfect place where nothing wears down, wastes away, burns out or dies

off.

Excuse me if I seem to be over the top imagining this spectacular perfectness as for many it may seem incomprehensible. However that does not change the fact that this defective earth is going to pass away. The day is coming when God is going to create a new earth where there are no more disasters or destruction. The new earth perfected by God in every conceivable way will flourish and be fruitful; bearing all the good that can be imagined.

In this perfect order there will no longer be a chasm between God and man or division between Glory and earth. The text reveals that “there was no more sea.”

This may seem beyond comprehension, however it is exactly what the Scripture declares is going to happen. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation [behavior] and godliness? (2 Peter 3:10-11).

Revelation promises that there will be a new city of God, the holy city, the place where the very presence of God is symbolized. God’s presence, of course, will be manifested in all of His glory and majesty everywhere in the new heavens and earth, but the holy city gives believers a place with which to identify as they serve God throughout the universe. In the heavenly city will be the tabernacle, where the very presence of God comes down to dwell with man, the place where Jesus Christ will rule the universe and require us, His believers to occasionally visit and report on our work.

Those who are saved, long for the presence of God and long for the glory and fullness of a life with God.

Unfortunately, there are some among us who have yet to discover that their hearts long for God. Some still blindly try to fill their longing with all sorts of worldly pleasures and possessions, but they continue to discover that nothing satisfies them for long.

The truth is that nothing will satisfy except God's presence and glory.

When we give our lives to God, we begin to fellowship with God and to experience all the fullness of life.

I know I am over the top again. I just can't help it as I think of how wonderful it will be that we will never be without the presence and glory of God!

We will be able to talk and share with God face to face. We will be in perfect position to fellowship and commune with God.

I must point out at this juncture that God is specific about who the people of His new heavens and earth will be and who they will not be. Unfortunately everyone will not live in the new heaven and earth as lamentably, not all of humankind will be acceptable to God. However through His Grace and Mercy, God shows us how to insure that we are acceptable. He says that He will give the water of life to all those who thirst. The person God will give the Water of Life to will be the one who seeks the fullness of life that is in God.

It is my prayer that I have encouraged someone to be counted among the faithful; to be counted as a conqueror and an overcomer, forgiven through God's mercy, redeemed by His blood, quickened by His Spirit, and transformed by His power!

Will you be counted as one of those who has confessed, repented and accepted the gift of God's Only Begotten Son, as one of those who believes and thirsts, a resident of the new heavens and earth?

The Reverend Dr. Charles R. Watkins, Jr., is the pastor of Morris Brown A.M.E. Church in Charleston, S.C.

**THE REV. KATURAH COOPER DISCUSSES EBOLA SCARE AT THE WIM 2014
QUADRENNIAL CONFERENCE:**

Liberian pastor, the Rev. Katurah Cooper discusses Ebola scare and was interviewed while attending the 2014 Quadrennial Conference in Charleston, South Carolina:

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/26227274/liberian-pastor-discusses-ebola-scare#.U-QiD8hDhqs.facebook>

21. GETTING TO ZERO: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 2014 WEST AFRICA EBOLA VIRUS EPIDEMIC:

*Dr. Oveta Fuller

Major developments this week

- Both Sierra Leone and Liberia have declared a state of emergency. The military is deployed to enforce limited entry and exit into areas that are most highly affected.

- Ebola virus infection has been confirmed in Nigeria.

. The initial five Ebola cases in this country are among health care personnel who first cared for a man who died of Ebola after travel by plane to Lagos, Nigeria from Liberia. Health personnel initially thought he had malaria which is transmitted only by mosquitoes and not from person to person. Early symptoms of Ebola virus disease and malaria are similar.

- For its employees, CDC has activated the highest Alert - Level 1.

- This differs from the CDC Travel Alert Level 3 of "No Non-essential Travel" in affected areas. The travel industry decides how to apply such a travel alert to their flight and transport services.

- The CDC activation Level 1 affects federal employees.

- As an example, two CDC personnel- an immunologist and a physician, and I were invited this week by a media source to do a Twitter "chat" about the West African epidemic. This had to be

rescheduled due to deployment of the two colleagues to West Africa to help with tracing contacts of infected people. Tracking such contacts for possible Ebola virus exposure is a central part of reducing spread for infection containment.

- An NBC News online article reports the challenge faced by six Tuskegee students who are at AME University in Liberia for the summer. Despite limited service by airlines to the affected countries, with assistance from Bishop Clement Fugh, a travel route home to the USA for these students has been worked out. www.nbcnews.com/storyline/ebola-virus-outbreak/stranded-u-s-students-set-leave-ebola-stricken-liberia-n174056

The worse ever Ebola virus outbreak

- According to official reports as of August 6, 2014, the number of Ebola virus disease suspected and confirmed cases total 1711 with suspected case deaths at 983. These numbers will rise even as control efforts are at the highest levels. www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/index.html

- Strategic containment measures as those from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the West Africa governments HAVE been successful in stopping ALL previous Ebola outbreaks.

- In an isolation, support and containment strategy there is high loss of life. Those infected in the isolated area either die or recover from disease while others in the area are able to avoid infection. To reduce loss of life, as possible isolation, support and containment methods are critical.

What each person should understand

- Get an understanding of what Ebola hemorrhagic disease looks like; what to do if someone feels ill; what to do to avoid exposure to the virus. Understand that this is a contagious frequently fatal disease.

- In the affected countries, medical science-based training is critical for clergy and community health workers who know the language, customs and the local terrain. This empowers people to serve as trusted messengers in the urban, peri-urban or village locations.

- Correct understanding is needed both in areas where Ebola virus is present and in areas not yet affected.

- The global AMEC networks can be effective locally on the ground in communities of West African countries, and helpful from afar through financial and prayer supports.

Major prevention and care messages for those in affected countries

- Do NOT touch or contact body fluids (of those who are ill and of those who died).

- If you are, or have been, in the affected area, daily monitor body temperature for fever. Note sustained headaches or feelings of weakness as these are the first symptoms of Ebola infection and disease.

- Get any person with sustained early flu-like symptoms (continuing and escalating for more than 24-36 hrs) to a medical care site, or notify others and the closest health personnel of illness.

- Disinfect linens, clothes worn and areas that come in contact with Ebola patients.

- Do not touch bodies of dead persons or animals. Tissue and secretions of those who die of Ebola hemorrhagic disease are especially high in virus from tissue that is destroyed in virus replication.

Experimental treatment for two Americans who contracted Ebola virus disease

- Two American volunteers working in West African have been moved to the USA for supportive medical care.

-
- They are being treated experimentally using intravenous (IV) doses of serum that contains humanized antibody against Ebola attachment protein. Supplemented antibody in the experimental serum contains human antibodies that recognize reactive sites on a key attachment protein of Ebola virus. Scientists engineered these sites onto a mouse protein background.
 - The engineered antibodies are mass produced by infecting laboratory cultivated tobacco plants (as factories) with a recombinant plant virus. The goal is to propagate the virus to amplify production of humanized antibody.
 - A combination of three different humanized antibodies that specifically target Ebola virus attachment protein (binds the virus to cells to start infection) is placed in serum (the clear part of blood) and given intravenously to the infected patients.
 - This serum treatment for Ebola has only been explored previously in animal models. As a highly experimental treatment not yet tested in humans, it is allowable because of the high risk of death otherwise from Ebola virus disease.

The 2014 West African Ebola epidemic as uncharted territory

- While WHO/CDC isolation and containment have proven effective for ALL previous outbreaks, all previous outbreaks occurred in rural communities of one country.
- The current uncontained epidemic in West Africa includes rural AND highly populated urban areas.
- Unlike in the US or other developed countries, the West African countries affected have relatively poor or undeveloped medical care infrastructure.
- Norms in many West African cultures (particularly in more rural areas) can complicate control of Ebola virus. Addressing illness and death first through demonstrated presence and support by family or community is traditional and expected. Such is not unlike prevalent practices in the

USA before there were modern medical care facilities, funeral homes and mortician services.

- These factors combined can be thought of as a “perfect storm” that fuels spread of the largest ever Ebola virus outbreak.

Some common social norms unite people all over the world

- We hurt and grieve when loved ones die or are sick. We want to support an individual, family or community when there is a difficult situation. We want to show respect and compassion during an illness or death.

- These universal human characteristics are found in widely different cultures and geographical locations. They are counter to what is critical to stop Ebola virus infections.

- Activating the extensive global AME Church networks and working with our Methodist and other ministerial alliances can make a key difference in getting control of Ebola virus spread in the 2014 epidemic.

- We pray for wisdom of leaders and official and for peace, protection and provision for people in affected communities.

- We can work actively to increase understanding of correct information and help to increase peace of mind during this health crisis.

Take-home messages

- Given the biological challenges, the people of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia are working amazingly well to handle this Ebola virus crisis using the available resources and information that they can easily access.

- Continue in prayer as we seek to follow known guidelines for Ebola containment, establish new guidelines from lesson learned and, as possible, minimize rumors, misconceptions and undue

fear.

- For those who are ill or who already have lost loved ones to the 2014 Ebola epidemic, in the midst of grief we pray for sufficient resources, support and comfort.

- We remember and stand on the promise that "Nothing is impossible for God." Expect miracles!

*The Rev. Dr. A. Oveta Fuller is an Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Faculty of the African Studies Center at the University of Michigan and Adjunct Faculty at Payne Theological Seminary. An Itinerant Elder in the 4th Episcopal District, she conducts HIV/AIDS prevention research in Zambia and the USA. She lived in Zambia for most of 2013 as a J. William Fulbright Scholar.

22. iCHURCH SCHOOL LESSON BRIEF FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2014 - FORGIVENESS & RESTORATION II CORINTHIANS 1:23 – 2:17:

Bill Dickens, Allen AME Church, Tacoma, Washington

A popular expression in contemporary culture is: "Forgive, but do not forget."

Should a formal apology about the inhumane treatment of African descendants during the trans-Atlantic slave trade warrant forgetting about that crime to humanity?

Should an ex-supporter of Hitler's SS Legion of doom, who offers a *mea culpa* about participating in the Holocaust, imply we no longer remember the atrocities against the Jews prior to and during WW II?

Forgiveness is a difficult topic and there are no easy "cookie-cutter" answers.

The essential question for Christians is why should we forgive?

Upon initial investigation, the act of forgiving seems counter-intuitive, if not illogical. Does the

person who has intentionally caused harm and grief merit our comfort and support? Sure, right! The average person would dismiss this action and reciprocate in kind by granting him/her a “dose of his or her own medicine.”

The Adult AME Church School lesson for August 10, 2014 looks at how we tackle the difficult issue of forgiveness. Paul’s Godly-inspired instruction may come as a surprise to many. Let’s see how.

Paul’s second letter to the church at Corinth was penned due to his delayed re-visit to the city. In the first epistle to Corinth Paul confronted many issues that caused the young congregation much pain in their early church-growth phase. Paul addressed the problems of glossolalia, the protocol for celebrating Holy Communion and the moral scandal caused by a church member who was involved in an illicit affair with his step-mother (I Corinthians, Chapter 5).

Paul’s second epistle seeks to teach the importance of forgiveness and most importantly, why we should forgive. The philandering young man in question was unanimously voted out of the young Corinthian church (sounds familiar today?) in order to preserve the integrity and personal accountability of the new believers. Now Paul, who supported temporary expulsion of the member, reasons in Chapter 2 that the individual should be brought back into the congregation. Many of Paul’s readers were already upset with his delayed visit and this appeal, given the salacious scandal, was a bit much for some to bear. Paul uses their attitude for a teaching moment.

We forgive, not to make ourselves feel good, but we forgive because this action can benefit the perpetrator. Forgiveness is important because it can bring about healing and reconciliation or restoration. Failure to forgive sends a signal that holding grudges take precedence over holding the Cross of Christ. Since Christ forgave us, ipso facto, we should be ready to forgive equally to those who have caused us grief and harm.

The capacity to forgive requires spiritual maturity. This is why looking for an easy forgiveness template is pointless. We should instead look to the Holy Spirit for strength, comfort and

direction.

Over our life cycle we will be victims of cruelty, hurt and disappointment. No one is immune from these outcomes. What separates Christians from others is how we respond to the events that cause us pain and discomfort. We can choose revenge or we can forgive and move on thereby helping ourselves and the person guilty of inflicting pain.

Deuteronomy 32:35 teaches us God's assurance, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." In other words, God alone judges and makes right all wrongful acts.

Do we believe or reject this Biblical truth? The ball is now "in your court!"

*Brother Bill Dickens is currently the Church School Teacher at Allen AME Church in Tacoma, Washington. He is currently a member of the Fellowship of Church Educators for the AME Church

23. MEDITATION BASED ON PSALM 150:

*The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Darby

I'm writing this Meditation on the week before the six Annual Conferences in the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church begin. Annual Conferences are week-long events, with a week between each one in most of our Episcopal Districts - thankfully! Those present will worship and hear pastors' reports, Conference organizations will play official roles, there'll be business sessions and learning opportunities, new clergy will be admitted and ordained, and clergy will receive their pastoral appointments for the year to come.

All of those things happen at most Annual Conferences in the Methodist tradition, but every Conference begins with worship, and the first hymn sung will be one written in 1749 by Charles Wesley that begins with the words, "And are we yet alive and see each other's face? Glory and praise to Jesus give for His Redeeming Grace!" We'll do a lot of things in Annual Conference, but we'll first reflect on the way that God has blessed us through another year of ups and downs

and initiate the week's activities by praising the Lord.

Regardless of your faith tradition or of how you relate to the Creator, learn from that Methodist tradition and begin each day of your life by giving glory and praise to the Lord. It's easy for all of us, in a fast-paced and demanding world, to push praising God far down on our priority lists and to give our primary attention to the concerns that press on us and hold the potential to be problems if we don't immediately tackle them.

When we begin each day, however, by going to God in prayer - not only with a list of our pressing needs, but also with an initial word of thanks for what God has already done, our days will have a new rhythm and a new pace. Giving thanks to God before seeking God's assistance with what lies ahead allows us to consider the blessings that God has already given us and to be reminded that regardless of what we have to face, God has new blessings in store for us.

Give attention to all that lies before you - we have to do that - but our work will be easier and our way will be clearer when we begin each day in the spirit of the song by the Reverend Clay Evans that says, "You ought to take the time out to praise the Lord."

This Meditation is also available on the Beaufort District's Website: www.beaufortdistrict.org

On Facebook at: www.facebook.com/BeaufortDistrictAMEC

Get Ready for Sunday, and have a great day in your house of worship!

*The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Darby is the Presiding Elder of the Beaufort District of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

24. EPISCOPAL FAMILY BEREAVEMENT NOTICE:

We are saddened to announce the passing of Phyllis Snow Talbot, first cousin of Bishop Frederick Hilborn Talbot

Phyllis Snow Talbot, 91, died on August 3rd at her home in Commerce, Texas. She was a native of Powhatan, Virginia and the widow of the late Dr. David Arlington Talbot, eldest son of the late Reverend and Mrs. D. Patterson Talbot of British Guiana, now Guyana and the first cousin of Frederick Hilborn Talbot. She and David (Arlie), an honor graduate of Morris Brown College, were married in 1946 soon after his stint in the U.S. Army, retiring as a sergeant. They moved from New York to North Little Rock, Arkansas where Arlie served as Head of the English Department at Shorter College. Phyllis, an honor graduate of St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia also served as Librarian. They served at Arkansas AM&N in Pine Bluff and later at East Texas State University in Commerce where Arlie served as the first Black Vice President. He was also an ordained elder in the A.M.E. Church. She is survived by her sons: David A. Jr, Esq. (Sandra) of Austin, Texas, James P. (Cassandra) of Trophy Club, Texas and Eric, her caregiver at Commerce, Texas, three grandchildren, four great grandchildren, two sisters in Virginia and a Sister in-law in Waco and other relatives. She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church. Her funeral service will take place on Saturday, August 9th at 3:30 p.m. at the church located at 1709 Highway 50 in Commerce.

Expressions of sympathy may be emailed to:

Bishop Frederick Hilborn Talbot
92-B Smithfield
Frederiksted, VI 00840

Email: FHTalbot@comcast.net

25. CLERGY FAMILY BEREAVEMENT NOTICE:

We regret to announce the passing of Mrs. Clarissa Miriam Jacqueline Woolridge (Davis), on July 27, 2014. She was mother of Brother Edward Woolridge, First Gentleman of the Bermuda Conference, former M-SWAWO and Conn-M-SWAWO + PK's First Gentleman, and mother-in-law of the Rev. Betty L. Furbert-Woolridge, Presiding Elder and pastor of St. Philip AME Church, Smith's Parish Bermuda.

The following information has been provided regarding funeral arrangements.

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Viewing - 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

D.H. Augustus & Sons Funeral Home
Corner of Brunswick and Elliott Streets
Hamilton, Bermuda

Telephone: 1-441-292-5251

Fax: 1-441-295-5285

Email: afh@link.bm

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Viewing - 1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. and
Funeral - 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Christ Anglican Church Devonshire
Middle Road, Devonshire, Bermuda

Telephone: 1-441-236 3671

Fax: 1-441-232-0232

Email: christchurch@northrock.bm

The Rev. Canon James Frances

Eulogist: Presiding Elder Rev. Betty L. Furbert-Woolridge

Expressions of Sympathy can be sent to:

The Family of Mrs. Clarissa Miriam Jacqueline Woolridge (Davis)
Mr. Edward Woolridge
100 Harrington Sound Road
Smith's HS01, Bermuda

Telephone: 1-441 294-0194

Email: revbetty@northrock.bm

26. CLERGY FAMILY BEREAVEMENT NOTICE:

The Third Episcopal District sadly announces the passing of The Reverend Kay Frazier, Local Elder. Rev. Kay Frazier served for a short while as supply pastor at Bethel, Monongahela, PA. Rev. Kay Frazier was the wife of the late Rev. John Frazier, Itinerant Elder in the Third Episcopal District who served several churches in the Pittsburgh Conference, including First AME Church in Clairton, PA, Wayman AME, New Brighton, PA and St. Paul AME, Pittsburgh, PA. Rev. Kay Frazier is the mother of Rev. Rhonda Frazier Higgins, pastor of Wayman AME in Monessen, PA and mother-in-law of Rev. John Higgins, supply pastor at St. Paul, West Newton, PA.

Home-going arrangements are as follows:

Saturday, August 9, 2014

Viewing at 11:00 a.m. until time of service

Service at 12:00 noon

St. Paul A.M.E. Church

1800 East Tuscarawas Street

Canton, OH 44707

Final Services entrusted to:

Reed Funeral Home Canton Chapel

705 Raff Rd., S.W.

Canton, OH 44710
330-477-6721

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:
Rev. Rhonda Higgins
337 Kennedy Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Or to the Funeral Home (address above).

Interment:
Sandy Valley Cemetery
Waynesburg, OH

**27. CLERGY FAMILY BEREAVEMENT NOTICES AND CONGRATULATORY
ANNOUNCEMENTS PROVIDED BY:**

Ora L. Easley, Administrator
AMEC Clergy Family Information Center
Email: Amespouses1@bellsouth.net
Web page: <http://www.amecfic.org/>
Telephone: (615) 837-9736 (H)
Telephone: (615) 833-6936 (O)
Cell: (615) 403-7751

Blog: <http://ameccfic.blogspot.com/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/AMEC_CFIC

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-AME-Church-Clergy-Family-Information-Center/167202414220>

28. CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FROM THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER:

The Chair of the Commission on Publications, the Right Reverend T. Larry Kirkland; the Publisher, the Reverend Dr. Johnny Barbour and the Editor of The Christian Recorder, the Reverend Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor III offer our condolences and prayers to those who have lost loved ones. We pray that the peace of Christ will be with you during this time of your bereavement.

Did someone you know pass this copy of The Christian Recorder to you? Get your own copy HERE: <http://www.the-christian-recorder.org/>

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<http://www.the-christian-recorder.org/>

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