

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
THE TWELFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



# FOUNDER'S DAY

*Legendary, Legacy, and Leadership*

*"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." Hebrews 13:7 NIV*

FEBRUARY 8-9, 2024

**BETHEL AME CHURCH**

600 N. Cedar Street | North Little Rock, AR 72114

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Bishop  
Mrs. Cordelia Mitchell, Episcopal Supervisor

The Reverend Dr. Tyrone A. Broomfield  
Host Pastor and Presiding Elder

The Reverend Dr. Reginald Cleaver, Sr.  
Associate Presiding Elder

The Reverend Dr. Truman Tolefree  
Associate Presiding Elder

The Reverend Dr. O. Jerome Green  
President, Shorter College



# The Bishop's Word

As we gather for Founder's Day 2024, Supervisor Cordelia and I give praise to our God for all He has done and is doing in the lives of the entire constituency of the 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District. We certainly take this opportunity to welcome our special guest, Bishop Silvester Scott Beaman, the 139<sup>th</sup> elected and consecrated Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church to serve as our Opening Worship Service preacher. As we celebrate our rich heritage of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, we are so grateful for those who have paved the way for us to be able to worship our God under our own vine and fig tree.

Bishop Richard Allen was a unique and special kind of man. Chosen by God to lead our people to a place of unity and peace, while yet forging a path of equality and respect. That mantle has been passed down through the years as the church has grown. But even today, in 2024, we are yet working to maintain and even broaden those same aspects of decent human existence. We must continue to draw on Richard Allen's wisdom and strength, through Jesus Christ, to continue to hold up the banner of faith, stand on the promises of God and fight the good fight until the battle is over and the victory is won.

As we stand facing the dawn of another Founder's Day celebration, we look back with pride. We look back with hearts that are filled with awe as we reflect on the *stony roads we have trod*. The road that has brought us from 1787 to this present day. Our beloved Zion, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was planted deep in the soil of social justice. Our mere existence is a testament to a radical response in protest of racial discrimination and the horrific effects of slavery on people of the African diaspora.

As you go to your prayer room, I ask that you reflect on what Founder's Day means to you. Let it not just be another perfunctory celebration and recitation of our abridged history. Instead, I encourage you to *have a little talk with Jesus*. Ask Him to reveal to you what—YOU can do to carry on the legacy of our Founder.

Let us always remember, the lineage of the African Methodist Episcopal church is a great one. We have an awesome cloud of witnesses cheering us on. Let us not grow weary in completing the task at hand; the mission of the Twelfth Episcopal District:

“Called to Serve:

Lifting Christ, Loving People and Leading the Church through Evangelism.”

*Bishop Michael & Supervisor Cordelia Mitchell*



# **FOUNDER'S DAY**

## **Schedule and Agenda**



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

**4:30 P.M.**

*Bishop and Presiding Elders' Meeting*  
*12<sup>th</sup> District Headquarters*

**6:00 P.M.**

**OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

Bishop Silvester Beaman, Preaching



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024**

**8:30 A.M.**

General Conference Delegates/Alternates

**9:30 A.M.**

**GENERAL PLENARY SESSION**

**10:15 – 11:30 A.M.**

**FOUNDER'S DAY SYMPOSIUM/RICHARD ALLEN LECTURE SERIES**

*"Legendary, Legacy and Leadership"*

Reverend Charlene Boone, Presenter

**12:00 P.M.**

**CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE**

Presiding Elder Truman Tolefree, Preaching

**2:00 P.M.**

**SHORTER COLLEGE TECHNOLOGY HUB GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY**

Rock Island Railroad

**6:00 P.M.**

*Shorter College Gala*

# *The Right Reverend Dr. Silvester Scott Beaman*

**THE REVEREND DR. SILVESTER SCOTT BEAMAN** is a native of Niagara Falls, New York. He is a B.S. graduate of Wilberforce University and a Master of Divinity graduate of Boston University. He was awarded the Doctor of Divinity Degree for Meritorious Achievement in Christian Ministry and Public Service by Richard Wright Theological Seminary in Evanston, South Africa. In June 2012, he was the first to receive a Doctor of Ministry degree from Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, Ohio, and Bakke Graduate University, Seattle, Washington joint seminary program.

Dr. Beaman's pastoral career began at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Lackawanna, New York, in 1985. In 1986, he was appointed to the historic St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Hamilton, Bermuda. During his administration at St. Paul, the church's 1.3-million-dollar debt was reduced significantly, new ministries were created, youth programming was further developed and the Fairhaven Christian Drug Rehabilitation live-in program for women was built. On May 30, 1993, he was appointed to Bethel A.M.E. Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Since that time, he has taken in over 2,700 new members.

Under his administration, extensive renovations to the church were completed including, sanctuary technology which was upgraded as part of a \$500,000 renovation program. Over 50 new ministries, such as the AIDS Task Force, men's & women's ministries, mentoring programs for youth, senior citizen ministries, youth suicide crisis prevention, and a community evangelism outreach program were established. Since 2001, the Beautiful Gate Outreach Center, a full-service HIV/AIDS testing, medical, outreach, and educational program, has been serving the community, assisting thousands of Delawareans annually on the site of Bethel.

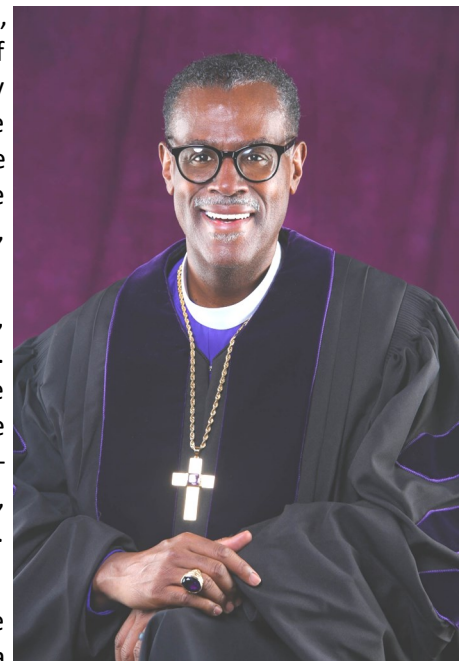
Dr. Beaman has served as the Director on numerous community and national boards, organizations, governmental task forces, and commissions. He is the past President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Action Council of Wilmington, Delaware. He has been inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He is also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Prince Hall Mason Star of the East Lodge #1. During his farewell as the Pastor of Bethel AME Church, Wilmington, Delaware, Governor John Carney awarded Dr. Beaman with the highest honor as a Delaware citizen, with the "First Order of the State Award." He is one of a few clergy persons in the nation who has offered prayer in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Dr. Beaman was honored to be asked by President Joseph Biden to offer the benediction at the January 20, 2021, Presidential Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. The Beaman and Biden families have been friends for close to thirty years.

On July 11, 2021, during the General Conference, Dr. Beaman was elected and consecrated as the 139th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Orlando, Florida. He has been assigned to serve the 15th AME Episcopal District (Namibia, Angola, Boland, Eastern Cape, Queenstown, Cape, and Kalahari Annual Conferences) of South Africa.

On September 26, 2023, President Biden announced the establishment of a 12-member President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement in the United States and named Bishop Beaman as the Council Chair.

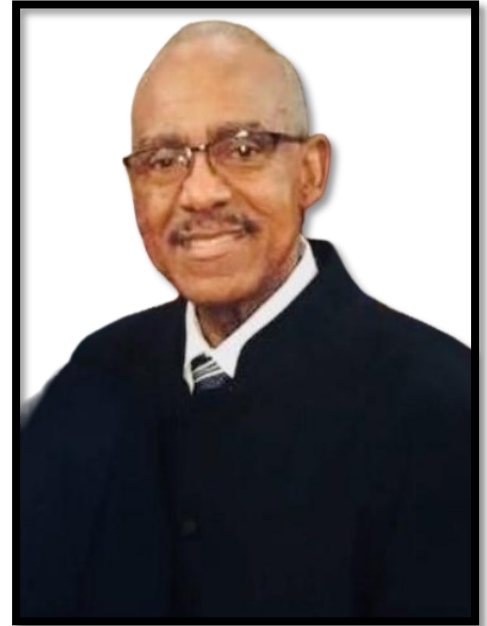
He is married to his childhood sweetheart and best friend, Renée Palmore Beaman, RN. Renée currently serves as the Governor-appointed Director of the Delaware Division of State Service Centers, which oversees Delaware's fifteen State Service Centers, the State Office of Volunteerism, and the Office of Community Services. They are the blessed parents of two adult daughters, Asaiah (Gregory Fisher) and Kori (Walter Cheatham), and four grandchildren, Maliah, Gabriella, Gregory Mason, and Kai.



## *Presiding Elder Truman Tolefree*

**THE REVEREND TRUMAN TOLEFREE** was born and raised in Warren, Arkansas. He is the youngest of 11 children born to Howard and Annie Mae Tolefree

Upon graduation from college, Rev. Tolefree was employed as a schoolteacher in the Eudora, Arkansas Special School District from 1972-1973. In 1973, he married his childhood sweetheart, the former Bettie Ann Davis, also of Warren. In 1975, he was employed by the City of Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department, where he worked his way up through the ranks to the position of Assistant Director. In 1990, Rev. Tolefree answered the call to ministry as a preacher of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In 1993 he was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and in 1995 he was ordained an Itinerant Elder. From 1992 – 1995, he served as the pastor of Sherman Chapel AME Church (Keo, Arkansas.) and St Luke AME Church (Hensley, Arkansas). Tolefree left Little Rock in 1995 and moved to Atlanta, Georgia to enroll at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) to pursue a Master of Divinity Degree and also serve as the Deputy Director of the City of Atlanta’s Bureau of Recreation. In 2000, he was named Director of the City of Atlanta Bureau of Recreation. While in Atlanta, he joined St. Philip AME Church under the pastorate of Reverend George Moore. In 2000, he received his Broadcast and Air shifter Certification and went on to serve as the on-air broadcaster for the “Good Time Gospel Hour” radio program which aired on WRFG 89.3 FM, until his return to Little Rock.



In April of 2006, Tolefree returned home to Little Rock, Arkansas to serve as the Director of Little Rock’s Parks and Recreation Department where he was responsible for the management and oversight of more than 300 full and part time employees with an annual operating budget of 13 million dollars and a 17-million-dollar capital improvement budget. In 2008, Rev. Tolefree was appointed pastor of the Rison Circuit where he served for three years as pastor of St. James AME Church (Rison, Arkansas) and Bethel AME Church (Fordyce, Arkansas). In 2011, he was appointed the pastor of Bethel AME Church (Bigelow, Arkansas), where he was blessed by God to be able to construct a completely new worship facility from the ground up. In 2015, Rev. Tolefree was appointed as pastor of the Pilgrim Rest A.M.E. Church in Monticello, Arkansas. Rev. Tolefree retired from the City of Little Rock in June 2017. In November of 2017, he was appointed pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, and in February 2022, he was appointed Presiding Elder of the Arkansas Annual Conference Little Rock District.

Rev. Tolefree graduated from Bradley County High School and later matriculated at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, where he graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree.

Rev. Tolefree is a graduate of North Carolina State University Revenue Sources Management School. He is a graduate of Leadership Greater Little Rock, and a member of the National Recreation and Parks Association, Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association and the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. Tolefree is an NRPA professional who has served on several municipal, state and national committees and panels that have helped to create and implement national Parks and Recreation industry standards and best practices. He has received several awards, commendations and formerly served as a member on the Governor’s Commission on Outdoor Recreation

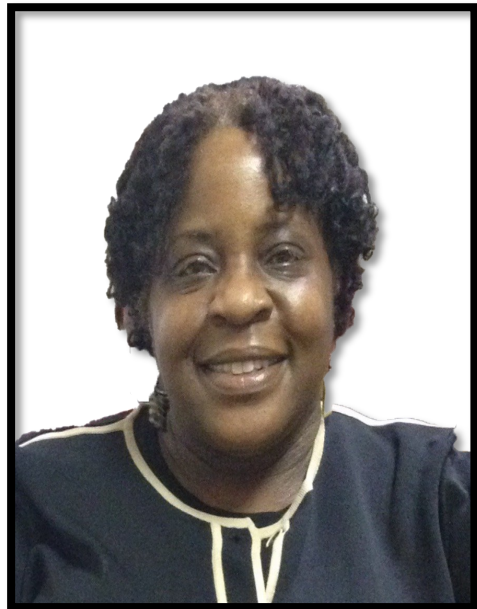
Rev. Tolefree’s favorite scripture is Ephesians 6:12. His highest priority in life: To preach and teach the Gospel of His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His highest objective: To live the abundant life of the Kingdom of God. His favorite hobbies are writing and playing guitar. In 1985, he wrote and recorded the song “Arkansas Will Always Be My Home” in honor of Arkansas’s Sesquicentennial celebration (150 years of statehood).

Reverends Truman and Bettie (who currently serves as the pastor of Quinn Chapel AMEC, Little Rock, Ar.) have been married for 50 years and currently reside in Little Rock, Arkansas. They have two grown children, Shannon Dionne, (Houston, Texas) and Truman Nicholas (Erin) (Rochester, New York). Four wonderful grandsons: Jordan, Chase, (Atlanta, Ga.) Truman Eric, and Nicholas Alexander (New York), and one beautiful, adorable granddaughter, Claire Marie. His grandchildren affectionately refer to him as “DeeDa”.

## *The Reverend Charlene N. Boone*

Reverend Charlene N. Boone was born and reared in Harford County, Maryland to the late Charlie and Thelma Smith. Reverend Charlene has two adult children: Taryn C. Boone and Dr. Kyle N. Boone (Aisha). She is the proud (YaYa) grandmother of Kyrynn Nicea and Riley Nasir. Reverend Charlene's Fur baby is Jynjer Snap. She is a graduate of Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia; Bowie State University, Bowie, Maryland; St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland and Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee. Reverend Charlene is currently a DMin candidate in Spiritual Formation at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA.

Reverend Charlene was licensed to preach in February 1983 at St. James A.M.E. Church, Havre de Grace, Maryland. She was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in 1986 at the Baltimore Annual Conference by Bishop John Hurst Adams and ordained an Itinerant Elder in 1988 at the East Tennessee Annual Conference by Bishop Cornelius E. Thomas.



Reverend Charlene began her pastoral career in 1986, serving A.M.E. churches in Tennessee and Kentucky. She was appointed by Bishop H. Hartford Brookins to Historic Warren Chapel in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1998. According to the A.M.E. Historiographer, Dr. Dennis Dickerson, Reverend Boone became the first woman to Pastor a 1st church in the Annual Conference Connection. In 2014, she transferred to the 12th Episcopal District by Bishop Samuel L. Green and was assigned to Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. In 2017, Bishop Michael Mitchell transferred and appointed Reverend Charlene to the Historic Visitors Chapel, Hot Springs, AR.

She has served as a delegate to the General Conference since 1996. Previously, Reverend Charlene has had the honor of being Chair/Dean of the Board of Examiners and currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Examiners for the 12th Episcopal District.

She also has served as a member of the Annual Conference Trustee Board, former President of Women in Ministry, 13th District, and former Treasurer of the Annual Conference, 13th Episcopal District. Under the tutelage of Dr. George Champion, she was a Regional Director and subsequent Dean of the Department of Worship and Evangelism of the A.M.E. Church under Dr. James Wade. She has had the honor of preaching and teaching in various venues throughout the United States.

Reverend Charlene is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, the NAACP, Hot Springs Agape Ministerial Alliance, and the Hot Springs Clergy Fellowship. She has served as an Adjunct-Instructor at Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee, where she taught Old and New Testament Studies and Christian Thought, being the first African American female to teach in the Biblical studies department. She currently serves as an Instructor and Coordinator for the BA Completion program at Jackson Theological Seminary in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Reverend Charlene loves to cook, make jewelry, read, and study the Word of God. She believes God is able to do way more than we can ask or think if we continually look to the hills from where our "Help Comes From." Habakkuk 3:19 says the LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon my high places." is her motivational scripture for the past 40 years of ministry.

# Opening Worship Service

Thursday, February 8, 2024

6:00 P.M.

The Reverend Dr. Reginald Cleaver, Sr., Worship Leader  
Presiding Elder, Little Rock/Jonesboro District

## THE PRAISE SERVICE

### WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH

*We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord;  
Trusting in His Holy Word, He's never failed me yet.*

*Oh, oh --, oh -- can't turn around --*

*We've come this far by faith.*

*Don't be discouraged, when trouble's in your life.*

*He'll bear your burdens, and move all misery and strife.*

*Thank God we've...*

*Just the other day I heard a man say He didn't believe in God's word.*

*But I can truly say that God has made a way. And He's never failed me yet.*

*That's why we've...*

## THE DOXOLOGY

Choir & Congregation

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Dr. Tyrone A. Broomfield  
Presiding Elder, North Little Rock/Fort Smith District

**Minister:** I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.  
Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

**People:** For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather  
be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

**Minister:** Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek thy good.

**People:** Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall  
flourish in the courts of our God.

**Minister:** Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I have loved thy habitation and  
the place where thy honor dwelleth.

**People:** For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep  
silence before Him.

**Minister:** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in  
Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

**People:** O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. Make a joyful  
noise unto the Lord, all the earth, and sing praises.

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE #215**

The Reverend Dr. Kent Broughton  
Presiding Elder, Camden/Eldorado District

***I'VE A MESSAGE FROM THE LORD***

*I've a message from the Lord, Hallelujah!  
The message unto you I'll give,  
'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah!  
It is only that you "look and live."*

*Refrain*

*"Look and live," my brother, live, Look to Jesus now and live;  
'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah! It is only that you "look and live."*

*I've a message full of love, Hallelujah!  
A message, O my friend, for you;  
'Tis a message from above, Hallelujah!  
Jesus said it, and I know 'tis true.*

*I will tell you how I came, Hallelujah!  
To Jesus when He made me whole;  
'Twas believing on His name, Hallelujah!  
I trusted, and He saved my soul.*



**THE INVOCATION**

The Reverend Dr. Harriel White  
*Presiding Elder, Crossett District*

**THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

Choir & Congregation

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

The Twelfth District Choir

**THE SCRIPTURE**

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The Reverend Dr. James Giles  
*Presiding Elder, Hot Springs/Arkadelphia District*

The Epistle

Hebrews 13:7-17

The Reverend Dr. Ruth Holmes  
*Presiding Elder, Eastern District*

The Gospel

Luke 4:16-21

The Reverend Dr. O Jerome Green  
*President, Shorter College*

**THE INTROIT TO THE DECALOGUE**

Choir & Congregation

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue.  
Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord, Eternal truth attends Thy word;  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

**THE DECALOGUE**

The Reverend Dr. Angela Brewster  
*Presiding Elder, Monticello-Warren District*

**Leader:** Hear the Commandments of God to God's people: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of bondage; you shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself any idol. You shall not invoke with malice the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. Honor your father and mother. You shall not commit murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not be a false witness. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor."

**Response:** Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.  
Nearer, my God to Thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me; Still all my song shall be, nearer,  
my God to Thee; Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee!

**Leader:** Hear what Christ our savior says: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great Commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*

**THE GLORIA PATRI**

Choir & Congregation

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

**THE FOUNDER’S DAY LITANY**

The Reverend Dr. James Hooper  
*Presiding Elder, Pine Bluff-Helena District*

**Leader:** It is with grateful hearts that we give thanks to God for the gift of empowerment, liberation and community in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**PEOPLE: THE LORD’S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For the Apostles, martyrs, and heroes of the faith

**PEOPLE: THE LORD’S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For the Ecumenical Christian Community to which all Christians belong, sharing a common origin and destiny despite our diversity in worship, polity and theology

**PEOPLE: THE LORD’S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For the new insights and fresh fervor brought by the reformers and prophets in our history

**PEOPLE: THE LORD’S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For the African Methodist Episcopal Church and its unique place and special contribution to the church and community

**PEOPLE: THE LORD’S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For the experience of two centuries of liberation struggles and reconciliation gifts, and for the prospect and promises of a third century

**PEOPLE: THE LORD’S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For that unique Prophet, Apostle of Freedom, and the Model of Ebony Excellence, whose blessed name is Richard Allen.

**PEOPLE: THE LORD'S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For the beloved of our history and their special emphases: Daniel Payne, Paul Quinn, Henry McNeil Turner, John R. Hawkins, Lucy Hughes and all the Bishops and Leaders of our Church.

**PEOPLE: THE LORD'S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For the obscure and unsung heroes of the Faith; Presiding Elders, Pastors, Laypersons, Missionaries and Youth who have kept the Faith in hard and remote places

**PEOPLE: THE LORD'S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH.**

**Leader:** For the Genius of the Conference System which recovers the Story, renews the Faith, deepens the Commitment and preserves our Holy Heritage generation unto generation

**ALL: THE LORD'S NAME BE PRAISED, HALLELUJAH AND AMEN!**

**THE GIFTS FOR MISSION**

The Reverend Dr. Harvey Potts  
*Presiding Elder, Western District*

**THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER**

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

The Twelfth District Choir

**THE SERMON**

Bishop Silvester S. Beaman  
*139<sup>th</sup> Elected and Consecrated Bishop  
African Methodist Episcopal Church, 15<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District*

**THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

The Reverend Dr. Truman Tolefree  
*Presiding Elder, Little Rock District*

**THE MINISTRY OF GIVING**

**THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE DOXOLOGY**

Choir and Congregation

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**THE BENEDICTION**

Bishop Silvester S. Beaman

**WAYS TO GIVE:**



**Cash App**

**\$12thdistrictamec520**

**Givelify**  
Tap. Give. Done.

**Text Giving to 501-588-3329**

# THE FOUNDER'S DAY SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

**9:30 A.M.**

## **GENERAL PLENARY SESSION**

The Reverend Reginal W. Alexander, Sr., Convener

### **THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

The Reverend Lanette Frazier

### **THE SCRIPTURE READING**

PROVERBS 29:18-23

Sister Raveon Ward

*12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District YPD President*

**10:15 A.M.**

## **FOUNDERS' DAY SYMPOSIUM/RICHARD ALLEN LECTURE SERIES**

REVEREND CHARLENE BOONE, PRESENTER

### **THE PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER**

Reverend Kevin Clayton

### ***“Legendary, Legacy and Leadership”***

Reverend Charlene Boone

Pastor, Historic Visitors Chapel AME Church, Hot Springs AR

# Closing Worship Service

**The Reverend Angela Finney, Worship Leader**  
Pastor, Mount Nebo AME Church

## THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

The Shorter College Choir

## THE DOXOLOGY

The Choir and Congregation

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Rachel Lockett

Leader: O, magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together.

**People: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.**

Leader: O, magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together.

**People: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all.**

Leader: O, magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together.

**People: The Lord is good, gracious, holy, and mighty. From everlasting He is God.**

Leader: O, magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together.

**People: Therefore, we will make a joyful noise to the Lord. We will break forth into joyous song and sing praises. God has brought us thus far; as the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as a community of faith, as a people empowered, as a people of hope – and we are glad!**

*(A Call to Worship by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.)*

## THE SONG OF PRAISE

The Shorter College Choir

## THE INVOCATION

The Reverend Brandon Sims

**THE CHANT**

**THE SCRIPTURE READING**

*ROMANS 8:31-39*

The Reverend Chestine Sims

**THE AMEC COVENANT**

***Sister Thelma Denton***

We are members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. At this juncture in our lives, we are here by personal choice. Let us use the occasion of this Founders' Day to celebrate that choice by renewing and reaffirming our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as lived out through the ministries of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

***Sister Natalie Horton***

With a glad heart and mind, I hereby affirm the solemn promise contained in the Baptismal Covenant; that is, to live a life that becomes the gospel, and to give regular attendance to the appointed means of grace. I affirm that I believe in God, the Creator of all things, and in God the Savior, revealed in Jesus Christ, who has redeemed and reconciled me to Himself, and in God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies, empowers and energizes me and the people of God.

***Reverend Allison Howell***

I believe that the Holy Scripture is the inspired Word of God, as set forth in the Articles of Religion and the Affirmation of Faith. I renounce the forces of evil in whatever guise presented to me and I am determined by God's Grace, to follow Jesus as my Teacher, Savior and Lord.

***Sister Sabrena Newsom***

Further, I commit myself to a life of service through the ministries of the church, guided by the Holy Spirit to use those gifts given to me, striving to grow in the faith through study, worship, daily meditation, prayer and Scripture reading, and not forsaking the assembly of the faithful.

***Reverend Gregory Nettles***

Finally, having saving faith in Jesus, and possessing friendly feelings toward the members of the church, I affirm that I will be governed by the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, hold sacred the ordinances of God and try as much as possible to promote peace, unity and the welfare of fellow members; to pray for and sympathize with others, and to generally advance the Kingdom of God. Thus, I will give of my time, talent, and money – accepting the biblical teaching of tithes and offerings as the standard of my giving – in support of the Gospel, and the various ministries of God's Church.

**The Gloria Patri**

Choir and Congregation

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen.

**THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

The Shorter College Choir

**THE GIFTS FOR MISSION**

The Reverend Larry Banks

**THE INTRODUCTION OF PREACHER**

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell

**THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

The 12<sup>th</sup> District Choir

**THE SERMON**

The Reverend Dr. Truman Tolefree  
*Presiding Elder, Little Rock District*

**THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

**THE MINISTRY OF GIVING**

Stewardship Committee

**THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Host Pastor

**THE DOXOLOGY**

**THE BENEDICTION**

Presiding Elder Truman Tolefree



*Remembering*  
**RICHARD ALLEN**  
1760–1831



**TWELFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

P.O. Box 147 | Little Rock, AR 72203

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