



# MISSIONS FORWARD

[www.9thepiscopaldistrictwms.org](http://www.9thepiscopaldistrictwms.org)

The Official Newsletter of the 9th Episcopal District WMS  
**February 2025**

*Ms. Sherryl Stovall Whiting, Episcopal President*

*Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor*

*Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate*

*We are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.*



Greetings my Missionary Sisters,

I greet you all in the matchless name of Jesus Christ our Risen Savior.

I would like to thank you all for the marvelous work that has been done on behalf of moving missions forward.

I want to thank all of you for the marvelous participation in our Annual YPD Leadership Training Institute. I would also like to thank Ward Chapel Prattville for their wonderful hospitality. Many thanks Rev. Irvin and your planning committee. Also, a huge thank you to our Connectional YPD President for attending our conference. Her presence shows us that she too believes in our young people and their work is divine and important. Our young people were able to see their connectional leadership up close and in person.

I am super excited to share that the church was filled to capacity with YPD'ers, Missionaries, Lay persons, Pastors and wonderful Presiding Elders. We had over 350 persons registered for our LTI. The young people elected Episcopal Officers, and participated in workshops to help them begin their Self Denial Projects for presentation and competition. Missionaries were also able to participate in workshops. Our presenters were well prepared. We focused on the safety of our young people and improving our prayer life and circle.

## **ALL I know is that the Ninth District is indeed the best and "They not like us!"**

As we continue to move missions forward, we are excited to share that we are beginning our first Ninth District Book Club (for our YPD'ers and Missionaries). I know and understand the power of reading and learning. It opens so many doors and helps us to process fact from fiction. I presented this idea to our WMS Episcopal Leadership Team after attending the Executive Board Meeting in California. We had a wonderful presentation from the Political Action Commission on what our responsibility should be in light of "book banning" here in the United States. Thus, my idea!!! Mrs. Carter is chairing our Ninth District Initiative and will be sending more information out very soon. We must model what we preach. Our first book is written by our very own Mrs. Linda Lowrey. The title is "Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom." Everyone will have an opportunity to purchase the book and will be provided enough time to read this selection. We will then celebrate the author in an awesome culminating activity during our upcoming CEC.

## **STAY TUNED and STAY WOKE**

Moving missions forward, I am looking forward to joining the Northwest Conference at their "Women's Conference" in Birmingham on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Please meet me there as we will be empowered to live on and with Purpose. I will serve as your luncheon speaker and I must have an AMEN corner.

Lastly, I am also looking forward to you all meeting President Whiting and I at your respective Institute Days in the annual conferences and at Bishop McAllister's Mid-Year Meeting. Thank you, President Whiting, for your leadership with moving missions forward. I also want to thank President Whiting for organizing the District WMS Store along with Catherine Jordan. All but a few items have been distributed. More items will be offered and ordered in the near future.

Let us continue to do God's work in a more excellent way. Let us not grow weary in well doing. Thank you, Lord, for the energy you provide. Our work indeed is all Divine!

Sincerely,

Supervisor Deana Young McAllister





**Greetings,**

**Thank you for ALL that you do to Move Missions Forward!**

**As we journey into the month of March which is Women's History Month, we want to honor the significant contributions of the women in the Women's Missionary Society. The theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations" emphasizes the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership.**

**This theme highlights the vital role the Women's Missionary Society has played in shaping societies by imparting knowledge, fostering growth, and inspiring future generations. From pioneering educators to influential leaders, we have been at the forefront of movements that promote equality, justice, and empowerment. Our unwavering commitment to education has laid the foundation for progress and unity across diverse communities.**

**Reflecting on the past, we recognize the resilience and determination of women who overcame societal barriers to pursue education and leadership roles. Their stories serve as powerful reminders of the importance of perseverance and the impact of mentorship. By honoring their legacies, we acknowledge the challenges they faced and the strides they made toward a more inclusive and equitable world.**

**Looking ahead, the theme "Moving Forward Together" calls for continued collaboration and support among us. It encourages the sharing of knowledge, resources, and experiences to empower the next generation of leaders and educators. By uniting efforts, we can address contemporary challenges and build a future where every individual has the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully to society.**

**Women's History Month 2025 serves as a call to action to honor the past, celebrate the present, and work collectively toward a future where the Women's Missionary Society continues to educate, inspire, and lead. By embracing the theme "Moving Forward Together," we commit to fostering environments that support the growth and empowerment of all individuals, ensuring that the legacy of women who have shaped history endures and thrives.**

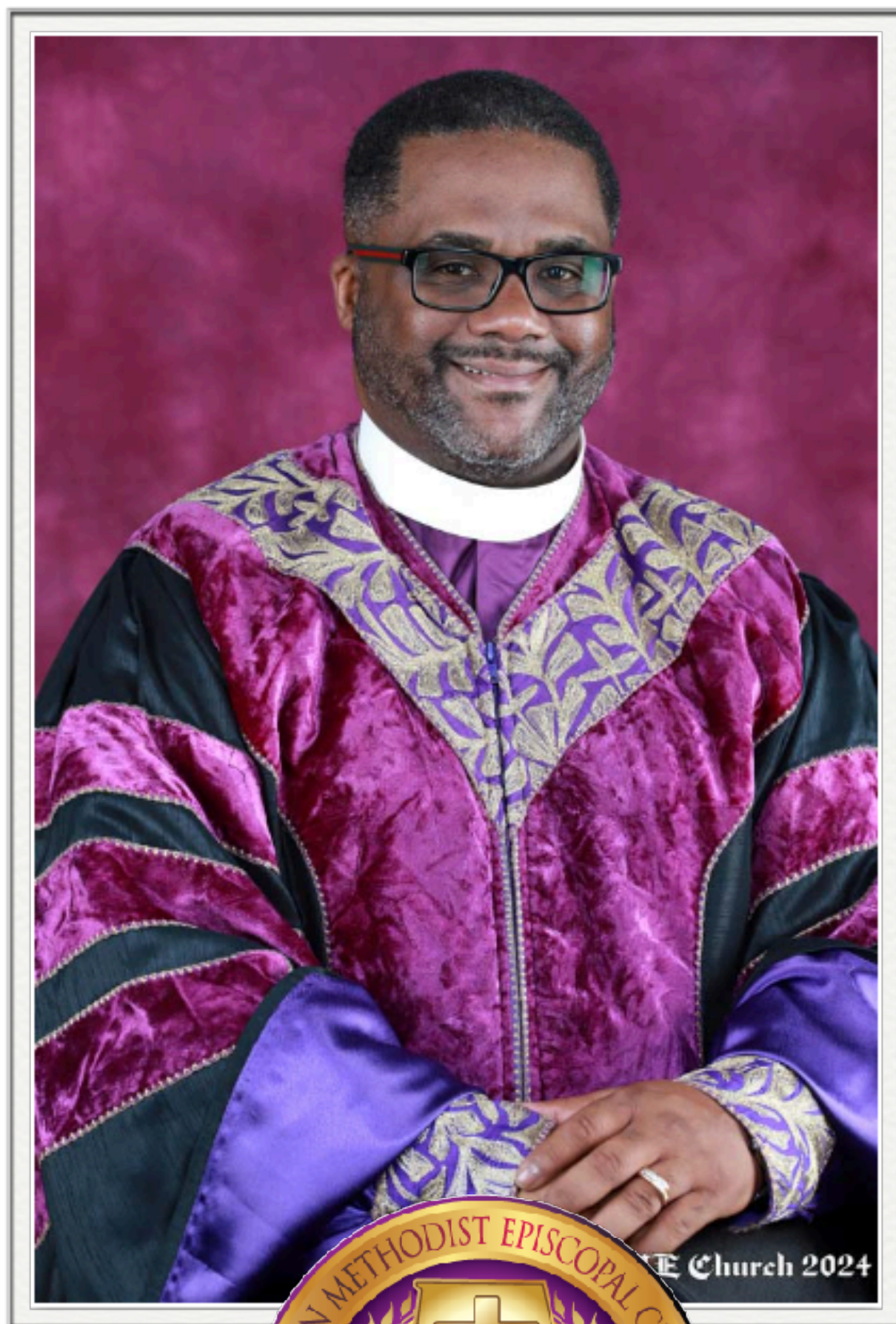
**Remember, Honor and Recognize someone who has and is shaping our future!**

**Love and Blessings,**

**Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
God First, Missions Forward, Love Unconditionally**



We want to wish our Episcopal Leader  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.  
A Happy, Blessed Birthday!



# March

## 2025

February							April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28		27	28	29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	1 Ronald McDonald House Donation
2	3	4 Bishop McAllister's Birthday	5	6 Your Health Is Wealth "Eating to Live" 7pm cst	7	8
9	10 WMS Finance Meeting 7p cst	11	12	13 Conference President's Meeting 7:30p cst	14	15
16	17	18 PME Dialogue 7pm cst	19	20 Annual Ministries in CEC Training & Planning Meeting Nashville, TN Conference YPD Meeting 7p cst	21 9th District Sons of Allen Men of Valor	22
23	24	25	26	27 Commission on Administration Meeting 7p cst	28	29
30	31	B2B Virtual Tutoring Every Tuesday 5:30p cst				







# WMS STORE



*Yes!*

# WE ARE OPEN

*Today*

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO PURCHASE YOUR ITEMS

[Ninth District WMS Store](#)



Ms. Sherryl Stovall Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

*Click on the link above or type the information below in your browser.*

*[60rtex-4f.myshopify.com](https://60rtex-4f.myshopify.com)*

## PLEASE VISIT OUR STORE!

## There is something for everyone.



Women's Missionary Society  
9th Episcopal District

## COOKING WITH CHIEF JAY

Come cook with us! Join us for a  
virtual cooking class!

Zoom ID: 868 2651 4176

Password: 687955

THURSDAY MARCH 6,  
2025 **7 P.M. CST**

### Ingredients:

1 stick cream cheese  
1 bag shredded Parmesan  
1 bag spinach  
1 half pint heavy whipping cream  
1 pk pasta of choice  
salt/pepper/onion powder/garlic powder  
Chicken Breast or protein of choice

Ms. Ebony Reeves Smith, Episcopal 1st Vice President  
Ms. Sherryl Stovall Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister Jr., Presiding Prelate







# Women's Missionary Society 9th Episcopal District

In Honor of March being  
National Nutrition Month we  
will make a donation to the  
Ronald McDonald House to  
help with the cost of feeding  
families. Asking each  
missionary society to donate  
\$25.

## NATIONAL NUTRITION *Month*

Please remit to your conference  
treasurer by 3/24/2025.

Ms. Ebony R. Smith, Episcopal WMS 1st Vice President

Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal WMS Supervisor

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister Jr., Presiding Prelate



**COMMISSION ON MISSION  
EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION  
Women's Missionary Society  
Ninth Episcopal District**

**Mrs. Mary Wells-Porter, Episcopal Second Vice President**

**Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President**

**Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor**

**Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate**



*"Give, and it will be given to you." Luke 6 : 38*

Be quick to serve others. In giving, you will receive.



**2024 - 2025 COMMISSION ACTIVITIES**



- **Back-To-Basics Virtual Tutoring Program**

Mary Wells-Porter, Rosemary McClain Range, and  
Other Committee Members

- **WMS Adopt-a-School Initiative/Local Church Educational Growth**

Betty W. Davis, Rhonda Robinson, Mary James, and Danna Perry

- **WMS Commission Virtual Zoom Seminars**

Mary Wells-Porter, Cheryl Robinson-Sutton, Chairpersons; and  
Commission Members

- **Promotion and Mission Education Dialogue (PME)**

Cheryl Robinson-Sutton

- **WMS Week of Service**

Mary Salaam, AARC; Dannie Perry, NWAC. Dana Doster, SEAC; Rhonda Robinson, NEAC; Betty Philen, SWAC; and Other Commission Members

- **WMS Creative Arts Initiative**

Mary Salaam, AARC; Dannie Perry, NWAC. Dana Doster, SEAC; Rhonda Robinson, NEAC; Betty Philen, SWAC; and Other Commission Members

**MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED LATER.**



# WRITERS NEEDED!

## 2026 STUDY GUIDE THEMES/TOPIC

### General Theme:

A Global Urgency: The Dimensions of Health and Wellness

### Geographic Theme:

Uganda

### 9th District Topic:

Elderly Care

### Worship/Devotion Submissions

Consider the General Theme and Geographic Theme, but write specifically on our topic: Elderly Care Litanies, Poems or Cover Illustrations for the theme can be included as well as other creative interpretations: pictures, drawings, musical expressions, etc.

### GUIDELINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

#### FORMAT:

Title, Author's name, Episcopal District and Conference.  
Also include a recent photograph, email address and phone number.

#### WHAT TO SEND:

All should be sent via email as attachments in a word document.  
Photos should be sent with high resolution and preferably plain backgrounds as jpg or png file attachments.

#### WRITINGS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 18, 2025 TO

Cheryl Robinson-Sutton: [crobsutton@bellsouth.net](mailto:crobsutton@bellsouth.net)  
and Sherryl Whiting: [srs@comcast.net](mailto:srs@comcast.net)

**Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President**  
**Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal WMS Supervisor**  
**Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate**





## PME DIALOGUE

*"Reflecting God's Image and Empowering Our Youth" - INSPIRE*

**Tuesday**  
**March 18, 2025**  
**7pm**



**Betty W. Davis**  
Southwest Conference Lay  
President

**Please Join!**

**Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President**  
**Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal WMS Supervisor**  
**Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 830 6582 4364**  
**Passcode: 273380**



“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.” B.B. King

SELECT  
A  
SCHOOL



IDENTIFY  
SPECIFIC  
NEEDS

ESTABLISH CONSISTENT  
COMMITMENT

SHARE YOUR WORK!

Please send pictures of your work to:

[bdavis3010@aol.com](mailto:bdavis3010@aol.com)

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Mrs. Mary Wells-Porter, Episcopal 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Ms. Sherryl S. Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate



9th District Women's Missionary Society

TEMP CHECK

# TUESDAY YAMS EDITION



Meeting ID: 872 0842 9489

Passcode: 990788



The Second Tuesday of Every  
Month @ 7 pm cst

Need a safe space to  
dialogue? Come check in with  
us!

Ms. Janataka Holmes, Episcopal Member-At-Large  
Mrs. Sharon Massingale, Episcopal 3rd Vice President  
Ms. Sherryl Stovall Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal WMS Supervisor  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister Jr., Presiding Prelate



A very special THANK YOU for your support of the Young People's and Children's Division of the Women's Missionary Society!

Officers were elected and they had wonderful workshops with over 350 in attendance. Food, Fun, and Fellowship.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

*Young People's & Children's Division*



# LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

## Theme:

Rise Up for the Purpose, Witness, and Ministry of Christ

## Scripture:

But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee.

Acts 26:16

Mrs. Debra Scott Weatherspoon, Episcopal YPD Director  
Ms. Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor  
Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate







## NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

*Young People's & Children's Division*

**OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

# Let's Talk

## Mental Health Seminar

April 8, 2025

7:00 p.m.

**zoom**

Meeting ID: 847 7712 3916

Passcode: 1nnG96



Mrs. Debra Scott Weatherspoon, Episcopal YPD Director

Ms. Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President

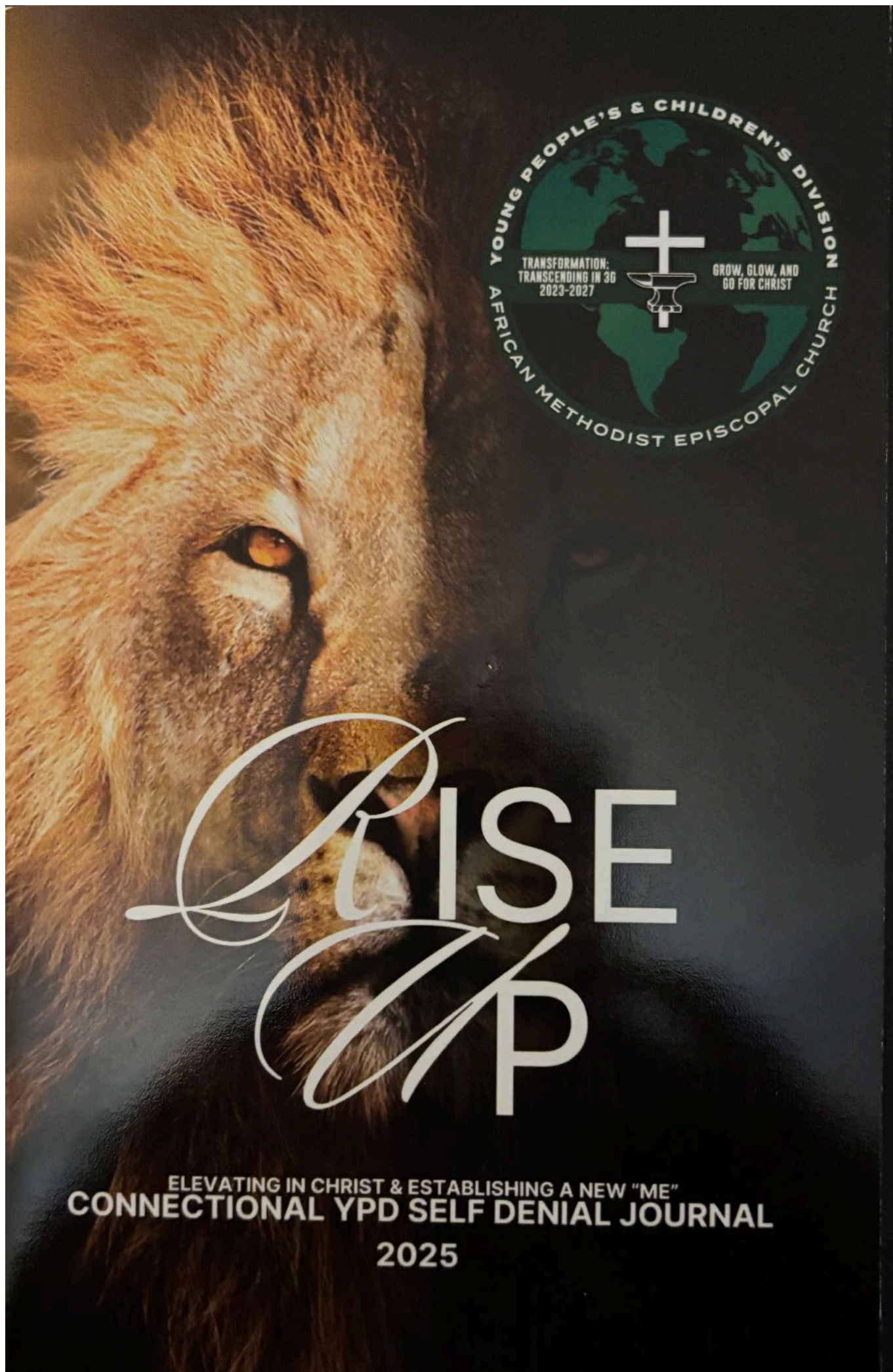
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate



*Thank you, for preparing the Young People for Self-Denial!*

*The Episcopal District Elimination/Award Ceremony will be held on May 14, 2025 via zoom.  
Conferences will announce the date and time of their eliminations.*





NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
*Young People's & Children's Division*  
of the Women's Missionary Society



**YPD Initiative:**  
**At-Home Library**

**\*\*Research Overview\*\*:** Studies have consistently shown that children who reside in homes with extensive home libraries tend to read more frequently, develop advanced reading skills, and achieve higher levels of education compared to their peers who have limited access to books. This correlation remains significant even after accounting for variables such as parental education levels. Notable research conducted by Crook (1997), de Graaf et al. (2000), and others (including Georg, 2004; Park, 2008; Teachman, 1987) highlights the positive impact of book availability on children's literacy development and educational attainment.

**\*\*Rationale for the Initiative\*\*:** The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance a literacy-rich environment in homes, particularly in economically challenged households. By providing access to a diverse range of books, the program aims to foster a love for reading among children, thereby helping to bridge the reading gaps that often exist in underserved communities.

**\*\*Program Goal\*\*:** The initiative seeks to empower designated students by supplying them with age-appropriate books to establish an at-home library. This approach is designed not only to enhance individual literacy skills but also to promote lifelong reading habits.

**\*\*Distribution Plan\*\*:** Each conference will coordinate the procurement and distribution of books, ensuring that a local Title 1 school is selected in collaboration with the Episcopal District Young People's & Children's Division (YPD) Director, the Conference Director, and the Connectional Literacy Chairperson. The distribution will consist of five carefully chosen books, one tote bag for easy transport, and a bookmark to encourage reading.

**\*\*Grade-Level Assignments for Book Provision\*\*:** The conferences will supply books tailored to the specific educational needs of students based on their grade levels:

- **\*\*Alabama River Region\*\*** – Kindergarten
- **\*\*Northeast Alabama Conference\*\*** – Second Grade
- **\*\*Northwest Alabama Conference\*\*** – Third and Fourth Grades
- **\*\*Southeast Alabama Conference\*\*** – Fifth Grade
- **\*\*Southwest Alabama Conference\*\*** – First Grade

**\*\*Initial Support and Future Funding\*\*:** The Episcopal District YPD Director will contribute the initial set of tote bags for this initiative, marking the first step in the program's rollout. To ensure sustainability and the continued success of the at-home library program, plans are in place to seek additional support through donations from private individuals and businesses, as well as various available grants. This proactive approach will help secure the necessary resources to expand and enhance the literacy opportunities for children in the community.



*"Foster a Love for Reading"*



**Ninth Episcopal District**

**Young People's & Children's Division**



# AT-HOME LIBRARY Initiative



Mrs. Debra Scott Weatherspoon, Episcopal YPD Director

Ms. Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

**Donations: \$9thypdamec**



NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
& CHILDREN'S DIVISION**  
OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

# SAMARITIAN'S PURSE

<https://store.samaritanspurse.org/all-products>

SHOP NOW

MRS. DEBRA SCOTT WEATHERSPOON, EPISCOPAL YPD DIRECTOR  
MS. SHERRYL WHITING, EPISCOPAL WMS PRESIDENT  
MRS. DEANA YOUNG MCALLISTER, EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR  
BISHOP JULIUS HARRISON MCALLISTER, JR., PRESIDING PRELATE



## ★ YPD Projects ★

- **Haiti - Greta Home & Academy**

- ★ Your gift goes towards providing a child with a quality education, school supplies, housing, nutritious food, and loving care at the Greta Home and Academy. ★

- **Shared Cost \$15**

- **#013962**

- **Building Schools,  
Building Hope**

Equips teachers and rebuilds or renovates schools in areas hit hard by poverty or natural disaster

Shared the cost \$100

#013752

**Operation Christmas Child  
Planting Gospel Seeds in  
Ghana**

helping to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to isolated mountain communities

Shared Cost \$10

# 013477



# CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS!

Northwest Alabama Conference Women's Missionary Society Presents



# Women's CONFERENCE

SISTERS EMPOWERED TO LIVE ON PURPOSE



Sisters are you ready to be Enlightened, Encouraged and Equipped. Connect with women for a spirit-filled worship, workshops and fellowships, created to educate and empower women to live their lives on purpose for Christ!

*Tickets*

**\$40**

**9 AM - 3PM**

*Saturday*  
**MARCH 15 2025**

PURCHASE AT EVENTBRITE

Vendors Welcome Contact

us at 205-402-8895

ST. JOHN AME CHURCH

708 15th STREET NORTH

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

Bishop Julius H, McAllister, Jr. Presiding Prelate  
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor  
Rev. Dr. Ronald Sterling Pastor of St. John AMEC

Mrs. Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President  
Mrs. Thomasine Jackson, Conference WMS President  
Mrs. De'Journa Evans, Conference YPD Director



Please keep ALL of our  
BEREAVED FAMILIES



in your prayers!



# COVID-19

## STILL RELEVANT?

"As long as there is a COVID-19 outbreak somewhere in the world, there is going to be something new that emerges."

- Nathan Grubaugh, PhD, an epidemiologist at the Yale School of Public Health

### Current Variants - HV.1 & JN.1

Descendants of Omicron

Highly transmissible

Detected by COVID-19 tests

Protect yourself - TEST, ISOLATE, BOOST!



Bishop Michael L Mitchell, Commission Chair, Global Witness & Ministry  
Dr Deborah Taylor King, International WMS President  
Mrs Charolett Biggs Martin, Commission Chair, Christian Social Action