



The Cross

Cross Street A.M.E Zion Church



"A Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is Lord of ALL"

"Making the Impossible Possible"

For with **God** nothing shall be
Impossible

Luke 1:37

Expecting Greater in 2016 !

September / October 2016

Volume 20, Issue 05

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2016-2020 Episcopal District Leadership Assignment.

The Episcopal Committee of the 50th Quadrennial Session of the AME Church General Conference makes the following Episcopal Leadership Assignment for the 2016-2020 Quadrennial. They assigned Bishop Dennis Vernon Proctor to the North Eastern Episcopal District (New York, New England and The Bahamas).

Bishop Dennis Vernon Proctor

North Eastern Episcopal District

Personal information:

Married: Mrs. D. Diane Proctor

Children: Four Children

Email: BishopProctor@aol.com



Education & Honors:

A native of Buffalo, New York, and a graduate of the Syracuse, New York public school system, he received his Bachelor of Arts (Summa Cum Laude) from Livingstone College, Master of Arts in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary, a Clinical Pastoral Experience Diploma from Western Reserve Psychiatric Habilitation Center, a

(Proctor on page 8)

Think!

By Kwame Ocansey

I knew it! I knew it! I knew it! Adults. Even as a five year old boy growing up in a suburb of a city in Ghana, West Africa, I had my suspicion of adults. I

never had too much respect for them. Adults everywhere are so clueless, it is amazing to me why they still continue to control everything and rule everything and manage everything all over the world.

I grew up questioning everything. I mean everything. Especially words. Then phrases and sentences and most of all expressions. I observed then, from listening to all adults - and I had tons of them around me - my parents, my neighbors, my teachers, authorities and everyone who was older than me. I was such a torment to these people, particularly the people who happened

(Think on page 9)



September 18, 2016



God Did It Again!

Dear Church Family,

Let's give a special Shout-out to Lorraine Chapman, Lisa Rush, the Cross Street many volunteers, members who contributed supplies and donations, the City of Middletown, Mayor Drew, Sponsors, and all those who gave donations and supported the Cultural Bazar / Back to School Community Day. We give a shout-out to Lil Mo and all the participants. It was one of the best we have held – because of your prayers and support.

I am so honored to serve such a loving, carrying, and sharing community of Faith. I thank God every day for you and yours.

Let's **SHIFT!** Join the pastor in prayer as we **SHIFT** to give greater service in our Church Community. We are mapping a 2 mile radius for our Church Community and reaching out to give greater service. How can you help?

Pray

Attend every Tuesday Bible Study as we watch and discuss the Video “Taking Church to the Community.” Calling all Ministers, Deaconess, Class Leaders, Stewards, Trustees, Officers, Leaders, and all members to join others as we make the SHIFT! The Lord and this community are counting on us.

Encourage others to attend Tuesday **SHIFT** Meetings!

The Spirit is revealing that we are moving in the right direction.

Much Love to all.

Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Harvill

“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:LONG-SUFFERING (PATIENCE)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, LONG-SUFFERING, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."
(Galatians 5:22,23)

LONG-SUFFERING is from the Greek word "makrothumia" which speaks of steadfastness of the soul under provocation. It means forbearance and patient endurance of any ill-treatment, without anger or thought of revenge. LONG-SUFFERING, or PATIENCE ("Hupomone") is the God-given ability of a Christian to remain upright in spite of overwhelming circumstances, tests and tribulations. It is a sweet attitude toward any trial that God permits in the life of the Christian. It is what enables the Christian to "give thanks in everything".

LONG-SUFFERING is a product of faith. We must believe that God is at work in our lives and that we will not be forgotten by the God to whom we have committed the keeping of our souls. LONG-SUFFERING grows where there is a continual awareness of God. God is faithful and will not allow evil to overcome us, but our trust must be anchored only in Him. It is inward peace, as well as outward control. How is LONG-SUFFERING produced? TROUBLE!! Trouble alone will make us impatient, but trouble connected with faith produces LONG-SUFFERING.

LONG-SUFFERING is also produced by knowledge, faith and hope. When we understand what is going on we can patiently await the outcome. LONG-SUFFERING does not stand alone, it supports and is supported by the other fruit of the Spirit, for without love, faith, hope, kindness, etc., one cannot be patient.

God's timing does not always coincide with our immediate plans, but LONG-SUFFERING offers opportunity for spiritual growth while waiting for God to intervene on our behalf. How do we recognize LONG-SUFFERING? Look for persons who:

- - have forgiving spirits. are enduring hardships, illness, or loss patiently
- - are obedient to God, even under great persecution
- - have control over their tempers and attitudes
- - despite great difficulty remain Christ like
- continue to praise and thank God in all things, whether good or bad
- face tribulations head on and do not try to escape the trial or take matters into their own hands.

WARNING

Avoid the enemy of LONG-SUFFERING - impatience, which if allowed to take root leads to disobedience. Impatience is a direct stance against God.

Additional Scriptures:

For a perfect example of LONG-SUFFERING, read the Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to see how Jesus exhibited LONG-SUFFERING.; Colossians 1:11, Colossians 3:13, Luke 8:15, Luke 21:19, I Timothy 6:11, 12, The Book of Job, I Peter 2:19,20, Hebrews 6:10-15, 1 Peter 3:17, James 5.

God's Provision Prayer

Great is your faithfulness, O God, my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see. I know that your hands will supply all that I need. Thank you, Lord, for your loving care and supply in my life. I claim the promises of your Word today. I believe your Word, and I look forward to all you are going to do in my life.

You are Jehovah-jeer, my provider. You know exactly what I need, when I need it, and how my needs will best be met. Thank you for the delight you experience as you give me the desires of my heart. I love you, and you love me.

Thank you, Father, for your great mercies which are new in my life each morning. Your grace and loving favor are upon me

and within me. Indeed, your loving kindness is better than life to me. Thank you for always providing me with my daily bread, and so much more. I rejoice in you and in the knowledge that you are the God of more than enough.

Thank you, Father, for caring about me and my loved ones. I know you want all needs to be met, and you cannot fail in meeting them. I praise you for the wonderful realization that you do fulfill all your promises in my life.

Thank you for your word which will never return to you void. I claim the promises of your Word for me, my family, and our lives. I take my stand upon the solid promises of your Word, Father. Thank you for meeting my every need. Amen



A Back To School Prayer
by Gloria Laroza T.

Our Lord and Heavenly Father, You have promised to watch over Your children and our loved ones wherever we may be. Bless and protect the millions of children and young people who are starting a new school year. Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of our children. They are so precious in Your sight, for You were once a child. You know our children. They are so precious in Your sight, for You were once a child. You know Lord the many temptations and peer pressures that come to our young people everyday. Shield them O Lord and guide them . Help them find godly friends who will support, encourage and uphold them to Christian faith.

Our Heavenly Father, we are grateful to You for the many schools opening their doors to millions of students across the globe. Bless the teachers with true wisdom and may they teach not only academic instructions, but proper morals and love of God and higher authority. As they open their mouths to relay knowledge and wisdom, may their words be filled with inspiration and encouragement, that their students will be strengthened to use their knowledge in developing their talents and abilities to make a difference for the betterment of this world.

Show us parents, teachers and students a special measure of Your grace, and lead us in the right paths. Help us not to lean in our own understanding, but in all our ways, may we acknowledge You. Give us all true wisdom which finds its joy in You. Dear Lord Jesus who has been our Teacher, help us to remember that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of

wisdom. May there be more prayerful parents, teachers and students who will stand up for You. May we cling to the truth, and may our lights so shine brightly that the world of learning may be reminded that knowledge is fleeting, but godly wisdom is eternal.

Thank You O Lord of wisdom, our Sovereign and Mighty God, who shows us the Way, The Truth, and The Life through Jesus Christ, Our Savior. Continue to teach us our ways, bless our growth in grace, and give us deeper understanding of Your good and gracious will. To the Greatest Teacher who ever lived, Our Savior and Friend Jesus, may Your will be done according to Your promises. Amen.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise" (Psalms 111:10).

Back to School Prayers from Psalms & Proverbs

Melissa Kruger, Author, Women's Ministry Director

It's that time of year again. Yellow buses practice their circuitous routes, stores brim with school supplies, and teachers adorn their rooms with inviting bulletin boards and welcoming smiles. Back to school is officially upon us.

I ended the summer reading through the Psalms and Proverbs. As I drank in the wisdom of these two books, certain passages in particular have encouraged and directed my hopes for my children as they head back to school. These verses have shaped my prayers and given words to the longings of my heart. As my children spend less time in my presence, I am thankful that I can bring all my concerns and cares before the Lord in

prayer.

Lord, I pray that my children would understand their need for Jesus and rejoice in the good news of the Gospel. Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death (Psalms 68:19-20).

Lord, I pray that my children will love learning; that their hearts would seek to understand the world you have created. The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly (Proverbs 15:14).

I pray that as they learn about your world, they would behold the majesty of your glory. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. (Psalm 19:1)

Lord, I pray that you would surround them with friends who make wise choices and encourage their faith. Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm (Proverbs 13:20).

I pray that their teachers would be wise and gentle. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly. A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit (Proverbs 15:2,4).

Lord, I pray that they would work with diligence and put forth their best efforts. The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is

(Prayer on page 11)



Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103
 New Members Class meets at the same time.
 (For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

Come Grow with US!

A WORLD AT PEACE

Devotional Reading: Psalm 72:1-7

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9

Key Verse: They will not hurt or destroy on all my mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:9.

Central Thought: When God is the center of all things in this world, there will be peace.

Lesson Objective: To explain how to allow God to rule within us so that we can realize a world at peace.

1) A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2) The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3) His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5) Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6) The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little

child shall lead them. 7) The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8) The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 9) They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters covers the sea.

Lesson Introduction

The sovereign nature of God is seen through the visionary images of the authors of Isaiah, Hebrews, and Revelation. The quarter begins with a study of Isaiah's rich images of God as the One who rules the whole universe. This first unit, **"The Sovereignty of God,"** is exploring how the prophet Isaiah views the reign of God over the whole world as a peaceful kingdom, a mountain of God, the foundations of the earth, and in a new and everlasting covenant.

In today's lesson, we explore how God's righteousness can lead the world into a kingdom of peace and tranquility. In a world where there is racial unrest, capitalism, and greed, it is hard to imagine a world at peace or even peace between human and animal. We all have experienced hatred, emotional pain, and conflict in our lives because we are not ruled by the righteousness of God. It is more common for humanity to let personal desire and ambition rule our actions, which causes unrest, as well as division within the world. There seems to be a

lack of spiritual morality in the government, leading to injustice and wickedness in high places. This lack of righteousness in the governing body of the nations of this world, is part of the problem in the never-ending racial divide and class distinctions, and the wars throughout the world.

Lesson Outline

- I. Isaiah's Vision of a King: Isaiah 11:1-5
- II. Isaiah's Vision of a Reconciled World: Vv.6-9

Lesson Comments

I. Isaiah's Vision of a King: Isaiah 11:1-5. Isaiah had a vision of a king with full knowledge of God and what His kingdom would look like here on earth. Being that this King was never realized in the history of the world, Christians today see this King as being the Messiah, the second coming of Christ, (Parousia). We have to note that this vision or oracle was given during the exile of Judah and every king in the Davidic dynasty was an anointed representative of God. Thus, the Messiah in the vision, the One who would save God's people, Israel, would be a descendant of David. It is only natural for the Prophet to view the vision from his present circumstances. A view of captivity and unrest in the world in which he lives makes the vision a **"right-now"** vision for the people of God. This vision is of an ideal king in the line of succession who knows God; a king of wise counsel who has a reverent fear of God; an ideal king who looks beyond what his eyes

(Peace on page 10)

Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God's hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God's children.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18
"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)
Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

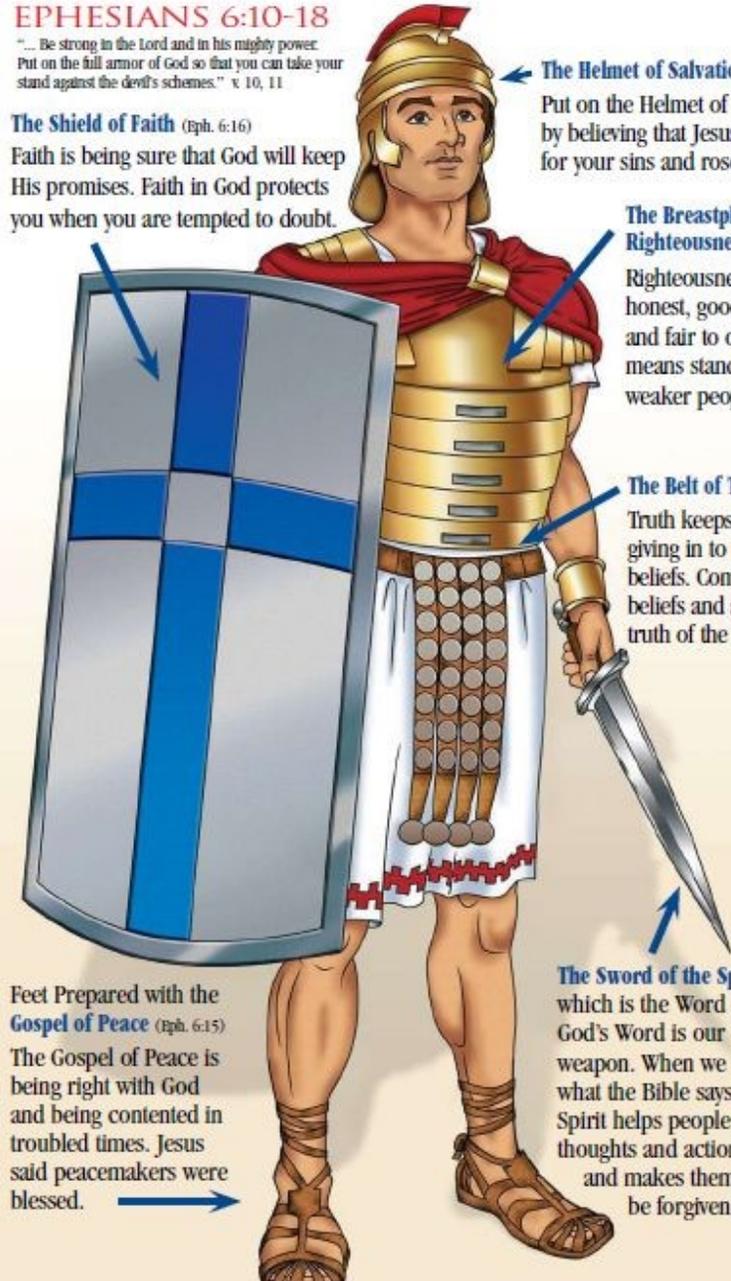
The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)
Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)
The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

SEPTEMBER

1 Jeremiah 47-49
 2 Jeremiah 50-52
 3 Lamentations 1-5
 4 Ezekiel 1-3
 5 Ezekiel 4-7
 6 Ezekiel 8-11
 7 Ezekiel 12-14

8 Ezekiel 15-18
 9 Ezekiel 19-21
 10 Ezekiel 22-24
 11 Ezekiel 25-27
 12 Ezekiel 28-30
 13 Ezekiel 31-33
 14 Ezekiel 34-36
 15 Ezekiel 37-39

16 Ezekiel 40-42
 17 Ezekiel 43-45
 18 Ezekiel 46-48
 19 Daniel 1-3
 20 Daniel 4-6
 21 Daniel 7-9
 22 Daniel 10-12
 23 Hosea 1-4

24 Hosea 5-7
 25 Hosea 8-10
 26 Hosea 11-14
 27 Joel 1-3
 28 Amos 1-3
 29 Amos 4-6
 30 Amos 7-9

OCTOBER

1 Obadiah, Jonah
 2 Micah 1-4
 3 Micah 5-7
 4 Nahum 1-3
 5 Habakkuk 1-3
 6 Zephaniah 1-3
 7 Haggai 1-2

8 Zechariah 1-2
 9 Zechariah 3-6
 10 Zechariah 7-10
 11 Zechariah 11-14
 12 Malachi 1-4
 13 Matthew 1-4
 14 Matthew 5-7
 15 Matthew 8-11

16 Matthew 12-15
 17 Matthew 16-19
 18 Matthew 20-22
 19 Matthew 23-25
 20 Matthew 26-28
 21 Mark 1-3
 22 Mark 4-6
 23 Mark 7-10

24 Mark 11-13
 25 Mark 14-16
 26 Luke 1-3
 27 Luke 4-6
 28 Luke 7-9
 29 Luke 10-13
 30 Luke 14-17
 31 Luke 18-21

NOVEMBER

1 Luke 22-24
 2 John 1-3
 3 John 4-6
 4 John 7-10
 5 John 11-13
 6 John 14-17
 7 John 18-21

8 Acts 1-2
 9 Acts 3-5
 10 Acts 6-9
 11 Acts 10-12
 12 Acts 13-14
 13 Acts 15-16
 14 Acts 17-18
 15 Acts 19-21

16 Acts 22-24
 17 Acts 25-26
 18 Acts 27-28
 19 Romans 1-4
 20 Romans 5-8
 21 Romans 9-11
 22 Romans 12-16
 23 1 Corinthians 1-4

24 1 Corinthians 5-8
 25 1 Corinthians 9-12
 26 1 Corinthians 13-16
 27 2 Corinthians 1-3
 28 2 Corinthians 4-6
 29 2 Corinthians 7-9
 30 2 Corinthians 10-13

Kingdomtide

Kingdomtide begins on the last Sunday in August (August 28) and continues until the beginning of Advent (November 27). The emphasis includes evangelism, world missions, and the work for peace and justice in all relationships. During this period, special emphasis is placed on the Kingship of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The observance is wrapped up in the heightened awareness of one of the basic tenets of the Christian faith – the hope of the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Color: Green is symbolic of freshness of nature, hope, life and growth.

Name of God	Meaning	Application
EL	The Strong One	He is more powerful than any false god. God will overcome all obstacles. We can depend on God.
EL ELOHE YISRAEL	God, the God of Israel	The God of Israel is distinct and separate from all false gods of the world.
EL ELYON	The God Most High	He is the Sovereign God in whom we can put our trust. El Elyon has supremacy over all false gods.
ELOHIM	The All-powerful One	God is the all-powerful creator of the universe. God knows all, creates all, and is everywhere at all times. The plural of "EL".

(Proctor from page 1)

Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University College of Law, and a Doctor of Ministry (*Samuel D. Proctor/Otis Moss Fellow*) from the United Theological Seminary. He was inducted into Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. He was honored by his Alma Mater to receive the Doctor of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary and Livingstone College. He was a featured lecturer at the prestigious Hampton University, Hampton Minister’s Conference. He was appointed by the University to be the Conference Historian, becoming the first Methodist to serve as an officer in the organization’s history. In addition, one of his sermons is published in the book of *“Outstanding Black Sermons Volume 4”* Judson Press, and a contributing author in *“Doing Church Vol.2”* New Seasons Press.

He has served as a Fellow to Study the Presidency of the United States, a North Carolina Legislative Intern, North Carolina Institute of Political Leadership Fellow, Clerk for the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, Lt. Governor of American Bar Association Law Student Division, President of The Ohio State University Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus.

He is the Founding President of the Congress of National Black Churches, Baltimore Affiliate. He served on his denomination’s Connectional Budget Board, Overseas Missions Board and co-authored *Christians Under Construction*.

Ministry

Bishop Proctor has held three pastorates: St. James A.M.E. Zion Church in Massillon, Ohio, where he led the congregation in the building of a new church and purchased a parsonage. His second pastorate was the St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church of Wilmington, North Carolina. There he led the congregation in remodeling the church, purchasing a new parsonage and commissioning a life size mural. His last pastorate was the historic Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Remodeling the facility, acquiring additional property, creating a full-time ministerial staff and implementing over twenty ministry areas are among his many accomplishments there. Each of his pastoral appointments accepted the challenge of technological development and biblical stewardship as a means of financing the work of Kingdom building.

In Atlanta, Georgia, during the 48th Quadrennial Session of the A.M.E. Zion General Conference, the Rev. Dr. Dennis V. Proctor was elected by the world church and consecrated the 97th Bishop in succession of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and assigned to the Western Episcopal District. He serves as Presiding Bishop of the Alabama-Florida Episcopal District.

He is a fifth generation preacher and the son of the late Rev. Emory C. and Rosie T. Proctor. He is married to the former Deborah Diane Wilson, and they are now officially empty nesters!

Information taken from amez.org



North Eastern Episcopal District.

(Think from page 1)

to be family and neighbors that they called me all kinds of names. They thought I was such a pest, too nose and then finally the 'lawyer'. All those names, because I would ask 'why' and 'how' and 'what' and 'when' and anything else in between.

From parents to teachers, to politicians to legal authorities, lay and sacred people everywhere show so much ignorance and lack of integrity I still question everything. I knew from day one that most people had no clue of anything and almost always, instinctually just followed in the foolhardy, footsteps of the people who had any kind of authority over them. No questions asked. No objections and not thinking for themselves. How can we continue to let ourselves be ruled by people who are themselves as clueless about anything just as bad as anyone else? Take the expression – "the early bird catches the worm". Or this one – "to kill two birds with one stone". I had such hard time with similar thoughtless expressions that I started to make up my own. What about the early worm? Why doesn't it be late so that it doesn't get caught? And killing anything was so absurd to me that I seriously questioned why we couldn't use "scaring two birds with a single stone" instead? Evil adults everywhere!

Several scores of years and many decades later, I still see the ignoramus tendencies of most adults all over the world. I had been right all along and nothing has ever changed. Think about politicians and corruption; adults and addiction; children and education just to start with these for now.

Politicians: Everyone under the canopy of the heavens should be aware by now that if you do one favor to anyone anywhere, you stand the chance of getting some kind of favor in return, sooner or later. That is really how nature functions. And it is also why we have two arms and not just one. The left does things for the right that it cannot do for itself. Then, in

return, the right does same for the left. Therefore, it baffles my mind when we go around yelling and sniffing 'corruption' when a person who helped you clear your part of the farmland expected you to do the same for him or her. No amount of laws can stem this basic natural, human trait. No amount of civilization and legislation can change that. So, to think that a company donating several thousand dollars to someone's political aspirations would not expect any future favor is absurd to me. What we should do is to remove the need for the favor in the first place. Why is that so difficult to fathom?

Addiction: The natural economic dictum of 'supply and demand' has always worked where appropriate. Governments everywhere know that illegal drugs that cause mayhem all over the world are basically based on consumption. No one in his or her right mind will toil over the creation of any product if no one wants or needs or desires it. As long as the need exists anywhere for anything, someone will attempt to satisfy that need. Put all resources into curtailing consumption and supply will die on its own. Who in this world is providing the drugs that addict children and ruin their lives? It's mostly evil adults in societies that did not care for them, and did not guide their upbringing. They see that the easiest way out to make any descent living is to resort to producing illegal products that other evil adults are prepared to use and to pass on to millions others without thought as to the consequences. How ignorant can adults be? How evil can they be? And this has continued unabated all these years. How sad!

Education: When I think of the way we continue to educate the next generation of children all over the world, I feel nauseated. Think about this. We assemble innocent children all over the community, seat them and attempt to inculcate into them a set of ideas, ideals, thoughts and rules that may help them function as successful adults in their lives. We keep at this for up to twenty years

and then let them lose on society to sink or swim as best as they could. If this business of creating descent, educated, successful, civilized members of the society is so essential why do we leave families to fend for themselves? Who pays the price when deviants to these ideals become wards of the society eventually? Wouldn't it be better to ensure uniform, consistent production so that each person gets the same level and quality of universal education that is not reflective of where they were born?

Summary: The evident is all over for people to see. The world we live in is full of people who have no business leading anyone else. Yet we depend on such people for a lot of things. The role of leading and guiding and helping people comes with so much responsibility and requires so much skill and tact and intelligence that I feel so disappointed that no specific effort is made to train and educate leaders to lead. The usual formal, instructional, structured classroom education does not translate to leadership. People should be taught, groomed, mentored, conditioned, instructed, coached, counseled, guided and directed to the specific needs and requirements of the environment they live in. That level of education will help lay the foundation for leading and functioning successfully in the environment they come from for the benefit of their heritage. The entire collective human population everywhere would benefit from such local leadership. How difficult is it to understand this?



(Peace from page 5)

may see and his ears may hear to judge with the righteousness of the Lord. He who rules others must be first ruled by the knowledge of God and be constrained to live according to God's moral demands. If the elected or appointed figures of our nation were to prescribe to the vision of an ideal king with moral and religious faith in God, we would have righteous governing, absent of political rhetoric and personal ambition. This would be a government that would hear God's spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of knowledge and fear of the Lord, but most of all, would implement God's righteousness on earth, and not engage in self-glorification. The ideals of democracy can be vindicated through a righteous character. Where democracy has failed has not been because of constitutional weaknesses or faults in the administrative procedures, but because of moral defects in the people of the government and those they govern.

II. Isaiah's Vision of a Reconciled World: Vv.6-9. The social order of the world as it is cannot be described as wholesome or content. With the absence of righteous morality, there comes the disregard for human life or true justice. We have seen this played out throughout history in America, as well as in the other nations. The words and images of this passage originated during Israel's captivity and exile, and therefore, spoke to a future hope, radically different from their present circumstances. Even now, as Christians, we still have that hope for a future where humanity is at peace all around the world. We have enjoyed moments of peace but not without a constant threat of warfare. The semblance of peace is what the world has experienced on occasion, but human wickedness, self-gratification, and the need for power and wealth has broken

the peace. This has caused war to break out over territory, religion, and influence. This vision of a reconciled world where justice and contentment abounds is followed by a vision, which passes the boundaries of probability. What the vision holds is a testament of the work of righteousness that will and can bring peace and reconciliation to the entire world. There will no longer be enmity between human and beast. There will no longer be a reason for a child to be afraid to lead/herd the animals because of mutual respect. If human and beast can be reconciled through God's righteousness, then humanity can be at peace socially, politically, and more importantly, racially. It is with this hope of a reconciled world we let God's rule be our compass in this world. When God is the center of all we do, then righteousness will abound and reconcile the world. There will no longer be class or racial distinctions. There will no longer be justice for some, nor anyone in need. The world will exist in the utopia of the Garden of Eden, before the fall of humanity. However, humanity has to seek first the kingdom of God and the right relationship with God and God's will, then our reconciled world will be realized.

Lesson Sidelights

When we think of the highest praise, we often hear someone say "hallelujah!" However, the highest praise is obedience to the word/will of God. The fall of humanity was due to the disobedience of Eve, who was tricked into eating the fruit of the forbidden tree; and Adam, who willfully disobey, also eating from the forbidden tree. This disobedience was the start of human separation from the will of God. Moreover, this separation has led to the moral decay of the world. The utopia or hope for a world at peace can only be realized in the righteousness of God and humanity's reconciliation to

the Creator.

Isaiah's vision of a world at peace hinges on humanity allowing God to lead in every aspect of life. There is no room for disobedience when we give up our will for the will of God. As Christians, we have to believe that the whole of creation can and will be an active participant in God's peaceful kingdom. We will live on God's mountain. We will not hurt or destroy any part of creation, human or beast. Most important of all, we will have full knowledge of God and be ruled by the will of God. This Scripture implies a reorganization of life as we know it, but that means the human spirit will or has changed. Until the human spirit changes, no shifting or reorganization of life will occur. For us to realize the vision, we have to believe that Jesus Christ will usher in this utopia upon His return.

Lesson Applications

True and lasting peace is God's ultimate desire and design for Creation, and that is reflected in the reconciling actions of God. In a world where war has been a part of the fabric of our lives, as Christians, we must realize that peace is more than the absence of overt warfare and conflict. Despite our present circumstances, (the wars, racial unrest, injustice, ISIS-terrorists), with faith, we can trust in the eventual full realization of God's peaceable kingdom; a return to the Garden of Eden or New Jerusalem. Believers have to participate in daily life as God's peacemakers, even when it seems confusion and hate is never ending. To advance peace, we have to make disciples of all humanity, teaching them God's Word and will.

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly
(Ages 18 and up)
International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching



(Prayer from page 4)

richly supplied (Proverbs 13:4).

I pray that they would be thoughtful with their words and respectful in their replies. The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things (Proverbs 15:28).

I pray that you would free them from the pressure of trying to be like everyone else by instilling in them the confidence to know that they are uniquely made by you. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well (Psalms 139:14).

I pray that they would receive correction well. The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence (Proverbs 15:31-32).

**Eastern Regional Meeting
Cristian Education Department A.M.E. Zion Church
Thursday, August 11th - Saturday, August 13th**





Saturday, August 27th
Cultural Bazaar
&
Back to School Extravaganza



Great is your faithfulness, O God, my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see. I know that your hands will supply all that I need. Thank you, Lord, for your loving care and supply in my life. I claim the promises of your Word today. I believe your Word, and I look forward to all you are going to do in my life.

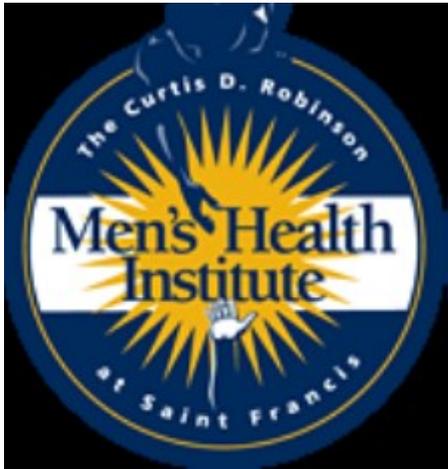
You are Jehovah-jeer, my provider. You know exactly what I need, when I need it, and how my needs will best be met. Thank you for the delight

you experience as you give me the desires of my heart. I love you, and you love me.

Thank you, Father, for your great mercies which are new in my life each morning. Your grace and loving favor are upon me and within me. Indeed, your loving kindness is better than life to me. Thank you for always providing me with my daily bread, and so much more. I rejoice in you and in the knowledge that you are the God of more than enough.

Thank you, Father, for caring about me and my loved ones. I know you want all needs to be met, and you cannot fail in meeting them. I praise you for the wonderful realization that you do fulfill all your promises in my life.

Thank you for your word which will never return to you void. I claim the promises of your Word for me, my family, and our lives. I take my stand upon the solid promises of your Word, Father. Thank you for meeting my every need. Amen



Curtis D. Robinson

2016 Men's Health Conference

Cross Street AME Zion Church
440 West Street Middletown, Ct
Reverend Moses L. Harvill, Pastor

Saturday, September 24, 2016 - 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

*Co-Sponsored by
Curtis D. Robinson Men's Institute/St. Francis Hospital-Hartford, CT.*

Guest Speaker: Curtis D. Robinson @ 9:30 a.m.

There will be Workshops on Prostate Cancer, Blood Pressure Testing, Diabetes Education, and much more.

\$10.00 Registration Fee

Breakfast & Lunch will be served

For more info: Call Church Office (860)-344-9527-

Email: crossstreetchurch@snet.net

Registration form is also available on-line at: www.crossstamezion.org

A BUBBLE BREAK

READ: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. 2 Corinthians 4:18

A young boy showered my husband, Carl, and me with bubbles as he came running by us on the Atlantic City boardwalk. It was a light and fun moment on a difficult day. We had come to the city to visit our brother-in-law in the hospital and to help Carl's sister who was struggling and having trouble getting to her doctors' appointments. So as we took a break and walked along the seaside boardwalk we were feeling a bit overwhelmed by the needs of our family.

Then came the bubbles. Just bubbles blown at us whimsically by a little boy in the ocean breeze-but they had a special significance to me. I love bubbles and keep a bottle in my office to use whenever I need the smile of a bubble break. Those bubbles and the vast Atlantic Ocean reminded me of what I can count on: God is always close. He is powerful. He

always cares. And He can use even the smallest experiences, and briefest moments, to help us remember that His presence is like an ocean of grace in the middle of our heavy moments.

Maybe one day our troubles will seem like bubbles-momentary in light of eternity for "what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 COR. 4:18). -Anne Cetas

What gifts of grace has God given to you in a difficult time? How might you be a blessing to others?

Jesus provides an oasis of grace in the desert of trails.

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
Reprinted by Permission



Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis, **PLEASE** dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY

We can't but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God's strength to help each other recover?

Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way

For more information contact:
Church office 860-344-9527.or
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<p>Sunday 8:30 a.m. Church School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board Meeting (following service) Youth Meeting 1st & 4th Sunday's (following service)</p> <p>Monday 7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter 6:00 p.m. Zumba 7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)</p>	<p>Tuesday <i>Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill</i> 6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and bible study.</p> <p>Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month) 7:00 p.m.. Praise & Worship Choir rehearsal, 8:00 p.m. Men's Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Thursday 6:00 p.m. Steward Board 7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month) 7:00 p.m. Unity Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Friday <i>Day of Fasting</i> 6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd & 4th of month) 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Cross Street Recovery Ministry (room 2)</p> <p>Saturday 10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd) 11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month) 12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)</p>
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MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

September

Wednesday, September 14

First Lady's Birthday

Friday, September 16

Pastor preaching at Hopewell Baptist Church, Windsor, CT.
 United Choir singing, Contemporary Ushers and members please attend

Sunday September 18

National Back to Church Sunday

Dinner will follow

- **Deaconess Ministry Bake Sale**

Saturday, September 24 ♦ 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Men's Health Conference

Sunday, September 25

Mission Sunday

All Missionaries Please dress in white and wear stoles. **Guest speaker:** Sister Vanessa Clayton, General Chairman Life Members Council A.M.E. Zion Church.

October

Thursday, October 6 & Friday, October 7

Restoration Institute Northeastern Episcopal District, Westchester Marriott, New York

Saturday, October 22

First Check up meeting to be held at Mt. Olive A.M. E Zion Church, Waterbury

Saturday, October 22 ♦ 5:00 p.m.

Fashion Show

More information to follow

Other upcoming Events

More information to follow

October

- **Dance Ministry Celebration**

November

- **Lay Council Awards**
- **Usher's Anniversary**
- **Revival**
- **Family & Friends Day**

Doxology

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 24-25



CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
Organized in 1823

440 West Street P.O. Box 223
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone: 860-344-9527 Fax: 860-344-1740
crossstreetchurch@snet.net
www.crossstreetamezion.org

Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,
Pastor

Email: mharvill@snet.net

The Rev. Timothy Howard
Presiding Elder

Mrs. D. Diane Proctor
Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor
Presiding Prelate

Ministerial Staff

- Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner
- Rev. William D. Wilson
- Rev. Ella Frances Perry
- Rev. Karen Nesmith
- Rev. James Battle
- Rev. Myrtle Turner
- Rev. Jennifer Cherry-Woods
- Rev. Gregory Winborne
- Rev. Joyce Johnson
- Rev. Earlene Grants
- Sister Felicia Freeman



"I am a Christian"

By Maya Angelou

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, somehow!

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision and make it plain on tablets,
that he may run who reads it.
Habakkuk 2:2

The Jabez Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,
"Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

"God's Word

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"
Hebrews 4:12

Prayer: Forever, O Lord, your Word is settled in heaven. I bless you because you have given me rest according to all that you have promised to me. Not one word of all your good promises has ever failed. In light of this truth, I will walk in your Word at all times. I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. All of your words are pure, O God, and you are a shield to me. Lord God, your way is perfect, and

your Word is tried. You are a shield and a mighty buckler to me as I trust in you. With your Word you made the heavens, O Lord. all of your promises are yes in Christ, unto your glory, O God. You have spoken through your Word since ancient times, in order to give light to those who sit in darkness, and you guide my feet in the way of peace.

Your Word is quick, alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even to the dividing asunder of my soul and spirit, and of my joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of my heart.

Father, I am thankful for your Word, and I will endeavor to walk in the light of your Word all the days of my life.

If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. If you have an article or information for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2nd Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office with Verna Boyce Or, E-mail Ken Simmons (Ken46@snet.net), or give it to him **Praise God!!!**