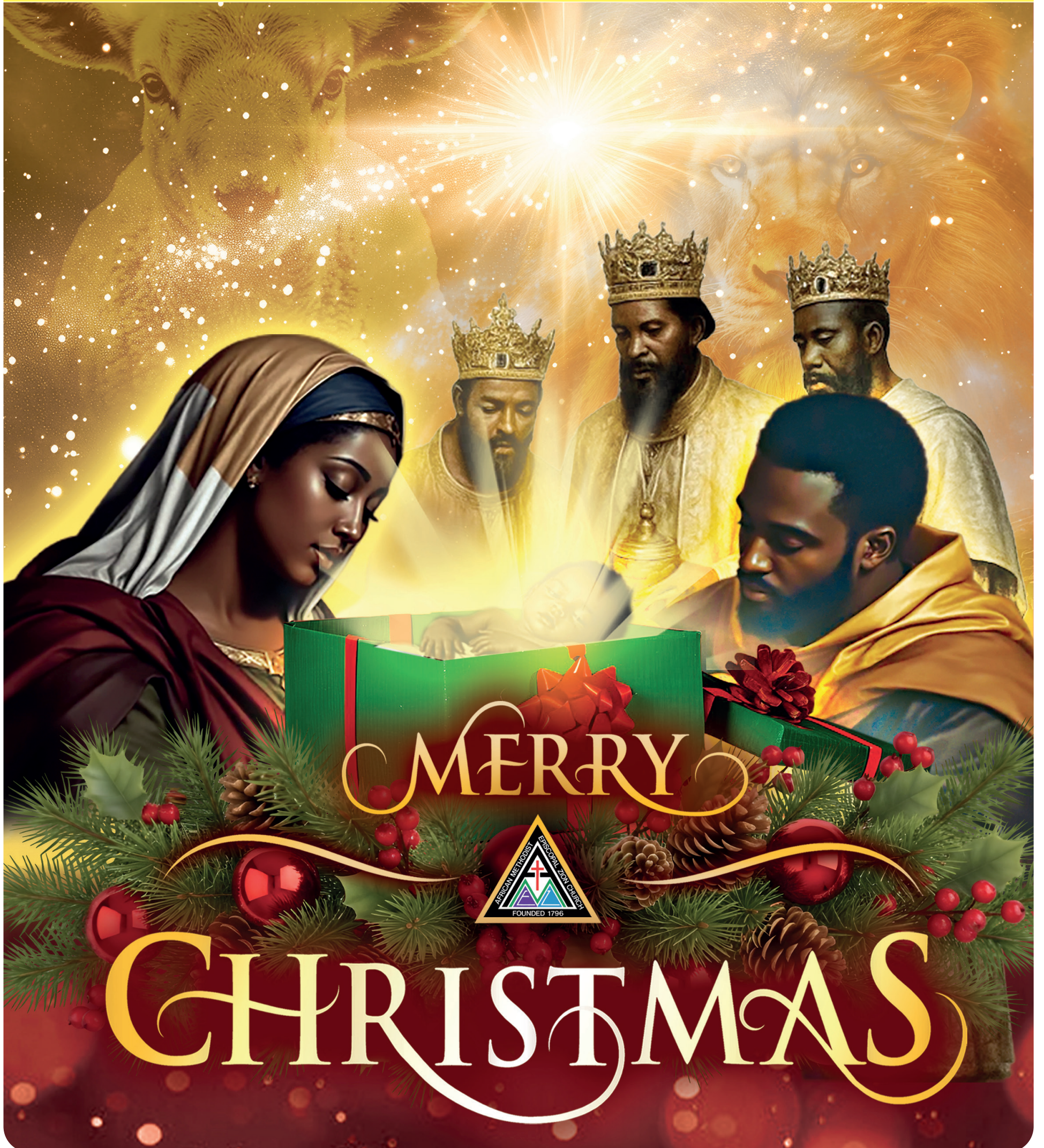


Season's Greetings Zion!

It's time to spread and share peace, love, and positivity among friends & family.
We hope you enjoy our Annual Christmas Greetings Issue for the holiday season...

THE STAR OF ZION

DECEMBER 2025 | VOL 149 NO. 12 | STAROFZION.ORG | THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH



Official Voice of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

The Star of Zion is an award-winning newspaper and journalistic media organization, published by The A.M.E. Zion Church as its official organ since 1876.

Being guided by the core values of truth, faith, and love, the Star seeks to raise the consciousness of readers with news that is current, relevant, and dependable.

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Notice to Star of Zion Reporters Article/Ad Submission Deadline Dates

February 2026 Issue.....	Janaury 15, 2026
March 2026 Issue.....	February 15, 2026
April 2026 Issue.....	March 15, 2026
May 2026 Issue.....	April 15, 2026
June 2026 Issue.....	May 15, 2026

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GREETINGS

150 Years of Witness, One Enduring Voice

Zion Family,

WE MADE IT! With your support, we are on the cusp of celebrating the **150th Anniversary of *The Star of Zion***. This is no small achievement, but rather one to be lauded within our Zion family and celebrated globally with collective organizations, fellow publications, and ecumenical partners who join us in producing the good news across all media platforms.

For much of our history, *The Star of Zion* was not simply a newspaper—it was the **primary means of connection for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**. Founded in **1876**, the *Star* carried the official voice of the Church, sharing pastoral appointments, conference proceedings, episcopal messages, theological reflection, and news from local congregations at a time when access to information for Black communities was limited and often denied. Long before email, livestreams, and digital editions, Zionites relied on these pages to stay informed, encouraged, and united across districts, conferences, and generations. Through seasons of change, social transformation, and faithful leadership, *The Star of Zion* has remained a trusted witness to the life and mission of the Freedom Church.

When we mention additional media platforms today, we do so while recognizing that the landscape of how news is transmitted has vastly changed since even a decade ago. Email marketing has proven to be one of the most effective ways for subscribers and readers to receive updates and notifications. When sharing content online, it is essential to have proper links to digital publications and e-editions readily available so audiences can engage more deeply. And let us not forget the importance of short-form video content to accompany stories—visuals that help crystallize the essence of each piece.

You notice these trends. You have adapted to them. And you may be saying to yourself right now, *I don't see this consistently with *The Star of Zion**. You are right.

Despite being an award-winning newspaper, recognized by the Associated Church Press, *The Star of Zion* must expand its capacity to keep pace with the evolving ways news is shared and received. With rising publishing costs and the increasing need for software and hardware to produce the content you expect and deserve, we will be making strategic moves this year to ensure we do not shortchange our audience. At the same time, we remain firmly committed to providing stellar storytelling rooted in our core values of **Truth, Faith, and Love**.

As you have supported us in the past, we will need your continued support in the future. How, you ask? Here are a few ways you can help:

- We commit to being your first choice for breaking news, both digitally and in print.
- We invite each subscriber to serve as an ambassador, evangelizing through our various media platforms.
- We aspire for every Zionite to be an active subscriber.
- We seek to promote your brand through digital and print advertising partnerships.

Making even a few of these commitments will drastically change the trajectory of our beloved movement—and you will undoubtedly see the positive impact.

Thank you in advance for how you will continue to support our editorial work. It is because of the God-inspired ministry happening at the local church and district levels that we even have a publication worthy of celebrating. You have done so much for our church, and we remain committed to upholding the mission and vision of the Freedom Church by documenting our shared life and witness for the world to see—honoring the last 150 years and preparing for the next 150.

Thank you for all that you do and all that you have done.

Blessed to Serve,
Mr. Darin Kent
Editor in Chief, *The Star of Zion*

*Please stay tuned for more information about the celebratory efforts taking place throughout the year in honor of the 150th Anniversary of *The Star of Zion*.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ZION

THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
The Freedom Church

FROM OUR
FAMILY
TO YOURS



**BISHOP DARRYL &
MRS. CAMILLE STARNES**

Senior Bishop & Presiding Prelate
Piedmont Episcopal District



Merry Christmas

Mrs. Devieta Moore

Missionary Supervisor,
Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

Bishop W. Darin Moore

Presiding Prelate,
Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we pray God's peace, grace,
and renewed hope rest upon you and your family this Christmas.

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11 NRSVUE

To All our Zion Family!

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace
to those on whom his favor rests!”

- Luke 2:14



Presiding Prelate & Missionary Supervisor for the
Northeastern Episcopal District



**Love
Peace & Joy**

ZION
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH - WWAED

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
goodwill toward men."
- Luke 2:14*

*This holy season reminds us of God's immeasurable gift to
humanity and calls us to share His love with one another.*

*May your homes be filled with laughter, your lives with
purpose, and your faith renewed as we journey into a new year
guided by God's grace.*

**Merry Christmas
& A BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

**RT. REV. DR. HILIARD K. DELA DOGBE, PRESIDING BISHOP
& MRS. CYNTHIA A. S. DOGBE, MISSIONARY SUPERVISOR**
LIBERIA, GHANA, COTE D'IVOIRE, TOGO, RWANDA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO & BURUNDI

MERRY Christmas



Bishop Uduak U. Effiong & Mrs. Promise C. Effiong
Presiding Prelate & Missionary Supervisor
Eastern West Africa Episcopal District



GOD GAVE HIS GREATEST GIFT TO US ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS
DAY AND MAY THE WONDER OF IT ALWAYS GUIDE AND LIGHT YOUR
WAY...

WISHING YOU

Joy & Peace

AT CHRISTMAS

AND THROUGHOUT 2026

Bishop Brian R. Thompson
Rev. Felica R. Thompson
Presiding Prelate &
Missionary Supervisor
of the Mid-Atlantic
Episcopal District

ZION



THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
The Freedom Church



South Atlantic Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

seasonal greetings

May the Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light of Jesus
Christ surround you and those you love this Christmas!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Mrs. H. Jean McMurray-Leake, Missionary Supervisor
Bishop Eric L. Leake, Presiding Bishop



ZIONTHE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
*The Freedom Church***MERRY CHRISTMAS**

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



*Bishop & Mrs.
Daran H. Mitchell*

PRESIDING PRELATE

MISSIONARY SUPERVISOR

MIDWEST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
The Freedom Church

Merry Christmas

from the

SOUTHWESTERN DELTA EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



BISHOP
ANTONY
WITHERSPOON

REV. DR.
KAY
GABRIEL

PRESIDING PRELATE

MISSIONARY SUPERVISOR

Merry Christmas

ZION

THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
The Freedom Church

BISHOP MELANIE RODGERS MILLER

MRS. ROSALYN
HOLLAD

REV. JIMMY
MILLER





Merry CHRIST mas

"For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government
shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be
called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace"
– Isaiah 9:6

from the Right Reverend Dwayne A. Walker
and Missionary Supervisor Donna Smith Walker





**Right Reverend Bernardo J. Ngunza, Presiding Bishop
& Missionary Supervisor, Ms. Isabel A. Ngunza**

Angola, South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe



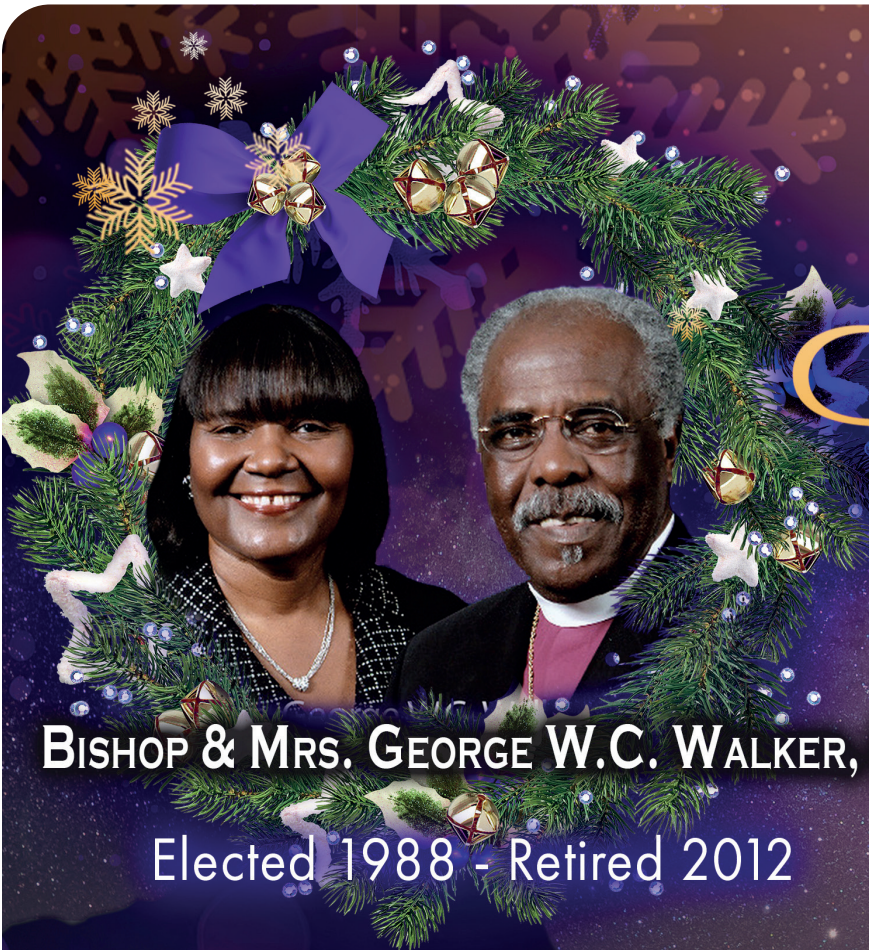


**BISHOP & MRS.
SETH O. LARTEY**

WE WISH YOU A

*Merry
Christmas*

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



BISHOP & MRS. GEORGE W.C. WALKER, SR.

Elected 1988 - Retired 2012

*Merry
Christmas*

TO ALL OUR ZION FAMILY

ZION

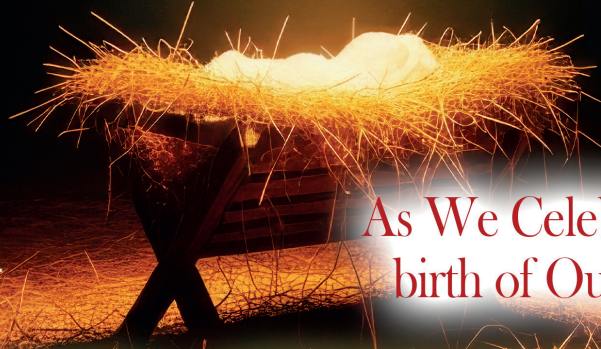
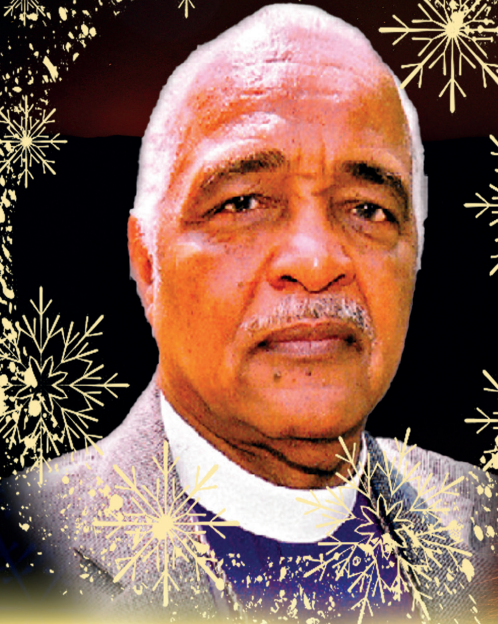
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The Freedom Church

"For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders. And His name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6



Happy Holidays

REJOICE



As We Celebrate The
birth of Our Savior

BISHOP MARSHALL STRICKLAND

Elected 1992 - Retired 2004

MERRY *Christmas*

May the Grace & Peace of our
Lord be with you.

May your best gift this holiday be
of love, peace & happiness.



BISHOP & MRS. NATHANIEL JARRETT

Elected 1996 - Retired 2008





MERRY CHRISTMAS

BISHOP & MRS. DENNIS V. PROCTOR
Elected 2008 - Retired 2024

ZION
THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
The Freedom Church

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU
TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT *Romans 15:13*



MERRY Christmas

HAPPY NEW YEAR

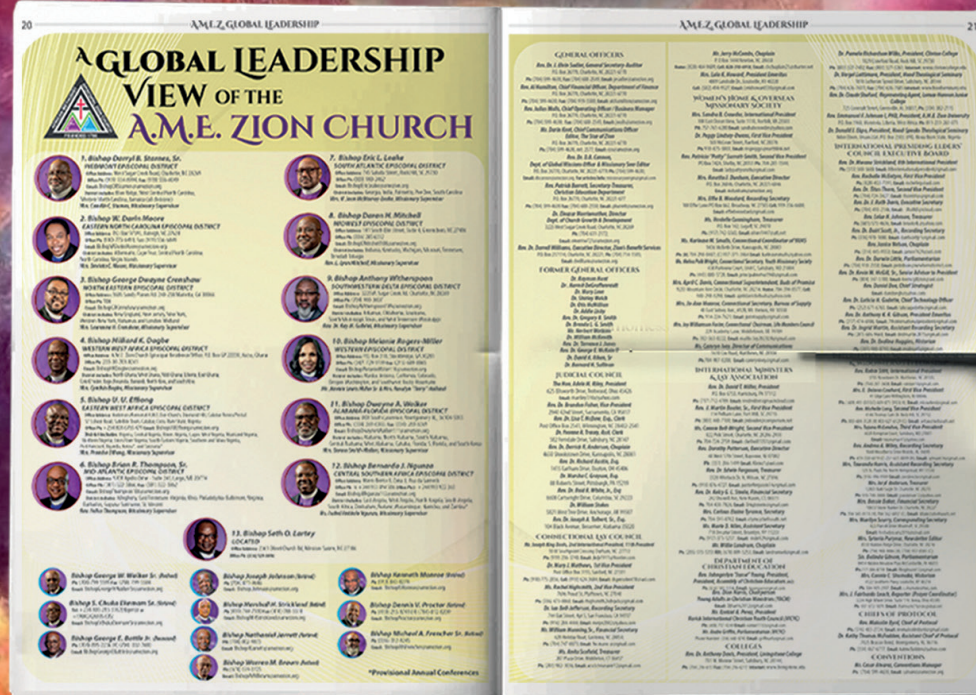
MAY THE PEACE & BLESSING
OF CHRISTMAS BE YOURS &
MAY THE COMING YEAR BE
FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.

**BISHOP & MRS.
MICHAEL A. FRENCHER, SR.**
ELECTED 2012 - RETIRED 2024

ONLINE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



<https://amezion.org/a-m-e-z-global-leadership/>



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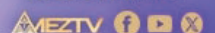
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Missionary Supervisor, South Atlantic Episcopal District

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INTERESTED ADULT WRITERS: Using Luke 15:11-13, write 1000-1500 words illuminating key points to understand the scripture text.

INTERESTED ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTORS: Using Luke 15:11-13, create 3-5 activities for our three children's quarterlies.

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05 | 2026



MERRY
Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
"A New Chapter Unfolds"



Dr. Angela Davis-Baxter
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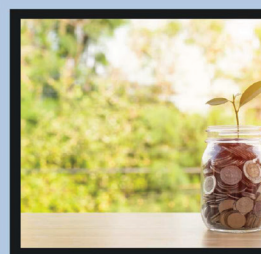
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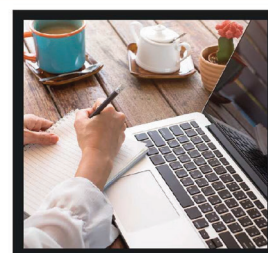
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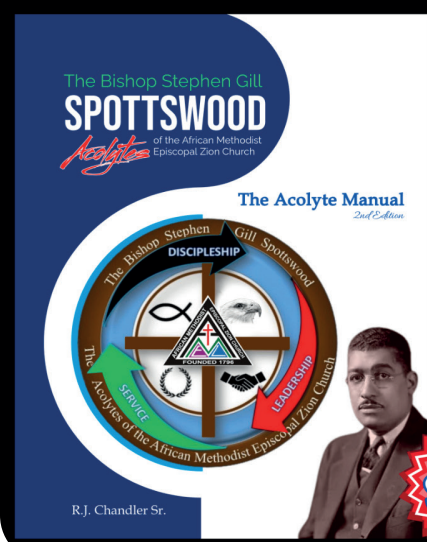
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MERRY Christmas

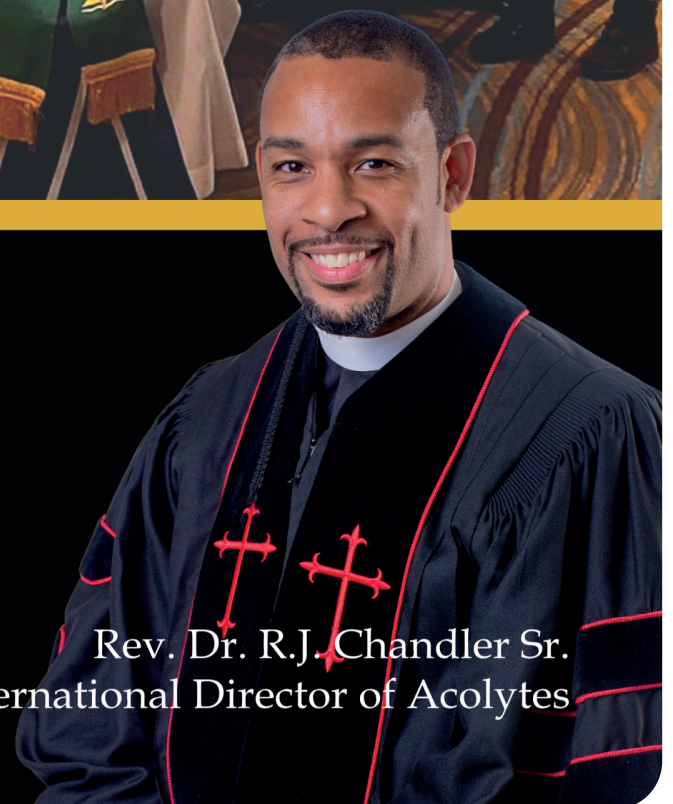


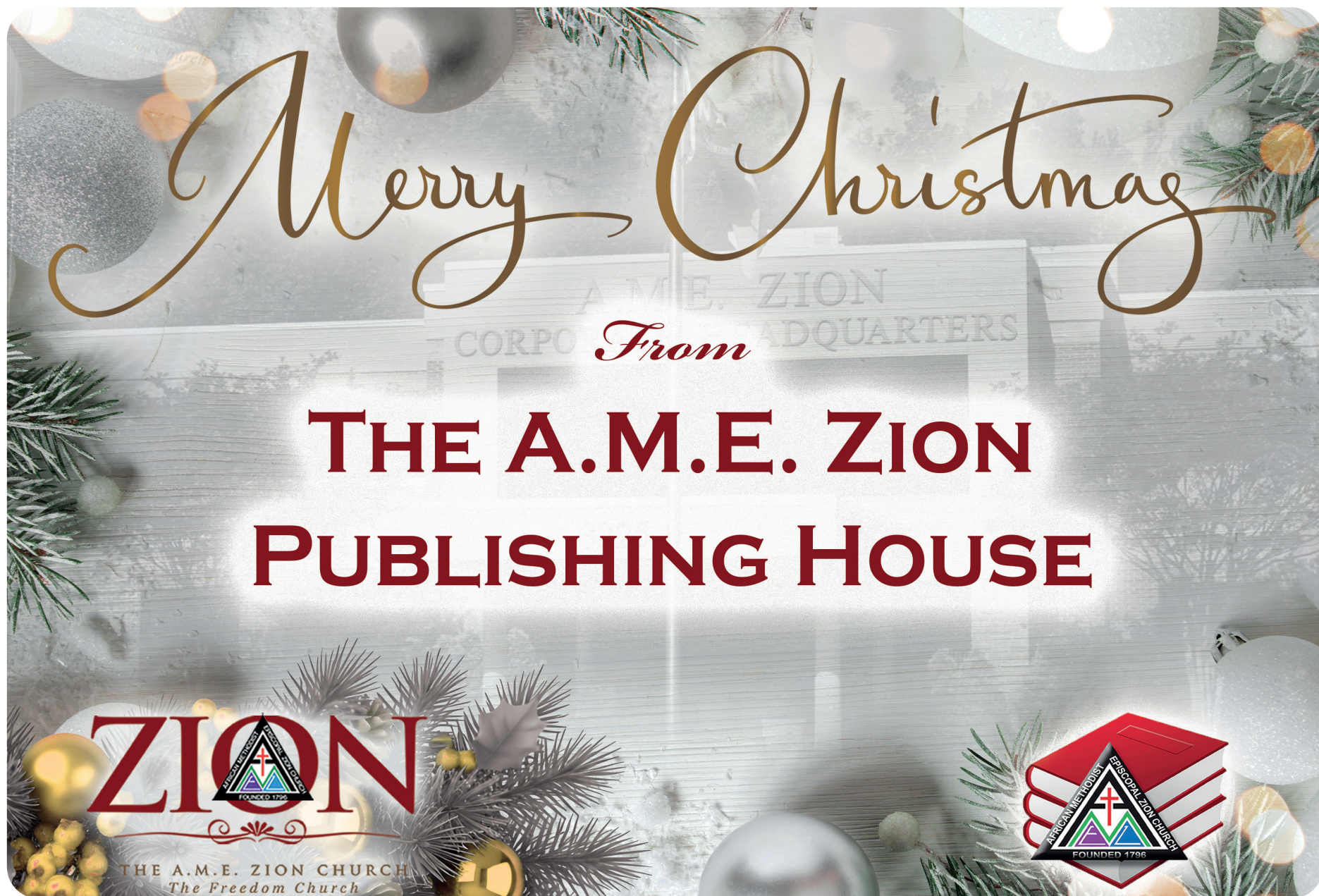
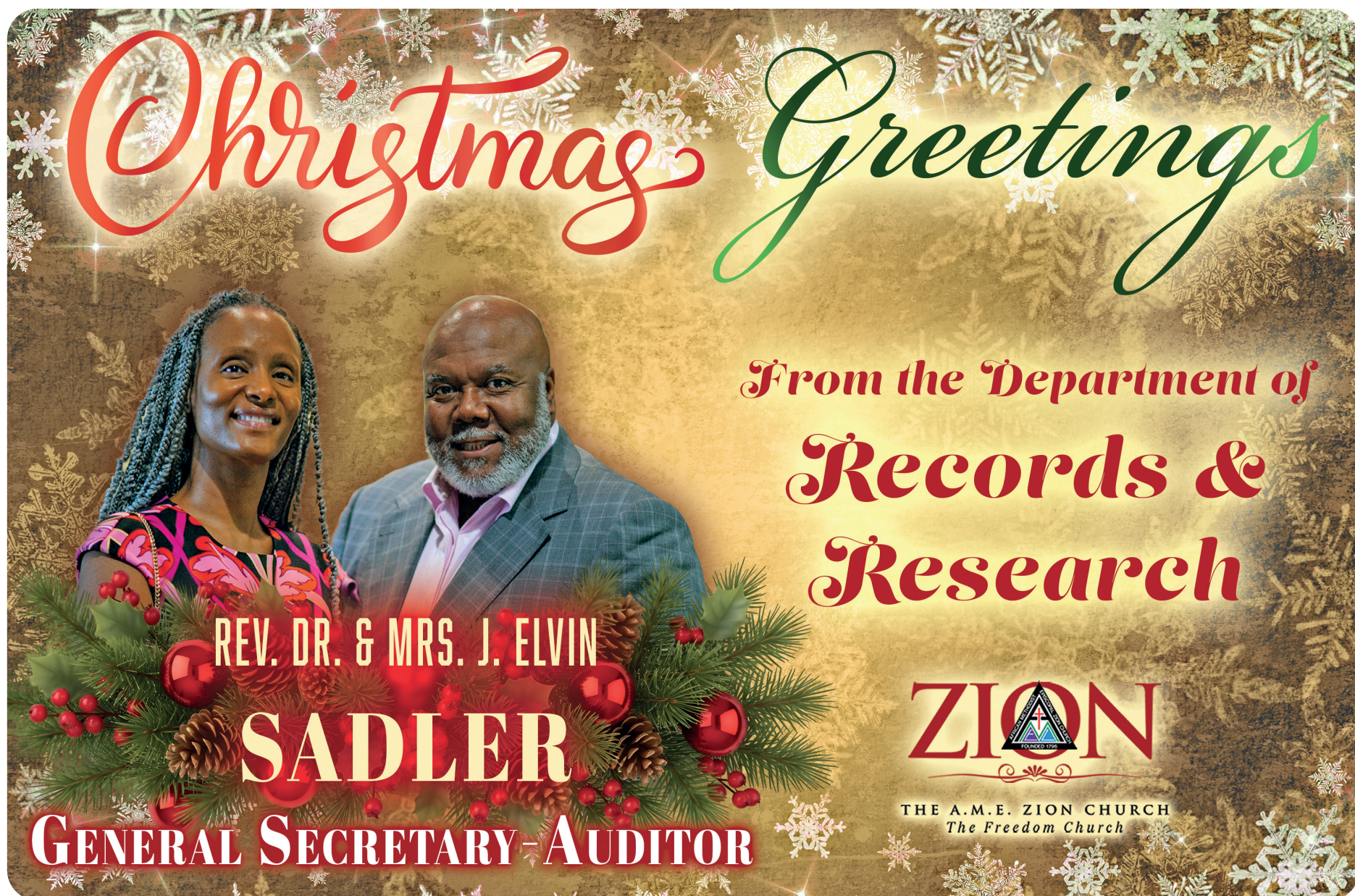
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REJOICE



REV. AL & MARGUERITE
HAMILTON

IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS,
WHICH IS **PEACE**,
THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS,
WHICH IS **HOPE**,
AND THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS,
WHICH IS **LOVE**.

Chief Financial Officer

Merry Christmas

YOUR A.M.E. ZION COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

may God's Love,
joy and peace be
with you during
this holiday
season.



MR. DARIN & NINA
KENT

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE STAR OF ZION



Merry Christmas

From the Department of
**CHURCH GROWTH
& DEVELOPMENT**



REV. DR. ELEAZAR MERRIWEATHER
Executive Director



ZION

THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
The Freedom Church



Merry Christmas

FROM
**ZION BENEFITS
SERVICES**

REV. DARELL WILLIAMS
Executive Director

*May your Christmas Sparkle with
moments of love, laughter & goodwill.
May the year ahead
be full of contentment & joy*





Merry Christmas


THE WOMEN'S HOME & OVERSEAS MISSIONARY SOCIETY

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, So that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Romans 15:13

THE CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL


& Executive Board and Staff

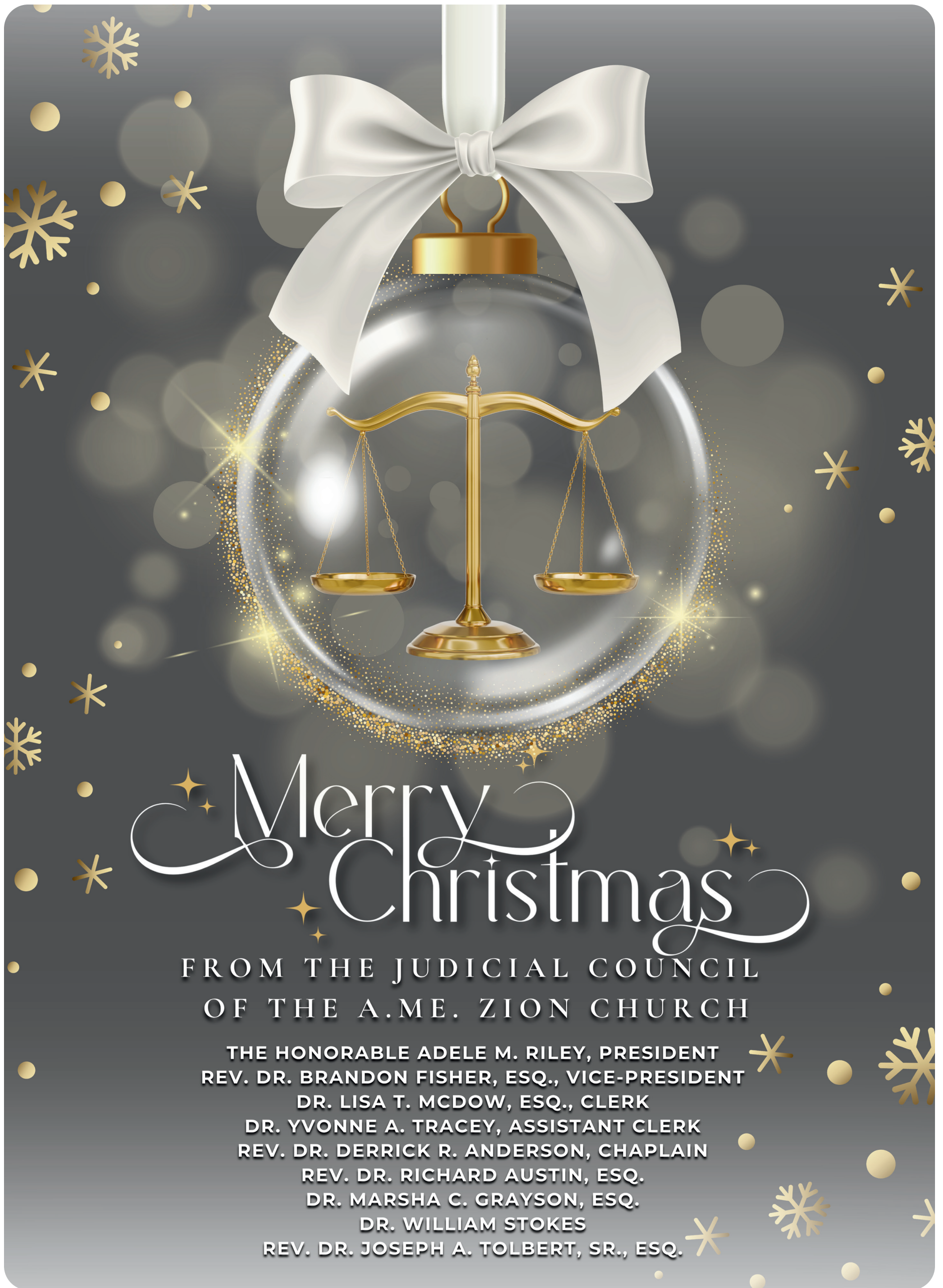
"MAY GOD GRANT YOU PEACE AND SERENITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. GOOD WILL, GOOD HEALTH, AND GOOD TIDINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR TO COME."



Joseph King Davis, Jr.

FROM OUR CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL FAMILY TO YOURS, WE WISH YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR."





Merry Christmas

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