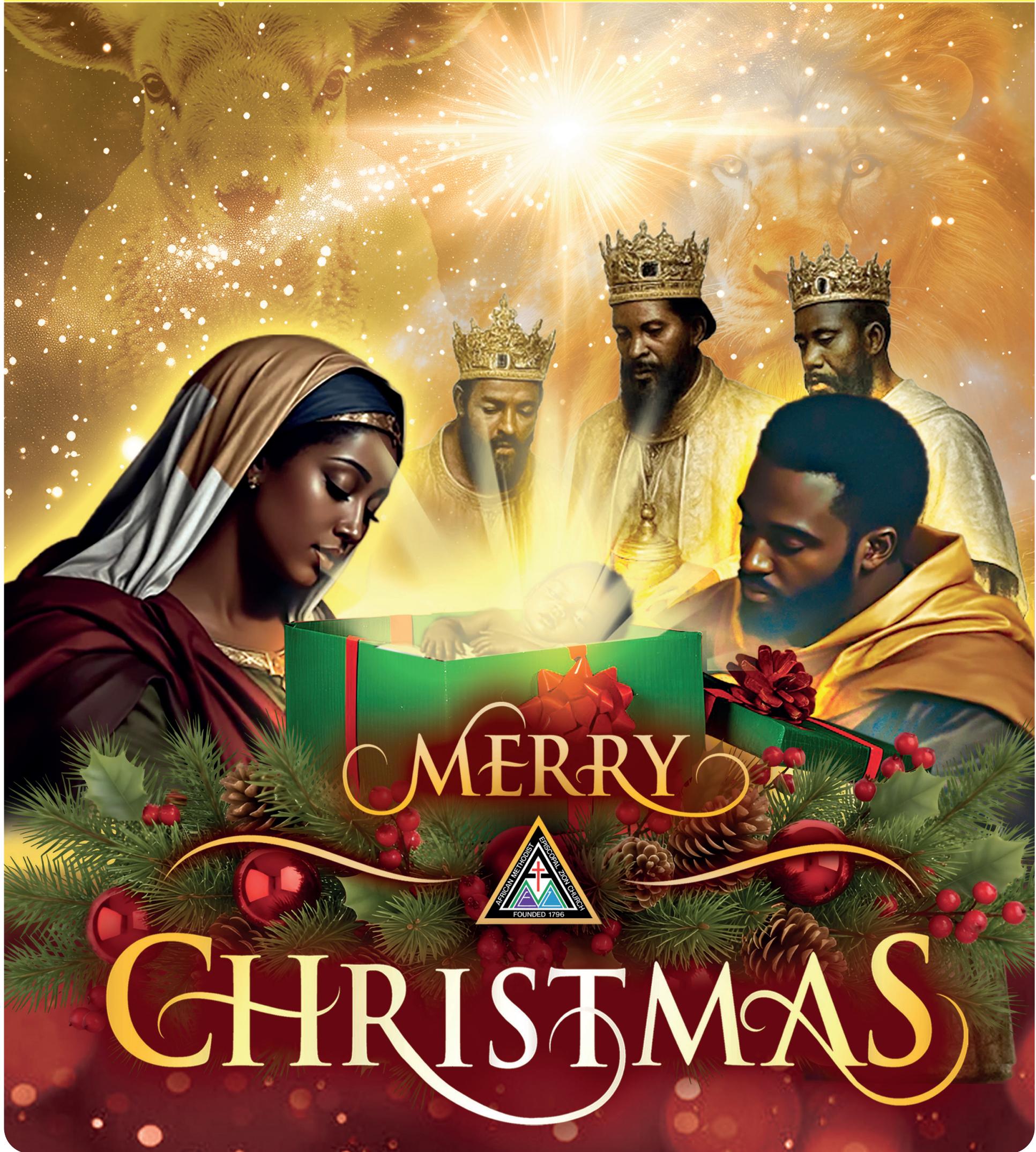


*Season's Greetings Zion!*

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...

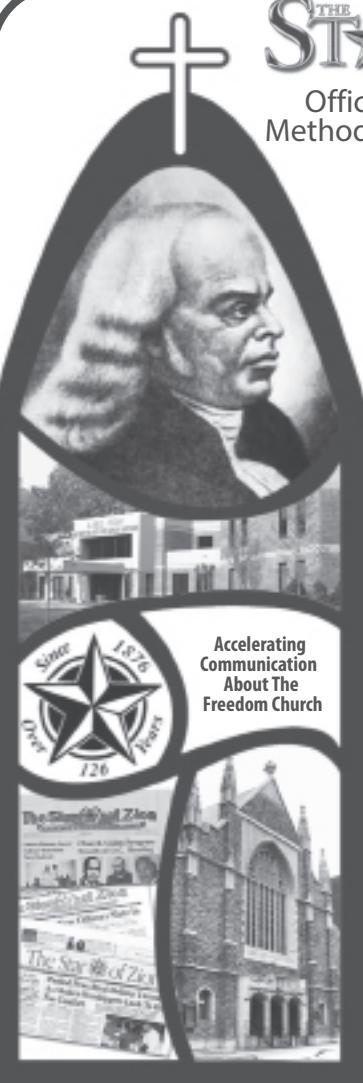
# THE STAR OF ZION

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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Article/Ad Submission Deadline Dates

February 2026 Issue.....	January 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

IN THIS  
ISSUE

LOOK INSIDE

PAGES

3-15

EPISCOPAL  
GREETINGS

15-19

RETIRED  
BISHOPS

20

GLOBAL  
LEADERSHIP

24

EDUCATION

25

ACOLYTES

26-31

DEPARTMENT  
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*

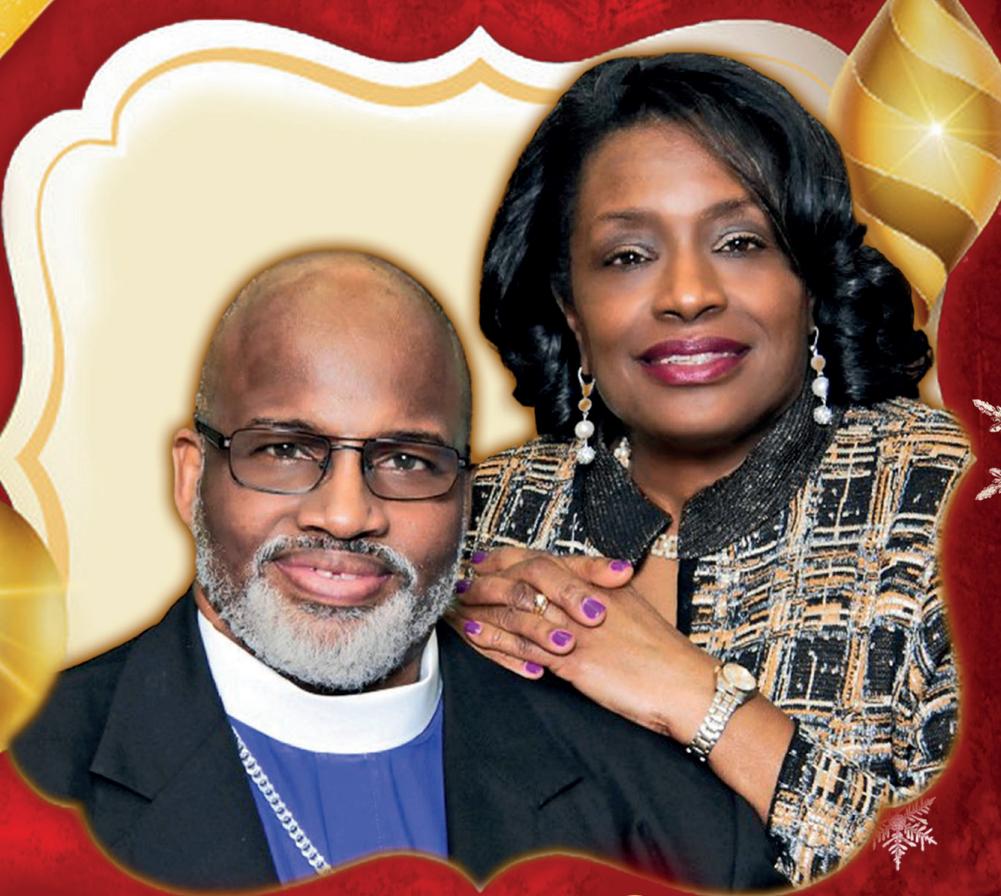
*Please stay tuned for more information about the celebratory efforts taking place throughout the year in honor of the 150th Anniversary of The Star of Zion.*

# 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



# 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



# MERRY Christmas



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

**ZION**



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-Jackson, Missionary Supervisor

Bishop Eric L. Jackson, Presiding Bishop





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

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

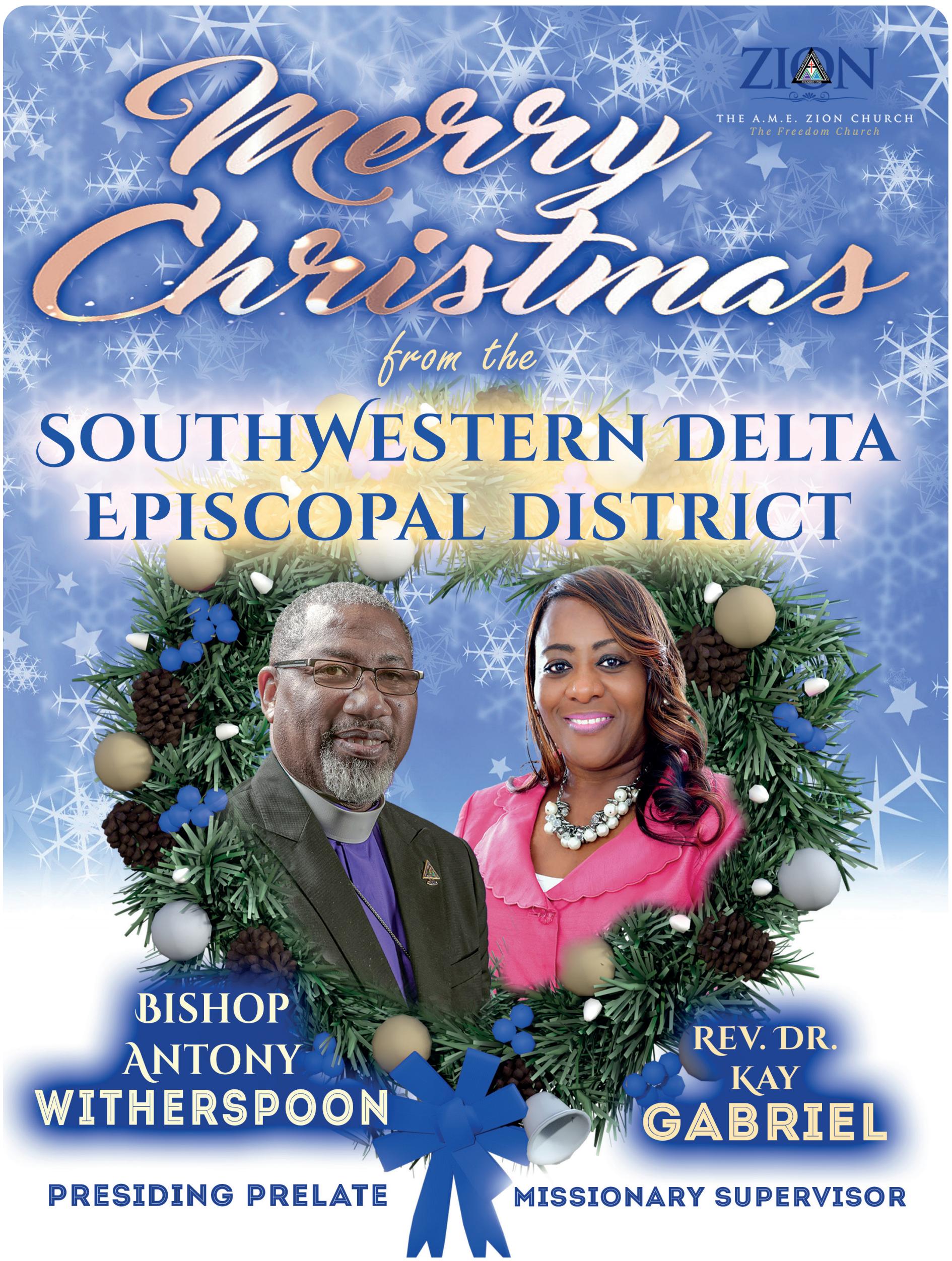


*Bishop & Mrs.  
Daran H. Mitchell*

PRESIDING PRELATE

MISSIONARY SUPERVISOR

**MIDWEST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**







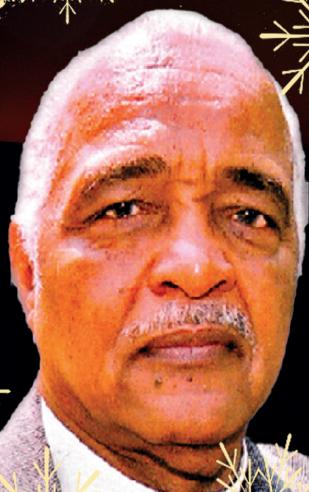






# Happy Holidays

## REJOICE



As We Celebrate The  
birth of Our Savior

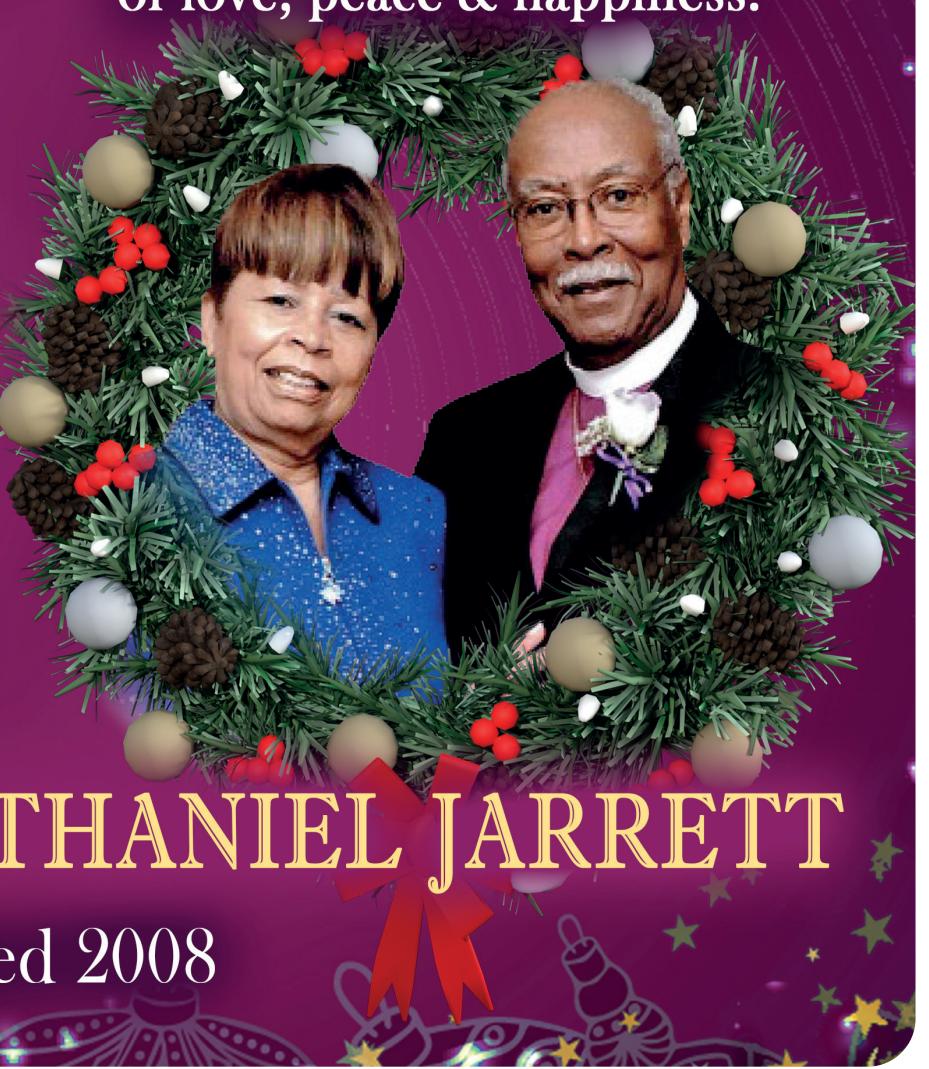
## BISHOP MARSHALL STRICKLAND

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

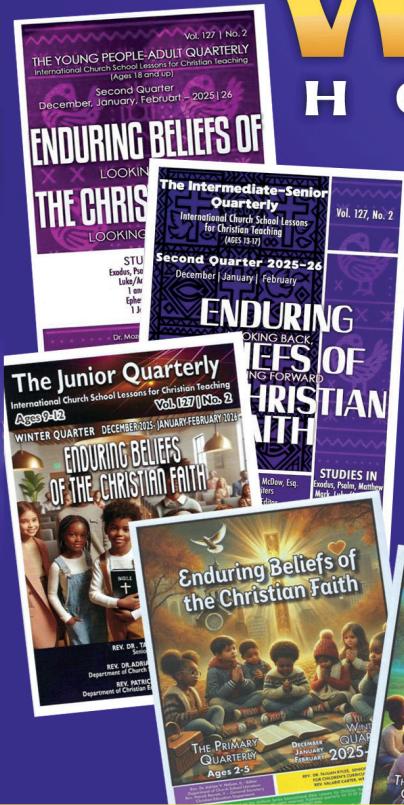








# THE AME ZION CHURCH CHURCH SCHOOL LITERATURE DEPARTMENT Seeking WRITERS HOW TO APPLY



INTERESTED CHILDREN'S WRITERS: Using Luke 15:1-7, write a 250-500 word conversation between two characters that explains an understanding of the parable in a present-day context.

INTERESTED YOUTH WRITERS: Using Luke 15:11-32, write a 250-500 word present-day illustration relating to a teen who was lost and returned home, as well as 500-1000 words illuminating key points to understanding the scripture text.

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.

SUBMISSIONS DUE BY  
**JAN**  
05 | 2026

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Dr. Angela Davis-Baxter  
Candidate for

# MERRY Christmas and a Happy New Year

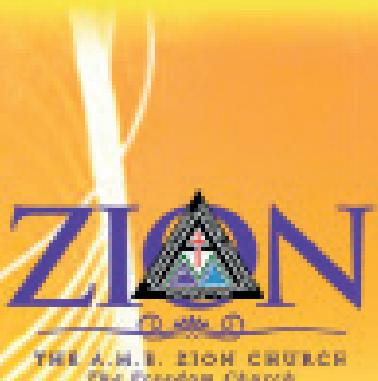
**"A New Chapter Unfolds"**

Dr. Angela

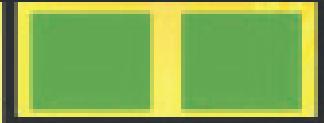
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International President of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society

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@careforpaster

AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR, ARCHIVIST, WRITER, AND PASSIONATE  
ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL HISTORY

# *Called to Lead*



AS THE WIFE OF THE  
FIRST AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
DIRECTOR OF A  
SMITHSONIAN  
INSTITUTION  
MUSEUM, SHE  
EXPLAINS HOW SHE  
AND JOHN KINARD  
BECAME  
LIKE-MINDED  
LEADERS IN THE  
DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA,  
NATIONALLY, AND  
INTERNATIONALLY.

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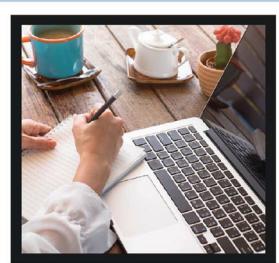
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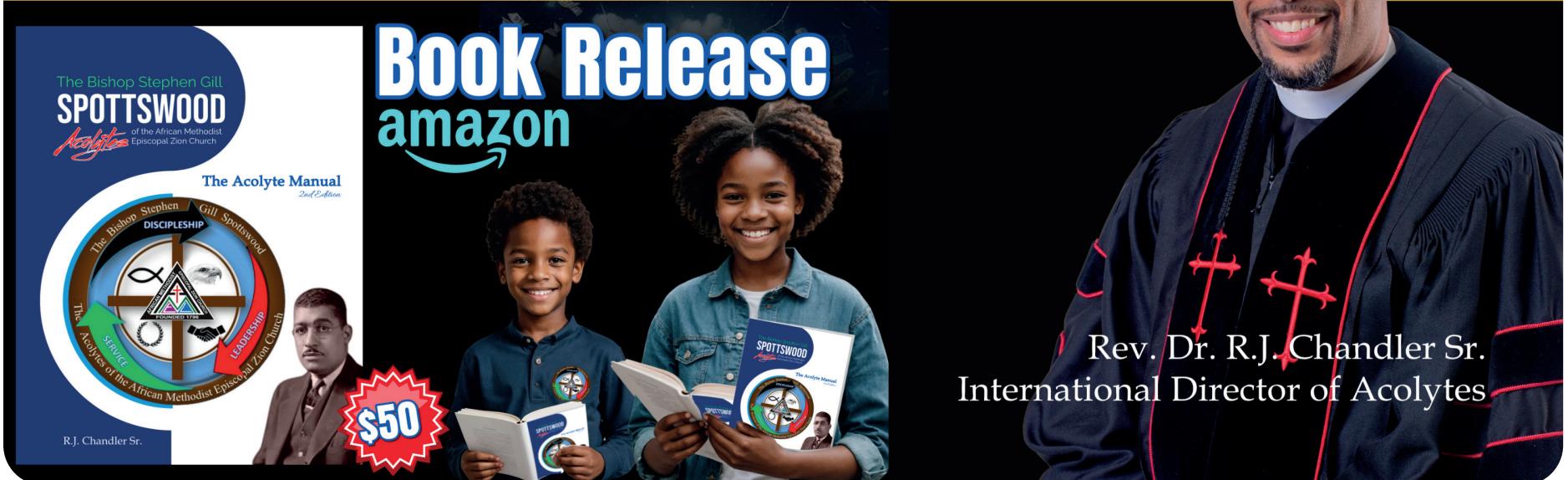
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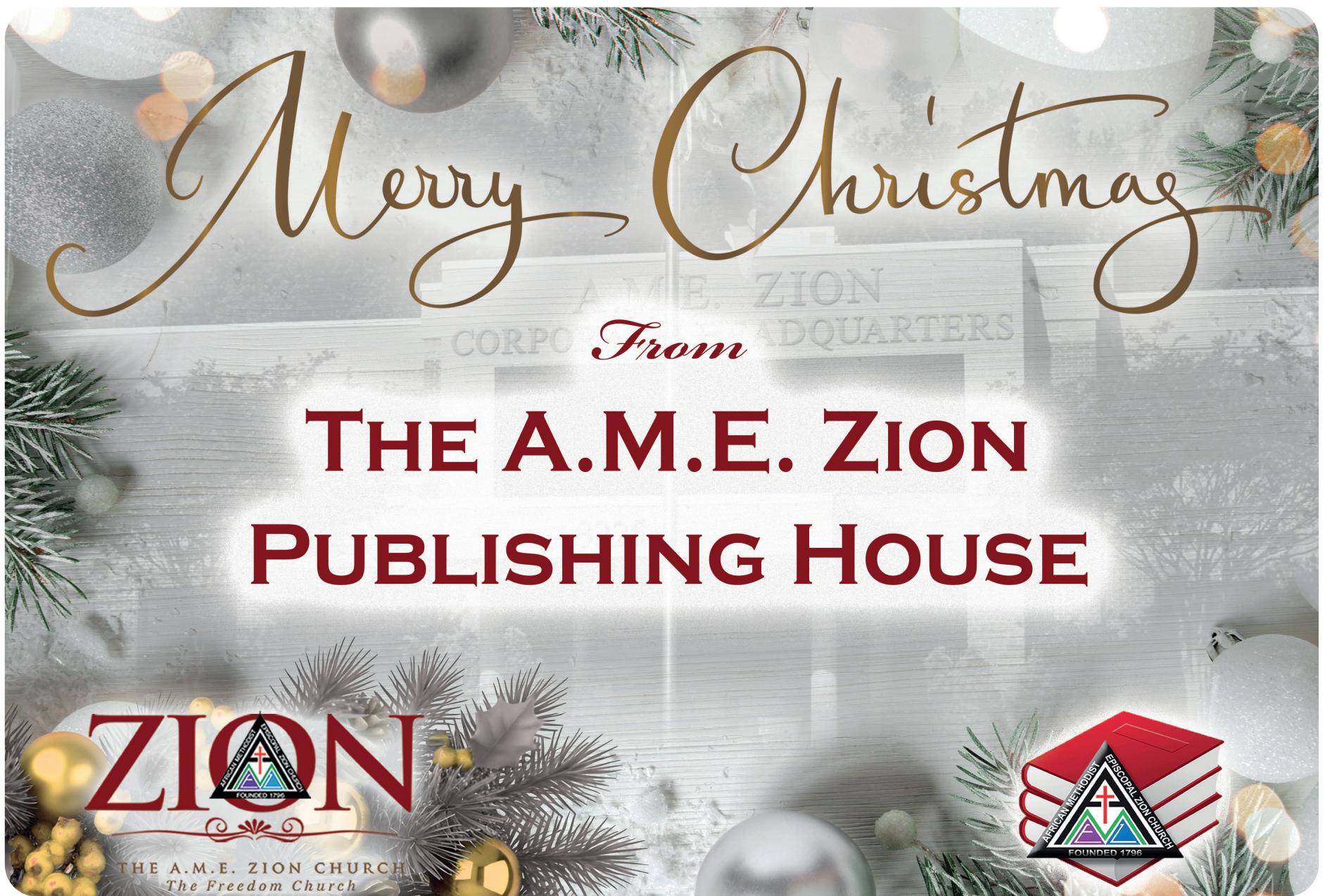
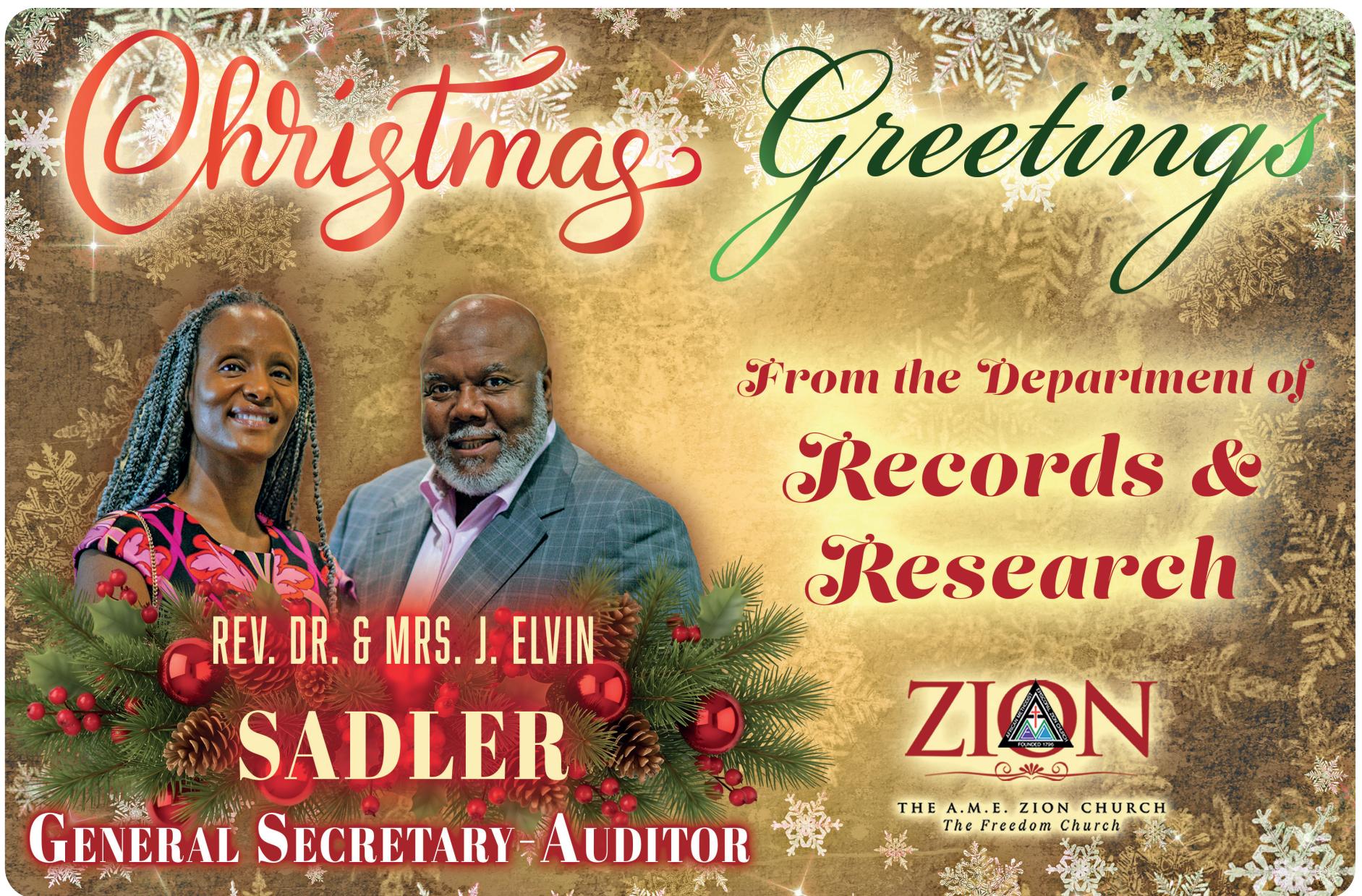


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#zionexcellence  
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#zionpride

# MERRY Christmas





# REJOICE



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

REV. AL & MARGUERITE  
HAMILTON

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

# Merry Christmas

YOUR A.M.E. ZION COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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



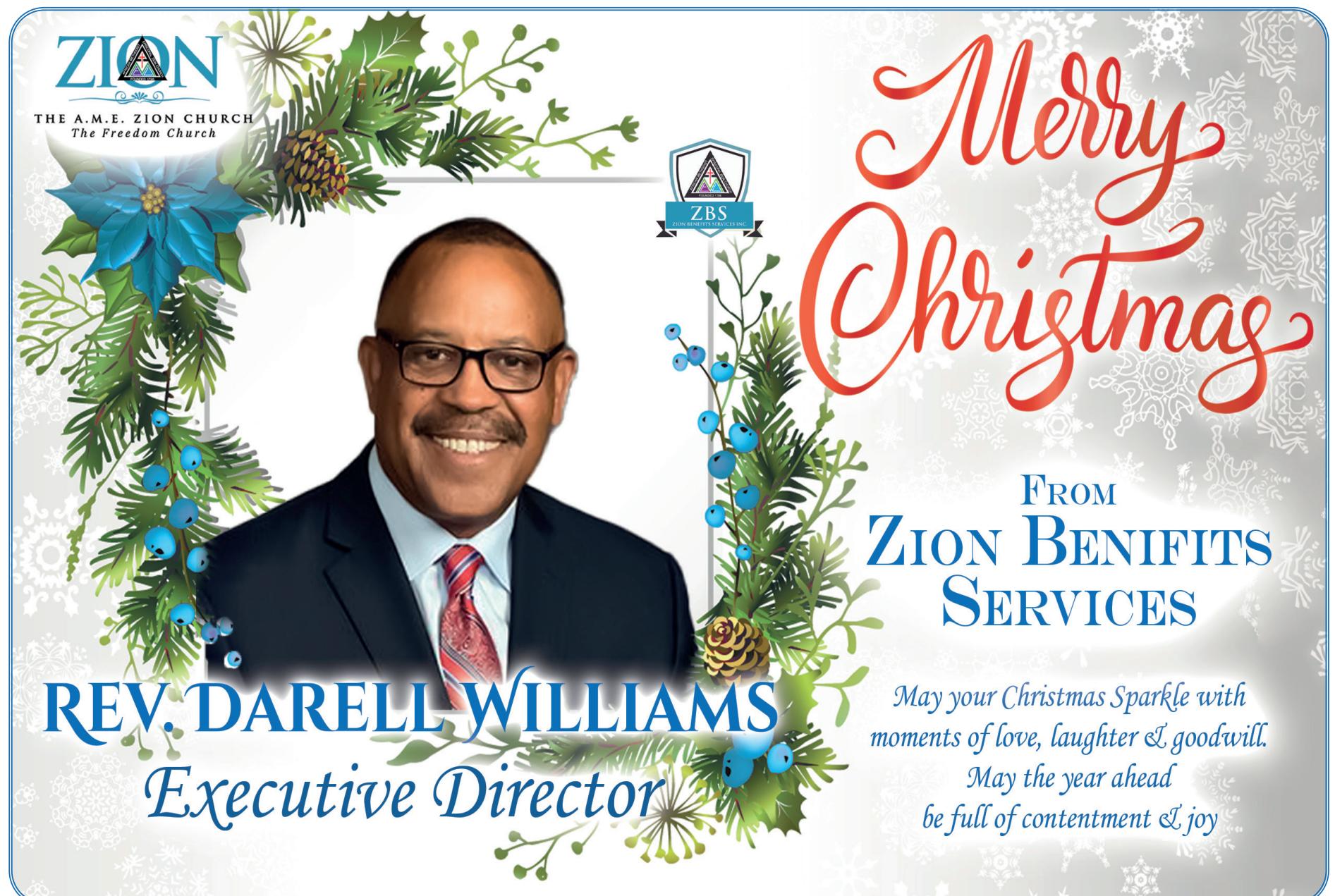
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KENT

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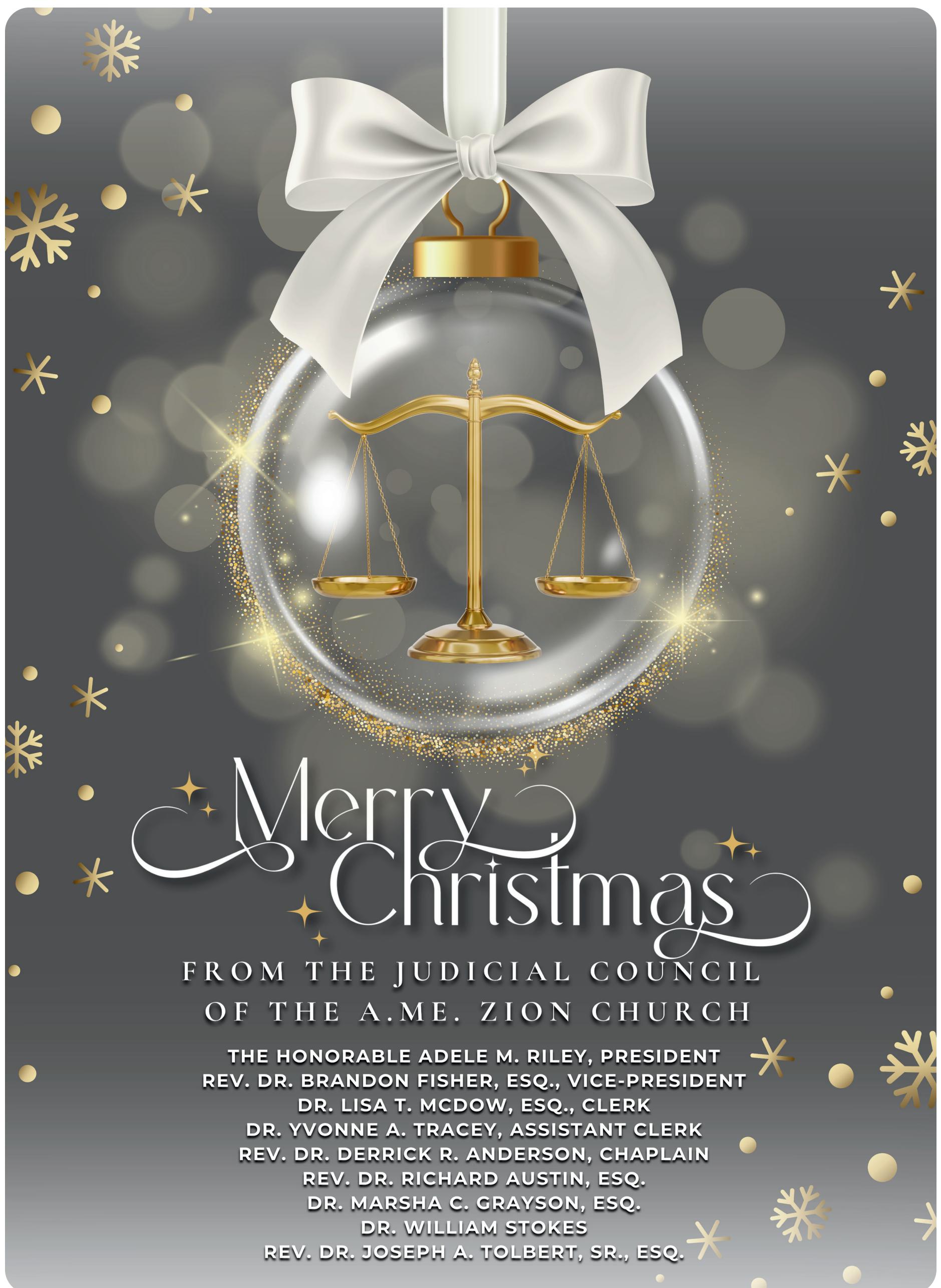
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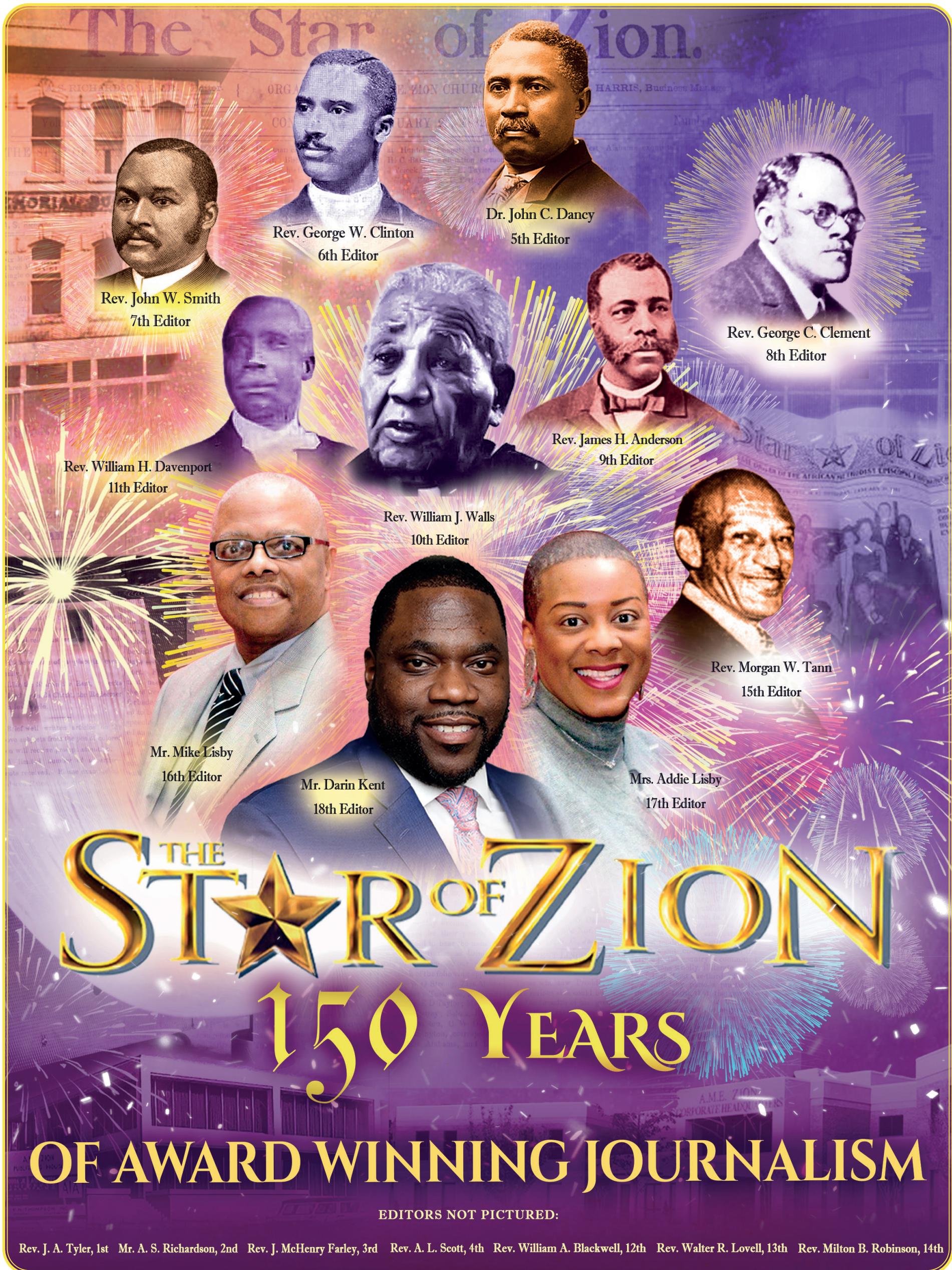
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