

God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter,
Humankind Our Family

Saint John AME Church

708 15th Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor || Sister Kim C. Sterling, First Lady

Mission

Saint John's mission is to "love God and love others" by ministering to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people.

Women's Missionary Society
Young People's & Children's Division
----- *Annual Day* -----

WMS Mission Statement:

To strengthen our faith and be sent to continue the Ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.

The YPD Motto:

Grow, Glow and Go for Christ!

Sister Kim Carrell Sterling, Worship Leader

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

The Praise & Worship..... The Children and Youth Choir

The Doxology.....Sister Brittany Ford

AMEC Hymn No. 647 [Tune: Old 100]

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

The Call to Worship.....Sister Brittany Ford

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord! Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

People: **For a day in your courts is better than a thousand, elsewhere, I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Leader: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

People: **They are planted in the house of the Lord, they flourish in the courts of our God.**

Leader: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

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

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

People: **O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, sing praises!**

The Hymn of Celebration..... Sister Brittany Ford
“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

We are climbing Jacob’s ladder,
We are climbing Jacob’s ladder,
We are climbing Jacob’s ladder
Soldiers of the cross.

Every round goes higher, higher
Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
Soldiers of the cross.

Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Soldiers of the cross.

If you love Him, why not serve Him?
If you love Him, why not serve Him?
If you love Him, why not serve Him?
Soldiers of the cross.

Rise, shine give God glory!
Rise, shine, give God Glory!
Rise, shine, give God glory!
Soldiers of the cross.

The InvocationSister LueEllen McCrary
Bethel AME, Ensley

The Choral Response.....“Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

The Scripture Lesson(s)

Old Testament Sister Sydney Durant

Micah 6:6-8

⁶ What must I bring when I come to meet with the Lord?
What must I do when I bow down to God above?
Should I come to him with burnt offerings
and a year-old calf?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with a thousand rams
or with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Should I offer him my first child to pay for my wrongs?
Should I sacrifice my very own child for my sins?

⁸ Human, the Lord has told you what goodness is.
This is what he wants from you:
Be fair to other people.
Love kindness and loyalty,
and humbly obey your God.

"The Word of God for the people of God."

New Testament.....Sister Olivia Mede

1 Timothy 4:6-12

⁶ Tell this to the brothers and sisters there. This will show that you are a good servant of Christ Jesus. You will show that you are made strong by the words of faith and good teaching you have followed. ⁷ People tell silly stories that don't agree with God's truth. Don't follow what these stories teach. But teach yourself to be devoted to God. ⁸ Training your body helps you in some ways. But devotion to God helps you in every way. It brings you blessings in this life and in the future life too. ⁹ Here is a true statement that should be accepted without question: ¹⁰ We hope in the living God, the Savior of all people. In particular, he is the Savior of all those who believe in him. This is why we work and struggle.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² You are young, but don't let anyone treat you as if you are not important. Be an example to show the believers how they should live. Show them by what you say, by the way you live, by your love, by your faith, and by your pure life.

"May the Lord bless the hearers and doers of His Word."

GospelBrother Charleston Collins
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ So he came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. ¹⁹ So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey everything that I have told you to do. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of time."

"This is the Word of the Lord."

The Preface to the DecalogueBrother Charleston Collins

AMEC Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

*From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land, by every tongue.*

The Decalogue (Abridged)Brother Charleston Collins

Leader: And God spake all these words saying, "I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Hymn: *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

*Nearer my God, to thee!
Nearer to thee, E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee.*

Leader: Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto It: Thou

shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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

Litany.....Sister Dawn Thomas

Leader: Gracious God, into Your presence we come this morning with hearts full of praise and mouths full of thanksgiving. You have been good, and You have been great.

People: We lift our voices in praise to Your name.

Leader: As we celebrate Your goodness, and praise Your name, we lift before You the Bertha T. Johnson Women's Missionary Society and the Young People's & Children's Division, whose work and witness we recognize today.

People: Lord, please bless the ministry of missions.

Leader: We realize that the work of missions requires us to leave the four walls of our church and to spread the liberating and transforming gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: God, give us courage to leave our comfort zones.

Leader: You have commanded us to go into all the world, serving and sharing.

People: The work is never painless nor easy, but we know that the work is ALL divine.

Leader: Help us to be relevant in our work, effective in our witness, holy in our walk, and reverent in our worship. Be with us as we lift up Your name and lift up Your people.

People: Help us to be the light of the world, and the salt of the earth.

Leader: We call forth the names of Sarah Allen, mother of African Methodism, who worked to help and heal those afflicted. We call forth the name of Bertha T. Johnson, whose legacy lives here in this congregation. We remember other sisters and brothers who have laid the foundations of missions.

People: Help us to carry on their legacy; help us to embody their spirit.

Together: For the work and witness which calls us forward, outward, and upward, we pray for Your strength. Be with us, God, on the journey. AMEN – AMEN.

The Worship through Music.....The Children and Youth Choir

**Ministry of Stewardship (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent).....
Sister Kebebe Hill/Sister Evelyn Beasley**

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen

Announcements and Greeting of Visitors.....Sister Linda Young

Moment of Reflection.....Sister Evelyn Beasley

Introduction of Speaker.....Sister Thomasine Jackson
*NWAC President
Payne Chapel AME*

Worship Through Dance.....Angels of Jeremiah

The Speaker.....MRS. DEANA YOUNG McALLISTER
9th Episcopal District WMS Supervisor

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....Pastor Sterling

Acknowledgements.....Sister Evelyn Beasley

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day, He arose from the Dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology (Contemporary)

**Introit to Missionary Benediction/Missionary Benediction.....
"Spirit of the Living God"/"In the Name of the Triune God"**

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

In the name of the Triune God,
may the spirit of Christian missions enter every heart.
May the spirit of Christian missions enter every heart.
This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE FOOD

Benediction.....MRS. DEANA YOUNG McALLISTER
9th Episcopal District WMS Supervisor



Mrs. Deana Young McAllister is the God-called, Spirit-led Episcopal Supervisor of Missions of the Ninth Episcopal District. The strength of her witness and unwavering faith in the redemptive power of Jesus Christ.

A third generation first lady of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Mrs. McAllister embraced her divine calling as a pastor's wife and now a Bishop's wife. For twenty-eight years, she has been a pillar of support for her husband, Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., surrounding him with love and encouragement and partnering with him in his ministry as a senior minister and now Bishop in the AME Church.

Mrs. McAllister has a penchant for service. On every level of the African Methodist Episcopal Church – local, conference, and connectional – she is recognized and esteemed for her love and compassion toward others through works of mission and outreach as a member of the Women's Missionary Society; and her commitment to the spiritual, educational, and social enhancement of youth through her dedicated work with the Young People's Division (YPD). She has served in a variety of leadership positions in the Women's Missionary Society, including second vice president and third vice president of the Eleventh Episcopal District. She was appointed by the International President, Dr. Deborah Taylor King as the Commission Chair of Education and Scholarship. Supervisor McAllister is a Life Member of the Women's Missionary Society.

Supervisor's love of young people is evidenced by her distinguished thirty-three-year career in the education profession as a teacher, a curriculum specialist, and an administrator in school systems in the states of Georgia, Michigan, and Illinois. Presently, she is the Assistant Superintendent for School Management in Leon County Schools located in Tallahassee, Florida.

Supervisor McAllister's service organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Links, Inc., and Jack and Jill of America, Inc., also bear witness to her concern for the welfare of others. Supervisor McAllister is a graduate of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and was certified to teach. She

received a master's degree in educational leadership/School Administration from the National-Louis University in Wheeling, Illinois.

Mrs. McAllister's greatest role is providing a loving, peaceful, and safe home for her husband, and their three sons: Julius III, Colin McKinley Young, and Dylan David Jeremiah. She and Bishop McAllister are adoring parents who treasure family time attending sports events, going to movies, traveling, or hanging out at home; and who prioritize and zealously support and encourage each son's interests and pursuits.

Supervisor McAllister is the second of four-daughters born to the late Senior Bishop McKinley Young and retired Supervisor of Missions Dr. Dorothy Jackson Young of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.