

SEVENTH



DISTRICT

OF THE

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Debutantes and Masters

Christian Education

Curriculum Guide

2004-2008

The Rt. Reverend Preston Warren Williams, II, Presiding Bishop

Mother Wilma D. Webb-Williams, Episcopal Supervisor

Sis. Felita Grady-Davis, Episcopal DMC Commissioner

The Reverend Dr. Allen Parrott, Director of Christian Education

The Reverend Dr. Juenarrl Keith, Dean of Christian Education

Christian Education is that ministry of the church which undergirds all other ministries of the church.

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Seventh Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Christian Education is that ministry of the church which undergirds all other ministries of the church.

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Scripture quotations are taken from *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. 1996, c1989. Thomas Nelson:
Nashville

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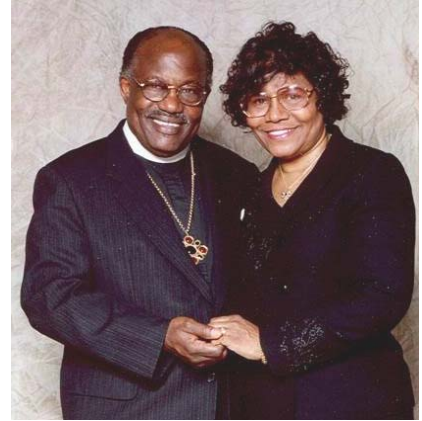
Christian Education is that ministry of the church which undergirds all other ministries of the church.

Greetings from the Episcopal Leadership

"I will bless the Lord at all times. His praises shall continually be in my mouth."

Greetings and Salutations,

We greet you, my Brothers and Sisters, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus The Christ. It is with joy that we introduce the first comprehensive curriculum for the Christian Education Department of the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This is a working document which will continue to develop and unfold as new needs in the Seventh Episcopal District arise.



Being assigned to the Seventh Episcopal District as spiritual leaders we have come to demonstrate our belief in the good news about the Son of God. This is an awesome commission from God. We have undertaken the task of developing a Christian Education Curriculum and have selected individual from across the district to comprise a taskforce in this regard. We must never abandon the work and ministry of teaching. It is indeed our calling to teach the faith with freshness and the newness of Spirit.

Many thanks to the taskforce, Board of Directors, the ordained and the laity for all the help given in order to produce this guide for your use and God's Glory.

The Rt. Reverend Preston Warren Williams, II
Presiding Prelate

Mother Wilma D. Webb-Williams
Episcopal Supervisor

Greetings from the Director of Christian Education

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I praise God for each of you and give thanks to God to have the profound honor of serving as the Director of Christian Education for the African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

I am thankful for Bishop and Mother Preston Warren Williams, II for their spiritual leadership, the compassion of Christ they demonstrate in administering the work of the church in the Seventh Episcopal District and their love for the people of God. I am especially thankful for their commitment and focus on Christian Education as that ministry that undergirds all the other ministries of the church. It is because of their faithful focus on Christian Education that the African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina has an opportunity to experience spiritual and numerical growth. Each congregation, each pastor, and each layperson have the unique opportunity offered through Christian Education to grow in the knowledge of Christ Jesus.



The Seventh Episcopal District Christian Education Guide is the result of a lot of prayer, commitment and personal sacrifice. I am thankful for each person who shared in the retreats, the work sessions and the Christian Education Task force meetings. Without each of you, your prayers, and your hard work, this CED Guide would not have been done. A special word of thanks is given to Ms. Kabrina Bass, the Seventh Episcopal District's Christian Education Administrator, who has given untiringly to the completion of this guide.

I am thankful for my wife Barbara who shares with me in the work of ministry and for my children, who have and continue to be a special blessing to my life.

Let us now be about the work of ministry with an unselfish commitment to witnessing to others the marvelous gift of Christ. Let our ministry be about reaching and touching the lives of others.

God Bless,

Allen W. Parrott

"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them." HEBREWS 6: 10 NIV

*The Debutantes and Masters Commission
Seventh Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II

Presiding Prelate

Mother Wilma D. Webb-Williams

DMC Supervisor

Sis. Felita Grady Davis

DMC Commissioner

*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by whose mercies we have the opportunity of serving the church in “**the present age.**” We are privileged and blessed to have the responsibility of molding and shaping the spiritual development of our young people.*

I am so excited about the next step on our journey to impact the lives of the young people in the state of South Carolina. We are blessed with the leadership from our Episcopal Team of Bishop and Mother Williams. We thank them for their commitment to the Debutante Masters Commission and for their vision and leadership in the development of the new Christian Education Curriculum Guide. Thanks are also extended to Ms. Kabrina Bass and the entire Board of Christian Education Board for their groundbreaking work.

The new curriculum being presented over the next two days is second to none. I am looking forward to the training and the implementation of an enhanced program in each conference.

Thank you for your work and for your commitment to Christ and the Church.

Yours in His Service,

Felita Grady Davis

Felita Grady Davis

7th District DMC Commissioner

Preface

The Christian Education Curriculum Guide is designed to assist instructors in providing participants with information, materials, and resources for their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. The need for Christian Education is universal. While we have been busy seeking out and saving the lost and maintaining certain levels of performance and using the same process in meeting the needs of individuals and communities, there has been a paradigm shift. Technology has engulfed or displaced our conventional tools and devices for operation. The media and technology alike have influenced the behavior and culture of the secular society and have penetrated our sacred society as well.

We can no longer use the same tools and programs which were used to teach our grandparents and forefathers. The “cheese” has been moved. Our programs, ministries and processes must meet the needs of an ever changing world and yet, ensure our belief in a never changing God. We must continue to define Christian Education as “...that ministry of the Church which undergirds all other ministries of the church.” Let us focus on the importance of Christian Education in our local churches as the vehicle for increasing our spiritual, emotional, physical, social and financial growth. Through Christian Education individuals, ministries and communities will grow.

Through the Christian Education Department we have now designed curricula which will meet specific needs in our Zion. In an effort to receive maximum benefits from our resources the department structured divisions for the development of appropriate plans for courses. The policies and procedures will assist the District in preparing teachers on all levels in the church.

The goal of the Christian Education Department will not come to fruition unless each of us takes responsibility for utilizing the curricula, instructors, and programs which have been designed to move us into the 21st Century and beyond.

May God’s blessings be upon us as we journey together studying God’s Word, doing God’s Will, God’s Way.

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The Purpose

The DMC Christian Education Curriculum Guide is designed to assist the Christian Education instructor in providing the student with information, materials, and resources for his/ her spiritual, physical, emotional, and social development. This guide is to provide information which will assist in educating our youth for Christian service and it should ensure that every member in the Seventh Episcopal District has equal access to training.

Debutantes and Masters Course Listing

Allenites

Ages 5-11

Courses

The Lord's Prayer
The ABC Bible Verses
The 23rd Psalm
The Importance of Stewardship I
The Affirmation of Faith
The Order of Worship
The Parts of the Sanctuary
The Proper Church Etiquette I
The History of the AME Church
When I Grow Up....

Sub-Debutantes and Sub-Masters

Ages 12-15

Courses

Basic Bible Lessons
 The Pentateuch
 The Four Gospels
Roles of Christian Manhood and Womanhood
The Doctrine of Salvation I
The Importance of Stewardship II
The Beatitudes
Education Path: Thinking About College Now
Social Involvement and Interactions
The Proper Church Etiquette II
Sixty-six African-American Achievers
The Active Bishops of the AME Church

Electives:

Drugs, Alcohol, and Other Abuses
Health Education
Boys Entering Maturity (B.E.M.)
Girls Entering Maturity (G.E.M.)

Debutantes and Masters

Ages 16-18

Courses

Basic Bible Lessons
 The Major Prophets
 The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
The Doctrine of Salvation II
Choosing a College
Choosing a Career
The Proper Church Etiquette III
Financial Planning – Credit and Savings
Social Involvement and Interactions
Challenges of Christian Manhood and Womanhood
Human Sexuality
The Four Horsemen
Spiritual Formation

Electives:

Drugs, Alcohol, and Other Abuses
Health Education
Boys Entering Maturity (B.E.M.)
Girls Entering Maturity (G.E.M.)

Allenites - Curriculum- Ages 5-11

The Lord's Prayer

Objective: The student will:

1. Recite the Lord's Prayer.
2. Explain the Lord's Prayer.

Method: Drill; discussion; memorization

Recommended Teaching Aids: Audio-visual aids, flash cards, flipcharts, and posters.

Reference: Holy Bible (Matthew 6:9)

The ABC Bible Verses

Objective: The student will:

3. Memorize twenty-six bible verses.
4. Recite twenty-six bible verses.

Method: Discussion, memorization

Recommended Teaching Aids: Audio-visual aids, flash cards, flipcharts, and posters.

Reference: Holy Bible (See appendix)

The 23rd Psalm

Objective: The student will:

1. Recite the "23rd Psalm".
2. Explain the "23rd Psalm".

Method: Questioning, oral report, drill, writing to read

Recommended Teaching Aids: posters, worksheets, flash cards

Reference: Holy Bible (Psalm 23rd)

The Importance of Stewardship I

Objective: The student will:

1. Define stewardship.
2. Explain the meaning of stewardship.

Methods: Discussion, lecture, role-playing, writing to read

Recommended Teaching Aids: Bank, posters, and currency

Reference: Holy Bible (Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:9-12; Luke 16:11)

The Affirmation of Faith

Objective: The student will:

1. Explain the Affirmation of Faith.
2. Recite the Affirmation of Faith.

Method: Lecture, discussion, and writing to read

Recommended Teaching Aids: Flash cards, and posters

Reference: The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church "Order for Morning Worship" Part XIII, Section 1. pp. 503-504.

The Order of Worship

Objective: The student will:

1. Recall the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Order of Service.
2. Explain the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Order of Service.

Method: Drill, discussion, questioning, lecture, small groups, and writing to read

Recommended Teaching Aids: Visual aids, flash cards, flipcharts, and posters.

Reference: The African Methodist Episcopal Church Book of Worship

The Parts of the Sanctuary

Objective: The student will:

1. Identify the parts of the church building.
2. Describe the parts of the church building.
3. Describe liturgical objects used in the church building.
4. Explain the liturgical colors.

Method: Discussion, questioning, small groups, drill, exploration of sanctuary

Recommended Teaching Aids: Visual aids, flipcharts, flashcards and posters

Reference: DMC CE Curriculum Guide

The Proper Church Etiquette

Objective: The student will:

1. Demonstrate proper church etiquette.
2. Practice proper church etiquette.

Method: Discussion, role-play, and lecture

Recommended Teaching Aids: Easels, and posters

Reference: Appendix

The History of the AME Church

Objective: The student will:

1. Explain and discuss when, where, and why the AME Church was organized.
2. Name the first organized church.
3. Recall the date of the first General Conference.
4. Recite the denominational Motto.
5. Discuss the meaning of the emblem.

Method: Lecture, Discussion, role-play/dramatization

Recommended Teaching Aids: Audio-visual aids, flipcharts, and posters

Reference: Appendix

When I Grow Up- "I will become a/an _____"

Objective: The student will:

1. Explore various career opportunities.
2. Demonstrate his/her career choice.

Method: Discussion and presentations (career day, videos of occupation), group discussions, guest speakers, field trips

Recommended Teaching Aids: Audio-visual aids, flipcharts, and posters

Sub-Debutantes and Sub-Masters – Curriculum - Ages 12-15

Basic Bible Lesson

The Pentateuch/Torah/Book of Laws/Books of Moses

Objective: The student will:

1. Recite, spell and locate first five books of the Holy Bible.
2. Learn the significance of each book as it relates to living in community.

Method: Lecture, posters, drill, and small group work

Recommended Teaching Aids: flash cards, flipcharts, and posters

Reference: Holy Bible and Bible Commentaries

The Four Gospels

Objective: The student will:

1. Identify the four gospel writers of the New Testament.
2. Identify the four gospel writers' occupations.
3. Identify to whom the four gospel writers were writing.

Method: Discussion, and drill

Recommended Teaching Aids: Flash cards, flipcharts, and posters

Reference: Holy Bible and Bible Commentaries

Roles of Christian Manhood and Womanhood

Objective: The student will:

1. Recognize his/her responsibilities as a young man/woman in society.
2. Be introduced to his/her expected role in society.

Method: Lecture, discussion, small groups, questioning, writing to read

Recommended Teaching Aids: flash cards, flipcharts, and posters

Reference: Books that relate to rites of passage literature (CE)

The Doctrine of Salvation I

Objective: The student will:

1. Define salvation.
2. Explain the plan of salvation to others.

Method: Discussion, lecture

Recommended Teaching Aids: Flipcharts, and posters

Reference: Holy Bible, Bible Commentaries, Catechism of Faith, and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Importance of Stewardship II

Objective: The student will:

1. Give examples of Christian Stewardship.
2. Define the words tithing and stewards.
3. Explain their responsibilities as stewards.

Method: Discussion, questioning, and demonstration

Recommended Teaching Aids: Holy Bible, posters, piggy banks, and currency.

Reference: Holy Bible (Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:9-12; Luke 16:11); Catechism of Faith, and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Beatitudes

Objective: The student will:

1. Recall the Beatitudes.
2. Recite the Beatitudes.

Method: Drill, discussion

Recommended Teaching Aids: Holy Bible, flash cards, visual aids, and posters

Reference: Holy Bible (Matthew 5:1-12)

Education Path: Thinking About College Now

Objective: The student will:

1. Explain how his/her middle/high school behavior, activities, and grades will effect his/her college choices.
2. Explain the difference between a two-year and a four-year institution.

Method: Lecture and discussion

Recommended Teaching Aids: Department of Education—"Think College Early", books, and audio-visual aids.

Reference: The World Wide Web—www.edu.gov; Books (CE)

Social Involvement and Interactions

Objective: The student will:

1. Explain the importance of social behavior as a Christian.
2. Demonstrate acceptable social skills and maintain Christian standards

Method: Lecture, discussions, role-play, skits, storytelling, and Biblical examples.

Recommended Teaching Aids: Holy Bible, posters, Videos/DVD's, drama and skit books.

Reference: Holy Bible, books, and videos.

The Proper Church Etiquette II

Objective: The student will:

1. Demonstrate proper church etiquette.
2. Practice proper church etiquette.
3. Demonstrate church protocol on all levels.
4. Practice church protocol on all levels.

Method: Lecture, discussion, and role play

Recommended Teaching Aids: Flipcharts, a sanctuary, worship service program, and protocol listings

Reference: DMC CE Curriculum Guide

Sixty-six African-American Achievers

Objective: The student will:

1. Name at least sixty-six African American Achievers.
2. Recognize the photos of these achievers.
3. Relate the contribution of each achiever.

Method: Lecture, small group discussion, and drills.

Recommended Teaching Aids: Videos/DVDs, books, posters, flash cards, and flipcharts.

Reference: Books on African-Americans, and Videos

The Active Bishops of the AME Church

Objective: The student will:

1. Know the names of the active and retired Bishops.
2. Identify the Active Bishops
3. Name the district which each Bishop serves.
4. Name the officers of the Bishops Council.

Method: Lecture, discussion, and questioning

Recommended Teaching Aids: World-Wide-Web (www.ame-church.com), flash cards, flipcharts, and posters

Reference: AME Website, 2005 AME Calendar, AME Bishop Flash cards (CE)

Debutantes and Masters - Curriculum- Ages 16-18

Basic Bible Lessons

The Major Prophets

Objective: The student will:

1. Name the Major Prophets.
2. Relate major messages of these prophets.

Method: Lecture, discussion, and questioning

Recommended Teaching Aids: Holy Bible, videos, and books

Reference: Holy Bible and Bible commentaries

The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Objective: The student will:

1. Read the accounts of Jesus' life and ministry.
2. Recognize the differences in the Gospel writers' account of events.

Method: Lecture, and discussion

Recommended Teaching Aids: Holy Bible, posters, drama and skit books

Reference: Holy Bible, Bible Commentaries and Dictionaries

The Doctrine of Salvation II

Objective: The student will:

1. Explain the plan for salvation.
2. Explain the terms salvation, justification and sanctification.

Method: Lecture and discussion

Recommended Teaching Aids: Flipcharts, and posters

Reference: Holy Bible, Bible Commentaries, Catechism of Faith, and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Choosing A College

Objective: The student will:

1. Visit as many colleges and college fairs as possible.
2. Examine the offerings of the colleges.
3. Determine a college based on career objectives.
4. Write a college resume.
5. Apply to a college and secure financial support.
6. Complete an application.
7. Prepare for an interview.

Method: Lectures, field trip and discussion

Recommended Teaching Aids: World Wide Web: College web sites, Department of Education (www.edu.gov)

Reference: World-Wide-Web

Choosing A Career

Objective: The student will:

1. Select a career based on skill sets and interests.
2. Demonstrate skills in resume writing.
3. Develop interviewing skills.
4. Examine work ethics.

Method: Discussion, questioning, small group work, library research and guest speakers

Recommended Teaching Aids: World Wide Web: Department of Labor and Statistics-Occupational Handbook (www.bls.gov); Career Assessment Books

Reference: Career books, World Wide Web

The Proper Church Etiquette III

Objective: The student will:

1. Demonstrate proper church etiquette.
2. Demonstrate church protocol on all levels.
3. Explain the proper times to sit, stand, walk and talk in the worship service.

Method: Lecture, discussion, and role play

Recommended Teaching Aids: Flipcharts, a sanctuary, worship service program, and protocol listings

Reference: DMC CE Curriculum Guide

Financial Planning – Credit and Savings

Objective: The student will:

1. Discuss the importance of credit and savings.

Method: Lecture, home assignments and discussion.

Recommended Teaching Aids: Lecture, Discussion, Guest Speaker, and Field Trip

Reference: Holy Bible and books (CE)

Social Involvement and Interactions

Objective: The student will:

1. Explain the importance of social behavior as a Christian.
2. Demonstrate acceptable social skills and maintain Christian standards

Method: Lecture, discussions, role-play, skits, storytelling, and Biblical examples

Recommended Teaching Aids: Holy Bible, posters, Videos/DVD's, drama and skit books

Reference: Holy Bible, books, and videos

Challenges of Christian Manhood and Womanhood

Objective: The student will:

1. Discuss challenges of being a Christian man/woman.
2. Develop Christian values and standards.

Method: Home assignments and discussion

Recommended Teaching Aids: Books and posters

Reference: Holy Bible and books (CE)

Human Sexuality

Objective: The student will:

1. Discuss the physical and spiritual aspects of sexual behavior.
2. Relate the issues relative to sexual responsibilities– prior to marriage.
3. Discuss human sexuality from a Biblical perspective.

Method: Discussions and lecture

Recommended Teaching Aids: Books and posters

Reference: Holy Bible and books

The Four Horsemen

Objective: The student will:

1. Name the Four Horsemen.
2. Explain their importance in the development of the African Methodist Episcopal Church movement.

Method: Home assignments, lecture and discussion

Recommended Teaching Aids: Books and posters

Reference: Holy Bible and books (CE)

Spiritual Formation

Objective: The student will:

1. Explain the process of spiritual development.
2. Explain spiritual maturity, character, and integrity.

Method: Home assignments, lecture and discussion

Recommended Teaching Aids: Posters, and visual aids

Reference: Holy Bible and books (CE)

Drugs, Alcohol, and Other Abuses

Objective: The student will:

1. Define the causes and effects of drug, alcohol, and other substance abuse.
2. Be provided with information on the consequences to his/her body, mind and spirit with the use of legal and illegal substances.

Method: Lecture, oral report, discussion and consultations

Recommended Teaching Aids: Lecture, discussion, small group, guest speakers

Reference: Holy Bible, CE Books, and library references

Health Education

Objective: The student will:

1. Name the major diseases that affect the African American family.
2. Write reports on the major diseases which are: diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, and cancer.

Method: Lecture, discussions, presentations, library research

Recommended Teaching Aids: Books and posters

Reference: Holy Bible and CE books, and library references

Boys Entering Maturity (B.E.M.)

Objective: The student will:

1. Recognize his identity.
2. Determine what his values are.
3. Develop effective relationships with others.

Method: Lecture, discussions, role playing, small groups, dramatization

Recommended Teaching Aids: Visual aids, video, DVD

Reference: Holy Bible, Rites of Passage books.

Girls Entering Maturity (G.E.M.)

Objective: The student will:

1. Recognize her identity
2. Determine what her values are.
3. Develop effective relationships with others.

Method: Lecture, discussions, role playing, small groups, dramatization

Recommended Teaching Aids: Visual aids, video, DVD

Reference: Holy Bible, Rites of Passage books

Exploring the Call to Ministry

Objective: The student will:

1. Identify the various types of ministry.
2. Distinguish between a call to repentance and a call to ministry.

Method: Lecture and discussions

Recommended Teaching Aids: Visual aids, books, flipcharts

Reference: Holy Bible, Bible commentaries, and Your Church and You by A. Lee Henderson pp. 89-97.

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The ABC Bible Verse

Unknown Source

- All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 TLB
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8 NIV
- Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3 NIV
- Do that which is honest. 2 Corinthians 13:7 TLB
- Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right. Proverbs 20:11 NIV
- For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face. Psalm 11:7 NIV
- God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1 NIV
- Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 10:12 NIV
- I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me. Psalm 13:6 NIV
- Judge not, that you be not judged. Matthew 7:1 RSV
- Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pastures. Psalm 100:3 RSV
- Lie not one to another. Colossians 3:9a KJV
- Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Psalm 100:1 RSV
- Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12 KJV
- Obey them that have the rule over you. Hebrews 13:17a KJV
- Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:11 NIV
- Quench not the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 KJV
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Exodus 20:8 RSV
- Set your things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Colossians 3:2 RSV
- To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV
- Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11 KJV
- Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it to you. John 16:23b KJV
- Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 NIV
- eXcept a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. John 3:36 KJV
- You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14 RSV
- Be Zealous therefore, and repent. Revelation 3:19b KJV

ABC Bible Verses

Credit for this list goes to Garsy Thomas.

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord. *Joshua 24:15*

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. *James 1:22*

Children, obey your parents. *Ephesians 6:1*

Depart from evil and do good. *Psalms 34:14*

Early will I seek thee. *Psalms 63:1*

Forgive and you shall be forgiven. *Luke 6:37*

God gives us richly all things to enjoy. *I Timothy 6:17*

He that keepeth the Law, happy is he. *Proverbs 29:18*

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. *I John 1:9*

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. *Hebrews 13:8*

Keep thy tongue from evil. *Psalms 34:13*

Lo, I'm with you always. *Matthew 28:20*

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. *Psalms 100:1*

No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God. *I Corinthians 6:10b*

Obey them that have rule over you. *Hebrews 13:17*

Pray without ceasing. *I Thess. 5:17*

Quench not the Spirit. *I Thess. 5:19*

Rejoice in the Lord always. *Psalms 33:1*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God. *Matthew 6:33*

Thou shalt not steal. *Exodus 20:15*

Unto you is born a Saviour. *Luke 2:10*

Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me has everlasting life. *John 6:47*

Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye to them. *Matthew 7:12b*

eXcept a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. *John 3:3*

You shall not bear false witness (lie). *Exodus 20:16*

Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must come to your house. *Luke 19:5*

The ABC Bible Verses

(King James Version - Old English)

http://www.bvbcministries.org/abc_bible_verses.htm

- A** - All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
- B** - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31)
- C** - Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1)
- D** - Depart from evil, and do good. (Psalm 34:14)
- E** - Even a child is known by his doings. (Proverbs 20:11)
- F** - Fear not: for I am with thee. (Isaiah 43:5)
- G** - God is love; (I John 4:8)
- H** - Honour thy father and thy mother. (Exodus 20:12)
- I** - If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it. (John 14:14)
- J** - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me. (John 14:6)
- K** - Keep thy tongue from evil. (Psalm 34:13)
- L** - Look unto Me, and be ye saved. (Isaiah 45:22)
- M** - My son, give Me thine heart. (Proverbs 23:26)
- N** - No man can serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24)
- O** - O' give thanks unto the Lord; He is good. (Psalm 118:1)
- P** - Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God. (Psalm 147:1)
- Q** - Quit you like men, be strong. (I Corinthians 16:13)
- R** - Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8)
- S** - Seek ye the Lord while He may be found. (Isaiah 55:6)
- T** - Thou God seest me (Genesis 16:13)
- U** - Unto Thee, O God, do we give thanks. (Psalm 75:1)
- V** - Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you. (John 16:23)
- W** - What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee. (Psalm 56:3)
- X** - Exceeding great and precious promises are given unto us. (2 Peter 1:4)
- Y** - Ye are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)
- Z** - Zion heard, and was glad. (Psalm 97:8)

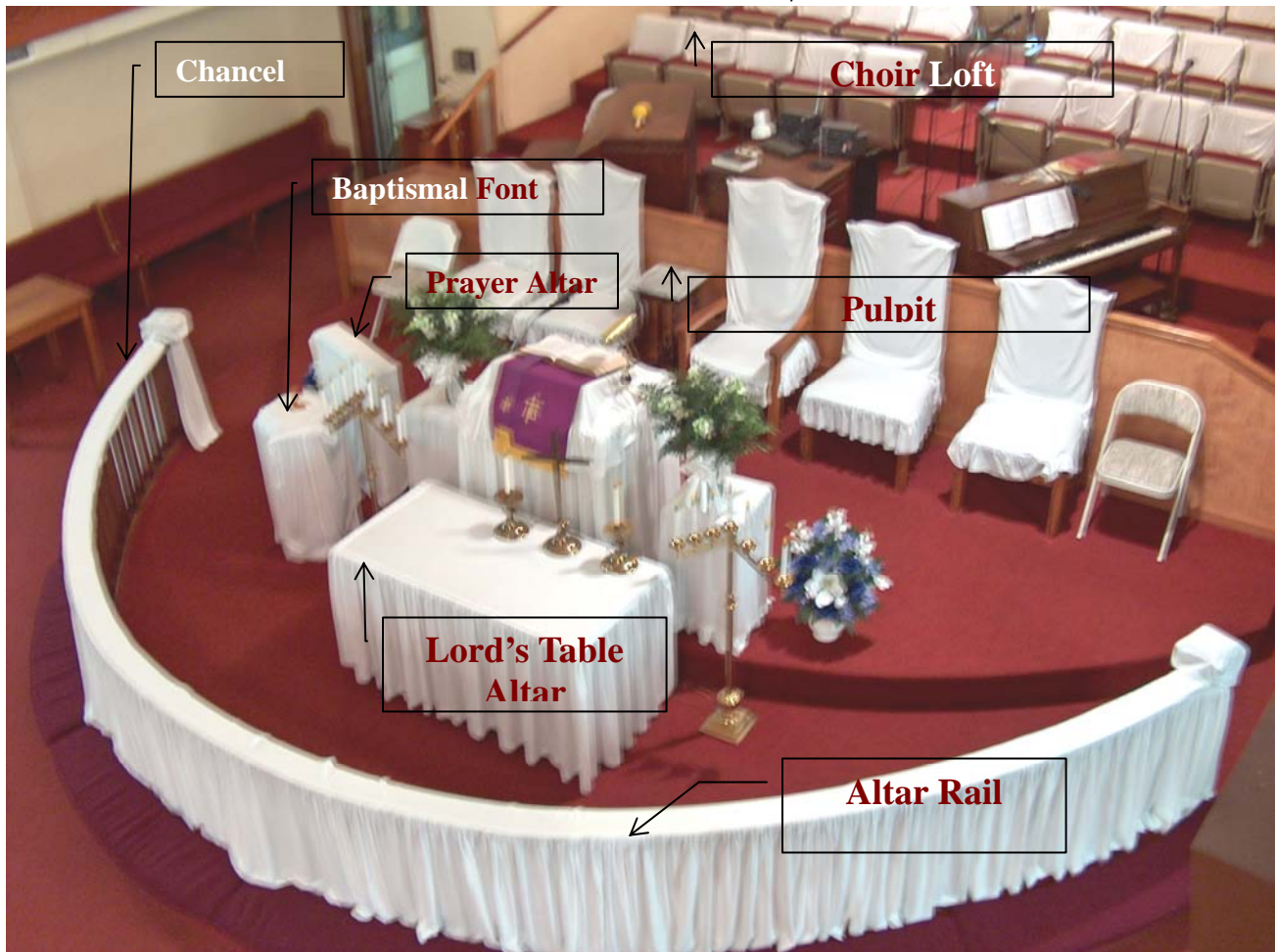
The Order of Worship Terminology

The AME Church Book of Worship

<u>Prelude</u>	An introductory musical composition to prepare the worshippers for the service; to create the atmosphere for worship and to bring unity to the group.
<u>Processional</u>	A hymn sung during the orderly process of choirs, clergy, etc. to their places.
<u>Doxology</u>	A short formula of praise to God.
<u>Call to Worship</u>	A scriptural admonition presented orally or sung in order to call attention to the purpose of the gathering.
<u>Hymn</u>	A song of prayer or praise to God.
<u>Invocation</u>	A short introductory prayer invoking God's presence, and asking His blessings on the congregation, the minister and the service.
<u>Response</u>	Part of the liturgy said or sung in reply to the minister, the prayer, the Call to Worship, etc.
<u>Anthem</u>	The presentation from the choir to God in the service of worship.
<u>Scripture</u>	The Word of God read from the Holy Bible
<u>Decalogue</u>	The "Ten Commandments," the foundation of Christian morality given to Moses by God.
<u>Gloria Patri</u>	A brief ascription of praise to the three persons of the trinity.
<u>Gifts for Missions</u>	An act of sharing of our abundance for those less fortunate, or those in need. (Benevolent Offering)
<u>Litany</u>	A collection of formularies for the conduct of worship
<u>Sermonic Hymn</u>	A song of praise to God to prepare worshippers for the sermon.
<u>Sermon</u>	A religious discourse delivered by the minister in connection with Christian truth, for purposes of instruction and illumination.
<u>Invitation to Christian Discipleship</u>	Affording the opportunity after a sermon or other worship experience, for participants to publicly accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.
<u>Offering</u>	Presentation by congregants of tithes and offerings.
<u>Offertory</u>	The hymns, chants, responses and prayers engaged in before or after the receiving of financial gifts.
<u>Affirmation of Faith</u>	A summary of religious belief—The Apostle's Creed
<u>Recessional</u>	A formal retirement of the choir and clergy at the close of the worship service.
<u>Doxology</u>	A short formula of praise to God.
<u>Benediction</u>	A blessing pronounced by the officiating minister at the close of a ceremony, a meeting or a worship service.

Parts of the Sanctuary

The AME Church Book of Worship



Altar - A place where sacrifice was offered in ancient times. In Christian Worship, it is associated with the sacrament called the Supper of the Lord, the Eucharist, or the Holy Communion.

Altar Rail - A low rail which divides the Nave from the Chancel, and around or before which communicants kneel, usually on a padded kneeler, to participate in the Supper of the Lord; also associated with ALTAR CALL.

Chancel - The space around the altar of a church enclosed by a lattice or railing to pray. It is the area of a church building containing the Communion Table, and often the pulpit, lectern, altar rail, baptismal font and the choir stand.

Baptismal Font - A container for water to be used in the administration of the Sacrament of Baptism;

Prayer Altar - An elevated place or structure before which prayer may be enacted.

Pulpit - An elevated platform, lectern, or stand used in preaching or conducting a religious service; a raised structure or enclosed platform in a church building or chapel from which the preacher delivers the sermon.

Lord's Table - The table or altar used by Christians to celebrate the Eucharist.

Choir Loft - A gallery for a group of church singers.

Parts of the Sanctuary



Aisle - The side passage of the church which connects the vestibule, narthex, or entrance hall with the Altar end.

Nave – The essential body of the Church extending from the inner door to the choir or chancel; the part of the Church in which most of the congregation is seated; the central part of a church, extending from the narthex to the chancel and flanked by aisles.

Narthex - A portico or lobby of an early Christian church originally separated from the nave by a railing or screen; an entrance hall leading to the nave of a church; The vestibule or entrance hall of a church building next to the entrance into the Nave or main worship area.



Liturgical Colors And Their Meanings

The AME Church, The Journal of Christian Education

WHITE - This is the color of perfection, glory, holiness, and joy. In the African Methodist Episcopal Church and some other denominations, white is used on Communion Sundays. White is also used on the joyous and great festival days of the Godhead such as Christmas Day and during the Easter season (the Sundays after Easter). Many of our churches use white for weddings.

RED - This is the color of blood. It reminds us of the blood of Christ which was shed for the forgiveness of the sins of all of humankind. Red is used during Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday. Red is also the color of fire and represents fervor, zeal, victory and triumph. Red is used during the Pentecost season to mark the birth of Christ's church on earth. Some churches use red throughout the Pentecost season, which starts fifty days after Easter and goes to the beginning of Advent (Four Sundays before Christmas). Some pastors use red for Pentecost Sunday only and not during the entire Pentecost season.

GREEN - This is the color of life and signifies growth. Green may be used for the Sundays after the Pentecost (sometimes called the Trinity season).

PURPLE - This is the color of preparation and of penitence. Purple is used during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

BLACK - This is the color of deep sorrow and darkness. Black also reminds us of death or the end of life. Black is used only on Good Friday to remind us of Jesus' death and humiliation on the cross.

BLUE - This is simply the color of hope. The hope of the coming and long awaited Messiah. Blue is now being used, in some churches, as the color for the Advent season.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

1. **ADVENT.** The 4 Sundays before Christmas Day. Color: Purple (or Blue).
2. **THE CHRISTMAS SEASON BEGINS ON CHRISTMAS DAY** There are twelve days of the Christmas Season, which begins on Christmas Eve and goes to Epiphany (January 6). Color: White
3. **EPIPHANY** The Epiphany of Our Lord begins on January 6. Color: White. The second through the eighth Sundays after the Epiphany (Sundays always referred to as the Sundays AFTER the Epiphany - Color: Green. The last Sunday of the Epiphany (The Transfiguration of Our Lord) Color: White
4. **THE LENTEN SEASON BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY** Ash Wednesday and the 5 Sundays OF Lent (Referred to as the Sundays OF Lent) - Color: Purple; Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion) and all of Holy Week (Monday - Maundy Thursday) - Red. Good Friday - Black (or wear no stole or coverings in the chancel area)
5. **THE EASTER SEASON BEGINS ON EASTER SUNDAY** Beginning with Easter Eve and all of the Sundays of Easter - White (Gold may be used on Easter Day and Easter evening)
6. **PENTECOST SEASON BEGINS FIFTY DAYS AFTER EASTER DAY** The Day of Pentecost - Color: Red; The Sundays after the Pentecost (excluding the first Sunday AFTER the Pentecost - see # 7 below) Color: Red (or Green).
7. **HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY IS CELEBRATED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE PENTECOST** - White.

History of the AME Church

"www.amecnet.org"

ORIGIN

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is an offspring of the Methodist Church which was founded by John Wesley in England and America in the eighteenth century. The Methodist movement itself began in 1739 when John Wesley, an Anglican started within the Church of England a movement to improve the spiritual life of his Church. The movement became widespread. Many of the followers of the movement immigrated to America. Wesley, realizing the future for the spread of Methodism in the Colonies, ordained Dr. Thomas Coke, an Anglican priest, and sent him to organize the Church in America. Dr. Coke arrived and called a General Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in December 1784. At this Christmas Conference, Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was present as an observer only, and was not a delegate or a voter. Methodism grew as the Methodist riders went from point to point, from settlement to settlement, and from plantation to plantation. The African Methodist Episcopal Church sprang from the American counterpart of the Methodist Church.

HISTORY

The African Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of the Free African Society (FAS) which Richard Allen, Absalom Jones and others established in Philadelphia in 1787. When officials at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church pulled blacks off their knees while praying, FAS members discovered just how far American Methodists would go to enforce racial discrimination against African Americans. Hence, these members of St. George's made plans to transform their mutual aid society into an African congregation. Although most wanted to affiliate with the Protestant Episcopal Church, Allen led a small group who resolved to remain Methodists. In 1794 Bethel AME Church was dedicated with Allen as pastor. To establish Bethel's independence from interfering white Methodists, Allen, a former Delaware slave, successfully sued in the Pennsylvania courts in 1807 and 1815 for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution. Because black Methodists in other middle Atlantic communities encountered racism and desired religious autonomy, Allen called them to meet in Philadelphia to form a new Wesleyan denomination, the AME. The General Convention of the AME Church met in Philadelphia, Pa., April 9-11, 1816.

The geographical spread of the AMEC prior to the Civil War was mainly restricted to the Northeast and Midwest. Major congregations were established in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, and other large cities. Numerous northern communities also gained a substantial AME presence. Remarkably, the slave states of Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, Louisiana, and, for a few years, South Carolina, became additional locations for AME congregations. The denomination reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1850's with churches in Stockton, Sacramento, San Francisco, and other places in California. Moreover, Bishop Morris Brown established the Canada Annual Conference.

The most significant era of denominational development occurred during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Oftentimes, with the permission of Union army officials AME clergy moved into the states of the collapsing Confederacy to pull newly freed slaves into their denomination. "I Seek My Brethren," the title of an often repeated sermon that Theophilus G. Steward preached in South Carolina, became a clarion call to evangelize fellow blacks in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Texas, and many other parts of the south. Hence, in 1880 AME membership reached 400,000 because of its rapid spread below the Mason-Dixon Line. When Bishop Henry M. Turner pushed African Methodism across the Atlantic into Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1891 and into South Africa in 1896, the AME now laid claim to adherents on two continents.

In the post civil rights era theologians James H. Cone, Cecil W. Cone, and Jacqueline Grant who came out of the AME tradition critiqued Euro-centric Christianity and African American churches for their shortcomings in fully impacting the plight of those oppressed by racism, sexism, and economic disadvantage.

In the 1990s, the AME included over 2,000,000 members, 8000 ministers, and 7000 congregations in more than 30 nations in North and South America, Africa, and Europe. Twenty bishops and 12 general officers comprise the leadership of the denomination.

MOTTO

"God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Man Our Brother"

THE EMBLEM



The emblem displays characteristics equated to the doctrine and belief of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

The shape of the emblem is in the form of a three pointed shield; the three points being symbolic of the official motto of the AME Church. "God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Man our Brother." An anvil and cross are set in the center of the Emblem. The anvil represents the blacksmith shop in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the cross represents the Church.

By Dr. James H. Cone, Ph. D. AME Church Review, Volume CVI, No. 341 (1991), page 25. Dr. Jamye Coleman Williams, Editor.

THE STRUCTURE

The Bishops are the Chief Officers of the Connectional Organization. They are elected for life by a majority vote of the General Conference which meets ever four years. Bishops are bound by the laws of the church to retire following their 75th birthday.

Presiding Elders are the assistants, like middle management, whom the Bishops appoint to supervise the preachers in a Presiding Elder's District. A Presiding Elder District is one portion of an Annual Conference, which in turn is one part of the Episcopal District over which a Bishop presides.

Pastors receive a yearly appointment to a charge (church), on the recommendation of the Presiding Elder and with the approval and final appointment of the Bishop. The pastor is in full charge of the Church and is an ex-official member of all boards, organizations and clubs of that Church.

1) The General Conference is the supreme body of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is composed of the Bishops, as ex-officio presidents, according to the rank of election, and an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates, elected by each of the Annual Conferences and the lay Electoral Colleges of the Annual Conferences. Other ex-officio members are: the General Officers, College Presidents, Deans of Theological Seminaries; Chaplains in the Regular Armed Forces of the U.S.A. The General Conference meets quadrennially (every four years), but may have extra sessions in certain emergencies.

2) Council of Bishops is the Executive Branch of the Connectional Church. It has the general oversight of the Church during the interim between General Conferences. The Council of Bishops shall hold at least two public sessions at each annual meeting. At the first, complaints and petitions against a Bishop shall be heard, at the second, the decisions of the Council shall be made public. All decisions shall be in writing.

3) Board of Incorporators also known as the General Board of Trustees has the supervision, in trust, of all connectional property of the Church and is vested with authority to act in behalf of the Connectional Church wherever necessary.

4) The General Board is the administrative body and is comprised of various departmental Commissions made up of the respective Secretary-Treasurer, the General Secretary of the A.M.E, Church the General Treasurer and the members of the various Commissions and one Bishop as presiding officer with the other Bishops associating.

5) Judicial Council is the highest judicatory body of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is an appellate court, elected by the General Conference and is amenable to it.

The Pentateuch

OLD TESTAMENT

THE LAW

The Law contains stories about the creation of the world, the flood, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the children of Israel in Egypt, the Exodus, and the time the children of Israel spent in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. The books of the Law also recorded the law God gave to the people on Mt. Sinai which laid down the regulations for sacrifice, worship, and daily living. The Law is also called the Torah.

<p style="text-align: center;">GENESIS</p> <p>Who: Moses What: The Beginnings Where: Egypt and Canaan When: c. 1450 BC–1400 BC Why: To demonstrate that God is sovereign and loves his creation.</p> <p>Outline (Chapter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation, Fall, and Flood (1-11) • Abraham (11-25) • Isaac and Jacob (25-36) • Joseph (37-50) <p>Key Verse: I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. (Genesis 17:7)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EXODUS</p> <p>Who: Moses What: Deliverance from Slavery Where: Egypt and Canaan When: c. 1445 BC–1440 BC Why: To show God's faithfulness to the covenant and provide Israel with guidelines for healthy living.</p> <p>Outline (Chapter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses (1-7) • The Plagues (7-13) • The Exodus (14-18) • The Law (19-24) • Tabernacle and Worship (25-40) <p>Key Verse: God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'." (Exodus 3:14)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LEVITICUS</p> <p>Who: Moses What: Law and Sacrifice Where: Sinai and Canaan When: c. 1445 BC–1400 BC Why: To instruct Israel on how to be holy and to be a blessing to others.</p> <p>Outline (Chapter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacrifice (1-7) • Priesthood (8-10) • Clean and Unclean (11-15) • Day of Atonement (16) • Laws for Daily Life (17-27) <p>Key Verse: Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy. (Leviticus 20:7, 8)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NUMBERS</p> <p>Who: Moses What: Census and History Where: Borders of Canaan When: c. 1445 BC–1400 BC Why: A reminder of what happens when people rebel against God</p> <p>Outline (Chapter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census (1-9) • Sinai to Canaan (10-12) • Spies and Rebellion (13-19) • Moab (20-36) <p>Key Verse: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DEUTERONOMY</p> <p>Who: Moses What: Sermons by Moses Where: Plains of Moab When: c. 1401 BC–1400 BC Why: To remind the people what God expects from them.</p> <p>Outline (Chapter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sermon 1: Journey Review (1-4) • Sermon 2: Laws (5-28) • Sermon 3: Covenant (29-30) • Final Farewells (31-34) <p>Key Verse: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4, 5)</p>	

The Pentateuch represents the first five books of the Holy Bible. These books are often referred to as the Torah, Book of Laws and the Book of Moses.

This chart is an example of materials available as a teaching tool of this topic.

Publisher: ROSE PUBLISHING – www.rose-publishing.com Stock#562x

The Four Gospels

NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS & ACTS

The Gospels, which are the first four books of the New Testament, record the good news of God's plan for a Savior through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each writer has a particular method or style to communicate the life and message of Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW

Who: Matthew (also called Levi)

What: Gospel

Where: Judea

When: c. AD 60

Why: To show Jesus as the Son of David, the Kingly Messiah who fulfills prophecy.

Outline (Chapter)

- Birth and Early Life (1-4)
- Ministry of Christ (5-20)
- Death and Resurrection (21-28)

Key Verse: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:18-19)

MARK

Who: John Mark

What: Gospel

Where: Rome

When: c. AD 58

Why: To show Jesus as the Suffering Son of Man sent to serve and not be served.

Outline (Chapter)

- Introduction (1)
- Ministry of Christ (2-10)
- Death and Resurrection (11-16)

Key Verse: ...Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:43-45)

LUKE

Who: Luke (The Physician)

What: Gospel

Where: Caesarea

When: c. AD 60–AD 62

Why: To show Jesus as the Savior of the World who has compassion for all human beings.

Outline (Chapter)

- Birth and Early Life (1-4)
- Ministry of Christ (5-19)
- Death and Resurrection (20-24)

Key Verse: Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." (Luke 9:23,24)

JOHN

Who: John (The Beloved Disciple)

What: Gospel

Where: Asia Minor

When: c. AD 85–AD 95

Why: To show Jesus as the Son of God, the Word made flesh, who provides eternal life for all who believe in him.

Outline (Chapter)

- Introduction (1)
- Ministry of Christ (2-12)
- Private Ministry (13-17)
- Death and Resurrection (18-21)

Key Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

ACTS

Who: Luke (The Physician)

What: History of Early Church

Where: Caesarea and Rome

When: c. AD 60–AD 62

Why: To record how the Holy Spirit acted through believers to spread the Word of God.

Outline (Chapter)

- Jerusalem (1-8)
- Judea and Samaria (8-12)
- Paul's Journeys (13-20)
- Paul Taken to Rome (21-28)

Key Verse: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Acts is the record of the radically changed "acts" or "actions" of the followers of Jesus Christ after the resurrection. Acts opens with the out-flowing of the Holy Spirit and describes the missionary efforts of the early followers of Jesus as they spread the message of the gospel to Judea and Samaria. Acts also records the actions of the apostle Paul as he and other courageous believers continued to spread the good news of Jesus to the Jews and Gentiles of the Roman Empire.

The Gospel writers are unique in their individual writings. Each wrote to a specific group and portrayed Jesus based on the audience in which they wrote.

Matthew wrote to the Jews and portrayed Jesus as King.

Mark wrote to the Romans and portrayed Jesus as Servant.

Luke wrote to the Greek and portrayed Jesus as Man.

John wrote to the Church and portrayed Jesus as Lord.

This chart is an example of materials available as a teaching tool of this topic.

Publisher: ROSE PUBLISHING – www.rose-publishing.com

Church Etiquette

Standing vs. Sitting

When to Stand:	When to Sit:
- Doxology	- Prelude
- Call to Worship	- If not at the altar, during prayer
- Opening Hymn	- Reading of Scripture
- Responsive Reading	- Announcements
- Decalogue	- Greeting of Visitors
- Offertory	- Recessional
- Affirmation of Faith	

When is it okay to walk?

Walk	Do not Walk
- Opening Hymn	- Prayer
- Choir Selection	- Scripture Reading
	- Greeting of Visitors
	- Sermon
	- Invitational Hymn
	- When Bishop, Presiding Elder or Pastor is speaking

Entering the Church

Enter	Do not Enter
- Opening Hymn	- Prayer
- Choir Selection	- Scripture Reading
- Announcements	- Responsive Reading
	- Greeting of Visitors
	- Sermon
	- Invitational Hymn
	- When Bishop, Presiding Elder or Pastor is speaking

Basic Etiquette

You should greet individuals when entering the narthex of the sanctuary. You should take care of all business before entering the sanctuary (use the restroom, write out your offering envelope, get funds from parents if needed, etc..).

Once you have entered the sanctuary, you should regard it as time spent with God. You should not talk, walk, chew gum or write notes during the worship experience.

You should not leave before the benediction. At the end of the worship experience, the pastor or preacher will administer the prayer of benediction. It is important to receive the benedictional prayer.

You should greet and fellowship with members after dismissal.

You should never eat in the sanctuary. If you have a medical condition which requires you to eat at a specific time, leave the sanctuary and go to the narthex or the fellowship hall and eat.

Etiquette in Dressing

We are to offer to Christ our best. When dressing for worship consider the Lord is greeting you as you enter the sanctuary. Would you wear your outfit to a job interview to meet your friends for a formal dinner or to your grandparents' home for dinner? We should dress in non-provocative attire. Young ladies, wear a dress, suit or skirt and blouse. The blouse should not reveal breast, thigh or navel. Young men, wear suit or dress pants and a shirt and tie, shoes, and a belt.

Our dress should always be becoming a Christian - especially at church. Here are some specific guidelines we use in our parishes:

Children

Only young children (under 10) should wear shorts to church - and then only dress shorts. Athletic shorts, cut-offs, and spandex shorts are never appropriate church wear (for children or adults!). Shoes or sandals should be clean and tied. No one should wear T-shirts with inappropriate writing and designs.

Women

Dresses should be modest. No tank tops or dresses with only straps at the shoulders, no short skirts (mini-skirts), and no skin-tight dresses. Dresses should have backs and not be cut low in the front. If women wear pants to church, they should be dress pants. Shorts of any type are not appropriate for church.

Men

Men should also dress modestly. While coat and tie are not mandatory, shirts should have collars and be buttoned to the collar (the actual collar button may be left undone, but two or three buttons undone is inappropriate). Slacks should be cleaned and pressed. Shorts are not appropriate church wear.

If you're going somewhere after church where you need to dress casually, bring a change of clothing with you and change. Remember, use your best judgment and good taste when dressing for church. After all, you don't go to be seen by everyone else - you go to meet and worship God.

Pew Blocking

Never sit right next to the aisle so that no one else can get by to sit in the middle of the pew. If you sit at the end of the pew, step outside the aisle and allow others to enter. Be considerate of those with small children, they may need to make a fast exit. Remember, pew blocking isn't hospitable - nor is it an efficient method of seating. So don't be selfish. Move on over towards the middle and allow others to be seated.

Bishops of the AME Church

Active Bishops

Current Bishops of the AME Church					
Position	Bishop	Current District	Retirement Year	Consecrated	Districts Served
96	Philip Robert Cousin, Sr.	4	2008	1976	9, 11, 1, 4
106	John Richard Bryant	5	2016	1988	14, 10, 5
108	Richard Allen Chappelle	12	2008	1988	18, 17, 8, 12
109	McKinley Young	11	2020	1988	15, E.O., 10, 11
111	Robert Vaughn Webster	3	2008	1992	17, 16, 3
112	Cornal Garnett Henning	8	2012	1992	14, 19, 8
113	William Phillips DeVeaux	6	2016	1996	18, 16, 6
114	Theodore Larry Kirkland	9	2016	1996	17, E.O., 9
115	Adam Jefferson Richardson	2	2024	1996	14, 19, 2
116	Richard Franklin Norris	1	2016	2000	14, 1
117	Vashti Murphy McKenzie	13	2020	2000	18, 13
118	Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram	10	2020	2000	15, 10
119	Preston Warren Williams, II	7	2012	2000	17,7
120	Wilfred J. Messiah	20	2028	2004	
121	Paul Jones Mulenga Kawimbe	17	2036	2004	
122	Carolyn Tyler-Guidry	16	2012	2004	
123	James Levert Davis	19	2028	2004	
124	David Rwhynica Daniels	14	2032	2004	
125	Samuel L. Green, Sr.	15	2036	2004	
126	Sarah Frances Davis	18	2024	2004	
127	E. Earl McCloud	Ecumenical Off.	2028	2004	

Retired Bishops

Current Bishops of the AME Church					
Position	Bishop	Current District	Retirement Year	Consecrated	Districts Served
59	Decatur Ward Nichols	Deceased	1976	1940	9, 1, 11, 12, 7
86	Henry Wendell Murph	Retired	1988	1968	18, 17, 2, 10, 5
87	John Hurst Adams	Retired	2004	1972	10, 2, 6, 7, 11
88	Richard Allen Hildebrand	Retired	1992	1972	6, 1, 3
90	Frederick Hilborn Talbot	Retired	2004	1972	16, 6, E.O., 12, 13
91	Hamel Hartford Brookins	Retired	2004	1972	17, 5, 12, 2, E.O., 13
92	Vinton Randolph Anderson	Retired	2004	1972	15, 9, 3, E.O., 5, 2
93	Frederick Calhoun James	Retired	1996	1972	15, 12, 7, E.O., 2
95	Frank Curtis Cummings	Retired	2004	1976	8, 1, 11, 6
99	Cornelius Egbert Thomas	Deceased	1996	1976	17, 13, 9
100	James Haskell Mayo	Retired	1996	1980	14, 16, 10, 4
102	Harold Ben Senatle	Retired	2000	1984	18, 19, 15
104	Henry Allen Belin, Jr.	Retired	2004	1984	15, 12, 3, 7
105	Vernon Randolph Byrd, Sr.	Retired	2004	1984	14, 16, 13, 5
107	Robert Thomas	Retired	2000	1988	15, 8, 4
110	Zedekiah Lazett Grady	Retired	2004	1992	16, 9, 1

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4. "Liturgical Colors And Their Meanings." The Journal of Christian Education 65 (2003): 27.
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 - b. www.amecnet.org
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10. Old Testament – The Major Prophets
11. New Testament – The Gospels

Notes:

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