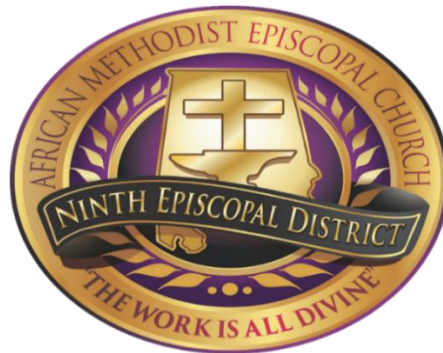


**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

**SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE
ALABAMA RIVER REGION
ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Annual Conference Theme:
Always Moving Forward with Excellence Philippians 3:13-14
Quadrennial Theme:
The Work Is All Divine Romans 8:28



*The Opening Worship Service
and The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*Wednesday, August 20, 2025
Ten thirty in the Morning*

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor

*Convening with
Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church
807 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104*

*The Reverend Roosevelt and The Reverend Shelia Williams, III
Host Pastors*

*The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson
Host Presiding Elder
Montgomery-Selma District*

The Opening Worship Service

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

10:30 a.m.

**The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson, Worship Leader
*Presiding Elder of the Montgomery-Selma District***

THE MOMENT OF REVERENCE

THE PROCESSIONAL

Hymn No. 25

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee;
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

Choir and Congregation

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

The Reverend Leodis Strong

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within Your gates, O Jerusalem.

People: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand, I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will seek Your good.

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in Your house Lord, I have loved Your habitation, the place where Your honor dwells.

People: For the Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight. O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song for He has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth and sing praises.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

The Reverend Dr. Agnes Lover

Hymn No. 304 [Tune: ST. THOMAS SM]

“And Are We Yet Alive”

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give, for His redeeming grace!

Preserved by power divine; to full salvation here,
Again in Jesus' praise we join; and in His sight appear.

What troubles have we seen, what conflicts have we passed,
Fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last.

But out of all the Lord, hath brought us by His love;
And still He doth His help afford, and hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast, of His redeeming power,
Which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross, till we the crown obtain;
And gladly reckon all things loss, so we may Jesus gain.

THE INVOCATION

The Reverend Roosevelt Williams, III

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

Choir and Congregation

Hymn No. 580

African American Heritage Hymnal

"I Love You, Lord, Today"

I love You. I love You. I love You, Lord, today because You care for me in such a special way.
And yes I praise You. I lift You up. I magnify Your name.
That's why my heart is filled with praise.
My heart, my mind, my soul belong to You. You paid the price for me way back on Calvary.
And yes I praise You. I lift You up. I magnify Your name.
That's why my heart is filled with praise.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Psalms 19

The Reverend Ruby Heard-Bustamonte

THE EPISTLE

James 3:1-12

The Reverend Brenda Robinson Burns

THE GOSPEL (All Standing)

Mark 8:27-38

The Reverend Horace Winters

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE

Hymn #69 [Tune: Woodworth]

"From All That Dwell"

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 (SUMMARY)

The Reverend Carlos Redding

Hear what Christ our Savior says, "You shall love the Lord Your God with all
your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great
and first commandment. The second is like unto it. You shall love your
neighbor as yourself. 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.

THE MISSION OFFERING

The Stewardship Committee

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP

The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson
*Presiding Elder,
Montgomery-Selma District*

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
*Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District*

THE SERMONIC HYMN

The Reverend Cynthia Jones

Hymn No. 283

"I Am Thine, O Lord"

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain

*Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.*

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

Refrain

O the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend!

Refrain

There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee.

Refrain

THE ANNUAL SERMON

The Reverend Alfonzo Colvin
*Pastor, Ward Chapel
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Montevallo, AL*

THE INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST

The Reverend Roosevelt Williams, III

"Let the Church Say, Amen"

Let the church say, Amen. Let the church say, Amen.
God has spoken, so let the church say, Amen.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

The Stewardship Committee

THE RESPONSE

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be,
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Chief Celebrant*

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your tender mercy did give Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby His oblation of Himself, once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we, receiving these Your creatures of bread and wine, according to Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; Who in the same night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, Take, eat, this is

My body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of Me. Likewise after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, Drink all of it, for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Roosevelt Williams, III

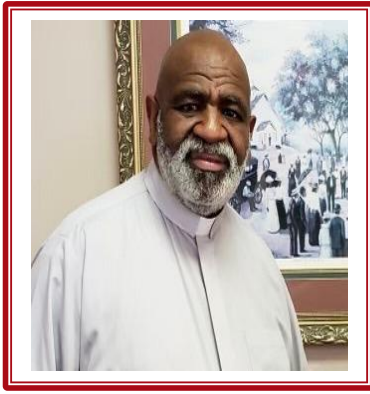
THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Reverend Lenise Wright-Stanton

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 at 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.

THE BENEDICTION

The Reverend Colvin



The Reverend Alfonzo Colvin
Pastor,
Ward Chapel
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Montevallo, Alabama

The Reverend Alfonzo Colvin is the youngest son of the late Mr. Eddie Lee and Ethel Colvin. Reverend Colvin received his education in the Bessemer School system. He is a graduate of Jess Lanier High School, Bessemer, Alabama. He earned an associate's degree in 1978 from Lawson State Junior College, majoring in business administration. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1980 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, majoring in business administration. Reverend Colvin graduated from Alabama A&M University in Normal, Alabama in 1984 with an MBA. He graduated from Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia in 1989, earning the Master of Divinity degree. While at Turner, Reverend Colvin served as the Student Body President.

Reverend Colvin was raised in a Christian home and nourished in Ward Chapel AME Church in Bessemer, Alabama where Christian principles, morals, and values were imparted to him at an early age. In May 1986, Reverend Colvin answered the call of God upon his life to the Christian Ministry and delivered his initial sermon at Ward Chapel under the Leadership of Reverend H. W. Anthony.

Reverend Colvin was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the AME church in 1987, and an Itinerant Elder in 1989. Reverend Colvin has pastored over 38 years in Alabama serving, at St. Paul, Wylam; St. Paul, East Lake; New Pisgah, Florence; St. Mark, Brighton; Coppin Chapel, Yerkwood; Woodward Chapel, Bessemer; and New Seed of Faith, Tarrant. He presently serves as the senior pastor at Ward Chapel AME Church of Montevallo.

Reverend Colvin has served at the Daniel Payne Community Plaza for over ten years in various positions, including building engineer, facility manager, food manager, disaster relief coordinator, and presently as Project Coordinator.

Reverend Colvin is married to Faye Colvin. They are the proud parents of Alton Colvin.