McKendree Matters

McKendree-Simms-Brookland United Methodist Church

Rev. Alexis F. Brown, Pastor

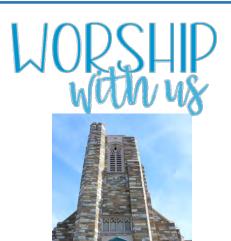
24th & Lawrence Streets, NE Washington, DC. 20018 pastor@alexisfbrown.com 202-529-3075

March/April 2024

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McKendree-Simms-Brookland UMC invites you to worship with us each **Sunday at 10:00 AM**.

Register here to join us for services on Zoom

https://tinyurl.com/SUNDAY-MSB

or

Worship with us in the Sanctuary at 24th & South Dakota Avenue, NE Washington, DC. 20018





McKendree-Simms-Brookland UMC

Rev. Alexis F. Brown, Pastor Church Office: 2421 Lawrence Street, NE Sanctuary: 3321 – 24th Street, NE Washington, DC. 20018

Rev. Johnsie Cogman District Superintendent

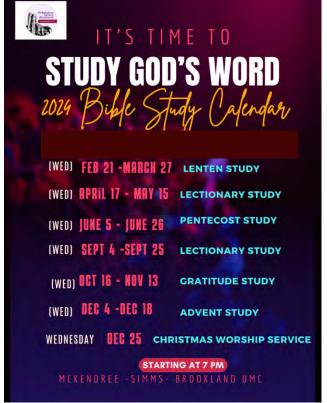
Rev. LaTrelle Easterling Resident Bishop

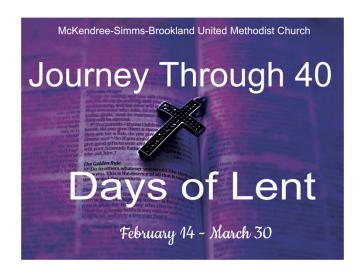
Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

The people of the United Methodist Church





What is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day period of reflection, repentance, and renewal leading up to Easter. Many Christians observe Lent through the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Mckendree-Simms-Brookland will corporately observe Lent, by spending time in prayer, observing the Daniel Fast, and almsgiving.

When should we pray each day?

The corporate times for prayer are: Daily at Noon and 8:00PM

Prayer for yourself, your family, our church, our world and/or The Lord's Prayer.

What is Almsgiving?

Almsgiving is an act of justice and compassion. For example, think about the Good Samaritan, who went the extra mile to help the beaten man on the Jericho Road. He acted with compassion and so can you!

What is Fasting?

"Humans shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

Fasting is refraining from all or certain food(s) or drink(s) for a designated time. Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness. It is believed that we draw closer to God by restricting our diets to depend on God's heavenly nourishment.

What is the Paniel Fast?

"I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over." Daniel 10:3

The Daniel Fast is a vegan diet that requires food from the earth.

ACCEPTABLE FOODS:

Fruit & Vegetables: Fresh, Frozen, Dried,

Canned, or Juiced Whole Grains Nuts and Seeds

Legumes: Canned or Dried

Quality Oils: Avocado, Coconut, Grapeseed,

Olive, Peanut, Sesame and Walnut

Beverages: Distilled Water, Spring Water,

Filtered Water

What are acceptable alternative fasting options?

- Please consult with your doctor or medical professional(s) before committing to the fast.
- Eat all the acceptable food options and add baked fish or baked chicken to your diet.
- Incorporate whole wheat bread.

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
BISHOP, PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE,
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

REV. ANTOINE C. LOVE Assistant to the Bishop REV. ERICA ROBINSON-JOHNSON Chief Administrative Officer

February 14, 2024 | A Message for the New Year

A Lenten Message from Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing." - Joel 2:12-13a

During the Super Bowl held on Sunday, Feb. 11, there were ads entitled "He Gets Us," one of which portrayed scenes of foot-washing between individuals often at odds with one another. The commercial ended with the words, "Jesus didn't teach hate. He washed feet." The ad has aroused significant controversy for several reasons, but chief among them is whether the message is genuine or a facade. Can those who funded the ad be trusted with the message it promotes, or is there a conflicting agenda?

Individuals will need to do their own research and draw their own conclusions about the veracity of that controversial commercial. Whether or not the ad campaign is to be trusted is a matter of debate, whether or not Jesus of Nazareth can be trusted is not.

As we enter into this Lenten season to pray, listen, reflect and repent, the Jesus who journeys with us can be trusted with our hearts, minds, souls and bodies -- with our very lives. We need not come cautiously or with suspicion. Jesus does not come as the world comes; Jesus does not judge as the world judges; Jesus does not love as the world loves. As we walk this 40-day journey, we can completely surrender ourselves to Jesus and allow him to continue the beautiful work of transformation in our lives.

Too often, we enter this season in drudgery, void of all joy and hope. While it is a season that reminds us of our finite humanity and anticipates the death of our Lord and Savior, it is also a path to rebirth, renewal and resurrection. Christ bids us come, he creates in us a pure heart and renews a steadfast spirit. That bidding does not originate from a place of disgust, rejection or shame, but pure love. That bidding invites us into a deeper relationship with God and God's creation. It calls us to love ourselves more earnestly and to love one another without condition. That bidding comes that we might be fully liberated from the destructive powers of this world. The healing and transformation we need is not to be healed from ourselves as God created us, but to be healed from the ways we have learned to oppress and destroy God's creation, the ways we have learned to hate one another, the ways we have learned to hate ourselves.

This journey is really a journey of healing -- allowing ourselves to be healed. It's healing us from anything that separates us from God; healing us from anything that prevents us from taking on the mind of Christ; healing us from our collective brokenness; healing us from the inside out. As this transformation occurs, we begin to see the world differently. We put aside fear, mistrust, arrogance and privilege, and begin to live as people who are sincerely willing to wash one another's feet. We embody forgiveness and reconciliation. We embrace one another in agape love. We humbly stand as one at the foot of the cross. That is our Lenten journey. May it be so.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula Delaware Conferences
The United Methodist Church

Bible Readings for Lent						
	LENT WEEK 3		LENT WEEK 5			
March 4	John 12: 20 - 50	March 18	John 17: 1 - 26			
March 5	Mark 14: 12 - 26	March 19	Matthew 26: 36 - 56			
March 6	John 13: 1 - 17	March 20	John 18: 1- 18			
March 7	1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26	March 21	Mark 14: 32 - 72			
March 8	John 13: 18 - 28	March 22	Luke 22: 39 - 62			
	LENT WEEK 4		HOLY WEEK			
March 11	Luke 22: 24 - 38	March 25	John 18: 19 - 40			
March 12	Matthew 26: 31 - 35	March 26	John 19:1- 16			
March 13	John 14: 1- 31	March 27	Matthew 27: 27 - 44			
March 14	John 15: 1- 17, John 16: 1- 4	March 28	John 19: 16 - 27			
March 15	John 16: 5 - 33	March 29	John 19: 28 - 42			

Spring Training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season "spring training for Christians." This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God's favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we'll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, "Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed" (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.



MSB held its first Church Council meeting of 2024 on February 22nd. The Council heard reports from the Unified Board, which we approved last year as the new operating and decision-making structure for MSB. The Unified Board includes the Pastor; Trustee, Finance, SPRC, and Council Chairs; along with other ministry leaders and members. The Board has focused on the management of our rental properties and has begun to develop procedures governing the use of church property and for

inviting outside guests to participate in worship activities. Following are highlights on the various report.

Actions on Rental Properties: The Board has taken 4 major actions with regard to our rental properties. First, the Board authorized the purchase of business licenses for its 3 DC properties; these licenses will allow us more flexibility in using our properties. MSB has contracted with a company to procure the licenses, which includes having a pre-inspection of the DC properties so that MSB can make repairs before the official inspection. The Board set a goal of having the business licenses for the DC properties by July 2024. **Second**, the Board voted to transfer the management of the MD properties to a leasing management company, thus freeing us from being landlords. **Third**, "letters of intent to recoup rental payments" have been prepared for the tenants in the 2 properties on Rhode Island Ave who are in arrears. It is expected that the letters will be sent by March 1st. This is a necessary first step before action to evict. **Finally**, the Board voted to increase the rent for Mindbloom—the daycare which has used the 2nd Floor for the past 10 years—from 80 cents per square foot to \$2.80 per square foot. The day care uses about 2,500 square feet of space. This increased rate is still well below the rate of \$8 for similar space. MSB will also enforce the terms of the original agreement that allow the church to use the space when the day care is not in operation. This will provide us with options for carrying out mission activities such as church school and VBS in that space.

<u>Status of Elevator Repairs</u>: Good News—the repairs to the elevator have been completed and MSB has received the "safe to operate" approval from the elevator company!! We are awaiting the inspection certificate from the DC government.

Financial Report: For January 2024, our operating expenses exceed our income by less than \$400. We give thanks to God and for our members who continue to be faithful stewards. One new development related to financial management is a clarification from the conference about how we treat income from our rental properties. In the past, we treated this income as "capital" income. We have been told that generated income from properties is operating income and can be used to pay operating expenses. Action to get all of our properties rented and properly managed and the change in how we handle rental income will allow us flexibility to carry out mission activities while we build our capital reserves.

<u>Operating and Other Policies and Procedures</u>: The Board is developing procedures governing the use of church properties as well as inviting outside guests for worship services and special programs. These procedures, along with FAQs, will be shared with the entire congregation. This action will not only familiarize members with our procedures but will equip members to share these procedures with family and friends who may want to use the church for weddings, funerals, birthday parties, and other special events.

<u>Sick and Recovering Ministry</u>: After over 25 years, Bro and Sis Ore are no longer coordinating S&R ministry activities. We thank them for their many years of dedicated and committed service. Sis Mary Harris and Sis Judy Jones will be the contact points for S&R ministry activities. More information will be forthcoming.

Sis Barbara Jones shared that the Outreach House is continuing to serve clients. The volunteers have noticed an increase in the number of clients served.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2024 via Zoom.

An Interview with...

Our First Gentleman, Christopher Brown



Where did you grow up? Go to school? I grew up in Baltimore City and Randallstown, MD and I graduated from Baltimore City College. I also attended Morgan State University, Bowie State University and BIC (Baltimore International College).

Do you have siblings? Yes, I have a brother and four half siblings.

What is your profession?
I own and operate a Psychiatric
Rehabilitation Program. In laymen's
terms we are a therapeutic mentoring
program.

Do you have any hobbies or special interest? I love to play video games, love watching football, boxing and overall, most sports.

What are the challenges and/or joys of being a dad of four daughters? The challenge of being a dad of four daughters is my hope that they receive what I am trying to teach them. I want them to always be protected, and I have limitations, so I hope and pray no hurt, harm, or danger comes their way. I am challenged by my hope that they will always make good decisions.

The joy of being a dad of four girls, is that I get all the love in the world. When I come home, they are excited to see me. They like all the things I am into, like video games, dancing, basketball and all my teams. Another joy I have is that my mother always wanted daughters, and I believe they are a legacy for her. I get the opportunity to dote on them like she would. I get joy out of doing things my mother would do, like buying their clothes and toys. My mother was always into those things; it was her love language. She (my mother) was over the top, an extravagant giver.

What are the challenges and/or joys of being the spouse of a Pastor?

The biggest challenge is when people expect me to be the pastor, and I believe they are doing it to dismiss my wife. I didn't grow up in the church, so it challenges me to see some of the hurtful things people do behind the scenes, especially to my wife.

The joys of being the spouse of a pastor are having a community and an extended family to go with me through this Christian journey. It has also been a joy of mine to experience support by the people in church, especially during times of crisis. When I lost my mother, father, and grandmother, I had a church family to support me.

In what ministry areas do you feel called to serve at McKendree? Right now, I am going to continue to support my wife by assisting her with the girls. I do plan to participate in a men's ministry.

Do you have a favorite scripture?

"If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." Ecclesiastes 4:10

Is there anything else you'd like the McKendree-Simms-Brookland family to know about you?

I *love* being at McKendree-Simms-Brookland.



Signs of a Vibrant Church

- Joy
- Diversity
- Welcoming
- Spiritual
- Innovative
- Bible-based teaching and preaching
- Members bond with each other
- Solves problems collectively with input from many
- Confronts problems rather than ignoring them
- Has vital outreach to the community

Based on a study underwritten by The Lilly Foundation

Thank You, Lauren!



The McKendree-Simms-Brookland Church Family offered our thanks to **Lauren Jackson** who has served as McKendree's Administrative Assistant for the past year. We appreciate Lauren's service and pray God's richest blessings on her as she begins her career in campus ministry.

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

Connecting Our Past with Our Present

Music, poetry, pageantry, and history – MSB's Black History Program included all of this and more! The Black History Program participants represented queens from our African heritage and notable African American women from the present. The program was also a fundraiser, which presented over \$17,000 to the church for the restoration of the kitchen and fellowship hall! The top fundraiser, Jacqueline Hayman, was crowned the Queen of MSB.

Adult participants in the program represented queens from African countries:

Ellen Davis – Queen Nzinga of Ndonga and Matamba Carolyn Jones – The Queen of Sheba Jacqueline Hayman- Nefertiti, Queen of Egypt Aesha Newman – Queen Inkhosikati LaNgangaza of

The youth participants represented notable African American women of today:

Brianna Broadnax –professional tennis player, Serena Williams

Sydney Brown – actor and producer, Oprah Winfrey Imani Yates – actor, Viola Davis



Jacqueline Hayman- Queen of MSB



To my MSBUMC family,

I'm so honored and deeply grateful to be chosen the 2024 Queen of MSB Church. This wouldn't have been possible without your generous support. In addition, I'm also thankful that we are in a better position to eventually renovate our church kitchen and fellowship hall.

Thanks again, Jackie Hayman

Swaziland

Observing National Deaf Awareness Month (April) 2024



National Deaf History Month is celebrated every year in the month of April. Prior to 2022, Deaf History month was observed from March 13-April 15th (this change was made by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD)). These dates are symbolic of the founding of Gallaudet University, Gallaudet hiring their first deaf President, and the opening of the first public school for the deaf in the US (all occurring between March 13-April 15).

In celebration of National Deaf History Month, I want to share a little-known story about Louise B. Miller (pictured above with son, Kenneth, and husband, Luther), a Washingtonian mother who fought for Black deaf children (article from Washington Post, dated December 9, 2023). Louise, the mother of a black, deaf son, was forced to send her son out of state for education. When she tried to enroll him in the only deaf school in DC (Kendall School on the campus of Gallaudet), she was turned away. The letter she received informed her, "...that the school had a contract with the District to serve White deaf children." Seeing the condition of the closest school in MD, Louise sent her son away to school in Pennsylvania. Louise Miller could have accepted that her son and the other Black deaf children of DC had to be sent away for an education, but no, she led a group of Black parents in filing a class-action lawsuit against the DC Board of Education. The families won their case in 1952, two years before the famous Brown v the Board of Education case.

Although, the families won there case, the children still did not received the same treatment as the white students. The article states, "...they were enrolled in a separate school, the Kendal School Division II for Negroes, and placed in a separate building, with separate teachers." And later when it was time to graduate, the black students were not given diplomas.

Gallaudet University took steps to right this wrong in July 2023. The university held a 'Belated Graduation Ceremony', awarding 24 former students with diplomas (6 decades later). Five surviving students attended the ceremony, and family members represented those students that are now deceased. Pictured, at right, is Kenneth Miller, walking across the stage to receive his diploma.



So, this April (or March if you are an early bird), don't forget to take a moment to read this riveting story of triumph. A special thanks to MSB member, Rickkie Hunt, for sharing this article. Information taken from Washington Post, article dated Dec. 9, 2023, 'The Enduring Legacy of a D.C. mother who fought for Black Deaf children'. The link to the article is found at:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/12/09/louise-miller-legacy-black-deaf/

Submitted by Nikki Dobyns, Chair of Hands In Christian Service (HICS) Deaf Ministry

Who's Having a Birthday? March April



Latese Lyles	March 1
Kathryn Russell	March 2
Dannie Young	March 4
Thaddeus Griffin	March 6
Margaret Franklin	March 9
Dale Ore	March 10
Michael McCorkle	March 10
Mildred Hall	March 11
Annie Rice	March 12
Robin Collins	March 12
Kevin Pope	March 14
Dimitria Hubbard	March 17
George Davis	March 20
Dayle Hall	March 20
Kevin Pryor	March 21
Ella Studevent	March 22
Khalia Sims	March 24
Brenda Mosley	March 26
Abner McCorkle	March 27
Millicent Pecku	March 27
Lucy McCorkle	March 28
Carolyn Alexander	March 30



Stanisha Johnson	April 2
Joy Bowman	April 6
Kelsey Dobyns	April 11
Michelene Coulbury	April 11
Charvion Shorts	April 12
Lenora McRae	April 12
Hope Taylor	April 12
Jalin Justin	April 12
Arabelle Finney	April 15
Iris Hurdle	April 21
Samoya Onibuje	April 23
Yvonne Whitmore	April 28
Mary J. Harris	April 30



To Tell the Truth

To prepare for a sermon on honesty, a pastor asked church members to read Joshua 25. The next week, he asked, "How many of you read it?" Half the hands in the church went up.

"Great," the pastor said. "You're the ones I want to talk to...because Joshua has only 24 chapters."

From *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart*, Charles Swindoll

Sharing the Load

In 1969 the Hollies released "*He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother.*" Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.





Our Known Sick Members

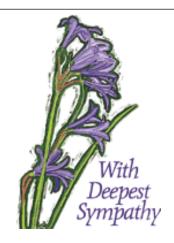
Tara Armwood
Susie Bennafield
Matilda Corley
Rosalie Guerra
Eldon Hayman
Mary Hubbard
Abner McCorkle & Lucy McCorkle
Elizabeth Phillips
David Ratliff
Annie Rice
John Thomas
Kathryn Thornton
Dannie Young

Sick and Recovering Members

Linda Alexander Leon Anderson & Vicki Anderson Lvnn Davenport Thaddeus Griffin Sallie Henderson Genevieve Johnson & Michael Johnson Willa Kynard Anita Lambert Alvon Lewis Bertha McNair Saundra McNair Lisa McRae Lenora McRae Karlene Ore-Klimpacher William Reddick Elsie Shaw

Christine Thomas

If you have knowledge of a member who is sick, needs watch care, or is bereaved, please call the Church Office as soon as possible.

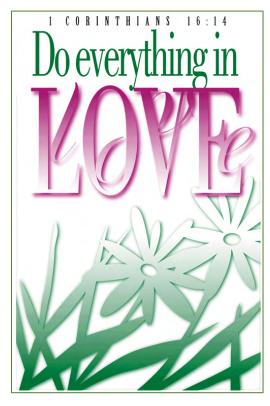


The McKendree-Simms-Brookland Church family extends our sympathy and prayers to:

Bruce Moaney, in the loss of his brother, **Eric Moaney** of San Diego, California

Bertha McNair, in the loss of her cousin, **Travis Daniels**





Just hold on through the storm, God will right the wrong.

It will not be long, Keep on singing your song, God will right the wrong.

Prove the enemy wrong, The trials make you strong, God will right the wrong, Keep on singing your song.

by Lucille Ratliff

The Father's Grace and Mercy

Christian Believer.

Multitudes of blessings and answered prayers happen everyday. I sense the Holy Spirit's presence. Experiencing this, my trust in God's faithfulness should be totally intrinsic. I observe the discord in families, the natural disasters, the hatefulness and deceit that is consuming our world. I mourn. I find it difficult to accept what I cannot change. I know that each of us has to find his/her own way through this storm. I mourn for those who succumb.

When I am in this frame of mind, I try to still myself, pray and wait. I try to be courageous. I write myself a memo: Listen! Trust! Obey! I also repeat this message and I invite you to join me.

"The Lord is at hand. In nothing be anxious." Today I will not worry or fret about conditions that do not seem right or orderly to me. I will do what it is possible for me to do to make them right and trust the Lord to do the rest.

I will keep my faith centered in God and in His law of good. I will not judge by appearances, but I will always keep in mind the truth that God is in all and through all and that His good purposes are fulfilled.

More than I know, my faith, my calm assurance of God's presence and power will bless the condition that seems fixed and unyielding and set in motion God's transforming power.

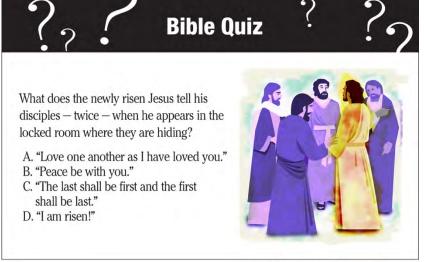
Where to human sense it seems impossible to do anything toward improving a situation, yet with God there is always a way. Today I will remind myself that "the Lord is at hand", and I will go about my day's activities poised and secure in the knowledge that God's answers are now being revealed.

There are instances when I repeat this memo to me until I internalize it. Living is not easy. Living in this world is what it is. How we live in this world is up to us. "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me...And thy right hand will save me." Psalm 138:7

God's grace and mercy be with you.

Arabelle Finney





Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)





Mission u

July 20, 2024

Theme:

The Kin-dom is Among You: Drawing Closer to God and Each Other

Location:

Maritime Conference Center Linthicum Heights, MD

Registration Opens:

May 1, 2024



2024 Annual Conference

Clergy and lay members will gather in holy conferencing at the 240th session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference on Wednesday, May 29, through Friday, May 31, at the Hilton Hotel, 401 West Pratt St. in Baltimore.

An online Pre-Conference Briefing will be held Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to noon.

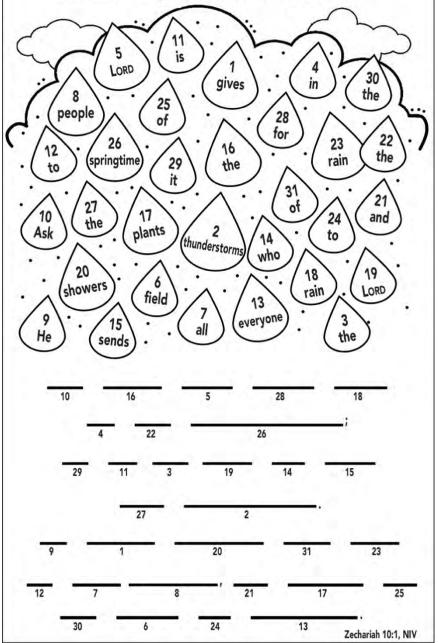
The Rev. Dr. Carla Works, Dean of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. will be the preacher at the service of ordination and lead this year's Bible study.

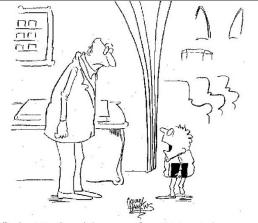
The theme of the conference, presided over by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, is "Like Fire Shut Up in Our Bones," inspired by Jeremiah 20:9. The guiding Scripture passage for the Annual Conference session is Romans 12:1, 9-12: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ... Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."



Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.





"I slept in church because I'm striving to be more like God, and on the seventh day he rested."





Answer: Ask the Lore for rain in the springtime; it is the Lore who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10.1, NIV



MCKENDREE MATTERS

McKendree-Simms-Brookland United Methodist Church (Church Office) 2421 Lawrence Street, NE (Church Sanctuary) 3321 – 24th Street, NE Washington, DC. 20018

