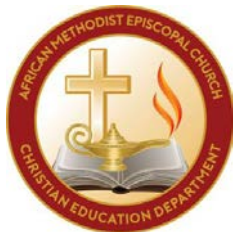




CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

Terence Renard Gray I, Senior Pastor
Dr. Marilyn A. Doyle, CEC Director
Patricia Goodwin
Lee Rushin
Faye Hogan
Donald Goodwin
Antar Rivers
The Reverend Dr. Missouri McPhee
Sharon Butler

THEME: REACHING LOW - HANGING FRUIT: RECLAIMING CHRISTIANITY



The Commission of Christian Education will inspire the congregation to become committed disciples. Through a holistic approach to Christian growth and religious education, the congregation will be empowered by the Holy Spirit with the ability to envision the future, elevate stewardship, and be fully equipped to be witnesses for Christ's ministry.

1. To provide interpretation and guidance to persons regarding the Christian way of life.
2. To provide training for the leadership in the area of Christian Education.
3. To provide a unified and coordinated program.
4. To make policies to govern the work of Christian Education.
5. To ascertain the needs, concerns, and ministries necessary to accomplish goals and objectives.



You are invited each week to attend Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 pm. We believe that we can put on the whole armor of God to glorify Him and to better serve Him and His people by studying His Word. We will also be empowered through His Word to make better life decisions. Join us!

The idea is to help ordinary people do extraordinary things in their mission in the Kingdom of God. Witness and ministry for Christ is not as difficult as we make it. EVERY believer has the God-given ability to reach people whom the Holy Spirit has already prepared.

September 4 – Reaching Low-Hanging Fruit: Reclaiming Jesus

September 11 – Reaching Low-Hanging Fruit: Discipleship not Membership

September 18 – Reaching Low-Hanging Fruit: Social Justice in the Church Universal

September 25 – Reaching Low-Hanging Fruit: How to Build Redemptive Relationship

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STUDENT SHOWCASE

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COMMUNITY AWARENESS

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LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP 2019

Saint Mark AME, Orlando, Florida
June 29, 2019

Saint Mark Leadership, thanks for your attendance and contribution! Your feedback was very supportive and provided guidance for the Christian Education Commission to plan future leadership workshops/retreats. Our prayer is that the learning that took place is being transferred into practice and that your commissions are growing stronger and more involved. Workshop overview and highlights:

Benchmark Scripture:

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" - Acts 20:35

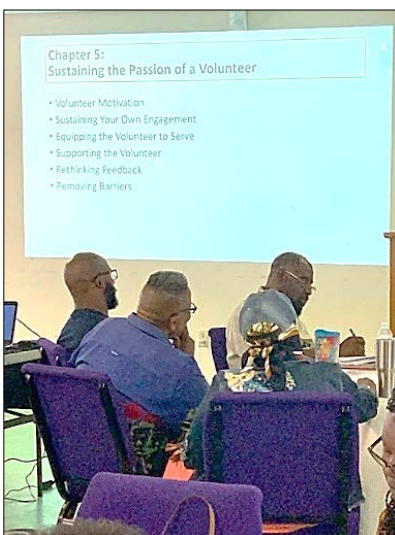
Essential Question:

How do we improve the work of the church?

Learning Objectives:

- Leaders will be able to understand the importance of creating a welcoming atmosphere to attract & retain volunteers.
- Leaders will be able to prepare, guide, support and inspire volunteers in order to grow greater involvement.
-

Resource:



"Train up a child in the way he should go, and [or even] when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



From June 9-15, 2019, **JACOB CUTHBERT, III** was hand selected to participate in the National Boy Scouts of America Inaugural National Historian Summit. He spent 6 days and 7 nights at Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico, days with 22 Scouts from around the country learning about Scouting history, how to archive history, and how to utilize technology in the preservation of history. At the end of the 6 days, the 22 Scouts received a Certificate of Completion as well as were given the designation of "Scouting Historian". Jacob is the first Scout in the Central Florida Council - Boy Scouts of America, the first Black Scout, and the first AME Scout to hold the designation of Scouting Historian. Jacob is currently serving his first term as Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) of his Boy Scout Troop (Troop #263 Lake Mary, Florida). The Christian Education Commission is proud of Master Jacob for achieving this very distinguished accomplishment.



11th Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church

2019 Christian Education Youth Leadership Conference (CEYLC)



CEYLC Delegates: Renee Byers-Yates, Eric Grier, Billy White, Courtney Maura, Lauren Lee, Jade White, Khaliah Boyd, Angela Watson, Alexis Watson, Khloe Rivers, Rachel Dean, Madison Dent, Kayla Palmer, Naja Goosby, Jacob Cuthbert, III, and Daniel Lee.

2019 Debutantes of Saint Mark



Debutantes: (Left to right) Mrs. Felicia Davis (WMS President), Breanna Byers-Yates, Rachel Dean, Renee byers-Yates, Kaylah Palmer, Khaliah Boyd and Khloe Rivers.

Local DMC Commissioner: Mrs. LaTonya Cherry Ginetta



Saint Mark Youth (East Campus)



Eight-year-old **Gibran Rawlings** is a member of Saint Mark's East Campus. Gibran loves the Lord and loves Karate. After just 2 years of participation, he has earned his red/brown belt in Karate. He is a member of **TEAM INTENSITY** which is the top club at his school. Since last year, he's competed in approximately 6 tournaments throughout the State of Florida; and has earned six 1st place individual medals, three 2nd place individual medals, two 3rd place medals, and one 2nd place team sync medal in the collective areas of extreme open forms, single Bo-Staff, double Bo-Staff, and Sparring. Gibran competed at the 2019 US Open ISKA World Martial Arts Championship where he earned 1st place with his team in their team demo and 3rd place with one of his teammates in their team sync demo. Because his team were grand champions, they were featured at the night of victory at this international event. Gibran's goal is to achieve his black belt in Karate while continuing to excel academically. The Christian Education Commission joins his family and his community of faith in extending our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.



Danielle Durant, a member of Saint Mark's East Campus, is a junior attending Lake Nona High School. Danielle has maintained a 3.7 GPA. She plans to dual enroll at Valencia during her last two years of high school. Danielle will be participating in her 3rd year of Color Guard and Winter Guard. She enjoys dancing and performing for others. Danielle serves as the secretary for NGSS an environmental club at her

school. She enjoys working with children and helping the elderly. Danielle works hard on her academics and plans to study dentistry in college.



Gabrielle Durant, a member of Saint Mark East Campus, is enrolling in her last semester at the University of Central Florida (UCF). She plans to graduate in December with a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on

Digital Arts and Media. Gabrielle competed on the UCF track and field team as a thrower for the last 5 years. She was red-shirted her freshman year. She has received numerous awards and accolades on her performances while competing during indoor and outdoor seasons. She holds several records for UCF and in the UCF weight room. She has excelled in the classroom as well. Gabrielle enjoys volunteering and helping others.



Zane Durant, a member of Saint Mark's East Campus is a sophomore attending Lake Nona High School where is maintains a 3.3 GPA. Zane had an outstanding

freshman year at Lake Nona as a varsity player. As a Freshman, he's received several verbal offers to compete collegiately on football scholarships. He is a three-sport letterman: football, weightlifting, and track. He participated in the FHSAA 4-A state track meet for the shot put. He finished 16th in the State of Florida in the 4-A division as a freshman. He was awarded the rookie of the year for Football last season at Lake Nona. He is a captain on the Varsity football team this season. Zane loves to volunteer and to help others. Zane is a student first; athlete second and understand that his academics are his top priority.



Sixteen-year-old **Eric Grier** is a member of Saint Mark's East Campus. He is a global technology magnet

student at University High School and Vice President of the Chess Club. He is the recipient of the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award for the Global Technology Program. He also placed third in the speech competition at the 2019 Black Heritage Program in Jacksonville, FL, and received the Outstanding Academic Award in Advanced Placement (AP) World History.



Twenty-year-old **Shaylyn Grier** is a member of Saint Mark's East Campus. She is the current recipient of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship as well as the Florida

International University (FIU) Undergraduate Ambassador Scholarship. Shaylyn is a current member of the FIU Black Student Union and a researcher in the Biomedical Engineering Department's CURE program. She is also a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) Executive Board serving as the STEM Outreach Coordinator and a member of FIU's Dean's list for 4 consecutive semesters.



Thirteen-year-old **Lauren Lee** is a member of Saint Mark's East Campus. She was recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Lauren maintains an overall GPA of 3.9, earning a spot on the Principal's List and receiving the Award of Excellence. She has received the highest honor from the MPA's in the band which is the highest achievement a student can achieve.



Fifteen-year-old **Daniel Lee** is a member of Saint Mark's East Campus. He is a Law Magnet student at Boone High School with an overall GPA of 3.8. Daniel also excels in the sport of Rowing (sometimes call Crew).



Eighteen-year-old **Alexander Maura** is a member of Saint Mark's East Campus. He is a 2019 graduate of Wekiva Springs High School. Alexander has been awarded the Green & Gold Merit Scholarship as well as a Baseball scholarship to Webber International University, Babson Park, Florida.



Thirteen-year-old **Jade White** is a member of Saint Mark's East Campus. Jade is not only a scholar but an amazing tennis athlete. She maintains a 4.0 GPA, while serving as the treasurer of the Student Government

Association and the National Junior Honor Society. Jade has been identified as a Duke Tip Scholar for exceptional standardized test scores. As a 7th grader, she scored a 20 on the ACT and a 1010 on the SAT. Her tennis accolades include: tennis team captain for CCA, district 1-2a singles champion, district 1-2a doubles champion, and states singles qualifier which is the first in school history.



Fifteen-year-old **Billy White** is a member of Saint Mark East Campus. He is not only a scholar maintaining a weighted GPA of 4.8, but he is also the recipient of the Scholar Athlete Award

and Varsity Athlete Award for Baseball. Billy also is the recipient of a \$500 scholarship to attend a 3-week Computer Science Camp at the University of Central Florida.



Public awareness campaigns are strategically planned to reach a target audience and to communicate a specific message tailored to a cause or interest. Generally, the campaign includes increased concerns, outreach initiatives, resources, research and attempts to change a behavior or support an interest. Please take time out of your busy schedules to support the following awareness campaigns in September.

❖ **Prostate Cancer Awareness** – <http://www.pcf.org/blue/>

❖ **National Childhood Cancer Awareness** - https://www.acco.org/?gclid=CjoKCQjwkK_qBRD8ARIsAOteukA4XNln6SZQS_WgWnsMSvGoY1hBBR8u4j3f8YtRVFtMoT2kH5rsUSgwaAnZ5EALw_wcB

❖ **Gospel Music Awareness** - <http://www.gospelmusic.org/gma-mission/>

❖ **Voter Registration Awareness** - <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

"After Mass Shootings, Thoughts and Prayers Aren't Enough" by The Reverend Dr. Missouri McPhee

On an ordinary Saturday afternoon in El Paso, Texas, hundreds of parents and children were taking advantage of the school tax free holiday, preparing for the new school year, when bullets pierce the fallacy of what has become the nation's defacto policy on gun control, "thoughts and prayers". Just thirteen hours later, this act of violence would be repeated in Dayton, Ohio while people were enjoying a clear summer evening of dining and entertainment with friends. The evil that visited El Paso and Dayton marks the nation's 19th and 20th mass shooting in 2019. The combined death toll in El Paso and Dayton is at least 31, with many more sustaining physician and psychological injuries. Dayton police officials said officers responded in about 30 seconds, but the gunman had managed slaughtered nine innocent people and injured many more. Allow that fact to sit with you

for a moment. There have also been an increasing number of shootings and killings in local communities that have not garnered the attention of the media but are just as tragic and senseless. At this point, many of us would agree that the litany of "thoughts and prayers" are simply not enough! I know that sounds incredulous coming from a clergy person, but I stand by the sentiment. As a person of faith and the cloth, I wholeheartedly believe in the power of prayer. I stand in need of prayer daily. Prayer renews my strength and sometimes even my faith. Prayer keeps me in covenant with God and keeps me grounded. Not only do I engage in the practice of prayer and depend on prayer, I am also charged with teaching and preaching on prayer. As important as prayer is in my life, I am acutely aware that we are God's eyes, hands, feet, ears, and mouth. As my friend, Dr. Durrell Watkins, puts it, "...whatever we ask God to do for us, God must do through us". In other words, prayer without works is dead!

I love God, and, I have a healthy relationship with and respect for guns. Because I worship and serve God, I desire that all people within our borders should have the God-given and constitutional right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Sadly, we have become a nation of gun worshipers that, as Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr., the Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, said, "hides behind the Second Amendment as if it were an amendment to the Decalogue". It makes little sense to be a nation of gun worshipers only to turn around and ask God to heal us from the hurt, harm, and destruction of the very thing we worship. We must realize that our prayers for the victims, survivors, and the families of gun violence will remain unanswered until we act.

So, then, "thoughts and prayers"? How is that working? Really? We simply must do better. The same God to whom these "thoughts and prayers" are directed requires better. I am, therefore, not only calling out this scourge upon our nation, but I am also calling up those elected by the people to serve ALL people; the President of the United States, members of Congress, state legislators, city and county officials; gun enthusiast and detractors alike; persons across every religious spectrum and political party and those who have none; everyday, ordinary citizens of every ethnicity, race, color, and creed to ban together to shift the reactive paradigm of "thoughts and prayers" to a more proactive one in the passage of common sense gun reform. It's more than a notion as there are varying competing interests involved. It will take compromise, cooperation and a willingness on the part of all concerned parties, but it can be done. This nation must somehow summon the courage to meet the challenge of this crisis head on. Surely, we can become the answer to this prayer.

*Orlando Sentinel Guest Columnist
Wednesday, August 7, 2019*