

Union Bethel

African Methodist Episcopal Church
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Liturgical Color is Green

Community Day *Sunday, September 14, 2025*

Welcome

Sherwin Schulerbrandt

The Doxology

Sherwin Schulerbrandt

Call to Worship

Ebony Spiller

Hymn of Praise

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” #525

AMEC Hymnal

Ebony Spiller

Invocation

Kylen Jackson

Choral Response

Scripture: St. Luke 15:1-10 NIV

Richard Sheppard

Worship of Music

Announcements

Acknowledgment of Visitors

Moments of Fellowship

The Pastor’s Words

Offering

Introduction of the Speaker

Rev. Jerri Edmonds

Sermonic Selection

The Sermon

Reverend Dr. Eric R. Billips, Sr.

Presiding Elder

Brooklyn Westchester District

New York Annual Conference

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Altar Call Prayer

The Doxology

The Benediction

The Extinguishing of the Candles

Hymn of Praise: “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

Hymn #525 AMEC Hymnal

Words: Elisha Hoffman – Tune: Anthony Showalter

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

REV. DR. ERIC R. BILLIPS, SR.



Born in Baltimore, Maryland to Edward and Delois Billips, the Rev. Dr. Eric Ray Billips, Sr. was both converted and called to the ministry at an early age. He attended and graduated from the Baltimore City public school system. While a student in high school, Dr. Billips preached his trial sermon at the young age of 15 at Allen AME Church (Baltimore, Maryland). Following high school, Dr. Billips moved to Wilberforce, Ohio to attend Wilberforce University, where in 1986 he graduated and was ordained an Itinerant Deacon.

Dr. Billips returned to Baltimore and united with Bethel AME Church (Baltimore, Maryland). In 1988, he was ordained an Itinerant Elder and subsequently assigned as the pastor of Bethel AME Church (Port Deposit, Maryland).

Serving Bethel for three years, Dr. Billips felt the call to serve the church beyond the Second Episcopal District and was transferred to the Tenth Episcopal District (Texas) where he pastored for 21 years. While in Texas, Dr. Billips met and married his partner in life, love and ministry, Rev. Dr. Myra Turner Billips, an empowered and enthusiastic proclaimer of the gospel. Together, they attended and graduated with Master of Divinity degrees from Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University (Ft. Worth, Texas).

In February of 2013, Dr. Billips was assigned along with his wife, to Mount Zion A.M.E. Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The Billips became one of the first Ministry couples teams to receive an official dual pastoral appointment in the First Episcopal District, and one of the few husband and wife teams with both names on a pastoral appointment throughout the connectional A.M.E. Church. By the grace of God, the Billips were able to liquidate the mortgage on the church.

Desiring to further their ministerial preparation, Dr. Billips, along with his wife, enrolled and attended Payne theological Seminary. In, 2018 they both graduated with their Doctorate of Ministry Degrees in Liberation Theology.

In June of 2018, the Billips were assigned to North Stelton A.M.E. Church in Piscataway, New Jersey, where they were able to liquidate the mortgage on the church. They also established the NSAME Community Development Corporation where Dr. Billips served as the chairman of the Board of Directors.

December of 2024, would bring yet another significant change in his life and in ministry. It was then that Dr. Billips was appointed as the Presiding Elder of the Brooklyn Westchester District of the New York Annual Conference. To God be the Glory.

Dr. Billips is an excited and unashamed worshiper who enjoys singing, preaching and teaching the Word of God. In his spare he can be found reading, swimming, fishing, biking, vacationing with

friends, spending time with his family, and commanding the bbq grill. Together, he and his wife, Myra, have been blessed with four children and eight grandchildren.

His favorite scripture is Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”