

First African Methodist Episcopal Church

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God our Father
Christ our Redeemer
Man our Brother

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The vision for FAME must continue the path that has been set before us. We as a body of believers are charged to do several things to build the Kingdom of God in the area where we have been planted. Yet beyond that we are also charged to go into other areas and arenas that the Gospel may be heard in every hand and among every people. Furthermore, we are to take the message of Christ, which is bound to love, to the lost, the least, and the left. This is not a message of who we are but of who Christ is. It is not a message of our credentials, but a message of the saving Grace of the Lord Jesus. This message is not of what we have accomplished but, a message of deliverance of how Christ has brought us from the pit of sin into the plateau of salvation, where we walk not in our desire but in the will of God.

The vision then must be centered and cored by the very essence of who Christ is. I offer these values for our consideration as we develop our focus on ministry.

I. WE MUST BE A PRAYER-EMPOWERED CHURCH:

- a. We must have value focus on the power of prayer and recognize that we are engaged in spiritual warfare. We must be committed to prayer and know that it is essential to the success of the Vision and Mission.

II. WE MUST BE A CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCH:

- a. All of our values must be focused on Jesus Christ and that everything we do must point to Jesus Christ and glorify Him.
- b. We must accept the challenge corporately as well as individually, in spreading the love of Christ to each other, our Community, and our World.

III. WE MUST BE A HOLY SPIRIT LED CHURCH:

- a. We must have our focus on the Holy Spirit and value the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in every believer and believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit transforms lives and builds the Body of Christ.

IV. WE MUST BECOME A MINISTRY-DIRECTED CHURCH:

- a. Our focus must value the ministries that enhance life for our seniors, our Youth, our Families and Adults.
- b. We must strive to develop and maintain relevant programs and services for our congregation and for the Greater Manassas/ Prince William County area.
- c. We must make a difference through initiatives in Education, Economic Development, Health, Mentoring, Feeding and other ministries of outreach.

V. WE MUST BE A CHURCH THAT IS FAITHFUL IN STEWARDSHIP:

- a. We value and honor God by giving of our "first fruits".

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me. Philippians 4:13"

- b. We see God's wisdom and standards for giving and are committed to the Biblical mandate to "Tithe". We tithe our time, our talent and our treasure.

VI. WE MUST BE A CHURCH OF GROWTH:

We must have a value on growth as God leads. We're that growth that is an assumption that God makes about us. We must value the individual spiritual growth of every member and the growth of the body as a whole. Growth is a result of God's faithfulness and our care for others.

VII. WE MUST BE A SOCIALLY ACTIVE CHURCH:

We must have a value on justice. We must desire to have a positive impact on the global community, so that all can hear the gospel. We recognize our unique location and the connection to the community and must work for Justice and Economic Equity for all people.

My matter of my vision from God is that as a body of Christ in a community of Believers, we will follow His steps by building up his Kingdom where all can become a part of God's family.

In addition, the Word of Jesus Christ comes to mind in Matthew 5:46-48, **"If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that and if you lent to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good and lend expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is gracious to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful just as your Father is also merciful."**

The matter of our needs as a Holy people will be delivered upon our faith and work through God. My vision is that FAME will continue to be a beacon of light in a community searching for a brighter light that will never go out.

In conclusion, I see that FAME exists to follow the will of God our Father, to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and to administer to the needs of humankind. As I consider the matter of my vision through the eyes of God's Word, I reflect on Galatians 3:10, **"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the Household of Faith"**.

Ronald A. Boykin, Pastor

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