

Name: LaNesha DeBardelaben	School District: Flint Community Schools	Email Address: LNDebar@aol.com
Grade/Subject: 9 th Grade U.S. History (1877-Present)	Duration: 3 Days	Unit Title/Lesson: The AME Church in U.S. History
Resources/Materials: PowerPoint, History Hand-outs, Copies of Quinn Chapel AME Church archives, Historical Marker assignment description, <i>Flint Journal</i> mock article assignment description		
Description: The founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was born out of the racial discrimination experienced by people of African descent in a Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Throughout U.S. history, the AME Church has nurtured a number of influential African American leaders who have helped shape U.S. history. This lesson will explore the origins and history of the AME Church, highlighting the influence of the Reformation upon its early doctrine, discipline, worship patterns, and educational focus.		
STAGE 1 – DESIRED RESULTS		
<p>Michigan High School Content Expectations to be addressed:</p> <p>F2.1 Describe the major trends and transformations in American life prior to 1877 including patterns of immigration and migration.</p> <p>6.3 Progressivism and Reform – Select and evaluate major public and social issues emerging from the changes in industrial, urban, and global America during this period; analyze the solutions or resolutions developed by Americans, and their consequences (positive/negative – anticipated/unanticipated).</p> <p>6.3.3 Women’s Suffrage – Analyze the successes and failures of efforts to expand women’s rights, including the work of important leaders and the eventual ratification of the 19th Amendment.</p> <p>8.3 Civil Rights in the Post-WWII Era – Examine and analyze the Civil Rights Movement using key events, people, and organizations.</p>		
<p>Understandings (<i>What specific insights about big ideas do we want students to leave with</i>):</p> <p>Students will understand that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was an act of courage and resistance, and that the population changes in Flint resulted in, among other things, the organizing of Quinn Chapel AME Church. • A number of influential African American leaders across time who have helped the U.S. overcome various setbacks were adherents of the AME doctrine, including Progressive Era women’s leaders like Mary McCoy. • The doctrine, discipline, worship practices, and educational focus of the AME Church were influenced by the European Reformation. 	<p>Essential Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways have individual parishioners from the AME Church impacted U.S. history? • What personal qualities are required of one to forge something new? • What does it mean to be resistant to something? 	
<p>Students will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actions which led to the establishment, growth, and sustenance of the AME Church • The AME Church has nurtured a number of influential African American leaders who have helped the U.S. overcome various setbacks. • How the teachings of the AME Church were influenced by the European Reformation. <p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the factors that led to the establishment of the AME Church. • Analyze primary source documents relating to the history of the AME Church 		

STAGE 2 – LEARNING PLAN

Anticipatory Set/Hook/Activates Prior Knowledge:

Students will respond in writing in their journal to the Gandian quote “Be the change you want to see in the world.” After we discuss how this quote is evidenced in their lives and in the lives of individuals throughout history, play a short clip of Rev. Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant giving an ecumenical motivational talk to youth. After the clip, review a brief biographical sketch of Dr. Bryant (from G.E.D to PhD). The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to the idea of studying how individuals from the AME tradition have impacted U.S. history.

Learning Activities:

1. Present a PowerPoint presentation on the origins and history of the AME Church, highlighting its roots to the Reformation. Notable individuals from U.S. history who adhere to the AME doctrine will be introduced (Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Daniel Payne, Mary McCoy, Floyd Flake, Vashti McKenzie). The PowerPoint will also give an overview of the AME Church in Flint, the first predominately African American church congregation in Flint, organized in 1875.
2. Students will read the History Hand-outs and review a timeline compiled by the teacher of the AME Church in U.S. history, and answer accompanying questions.
3. The following day church historians Mr. John Feaster and Ms. Jean Conyers of Quinn Chapel AME Church as well as Ms. Gail Odom (a descendent of one of the founders of the church) will visit the class to present primary source documents from the church’s archives. Copies of primary source materials will be laminated and distributed to students. Points of discussion will be the population changes in Flint among the African Americans which led to the need for the new congregation.
4. After exploring the church’s primary source documents, hold a brief discussion about historic preservation. Have students pair share to come up with a list of five reasons why the Michigan Historic Sites Registry should or should not mount a historic marker at the site of the Flint church. Students will present their recommendations to the whole group.

STAGE 3 – ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

Summative Assessment:

1. Students can choose to either take on the role of a journalist writing for the *Flint Journal* on the 135th anniversary of Quinn Chapel and how the history of the denomination is a reflection upon U.S. history, or they can choose to create a Michigan Historic Registry proposal and create an accompanying Historic Marker for the Quinn Chapel site. Students will use copies of primary source documents from the church’s archives to support their work. Students must demonstrate historical thinking skills.



From G.E.D. to PhD: The Brief Story of Rev. Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant

Radical, revolutionary, innovative, and cutting-edge are only a few of the words that describe Dr. Bryant, aged 39, who founded the Empowerment Temple AME Church in 2000 with just 43 members. Today, it is the fastest-growing church in the AME denomination with over 11,000 members.

Dr. Bryant's personal story including overcoming roadblocks that perhaps would have stymied any other potential pastor – roadblocks like failing the 11th grade and dropping out of high school. He later obtained a G.E.D. certificate and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science and international studies from Morehouse College in Atlanta. Bryant later earned a master of divinity degree from Duke University in Durham, N.C., and in 2005 he received his Doctorate of Theology from Oxford University in Great Britain.

His journey from G.E.D. to Ph.D. also included becoming an unwed father before becoming a husband and family man. "Every person is flawed, and so many times we try to hide our issues, and then when they are exposed, we lose it all because we beat up everybody else who is flawed," he says. "We have confused servant with celebrity."

He believes everything he has overcome helps him identify, and connect with others. "I grew up on The Cosby Show, but I can relate to Good Times. Everybody in my family has a doctoral degree, and I have a G.E.D. I have a beautiful wife and three kids at home, but before that I had a child out of wedlock. That speaks to different facets of the community."

Prior to his role as a third-generation pastor (grandson and son of AME pastors), he served as the director of the national NAACP's youth and college division. Bryant, known as a dynamic motivational speaker, was responsible for more than 650 NAACP youth councils and college chapters, representing more than 68,000 young people in the United States. "It was my hope to rise through the ranks of the NAACP to maybe go back and be president of Morehouse, or do civil rights law," he says. "My role models were the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

The elder Bryant says one of his son's high school teachers said young Jamal was torn between being the next Dr. King or the next Eddie Murphy. "I always joke and say he decided to be both of them," the elder Bryant says.

From: http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1077/is_11_62/ai_n19480212/

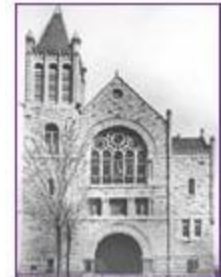
A Brief History of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church



The AMEC grew out of the Free African Society (FAS) which **Richard Allen**, Absalom Jones, and others established in Philadelphia in 1787. When officials at St. George's MEC pulled blacks off their knees while praying, FAS members discovered just how far American Methodists would go to enforce racial discrimination against African Americans. Hence, these members of St. George's made plans to transform their mutual aid society into an African congregation. Although most wanted to affiliate with the Protestant Episcopal Church, Allen led a small group who resolved to remain Methodists. In 1794 Bethel AME was dedicated with Allen as pastor. To establish Bethel's independence from interfering white Methodists, Allen, a former Delaware slave, successfully sued in the Pennsylvania courts in 1807 and 1815 for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution. Because black Methodists in other middle Atlantic communities encountered racism and desired religious autonomy, Allen called them to meet in Philadelphia to form a new Wesleyan denomination, the AME.



The geographical spread of the AMEC prior to the Civil War was mainly restricted to the Northeast and Midwest. Major congregations were established in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, and other large cities.



The most significant era of denominational development occurred during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Oftentimes, with the permission of Union army officials AME clergy moved into the states of the collapsing Confederacy to pull newly freed slaves into their denomination. "I Seek My Brethren," the title of an often repeated sermon that Theophilus G. Steward preached in the south. Hence, in 1880 AME membership reached 400,000 because of its rapid spread below the Mason-Dixon line. When Bishop Henry M. Turner pushed African Methodism across the Atlantic into Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1891 and into South Africa in 1896, the AME now laid claim to adherents on two continents.

In the 1990s, the AME included over 2,000,000 members, 8000 ministers, and 7000 congregations in more than 30 nations in North and South America, Africa, and Europe. Twenty bishops and 12 general officers comprised the leadership of the denomination.

From: <http://www.ame-church.com/about-us/history.php>

Flint's Oldest African American Congregation



Quinn Chapel AME Church of Flint, 1897

Quinn Chapel AME Church was organized in May 1875 in the home of Nancy West, at the corner of Stevens Street and the Grand Trunk Railroad in Flint, Michigan. Quinn Chapel was the first organized African American church in the City of Flint.

Named in memory of Paul Quinn, the fourth bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Quinn Chapel's debate society paid the debt on the first church building, erected in 1877 at 121 East 7th Street, with admission fees earned from Friday night debates. In 1912 a large brick structure replaced the original frame church. The city of Flint demolished that building in 1955 to make way for the Civic Center. The present structure was begun in 1955 and completed in 1961.

Found at: <http://quinnchapelamechurchflint.org/pages/history.php>

Points to include in PowerPoint:

Reformation tendencies in the AME Church

- Methodist in its doctrinal structure...influenced by John Wesley, who was in turn influenced by the Calvin tradition
- Episcopalian in its organizational structure
- Apostle's Creed used
- System of educational institutions (Wilberforce College, Morris Brown College, Paul Quinn College, etc.)...similar to Jesuits
- Architecture of early AME churches (stained glass windows, etc)
- Infant baptism practiced

Individuals from history who adhere to the AME doctrine to be introduced:

- Richard Allen (1760-1831) – Abolitionist and one of the founders of AME denomination and became its first bishop in 1816
- Absalom Jones (1746-1818) – (adhered instead to the Episcopalian doctrine only) Abolitionist and the first African-American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church of the United States in 1804
- Daniel Payne (1811-1893) – One of the founders of Wilberforce University and its first president, thus becoming the first African-American president of a college in the United States
- Mary Eleanor McCoy (1846-1923) – Wife of inventor Elijah McCoy, women's suffrage activist in Michigan who marched in the 1913 suffrage march in Washington, D.C. and founded Michigan's Association of Colored Women's Club; was very active in Bethel AME Church-the oldest AME congregation in Detroit organized in 1841
- Rev. Dr. Floyd Flake (1945-) – Former Congressman from New York and current president of Wilberforce University
- Rev. Dr. Vashti McKenzie (1947-) – First woman bishop elected in the history of the AME denomination in 2000