

CHURCHES SUPPORTING CHURCHES ADOPT-A-CHURCH PROFILE

Historic St. James A. M. E. Church
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THE HISTORY

The Historic St. James is the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in the deep south and was established by free people of color prior to the Civil War. St. James A. M. E. Church was established in New Orleans in 1844 and incorporated in 1848. The first meeting was in a shed at the corner of Villere and Bienville Streets. The present site was purchased in 1848, with construction of the church edifice begun that same year and completed in 1851. Historical events include the recruitment of the first African American soldiers in Louisiana for the Union Army, involvement in the initial organization of the YMCA for Black men and youth, and advocacy for the establishment of the Albert Wicker School. It also served as a base for protest activities in the Canal Street area during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Throughout its history, St. James has been more than a worship center. It has been a civic and cultural institution. The present pastor, Otto W. Duncan, Jr., is a son of the church.

THE VISION

The historical mission of the St. James A. M. E. Church is to bring people into the knowledge of God as Father and Creator and to provide a redemptive experience with our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus through worship, prayer, and the study of the Holy Word. It also promotes educational and cultural experiences and emphasizes community outreach.

CURRENT NEEDS

Currently, our community ministry is limited. We provide uniforms, choir t-shirts, and cases of notebooks for a school in our community. We also provide food three times a week and have given over 100 sleeping bags to the homeless who are living under the interstate at Canal and Claiborne, near our church. We want to develop more community-outreach programs. We envision our church as becoming restored and renewed spiritually, administratively, and physically. We have a positive outlook of continuing to serve God and our community. Our restoration motto is "Bent But Not Broken." We have had a new roof installed on our sanctuary building, but we need to repair the metal ceiling, restore the plaster walls, update the electrical system, restore the pews, replace the flooring, repair the steeples, repair the sound system and replace the organ. Any financial support would be greatly appreciated.