

The Church History

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was born in spiritual tension arising out of hostile ecclesiastical confrontation. Led by Richard Allen and others, a period of agitation for separation occurred between 1787 and 1816. This period of activity culminated with the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia in 1816. Bondspeople, quickened by the release from a system that sought to limit their theological grasp of Christianity, began to dot the nation's landscape with their churches.

Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church had its beginning in 1921, when a group of Christians who had been members of various A.M.E. congregations found themselves without a church home in their new Davis Street community. Under the leadership of the Rev. T.M. King, the Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized to provide a center of A.M.E. fellowship in the community. The first location was at 173 Davis Street. (later named Northside Drive).

The Church was named after the wife of the late Bishop Joseph Simeon Flipper. He served as the thirty-third (33rd) Bishop of the of the Sixth (6th) Episcopal District from 1912-1928.

And those who are wise -- the people of God -- shall shine as brightly as the sun's brilliance, and those who turn many to righteousness will glitter like stars forever.

-Daniel 12:3 LB

Throughout the years, the Church has been blessed with outstanding church leadership. Each leader has led the congregation in a Christ-like manner and greatly enhanced the spiritual fulfillment of its members as well as the community. Some of the most outstanding ministers of African Methodism have served as pastors of Amanda Flipper A.M.E. Church. From 1921 until 1961 the following ministers provided leadership:

*The Reverends: T.M. King; G.W. Young; H.R. Tremelin; E. McCain,
L.A. Stroud; R.E. Mathers; J.K. Garner; W.L. Renfro;
J.S. Green; L.W. Lane; A.D. Addison; H.R. Armistead;
H.E. Brown; E.P. Yorpp; J.W. Judge; G.N. Jones;
J.T. McMillen; C.D. Mitchell; W.M. Withers.*

Under the leadership of Reverend Withers, we secured a mortgage to finance much needed repairs to the Church. By the grace of God and with the diligent effort and fervent prayers of the righteous, we were able to burn the mortgage during Rev. Withers' tenure.

The 1960's were years of great social change and we were led during this period by two fine pastors: Rev. T.A. Fulton and Rev. George Moore, Sr.

Approaching our fiftieth year of service, we saw the need for refurbishment and improvement of our church building. Under the leadership of Rev. George Moore, Sr. we secured a mortgage for the much needed face lift. This allowed us to go from a frame to brick structure. We moved onto the 70's with a new look and continued to serve under the leadership of the following pastors:

The Reverends: Daniel W. Jacobs, Sr.; G.A. Roberts; C. Adams; W.D. Wheeler (under whose administration the mortgage was burned) Reuben Bussey; Issac N. Hudson; D.S. Saunders, Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.

The late 1980's was a critical point in our history. We were being forced to relocate due to the expansion of the Georgia World Congress Center, and the building of the Georgia Dome. The Rev. Ronnie Brailsford proved to be a pillar of strength. With the love of God and the steadfastness of Rev. Brailsford, we prevailed after months of struggle for adequate compensation for our property. For the first time, the church was properly incorporated, and our seal was obtained.

Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you, the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Isaiah 58:8 NASB

On September 4, 1990, God blessed us to purchase our new and current church home. Rev. Brailsford stood tall at the dedication service which was also attended by Bishop John H. Adams and his wife, Dr. Dolly D. Adams.

Since moving to our new church home, we have served under the leadership of the Reverends Daniel W. Jacobs, Sr.; and Ronald Mizer.

In June of 1994, we joined the trailblazers by welcoming our first female pastor; Rev. Nicolene Angela Durham. She comes with a unique style of ministry. Though soft spoken and unassuming, she is Holy Ghost filled, dynamic and vibrant. She is blessed with the supernatural gift to heal the sick and raise the spiritually dead. The once depleted membership has blossomed and continue to flourish. We fulfill God's words through our Outreach Ministry to the needy and less fortunate. Amanda Flipper A.M.E. Church is now an official member of the Decatur Cooperative Ministry which serves the homeless women and children of Metropolitan Atlanta.

Our Pastor's uniqueness is also recognized by the 6th Episcopal District, in that she was appointed as the first female delegate to the 1996 General Conference.

As we celebrate our 74th year of service to God and our fellow man, we can truly say that this is a new day! On this day, we recommit ourselves to the task set for us in Matthew 5:16 : "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven."

Today, Amanda Flipper stands as a monument to our pastor, officers and members, those who served before, whose diligence and faith in God brought us to this point; This monument shines and beckons the lost and lonely, faithful and backslider, the future generations yet unborn and to the A.M.E. Church.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We are the Church that is:

COMMITTED TO GROWING AND GLOWING IN GOD'S GLORY ABUNDANTLY!

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

