

History of Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church

Williams Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1873, eight years after the Civil War. The first pastor was the **Reverend Dave Christie**. Four of the original stewards were William Mayes, Lincoln Jefferson, M. Welfare and M. Fludd. The original trustees included D. L. Minger, P. Burnette, H. Brunson, J. I. Pauling, L. Jefferson, Baker Hayes, William Mayes and Joseph Haynes.

The Formative Years: 1873-1899

Emily A. Williams and trustees Richard Howard and Irvin Mintz purchased a small plot of land located at the end of what was then known as Market Street, now named Middleton Street. At that time Glover Street was just a wooded area. Services were held in a small dilapidated building where the parsonage now stands.

The land was purchased in 1877 from H. M. Andrews for the sum of \$500.00. The deed and titles were signed by Emily A. Williams and trustees Richard Howard and Irvin Mintz. The deed, signed on behalf of their successors in office forever, states in part: "They shall build a house or place of worship for use of the members of Williams Chapel AME Church and shall be governed by the rules of the General Conference, having a minister as a leader." The legal papers for this transaction were prepared by D. Augusta Straker, a prominent African-American lawyer practicing in Orangeburg.

As time passed, many changes and improvements were made to the Church, most notably the expansion of the Church membership, which resulted in the need for more land. On March 6, 1909, under the leadership of the **Reverend J. P. Murph** and trustees Hilliard Brunson, Allen M. Dantzler, C. E. Jamison, B. J. McDuffie, D. L. Minger, Lawrence Seabrook, John Williams, Lincoln Jefferson, and A.W. Wright, the Church purchased land from Phillip Rich to enlarge the Church and build a parsonage. Both structures were wooden. The Church was built on the spot where the Family Life Center now stands, and the parsonage was in the back of the church, slightly to the left.

The choir loft was on the right side of the pulpit, slightly elevated from the floor. Until the time of the enlargement of the church, there were no musical instruments used in the services. Later there was an organ, with Isaac T. Brown as the organist and B. J. McDuffie as the choir leader.

Shaping a Structure: 1900-1939

Ministers served and moved on. It was not until the **Reverend L. L. Jackson** became Pastor that another significant step was taken in the development of the church. It was under his leadership that the foundation for the present church was laid. Reverend Jackson's intention was to build a brick church, but he was moved before he could complete his plans.

Again, a succession of ministers came and went; and it was not until 1919 with the arrival of the Reverend Eugene Howard McGill that another big advancement in the progress of the church was taken. Reverend McGill and his wife, Carrie Delaine McGill, along with officers and members of Williams Chapel AME Church, began the hard job of completing the church with few resources.

In 1921, after studying plans, pricing materials and analyzing needs, work began on the church. The Pastor, Reverend McGill, and trustees H. Brunson, Lincoln Jefferson, J. Minger, P. B. Burnette, D. L. Minger, H.W. Jenkins, Baker Haynes, Joseph Haynes and Knolton Smith, borrowed \$6,342.50 from Orangeburg National Bank. This mortgage was executed and delivered pursuant to the resolution unanimously passed at the conference of the members of Williams Chapel AME Church. Miller F. Whittaker, an architect in Orangeburg and a church member, designed the church.

Other ministers in the early 20th century at Williams Chapel were Reverend Jasper Cephus Quarles, Henry Murph, J. B. Jennings, John Bunyan and Richard E. Brogdon.

The current Church, with the exception of the basement, was completed. The furnishings were selected for the pulpit, choir loft and altar; pews were chosen, and a Moeller pipe organ was installed, which at time was second to none in Orangeburg. Miss Elsworth Jefferson, a student at State Agriculture and Mechanical College, now South Carolina State University, served as organist for two years. The music was melodious, especially when she played the chimes. It was customary to have morning services, Sunday School, ACE League and night service. Esquire Shadrach Morgan served as Superintendent of the Sunday School. The ACE League was under the direction of H. L. Pinckney, Sr., Thomas J. Lyles and Goldie E. McDuffie. There were others who took part in all programs, but these individuals planned and executed the programs.

In 1937, Reverend McGill became the Pastor of Williams Chapel for the second time. His stay was short, but once again was fruitful for the church. Reverend James Peter Washington was appointed Pastor for the Church after Reverend McGill, followed by appointment of Reverend R. J. Jefferson.

Coming into Full Bloom: 1940-1980

Reverend J.P. Jannerette, became the next minister from 1942-1949. The mortgage from Orangeburg National Bank was paid off in 1944. There was a special church program where the mortgage papers were burned by Corrine Wright, the mother of the church and treasurer of the Sunday School, and her granddaughter Eartha Marie Bynum, now Mrs. Marie Robinson. The Church was filled with young and old as they sang songs of rejoicing and thanksgiving. Some of the older members of the church were especially happy. They included, Ada Frost, Maggie Stokes, Mattie Davis, E. H. McDuffie, Mattie Morgan, Mrs. Litsey, William M. Mayes and many, many more.

In 1949, **Reverend Chappelle Monroe Davis** was assigned to be pastor of the church. He and his wife, O'Kereta, were young, energetic, and full of plans for the future. Under his leadership a brick parsonage was built. It was designed by John H. Blanche, a local architect and church member. Two Sunday morning worship services were initiated and the "Breakfast Program" was organized. New organizations formed included the Junior Usher Board, Chancel Choir, Sunbeam Choir, the C.M. Davis Choir, and the David Wallace Usher Board. He was responsible for the growth in membership and bringing young men into the ministry. Guided by Reverend Davis, church members participated actively in the Orangeburg Civil Rights Movement.

Reverend Davis and trustees Lucy P. Simmons and Samuel M. Pinkney purchased additional land adjacent to the Church prior to 1975. The land measured forty-five by one hundred seventy-three feet,

and Reverend Stoney Toomer was paid \$1,635.00 for the property. The first major renovation of the Church was done in 1967.

In 1975, land was also purchased on the corner of Rowe and Glover Streets from Thomas Copeland for \$5,500.00. The second phase of the renovation was completed in 1975, making it a sound structure. Carl D. Kennerly was serving as President Pro Tem of the Board of Trustees.

Reverend Davis died suddenly in July 1978, after serving the church for 29 years. Reverend David Daniels, a ministerial student at Allen University, was named to complete the term.

The **Reverend Dr. William Smith, Jr.** was assigned to serve the congregation in December 1978. Under his leadership the church initiated a variety of new programs. Many clubs and organizations were established. A Youth Church was organized. Six lots were purchased and \$35,000 was raised to renovate and move the parsonage to its present site.

Preparing for the New Millennium: 1980-2000

On October 12, 1980, the **Reverend Allen W. Parrott** and his wife, Barbara, were sent to lead the congregation.

Under his leadership, the church initiated a variety of service-oriented programs: (1) collection and distribution of non-perishable items for the needy; (2) soup kitchen for the hungry; (3) Easter clothing “giveaway;” (4) summer lunch program for children; and (5) tutorial program for adults. Many clubs and organizations were established including weekly Bible Study Class, a catechism class for youth, Cub Scouts, Men’s Fellowship and softball team. “Vignettes of Black History” was instituted to celebrate Black History Month and an annual “Lenten Series” led by the laity of the church was started. Special worship experiences included the celebration of a “Christian Passover” and College Day. The elderly and handicapped were served Holy Communion in their seats.

The church always took an active role in civil rights advancement and was accorded a life membership in the NAACP in March of 1982. In 1986 Williams Chapel received a national award for the highest NAACP membership enrollment and voters registration in the country.

During Reverend and Mrs. Parrott’s tenure, the Church parsonage was relocated to the corner of Glover Street, and additions were constructed costing \$35,000.00. The lovely stained-glass windows in the church were restored at a price of \$27,000.00. Williams Chapel AME Church was entered in the National Register of Historic Places September 20, 1985, with an elegant essay on its Gothic Revival Architecture. Its picturesque massing and distinctive detailing attest to the talents of its architect, Miller F. Whittaker, and to the ability of builder I. J. Minger. Whittaker, who prepared plans for the building in 1915, was director of the Department of Mechanical Arts at South Carolina State University and was the first black architect practicing in South Carolina.

On August 9, 1987, the Family Life Center Committee, chaired by Brother Oscar Butler, was opened, and the church actively responded to the needs of the community. In 1988 the Day Care Center opened.

The Chappelle Monroe Davis Fellowship Hall, located in the Allen W. Parrott Family Life Center, was dedicated June 9, 1991, in memory of Reverend C. M. Davis.

In November, 1991, **Reverend Lorenza T. Baker** was appointed to lead the congregation. He and his wife, Ellen, resided in Burton, S.C. During his tenure the church was reorganized to include numerous commissions, boards, and auxiliaries. One new commission was the Public Relations Commission, which was responsible for issuing news releases; greeting, counting, and welcoming visitors to the church; and producing a bi-monthly publication, Williams Chapel AME church newsletter, chaired by Sis. Sarah Monroe. The first edition was published in January, 1993. The newsletter was mailed to all members and newly-registered visitors.

Over \$100,000.00 was paid on the existing mortgage on the Family Life Center. The Day Care Center was licensed and reorganized; learning materials and playground equipment were purchased at a cost of \$15,000.00, Brother William A. Purvis was named Steward Pro Temp.

Extensive repairs were made to the entire church. The parsonage was refurbished and refurnished. Security systems were installed in the church parsonage. Administrative staff and department directors were put in place. New office equipment was purchased. Many outreach ministries were organized, including tutorial and mentoring programs, a weekly radio broadcast, a soup kitchen, clothes closet and pastoral care groups. Reverend Baker was assigned to another church in June, 1994.

On June 12, 1994, **the Reverend George F. Flowers** and his wife, Phoenicia, were appointed to lead the congregation of Williams Chapel. He came with a vision to lead the congregation into the 21st century. Under his leadership, the church office operations were computerized to maintain accurate church records, membership needs, financial status, and to print Church bulletins and newsletters. During this period the Public Relations Commission began distributing "Welcome Kits" to all visitors to the Church.

Sunday worship was returned to one service, which began at 9:45 a.m. The George F. Flowers Trio was formed. Other projects included retiring the church mortgage of \$178,478.00 on the Allen W. Parrott Family Life Center; paneling the walls in the lower level assembly hall; the installation of a Wick 16-pipe organ at the cost of \$167,217.00; the enlargement of the choir loft with new pews donated by Alphonso and Minnie Jenkins; the purchase of communion dress, paraments, for the altar; installation of risers and pews in the gallery; upholstering the pews at the cost of \$35,498.00; and the purchase of a 15 passenger van for \$20,528.00.

The church family sponsored numerous fund-raising activities to successfully liquidate the indebtedness of the Family Life Center, pipe organ, pew renovation project, and van.

During Reverend Flowers' administration, an additional area for parking was purchased at the cost of \$7,300.00 from Mrs. Thackston and other projects were completed: side parking lot paved and fenced; rear driveway paved (the rear parking lot had been fenced in some years earlier); exterior security lights installed; a freezer and an exhaust fan purchased for the kitchen in the Family Life Center; kitchen cabinets renovated in lower level; and the interior of the Family Life Center painted. Also security systems were installed in the church, the Family Life Center and the parsonage.

Along with other community services, the Church had been designated by the Federal Government as a site for distribution of lunch to youth during the summer for several years.

In 1998, an anonymous member gifted to the Glory of God a magnificent Yamaha Baby Grand Piano for the sanctuary. Other items gifted to the church since June 1994 were a six foot oak cross to hang in the rear of the pulpit, an oak glider for the Family Life Center, by Brother Ernest Monroe and a large African fabric print purchased for the church by Reverend Flowers on his visit to Africa in January 1996. After

being divided into two frames, the prints were hung in the Family Life Center and the assembly hall in the lower level of the Church.

On December 12, 1998, Williams Chapel, in conjunction with Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, broke ground on a Habitat for Humanity house located on Maxcy Street in Orangeburg. Each church contributed \$18,000.00 for the construction of the house, which was completed October 1999.

An Endowment Fund, which is a life support resource for the Church was established by an initial contribution by the Ernest N. Williams Family in his memory, November, 1999.

On October 10, 1998, Reverend Flowers officially launched his candidacy for the Office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Office of Missions of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for the year 2000, at a luncheon honoring him at the Kirkland W. Green Student Center at South Carolina State University. He was elected to that position during the A.M.E. Church General Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 5-12, 2000. He continued to serve as Pastor of Williams Chapel until the Annual Conference, November, 2000.

From 2001-2007: Embracing the Vision

In November, 2000, the **Reverend Roderick D. Belin** was assigned to the congregation. Under his leadership, church and community ministries were birthed to celebrate diversity and to meet the emergent needs of an inter-generational, fast-growing church population.

These new ministries served to further the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Additionally, a new organizational structure was instituted to even more effectively “serve the present age.”

This structure organized all of the ministries of the church into four major divisions: Christian Education, Membership Nurture and Care, Worship and the Arts, and Outreach and Evangelism.

The Worship Experience was a blend of traditional and contemporary liturgy and music. The incorporation of a Hammond B-3 organ, a Yamaha Motif 8 keyboard, a drum set, brass, woodwinds and bass guitar significantly enhanced praise and worship while appealing to and engaging worshippers of all ages. The Mass Choir and the New Beginnings Choir of Youth were established.

A \$92,000.00 debt was paid off in 2001. Additional land was purchased for parking; church directional signs were gifted and erected at city limits; a copper roof was installed on the edifice at a cost of \$58,000.00; furniture was purchased for the reception area and administrative offices. Carpeting of the lower level of the church was gifted. Draperies were purchased for the lower level of the Church, the Family Life Center, the reception area and the administrative offices.

Other highlights include the Annual Senior Citizen’s Health and Wellness Forum sponsored by the Ministry to Seniors. The first speaker was Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former United States Surgeon General; the installation of a multimedia system that includes audio/video production, recording and a projection system at cost of \$36,000.00; and a state-of-the art, fully interactive website. First Friday Jazz and poetry which highlighted the work of wordsmiths, poets, griots, noise-makers, rule-breakers, singers and other musicians was held the first Friday in the month and was opened to the community.

The Riverside-West End Community Development Corporation was founded to assist the Riverside-West End Community by empowering its members to reach their full potential and realize their dreams through

education, the arts, and economic development. A celebration banquet was held on September 12, 2003. Dr. Floyd Flake was the guest speaker. Reverend Belin resigned on October 24, 2004.

On December 5, 2004, **Reverend Dr. Juenarrl Keith** and his wife Anna Marie were assigned to lead the congregation. He led the congregation in spiritual renewal with emphasis on worshiping in the true spirit of African Methodism.

Reverend Keith initiated the development of the Williams Chapel Kindergarten Program with the Director of the Learning Center, Mrs. Marie Jenkins. The Williams Chapel Church Learning Center was restructured and strengthened. The church purchased and paid in full for adjacent property. Under his Christian nurturing and leadership the Church became the home base for the Statewide AME Outreach Project. The old Bruner Building on Middleton Street was purchased. During Reverend Keith's tenure the church applied for a historical marker from South Carolina Department of Archives and History in August 2006. The marker was approved in November 2006.

On November 11, 2006, Reverend Keith was appointed Presiding Elder of the Orangeburg District after the untimely death on July 27, 2006 of **Reverend Willie J. Baxter**, Presiding Elder of the Orangeburg District.

2006 - 2016: "A Call to Serve"

Reverend Caesar R. Richburg and his wife, Ella, came to serve Williams Chapel AME Church on November 12, 2006.

On March 25, 2007, Reverend Richburg led the church in the celebration and unveiling of the South Carolina Historical Marker. Renovation/expansion of the Pastor's Office began in February, 2007.

A new, detailed Worship Guide was designed for the Sunday Morning Service. He reintroduced several annual observances including Women's Day, Men's Day, Baby Contest, and Family and Friends Day.

May, 2007, the Voices of Williams Chapel, a women's choir, was organized. In August the Youth Church was reorganized.

Pastor Richburg received his doctorate from Hood Theological Seminary in Church Administration.

August, 2007 mark the inauguration of the First Annual Southern Midlands African American Family Reunion. This event grew to more than 8000 people annually. It was a family-friendly event held in the Edisto Memorial Gardens. The last event was held in 2012.

On August 31, 2007, Reverend Richburg and the Williams Chapel Church Family honored Reverend Leroy Thomas, Jr., Assistant Minister, at a "This Is Your Life" Appreciation Celebration Banquet. Reverend Thomas has been a faithful servant assisting many pastors beginning with Reverend Allen W. Parrott. He has been a dedicated servant in the Outreach Ministry for many years.

A 40-passenger bus was purchased. Additional property was purchased. The Class Leader Council was organized. The formation of Riverside Westend Community Economic Development Corporation was continued.

The church family honored Bro. Willie Jeffries, Trustee, October 17, 2010 after he was inducted into the prestigious 2010 College Football Hall of Fame.

October 31, 2010, a fall community festival was held where the church family provided a fun and safe environment for over four-hundred children and their parents.

November 28, 2010, the dedication and unveiling of “The Sheridan Murph Hamilton Christian Education Annex,” formally the church parsonage was dedicated.

The church celebrated 137 years of spiritual and physical growth, December 5, 2010.

Dr. Richburg announced his candidacy for the Office of Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012 in Florence, SC at the Post Conference 2010.

The church family and the campaign for, “Richburg for Bishop 2012” sponsored a Gala honoring Pastor Richburg for thirty-five years in ministry and the call to serve as Bishop in the AME Church February 18, 2011. Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II was the guest speaker. Pastor Richburg was also a candidate for bishop in 2016.

The dedication and unveiling of Darryl’s Playground was held August 3, 2011. Dr. Oscar Darryl Butler grew up in Williams Chapel and died at age 34. His parents are Dr. and Mrs. Oscar Butler Sr.

Sunday, August 21, 2011, the church returned to two services, 8:00am and 10:45am. Williams Chapel now has church school at St. Paul Apartments.

Sunday, September 18, 2011, the church celebrated “National Back to Church Sunday.”

Beginning with Rev. Chappelle M. Davis, portraits of all pastors, past and present, were refurbished and hung in the hall of the Allen W. Parrott Family Life Center.

Extensive renovations were made in the entire church: enlargement of the bathrooms in the lower level, installation of new light fixtures, painting of the sanctuary, halls and fellowship hall. The lower unit of the church was completely renovated in 2011.

Extensive research on the stained glass windows of the church was spearheaded by Sister Minnie Johnson. A pamphlet was published for the church family on the results of the aforementioned search.

Power Church Plus (a computerized accounting system) was installed to account for all church contributions, finances, and membership records.

Williams Chapel Church hosted the 88th Session of the Central South Carolina Annual Conference Seventh Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church, October 10 - 14, 2011. The host church compiled and published for distribution the **COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL**, which featured portraits of church ministers on the cover beginning with Rev. Chappelle M. Davis through Rev. Caesar R. Richburg.

Williams Chapel Church celebrated its 139th Anniversary on March 18, 2012, focusing on the theme “Preserving the Past—Poised for the Future.”

On April 21, 2013, Williams Chapel Church celebrated its 140th Anniversary, focusing on the theme “One Hundred Forty Years of Faith, and Serving to the Community—Cherishing the Past and Claiming the Future.” At an Inaugural Heritage Breakfast on April 20th, dedications were made in honor and/or in memory of the following members: Food and Service Unit—Sisters Annie Bradley, Juanita Grant, and Eartha Whetstone; Soup Kitchen—Sister Ethel DeWitt, Brother Lewis Jacobs, and Reverend Leroy Thomas; Board Room—Brother William A. Purvis; Finance Room—Brother James E. Keller and Sister Odethell McKinney; Reception Hall (lower Level) — Reverend Caesar R. Richburg; Learning Center—

Brother Carl D. Kennerly; and Facilities Management Unit—Brothers Leroy Brunson, Sr. and David Green, Sr.

Williams Chapel Church celebrated its 141st Anniversary on March 29, 2014, the theme being “Faith of Our Fathers Living Still.” In conjunction with the ceremonies, an inaugural Heritage Brunch was held at the Premiere on March 28, 2014. Members honored on this occasion were Unsung Heroes: Brothers Charles Artis, Oscar Butler, Peter Felder, Eugene Hildebrand, Julius Page, and Michael Shuler; Sisters Bessie Dowling, Dorothy Major, Sandra Knotts, Barbara Troy, and Lillie Williams. Members 90 Years and Older; Brothers Eugene Hildebrand, Wilbur Irick, and Carl D. Kennerly; Sisters Mamie Darby, Hattie Green, Catherine Huggins, and Mary Jefferson. Four –Year Generation Families (The Matriarchs) of Williams Chapel: Sisters Hattie Green, Francis Lee, and Annette Truewell.

Williams Chapel Church celebrated its 142nd Anniversary on March 28, 2015. The theme was “Affirming Our Past—Transforming Our Future.” In conjunction with the celebration, a Heritage Brunch was held in the Chappelle M. Davis Fellowship Hall on March 28, 2015. The Unsung Heroes honored at the celebration were Sisters Joi Gabrielle Artis, Marie Hamberg-Artis, Emma Lee Gardner, and Sarah Chambers Monroe; Brothers Bennie M. Brown Jr., Moses E. Brown, Willie Jeffries, and James L. McFadden.

Williams Chapel Church celebrated its 143rd anniversary celebration on April 9, 2016. The theme was “Saving Our Heritage for the Next Generation.” The following Heroes were honored : Sisters Bria Brown, Harriette Gregg and Minnie Johnson, Brothers Wilbur Irick and Pattamas (PJ) Jones and Reverends Lorena Fuller and Eva W. Summers.

The Learning Center began accepting infants in 2013. A bus was also purchased for the center. Williams Chapel has established a church school in St. Paul Apartments.

Brother Bennie Brown assumed supervision of the Soup Kitchen (Shepherd’s Corner) in 2015. On Fridays, volunteers feed several hundred people on-site, and deliveries are also made to homes. A vehicle was purchased for delivering dinners. Some of the local businesses have been generous in providing donations to the program. On Thursdays, people can visit the clothes closet and the food pantry to help take care of their personal needs.

The Souvenir Journal for the 92nd Session of the Central South Carolina Annual Conference 2015, heritage Edition featured names of twenty-two native sons of South Carolina elevated to bishop from 1828 – 2008. Our present bishop’s picture (Bishop Richard Franklin Norris) was in the center of the souvenir journal cover.

The church family sponsored a Gala honoring Pastor Richburg for Bishop 2016 on April 22, 2016. Bishop Norris was the quest speaker.

Rev. Richburg was assigned as pastor of Bethel AME Church, Columbia, SC on November 11, 2016.

Reverend Stanley Rivers (Sheila) was appointed November 11, 2016.

Reverend Rivers immediately began to stabilize the church and lead the congregation to higher heights. He re-instated the New Generation Choir (Young Adult) and designated the third Sunday as Youth Sunday. The Endowment Board was also re-instituted. He revamped new members orientation and training; appointed a Benevolent Funds Committee and held training and installation for church officers. Rev. Rivers and officers purchased and installed security system and held training for all operators. Church building and grounds were repaired as a result of the hurricane. Administrative offices were

painted and installed new carpet in the secretary's office. He established a financial plan to reduce the church mortgage and transparency of accounting. The worship guide was re-designed. A 15 passenger (handicapped accessible) bus was purchased.

The 144th Anniversary Breakfast Celebration was held on March 18, 2017 at the Premiere. The theme was "A New Beginning: Thanking God for the Old and Praising God for the New." The following persons were honored as Unsung Heroes: Sisters Mary James, Jean Johnson, Gertha McFadden, Cynethia Page, Jacqueline Turner, and Barbara White, Brothers John Grant, Joseph Green, Christopher Simmons and Reverend Christopher Mathis. The Life-Time Achievement Recipients was added in 2017. They are Sisters Dorothy Bovian, Hattie Green and Dr. Barbara Williams-Jenkins.

Homecoming/Family and Friends Day was held on Sunday, July 30, 2017. Bishop Sammie L. Green was the guest speaker.

The Nazry Davis Jones Ministry to Seniors sponsored its fourteenth Annual Health and Wellness Forum in September 2017. All the forums were well attended and all the speakers were dynamic. Brother Gregory Jones, son of the late Nazry D. Jones, was the keynote speaker for the forum. He continues to support this ministry.

The opening of the Daycare Center (house infants, 3 months – 18 months) in 2018.

Pastor Rivers appointed the first female steward *Pro Tem* in the history of the church, Sister Marie Hamburg-Artis in November and Brother William A. Purvis retired after serving as Pro Tem for 26 years. He appointed Sister Pearl Johnson Logan as director of the Commission of Christian Education.

The church received two 55" monitors for the media ministry. Church news and announcements are now done by audio-visual technique.

On line giving was established at the church as a method of paying your tithes and offering.

The opening of the Daycare Center (house infants, 3 months – 18 months) in 2018.

Church Ministries include:

Acolytes

Altar Guild

AME Campus Ministry (SCSU/Claflin)

Bible Study

- Women Inspirational Bible Study
- Victorious Men Bible Study
- Pastor's Bible Study
- Noonday Community Bible Study

Buildings and Grounds

Church School

Drama Ministry (Parable)

Greeters

Commission of Finance and Stewardship

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Kitchen/Culinary

Lay

Living Word Liturgical Dance Ministry

Ministerial Staff

Music Ministry

Pastoral

Pastoral Care Ministry

Public Relations

Marriage Ministry

Media Ministry

Nazry D. Jones Seniors Ministry

Single Ministry

Commission on Evangelism and Membership

Debutantes and Masters Commission
Endowment Board

Greeters
Health and Wellness Ministry
Hospitality
Summer Enrichment Camp

Usher Boards

- David Wallace Sr. Usher Board
- L.T. Baker Usher Board

Youth of Allen
Transportation Ministry
Women Inspiration Network
Women's Auxillary
YPDer's
Vacation Bible School

A Few Historical Notes

In the history of Williams Chapel Church, these four previous pastors have been appointed as Presiding Elders: Reverend Dr. William Smith, Jr. (1978-1980) Marion District; Reverend Dr. Allen Wayne Parrott (1980-1991) Kingtree District; Reverend Lorenza T. Baker, retired (1991-1994) Orangeburg District; and Reverend Dr. Juenarrl Keith (2004-2006) Mount Pleasant District. Reverend Dr. George Flowers (1994-2000) was elected the Executive Director of Global Witness Ministry.

Three college presidents of South Carolina State College, now South Carolina State University, Dr. Miller F. Whittaker (1932-1949), Dr. M. Maceo Nance, Jr. (1968-1986), Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. 2003-2007), and A.M.E. Bishop, the Right Reverend Richard A. Hildebrand, can be found on the membership roster.

Throughout the years, Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church has actively participated at the District Conference, Episcopal District and Connectional levels of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Sterling Dowling, YPDer, was elected Governor of Palmetto Boys State June 1997. Then later he was elected President of Boys Nations, Washington, DC July 1997. During the summer of 1999, he served an internship with US Congressman James E. Clyburn, Sixth District, SC. Leon Sanders Jr., a YPDer, was elected Governor of Palmetto Boys State June, 2002. He was also elected Golden Palmetto Scholar and also Palmetto Scholar.

Joi Artis, YPDer, was elected as the youth lay organization member to the Connectional Department of Global Witness in 2012. Dr. George F. Flowers, Executive Director and Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie is the Department Chair. Joi served as the assistant recording secretary. She was re-elected as the youth lay organization member of the Connectional Department of Global Witness in 2016 and serves as the recording secretary.

The mission statement of the church summarizes its vision: Williams Chapel is a growing, liberating, reconciling and empowering Christian Community which makes mature disciples for Jesus Christ. It is a Church where each person can discover and use his or her spiritual gifts, to share Jesus through praise, worship, study and development, witnessing and serving others, and building up the Body of Christ. As a result. Each believer begins to live the message: Forgiveness is not an option but an obligation.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!