

153rd Session of the Pittsburgh-West Virginia Annual Conference
St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church
Annual Summary Report
September 15, 2020

To: The Right Reverend Frank Madison Reid III, Presiding Prelate,
Mrs. Marlaa Hall Reid, Episcopal Supervisor,
Reverend Thomas Fant, Host Presiding Elder, Reverend Dr. Eric L. Brown, Co-Host Presiding
Elder, Reverend Alton Dillard, Co-Host Presiding Elder, Pastors, and Delegates of the 153rd
Session of the Pittsburgh-West Virginia Conference

From: The Reverend Madonna Gray, Pastor

Subject: St. James Erie Annual Report

Conversions 3

Baptisms 0

Accessions 8

Funds Raised this Conference Year \$153,659.51

Total Brought to Annual Conference \$ 20,611.00

This year St. James, Erie has been on the move. In September 2019 the church was indebted by 100,000.00 to pay off the church van, credit cards, and lines of credit. The church has stayed focus and currently is in the planning stages of a Debt Reduction Campaign hoping that members will come together to pay the debt off.

There was a Breakfast Ministry where those who were in need received a hot breakfast meal every Sunday. Since the pandemic began this ministry has not be able to continue since meals were served in the fellowship hall (basement) of the church.

The Missionary Society bought and distributed mask and donated them to organizations in need in Erie, PA.

This year the young people between the ages of 20 to 39 began to organize a RAYAC. Due to the pandemic and the church being closed activities planned by the group. The group had planned before the pandemic an Easter Egg Hunt, Easter baskets being made, hot dog, chips, punch, along with each child who would have attended being able to carry a basket home. RAYAC chose to meet every week to organize. The members stated meeting once a month would not be efficient while trying to organize. There were other activities along with a regular presence in the church worship services.

Those organizing RAYAC were brain storming on ways to get more of the young people RAYAC age back into the church.

A wind storm accrued in Erie, PA and blew the siding off the steeple. The insurance company Brotherhood was contacted and the insurance company paid for the complete repair.

St. James has an excellent the Class Leaders System and through this system we have been able to keep up with the members, along with a newsletter was started after the beginning of the pandemic.

Sunday Morning Worship has continued. A group of 8 members we call "The Morning crew gather together each Sunday to conduct the service.

The church held an outside service with everyone parking their cars every other parking space. As the service begun it began to rain. Licentiate Andre Horton and Reverend Madonna Gray conducted the service in the rain.

One of the members Brother Eva Tucker gain his wings this conference year. Brother Tucker had been inspirational in the church and community. He advocated for young people to obtained higher education. The St. James College Scholarship (My Brother's Keeper) was renames in his honor and is now called the Evan Tucker Scholarship. The church raised this year and in past years \$1000.00 to give to a graduate of St. James AME Church who will attend college in the fall after their graduation.