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St. Philip A.M.E. Church
Bermuda

St. Philip A.M.E. Church

Tucker's Town Dedicated 1900; Harrington Sound Dedicated 1926

The 113 years of St. Philip African Methodist Episcopal Church's existence can easily be divided into three phases; (a) the cottage house meetings, (b) St. Philip in Tucker's Town, and (c) St. Philip on its present site at Harrington Sound, Smith's Parish.

The Cottage House Meetings

The era is about fifty years after slavery had been abolished here in Bermuda; yet our forefathers had a mind to work and show gratitude to God.

It was in such a setting that in 1877 a Mr. C.N. Gibbons had given a plot of land over by where the Marriott's Castle Harbour Resort now stands, for the erection of a British Methodist Episcopal (BME) Church of Canada. This site was abandoned in favour of another in the heart of Tucker's Town purchased from a Mr. J. Talbot.

When the 5th Annual Conference of the B.M.E. Church was held from May 5-7, 1877, Bro. C.N. Gibbons was appointed to the Tucker's Town Circuit, which included Tucker's Town, St. David's Island and

Harrington Sound. The number of members in Tucker's Town was 20 adults, 12 followers and 2 children. These souls worshipped God faithfully; holding Open Air and Cottage Meetings in different persons' homes.

In May of 1885 the B.M.E. and A.M.E. Churches were united under the name of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Cottage Meetings continued, and the membership fluctuated. When the 1st Annual Conference of the A.M.E. Church was held at Temperance Hall in Crawl on Thursday, 7th May to Sunday, 10th May, 1885 there were 18 members at Tucker's Town. Bro. Austin Richardson was appointed to be a travelling Preacher. His circuit included St. George's, Tuckers' Town and Bailey's Bay, to be known as the Bailey's Bay Mission.



PASTOR

Rev. Betty
Woolridge
Appointed

First Gr
Bro. E

Mini
Rev

Bermuda Annual Conference 2014

Image supplied by Sylvia Robinson



After the sale of the church in Tucker's Town, the amount of fifteen hundred pounds (\$6000) was placed in the bank on interest, and eight hundred pounds (\$3200) was placed in a Current Account.

The Rev. Austin Richardson started the rebuilding of the new church on a parcel of land off the Harrington Sound, *(which was purchased from Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin D. Talbot - who had purchased the "Oleander Estate"), but he became ill and was called to his heavenly reward. It must be injected here that after Hurricane Emily (1987), men going to fix the roof of the present church found a board with the inscription 'Mr. J. Warner, who was the carpenter and a Mr. VanPutten who was

Tucker was asked to allow ter, Ismay, to play for t We are proud that Sis. continued to play the church services until he

Then followed these through 1950-Rev. J. R. Rev. J. D. Smith (1st t (1st term), Rev. A.C. J. S. Johnson (2nd ter term), and Rev. L.S.

After the transfer of the Rev. Cyril S. B the pastorate of St until 1956. Durin excavated, and m *(Rev. Lapsley a turned in 1956 was at this tin begun. Mrs. L ing funds for t tors were the H. E. Hinds '6 Vibert White first to live i stayed for n

In 1966 the to St. Phil The church the churc