

CELEBRATING
Wesley United Methodist Church




1954

2019

Anniversary

Sunday, April 28, 2019
3:00 P.M.

Wesley United Methodist Church 
201 E. 95th. Street
Chicago, Ill. 60619

Pastor: Rev. Charles A. Woolery Sr.

Bishop Sally Dyck

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jacques A. Conway

~Guest Speaker~

Father Michael L. Pflieger

St. Sabina Church, Chicago, IL



Welcome Message From the Pastor

Reverend Charles A. Woolery Sr.

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus the Christ! We thank God for our 65th Church Anniversary Celebration. We thank God for your presence here today as well. We thank God for the privilege of serving this community for 65 years. God has brought us a mighty long way. From humble beginnings in a garage in 1954 to a newly renovated church edifice in 2019. We give God glory and honor for the marvelous things God has done.

Our theme of "Embracing Our Heritage and Creating Our Future" reminds us to remember our wonderful past while working hard to create an even brighter future. Our theme reminds us to remember our mission which is to make disciples of Jesus the Christ for the transformation of the world. The mission never changes. That was the mission 65 years ago and that is still the mission today.

We welcome you to our fabulous celebration. We pray that you will be inspired and transformed by what you experience in worship throughout the day. We pray that the stones of our past will be transformed into stepping stones to an even more glorious future. We believe what 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, "Eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

We ask you to pray for our church that we would continue to remain faithful to our heritage so that we might create our future to the glory of God. The effectual fervent prayers of the righteous have much power. God bless you and thank you again for sharing this special day with us.

Yours in ministry,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Charles A. Woolery Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Pastor Charles Anthony Woolery, Sr.

The Journey

1954 -2019

Our history began in 1954 with Mrs. Annie Potter and a few devoted Christians holding worship services in her living room at 14 East 95th Street. When the group outgrew Mrs. Potter's living room, her garage was converted for worship services. It was in this garage that Reverend James W.E. Mitchell served as the pastor.

In 1959, under the leadership of Reverend Scye McWilliams, construction of the first church building began at 212 East 95th Street. Unfortunately, Reverend McWilliams passed away before the building was completed.

In 1964, the small congregation moved into the newly constructed building at 212 East 95th Street. Subsequent to Reverend McWilliams' death, Reverends Zimmerman, Whalen, Pierce and Middleton served as interim pastors.

In 1965, Reverend Dr. Howard W. Hinson was appointed as Wesley's first full-time pastor, and under his leadership, the membership grew from twelve to sixty members. Reverend Hinson helped the congregation gain a full understanding of the structure of the Methodist Church and how the local church works within the structure.

In 1967, Reverend George Madry replaced Reverend Howard Hinson and served as pastor for approximately one year .

In April 1968, The Methodist and The Evangelical United Brethren Churches merged to form The United Methodist Church denomination, and Wesley Methodist Church became Wesley United Methodist Church (Wesley UMC).

Also in 1968, Reverend Donald Walden was appointed as Wesley Methodist's pastor. He encouraged and developed lay leadership throughout the church. So strong in his commitment to the success of the church, he returned his salary to the church so that it could be applied to the mortgage payments. Under his leadership, the church was able to pay off its mortgage loan substantially sooner than the scheduled date.

In 1973, the District Superintendent, Reverend Willie B. Clay, introduced and assigned Reverend Robert House to Wesley UMC.

Reverend Bernard King's ministry began at Wesley in 1976. Under Reverend King's leadership, the congregation experienced its largest growth, to date. It outgrew the building at 212 East 95th Street, and the current building located at 201 East 95th Street was constructed. The congregation moved into the 201 East 95th Street building in 1983. Reverend King served until June 30, 1987, when he was elevated to District Superintendent for the Chicago Southern District. There are several people who received the call to ministry during Reverend King's 13 years at Wesley UMC. Among them are his son Claude King, Sandy Clark, Jerry Glasper, Emma Robinson, Gladys Lucas and CJ Wright.

In July 1987, Reverend Dwight Stewart was appointed to Wesley UMC and he served as pastor until June 1995. As a member of the board of Developing Communities Project, Reverend Stewart helped to increase the membership's awareness of the needs and concerns within the local Community.

The Journey (Cont')

In July 1995, Reverend Emma C. Robinson became Wesley UMC's first female pastor. Under her leadership the church experienced remarkable growth in the areas of Bible study, worship services, music ministry and youth activities. It was under her leadership that the congregation initiated plans to rebuild the church edifice. Reverend Robinson retired in June 2010.

In July 2010, Reverend Le'on Willis was appointed as Wesley UMC's pastor and he served until June 30, 2013. During his tenure, plans for the church edifice changed from rebuilding to renovation. Pastor Willis was passionate about community outreach, and this was evident from his work with local churches and schools, as well as serving on the board of Developing Communities Project, Inc., to effect programs and services that embodied the mission of Wesley UMC.

Our current pastor, Reverend A. Charles Woolery, Sr., was appointed to Wesley UMC in July 2013. Under Reverend Woolery's leadership, the church building was renovated, and the church is experiencing continued growth in ministries and outreach efforts.

Over the years the Wesley UMC sanctuary choir has been recognized as a one of the best choirs in Chicago by those who have had the opportunity to hear them. This is largely due to the contributions of both past and present musicians and directors Wesley has had over the years. The musical talent includes, but not limited to, our current choir director Derral Anderson Jr. as well as Andrena Jones, Florice Green, Walter Jones, Brenda Moore, Chip Johnson, Edna Young, Karen Lee, Lecresia Campbell, Virgil Stratford, Adrian King, Ramon Perry, Ralph Evans, Steve Jones, Prentice Smith, Bryant Jones, Phil Willis and Mr. Winfrey.



The Journey Remembered..

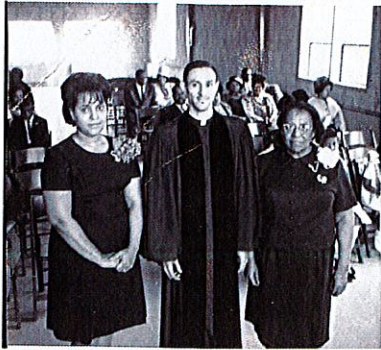
1954

Annie Potter

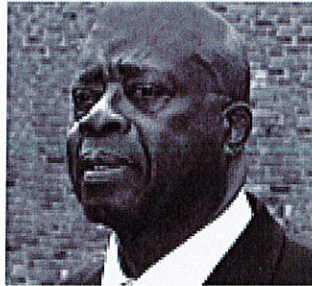


Our Pastor's Journey

1965– 2019

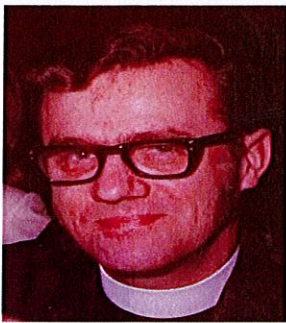


Reverend Dr. Howard W. Hinson & Mrs. Hinson with Annie Potter's daughter.

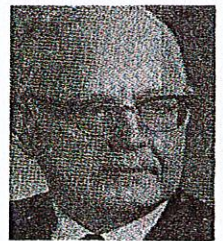
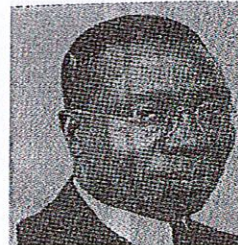


Reverend George Madry

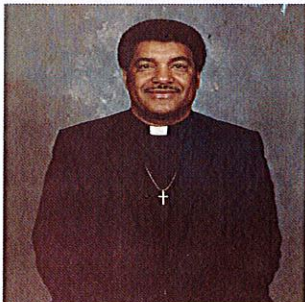
Reverends Zimmerman, Whalen, Pierce and Middleton served as interim pastors after Reverend McWilliams' death.



Reverend Donald Walden



Reverend Bernard H. King

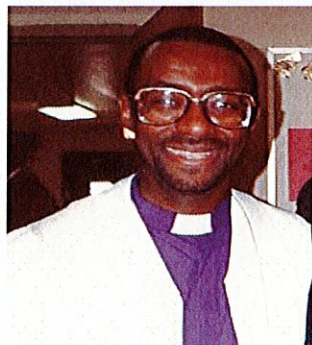


Reverend Robert House & Family during his time at Wesley.

Reverend Charles Woolery Sr.



Reverend Dwight Stewart



Reverend Emma Robinson & Wesley United Methodist



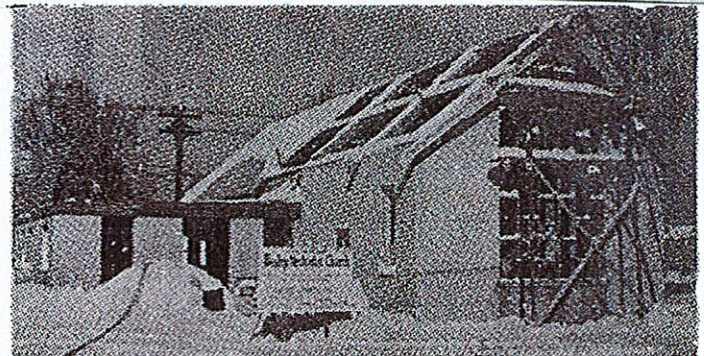
Our Building Journey

1954- 2019



Annie Potter's Garage Wesley Methodist

212 East 95th Under Construction



Original 201 East 95th Street



Current 201 East 95th Street



The Journey Continues..



Anniversary Program

Welcome.....Sonja Jenkins–Brown

Opening Prayer.....Reverend Charles A. Woolery Sr.

Musical SelectionsWesley Anniversary Choir

Under the Direction of Derral Anderson Jr.

The Journey.....Melinda L. Geddes

Recognition of Minister.....Verner L. Geddes

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

“The Role of the Black Church in the Community” Father Michael L. Pflieger

OFFERTORY

50 Plus Member Honorees.....Betty Jenkins

Gospel Praise Joshua’s Troop

Under the Direction of Percy Gray Jr.

Special Appearance by Wesley Youth & Young Adults

Closing Remarks.....Reverend Charles A. Woolery Sr.

CLOSING PRAYER

Guest Speaker

Father Michael L. Pfleger



Reverend Dr. Michael Louis Pfleger received his B.A. in Theology from Loyola University, his Master of Divinity from the University of St. Mary of the Lake and an honorary Doctor of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary. He has also completed post-graduate studies at Mundelein College and the Catholic Theological Union.

Father Pfleger was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 14, 1975. In 1981, at the age of 31, he became the youngest full pastor in the diocese when he was appointed Pastor of Saint Sabina Church.

In 1981, Father Pfleger became the proud adoptive father of an eight-year-old son, Lamar. In 1992, he also became the adoptive father of Beronti. In 1997, he became a foster father to Jarvis Franklin, who was tragically killed as a result of gang crossfire, May 30, 1998.

Since 1968, Father Pfleger has lived and ministered in the African-American community on both the west and south sides of Chicago. He spent two Summers working in a Native American community in Oklahoma, and did his seminary internship as a Chaplain at Cook County Jail and at Precious Blood Catholic Church, both in Chicago.

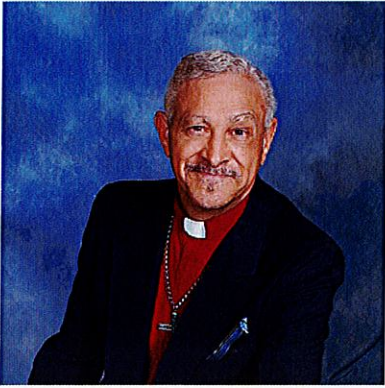
Father Pfleger has been recognized for his fight against alcohol and tobacco billboards, drugs and racism in People, Time, Ebony, Newsweek and Jet magazines; The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, U.S.A. Today, The Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Sun-Times, The Chicago Reader and numerous other papers and journals. He has also been profiled on the following television shows: "Day One" ABC; "60 Minutes" (CBS); BBC in Great Britain, the Larry King Show and Nightline.

Father Pfleger has been involved in many issues, such as, campaigns against the sale of drug paraphernalia, billboards that targeted children with alcohol and tobacco advertising and saturated communities of Color, negative music that glorified violence and degraded women, the violence and disrespect of women on The Jerry Springer Show and the easy access to guns and the violence that is snatching the lives of children across the country.

Father Pfleger developed a program called "Operation Empowerment" that trained Saint Sabina members to inspect neighborhood stores for poor conditions. He also developed a team of church members who, rather than have the prostitutes arrested, went out and paid prostitutes for their time so they could talk about how they could turn their lives around.

Father Pfleger is the founder of the Employment Resource Center, the Ark Youth Center, Saint Sabina Social Service Center, Thea Bowman Spiritual Advance Center, Samaritan House for the homeless, Saint Sabina 80-unit Elders Village and the Beloved Community, Inc.

As a minister, Father Pfleger has sought to break down the walls of racism and denominationalism by building unity among all people founded on truth and based on Jesus' command to love one another. This holy calling has led him to be parent, a preacher, a teacher, a lecturer and an activist. However, he believes his most important role is an errand boy for Jesus!

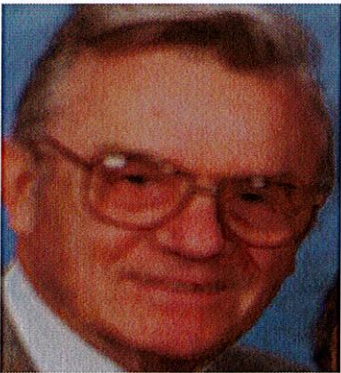


Pastor Recognitions

Reverend Dr. Howard L. Hinson

Bachelor of Arts from Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC, 1957; Attended Boston University School of Theology, 1957-59. Graduated, with Honors, from Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC, 1965. Earned the Doctor Of Ministry degree from Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO. 1985.

Received three years of Clinical Training in Pastoral Counseling at Care and Counseling, St. Louis, MO. First African American elected to membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors Elected to membership in the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church, May 22, 1955. Appointed Associate Pastor, Trinity Methodist Church, Orangeburg, SC. 1956, Appointed Pastor, Roseville Charge, Roseville, SC. 1959, Appointed Pastor, Metropolitan Methodist Church, Indian Head, MD; 1963, Appointed Pastor, Grace Methodist Church, Ft. Washington, MD; 1965, Transferred to the Rock River Conference: Appointed first (and organizing) Pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church, Chicago, IL; 1966, Appointed Campus Minister and Director of the Wesley Foundation. 1970, Appointed Senior Pastor, Gorham United Methodist Church, Chicago, IL; 1973, Appointed Chief Chaplain, Homer G. Phillips Hospital, St. Louis, MO; 1981, Appointed Senior Pastor, Webster Groves United Methodist Church, Webster Groves, MO; 1985, Appointed Senior Chaplain, Menard Correctional Center, Chester, IL. 1991, Retired.



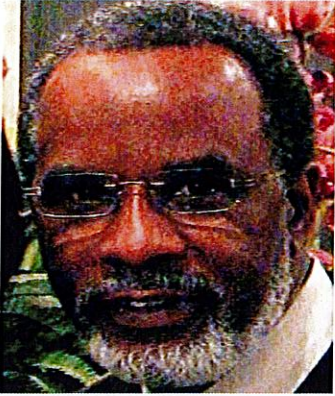
Reverend Donald Walden **1968—1973**

Reverend Walden was involved in civil rights activities in the 1960s and he encouraged the Methodist church to be more proactive in establishing civil rights and speaking out against the Vietnam War. He ultimately left full-time ministry, but stayed in the Northern Conference as a Minister to Society and took part-time appointments at various churches. In 1968, Wesley Methodist was one of these churches he was assigned to pastor.

Wesley remained deep in the hearts of he and his wife, Patty Jo, who sang soprano in the Wesley choir. Aside from his leadership, at Wesley, Reverend Walden was very dedicated to Wesley. Part of his dedication was shown by returning his salary to the church to assist with paying off the mortgage early. Reverend Walden worked for the IRS for twenty years; a position he says was similar to being a minister because they were both fields that attempted to keep people honest.

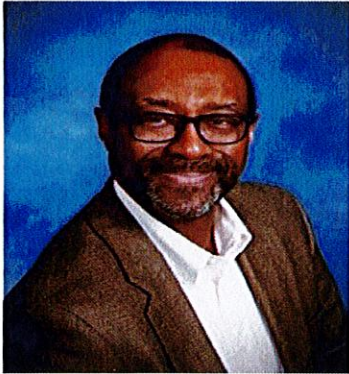
He and Patty Jo retired to their hometown of Urbana-Champaign. She was a nursing instructor and he continued to minister at several churches and First Methodist of Champaign until his retirement. They both were active in raising their four grandchildren and participating in the lives of their 3 daughters who also settled in Champaign, Urbana. Patty Jo passed away in 2015 but Reverend Walden continues to reside in Champaign, Urbana near his daughters Gale and Michelle Walden and son Joelle Walden, who lives in Sacramento, California.

Pastor Recognitions



Reverend Dr. Robert L. House Sr.
1973—1976

Dr. House was licensed to preach in 1972. He was the pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church 1973-1976 and was ordained at the Diaconate Level in the United Methodist Church, in 1974. Later, he left the United Methodist Church and was ordained in the Baptist denomination. He pastored at the First Union Baptist Church, Ford Heights, IL 1978-1979; Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 1979-1986 in Chicago. He served with the late senior pastor, Dr. Louis Rawls. In 1974, Dr. House received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Chicago State University; and his Master of Divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary. Dr. House received two honorary degrees, from Richmond Virginia Seminary and Monrovia College and Industrial Institute, both for his community and humanitarian work with homeless and inmate activities in jails and prisons.



Reverend Dwight Stewart
1987—1995

Reverend Dwight Stewart has been an ordained minister in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference since 1979 and serves as the Associate Pastor of St. Mark United Methodist Church of Chicago. A native Chicagoan, Pastor Stewart holds degrees from Loyola University of Chicago and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston. From July 1, 1987- June 30, 1995 Reverend Stewart served as pastor of Wesley. Currently he is married to Reverend Barbara Good, pastor of Palos

Pastor Recognitions



Reverend Emma C. Robinson Wesley's First Female Pastor 1995 – 2010

Reverend Emma C. Robinson was born in Greenwood, Mississippi. She graduated from Broad Street High School and later received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Lincoln University. Reverend Robinson began her teaching career as an Elementary School teacher. She later taught high school English and Journalism courses at Carl Schurz High School. It was while teaching at Carl Schurz High School that she answered a call to the ministry. Reverend Robinson was named Assistant Pastor to Wesley United Methodist Church. She was ordained as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church and served on the Ministerial Advisory Board of Chicago Vocational High School. Upon receiving her Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary, she was appointed Senior Pastor of Community UMC. She was later ordained as an Elder in the UMC, served on the Board of Directors for H.O.P.E. Community Services, and served on the Board of Ordained Ministry at the District Level. Reverend Robinson's next appointment was at Faith UMC. She also served on the Council of Bishops Advisory Committee and as Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Reverend Robinson began her ministerial career at Wesley UMC. She served as the Assistant Pastor and later as Senior Pastor at Wesley UMC. While serving as Senior Pastor, she initiated the campaign for a building fund to replace the church edifice. The fund grew to over one and a half million dollars with the congregation's support and God's will. After fifteen years as Pastor of Wesley UMC, Reverend Robinson retired from the ministry in 2010. Today, she remains active in ministry through teaching and spreading God's word.

Reverend Robinson has served as Chairperson to the Chicago Southern District Board of Ordained Ministry and has been the first female Senior Pastor in each of the three appointments. At Community UMC, she was the first African American female in a cross-racial appointment.

Her travels include several trips to the Clergywoman Consultation, the Black Clergy Consultation, the Holy Land, and Cairo, Egypt.

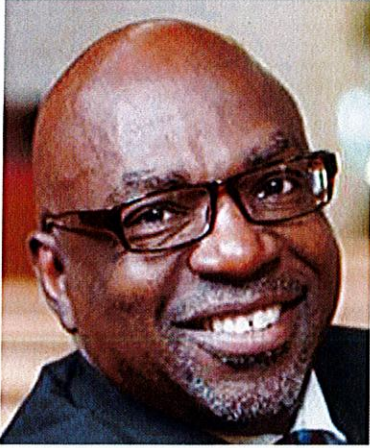
She has been married for 56 years to John Robinson and has two daughters, Jennifer and Tiffany Robinson, a grandson Anthony Calvin and a granddaughter Jonaie Imani.

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Pastor Recognitions



Reverend Charles M. Straight
Assistant Pastor 2003 – 2010

Rev. Charles M. Straight is currently Pastor of the Faith United Methodist Church in Dolton, Illinois. In addition to his traditional pastoral duties at Faith, he also heads a Social Justice Ministry, The Next Movement, under the Faith UMC umbrella. He served in the position of Assistant Pastor at the Wesley United Methodist Church for seven years prior to his current appointment. During that time, he chaired the Evangelism Committee and was Overseer of the AIDS Ministry.

Rev. Straight has a passion for ending HIV in this generation and worked for 12 years as a Board Member at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. He is a member of the Spiritual Care Committee for Bonaventure House, and Pastors United for Change Ministers Alliance, a community action group made up of ministers involved in the issues of crime, health, education, social justice and economic empowerment of local community members. He serves as Chairman of their Health Committee.

Pastor Straight is also a Board Member and President, of The People's Lobby Education Institute, former clergy leader and board member of SOUL, a south Chicago and south suburban social justice organization. He is a member of the HIV Prevention Taskforce for the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the Black Church & HIV Advisory Committee for the NAACP.

His other past leadership roles include: three years as Chairman of the Local School Counsel for his children's school; and for two years, President of the West Chesterfield Community Association.

Rev. Straight was a member of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church from 1973 to 2000. During his 27 years membership he served in the capacity of Associate Minister starting in 1974. In that capacity, Rev. Straight served faithfully in Fellowship's combined choirs, the Mission Department which provides spiritual support and guidance to persons confined to hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and mental institutions, as well as conducting worship services for the Children's Church. In 1985, Rev. Straight organized and chaired the city's first African-American church-based AIDS ministries, serving over 25 HIV-impacted church members at Fellowship and other churches. In the past 20 plus years, Rev. Straight has provided vital services to the HIV/AIDS community, working as a Licensed Practical Nurse and volunteering in such institutions as Howard Brown Health Center, Martha Washington Hospital Treatment Center, Kupona Network, Evanston Health Department, Chicago Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS, and Project Coordinator for the HIV Vaccine Preparedness Trails at Cook County Hospital.

In the past, Rev. Straight also served as chairman of the board of BE-HIV, a not-for-profit social support agency in Evanston, Illinois. He also served as an advisory board member of the Lutheran Social Services Second Family Program, which provides placement services for children orphaned by parents or caregivers impacted by HIV/AIDS. Rev. Straight was also a member of the City of Chicago's HIV Prevention Planning Group and chaired the Needs Assessment Committee. He remains a certified instructor for Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center (MATEC) and has provided HIV/AIDS technical support to various churches and agencies targeting children and adults. Currently, an empty nester, Reverend Straight was a licensed foster parent or adoptive parent for Krystal, Kenneth, Ruth, Jeremiah, and Jasmine, whom he raised to adulthood.

Pastor Recognitions



Reverend Le'on Willis
2010 - 2013

Reverend. Le'on M. Willis, has been an ordained minister, in the United Methodist Church, since 1996. He received his degree from Interdenominational Theological Center, in Atlanta, Georgia. He has had several appointments in the Chicago Southern and Northwestern Districts.

Reverend Willis served as pastor of Wesley UMC, in Chicago, from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013. During his tenure at Wesley, Reverend Willis was a member of Development Community Project's board (DCP).

As a community outreach project, he instituted a Summer Day Camp, for the youth. He was concerned about the youth having nourished meals, during the summer months, Reverend Willis implemented a Summer Feeding Program, in conjunction with Catholic Charities, serving breakfast and lunch. He was also known for his enlightening Bible Study lessons.

Reverend Willis worked closely with the Chicago Police 5th District, bringing attention to the problems and concerns of the residents of the community. The intent was to explore different ways of decreasing incidents and fear of crime within the community.

He is currently working as the Illinois Wing Chaplain for Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary of the United States Air Force and Retention Office District 205. He holds the rank of Major. He is a native of Falcon, Mississippi, with five adult children and nine grandchildren.

Pastor Recognitions

Reverend Charles A. Woolery Sr.
2013 – Present



Wesley United Methodist Church's senior pastor is the dynamic and dedicated, Reverend Charles A. Woolery, Sr. He is a faithful and sincere preacher who is anointed for pastoral ministry and radical discipleship. He has 23 years of Pastoral experience.

Reverend Woolery hails from the capital city of Springfield, Illinois. He was called into the ministry at the age of 16. Finding the need to study to show himself approved to handle the awesome task of pastoral ministry, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana, IL in 1991, and a Masters of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Evanston, IL, in 1994.

After graduation from seminary, his first pastorate was the historic Francis Burns United Methodist Church in Des Moines, Iowa, the oldest African-American church in Iowa (1994-2000). In 2000, the opportunity came to move back to the Chicago metropolitan area.

In July of 2000, he became the senior pastor of the First Wesley Academy United Methodist Church (FWA UMC) located in Harvey, IL. As pastor of FWA UMC from 2000-2013, he and the congregation were faithful in many things. FWA UMC fulfilled its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In 2013, Pastor Woolery was appointed to the great Wesley United Methodist Church, located at 201 E. 95th Street, Chicago, IL. Since his tenure at Wesley UMC, the church has renovated its main church. Wesley has also increased its membership and average worship attendance. The church has also increased its visibility in the community with outreach ministries such as The Taste of Wesley and Back-to-School Block Parties. He is currently seeking his Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary.

Pastor Woolery has been married to the lovely Robin Jennifer Woolery for 22 years and they are the proud parents of four children: Nia Tiye, Charles, Jr., Cameron Alexander, and Cayden Ayinde.

Honorees



Theresa Fulbright-Curtis

Member since 1957

Theresa was born September 30, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois. She attended Chicago Public Schools. She earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Illinois and a Master of Science from Roosevelt University. Theresa married the late Adolph Fulbright. They have three children, Adolph Jr., Eric and Karen. She later married the late John Curtis. Theresa has two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She taught in the Chicago Public School System for 34 years prior to her retirement.

Theresa recalls how Wesley had its beginning in the living room of Annie Potter. As membership grew, it was necessary to move from Annie Potter's living room to her garage. Theresa joined the church in 1957, after it moved from the living room to the garage. Reverend McWilliams was the minister at that time.

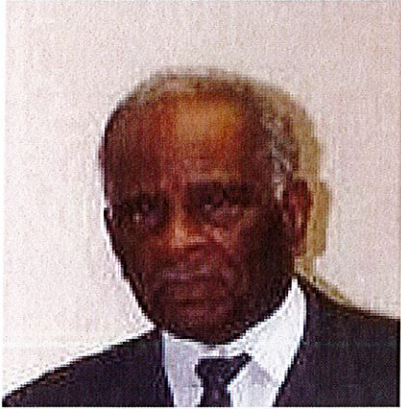
From the beginning, Theresa remembers that Sunday School played an important part in getting the children and their families involved. In addition to the Fulbright children, the Curtis, Henderson and Tuck children were also members of the Sunday School classes.

Theresa recalls fondly, how the children and adults would gather around the large stove in the garage to keep warm on cold days.

Theresa also recalls how everything was done to encourage community involvement. In order to increase the membership of the growing church, programs were put in place for the children in the community. Teas were held on the lawn of the church. Theresa recalls how much fun the women had decorating the lawn and tables in preparation for the teas. Plenty of food was available and people from the community was welcomed to participate.

During her 62-year membership at Wesley, Theresa participated in numerous ministries and activities. She recalls being President of the United Methodist Women; a devoted trustee and a faithful member of the Sanctuary Choir. Theresa has watched Wesley grow from a member's living room to its current building. In 2008, Theresa sponsored the Bricks for Wesley Program. Members were encouraged to purchase a brick to raise funds to rebuild the current building. A total of \$68,000 was raised for this effort.

Honorees (Cont')



Lucious Smith
Member since 1967

Mr. Smith was born February 13, 1923 in Eastman, Georgia. He was married to the late Beulah Graham-Smith for 30 years prior to her death. They had one son, Danny Smith. Mr. Smith has four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Smith enlisted in the US Army at the age of 20 and served for over 20 years. While in the army, he earned his GED and received training to become a military recruiter. When Mr. Smith returned to Chicago, he became a military recruiter in the Chicago area. While working as a recruiter during the day, in the evening, he variously attended Olive Harvey College, Moody Bible Institute and Chicago State University respectively.

After earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from Chicago State University, Mr. Smith began a career with the Chicago Public School System. He worked as a Professor of Military Science at Chicago Vocational High School where he taught ROTC for 15 years prior to retirement.

Mr. Smith has been a member of Wesley United Methodist church for 52 years. He joined the church in 1967 when Reverend George Madry was the pastor. He recalls the 212 building being recently completed when he joined. During Mr. Smith's membership, he has generously given his time and talents as well as financial support to the church growth and well-being.

Mr. Smith recalls the following accomplishments:

- Served as the first President of the United Methodist Men
- Served as a Lay Leader
- Served as a prayer advocate for Southern District Northern Illinois Conference
- Served as prayer advocate for the UMM National Tennessee prayer line
- Initiated the Boy Scout & Cub Scout Troops at Wesley and served as Scout Master for 10 years
- Active with Black United Methodist Church Renewal (BMCR) for over 20 years
- Initiated the Bus Ministry at Wesley and made substantial financial contributions toward the purchase of the church bus.

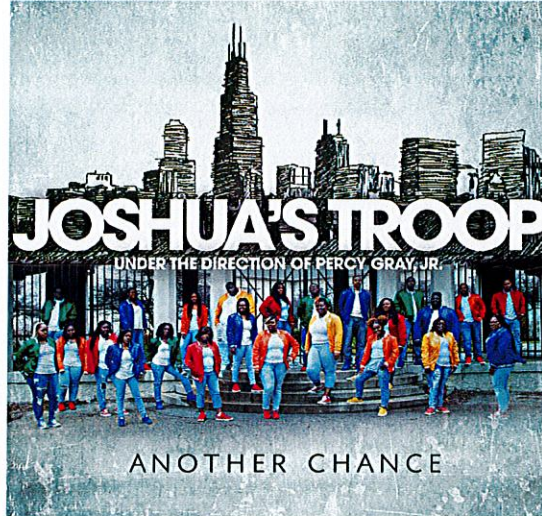


Helen Tuck
Member since 1964

Ms. Tuck was born September 16, 1922, in Greenville Mississippi. She came to Chicago when she was 5 years old. Ms. Tuck joined Wesley with her mother and brother in 1964. She has been a member of Wesley for 55 years.

She served as loyal and dedicated member of Wesley's ministerial staff. Ms. Tuck served as the church secretary for many years. Her organizational skills and professional mannerism was a benefit to the ministers under which she served. For a few years prior to her retirement from the ministerial staff, she served as the church purchasing clerk. Ms. Tuck jokingly says that she has served in every position at Wesley except pastor.

Joshua's Troop



Stellar Award Winners Joshua's Troop is a Chicago-based, contemporary, exciting gospel youth choir that serves it up in an energetic and explosive way. Multi-faceted vocals with strokes of hip-hop, a contemporary touch, R&B and Jazzy gospel sound, JT delivers a sincere and passionate message about Jesus Christ. JT is comprised of teenagers and young adults aging from sixteen and beyond who are energetic and praise God to the fullest through song. Under the leadership of Percy Gray Jr, he is instrumental in leading the youth who had a passion to serve God thru song. Joshua's Troop recorded their first CD entitled "Joshua's Troop" Troop under "Tyscot Records. JT continues to "stomp the yard" and keeping it live with 4 additional dynamic recording, Project, Youth, JT3, Troop Nation and the Current Release entitled **"Its My Time", Another Chance, The Blood** under New Haven Records".

Joshua's Troop Urban blend has allowed them the opportunity to reach out to their peers that may not have a direct relationship with Christ. Although they enjoy the urban blend, they have not forgotten the traditions of gospel music. Their outstanding movements, vocals, and message have audiences standing to their feet craving for more....both young and seasoned. Joshua's Troop has become synonymous with modern Christian music and they continue to appeal to persons of all ages.

2019 Wesley UMC Church Anniversary Committee

Sonja Jenkins-Brown, Chairperson

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Paulette Myrie-Hodge

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Special Thanks To:

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