

## St. James AME Collection

1944-2011



Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center  
The Newark Public Library  
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URL: <http://www.npl.org/Pages/Collections/njic.html>

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**Location:** Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center (Offsite)

**Size:** 2.33 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversized box)

**Format:** Mixed materials

**Processed:** Beth Zak-Cohen, 2017

**Time Period:** 1944-2011 (bulk 1999-2011)

**Call Number:** MG Nwk St. James AME

**Access policy:** Open for research

### Restrictions on Access

#### Use Restrictions

Researchers wishing to publish reproduce, or reprint materials from this collection must obtain permission.

#### Preferred Citation

St. James AME Collection, the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library.

#### Abstract

This collection consists of event programs, journals, and photographs of St. James's AME Church.

#### Scope and Content:

This collection consists of event programs, journals, and photographs of St. James's AME Church, mostly donated by Jimmy Richardson. Of note are historical souvenir journals that highlight some important African American residents of Newark. Much of the other material is from the era of Rev. William D. Watley at St. James's AME and highlights accomplishments during his term. The photographs, most taken by Jimmy Richardson, show the exterior and interior of the church, with a small number of shots of people and congregants. The collection also includes portrait photos of Rev. Watley and his wife.

#### Provenance:

Gift of Jimmy Richardson, 2015, except for three journals (marked in container list) that were added from the CFCNJIC collection due to fragility. Material on NJ Historic Preservation Awards, as well as further annual reports, miss papers and photos were transferred from "Newark Churches" collection.

**Processing Notes:**

Materials were divided into series by type of material, and in some cases foldered by subject. Further processing is needed on photos.

Three journals (marked in container list) that were added from the CFCNJIC collection due to fragility. Second or third copies of several journals are also catalogued as books.

**Historical Note:**

St. James AME Church, originally known as Bethel AME, was organized in 1842 by Rev. C. Birch. In 1888 it became known as St. James AME and moved to Union Street where the church remained until 1945. In 1945 the church moved to High (now Martin Luther King) and Court streets where it still exists today. The building was originally High Street Presbyterian Church. The church also runs a school: St. James's Preparatory.

**Series Descriptions:**

**Series 1 Papers**

This series contains miscellaneous papers of St. James AME including annual reports, brochures, an application for St. James's Prep, and miscellaneous other items. Papers are by type – with event material divided into programs about Rev. Watley and other programs.

**Series 2 Photographs**

This series contains photos of St. James AME, most taken by Jimmy Richardson. Most shots are exteriors and interiors without people. The oversized portraits folder contains portraits of Rev. Watley and his wife. Photos are variable in size from 8x10 to oversized photos. Photos are divided into interior and exterior by size.

**Series 3 Journals etc.**

This series consists of journals and an empty folder commemorating various events at St. James AME. Journals are organized by date.

**Access points:**

**Subject Names**

Watley, William D.

**Subject Organizations**

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church (Newark, N.J.)

**Subject Topics**

Churches – New Jersey – Newark  
African American Methodists -- New Jersey -- Newark  
African Americans – New Jersey – Newark

**Subject Places**

Newark, N.J.

**Document Types**

Black-and-white photographs  
Brochures  
Souvenir programs

**Bibliography**

SEE ALSO: Hanging files of photos on St. James's AME Church [previously donated photos by Jimmy Richardson]

**Container List:**

**Series 1: Papers**

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Annual reports	1995-2010
1	2	Events – Anniversaries/Misc	1944-2011
1	3	Events – Rev. William Watley	2009-2011
1	4	Misc. Papers	1999, undated
1	5	Calenders	2000-2002
1	6	Historic Preservation Awards and Related Papers	20000

**Series 2: Photographs**

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	5	Exterior Photographs	
1	6	Interior Photographs	
1	7	Interior Photographs	
OV_1	1	Interior Photographs	
OV_1	2	Interior Photographs	
OV_1	3	Exterior Photographs	
OV_1	4	Portrait Photographs	

**Series 3: Journals, etc.**

Box	Folder	Title	Date
2	1	Cornerstone Laying [transferred from CFCNJIC]	1952
2	2	NJ Conference of the AME	1955
2	3	Founder's Day Celebration [transferred from CFCNJIC]	1979
2	4	Women's Day [transferred from CFCNJIC]	1979
2	5	Awards of Excellence	1990
2	6	154 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	1996
2	7	St. Jame's Prep Dedication	1999
2	8	Family Album	2001
2	9	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary William Watley	2004
2	10	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary William Watley	2009
2	11	Empty St. Jame's folder	undated