



Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church Programs (S0120)

Collection Number: S0120

Collection Title: Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church Programs

Dates: 1945-1980

Creator: Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church

Abstract: The Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church Programs contains church service programs and anniversary booklets documenting the church's history as one of the oldest Black churches in St. Louis.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(2 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church Programs* (S0120); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by the Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church on October 27, 1980 (Accession No. SA2331).

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock and Isaac Alexander, September 2023

Historical Note:

Reverend Thomas E. Napier, a Baptist minister, established the first Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church in his hometown of Natchez, Mississippi. After the Emancipation Proclamation,

Reverend Napier relocated north to St. Louis, though he still returned to Natchez frequently to minister his church. He founded a second church of the same name in 1866, making Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church one of the oldest Black churches in St. Louis. Reverend Napier then founded a third church in Kansas City and split his time between the three congregations. He served as the pastor of the St. Louis location until 1887.

Subsequent pastors included Kelly Rucks (1887-1905), J. K. Parker (1905-1932), John Henry Davenport (1932-1938), George H. Pruitt (1938-1978), Henry William Berry, Jr. (1979-1989), Dr. Julius Caesar Bonner, IV (1989-2017), and Dr. Aaron K. Letcher (2017-). Since 1945, Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church has been located on West End Avenue and Page Boulevard. Former locations include Mullanphy and Main Street (1886-1887), Thirteenth and Biddle Streets (1887-1907), and Elliot and Cole Streets (1907-1945).

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically into two folders.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains programs and flyers documenting the history of the Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church, one of the oldest African American Churches in St. Louis City. Materials of interest include *The History and Dedication Program of the Pleasant Green Baptist Church, 1866-1945*, a 64-page history of the Pleasant Green Baptist Church. The program summarizes prominent past congregant members, church missions and programs, and the church's financial and property legacy. Also included in the collection is a 79-page program celebrating the church's 109th anniversary. The program includes photographs and lists of clergy, staff, choirs, general patrons, and other Pleasant Green groups. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically, dating from 1945 to 1980.

Container List:

- f. 1 *The History and Dedication Program of the Pleasant Green Baptist Church, 1866-1945*; Martin Luther King Commemoration Committee March rally flyer, 1971
- f. 2 109th anniversary program and service programs, 1975, 1979-1980

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