



**CHURCH HISTORY:      PHILLIPS TEMPLE C.M.E. CHURCH, Hazard, Kentucky**

In the Spring of 1937, a small group assembled in the home of Louie and Inez Davis and the Phillips Temple Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. Charter members were Hattie Adams, Louie and Inez Davis, Arzo Brown, and Will Harding. Early members were Julia Razor, Clarence Nunn, and Jesse Richardson. An appeal was made to Bishop C.H Phillips in Cleveland, Ohio for a pastor, and Rev. Warr was given the assignment. There was no money for the pastor's salary, and he was given a place to live in the home of Louie and Inez Davis.

Services were held in the homes until funds were raised to start the church. Through the cooperation of Dr. J.P Boggs, sufficient funds were raised to finish paying for the building. Liberal contributions were made by the members of Bowman Memorial Methodist Church. A lot on Peach Street was purchased from Estill Combs for \$200.00, which was donated by Bishop Phillips. Members and friends prepared the ground for the contractors and the first services were held in the new building on November 23, 1937. Pastors were Rev. W. W. Warr, S. L. McGee, I. H. Harris, J. J. Manna, H. G. McGee, and M. J. O'Hara. (Clarence Nunn)

As time moved on, the church was rebuilt and moved to its present location on Lovern Street. Rev. S.S Johnson, Arzo Brown, Willie Rose, Jesse Richardson, Clarence Nunn and Johnson Holt were responsible for this important move.

Phillips Temple C.M.E Church in Hazard, Kentucky derived its name from Bishop Charles Henry Phillips (1858-1951). Bishop Phillips was a major influence on the life and thought of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.

As a pastor, general officer, and bishop, Bishop Phillips was a connection for the first peers of ex-slaves who were responsible for organizing the C.M.E Church.

C.H Phillips was born on January 17th, 1858, in Milledgeville, Georgia, to George and Nancy Phillips. He was the tenth of 12 children born to his parents. Bishop Phillips earned many degrees, such as a Bachelor of Arts, a Doctor of Medicine from Meharry Medical College, then a part of Central Tennessee College in 1882. He served as an educator in several schools in Tennessee.

Bishop Phillips was converted to the Christian faith on December 26, 1874. He was called into the ministry and licensed to preach in 1878 in Barnesville, Georgia by Rev. R.T White, Presiding Elder. His first pastorate was the Pilot Know Circuit in the West Tennessee Conference. He was ordained Deacon by Bishop L.H. Holsey in November 1879, and ordained Elder by Bishop W.H. Miles in December 1883. A great honor was bestowed upon Bishop Phillips when he was elected Bishop of the C.M.E Church. Of the 164 votes that was needed in order to be elected, he received 131 votes.

Bishop Phillips was a man of Honor and was loved for his work and devotion in the C.M.E Church. He was very stern in the manner in which all C.M.E preachers must carry themselves and in how a worship service was to be conducted in the C.M.E Church.

#### Pastors Who Have Served Phillips Temple C.M.E Church

Rev. W. W. Warr

Rev. S. L. McGee

Rev. J. J. Manna

Rev. U. G. Harris

Rev. H. G. McGee

Rev. M. J. Ohara

Rev S. S. Johnson

Rev. Arthur Carter

Rev. Lawrence Olinger

Rev. Crawford

Rev. Hershel Cobb

Rev. Don Johnson

Rev. Jerry Stockton

Rev. Robert Savage

Rev. John Carter

Rev. Denise-Owens Davis

Rev. Emily Jones Hudson

Rev. Lawrence Olinger was the last pastor to serve Phillips Temple C.M.E. Church (2003). The building was purchased in 2010 by CommonBond Christian Fellowship Ministries.

#### Bibliography

Hazard Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. 1953. Perry County Kentucky, A History.

“Phillips Temple C.M.E. Church 62nd Anniversary/Homecoming Program.” 2000.

*\*The name of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was changed in 1956 to Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.*