



ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH


- San Bernardino's oldest Black Church
- Est. on Easter Sunday 1904
- Founded by Mary and Henry Inghram



“The opening of St. Paul’s is important in that it ended nearly 20 years of struggle to start an all-black church in San Bernardino.” -Byron Skinner.



Brief History of the church

- The Inghram and Bush families were the charter members of St. Paul AME.
 - The first pastor of St. Paul AME was Rev. Frank Johnson, who lived in Riverside, CA.
 - As the congregation grew, St. Paul AME moved to their second location in San Bernardino (near 6th & Harris St).
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A hub for rallies and Civil Rights

The NAACP & Central Council met in the church in the 1940s. Reverend Jesse L. Boyd was a key speaker at the City Council in 1943 to get rid of “White Trade Only signs” downtown.

PASSED DEC 6, 1943

THIS LAW WAS THE
FIRST CIVIL RIGHTS
LAW IN THE CITY OF
SAN BERNARDINO.

RACE ORDINANCE VOTED

A resolution prohibiting the display of signs discriminating against races in restaurants and other eating establishments in San Bernardino was given final passage. The measure is aimed principally at signs such as those stating, “We cater to white trade only.”

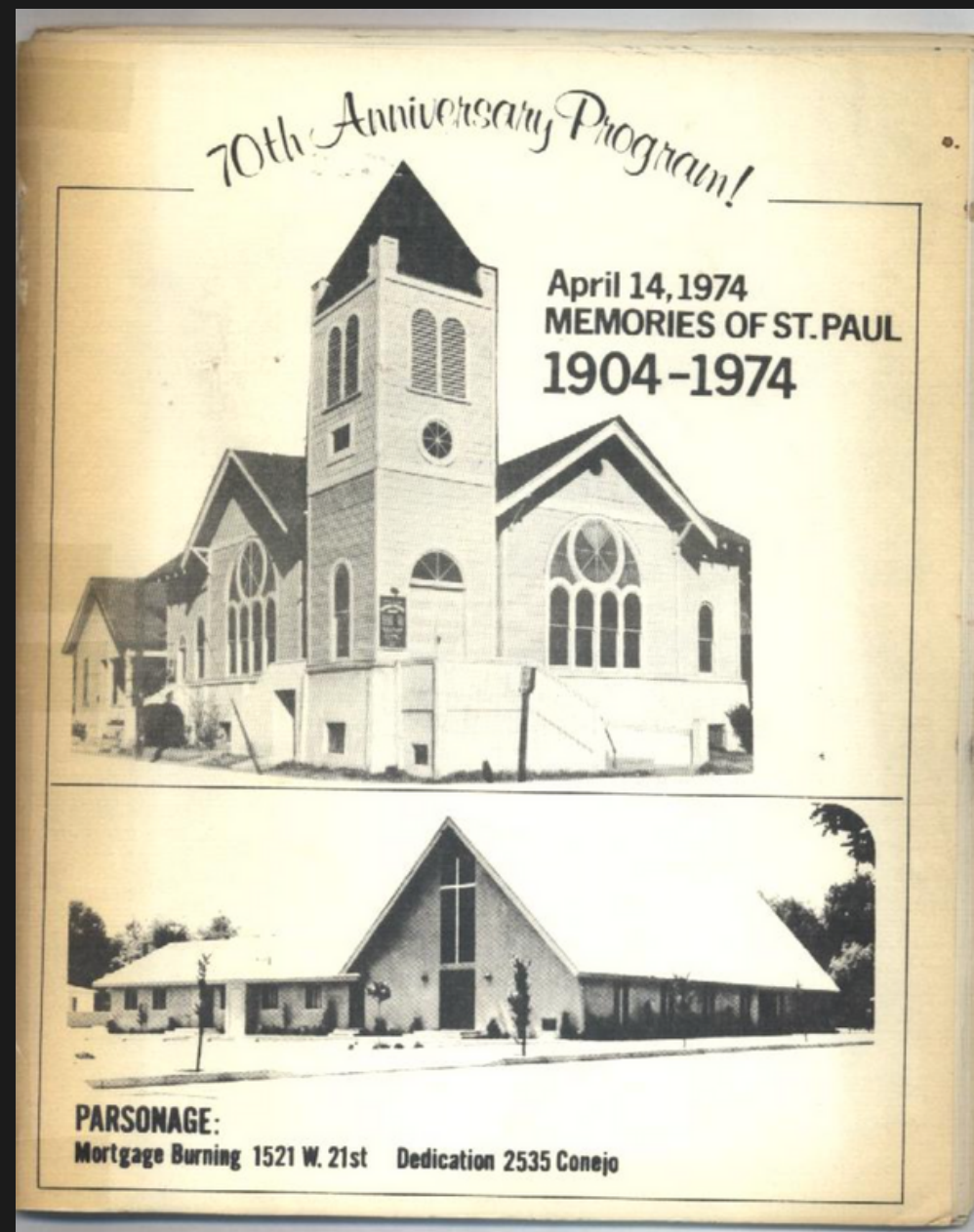


Same church, new location

St. Paul A.M.E. Church moved to
1355 W. 21st Street in 1969.

The church thrived here with many longtime members under leadership of Rev. Albert Carter (1969-1975), Rev William Jacks (late 50s-60s & 1975-1989) and Reverends Charles Brooks, Alvin Smith, Anthony Hughes, Larry Campbell and Norman Copeland and Godfrey Patterson.

In more recent years, St. Paul has also hosted political events in 1988, 1992, and 2008.



Credits

San Bernardino County Sun
stpaulamechurchsbc.org/church-history
Byron Skinner, Black Origins of the Inland Empire

Learn more about St. Paul AME here:

<https://www.westsidestorynewspaper.com/st-paul-church-anniversary-112-years-of-service-in-the-community/?fbclid=IwAR2VU-M5ocWwl6PYq8N2J1Bn-MlW9rQK2Y1MrWEB2uxydZAiJj19P7dQy7A>

https://theievoice.com/st-paul-ame-church-112-years-of-service/?fbclid=IwAR3IZxRgibtEjmunJzr4oFCeXXWVNeRV9bCrRnFunJv_jYyzXxycTbi_NxCs



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