

**Pastor Ronald Slaughter**, a native of Orlando, FL, an adopted son of Georgia, is now the youngest pastor in history to serve as Senior Pastor of Saint James AME Church in Newark, NJ. Following in the footsteps of deep family traditions, Pastor Slaughter accepted the call to preach on June 7, 1996, under the spiritual leadership of Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. The call on Pastor Slaughter's life was both challenging and rewarding. It was rewarding as the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church gave him an opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus at a young age and it was challenging because he was forced to wrestle with what God has called him to do.

In just over seven years of ministry at Saint James A.M.E. Church, 1,300 souls have been added to the kingdom, over \$700,000 in debt has been liquidated, a \$65,000 parsonage and \$12,000 vestibule renovation completed, and a \$15,000 renovation on the exterior sidewalks and courtyard making the edifice more accessible for those with mobility challenges. In an effort to create a more seamless worship experience, Saint James has upgraded its sound system, installed a new lighting system to enhance the online worship experience, launched a more user-friendly website and introduced the Saint James App. Pastor Slaughter along with the great people of Saint James have been working to develop a family oriented atmosphere, embracing the vision of God, and living out the "giver's confession" established by Pastor Slaughter. The ministry continues to grow with an average attendance of 1700 worshippers weekly at our Newark Campus and over 200 worshippers weekly at our South Orange Campus located at South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC). Saint James has evolved through the development of the Stewardship and Finance Commission, the Hospitality, Marketing, Singles, and Social Action Network ministries. In July of 2015, Saint James purchased the properties across the street from its present main location for \$375,000 without obtaining a loan or borrowing any money. The purchased properties will be the new home of Saint James' 42,000 sq. ft., worship facility in 2020. Pastor Slaughter firmly believes with all of his heart in Acts 5:39 "But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these people; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

In spite of all of his wonderful accomplishments, Pastor Slaughter admits that without a loving, supportive, and understanding family, none of this would be possible. He is eternally grateful and extremely appreciative of his wife, Kyla Trinetta Brown Slaughter and their children: Kellyn Skyla, Kylynn Rona, and Ronald Levant "R2."

According to Pastor Slaughter, God has done all of this to prove that He can use someone who remains "a work in progress" and believes with all his heart that "the best in Christ Jesus is yet to come!"