

**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 now 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 under seven years of ministry at Saint James A.M.E. Church, 1,300 souls have been added to the kingdom! Over \$800,000 in debt has been liquidated, assets have increased by \$1.2 million dollars (purchased five properties without acquiring a loan), a \$60,000 sanctuary and a \$65,000 parsonage renovation have been completed without acquiring a loan. 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."

During his career, Pastor Slaughter has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. Most recently, Pastor Slaughter was inducted into the Henry McNeal Turner Alumni Class of 2017 Hall of Fame at Turner Theological Seminary and was elected as the Chairman of the Local Governing Board of Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, NJ. Under the leadership of Bishop Ingram and Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram, Rev Slaughter was appointed the Chairman of the New Jersey Annual Conference Board of Examiners, making him the youngest to serve in this capacity in the First Episcopal District. He also serves as the Finance Chairman for the New Jersey Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District. Rev. Slaughter is presently enrolled at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC pursuing his doctoral degree with an anticipated graduation date of May 2018.

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, Klynn 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!"