



First AME Church of Los Angeles

Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Tyler, Pastor

Biddy Mason

Celebration Worship Service

"If you hold your
hand closed,
nothing good can
come in. The open
hand is blessed, for
it gives in
abundance, even
as it receives."

Bridget "Biddy" Mason

August 16, 2026
9 a.m.

2241 S. Hobart Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA 90018 | 323-735-1251

First African Methodist Episcopal Church

“First to Serve”

August 9, 2026

9a.m.

Celebrating the Birth of Bridget "Biddy" Mason

Meditation	<i>“How Great Is Our God”</i>	Music Ministry
Praise and Worship		FAME Freedom Mass Choir
Call to Worship		Rev. Dr. Thema Bryant
Morning Hymn	<i>“A Mighty Fortress”</i> Arranged by <i>Phillip K. Jones</i>	FAME Freedom Mass Choir
Invocation		Rev. Dr. Charolyn J. Jones
Prayer Response	<i>“We’ve Come This Far By Faith”</i>	FAME Freedom Mass Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Luke 4:18—20 (KJV)</i>	Rev. Judi Wortham
Decalogue		Rev. Dr. Barbara Brooks
FAMEtv		Media Ministry
Welcome to our Guests/Visitors		Rev. Dr. Charolyn J. Jones

The Music and Christian Arts Ministry

Presents:

Bridget “Biddy” Mason: Her Open Hand

Written By: Lorinda Hawkins

Additional text by: Marty Austin Lamar

Featuring:

Lorinda Hawkins as Bridget “Biddy” Mason

The FAME Freedom Mass Choir
Expressions of Praise Dance Ministry

The Preached Word	Dr. Timothy E. Tyler
Invitation to Discipleship	Dr. Timothy E. Tyler
Offering/Online Giving	Dr. Timothy E. Tyler
Pastoral Announcements	Dr. Timothy E. Tyler
Doxology & Benediction	Rev. Dr. Thema Bryant

TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children, youth, and adults. Children meet on the plaza level, adults meet on both Zoom and in person at 2249 S. Hobart Bl. at 7:45 a.m.

Meeting ID:678 244 0722 **Passcode:** 2270

BIDDY MASON BIRTHDAY WORSHIP SERVICE: FAME is celebrating the birthday of it's founder, Bridgette "Biddy" Mason with the FAME Freedom Mass Choir ministering with the FAME Freedom Liturgical Dancers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WMS MONTHLY FOOD GIVE-AWAY: is scheduled for August 22, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Male volunteers are needed. Call 323-735-1251 to find out how you can help.

FAME FREE LEGAL CLINIC: Provides free, expert legal advice to low income residents. Hours: 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 2249 S. Hobart Blvd. No appointment necessary.
Next session: August 23.

SAVE THE DATE: The Sarah Allen Women's Missionary Society will hold it's **Annual Day** on **Sunday, August 30, 9 a.m.** The Men of FAME Choir will bless us in song.

FAME FREE MEDICAL SCREENING: From 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., in the church lobby, every 4th Sunday, the Commission on Health and Fitness will conduct medical screenings. The medical screenings will consist of blood pressure, glucose monitoring and more.

Next Screening: August 23

13TH ANNUAL COMEDY EXPLOSION: Usher Board #4 is hosting their 13th Annual Comedy Explosion hosted by Ramona Stephens on Saturday, September 19, 4 p.m. in the FAME sanctuary. See any Usher Board #4 member for tickets and information.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES INSTITUTE WITH

DR. TYLER: will reconvene on Wednesday, September 2 at noon on the FAME plaza and 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Meeting ID:895 8469 1580 **Passcode:**1st2Serve

SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS in memory of a loved one, to celebrate an anniversary or a birthday. Call the church office for available dates and information. (323-735-1251.

LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH

PRAISE THE LORD. You are invited to join the revival of the Living Word Dance Ministry for adults of all ages and skill level who want to worship God through dance. Dr. Thema will be providing spiritual guidance and inspired choreography all summer long. To join us leave your name and number at the front office or email Dr. Thema at info@drthema.com today.

WELLNESS GARDEN: Join us every Saturday from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., 2249 S. Hobart Blvd., for a lesson in gardening from master gardeners. Please bring your own gardening tools. Vegetable seedlings will be provided.

SONS OF ALLEN BIBLE STUDY: Rev . Alfonzo Washington is inviting all men to the Sons of Allen Bible Study held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom where they are studying the book of Ezekiel. Women are also welcome.

Meeting ID: 284 179 1968

Password: 2F3wfM

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Join the Young Adult Bible Study held every Wednesday from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 891 595 275

Password: 058410

RADIO MINISTRY: KJLH, 102.3 FM, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Weekly Internet radio broadcasts are available at www.famechurchla.org. The morning broadcast is sponsored by Bernard & Shirley Kinsey and The Kinsey Collection.



CHURCH HISTORY



First AME Church of Los Angeles

Blacks began holding religious services in Los Angeles around the early 1850's in the home of Robert and Winnie Owens, one of Los Angeles' earliest black families. In 1872, First A.M.E. was officially organized in the home of Biddy Mason on Spring Street with twelve members. The group soon purchased a lot and erected our first edifice on 4th and Charity (Grand) streets with Rev. J.E. Hamilton serving as the first minister. Biddy Mason has been credited with donating \$500 towards the building of the first church as well as sending for the minister.

The first two decades were troublesome for the church. Due to financial hardships it was difficult to maintain the church building, property and ministerial staff. Consequently, the building on 4th & Charity was sold in 1882. From 1883 to 1886 F.A.M.E. conducted services in homes and rented spaces until a new site was purchased at 31 San Pedro St. in 1887. Through it all, the small congregation held on to "God's unchanging hand." As blacks migrated to Los Angeles, the church grew.

In 1890 F.A.M.E. purchased another site at 312 Azusa Street. By 1893 F.A.M.E.'s membership had grown to over 125 members. For 13 years F.A.M.E. was the only black church in Los Angeles where it played a major role in the black community. It housed the first black school, fought segregation, and many other organizations originated in FAME church such as the Sojourner Truth and the Forum.

"First to Serve" *Since 1872*

Stevens A.M.E. Church was the official name of the church in 1888. Rev. Jarrett Edwards led the congregation with a vision to build another church edifice at 8th & Towne. In 1904 dedication of Stevens A.M.E. Church took place. It was then a window was dedicated to Biddy Mason who died in 1891.

The church was always referred to as "First Church" and was officially named First A.M.E. Church in 1920. In 1937 Rev. Mansfield Collins is credited with renovating the entire church.

In 1950 Rev. Alvia A. Shaw led the purchase of a church parsonage at 1809 Wellington Road. He was known for the slogan "The Path to Tomorrow Leads Through Yesterday." In 1959 Rev. H. Hartford Brookins held a thirteen year tenure as pastor. After the Watts Riot, Rev Brookins met with John Factor who donated to the building fund and a new church was put on the drawing board.

Rev. Brookins moved members from 8th & Towne to 2270 S. Harvard in 1969. Rev. Fred Stephens led the congregation in 1972 when Rev. Brookins was elected Bishop. The 8th & Towne old church site was declared a historical site #71 by the city of Los Angeles. In 1977 Rev. Cecil L. Murray was appointed pastor. He served 27 years demonstrating strong leadership skills and our membership grew from 300 to 17,000. F.A.M.E. is always addressing Christian mission beyond the walls of the church and into the community. Our motto: First To Serve symbolizes the concept that our church is known for universally. In 2004 Rev. John Hunter served First AME as pastor for 8 years. In 2012 Rev. J Edgar Boyd was assigned as pastor. He was a strong leader who has demonstrated leadership skills Church-wide. He has also been an active leader throughout the community as well.

Rev. Robert R. Shaw, II was assigned as Pastor in October 2023.

Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Tyler was assigned September 2025. We know that great things are in store for our church and our community.