Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church
37345 New Market Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-7320

The first recording of Mt. Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church was in 1880. The current church was built in 1912. Camp meetings and tent revivals were held here. In 1968, the church became Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church when the new United Methodist Church was formed in America.

Elevenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church
1573 Sunset Way
Mechanicsville, MD 20639
(301) 465-6735

This, the only A.M.E. congregation in St. Mary’s County, is thought to be the oldest A.M.E. church in Southern Maryland. The congregation appears to have existed in the 1860s. A deteriorating log chapel used as a church and school into the 1940s, still stands. The present church was constructed in 1961.

Gaileet United Methodist Church
(Route 247 at exit of Chalkley) Mechanicsville, MD 20639

The church was founded by U.S. Colored Troops soldiers and built in the 1880s.

First Missionary Baptist Church
4739 Lincoln Avenue
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-872-5460

In 1941, a growing home-based prayer band moved its worship services to the USO Building in Carver Heights. They then purchased an acre of land and in 1954, built the First Baptist Church of Carver Heights. In 1999, the church was given its current name.

Zion United Methodist Church
11075 Towne Road
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-994-9416

Zion is the current church was constructed on this site in 1963 and was reordered and expanded in 2004. The church cemetery is located at the site of the former Zion Fair Chapel.

Bethesda United Methodist Church
301-884-7320

Founded in Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church about 1830 by a white congregation, it passed into African-American use and is the oldest African-American Methodist church in Southern St. Mary’s County. The church was erected on the site in 1870 and was replaced in 1911.

St. Mark Union American
Methodist Episcopal Church
21419 Worthing Road
Valley Lee, MD 20692

In 1891, thirty members of Bethesda Church formed an independent church built on land across the road. Originally affiliated with the Baltimore Association of Independent Methodist Churches, later it united with the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. A new church was built in 1968.

St. Luke Union American
Methodist Episcopal Church
3509 St. Luke Court
Berwyn, MD 20614
301-994-5161

St. Luke, the sister church of St. Mark, was founded in 1886, when they purchased the old St. Mary’s Chapel in Ridge. That church burned in 1887 and a new church was built. First known as the Lowentown congregation, they became St. Luke Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1968, they became part of the United Methodist Church.

St. Luke United Methodist Church
109 Front Street
Paxelectron Road
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-872-5161

Founded by U.S. Colored Troops veterans, church members met in their homes until 1888, when they purchased the old St. Mary’s Chapel in Ridge. That church burned in 1887 and a new church was built. First known as the Lowentown congregation, they became St. Luke Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1968, they became part of the United Methodist Church.

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church
16922 St Peter Claver Church Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
301-994-9897

St. Peter Claver Church is the only A.M.E. congregation in St. Mary’s County, is thought to be the oldest A.M.E. church in Southern Maryland. The congregation appears to have existed in the 1860s. A deteriorating log chapel used as a church and school into the 1940s, still stands. The present church was constructed in 1961.

St. Luke Union American
Methodist Episcopal Church
2017 St. Mark Church Road
St. Inigoes, MD 20684
301-885-8264

The church was an independent church built on land across the road. Originally affiliated with the Baltimore Association of Independent Methodist Churches, later it united with the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. A new church was built in 1968.

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11075 Towne Road
Lexington Park, MD 20653
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HISTORIC CHURCHES

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORIC SITES

RESOURCES

College of Southern Maryland
www.csm.edu/library/SNCS/index.html
The Southern Maryland Studies Center, La Plata Campus.

St. Mary’s College of Maryland
240-895-4264

St. Mary’s County Historical Society
301-475-2467
www.stmaryshistory.org
enrch@md.metrocast.net

St. Mary’s County Libraries
301-475-2464
www.smcl.org
A variety of materials, from local newspapers to books, which portray the African-American experience in Southern Maryland. See the Maryland Collection at the Leonardtown and Lexington Park Libraries.

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc.
www.ucaconline.org
Website features oral histories, plus information on events and UCAC exhibits and publications.

HISTORIC CHURCHES

African-American Historic Sites

RESOURCES

St. Mary’s County Tourism
www.tour.stmarysmd.com
1-800-327-9023

St. Mary’s County Visitor Welcome Center
(Route 5 and Charlotte Hall School Road)
3737 Charlotte Hall School Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-844-7659

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from July 1863, until May 1865, United States Colored Troops units rotated from the front to serve as guards at the Point Lookout prison camp for captured Confederate soldiers. The hospital staff is known to have assisted with the escape of several Maryland slaves while United States Colored Troops served as guards at the prison camp. Outside of Point Lookout stood a “contraband camp” where runaway slaves who crossed the Potomac River from Virginia took refuge under the protection of federal authorities. Slavery was introduced soon after. The Sotterley Plantation located in Hollywood, Maryland, depicts this era and is the site of a rare original slave cabin that provides a glimpse into the lives of African-Americans who worked the plantation both pre and post Civil War. While whites in the county aligned themselves with the Confederacy during the war, over 500 African Americans joined the Union Army and William H. Barnes and James H. Harris earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for their bravery.

The African-American presence in St. Mary’s County began in 1634 with the arrival of mulatto indentured servant Mathias de Sousa. He was one of the original 140 colonists who founded Maryland.

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