

**ST. JOHN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GUIDING LIGHTS
RETIRING AFTER 41 YEARS OF SERVICE
1976—2017**

The Guiding Lights formed in the year 1976. They were named St. John Quartet. The founding members were Bros. James Smith, James C. Smith, Cleodis Weary, Sr., and Rev. Johnnie Dyer. In 1978, as they focused on their mission of visiting Sick and Shut-ins, Mrs. Sawyer suggested that they be named, "The Guiding Lights". Their goals were to reach as many persons as they could by praising God through songs. The Guiding Lights sung at church and visited the sick and shut-ins. They had special presentations as they visited members in the hospitals and at home during Christmas. They were on programs as a men's quartet at various churches in Pontiac, Flint and Detroit. Rev. Allie has commended on how proud he is of the group since they first stepped out on faith. They reached out to the men groups throughout Pontiac to participate in their Annual Guiding Lights Program. The proceeds collected from patron lists and offering supported the budget of the church. They set a goal each year and superseded it. Through the 41 years, they were joined by Bro. Raymond Adams, Bro. Thomas Hunt, Bro. David Fields, Sr., Rev. Frederick B. Moore, Sr., Bro. Elige Tony Johnson, Bro. Harold Guyton, Bro. Early Jones, Bro. Claude Weary, Rev. John Peoples, Bro. Clarence High, Bro. Calvin Mason. The group was first accompanied by Sylvester Ogletree. Sis. Mildridge Ellison has been a loyal accompanist for most of the 40 years.

