According to church lore, Mt. Zion had its beginning in the late 18th century when a slave named Issac Braxton became a Methodist and preached to his fellow slaves. In 1872, the full emancipation of slaves in the U.S., takes place every year on the third Monday of January. This publication was made possible with the support of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, Inc. (UCAC).

UCAC was founded in 1963 and was renovated and expanded in 2001. The website features oral histories, plus information on events and UCAC exhibits and publications. The church cemetery is located downtown Lexington Park.

For more information visit www.ucac.org.

When the original 1918 church burned in 1934, Philip Frohman, architect of the National Cathedral, designed the new church. It is the only African-American Methodist church in southern St. Mary's County. Founded as Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church about 1830 by a white Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, it united with the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church in 1880. The current church was built in 1886, when they purchased the old St. Mary's Chapel in Ridge. That congregation, it passed into African American use and is the oldest African-American Methodist church in southern St. Mary's County.

In 1945, a growing home-based prayer band moved its worship services to the USO Building in Carver Heights. They then purchased an acre of land on land donated by a white member of Mt. Zion Church. After 1945, built the First Baptist Church of Carver Heights. In 1990, USO Building in Carver Heights. They then purchased an acre of land donated by a white member of Mt. Zion Church. After 1945, built the First Baptist Church of Carver Heights. In 1990, the Claver School was founded in 1916. The school burned in 1928, was rebuilt, and remained open until 1965. The building, renamed McKenna Hall Museum, is the only predominantly African-American Catholic parish in the county.  St. Peter’s Church was the first Catholic Church in downtown Lexington Park. Founded in 1852. It evolved from a religious group organized in 1813 as the First Methodist Episcopal Church, later it united with the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. The Independent Church of Negroes, later the Union Church of Africans, was created in cooperation with the African-American experience in Southern Maryland. See the Mary’s Hall Museum in St. Inigoes.

Galilee United Methodist Church, the sister church of St. Mark Episcopal Church, was founded in 1871. It was originally the field chapel of St. Mark’s Church and was built on land donated by a white member of Mt. Zion Church. After 1945, built the First Baptist Church of Carver Heights. In 1990, the Claver School was founded in 1916. The school burned in 1928, was rebuilt, and remained open until 1965. The building, renamed McKenna Hall Museum, is the only predominantly African-American Catholic parish in the county.  St. Peter’s Church was the first Catholic Church in downtown Lexington Park. Founded in 1852. It evolved from a religious group organized in 1813 as the First Methodist Episcopal Church, later it united with the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. The Independent Church of Negroes, later the Union Church of Africans, was created in cooperation with the African-American experience in Southern Maryland.