



ORAL HISTORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS: OLD MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH

DCP 6931

3 Credits

Spring 2022

Instructor:

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Tuesdays

Period 3-5

(9:35 am – 12:35 pm)

ARC 163

Located in the historic African-American neighborhood known as Pleasant Street, Old Mount Carmel Baptist Church (dedicated 1944) became an epicenter of Gainesville’s Civil Rights movement when Reverend Thomas A. Wright arrived in 1962 and became a leader of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Civil Rights community used the church as a hub for organizing peaceful demonstrations and strategizing the integration of the public school system.

The Prayers by Faith Family Ministries are the new occupants and stewards of the church, with a vision to reactivate the role the building once held in the community, and to utilize the building as a public amenity accessible to all and centering on social justice.

Course participants will interview stakeholders within the community, including NAACP members, former congregants and others involved in Civil Rights activities during the mid-twentieth century. Students will learn Best Practices in oral history methodology, working with marginalized communities, and transcribing interviews. Students’ final products will be included in an educational video for community use and will be archived at the Matheson History Museum and at UF.

This course is in partnership with the Samuel Proctor Oral History program and is funded by a grant from the Division of Historical Resources.