

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
NEXT HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP TOUR ON MONDAY, MARCH 1**

DETROIT - Tickets are now on sale for the Detroit Historical Society's Historic Houses of Worship tour on **Monday, March 1**. The tour will feature the following houses of worship **University of Detroit Mercy – Jesuit Chapel, the Historic Little Rock Baptist Church St. John CME, St. Patrick's Chapel of the Little Flower and Spirit of Hope.**

University of Detroit Jesuit Chapel is located on the McNichols campus of the University of Detroit Mercy inside Lansing-Reilly Hall, the Jesuit residence. Priests of the Society of Jesus, known as the Jesuits, began Detroit College in 1877 (later the University of Detroit), which merged in 1990 with the Mercy College started by the Sisters of Mercy in 1941. The small chapel, accommodating about twenty people, was built in 1926 and is used daily by the Jesuits. The hand-painted tiles in the chapel are decorative tiles from the Flint Faience Tile Co. The windows in the chapel commemorate Jesuit saints, such as St. Ignatius, founder of the order.

George D. Mason and Company, one of Detroit's leading late nineteenth and early twentieth century architects, designed the Neo-Gothic Revival, L-shaped structure known today as **Little Rock Baptist Church**. The church was established in 1936 and moved to its current location on Woodward and Josephine in 1979. This neo-gothic cathedral once housed the Central Woodward Christian Church, built as the fourth home of the Disciples of Christ in Detroit, a Protestant group organized by the Reverend William K. Nay in 1846. The African-American Pulpit window in the south faced depicts portraits of Black ministers. Two of the original stained glass windows depict George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

St. John C.M.E. was organized on July 8, 1917 as St. John's Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. The Neo-Gothic style church was the first church of its denomination in Detroit. The chapel (1902 and 1907), sanctuary (1911), and church house (1929) are constructed of red "impervious" brick with limestone trim and a gray slate roof. The interior features stained

glass windows designed by Gorham Company of New York and a baptistery lined in Pewabic mosaic tile.

St. Patrick Roman Catholic parish, now located on Parsons in Detroit (behind Orchestra Hall), was established in 1859 at Adelaide and John R Streets. The building the parish currently occupies was built in the 1920s as the Chapel of the Little Flower in honor of St. Theresa of Lisieux. Donaldson and Meier were the architects, and the style was Romanesque with Spanish and Italian influences. St. Patrick's congregation moved there when their church became too large to sustain in 1972, and in 1977, the chapel was renamed St. Patrick's. Its floor features Pewabic Pottery tile.

Faith Memorial Lutheran Church, founded in 1956, was established by the Lutheran Church to serve residents of the Jeffries Housing Projects. Most of the Jeffries complex was imploded in 2001, and many of the church's members were forced to leave the neighborhood. Trinity Episcopal Church, founded in the 1880s, was originally established as a neighborhood congregation to serve the local Irish community. In 2006, the two congregations joined together and became known as **Spirit of Hope**, which uses Trinity Episcopal Church as its base. James Scripps opened this English Gothic style church on January 1, 1893. The church was designed by the architecture firm Mason & Rice and is composed of Trenton limestone.

Each tour leaves the Detroit Historical Museum parking lot (Kirby at Woodward) at 10 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. The price, which includes the guided tour, bus transportation, and lunch at one of the churches, is \$30 for Detroit Historical Society members and \$40 for guests. Telephone reservations can be accepted with Visa, MasterCard or Discover Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No tickets will be sold on the date of the tour. For reservations or more information on the 2010 tour series, call **(313) 833-1801** or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

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