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February 18, 2015

**Book Launch Celebration for *Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980*  
February 28, 2015**

*The Delaware Historical Society continue its commitment to documenting, preserving and sharing the story of the African American faith experience in Delaware and the U.S. with release of new book.*

Wilmington, DE —The Delaware Historical Society will hold a book launch celebration to commemorate the release of *Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980* on February 28, 2015 from 2-4 pm. The project began in 2013 with the *Forging Faith, Building Freedom* exhibition at the Delaware History Museum that documented the faith experiences of African Americans in Delaware as well as their significant contributions to the development of African American religion in the United States. As the exhibition's curators delved into the research, they realized that the story they were telling was only the beginning and the idea of a book was born. Illustrated with a rich selection of images and documents provided by the African American community, *Forging Faith, Building Freedom* explores and celebrates the African American faith experience in Delaware, from its very beginnings through the late 1900s, and places Delaware into the larger historical context of African-American religion and faith.

**WHAT:** *Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980* Book Launch. Following a brief program, books will be available for purchase at a special introductory price of \$16.00 hardbound and \$10.50 softbound (regularly priced \$18.00 hardbound and \$12.00 softbound). The authors will also be available to sign copies. Light refreshments will be served.

**WHO:** Featuring authors Dr. Constance J. Cooper, chief curator at the Delaware Historical Society and curator of *Forging Faith, Building Freedom* and Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University and consultant historian for *Forging Faith, Building Freedom*. Published by the Delaware Heritage Press for the Delaware Historical Society.

**WHERE:** Christopher Ward Reading Room, Delaware Historical Society Research Library. 505 N. Market St., Wilmington, DE 19801

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 28 from 2-4 pm

Reservations for the program can be made by calling (302) 655-7161 or [deinfo@dehistory.org](mailto:deinfo@dehistory.org).

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an “American Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and The Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, expected to reopen in 2016.

For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit [www.dehistory.org](http://www.dehistory.org).

**Links:** <http://dehistory.org/online-exhibitions-collections-museum/forging-faith>

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