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We Exist Series 3: Quotes

We Exist Series 3: The Black Church, Maine's  
Black Residents and the Wider Community

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## Civil Society

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# Civil Society

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## **The Black Church, Maine's Black Residents and the Wider Community**



### **Reverend Albert and Clemmie Jackson**

Interviewer: "As pastor of Christ's Temple, what – what do you see as the role of Christ Temple in Lewiston/Auburn? What role would you like that congregation to play in Lewiston and Auburn?"

Rev. Albert Jackson: "The -- ah, I can see the whole of our congregation reaching out to the -- to the public. They reaching out for those that are less fortunate than we are. And -- and how the division of -- of -- of making the, um, church grow -- making the congregation bigger, and, ah, -- and just reaching out to the -- and the, ah, and the, ah, the whole, um – community... And -- and -- and actually, ah, just not staying in the four walls, but going out into -- in the, ah -- in the community and -- and make yourself known, you know. Into universities, into -- into the businesses and says, we're here. You know, you're here."

Reverend Albert Jackson (born in Slabfork, Virginia; age 61; lived in Maine for 43 years) and Mrs. Clemmie Jackson (born March 1948 in Marengo County, Alabama; age 55; lived in Maine for 3.5 years)

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Jackson, Rev. Albert and Clemmie Jackson](#)



### **Mrs. Joanna Boley-Lee McKenzie**

"Other than Bates people -- um, yeah. Um, there is a church in Auburn, everybody refers to it as the black church. And at one time, this church would come together with my church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and -- and we would worship together. Either we'd go to their church or they would come to ours because we were both marginalized in the Catholic City of Lewiston. And, um, I believe we are the only Episcopal Church in Lewiston and there is one other in Auburn. Um, but that church would come together. They called it the black church because it always had black ministers and most of their parishioners were the black community in Lewiston and Auburn, though they have many white members as well."

Mrs. Joanna Boley-Lee McKenzie (age 66; born 1937 in Newark, New Jersey; lived in Maine for 8.5 years)

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Joanna Boley-Lee](#)

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## **The Black Church, Maine's Black Residents and the Wider Community**

### **Mrs. June McKenzie**



"Of Green Memorial Church. And before, we used to have chicken dinners every third Thursday in the month, and I used to work those. And I was a member of the ways and means for several years. And I go to church every Sunday that I'm home. I always go. Church is a very active part of my life."

Mrs. June McKenzie (age 72; born 1929 in Portland Maine; fifth-generation Mainer; lived in Maine all her life)

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: McKenzie, June](#)

### **Mr. Richard Tarrence**



"I left high school on a scholarship, went to Ohio State. It didn't work out. Then my church gave me a scholarship to Wilberforce University in Ohio."

Keywords: family demography, Black Families, Maine

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Tarrence, Richard](#)

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### **Ms. Lucille Young**



"I knew those kids before they was ever born. And their mother lived a pretty rough life. And the father went to jail for I don't know how many years for something he did terrible. And their mother, this little girl's mother here went to the streets. And she moved from Portland to New York City and she got killed in New York City. Some guy stabbed her right in the heart, sure did. The kids came back to Maine. And they was at the church up on the hill, Green Memorial, at that church up there..."

Ms. Lucille Young (age 73; born 1928 in Jackson, Mississippi; moved to Maine in 1967)

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Young, Lucille](#)

### **Ms. Rose Jackson**



"And a lot of those books over there, [Uncle Frank] give them to me. And I put them in the church."

Mrs. Rose Jackson (age 66; born in Louisville, Mississippi; lives in South Portland for 39 years; married 34 years; has six children; had five children with her first husband; he died and she remarried and had a child with the current husband)

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Jackson, Rose](#)