

Forty-Eight More Years 1951-1999

When Rev. Geer resigned sadness prevailed for a while. Soon the sadness passed and the search was on for another leader. Rev. M. J. Jackson from Atlanta, Georgia was called and he served for a few years. He was followed by Rev. J. T. Parks from North Carolina who resigned in 1961.

Rev. Moses A Lee, also from Atlanta, Georgia, was called to lead in June 1962. He led the flock for the next thirty years. While he served, the church celebrated its one hundredth anniversary in July, 1968. At this celebration, the church set a goal to add a Sunday School Annex to the main building. After much prayer and work, this goal was met; two rest rooms, five classrooms (two can be converted to a large dining area), and a well- furnished kitchen.

Under Rev. Lee's leadership the church continued to grow into an even greater church. In 1979, the church was remodeled and a public address system installed. Also the parsonage was renovated and the "Cornerstone" was dedicated. The debt for these improvements was paid off in February, 1985. Rev. Lee resigned from the church in 1992.

Another preacher whose last name was Jackson answered the call and served for a short while. Then Rev. Ricky Holmes from Atlanta, Georgia was called to service on January 9, 1994. Officiating at his installation service was Rev. R.L. White, a long-time friend of the church and community. Rev. Holmes' ministry included an in-depth teaching of God's word with added emphasis on the Sunday school and many worthwhile workshops.

On August 25, 1996, Rev. Norman Williams was called to the church. His goal has been and continues to be to inform the people that to be saved is to simply believe in God. Under his leadership, new carpet has been installed, the parking lot has been completely paved, a third Sunday service initiated, a renewed focus on youth programs, additions to the public address system, an electronic keyboard and a sixteen channel and high fidelity tape recorder purchased for the Outreach Ministry.

Over the years many members have contributed outstanding service to the growth and development of the church. We cannot mention all of them here but a few of them must be included: The late Mrs. Rosa Grant Warthen served for a number of years as the church clerk. She held this post until her health began to fail. She is best remembered for implementing the Birth Month Club to help raise funds for the Building Fund.

When Mrs. Warthen resigned in December 1979, Mrs. Eileen Moore was elected co-clerk to assist Mrs. Rosa Stevens. In October 1982, Mrs. Stevens was elected to serve as Church Clerk and Building Fund Treasurer and Mrs. Moore was elected to serve as Finance Secretary. Mrs. Rosa Stevens served as Church Clerk until her resignation in January 1984. Following her resignation, Mrs. Ardian Hampton was elected to fill the position.

Deacon Howard Wilkinson served as the chair of the Deacons Board until his passing. Mr. John Wesley Tate succeeded him in this post and served until his death.

The late Mrs. Lillian Tate, wife of John Wesley Tate, served a short while as the treasurer of the church. She is best remembered for coordinating the Church Anniversary Celebration in 1983. This outstanding event was an answer to her dream.

The late Mrs. Doris Irvin was elected Treasurer in February 1983. She served until she chose to resign and Mr. Booker T. Jackson was elected.

The One Hundred Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration was held on Sunday July 12, 1998, and this author was invited to share some of the memories her grandmother had shared with her about Rev. Lewis Williams, the first pastor and the early days of the church. The service was very heart-warming and together we remembered the walk that had begun so long ago to establish this great church that still serves as a beacon of light in the community.

Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children to the next generation. Joel 1:3

Celebrating the 117th Anniversary Photographs. Courtesy of the late Mrs. Ethel Evans.

Into the Twenty-First Century 2000 A.D. to the Present

The church celebrated its one hundred thirty- second anniversary on July 9, 2000. Once again it was a joyous occasion. This body that was begun so long ago and one that has seen the establishment of seven daughter churches had one hundred fifty members; this number includes sixty-seven young people.' Active programs included the following ministries: Youth, Deacons, Ushers, Music, Christian Education, Trustees, Mother's Board, Media and Missions. The pastor at this time is Rev, Norman Williams from Atlanta, Georgia.

There are current members that remain faithful to serving the church and community *for* the past forty-eight years; and some can boast of being descendants of early members include: Sisters' Emma Julia DuBose and Charlene Heard Hurley, daughters of the late Brother Charlie Tate and Sister Mary Tate; Sister Ruby Cofer, granddaughter of the late Sister Clara Jordan; Sister Rosa Stevens *from* the family of the late sister Lucille Wingfield; Sisters LouElla Reed and Marian Cullars, daughters of the late Mrs. Rosa Reid and granddaughters of the late Frank and Sylvada Reed; Sisters Christine Parks and Sarah Gartrell; Naomi Crew; Sallie Martin Ladsen, daughter of the late Sallie Martin; Brothers Robert Henderson, Sidney Hilliard, and Robert Williams; Brothers Booker T., Andrew, Charles and John Robert Jackson, sons of the late Principal John Henry and Mrs. Jackson.

Pastor Norman Williams led the church into the new millennium, along with the following officers: Deacon Eddie Finnell, Chair of the Board; Brother Andrew Jackson and sister Eileen Moore, Co-chairs of the Trustee Board; Sister Ardian Hampton, Church Clerk; Sister Merry Norman, Assistant Clerk; Brother Booker T. Jackson, Treasurer; Sister Eileen Moore, Financial Secretary; Sister Rosa Stevens, Chair of Finance and Building Fund; Sister Dianne DuBose, Pianist; Brother Steve Adams, Music Director and Keyboard Specialist; Brother Darieat Dubose, Drummer and Deacon Willie Crew, Sunday School Superintendent.

The mission statement of the church is “ To lead souls to Christ and to establish disciples for the Kingdom of God through preaching and teaching the Kngdom of God’s word to all.” The pastor and officers have issued the goals for the new millennium.: to continue to serve as beacons for the citizens of the community, to increase membership; add more classrooms; to extend the parking lot.; a Food Program’ an extensive clothing distribution center; a Tutorial Program and a Program for Needy Children.

Here, now in the year 2008, one hundred forty years since the organization of this church, the pastor and members continue to carry on in the spirit of the early founders. Rev. Norman Williams is still the pastor and the following are the leaders: Chairman of Deacons, Eddie Finnell with members, Robert Henderson, Willie Joe Gartrell, Leroy Burse, and Charles Morgan.

The Trustee Board is led by co-chairs Eileen Moore and Robert Williams. Members are: Andrew Jackson, Eddie Finnell, Marion Cullars, Estelle Thomas, Patti Benson and Nancy Bell. The Choir president is Melvine Binns; pianist, Diane DuBose; drummer, Darieat DuBose and Artasia Pitts serves as Youth Choir director.

The Usher's Board has as its leader Ann Parks and there is a son of the church, Rev. Willie Crew and a daughter, Evangelist Amethyst Wynne. There is a Praise Team led by Greta Cosby and Jessica Jackson which was created to get the youth more involved in the church.

A Scholarship Fund named in honor of the late Sister Ardian Hampton awards \$300.00 to a college student annually. This Scholarship has been awarded since 2004. It should be noted also that Sister Hampton was the last president of the Mother's Board. Since her passing in 2004, no one has stepped forward to fill the position.

The early founders must surely smile down from their places in Heaven for the dedicated and committed service that exists in the Spirit as it did so long ago. The story will continue.