

CHURCH HISTORY

The true object of History is to show us the life of the human race in its fullness and follow the story of its continuous and difficult evolution.

"What so ever ye shall ask in prayer in My Name believing ye shall receive."

In our many years of our work here we have seen God solve many problems, we can say with absolute assurance God answers faithful prayers.

A small group of white people saw the great need of religious training among the colored people of this community.

Before this property was purchased by the trustees of this church, it was used as a church for white people known as "The Little Mission Church," Reverend John T. Pullen, serving as pastor. In its origin this building was very small and the membership was 16 in number.

An agreement for the purchase of this property is as follows:

Raleigh, N. C., August 1st, 1895, an agreement between W. H. Matthews of the first part and A. T. Mitchell, T. B. Edwards, Prince Crenshaw, Joseph High, and Sylvester Jefferies, trustees of the second part—

Matthews agrees to sell them a building known as Fayetteville Street Little Mission Baptist Church.

Through he years the church has shown much progress.

The following persons served as Pastors: Reverend Robert Blake organized in part, extent of pastorate, six months; Reverend Edwards, three years; Reverend A. T. Price, two years; Reverend R. S. Johnson, three years; Reverend M. S. Elaw, three years; Reverend Dozier, six months; Reverend Alston, six months; Reverend W. H. Mitchiner, three years.

Reverend M. F. Jones, vice moderator of the Jones County Baptist Association, the extent of his pastorate, three years.

Reverend J. W. Jones, Pastor-Moderator of the Jones County Association, our present pastor, a native of Mills, N. C., who is very much alive, the extent of his pastorate, 30 years.

Turning the pages of History we see the following persons until present: Sister Lucy Smith, Brother M. S. Elaw, Sister Corinna Jeffries, Brother Genaders Lucas, Brother J. W. Jones, Brother W. F. Peterson.

TRUSTEES: Brothers Joseph High, T. B. Edwards, Sylvester Jefferies, M. G. Watkins, Scarborough, Sidney Dunn, Parham Whitaker, T. R. Herndon, James Phillips, Samuel Harris, Joseph Whitaker, Arthur Rand, Lyn Johnson, James Branch and W. F. Peterson.

DEACONS: Soloman Steptoe, Sylvester Jefferies, Allen Mitchell, Daniel Fleming, Bennett Davis, Prince Crenshaw, Ceton Hinton, M. G. Watkins, M. S. Elaw, T. Mitchell, H. S. Baker, Robert Fox, Henry Davis, James Rogers, J. R. Hopkins, George Lassiter, Clay Baskin, Scarborough, Sidney Dunn, Mingo Kelley, Earle Standback, M. Banks, T. R. Herndon, Joseph Whitaker, Frank Dunn, James Bunche, Willie Grier, Roosevelt Smith, Joseph Jones, J. W. Jones, Rufus McCullers.

We now turn to the organists and chorists of the past and present, namely: Mrs. Mannie Taylor, Mrs. Mannie Lee Drake, Mrs. Lettie Allen, Mrs. Pattie Alston, Mrs. Corinna Jeffery, Mrs. Inez Little, Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell, Mrs. Della Davis, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, Mrs. W. F. Peterson, Mrs. Annie Bell Patridge, Mrs. Lillian Branch, Mrs. Pearl Smith, Mrs. Lindsey, and Benjamin Thomas.

The following people served as choristers through the years:

Mr. George Henderson, Mr. Geo. Peppers, Mr. William Trice, Mrs. Louise Cheatham. We can see two Secretaries faithfully serving in every department of this church in the persons of Mrs. Carrie Haywood and Mrs. Corinna Jefferies, with Sunday School as the only organized group of the church, with more members being added to the church the late Mrs. Carrie Haywood and Mrs. Corinna Jefferies organized the Olivia Circle, a club for the betterment of the community which later became the Willing Workers Circle, a very strong club in our church, the only club serving the church for more than forty years, with only three presidents, namely: Mr. W. H. Wheeler, Mrs. Corinna Jefferies and Mrs. Effie Rogers. We can also see the usher board in 1912 with only two members serving the whole church, namely: Mr. Howard Rand and the late Mr. Samuel Harris.

After many years, the ladies decided to organize a board. A junior board was organized and today we have the usher board organized into three groups, the late Mr. Samuel Harris serving as president for the men and the late Mrs. Carrie Haywood serving as president for the ladies. We had only one choir and today we have five (5) choirs.

The church grew so much under the pastorate of our present pastor, Reverend J. W. Jones, until we had to organize more groups through the faithful and untiring labor of Deacon H. S. Baker, Sister Carrie Haywood, Brother Alex McNeil and others. We organized the group captains club which we still have today. We were able to go down and dig our basement and make more room for the group captains who had grown in number from 12 to 34 who had the honor of giving the church \$5,000.00 in a single rally.

Reverend M. F. Jones, our former pastor, died October 9, 1931. Reverend J. W. Jones was called in May, 1932. The church

was without a pastor for 7 months. Shortly after the death of Reverend M. F. Jones, one of our members made this statement, and I quote: "Lord we will never get another Jones." The party was not speaking from the point of name but from the point of service, however. The church did not only get another Jones by name but a man who is fully equal to the task. There has been quite an improvement in finance, attendance and membership. When Reverend Jones came to us we had an enrollement of 248 members; today we have more than 1,000 members on roll. We have 400 members on our Sunday School roll. Reverend Jones found Fayetteville Street Church a wooden structure which was destroyed by fire in 1949, and today under his leadership we have a stone structure. A monument to Reverend Jones who led the church to greater heights. As time goes on may God raise up leaders for our churches who will have the moral courage to stand for what is right.

When we think of the years Reverend Jones served as pastor here in the city of Raleigh, we think of the vast number he has led to Christ: Reverend Jones not only helped in church but has given freely of his means to help some wanderer to return home. We are living in a time of confusion and doubt; people need Christ.

Reverend Jones' life covered phases of the church. Loyal to God's Word, pulpit strength, worship music, fervent evangelism, consecration to the leadership and power of the holy spirit, are a few of the many elements that fuse into the glorious task of building a great church.

Reverend Jones had the honor of marrying more couples, and preaching more funerals, than any other preacher in North Carolina. He served a number of years as moderator of the Methodist Church Association, a member of the Lott-Carey National Association, Ex-officio of the Usher Board, Willing Workers Circle, The Carrie Haywood's Bible Club, the First Aid's Association, Sunday School, Deacon Board, the Timothean Bible Class and the Floral Society.—REV

and I quote: "Lead on Oh King
force winds shall cease and holiness shall whis-
per of peace."

The church was purchased for the sum of \$800.00—\$50.00 to be paid at \$100.00 per year.

MEMBERS PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH: Reverend F. Terry, Reverend Hall, Rev. H. Miles, Rev. M. S. Elaw and Rev. Eugene Hooper.

At the passing of the late Rev. J. W. Jones, the church went in search of a new leader. The Holy Spirit directed the pulpit committee to Wilmington. After hearing many ministers, yet their words stayed on Wilmington.

The congregation called Rev. Lewis. He accepted and came to the church for service in March, 1963. He took the church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and success has been the result. Many members have been added to the church. In 1965 the W. B. Lewis Gospel Chorus was organized. The tota choir was organized in 1967.

The church has grown socially. The outreach of the church to help prepare housing for the community of Raleigh by helping to expand Rich Park, in Method.

The church budget has tripled.

The new church building is evidence of the progress, and aspiration of this dynamic congregation, with its daring leader, anything but the best for an answer.

The grand opening of the First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, formerly known as the Fayetteville Street Baptist Church, Raleigh, will be held Sunday, July 12, at 11:00 A. M.

The old church building on Fayetteville Street is about 90 years old.

The Rev. W. B. Lewis, pastor of the church, said:

"Seven years ago, the old church purchased four lots behind the church, running down Hunter Street for expansion purposes. The city came through three years later and extended Salisbury Street which took practically all of the land that the church had purchased.

"We were advised by the Redevelopment Commission that our church was in the Redevelopment Program in Southside, and that we should seek a new location.

"The members purchased a lot on South Blount Street for the new church site, and discovered later that the thoroughfare would eventually cross this piece of land. We were then advised not to build there. So, on Cross Link Road, near Hadley Road, the church purchased six acres of land for The First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church.

"The cost of the new development is about \$450,000. The parking lots will accommodate 600 cars. The Sanctuary will seat about 900 and the Fellowship Hall will seat about 500. Also included are 32 classrooms, and a chapel, seating 130.

"Future developments will include swimming pool, tennis courts and gymnasium. The church is fully air conditioned.

"The church will hold its initial service Sunday, July 12. Morning worship service will be held at 11:00 A. M. The united worship service will be held at 3:00 P.M., featuring as our guest speaker, Dr. M. C. Southerland, president of Virginia College and Seminary, Lynchburg, Virginia.

"The public is cordially invited to attend these services," Rev. Lewis concluded.

