

## **We celebrated Our 153rd Church Anniversary in October 2016. SBC And Allen Chapel A.M.E. Are The Oldest Black Congregations in Kansas City, MO**

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The year was 1862. President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation ordering the emancipation of all slaves in the Confederate States of America. The Mississippi and Missouri rivers began to carry hundreds of former slaves to what was thought to be the Promised Land, particularly Kansas. When they arrived here and were out of money, the Armour Packing House became a sanctuary for many of those living in encampments near the river banks in a place known as Juniper.

In 1864, Robert Lowery composed a song later called "Shall We Gather At The River" Was it fate that near the banks of the Missouri River at 4th St., Rev. Clark Moore started a mission known as Stragglers Camp? There, late hours of worship were held and combined with the melodious voices, one could also hear the shrieking whistles of steamboats in the distance. Assisted by a Rev. Lovelace, Rev. Moore gave each convert the opportunity to express his choice of denominational affiliation, Baptist or Methodist. Two-thirds chose Baptist, the other one-third, Methodist. By this action, the two groups became known as Second Baptist and Allen Chapel A.M.E. Rev. Moore became the first pastor of Second Baptist Church and he faithfully served until he was replaced by Rev. Joseph Strothers. The church later was moved to worship in a small frame building and for a while was known as the Charlotte Street Baptist Church.

Later under the leadership of another man of God by the name of Rev. Henry Robinson a larger edifice was built at 10th & Charlotte streets. The cost was \$5,000.00 and claimed more than 500 members. Within a few more years, Rev Robinson left and was replaced by the Rev. Samuel W. Bacote. He immediately began organizing various groups in order to aid in the support of the growing church. This began in 1895 and soon a debt of \$4,000.00 was paid off and within three years a superstructure valued at more than \$100,000.00 was erected.

One item of note was the Monday, Nov. 16th, 1895 article printed in the Kansas City Journal, a white

newspaper that was entitled "A Monument To Their Zeal" that spoke to "members of colored congregation building a new church." In July 1907, the membership role listed 911 persons. Most of the black population lived in an area from 9th to 11th st, Campbell on the east to Grand on the west. There were often people of note attending for special occasions among them was Paul Lurance Dunbar, the leading Negro poet of that time as well as Booker T. Washington.

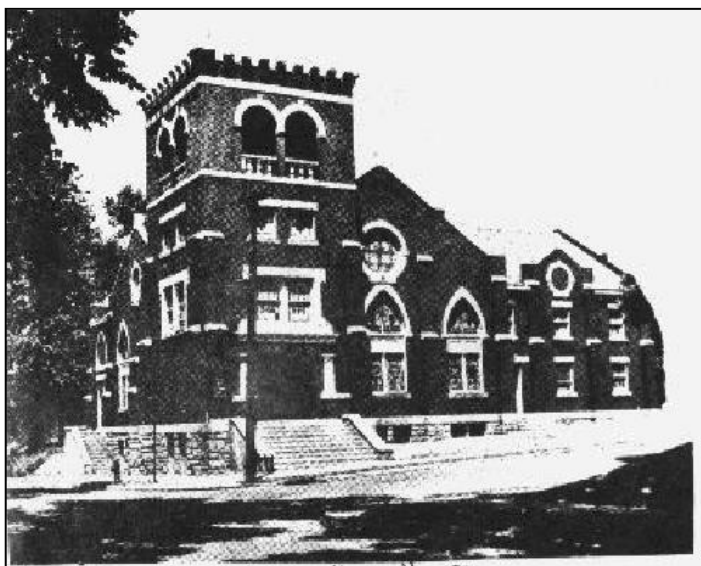


In the Kansas City Call May 1926 issue, an article appeared citing the fire at the historic church which destroyed the sanctuary and damaged the building to the amount of \$20,000.00. Until such time as the structure could be rebuilt, the members worshipped at the Y.M.C.A., 1924 The Paseo. But a dream deferred but not denied was the theme that kept the congregation faithful and within two years, the first unit of a new edifice was completed and they worshipped there until 1941.

It was in 1941 that another miracle took place. With the help of J. A. Carpenter, a member of Central Baptist Church, Second Baptist was offered another location at 10th & Park for the sum of \$2,000.00 even with the value being more than 150,000.00. God in awesome love provided for the faithful worshippers of Second Baptist!

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Looking back at the fifty-one years of excellent service of Rev. S. W. Bacote and his family, the time came for him to face his health issues and step down from the pulpit, June 1, 1946. The call then went out to Rev. E. E. Chappelle, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Suffolk, VA. With him came his wife, Mrs. Thelma Chappelle and their two children, Charles and Bernice. Mrs. Chappelle went to work as teacher and superintendent in the Sunday School department and served on the evangelism committee.

Rev. Chappelle presented a new ministry revolving around finance believing that the guiding philosophy of giving is "*Christian giving is an essential part of Christian living.*" The program was called "Homecoming Day" The first speaker was Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President of Moorehouse College in Atlanta, GA. The program had four purposes: 1. To welcome former members who had been away for various reasons, 2. To inspire us toward nobler goals in Christian living, 3. To raise necessary funds to balance our budget and 4. To contribute to the cultural life of the community by bringing distinguished speakers and leaders. Two other new ministries were introduced in giving attention to our youth by recognizing their accomplishments at senior high schools in the Kansas City area which became known as Youth Achievement Day and a Boy Scout program was also added.

It was during the tenure of Rev. Chappelle that the membership decided to move to a new location at 39th & Monroe. More than seventy-five cars led the members into its new building on February 17, 1963. Later, four young men were added to the ministerial staff in the person of Rev. Charles Briscoe, Rev. David O. Shipley, Rev. E. B. Stevenson and Rev. William E. Singleton. Learning was also encouraged as space was given for the W. E. B. DuBois Learning Center to tutor youth in reading, math and science after school and on Saturdays. A bus ministry was added to enable those who lived further out a way to get to church.



Many people will always remember Rev. Chappelle for his daily visits to various hospitals not only to see our members but any who needed a smile or a prayer to encourage them as they mended. But this like the burdens of being a pastor, lead to a time of admitting weariness and after 50 years of service, Rev. E. E. Chappelle stepped down from the pulpit

When the young Rev. Shipley left Second Baptist, he continued his education receiving his A.B. from Baker University, his B. D. & M. D. from Central Baptist Theological Seminary and was granted the Doctor of Ministry in Marriage and Family Counseling from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, so he was well prepared to take over as Pastor of Second Baptist where he grew up. The year of his coming was 1980. He much like his predecessors wrote books

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and made changes in the worship, reorganizing the order of service into four areas: 1. *Act of Diving Adoration*, 2. *Act of Personal Contrition and Sacrifice*, 3. *Act of Sacred Instruction*, 4. *Act of Commitment*. New observances were begun: Advent & Lent, Black History, Prayer and Christian Fellowship and a newsletter was added. A church manual was written and adopted by the membership and with his tenure, other young men were added to the ministerial staff. They were Rev. Rufus Richardson, Rev. Sam Carpenter, Rev. A. Mosley, Rev. Jerry Holly, Rev. Karlous Kalu, Rev. Adrian Scott, Rev. Coleman McClain, Rev. John Brown, Rev. James Harshaw and Brother James Wesley and for the first time women were permitted to serve. They were Rev. Ruth Collins, Rev. Margaret Roberts and Rev. Emilie M. Townes.

In October of 1988, Second Baptist celebrated its jubilee with a series of events honoring the 125th year of existence. This message stands out as for the present and the future.

TWO GRATEFUL HANDS

to thank the Lord whose blessings never cease.

TWO FAITHFUL HANDS

to glorify the Father and the Son

TWO GENTLE HANDS

to ask that God grant all enduring peace

TWO READY HANDS

to toil until the Master's work is done

The years advance and with it Rev. Shipley felt the need to rest and so on July 1, 1998, Rev. Kendall Jones of Little Rock, Arkansas became the seventh Pastor of Second Baptist. Along with him was his wife Mae Helen and their two sons, Kendall Dwayne, Jr. and Allan Jermaine. With a focus on a more contemporary worship, a praise and worship team, praise dancers and musical instruments were added as spoken of in Psalms 150! A block fellowship became a ministry in which we also worked with Community Services Summer Food program. Needing to increase outreach, Rev. Jones appointed Deacon Arthur Franklin who organized a Prison

Ministry, and Rev. Roy Brown journeyed to Swope Ridge Nursing Home monthly to deliver uplift to the residents. Rev. Jones delegated members to find out the purpose of the new teaching "Purpose Driven Church." Through this what had been called committees or organizations were now ministries with scriptural guidelines and missions that helped to better focus the efforts of each ministry.

As sometimes happens, we face situations that can only be resolved by separation and because of this Rev. Jones accepted a post to pastor the New Bethel Baptist Church in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Into the breach stepped Rev. Karlous Kalu, ready, willing and able to lead this historic church into the next step.

2008. The country saw the election of our very first African American President in the person of Barack Obama. That same year we welcomed our eighth shepherd, Rev. Vernon P. Howard, Jr. , his wife Frances and children, Sophia and Vernon III. With a vision for the future, Rev. Howard began organizing a Spiritual Task Force to plan and implement M39 as it was called, with the hopes of erecting a new sanctuary. As this was being done, he also started a Ministers of the Miracle Training and Development Series which mentored, served and trained twenty-seven persons. With this and other endeavors, Rev. Howard served until he left to another post in June of 2014.

On March 5, 2016 the people of Second Baptist Church heard the Holy Spirit and a new Angel was appointed as leader in the Rev. Kevin Nelson as the ninth Pastor. Rev. Nelson was licensed by the Late Earl Able of Palestine Baptist Church and ordained by Pastor Delano Benson of the Pleasant Green Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri. He has been Interim Pastor at SBC since March of 2015. Now, as we enter our 153rd year of God's leading us through the paths of this Christian journey, we celebrate under the leadership of Rev. Kevin Nelson who with his wife Rev. Dana Nelson and sons, Jacob and Joshua taking up the call of the cross of Christ.

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May God continue to bless those He has brought this far by faith!