

DEDICATION



CHURCH OF CHRIST

(LOCATED IN ELMWOOD PARK)

2001 ANTIETAM BOULEVARD at ST. AUBIN - DETROIT, MICHIGAN

CHURCH HISTORY

The late Evangelists Claud Witty and W. C. Baldwin, in the year 1918, saw the need for a congregation on the east side of Detroit. Brother Baldwin succeeded in finding six black members of the Church of Christ. Brother George Yowell and Sister Blanche Yowell were among the six. Their home, located at Nine Superior Street, was used for the first Worship Service among the black Christians in the city. Therefore, in May, 1918, we had the first meeting of the Church of Christ, that had its beginning on the first Pentecost, A. D. 33, after the resurrection of our Lord, becoming a reality in this city among the black Christians. Brother V. C. Berry, a member of the group, owned a store front that was vacant. He permitted them to use it rent-free in order that the group might have more room for growth.

With the influx of large numbers of blacks from the South during World War I, the membership grew rapidly. This growth necessitated larger quarters than the store-front. With the assistance of the local white brethren, the black Christians were able to purchase a larger meeting house on the corner of St. Antoine and Alexanderine Streets. The saints continuing with this phenomenal growth, were financially able to purchase a much needed Church home at 7825 Cameron Avenue from the white disciples who were moving to larger quarters. Brother Witty was very instrumental in helping to perfect these moves with the help of Almighty God. The congregation remained at 7825 Cameron Avenue until February, 1945, at which time they had out grown the building. The brethren decided that it was necessary to divide the saints and seek another building. The group had grown to be two hundred in number. Sister Myrtle Jackson was instrumental in apprising the brethren of the opportunity of purchasing a Gothic like structure from the Lutheran Evangelical Church, located at 2300 Jos. Campau Avenue. The saints rallied and raised \$30,000.00 within six months and paid cash for the buildings, a large school building, and an eleven room parsonage. The chapel seated three hundred in the balcony and five hundred on the main floor. Ministers who served the congregation in former years helping them to move on to great heights were: Evangelists T. H. York, D. M. English and D. J. Bynum, now deceased.

The present Minister, Brother Orum L. Trone, Sr. has served the congregation since May, 1946. He is married to Sister Christine Jeanette, and is the father of three children:

ORUM L. TRONE, JR. who is married to Lillian. They have three girls, Nicole, Leah and Candace. He is presently doing ministerial work with the saints in Tampa, Florida.

SAUNDRA DIANE who is married to Eugene Lawton, Minister of the Church of Christ in Newark, New Jersey. They have two boys, Fitzgerald and Cedric, one girl, Kathleen. Diane does secretarial work for American Airlines in New York City, New York.

LAURA JEANETTA DAWSON who is married to Thornton Dawson. Laura is a teacher in the Detroit Public School system.

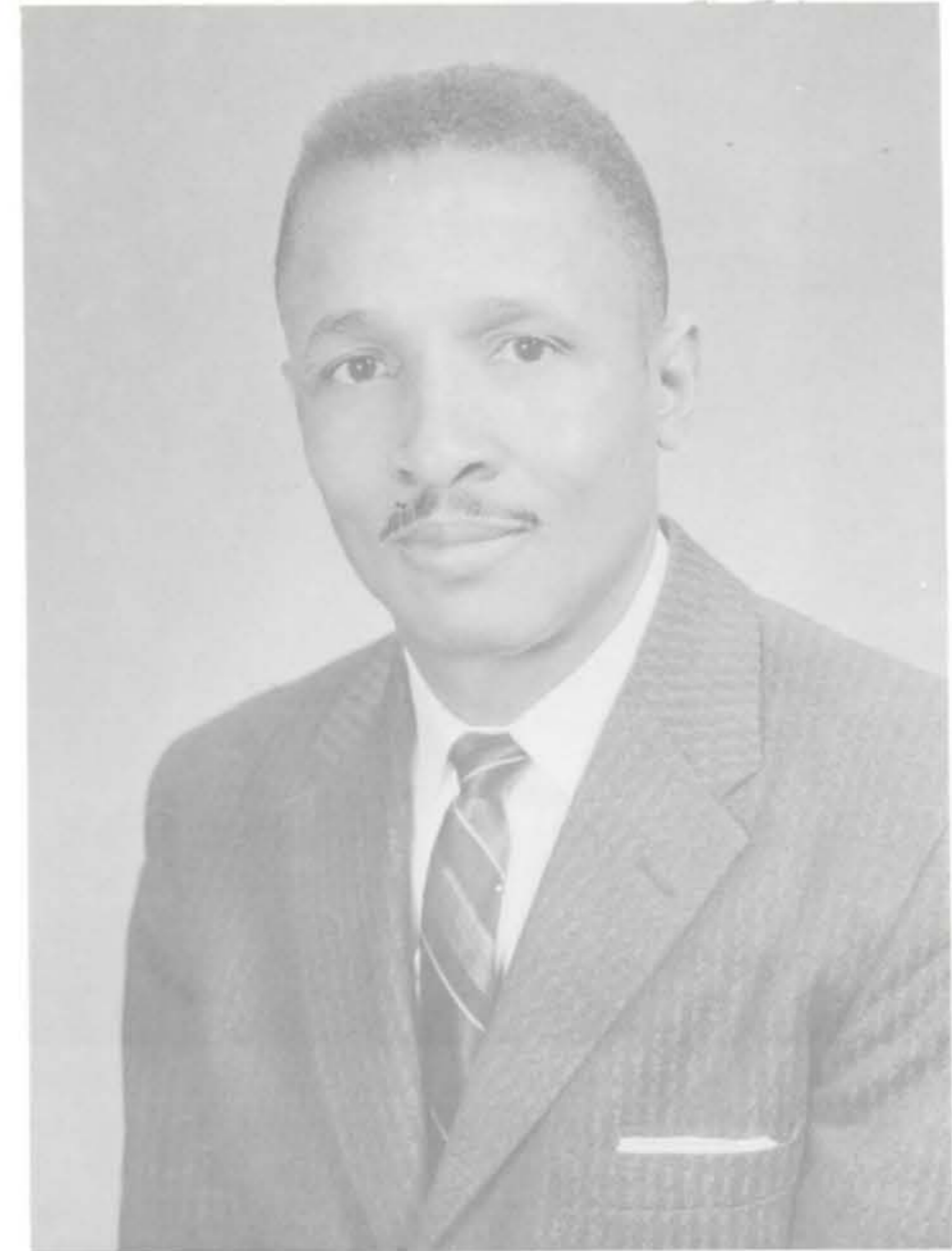
Brother and Sister Trone glory in the fact that they were able to, by the grace of God, bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, cause them to be faithful workers in the church, and most of all, marry in the Lord.

When Brother Trone began his ministry with the saints in May, 1946 there were 115 members. Within a few years the number had increased to 825 members. Because of Urban Renewal the congregation had to seek other quarters. Brother Trone being determined not to see the saints purchase another used meeting house persuaded the membership to see the advantage of building a new structure from the ground. Thus the saints rallied with a \$200,000.00 bond issue and set out to accomplish their objective with the help of God. Eighty per cent of the bonds were purchased by the membership, and much of the interest on the bonds was donated to the building fund. Many members and friends made personal sacrifices, giving and donating to most of the financial drives. Land was purchased from the city of Detroit located in Elmwood Park.

The congregation is doing the building, with their Minister, Brother Orum L. Trone, Sr. taking the lead as contractor, supervisor, and superintendent. Many of the brethren as well as the sisters labored in a physical way in helping to erect the building. The building is of modern design constructed of ninety five per cent masonry. The design of the building was done by Brother Trone, approved by the congregation, and presented to architect, Calder and Calder for drawing plans.

The Sanctuary is completed with a seating capacity of 900, eleven large classrooms, an accommodating nursery with a private crib and rest room, a spacious lounge, a church office, Minister's office with private rest room, large men and women rest rooms, men and women dressing rooms for baptism, large lobby, and a ultra-modern mechanical room with central heating and air-condition. The educational building, when completed, will consist of additional classroom space, a modern stainless steel kitchen, dining hall, showers and bath facilities, a high school standard size gymnasium, and a roller skating floor. The parking area, when completed, will accommodate approximately six hundred cars.

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EVANGELIST O. L. TRONE, SR.

TRIBUTE TO OUR PASTOR:

Because of Urban Renewal, we were forced to vacate our location, 2300 Jos Campau. At the time we were not prepared financially to make the move. Brother Trone, our minister, inspired and encouraged the saints to prepare for the inevitable. He was very persuasive in convincing the church that they were able to rise up and build, to the honor and glory of God. Therefore, with the assistance of Brother L. E. Cranford, President of Nashville Securities Company, we floated a two hundred thousand dollars church bond issue. Most of the church bonds were pur-

chased by the members of this congregation and many members saw fit to donate their interest toward the building fund drive. Two hundred thousand dollars wasn't sufficient. Therefore, we had to resort to special financial drives. Brother Trone is highly complimentary of those members who never failed to respond when the clarion call came. This was not an easy task for our minister, as always there is the opposition. In spite of those who had no vision and could not agree with Brother Trone's forward march,

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CHURCH HISTORY (continued)

The first service was held in the new building on December 12, 1971. The main floor was packed to capacity. Without the hand and power of the Almighty God and His love for us, we are aware of the fact that all of our labor and efforts would have been in vain. To Him we still give all glory and honor.

It's our desire, the Lord willing, to be of great service to the community as well as humanity in general - doing God's will. We hope for a day care center,

a head start program, a drug and alcohol program, an educational program for adults and drop-outs, and the slow to learn. It's our desire, the Lord willing, to help God develop the whole person spiritually, socially, mentally, and physically placing due emphasis on blacks and whites working together, living together, learning together, and worshipping together.

"Come thou with us and we will do thee good."

PICTURE GROUP INFORMATION

The preceding photographs represent individuals and groups that are having great impact on making the congregation here in Elmwood an essential and vital force in the community.

You will first note our minister, Brother Orum L. Trone, Sr., whose tribute and other writings herein describe to a small degree the place of importance he maintains as the shepherd of the flock.

Then, Brother Carl E. Swanigan, with Brother Trone, who takes the lead in developing and directing the program of Christian Education.

This congregation has a strong commitment to young people. Work with them begin when they reach nursery age. The group of sub-teeners represent one of the younger age groups which we aid in spiritual growth and development.

The Youth groups including teenagers and young adults, have become renown throughout the United States. The Youth of this congregation were the vanguard of the Youth Conference. It was they, formerly located on Joseph Campau, who conceived the Youth Conference idea and brought it into being 22 years ago. It has had participants from throughout the nation and a number of foreign countries.

The Timothy and Dorcas Groups banded together to increase its effectiveness in rendering needed special services for individuals and the congregation. Its concern has been spiritual, social and cultural. Among the varied services the group has rendered are aid to mission work in the Bahamas, Jamaica and Africa. They have presented musicals and programs that have created greater racial awareness and pride. Expense has been provided by the group to yearly send a number of children to camp. Their most recent endeavor was to provide the furnishing of the nursery. Since its creation, the group has been committed to raising money for the building fund.

Featured are Sisters Martha L. Washington and Barbara J. Marshall of our secretarial staff. They have generously offered typing, filing and bookkeeping service for practically no monetary reward.

Our dedicated Christian Education Staff who, in cooperation with Brother O. L. Trone, Brazil Trone and Carl Swanigan, effectively plan, coordinate and administer the church's teaching program.

Men Who Lead - these men combine their efforts to administer the business pertinent to the maintenance of the spiritual and physical upkeep of the congregation and its properties.

Our Ushers - "keeper of the door". These men are responsible for the orderly seating of those who attend worship services. They assure that comfort is maintained and serve the Lord's Supper. They also provide the necessary services for lifting the offering.

The Progressive Sisters - a religious group that was organized thirteen years ago by Sisters Sonora Moore and Christine J. Trone. This group of sisters has worked together in whatever capacity they were able, for the betterment of the church. Their main objective was and is to beautify the physical aspects of the meeting house. Notwithstanding the fact, they have never left undone that which they could do to help perpetuate the spiritual mission of the church. Under the leadership of the church they have done local and foreign mission work.