*ZION BAPTIST CHURCH*

*101st Church Anniversary*

One the 17th day of February 1917, a small group of people began holding prayer meetings at 48 Shore Road, Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, N.Y. Having laid the foundation under the leadership of Rev. J.E. Roberson, they organized Zion Baptist Church at 48 Shore Road on the 6th day of June 1917. The names of the founders were Bros. Lincoln Downing, Alexander Clayborn, Daniel Pugsley and Sisters Estella Francis, Fannie Montree, Jane Downing, and Ethel Hill.

Under the leadership of Rev. Roberson the small group grew and when he left, after two years, they kept together, tarried, prayed, and fasted until they called Bro. S. Scott, a Licentiate to lead them. Bro. Scott was ordained by the group and became their pastor. After moving the congregation to 1108 Fulton Street, Rev. Scott resigned. Again, Zion was without a leader and the remaining members began to drift away until there were only a faithful few remaining. Eventually, all of the original members left except Deacon Downing. He, along with approximately eight or nine members waited, prayed and believed God for a leader. On the second Sunday in October 1921, God honored their faith and sent to them, Rev. B.J. Lowry. By this time they were worshipping on Atlantic Avenue near Washington Avenue. Dr. Lowry with strong determination and faith in God led them on at this place. With his dynamic preaching abilities and by the aid of the Holy Spirit, God added to their number rapidly. During this period of growth the church moved to 990 Fulton Street where they remained for 14 months and then moved to 87 Irving Place where Dr. Lowry had the church incorporated in June 1924. They continued to grow, accumulate finances, organize clubs, and were now on their way to building a lasting organization.

On July 1, 1924 God blessed them to be able to purchase the property on which the present Zion stands. They took title and moved in on the same day and held a dedicatory service in August 1924. The church grew from seven members in 1921 to more than 5,000. It has been blessed with faithful and loyal men, women, and children who with God’s blessings were able to build the church, purchase a parsonage and The Fannie Montrie Educational Center; which was organized on June 17, 1973, and dedicated on October 2, 1977.

For 63 years Dr. Lowry served faithfully until his health failed which led to him becoming Pastor Emeritus in 1984. Upon Dr. Lowry’s death, on August 21, 1985, an era was ended and a chapter in the long history of Zion closed. The Pulpit Committee, appointed by Dr. Lowry, began to seek a new Pastor on September 29, 1985. On February 9, 1986, The Rev. M. Marquette Peace Jr. was installed as Pastor of Zion Baptist Church and the journey as Pastor and people began.

By God’s grace we have accomplished a lot. Pastor Peace is a man with a vision and with a strong commitment to the cause of Christ. In 32 years many great and glorious things have been accomplished beginning with “Boot Camp” that has been a blessing to Zion and has brought Glory and Honor to God.

We give God praise for all that He has done and we cannot forget that our greatest joy comes from rejoicing, as many souls are being won to the Lord. As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary 8,828 souls have come to Christ since the original 8 members in 1917. Praise God!

We pause to thank God for the distance that He has brought us, for the shepherds He has sent us and for all this body of Christ have accomplished. By His grace for the vision that’s still bright before us….for His goodness and mercy that follow us…for His love and peace that surround us.

We Give God Praise!