

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
100th Church Anniversary
1917 ~ 2017
“Celebrating Christ For A Century At Zion”

On 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 have made major improvements on the church and parsonage. Pastor Peace instituted the Evangelist Task Force under which many ministries have begun, that are serving our church and community; He began the new members Bible classes and established the Deacon's Watch Care Ministry

On November 27, 1994 The Zion Baptist Church Bible Institute(ZBCBI), a vision of our Pastor was officially opened and dedicated to the Glory of God. We truly praise God for this institute and the many lives that have been changed the spiritual growth that has taken place... and the many students that have become active in the ministries of Zion as a result of studying the Word of God.

In 1996 we were blessed to purchase property on St. James and on February 1997 we praised God as we burned the mortgage.

On January 19, 1997 Pastor Peace who is always breaking new ground, announced a bold and innovative step in Zion when he appointed 12 women to be trained as Deacons and on November 30, 1997 at 3:30 pm we shared in a momentous and historic occasion in Zion when these 12 women were ordained as deacons. The records show that this history has been rewritten to include the events of that day. The 12 women ordained that day were: Annie Barnes, Mary Cann, Velma Chapman, Yvonne Foulk, Estelle Ruffin, Colleen Herod, Linda John, Patricia Lewin, Nadeen McCall, Carol Petinaud, Rosa White, and Calotis Wingate.

On April 13, 1997 we had a ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating our second van to transport our elderly.

On February 19, 1998 the Kids Praise Ministry under the Direction of Pastor Peace; Sis. Debra Kennedy initiated Kids Praise Ministry in which our children come out on Saturdays of each month to fellowship with each other and learn Christian values. Since then our Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Youth Praise have thrived under the Kids Praise Ministry.

Four years later, on January 27th, Pastor Peace ordained four Ministers and four Deaconesses. The Ministers were Annie Barnes, Patsy Haynes, Mittie P. Merriwether, and Winston Simmons. The Deaconesses were Joan Covington, Eleanor Saunders, Nannie Saunders, and Peoclia Tyndall.

Another example of how Zion Baptist Church is tending to the needs of its people is our hour of power on which our seniors meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 12 noon.

Zion is also blessed with a Married Couple's Ministry, a Single Ministry, a Senior Citizen's Spotlight Ministry where a different senior is honored each month, a Mime Ministry, a Dance Ministry, and the Daughters of Zion Ministry for our young girls.

On August 19 2004 Zion purchased a 23-passenger bus for our seniors and on October 2, 2004 a stair lift was installed. In addition on June 27, 2007 another church van was purchased.

On **November 22, 2009**, renovation of the Bible Institute started and the completion date is anticipated for **July 1, 2010**. In June 2010 before the anticipated date the building was finished and on **September 26, 2010** the new building was dedicated along with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

January 17, 2010, Installation Sunday, Pastor Peace announced Bro. James Brown and Bro. James Hunter as walking Deacons. On **January 2011** they were accepted as Deacons into the ministry. An official ordination took place on **June 19, 2011**.

February 25th through 27th 2011, Sis. Tamiko Robertson and Sis. Desiree White hosted their first Youth Conference under the leadership of Pastor Peace. The theme was Youth Waging War, 1 John 4:4.

In May 2012 Teresa Williams joined Zion Baptist Church. After 2 years of training under Pastor Peace, and graduating from NY Theological School, Teresa Williams was ordained by Pastor Peace as a Minister on Sunday, May 31, 2015.

Rev. Thomas Franklyn Stokes joined Zion Baptist Church on Sunday, July 22, 2012. In January of 2013, Pastor Peace installed Rev. Stokes as Minister, adding him to the Ministerial Staff of Zion Baptist Church.

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!