

## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

Second Baptist began as a mission known as "Stragglers Camp" located on the south bank of the Missouri River. This was a period following the Civil War when there were no Black churches in Kansas City, Missouri.

In October 1863 Rev. Clark Moore, assisted by a Rev. Lovelace held an organizational meeting to establish a church. The people were given the opportunity to choose the denomination they wished to join, Baptist or Methodist. Two-thirds of those attending decided to unite as Baptist and one-third as Methodist. This was the beginning of the two oldest Black churches in Kansas City, Missouri: Second Baptist Church and Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church. Rev. Clark Moore was elected Pastor of Second Baptist Church.

In 1865, the Rev. Joseph Strother became the second pastor of Second Baptist Church. The church was moved to Walnut Grove - later changed to Tenth and Charlotte, where the membership worshipped in a frame building.

In 1869 Rev. Joseph Strother resigned and Rev. Henry Robinson became the third Pastor. During his administration, the first brick unit was erected. Rev. Robinson remained at Second Baptist Church for twenty-six years.

A call was extended in March 1895 to the Rev. Samuel W. Bacote. Within three years, a superstructure was erected. On May 15, 1926, fire of undetermined origin, consumed the structure.

On October 7, 1928, the first unit of a new edifice was completed and the membership remained in this unit until June 15, 1941. The congregation marched to the structure at 10th & Park. Years of hard labor, effort, prayer and faith in God had proven fruitful to the Pastor and membership.

Rev. Bacote's leadership remained at Second Baptist Church for fifty-one years. On April 30, 1946, Rev. Bacote passed. Prior to Rev. Bacote's death, a call had been extended to Rev. E.E. Chappelle. With the unexpected passing of Rev. Bacote, Rev. E.E. Chappelle was asked to fill the pulpit immediately on the first Sunday in May, 1946. Rev. Chappelle became the fifth Pastor of Second Baptist Church.

On February 17, 1963 a motorcade led Second Baptist to its new location at 39th and Monroe. Rev. E.E. Chappelle served as Pastor of Second Baptist Church for thirty-five and one-half years before retiring. He passed away on February 28, 2000.

On December 6, 1981 Dr. David O. Shipley, Sr. became the sixth Pastor of Second Baptist Church. Dr. Shipley spearheaded many improvements in the organization and administration of the church. The church underwent major renovations and improvements. Dr. Shipley retired in December of 1997. He passed away on March 11, 2002.

On May 1, 1998, Dr. Kendall D. Jones, Sr. became the seventh Pastor of Second Baptist Church. Pastor Jones had many visions, dreams and goals for the future growth of the church. One of his major dreams was to "Go West" and build a family life center.

The Rev. Dr. Vernon Percy Howard, Jr., became the eighth Pastor of Second Baptist Church on August 1, 2008.

It is our prayer that **Second Baptist Church will always be a "symbol" of Christian Hope, Truth, Faith and Love.**