

## ***Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church*** **1869 - 2019**

The African Methodist Episcopal Conference met in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1869. From that meeting a motion was passed to build an AME Church in East Greensboro. In 1872, a parcel of land was purchased on Regan Street and in 1874 the first African Methodist Episcopal church was erected. It was called Boone's Chapel after the first pastor, Reverend Elijah Boone.

**1874**



Twenty years later, the rapid growth in membership rendered the need for a larger edifice resulting in the demolition of Boone's Chapel. An impressive new church of Gothic design was constructed on the same parcel of land on Regan Street and was renamed Bethel African Methodist Church.

**1894**



The 1964 beautiful Bethel fell due to the Greensboro Urban Renewal Project in East Greensboro. The Trustees bargained with the city to purchase the two adjoining lots for the purpose of rebuilding a greater sanctuary. Today, after three expansions, Bethel African Episcopal Church is a functioning thriving sanctuary for the saving of souls.

**1975**



### **Timeline**

- 1869** - The African Methodist Episcopal Conference met in Greensboro. A motion to build an A.M.E. Church in East Greensboro was adopted. Land was purchased in 1872 and by 1874 a frame building was erected and given the name Boone's Chapel after the first pastor, **Rev. Elijah Boone**.
- 1894** - A new impressive brick structure replaced the little over-crowded chapel and was renamed Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1964** - Bethel was demolished due to the Greensboro Urban Renewal Project in East Greensboro. Bethel's Trustees bargained with the city for the same parcel of land on Regan Street plus two adjoining lots for the rebuilding of the church.
- 1967** - The rebuilding of Bethel began with the Fellowship Hall which also served as sanctuary along with the Pastors' Study.
- 1975** - On November 16<sup>th</sup> a ne Sanctuary was completed and consecrated under **Rev. Emmanuel Terrell**.
- 1989** - The next fourteen years brought three additional Pastors to Bethel. **Rev. I.W. Knight, Rev. Dr. Maurice Wilson** and **Rev. B.S. Foust**. Under **Rev. Foust**, plans began on a million-dollar expansion project targeting the twentieth first century expectations for spiritual growth.

- 1997** -The **Rev. Dr. Conrad Pridgen** accepted the challenge and completed Bethel's Expansion Project using his "Twelve Tribe Revenue Plan" as financial leverage. The expansion was completed in 1999.
- 2003** -**Rev. Dr. Norman Handy** redecorated the Sanctuary while implementing a Leadership Summit which resulted in the creation of a five-year working plan documentation booklet for the good of the church.
- 2008** -Our current Pastor, Rev. Alphonso E. McGlen is the longest on-going appointment in the history of Bethel, Greensboro. His leadership provides greater spiritual insight in the creation of his B.I.B.L.E. Institute. A vehicle for Bible studies, teachings and prayer meetings for all.

## Current Church



Respectfully, Iris Troxler