



McIntosh Chapel CME Church
2129 Beaumont Street
Grand Prairie, TX 75051
Historic Marker # 60

The first movement toward the beginning of a C.M.E. (Catholic Methodist Episcopalian) church in the Dalworth community, Grand Prairie, Texas was lead by Rev. I.E. Townsend, in the year 1949.

Rev. Townsend made a special effort to lead those who were interested in a C.M.E. church to search out a church lot where a mission church could be organized. Many thanks to Rev. Townsend and many praises to God for the movement in the right direction.

The next conference year 1950, Bishop H.P. Porter, the Presiding Bishop of the Dallas-Fort Worth conference, appointed the Rev. M.F.M. McIntosh as a supply pastor. She served under two presiding elders: Rev. J.W. Keller and Rev. N.B. Steward. Presiding elders and Rev. McIntosh contacted several members of the community who were interested in a C.M.E. church. Further steps were taken to organize a church in the home of Sister Mazie Taylor.

After the church was organized, Mr. Henry Fish made several trips throughout the community in search of a church lot. He was successful in locating a lot and made the first down payment. On this lot a tent was raised where Pastor McIntosh conducted regular worship services until the congregation was able to purchase a small frame building and the same was dedicated for public worship. Rev. McIntosh was reappointed pastor for five years. She lead the congregation to great success and many accomplishments, new members were united, including Brother Melvin Reed, Mrs. Lela Baker, Mrs. Johnnie M. Pitts Stanton, Mrs. Florida M. Aldridge Shelby, Mrs. Lula D. Aldridge Lowe, Mr. Ruel Tate and Mrs. Finiece Jones.

In the conference year of 1954-56, the Rev. John Oscar Morton was appointed pastor. He continued to lead the congregation, along with his wife Mary, and daughter, Lois. His knowledge and experience as a pastor and his spiritual ambition to lead the members to a higher height inspired others to join the church. He also led the congregation in setting up a building fund that paved the way for the church to be in its present location.

1956 – Rev. Ezell Darden was appointed pastor. He moved the church membership with great spiritual activities and with an increase in membership.

1956-60 – Rev. H.C. Jackson, was appointed pastor. Rev. Jackson motivated membership in financial drives for church obligations – each year after conference, his saying was “let’s hit the ground running” meaning to get our financial obligation in on time. In the last year of his work, the city of Grand Prairie through Urban Renewal declared the church not suitable for public worship. The building was demolished, but the spirit of God was still alive.

1960-63 – Rev. J.A. Moreland was appointed pastor, without a church building. Rev. Moreland with his wife, La Dell, worked hard in leading the congregation in construction of the present building which is now the Smith Fellowship Hall.

The Fort Worth conference also helped in building the church by sending a check for \$500. Rev. J.C. Darden was presiding elder of the Fort Worth District. During the building of the church, the Rev. N.A. Johnson, Pastor of the Mt. Rose Methodist Episcopal Church located on Beaumont Street, opened their doors and invited the membership to worship with them until the building was completed. The business sessions of the church were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Stanton. The officers serving as Stewards/Trustees were: Mr. Melvin Reed, A.G. Stanton, Reul Tate and R.J. Jones.

After the church was finished, the landscaping was done by members of the church. Two trees were given to Mrs. Lorene Springs from friends at L.T.V. in memory of Mrs. Zula Reed. The Fort Worth District Lay Council of the Dallas-Fort Worth conference accepted the Dalworth Mission Church as a project along with Mrs. Lorene Springs and made monthly payments until the debt was paid in full. Other financial donations were given by many friends of the church. The church was built by Brother Holiday, husband of Rev. Holiday.

A resolution was approved by the officers and members of the church that the name would be changed from Dalworth Mission Church to McIntosh Chapel C.M.E. Church in honor of Rev. M.F. McIntosh who led the organization of the said church in higher spirit-filled members.

1964-68 - Rev. R.M. Cole, with his lovely wife, Ruth, and family. Rev. Cole served the church with great leadership, leading the youth in many activities and keeping up repairs on the church building. The first usher board was organized under his leadership.

1968-73 – Rev. James H. Hunter was appointed pastor along with his wife, Zuma, and son, Tommie. The Lord continued to bless the membership with a large increase in members. The senior choir and youth choir received new robes. Rev. Hunter oversaw building repairs and the purchase of a new piano, new hymnals and Bibles. The “Black and Gold Tea” was organized. Special gifts were given by members of his family. The pulpit Bible and a collection of Bibles were given by Evelyn Gorden and Berniece Battle. The church participated in district activities. Brother Horace Choice led most of the building repairs.

1973-75 Rev. M.E. Jackson was pastor, along with his wife, Helen, and son, Tyrell. During his tenure membership increased, the church celebrated its first anniversary, the building fund increased, and the congregation purchased the Sherman Street church lots. Senior and youth choirs were established. He motivated and cultivated the membership in a spiritual way. The Saturday before Easter 1975, Rev. Jackson was stricken with a stroke. The Lord wasn’t finished with him. He blessed him to answer roll call at the Dallas-Fort Worth Annual Conferences many times.

1974 Rev. James L. Smith came to McIntosh Chapel with his wife, Jacqueline, and children under Presiding Elder Rozell Gray and finished the year’s work as supply minister. At the Annual Conference of 75/76, he returned as Pastor of McIntosh Chapel. Many accomplishments were made under his leadership: increase in membership, new choir robes, new pews, air conditioners, increase in building fund, establishment of the Revival Choir, the Jacqueline Aires Choir, the Sun Beam Choir, and the Male Chorus, the Women for Christ Movement, One Church One School Benevolence Ministry, and a Prison Ministry. Also, under his leadership, the old church was remodeled, and a new sanctuary was established on May 30, 1992. The new church, including all new furniture, microphone system, organ, piano, etc. was paid for prior to the move in date of May 30, 1992.

Rev. James L. Smith, Pastor
Mrs. Johnnie M. Stanton, Reporting