

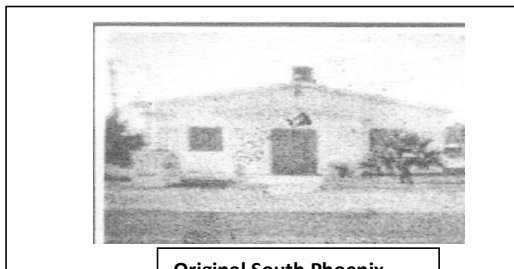
South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church

HISTORY

1958 – 1964



Rev. Willie B. Smith
First Pastor



Original South Phoenix
Missionary Baptist Church

of the

Rev. Willie B. Smith, of the Welcome Baptist Church, organized the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church in 1958. Property located at 2006 E. Broadway had been purchased from Mr. Jessie Davis. A small building, measuring 53' by 33', formerly the "James Buffet Night Club", was located on the property. That small building was the original home/location of the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church. The church, which has grown exponentially, remains at that same location today.

On April 6, 1958, the first worship service was held at the newly purchased church home. Morning services were administered and preached by Pastor Willie B. Smith; afternoon services were preached by Rev. W. M. Carr. Some of the individuals who organized the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church were:

Rev. Willie B. Smith, Pastor

Rev. Ed Guyton, Assistant Pastor

Sis. Mattie Brown, Church Clerk

Sis. Ethel Williams, Missionary Society President

Bro. Clifton Williams, Deacon

Sis. Geraldine Colbert

Sis. Ruth Brown

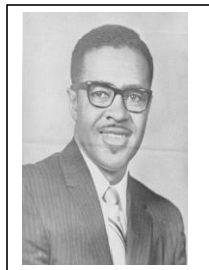


Some of the church youth on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1958, Opening Day for the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church: Left to Right: Willie Smith Jr., Lillie Smith, Jackie Guyton, Irene Williams, Geneva Conley, and Doris Smith.

Shortly after being organized, "South Phoenix" began to take in members and grow. For several years, the church flourished under the leadership of Rev. Smith. Later, Rev. Smith resigned to accept a call to another church. For months, South Phoenix was a church without a Pastor. In December, 1963, Rev. F. Topps was called to Pastor South Phoenix. Rev. Topps pastored here for one year, and in December 1964, he resigned. South Phoenix began to falter. The church was not able to hold its momentum, and a decline ensued. So began another time of months when South Phoenix was again without a Pastor and Leader. The church fell into debt because of excessive unpaid bills. All utilities were turned off, and mortgage payments were 22 months behind. Sis. Ruth Barnett, President of the Missionary Society, was able to have her lawyer keep the church doors open; but the church was in need of a lot of mending and healing.

In the midst of these hard times, one Saturday night, seven church members met in prayer and voted to call a young, inexperienced Minister from the Union Institutional Baptist Church, Rev. Bernard Black, to accept the challenge of becoming Pastor of South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church. That Saturday night was very exciting for Rev. Black. At that time, he had only preached one sermon in his ministry, and now he was being considered to Pastor a church. The seven church members prayed, discussed the situation, and then voted. Five voted for Rev. Black, two voted for someone else. Leon Hines (Chairman of the Deacon Board) voted for Rev. Black, Ruth Barnett voted for Rev. Revels of the St. Mark Baptist Church, Lillie Jordon (Church Clerk), Mattie Brown, Ruth Brown, and Ethel Williams all voted for Rev. Black, and Geraldine Colbert voted for Rev. W. W. Reed of St. John IBC. In the end, all seven individuals voted unanimously to call Rev. Bernard Black as Pastor of the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Black now fondly refers to those seven individuals as "The Magnificent Seven".

1965 – 1979



Rev. Bernard Black



On the first Sunday in May, 1965, Rev. Bernard Black preached his first sermon as Pastor of the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church. The church's membership was 12 adult members and a few young people.

On that first Sunday one person joined, Sis. Mattie Morgan. After this, the spirit of the growing membership of the church was very much inspired and rekindled, and people began to come and join in great numbers. Trust and confidence were restored, and like the Phoenix bird, South Phoenix began an upward-bound life from its past life of failures.

Sis. Geraldine Colbert is the last remaining Charter Member of the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church. She attends church services on a regular basis, and is very active in the Mission and the Senior Ministry.



Commented [LB1]:

Sis. Thelma Guyton (pictured below) also belonged to the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church in 1956. Her Husband was one of the first Deacons of the church. In addition, four individuals, who were children in the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church in 1956, are still active members of the church today. They are Betty Nelson, Michael Williams, Hattie Gooden, and Marge Hardwick.



Thelma Guyton



Betty Nelson



Michael Williams



Hattie Gooden



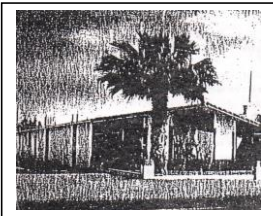
Marge Hardwick

As soon as Rev. Black became Pastor, he began to clean up the church building and grounds, working to get them looking decent. He also started a building fund program, to build a new church. Members were asked to put extra pocket change into little small churches, and bring the churches filled with their extra coins to church each Sunday. After several months of members bringing their little churches filled with extra change, the church had gathered \$5000. With that \$5000 we started to build a new church, by expanding the existing church. While construction was going on, and even when there was no roof, we still held church. Each Saturday we cleaned the church, and on Sunday morning we had church, with no roof, but we had church, and we enjoyed it. The old, original church had rugged wood benches on which church members sat. However, the wooden benches tore the stockings of women worshippers, so new pews were ordered. The old benches were donated to Rev. Raymond Walker Sr.

Members responded to Pastor Black's suggestions and recommendations. The grounds were cleaned up and the appearance of the church began to differ. The church and grounds took on a new look. Painting and remodeling were done in order to make room for the accommodation of the great abundance of new worshippers. A metamorphosis began to take place, from caterpillar to butterfly.

During this time, Sis. Rosie McMahan and her Sister, Leila Ferguson, had a group called "The Good News Club". This Good News Club consisted of a group of young people who went to the Salvation Army for spiritual guidance. However, the Salvation Army did not have a place to baptize children, so they asked Pastor Black to baptize the children at South Phoenix. Pastor Black willingly accommodated them, and sometimes would baptize up to 30 children at one time. Many of those children and their families began attending services at South Phoenix, and many joined our membership. Sis. McMahan and Sis. Ferguson also both became members of South Phoenix, and helped with the early growth of our Church. The "Good News Club" was the catalyst of our growth.

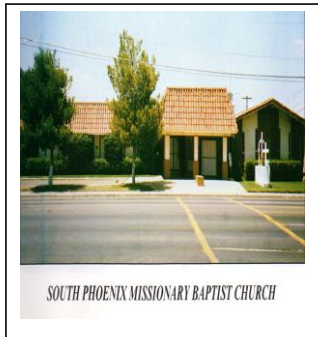
For a long time, the church had been using a “home organ” which had belonged to Rev. Topps. The sound generated from the organ was not very good, so Sis. Stella Black asked if she could purchase an organ for the church. When asked where she would get the money to purchase the organ, she said her YWA girls would raise the money. The organ they wanted cost \$4,600. The YWA Girls went to work, raised over \$5,000, and paid cash for the organ. That organ is still being played today by our Minister of Music, Bro. Stanley Smith.



Left: Picture of new church (Parcel 2)
Right: Artist rendition of new church



In 1967 the church sanctuary moved from its original building (the small building purchased from Bro. Jesse Davis) to the new church (Parcel 2), located at our current sanctuary location. Church services were held in the new building for many years; and on February 19, 1978, a special service was held to burn the church's mortgage. That day the membership owned South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church, free and clear.



In 1979, the church took on another physical change, two wings were added, making the footprint of the church 127 x 48 feet. The two new wings added Sunday School classrooms, an addition to the fellowship hall, bathrooms, a secretary's office, and the Pastor's study.

An Education and Scholarship Fund committee was established to assist church youth with their academic achievements. A church bus and van were purchased to transport worshipers to and from the church, and for making other trips on behalf of the church. The 1960's and 1970's were truly times of growth, on top of growth, on top of growth!

1970 – 1999

As the months and years steadily moved on, so has the progression of South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church, under the unwavering leadership of Pastor Black. The 1980's and 1990's were times of organization to accommodate membership growth. Onward and upward, the church's original 12 adult members and the youth members grew in excess of 1800 members. Ten Associate Ministers under Pastor Black's leadership have become Pastors of other churches.

The Music Department grew from its original one choir to a total of 6 choirs, i.e. the Senior Choir, the Bernard Black Voices for Christ, the Youth Choir, the Gospel Chorus, the Male Chorus, and the Angel Choir. Pastor Black also had the vision to combine the choirs to make up a Mass Choir, which was the first of its kind in the state of Arizona.

The Usher Board grew from a very few original members to a total of three different boards, i.e. the Senior Ushers, the Young Adult Ushers, and the Youth and Junior Ushers.

The Missionary Society grew from its original 6 faithful members to a total of five groups, i.e. Senior Mission I, Mission II, Junior Mission, Sunshine Band, and Brotherhood.

Our Sunday School, one of the backbone auxiliaries of the church for all age groups, is identified as a national role model for other church Sunday Schools because of its consistent high enrollment and financial intake. Our Sunday School exemplifies the motto "All the church in the Sunday School; all the Sunday School in the church". The South Phoenix Sunday School is very active on a local and national level, and in June, 1998, hosted the National Baptist Sunday School and BTU Congress.

The Bus Ministry also went into full swing, providing transportation to and from Sunday School, morning worship services, afternoon services, and visiting churches.

During the 1980's and 1990's, the Education and Scholarship Fund Committee was blessed to offer assistance to over 350 promotional and graduating students who were members of South Phoenix. The committee also assisted members in obtaining various levels of college degrees and the completion of vocational training. The awarding and recognition of South Phoenix's student accomplishments remains active today. In addition, in 1992, South Phoenix began housing the summer "Learn and Earn" reading program. Rev. Black, along with Mr. Jack Londen walked the streets in our neighborhood telling people about the new program, and asking them to send their children. The initial financial sponsors of the Learn and Earn Program were Mr. Jack Londen, the First National Bank of Arizona (now known as Wells Fargo), and Ms. E'Lisa Harrison and the Black Employees Group of the First National Bank of Arizona. Currently, Mr. Jonah Shacknai of the Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation is co-sponsor with Mr. Jack Londen. The Learn and Earn program helps youth in elementary, junior high, and high school, earn money by reading books during the summer school break. Sis. Amanda D. Sullivan was the first Director of the Learn and Earn Program.

Sis. Sullivan was also the first Director of the Senior Ministry (currently called The Golden Steppers). The Golden Steppers, named by Sis. Willie Mae Riggins, is made up of senior members of the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church. They participate in a variety of fun activities such as taking short trips and excursions, going to lunch, plays, museums, movies, picnics, ballgames, weekly exercises, etc. The program is open to all seniors (South Phoenix members and non-members) 55 years of age and older.

During the 1990's the Kitchen Committee, with the assistance of several auxiliaries, began serving Sunday morning breakfast to focus on the physical and spiritual feeding of the homeless, and hungry, in our community.

The physical structure of South Phoenix has gone through several transformations. On January 14, 1996, an official ground breaking ceremony was held for the building of a multi-purpose Annex. Pastor Black's vision for the Annex was not just for the church's use, but as a structure available to service the South Phoenix community.

2000 – 2009

With all of the growth and activity, plus the coming of a new century, South Phoenix focused its attention on completing the multi-purpose Annex. To demonstrate the church's resolve to complete the Annex, an early morning service was held on the foundation slab. There was no roof yet, just the slab. Even so, it was a beautiful service, sitting under the early morning canopy of the sunrise's red, orange, and pink horizon, and feeling the closeness of God.



The first event held in the new multi-purpose Annex was the church's Annual Fellowship Dinner in December, 2001. Since that time the Annex has hosted numerous events such as wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations, birthday parties, retirement parties, fashion shows, socials, banquets, workshops, seminars, funerals, and a host of other events. The Annex has and continues to service numerous churches and the community at large.

Pastor Black has served in the National Baptist Convention of America since 1965, and under his leadership, the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church has become nationally known. We hosted the National Baptist Sunday School and BTU Congress in 1998, and again in 2002. The experience of hosting the National Baptist Sunday School and BTU Congress in 2002 ignited the church's Drill Team ministry, and in 2004 they participated in their first Drill Team competition in Ft. Worth, Texas. They did not win a trophy during that year's competition, but after three more years of practice, resolve, and persistence, in 2007 the Drill Team competed at the National Baptist Sunday School and BTU Congress again, this time being held in Orlando, Florida. Our Drill Team won the "Most Improved Team" trophy. The team was very excited that their hard work had produced such an award.

2004 brought changes to our Food programs. The homeless breakfast was changed from Sunday mornings to Saturday mornings, and a rotation schedule was put in place to involve all church auxiliaries in the preparation and serving of breakfast to the homeless. On average, the homeless breakfasts feed 50 individuals every Saturday morning. The Food Box Program for the homeless grew into more of a harvest gathering and distribution service with more consistent and faithful church members participating, and the addition of a delivery truck to make obtaining items from the food bank easier and more efficient. 85-90 food boxes are distributed every Thursday to families in the community in need of food. In addition, on average, 1 to 2 repast dinners are prepared and served every month by our Food Ministry for bereaved families.

In May, 2005, another milestone was reached. Rev. Black celebrated his 40th year as Pastor of the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church. That anniversary was truly a celebration. An elaborate banquet was given for him, and several services were held to express in various ways the church and the community's love, appreciation, and respect for Pastor Black and his wife Sis. Lillian Black.

South Phoenix continued to be on the move in our community. In 2007, a component of the Senior Ministry auxiliary known as the Golden Steppers encouraged senior church members, and seniors in our community, to stay fit via exercise. The exercise program, started by First Lady Lillian Black and Sis. Georgia Bullock, hold exercise sessions, designed specifically for seniors, three days a week. These weekly exercise sessions have been held since the Spring of 2007, and continue today.

On February 24, 2008, South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church recognized and celebrated its 50th year of existence. As part of the celebration a 3-day prayer service was held two weeks prior, followed the next week with a 3-day revival, and closing with a Sunday afternoon worship service. The goal of the 50-Year celebration in 2008 was not just the recognition of South Phoenix's legacy and longevity, but to bring more souls to Christ, and to put a significant financial focus on paying off the Annex's mortgage. The 2008 Men's and Women's Day financial efforts, prior pledge programs, and members consistently donating to the Building Fund, allowed our 15 year Annex mortgage to be paid off on October 31, 2008, in a little over 5 ½ years, or a little over 1/3 of the mortgage's life span, with never a late payment! The early payoff of the mortgage saved the church approximately \$250,000 in interest payments. This special milestone along with the choir's new robes were celebrated with a mortgage burning and robe dedication service on November 9, 2008.

South Phoenix continues to grow and thrive with the anticipation of the remodeling of our sanctuary to begin in 2009. All auxiliaries are functioning at a high and strong level. For 2009, each church auxiliary accepted the challenge to do better by "Regaining, Retaining, and Maintaining in the Faith". South Phoenix is a church where everybody is somebody and truly functions as a family, supporting each other in good and difficult times. Even with tragedies that engulf our neighborhood, its change of complexion, and the community's overall growth decline, South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church stands grounded in its original location, and is dedicated to making the church a beacon and refuge for our church members, our community, and our friends.

2010 - Present

South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church continues to grow and serve the South Phoenix community. In the year 2010, Pastor Black implemented a program titled "From Boyhood to Manhood", teaching, training, and encouraging young men to make a smooth transition from boyhood to manhood by getting a good education and striving to become positive leaders and assets to society.



In 2012, South Phoenix began yet another new building phase with a ground breaking ceremony held on October 20, 2012. The demolition of our old sanctuary began on October 29, 2012 with our oldest living Charter Member, Sis. Geraldine Colbert, taking the first strike at knocking down the walls.

At the beginning of 2013, the church ran into difficulty building our new sanctuary in a number of areas, i.e. securing required finances to build the new sanctuary, obtaining the necessary building permits, the discovery of asbestos in the adjoining building, etc., all of which slowed down the building process. But, as people of God we knew that everything was not going to be easy. So, we prayed, because we knew that prayer was much needed. Prayer has always given us strength to weather the bad times, and God has always heard and answered our prayers. The timing may not have been to our desire, but He has answered all of our prayers. While our new sanctuary is being built, we have not had to move from 2006 E. Broadway Rd. We just relocated our worship services to our multi-purpose Annex.

South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church celebrated 55 years of service on February 24, 2013. Rev. David James and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church were our guests.

Also, during February 2013, the Food Committee, under the direction of Sis. Julia Rodgers, serviced four bereaved families in one week (repat dinners), having to use neighboring facilities to complete the job. February 16, 19, 22, and 23, 2013, what a week to remember. During 2013, the Food Committee also made an addition to its ministry -- the Mobile Pantry. The Mobile Pantry, which operates on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, provides fresh fruits and vegetables to the community.

After months of meetings and negotiation, the proper financial and other required paperwork were obtained to begin building our new sanctuary; and on December 10, 2013, Kroll Contractors were selected as the General Contractor/Builder for the new sanctuary. The sanctuary gradually took on a new look, and finally, Phase I came into view. Old walls came down, and new walls went up. Furniture, lighting, flooring, etc. were ordered. Our new sanctuary was finally being built!



The building process progressed slowly, but, on April 21, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., a special ceremony was held in our parking lot for the mounting of the steeple for our new sanctuary. It was a beautiful, bright, sunny day; a glorious occasion with our members, other church members, friends, and the community coming together to witness the event. What a wonderful sight as the steeple was raised!



Thank God for Jesus.
 Thank God for a Pastor with a vision.
 Thank God for a People with a mind to work.
 Thank God for a church where everybody is somebody.

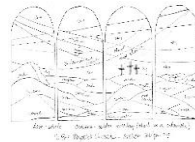
In the Spring of 2014, the Golden Steppers spearheaded a project to purchase leaded stained glass for the new sanctuary. They commissioned Ms. Mary Beth Maddox to design, create, and install the glass. After many design renditions, the group chose a beautiful setting with a Black Jesus prominently displayed stretching his hands towards the congregation. Ms. Maddox also designed and installed stained glass in the tall windows on the south wall of the sanctuary and in the four arched windows in the vestibule. To pay for the stained glass, stone bricks from our original sanctuary were cleaned, painted, personalized, and distributed for a contribution of \$150 for a “gold brick”, and \$50 for a “finished brick”.



Window Behind Baptism Pool



Tall Windows on South Side of Sanctuary



Artist Rendition of Windows in Vestibule



On the afternoon of December 14, 2014, following a delicious dinner prepared and served by our church members, the congregation and friends of the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist church marched into our new Sanctuary. We were blessed to have Dr. A. Wayne Johnson of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon as Guest Speaker for the Grand Opening ceremonial program. The church was packed with members, friends, and dignitaries from the City of Phoenix and surrounding communities. Oh what a glorious day! We congratulate all of the hard workers and the dedicated and committed members who helped make this a memorable day for all of our members, present, past, and future. We've had some struggles along the way, and some who struggled with us have gone home to glory, but, we made it, because God has been with us all the way.

Individuals Behind The Scene, and Other Worker Bees . . .

The original Building Fund Committee for our new sanctuary was chaired by Sis. Lillie Jordon. Her assistant was Bro. Edward McCartney. Regrettably, Sis. Jordon passed away on October 6, 2012. Following her death, Bro. McCartney stepped into the position of Chairman, and Sis. Julia Rodgers was appointed Assistant Chairman of the Building Fund Committee. Various sub committees were formed to ensure everything required for the new sanctuary was obtained and completed. Those committees and members were as follows:

Building Fund Committee:

Chairman	Edward McCartney
Assistant Chairman	Julia Rodgers
Treasurer	Eartha House

Building Demolition and Construction:

Building Construction Superintendent	Gary Black
General Superintendent	Pastor Bernard Black
	Gary Black, Ben Robinson, Tolond Black, Justin Gibson, Vernon French
General Contractor, New Sanctuary	Kroll Contractors
General Contractor, New Bathrooms	Copeland Construction

Furniture Selection and Purchase Committee:

Chairman	Georgia Bullock
Member	Lillian Black
Member	Betty Jones
Member	Willie Mae Reagan
Member	Trina Freeman
Member	Delois McCartney
Vendor	Imperial Woodworks, Inc. Waco, Texas

Pastor's Pulpit Chair:

Pastor's Aide Committee	
Chairman	Deidre Hale
Member	Dorothy Holden
Member	Linda Mims Black
Member	Margaret Swindle
Member	Darlene Jordan
Member	Laura Flemons
Member	Ann English

Chandelier Committee:

Chairman	Betty Jones
Member	Georgia Bullock
Member	Maxine Woods

Carpet & Tile Committee:

Chairman	Chyendall Gibson
Member	Foxi Brown-Black
Member	Shantel Wright
Member	Jaila Nero
Member	Shalomon Wright
Vendor	

Stained Glass Committee:

Chairman	Lillian Black
Co-Chairman	Georgia Bullock
Member	Willie Mae Reagan
Participants	The Golden Steppers
Vendor – Stained Glass	Mary Beth Maddox, Phx, Az.
Vendor – Entry Door Glass Design	Jeco Glasscraft, Scottsdale, Az.

Audio/Visual Committee

Chairman	Edward McCartney
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Grand Opening Program Committee:

Chairman	Delores Buckner
Member	Julia Rodgers
Member	Edward McCartney

Grand Opening Souvenir Book Committee:

Chairman	Lillian Black
Member	Joyce Weathers
Member	Willie Mae Reagan
Member	Darlene Jordan
Member	Jean Jefferson

Additional Information . . .

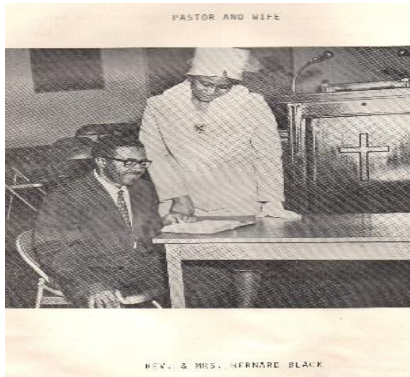
Since Rev. Black became Pastor of the South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church, many changes have been made to the church, many programs implemented, many special events have occurred, many auxiliaries formed, and many people have been involved in those changes.

Following is information about some significant “**FIRSTS**” that have happened at South Phoenix **under Rev. Black’s Pastorage:**

The First . . .	Comments	More Info
Old Fashioned Day	Organized by Mission II – Stella Black, President	Nancy Young and Ida Lincoln were the two main people who helped get it started.
Annual Fellowship Dinner	Always the 2 nd Sunday in December, commemorating the year's activities & goals. Ethel Williams was Chairman of Deaconess Board.	Pastor Black appointed Aline Hines as the Chairman of the first Fellowship Dinner. Then he gave the Deaconess the responsibility of future Fellowship Dinners.
Annual Women's Day	Began in 1968	
Annual Women's Day Breakfast	Started by Delores Buckner in 1992. Sis. Betty Jones was/is Assistant to Sis. Buckner.	Sis. Eloise Hatten was Chairman of the first Women's Day Program
Annual Veteran's Day	Organized by Sis. Lucille Fanniel to honor all SPBC Veterans who served in the Armed Forces.	Sponsored by The Golden Steppers, the first program was held on Nov, 13, 2012.
Saturday Morning Breakfast (previously the Sunday Morning Breakfast)	Sis. Bessie Ealim started "Sunday" Morning Breakfasts feeding children who came to Sunday School hungry. The program later changed to Saturday mornings in order to feed the hungry and homeless in the community.	Children coming to Sunday School are currently given refreshments immediately after Sunday School is over.
Learn & Earn Summer Reading Program	Started by Jack Londen & Rev. Bernard Black in 1992. Sis. Amanda Sullivan was the first Director of the program.	After Sis. Sullivan's death, Sis. Julia Rodgers became Director.
Food Bank	Started by Pastor Black & Sis. Bessie Ealim. Rev. Black & Sis. Ealim picked up food (at the railroad track on 9 th Ave.) in each of their trucks. The food was then brought back to the church for distribution to the homeless.	Later Sis. Nancy Young took over program, followed again by Sis. Ealim, then by Sis. Julia Rodgers, and currently by Sis. Rokean Wooten.

Exercise Program for Seniors	Started by Sis. Lillian Black & Sis. Georgia Bullock in 2007.	After retiring, Sis. Black saw a need for seniors to get/stay fit.
Choirs in order of organization time	First Musician – Maxine Woods Second Musician - Dorothy Rich Johnson First Choir Members - Geraldine Colbert, Fannie Brown, Mamie Johnson, Ruth Brown, Erslene Johnson, Cammie Brown, and Robert Fitzgerald. Some time later the following choirs were started: Young Adult Choir – Youth Choir – Mass Choir – Norma Gilbert, Director Angel Choir – Lillie Jordon, Musician (Stella Black, Supervisor) Male Chorus – Ed McCartney, Director Gospel Chorus – Mable Pratt, President Old Fashioned Singers – Bessie Ealim	
First Mission Departments and their Presidents	Senior Mission – Ethel Williams, President Mission II – Lorraine Thompson, President Red Circle Girls (later YWA) – Stella Black, Supervisor Brotherhood – Bro. Robert Fitzgerald, Junior Mission – Frankie Williams, President	
First Usher	George Woods, Husband of Maxine Woods.	
First Deacon	Leon Hines	
First Administrative Assistant	Willard Rodgers	
First Church Secretary	Ruth Brown	
First Associate Minister	Rev. Frederick Pryor	
First Pastor's Aide President	Deborah Jordan	
First Church Clerk	Lillie Jordon	
First Treasurer	Bro. Robert Fitzgerald	
First Financial Secretary	Sis. Erslene Johnson	
First Sunday School Superintendent	Sis. Pearl Owens	
First Marriage	Jimmie Rex & Francis Akins	
First Wedding	Dave Reagan & Willie Mae Forbes	
First Person Baptized	Stevie Smith, Son of Sis. Thelma Smith (Asst. Sunday School Superintendent)	
Oldest Person Baptized	Allan Holmes – 102 years old	
First Funeral	Sherry Williams, Daughter of Sis. Ethel Williams	

South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church The Early Years . . .



Church Congregation 1968



Brotherhood



Deacon Board





Faith is true at South Phoenix Baptist Church, 2006 East Broadway Road, are the visitors, officers and members of the church. A building program has been started to increase the assembly room and kitchen departments.



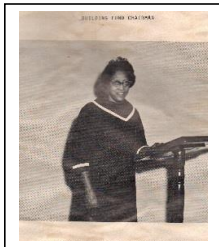
Holding the cornerstone which symbolizes the beginning of a building program is Lela Hines. Watching the effort of South Phoenix Baptist Church are, from left: Madeline Ruth Brown, Ethel Williams, Geraldine Colbert, Lorraine Cox, Lila Jordan and Rev. Bernard Black.



Thanksgiving services were held Dec. 28 at South Phoenix Baptist Church, 2100 E. Broadway Rd. About 100 church members and Mrs. Ruth Brown, Missionary Society president; Duane Lane Hines, the Rev. Bernard Black, newly appointed pastor, and Mrs. Black.

Mrs. Mattie Morgan, building fund chairman, announced the church expansion program will cost \$20,000. Facilities to be added include an auditorium, classrooms and a dining hall.

The church, located at 2006 E. Broadway Road, was completed in 1954.



Senior Choir



SENIOR CHOIR
 SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT: FELMA SIMS, ORPALINE JACKSON, PRANCIE BEE,
 NATALIE BIRD, AND NATALIE BIRD
 LEFT TO RIGHT: DEBORAH JOHNSON, KAREL ARROLL, TOA JEFFERSON,
 LE DWORK, AND THERESA BROWN
 ST. ROW: MARY SMITH, JEROLD SMITH, ROBERT KAYNORALD,
 LE BARNARD, AND MERICE WOODS

Junior Choir



JUNIOR CHOIR
 Seated Left to Right: Nonda Smith, Dorra Cox, Deborah Williams,
 Jackie Jones, Sherie Johnson, Patricia Cox, Right: Barbara
 Gilbert, Shirley Smith, Gail Akira, Carolyn Johnson, Percy Weathers,
 Patricia Naine Woods, Patricia; Emlie Johnson, Nela Smith.

Senior Red Circle Girls



Sunday School Teachers & Superintendents



***South Phoenix Missionary Baptist Church
New Sanctuary Grand Opening
Souvenir Book Committee
December 14, 2014***



**L-R Jean Jefferson, Joyce Weathers,
Lillian Black, Darlene Jordon**



**Willie Mae Reagan
Member/Historian**

To God Be The Glory!