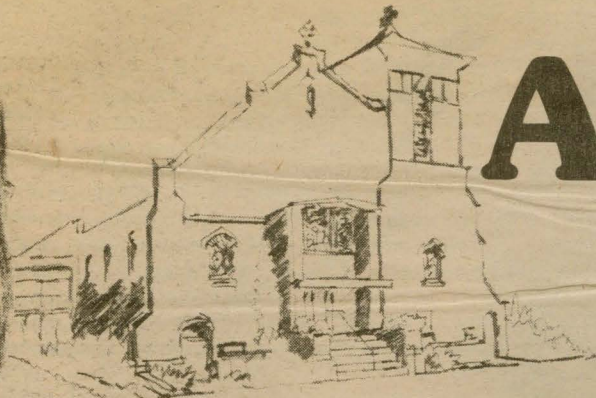


sears

A Little HISTORY



Rev. Dr. Fred E. Stephens



First A.M.E. Church today

Almost a century ago, in 1885, the African Methodist Episcopal Church on fourteenth between Pike and Pine was organized as the first colored (black) mission in Seattle.

In July of 1927, members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (colored), of 1245 Main Street, started soliciting funds for its new home. With more than 6,000 black folk in Seattle at that time, plans were being made to build on East Madison. During that time it was said there were four churches and one mission for colored people in Seattle.

On December 10, 1938, the congregation of the First African Methodist Church held a victory banquet and mortgage-burning ceremony at 1522 14th Avenue, celebrating the final payment of the church's debt.

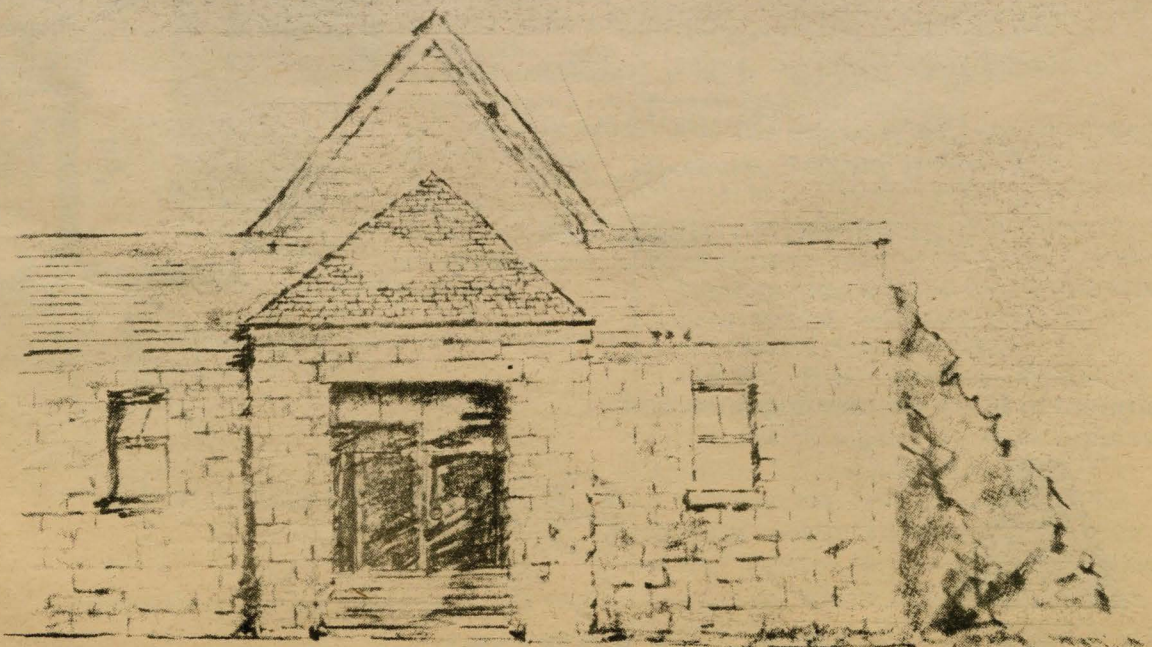
Today, the Reverend Dr. Fred E. Stephens heads a membership of over 2,000 people. "This is an active congregation that serves in all areas and all levels of life," Dr. Stephens said in his pastor's statement commemorating the First A.M.E.'s 95th anniversary. "We involve the seniors, young adults, teenagers and pre-teens. From the pre-school to Headstart, missionary work, Sunday School, Scouts, choirs, ushers, clubs, acolytes, Bible Study, Prayer Band, Housing Board, social concerns to senior citizens groups, we are very busy serving our community."

Dr. Stephens continued, "Our outreach programs include housing for senior citizens and low-income families, emergency feeding of the hungry, job placement, prison ministry, legal aid, voter registration and political involvement. We have been called an 'Affirmative Action Church.' We are proud of that designation, for it means that we are concerned about our fellow man and we are in the constant fight for civil rights, desegregation of public schools, equality of all persons and human dignity."

Sears

Sears is proud
to salute Seattle's
First African Methodist
Episcopal Church of Seattle.

SOURCE: Seattle Public
Library—Seattle Churches As
Known Through Seattle
Newspapers (Ida Grace Cor-
ey, 1938)



The First Church built on present property.