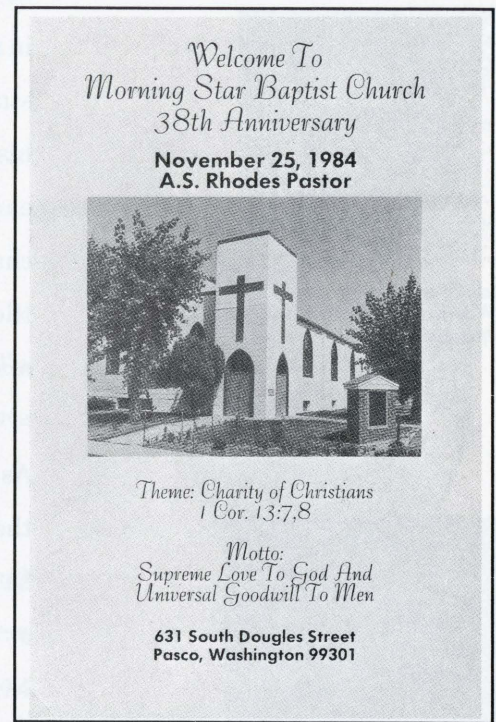


These barriers could not stop the establishment of black churches either. The oldest surviving Black church, Morning Star Baptist Church, was organized in Pasco in the spring of 1946. J.L. Stewart was pastor. Other black churches to follow were Trinity Church of God in Christ, St. James Christian Methodist Episcopal, New Hope Baptist, Greater Faith Baptist, Church of God, and Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church.

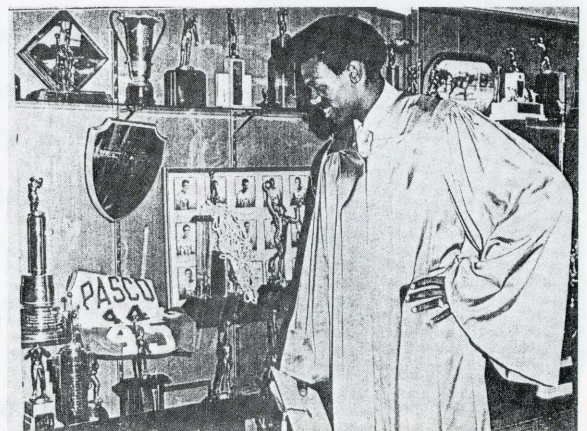
The national uproar of the 1960's occurred in the Tri-City area as well. The civil rights movement in the area focused on the barriers in Kennewick for blacks, and the refusal of local merchants to serve black customers. In 1968 violence erupted in Kurtzman Park when Pasco residents protested police brutality. Earlier, in 1963, Jack Tanner, now a Federal Court judge in Seattle, led a civil rights march of eighty people through downtown Kennewick.

In the Tri-Cities, stories of black pioneers have a modern tint. These pioneers braved a wilderness different from pioneers of other ilk. These brave black women and men learned to thrive in the face of adversity. Shortly after the long move to gain meaningful employment and a higher quality of life came the realization that education, fair housing, public accommodations and economic stability in this newly discovered promised land were yet to come about. Thus history records, and hearts of men and women recall the strides, the gains, the battles, the poor housing, leaky roofs, dirt streets, outhouses and chicken shacks. They built houses and lives in an area that did not welcome them. But despite the adversities, Tri-City blacks have weathered the storm, garnering the respect of the entire community.

In less than fifty years, blacks have achieved many milestones in the Tri-City region. Sports fans remember the accomplishments of Ron Howard, the All-American Basketball standout from Pasco High, in the 1960's. Other blacks have carved their name in the sports annals



*The Morning Star Baptist Church Bulletin*



*Ron Howard, the All-American Basketball standout*