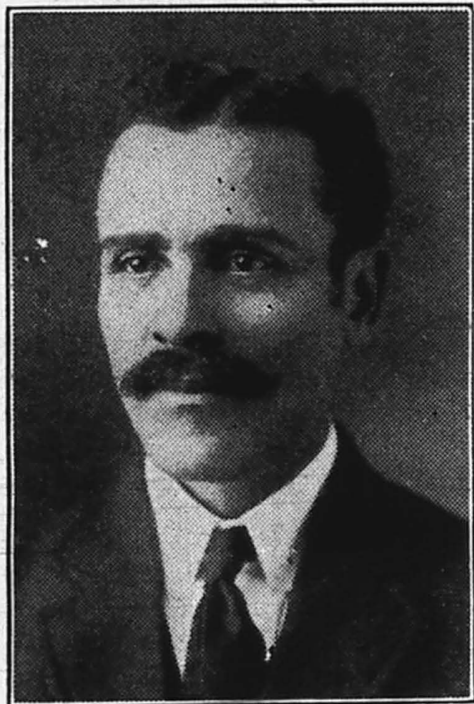


Church Notes



Rev. J. D. Carter

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH.

It seems from such facts as are available, that the beginning of the work which finally resulted in the permanent organization of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Seattle, took shape under the work and management of Bro. Anderson in the year 1890.

He was assisted by Rev. Geo. J. Burchett, who was then pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city. Deacon John C. Keith and other members of the First Church gave material aid to the Rev. Anderson and the few people who were then interested in the establishment of a Negro Baptist Church in Seattle.

The First Baptist Church donated the use of a store room which was then located near the corner of 14th and Madison for church and Sunday School purposes. The Baptists who were most interested in the work at that time were R. A. Clark, Robert Butler, Miss Brackston, Mrs. Edmunds, W. H. Teemer, Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard and others whose names are not at present available.

Some time later the place of meeting was moved to the old University Ground on 4th and University, where the Cobb Building now stands. It was while services were being held at this place that Rev. Cal Williams came from some place in Arkansas and took charge of the work, under whose ministry, in 1903, the church was permanently organized and recognized by the different white Baptist Churches of the city. Rev. Jenson succeeded Rev. Williams and pursued the work for about 18 months. Rev. Simons, of Kansas, came next, whose stay was very brief. It was about this time that a relapse in the work took place, because of the transfer of the old University property to other owners, and also because of some of the members moving away. The outlook of the church at this time was anything but encouraging. However, one Rev. Pegram came to the scene and after heroic efforts to tide the cause against the swelling tide of discouragement, left, and was succeeded, through the aid of the National Baptist Convention Board, by Rev. Harris and also by the aid of the First Church, the work took shape again,