

Rev. Otis J. Steele

In the year of our Lord 1919, Rev. Otis Jethro Steele enroute from Canton, Mississippi to Detroit, Michigan stopped in Indianapolis, Indiana to visit relatives. He planned to make the "Motor City" his new home, but was led to remain in the "Circle City". He resided at 1305 Yandes Street, the home of his cousin. He united with South Calvary Church. Rev. Steele saw the need for another place of worship closer to his home.

Through much prayer and meditation, Rev. Steele was moved by the Spirit of God to begin a mission. The first church was an empty storeroom located at 1417 Roosevelt Avenue, which Rev. Steele rented for six months.

Handbills were distributed on a Saturday. That Sunday morning, Rev. Hines of St. John's Baptist Church assisted Rev. Steele in starting a Sunday School. Five students were present at the first Sunday School, two of whom came with Rev. Hines. Eleven people attended the morning worship.

The membership grew to a point that it was necessary for the mission to become organized. On January 15, 1922, ministers organized the mission and named it the Mount Helm Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1924, the church was still advancing and growing. Rev. Steele, aided by the church membership purchased a church building at 16th and Alvord. The church continued to move forward and grow. During this period of expansion a larger church was secured at 16th and Yandes. In 1926, the choir was organized to sing to the glory of God. Rev. Steele served as pastor of Mt. Helm until 1926.

Rev. William D. Edwards



The church called Rev. William D. Edwards in 1942. Rev. Edwards was a member of First Baptist Church, North Indianapolis. He was also a supporter of the District, State and National Conventions. His tenure lasted for 35 years until 1977.

Many great things were accomplished because of his skills, know-how and great energy. The first project was to have the church completed. The basement was finished with a kitchen built in, the pool built and a piano was purchased. The mortgage was paid off and the Willing Workers were organized. Rev. Edwards also installed a new roof on the church building.

He served faithfully and well until health problems prevented him from continuing his ministry.