

PRICE CATHEDRAL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH HISTORY

In June 1894 this church was organized as Little Mission African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. As the church grew in age and membership, the name was changed to Price Chapel AME Zion Church. The old church was torn down and on November 1, 1963, the groundbreaking ceremony was held to begin building the new church. It was completely renovated and then named Price Memorial AMEZ. Some of the members in the early years of the church were: Miss Georgia Potter, Mrs. Rosa Mills, Mrs. Helen Crummady, Mrs. Estelle Gibbs, Mr. Willie Irving, Mr. Nick McIntyre, Mrs. Johnnie Mae McIntyre, Mr. Joseph W. Pierce, Sr., Mrs. Mary Faison, Mrs. Ida Jane Everett, Mrs. Janie Everett, Mrs. Lavonia Foy, Mrs. Rowena Pierce, Mr. James Everett, Mrs. Lottie Corbett, Mr. Jesse Hodges, Mrs. Florence King, Mr. Tom Hooper, Mrs. Essie Hooper and Mrs. Rosa Robbins.

Not only were members concerned about church matters but they were involved in community affairs. Price Memorial AME Zion Church was issued a charter to form a Cub Scout Unit, Number 112 on December 31, 1946. Mr. Joseph W. Pierce, Sr., a trustee, was selected as the first Cub Master.

Under the pastorate of the Rev. A.B. West work began to build a new sanctuary to the Glory of God. The new church was constructed on the corner of 12th and Orange Street. During this time the congregation worshiped at St. Andrew AME Zion Church Hall. Before the new church was completed the Rev. A B. West was moved.

The church was completed and dedicated to the Glory of God in 1965 under the Pastorate of Rev. A.F. Hooper, whom the children affectionately called the "Kissing Pastor." This new brick two story edifice was completely modern in every respect. It was furnished with everything new from top to bottom, including an organ, piano, carpet and furniture. At the time, the name was changed to Price Cathedral AME Zion Church.

Directed by this dynamic pastor, the mortgage debt was paid years ahead and the mortgage burning ceremony was held in 1971. During this same time, the members of this church paid off all furniture debts and everything of its kind, including the central air conditioning. Fully organized with all age groups working in their respective departments, we took our rightful place in the line of great churches. The A.F. Hooper Gospel Choir was formed in his honor. Mrs. Rosa Robbins was the first president and organizer. Mrs. Janie Hill Hooper and Mrs. Ruth Robbins Jones were the organists for many years, serving with dedication, love and humility.

Under Bishop Shae, a former Pastor and Presiding Elder, the Daughters of the Conference, later renamed Conference Workers, were organized. The original members were Mrs. Rowena Pierce, Mrs. Hattie Brunson, Mrs. Alice Spicer, Mrs. Thelma I. Hodges, who served as president for 27 years.

In 1972, the Rev. N.H. Daniels took the charge as pastor of Price Cathedral. Under Pastor Daniels, we continued to grow. The downstairs was renovated, and two rooms were added for a pastor's study and lounge area. A new organ was purchased, and the walls of the sanctuary were paneled. The N.H. Daniels Floral Club was named in honor of Pastor Daniels. Rev. Daniels was truly a quiet, hardworking minister. He not only served the church, but the community as well. He served as President of the Wilmington

Interdenominational Alliance for a number of years, and leading pastor within the Wilmington District and Cape Fear Conference. His 12 years at Price Cathedral made us stronger as we continue to hold our rightful place among the leading churches in our district.

The Parsonage located at 1116 Orange Street, was purchased in earlier years under the leadership of Mrs. Estelle Gibbs, and later Mrs. Rowena Pierce, President of Stewardess Board #1. The parsonage was renovated and furnished. Bishop Shaw was very helpful in contributing matching funds to this effort.

The Rev. J.T. Edgerton was appointed to this charge in October 1984. Rev. Edgerton organized a Junior Choir and a number of working clubs and boards. History was made with the first black soup kitchen and TV Ministry in the city. Work had begun to pad the pews led by Mrs. Alice Spicer and to renovate the Parsonage. The church family was filled with excitement and fellowship. A choir was organized to aid the TV Ministry. This choir was later named the J.T. Edgerton Singers in honor of Rev. Edgerton. This group has continued to lift the name of Jesus and kept the memory of Pastor J.T. Edgerton alive.

In 1986, The Rev. Lester A. Jacobs was appointed to this charge. The first task was the completion of the padding of the pews. This work was completed, and debts paid off in February 1987. In 1987 Rev. Jacobs completed the landscaping around the church, and the Willing Workers Club purchased a new copying machine. The church was well organized and moving forward. In 1988, a Hammond B. Organ was purchased along with a new Lesley Speaker. The Anniversary Committee, led by Mrs. Geneva P. Clark, purchased tile for the dining area. Mr. Edward Evans, the pastor and trustees installed the tile.

In 1989 the church took a giant step of faith and purchased a new Parsonage for our Pastor and his family. Our Parsonage is located at 7 Barnard Drive, Wilmington, NC. The church was moving forward, taking in new members, and holding its rightful place in the city, in the Wilmington District, and the Cape Fear Conference. A Mass Choir was named in honor of Rev. Jacobs. The L.A. Jacobs Mass Choir.

Mr. James Everett served as Pastor Steward for over 50 years. Although he retired from this position, he was very active in the church until his death. An appreciation banquet was given in his honor in 1992. Mrs. Alice Spicer has served as our church secretary for over 30 years and remained a faithful church worker until her death.

Price Cathedral was an inspiration to many. Several ministers came out from this membership and became pastors within the Cape Fear Conference: Rev. A.H. Hooper, Rev. T.D. Robinson, Rev. John Robbins, Rev. James Pollard, Rev. Raymond Corbett, Rev. Ronald Pollard, Bro. Lewis McIntyre, Sis. Celeste Steward, Bro. Glenn Shiver, Sis. Linda Boles, Sis. Mary McIntyre and Rev. Barbara Lee.

A new central heating and air conditioning unit was purchased and paid for in 1992, at a cost of better than \$12,000.00. Several outreach ministries were started in 1993-94. They included: Feeding the hungry and homeless, audio video, Jumping for Jesus Aerobics Class, a children's/youth fellowship, and other community activities.

The church organized a co-ed softball team which participated in the city church league, and came in second place the first year, and a basketball team, which won the first-place championship in the Shaw Speaks Classic Church League Basketball Tournament.

Rev. Jacobs was an inspiration to the church family and to the Wilmington Community as well. He served as President of the Wilmington Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Mayor's Task Force on Unemployment, The Bottom Neighborhood Association and General Director of the Shaw Speaks Community Center.

A church history committee was organized during members meeting on July 12, 1990, to continue work to gather information. The committee members were Mrs. Alice Spicer, Geneva P. Clark, Delores Riley, Shirley Mack, Mr. Edward Evans, J.R. Everett, John Wilson, James Moore and the pastor.

In June 1994, the Rev. Theodore Headen was appointed to this charge. Seeing that our beacon light was low, Rev. Headen brought to Price a spiritual vision, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness and All These Things Shall Be Added unto You." With our motto, "God has a Plan and Purpose for Your Life." Rev. Headen guided Price into a new millennium with the purchasing of our Church Van in 1995, new appliances for our church and parsonage and installing central air in the parsonage. The Juan B. Wilson Foundation donated a new speaker system to the church.

Rev. Ronald McClendon was given the charge in January 2007. His Bible lessons were superlative and relative to today's living. He was a great teacher.

The year 2009 brought the congregation the young and energetic leadership of Rev. Karim Currey. His theme was, "There is a Miracle on 12th and Orange Street." The Youth and Young Adult Ministries reached new heights.

History was made in December 2011. Price Cathedral family was graced with the leadership of Rev. Maria B. Lacewell, our first female pastor. Rev. Lacewell brought new vision to the membership – and her mantra, "Not by might nor by power; but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty," Zechariah 4:6. The membership embraced her vision and moved forward to renovate and remodel the sanctuary, fellowship hall and the grounds. To God be the Glory, the work has been completed.

In October of 2019, Rev. Charlean B. Mapson was assigned to serve as the new pastor. She has been instrumental in involving the church in various community outreach activities and events. Revitalizing the youth and children's ministries and including each age group of the church in church involvement.

In November 2025, Rev. Joshua M. Walker was assigned as the new pastor by Bishop W. Darin Moore. Price Cathedral A.M.E. Zion Church has entered a season of renewal and progress. During this tenure, the church successfully retired its mortgage and, through the sale of the parsonage on Barnard Drive, became completely debt-free. Membership has been revitalized, and church programming has been strengthened to meet the spiritual and communal needs of today's congregation. Beyond the walls of the church, Pastor serves as a visible community leader, ensuring that Price Cathedral continues its legacy as a place of impact, influence, and hope. By God's grace, these efforts have positioned the church to honor its history while embracing a vision for a stronger future for generations to come.

During the tenure of each pastor, the church has been blessed in countless ways. Many came through and laid the foundation, some helped to sustain the foundation but all of those who passed through made **PRICE CATHEDRAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH** what it is today.

Pastors Who Have Served the Church

Rev. A.E. Hudson	Rev. George Fairs
Rev. Ham Robbins	Rev. T.T. Newby
Rev. L.E. McIver	Rev. E.A. Turner
Rev. W.I. Welch	Rev. A.Q. Jones
Rev. A.F. Hooper	Rev. S. Chapman
Rev. E. H. Steward	Rev. C.F. Burney
Rev. Dr. H.B. Shaw	Rev. A.B. West
Rev. N.H. Daniels	Rev. J.T. Edgerton
Rev. L.A. Jacobs	Rev. T. Headen
Rev. R. H. McClendon	Rev. K. Currey
Rev. Maria Lacewell	Rev. Dr. Charlean B. Mapson
Rev. Joshua M. Walker	

Through the continued blessings, guidance, and help of God, we pray to continue our spiritual impression on the lives of people.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16



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