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90 YEARS AND WE ARE STILL STANDING

CONTRIBUTED BY LINDA WRIGHT
PHOTO PROVIDED

Zion Temple First Pentecostal Church, the vital congregation located in the imposing buff colored granite structure at 3771 Reading Road at N. Crescent, is 90 years old this year, and still standing strong.

And leaders of the historic church, which has produced at least 40 pastors, founded a thriving Christian school, and helped establish at least four vibrant churches in the Queen City, is inviting the community to a celebration September 19-24 and September 26 to commemorate what God has done.

“Because 90 years is such a milestone, I thought it was time for a celebration,” explained District Elder Charles L. Smith, D.D., Zion Temple’s pastor.

The week-long celebration begins with Men’s Day service at 11:30 a.m. Sunday; nightly services with dynamic guest preachers at 5 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; enlightening Bible classes Wednesday through Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and Friday at 2 p.m., taught by Elder Smith; and a special Celebration Gospel Concert on Sunday, September 26 at 5 p.m. All events, including the Gospel concert, are FREE and the public is warmly invited to attend.

Zion Temple has a proud history of accomplishment and service to God and community. Elder Smith said the church is called “The Mother Church of the Apostolic Faith in Cincinnati,” because it was the first Apostolic church established in the city. It was founded in 1920 as First Pentecostal Church on 3rd St. in the West End --



Zion Temple First Pentecostal Church

just 14 years after the Apostolic denomination itself had begun in Los Angeles, as a result of the Azusa Street revival.

According to Elder Smith and church historians, at least 40 pastors have come out of Zion Temple, including several bishops. They include: Bishop L.C. Young, Elder Owen Carter, Bishop Robert McMurray, Bishop Alfred Nichols, Elder Robert Neal, Elder Roger Smith and Elder Stephen Brown. At least four churches have also “come out” of Zion Temple: Bethlehem Temple, Lighthouse Temple, Greater Emmanuel, and Abundant Life Faith Fellowship – in that the founders were once members of Zion Temple.

An integral part of Zion Temple’s history is the late Bishop Jasper Phillips, who led the church from 1950 until he was called home in 2003. Under his leadership, the congregation built a new church in

1959 in Walnut Hills; and when the church outgrew that building bought the current structure, the historic Isaac M. Wise Center, in 1973. In 1981, the mortgage was paid off on the current building, which was then valued at more than \$3 million.

Zion Temple’s outreach to the community also features an active media ministry -- “The Pentecostal Hour,” which has been on 1480 AM at 8:30 a.m. Sundays for at least 43 years, and the “Zion Temple Hour” TV program that has been on Cincinnati public access Channel 24 since 1987.

Two other jewels in the crown of Zion Temple are its growing Christian school and Phillips Bible Institute. Zion Temple Christian Academy, which began in 1983 with seven students, now has 120 students in Preschool through 6th grade, said Deacon Rodney Napier, Assistant Principal. To accommodate the growth, eight rooms -- gym and multi-purpose room, classrooms, offices and kitchen – were added to the school in 1993. The Phillips Bible Institute, founded in 1974 by the late Bishop Phillips is still thriving today, with classes teaching the Bible, missions, computer classes and religious sign language.

For more information on the 90th Anniversary Celebration or any of its FREE activities, call (513) 861-2812 or log onto www.ZTFPC.com.

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