

HISTORY OF THE NORTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST

An unselfish Spirit, a willingness to spend and be spent for others, an indomitable courage in the face of great odds and a patience and stedness reflecting faith in God's promises have made this congregation a reality in this community.

The history of this congregation cannot be written separate and apart from the Westside church, for it is the outgrowth of a long-range planning program which took place in the minds of the leadership of Westside.

The Northwest Church of Christ was first conceived in the minds of the Elders and Minister of the Westside Church of Christ in 1971 when the leaders recognized the need for more classroom space.

After getting estimates on additional rooms to the Westside building the offer to purchase the Northwest church building was presented. This building consisted of 20 classrooms, an auditorium which seats 450, a Minister's study, Conference room, an office for the Educational Minister, secretary's office, two nurseries, a kitchen and a large Fellowship room with a seating capacity for 300.

This building was offered to the Westside congregation for \$100,000. and was immediately accepted. A bond issue of \$115,000. was kicked off in July of 1971 and by October the bonds were sold. Most were purchased by members of the church.

On October 10, 1971, about two-thirds of the Westside membership moved into the new Northwest facility to establish a congregation among the Blacks who had recently moved into the community.

The leadership then consisted of: Elders - John G. Holt, John R. Flowers, and Scott N. French; Deacons - Coy Burgess, Alanzo Carter, Ray Jennings, Hurley Ford, Charles Temple, John W. Phillips, and Rufus Houston Sr.; Ministers - Woodrow A. Wilson, John R. Flowers, Joseph Lewis and Carl Mitchell, Missionary to Jamaica.

Over the next five years, plans were developed for both the churches (Northwest and Westside) to become independent of one another. The Lord blessed these plans to materialize in 1976 when we (Northwest) became autonomous.

The leadership then had changed. Brother Wilson resigned in November of 1974 and in February of 1975, Arthur Williams and His family became a part of us. In 1978 John Phillips was ordained as an Elder and in February of this same year Brother Arthur Williams was officially ordained as an Evangelist. *ordained 1978*

During our struggle for adequate housing we did not cease our