



Rev. Frederick Douglass Haynes, Sr.,
and Mrs. Charlie Mae Haynes

In 1932, Rev. Fredrick Douglass Haynes, Sr., a young man of courage and vision dedicated to serving his fellowman and the Almighty God, came to the congregation of 150 members worshipping in this edifice on Hyde and Clay Streets. A minister of four years of service at the Second Baptist Church in Fresno, California, where he established an enviable record, Rev. Haynes, Sr. brought with him his family: his wife, Annette, and two children, Fredrick Douglas Haynes, Jr., and Harvey. He assumed the responsibilities and obligations of leadership and rose to meet the challenges of the 38-plus years he was to serve through three very difficult periods – the unprecedented depression years which swept the nation bringing wholesale unemployment, the World War II years which brought San Francisco a population explosion unparalleled in history and the Social Revolution of the Sixties, the time when many Americans were demanding social and economic justice. The new World War II settlers were families stemming from various cultural backgrounds and ethnic origins and vocations, whose skills were needed in the war industries located in the San Francisco Bay Area. Such events are not without their social changes and the accompanying social problems.

Upon Rev. Haynes's arrival in 1932 a few years into the depression, he found the members of the church scattered and discouraged. He began immediately to rebuild the church –reorganizing the internal functioning, developing a sound financial program –to make it a spiritual lighthouse in the community.

The organizational structure consisted of a Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Sunday Church School Department, Baptist Training Union, Women's Missionary Union, Music Department with a Minister of Music, and Usher Board.

Among the innovations infused in the internal structure were the addition of the following:

- 1) In 1932, A Board of Deaconess (at a time when the question to elevate women in the Baptist Church had not been resolved);
- 2) In 1937, the Youth Department to provide specifically designed programs for the mental, spiritual, and cultural development of youth and to maintain and enhance the physical and social dimensions in their lives;
- 3) In 1940, the Inspirational Chorus was organized to provide gospel music for church services;
- 4) In 1945, The Board of Christian Education was organized to unify the church's educational standards and to extend its educational ministry;
- 5) In 1946, the Laymen's League, to marshal the manpower in Christian Service;
- 6) In 1963, the Friendship Committee, to provide hospitality for the membership and guests while the Pastor's Aid Society extended courtesies to the Pastor, his family, and visiting clergy;
- 7) In 1967, the Civic and Social Action Commission, through which the church members and the community are kept abreast of the pressing issues of the day and concerns and needs of the community. (Rev. Haynes involvement in civil rights, education and community service made him aware of the need for such a commission.)

Rev. Haynes brought the message of Christ to the homes, hospitals and other institutions. For several years, a weekly broadcast of the Sunday services reached the homes and touched the hearts of many who for various reasons did not attend church.

Under his tireless leadership, the church program embraced all age levels providing, for instance, a nursery, a recreation program for the youth, a comprehensive Senior Citizens Center, bus for youth and senior citizen activities, Prayer League for comfort and inspiration to shut-ins and Friday Noon-Day Prayer Band. Moreover, there were baccalaureate sermons, receptions and scholarships for high school and college graduates, and forums on voter education, civic and community concerns and civil rights issues. An Art and Culture Club was established, and a library of doctrinal and reference materials including a collection of Negro history was added to provide an extended resource for Christian and cultural growth and development.

A church-sponsored Girl Scout Troop, A Boy Scout Troop, and a state-sponsored credit union (a business entity) were added to accommodate the membership. The church contributed to local, national and international projects and foreign missions such as Bishop College, Mt. Zion Hospital, Beauty Salon at the Youth Guidance Center, a hospital in Korea, the Seuhn Mission in Liberia, West Africa.

For several years it provided the facilities for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People meetings and other activities. In 1968, when the John Muir Elementary School at Oak and Fell Streets became overcrowded, the church facilities were offered to the San Francisco Board of Education. An extension of the school accommodating the sixth grade classes was housed in the Youth building until June 1971. This was an excellent human relations posture. Thus, a positive effect on the attitudes of parents and students toward both the school and the church, and on the conduct of the students. Appreciation was expressed by the school district and the general community.

The Negro population in San Francisco increased from approximately 4,500 to some 50,000 following World War II. Many of them who came to work in the war industries or who were stationed at a military installation in, or near, San Francisco remained to become residents in either this city of promise or elsewhere in the Bay Area. The church through its community services assisted in the assimilation of this vast new population, some of whom became members of the church. The church membership, during Rev. Haynes' years of service, grew from 150 to more than 3000.

Upon assuming the pulpit at Third Baptist Church in 1932, Rev. Haynes, Sr. almost at once began to campaign to replace the old structure built just after the 1906 earthquake, with a modern complex. To accommodate the ever-growing membership, a new location more centrally and conveniently situated than the California mission type structure, cost a half million dollars, at the corner of McAllister and Pierce Streets. This

complex consisted of a main sanctuary with a circular patio entrance and tower, a Youth Center and an administration building. In March 1951, the ground breaking ceremonies were conducted by Rev. Haynes with church and state dignitaries participating. Upon completion of the sanctuary the members of the church marched (Dec. 21, 1966) with great fervor—joy at a dream come true, yet with fond memories of the Hyde and Clay Street building to the new. Later the Youth Center for recreational and educational purposes was added. Construction of the Administration Building, the third edifice in the original plan, was delayed due to lack of funds. For this reason the administrative offices were housed in the Youth Center.

Rev. Haynes, Sr. believed a church should be involved in all areas of community life which affected its members. Participation in the community in an outreach program—civil rights and social welfare—was the hallmark of his administration. His activities and influence were not restricted to the church. He was deeply involved in community affairs, active in civic, political, and fraternal organizations. The Pastor, who had been cited several times by the Board of Supervisors for community service, barely missed being elected to that body. He was the first Black to run for that Board. Mayor Christopher appointed him to the Library Commission in 1956. He was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1948 in Philadelphia and attended both President Truman's and President Kennedy's inaugural ceremonies. For eight years he served as Grand Chaplain of the Prine Hall Masonic Lodge and was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. He was a local and national denominational leader. For seven years he was moderator of the American Baptist Convention, State of California; for six years president of the California State Baptist Convention; and for eight years one of the Vice Presidents of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A. At his death, he was Director of the scholarship program of the National Baptist Convention.

During his tenure, political leaders such as Adam Clayton Powell; African leaders such as Tbm Mboya; civil rights leaders such as W.E.B. DuBois and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. graced the rostrum at Third Baptist Church.

Under his direction, Third Baptist Church fathered several new Baptist churches. As the population of San Francisco increased and the need for Christian service to the community multiplied, new churches were brought into existence. Several young ministers who served as assistants to Rev. Haynes, Sr. became pastors of new churches. Just as the Caucasian church in the early years gave assistance to the First Colored Baptist Church through supply ministers, so did Third Baptist give assistance to the new churches. Rev. Haynes and the official staff gave guidance and the church at times gave financial assistance to them.

Mrs. Haynes was very active and added greatly to the success of the church program through such organizations as the Women's Missionary Union and the Board of Christian Education. She was the first Black to be elected members of the Board of Education, San Francisco Public School District, where she served with distinction. She was also chosen as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President of San Francisco State University. In addition, she served as Coordinator of Young People Leaders Division of the National Congress Christian Education, Supervisor of Oratorical Contests and Chairperson of the Retirement Fund, National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

In February, 1971 the Bay Area, the state and the nation were saddened by the death of Rev. F.D. Haynes, Sr., "a giant", a local and national leader who will be long remembered. His death brought an outpouring of tributes from a host of friends, and from the lowest to the highest levels of government and religious organizations and bodies throughout the country.

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