

## **Interim-Pastor Spencer**

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. Rev. James E. Spencer, for several years Youth Pastor and was appointed Assistant Pastor in 1970 by Rev. Haynes, Sr. was chosen interim Pastor. In this capacity, he performed the pastoral tasks and began carrying out the unfinished work of Rev. Haynes, Sr. in the best tradition. He continued with the Broadcast of the Sunday night service, the planning for the Frederick Douglas Haynes Gardens and the burning of the church mortgage which was accomplished five months after Rev. Haynes death. Thus two of Rev. Haynes dreams came a little closer to fulfillment — paying off the church debt in preparation for completing the building plan (constructing the administration building, the third and final phase), and setting the stage for groundbreaking for the Gardens which would provide housing for Third Baptist Church members and others in the San Francisco community in need of this service. He served conscientiously and prayerfully, guiding a bereaved congregation until Rev. Fredrick Haynes, Jr. began his pastorate at Third Baptist in June 1972, a little more than a year after his father’s death.

## **Rev. Fredrick Douglas Haynes, Jr.**

The New Leadership 1972 – Rev. Frederick Douglas Haynes, Jr., who received his early Christian training in Third Baptist Church, began preaching in 1950, was ordained by the church in 1954, and served as Assistant Pastor under his father’s leadership for nine years. Subsequently, he left his post to continue his education at Bishop College in Dallas, Texas. Upon returning to the Bay Area, he was called to the pastorate of Jerusalem Baptist Church, Palo Alto, where he served until he was called to succeed his father as Pastor. He accepted the mantle of leadership and wore it with honor and dignity. Under his leadership the now famous Cathedral Choir, a combination of the youth and adult choirs, was organized; an Evangelistic Class was brought into being, fourteen additional deacons were ordained and three women trustees (the first woman to serve on this board) were elected; in addition, ground was broken for the Frederick Douglass Haynes Gardens and a minibus was bought for the transportation of the senior citizens of the church. Rev. Haynes, Jr. was intensely interested in the evangelistic mission of the church. Consequently, he began an extensive outreach program which included being involved in a prison ministry in Vacaville, and became the first Black Baptist minister to preach behind these prison walls.

## **Haynes Family Serves**

The goals of his ministry were: A Learning Church, A Stewardship Church, and an Evangelistic Church. His ministry was one of abiding love, warm friendship and fellowship. With Pastor Haynes, Jr. as he discharged the functions of his pastorate were his wife Lynetta and two children, Frederick III and Michelle. The first lady took a very active part in church affairs as a member of the Board of Christian Education, Business and Professional Women's Circle #1 and the Cathedral Choir. Her talents were recognized by both the California State Congress of Christian Education and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, U.S.A., Inc. where she served as faculty member. Rev. Haynes, Jr. served faithfully, willingly, and enthusiastically for 3 years, 3 months, and 3 days, until his sudden death on September 3, 1975. His untimely death cast a pall over the congregation for the second time in a four and one-half year period.

## **Interim-Pastor Robinson**

Rev. Johnny Robinson was appointed interim pastor as the search for a new Pastor began. Rev. Robinson, like Rev. Spencer, brought to the assignment the experience of Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor. The first three sermons preached by him "The Work Must Go On" (text Neh. 6:3, "All Things Work for Good" (text Romans 8: 28) and "Lights in the World" are indicative of his sensitivity to the needs of the congregation during this period and to the service he rendered to lighten the burden of the loss suffered. A dedicated, sincere, and devout young man, he continued to hold the congregation together, performing all the pastoral duties pertaining to his office. The church was fortunate to have him to continue the spiritual ministry, the work of his predecessor, Rev. F.D. Haynes, Jr. in a commendable manner.