

Mt. Zion A. M. E. Church to Celebrate 117th Anniversary of Founding and Payment of All Debts in Ceremonies

Special Services Will Be Held October 25 to 29; History of Church

Special services from Wednesday through Sunday, October 25 to 29, will mark a double event for the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church at 25 Division street—its 117th anniversary and the complete paying off, for the first time in over 20 years of all its debts, including a mortgage of \$4,000.

The Rev. H. Solomon Hill, president of New Brunswick Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is the pastor of the congregation, which was organized here in 1827, when the A. M. E. denomination was only 11 years old, and which is the oldest Negro organization in Middlesex county.

Helping to mark the anniversary will be former pastors of the church, as well as pastors of other churches in the city.

The Rev. Jesse L. Lee, pastor of the Sharon Baptist Church on Throop avenue, will preach at the Wednesday evening services, and choirs from the Sharon Church and the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens will sing. The ushers will be those of the Ebenezer Baptist Church on Lee avenue.

The Rev. G. H. Crayton of Steelton, Pa., a former pastor of the Mt. Zion Church, will preach during the Thursday evening services.

To Have Youth Night, Etc.

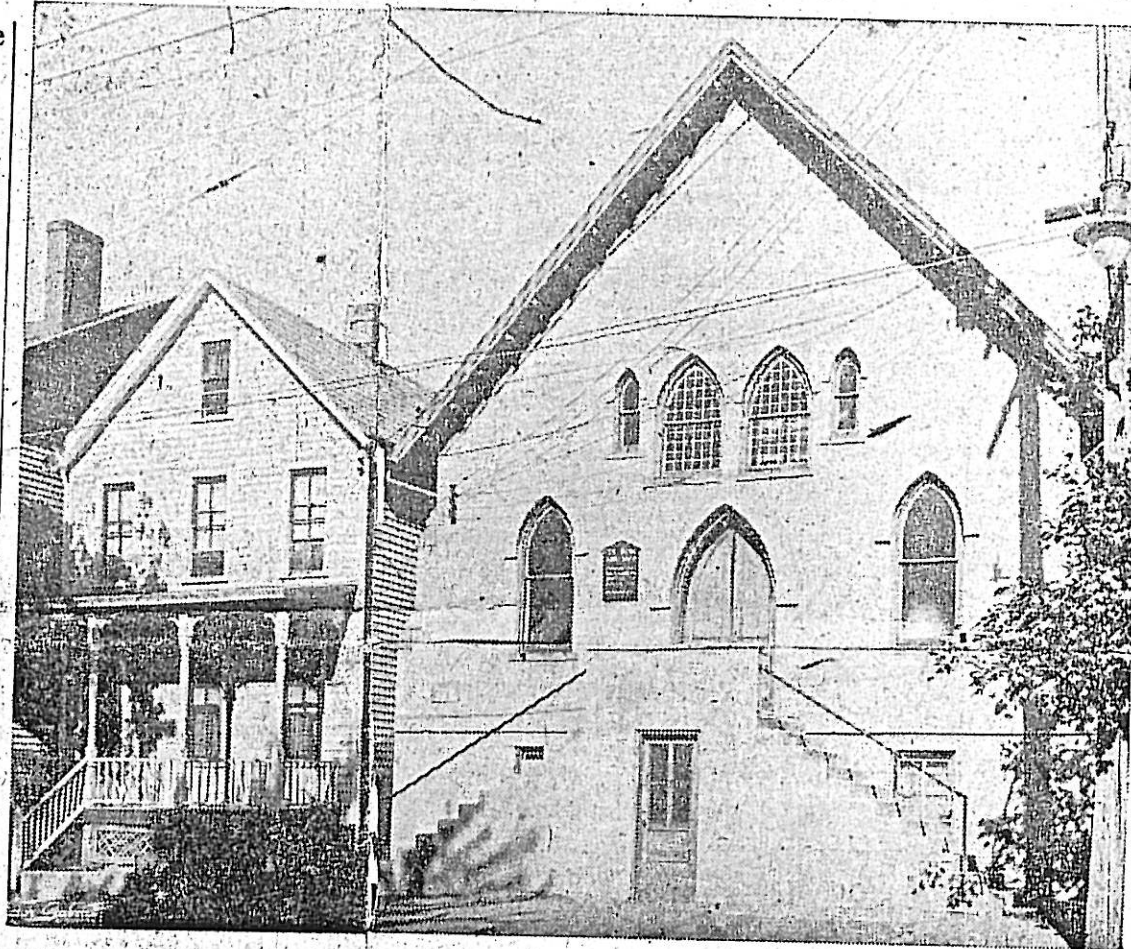
Friday evening will be a "youth night" in charge of the young people of the church and on Sunday at 3:30 p. m., the anniversary services will be concluded with a sermon by Bishop David H. Sims of Philadelphia and the burning of the mortgage.

Besides the mortgage, the church has paid off a debt of \$1,600 on its organ, and also a note for \$675.

These debts have been all paid off since the Rev. Mr. Hill became pastor in May, 1938. Under him, 131 new members have been added to the congregation, making 284 in all, and contributions for missionary and educational work have increased greatly.

Assisting the pastor in administering the affairs of the church are the following officers: Stewards, Cyrus Grant, Edgar Jennings, Tanner Wright, William Harper, Chester Peterson, John L. Crossland, Andrew Hayward and Ned Spradley.

Trustees: Dorsey Miller, Aldrage B. Cooper, Selma Wright, George Jennings, Edward Ran-



Mt. Zion A. M. E. Church, at which anniversary ceremonies will be held October 25 to 29. At left is parsonage, built in the late 1890's. Original church was erected in 1827 and replaced by another in 1861, which in turn gave way to the present church, which was built in 1881.

