

ROBERTS TABERNACLE C.M.E

Prior to 1885, a small group of religious believers pulled out of the A.M.E. Zion Conference and banded together to form a church of their own. In 1885, they joined what was then known as the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.

With little money but much determination and confidence in themselves, the group built a little white church in the western section of Shelby across the railroad tracks from the old Southern Railroad Station. After its completion it was named Roberts Tabernacle in honor of their pastor, Rev. John Wesley Roberts. He was a presiding elder in the C.M.E. Church and for several years served as editor of the church publication, *The Eastern Index*. The first bishop was J.A. Beebe.

In 1979 Shelby's redevelopment program made it necessary for the church to relocate. The new church, under the leadership of Bishop Nathaniel Lindsey and Rev. and Mrs. G.W. Williams, was built in the downtown area.

Some of the former pastors and lay leaders of Roberts Tabernacle who were members of our family, in addition to Rev. John Wesley Roberts, were Rev. G.C. Roberts, Rev. E. Roberts, George Roberts, Oliver Roberts, Gus Roberts, Gould Roberts, Mrs. Millie Earl, and Charles Sanders.

The present pastor of Roberts Tabernacle is Rev. Jerry Webb.



Family Reunion

Roberts Borders Mauney Howell Briggs and Related Families