

St. Stephen Baptist Church Collection (AC76)

Introduction:

The St. Stephen Baptist Collection contains documents created by St. Stephen Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: St. Stephen Baptist Church

Title: St. Stephen Baptist Church

Date Range: 1953- 1984

Size: 0.417 feet (1 box)

Collection Number: AC76

Donor Information:

FIC

Citation Note:

St. Stephen Baptist Church (AC76), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Related Collections:

AC02 First Baptist Church [Kansas City, Kansas] Collection

AC04 Merrill Street Baptist Church Collection

AC05 Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church Collection

AC75 Second Baptist Church Collection

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Historical Sketch:

Founded in 1903 by Reverend J. W. Hurse in the Belvidere Hollow neighborhood. The church's first building was at 604 Charlotte. Its next structure was located at 910 Harrison. They inhabited that space from 1921 until the building was lost to fire in 1938. The congregation then moved to its current location- the old Paseo Dance Hall at the corner of Truman Road and Paseo Blvd in 1941. The building was renovated by Ernest Bostrom in 1945. Hurse's successor was Rev. Raymond J. Jordan, who led the church from 1936 to 1944. Rev. John W. Williams, the third pastor and a civil rights activist from Texas, led the church from '44 to he retired in 1984. During his leadership, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at St Stephen in August 1957, and Rev. Williams led fundraising efforts for Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Hospital, which replaced Wheatley-Providence Hospital in 1972. Rev. Williams also founded the Greater Kansas City Baptist and Community Hospital Association, Inc, and was its first President in 1961. His statue resides in the grassy median on Paseo across the road from the church; erected in 1991. Rev. Mac Charles Jones (1984- 1996) followed Re. Williams, followed himself by Rev. Eric Duane Belt (1996- Present).

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains a book on the history of the church, programs, flyers, and correspondence to and from Rev. John Williams.

Collection Inventory

- f. 1 Postcards
- f. 2 Correspondence
- f. 3 Public Notice
- f. 4 Department & Officer Duties
- f. 5 Programs
- f. 6 Golden Anniversary
- f. 7 Dr. John W. Williams
- f. 8 "Year of Jubilee"
- f. 9 *Symbols of God's Grace* by St. Stephen Baptist Church

Processed by Laura Darnell, Archivist, March 2024.

Sources:

Admin, Clio, and Peter Sears on behalf of Black Archives of Mid-America. "St. Stephen Baptist Church and Reverend John Wesley Williams Statue. "Clio: Your Guide to History. February 24, 2023. Accessed March 2024. <https://theclio.com/entry/158770>

Herries, Andrea and Deb Shields. African American Heritage Trail. "St. Stephen Baptist Church." Accessed March 2024. <https://aahtkc.org/ststephens>

St. Stephens Baptist Church. "Home." Accessed March 2024. <https://www.ststephenbaptist.org/>

St. Stephens Baptist Church. "Our History." Accessed March 2024. <https://www.ststephenbaptist.org/about-ssbc-1>