



*7/26/95 D. Kelle*

## Stone Mountain gets new church

Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, pastored by the Rev. Frederick A. Williamson (pictured above), recently opened at 5746 Rockbridge Road in Stone Mountain. During the week of Aug. 13-20, the church will hold a celebration with other AME Zion churches and Stone Mountain area churches. A dedication ceremony will be held Sunday, Aug. 20, the name the church's family life center in honor of Bishop George E. Battle. A black-tie optional affair will be held Saturday, Aug. 19, to honor Rev. Williamson. The church has a weekly Bible study Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Sunday worship begins at 11 a.m. For information call 498-7980. (Special photo).

**EMMANUEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**  
**5746 Rockbridge Road**  
**Stone Mountain, Georgia**

**Rev. Frederick A. Williamson, founding pastor**  
**Rev. Dr. Louis Hunter, Sr., Presiding Elder**  
**Rt. Rev. Joseph Johnson, Bishop & Presiding Prelate of the Atlantic District**

**CHURCH HISTORY - EMMANUEL AME ZION CHURCH**

On August 11, 1991 in the home of Rev. & Mrs. Frederick A. Williamson a meeting was called with the intent of starting a new society within the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Presiding Officer: Rev. Frederick A. Williamson

In attendance were the following:

Mrs. Corrine Strother  
Mr. Joseph Strother  
Mrs. Rose Johnson  
Mrs. Rose Mary Williamson  
Ms. Cathleen Monroe  
Miss Christine Monroe  
Mr. Connie F. Moss  
Mrs. Willese Moss  
Miss Connie Moss  
Miss Theresa Moss  
Mrs. Lula B. Jewell  
Mr. George Edwards  
Ms. Olivia Mitchell

All of the above persons with the exception of Ms. Olivia Mitchell were received by Rev. Williamson and became the founding members of this society.

Under the leadership of The Right Reverend Bishop Cecil Bishop, the borders of the AME Zion Church were expanded because on September 8, 1991 at the Georgia-South Georgia Annual Conference Emmanuel AME Zion was admitted into the connection as a mission church.

Our first worship service was held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in downtown Decatur, Georgia from there we moved to Fountain Memorial AME Church, Clarkston, Georgia. Here we held our services from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Of course we were anxious to find a permanent home and start worshipping at the 11:00 a.m. hour, but for nine months we rented and worshiped out of a day care center after our lease was not renewed we found ourselves worshipping in the homes of the pastor and Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Strother.

The small band of members soon became known as the nomadic church. For 3 ½ years we wondered until in 1994 the Stone Mountain Advent Christian Church agreed to let us lease with option to buy. For a year we held our services at 12:30 while we sought financing from the our connectional church as well as local banks.

On August 20, 1995 after receiving a loan from First Union and other funds from the AME Zion Church we dedicated our new church home located at the above address (consisting of a Family Life Center/gymnasium, and 3 bedroom parsonage as well as 4 classrooms in the lower level of the church). Growth began to develop as soon as we got some permanency from 12 members in 1995 to 140 members in 1997

The 7500 square foot gymnasium as been renamed The George E. Battle, Jr. Family Life Center to honor Bishop Battle for his untiring efforts to secure us a loan.

We are now in the process of seeking funds to begin a daycare and after school program.

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**