**St. Paul AME Church, SW Detroit**

**The Lena Smith Missionary Society**

St. Paul ÂME Church-SW Detroit, Michigan was established in 1917 and was organized in the home of William and Lena Smith.

During these early years, the congregation worshipped in this home. Later they moved to a storefront. With God in the forefront, they purchased the land upon which the present building now stands.

We have no previous history as to when the society was formed or founded. The assumption is that Lena Smith was president, as this is the name of the present society.

The first recorded history of the Society's President was Sister Mary Saunders who served as President from 1941 to 1947.

Sister Bertha L. Barnes served as President of the Women's Missionary Society until 1982, then again from 1990-1992. She was sincere, earnest, and a loyal Christian woman doing her work

with the utmost efficiency and integrity and was truly a Missionary's Missionary.

In 1978, Lucille Bussey was asked to join the Society and was elected Secretary in 1980. In 1982, she was elected President. Under her leadership, the Society as a whole became more active in the area and conference branch. Some of our members have served as officers on the area and conference level in the WMS as well as the YPD. Sister Bussey served as president until 1990. She also has served as East Area Membership & Recruitment Chairperson.

We have one Torchlighter, Sister Johnnie Gilkey who was stoled in September 1999.

In 1985, the YPD division was reactivated under the Pastorate of Rev. Shedwrick Miller and to this day they continue to grow, glow and go for Christ. The YPD is improving their participation and understanding of true mission work and with the prayers, support and encouragement of the Senior Society, they shall succeed.

Recount Society's Presidents are as follows:

1990-1991Annie Tayor

1991-1992Kathryn Miller

1992-1993Debra Williams

1993-1998Doris Jenkins

1998-1999 Lucille Bussey

1999-Present Debra Williams