1996 → CCAAHC

The one thing African Americans could own were churches and they perserverd in organizing and building them. And it is not unusual then that African American churches undertook an active leadership and maintenance role in the political, economical, social, and cultural lives of the community. Although religion gave many African Americans solace, reality did not allow them to develop a "false consciousness." It often provided them with the ability to channel an inner strength into action. Churches were the center of a community's activities. In addition to providing a place for worship, it provided a place for meetings, socials, and oftentimes served as a school.

Salem would have their Sunday school, and then in the afternoon Bethel would have theirs, and we went to both Sunday Schools. Of course that took in both crowds of groups of young people. After the Sunday School at Bethel, we'd mostly go the Crystal Lake. We'd ride in the boats and we'd have to go back to Salem for BYPU. Carrie Nelson (1982)

List of deeds recorded "Sarah and Jas. Dean to Trustees of the Second Baptist Church, Dec. 4, 1870. Lot 46, Su. Lot 1, S.W. 7, 19, 9."

"The members of the African M.E. Church held a little festival in their homes of worship on the 3rd. inst., and cleared $35. They have an indebtedness resting upon their building of about $200." (Bethel Church Abstract of Title)

"In July 1951, Rev. Donaldson established Boy Scout Troop #11. Blaline Ramsey was the first Scout Master, James O. Wilson was the second and Otis M. Scott was the third." (Salem Baptist Church)

"On April 4, 1969, Helen Johnson asked permission to use the facilities of Salem for a six-week Montessori School. Salem agreed to donate the use of the facilities. The children at the school ranged in age from 2 1/2 to 5" (Salem Baptist Church)

"In 1800, the `Freewill Baptist Church' adopted the name Morning Star from the local newspaper "The Morning Star" so opposed to slavery." On Sunday, February 22, 1911, the "first" Morning Star Freewill Baptist Church of Urbana, Illinois was organized. (Historical Background of Urbana Morning Star Freewill Baptist Church)

"The Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church was organized on May 7, 1925 in Champaign as a prayer band. Rev. R. A. Hayden was it's first Pastor, the Tisdale Hall, 411 East Grove Street was it's first site, and its first day of worship was Christmas Day." (Brief History Of Pilgrim)

"The Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church was legally organized March 16, 1916 by Rev. D.J. Tyler as chairman. The Church originally began with a prayer meeting in the living room of Bro. and Sis. Nun. The group attending called themselves "The Prayer Band." They invited all the neighbors, friends and anyone else who would meet. "The