

New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church History

The early beginning of New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church takes us back to the year of 1929; a beginning that found seven Christians gathering at the home Mrs. Verna Edwards to worship and give God praises.

In the year of 1930, Sis. Lillie Still solicited the help of one of her white friends for some land to build a church for them to worship. This request was granted with the stipulation that a church must be built thereon. Sis. Still was then called 'the founder of this church' after securing the lumber from a demolition sale of unused wood for building motels {baseball living quarters} at Tinker Field on West Church Street- Orlando.

Under the skilled carpentry hand of Bro. Henry Brown, the church was built and upon the completion of the church the *seven pioneers adults: Sis. Lillie Still, Bro. Henry Brown, Bro. Benjamin Francis, Sr., Sis. Mary M. Francis, Sis. Nina C. Barber, Sis. Verna Edwards, and Bro. Andrew Parker along with the pioneer youth: Sis. Annie Mae Francis (Weber), Bro. Benjamin Francis, Jr., Sis. Louise Simmons, Sis. Julia Simmons, Bro. Burgess Merritt and Bro. James Henry Merritt* began to worship the Lord in new edifice. The Simmons young ladies and the Merritt young men were all foster children of Sis. Nina G. Barber.

The Church was given the name **BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, with some of the early pastors serving: Rev. S. J. Baker, Rev. S. Cobb, Rev. Jerome Andrews and spouse Sis. Letha, and Rev. J. H. Woodard and spouse Sis. Mabel.

In 1948, Rev. Leroy L. Johnson, Sr. was appointed pastor of this charge from the District Conference. Rev. Johnson was accompanied by his spouse, Sis. Cornelia and children Mary Alice Johnson (Slaughter), Leroy, Jr., Maggie Jewel Johnson (Mobley) and Susie Lee Johnson (Harris). Rev. Johnson pursued various items of the church; one important item, the deed, for an AME Church has to be built on property owned by the church. In 1949 marked the beginning of blocks being placed on the vacant spot of land to begin to build a new church.

Bro. Benjamin Francis, Sr. served as Church Secretary at the beginning and continued to serve until 1976. These duties were diversified with Recording Secretary duties taken over by Sis. Maggie Johnson Williams Mobley, followed by Sis. Lula Leach Davis, Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill, Sis. Eugenia Francis Forte', Sis. Janice Tolbert Willis, Sis. Patricia Rumph McDuffie, Sis. Deena Knight and with Sis. Wynnette Bryant Hinkle presently serving. The Financial Secretary duties were taken over by Bro. Theodore "Ted" Smith, Sis. Margaret Johnson Blunt, Sis. Lother Carson Cherry, and Sis. Phyllis Harris serving presently. Under the leadership of the Rev. Latanya W. Floyd, the financial system was restructured to the Commission on Finance system with Bro. Willie Curry serving as Comptroller; Bro. Darrell Bowens serving in that capacity at the present time. Members who have served the Commission to this present time are: Bro. Ben West, Sis. Margaret O. Blunt, Sr., Bro. Willie Hull, Jr., Sis. RoseMary Blackshear, Bro. James Connelly, Bro. Jesse A. Hill, Sis. Sarah Taylor, Sis. Tranny Jackson, Sis. Latonya Blair George, Sis. Carolyn Cromartie, Sis. Autumn Keyes, Sis. Deirdre L. Postell, Sis. Debra Bivins Breland, Bro. Mark Henry, Sis. Roberta Pullium, Sis. Barbara E. Blackshear.

In 1950 plans for building a new church were initialized with a membership of twenty-six (26). Rev. L. L. Johnson, Sr. (a Mason), Sis. Annie Telfair and Sis. Lucy Jacobs (*were not members of the Order of Eastern Star*) turned the ground readying it for the foundation. Each family was organized to raise \$33.34 per month. The first rally realized \$1,460, and thereafter the members continued providing the necessary funds to complete the church.

Bro. Henry Brown, Chief Carpenter, along with Bro. Andrew Parker, Bro. N. P. Porter, Bro. Johnnie Bennett (non-member) laid the blocks at no charge. Bro. Jesse Hill (*then, a non-member*), Bro. Elliot Welcome poured the floor along with other male members of the church, with the women handing the mortar to the men and making lemonade to assist them in the heat.

On April 10, 1955, Easter Sunday Morning, the church was dedicated under the leadership of Rev. Leroy L. Johnson, Sr.. The Right Reverend Carey A. Gibbs, Presiding Bishop, dedicated the church with the name of *New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church*. At the dedication service the only indebtedness of the church was the carpet on the floor; Bishop Gibbs donated the monies being paid to him, and along with other funds raised completed the payment of the carpet in full.

In 1956, the church annex was built after we were able to acquire a loan from Orlando Federal Savings and Loan Association. However, Rev. Johnson, Sr. and the Trustees were told the Bank had not previously loaned money to African American Churches, because they never knew who the responsible persons for the loan would be. Once the loan was completed, the Bank let the Trustees know that it was because of the pastor's excellent record of financial stability they were able to secure the loan. The annex was built where the choir stand now exist.

During that same year, 1956; under Sis. Leola Williams Bryant, Church School Superintendent, the Sunday/Church School reached the membership of (204) members. Other Superintendents that have served New Bethel are: Bro. Henry Brown, Bro. Fletcher Edwards, Sis. Lucille Rora, Sis. Jerry DeShay, Bro. Russell Bingham, Jr., Sis. Alice Jackson Gordon, Sis. Constance Williams Rivers, Bro. Lorenzo Wilkerson, Bro. Luther J. Blackshear, Sis. Mirrian A. Bryant, Sis. Mae E. Bryant Hammonds, Sis. Virginia T. Sherman, Bro. Michael David Jackson, and Sis. Constance Williams Rivers presently serving.

Sis. Leola Williams Bryant also served as the Adult Supervisor over the Junior Missionaries and later over the YPD'ers after the Connectional Women's Missionary Society so named them. Other YPD Directors that served are: Sis. Theo Wallace, Sis. Vivian B. James, Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill, Sis. Alice Jackson Gordon, Sis. Patricia Rumph McDuffie, Sis. Jacquelyn Johnson Bain, Sis. Bertha Taylor Johnson, Sis. LaJuana Farnior Jackson, Sis. Connie Slaughter Hull, Evangelist Carolyn Fuller, Sis. Mirrian A. Bryant, Sis. Rosa Boles McCarthy, Sis. Londan Leaks/Sis. Autumn Keyes, with Sis. Rhonda C. Rivers McCullough currently serving. Our Annual Youth Day had its initial start under the leadership of Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill through the urgency of then, Bro. Marvin C. Zanders (President) and Bro. Carlos L. Harris (Vice President) with a three-way celebration of the YPD Department, Youth Choir and Youth Ushers in 1980. The Young Peoples & Children's Division (YPD) has been named in honor for several persons: The Rev. Marvin C. Zanders, Sis. RoseMary B. Hill, with the current name being that of Sis. Leola Bryant.

In 1972 the walls of the old annex were moved to expand the church and a new annex was built. In this same year, Rev. L. L. Johnson, Sr., was promoted to Presiding Elder of the Ocala District (Central Florida Conference), after having served New Bethel for over 24 years.

Rev. Sandy P. Glass (Youngstown, Ohio) was appointed pastor along with his spouse, Sis. Alice, who introduced us to the Annual Pink Tea which was sponsored by the Lillie Still Women's Missionary Society in January 1974. Presidents of the Lillie Still WMS have been: Sis. Carrie Williams, Sis. Lucille White, Sis. Corrine Wilkerson Hill, Sis. Mary Lee Kelly Murphy, Sis. Clifford Bellamy Mobley, Sis. Susie L. Johnson Harris, Sis. Vivian B. James, Sis. Katie M. Washington, Sis. Betty Taylor Stephen, Sis. Mabel L. Tyler, Sis. Jacquelyn Johnson Bain, Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill, Sis. Latonya Cherry Ginetta, Sis. Carolyn E. Cromartie, with currently serving Sis. Mirrian A. Bryant.

In 1976 Rev. Richard Devon Daniels, Sr. was appointed as pastor of New Bethel; along with his spouse Sis. Doris Bagley. Under his leadership there were many accomplishments: paneling of the sanctuary; the building of the vestibule; a new brick front, new doors, stained glass windows the length of the sanctuary, covered the ceiling, flower stands, new piano; tiling and wallpapering of ladies and men restrooms; purchased kitchen gas

stove, sidewalk added to east-side of the church building; updated copier, air conditioners for offices; instrumental in installation of traffic light in front of church, hooked into city sewage; organized the YAMS (Young Adult Male Society) ages 8-18 promoting manhood with many adults serving as supervisors; instituted the Annual Youth Day observance; and hosted the 85th Session of the Central Florida Annual Conference in 1986, a first for New Bethel.

In September 1993, Rev. LaTanya Warren Floyd was appointed pastor of New Bethel, along with spouse Sis. Geneva. Under the leadership of Rev. Floyd the Finance Commission was established; the YES (Young Episcopal Sisters) was organized, with young ladies ages 9-18 developing ladylike Christian traits with adults serving as the supervisors, Sis. Lisa N. Hill Sampson and Sis. Darralle Johnson Bell. Sis. Bertha Taylor Johnson through the “VolunEar/Walt Disney World was able to obtain a grant for the “YAMS”, “YES”, and “YPDer”, which aided in some of their activities and enabled them to purchase a television and VHS player for the fellowship hall; and the purchase of the Parsonage, in Pine Hills on Zonna Street..

Leading us into the new “millennium” was the **Rev. David L. Connelly**, appointed to New Bethel in **September 1996**, with spouse Sis. Dorothy. Under Rev. Connelly’s leadership we celebrated our first Church Anniversary celebrating (67) years; led by the Lay Organization, Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill, President. The front of the church was renovated adding restrooms in the front of the church along with renovating the Pastor’s office. The Couples Ministry was organized with the coordinators Rev. W. Damone & Sis. Bertha Taylor Johnson; the RAMS (Richard Allen Male Society), male usher ministry and the Sons of Allen (SOA) ministry were also organized. With Rev. Connelly’s leadership, New Bethel successfully hosted the 96th Session of the Central Florida Annual Conference in 1997 and the 99th Session in 2000.

On November 22, 2004, Rev. Henry L. Postell, II was appointed to New Bethel, along with his spouse, Sis. Beverly Hughes and daughters, Sherrie and Deirdre. Pastor Postell moved the church forward with vim, vigor, and vitality of God, pressing toward the high calling of Jesus Christ. Under Pastor Postell’s leadership, we renovated the Pastor’s office and Finance Commission Room, organized the OWLS (Older-Wiser- Livelier Seniors) ministry, re-structured the Finance Commission; we celebrated the 75th Church Anniversary with the proceeds from the activity going toward renovations in the church; two dance ministries were established- the Consecrated Praise Dancers for Christ with Sis. Rosa B. McCarthy as the Leader, Sis. Beverly Postell as Advisor and Sherrie Postell as Choreographer. The Angel’s Feet/Wings Praise Dance Ministry, Sis. LaJuana Farior Jackson as Adult Supervisor, Sis. Sherrie Postell and LeAnn Winsley as Choreographers, and Sis. Beverly Postell, Jacquelyn Johnson Bain and Latonya Cherry Ginetta serving as Adult Advisors. The JAMM (Jesus and Me Ministry) with Master Jamarien Moore serving as President later transferred to Master Zachary Jackson with Brothers Jesse A. Hill, Michael D. Jackson, Louis Taylor, James Scott and Benjamin George serving as Adult Leaders. Rev. Postell established a male mentoring ministry; a second Stewardess Board was added to aid the responsibility on others serving in this capacity; also established a Young People’s Bible Study was established with Sis. Jeannette Myers, visiting teachers, Sis. Eddie Ishman (Greater St. Paul AMEC, Orlando, and Sis. Jessie R. Denson (St. John MB Church, Orlando); and we hosted the 110th Session of the Central Annual Conference. Pastor Postell spearheaded a rally of walking around the church and paying \$75.00 per adult member to pay off the remaining balance of the mortgage, and we became “debt-free” as of June 2010. On November 19, 2011, Rev. Henry L. Postell, II was elevated to the position of Presiding Elder of the “Nurturing” North Orlando District of the Central Annual Conference.

On **November 19, 2011**, the **Rev. Kirk Ronald Bogen** was assigned to New Bethel, along with his spouse Sis. Jacquelyn. Since arriving Rev. Bogen has been very busy reestablishing, reassigning, and revamping the organizations in the church. Rev. and Sis. Bogen have brought a fresh outlook to our Zion and we are continuing to do the work of Jesus Christ. Rev. Bogen has revamped the Finance Commission with a rotation aspect. He revised the curriculum for the New Members' Class with members of the Board of Christian Education (BOCE) rotating to teach certain portions of the classes; established an evangelism ministry and a young adult ministry; CREW, (*Christians, Ready, Eager & Willing*) To Serve and begin the process of establishing a 501-C-3 not-for-profit community development foundation to extend the ministries/services of New Bethel to the surrounding community. Pastor Bogen led us in celebrating our previously noted accomplishment of eradicating our debt with our first Mortgage Burning Service with Bishop McKinley Young presiding. We have made many improvements to our facility since Rev. Bogen's arrival such as renovated the kitchen, remodeled the pastor's study, replaced the roof on the rental property (parsonage), replaced pulpit and choir seating, installed ductless air conditioners in the sanctuary, and renovated the vestibule/entrance of the church. Under Pastor Bogen leadership, we successfully hosted the 114th Session of the Central Annual Conference.

Junior Stewards appointed by Rev. Bogen were: Roberta Thomas Mack, Kris Robinson Woodson, Deirdre L. Postell, Jamarien P. Moore and LaTonya Cherry Ginetta.

On **October 23, 2015** **The Rev. Ronald E. Williams, Sr.** was assigned to New Bethel with his daughter Ashley accompanying him. He has worked to reorganize, revamp, and restructure with a new outlook on teaching through teaching moments and educational workshops; letting us know that "the best is yet to come." He has continued to challenge the CREW (*Christians Ready, Eager & Willing*) To Serve Ministry to engage more actively in the total church ministries with Bro. Charles W. Lattimore, Jr. as President. After being here three years, God heard his cry and on December 1, 2018 granted his petition for a wife who joins us here as our First Elect-Lady, Lady Sharon E. Williams, we welcome her into the family at New Bethel. We have made some improvements since Rev. Williams' assignment such as erecting a picturesque fountain to the entrance of the church and he has hosted the "Nurturing" North Orlando District Conference and again we successfully hosted the 118th Session of the Central Annual Conference. In Rev. Williams' second year tenure he implemented the "Birthday Club" to create a time for fellowship by bringing members together sharing cake and ice cream; also the Birthday Club gets members involved in fellowship and fun beyond showing up for the worship service. Each member is asked to give a donation to the Church in honor of your birth month/day. To God be the Glory! This has generated additional income/revenue for the Church to meet its local obligations. Rev. Williams organized The Budget Initiative Committee. This committee was formed to work under the supervision and guidance of the Pastor in conjunction with the Board of Stewards and Finance Committee of New Bethel to ensure that all budgetary obligations of the local church are met in a timely manner.

In the fall of 2018 we welcomed two of our former members back into the congregation of believers here at New Bethel in the persons of the Rev. Bertha Taylor Johnson who left with her husband (*the late*) Rev. W. Damone Johnson to serve several churches with the last being that of Greater St. Paul AMEC, Orlando; and her niece, Licentiate Regina Lynn Johnson Crayton who is currently serving on our Finance Commission.

Persons who have served the **Board of Christian Education as Director** are: Sis. Doris Bagley Daniels, Sis. LaJuana Farior Jackson, Sis. Lother Carson Cherry, Sis. Clifford Mobley, Sis. Jeannette J. Myers, Sis. Mirrian A. Bryant, Rev. Dr. Ida Stephens Andrews, Sis. Rhonda Bingham Chambers, Sis. LaJuana Farior Jackson served again and Sis. Mirrian Bryant presently serving.

Usher Board Presidents including the RAMS Ministry over the years: Bro. Edward Mahoney, Bro. Harold Bryson, Bro. Edward Johnson, Bro. Raiford T. (R.T.) Williams, Sis. Annie Leach, Bro. McCoy Cooper, Bro. Jesse “*Jam-up*” Hill (Chief Usher) Bro. Eugene Taylor, Bro. William Sims, Sis. Ruth Scott, Sis. Mildred B. Snead, Sis. Sophia Taylor, Sis. Julie Owens, Sis. Constance Rivers, Sis. Margaret Blunt, Sis. Barbara Blackshear, Bro. Darrell Bowens, and Bro. Luther J. Blackshear.

Choir Presidents over the years with the combining and changing of names of choirs and the adding of a Male Chorus: Sis. Maggie Johnson Mobley, Sis. Ruby Welcome, Sis. Donella Sanders, Sis. Edith Bryson, Rev. Isaac Mobley, Sis. Johnnie Mae Murphy, Sis. Etta Brown, Bro. Russell Bingham, Sr., Bro. Parris Jackson, Sr., Sis. Essie Black, Sis. Lizzie M. Jackson, Sis. Nicola Williams, Sis. Alice Combs Wilson, Sis. Betty Stephen, Sis. Bertha Taylor Johnson, Bro. Aldrich “Al” Everett, Bro. Jesse A. Hill, Sis. Mae E. Bryant Hammonds, Sis. Wynnette Bryant Hinkle, Bro. Carlos Harris, Sis. Vivian B. James, Sis. Lillie M. Dallas Johnson, Sis. LuShawn Phillips, Sis. Latonya Blair George, Sis. Tammy Johnson, Sis. Roberta Thomas Mack.

Organist/Ministers of Music who have served the church are as follows: Sis. Willie Ola McCray, Sis. T. Turner, Sis. Gavonza Porter, Bro. James Kearney, Sis. Pearl T. Thompson, Sis. Ida & Julie Staggers, Sis. Clara Williams, Sis. Maggie J. Mobley, Sis. Melvet Clark Gaines, Rev. Damone A. Anderson, Bro. Randall Williams Sis. Victoria Martin, Bro. Buddy McKnight, Sis. Valarie Perry Maxwell, Sis. Gloria Clanton, Bro. Tim Welcome, Sis. Ethel Walker Fortson, Bro. Michael A. Phillips, Apostle Erlene S. Brinson, Minister Jarvis Smith, Bro. Robert Bradley, Minister James Stewart; Percussionists: Bro. Riley March, Bro. Andrew “Andy” Mitchell, Bro. Ruben Jackson and others; Directors/Directress: Bro. Carlos L. Harris, Sr., Sis. Barbara A. Turner and Bro. Charles W. Lattimore, Jr.

Presidents of the **Lay Organization** over the years: Sis. Jacqueline Wilkerson, Sis. Betty Stephen, Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill, Sis. Lother Carson Cherry (*served twice*), Sis. Audrey Wyatt, Sis. Mae E. Bryant Hammonds, with Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill currently serving.

Persons who served as **President of ACE League**: Sis. Clifford Mae Mobley, Sis. Verna Edwards, Bro. Lionel Starkes, Bro. Charlie E. Jackson, and Sis. Felicia Johnson Chambers.

Persons who have served as a **Stewardess** over the years: Sis. Carrie Williams, Pricilla Thomas, Edna Gillis, Hattie Hamilton, Donnie Bell Guinyard, Nina C. Barber, Reatha McKinney, Lillie Still, Corrie Givens, Lucille White, Avery Jenkins, Corrine Hill, Rosa Stukes, Theo Wallace, Virginia Dallas, Dorothy Douglas, Cornelia Johnson, Luella Mays, Leola Williams Bryant (nominated to become the first consecrated Deaconess of New Bethel AMEC by the Rev. Richard D. Daniels, Sr., and served for many years as the only one), Luvenia Welcome McKenzie, Annaphine Bartell, Zeda Lee Curry, Mathrelene Hill, Lucille Bingham, Emma J. Martin Francis, Mary A. Johnson Slaughter, Ruby Glover, Geneva Taylor, Annie Murphy Curry, Mary Lee Kelly Murphy, (both nominated to become consecrated Deaconesses by the Rev. David L. Connelly), Sis. Louise Stephens, Sarah Jane Smith, Arthier Evans, Maxine Chadderton, Barbara Blackshear, Josephine Boyd, Diane Bowens, Connie Slaughter Hull, Ferra Slaughter, Sandra Bingham, Bettie J. Bryant West, Clara Richey, Daisy Clayton, Barbara Smith Robinson, Geneva Dallas Evans, Carolyn E. Cromartie, “Gertie” Keaton, LaGrande Curry Davis, Mary McNeil, Alseen Bennett, Tammy Johnson, Viola Tolbert, Mary Taylor, Constance Rivers, Sarah Taylor, Judy Brown, Julie Owens, Yvonne Sims, Clara Green, Algerine Battle, Annie Hawkins, Cynthia Owens, Ruth Scott. (Rev. Kirk R. Bogen nominated Sisters, Mary McNeil, Mildred B. Snead, Katie M. Washington and Betty Hillman to be consecrated as **Deaconesses**).

Trustees who have served the church: Bro. Henry C. Brown, Bro. L.D. Keith, Bro. Will Douglas, Bro. N.P. Porter, Bro. Andrew Parker, Bro. Parris Jackson, Bro. Elias Jenkins, Sr., Rev. George Washington, Sr., Bro. Eddie White, Bro. McCoy Cooper, Bro. Nathaniel Stephens, Bro. Milton Slaughter, Bro. Milton J. Slaughter, Sis. Clifford Mobley, Bro. Jesse Hill, Bro. Jessie Hill, Bro. Theodore Mobley, Bro. Ernest Williams, Bro. Will Mays, Bro. Edward Johnson, Bro. Edward Mahoney, Bro. Eugene Vann Johnson, Bro. Robert Forte', Bro. Gabriel Bain, Bro. Luther J. Blackshear, Bro. Ernest Rutledge, Sis. Vivian B. James, Sis. Sandra Jackson, Bro. Benjamin George, Bro. Carlos L. Harris, Sr., Bro. Johnny "Jack" Harris, Bro. Hillard Rumph, Bro. Louis Taylor, Bro. Johnnie Watson, Sr., Sis. Mae E. Bryant Hammonds, Bro. Michael D. Jackson, Sis. "Gertie" Keaton, Bro. Randolph Whitley, Bro. Vernon J. Carruthers, Bro. Charles Thomas, Bro. Freemon Dukes, Bro. Charlie Cooper, Bro. Charles A. Betterson, Sis. Deirdre L. Postell, Sis. Tranny Jackson, Sis. Margaret O. Blunt, Sis. Lucy Jackson, Bro. James White, Bro. Peter Williams, Sis. Roberta Thomas Mack, Bro. Andrew Mitchell,

Sis. Maxine Chadderton, Sis. Barbara A. Hill Turner, Bro. Mark Henry, Bro. Rufus Willis, Bro. Jason Blackshear, Bro. Johnnie B. Smith.

Stewards who have served the church: Bro. Benjamin R. Francis, Sr., Bro. Elliott Welcome, Rev. Isaac Mobley, Bro. Verdinand Warren Warren, Sis. Susanna Bellamy, Bro. Nathaniel Stephens, Sis. Leola Bryant, Bro. Ben West Sr. (Emeritus), Bro. George Leach, Bro. Charlie Cooper, Bro. Burgess Merritt, Bro. Russell Bingham, Sr., Bro. George Wilson, Bro. Jesse A. Hill, Sis. Constance Rivers, Sis. Jerry Deshay, Rev. Theodore Smith, Bro. Louis Taylor, Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill, Sis. Margaret O. Blunt, Bro. Lorenzo Wilkerson, Sis. Mae O. Bingham Hardeman, Sis. Eugenia Francis Forte', Sis. Janice Tolbert Willis, Sis. Patricia Rumph McDuffie, Sis. Deena Knight, Bro. Michael D. Jackson, Sis. Judy Brown, Sis. Jacqueline Wilkerson, Bro. William Sims, Sis. Betty Stephen, Bro. William "Bill" Slaughter, Sis. Clifford M. Mobley (Emeritus), Bro. Darrell Bowens, Sis. Jacquelyn J. Bain, Sis. Wynnette Bryant Hinkle, Bro. Willie Hull, Bro. Willie Curry, Sis. Margaret Slaughter, Sis. Ruby Watts, Bro. James White, Bro. James A. Connelly, Bro. Luther J. Blackshear, Sis. Jeannette J. Myers, Sis. Lother C. Cherry, Sis. Phyllis Harris, Sis. Kris Woodson, Bro. Rodney Nedd, Sis. Debra Bivins Breland, Sis. Autumn Keyes, Sis. Sharon Thomas, Sis. LaJuana Fariior Jackson, Bro. Willie Mooring, Sis. Deirdre L. Postell, Sis. Kim Denmark Lewis.

Ministers who have served on the ministerial staff, or after retiring from becoming voluntarily inactive in the pastoral ministry: The Rev. Charles Smith, Sr., Rev. Guy Birk, Sr., Rev. McKinley Tyler, Rev. Joanne Mitchell Ector, Rev. Benjamin Murray, Rev. Dr. Ida J. Stephens Andrews, Rev. D. Luther Bell, Retired Presiding Elder Jerome L. Denmark, and Rev. Bertha Taylor Johnson.

Many sons and daughters have answered the call to the ministry. Under Rev. L. L. Johnson's tutelage: Rev. George Washington, Rev. Dennis Bell, Rev. Samuel Williams, Rev. Isaac Mobley, Presiding Elder Damone A. Anderson, Jr., and Rev. Benjamin McRae (Minnesota). Under Rev. Sandy P. Glass's tutelage: Presiding Elder Henry Green. Under Rev. R. D. Daniels tutelage: Rev. Theodore Smith, Bishop Samuel L. Green, Rev. Dr. Marvin Clyde Zanders, III, Rev. Susie L. Johnson Harris, Rev. Verdine McKinney, and Evangelist Mildred Glover. Under Rev. LaTanya W. Floyd's tutelage: Rev. W. Damone Johnson and Rev. Joe Baker (Atlanta, GA). Under Rev. David L. Connelly's tutelage: Rev. Benjamin Murray, Rev. Ida Stephens Andrews, Evangelist Yvonne P. Gainer, Evangelist Mildred S. Glover, Evangelist Carolyn Fuller; Under Rev. Kirk R. Bogen's tutelage: Sister Jacquelyn Bogen. Under Rev. Williams' tutelage, The Rev. Bertha Taylor Johnson and Sis. Regina Lynn Johnson Crayton (*Licentiate*).

Presiding Elders who have served New Bethel: Reverends D. A. Anderson, Sr. with spouse Elise; A. L. Sampson; M. M. Lindsey with spouse Alice; K. D. White with spouse Albertha; John E. Connelly with spouse

Louise; Dr. Robert L Mitchell with spouse Delores; Y. Benjamin Bruce and spouse Gloria; Hartford Lee with spouse Bernice; and Henry L. Postell, II with spouse Beverly currently serving.

Bishops who have served this great Zion are: Right Reverends John Andrew Gregg with Supervisor Melberta; Carey A. Gibbs; D. Ward Nichols with Supervisor Kay; Sherman L. Green with Supervisor Pinkie Beatrice; William F Ball; Ernest L. Hickman; George Wayman Blakely; Eugene C. Hatcher; George N. Collins; Dwight Dewey Robinson; Hubert N. Robinson; Samuel S. Morris, Jr.; Phillip R. Cousin with Supervisor Dr. Joanne; Frank Curtis Cummings with Supervisor Martha; John Hurst Adams with Supervisor Dr. Dolly; McKinley Young with Supervisor Dr. Dorothy; with Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. and Supervisor Mrs. Connie Speights presently serving.

Through the years we keep on toiling . . .

The History has been prepared from information gained from the following persons: Bro. Benjamin Francis, Jr., Rev. Susie L. Johnson Harris, Rev. W. Damone Johnson, Sis. Leola Williams Bryant, Sis. Bettie J. Bryant West, Bro. Jesse A. Hill, Sis. RoseMary Blackshear Hill, Rev. D. Luther Bell, and Rev. Bertha Taylor Johnson. (Any additional information will be gladly accepted to update the history, please submit info in writing). Thank You!



“We Are Christ-Centered, Mission-Minded and People-Focused”

Theme: “Striving To Be More Like Christ Through Our Work, Witness & Ministry

