

Bottsford Spring Missionary Baptist Church 155th Anniversary Sunday, August 9, 2020 **Rev.** General Jennings, Pastor Sunday School......Minister Robert J. Utley **Order** of Service Devotional Services......Deacons Welcome.....Sis. Linda Myles Memorial Selection......Sis. Sheila Green Church History Highlights......Dea. George Utley, Jr. Chairman Emeritus, Deacons Ministry Selection......Sis. Petula Gilmore Invitation to Christian Discipleship Invitational Hymn Announcements......Sis. Eleanor Hopson Church Clerk Remarks......Dea. Gregory Utley Chairman -Deacons' Ministry Holy Communion Benediction......Rev. General Jennings



Church History 1865-2020

Bottsford Spring Baptist Church was organized on **July 19, 1865**. Prior to that time, the black and white membership met at Bottsford, Georgia Baptists' second oldest church located about one-half mile from the church. About thirty percent of the members were black and seventy percent were white. The church discontinued Black membership in 1870 at the request of the Black members who desired a church of their own. The old Bottsford Church building was given by the consent of the white members, and with their help, was moved to this site and named Bottsford Spring Baptist Church.

Bottsford was organized by **Rev. Walker, Rev. Whitehead, Nathaniel Walker, Fate McNorrill, Bea Powell, and Green Lively**. The sermon was preached by **Rev. Walker** from St. John 15:1-5: "I AM THE TRUE VINE AND YE ARE THE BRANCHES, HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME AND IN HIM THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT." **Rev. Whitehead** was selected pastor and Green Lively was elected church clerk. The church was organized with these members: Charles Harris, Sonny Matthews, Shedrick Holmes, Joseph Williams, Myria Hayman, Tom Hayman, B. H. Hatcher, Dave Evens, P. Boyd, Phillip Holmes, Effie Williams, Hannah Powell, Fannie Hilton, Henry Powell, Berry Freeman, Jim Griffin, Mary Thomas, C. Kelly, and Rosa Ball.

The Second Sunday of each month was decided upon for worship service. Bottsford has been under the leadership of many ministers **Rev. Robert Whitehead** was the first Pastor. He ordained Dea. Jim Griffin and Dea. Dave Evans. He served as Pastor from **1865-1890**.

Rev. N. Walker was Pastor from **1891-1902**. He ordained Dea. Sterling Varner and Dea. Allen Griffin. Elijah Williams and W. H. Bessent were ordained to the ministry.

On February 3, 1894, seven acres of land was bought from L. McNorrill and Pompey Boyd, Sterling Varner, John Harrison, Lindsey Jones, Arthur Freeman, Jim Lawson, Shed Givens, and Allen Griffin. The land increased the size of the yard and cemetery of the church.

Rev. W. H. Bessent was church clerk and superintendent of the Sunday School for many years. He was licensed to preach in 1889. He served Jobe Spring as Pastor until he resigned to accept the pastorate at Bottsford. The church prospered greatly under his leadership from **1902-1905**.

Rev. W. W. Jones served faithfully as Pastor from **1905-1908**. He served until some misunderstanding arose which severed his connection and resulted in the organization of the Thompson Bridge Baptist church. Rev. Jones ordained Deacons: Eleazer Freeman, Miller Gray, Henderson Jones, James Lawson, J. H. Harris, Sam Gordon, Judge Walker, Fred Hilton, Henry Lively, and Jim Mingledove. **Rev. J. C. Kilpatrick** served the congregation until a pastor was elected.

Rev. J. H. Evans was elected Pastor and served from **1909-1914**. He ordained George Varner to the ministry and A. B. Freeman, Walter Griffin, Walker Chandler, and George Lewis were ordained as deacons. **Rev. James Lawson** pastored Bottsford from **1914-1916**. He conducted services and maintained the church spiritually.

Rev. S. J. Jones rendered splendid service from **1916-1936**. He organized the first choir of the church. A. J. Jones, C. G. Gordon, and A. B. Freeman were ordained to the ministry. Rev. Jones ordained many deacons. They were: A. B. Griffin, Sr., Cicero Williams, C. C. Boyd, D. V. Varner, Jack Walthour, Frank Walthour, W. W. Williams, Richard Reeves, Charlie Ingram, Shelly Godbee, Simon Freeman, Robert Davis, James Jones, and A. W. Whitehead. He put forth much effort and the church grew in grace.

Rev. O. C. Parker was elected Pastor and served from **1936-1940**. Rev. Parker ordained Deacons: Judson Eunice and George Walker. Rev. Scott was ordained to the ministry. **Rev. Hickerson** pastured the church in **1940**. He was loyal and attempted to revive the church. Then, **Rev. J. D. Williams** was elected pastor and served from **1941-1943**. He ordained Dea. W. M. Utley and Dea. V. H. Hankerson.

Rev. D. J. Jenkins was elected Pastor in **1943**. He worked toward improving the church and was very uplifting. Shortly after he became pastor, the church was destroyed by a fire on July 28, 1944. By the will of God, the church was rebuilt on the same foundation and specifications in 1945. Rev. Jenkins ordained Deacons: Robert Ingram, Mack Lawson, Mack Godbee, Sr., Henry Utley, Sr., Hoover Utley, Booker T. Walthour II, Ruben Bradley, James Reeves, Seaborn Hankerson, George Utley, Jr., G. B. McKenzie, and Grady Walton. Rev. Jenkins brought wisdom, love and patience to the members of the church. Only God could have enabled him to serve as he did. Rev. Jenkins resigned on July 1, 1973 after thirty years of service. He delivered his final sermon to the congregation on the Second Sunday in August, 1973. We were in the process of planning to build a new church and felt that God would be our fortress in a time of distress. We prayed that we would remain strong as we searched for a pastor.

On May 12, 1974, Rev. Elisha J. Johnson was elected Pastor. Many were baptized and restored to the fold under Rev. Johnson's leadership. The church continued to be prosperous. The Gospel and Youth choirs were organized. The Male Chorus was organized October 10, 1982. The Sunday School and Bible Class were reorganized. We strengthened our financial resources and built a new church. The membership increased greatly. Families brought stained glass windows and pews for the sanctuary. The new church was dedicated on July 25, 1976. We continued to serve the Lord and believed that through faith, all things are possible. A fellowship hall and kitchen were added to the church. A Hammond Organ was bought. Later, the church was remodeled and the cornerstone was placed by the Masons of Aurora Lodge 54 of Waynesboro, Georgia on March 2, 1986. Rev. Johnson ordained Deacons: James Lawson, James Waltower, Franklin Bush, Ellis Godbee, Willie Jones, Eddie Waltower, Charles Utley, Willie W. Waltower, Cornelius Godbee, Ronnie Anderson, and Willie Jones, Sr. He ordained Willie Jones to the ministry. Rev. Johnson delivered his final sermon to the congregation on the Second Sunday in February, 1992. We held to God's unchanging hand as we searched and prayed for God to send us a pastor. Dea. George Utley, Jr., Chairman of the Deacon Board kept his faith and continued to be a leader under stressful times. We were without a pastor for about a year. We continued worship service and worked together for the good of those who love the Lord.

On the Second Sunday, **March 14, 1993, Rev. Anthony Daniel** was elected Pastor. He was installed on July 27, 1993. He baptized and restored many to the fold. Trustees were appointed: Hosie Waltower, James Lawson, Jr., RoseBud Utley, Keno Waltower, Jack Waltower, David Williams, Cardell Waltower, Herrington Griffin, Henry Utley, Jr., Isaiah Waltower, Elbert White, Clifford Rhaney, Andrew Walker, Thomas J. Waltower, and Jessie Lawson. He ordained Dea. Gregory Utley on November 30, 1997. Rev. Daniel baptized and restored many. The membership increased. We began a full time ministry July, 1994.

Rev. Daniel ordained to the ministry: Rev. Charles Utley, Rev. James Waltower, and Rev. Clark Anthony. Rev. Daniel served as Pastor for five years. The church became debt-free when the mortgage was burned on May 29, 1994. On the First Sunday in November 1998, several members severed their connection and affiliation with the church and left with Rev. Daniel to organize another church.

We continued to keep our faith and belief in the Lord when we were without a Shepherd. **Rev. Charles Utley, Son of the House**, helped us continue worship service every Sunday. The Deacons and members were grateful as he led us in the spiritual programs and activities of the church. The Rules of Order were kept as we heard messages from ministers in the area.

Bro. Hughes Lawson was appointed to the Trustee Board January 1999.

May 1999, Bottsford Spring Missionary Baptist Church was incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia.

Rev. Timothy Bryan, Son-of-the-House of Carpentersville Baptist Church of North Augusta, South Carolina was elected Pastor on **January 8, 2000**. He was installed on April 16, 2000. Under his leadership, we continued to worship every Sunday.

Bro. Eugene Hughley was appointed to the Trustee Board in May, 2000. Rev. Charles Utley, Son-of-the-House was installed as Pastor of Spring Branch Baptist Church, April, 2000.

The church prospered greatly under Rev. Bryan's leadership. Rev. Bryan baptized and restored many to the fold. In 2002, we bought a new piano for the sanctuary and paved the parking lot. In June, 2003 we purchased a new church sign. Brother Benjamin Ryans was called to preach, and delivered his trial sermon on Sunday, February 2, 2003.

On May 3, 2003, Rev. Bryan resigned. Rev. Bryan came to us emphasizing, "Love ye one another," and he left Bottsford in Christian love. We are blessed to have had him as our Pastor.

On **April 3, 2004** by a unanimous decision of the members of the Church, **Rev. General Jennings** was elected as our Pastor. He was installed on June 6, 2004 the first Sunday in June. He was installed by Rev. William Bass, Pastor of Tremont Temple Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia. His text was taken from Exodus 17:11-13, "Who will hold the Pastor's hand?"

The spiritual foundation of the church is supported by our solid bond in Christ and religious beliefs.

Brother Frank Walker was received and approved by the church body to become a Trustee of the Bottsford Spring Baptist Church September, 2004.

As we continued to grow in God's grace we made improvements and increased our church property. A storage building was purchased in November of 2003. A sound room was installed in November of 2004. We give scholarships annually to our high school graduates who continue their education.

Son of the House, Rev. Benjamin Ryans was ordained March, 2005, and was elected pastor of the Sweetwater Baptist Church in Barnwell, South Carolina.

In 2006 two trustees, Brother Robert J. Utley and Brother Johnny Jones were nominated and accepted.

In 2007 we purchased a new church van. The church elected to hold morning service early every fifth Sunday, with Sunday School at 8:00 a.m. and morning worship at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 20, 2008, our devoted and dedicated Daughter, Sis. Loraine Williams Ryans delivered her trial sermon at Sweetwater Baptist Church in Barnwell, SC. Minister Ryans took her text from Psalms 121, "All My Help Comes From the Lord".

In March 2008 the church was damaged by a severe hail storm. The windows in the fellowship hall were damaged and two sets of windows were replaced along with repairs to the church steeple, siding, and roof.

A new sound system was installed. Speakers were installed in the walls with suspended and free standing microphones added to the system.

On November 7, 2009 Brother Robert Whitfield was nominated and accepted as a Trustee.

In April 2010, the church paid off and received the title to the church van.

We continued to build and restore our sanctuary and church property. We kept the cemetery and grounds of the church cut and cleared of debris. New tables were purchased and placed in the fellowship hall and bathroom fixtures were replaced.

December 11, 2010, Bro Raymond Fleming and Bro. Christopher Jones became candidates for Trustees.

Nine members were added to the church roll; Rev. Jennings baptized 3, restored 4, and 2 came under Christian experience.

On Sunday, October 30, 2011, Rev. Loraine Williams-Ryans, Daughter of the House was ordained into the ministry at the Sweetwater Baptist Church, Barnwell, South Carolina.

In 2012 Rev. Jennings baptized one new member and received one under Christian Experience.

We Ordained Dea. Robert Whitfield and Dea. Robert Utley as deacons on March 25, 2012.

A floor buffer, storage containers and a cooler for the kitchen were purchased, and the sanctuary wall was repaired.

In 2013, we have continued to award scholarships to our members through our annual scholarship fund.

Membership increased by acceptance of members by Christian Experience or Baptism.

A Kidney Fund for Sis. Rosalyn Joanne Carrington raised \$13,000 and she received a kidney transplant in December 2012.

We have continued the annual donations to the Haitian Fund and the Golden Harvest Food Bank.

We sent delegates and the pastor to the 10th District General Missionary Baptist Convention.

Rev. Benjamin Ryans and **Rev. Loraine Williams Ryans** founded and dedicated the **New Olive Branch Baptist Church**, Beech Island, South Carolina on May 24, 2013 and Rev. Jennings Pastor of the Bottsford Spring Missionary Baptist Church delivered the dedication sermon for the Son and Daughter of the House.

The Officers and members of Bottsford pledged to the 2013 Annual Building Fund to begin Phase One of construction and building improvement projects of the church.

Dea. James Lawson resigned as Church Treasurer on November 9, 2013. He was a loyal, honest, and dependable church officer who leaned on the Lord. He used his wisdom to guide us through many building projects and the daily financial operations of the church for 28 years. Dea. Robert Whitfield was appointed Church Treasurer, November 2013.

In 2014 three new members were baptized and Rev. Jennings continued to accept members by Christian experience.

The church copier was paid off through the lease.

The floral arrangements on the altar were donated by Bro. Henry Utley Jr. and Sis. Mamie Frances Utley.

We continue to contribute to the Christian Haitian Outreach Fund and the Golden Harvest food Bank.

Phase One of construction and building improvement projects of the church was started September 2013 and completed in February 2014. The church sanctuary was remodeled by the E&E Construction Company, Mr. George Evans, Contractor, to increase the altar space and repair the pulpit floor. New carpet and tile were installed, new woodwork was added, and the walls were painted. Two beautiful antique original stained glass windows donated to Bottsford Spring Baptist Church by the First Baptist Church, Waynesboro, GA in 1930, were restored by the Savannah River Art Glass Company, Mrs. Brenda DeVaney, Contractor, and placed back in the foyer of the church. We are very humble and thank God for allowing us to grow in worship,

prayer, and fellowship. Stained glass windows depicting the "Life of Christ" were purchased by the families of:

Dea. Mack Godbee, Sr., Lillie Mae Godbee, and Thedoshia Wimberly

Dea. Booker T. Walthour, II and Alice Mae Walthour

George Utley, Sr. and Mary Lou Utley

Dea. Henry Utley, Sr., Lizzie Utley, Truman, Margaree, and Eddie Mae

Dea. Shelly Godbee, Annie, Louis, Robert, and Alton Utley

Rosebud and Neomia Utley and Larry Gaines

Dea. Grady Walton, Sr.

Mattie L. Whitfield and Glenda Harris

Frank Lawson

William and Minnie Lee Utley

Charlie Williams, Mary B. Williams, and Fannie Lovett

Dea. George Utley, Jr. and Leatrice Utley

We have truly come this far by faith and we are praying that we will continue into **Phase Two in the near future.**

In 2015 Rev. Jennings baptized three new members and seven new members were accepted by Christian experience.

Window drapes were installed in the fellowship hall and kitchen. A vacuum cleaner was purchased by the Gospel Choir. Sunday School time changed to begin at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday.

The Church Technology Committee was organized December, 2015. Committee Members are Bro. Eugene and Sandra Bailey, Sis. Cathy Utley, Dea. Robert Utley and Sis. Eleanor Hopson. The church website is <u>www.bottsfordspring.com</u>.

Bottsford Spring Church family and friends helped raise matching funds for Trustee Willie Frank Walker to receive a liver transplant December 2015.

In 2015 - 2016, new window drapes, interior decorations, and an electric stove were added to the fellowship hall, pastor's study, and restroom remodeling and renovations.

Rev. Jennings baptized three and five members joined the church under Christian experience.

Dea. James Lawson, Jr., ordained deacon from Hill Chapel Baptist Church in Athens Georgia was accepted by letter and ordained to Deacon status by Rev.

General Jennings, Pastor and officers of Bottsford Spring Baptist Church, May 15, 2016.

In 2017 Rev. Jennings baptized four and five were added to the fold under Christian experience.

Bro. Benny Hankerson was appointed to the Trustee Board June 2017.

We replaced the air conditioner in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall and two microphones were purchased. Repairs were made to the church steeple, foyer pump house, and the storage building. The outside lights were upgraded to provide more light around the church.

In 2018 Rev. Jennings baptized two members and five were restored, two joined the church under Christian Experience.

In November 2017, Dea. George Utley, Jr. was made Deacon Emeritus of the Deacons' Ministry by the church officers and members. A celebration in his honor was held at the church on March 31, 2018. Deacon Willie Waltower became Chairman of the Deacons' Ministry January, 2018.

Building & Grounds: Parking signs were posted in the parking lot and a new air conditioner was installed.

September 2017 a donation of \$1,500 was given to Paine College, and the church also made a donation to the Houston Relief Fund for hurricane disaster.

The church air conditioners were replaced 2018-2019. In October 2018 the church remodeling loan was paid off.

November 2018 the church accepted the resignation of Dea. Willie W. Waltower as Chairman of the Deacons' Ministry and Dea. Robert J. Utley was elected Interim Chairman.

In September, 2018, Deacon candidates were announced by Rev. General Jennings. Trustee Benny Hankerson and Bro. Michael Hopson would be under the guidance of Rev. Jennings for several months.

On December 8, 2018 by conference decision of the Deacon Board and church members, Dea. Robert J. Utley was elected Chairman of the Deacons' Ministry and Dea. Ellis Godbee, Sr. Assistant Chairman of the Deacons' Ministry.

Eight members were accepted into the church; Rev. Jennings baptized four members and four were accepted under Christian Experience.

Rev. Jennings ordained Deacon Bennie Hankerson and Deacon Micheal Hopson, July 27, 2019. The sermon was preached by Rev. Rayford Roundtree.

We continue to support the Haitian Outreach Foreign Mission every year in October with an annual financial contribution.

From August 2019- August 2020:

Many Members have been restored.

A Wi-Fi camera system and TV screen were purchased and the sound system was upgraded.

On September 22, 2019, Dea. Robert Utley, Chairman of Deacons, presented candidates for Church Trustees to the Deacon Board and Church Body. Sunday, November 9, 2019, Rev. General Jennings, our Pastor, presented Certificates of Affirmation to Members of the Trustee Ministry of Bottsford Spring Missionary Baptist Church:

Sis. Henrietta Lake Bro. Bryton Hopson Bro. Jessie Lawson

Roof repairs have been made as needed. Members were called upon to visit their family grave sites in the church cemetery and let it be known if repairs were needed. Grave sites of our loved ones have been repaired and is an on-going project.

Dea. Robert Utley, Chairman of the Deacons Ministry, gave his resignation as Chairman during church conference, November 9, 2019, to continue study for the ministry. Trustee Eugene Hughley was elected Chairman of the Trustee Board.

On December 14, 2019, Church Conference and the Deacon Board Election were held and the members elected:

Dea. Gregory Utley, Chairman

Dea. Ellis Godbee, Assistant Chairman

Dea. Michael Hopson, Secretary

Dea. Robert Whitfield, Assistant Secretary and Church Treasurer

Dea. Robert Jerome Utley gave his Initial Sermon, Saturday, January 11, 2020, and was licensed to preach by Rev. General Jennings. Ministers witnessing the occasion with officers, members, and friends were:

Rev. Loraine Williams Ryans, Daughter-of-the-House, and Sons-of-the-House, Rev. Charles Utley, and Rev. Benjamin Ryans.

Rev. Robert Jerome Utley preached from the text, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God", Scripture, St. Matthew 18: 25-33-Be thou perfected with a spiritual heart.

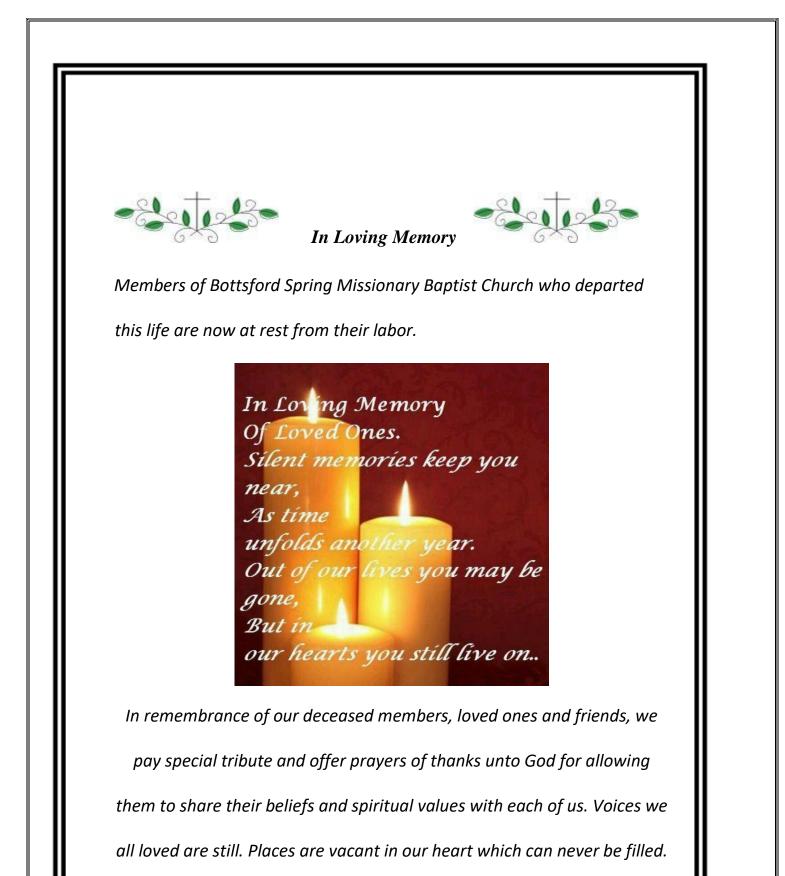
The church body was quarantined on Sunday, March 22, 2020, due to the COVID-19 Virus. The GMBC, Tenth District, has sanctioned the ceasing of all activities in churches and activity buildings until further notice. We wore our masks and practiced social distancing. We hear the Lord and will do what God asks us to do. Church Clerk, Dr. Eleanor G. Hopson, asked the pastor and officers to allow her to host our teleconference worship service.

On the Fifth Sunday, March 29, 2020, we began our teleconference worship service under the leadership of Rev. General Jennings, our Pastor and Worship Leader, and Rev. Robert Utley, our Sunday School teacher and Son-of-the House. We have worship service every Sunday at 10:00 am with the Deacons Ministry and all Officers, members, and friends of Bottsford Spring Missionary Baptist Church.

We believe that God is with us- "Father I Stretch My Hands to Thee, No Other Help I Know". He has not failed us and will not fail us.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. The mission of the Holy Church is to go about doing good, lift up the fallen, bind broken hearts and walk as a Christian should.

As long as there is unity, it matters not if there are two or three or two or three thousand gathered in Christ's name, He will be in the midst.



MEET OUR NEW DEACONS **INSTALLATION SERVICE WAS HELD SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019** 2:00 PM

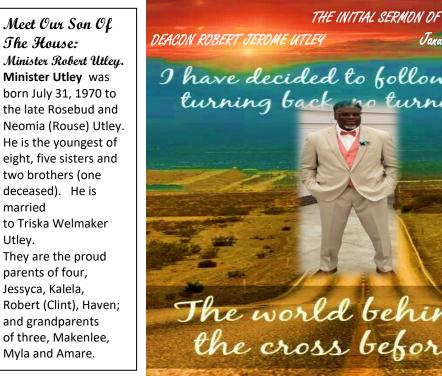
Deacon Michael J. Hopson

Michael, a Waynesboro, GA Native, graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Augusta, GA in 1988. He studied Civil Engineering Technology at Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Alabama, where he graduated in July 1995. Michael began his career with the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) and served as District Chemical/Material Analysis Specialist for 14 years and the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, Engineering Services Division, Evans, GA as an Engineering Inspector. After returning to his home in Augusta, GA, he continues to serve in the Construction business as Site Superintendent. Michael enjoys spending time with his son Bryton, ushering at church, traveling with the family and his parents Robert and Eleanor Hopson.

Deacon Bennie Hankerson

Bennie, a Waynesboro, GA Native, is the son of the late Lamar Williams and Mae Pearl Hankerson. He was baptized at an early age at Bottsford Spring Baptist Church. He is a dedicateed church worker who served on the Trustee Board. Bennie is married to Ida Mae Burnett Hankerson and they are the proud parents of seven children; Andrew (Jeana) Hankerson, Benjamin, Eric, Craig, Derick, Vidalia Hankerson, and Jacqueline (Carlo) Wright, and six grandchildren.

January 11, 2020 - 2:00 p.m.



I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back no turning back. The world behind me, the cross before me.



married

Utley.

TRUSTEE EUGENE HUGHLEY, TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN

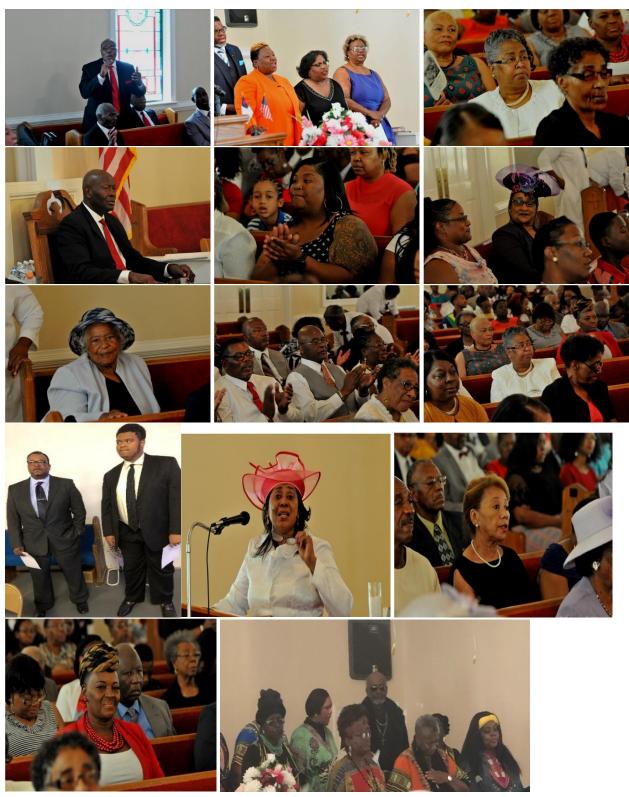


MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

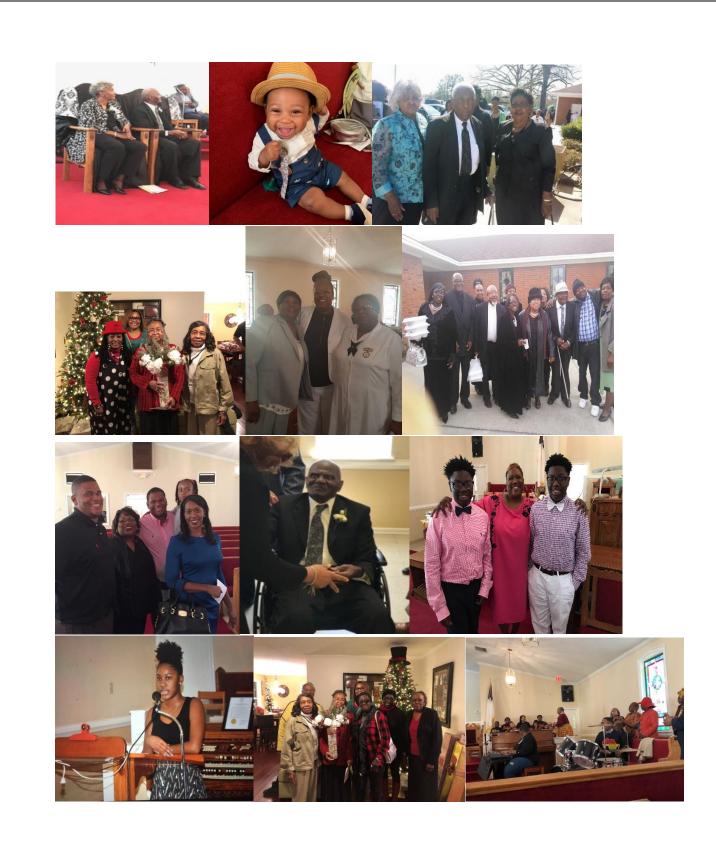


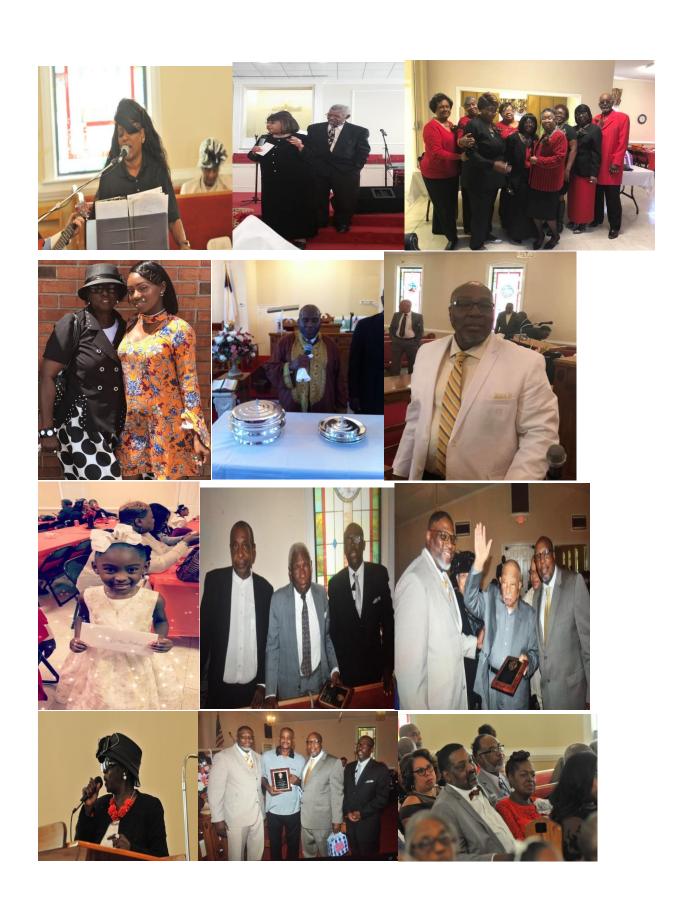
TRUSTEE JESSIE LAWSON TRUSTEE HENRIETTA LAKE & TRUSTEE BRYTON HOPSON

PHOTO GALLERY











Church Officers

Dea, Gregory Utley, Chairman Deacon Ministry Dea. George Utley, Deacon Chairman Emeritus, and Dea. Robert Whitfield, Church Treasurer





Deacon Ministry

Deacon Gregory Utley – Chairman Deacon George Utley, Jr – Chairman Emeritus Deacon Ellis Godbee – Asst. Chairman Deacon Robert Whitfield – Treasurer Deacon Michael J. Hopson – Recording Secretary Deacon W. W. Waltower Deacon Bennie Hankerson Deacon James Lawson, Jr.

Trustee Ministry

Trustee Eugene Hughley, Chairman Trustee Jessie Lawson Trustee Henrietta Lake Trustee Bryton Hopson