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Church History – Riverhill Missionary Baptist Church, 2022

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CHURCH HISTORY

1873 RIVER HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 2022

Many years ago, there were some Christian Believers who had a desire to come together and worship the Lord. There was not a church close by so they choose a spot of ground, and began worshiping there, under a Brush Harbor, located on the west side of James Road, or Highway 94 or 133.

After a while, this band of Christian Believers decided to build a little church . In the year of 1873, a church was built on the same side of the road in the same location. The land on which the church was built was owned by Mr. Tom Smith.

Rev. Robert Troupe assumed leadership of the organization which was given the name: RIVER HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH by Sister Amy Wilson, who became the Mother of the church.

As time passed, the membership grew; and as a result of their combined efforts, a larger church was built on the east side of James Road across from the old structure. This piece of ground was given to the church members by Mr. Tom McKey for a small fee.

The cornerstone was laid during the administration of Rev. T. H. Williams, who served from November 24, 1944 to August 1968.

In 1966, after Interstate 75 was constructed, Mr. J. D. McKey came up with an idea, that he give two acres of land at a site that he named, move the church to this site, dig a deep well, place two toilets in the church, put up a fence in front of it, all at his expense. He had some years previously given an

acre of land for cemetery usage, north of River Street Road. After an agreement was made with the members, the church, along with the little old schoolhouse, was moved to its present location.

During this movement, the cornerstone was broken. This called for extra work to be done to the church. Deacon F. M. Jones spearheaded this renovation. The cornerstone was replaced in July 1968.

Some of the accomplishments of the church during the pastorates of 19 pastors that have served Riverhill are: choir stand was built in 1948, new pews and pulpit set were bought in 1954, gas heaters were installed carpet was installed, a new piano was bought, the pool for baptism was built, central heat and air installed, and the little old schoolhouse was renovated for a kitchen. Chairs for the Pastor's Study and general church were purchased, bathrooms installed , and the water fountain was given.

There were many contributions of donations given by various members of the church.

In 1978, the roof of the church was raised and the lighting system was improved. In 1979, the sound system was installed.

Rev. W. R. Jenkins was called as Pastor of River Hill Missionary Baptist Church on March 28, 1979, and was installed as pastor of this church on June 24, 1979.

God has accomplished much during those years which included: the Deaconess Board was organized, the paying of tithes was recommended, new rules and regulations that pertain to the order of services and the church at

large were made. A new church steeple was erected, and the reorganization of the Pastor's Aide Club, of which Bro. L. C. Copeland II was appointed as President, followed by Sis. Velma Matchett who served faithfully for 25+ years, and served, until her death, as President Emeritus under Sis. Joyce Richardson.

God has provided many willing workers to the uplifting of his church and will continue to provide these laborers. He has also provided many blessings for RMBC down through the years. Five services established :Worship service, Revival, Consecration Service, Easter and Christmas. On September 25, 1988, "Burning of the Mortgage" was done by Pastor Jenkins and officers of the church, three brothers were ordained to serve as deacons of the church: Bro. Willie James Conaway, Bro. Bobby McCormick, and Bro. Luther B. Robinson. With the constant encouragement of Rev. W. R. Jenkins to "Stay with the church" and "Be careful how you treat one another", River Hill continued to grow in number and in Spirit.

1982 – 1989: With the love and unity that is taught in Ephesians 4:3, a building fund was created and additional space was added to the church. The building was extended to seat 200 people, a Pastor's Study was constructed, a new steeple was placed atop the building, new pews with nameplates of those soldiers who have gone on to rest, and completion of construction done on the church, new van, a rose garden in front of church, paving of parking areas, basketball court.

River Hill through the years

1990: Dea. L. S. Washington was elected as Assistant Superintendent to the Sunday School, and Sis. Clara Henderson was elected Secretary, Bro. Bobby McCormick was Sunday School Superintendent at this time. Book holders were added to the pews by the McCormick Family Project.

1991: Beautiful Bibles and Hymnals were purchased for the church and a new air conditioning unit was installed. There were 12 joined to the Church in 1991.

1992: A Spiritual Creative Committee was formed by Pastor Jenkins. God blessed the Church with a new piano and other items.

1993: The Little Old Schoolhouse was demolished to make room for improvements to the church. The kitchen staff was reorganized with Sis. Lillie Frazier as Supervisor, formation of Study Group for Deaconesses and the Scholarship Committee, and classes of the Sunday School were reorganized for the growth of our young people and betterment of the church. A Pastor and Wife's Appreciation was instituted by Sis. Geraldine Wilson.

1994: Two deacons were added to the Deacon Board, Dea. Cleveland Graham and Dea. Charlie Mack Flannigan. Family of Deacon Peyton and Sis. Amy Adams donated two flags in their memory. Two sisters were appointed and in-waiting to be confirmed as Mother and Assistant Mother of Church, and progression of Building Fund. God is still in the blessing business. He has blessed River Hill to have its first deacon to become a

minister, Brother Luther B. Robinson.

1995: Formation of An Outreach Program, a Scholarship Program, an All Summer Program and the addition of the Youth Center. River Hill's second deacon to become minister, Brother Edgar Roberts. Dedication of Center and new Youth Directors were appointed, Bro. Greg and Sis. Tia Battle.

1996: Did you know that after 122 years of God's blessings have passed and we have our 'Trustee Board', an addition to our Sunday School classes and Soup Kitchen Service! And did you know that under the watchful eye of the Lord Jesus Christ and the leadership of "Willie Ross Jenkins" on June 30, 1996, nine brothers were ordained to Deacon-ship: (Brothers Caesar Battle, James Battle, Arthur Calhoun, L. C. Copeland II, Willie B. Knight, Nathan McEady, Frank Statum, Fred Thomas and Sammie Washington) We give thanks to God for this Blessed Year.

1997: This year God blessed us with a new freezer for the kitchen and a copier for our media room.

1998: We are blessed with two television sets, pavement of the Church parking lot, and basketball court.

1999: God supplied a new van for the Church!

2000: God beautified the front with shade trees and a beautiful rose garden, and a new stove graced the kitchen.

2001: River Hill had its 1st October-fest and sleepover for the children, for they also are blessings from God. Picnic tables and a grill were added.

2002: As stated in Romans 4:13 , 'all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord..', our Church steeple was struck and split by lightning. God's Grace stepped in and replaced the split steeple with a brand new steeple which was large enough to house the Church bell, that could not fit into the old one. My brothers and sisters **GOD IS GOOD!** Also during 2002, Sister Clara Henderson became clerk after resignation of Sis. Mary Roberts, and a new computer, desk and chair for media room..

2003: A clothes closet was added and painting of interior of Church from front to back.

2004: On December 31, 2004, Rev. Willie Ross Jenkins submitted his letter of resignation to the deacon board and congregation. He was a great Shepherd, leader , preacher and teacher, but because of failing health he decided to step down, because he no longer could be the **strong man** of the house.

River Hill M. B. Church was without a Pastor. Pastor Luther Robinson, then Pastor of Shady Grove M. B. Church, conducted services until a new shepherd could be found.

2005: On January 9, 2005, a Pulpit Committee was formed; they were to go out, search and pray that the Lord would send a pastor and shepherd for His

flock. Members were: Dea. Willie James Conaway, chairman, Dea. Willie Knight, Bro. Johnny Washington, Bro. Richard Brown, Sis. Kathleen Williams, Sis. Lillie Frazier, Sis. Sallie Brinkley, Sis. Katherine Flannigan and Sis. Phyllis Harris. During this time, many ministers came in to speak and teach God's Holy word. On August 28, 2005, Rev. Bobby Culbreth of Twin City, Ga. was called as pastor. He was installed on November 13, 2005 and the installation was delivered by the Rev. Skylyn Hagin of New Bryant MBC and presided over by Rev. David Moore, moderator. Under his leadership a number of souls were drawn to Christ. Several ministries were added, Bro. Johnny Washington appointed youth director, new Church pews and stained glass windows were added, and youth attended first youth convention in Norman Park, Ga.

2006: God added a new drum set and the organization of mass choir under direction of Bro. Paul Brown, pianist, the Pastor's study was redecorated by the Education Ministry and other members of the church, a Singles ministry was added under Sis. Shirley Bradley. Rev. Culbreth served for two years.

2007: Again River Hill is without a Pastor. Many members also left the church with the departure of Rev. Bobby Culbreth. Many things happen in this life which we cannot comprehend, but the Master Carpenter has the blueprints of all things. He led us through these travail times with many different ministers He sent in to speak the Word, to keep us comforted, to get us to lean on Him, and keep the Faith.

2008: Ushers presented Church with table in the foyer.

2009: During this time without a Pastor, it was decided that different ministers would come in to preach on the first Sunday and that Rev. Dellise Cox would handle services on fourth Sunday. In March 2009, Rev. Dellise Cox was installed as Pastor of RMBC. New parament or podium and altar table linen, were purchased. Rev. Cox led the Dedication of these paraments. He served until February 2010.

2010: It was decided to pray and take time before getting another pastor -wait, again I say wait on the Lord-. It was decided to call Rev. James Banks to stand as interim Pastor until God chose a pastor.

Pastors who have served River Hill are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.Rev. Robert Troupe | 10. Rev. J. W. Fisher |
| 2.Rev. Charles Anderson | 11. Rev. Silas Wilson |
| 3.Rev. John Sanders | 12. Rev. Love Anderson |
| 4.Rev. Norah Wright | 13. Rev. J. W. Bridges |
| 5.Rev. Jeff Brown | 14. Rev. T. H. Williams |
| 6.Rev. Bob Jenkins | 12. Rev. H. B. Bland |
| 7.Rev. Rev. Morgan | 14. Rev. W. R. Jenkins |
| 8.Rev. Tom Gray | 16. Rev. Bobby Culbreth |
| 9.Rev. Epps | 18. Rev. Dellise Cox |

Rev. James Banks served as interim Pastor or temporary Pastor, from March 2010 to April 2011, having never been seated as Pastor. Voting was held on

January 21, 2011 to select one of the two candidates, Rev. Dargon or Rev. Troope as next Pastor of River Hill.

On May 22, 2011, Rev. Joe Troope, and his lovely wife Sis. Jeannie Troope were installed as the new Pastor and first lady of River Hill Missionary Baptist Church by Rev. T. H. Haynes, with Rev. John Manning presiding. The Bible speaks of John the Baptist preaching through the wilderness. Today I speak to you of one coming to 'our wilderness' preaching, "Repent, repent, repent!, and he teaches a mean Bible class! also. Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Joe Troope, River Hill stepped out on faith with the addition of two services, first and third Sundays. Elder Luther and Sister Delphine Robinson returned and restored their membership to the Church, the addition of two new choirs, the 'young adult choir' and the Mighty Clouds of River Hill, our male chorus. Bro. Anthony Straughter becomes new pianist. Mother Marie Jones Thomas departs for Heaven and Mother Hattie Gay and Brother Robert Moore become oldest members of Riverhill.

2012: Dea. Charlie Flannigan becomes Superintendent of Sunday School, Bro. Dewayne Fleming is licensed as a minister, a new computer in media room, reorganization of finance department.

2013: New all-in-one printer/scanner/copier in the media room. Riverhill's oldest member, Mother Hattie Gay, departed this earthly life, and Mother Sophie Lane and Mother Mittie Pearl Russell become oldest members.

2014: Another year of Blessings. A storage room was added to the Church to house the barbeque grill, Church floor was repaired and our dining hall was improved with new tables and chairs. The Mighty Clouds of River Hill become the Joyful Wonders of River Hill. Sis. Joyce Richardson becomes president of Pastor's Aide Club and Sis. Velma Matchett remains President Emeritis. Beloved Deacon L. S. Washington departs for Heaven.

2015 – Two (6-burner eye) stoves were purchased and installed in kitchen. Church restrooms were upgraded for handicapped. Dea. Alphonso McPherson returns to River Hill and he and Dea. James Mobley are added to the Deacon Board. Bro. Frank Statum becomes Deacon Chairman and Bro. Charlie Flannigan becomes Vice Chairman. Sis. Terri Fleming becomes newest van driver. The ice machine is relocated to the storage room added to Church. Organization of Floral, Hospitality and Benevolent Committees, and the renewing of the Spiritual Creative Committee Another River Hill Deacon, Bro. Fred Thomas, departs for Heaven and a brand new touch screen computer was purchased for the computer or media room.

2016 – Dea. Frank Statum went on to his rest this year just as written in the Book of Life, and the return of Dea. Willie Knight. God has richly blessed River Hill with another year of blessings. For the second year, it has hosted the Westside Community/River Hill fun day, and the Church is being painted to restore beauty.

2017 – Riverhill Church this year was painted from front to back, inside and out. A new roof was installed over the Sanctuary, and the restrooms were

updated to accommodate the handy-capable. There have been 7 members added to the membership, 2 by letter or Christian experience and 5 by baptism.

2018 – This year Riverhill had it's first 'Special Effort' to the Union Meeting which was hosted at Riverhill, a new air conditioner was purchased for the Pastor's Study, the re-baptism of Pastor & Sis. Troope, and eleven others,

2019 - This year Riverhill, by the help of God, and Pastor Troope welcomed 7 new members, 1 under watchcare, installed two new deacons, Bro. Jeffrey Williams and Bro. Milton Gertman., and licensed a minister, Bro. James Bowens. Soon afterward Covid 19 hit and the church was closed.

2020 – Jesus said in the Scriptures that He would never leave us comfortless. While we were out during the covid 19 outbreak the Lord introduced Zoom to us and Paster Troope was able to have services anyway. Mother Copeland went to Heaven.

2021 – new computer for Finance Office, and two 6- burner stoves in the kitchen.

2022 – The Lord called Mother Velma Matchett home and God sent 3 new members to Riverhill. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, “Ain't God good?”

Today's officers: Dea. Caesar Battle– Chairman of Deacon Board, Vice Chairman Dea. Jeffrey Williams, Dea. Charlie Flannigan, Sun. School

Superintendent . -Asst. Superintendent Bro. Weslie Lyles

Dea. L. C. Copeland II – Treasurer Sis. Clara Henderson – Clerk/ Secretary

Sis. Addie Gay – Financial Secretary Sis. Lillie Frazier – Sextant

and, of course, Dr. Joe Troope, Pastor.

As in his words, Joshua 1:9 says: “Be strong and of a good courage; Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest. “

River Hill has been blessed with members dedicated to Christian Service.

WE HAVE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH AND THROUGH THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR, and under God's grace and the leadership of Pastor Joe Troope, I believe River Hill will soar to even greater heights.

I salute the fallen members.

Amen.