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1980

# History of the River Hill Missionary Baptist Church

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Did you stop to pray

20 Proverb  
A good Name  
that stand for something

December 25 '9

Who said almost thru prayer  
and by the

HISTORY OF

Act 20

THE RIVER HILL

permanence

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

9-5  
tuesday -  
saturday  
333-5385

## CHURCH HISTORY

1873

RIVER HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1980

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 chose a spot of ground and began worshipping there under a Brush Hardor located on the west side of James Road near River Street Road, presently known as St. Augustine Road, or Highway 94.

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 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. T. M. 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 came into existence, 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 indoor 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 pastorate of Rev. T. H. Williams were: A choir stand built in 1948, new pews and pulpit set were bought in 1954, gas heaters were installed. There was a membership of approximately 176.

Rev. H. B. Bland was accepted as pastor of this church on February 2, 1969 while the old church was being renovated and replaced with the present block structure. Rev. Bland joined in with the other laborers and worked dilligently until the work was completed. Deacon Arthur Jones engineered this work.

Some of the accomplishments during the pastorate of Rev. Bland were: carpet installed, a new piano bought, the pool for baptism built, central heat and air, the little schoolhouse was renovated for a kitchen, chairs for the Pastor's study and general church use were purchased, bathrooms installed, water fountain was given.

There were many contributions or donations given by various members of the church. There were 107 candidates for baptism which increased the membership to approximately 223.

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 the River Hill Missionary Baptist Church on March 28, 1979. He was installed as pastor of the Church on June 24, 1979. Rev. W. H. Ross delivered the installation sermon.

Some of the accomplishments during this one year and six months of administration of Rev. W. R. Jenkins ARE The Deaconess Board organized, the paying of Tithes recommended, new rules and regulations that pertain to the order of service and church at large were made, the telephone was installed, Brother L. S. Washington was installed as a deacon of the church, Sister Lillie Mae Bush was chosen as Supervisor of the kitchen, the present steeple of the church was erected, the reorganization of the Pastor's Aide Club of which Brother L. C. Copeland was appointed president. He was succeeded by Sister Velma Matchett.

A Pastor's Aide Club was formerly organized during the pastorate of Rev. Silas Wilson. Sister Lula Reed was chosen as president. There has been a total of 29 candidates for baptism. The total membership is approximately 250.

Laborers For Christ:

River Hill has been blessed with members dedicated to Christian service. We have come this far through the fruits of their labor.

The following ministers served River Hill Missionary Baptist Church as pastors after Rev. Robert Troupe in the order their names :

PASTORS: Rev. Robert (Bob) Troupe  
Charles Anderson  
John Sanders  
Norah Wright  
Jeff Brown  
Bob Jenkins  
Rev. Morgan  
Tom Gary

Rev. Epps  
J. W. Fisher  
Silas Wilson  
Love Anderson  
J. W. Bridges  
T. H. Williams  
S. B. Bland  
W. R. Jenkins

DEACONS: Edmond Greene  
Henry Brinkley  
Hillard Brinkley  
Isaac Gardner  
Hamp Stafford  
George Miller  
Mack Jones, Sr.  
Jeff Wright  
Peter Wilson  
Sye Gardner  
Westley Brinkley  
Joe Williams  
Jackson Jones  
Horace Gardner  
Robert (Bob) Forrest

James Davis  
Johnny Floyd  
Frank Jones  
Riley Lane  
Robert Walker  
Berry Walker  
Yancy Mitchell  
Arthur Jones  
Joe Conaway  
Peyton Adams  
Tom McCormick  
Moses Davis  
Edgar Roberts  
L. S. Washington

CLERKS: Isaac Gardner  
Frank Wilson  
Robert Troupe  
Robert Forrest  
Joe McCormick  
E. W. Sharpe  
Joe Williams

Sis. Gertrude Miller  
Lula Reed  
Alice Lewis  
Bro. Mitch Jones  
Sis. Edith Jones  
Sophie Lane  
Mary Catherine Roberts

TREASURERS: Jeff Wright  
Johnny Floyd  
Joe Conaway  
L. S. Washington

MOTHERS  
OF THE  
CHURCH:

Sis. Amy Wilson  
Katie Lou Brinkley  
Rebecca Davis  
Beulah Walker

Fannie Lou Homer  
Frances Roberts  
Alice Morgan

SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Tom McCormick  
Robert Forrest  
Frank Jones  
Peyton Adams  
Edgar Roberts

PRESIDENTS OF SENIOR MISSION:

Sis Amy Wilson  
Alice Lewis  
Clara McCormick  
France Roberts

SEXTONS: George Miller  
Horace Gardner  
Frank Jones  
Berry Walker  
Arthur Jones  
John Roberts  
Sis. Amy Adams

USHER BOARD PRESIDENTS:

Bro. Fred McCormick  
Sis. Nellie Roberts  
Bro. Columbus Alderman  
Sis. Alma Jones

CHOIR PRESIDENTS:

Peyton Adams  
David Roberts  
Sis. Goverlean Gardner

PIANIST: Sis. Catherine Sanders  
Sophronia Butler  
Eve Brown

CHURCH OFFICERS TODAY:

Deacon Peyton Adams - Chairman, Deacon Board  
Sis. Mary Catherine Roberts - Church Clerk  
Sis. Sophie Lane - Financial Secretary  
Deacon L. S. Washington - Treasurer

DEACON BOARD:

Peyton Adams - Chairman  
Arthur Jones - Edgar Roberts  
Tom McCormick - L. S. Washington

DEACONESSES:

Sis. Amy Adams - President	Ella Gardner
Sis. Alice McCormick	Edith Jones
Sis. Lillie Mae Jones	Lucille Washington
Mary Catherine Roberts	

PASTOR'S AIDE CLUB:

Sis Velma Matchett - President  
Bro. Jason Collier - Vice President  
Sis Lynette Williams - Secretary  
Sis Beulah Berrian - Assistant Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Deacon Edgar Roberts - Superintendent  
Sis. Sophie Lane - Secretary

TEACHERS: Deacon Peyton Adams  
Sis. Kathelene Williams  
Frances Roberts  
Deacon Tom McCormick

SENIOR MISSION:

Sis. Frances Roberts - President  
Sis. Beulah Homer - Secretary

SENIOR CHOIR:

Sis. Goverlean Gardner - President  
Sis. Frances Roberts - Vice President  
Sis. Mabel Brown - Secretary  
Sis. Sophronia Butler - Pianist

JUNIOR CHOIR:

Sis. Clara Jean Henderson - President  
Sis. Regina Collier - Secretary  
Sis. Sallie Reed - Matron  
Sis. Eve S. Brown - Pianist

SENIOR USHER BOARD:

Sis. Alma Jones - President  
Sis. Reatha Mae Williams - Secretary  
Sis. Alma Thomas - Financial Secretary

JUNIOR USHER BOARD:

Sis. Johnnie Mae Edwards - President

REPORTERS:

Sis. Alma Jones  
Sis. Alma Thomas

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

Deacon Arthur Jones - Chairman  
Sis. Lula Reed - Co-Chairman  
Sis. Sophronia Butler - Secretary  
Sis. Mary Catherine Roberts - Church Clerk  
Sis. Edith Jones  
Sis. Alice Morgan  
Deacon Peyton Adams

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Sis. Kathelene Williams - Chairman  
Deacon Edgar Roberts  
Sis. Sallie Reed  
Sis. Eve Brown  
Bro. Wallace Boyd

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Deacon L. S. Washington - Chairman  
Deacon Tom McCormick  
Bro. L. C. Copeland  
Bro. Augustus Homer  
Sis. Lillie Mae Bush  
Sis. Johnnie Mae Edwards

It is with a deep sense of humbleness and unspeakable thanksgiving in our hearts that we celebrate this great event: the 107th anniversary of the River Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Surely, it has been by God's power that 107 years of progress has been allowed.

Over the past century plus seven, the members of River Hill Baptist Church have labored in the sunshine and rain. Such laborers have been motivated by a steadfast faith, such as in Jesus' words, "Upon this Rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

May we pause and salute all laborers, living and deceased, for their contribution to the longevity and progress of River Hill Missionary Baptist Church. We Praise the Lord for what He has done through His servants.

The Church Anniversary will be celebrated each year the Fourth Sunday in September.

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determined by the importance  
to civilization of the events  
Commemorated

Ear of the church

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Eddie  
Dong