



HILL CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Reverend Benjamin E. V. Lett, Pastor

CELEBRATING

125
YEARS

**"BUILDING A CHURCH
KNOWN FOR ITS
FAITH AND LOVE"**

John 13:34-35

1692 West Hancock Avenue • Athens, Georgia

Anniversary Messenger

Reverend Tracy L. Boles
Timothy Baptist Church
Athens, Georgia

Vision Statement:

*Making all people agents of healing and
wholeness as Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

June 11, 2017, 11 A.M.

Greetings from the Pastor



Greetings in the Matchless Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy that I welcome you to the observance of the 125th Church Anniversary of the Hill Chapel Baptist Church as we celebrate and give thanks to God for all He has done with, by, and through us as a congregation. Truly we serve a faithful God. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

I would like to warmly welcome our visitors and pray that each of you will be richly blessed and that you will see the love of Christ in our church family. I believe that these are the greatest days to be a part of the Master's army as we endeavor to "make all people disciples of Jesus Christ as agents of healing in the world". Our glorious walk began with an act of faith that brought us into individual and corporate relationship with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

I pray that you will be blessed by this time of worship, fellowship and celebration. We hope that it will be inspiring, meaningful and above all a Holy Ghost filled experience. We must give God praise, glory and honor.

I thank God for the Anniversary Committee for doing a superb job in bringing the church family together for this observance. The many ministries that united for this celebration demonstrated the unity that God desires in the body of Christ. We were most honored that our messenger for the day, Rev. Tracy L. Boles, pastor of Timothy Baptist Church of Athens, Georgia, accepted our invitation to deliver the Anniversary message. I am indebted to you for your graciousness and brotherly love.

Finally, I sincerely hope that you will enjoy the worship and the fellowship with "a church known for its love and faith".

In HIS Joy,


Reverend Benjamin E. V. Lett

Pastor and servant of the Most High God

Message from the Committee

Greetings,

To the Pastor, officers, members, friends, and visitors of the Hill Chapel Baptist Church, greetings and grace in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we celebrate this 125th Church Anniversary, we can truly say, "We have come this far by faith." The Lord had brought us a mighty long way and because He will not leave us nor forsake us, the future of the church is blessed.

We have not made it this far by ourselves, but there have been many who have gone on before that have paved the way for where we are in the year 2017. As we reflect on the ministry of days gone by, we can see the fruit of the labor of many. Paul says, in Ephesians 2:19-22,

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

As we look to the future, it is important to know what we do today will have a far reaching impact on the lives of people who we do not know. As we seek to serve the Lord, the fruit of ministry will touch many lives as we remain committed to Christ.

We would like to thank everyone for making this 125th Church Anniversary a heartening celebration. We want to give a special appreciation and thank you to Pastor Tracy L. Boles and the Timothy Baptist Church family for sharing with us on this celebration day. Peace and love to all you that participated on the program, those that contributed in any way, and to all the ministries that used their gift in service to our God to make this occasion one to remember with great joy.

Sincerely,

The 2017 Church Anniversary Committee

Guest Messenger



Rev. Tracy L. Boles

Pastor Tracy L. Boles is a native of Hampton, South Carolina. He currently resides in Lithonia, Georgia with his lovely wife Darlene, their son Tracy James, and their two daughters Faith and Love.

Pastor Boles served as a personal assistant to Bishop James H. Morton for ten years and as the youth pastor of the New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church.

In 2011 he was installed as the proud Senior Pastor of the Timothy Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia.

Pastor Boles is a highly sought after revivalist, Christian instructor, and public speaker. In 2007, the International Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship named Pastor Boles *Youth Pastor of the Year*. He has served on the Fellowship Assistance Council for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship and as the Youth and Young Adult Director for the state of Georgia. In 2015, The Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship appointed Pastor Boles the State Director of Pastors and recently in January 2017, he was asked to serve as Overseer for the Athens District.

Pastor Boles is a 1995 graduate of Lander University, where he was a member of the men's varsity basketball team. He graduated from the American Institute of Banking in 1999 and he has a Master's of Ministry from Luther Rice College & Seminary. Pastor Boles is currently still enrolled at Luther Rice pursuing his Doctorate of Ministry.

Before pursuing ministry as his full-time occupation, Pastor Boles was a project manager for Bank of America. During his seven years of service he was promoted to the ranks of Assistant Vice President. His motto for life is "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."

Order of Worship

Eleven o'clock in the morning

Brother Julius Thomas
Worship Leader

PreludeMusicians

****Devotion** Hill Chapel Baptist Church Deacons Ministry
Timothy Baptist Church Deacons Ministry

Call to Worship/InvocationDeacon Anthony Pittman

****Praise** Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry

Welcome Brother Tommy Williams

Occasion Sister Linda N. Smith

****Worship** Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry

Memorial Sister Priscilla Saunders

Altar Call Minister George Maxwell

Selection Hill Chapel Baptist Church Children's Choir

Ministry of Sharing/Offertory Prayer Sister Pearl Dowdy

*"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together,
and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye
mete withal it shall be measured to you again (Luke 6:38 KJV)."*

Introduction of Preacher Pastor Benjamin Lett

****Selection of Preparation** Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry

The Message **Pastor Tracy L. Boles**
Timothy Baptist Church, Athens, Georgia

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP PLEASE, NO MOVEMENT

Remarks Sister Elycha Brown
Pastor Benjamin Lett

Remarks/Blessing and Benediction Pastor Tracy L. Boles

Doxology Music Ministry and Congregation

Bind Us Together

PostludeMusicians

****Late Worshippers may enter**

Dinner will be served in the Jesse Barnes, Jr. Family Life Center and the fellowship hall immediately following service.

Church History

The Hill Chapel Baptist Church grew out of Hill First Baptist Church. It was organized in 1892 under the late Reverend L. T. Smith. The following persons have been Pastor of Hill Chapel Baptist Church: Pastors L. T. Smith, A. J. Stovall, Turner, B. T. Mattox, T. L. Harris, Lee Mills, R. R. Smith, Carter, Dellinger, B. B. Dunn, E. H. Harris, Mitchell Tate, W. A. Billups, Fred Hopkins, Sr. - interim, Jesse Barnes, Jr., Service Hurst - interim, Reverend Doctor William J. Harris, Reverend Doctor Larry Jones and Reverend Michael B. Gerald. The following deacons were in the first organization: Robert Henry, William Tiller, Phillip Lee, Zack Harris and Sidney Green.

Church services were held at the corner of Harris and Broad Streets for 64 years. The membership was small at the beginning, but it continued to grow. The first meetings were held in an old dwelling house; later a church structure was built and the cornerstone was laid on June 1, 1924 with the late Reverend E. H. Harris as the pastor.

The old building was remodeled by the late Reverend Mitchell Tate, and the church flourished greatly. Grounds for expansion became necessary; therefore, Reverend Tate sought out new locations in the western section of the city.

The present edifice was started June 13, 1956. This month is now celebrated annually as the church's Founders Day. For more than a year, worship services were held in the basement of the church. In 1960, the construction of the educational building was started. Completion of the educational building was in 1965. The deacons who served under Reverend Tate were: Fred Hopkins, Sr., Henry A. Morse, Samuel Pritchard, Gerald Tate, Willie Church, Charlie Laster, Willie A. Billups, Lonnie Bishop, A. L. Hutchingson, Jesse Huff, William Sewell, John Brown, Earlie Goolsby, Jessie Stallings, Cleveland Billups, Robert Hawkins, Robert Dorsey, Mark Oliver, Rufus Pittard, H. Howell, Willie Marable, John Foster and Tom Prather.

Upon the death of Reverend Tate, Reverend W. A. Billups, assistant pastor, became acting pastor and served in this capacity until the church made his calling permanent on October 28, 1966. Under the leadership of Reverend Billups, the church continually progressed both spiritually and in structure.

During 1988, \$60,000.00 in additions and renovations to the structure were made. His work during his acting pastorate and permanency resulted in the addition of many new members. The following members were ordained as deacons during Reverend Billups' tenure: Samuel Milner, Sr., Freddy Cohen, Tyrone Eberhardt, Sr., Wilford Delaper, Oscar Crawford, James Crawford, Mack Sewell, Jr., Vernon Payne, N. C. Barnett, Byron Bowers, Chester Morgan, Richard Smith, John Taylor, Sr., Eddie Williams, Frank McKinley, Claude Johnson, Matthew McRae, Tommy Weir, John Daniel, James Daniel, Robert Albert Barrow and Bonnie Rucker. During his tenure three ministers were ordained: Deacon Willie Church, Deacon Fred Hopkins, Sr. and Brother Gregory Coleman. On December 7, 1989, Reverend Billups was called home to glory after serving more than 23 years as pastor. In addition to pastoring, he served the church as a musician, teacher and lecturer.

Reverend Fred Hopkins, Sr., who was assisting Reverend Billups, was elected to serve as the interim pastor for twelve months, beginning January 1, 1990. He served for eighteen months. Many new members were added under his leadership.

The church called Reverend Jesse Barnes, Jr. to serve as pastor on Friday, June 14, 1991. Pastor Barnes began his ministry on July 1, 1991 and preached his first sermon as Pastor on July 7, 1991. He was installed as the sixteenth pastor on October 27, 1991. The speaker for this occasion was Reverend Eddie D. Smith, Sr., his pastor, of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia.

During his pastorate here, many wonderful blessings and changes occurred. The following deacons were appointed under Pastor Barnes' pastorate: Service Hurst, Wilson Lattimore, and Charlie Maddox. Several ministries were established and most are still active today: the "Sassy" Seniors, the Church Historian, the Women's Ministry, the Audio/Visual Ministry, the Prayer Ministry and the Youth Ministry. On October 25, 1993, work was started on the renovation and addition to the upstairs ladies' restroom. Completion shows a beautiful facility.

Three additional deacons were elected by the church for service in 1993. They are Robert Gantt, Robert Smith and Henry Tate, Sr. In 1995, the following deacons were appointed: Joseph Bell and Frank Platt.

Five ministers were called to preach God's word within three years (September 1993 - February 1996). Deacon Charlie Maddox preached his first sermon on October 17, 1993, Deacon Wilson Lattimore preached his initial sermon on June 26, 1994, and Deacon Service Hurst preached his sermon on August 28, 1994. On August 6, 1995, Stanley Johnson, Sr. preached his initial sermon and on February 11, 1996, Deacon James Albert Barrow preached his initial sermon.

A new church sign was installed in spring 1996 and building plans for an education/recreation building were finalized with the groundbreaking taking place in July 1996. Renovations and expansions to the structure were started in August 1996.

The Hill Chapel family was deeply saddened by the announcement of the passing of our beloved pastor, Jesse Barnes, Jr., on Sunday morning, September 22, 1996. Pastor Barnes was a great blessing sent by God to Hill Chapel and the surrounding community. Minister Service Hurst, an associate minister, was elected to serve as interim pastor on December 9, 1996, until a permanent pastor was called. The new education/recreation facility was completed in July 1997. *To God Be the Glory!*

The Church called Reverend Doctor William James Harris to serve as pastor on Monday, August 11, 1997. Pastor Harris began his ministry on August 13, 1997. Installation services for the seventeenth pastor of the Hill Chapel Baptist Church were held on January 8, 1998. Pastor William Cottrell and the Beulah Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia were the guests for this joyous occasion.

Although Pastor Harris was only with us a few days short of three years, many new members joined. In September 1997, Deacon Homer Hector united to serve as deacon. On December 13, 1998, five Men of Faith were ordained as deacons: Jerry Bell, George Boyd, Joel Goolsby, and James Stephens.

On January 17, 1999, Minister Willie Howard preached his initial sermon and on Sunday, January 31, 1999 Minister Julia Hunter preached her initial sermon. The day care was licensed June 2, 1999.

September 10, 1999 a Trustee Board was selected. In June of 2000, the church started a Summer Camp to serve as a safe haven for area youth. Computer classes were started in February 2001 to extend computer knowledge to the Hill Chapel Church Family and the community at large.

On June 29, 2001, the church called Reverend Doctor Larry Jones to serve as pastor. Pastor Jones began his ministry on July 1, 2001. Pastor Charles Nesbitt and Providence Baptist Church, College Park, Georgia were special guests for this jubilant occasion. During his pastorate, ministries were added or revitalized and are still active. Our youth ministry was energized and a praise dance team, Vision of Praise, was added and is still active. On October 28, 2001, Minister Dexter Hunter preached his initial sermon.

On April 20, 2003, Kenneth Booker united to serve as deacon. Four additional deacons were ordained to serve with the Deacon Ministry on April 27, 2003: they are Victor Booker, Charlie Dean, Talmadge Guy and Anthony Pittman.

Under the leadership of Pastor Jones, the church continued to make great strides with the completion of the sanctuary renovations; complete with new carpet, pulpit furniture, light fixtures, refinishing of the flooring in the front entrance vestibule and memory plates on the pews. The sanctuary rededication service was celebrated July 27, 2003. In addition to the sanctuary renovations, the kitchen was blessed with upgraded appliances before the end of his ministry on May 29, 2005.

On February 6, 2007, the church called Reverend Michael B. Gerald to serve as pastor. Pastor Gerald began his ministry on Resurrection Sunday, April 8, 2007. Pastor Gerald was installed as the nineteenth pastor on October 28, 2007. Reverend Doctor Tyrone B. Martin, Pastor, of Greater Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Mount Clemens, Michigan and Reverend Doctor Michael C. R. Nabors, Pastor, of New Calvary Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan were the installation speakers.

The family life center was named The Jesse Barnes, Jr. Family Life Center in honor and memoriam of Pastor Barnes and The Mother's Board was reestablished at our Homecoming service November 18, 2007. Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. of Macedonia Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia was the speaker for this memorable occasion.

Brother Bobby Cooper joined to serve as deacon on June 1, 2008. In an effort to continue Kingdom work, nine deacons were ordained November 16, 2008. We are blessed by the addition of Jeffery Bowles, Robert Gunter, Stacey Heflin, James Lawson, Jr., Frank Menefield, Allen Morse, Sr., Robert Muckle, Quaison Payne, and Bryon Saunders as deacons.

The choir stand has been enhanced with the addition of new choir chairs. Banquet tables and chairs have been purchased to outfit the family life center.

Minister Dexter Hunter was ordained on January 31, 2010. Three ministers were licensed to preach the Word of God: Deacon Bobby Cooper, Brother Datrone Pope, and Minister Sharon McNeely.

The first Annual Legacy Ball was held in the Jesse Barnes, Jr., Family Life Center February 27, 2010. The program is designed to highlight historic African American trailblazers of Northeast Georgia by honoring the contributions that are being made. This event is designed to tangibly provide for aspiring students' education through the uplifting gift of scholarship. The Legacy Ball in cooperation with the community will seek to develop a Leadership Academy for the perpetuation of excellence, community service and education within Northeast Georgia.

In June 2011, a new technology system was purchased and installed. The sound booth was also enhanced to accommodate the new technology equipment. Lighting upgrades were installed in the choir stand and the installation of an alcove was started in July 2011.

The church engaged in partnerships and businistry opportunities to serve members and outreach to the greater Athens community. The partnership with The Athens Land Trust resulted in a community garden being planted in April of 2011. Reverend Bascoe Jackson, Pastor of Royston Grove Baptist Church, was recognized and honored as the benefactor of property for the use of the community garden on August 6, 2011.

Renovations to the sanctuary and downstairs fellowship hall began in May 2012. Upgrades include the rewiring of the sanctuary, new bathroom fixtures, lighting and fresh paint in the fellowship hall and dining area. The completion is a welcomed improvement.

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, Pastor Michael B. Gerald tendered his resignation to answer a call in Tuckahoe, New York.

On September 27, 2013, the Lord sent the Reverend Benjamin E. V. Lett to Hill Chapel Baptist Church to serve as our twentieth pastor. Pastor Lett began his ministry on September 29, 2013. Pastor Lett was installed as pastor on December 8, 2013. His Pastor, Reverend Doctor Winfred M. Hope, of Ebenezer Baptist Church, West, Athens, Georgia was the speaker.

On January 3, 2014, the church purchased property on Hill's Chapel Street. Brothers James Lumpkin and Derris Wynn were ordained by the church for service on October 26, 2014. The position of Christian Education Director was added to give leadership support to the instructional ministries and support in curriculum development. The Annual Legacy Ball transitioned to The Legacy Awards Scholarship Banquet to continue the perpetuation of excellence, community service and education within Northeast Georgia. Minister Nickcoma Burch was ordained on January 31, 2016. The church's website launched late 2016. God is blessing us abundantly above all that we ask or think and we are ready to reap of ALL that Our God has in store for us as we continue to move to the next level in Christ Jesus. *"Let The Church Say Amen."*

The church is an affiliate of The Northwestern Baptist Association No.1, The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Incorporated and The National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Incorporated.

Sister Elizabeth G. King, Historian