



HILL CHAPEL  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Benjamin E. V. Lett, Pastor

127<sup>th</sup>

Church Anniversary  
Homecoming Celebration

Anniversary Messenger

Rev. Dr. Larry Jones

18<sup>th</sup> Pastor  
of Hill Chapel Baptist Church

Sunday, June 9, 2019

11:00 a.m.



Vision Statement:

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

“Compelled by the Spirit to Love and Move in Faith”

Acts 2:1-3; Acts 20:22-24 NIV

# A Church Known for its Faith and Love



## Hill Chapel Baptist Church Rev. Benjamin E.V. Lett, Pastor

June 9, 2019

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we gather today for worship and praise on the 127<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hill Chapel Baptist Church, I am overjoyed with excitement and jubilation! This celebration as a church family is a testimony to the goodness and power of the gracious God that we serve. God chose this body of believers and anointed her to serve Athens and beyond, as we become a church known for our Faith and Love. We are grateful that God has moved within this body of believers to preach, teach, share and spread the good news Gospel of Jesus Christ. With each new generation, our Church Family has been actively engaged in very passionate ways in teaching the supremacy of God in all things.



On this day of observance, as you fellowship, worship, remember the saints of the past, and celebrate our wonderful journey, I invite you to focus on our unique assignment of being disciples of Jesus Christ as a part of Hill Chapel.

We are thankful for our founding members who, through vision and sacrifice, provided us with a legacy that will never be forgotten. We praise God for those who have been and are connected with this band of believers and dare to embrace every one with the love of God. Today, each of us should rejoice that God has included us in His redemptive plan for all people.

We are determined to be unstoppable in our mission. We rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us into a future that calls for people who will live in a manner that reflects the character of God. We are compelled by the Holy Spirit to love and move in faith to maintain traditions based upon vibrant worship services, zealous religious training, and sustained outreach services that have uplifted those who have found themselves counted among the least, the last, and the lost.

Special thanks to Rev. Larry Jones for sharing the day with us and to the Anniversary committee and all who endeavored to make this a time to remember. I thank you for your stewardship, your love, your support; but more importantly, thank you for your prayers and faithfulness. May God continue to bless you and your family in all that you endeavor as we make all people agents of healing and wholeness as ambassadors for Christ.

In HIS Joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Benjamin E.V. Lett". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rev. Benjamin E.V. Lett, Pastor

A Church Known for its Faith and Love



## Hill Chapel Baptist Church

Sis. Lakeetta Joy Davis

Church Anniversary Committee Chairperson

With Love and Deepest Appreciation THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Pastor Lett and the Hill Chapel Baptist Church family for giving me the opportunity to be the Captain for this year's 127<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary/ Homecoming Service. I'd like to give a BIG Thank to everyone for your participation, prayers, and donations in any form. God's Grace and Mercy has truly been our guidance in the planning of this year's celebration.

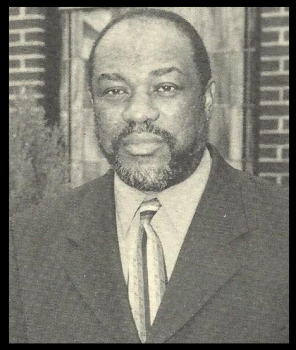
To our Guest Pastor, we wish to say a Heartfelt "Thank You" and Welcome Home. We look forward to your support and fellowship each year. Our celebration would not be the same without your presence.

To God be the Glory,

*Sister Lakeetta Joy Davis*

*and The 2019 Church Anniversary Committee*

# Guest Messenger



## **Rev. Dr. Larry Jones**

Dr. Larry Jones is an award-winning Preacher/Pastor/Teacher who has served in various ministerial capacities for over 30 years. An Ohio native, Dr. Jones excelled academically at Ohio State University; University of Toledo; and Morehouse School of Religion prior to receiving the Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Dr. Jones' ministry has focused on non-traditional ways to help seekers and believers find a Practical Spirituality that works for them in the world in which they actually live, before they reach the world which is to come. He accomplishes this by taking wisdom literature and ancient spiritual principles and applying them to modern issues faced by this contemporary generation.

Dr. Jones' personal motto is that he preaches a "Religion that's Relevant to your Reality", and there's a growing cloud of witnesses who testify that it is so.

Dr. Jones' most recent endeavor is the launching of L. E. Jones 21st Century Ministries, a cutting-edge resource ministry designed to aid pastors and churches in learning and utilizing contemporary principles for effectively reaching today's seekers and believers.

# Order of Worship

Eleven o'clock in the morning

Sister Novella Edwards  
Worship Leader

Prelude..... Brother Patrick Chappell

*Alpha and Omega—Mutanbira*

Introit..... Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry

**\*Call to Worship**..... Sister Novella Edwards

**\*\*Devotion**..... Hill Chapel Baptist Church Deacons Ministry

Scripture Readings

Old Testament..... Sister Jade McDonald

New Testament..... Brother Ferrico Walker

Morning Hymn *My Soul Loves Jesus* All

Welcome..... Sister Fredreshia Johnson

**\*\*Praise/Worship**..... Hill Chapel Baptist Church Homecoming Choir

Poem..... Sister Nicole Hull

Special Presentation..... Hill Chapel Baptist Church Media Ministry

**\*\*Selection**..... Hill Chapel Baptist Church Youth Choir

Memorial..... Sister Joyce Muckle

Altar Call..... Minister Parker James

**\*\*Selection**..... Hill Chapel Baptist Church Homecoming Choir

**\*Ministry of Sharing/Offertory Prayer**..... Brother Ayden Stephens

Scripture teaches us that God's plan to fund the work of the church is through giving the tithe and offerings and we are committed to do so. *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made"* (I Corinthians 16:2 NIV).

Introduction of Preacher..... Deacon Anthony Pittman

**\*\*Selection of Preparation**..... Vision of Praise

Hill Chapel Baptist Church Homecoming Choir

**The Message**..... **Rev. Dr. Larry Jones**

*18<sup>th</sup> Pastor, Hill Chapel Baptist Church, Athens, Georgia*

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP PLEASE, NO MOVEMENT

Remarks..... Sister Lakeetta Joy Davis

Pastor Benjamin E. V. Lett

Doxology..... Music Ministry and Congregation

*Till We're Together Again—Pace*

Benediction..... Rev. Dr. Larry Jones

Postlude..... Musicians

\*\*LATE WORSHIPPERS MAY ENTER

\*PLEASE STAND

# 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, Earle 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, four 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 E. Gunter, Jr., 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. The property now serves as our Prayer Garden. Brothers James Lumpkin and Derris Wynn were ordained by the church for service as deacons on October 26, 2014. The Christian Education Department 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. Brother Fenwick Broyard, III preached his initial sermon on July 17, 2016. Minister Nickcoma Burch was ordained on January 31, 2016. The church's website and church logo launched late 2016.

The Music Ministry is now the Music & Worship Arts Ministry and includes music, dance and performing arts. Brother Dale Hunter was ordained as a deacon on January 21, 2018. The Identity Ministry has been established and serves adults ages 18-35. This ministry works as a community to provide spiritual structure, moral guidance, and Christian fellowship to young adults in our church and community. The Lord of Glory Fellowship birthed out of Hill Chapel Baptist Church. The ministry emphasizes empowering freedom of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Other ministries have been revitalized: the Church Nursery has been reopened and is now located in the Jesse Barnes, Jr. Family Life Center. Children's Church has been reestablished and ministers to children ages six through twelve.

Many improvements are visible throughout the interior and grounds of the church. The sound booth has undergone additional upgrades and is now the Media Booth. Renovations have been made to the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. The church grounds upgrades includes the resurfacing of our handicap parking lot, north side parking lot, modifications to the administrative area, Church School classrooms and Pastoral Suite. 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*