

Reverend Benjamin E.V. Lett

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Reverend Lett is a native of Mobile, Alabama. He was raised in a home where God was honored and Christ was Lord as the youngest son of the late Drs. Clarence A. and Geraldine W. Lett. In 1977, he was licensed to preach at Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church #2 in Mobile. After demonstrating a sincere love for God and commitment to the growth and development of God's people, Reverend Lett was ordained.

It was at the University of Alabama that Reverend Lett received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious and Social Studies. His time at the Capstone was marked with academic excellence and involvement in the political, social, and fraternal life of the campus. Following his matriculation at Alabama, Reverend Lett enrolled at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia, where he received a Master of Divinity Degree, concentrating in Bible, Counseling, and Pastoral Care through Morehouse School of Religion.

While studying in Atlanta, Reverend Lett not only learned from his professors the art of pastoring, but he commuted from Atlanta to Eutaw, Alabama to serve as pastor at Zion Friendship Baptist Church. In Atlanta, he was under the watchful eye of Dr. Cameron M. Alexander and the Antioch Baptist Church – North. In 1985, he was called to the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama as Associate Pastor, where his mentor Dr. John T. Porter served as Pastor.

Reverend Lett is married to the talented and gracious Natalie Clark and is the proud father of Natalie Christina, a resident of Atlanta, Georgia. His strong family ties, commitment to the Lord, and the training of his mind and heart have prepared him for the service of the King. In 1990, he began 14 years of service as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia. Dr. Winfred M. Hope and the members of Ebenezer Baptist Church West of Athens, Georgia recognized Reverend Lett's passion and zeal for Christian Education and hired him to serve as Minister of Christian Education. He served faithfully for more than 10 years. In September 2013 Hill Chapel Baptist Church of Athens, was moved by God to call him as their 20th Pastor.

For six years, he extended his services to the State of Georgia as a Religious Consultant for the Department of Juvenile Justice. In this capacity, he coordinated religious programming for the Macon Youth Development Campus and other Juvenile Justice Campuses in the state.

Reverend Lett is the recipient of numerous awards and a member of several organizations including the Morehouse College Hall of Preachers, to which he was inducted in 1995. The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (NBC) honored him for outstanding achievements in the area of Christian Education. In 2007, the National Baptist Convention named him State Director of the Year for the Southeastern Region. He served as Dean of the Bryant Theological Seminary for 7 years and as the school's interim-president. For 15 years, he was State Director of Christian Education of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. (GMBC) and then chairman of the Board of Christian Education. He has served as Dean of the Fifth District of the GMBC, Dean of the Congress of Christian Education of the GMBC, Southeast Regional Coordinator of the Sunday School Publishing Board and now President of the Congress of Christian Education of the GMBC. He is a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., having served as president of his local chapter and Chaplain of the fraternity's State District and Southern Regional Conventions.

He is a noted preacher, teacher, and lecturer, serving on the faculty of the Congress of Christian Education of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and the Sunday School Publishing Board Conference for Christian Educators. He is a contributing writer for the Sunday School Publishing Board.

His time is filled with the joy of his home, the labor of his calling, and many social, fraternal, civic, and denominational involvements.

Message from the Committee

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalm 1:3

The Lord has truly blessed us spiritually and exceedingly above all what we could ask according to His riches and glory by Christ Jesus. Pastor Lett has been that tree planted by the rivers of water that's bringing forth a fruitful harvest and we are thankful to God that he has been planted in this vineyard. He and his family are truly a blessing to our church family. As we continue to walk together in godly love, and being obedient to God's will, we know that whatever vision He has for us shall prosper.

Expressions of Gratitude

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Philippians 1:3

I am thankful to the wonderful members of Hill Chapel Baptist Church, my wife, Mrs. Natalie Lett, my daughter, Natalie Christina, our adopted children and family members for the great support that each of you give to me and this Kingdom Building venture that you allow me to share with you. You continue to demonstrate your faithfulness to the vision of God and Christ's commission to the church, and for this I am grateful. I am humbled and honored that you allow me to be your servant-leader, teacher and counsel. Most of all I thank God for permitting us to be a part of this church. This time of celebration has been wonderful! May God's Grace and Peace be with each of you.

In HIS Service,



Pastor, Hill Chapel Baptist Church

Hill Chapel Baptist Church

Fifth Pastoral Anniversary

*"Honoring the Faithfulness
of our Lord and Leader"*

*"I thank my God upon every remembrance
of you. . ."*

Philippians 1:3



PASTOR BENJAMIN E. V. LETT

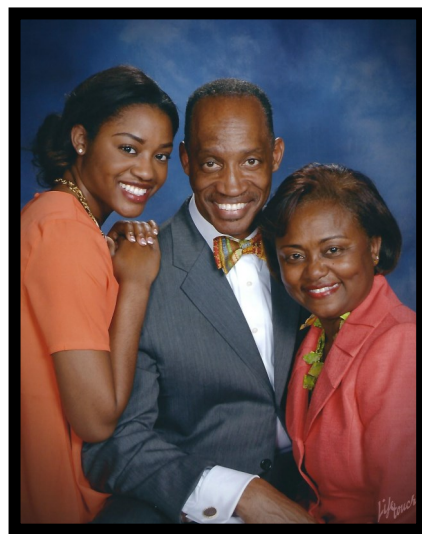
Sunday, September 16, 2018

11:00 A.M.

**Celebration Messenger
Reverend J. Ricardo Smith**

**1692 West Hancock Avenue
Athens, Georgia
706-543-1377
hillchapelathens@att.net
www.hillchapelathens.org**

Our First Family



“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Genesis 12:3

Energetic, a man after God’s heart, a positive leader, a seeker of educational excellence, family solidarity, loving, grateful, committed, moral and loyal supporter, and a deep love for the Lord and mankind, are all descriptive phrases which characterize Pastor Benjamin E. V. Lett!

The devotion of our Pastor, a gentle humble spirit, and a messenger of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are quietly paralleled by the sweet spirit and leadership qualities of his life’s mate, help-meet, reality checker, friend, encourager, his wife, Mrs. Natalie Clark Lett. A recently retired Media Specialist in the Barrow County School System, Mrs. Lett is no stranger to hard work, dedication, commitment and serving humanity. In her retirement, she seeks ways to uplift the minds of our youth, children and young adults. She occupies her time as a devoted daughter, wife and mother, and serves as a mentor for the Athletic Department of the University of Georgia.

The jewel and apple of their eyes is their daughter, Natalie Christina. A graduate of the University of Georgia where she received her undergraduate degree and a graduate of Perdue University where she received her master’s, and an employee of Molnlycke Health Care as an Instructional Systems Specialist, “Nat” knew at an early age that serving God and a quest for excellence in education were expected. Nat shares her parents with many others inclusive of Julius, Andre and Autumn, as children of her parents’ hearts.

The Hill Chapel Baptist Church Family takes pride in honoring with LOVE a family which was equipped and complete in Christ long before the advent of the Pastorate of this body of believers. We are grateful to God that through His handiwork the Lett family is spiritually enriching the ministry and family of Hill Chapel Baptist Church.

Presiding: Dr. Melanie James

Prelude	Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry
*Call to Worship	Dr. Melanie James
**Devotion	Hill Chapel Baptist Church Deacons Ministry
Processional	
First Lady Natalie Clark Lett	Escorted by Deacon Anthony Pittman
Pastor Benjamin E. V. Lett	Escorted by Sister Joan Pittman
**Morning Hymn	All
	Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing—Robinson
Welcome	Sister Naki Hull-Lowe
**Praise/Worship	Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry
**Scripture	Brother Ayden James Stephens
Altar Call	Minister Susie G. Johnson
**Ministry of Music	Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry
Ministry of Sharing	Brother Khalil Craig
	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. <i>“Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the LORD has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze” (Exodus 35:4-5).</i>
**Ministry of Music	Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry
Introduction of Speaker	Deacon James Russell Smith
**Ministry of Music	Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry
The Message	Reverend J. Ricardo Smith
Invitation to Discipleship	Reverend J. Ricardo Smith
Acknowledgements	Sister S. Pearl Dowdy Pastor’s Aide Ministry Coordinator
Remarks	Pastor Benjamin E. V. Lett Sister Natalie Clark Lett
Doxology	Hill Chapel Baptist Church Music Ministry and Congregation
Benediction	Reverend J. Ricardo Smith

**LATE WORSHIPPERS MAY ENTER

*PLEASE STAND

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Reverend J. Ricardo Smith



J. Ricardo Smith is a native of Athens, Georgia. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Smith of Athens. Rev. Smith grew up in Ebenezer Baptist Church, West in Athens, Georgia under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Dr. Winfred M. Hope. It was there that he publicly accepted Christ at an early age. On July 31, 2005, he commenced his preaching ministry. He completed his undergraduate studies in Philosophy & Religion at the prestigious Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and is currently pursuing postgraduate work.

Rev. Smith has been afforded the opportunity to minister throughout the Southeast and has drawn many to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. While at Ebenezer, he was charged with the implementation of the College and Young Adult Ministry. He has been blessed to serve as the Assistant Director of Youth for the Congress of Christian Education of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. (GMBC). He also serves the GMBC Congress as an instructor for New Pastors and Future Candidates in the Ministers Division.

In May 2012, Rev. Smith was extended the call to serve as the 16th pastor of Browns Chapel Baptist Church in Bishop, Georgia. After six years under his visionary leadership, the church has grown spiritually through the implementation of various ministries and numerically, tripling in size. In addition to his pastoral duties, Smith has served his community as a board member of The Foundation for Excellence in Public Education in Clarke County and Mercy Health Center. Currently, he serves on the steering committee for The Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens.

Rev. Smith is married to the former Dr. Rhondolyn Jones of Athens, Georgia. The couple, who have been life long friends, currently resides in Winterville, Georgia. They are the proud parents of one son, Jameson Isaiah.