

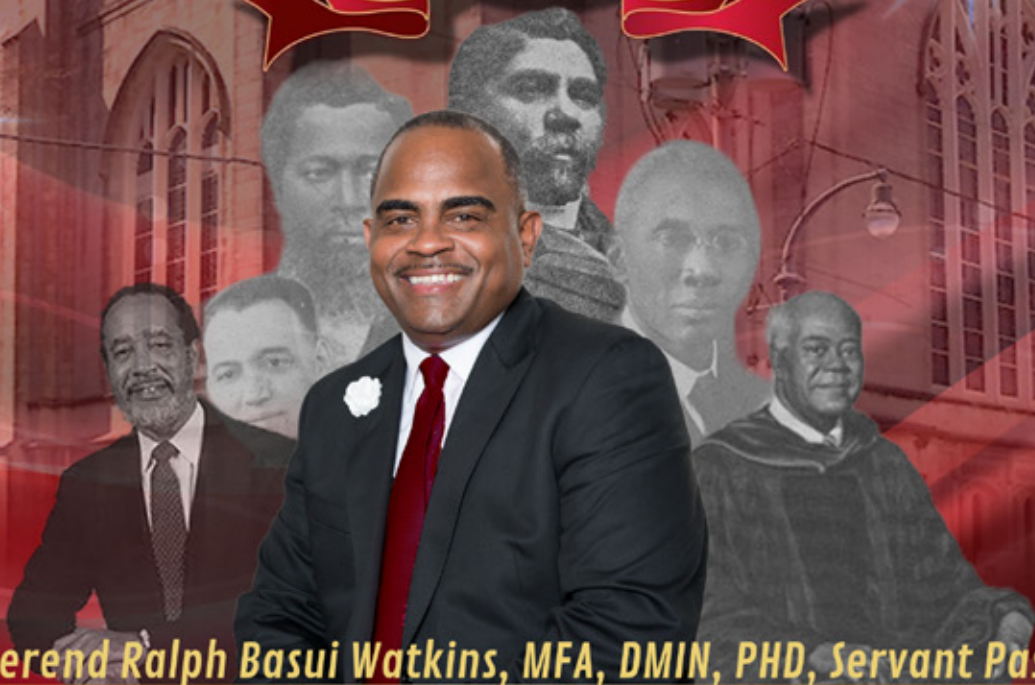
Wheat Street Baptist Church

1869

150th
Church

2019

ANNIVERSARY



Reverend Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMIN, PHD, Servant Pastor

Rev. Dr. Michael N. Harris

Rev. Andrew Jackson

Rev. Dr. William H. Borders Sr.

Rev. J. Raymond Henderson

Rev. William H. Tillman

Rev. Peter J. Bryant

July 21, 2019

10:30 a.m.

***"Disciples Making Disciples, That Make A Difference:
We Are A Movement, Not A Church" Luke 10:1-20***

359 Auburn Ave. NE Atlanta, GA. 30312



Wheat Street Baptist Church Servant Leaders

Vincent Jones

Servant Pastor for Executive Ministries and Vision Realization

Carla Burnett

Servant Pastor for Pastoral Care

Adrienne Williams

Servant Pastor for the Sunday Experience

Lacey Alford

Servant Pastor for Prayer and Spiritual Formation

Juel Borders-Benson

Associate Servant Pastor

Troy McGhee

Associate Servant Pastor

Leon Hogan

Associate Servant Pastor

Brian Short

Associate Servant Pastor

150th Anniversary Co-Chairs

Reverend Dr. Juel Pate Borders-Benson

Deacon Jimmy L. Hodges, Sr.

Chermaine Axam-Wilkins

150th Anniversary Honorary Chairs

Reverend Judge Penny Brown Reynolds – Guest Preacher

Reverend Dr. Timothy Flemming, Sr. – Reflections

150th Anniversary Sunday School Speaker

Maurice J. Hobson – Associate Professor, African-American Studies Georgia State University

Wheat Street Baptist Church

359 Auburn Avenue, NE | Atlanta, GA 30312

404-659-4328 | www.wearewheatstreet.com

LETTER FROM ANNIVERSARY CO-CHAIRS

Greetings Wheat Street Family and Friends,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Co-Chairs of our 150th Church Anniversary, which is a historic milestone. This journey has given us a deep appreciation and awareness of our rich history and those whose shoulders we stand.

Being led by God and seven visionary servant leaders, the Historic Wheat Street Baptist Church created a legacy of vital contributions in areas of religious viability, economic empowerment, community development and redevelopment, affordable housing, and ensuring social justice, and racial equality.

Wheat Street Baptist Church has been a guiding light that impacted the African-American quality of life in our local communities citywide and statewide. Today, we celebrate our faith, perseverance, and servanthood while being led by the Holy Spirit. We will continue to reflect on what God has done and build on this foundation as we look towards the future by continuing to make disciples who make a real difference in the world. God is not done with us yet, and we must continue to tell our story to the world through our discipleship.

“To God Be The Glory...Great Things He Has Done...”

Blessings,

Reverend Dr. Juel Pate Borders-Benson
Deacon Jimmy L. Hodges, Sr.
Sister Chermaine Axam-Wilkins



**REVEREND DR. JUEL
PATE BORDERS-BENSON**

**DEACON JIMMY
L. HODGES, SR.**

**CHERMAINE
AXAM-WILKINS**

LETTER FROM SERVANT PASTOR

Dear Family,

We live in an era where churches are closing everyday but not Wheat Street. Wheat Street stands tall as a beacon of hope in 2019. We are one hundred and fifty years strong and growing. We are honored to serve this great church and to come behind so many great pastoral couples. There is long legacy at Wheat Street of having powerful couples lead this church. We are humbled to stand in their shadow as we attempt to continue the legacy by walking in their footsteps.

While Wheat Street looks back it is that backward gaze that pushes to move forward. We are the church in heart of Atlanta with Atlanta in its heart. We continue to look at our legacy and that legacy calls us to greatness. Our legacy says we must do more, we must write the next chapter, we must do the hard work to grow Wheat Street as did our ancestors. Our ancestors were innovators, they were leaders, they were willing to be different to make a difference. The innovation gene is a part of DNA. We embrace our past as we seek to be that innovative church that is making mature disciples of Jesus Christ that make a real difference in the world.

The leadership of Wheat Street is more than the pastoral couple. The leadership of this great church is clergy colleagues and lay leaders who are making it happen. We count it a privilege to serve with the maturing disciples of Jesus Christ who are committed to make this world a more just place. Disciples of Jesus Christ inhabit this church and they leave the church to be the church. From the Action Mission to the Wheat Street Charitable Foundation we seek to be the Wheat Street Family that changes the world. We see the Wheat Street Campus as a community asset as we seek to be that place of education, empowerment, entrepreneurship, evangelization, and edification.

The Wheat Street Family has grown and is growing. The Narive J. Harris Museum of Art, The Wheat Street History Center, Wheat Street Tours, Sweet Auburn Parking and Wheat Street Arts and High Tech are on the horizon. As we renovate our campus to serve in the present age we are setting the stage for the future. The future is bright at Wheat Street! We are a church with a rich history and an even brighter future. To God be the glory for what God has done and what for PasGod is doing.

Your Servants,



Ralph Watkins

Ralph Watkins

MFA, DMin, PhD, Servant Pastor

Vanessa Watkins

Vanessa Watkins, ED

First Lady

LETTER FROM PASTOR EXECUTIVE MINISTRIES AND VISION REALIZATION

July 21, 2019

Dear Pastor Ralph B. Watkins & Wheat Street Church Family,

Congratulations to Wheat Street Baptist Church on reaching this historic 150th Church Anniversary celebration. This church has a rich and amazing history that has been a blessing to the Atlanta Metropolitan community, the country, and the world. Down through the years, God has proven to be faithful through recessions, fires, and urbanization. I thank God for every pastor, the service of unnamed members, the dedication of the lay leaders, and the countless others that have sown seeds of faith, time, and talent into God's mighty fortress.

As we continue to reflect and celebrate on all the many blessings that God has bestowed on Wheat Street throughout the years, it is my prayer that the church will continue to stand as a beacon of hope for the least, the lost, and the left behind. It is my prayer that Wheat Street will continue to be a prophetic voice crying out in the wilderness until justice rolls on like a river and righteousness flows as a might stream. Let us continue to love, lead, and inspire others to journey with us as we follow Christ.

With Love,

Vincent Jones Jr.

Vincent Jones Jr.

Servant Pastor for Executive Ministries and Vision Realization





CONGRESSMAN HANK JOHNSON
Georgia's Fourth District

July 20, 2019

Dear Rev. Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins, Family and Friends of Wheat Street Baptist Church:

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Georgia, I want to extend congratulations to Rev. Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins and the church family of Wheat Street Baptist Church on its 150th anniversary. Since 1869, Wheat Street has been a prototype of pragmatic religion for the nation and the world. Wheat Street led in providing leadership, a venue and a platform for "Social Change during the Civil Rights Era of the 1960s". You are a point of pride for the civil rights community, here and across the nation.

For many years, Wheat Street has enjoyed special resonance in Atlanta. It has been a veritable lifeline for the indigent, those in need of spiritual guidance and enlightenment.

Thank you for sponsoring this inspiring and uplifting Commemorative Book. With this project, you are preserving an important piece of Wheat Street's history for this and future generations. This book highlights various milestones along the journey of this great church. As you look back and praise God for what you have achieved as a church, I salute all, past and present, who have made Wheat Street the church that matters and a strong pillar in our state.

With best regards, I remain.

Very truly yours,

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

29 April 2019

To: The Wheat Street Baptist Church

GREETINGS:

It is a great pleasure to extend my warmest regards on the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of the Wheat Street Baptist Church.

The rich history of the Wheat Street Baptist Church is marked by the loyal and dedicated service of its congregation, and you can take great honor that you are continuing the traditions of this Christian institution that has so enriched the community. I appreciate the many contributions you have made to our community, state, and this great nation. I believe we are stronger because of your dedication to fostering principles of equal rights and opportunities, increasing awareness African American Church culture, and developing member potential for more effective leadership. Organizations like the Wheat Street Baptist Church make our state a better place to call home.

I hope that you enjoy what is planned for you; I join in honoring the Wheat Street Baptist Church. I applaud you for the quality of dedicated service and valuable insight you have provided the community over the years. You can take great, personal satisfaction in knowing that you have made a difference in many lives by fostering and developing vital programs to educate Georgia's citizens.

You have my best wishes as you celebrate this milestone in your church's history.

Sincerely,

Governor Brian P. Kemp



CITY OF ATLANTA

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W., SUITE 2400
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0300

TEL (404) 330-6100

KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS
MAYOR

July 21, 2019

Greetings:

I am pleased to congratulate Wheat Street Baptist Church on its *150th Anniversary*.

For nearly two centuries, Wheat Street Baptist Church has been a pillar in Atlanta's communities. Its commitment to providing spiritual counsel, civic leadership and other invaluable resources to those in need, has been integral to improving the quality of life for residents living in Atlanta's Historic Old Fourth Ward.

The City of Atlanta is honored to celebrate Wheat Street Baptist Church's meaningful service, and we appreciate its dedication to our great city. On behalf of the people of Atlanta, I offer my best wishes to you for a memorable and remarkable *150th Anniversary* celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keisha Bottoms".

Keisha Lance Bottoms

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FULTON COUNTY

FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

141 PRYOR STREET SW

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

NATALIE HALL
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 4

TELEPHONE (404) 612-8226
FACSIMILE (404) 612-0440
EMAIL natalie.hall@fultoncountyga.gov



Congratulations

July 1, 2019

Pastor Ralph B. Watkins
Wheat Street Baptist Church
359 Auburn Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30312

Dear Pastor Ralph B. Watkins,

On behalf of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and the residents of District 4, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate **Wheat Street Baptist Church** on its "**150th Anniversary**." It is truly an honor and a privilege to rejoice with you in recognition of 150 years of steadfast servant leadership.

Through the years, Wheat Street Baptist Church has been a sanctuary of spiritual guidance, community outreach, and economic development. As a public servant, I am thankful to serve your congregation and for the positive influence you have been in the historic Auburn Avenue corridor. I look forward to attending the anniversary celebration service being held on Sunday, July 21, 2019 where I will present a proclamation to congratulate and commend the congregation of The Historic Wheat Street Baptist Church for 150 years of Christian service and visionary leadership.

I am excited about the future of Wheat Street Baptist Church, and I pray for many more anniversaries to come. I look forward to partnering with Wheat Street Baptist Church for years to come.

Yours in service,

Commissioner Natalie Hall, District 4
Fulton County Board of Commissioners



BUCKHEAD COALITION, INC.

Suite 560, Building 100, Tower Place
3340 Peachtree Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30326-1059
Telephones 404-233-2228;
800-935-2228; Fax 404-812-8222
Office@TheBuckheadCoalition.org

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PRESIDENT
Sam Massell*

VICE PRESIDENTS
William H. Harrison, Jr.
Linda A. Klein

SECRETARY
F. Sheffield Hale

TREASURER
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James C. Edenfield
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James B. Miller, Jr.
John G. Morris
Earl L. Shell, Jr.*
Alana S. Shepherd*
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David P. Stockert*

ADDITIONAL (†) FOUNDER
George W. Rohrig, Jr. (†)*

ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
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Kevin R. Cantley
W. Harrison Coleman, Jr.
Joseph A. Fried
Kevin J. Glass
J. Rawson Haverty, Jr.
E. Andrew Isakson
David P. Lanier
Charles H. Mann, III
Addie P. Mathes
Raymond V. Padrón
Jonathan D. Rodbell
G. Matthew Rohrig
Patrick D. Warren
Samuel J. Wing

July 11, 2019

Wheat Street Baptist Church
Historic Commemorative Book Committee
ATTN: Ms. Gwendolyn Elmore, Chairperson
18 Williams Holmes Borders Dr., SE
Atlanta, GA 30312

Greetings:

As one who spent twenty years in Atlanta elected offices (including four as its Mayor), it has been my honor to associate with leadership of Atlanta's many outstanding houses of worship. This was particularly so with mediation of racial interests during my legacy of peacefully guiding our City through the transformation from an all-white power structure to a predominately black city government.

The Reverend Williams Holmes Borders was a friend and distinctive partner in this process, thus it is my pleasure to add compliments to Wheat Street, its ministers and its congregation on the 150th Anniversary. With this toast I incorporate all good wishes for continued success in service to your fellow man.

Respectfully,
Information Copy

Sam Massell
President

SM/gS:

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: Kristin R. Adams; Lauren B. Ball; Stanley W. Benecki; Andrew J. Berg; Jenni L. Bonura; James R. Borders; Richard E. S. Bowen; W. Paul Bowers; Frank B. Bradshaw, III; John F. Brock, III; Russell E. Brockelbank; Frank V. Brown; Kevin L. Brown; Paul J. Brown; Mark A. Buffington; Heath W. Campbell; John E. Cay, IV; Tony L. Conway; Marvin Cosgray; James B. Cumming; David D. Cummings; Jay M. Davis; Steven J. DeFrancis; David A. Dial; Stephen W. Dils; Michael S. Donnelly; Vivian N. DuBose; John H. Dwyer; Michael A. Fierman; Bruce G. Ford; R. Jeffrey George; Michael D. Golden; Ernest L. Greer; Kevin Greiner; John C. Hamilton; Mark W. Hennessy; M. Maxine Hicks; I. Pano Karatassos, Sr.; Lawrence P. Kelly; Emily T. Kendrick; Randolph J. Koporc; R. Stanley Kryder; Heidi L. LaMarca; Richard H. Lee; Richard T. Lewis; William H. Linginfelter; Paul D. Little; John W. Lundeen, III; Bernard Marcus; Forrest G. McClain; Douglas E. McMahon; David Y. Millican, IV; Bartow Morgan, Jr.; R. Brand Morgan; Brian M. Nelson; M. Dene Oliver; Sanford H. Orkin; Robert E. Peterson; Cameron S. Pierce; Jenny S. Pruitt; J. Michael Robison; Joseph W. Rogers, Jr.; Michael M. Rogers; D. Jack Sawyer, Jr.; Mitesh B. Shah; James H. Shepherd, Jr.; James H. Simpson; Jeffrey S. Sloan; Wendy H. Stewart; Eric J. Tanenblatt; Mark W. Tipton; Carol B. Torné; Samuel M. Tortorici; Robert E. Turner, III; Valery Voyles; Douglas L. Williams, and James E. Winchester, Jr. *AFFILIATES: David H. Gambrell; Lawrence G. Hailey; Joseph W. Hamilton, Jr.; Jacques P. Murphy; Geoffrey N. Nolan, Gary S. Peacock, Jr., and S. Stephen Selig, III. *EX-OFFICIO: Julie A. Bailey.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT EMERITUS

4700 Guilford Forest Drive, SW

Atlanta, GA 30331

Phone: (404) 552-4639

www.robertmfranklin.com

Dr. Robert Michael Franklin

President Emeritus

July 21, 2019

Dear Wheat Street Baptist Church:

Morehouse President Benjamin E. Mays, scholar W.E.B. Du Bois, sociologist E. Franklin Frazier, and literary activists Alice Walker and Pearl Cleage all admired Wheat Street Baptist Church because it embodied the power, pride, wealth and love of African American people. Like other historic black churches, our communities needed institutions like Wheat Street to lead and to support our liberation and full citizenship. But, America needed Wheat Street just as much. As 19th century French scholar Alexis de Tocqueville observed, "The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults." America needed Wheat Street, founded four years after the Civil War and amidst the Reconstruction, to help America, especially the Jim Crow South, to repair its hateful soul.

Wheat Street's impressive roster of pastors, families, and members have helped to elevate Atlanta and the South as a place of Black self-determination and resistance.

As a high school student, my pastor in Chicago gave me a copy of a book titled, "The Prophet of Wheat Street: The Story of William Holmes Borders." I was fascinated both by this social gospel preacher but also by the political courage and cultural wealth of the congregation. I became a long distance 'virtual member' of Wheat Street that year. It was my personal delight to come to Atlanta to attend Morehouse College, also following in the path of Dr. Borders. I worshipped often at the church, got to know Dr. Borders and asked him for guidance and mentorship for years thereafter. He was kind, generous and visionary. He once made me laugh by saying something to the effect that many average preachers were condemned to local reputations until Wheat Street consented to make them famous.

And later, as president of Morehouse College, I articulated something that every Morehouse alumnus believes, that Morehouse Men are Renaissance Men with social conscience and global perspective and they embody the "five wells", that is, they strive to be well-read, well-spoken, well-traveled, well-dressed and well-balanced. Pastor Borders helped to inspire this interpretation of the Morehouse mystique and I know that the college will forever be indebted to Dr. Borders, his impressive family, and this mighty congregation for helping to lift a vision of proud and capable moral leadership on behalf of the least advantaged members of society.

I salute Wheat Street at this pivotal time of celebrating its history and I continue to cherish my affiliation with this mighty fortress of faith.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert M. Franklin
President Emeritus, Morehouse College
James Laney Professor in Moral Leadership, Emory University



1075 First Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

www.abhms.org
www.judsonpress.com
888-79-ABHMS

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray
Executive Director

July 2019

Wheat Street Baptist Church
359 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30312

Greetings to the Reverend Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins and the entire membership of the Historic Wheat Street Baptist Church!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire staff of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), I am pleased to congratulate you as you celebrate 150 years of exceptional witness in word, worship and service in Atlanta, GA, and across this nation.

The reach and impact of Wheat Street Baptist Church have been felt globally due to capable visionary leadership, a committed church membership, glorious worship and Christian education experiences, and high quality mission engagement in your community that transforms lives, such as the Wheat Street Gardens Apartment Complex, a Shopping Center, Low-income High Rise housing for the elderly, Nursery and Daycare Program, weekly radio and television programs, and ongoing engagement for social justice and civil rights.

On a personal note, as a native Georgian, I have been acquainted with the Wheat Street Baptist Church since my childhood, and the legacies of the Reverend William Holmes Borders, the Reverend Michael Neely Harris and the Reverend Ralph Basui Watkins, both of them dear friends. Your members also contribute to Christian mission across our nation, including serving on the Board of ABHMS.

Blessings and all the best to you for a joyous and uplifting celebration that inspires your ongoing mission engagement in Atlanta and throughout the world.

Very truly yours,

Cultivating leaders Equipping disciples Healing communities

President Lallene J. Rector

June 11, 2019

Wheat Street Baptist Church
18 Williams Holmes Borders Drive
Atlanta, GA 30312

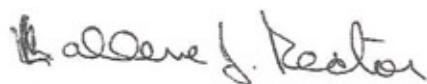
Dear Chairwoman Elmore and the Wheat Street Baptist Church Community,

I write today to wish you my warmest congratulations on behalf of the Garrett-Evangelical community on your church's 150th anniversary. The church's impact on the surrounding city of Atlanta, and indeed the entire country, is profound and we are grateful to partner in ministry with you. We give thanks to God for your tireless ministry that is a powerful witness to the justice and love of God!

We are also proud to count Rev. Dr. William H. Borders as one of our alumnus. You are already aware of his dedicated leadership and service to the African American community – his popular radio program that became second in listeners in Atlanta, racial justice advocacy prior to the Civil Rights movement including bus boycotting initiatives, voter registration drives that added upwards of 15,000 new voters in the Atlanta area, and founding a credit union eventually valued at over \$1.7 million to benefit the surrounding community with low-interest loans. We paid tribute to Rev. Dr. Borders' extraordinary life of service at our 1981 Commencement ceremony with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. Garrett-Evangelical is so proud to claim alums like Rev. Dr. Borders, who practiced public theology long before that term emerged. By God's grace, we will continue training bold, articulate leaders for the Gospel who will continue in Rev. Dr. Border's footsteps in working towards a more just and inclusive world that better reflects the kingdom of God on earth.

The William H. Borders Endowed Scholarship continues to support our Black students and we are grateful for your support of that scholarship. We pray for another 150 years of fruitful and meaningful ministry, and along with Paul ask that "out of God's glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through the Spirit in your inner being," that you may, "know God's love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19).

Yours in Christ,



Lallene J. Rector
President

50 PLUS YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP AT WHEAT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Adams, Eddie P.
Anderson, Helen
Anderson, Mary Grace Burson
Anthony, Ann
Axiom-Austin, Terrie "Ajile"
Axiom-Hocker, Dawn
Axiom-Wilkins, Chermaine
Baker, Brenda
Barnes, Loretta
Bell, Myrtis B.
Booker, Zenobia
Borders, Eric
Borders, Lisa M.
Borders, Julie A.
Borders, William Holmes, III
Borders-Benson, Reverend Dr. Juel
Brown, Tina
Burrell, James
Campbell, Eunice
Christian, Charles
Curry, Zollie
Davenport, Louise
Davis, Julius
Dennis, Gail
Elmore, Gwendolyn
Favors, Vivian Cotton
Glass, Virginia Cotton
Glover, Alice
Griffin, Daryl
Hall, Marye
Henderson, Harry D.
Henderson, Valena
Hicks, Barbara
Hodges, Cora
Hodges, Gilbert R.
Hodges, Jimmy L., Sr.
Hogan, Reverend J. Leon
Hollis, Early
Hollis, Royalene
Hooks, Virginia
Howard, Fred
Jackson, Gladys
Jackson, Eugene
Jackson, Gladys
Jackson, Jayne
Jones, Janet
Johnson, Mary F.
Kennedy, Howard
Kennedy, Jacquelyn
Logan, Benjamin
Logan, Sandra
Martin, Belinda
Morgan, Iris
Patterson, Jeanette
Patterson-Giles, Patricia
Powell, Jacqueline
Ricks, Bendolyn
Rosser, Dorothy
Shepherd, Ann M.
Shepherd, Netti
Smith, Gregory
Smith, Serelda
Sneed, JoAnn
Strickland-Perdue, Betty
Thrasher, Francis
Watson, Catherine
White, James
Wiggins, Alice
Williams, Rosie
Wilson, John
Young, Lucy
Young, Annie Ruth

150TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Mother Cynthia Jackson, Presiding

Selection.....	Praise Team
Scripture.....	Mother Ann Shepherd
Prayer.....	Brother Marvin Henry
Selection.....	Praise Team
Introduction of Presenter.....	Trustee Zebedee Ducre
Historical Presentation.....	Dr. Maurice Hobson
Remarks.....	Reverend Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PhD, Servant Pastor
Selection.....	Praise Team

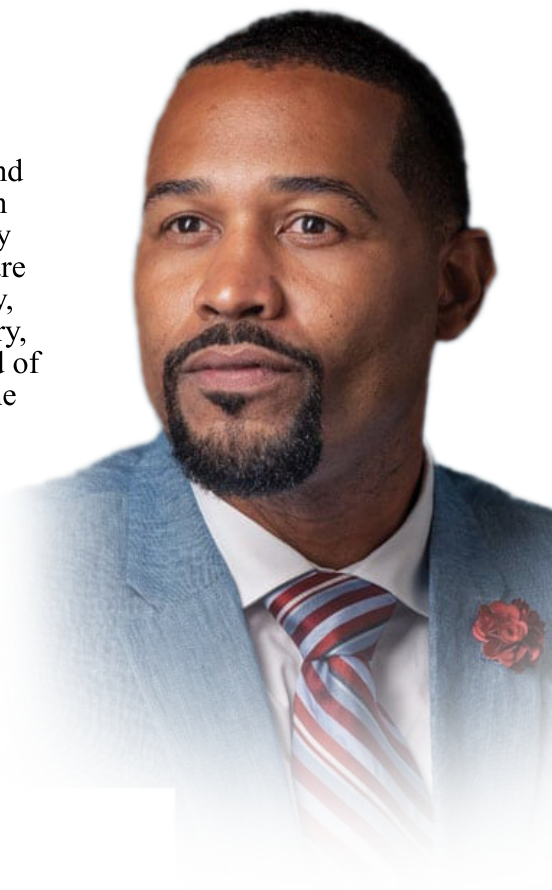
DR. MAURICE HOBSON

*Assistant Professor, African-American Studies
Georgia State University*

Dr. Maurice Hobson is an Associate Professor of African American Studies and Historian at Georgia State University. Dr. Hobson earned the Ph.D. degree in History, focusing in African American History and 20th Century U.S. History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests are grounded in the fields of African American history, 20th Century U.S. history, African American studies, oral history and ethnography, urban and rural history, political economy, and popular cultural studies. He is the author of *The Legend of the Black Mecca: Politics and Class in the Making of Modern Atlanta* with the University of North Carolina Press.

Dr. Hobson engages the social sciences and has created a new paradigm called the Black New South that explores the experiences of black folk in the American South, with national and international implications, since WWII. For this, he has served as an expert witness in court cases and as a voice of

insight for documentaries, films, movies, public historical markers, monuments and museum exhibitions.



HONORARY CHAIRPERSON

REVEREND DR. TIMONTHY FLEMMING, SR.

Rev. Timothy Flemming was born on December 31, 1950, in Macon, Georgia to the late Mr. and Mrs. Ransom Flemming, Sr. He began preaching at the age of 11, at the Ross Street Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia, under the pastorage of the late Rev. J.J. Jordan. He was soon known throughout Georgia as the "The Boy Preacher." At the age of 14, he became youth minister of five churches, and brought many young people to Christ. At age 19, he was ordained as the Assistant Pastor of the Greater Friendship Baptist Church, where he was a member. Two months later, he was called to the Pastorship of his first church, Forest Chapel Baptist Church in Pinehurst, Georgia. Rev. Flemming has pastored five other churches; Mt. Gilgal of Twiggs County, Georgia; New Liberty of Wilkerson County, Georgia; Zion Hill of Macon, Georgia; and Faith Tabernacle of Atlanta, Georgia. At the young age of 24, he became pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist church in Atlanta, Georgia.

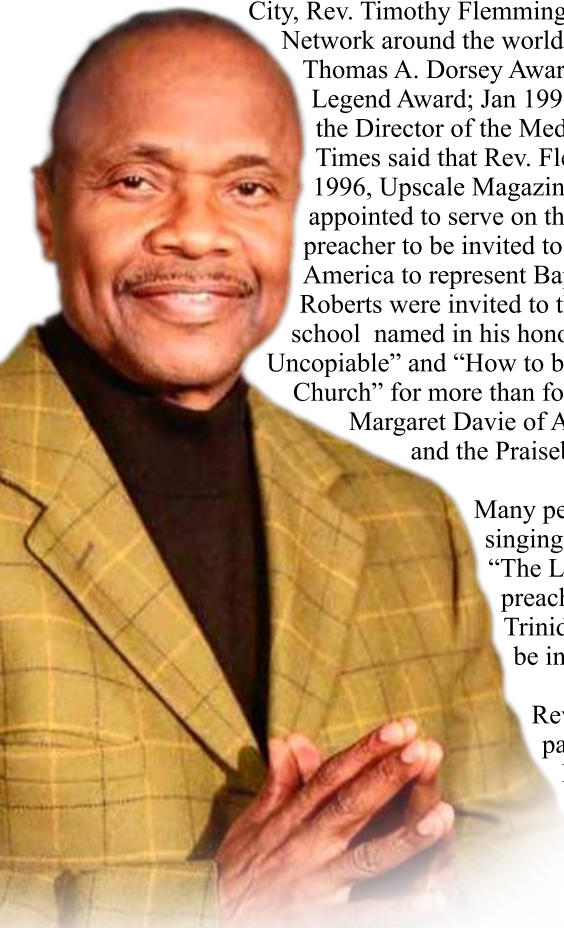
In between fulfilling his calling into the ministry, Rev. Timothy Fleming still managed to achieve many educational goals. He received a diploma in Theology from the American Baptist Theological Extension Seminary in Nashville, TN. He studied two years at Mercer University in Macon, and he earned his B.A. Degree from Morehouse College in 1986. He has a Master of Divinity degree, and a Doctorate of Ministry degree from the National Theological Seminary and College of Baltimore, M.D. and on the 2nd day of June, 2013 he received the Doctrine of Divinity from Saint Thomas Christian College, Jacksonville, Florida.

As a community activist, Rev. Timothy Flemming along with Rev. P. Henderson Little, together led a protest in 1967 in Macon, Georgia, against the discrimination practice of non-African American policemen; and Afro American Youth for summer and after school summer jobs. In 1988, Rev. Flemming joined up with Doctor Joseph E. Lowery, in a protest against banks in Atlanta which discriminated against small African American business and churches, and as a result many of those small black businesses and churches were awarded loans to build. In 1996, Rev. Timothy Flemming founded the Greenbrier Merchant Business Association and he is the host of the Southwest Community Restoration Meetings. He has received numerous awards and accolades that speak to his commitment to spiritual growth and development, community outreach and entrepreneurship.

1983, first African American preacher to host "Moments of Reflection" on CBS affiliate Channel 5 in Atlanta, Georgia; 1985, awarded the J.J. Ross Research Fund Award for "Outstanding Personalities of the South"; 1986, awarded the prestigious Spoken Word Award from "Gospel Music Workshop of America," and the Stella's Award for his famous sermon entitled, "What Jealousy Will Do"; 1987, France, Germany and Switzerland named him "Mr. Versatility", for his concerts he performed "The Soul of Spirituals"; 1992, awarded the MLK Jr. Medallion Award by the late Rev. Hosea Williams, along with Evander Holyfield Foundation for his role in clothing and feeding the homeless; 1993 inducted into the Georgia Hall of Fame as an outstanding recording artist; 1993, following the tragedy of 911 in New York City, Rev. Timothy Flemming's tribute "It is a Mean Ole World to Live in - Old Camp Meeting Song," was aired on CNN Network around the world to heal the nation from that tragedy for 31 days; 1994, awarded the Mahalia Jackson and Thomas A. Dorsey Award as one of the nation's greatest Gospel singers; 1995, Georgia State awarded him the Living Legend Award; Jan 1996, Dr. Henry J. Lyons, the president of the National Baptist Convention, appointed him to be the Director of the Media Ministry of the National Baptist Convention (U.S.A Inc.); Sept, 1996, The New York Times said that Rev. Flemming proved to be a sonorous, Bible-Fulminating, orator and gifted preacher of our times; 1996, Upscale Magazine has twice listed him as one of America's greatest preachers and sermon builders; 1996, appointed to serve on the Mayor's Advisory Board for Atlanta's Mayor Bill Campbell; 1997, first African American preacher to be invited to preach in Calcutta, India; 1997, appointed to the National Council of Churches Committee of America to represent Baptists around the world; 1997, Rev. Flemming along with Dr. Joseph Lawery and Dr. Joseph Roberts were invited to the White House to be a part of President Bill Clinton's Health Plan; 1999, Liberia, Africa school named in his honor, "The Timothy Flemming Institute", with over 300 students; author of "Coping with the Uncopiable" and "How to be a Cool Christian in a Hostile Environment"; pastor of the famed "Mount Carmel Baptist Church" for more than forty years; founder, president, and owner of God's Strength Records-- featured such artists as Margaret Davie of Atlanta, Katie Graham of Jackson, Mississippi, the Mount Carmel Baptist Church Mass Choir, and the Praisebreakers.

Many people know Rev. Flemming not only for his leadership and preaching abilities, but also for his singing ability. Because of his singing talents he has been given several nicknames. Among them: "The Little Man with the Big Voice" and "The Singing Preacher." He has had the opportunity to preach and sing around the world - Mexico, Israel, The Bahamas, Switzerland, Germany, France, Trinidad, and Singapore. Additionally, Rev. Flemming was the first African American preacher to be invited to minister in Calcutta, India in 1997.

Rev. Flemming is the husband of Mrs. Virginia Lee Jackson-Flemming. They are the proud parents of three sons: the late Rev. Aric Bernard Flemming, Rev. Kenneth Lee Flemming, and Rev. Timothy Flemming, Jr. He is also the proud grandfather of Aric Bernard Smith, Timothy Flemming, III, Timera Flemming, Jeremiah Flemming and he is the father-in-law to Jacqueline Deanna Flemming (Timothy Flemming, Jr.)



HONORARY CHAIRPERSON AND GUEST PREACHER JUDGE PENNY BROWN REYNOLDS

One of America's most inspiring and profound speakers of our day. Her no-nonsense approach is thoughtful, outspoken, transparent, and passionate. Her accomplishments are numerous and multifaceted. Judge Penny Brown Reynolds' life work includes social justice advocacy, legal expert, entrepreneur, former jurist, mediator, and public theologian.

During the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the March on Washington, civil and human rights organizations called upon Judge Brown Reynolds to give voice to the issue of "Poverty in America" during this historic occasion. She was selected as one of America's leading intellectuals by CNN and Essence Magazine for the groundbreaking series, Reclaiming the Dream, in association with the Black in America CNN special. As a Life Member of the NAACP, Judge Brown Reynolds was the only jurist in history to serve on the Atlanta Chapter NAACP Executive Committee. She is the proud founding chair of the Judicial Section of the Gate City Bar Association, an affiliate of the National Bar Association.

Judge Brown Reynolds has brought the same passion and commitment she delivered to the law, while serving as a distinguished judge in Atlanta, Georgia for nearly a decade to both the public and private sectors. Judge Brown Reynolds' life-long commitment to academic excellence has been demonstrated as she received her Bachelor of Science degree, Cum Laude, from Georgia State University, after only three years of study, graduating in the top 5% of her class and received her Juris Doctor degree from Georgia State University College of Law. She was also awarded the Georgia State University Outstanding Student Award, the University's highest student award. She graduated first in her class, with highest honors and a perfect 4.0 GPA from the Interdenominational Theological Center (I.T.C.), Atlanta, Georgia, earning a Master's degree, receiving the James H. Costen Award for Excellence as an Emerging Leader.

Judge Brown Reynolds achieved a distinguished position in Georgia's history as the first African American to hold the position of Executive Counsel, making her the first Black to serve as a lawyer for a Governor. Both Ebony and Jet magazines recognized her for this historic accomplishment. She appears on the cover of numerous publications and has been featured in newspapers around the country, including the 2017 cover of South Atlanta Magazine, January/February 2014 issue of Trendsetters To Trendsetters Magazine, the January 2013 issue of The Trumpet Magazine and The Eleventh Edition of Who's Who in Black Atlanta, The Hollywood Reporter, and many others.

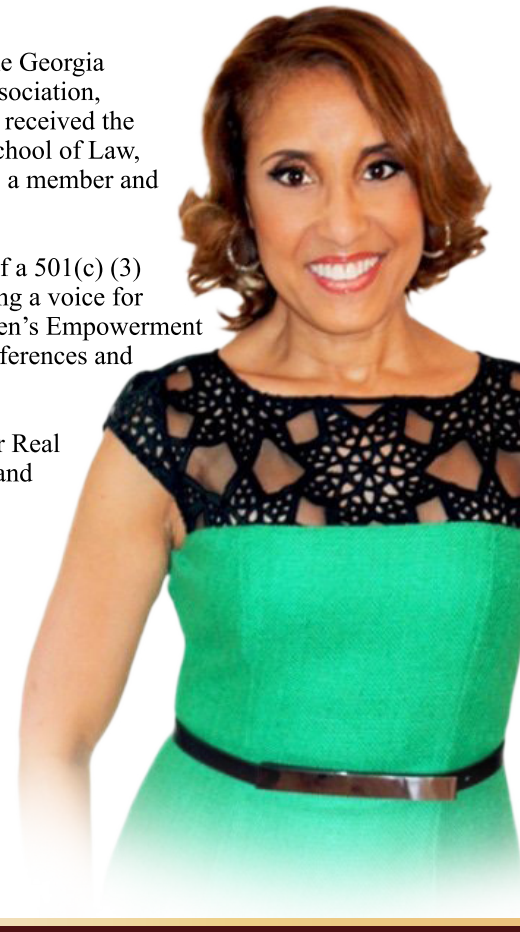
She is a former prosecutor, state Assistant Attorney General, first African American Chief of Staff and legal counsel to Georgia's Lieutenant Governor. Judge Brown Reynolds has an impressive track record as an entrepreneur where she touched millions of people with her internationally syndicated daytime television court series, Family Court with Judge Penny, receiving an Emmy award nomination for her work on the series.

She is a member of the National Bar Association Judicial Council, the American Bar Association, the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, Gate City Bar Association, Lawyers Club of Atlanta, League of Women's Voters, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She received the honor of being recognized as a Barrister in the prestigious Lamar Inn of Court, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia and was selected to Who's Who in American Woman and Judges and has served as a member and legal counsel of the Georgia Commission on Women.

Judge Brown Reynolds is President and CEO of Divine Destiny Enterprises, LLC and the founder of a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening families, women, youth and children and providing a voice for the poor. She is the founder and executive producer of the annual Judge Penny's SisterTalk: A Women's Empowerment Conference with thousands attending from around the country. Judge Brown Reynolds speaks at conferences and corporate events around the country.

She is the author of several books, My Mother Told Me, 7 Steps to Peace of Mind, and Real Talk for Real Sisters. She also co-authored, Women and the Law: A Guide to Women's Legal Rights in Georgia, and has several published articles, including an article appearing in the Huffington Post. Judge Brown Reynolds newest book will be released in the spring of 2017.

As an ordained minister, Judge Brown Reynolds provides a unique and inspiring prophetic preaching and speaking style where she unapologetically confronts today's challenging issues often ignored. She and her husband Reverend Edward S. Reynolds are the proud parents of two grown sons, Michael and Fela and one granddaughter, Pelly Marie.



EPOCH OF WHEAT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



Wheat Street Baptist Church, a beautiful gothic edifice with an abundance of stained-glass windows is among the buildings designated as a historic landmark on the famed “Sweet Auburn Avenue.” It is a church whose ministry seeks to address the spiritual and physical needs of God’s people. The church provides opportunities for prayer and praise, learning and sharing the “good news” in study and involving the total community in its efforts to serve. It has been acclaimed worldwide for its contributions to the spiritual principles that have emanated from the pulpit for more than one hundred fifty years.

- Wheat Street Baptist Church emerged as a descendant of the First Baptist Mission, later known as Friendship Baptist Church, under the leadership of Reverend Frank Quarles.
- In 1869 another Mission was organized known as Mount Pleasant Baptist Church that later became known as Wheat Street Baptist Church.
- The eight founding members were Deacons Eskridge, Hall, Turner and Grimes; Mothers Jeanette Eskridge, Daphne Lane and Mother Turner; and Sister Jane McNeal.



- Reverend Andrew Jackson was called to be the first Pastor and remained until 1874.

•The makings of Wheat Street Baptist Church began under a bush arbor in the yard of Reverend Jackson’s home located at Turnpipe Road and Wheat Street, now known as Howell Street and Auburn Avenue.

- A plot of land was later purchased on Fort Street and a “plank” structure was erected.
- Reverend Dunbar served for a brief period of time when Reverend Jackson had taken ill and before a new pastor was found.



• Reverend William Henry Tillman served as Pastor from 1876-1897. Membership grew and a new church was constructed at the corner of Fort Street and Old Wheat Street. The name was changed to Wheat Street Baptist Church.

- In 1898, the young, wise and ambitious Reverend Peter James Bryant became the spiritual leader of Wheat Street Baptist church and catapulted the membership to more than 3,000.
- Wheat Street Baptist Church was completely destroyed during the Great Atlanta Fire in 1917.

ORDER OF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



July 21, 2019

Worship Leader
Reverend Dr. Juel Pate Borders-Benson
Associate Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church

9:15 a.m. - Church in Study.....Dr. Maurice Hobson
Assistant Professor, African-American Studies
Georgia State University

10:15 a.m. – Praise and Worship.....Deacons and Choir

10:30 a.m. – The Invocation.....Reverend Carla Burnett
Servant Pastor of Pastoral Care
Wheat Street Baptist Church

The Call to Worship

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel the Lord our maker

Congregation: for God is our God and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand

Leader: Today, if ye will, hear God's voice

All: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord

The Hymn of Praise.....“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

The Welcome and Time of Greeting.....Deacon Trina Pitts-Brunn
Please stay connected with us by texting “Connect” to 404-476-7992

The Presentation of Proclamation.....Commissioner Natalie Hall
Fulton County Commissioner, District 4

The Media Minute.....Reverend Vincent Jones
Check in on Facebook/Invite friends to Facebook Live
#wheatstreetatl
Servant Pastor for Executive Ministries
Wheat Street Baptist Church

The Presentation of 50+ years of Membership.....Reverend Dr. Juel Pate Borders-Benson
Associate Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church
150th Anniversary CO-Chairperson
Deacon Debra Jones

The Prayer for the Gift and Giver.....Reverend Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PhD
Text Give: 404-609-0111 or www.wearewheatstreet.org
or Easy Tithe App
Servant Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church

The Worship in Giving: Tithes and Offerings.....William Holmes Borders Ushers

The Offertory Selection.....“Take Me Back”.....Combined Choirs

ORDER OF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



The Doxology

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen”

The Offertory Prayer.....Reverend Dr. Lacy Alford
Associate Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church

The Wheat Street Dance Ministry.....Mojah Dance Theatre

The 150th Anniversary Poem.....Sister Antoinette (Toni) Butler

The Song of Preparation.....“You’ve Been Faithful”.....Combined Choir

The Introduction of Guest Preacher.....Reverend Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PhD
Servant Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church

The Biblical Foundation.....Luke 10:1-20.....Reverend Judge Penny Brown Reynolds
THE MESSAGE
Legal Expert, Speaker, Entrepreneur
Mediator, Public Theologian
150th Anniversary Honorary Chairperson

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....Reverend Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PhD
You can join online at: www.wearewheatstreet.org
Servant Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church

The Invitational Selection.....“Jesus Saves”.....Combined Choirs

The Opportunities for Service and Witness..... Deacon Trina Pitts-Brunn

The Remarks and Recognition and Special Remarks.....Reverend Dr. Michael Neely Harris
Retired Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church (1989-2015)

Special Remarks.....Lisa M. Borders, MSHA

Acknowledgements.....Deacon Jimmy L. Hodges, Sr.
150th Anniversary Chair

The Closing Hymn.....“Let the Church Say Amen”

The Benediction.....Reverend J. Leon Hogan
Associate Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church

Reflections-Wheat Street Past & Present.....Reverend Dr. Timothy Flemming, Sr.
Wheat Street Baptist Church - First Unit
Senior Pastor, Mount Carmel Baptist Church
150th Anniversary Honorary Chairperson

EPOCH OF WHEAT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

- Property was purchased at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Yonge Street. Under Reverend Bryant's pastorate, the First Unit was completed. He remained as pastor until his death in 1929.
- Briefly in 1929, Reverend Lewis Foster, Sr. and Reverend Lewis Foster, Jr. served as interim ministers.
- Reverend J. Henderson was called to be the fourth pastor during the dismal "great depression." He served from 1930-1937.
- Facing a mighty rugged road, Reverend Henderson persevered and succeeded in receiving a grant from the president, Mr. Robert Woodruff, of the Coca Cola Company to liquidate the balance of the church's mortgage. Despite diversity, he lifted the spiritual outlook of the flock which caused the membership to increase.
- The "prophet" Reverend William Holmes Borders, Sr. was chosen by God to provide illustrative leadership for half of a century.
- Reverend Borders was a legendary Minister described as an eloquent speaker, provocative teacher, organizer, visionary pioneer, counselor, motivator, artist, political activist, advocate for justice, innovator, academician, lecturer, author, poet, and entrepreneur.
- Reverend Borders achieved many milestones during his tenure from 1937-1988.: completion of the present edifice, construction of the Christian Education building, development of the first low income apartment complex, Wheat Street Garden Apartments, Shopping Center, Wheat Street High Rise, established the first federal church credit union, Wheat Street Federal Credit Union, organized State approved nursery and day care program, and initiated weekly radio and television religious programs from the church.
- In January 1989, the Reverend Willie Webb assumed the position of interim pastor until June 1989.
- In June 1989, Reverend Dr. Michael Neely Harris "acquiesced" to the call and became the sixth pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church. He is described by parishioners as "preacher extraordinaire," teacher, writer, counselor, evangelist, community leader, and administrator.
- During his twenty-six years as pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church, 1989-2015, Reverend Harris achieved many milestones and instituted many notable ministries inclusive of: the renovation of the first Unit, the licensing and ordination of several ministers, initiation of Deaconess Ministry, the Action Mission, annual African American Month Celebration, active involvement of church in the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. and the American Baptist Churches, Ins., annual Seven Last Words Good Friday Service, purchased nine-foot Steinway Concert Grand Piano, Rogers Organ, three-octave set of Schulmerich Handbells and accessories, and many other additions in Evangelism, Missions and Christian Education. Reverend Harris retired from Wheat Street Baptist Church, December 31, 2015.
- In February 2016, Reverend Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins was called as interim Pastor. Reverend Watkins, a visionary servant leader commenced his relationship with the band of believers at Wheat Street by "Laying the Foundation for Growth by remembering the legacy while rebuilding for the future. His focus on outreach, transformative Christian education, and quality worship from beginning to end every Sunday speak to his passion to serve. During his short period as interim Pastor, Reverend Watkins embraced the Wheat Street family and moved forward with God's plans for Wheat Street.

EPOCH OF WHEAT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

- -Reverend Ralph Basui Watkins was called to the pastorate of Wheat Street Baptist Church on Sunday, July 9, 2017... “For with God All Things Are Possible”...



Reverend Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PhD

REVEREND RALPH BASUI WATKINS, MFA, DMIN, PHD
(2017-PRESENT)



REVEREND DR. MICHAEL NEELY HARRIS (1989-2015)



In June 1989, Reverend Dr. Michael Neely Harris, a man of impeccable character, as described during the pastoral search, became our sixth Pastor of this one hundred forty-five (145) year old church. He has proven to be a dedicated, spirit-filled, erudite, dynamic, preacher who is remarkably skilled in preparing and delivering inspiring, soul moving sermons. Through these sermons, he has attracted more than one thousand (1,000) persons to join. Financial stewardship has increased and more than 40 new auxiliaries and ministries organized. Pastor Harris has led in facilitating improving the church campus and other properties. His most notable accomplishment is the renovation and designing of the Historic First Unit (basement) of the church in 2000 at a cost of 1.5 million dollars (\$1,500,000). In June 2002, Georgia Trend Magazine cited Dr. Harris as a leader in acquiring the service of the first Church Administrator at the Historic Wheat Street Baptist Church. He has been featured in numerous publications as a Dynamic Church Leader and is in demand as a preacher and lecturer throughout the U.S.A.



Reverend and Mrs. Harris with son, Michael and daughter, Crystal.



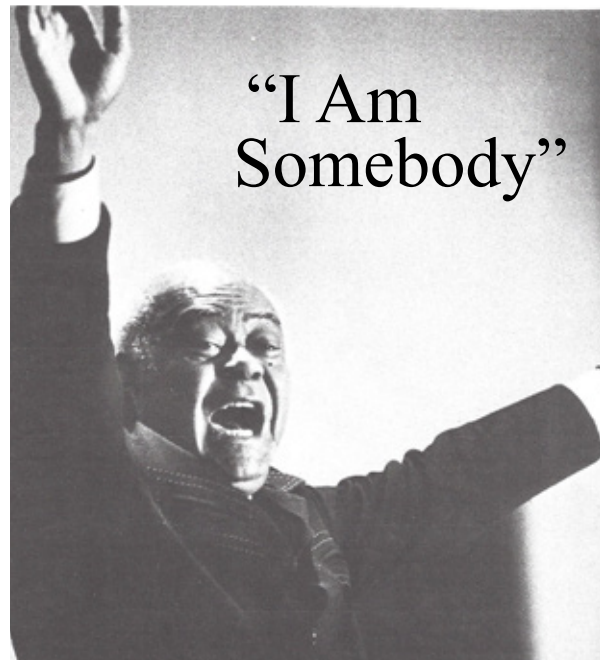
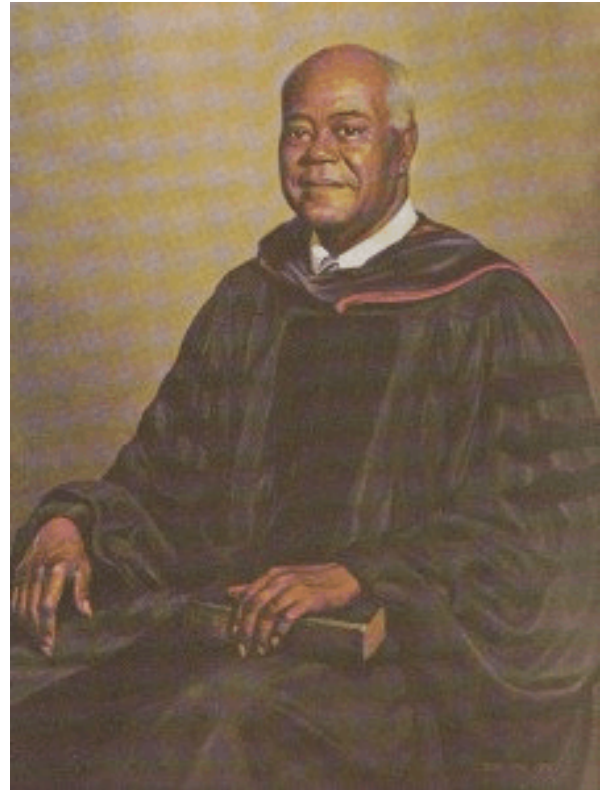
Action Mission and Children's Choir two of 29 Ministries formed by Reverend Harris.



REVEREND WILLIAM HOLMES BORDERS, SR. (1937-1988)

In 1937, Reverend William Holmes Borders, Sr., the inimitable, charismatic, outstanding orator, lecturer, educator, civil rights leader, and humanitarian, took the reins and became our fifth Pastor. It was under his leadership that Wheat Street Baptist Church experienced the greatest growth in membership, finances, building, evangelism, community service and leadership in the civil rights movement. Reverend Borders led the congregation in completing the present sanctuary in nineteen months, and one week, at a cost of \$87,000.00. Other accomplishments include the following: organizing more than forty-five auxiliaries, including two deacon boards, six usher boards, and seven choirs; purchasing thirty-two (32) acres of land bounded by Cain Street, Jackson Street, Old Wheat Street and Fort Street at a cost of \$450,000.00 for the purpose of constructing a low-rent housing project; extending the church campus to include the Christian Education Building; Wheat Street Gardens Low-income Housing complex; Wheat Street Towers High Rise for the elderly; and Wheat Street Plaza Shopping Centers, North and South. The Christian Education Building was constructed in 1955 at a cost of \$450,000.00. Wheat Street Gardens was the first low-income housing project, partially federally funded, and sponsored by any church anywhere in the United States of America. The Wheat Street Federal Credit Union, valued at \$1,195,239.00 on January 31, 1982 was among the first church Federal Credit Unions established in the south. Rev. Borders was a pioneer evangelist via local Atlanta radio stations through 1972, and through television until he retired. The Bus Ministry helped to increase the membership to 3,000. The annual income increased from approximately \$12,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

The late Mrs. Julia Pate Borders, First Lady, assisted Reverend Borders in all church activities and served for 27 years without a salary as Director of Christian Education overseeing Sunday Church School, Vacation Bible School, Head Start, nursery and elementary school. After serving the Wheat Street Baptist Church, the Atlanta community, the nation and the world, Reverend Dr. William Holmes Borders, Sr., became the Pastor-Emeritus in 1989, and continued in this capacity until his transition in 1993. Reverend Willie J. Webb served as our fifth Interim Pastor from 1988-1999.

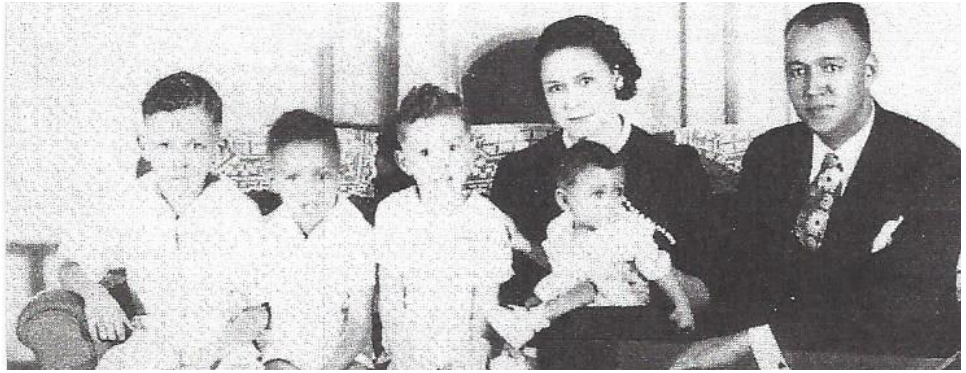


Reverend and Mrs. William H. Borders and son, William II and daughter, Juel.

REVEREND J. RAYMOND HENDERSON (1930-1937)

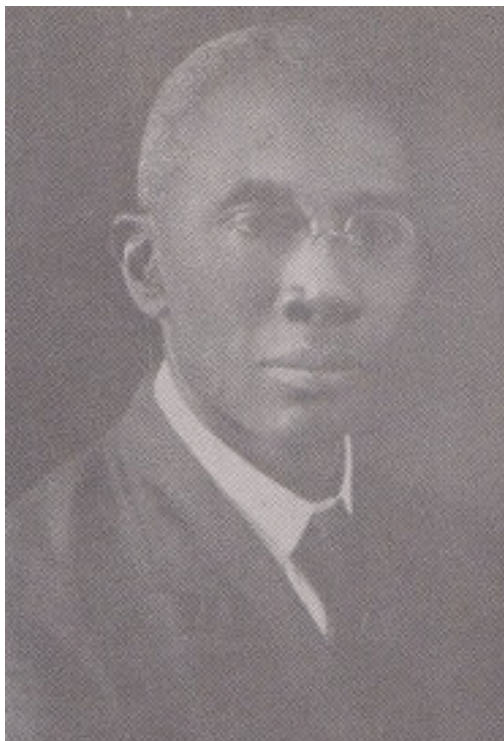


Therefore, in 1930 God commanded a man to go to Wheat Street to see what he could do to help. that man was Reverend J. Raymond Henderson, our fourth pastor who served for seven (7) years. He saved many souls, raised eighteen thousand and five hundred dollars (\$18,500.00), and cleared the church of debt. Reverend Henderson saw another vision and another vineyard with another flock of God and in 1937 tendered his resignation. Again, Wheat Street was left without a shepherd and began to search for another pastor.



Reverend and Mrs. J. Raymond Henderson and sons.

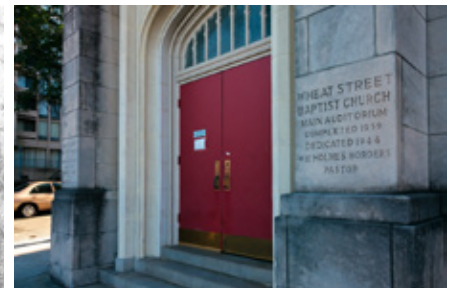
REVEREND PETER JAMES BRYANT (1898-1929)



From 1898-1929, Reverend Peter James Bryant, a dynamic young preacher, accepted the call as the third Pastor. Under his administration, more than three thousand souls came into the fold. After perishing in “The Great Atlanta Fire of 1917”, the church sought another place of worship. They decided to settle at the corner of Yonge Street, (presently known as William Holmes Borders, Sr., Drive) and Wheat Street (presently known as Auburn Avenue), of which is the present location. Reverend Bryant conceptualized and designed the present edifice. He also finished the First Unit and outside walls of the new church. Unfortunately, he became ill and passed from labor to reward. When his work on earth ended, Reverend Louis Foster, whom Reverend Bryant had ordained, became our fourth Interim Pastor and led our worship services. For one year the church was without a pastor and during which time was the Great Depression. The church was heavily indebted, but it knew where to look and that was to God.



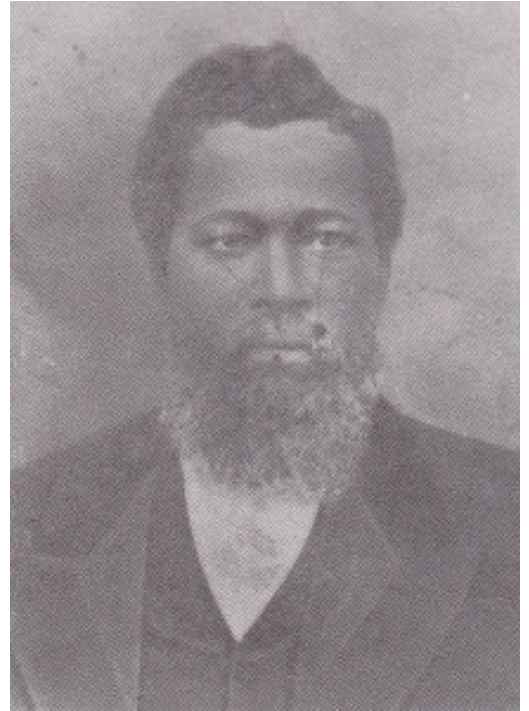
Reverend Bryant and church members.
(third row, second from right)



Reverend Bryant purchased and erected First Unit after the Great Atlanta Fire in 1917.

REVEREND WILLIAM HENRY TILLMAN (1876-1897)

Reverend William Henry Tillman, Pastor from 1875-1897, was very strong and eloquent speaker and became our second Pastor following Interim Pastor Dunbar, who served for a short period. Under his administration, the church had prolific growth, which led to their finding a larger place, which was at the corner of Old Wheat Street and Fort Street, thus the name WHEAT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH emerged. During Reverend Tillman's administration, the membership grew to one thousand members. However, during his pastorate, Reverend Tillman became physically weak and resigned. Reverend C.T. Walker – Reverend Walker served as our second Interim Pastor from 1897-1898.



REVEREND ANDREW JACKSON (1869-1874)

Reverend Jackson was called to be the first pastor of the newly formed Mount Pleasant Baptist in 1869. His early sermons were held under a bush arbor, in the front yard of his home, at what is now known as Howell Street and Auburn Avenue. He is the great grandfather of former Mayor, Maynard H. Jackson, Jr.



PAINTING AND STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



"The Crucifixion" - One of three paintings by renowned artist Dr. Hale Woodruff

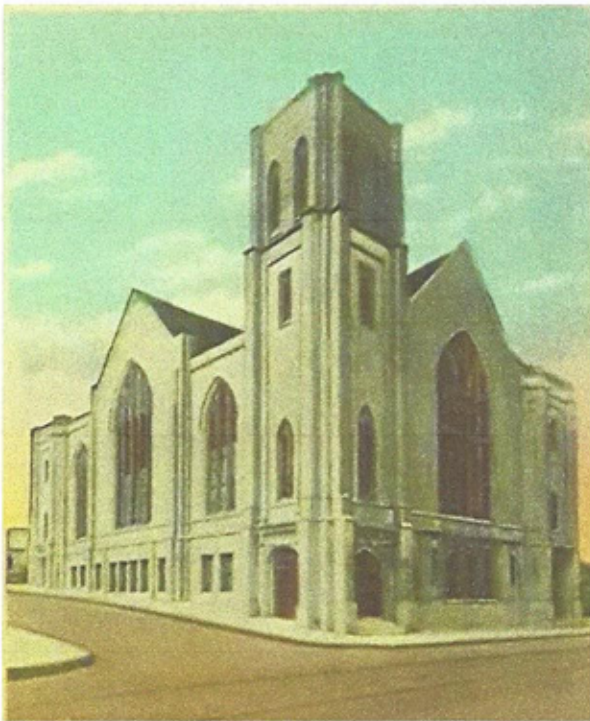


Stained Glass Windows throughout the Sanctuary

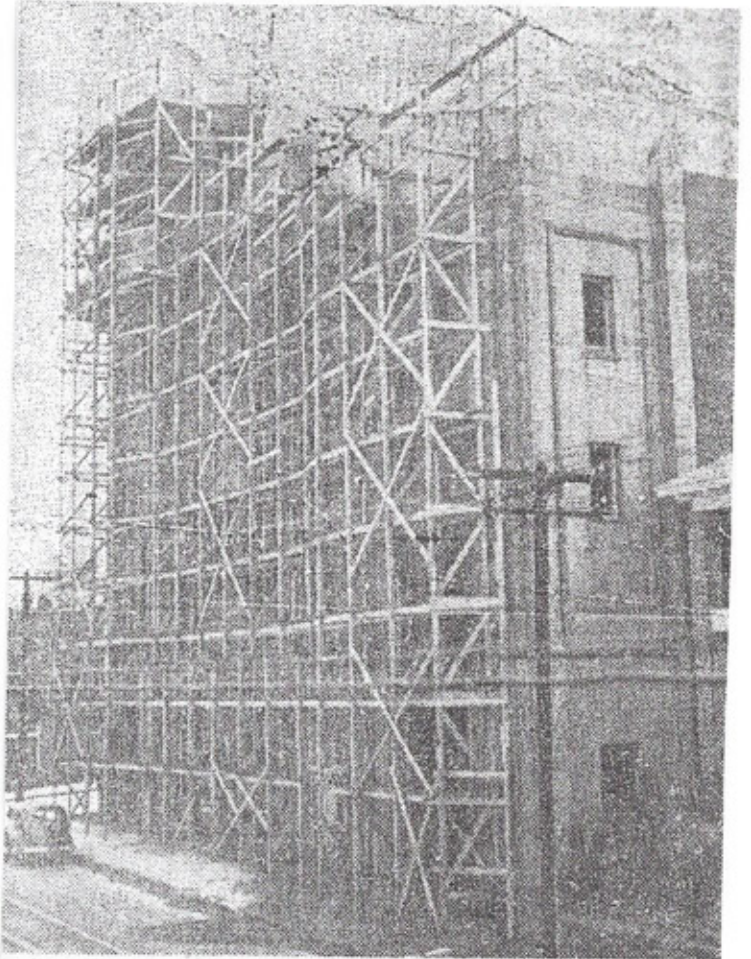
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The Great Atlanta Fire of 1917 destroyed Wheat Street Baptist Church. The First Unit was rebuilt 1920.

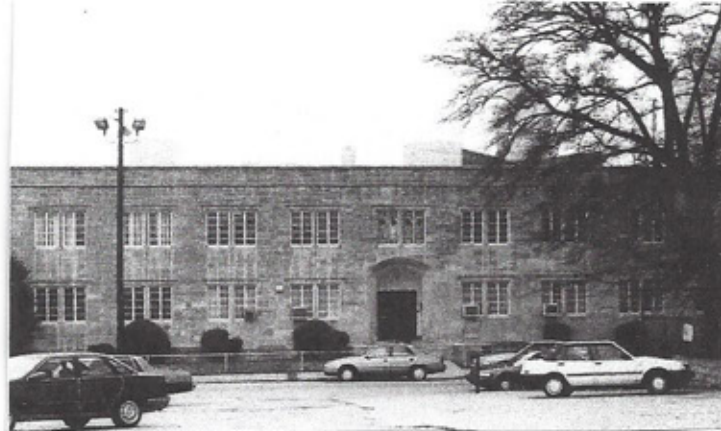


Wheat Street Baptist Church 1939



Atlanta Baptists are making a united effort to complete the Wheat Street church, one of the oldest negro Baptist churches Atlanta and one of the largest in the nation, in time for the Baptist World Alliance which meets here July 22-28, 1939. Contributions are being sought to finish work on the building so that the negro Baptist churches will have a suitable downtown auditorium for their sectional meetings during the world congress.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The Christian Education Building, completed 1955



Wheat Street Garden Apartments, Phase one 1964, Phase 2 1967, Phase 3 1969



Wheat Street Gardens – Urban Garden & Farm 2010

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY



Wheat Street Towers opened January 21, 1973



Wheat Street Towers Grand Reopening May 21, 2019

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Deacon Jimmy L. Hodges, Sr. - Committee Chairperson
Reverend Dr. Juel Pate Borders-Benson – Committee Co-Chairperson
Chermaine Axam-Wilkins – Committee Co-Chairperson

Anniversary Commemorative Book Sub-Committee

Gwen Elmore (Chairperson), Dr. Candy Tate, Jimmy Hodges, Janice Dawson, Hugh Robinson, Janice Tate
Gresham, Rev. Dr. Juel P. Borders-Benson, Virginia Glass, Debra Jones
Sunday School/Christian Education Sub-Committee
Mary Blake (Chairperson), Debra Jones

Editing Sub-Committee

Chermaine Axam-Wilkins (Chairperson), Maxcine Hodges, Mary Blake, Gwen Elmore

Finance Sub-Committee

Ben Logan, Karen Scott

Formal Gala & Decorations Sub-Committee

Judy McNeil (Chairperson), Maxcine Hodges Deacon Mary Williams, Mable Jefferson,
Alice Wiggins, Raynelle McNeil, Gwen Elmore, Janice Dawson

Hospitality Sub-Committee

Faye Morgan (Chairperson), Barbara Bush, Cynthia Parham, Harry Henderson, Jr., Quenette Dickerson, , Priscilla
Roach, Maxcine Hodges, Jerome Bailey, Greg Smith, Charles Jones, Jackie Powell

Logistics Committee

Zeb Ducre, Kevin Jackson

Memorabilia Committee

Jimmy Hodges (Chairperson), Daryll Griffin, Gwen Elmore, Debra Jones, Betty Strickland Perdue

Photography/Videography Sub-Committee

Ali Brathwaite (Chairperson), Kevin Jackson, Charles Jones, Horrace Henry,
Arlene Brathwaite, , Darran Christian

PR/Marketing Sub-Committee

Alicia Jones (Chairperson), Chermaine Axam-Wilkins, Marilyn Mundy-Woods, Andrea Glaze, Jimmy Hodges,
Vincent Jones, Debra Jones

Sponsorship/Program Sub-Committee

Jimmy Hodges (Chairperson), Renee Hill, Maxcine Hodges, Chermaine Axam-Wilkins,
Raynelle McNeil, Vincent Jones

Welcome Sub-Committee

Dee Davis (Chairperson), Connie Newkirk, Betty Strickland Purdue, Mary Williams, Zeb Ducre

Worship Experience Sub-Committee

Debra Jones (Chairperson), Terry Axam, Geoffrey Morgan, Karen Scott, , Sherika Amerson,
Adrian Ford, Artrisia Edwards



MESSAGE OF THANKSGIVING AND HOPE

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

God be praised for miracle after miracle over the one hundred and fifty (150) year glorious history of the Wheat Street Baptist Church. I join you in thanking God for our crowd of witnesses, our joyful spirits in glory, highly gifted leadership, dedicated congregational vigilance and continued community support.

Congratulations to Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins, Pastor; to the congregation of Wheat Street Baptist Church and to all the 150th Church Anniversary Committees for your sacrificial service.

As we continue to celebrate this year and in years to come, may we be strengthened by our sacred history and our great tradition, as we press simultaneously forward in evangelism and community service.

My sincere prayer is that God will continue to give us an abundance of faith, love, humility, patience, sincerity and forgiveness, all in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church.

“Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Ephesians 3: 20-21, The Holy Bible, King James Version

To God be all the glory!

Juel Pate Borders-Benson
Associate Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church
150th Anniversary Co-Chair-

1869

150th
Church

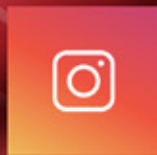
2019

ANNIVERSARY

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www.wearewheatstreet.org

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