

Trinity Baptist Church History

Reverend F.R. Kennedy

1902

In 1902, Reverend F. R. Kennedy and his family lived in the wooded area called Smithfield. There wasn't a church located near their home. Inspired by God, Reverend Kennedy decided to organize a church. He purchased a house across the Southern Railroad tracks known as Third Avenue. In this house, Trinity Baptist Church was organized with a few members. The pastor and members later decided to purchase a site located at 324 Fourth Court, North, in Birmingham, Alabama. The following officers were elected to serve: D.T. Shields, Sam Bradford, Dave Hollins and Shep Hollins. Mrs. Letha Bridges and Mrs. Lillie Thompkins were among the first members of Trinity Baptist Church.

After serving for several years, Reverend Kennedy resigned the pastorate at Trinity Baptist Church to accept the call from Sardis Baptist Church, Enon Ridge. Reverend Kennedy expired in 1933 while residing in Chicago, Illinois.

Reverend Samuel Fisher accepted Trinity's call and became the second pastor. Reverend Fisher labored untiringly and the church showed noticeable progress during his period as pastor.

In 1915, Reverend Pat Hughes was called as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church. He served as pastor for the next 2 1/2 years. In 1919, Reverend J.D. Simpson served for a short period and Reverend Reed served until he was called home to rest. Under the leadership and guidance of these pastors, the church continued to grow.

Reverend Dr. Willie L. Boyd

1920-1930

In 1920, Reverend Dr. Willie L. Boyd answered the call to pastor Trinity Baptist Church. His ministry was quite successful. Reverend Boyd worked diligently to complete the upper floor of the church. His efforts were rewarded as the first services were held in the main auditorium on May 18, 1924. The church membership grew steadily with an influx of new members from the community and other churches throughout the city. Reverend Boyd served for 10 years.

Reverend P. Joseph Watkins

1931-1937

After the death of Dr. Willie L. Boyd, Reverend P. Joseph Watkins was called to pastor Trinity Baptist Church. His wife was Mrs. Ella Watkins. Reverend Watkins was a well -educated and highly respected Christian, and an eloquent speaker. He organized a male chorus known as "The Silvertones" and increased the auxiliaries of the church. Reverend Watkins went home to his Heavenly Father on September 19, 1937.

1938-1940

After the passing of Rev. Watkins, Reverend Perry was called to the pastorate. During his tenure, dissension arose and the church split. Reverend Perry resigned as minister and established Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Smithfield community.

Reverend James Lowell Ware

1941-1972

In 1941, a call was extended to Reverend James Lowell Ware to become Trinity's pastor. Reverend Ware accepted and served from 1941 until 1972. During his administration the church took on new life. The membership increased and his unparalleled personality brought much joy and happiness to the membership. Reverend Ware accepted the church during the years of depression. During his tenure as pastor, he organized several auxiliaries such as the Gospel Chorus, Young People's Choir and the Youth Usher Board. He was a leader of unusual magnitude in the community. In 1972, Reverend Ware resigned and retired from the pastorate.

Reverend Elijah W. Jarrett

1973-2000

After Reverend Ware retired, Trinity began the search for a new pastor. In 1973, Reverend Elijah W. Jarrett accepted the pastorate of Trinity Baptist Church. In the first seven months as pastor, Reverend Jarrett and the dedicated members erased all of Trinity's debts. However, the church located at 324 4th Court North was in need of much repair. The membership had also grown and a larger facility was needed. Reverend Jarrett envisioned a new church facility. Under his guidance, property was found and the progress on the new facility began. Groundbreaking services were held on January 4, 1976, and on June 19, 1977 an exuberant congregation marched from Trinity's old site to its new home at 900 Graymont Avenue, West. Reverend Jarrett's legacy at Trinity Baptist Church included a commitment to leading lives to accept Jesus Christ, community and civil rights service, construction of a million dollar church facility and Family Life Center. During Reverend Jarrett's service at Trinity, over twenty-two ministries were created to serve the congregation and the community. Reverend Jarrett served untiringly until he was called home to rest on September 26, 2000.

Rev. John E. King, Jr.

Interim Pastor-2000-2001

During the church's period of mourning, Reverend John E. King Jr. was called to serve as interim Pastor. Reverend King served through the mourning period, the pastoral search and the election of the new pastor. During the interim period, Reverend King led with a kind spirit and endeavored to prepare the congregation for change.

Rev. Charlie Stallworth

2001-2003

Prayerfully, the congregation considered each pastor recommended by the pastoral search committee and in October, 2001, the church elected Reverend Charlie L. Stallworth to lead the church to the "next level." Reverend

Stallworth's vision statement upon accepting the church's call was "to produce mature Christians who witness relationally, worship expressively, and serve enthusiastically." Reverend Stallworth served until May, 2003.

Rev. John E. King, Jr.

2003 - Present

On September 29, 2003, the members of Trinity Baptist Church extended the offer of pastorship to Reverend John E. King, Jr. He graciously accepted Trinity's call. Under Pastor King's leadership, Trinity's membership has flourished with the addition of new members, the installation of new deacons and trustees and the implementation of new ministries designed to develop disciples for the Kingdom of God. Reverend King has been instrumental in providing new and spiritual leadership in Christian Education, membership, capital improvement, strategic planning, fiscal management, media and public relations as well as revisions to Trinity's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Reverend King has also developed key committees to support the organizational structure of the church. He has embraced the community by providing a Christian environment through Trinity's Summer Enrichment Camp. The community has also been blessed with a spiritual fellowship through annual conferences designed to meet the needs of seniors, youth, men and women and of those recovering from addiction. In order to meet the educational needs of our church family, a computer lab has been established to enhance computer literacy and improve individual academic achievement. The computer lab also serves as a resource center for our tutorial program.

In addition to the educational enhancements, Reverend King has provided leadership in developing a Children's Church for students ages 5-11. The curriculum is designed to provide a true worship experience which is age appropriate. Children's Church prepares young people to participate in a traditional worship service, understand the spiritual commitment to God, and to make decisions based on Biblical guidance and teachings. Since its inception, many children have given their lives to the Lord and have been baptized.

Through the divine Father and vision of Reverend King, in 2005-2006, Trinity purchased a new organ, completed more than \$200,000 in capital improvements, and acquired real estate valued at more than \$300,000 to aid and assist the community with housing needs. Reverend King continues to strive for excellence by providing a new vision and mission toward the development of the non-profit Trinity Community Development Center, Inc. (TCDC). The TCDC will benefit the church and community by enhancing education, social, moral and health initiatives. The TCDC will also enhance charitable works and foster community growth and economic revitalization. In the future, Trinity will continue its community outreach programs by developing a Christian school, daycare and youth-based programs and activities.

To God Be the Glory For The Great Things He Has Done

