

# METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH



170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



November 8, 2020

Reclaiming Our Identity,  
Heritage & Inheritance  
In Christ

Matthew 6:9-13, 24:33



Thank you for being a bridge over troubled water for 170 Years...May you continue to be a blessing to the North Side community.



**Allegheny**  
Health Network

# A Message from the Pastor and First Lady



## Come What May, We Are Still Together In Christ

We are thanking God for these 170 years of his faithful leadership and countless blessings which are too numerous to number. Even though we are not in our physical church due to Covid-19, we are assured that where two or three are gathered in His name there He will be in the midst of us (Matthew 18:20). Praise God!

This is a wonderful promise whether believers come together in a church building or a home Bible Study, prayer meeting or even just two getting together (like husband and wife) to fellowship around the name of the Lord Jesus. Jesus will be there also.

As we look back to our faithful few (16) founders of the then formerly known as the First Colored Regular Baptist Church, Zion Baptist Church and Green Street Baptist Church before becoming Metropolitan Baptist Church, the oldest Black Baptist Church in Western Pennsylvania. The Church “*Where Everybody is Somebody.*”

We will be forever grateful to this who sacrificed so much in helping to keep the Church moving forward to get to this present location, so we could continue this faithful journey of “*Celebration of 170 years of God’s Love and Glory.*”

The Lord has shown us a lot about how strong our faith can be with His help, especially in the midst of the one of the greatest pandemics ever.

The Pandemic has cost us to close our churches, schools, closing stores, closing business, and changing sports. We are to wear masks for protection, keep social distancing, and washing hands continually. It has caused many job losses.

Since the Coronavirus has entered our lives, we need to seek the one who can help us in times like these. There is a lot of confusion in our country right now, but we know who holds the future in His hands, **don’t we!**

The transition to the “New Normal” has yet to be revealed. We must continue to pray and keep the faith in the promise that Jesus made when he said to his followers that whoever believeth in me will not perish but have eternal life.

We must remember that if we keep our focus on Jesus, He will keep you in perfect peace.



# Message from the Deacon, Deaconess and Trustee Boards:



On behalf of the Metropolitan Deaconess Board, we rejoice with our brothers and sisters in Christ in what God has done for this body of believers. Celebrating 170 years of existence is a testimony to the goodness of the Lord, “ ... *without faith it is impossible to please God for he who comes to him must believe that he is.*” Hebrews 11:6.

Culturally, our identity is deeply rooted in religion due to the faith of our forefathers who endured much hardship however, they were strengthened in the Lord and endured until the end.

Whether we were brought or sent to church we give honor to our ancestors who planted this church and instilled the importance of stewardship; worship, fellowship, giving of our finances and attendance. We are grateful to know we did our part in assuring that their labor has not been in vain.

Metropolitan, like many other churches has faced a decline in membership. Thanks be to God we continued to put our trust in God and our doors remained open for worship and missions until COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in our closure.

**Let us be encouraged as we continue to put our trust in God.**

The COVID-19 virus has closed the church doors since March. Our mission to visit the sick and shut in, our monthly missionary outreach distribution of clothing, school supplies and household items have ceased. In spite of the Pandemic, Metropolitan has participated in providing produce boxes, with meat, canned goods and dairy products to community families in need of food.

In these challenging times we encourage each of you to hold fast to your faith, continue to maintain telephone contact with others, offer to assist in shopping for those in need, send cards and always remember each other in prayer.

**You will be blessed in what you do for others.**

Continued Blessings,

**From the Deacon Board**

*Willie Jones, Sr. Chairman  
Milton Allen  
Neuval Bone  
Jeff Cullens  
Walter Fearbry  
Gregory Young, Sr.*

**From the Deaconess Board**

*Linda Hagen, President  
Jerry Ann Allen  
Bernice Brady  
Shania Bone  
Dorothy Cullens, Deaconess Emeritus  
Yvonne Dennis  
Alethia A. Hamm  
Anna T. Murchison, Deaconess Emeritus  
Gloria Underwood*

**From the Trustee Board**

*Norris Cullens, Chairperson  
Andre Cullens  
Ladora Jamison  
Sandra Pryor  
Olivia Tomlin  
Sharon Watkins*

# Celebrating Our 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Welcome Message:



### Greetings,

Thanks for who God is and the opportunity to host our Metropolitan Baptist Church 170th Anniversary. We congratulate the church family, friends and community supporters on moving forward with programs during these trying times of COVID-19 challenges. We are grateful to our young adults hosting services on virtual platforms to keep us engaged in the work of God. It is evident that Metropolitan families, work, serve and share inspirational messages as we talk and open up about spiritual needs and physical needs in our homes and community at this time.

Over the past months our faith has been tested as we recognize, embrace and provide for the needs of members in our community while being inclusive and diverse for future generations. We have members that are sharing stories of faith and love. When we share our stories, we can encourage someone else and learn of God's goodness and opportunities. We know experiencing the presence of God can help us to be strong. Since 1982, our Allen family have been part of this congregation where members welcomed us with open arms.

A special thank you to all members, friends, Business Supporters and former members. All of the church officers and members that are integral to the souvenir book and program success! It is a blessing to have our Pre-Anniversary speaker Gabriel Cloud of Morehouse University and Anniversary speaker Elder Otto Gross, Sr. of Baltimore, MD.

Special Thanks to Brother Roderick Blair, Brother Julian Cullens, Sister Diane Young, Sister Da Marra Underwood, Sister Shavonda Young, Sister Maxine Cullens, Sister Barbara Randal, Sister Jean Cason Jones, Sister Ola Young, Brother Otto and Sister Jayna Gross, Brother Gordon and Sister Jaymie Fields, Ryan Howard, Coron Howard, Mrs. Joann Pomietto, Pilar Designs, and Western Pennsylvania School for Deaf Lion Works Printing we thank you for your special services!

To God Be the Glory,

Deacon Milton Allen and Deaconess Jerry Ann Allen

**Acknowledgment:** We are indebted to the Pittsburgh Baptist Association, the Northgate Baptist Church (formerly the Sandusky Street Baptist Church), and the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Noveber 1984, Volume 11, Number 2, page 119, for making their records available to the Metropolitan Anniversary History Committee. Member churches of the Pittsburgh Baptist Association were required to read reports of the Annual Session giving statistics regarding total membership, financial condition, status of the Sunday School, and the name of the Pastor and delegates. These reports were then digested and published in the form of minutes by the Association.

We are also deeply grateful to the late Edith Holland, the late Birchard Jennings, the late Trustee Zelma Stevenson, the late Edward Blair, Deaconess Carolyn Mundy, Rev. Maryln Black and our Historical Committee Chair, Martina R. Corbin, for their detailed and exhaustive work on this history. Minutes of the Pittsburgh Baptist Association from 1835 through 1891 were read. All quoted matter in this history has been copied verbatim from the minutes. There can be no doubt to their authenticity.

**Metropolitan Baptist Church: 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Sunday, November 8, 2020 | 11:00 a.m. | Order of Service**



**Welcome, Praise & Worship**  
Anniversary Combined Choirs

Scripture Reading: **Brother Julian Cullens**

Prayer: **Deacon Jeff Cullens**

Recognition of Church Historians and Church History  
See Journal for Observation of Church History  
**Trustee Sharon Watkins**

Tithes & Offering: **Trustee Norris Cullens**, Chairman of Trustee Board

Offertory Prayer: **Deacon Jeff Cullens**

Selection: **Sister Da Marra Chanel Underwood** representing the **Youth Choir**

Bereavement / Hospitalization / Sick & Shut-in Report  
**Rev. Dr. Lacy F. Richardson**, Pastor

Alter Call: **Rev. Dr. Lacy F. Richardson**

Introduction of Guest Speaker  
**Sister Michelle Gross**, First Lady, New Prayer Mission Ministries

Selection: **Deacon Jeff J. Cullens** representing the **Metro Male Chorus**

Guest Speaker: **Elder Otto Lamonte Gross, Sr.**, Pastor  
New Prayer Mission Ministries  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

Invitation to Salvation: **Elder Otto Lamonte Gross, Sr.**  
Selection: **Rev. Dr. Lacy Richardson**, Pastor

Remarks From 170<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Chairpersons  
**Deacon Dr. Milton Allen** and **Deaconess Jerry Ann Allen**

Remarks and Benediction: **Rev. Dr. Lacy F. Richardson**, Pastor

Fellowship: **New Prayer Mission Ministries & Metropolitan Baptist Church**



# Metropolitan Baptist Church History 1850 - 2000 (Abridged)



The Metropolitan Church is the oldest black Baptist church in Western Pennsylvania. It was form known as First Colored Regular Baptist Church, Zion Baptist Church, and Green Street Baptist Church before becoming Metropolitan Baptist Church.

According to the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Pittsburgh Baptist Association, “the First Colored Church of Allegheny City (now the North Side of Pittsburgh) made application, and was received as a member of the Pittsburgh Association and given the hand of fellowship by the Moderator, the Reverend Samuel Williams on June 2, 1850.” This Session of the Association was held with the Mars Hill Baptist Church, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1850 A.D. The statistical report of the Association records that the First Colored Baptist Church consisted of 20 members, pastured by the Reverend Philip Broadwater.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, held with the Elizabethtown Baptist Church of Allegheny, Pennsylvania on May 31st, and June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 1851, the First Colored Baptist Church reported a total membership of 39 members pastured by the Reverend C. Long.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 1852 the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Session was held with the McKeesport Baptist Church of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. A total membership of 35 was reported by the First Colored Baptist Church of Allegheny City. However, the Church was without a pastor.

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, held on June 4th, 1853, with the Freeport Baptist Church, recorded “no delegates from the First Colored Baptist Church, but the Church was still considered an Association member.”

From 1854 through 1867, the First Colored Baptist Church was not listed, nor was there any explanation or reason for the Church's not being represented.

It can be assumed or presumed that the membership scattered and/or joined other Baptist churches, particularly the Sandusky Street Baptist Church (white).

There is a definite lack of recorded information regarding the First Colored Baptist Church from 1854 until 1868, when the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Pittsburgh Baptist Association held with the McKeesport Baptist Church state, “The Committee on admissions reported the First Colored Baptist Church, Allegheny City, reapplied for fellowship and recommended their reception. The letters from the Church were read and the hand of fellowship was extended to delegates Deacon S.A. Neale, Wesley Johnson, and M.B. Sloan, Pastor, by the Moderator, the Reverend T.S. Hill.” At that time, a total membership of 23 members was reported. There were also statistics regarding the Sunday School. There were 50 scholars, 5 teachers,” and 150 volumes in the library. The Superintendent at that time was W.T. Brown.

Page 21 of the History of the Sandusky Street Baptist Church reveals, “16 members were dismissed from the Church in 1868 to unite with others in forming the First Colored Baptist Church of Allegheny City. These 16 were:

Samuel A. Neale	Jeremiah Robinson
Nancy Williams	Paul Caperton
Thomas Baltimore	Anthony Emory
William Hubert	Amanda Neal
Nathaniel Madden	Edwin Williams

Sarah Caperton  
Matilda Thornton  
Wesley Johnson

Cornelius Lovett  
Lucy Hubert  
James Harper, Sr.

We can only conjecture that “the others” mentioned by the Sandusky Street Baptist Church must have represented the descendants of the original 20 members who established the First Colored Baptist Church of Allegheny City in 1850. It is regrettable that the names of these 20 members are not recorded anywhere.

The first pastor of the reorganized First Colored Baptist Church was M.B. Sloan, a licentiate from the Sandusky Street Baptist Association. It was recently learned that Reverend Sloan was considered “the Father of Allegheny High School.” It was because of his relentlessness that the school opened as a high school at its present site. The building was previously used as a school for colored children from the time of the Civil War to 1873.

In 1869, the First Colored Baptist Church reported a total membership of 30 with the Reverend Christopher Williams as Pastor. The Sunday School showed no increase in the number of scholars.”

From 1868 through 1870, the Church was still known as the First Colored Baptist Church of Allegheny City, and was represented by delegates, the Reverend C. Williams, Pastor, Wesley Johnson, and S.A. Neale.

At the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session of the Pittsburgh Baptist Association held with the Sharpsburg Baptist Church on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 1871, the Church reported, “change of name from First Colored Baptist Church to Zion Baptist Church and commented that they were striving to go forward in all good works. Hoping they could to do more in the coming year. The membership totaled 42 with the Reverend Wesley Williams as Pastor. Delegates were S.A. Neale and Paul T. Caperton.” The Church was without a regular pastor in 1872, depending upon the Pittsburgh Baptist Association for a preacher. Delegates were Wesley Johnson, Thomas Baltimore and S.A. Neale.

In 1873 (June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) at Apollo, Pennsylvania, the Zion Colored Baptist Church reported “A membership of 71 with a new pastor, the Reverend George W. Jackson, now working in Harmony, having nearly doubled in membership and now taking measures to secure a lot upon which to build a house. The Sunday School was doing well with 73 scholars, 9 officers and teachers.” The Superintendent at that time was S.A. Neale. In 1874 and 1875, the Church was “still growing under the Pastorate of the Reverend G.W. Jackson.” The 1875 report indicated “the year has been one of growth. The Pastor has been faithful and diligent. Amid the general joy in the addition of souls, sorrow has filled their hearts at the conduct of some who have been cut off. Death has removed Brother Charles Joiner at the age of 92 and Sister Mary Melontree, 51; W.A. Fox, age 22; and Doley Queen, age 72. Pray for us.”

Under the leadership of the Reverend George W. Jackson, a permanent place of worship was secured on Green Street. The Green Street M.E. Church conveyed to the Green Street Baptist Church a church building at Spring Alley and Green Street for the sum of \$6,500.00. (Recorded on page 458, Vol. 363 of the charter book in the Recorder's Office of Allegheny County.) Note: Negotiations has started in 1873.

The Charter of Incorporation of the Green Street Baptist Church was

# Metropolitan Baptist Church History 1850 - 2000 (Abridged)



granted on August 14, 1875. Signatures on the charter included James Harper, Edward Williams, Basel Rideout, Archibald Epps Branch, and Henry Tolliver. It is to be noted that “all communicant members of said church shall be members of said corporation, and all persons subscribing and paying into the fund of said church or corporation the amount of twenty-five dollars annually shall be eligible as members of said corporation.” (Recorded on page 131, 132, Volume 5 of the charter book, Recorder’s Office of Allegheny County.)

In 1876, the total membership of 153 reported to the Pittsburgh Baptist Association 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Session at McKeesport, Pennsylvania, the Reverend G.W. Jackson, formerly of Washington, D.C., Pastor. “Have had uninterrupted peace and union. The Holy Spirit has been with them. Entered new house of worship in August 1875. Pastor zealous in every good work. Two mission schools. Two mission stations. Need help to pay for house and lot. Have changed name from Zion to Green Street Baptist Church. Two have died, one age 82 and other 72.”

The years of 1877-79 were years of struggle. At the 1877 Annual Session, the Reverend G.W. Jackson reported a membership of 134. “Services have been interesting and profitable. Earnest and faithful work had been done in the Church and Sabbath School. Church struggling under financial embarrassment, having a heavy debt on their church building. Ask brethren to pay for them.”

At the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Session held with the Sandusky Street Baptist Church June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 1878, the report was: “Reverend G.W. Jackson has labored faithfully at a small salary. Has not enjoyed much of the spirit of peace – many members having seceded from the body, leaving the membership small. Among those who remain, peace and harmony prevail. School small, total membership equals 92.” This apparently represents the split that left to organize the Tabernacle Baptist Church July 4, 1878.

1879 – “still struggling to hold up the banner of Christ.”

1880 – “membership dwindled to 68. School small. Grateful for many blessings received.”

1881 – “membership holding at 68, are contending for the faith in peace and harmony with each other. Reverend G.W. Jackson resigned the pastorate. The Reverend I. Lafayette accepted a call from us and entered his work in January last. Are meeting in rented hall. Hope to make an effort to secure a house of worship. The difficulty existing last year with the Tabernacle Church is unsettled. School prospering.” Legend has it that a flood forced the Church to move to a rented hall.

The Reverend I Lafayette only served a short while before the Church called the Reverend Willis Duvall in 1883. He immediately appointed a committee with John Admas as Chairman to locate a site for the Church.

In 1884, a lot was purchased on Perry Street, Allegheny City, at a cost of \$1,300.00. The report to the Pittsburgh Baptist Association in 1884 said “Are still moving onward. Have made payment on lot, and met current expenses.”

1885 – “Having enjoyed weekly preaching by Pastor W. Duvall. Are grateful for many blessings received.”

1886 – “When the Reverend Duvall resigned in 1886 to labor in the East

End of Pittsburgh, the Church licensed brother Patrick Robinson to preach until a call was extended to the Reverend T. H. Braxton, who pastured six months.”

At the 1888, Annual Session, Green Street Church reported, “commenced work Robinson Street and Gray’s Alley and help services in March 1888 although it is not yet finished. January was supplied by brother J.J. Jones, a licentiate of Second Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. who was ordained by the [] April 11th, and is now settled as pastor. Mourn the loss by the death of Brother Daniel Truehart age 76. Have reorganized school.”

In 1888-89, the Church was quite prosperous under the labor of Pastor J.J. Jones. “Financial condition was greatly improved... still reducing debt on property and making further improvements.”

The Reverend Jones left in March 1890 and the Church was served by a Reverend Hugh Fields for a short period.

The Reverend R.S. Laws was called late in 1890.

At the 1891 Annual Session the minutes read, “Grateful to God for many mercies received. Are now free from debt on Church property that had a seating capacity of 250 and at a cost of \$4,000.00 the indebtedness reported last year having been paid. Church and school are prospering under the leadership of Pastor Laws.”

“Being fully convinced that the Colored Baptists can be better operated separately as a body than they can together with the whites, we ask for letters of dismission.” The report of the committee on application for letters of dismission made to the Annual Session of the Pittsburgh Baptist Association in 1891 states, “that four black churches (Siloam, Green Street, Tabernacle and Second Braddock) requested letters [of] dismission to organize and enter into an Association of their own.” Thus began the Allegheny Baptist Association, which later became Allegheny Union Baptist Association.

Reverend Laws resigned in 1895 and a Reverend J.W. Bell served as Pastor for one year.

On December 1, 1896, a call was extended to the Reverend A.M. Lewis of Columbus, Ohio. He was a great financier as well as outstanding gospel preacher. During his pastorate, the Church sold its property and place of worship because it was in the flood area. (This was the second move from the flood area.) Part of this property, included a lot situate on Robinson Street and Morgan, the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward of the City of Allegheny that Lee Trent and his wife, Sarah Trent, deeded to the Church on March 15, 1904. (Recorded DB Volume 117, page 47.)

The Committee chosen to find a new site for the Church consisted of Noah Carter (Chairman), Charlie Johnson, Frank Lampkin, Edward Hill, William Wiley, William Starks, Jim Hill, Nelson Wiley, Brother Woody, A.B. Carrington, and Robert Elliot. The new site selected was on higher ground on Sampson Street (now Sampsonia Street). Attorney Wendell Stanton assisted in this transaction.

Legend has it that in 1903, the land was sold to Noah Carter for the purpose of building a laundry. The cost of the lots was \$6,500.00 A splendid edifice was erected thereon at a cost of \$30,000.00. On January 29, 1904, the Green Street Baptist Church changed [its] name to the



# Metropolitan Baptist Church History 1850 - 2000 (Abridged)



Metropolitan Baptist Church of Allegheny City. On November 1, 1904, the property was deeded to the Metropolitan Baptist Church. Signatures on the deed included Noah Carter and his wife, Alice S. Carter, A.M. Lewis (Pastor) and his wife, Annie L. Lewis. (Recorded in DB Volume 1351, pages 437, 438 and 439 in the Recorder's Office, Allegheny County.)

The Church was ready for occupancy in 1905. The Honor Roll of the Green Street members who marched into the present edifice included:

Mrs. Minnie Beard	Mrs. Elizabeth Carpenter
Mrs. Alice B. Carter	Mr. Nelson Johnson
Mrs. Julia Chapman	Mrs. Nannie Lee
Mrs. Mittie Goins	Mrs. Fannie B. Scott
Mr. Elmer Harris	Mrs. Mary Taylor
Mr. Charles Hayes	Mr. George Thomas
Mrs. Anna Johnson	Mrs. Sarah Carpenter Trent
Mrs. Vesta Johnson	Mr. Rhalston A. Carpenter
Mrs. Jessie Palmer	Mr. George Chapman
Mrs. Hale Stinson	Mrs. Mary Dykes
Mrs. Ella Oliver Thomas	Mrs. Gertrude Hardy
Mr. Lee Trent	Mrs. Sarah Harris
Mrs. Lily Bland	Mrs. Carrie Tyree (Jackson)
Mr. Noah Carter	Mr. P.D. Johnson
Mrs. Sarah Coleman	Mrs. Sadie Page
Mrs. Rosie Carpenter Hall	Mrs. Fannie D. Smallwood
Mr. Lorenzo Harris	Mr. John Terry
Mr. William Harvey Thomas	

The Reverend A.M. Lewis lived only a short time after the dedication of the new Church. He died in November 1906.

Then followed the Reverend W.R. Moses who pastured for a short while until the Reverend J.H. Holder was called in 1907. Under his pastorate, the membership grew to be one of the largest in the city. One of the outstanding members was the former Mother of the Church, the late Mrs. Iona M. Richardson.

The next minister was the Reverend W.R. Brown of Roanoke, Virginia who is credited with having served as Pastor for 19 years, the longest period in the history of this Church. During this time, the Church purchased a parsonage on Sandusky Street, North Side, added an expensive pipe organ, and paid off the mortgage on June 17, 1926. The Junior Church was organized with Mrs. Alice B. Carter as Director and the Metro Dramatic Club with Paul Willis as President.

In 1935, a call was extended to the Reverend Clarence Miller Smith of Canton, Ohio. The Sisterhood was organized by Mrs. Fannie B. Scott and the Brotherhood was organized by Deacon Jacob Bailey. He resigned after a two-year pastorate to accept a call in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Reverend James Wesley Parrish of Port Chester, New York accepted a call on March 4, 1938 and was installed on July 10, 1938. The Metropolitan Scholarship Fund was organized with Deacon W.R. Wiley as Chairman and the Gospel Chorus with Mrs. Clara Bailey as Director. Reverend Parrish resigned after serving seven years to accept a call to the Shiloh Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio.

On September 19, 1945, the Reverend Samuel L. Spear of Johnson City, Tennessee became Pastor. Rev. Spear resigned in 1954 to assume pastorate of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Reverend Obadiah Simms of Newport News, Virginia became Pastor in February 1956. In 1968, Reverend Simms resigned to accept that call to the First Baptist Church of Glen Cove, New York. In August 1969, the Reverend Dudley D. Chatman of Monessen, Pennsylvania became Pastor and remained until 1979.

Our present Pastor, Reverend Lacy F. Richardson, Ph.D., came to us in June 1981 from Wilmerding, Pennsylvania.

Reverend is a devoted and diligent servant of God, inspiring us with his sermons and a determination to unite the membership in one bond of love and respect for one another. Membership in one bond of love and respect for one another Membership has almost doubled. Reverend Richardson organized the Greeters, reorganized the membership to make Metropolitan Baptist Church responsive to the needs of its members and the community. He also has encouraged members to become active in a missionary circle, adopt prayer partners, and regularly attend Mid-week Prayer Service and Weekly Bible Study class.

The next phase of major buildings began in 1982 and continued to 1985. It included the construction of an extension to the edifice, which moved the main sanctuary to ground level and re-installed the baptistery into its proper place with a mural painted by the Pastor; a balcony was established and stained glass windows were installed. Off the sanctuary, men's and women's restrooms, a lounge, and a handicapped accessible ramp were constructed. A floor to ceiling glass entry enclosure, lighting and air conditioning, a wooden ceiling and sound system with recording capability were added as well. On the lower level, the kitchen, pantry and fellowship room was remolded including new lights and fans. Old pipes and plaster were removed and the ceiling was renewed with tile. The old sanctuary was dismantled to make room for an office suite for the Pastor, the clerical staff and the Church Officers, as well as a meeting room and robe room for the Music Department. Outside, a garden area was landscaped, the parking lot was covered with asphalt and an outdoor bulletin board was installed. The \$250,000 indebtedness was satisfied in January 1986 and the burning of the mortgage was celebrated on April 10, 1986.

The next phase of major capital improvements and acquisitions involved the fellowship room where insulation, plastering and lighting in the new suspended ceiling were installed; the upper floors of the Church were carpeted, and the entire Church was painted. Reverend Richardson installed a Baldwin upright grand piano, a Hammond organ, and a Roland digital piano and acquired a 15-passenger van.

We have had a center for distribution of surplus food, a day care center, a collection center for clothing for persons in distressed areas, a Head Start program, and adult classes to teach reading and writing, and boy and girl scout troops. We have a Benevolent Fund that dispenses to the needy and provides tax assistance to senior citizens, a continuous voter registration campaign, a scholarship fund, and a Board of Christian Education that holds workshops and training classes, as needed.

We are proud to acknowledge that we have descendants of charter members as current members of our congregation. Mr. James Scott is the son of Mrs. Frannie B. Scott; her grandchildren include Deaconess Carolyn Mundy, Mrs. Joanne Stotts, and Mrs. Clara Longmire, her great grandchildren are Ms. Evon Longmire and Miles and Mrs. Stephanie Herriott. Mrs. Birchard Jennings, daughter of founders Noah and Alice Carter passed away in July 2000. . .

# Reclaiming Our Identity, Heritage & Inheritance In Christ

Matthew 6:9-13, 24:33



## Metropolitan Baptist Church 1850 – 2020

Members of Metropolitan Baptist Church celebrate the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary by sharing their stories, remembering the pioneers who came before them—and celebrating their legacy and influence today.

\*\*\*

### William “Butch” Burton

The story of the joining of the Richardson family and Metropolitan began with my grandmother, Iona Moten, and her sister Stella, who came to Pittsburgh from Indianapolis, Indiana as children. They joined the church as teenagers around 1910. Although Stella eventually married and moved to Detroit, Iona remained a loyal and active member of the church, singing in the choir and eventually marrying William Henry Richardson who had moved to Pittsburgh from Ohio. William and Iona were blessed with 3 beautiful daughters: Martina, Marye, and Helen (tragically, their 4th daughter, Henrietta, passed away as an infant). The girls attended Metropolitan their entire lives (Martina, at 98, is still a member). All the Richardsons were active in the church, serving on the Usher Board, as missionaries, or singing in the choir. William served on the Board of Trustees for many years.

Martina, Marye and Helen continued to attend services while attending and graduating from the University of Pittsburgh (Martina - Sociology, Marye - Biology, Helen - education) and beginning their careers. All would marry.

After marrying, Marye had me - William (“Butch”) and Helen had a son - Theodore (“Teddy”). Teddy and I were also raised in Metropolitan, attending Sunday School and church under Reverend Simms, causing mischief and running around the church with our friends like we owned the place and were baptized as teenagers by Reverend Chatman.

Metropolitan was the bedrock of our family. Not only did it support us spiritually, but it was also the source of lifelong friendships (I even learned to read from Mrs. Mitchell in Sunday School).

Although I left Pittsburgh to attend college, and now live in the Washington, DC area with my wife, Charlene, and my daughter, Ashley, I’ll always consider Metropolitan my church home and will cherish the wonderful memories and the valuable lessons I learned there.

Congratulations on Metropolitan’s 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The legacy and tradition of Metropolitan Baptist Church has been, and continues to be, a model, and continues to demonstrate what a church should be - rooted in scripture, steadfastly following the Word, and holding to God’s unchanging hand - “The Church Where Everybody is Somebody.”

\*\*\*

### Zahriah Burton

When my Granny first took me to Metropolitan I was 6 years old; I cried because I was scared. I started to sing in the childrens’ choir and to mime with the other kids. I started to like church, this year I was voted to be the Youth Fellowship chaplain.



We do some fun things like bowling, swimming at SandCastle, eating pizza after choir practice, Christmas parties and singing Christmas songs at the nursing home. My favorite song is “Way Maker,” miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness, My God, that is who you are. My favorite mime is “Trust in You.”

I go to Sunday School and I say my Easter and Christmas speech every year.

I want to meet God one day. On November 11, 2018 I joined the church.

On December 9, 2018 my dad and I were baptized. Rev Richardson said it was his first time baptizing a father and daughter at the same time.

\*\*\*

# Our Shared Histories



## Beatrice E. Coleman

Mrs. Beatrice E. Coleman was born in Greenville, SC in 1912. She grew up in the small town of Uniontown PA and was educated in the Uniontown School System. Her church home was Mt Olivet Baptist Church. She attended church regularly and was very active. She was a Sunday school teacher, an usher, a member of the church's drama club, a missionary, and a member of the community's Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU).



She moved to Pittsburgh PA in 1949 with her husband, Jesse, and two small sons, David and Jesse, Jr. She attended and graduated from the Franklin Nursing School's LPN program and worked as a nurse in all capacities, including the West Penn Hospital and 31 years at Divine Providence Hospital on Pittsburgh's North Side.

A stranger in Pittsburgh, the only people she knew were her in-laws, Mr. & Mrs. Olin Inman. They were members of Brown's Chapel AME church so Mrs Coleman attended church with them. She soon realized that it was not what she yearned for spiritually, as she had been raised in a Baptist church. One Sunday morning, walking her usual route along Carrington Ave to Federal St to get to Brown's Chapel, GOD said to her: Go down this street (Arch St), it is a much shorter way. She continued as instructed and saw the church bearing the sign METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH. She looked up and said Thank You GOD!!! As she walked up the steps of the church, there was a man in a dark suit and white gloves. He greeted her and escorted her inside the building. Although the church was crowded on that Sunday, he found her a seat and said: I hope you come again. That nice man was Mr. Wiley Summers. Rev Samuel Spear was the pastor who delivered a wonderful sermon. The very next Sunday, Mrs. Coleman joined Metropolitan Baptist Church by Christian experience and letter. That, my friends, was 70 years ago in 1950.

The Deacons at the time were Deacons Diggs, Franklin, Green, Smith, Bailey and Philan. Two ladies that Mrs. Coleman will never forget were Mrs. Mallory Burks and Mrs. Fannie Scott. Mrs. Burks was a Sunday School teacher for a class of young ladies. She appointed Mrs. Coleman, a stranger and new to the church, to be her assistant in her class. They became good friends and went everywhere together. She became Mrs. Coleman's second mom.

Mrs. Fannie Scott loved the two boys, David and Jesse. She was the den mother of a Boy Scout troop and kept the boys busy. Mrs. Coleman recounts: Those were some happy days. Things were great. Children respected their parents. The church was involved in many things. There were teas, rummage sales, bake sales and dinners, all fundraisers for the church. Churches visited each other. It was wonderful being a Christian and a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Over the years, Mrs. Coleman has had many roles in the growth of Metropolitan Baptist Church. She has dutifully served as a Sunday school teacher, Superintendent of the Youth Department, member of the Usher Board and Alice B Carter Missionary Department, and has held every office in the Metropolitan Nurses Corps. At the age of 108, she is the senior lady in our Church and a member of the Mother's Court. She was an active member of the Western Region's Ministry, board member of The Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention and former president of the State Nurses Corps.

Mrs. Coleman was married to the late Jesse E Coleman, Sr. and raised her family with strong Christian beliefs, proudly watching Jesse Sr., sons David and Jesse Jr., daughter Teresa and granddaughter Kymberly accept CHRIST and be baptized in the church's baptismal pool. She is the matriarch of five generations, including her 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one very blessed great-great grandson.

Mrs. Beatrice Coleman is a devoted Christian who enjoys listening to gospel music, singing, and spending time with family and friends. She is the eldest member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church family and has devoted 70 years of service to the church. She loves people and tries to help them as much as she can. Most importantly, she loves the LORD and working for HIS kingdom. She is a firm believer that none of anything she has accomplished in this life would have been possible without the steadfast love of the LORD.

\*\*\*

## Martina R. Corbin

Both of my parents were members of Metropolitan Baptist Church. My sisters Marye, Helen and I were brought up in the church. My father, William Richardson, was a trustee and Sunday School Superintendent.

Among my early experiences was attending Sunday School with

# Reclaiming Our Identity, Heritage & Inheritance In Christ

Matthew 6:9-13, 24:33



my father. We lived on Milrose Avenue and my father who was a mailman was used to making long strides. As a result we were running to keep up with him as he took us to Sunday school. We would not have missed attending.

Mother sang in the choir and was a missionary. We followed her into the missionary as members of the junior missionaries. My sister Helen and my mother were members of the young peoples choir. We worked with the junior missionaries as active participates with programs and Sunday school. I later became chairman of the board of Christian education.

My sister Helen and I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. Helen became a teacher, Marye was a bacteriologist and I became a social Worker.

We appreciated the support that was given by the member of the Metropolitan Church family for our success.

\*\*\*

## Edrenia Crick

When I came to visit MBC 39 years ago when my brother-in-law was installed... I was so taken by the love of the members. It took me a long time to join but that love is still there. I always remember MBC is where everybody is somebody. Thank you for your love and support.

\*\*\*

## Deaconess Dorothy Cullens

Deaconess (Emerita) Dorothy Mae Hall Cullens has been a member of Metropolitan Baptist since 1956.

She is 91 years old and a member of the Mothers Court. She has served many years as a Deaconess and Sunday School Teacher. She wants to share her story and favorite memories of Metropolitan to celebrate the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



What made you want to join Metropolitan?

*I joined Metropolitan because I wanted to join a church and picked Metropolitan because my family was already attending the church. My brother-in-law Deacon Jeff Cullens was a member of the church.*

*I joined Metropolitan under Rev. O.L. Simms. When I first joined Metropolitan I joined the Tribe of Judah.*

\* The Tribe of Judah was an auxiliary group that performed different activities around the church such as organization and cleaning.

When did you join the Deaconess Board?

*I joined during Rev. Chapman pastorate.*

What made you want to join the Deaconess Board?

*I wanted to serve the Lord and provide a good example for my children showing service to the Lord.*

How many years have you been a Deaconess?

*Many years...I am still a deaconess.*

What is your favorite memory of the Deaconess Board?

*I had the privilege of serving as President of the Deaconess Board for several years.*

Why did you want to become a Sunday School Teacher?

*I sent my children Ola, Betty, Andra, and Norris to Sunday School with money to donate for the Sunday school offering. They also had enough money to buy a snack at the corner store after Sunday School was over. My oldest son Andra did not give his money to the Sunday School offering instead he kept all of the money and spent it at the corner store. His Sunday School Teacher, Mrs. Jennie Page called and let me know what Andra had done. I decided to attend Sunday School with my children to put a stop to it. I also became a teacher shortly after.*

What are some of your favorite memories as a Sunday School Teacher?

*I enjoyed teaching children about the love of God. I also enjoyed preparing parties for the Sunday School students. I and the other Sunday School Teachers would make hot cocoa and dinners for the students.*

\*\*\*

## Deacon Jeff J. Cullens

Jeff accepted Christ at the aged of five and was baptized at Green Grove Baptist Church in Lumpkin, Georgia. Jeff thoroughly enjoyed Sunday School and was a very absorbing student. After moving to Boyle Street on the Northside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Jeff went in search of a church within walking distance. The



# Our Shared Histories



closest and first church he visited was Brown Chapel (1½ blocks from his home). As a youth Jeff with his little red wagon, hauled grocery for Seniors from the Kroger supermarket, which was located on Federal Street, to their homes. During his trips he noticed the Metropolitan Baptist Church (2½ blocks from his home). Jeff began to visit the Metropolitan Baptist Church, then joined in 1955. During that time, the Church was without a pastor; Rev. Obadiah Simms was called to the pastorate of Metropolitan in 1956. After Rev. Simms became the pastor, Jeff was joined by his mother, Ceola Cullens\* and his sister-in-law, Deaconess Emeritas Dorothy Cullens. Later they were joined by Dorothy's husband, Johnny Milton Cullens\* (Jeff's brother), then their children Ola Cullens Young, Betty Cullens Howard, Trustee Andra Cullens and Trustee Norris Cullens; Jeff's sister Ernestine Cullens Moore and her daughter, Donice; and his sister Alna Cullens Spencer. From Jeff's nieces and nephews, several of their spouses and children have joined the Metropolitan Baptist Church. Ola's spouse, Deacon Gregory Young, Sr. and their children: Andresa and her son Thadaues and daughter Aiyanna, Shavonda and her son Eugene, and Gregory, Jr.\*. Betty's spouse, Robert Howard and their children: Ryan and Coron. Andra's daughter Ebonie and her sons Ge'Net' and Evan and daughter Ta'rea. Kimberly Cullen Cheeks. and her children, Brittney, Chad, Cheyenne and Scott.

After graduating from Allegheny Senior High School, Jeff served his country for 4 years and 9 months in the United States Air Force. After an Honorable Discharge from the US Air Force, Jeff returned to Pittsburgh. Now as a young man, he joined the Metro Male Chorus and became one of their key lead singer. Currently he serves as Director and Treasurer of the Metro Male Chorus. Jeff is well known and solicited as a soloist in the Pittsburgh and surrounding area. He was dubbed by the Pittsburgh Courier's religious editor, Mrs. Willa Mae Rice as "the Smokey Robinson of gospel music."

Jeff was selected and ordained as a deacon of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in 1967. He has served on the board for 53 years. Presently and for many of those years he serves as the Treasurer of the Deacon Board.

Jeff married the lovely Maxine A. B. Cullens after they both graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. Maxine is the daughter of Sister Sandra D. Goggins and was step-daughter of K. David Goggins\*. Maxine was the granddaughter of Chairman Emeritus Deacon Samuel Diggs\* and Deaconess Mary R. Diggs\*.

God blessed Jeff and Maxine with four children: Jeff 'Julian' Cullens, Jr., Tracey Cullens Williams, Jayna Cullens Gross, and Jaymie Cullens Fields. They were very active in the Metropolitan Baptist Church while living in Pittsburgh and continue to support the Church while living away. Jeff and Maxine have six grandchildren. Julian and Rachael gave us, Jeff III and Joshua. Tracey and Justin gave us, Charleston\*, Remington (Remy) and Quinton. Jayna and Otto II gave us, Otto III and Nova. Through the years, we have been truly blessed by God and the prayers of our Metropolitan Baptist Church family.

Maxine has been in many positions of service at the Church, including a Sunday School teacher, every office (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and chaplain) of the Senior Choir, member of the Senior Usher Board, and member of the Nurse's Corp. After a period of the Senior Choir not functioning, she reorganized the choir and recruited an organist for the Choir and Church.

Julian served the Church as a member of the Sunday School Department, Angel Choir, Young People Choir, Children's Usher Board, Youth Fellowship, and Young Adult Usher Board.

Tracey served the Church as President of Youth Fellowship, the Angel Choir, the Young People Choir, and the Senior Choir.

Jayna served the Church as a member of the Angel's Choir, the Youth Choir, the Faces of Joy mime ministry, the President of the Young Fellowship, and the Senior Choir. She and her twin organized the Voices of Praise, a contemporary gospel group.

Jaymie served the Church as a member of the Angel's Choir, the Youth Choir, the Faces of Joy mime ministry, the Youth Fellowship, and the Senior Choir. She later became directress of the Gospel Chorus and the Youth Choir. She also served as Church Pianist and choreographer/directress of the mime ministry.

Over the years, God has used this 13 year old boy as an instrument to bring 34 members of his family to the Metropolitan Baptist Church. Congratulations to Metropolitan on your 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To God be the Glory!

\* Deceased

\*\*\*



# Reclaiming Our Identity, Heritage & Inheritance In Christ

Matthew 6:9-13, 24:33



## Chairman Emeritus Deacon Samuel Lillian Diggs



Samuel Diggs accepted Christ at the age of ten and was baptized at Mount Mariah Baptist Church in Eufaula, Alabama. In this farming community the church was a vital center of educational, religious, and social activity. Sam was very involved in his church. He taught Sunday School and was a hymn raiser for Mt. Mariah. He also served as a delegate to the East Alabama Singing Convention and attended faithfully the first two weeks in August every year up until 1954. Sam left Alabama by train in 1923. He was headed to Chicago for a better life. However, the money he had saved for his train ride only got him as far as Pittsburgh. Sam made his way to Allegheny City where he could find work and lodging. After securing gainful employment, Sam sent for his childhood sweetheart and they were united in marriage on January 24, 1924 in Bellevue City by a Justice of the Peace. They found residence in Pleasant Valley at 7 Hamilton Place. Now seeking a church home, they joined the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Allegheny City under the pastorate of Rev. W. R. Brown from Roanoke, Va. Rev. Brown later fathered Judge Homer S. Brown and his grandson was Attorney Bryd R. Brown, all of Pittsburgh.

While at Metropolitan Sam was active as a Sunday School teacher, member of the Senior Choir, and Metro Male Chorus (an organizing member). Sam was ordained as a deacon in 1938 and was appointed Assistant to the Chairman of the Deacon Board in 1948. He became the Chairman of the Deacon Board in 1954 and faithfully served in that capacity for 25 years, until 1979. In 1980 he was made Chairman Emeritus of the Deacon Board of the Metropolitan Baptist Church. Sam loved Jesus and God and he loved serving his Church.

\*\*\*

## Virginia Hairston

I wanted to congratulate Metropolitan Baptist Church on being the oldest black church in Western PA. celebrating 170 years of service. Metropolitan is truly a church where everybody is somebody. Many families have long history standing in the church. It is a family church for many.

I have been at MBC since 1975. I have been a faithful member of the 8am service since it started. Truly enjoying the services we had with our Pastor and Associate Ministers. Morning service is like your close knit family sharing early morning worship. Metropolitan is my church home as God seen fit for AHN to be my work home for 48 years. God blessed me to be able to retire after 48 years of service in January 2020. Proudly to be blessed to have my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in my life. I love the Lord and can do all things thru him who strengthens me.

Psalm 23 is my favorite scripture.

\*\*\*

## Minister Erwin R. Harris and Angela Burke-Harris

Our association in God's ministry here at Metropolitan Baptist Church started over more than 40 years ago with my Aunt Clarise Bell-McDonald and Uncle Deacon Roscoe(Rocky) McDonald of 413 Jacksonia Street Pittsburgh, PA. They were members here during the 1950s. Then I married my wife Angela Burke-Harris whose membership had been here for over 15 years. Then we came back together to Metropolitan in 2014 to join our church family once again. Not only do we join in the many old family histories but we have current family roots here with our nieces that are Sis. Pickett's granddaughters and our cousins Deacon and Deaconess Bone. God has allowed us to journey through four decades of coming and going to Metropolitan Baptist Church just to know and understand you will always find your way back home.

\*\*\*

## LaDora R. Jamison My Church Journey

My journey started at Metropolitan Baptist Church many years ago. I was very young and followed my father, Trustee Howard J. Bell, who was a member of the church under the pastorate of Reverend Samuel Spear.

# Our Shared Histories



As I grew older, I continued to follow my father and was eventually baptized by Reverend O.L. Simms. At that time, I joined the Young Peoples Choir under the leadership of Mrs. Ann Brown. I continued to sing and work with the Young Peoples Choir and also taught a little Sunday School until I graduated from Westinghouse High School in 1962 and left for college at Wilberforce University in Ohio.

When I graduated from Wilberforce, I returned home to Pittsburgh and continued my church journey at Metropolitan Baptist Church. I joined the Senior Usher Board where my father was the President. I remained active on the Senior Usher Board until 1969 when I got married in the church and then moved away.

I returned to Pittsburgh in 1973 and continued my church journey at Metropolitan Baptist Church. I then was the mother of twin daughters, Marisa and Michelle. Once they were of age, they too joined the Young Peoples Usher Board. They worked diligently until they graduated from high school and went off to college. We had many happy discussions with dad about the Usher Board and their joy of being affiliated with such a fine auxiliary. My dad was very active and supportive of the youth groups that my daughters were involved in. These activities included picnics, selling dinners, car washes, etc. These were good times for many young people.

Later my father came up with the great idea of placing a lighted cross in the pulpit. His dream was to have something in Metropolitan Baptist Church by which he would be remembered. My father and I purchased the cross and had it installed in his memory.

My grandchildren have also spent many Sundays at Metropolitan Baptist Church. I shall continue to appreciate the love, understanding that the Church has given me and my family over the years in the memory of my father, Howard J. Bell. My dad was with the Trustee Board and the Usher Board for many years. I have been on the Trustee Board myself for over ten years.

\*\*\*

## Lewis, McKinney, Honaker and Reed Family History

Our family began at Metropolitan Baptist Church with Rosie Lewis's membership. Rosie Lewis was a member of the Gospel and Mass Choirs. Two of her children Rosetta McKinney and

Melvin Lewis also joined MBC. Rosetta was a Sunday school teacher, missionary, gospel choir singer and a cheerful cook in the kitchen. Melvin was a trustee and served as a director of the Metro Male Choir for many years.

Rosetta McKinney's daughter Shirley Honaker also joined Metropolitan at an early age and has been a member of the Senior and Mass choirs. Currently she is a nurse and Womens usher board member. Shirley and her husband Gary had three children, Gary Paul Honaker, Nicole Reed and Adrienne Honaker. All three grew up in the church and were members of the youth choir and youth fellowship. Gary Paul was also a member of the Metro Male Choir. Nicole Reed's family consists of James (husband), and sons Devinn and Jayden.

Through the years our family have been faithful and joyful members of Metropolitan Baptist Church. Each generation ensured that their children received a Christian foundation and a love for the Lord. This will continue to be passed on for years to come.

\*\*\*

## Deaconess Anna T. Murchison

Deaconess Anna T. Murchison at the age of three years old, along with her brother John (Tap) Turner and sister Willa were brought to Metropolitan by their mother.



Deaconess remembers that it was Deacon Dan Moore that greeted her family at the church door as they entered for service ninety-seven years ago.

Deaconess Murchison was married to Deacon Emeritus Willie J. Murchison for 63 years and is the mother of Ramona and William; grandmother of 10, great grandmother of 9 and Godmother of 3. She is a member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, where the Rev. Lacy F. Richardson, Ph.D. is her pastor.

In 1967, Deaconess Murchison was selected to serve on the Deaconess Board by Rev. D.D. Chatman; where she served as President for 12 years, visiting the sick and bereaved families and remains active on the board. Deaconess Murchison introduced a Candle Light Service, the Monday Thursday Service and Deaconess head attire to the the board.

# Reclaiming Our Identity, Heritage & Inheritance In Christ

Matthew 6:9-13, 24:33



Deaconess Murchison was appointed President of the General Missionary Society under the pastorate of Rev. Richardson; were she held the position for 27 years; now serving in an advisory capacity; still visiting the sick and shut in.

She served as the Committee chairman of Deaconess of the Western Region, Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention under four Presidents and Vice Chairman Deaconess of the Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention. Deaconess Murchison organized a workshop with the aid of Mrs. Edna Tolliver for the Deaconess of the west. The workshop was held at the Metropolitan Baptist Church; she invited the instructor and author of the study book "Deaconess, walking in the newness of life" by Dr. Maurice Riley from New Jersey.

Other memberships include the Women's Ministry at Metropolitan Baptist Church as well as representing the church at various meetings, conventions, seminars and AUBA sessions. Affiliated with the Church Women United and served for 12 years as co-chairman with the late Sister Lelia Mae Hatcher in Prinson Ministry; Female Offenders Programs and currently serving the Genesis in Bellevue. Volunteered services as a charm school instructor for an Unwed Mothers Program. She is a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the NAACP.

Deaconess Murchison received a humanitarian award from the Allegheny Union Baptist Association Minister's Wives and Minister's Widows Ministry and a certificate and award April 2010 from the President of the Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention.

By profession Deaconess Murchison is a licensed cosmetologist and still retains her license. She received a Pioneer Plaque for Cosmetology. Employed 11 years by the Federal Government, Washington, D.C. Served as Secretary of the American Legion, Women's Auxiliary, Washington, D.C. Deaconess Murchison is grateful to God and the Western Region for this honor. Her favorite bible verse is, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1.

\*\*\*

## Rev. Carolyn Pittman

I wish Pastor Richardson and the church leaders and membership the best. I miss you all.

\*\*\*

## Khaila Watkins

I have been going to Metropolitan Baptist church since the age of 5, with my Granny, Deaconess Linda Hagens. I also come to church with my great grandma, Ms. Amy Stephenson and my Gigi, Trustee Sharon Watkins. Metropolitan is a friendly church that feels like a neighborhood where everyone knows each other. I like Sunday School because Mrs. Jackie Thomas teaches us new things about God and what's in the bible. I also like to mime and sing in the choir. I like all of the songs and mimes. I also like reciting speeches at Easter and Christmas services. I joined the church on December 9, 2018 and I was baptised on January 6, 2019.

\*\*\*

## Mary Jessie Lee-Simpkins

For 170 years of service to our Lord - honoring the memory of Sister Mary Jessie Lee-Simpkins, leading her families entrance and inspiring their spiritual growth at Metropolitan Baptist Church.



In 1959, Mary Jessie Lee-Simpkins and her daughter Mary Pickett, previous members of Baptist Temple Church in Homewood, joined Metropolitan and received the Right Hand of Fellowship together during the pastorate of Rev. Obadiah Simms. After a short period of time Mary Simpkins encouraged her eight children to accept Christ or to join their Christian experience, most of them became members: Betty, Mary; \*Karen (\*\*Jackinah, \*\*Kedra-Lynn, \*\*Keona-Mara' and \*\*\*grandson Khalil); \*Ricky; Mildred, Doris, Janis; Pastor, Moses Simpkins, Jr.; Nellie and Donald. Through her efforts, living and encouragement she and her family have served Metropolitan in a number of ministries. Such as assisting a musician, assistant preacher, missionaries, new members' fellowship, Sunday school superintendent and teachers, choir and chorus, ushers, greeter, distribution, youth leader, guardians, church clerk, board of Christian education, youth choir, and youth ushers, scouts, family and friends' day, drama team and church cleaning, vacation Bible school, nursery and daycare. Jaren-Lee built and dedicated the bookcase in the fellowship hall as his Eagle Scout project, Darla and Mary Pickett are currently active members.

Denotes her children: \*Grandchildren, \*\*Great Grandchildren, \*\*\*Great Great Grandchildren

# Our Shared Histories



\*\*\*

## Gregory Young and Ola Young

Deacon Gregory and Ola M. Young Sr. have been serving God for many years here at Metropolitan Baptist Church. Ola Mae Cullens joined as a teenager. Gregory became a member here after marrying Ola in 1981. Gregory became a member shortly after in 1982. They were the first couple to be united in marriage under Pastor Lacy F. Richardson's Pastorate. Here at Metropolitan Baptist Church, Gregory & Ola have given service to various ministries. Gregory Young Sr., has been a member of the Deacon Board for 30 years. He also taught Sunday School and served as Director of the Youth Fellowship. Ola Young also taught Sunday School and hosted a family arts and crafts event for many years. They are apart of the scholarship committee helping setup the Gregory Young Jr. Scholarship Fund. Their three children Andresa, Shavonda, and Gregory Jr. (deceased) are also members along with grandchildren Thaddeus, Eugene, and Aiyanna. Andresa is following her parent's footsteps as she is currently teaching virtual Sunday School lessons. One of the favorite memories for the Young family here at Metropolitan is that Shavonda and Gregory were baptized together. Gregory first decided to accept Jesus as his personal savior and Shavonda followed her younger brother's lead.



Congratulations Metropolitan on 170 years of service to the Lord!

God Bless, Young Family

\*\*\*

## Deanna Byers

Congratulations mom ( Deaconess Linda Hagens ) for your service to God at Metropolitan; rain, shine ,sleet and snow.

\*\*\*

## LaShelia Byers

"...the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 SAMUEL 16: 7

\*\*\*

## Zelma Favars

In memory of Chip

\*\*\*

## Linda Hagens

"For you are bought with a price therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:20 ( 21 years of faithful service to God at Metropolitan)

\*\*\*

## Pastor Robert James

Congratulations on your 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary; God bless, continue to do the work. Deliverance Center OCOG.

\*\*\*

## Darlene James

"In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:2

\*\*\*

## Michelle Jefferson

"Now Behold the Lamb, the Precious Lamb Of God" my favorite gospel song.

\*\*\*

## Susie Moore

Remembering with honor the life of a strong ,very hard working mother of six children, my mom ( Linda Hagens).

\*\*\*

## Barbara Randall

I was brought to Metropolitan by Mrs. Johnnie White as a little girl. I sang with the Metropolitan Singers for 55 years.

\*\*\*

## Mr. Lee Randall

Remembering Barbara Randall's father who served on the Senior Usher Board with Howard Bell for over 20 years.

\*\*\*



---

**“Draw nigh to God, and He will  
draw nigh to you” –James 4:8**

---

*In Loving Memory*

**of our son Gregory Young Jr.  
Gregory & Ola M. Young Sr. & Family**



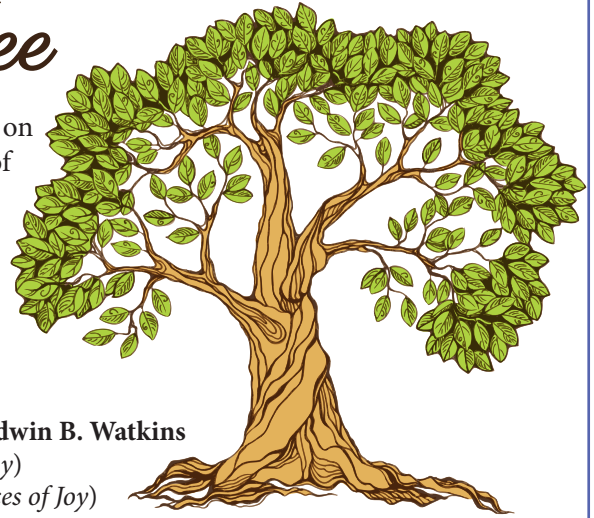
**We thank God for Blessing our Metropolitan Baptist  
Church Family with 170 years of service to the Lord  
here on the Northside of Pittsburgh.**

**Congratulations Metropolitan Church Family!**



# Humphries Legacy Tree

The Humphries' Family congratulates **Metropolitan Baptist Church** on its **170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. We celebrate over 90 years and 5 generations of legacy building at Metropolitan Baptist Church.



**Mary E.** (*Missionary Society*) & **Lawrence G. Humphries, Sr.**

**Amy B. Stephenson** (*BTU, Alice B. Carter Missionary, O.L. Simms Choir, Metropolitan Singers*)

**Samuel J. Stephenson**

**Sharon A. Watkins** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher, Youth Choir Director, Sr. Usher Board, Trustee*) & **Edwin B. Watkins**

**Brent K. Watkins** (*Youth Choir, Faces of Joy*)

**Khaila Watkins** (*Youth Choir, Faces of Joy*)

**Britt Nee C. Watkins** (*Youth Usher Board, Youth Choir, Faces of Joy, AB Girls*)

**Lawrence G. Humphries, Jr.** (*BTU, Metropolitan Singers*)

**Brenda E. Brassell** (*Youth Choir*)

**Donna M. Humphries** (*Youth Choir*)

**Coriene A. Mitchell** (*Youth Choir*)

**Norman D. Humphries** (*BTU, Metropolitan Singers, Kitchen Team, Trustee*) & **Lydia Leonard-Humphries**

**Norman G. Humphries** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher*)

**Harold L.C. Humphries** (*BTU*) & **Sallye J. Humphries**

**Jacquelyn Faye Parker** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board*)

**Mary A. Humphries** (*BTU, Youth Choir, O.L. Simms Choir, Metropolitan Singers, Trustee*)

**Delores Fearbry** (*Youth Choir, O.L. Simms Choir, Metropolitan Singers, Deaconess*) & **Walter Fearbry**

**Eugene Ziegler** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board, Metropolitan Singers*) & **Renee Brazil-Ziegler**

**Tramaine Ziegler** (*Youth Choir, Faces of Joy*)

**Vernon Ziegler** (*Youth Choir, Faces of Joy*)

**Jordan Ziegler** (*Youth Choir*)

**Frederick Fearbry** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board, Faces of Joy*)

**Edward Fearbry** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board, Faces of Joy*)

**Charles E. Humphries** (*Children's Choir, BTU, Metropolitan Singers*)

**James W. Humphries** (*Children's Choir, BTU*)

**Pamela L. Collier**

**Linda D. Thomas**

**James E. Humphries, Jr.**

**Dana Bagnall**

**Norma J. Hunt** (*Children's Choir, BTU, O.L. Simms Choir, Metropolitan Singers, Trustee*) & **Albert E. Hunt**

**Albert Hunt, Jr.**

**Michael Hunt**

**Allison Gale** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board*)

**Michele Porter** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board*)

**Shaina Hunt** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board, Faces of Joy*)

**Shannette Hunt** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board, Faces of Joy*)

**Jyniene Hunt** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board, Faces of Joy, AB Girls, Metropolitan Singers*)

**Moriah Hunt** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board, Faces of Joy, AB Girls*)

**Roger L. Humphries** (*Children's Choir, BTU, Metropolitan Singers*) & **Regina Bowe-Humphries**

**Mechele L. Hayes** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board*)

**Roger L. Humphries, Jr.** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board*) & **Michelle Johnson-Humphries**

**Denise Craig** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board*)

**Monica Thomas** (*Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board*)

Enjoy the many years of bestowed gifts of God on this  
170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Metropolitan Baptist Church as God's  
continued blessings, grace, and purpose be upon the Pastor,  
Officers, Members and Friends.

Minister Erwin R. Harris and Sister Angela Burke-Harris



"Your word is a lamp for my fee, a light on my path"

Psalms 119:105 NIV

*In Loving Memory*

Of My Beloved Grandparents

**FLETCHER and WILLIE TOMLIN**

and

**LULA MAE HARRISON**



From Grandchildren: **Olivia Tomlin | Josephine Washington**  
**Marcus Tomlin | Roderick Tomlin | James Tomlin**

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: And he shall direct thy path.*

– Proverbs 3:5-6

# CONGRATULATIONS

Metropolitan Baptist Church for 170 Years of Being a Lighthouse in Pittsburgh Leading the Way



## THE DIGGS FAMILY

### • Samuel Lillian Diggs\*

- Father of the Diggs Family & Chairman Emeritus of the Deacon Board
- Member of Senior Choir & Metro Male Chorus
- Youth Department Sunday School Teacher; Member of Allegheny Union Baptist Association (AUBA) Layman's League; and Member of Metropolitan Baptist Church since 1924

### • Mary Louise (Ramey) Diggs\*

- Wife of Samuel L. Diggs & Mother of the Diggs Family
- Treasurer of Deaconess Board for 50 years
- Member of Metropolitan Baptist Church since 1924

### • Sandra Louise Diggs (Bandy, Goggins)

- First child of Samuel & Mary Diggs
- Original Organizing Member of Women's Usher Board
- Members of Nurses Corp
- Member of Senior Choir
- Member of Metropolitan Baptist Church since 1937
- Eldest Daughter of the Diggs Family

### • Thomas David Diggs\*

- Second child of Samuel & Mary Diggs
- Member of Senior Choir since age 14
- Member of Metropolitan Baptist Church since 1940
- Original Organizing Member of the Mass Choir
- First Director of the Metro Male Chorus
- Eldest Son of the Diggs Family

### • Dr. John Ramey Diggs, Sr.

- Middle Son of Samuel & Mary Diggs
- Member of the Junior Church
- Member of the Youth Baptist Training Union (YBTU)
- Member of Youth Missionary Group
- Librarian for Youth Sunday School
- Superintendent for Youth Sunday School

### • Ronald Berone Diggs, Sr\*

- Youngest Son of Samuel & Mary Diggs
- President of the Youth Aide Club
- President of Youth Fellowship

### • Ethel Diggs (Gandy)

- Youngest Daughter of Samuel & Mary Diggs
- Chairman of Sheep & Shepherd Rally
- Chairman of 122nd Church Anniversary
- Teacher for Youth Sunday School
- Member of Deaconess Board
- Member of Young Adult Usher Board
- Vice Chairman of Trustee Board
- Member of the Senior Choir
- Wife of Quevelle Gandy

### • Samuel Robinson Diggs\*

- Nephew of Mary & Samuel Diggs & Cousin of the Diggs Family
- Member of Metro Male Chorus

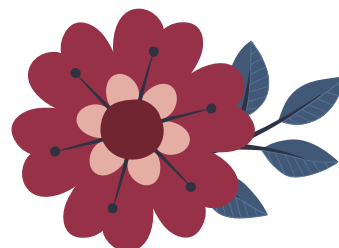
### • Quevelle Gandy

- Husband of Ethel Diggs & Best Friend of Ronald Berone Diggs, Sr.
- Teacher for Youth Sunday School & Member of the Young Peoples Usher Board
- Second director of Metro Male Chorus & Member of the Senior Choir

### • Maxine Arnetta Bandy (Cullens)

- First Grandchild of Mary & Samuel Diggs & Only daughter of Sandra Louise & James Franklin Bandy
- Sunday School Teacher of the Children's Department & Director of First Children's Annual Day
- Member of Senior Choir since age 14 & Member of Mass Choir
- Wife of Jeff Julian Cullens, Sr. & Mother of Jeff Julian Cullens, Jr., Tracey Nicole Cullens (Williams), Jayna Joilette Cullens (Gross), and Jaymie Jezelle Cullens (Fields)
- Grandmother of Jeff Julian Cullens, III, Joshua Jace Cullens, Charleston Mackenzie Williams\*, Remington Kensley Rose Williams, Quinton Zacari Charles Williams, Otto Gross III and Nova Michelle Gross

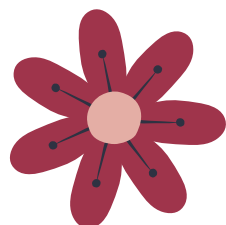
**CONGRATULATIONS METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
ON YOUR 170TH ANNIVERSARY  
IN LOVING AND THANKFUL MEMORY OF  
MRS. CEOLA CULLENS**



**DEACON JEFF J & MRS. MAXINE A B CULLENS**

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
FOR THEIR  
170TH ANNIVERSARY**



**DEACONESS BERNICE CURRY BRADY  
TYRONE CURRY  
ZENOBIA CURRY LONG**



*In memory of a former very active and dedicated member*

**MRS. MARY JESSIE LEE-SIMPKINS**

HER FAMILY OFFERS CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO THE METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY FOR YOUR 170 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THIS AREA.



Mary Pickett

Karen Tucker-Nibbs

Jackinah

Jaymes II

Jaren-Lee

Darla Tucker

Dannette

Kwaneeta

Kedra-Lynn

Keona-Mara"

Ricky Tucker

Tanisha

*Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord! Ps 150:6*

**"MAY OUR LORD CONTINUE TO OPEN DOORS FOR YOU!"**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY  
to Metropolitan Baptist Church**

In honor to  
**Amy Stephenson & Barbara Randell**

I became a part of Metropolitan in the late 1950.  
As a part of the original Metropolitan Singers.  
Thank God for that experience!

**Omelia Humphries Ponder**  
Ellenwood, GA





*Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.*

*You'll be with us forever  
We will hold you in our hearts until I can hold you again in heaven.*



*November 3, 1922 - May 7, 2019*

*Sandy Little Craig (Forrest),  
Catherine Little, Robin Little, and Crystal Little*

*In Loving  
Memory of*



*Our Family*

Husband: **Deacon George R. Hamm**

Parents: **Marvin J. & Ella Kate Fearbry**

In-Laws: **Andrew & Flossi Hill Readous**

Daughter: **Donna Hamm**

Brothers: **Marvin Jr., Donald & Charles Fearbry**

Sister-in-Laws: **Thelma Fearbry,  
Delores Fearbry & Patricia Fearbry**

Truly missed by **Deacon Walter R. Fearbry  
& Deacones Alethia A. Hamm**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
FOR  
170 YEARS OF SERVICE  
FROM  
DR. BOBBIE G. TURNER**

*IN LOVING MEMORY*

**FATHER**



**Deacon  
Ross Green  
Nov. 10, 1976**

**MOTHER**



**Deaconess  
Iola B. Green  
Dec. 20, 1997**

**HUSBAND**



**Deacon  
John J. Turner  
Oct 25, 1999**

**"I was young and now I am old,  
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken  
or their children begging bread"  
Psalm 37:25-26**

**Praise God from Whom all blessing flow...  
From generation to generation.**

**We love and miss your presence.**

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!

## Metropolitan Baptist Church on your 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On behalf of James and Sara Page, grandparents of Vessie Page-Johnson.  
Thanking my grandparents for their spiritual guidance  
while servants of GOD at Metropolitan Baptist Church.

**Only what you do for Christ will matter in this life!**

————— *Psalms 27: 1* —————

*The LORD is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

It has truly been a blessing to serve, praise and worship  
the Lord at **Metropolitan Baptist Church**, and to be apart  
of celebrating our **170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Congratulations!*

*Psalms 8:1*



*O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name  
in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens*

Wishing GOD's blessing from:

Deacon and Deaconess Neupal Sr. and Shaina Bone,  
Neupal Bone Jr., Neupal Bone III, and Brionna Lee Bone

In Loving Memory  
of a  
Father, Brother, Pap, Uncle  
**RAYMOND TOMLIN**



You are not forgotten loved one  
Nor, will you ever be  
As long as life and memory last  
We will remember you.

Daughters, Sisters, Brothers,  
Grandchildren, Nieces & Nephews



**Happy 170<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary**  
**METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

*“Reclaiming Our Identity, Heritage and Inheritance In Christ”*

-Matthew 6: 9-13, 24:33-

*Giving Glory and Honor To God  
in Celebration of 170 years of Chritian Ministry to the  
Western Pennsylvania Community*

*We Salute Rev. Dr. Lacy F. Richardson, Church Officers and  
Members for Proclaiming the Word of God to His People*



Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as *it is* in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.  
<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

**Trustee Norris Cullens & Denyse Cullens**







*In Loving  
Memory*

*of our beloved father and mother  
Charles and Fattie Tomlin*



*"I can do all things through Christ, which  
strengthened me." – Philippians 4:13*

*Children: Olivia Tomlin, Josephine Washington,  
Marcus Tomlin, Roderick Tomlin, James Tomlin*

*Congratulations!*

**METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

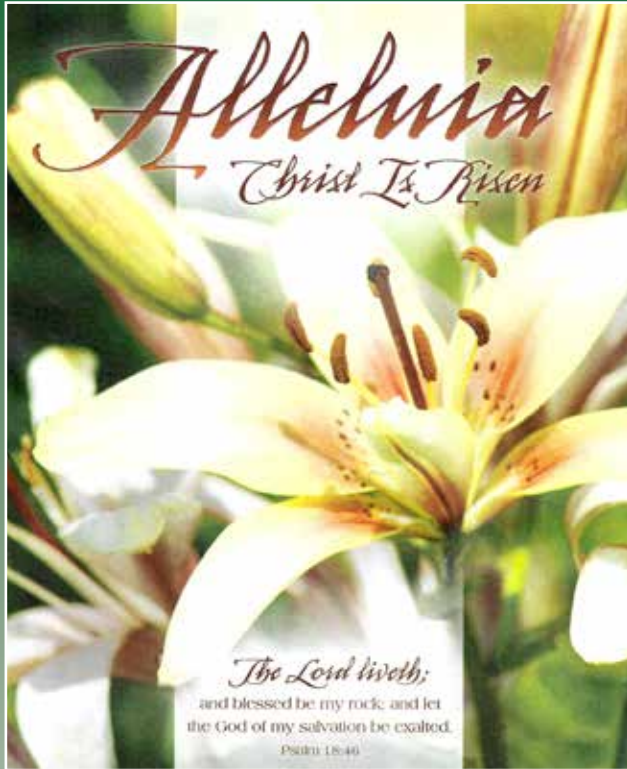
| *The Church Where Everyone is Somebody* |

on your 170 Years of Service



**Ladora Jamison and Family**

**Leroy, Marisa, Michelle, Brandi, Bria, and Noah**



*“ In Loving Memory of  
Lessons of Compassion,  
Encouragement, Commitment,  
Faith, Provision,  
Prayer and Legacy ”*

*from those Metropolitan  
Baptist Church members  
that made a difference  
in our life in Pittsburgh.*

## **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN BY THE DEACON MILTON ALLEN AND DEACONESS JERRY ANN ALLEN**

Trustee Edward and Sister Altha Blair  
Brother Charles E. and Trustee Zelma Stevenson  
Sister Johnnie White and Sister Web  
Sister Dollie Thomas  
Sister Greta Stone  
Sister Annetta Jefferson  
Deacon Thomas Brandon  
Deacon David Edmondson  
Deacon Leon and Deaconess Mary Jefferson  
Deacon Carey Shannon  
Deacon Thomas Young  
Deacon George Hamm  
Deacon John Morrow  
Deacon Willie J. Murchinson  
Deacon John Tap Turner  
Sister Yvonne Wilson  
Sister Ruth Crick  
Trustee Norman and Sister Lydia Humphries  
Sister Rose Underwood Logan  
Brother Howard Chuck Underwood  
Sister Mary Worthy  
Trustee James and Trustee Costella Woods  
Mother Jessie Head  
Mother Lue Jessie Ray  
Sister Ann Faye  
Brother Kenny Jones  
Trustee Ira Curd and Sister Mae L. Curd  
Brother James Summers  
Deaconess E. Beatrice Wise  
Sister Theresa V. Humphrey  
Brother Charles Toney  
Trustee Melvin Lewis

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE LOVE YOU HAVE SHOWN TO OUR FAMILY

*“Her children arise up, and call her blessed;  
Her husband also, and he praiseth her.”*

Proverbs 31:28





*"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee;*



Deacon Milton Allen and Deaconess Jerry Ann Allen



Adrian, Hong, Gavin and Lily Allen



The Robinsons - Charles, Alicia, CJ, Ayden, Milton and Faith

***Congratulations Metropolitan on the 170th Anniversary***

*The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.*  
NUMBERS 6:24, 25



# CONGRATULATIONS

## METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH on your 170<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

*“The Church Where Everybody is Somebody!”*

The Richardson Family have been members of Metropolitan for over 100 years and wish to thank the church for providing spiritual leadership and support in raising 3 generations of our family. May God bless you to continue your work for another 170 years!

**Iona Richardson**

**William Henry Richardson**

**Stella Knowles**

**Martina Richardson (Corbin)**

**Marye Amanda Richardson (Burton)**

**Helen Phoebe Richardson (Thomas)**

**William “Butch” Burton**

**Theodore Thomas**

**Charlene Tetteh (Burton)**

**Ashley Nicole Burton**





# Congratulations!



**Pastor and First Lady  
Lacy Richardson  
and Macedonia Family**

# Thank you

**For Contributing to the  
Pettigrew Family  
Spiritual Foundation**

## Remembering Our Mother with Song and Scripture

### Mother Cloma Bedford Craft

#### Amazing Grace

135

ISAAC WATTS

MARTYRDOM

HUGH WILSON

1. A - max - ing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;  
3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;  
4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.  
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Jerry Ann and Milton Allen- Deuteronomy 6:5 “And Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

Linda Joyce Judie – I Thessalonians 1:2 “We give thanks to God always for you, Mom”

\*London James Craft, Jr.- John 3: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Herbert and Betty Craft -Psalms 34:8 “O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

Renwick Craft- Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Andrew and Patricia Craft- Psalms 34:1 “I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

## Remembering Our Mother with Song and Scripture

### Mother Mattie Bea Allen Williamson

#### Amazing Grace

135

ISAAC WATTS

MARTYRDOM

HUGH WILSON

1. A - maz - ing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;  
3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;  
4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.  
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Milton and Jerry Ann Allen- Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Mildred Allen- Psalm 37:7 "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass."

Dorothy Allen- Job 36:11 "If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures."

\*James Allen – I Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

Alvin Tyrone Allen- Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

*“The Lord is my  
shepherd. I shall not  
want. He maketh me to  
lie down in green  
pastures. He leadeth me  
beside the still waters.”*

—Psalm 23:1, 2



*In Loving Memory of  
Winson and Gloria Young Sr.*

**from their sons & families**

**Gregory & Ola Young Sr., & Family**

**Winson & Shirley Young Jr., & Family**

**Anthony & Shelley Young Sr., & Family**

**Thomas & Lisa Young Sr., & Family**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
ON THE 170<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**

*May God Bless You with Many More Years.*





**THE JEFF J. CULLENS FAMILY SALUTES  
THE METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH ON ITS 170TH ANNIVERSARY  
"THE LORD HAS BROUGHT US ALL THE WAY"**





# Happy 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO SMILE UPON  
YOU!



*Pilgrim Baptist Church*  
REV. LISA R. RICHBOURG,  
PASTOR



## Johanna's Garden

Johanna Yoho  
*Designer/Owner*

---

3001 Shadeland Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Wedding Specialist Full Service Florist

**412-761-6770**

*Serving the community for 15 years*





## Our Mission

Since 1985 we have been active in church health programs and now it is our hope to bring community members together at our Bonvue Street location to help all people improve their health.

Allen Place Community Services, Inc. is deeply committed to our mission of providing health and wellness programs to Pittsburgh's northside senior residents and for the social, emotional and educational needs of children and youth, by encouraging the healthy development of family relationships and enhancing the cultural awareness in the broader community.

Allen Place Community Services, Inc. has established programs that influence all age groups focusing on prevention and health promotion for the entire community. Activities include and are not limited to: healthy aging, low impact exercise, support groups for caregivers, art and

music inspiration, basic computer skill classes, first aid and basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes, as well as health screenings and volunteer opportunities. We share experiences and explore individual life journeys. Let us offer you a schedule of stimulating and enriching activities within a structured environment.



Additionally, Allen Place Community Services, Inc. provides workshops, screenings, and opportunities for participants to identify and have better access to community resources and health services. We are proud to be part of a network of community providers that care about the people and the course of their health. Join us as we work to make our community healthier.

227 Bonvue Street, Pittsburgh, PA, United States

(412) 231-1531  
(412) 231-1532 fax  
[info@allenplacepgh.org](mailto:info@allenplacepgh.org)



**Jerry Allen**  
*President/CEO*  
*RN, BSN, MPM*



**"We work with the community"**







## People are at the heart of what we do.

Every day, while we're bustling about our lives, it can be easy to get so focused that we forget to stop and appreciate this place: our community. At Huntington, we see it as our responsibility to not just appreciate the Northside, but to always be looking for ways to make it better. That's why we're making a number of investments right here. Check them out at [huntington.com/Community](https://www.huntington.com/Community). Because when our communities thrive, we all live better.



Member FDIC. , Huntington<sup>®</sup> and  Huntington. Welcome.<sup>®</sup> are federally registered service marks of Huntington Bancshares Incorporated. ©2020 Huntington Bancshares Incorporated.



# Congratulations

Metropolitan Baptist Church  
On Your 170<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary



## *Odell Robinson Jr Funeral Home Inc*

2025 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214

• P: (412) 231-1191      P: (412) 231-6226      F: (412) 231-4072

The caring funeral directors at Odell Robinson Jr Funeral Home provide specialized funeral solutions designed to satisfy the needs of every family.

Let our family serve yours.



### Funeral Options

Funeral Arrangements

Funeral Services

Memorial Options

Funeral Selections



### Cremation Options

Cremation Arrangements

Cremation Services

Final Resting Place

Cremation Selections



### Plan Ahead

Why Preplan?

Preplanning Checklist

Preplan a Funeral

Preplan Cremation



ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
HEALTH SERVICES

# Now hiring RNs, LPNs, and CNAs.

Join the best care-team  
in the county.

## Kane

*Community Living Centers*

Glen Hazel · Scott · Ross · McKeesport

**KanePGH.com**