

**The Historical Timeline
of
Light Hill Baptist Church**

*In 1881, the Light Hill Baptist Church started out in an evening meeting conducted by **Bro. Bennie Williams**. It was a small building constructed of logs.

*In the early years, **Rev. Isaac Jones** preached to the first Sunday School class. He was called to pastor August 1882. He ordained a staff of officers to carry on the church's business. Twenty-six (26) members joined the church.

***Rev. Adams** was called next and during his term a new church was built.

***Rev. Griffin** followed Rev. Adams. He did great works!

***Rev. Taylor** was called and he served as pastor for nine (9) years.

***Rev. Miller** served next and many others after him, all who played integral roles in the early years of Light Hill' existence.

*In 1956, **Rev. James D, Johnson** was called to pastor this membership. He did so successfully for thirteen (13) years and many improvements were made under his leadership. The old building was torn down and a new one was constructed, bricking the entire church. God called Rev. James D. Johnson from labor to reward, Wednesday night, June, 11, 1969 as a result of a tragic automobile accident.

*December 2, 1969, **Rev. Bennie Cornelius** was called to pastor this congregation. Under his leadership, we continued to work to accomplish our goal. The church was completed and re-entering services were held January 23, 1972. Rev. Cornelius led this congregation for nineteen (19) years. (1969-1988)

***Rev. Timmie R. Howard, Sr.** was installed as pastor, May 27, 1990. Many improvements were made under his leadership.

_The Youth Choir was officially organized

_A van was purchased

_Three (3) Sunday School Classes were added

_We became a full time church

_A baptizing pool was installed

Rev. Timmie R. Howard's four (4) years of tenure at Light Hill were truly rewarding and inspirational. He resigned July 11, 1994 to acknowledge another assignment from the Lord.

***Elder Patrick W. Sanders** was elected as pastor on November 20, 1994. He was installed on Sunday, February 19, 1995. He came to us with a vision for the church and improvements in our church services and the growth in the membership were obvious.

_Entering Services in the New Sanctuary were held, Sunday, April 2, 1995.

_Two (2) sons of the house were under Pastor Sanders' guidance. Rev. Walter Byrd, Jr. former pastor of the First Baptist Church (MLK) and Minister Rodney Perkins who was ordained February 26, 1995 served as Youth Minister until his departure.

Historical Sketch

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_Rev. Loyd Jackson served as the Associate Pastor. He expired in January 2000.

_Minister Johnny Kirkendoll was ordained, Sunday, December 2001.

_The church's note was paid off

_Eighteen acres of land were purchased

_Minister Andrew Randall served as a powerful youth minister. He is now the pastor of The Abounding Faith Ministries.

_Minister Sharon Hughes (Pastor Sander's sister) was instrumental until her departure, July 2006.

_Other ministers served and are serving: Rev. Monroe Fuller, Rev. Joshua Jackson and Minister Harry Jackson.

_Several deacons were ordained

Elder Sanders' motto "The Best is Yet to Come" still remains! After eleven (11) years of devoted service and outstanding leadership and accomplishments, Pastor Sanders resigned and took on another assignment, July 9, 2006.

*Minister Johnny Kirkendoll served as Interim Pastor from July through December 2006.

***Pastor Malcolm Bernstine** was elected as pastor in January 2007 and installed the third Sunday in March 2007.

_Great strides were made during his eighteen (18) month tenure at Light Hill Baptist Church

_A Ministerial Staff was put in place

_A Youth Church was established and Minister Levi Jones served as youth minister

_A Youth Job Corp was executed (employment and job readiness)

_A Summer Youth Camp was established

_An Educational Building was purchased and erected with decking and railings for handicap accessibility.

_A Board Room was created with state-of-the-art furnishings

_Classes were held for the sons of the house at the community library

_Sunday evening worship was held each Sunday

_Membership growth was evident

_Pastor Bernstine's motto was "Christ is Still the Center of the Church"

_Minister Ron Taylor, Minister Darren Stanley, Minister Kevin Jackson, Minister Levi Jones, Minister Johnny Kirkendoll, Minister Harry Jackson, Rev. Walter Byrd, Jr. and Minister Terry Harris were under Pastor Bernstine's guidance

Pastor Bernstine made his exit, Sunday, August 31, 2008.

*Minister Johnny Kirkendoll again served as Interim Pastor from September 2008-March 2009.

Light Hill Baptist Church History Under Alejandro Smith

*Pastor Alejandro R. Smith was elected to serve as Pastor on Sunday, March 15, 2009.

_Within weeks fifty (50) new members had joined our illustrious membership under his leadership

_Installation Services were held on the third Sunday in June 2009 (June 21, 2009).

_Pastor Smith comes with a new motto: "We Are Better Together"

Also within his first year Pastor Smith retooled the Women's Conference along with First Lady Nikisha Smith

2010 Highlights

Membership increased by 20%

Reestablished the New Membership Banquet

Upgraded technology by creating a website for the church and appointed Carmen Parks as Minister of Media also implemented our visual media ministry which consisted of DVD and CD with reproduction in house.

Reorganized the Greeter's Ministry

2011 Highlights

Presented to the church the Master Plans for Land Development displayed in the church foyer

Instituted our first Christian Leadership School and named its director Sister Mercie Lyons and Dean Barbara Bennett

Remodeled the old Church into a one level multipurpose building.

Cleared the cemetery for further development

Upgraded technology by establishing a church Facebook page and Twitter account

Hired Dr. Sonya Hester as Minister of Music which developed into Minister of Worship and the Arts Ministry and upgraded our instruments both organ (B3 original) and keys (Motif workstation)

Organized our first Resurrection Day production with the youth, children and arts ministry, over 300 in attendance for the 6:00A.M. production services.

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_Sons of the House under Pastor Smith's guidance are: Minister Johnny Kirkendoll, Minister Billy Cornelius, Minister Harry Jackson, Minister Kevin Jackson, Minister Kirt Jackson, Minister Frank Smith, Minister Ronald Taylor & Minister Christopher Turner.

Some of the official staff who labored here during the past and whose efforts have resulted in what we now have the pleasure of enjoying are: Deacons Lewellyn Hamlin, Walter George, Sr. Early George, A.B. Jackson Marion Walker, Sr., U.S. Griffin, Cary Washington, Sr., R. C. McDaniel, James Evans, Sr., Arthur Rainey, Clifton Alexander, Rev. Loyd Jackson, Kenneth Jackson and Mack Cain.

Our present officials are Deacons: Martin Stephens-Chairman, Ronald Parks, Sr., Joseph Courtney, Jr., Douglas Henderson, LaVance Henderson, Earnest Jackson, Freddie Jackson, Lamar Miles, John Parker, Willie Sherman & Glenn Taylor, Sr.

Deacons in training are Brothers: Earl Barnett, Clarence Belcher, Alton Jackson, George Trice & Charles Walker.

Light Hill has been blessed with many dutiful members, some who have labored here for a very long time and some who have recently joined our congregation.

We feel Blessed in the Lord, for it is in God whom we trust. He has taken our dreams and turned them into reality. We still have joy and a vision. Therefore, let us hold fast to our faith. Let us anchor our lives here. Let us labor and wait. For they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength in the Lord.

"There is no hill like Light Hill"

Humbly submitted by Mary Ann Critton-Clerk