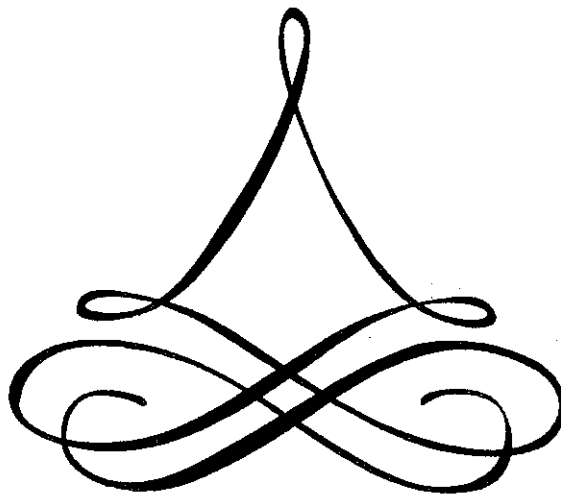


# CHURCH HISTORY



**A NEW BEGINNING**

Early churchmen accepted the idea that history is, or displays the fulfillment of a purposeful structure in which earlier events offer indications of what is to come. It serves also as a schoolmaster, drawing lessons from the past. Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church is a constant reminder of the pioneer and self-sufficient spirit of our forefathers, and reflects in many ways the ideas accepted by early churchmen. It takes a sincere effort to help lead those who honestly are hungering and thirsting after righteousness and the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. A small group of Christian brethren and sisters committed themselves hundreds of years ago to fulfill a divine plan-how to love God and one's fellowman, the right way to attain real peace, joy, wisdom, knowledge, the real meaning of life, living successfully, joyfully, and abundantly through God's omnipotent wisdom.

Much of the history of this church can be attributed to a slave named Alsey Stinson, who acquired his father's last name who was his master. In 1866, Bro. Alsey Stinson gave Bazzel Creek its present site. The church spirit had spread rapidly throughout the community. It made an impression upon the hearts of these people who had just a few years past become emancipated men and women. These freed persons exhibited their God given freedom, going from house to house singing, praying, and exclaiming their love of Jesus Christ, their Saviour. Brothers Merrill Beckwith, Alsey Stinson, and Guilford Holland led those meetings.

**UNDER THE BUSH HARBOR**

Worship services were held under a "Bush Harbor" for many years. The first financial drive was held under a tree. The drive merited the group \$7000.00. Under the "Bush Harbor," our heritage, religious values, and standards were set forth for many generations to follow. Thus, a small frame building became the new meeting place.

These men had the wisdom and forethought to seek men who were inspired by the Holy

Spirit to lead the Congregation.

**LEADERSHIP**

The following pastors are listed in the order in which they served. Reverends Charlie Bynum, Ransom Johnson, S.L. Jones, Boaz Stewart, J.L. Crow, Lewis Hackney, Hinton Jones, Paul Yancey, B.F. Hopkins, Rufus Underwood, H.H. Hart, Lorenzo Lynch, C.P. Briley, J.H. Carroway, (Associate Pastor, Jesse Stinson) and N.T. Davis, and Rev. Dr. Robert A. Horne

**HISTORY CONTINUED**

The land deed was made on June 11, 1910 to the trustees of (Braswell Creek) Bazzel Creek. On December 6, 1912, the deed was finalized. The Church named Braswell Creek was changed to Bazzel Creek before 1915. As the congregation grew, a larger religious structure was necessary to accommodate the expanding needs of this growing community. Therefore; it was inevitable that the small building be renovated, producing a much larger, beautiful frame building, endeavoring to offer more spiritual opportunities for persons to be taught the word of God. The first Sunday school was organized by Deacon Ferman Stinson, Sr. He also served as the first Superintendent.

In 1915, the church was again rebuilt. The Deacons were W.L. Holland, Nelson Battle, G.B. Ballentine, N.L. Richardson, D. Battle, J.R. Jones, Ferman Stinson, Sr., and T.B. Spence (building committee chairman). J.A. Spence served as church clerk. Rev. H.H. Hart visioned the church as being an even more beautiful edifice. He set plans in motion and as a result, the church was brick veneered.

During this time the church had revival services the first week in September. The main mode of transportation was the horse and buggy. Rev. Hart started the Fall Drive for the primary purpose of raising money for the church to utilize wherever needed. Men's Day and Women's Day were instituted, also. This pastor served Bazzel Creek Church for approximately twenty-

eight years.

In the early 50's, the church encompassed 400 members. A Deacon Board consisting of 10 Deacons, whose names were J.A. Spence (chairman), Oker Richardson, Whit Jackson, Ransom Greene, Arthie Stewart, Romie Burt Sr., Waylon Betts, Lennie Betts, Ray Holland, and Raeford Spence. A Trustee Board of four whose names are as follow: J.T. Spence, Sr., P.L. Spence, Amus Estes, and Jasper Greene. Three more were made deacons the 1st Sunday in Sept. 1958; Ferman Stinson Jr, Willard Hood and Rufus Norris.

There were two choirs. Lennie Betts and Raeford Spence were the leaders. The Senior Missionary circle was under the leadership of Mary L. Spence and the Jr. Missionary Circle was under the supervision of Gertrude Smart. Texanna M. Washington followed Dea. Waylon Betts as church clerk. Deacon Romie Burt Sr. Served as Treasurer.

After the death of Rev. Hart, Rev. Lorenza Lynch served as Pastor. One of his chief interests was the youth of the church. He encouraged children to come to the altar to say Bible verses. He also prompted Vacation Bible School for everyone. Many vital improvements were met because of his unique planning and effective use of the church's resources.

Upon the departure of Rev. Lynch, the church was blessed with the spiritual guidance of Rev. C.P. Briley. Under his leadership, the third Sunday was designated as part of the monthly worship service to give the youth of the church a chance to express themselves spiritually. Rev. Briley also led to the organization of a pastor's Aide to assist with supplying the needs of the Pastor. Past presidents of that group include Bro. McKinley Norris, Mrs. Gertrude Smart, Mrs. Jewel Battle, and Lula Pecola Jones.

In January, 1965, Rev. J.H. Carroway was appointed as the pastor of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. He took the helm and pledged his faith for the upbuilding of the church. One of his efforts was to change the yearly revival date to

begin the last week of June leading to the first Sunday in July. He also asked that a building fund treasurer be added to the church staff. Trustee Deacon Milton Hicks, Jr. was elected to serve. Trustee Kever Jackson, Sr. was to serve as assistant.

The present pastor is a man of religious knowledge and fortitude. Rev. Norman T. Davis is concerned with the welfare of the total church and each individual member. Striving for a closeness of the church and members, he originated a church theme, "Unity Through Involvement". Under his progressive leadership, the church has made gigantic strides, spiritually, numerically, and financially.

Rev. Davis, having been invited by the pulpit committee to come and preach at Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist church, for the first time Sunday, November 7, 1976, returned as Pastor Sunday, February 6, 1977. He stated that there was much work to be done. He assured that, with God's help, he'd be the one to lead the way.

The members had decided to renovate the old structure and with Pastor Davis' insight and leadership, the task began. Rev Davis and the following Trustees made preparations to move ahead with the project. James Dennis, Kever Jackson, Sr., Robert Norris, Sr., Edward Lucas, Milton Hicks, Jr., Wardell Greene, Floyd Whitaker, George Jones, John Smart, Garland Richardson, John Greene Sr. and Levy Bright.

In the early summer of 1977, Gladys Stinson Grigsby told Deacon Ferman Stinson Jr. and wife Bettie to come and get the church's original deed, but bring one deacon, so they brought Deacon Milton Hicks Jr. and wife Dorothy to her home. Today, the original deed is at the home of the late Ferman Stinson Jr. Family.

During the time that the church was being rebuilt, services were held at the Pine Acres Community Center in Fuquay-Varina, NC, and on two other occasions at St. Augusta FWB, and First Baptist Church in

Fuquay-Varina.

The building was nearly completed by the last of October. The new pews were in place, furniture for the pulpit and seats for the choir stand were ready for use, but the windows had not been installed as the time drew near for worship services to be held in the new sanctuary. This did not hamper the "Thanksgiving" services from being held at its scheduled time. A "Dedicatory Service" was held on December 11, 1977. Dr. Marcus Ingram was the featured speaker.

The Pastor had initiated a pew and window drive at the beginning of this period. Families donated the pews at the cost of \$218.00 each; windows were donated at the cost of \$25000 each. Ten additional pews, office furnishing and tables for the classrooms were bought at a later date. Another well had to be dug and another church sign was erected in front of the church.

The note on the building was liquidated in a span of four years. A "Mortgage Burning" ceremony was held on March 15, 1981. Dr Thomas Walker and the Ebenezer Baptist Church Family of Rocky Mount rendered the services. Bro. William Norman designed the metal box that was used by those participating in the ceremony, namely; Chairman of Deacons, Johnnie Page, Past Chairman, Romie Burt Sr., Trustee Chairman, Kever Jackson, Sr., Deacons Milton Hicks, Jr., and Robert Norris, Sr.

Phase two of the building program was implemented by the renovation of the dining area and the building of a new kitchen facility, additional bathrooms, men and women lounges, and a first aid room. Brothers. Kever Jackson, Sr., Milton Hicks, Jr, Bobby Battle, Edward Lucas, John Greene, Berkley Estes, Calvin Steel, Garland Richardson, George Jones, Clee Norris, Robert Spence, and Rev. Davis were the signers who secured the loan for the new addition. The dedication service for this completed project was held on Sunday, January 3, 1982. Dr. George C. Debnam, Who has given unselfishly of his time and resources to this church, gave the dedication message.

Several changes had been made by 1982. The following new auxiliaries were established: the male chorus, the Tots and Intermediate Ushers, the Sunshine Choir, a Finance Committee, a Deaconess Group, the Hospitality Committee, and the Jr. Choir's name was changed to the Davis Inspirational Choir. Mrs. Lucille Norris was elected to serve as Church Historian. Mrs. Gertrude Smart and Mrs. Patricia McNeil were added to the Publicity Department. Bazzel Creek Baptist Church had become a station Church that held services every Sunday.

During this period, the First Aid Department was reorganized and named the Nurses Board. Ruby Baldwin was named President. Presidents serving after her include, Alice Spence, Cynthia Hicks, Linda Richardson, and Gertrude Judd. Registered Nurses, Jennifer Hicks-Robinson and Angela Hicks-Higdon actively trained the nurses, and for the first time, we had nurses trained in first aid and CPR. These included the member that had nearly 20 years service, Mrs. Novella DeBerry.

The 1980's were fruitful to Bazzel Creek. We acquired our first church bus. The drivers were Trustees Calvin Steele, Charlie Izzard, Brian Wright and Angela Higdon. Later, Mary Evans and James Turk, Sr. became drivers.

On December 27, 1985, the church was destroyed by fire. This tragedy did not deter the Spirits of the membership. Church services were held at pine Acres Community Center again and meetings were held in the Tent Hall.

A Committee of men; Deacon Walter Spence (Deacon Board Chairman), Trustee Calvin Steele (Trustee Chairman), Deacon Robert Norris Sr., Deacon Kever Jackson, Sr., Deacon Milton Hicks, Trustee Charlie Izzard, Trustee William Norman, Pastor N.T. Davis, were appointed and the rebuilding plans were set into motion. The rebuilding began in June 1987. The committee and the church voted to include a basement in the new building that was to be finished by the men of the church.

In February 1987, a church member, Mrs. Nannie Arnold, expressed a desire to establish a traveling choir for the Pastor. This idea had been first mentioned to the Pastor by Deaconess D.S. Hicks and Mrs. Edna Spence. The Idea was put on hold until expressed again by Sister Arnold. This time the consent was given and the Bazzel Creek Unified Mass Choir was born. A meeting was held and the charter officers were elected. Ms. Vicky Hicks served as President and Director; and Mr. Danny White was musician. In 1988 Mr. David Davis became music director and musician for the choir. Deaconess Dorothy S. Hicks was elected President. Others serving as President were Deacon Charlie Izzard, Mr. Bernice Barber, Jr. Other musicians were Mr. Stephon Jones, Rev. Matthew Edge, Ms. Anethia Faison, and Ms. Irene Baldwin.

On March 6, 1988, the first services were held in the new edifice. Bazzel Creek had been rebuilt on a "Solid Rock". Work continued on the basement long after those services and was completed as planned by the men of the church and a few concerned citizens.

In 1988, a new cornerstone with new history and time capsule were laid alongside the old ones. Among the names of the Trustees and Committee was the name of Mrs. Texanna Washington, who has served Bazzel Creek for decades as Church Clerk. Her longevity as a church staff member has surpassed all others.

A few months later a project to pave the parking lot proved fruitful. "Trustee James Turk, Sr., worked relentlessly with the contractor to get us a job well done at a reasonable cost.

### **UNITY THROUGH INVOLVEMENT**

A Program Committee was reorganized with Mrs. Catherine Jeffries as chairperson. Other members were Jimmy Evans Jr., Oscar Steele, Jr., Gertrude Smart, Gertrude Judd, and Ruby Baldwin.

To insure that the church will always have an ample supply of hymnals and Bibles, the Board and Conference voted to give memorials to our deceased members. In lieu of flowers, Bibles and hymnals are given after each passing. The church receives two and the family receives one.

In 1989, the Youth Department was re-established, and Rev. Mattie Richardson, who had been appointed Assistant Pastor, was to head that department. After Rev. Richardson resigned, Ms. Ruby Haynes was appointed Youth Advisor President. With the help of the other Youth Advisors, Mrs. Grace Izzard, Mrs. Essie Jones, Mrs. Mary Evans, Mrs. Preshirl Carter, Mrs. Linda Robinson, Mrs. Rachel Turk, and Ms. Kathleen Battle, many projects have been undertaken and our youth are being trained well.

The Youth Department has sponsored several trips for the youth and the adult population of the church.

One of the training experiences that has been shared by our youth is their experiences at the New Hope Union and New Hope Association. The attendance trophy was earned by the youth on several occasions. History has also been made by them at the New Hope Association and on the Baptist State levels. Like Bryan Richardson and Tara Spence, who won on both the local and state levels in 1984. Tamara Perkins and James Turk were competitive in 1993. Tamara won first place on the local level and had the opportunity to compete at the state level in August 1993. Our youth made history again in 1998 when Matthew Evans won first place on the local level and second place at the state level.

In 1992, the first Boy Scout Troop at Bazzel Creek was organized. Bro. Robert Spence Sr., was cub master. Bro. Jimmy Evans Jr. was his assistant; Den mothers were Mrs. Mary Evans and Mrs. Essie Jones. Trustee William Norman was liaison between the church and the scouts. In the fall of 1992, a "Webelos" den was started.

In April 1992, the first computer management operations began. These

operations were implemented by Deacon Charlie Izzard, Trustee Lloyd Jeffries, and Mrs. Linda Richardson, one of the Church Secretaries.

In May 1992, a Laymen's League was organized to help with the training of our young men. Trustee James Turk Sr. was elected President of this auxiliary.

In early 1993, Rev. Marshall E. Dixon joined Bazzel Creek and became one of the Associate Ministers and also one of the church musicians. Rev. Ronald H. Wright is the other Associate Minister.

Also in January 1993, a Scholarship Committee, chaired by Deacon Charlie Izzard was formed to aid our youth who attend institutes of higher learning. Scholarships are given to members that further their education past the high school level.

The Youth Department, out of concern for the safety of our youth, began sponsoring a "Harvest Festival" on October 31 for the church and community youth to have food, fun, and games, without venturing out at night. Area businesses and church members donate goods and services to make this effort a success.

On July 17, 1993, Pastor Davis' Ministry went on its first (out of state call). The Mass Choir and many church members accompanied him to Washington, DC to render services at Michael's Temple Pentecostal Church of God.

In 1994 & 1995, two Associate Ministers were added to the list of good ministers that have come out of Bazzel Creek; they were Rev. Robert A. Hatton and Rev. Deborah M. Wright.

In September 1995, a Girl Scout Troop was formed and led by Mrs. Melissa Bolden.

1996 marked a new era for Bazzel Creek. The 29-year mortgage received in 1988 was retired in its 8th year. The body also agreed to the purchase of three new

## BAZZEL CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1866 - 2007 (Church History)

vans, two at present and one in the future. Trustee Chairman Falton Judd Jr., and Co-Chairman Jimmy Evans Jr. worked to finalize the purchases from Capital Ford in Raleigh.

In 1997 the Church began the "Breakfast Program" for those youth wishing to attend Sunday School who were not getting breakfast before coming to church. Also in 1997, the Laymen's League began sponsoring a Senior Citizen's Luncheon.

The Youth Department sponsors a youth Training Day each quarter where the youth carry out Morning Worship Services.

The Sunday School, Laymen's League, and Youth Department have formed a united front to stand in the gap for our youth.

The Pastor and Members are grateful to our Creator for allowing us to reach higher plains. As we look to the future, we will do so with God as our leader. He will surely lead us in the paths of righteousness. His Holy Word will continue to be our guide.

In the midst of struggle, hardships, and sacrifices, the past has been encouraging in retrospect, the present is blooming with promise, and the future rests with God. Let us take courage and march forward with Him to greater achievements.

**"Bazzel Creek History" The First 116 Years**  
Irene Baldin, Dorothy Steele Hicks

New material, Linda w. Richardson & Essie Jones ---Beverly Stinson Utley

**Church Historians:**  
Mrs. Lucille Norris  
Mrs. Gertrude Smart

### HISTORY OF THE BAZZEL CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CONTINUED

Theme: "The Challenge is The Same; Reach The Masses Through Effective Leadership: Accountability, Commitment, Dedication." "And I say unto thee, that thou

art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16: 18).

We thank God for, His blessing and the privilege of experiencing His grace, mercy, and guidance as we seek to do His will.

The Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church, was founded in the year of 1866. It has been viable organism, facing adversities, trials, and tribulations throughout the years. It has stood the test of time.

This Church was born out of the need of our foreparents, to worship as free Christians. This could only be done in a setting that would be conducive to their spiritual needs and culture.

Years ago, these brethren and sisters who were slaves, attended services at Piney Grove Baptist Church, Fuquay-Varina, NC, which had been established in 1902. There the slaves sat in separate sections in the balcony.

Following the Civil War, black members established their own place of worship. A former slave named Alsey Stinson, who acquired his father's name, his master. In the year of 1866, a parcel of land was given to the church by this courageous man. Word of this generous act spread through the community. It was an inspiration to these emancipated people.

Earlier, these pioneers met from house to house to worship, hold prayer meetings, raise funds and plan for the future. These gathering were spiritually led by brothers, Merrill Beckwith, Alsey Stinson and Guilford Holland.

The first worship services were held under a "Bush Harbor" for a period of time, and later in a small frame building.

The Church named Braswell Creek was changed to Bazzel Creek before 1915.

By 1915, many souls had been

added to the church, and the physical structure was enlarged

The first Sunday School was organized by Deacon Ferman Stinson, Sr. He served as the first superintendent.

### 1982-2000

In the summer of 1982, the Davis Inspirational choir (BCIC) won First place on the McDonald Gospel Festival under the leadership of Gene Conyers and made a recording. He was the musician and director of the choir, a former and present backup singer of Shirley Ceasar.

Time has passed, many souls have been saved, many loved ones have been called from labor to reward.

We are Grateful to God, who has blessed us to obtain many objectives and reach new goals under the leadership of Pastor Norman T. Davis. He has been the under-shepherd of this body of baptized believers for twenty-three years.

Bazzel Creek Church continued to move forward and focused on God's mission of kingdom building. It has been a refuge and shelter for those in the community, surrounding areas, and state and nation.

The first church bus was purchased and put to good use by the choirs and members who accompanied the Pastor on engagements, and other activities. Several services were rendered out of state.

Sunday, July 31, 1983, was "Appreciation Day" for three persons who had served in the church for many years. Mrs. Texanna Washington, Church Clerk, Deacon Romie Burt Sr., Treasurer, and Trustee Junie Spence were the recipients of the honors. Sheriff John Baker declared the Honorees to be "first class citizens". The Honorable Mayor of Fuquay-Varina, NC Proclaimed July 31, 1983 to be "A Special Day".

The Christian Education Committee was organized at the request of the Pastor in

1984. Its objective was to provide opportunities for young men and women to become more knowledgeable about the church through studying the Bible, worshipping and rendering Christian service.

The members were: Chairperson, Ms. Juanita Bright, Co-Chairperson, Diane Otey, Secretary, Ms. Faye Spence, Assistant Secretary, Ms. Irene Baldwin, Newsletter Chairperson, Mrs. Catherine Jeffries, Co-Chairperson, Mrs. Grace Izzard, Dramatics Chairperson, Mrs. Shirley McClain, Tutorial Chairperson, Mrs. Dorothy McKinnie, Co-Chairperson, Ms. Irene Baldwin, Scholarship Chairperson, Mrs. Christine Atwater.

Mrs. Catherine Jeffries, was editor of the church's first newsletter, "The Truth", published in 1984. Mrs. Grace Izzard was co-editor. Later in years, Deaconess Linda Richardson and Mrs. Essie Jones published the "News in Brief".

The Pastor's Aide group held a seventh year celebration for Pastor and Mrs. Davis at K & W Cafeteria, Raleigh, NC. This occasion was held on February 4, 1984. Mrs. Pecola Jones was President. Ms. Kathleen Battle was Program Chairperson.

On September 14, 1984, the church's first fellowship banquet was held at Gardner's in Raleigh, NC. Ms. Irene Baldwin, Mrs. Mary Alston, Ms. Kathleen Battle, and Mrs. Cynthia Utley were the coordinators.

On March 10, 1985, Pastor Davis and congregation held a special service to honor four other persons for their contributions to the church. The honorees were Deacon Kever Jackson, Sr., Deacon Milton Hicks, Jr., Ms. Juanita Bright, and Deaconess Dorothy S. Hicks. Reverend Howard Jones and congregation of First Baptist, Clinton, NC rendered the service.

The church was destroyed by fire on Friday morning, December 27, 1985. The Pastor and Members acknowledged this great loss, and immediately asked for God's wisdom and guidance to rebuild His place of

worship. Arrangements were made to rent the Community Center, Fuquay-Varina, NC, for a temporary worship site. All meetings were held at the Tent building. St. Augusta Church and First Baptist, Fuquay-Varina offered their facilities for the funerals of the deceased members.

During the years of 1986, the Pastor, leaders and lay persons met regularly to make the necessary plans to build the new edifice.

There was a ground breaking ceremony held in June 1987. Deacon Walter Spence, Chairman of Deacons, and Trustee Calvin Steele, Chairman of the Trustees, shoveled the first dirt at the building site. Several members participated on this day.

The Pastor and other members of the building committee attained the B.K. Builders, Raleigh, NC and began to finalize plans and oversee the structure of the new edifice. The group consisted of Deacons, Walter Spence, Robert Norris, Sr., Milton Hicks, Jr., and Kever Jackson, Sr. along with Trustees, Calvin Steele, William Norman, and Charlie Izzard.

A full basement would be included and the men of the church volunteered time and service to complete the project.

The sanctuary and first floor of the church had been completed and the first worship service was held on Sunday, March 6, 1988. Grateful members and well-wishers filled the newly built edifice.

Reverend Davis, who is to be commended for his faith, fortitude and determination, exhibited during this particular time, preached his first sermon in the new sanctuary. He selected a text, Numbers 13:26-33, and preached an inspiring message titled, "They Said It Couldn't Be Done".

Dedicatory services were held on May 26, 27 and 28, 1988. The speakers were Reverend John McNeill, St. Augusta Church, Fuquay-Varina, Reverend Mervyn John, First Baptist, Fuquay-Varina, and Dr. W.B.

Lewis, First Cosmopolitan, Raleigh, NC.

In December 1988, Trustee James Turk, Sr. and others were given permission during church conference to complete the basement. The church purchased the necessary materials. Time and labor were donated by the workers. Brothers Calvin Steele, Floyd Whitaker, Milton Hicks, Jr., Robert Norris, Sr., Falton Judd, Jr., Kenneth Judd, and Pastor Davis donated their time also.

Trustees Oscar Steele and Jimmy Evans worked along with Trustee James Turk Sr. to install the doors that had been purchased at a discount. They worked throughout the summer to finish the lower level.

A group of members paid for the doors at a cost of \$55.00 each. They were Deacons, John A. Jones, Robert Norris, Sr., Kever Jackson, Sr., Garland and Linda Richardson, Sisters Texanna Washington, Catherine Cooper, Kathleen Battle, Essie Jones, Thelma Harris, Marie J. Judd, Rome, Geraldine and Robert Norris, Jr. and Joe and Lillian Spence.

Following the completion of the basement, Trustee Turk (employed by C.C. Mangum, Co.) borrowed grading equipment from his employer and graded the parking lot at no cost to the church. He later negotiated a contract with the C.C. Mangum Co. to pave the parking lot at a minimum cost. The company made no profit on this project that was completed in March 1990.

The Masonic Lodge, Golden Star 150, Fuquay-Varina, assisted in placing the new cornerstone beside the other two cornerstones. Pertinent information was included for future generations. The year was 1988. The cornerstone was dedicated on Saturday, September 2, 1989. Deacon Clifton Stone of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Chatham County, was the speaker.

In 1999, after the devastation of Hurricane Floyd in the eastern part of North Carolina, Pastor Davis and members rallied together to provide food, clothing and

finances for the flood victims.

In 1999, the church saw a need to purchase a new computerized piano to add to the worship services. Persons on the committee were brothers, Falton Judd Jr., and John Greene, Sr., and Sisters Varetta Judd, Margarette Greene and Irene Baldwin.

In 1999, Sister Catherine Jeffries was appointed Pastoral Administrative Assistant.

On August 17-19, 2000. The General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc., held its first session. Deacons/Deaconesses and Health Leaders Conference was held at Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Norman T. Davis, 3rd Vice President, was the host. Dr. John D. Fuller, President, and Dr. Archie Logan, Executive Secretary/Treasurer.

On Sunday, September 24, 2000, we celebrated our 134th Church Anniversary. Reverend Harold Trice, members of the Union Chapel Church and friends were our guests. His sermon topic was "The Church".

Over the years, Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church has supported and continues to be active in the New Hope Union, the New Hope Association, the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., the Lott Carey Convention, the Women's Auxiliary, and the National Baptist Convention.

It is our sincere desire and prayer that this church will continue to strive for perfection by doing God's will. We ask for His blessings as we sojourn into the new millennium.

If names, ads, or pictures were omitted, we truly apologize because we made every effort to include everyone who was desirous of being a part of this book. If some events have been omitted, it was due to lack of records of supporting statements.

#### **The Committee**

Dorothy S. Hicks, Chairperson  
Irene Baldwin, Co-Chairperson  
Texanna Washington, Church Clerk  
Gertrude Smart, Bettie Stinson, Carolyn Spence, Reverend Norman T. Davis, Pastor.

#### **Oratorical History** **Congress of Christian Education - James F. Wertz Oratoricals**

Under the dedicated direction of Mrs. Dorothy W. McKinnie, the oratorical program at Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church has flourished.

In the oratory ministry, the youth become Christian disciples by spreading the Christian message to hundreds of people. Mrs. McKinnie has been truly instrumental in establishing great Christian teachings through the numerous messages that the youth have delivered-messages that will be with them for years to come. Much practice and commitment determined that success.

Not only did the youth deliver powerful and Christian oratory, they learned more self-esteem, more self-worth, better pronunciation and enunciation skills, better voice projection, and a better tolerance for public speaking which is the number one fear in humans, according to research statistics. Public speaking on the oratorical level has created many positive memories for the youth. They have gained more power to believe in themselves.

Mrs. McKinnie spent many hours training and directing the youth to their many wins and successes for Christ. Their effort, faith, and determination resulted in victory.

As we journey into the new millennium, it is imperative that the Christian community embrace the proper leadership role in responding to the needs of our youth. We must have a vision, a mission, and a new attitude toward excellence in our young people. Winning others to Christ through oratory is one of our main objectives. We shall continue to grow in Christ through our oratory ministry.

Truly, God will bless us with many more years of Christian oration through the Congress of Christian Education and the Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. God is able to do anything.

#### **Year 1984-2005 Congress of Christian Education Oratoricals James F. Wertz**

Year 1984- Bryan Richardson and Tara Spence represented Bazzel Creek on the local level. Tara represented Bazzel Creek in the junior division on the district level in the New Hope Association. Tamara represented Bazzel Creek in the senior division on the district level in the New Hope Association and won first place. Bryan went on the win first place on the state level in the senior division at Shiloh. Tara went on to win first place on the state level in the junior division at Shiloh.

Year 1996- Tamara Perkins and James Turk, Jr. represented Bazzel Creek in the local level. James represented Bazzel Creek in the junior division on the district level in the New Hope Association. Tamara represented Bazzel Creek in the senior division on the district level in the New Hope Association. She went on the represent the New Hope Association on the State level.

Year 1997- Jennifer Williams, Gloria Milton, Sterling Battle, Lamont Partin, and Rhonda Izzard represented Bazzel Creek on the local level. Jennifer Williams won the local level in the junior division and went on to represent Bazzel Creek on the district level in the New Hope Association.

1998-Matthew Evans, Sterling Battle, Lamont Partin, Rhonda Izzard, and Jennifer Williams participated at Bazzel Creek at the local level. Matthew won first place at the church. He won first place on district level at the New Hope Association at Lincoln Memorial in Durham, N.C. Matthew went on to win second place on the state level at Lewis Chapel in Fayetteville, N.C.

1999 - Whitney Izzard, Rhonda Izzard, Jennifer Williams, Sterling Battle, and Bryan Haynes represented Bazzel Creek

on the local level. Jennifer, a senior, and Whitney, a Junior, won on the local level and went on to represent our church on the district level at the New Hope Association, which was at Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. Jennifer was first runner up in the senior division, and Whitney was first runner up in the junior division.

Year 2000- Rhonda Izzard, Whitney Izzard, and Bryan Haynes represented Bazzel Creek on the local level. Bryan and Rhonda were the two representatives on the district level to the New Hope Association. Rhonda won first place in the senior division on the district level. She went on to represent the thirty-six church New Hope Association on the state level in Greensboro, N.C.

Year 2001 - Brittany Judd, Vinese Judd, Brandon Dunn, Bryan Haynes, and Tammara Izzard represented Bazzel Creek on the local level. Vinese Judd represented Bazzel Creek in the preparatory division on the district level in the New Hope Association. Vinese won first place on the district level at Bazzel Creek. She went on to represent Bazzel Creek on the state level at A&T University in Greensboro, N.C. The preparatory division at the state level was not judged in the 2001 because of it being our first year of implementation.

Year 2002 - Whitney Izzard, Tammara Izzard, and Venise Judd represented Bazzel Creek on the local level at Bazzel Creek. Whitney represented Bazzel Creek in the Senior division on the district level in the New Hope Association at Mt. Vernon and was first runner up. Tammara represented Bazzel Creek in the Junior division on the district level in the New Hope Association at Mt. Vernon and was first runner up. Vinese represented Bazzel Creek in the preparatory division on the district level in the New Hope Association at Mt. Vernon and was first runner up.

Year 2002 - Whitney Izzard, Tammara Izzard, and Venise Judd represented Bazzel Creek on the local level at Bazzel Creek. Whitney represented Bazzel Creek in the Senior division on the district

level in the New Hope Association at Mt. Vernon and was first runner up. Tammara represented Bazzel Creek in the junior division on the district level in the New Hope Association at Mt. Vernon and was first runner up. Vinese represented Bazzel Creek in the preparatory division on the district level in the New Hope Association at Mt. Vernon and was first runner up.

Year 2004 - Brandon Payton and Tammara Izzard represented Bazzel Creek on the local level. Brandon represented Bazzel Creek in the preparatory division on the district level at New Bethel in the New Hope Association and won first place. Tammara represented Bazzel Creek in the junior division on the district level at New Bethel in the New Association and won first runner up.

Year 2001-2004 - The James F. Wertz Oratoricals continue to move forward under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy W. McKinnie and the Bazzel Creek Youth Department. We have a vision, a mission, and a new attitude toward excellence in our oratory ministry. Our thanks go to the New Hope Association and the Congress of Christian Education.

Year 2005- Brandon Payton, Vinese Judd, and Tammara Izzard, represented Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church in the district James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest on May 21, 2005 at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Apex, North Carolina. Brandon represented Bazzel Creek in the Preparatory division and did an outstanding job. Vinese represented Bazzel Creek in the Junior division and won first place. Tammara represented Bazzel Creek in the Senior division and won first place. On June 28, 2005, at the First Baptist Church in Statesville, North Carolina, Tammara represented The New Hope Association on the state level and did an outstanding job. Vinese represented the New Hope Association on the state level and won first place in the state.

**Bazzel Creek Church History Continued**

## **2001-2004**

2001, 3.5 acres of land was purchased.

July 2002, Reverend Norman T. Davis resigned from Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church after a stay of twenty-five years.

August 24, 2002, Pastoral Search Committee was formed by the Deacon Board. Members of the committee were Bro. Falton Judd, Jr., Chairman, sis. Irene Baldwin, Sis. Dorothy McKinnie, Sis. Dorothy Hicks, Bro. Tracy Garrett, Bro. Bernice Barber, Jr., Bro. Kever Jackson, Jr. Alternate members were sis. Linda Robinson, Sis. Brenda Smith.

July 13, 2002, it was agreed by the church body that Deacon John R. Greene Sr. would serve as Church spokesman and would conduct the daily operation of the church in the absence of a pastor.

In 2002, a members contact system was organized under the direction of Sister Catherine Jeffries.

January 2003, Sister Dorothy McKinnie, members contact system supervisor.

January 20, 2003-the church body accepted the renaming of the Davis Inspirational Choir to the Bazzel Creek inspirational Choir. (BCIC).

February 24, 2003 - .95 acres of land was purchased for the amount of \$20,154.00 plus tax.

## **"Wade in the word"**

2003, marked a new era for Bazzel Creek. **November 9, 2003-Reverend Dr. Robert A. Horne** was installed as pastor of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. The church was blessed with the spiritual guidance of Pastor Horne. Under his leadership. opportunities for Christian service in ministries; Health & Wellness Ministry, Seniors' Ministry, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, Music Ministry, Intercessory/Prayer Ministry, Transportation



## BAZZEL CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1866 - 2007 (Church History)

Ministry, Prison Ministry, Christian Education Ministry, Teens Ministry, Social Concerns Ministry, and Technology Committee. Noonday Bible study was started and is held every Wednesday.

Upon the first arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Horne to Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Vicky Hicks greeted them with the expression, "Welcome to The Creek." The name "The Creek" can be credited to Vicky Hicks.

December 1, 2003 - Administrative Staff was appointed. Members are Sis. Texanna Washington, Church Clerk, sis. Faye Garrett, Church Secretary, Sis. Dorothy Mckinnie, Church Publicist, Sis. Essie Jones, Administrative Coordinator.

In 2004 Mrs. Dorothy Mckinnie visioned the need for media equipment to be used for training. The Administrative staff, Mrs. Dorothy McKinnie, Mrs. Essie Jones, Sister Faye Garrett, and Sister Texanna Washington helped to see that the media equipment was purchased for the Church.

February 2, 2004 - A new theme was adopted for the church. "Wade in the Word."

February 11, 2004 - New deacons and trustees were elected. Deacon Elects are Sis. Dorothy Hicks, Bro. Bernice Barber, Jr., Bro. Jimmy Evan Jr., Trustee Elects are Sis. Catherine Jeffries, Bro. Kever Jackson, Jr.

March 10, 2004 - A new Finance committee was appointed. Sister Kathleen Battle Chairperson, Brother Roscoe Milton co-chairperson.

June 2004 - Sound System was installed.

July 3, 2004 - 3.5 acres of land was paid off.

September 21, 2004, Advance Disciples Training/ Church History class was started.

November 7, 2004- Burning of the mortgage service during homecoming services.

Dec 5, 2004- The dedication service for

Fellowship Hall in honor of Alsey Stinson.

Dec 5, 2004- Burning of the second mortgage service during Alsey Stinson dedication services.

### Continued History 2004

Orientation Class began Oct. 2004 for new members Deacon Dorothy S. Hicks and sister Irene Baldwin are the teachers.

The Rest Home Ministry was started by Bro. Tracy Garrett, president of the Bazzel Creek Inspirational Choir, in November 2004. Once a month, (mainly on third Sundays), members of the Bazzel Creek Inspirational Choir travel to rest homes in the Holly Springs/Fuquay/Apex area, accompanied by Bazzel Creek's Minister of Music, Bro. Tony Taylor. They have the support of Pastor Horne, Associate Ministers and members of the Deacon Board.

Total Woman's Ministry was organized in 2004 under the leadership of Sis. Mary Evans

"The Creek" First Praise and Worship two day seminar was in December 3-4-2004. Guest teacher, Pastor Keith Cox. This Praise and Worship was organized under the leadership of Vicky Hicks.

### Bazzel Creek Church Continued History 2005-2006

Health and Wellness Ministry was kicked off in January 2005. President sis. Debbie McLean.

"The Creek" Intercessory Prayer Ministry was started in January 2005. Spearheaded by Vicky Hicks and continued by Beverly Stinson Utley and Patricia McNeill.

In Sept. 2005, after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, Pastor Horne and members rallied together to provide clothing, food and finances for the flood victims.

The Couples Ministry was started

by Tony and Lorine Wilson. The first meeting was September 30, 2005.

The roof was replaced in the month of November and finished on the third Sunday in 2005.

November 6, 2005, "The Creek" the first Newsletter Booklet, was presented to the Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. The Editor was Dorothy W Mckinnie.

In December 14, 2005 Beverly Stinson Ultey was appointed church Historian by pastor Horne.

On January 22, 2006 Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church ordained five deacons Bernice Barber Jr., Jimmy Evans, Dorothy Steele Hicks, Nathaniel McClean and Oscar Steele. Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist ordained Deacon Dorothy Steele Hicks as its first woman deacon. This was the first in the history of the church. Reverend Dr. Robert A. Horne, pastor of the church, guided the church through this process. Pastor Otis Byrd, pastor of Holly Springs First Baptist Church in Holly Springs, North Carolina, delivered the Ordination of Deacons sermon.

Women's Bible Study- First session was on February 27, 2006 sponsored by Total Woman's Ministry under sis Mary Evans' leadership. Class was taught by Rev. Rudi Thomas.

March 2006 Aerobics class was started at Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

March 1st - April 15th 2006- Corporate Fast by the Bazzel Creek Church family was spearheaded by Pastor Horne.

On May 21, 2006, under the leadership of Pastor, Reverend Dr. Robert A. Horne, Flight 0800 was born. This was the first early service in the history of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. The Bazzel Creek unified mass choir, under the direction of sister Gertrude Steele Judd, provided the musical foundation for this ministry. Many worshippers attended this first service.

In May 2006 the "Creek" first book club was organized under Yvonne Pace's leadership.

May-June 2006 over seventy lights were installed in the church ceiling.

Minister Hedgepeth ordination service was held on July 8, 2006. She has now gone out into the vineyard.

The "Creek's" first kickboxing class was started on Friday July 14, 2006. The instructor was Vernard K. Williams Jr.

In 2006 the church saw a need to purchase a drum set to add to the worship services. The drum was introduced on August 20, 2006. A guitar player was incorporated also.

### **The Deed History**

The deed was made on June 11, 1910 to the trustees of (Braswell Creek Church) Bazzel Creek. On December 6, 1912, the deed was finalized. When Alsey Stinson died on September 8, 1915, the deed was left in the care of his son Furman. When Furman died on June 20, 1925, his brother Shepard Lonnie moved the deed to his premises. The deed was in his family's care until the early summer of 1977.

There had been a few occasions where members of Bazzel Creek had gone to Gladys Stinson Grigsby for the deed. In the summer of 1977, Gladys told Ferman Stinson Jr. and his wife Bettie to come and get the deed, but bring one deacon with them, so they brought Deacon Milton Hicks, Jr. and his wife Dorothy. Today the deed is at the home of the late Ferman Stinson, Jr.'s home.

- Submitted by Bettie Stinson.

### **Bazzel Creek Church Continued History 2006-2007**

December 6, 2006, new deacons were elected. Deacons elect were Tony Wilson and Catherine Cooper.

One Hundred and Fortieth Church Anniversary was celebrated on September 24, 2006. Guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Gregory T. Headen and his congregation of Genesis Baptist Church in Greensboro, N. C.

Bazzel Creek's first 'away from home' Leadership Conference was held November 11, 2006 at Central Children's Home Campus, Oxford, N.C.

Sunday December 17, 2006 was Appreciation Day for Texanna

Washington who has served as Church Clerk for over 62 years. She was also honored by the Missionary Ministry on July 22, 2007.

Pastor Horne's Radio Ministry began January 1, 2007 on WCLY AM 1550 radio. (1:30-2:00) and continued each Monday throughout the year. He was formerly introduced to the WCLY listening audience on December 28, 2006 (9:00 – 10:00 am)

Bazzel Creek's second Corporate Fast began February 21, 2007 and lasted thru April 8, 2007, headed by Pastor Horne.

On August 15, 2007 Bazzel Creek's first Prison and Street Witness Ministry meeting was coordinated by Lorine Wilson and Minister Hedgepeth.

Sunday August 26, 2007, the Gospel Choir honored Bettie Stinson for serving as president of the Gospel Choir for 25 plus years.

### **March 25, 2007 Flight 0800 Update**

The pastor, Rev. Dr. Robert A. Horne had a vision to start an 8:00 am service which was the beginning of Flight 0800 on May 21, 2006. One service took flight, and on March 25, 2007 another

flight occurred. President Gertrude Judd and the Bazzel Creek Unified Mass Choir, and Lillian Spence, Head Flight Attendant, were on board and still are.

### **August 17, 2007 Rest Home Ministry Update**

In 2004 the Rest Home Ministry began with one rest home. Since that time God has blessed us with five more homes, giving us a total of six. Atwater – Apex, Brighton Manor – Fuquay, Courtyard Commons – Fuquay, Oak Hill Assistant Living – Angier, Rex Nursing Care Center – Apex, Senter Rest Home – Fuquay. Invitations are continuing to come in.

Bro. Tracy Garrett

The fourth Sunday of February, 2007, the Missionary Ministry started its first service, honoring the Seniors, 75 years and older. This event was spearheaded by Bro. Robert Earl Spence.

On Sunday September 23, 2007 we celebrated our 141<sup>st</sup> Church Anniversary. Rev. James E. Clanton Jr., members of the First Baptist Church – New Hill, and friends were our guest. We had a good service.

**Church Historian: 2005-2007**  
Beverly Stinson Utley

**Special Thanks To:**  
Timothy D. Utley  
Dorothy McKinnie, Church Publicist

Faye Garrett, Church Secretary

## **2008**

The Children's Church was started around mid-year of 2008. The first Sunday kicked off with large numbers. Children's Church is held every first and third Sunday. The children stated that they really enjoy the services. This ministry was spearheaded by Yvonne & Terry Pace and Dr. Horne.

Time has passed; souls have been saved, many loved ones have been called from labor to Glory.

We are grateful to God who has blessed us to obtain many objectives and reach new goals under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Robert A. Horne. He has been the under-shepherd of this body of baptized believers for five years.

**Church Historian: 2005-2008**  
Beverly Stinson Utley

**Special Thanks To:**  
Church Secretary, Faye Garrett

## **2009**

November 4, 2008, Barack Obama became the first African American to win the White House. The crowds chanting "Yes we can!" Barack Hussein Obama was elected the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States. The inauguration was held on January 20, 2009. Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church had members that attended this event. They said they had an amazing time at the inauguration.

### **January 1, 2008-2009**

Deacons: Bernice Barber, Jr., Catherine Cooper, Jimmy Evans, Dorothy Steele Hicks, Willard Hood, Charlie Izzard, John A. Jones, Nathaniel McLean, Robert Norris, Garland Richardson, Oscar Steele, Sr., Tony Wilson, and John R. Greene, Chairman.

### **January 1, 2008-2009**

Trustees: David Baldwin, Kathleen Battle, Kever Jackson, Catherine Jeffries, Roscoe Milton, and James Turk, Chairman. Past Chairman, Falton Judd.

## **January 22, 2009**

New Trustees were elected. Trustee Elects are Lola Booker, Wilbert Dunn and Samuel Higdon.

The "Creek's" Gospel Concert was held on February 7, 2009. The East Carolina Choir rendered the service. It was an anointed concert. St. Augusta's Praise Team of Fuquay-Varina opened up the service under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The church was set on fire. The congregation was singing and praising the Lord, because God is worthy to be praised. "What a time in the Lord."

## **April 5, 2009**

The Bazzel Creek Inspirational Choir began a food drive in order to give to the Food Pantry in Fuquay-Varina. The drive was spearheaded by Tracy Garrett.

**July 1, 2009:** New Deacons were elected. Deacon Elects are Falton Judd and Catherine Jeffries.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the New

Hope Association presented a trophy to Deacon Dorothy S. Hicks at the Annual Fellowship Banquet on July 20, 2009. This event was held at FLC, Durham, N.C. Deacon Hicks served as treasurer of this group for 16 years (1993-2009). Dr. Robert A. Horne presented this trophy again and congratulated Deacon Hicks on this accomplishment, in the Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church service on July 26, 2009. Pastor Horne said that he also knew that she had organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Fellowship Banquet 20 years ago. This endeavor has been an integral part of the Association. Bazzel Creek Baptist Church is as Associational Church.

## **August 16, 2009**

Pastor Robert A. Horne and congregation rendered service at the Generations International Fellowship Church's Family Day Celebration on Sunday August 16, 2009. GIFC is under the leadership of Rev. F. Annette Hedgepeth, who is founder and Pastor of GIFC. Rev. Hedgepeth

our sister in Christ and a former member of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

#### **August 30, 2009**

Pastor Horne saw the need to reorganize the Senior Choir, therefore, merging the Senior Choir with the Unified Mass choir and changing the name to Communion Choir. The choir sings every first Sunday, our Communion Sunday

#### **Church Historian: 2005-2009**

Beverly Utley

#### **Special Thanks To :**

Faye Garrett, Church Secretary

#### **January 1, 2009-2010**

##### **Deacons:**

Bernice Barber, Jr.,  
Catherine Cooper,  
Jimmy Evan, Jr.,  
Dorothy Steele Hicks,  
Willard Hood, Charlie Izzard,  
Catherine Jeffries, Falton Judd,  
Nathaniel McLean,  
Oscar Steele, Robert Norris, Sr. Garland Richardson, Tony

Wilson, and John R. Greene, Chairman.

#### **January 1, 2009 – 2010**

**Trustees:** David Baldwin, Kathleen Battle, Lola Booker, Wilbert Dunn, Samuel Higdon, Kever Jackson, Roscoe Milton, James Turk, past Chairman, Falton Judd, past Chairman.

#### **July 25, 2010**

Ordination services were held for Reverend Bernard Teel.

#### **July 25, 2010**

Pastor Robert A. Horne resigned as pastor of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. A going-away dinner was prepared for him in honor of his almost seven years of service.

#### **Church Historian: 2009-2010**

Beverly Utley

## Historical Highlights

Much of the history of this church can be attributed to a slave named Alsey Stinson, who acquired his father's last name who was his master. In 1866, Bro. Alsey Stinson gave Bazzel Creek its present site. Worship services were held under a "Bush Harbor" for many years.

The following pastors are listed in their order of service. Reverends Charlie Bynum, Ransom Johnson, S. L. Jones, Boaz Stewart, J. L. Crow, Lewis Hackney, Hinton Jones, Paul Yancey, B. F. Hopkins, Rufus Underwood, H. H. Hart, Lorenzo Lynch, C. P. Briley, J. H. Carroway, (Associate Pastor, Jesse Stinson, Norman T. Davis, Robert A. Horne, Latonya L. Agard.

The church named Braswell Creek was changed to Bazzel Creek before 1915. As the congregation grew, a larger religious structure was necessary to accommodate the expanding needs of this growing community. Therefore, it was inevitable that the small building be renovated. In 1915 the church was again rebuilt.

Under the leadership of Rev. Norman T. Davis (1977-2002), the members decided to renovate the old structure. On December 27, 1985, the church was destroyed by fire. While the new church was being built, church services were held at Pine Acres Community Center, and meetings were held in the Tent Hall. The rebuilding of the new structure began in June 1987. On March 6, 1988 the first services were held in the new edifice.

On November 9, 2003, Rev. Robert A. Horne (2003-2010) was installed as pastor of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. On May 21, 2006, Flight 0800 was born. This was the first early service in the history of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. The service was held every second Sunday at 8:00 am for several months. Many worshippers attended this early service. Many other ministries were formed under his capable leadership.

In April 2011, Rev. Latonya L. Agard accepted the call to become the Pastor of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. She is the first female in the history of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church to grace the pulpit as Pastor.

The members of Bazzel Creek feel 'Blessed and Highly Favored' that God chose Rev. Latonya L. Agard to watch over this portion of His sheep.

Under Pastor Agard's Leadership:

- 2011 Dance Ministry was formed
- 2012 Thanksgiving Service w/SWFCA
- 2012 Mime Ministry was formed
- 2012 Outreach Ministry was formed
- 2012 Support Circle Ministry for Homeless Families was formed
- 2012 Bathrooms were remodeled & downstairs bathroom was converted into a Handicapped Accessible bathroom. New floor was installed in the foyer.
- 2012 Completion of van garage
- 2012 Security cameras & Surveillance System installed
- 2012 Fourth Sunday Food Bank donations given by the congregation
- 2013 Drama Ministry was revived
- 2013 Youth Bible Study
- 2013 Fire Drills were put into practice
- 2013 Praise Team originated
- 2013 Youth Mission Trip to Brunswick, Georgia
- 2013 First Outreach Community Fellowship Meal
- 2013 Bazzel Creek Leadership Academy (BCLA) was formed
- 2014 Young Adult Ministry formed
- 2014 Hired Minister of Music
- 2014 Capital Campaign was instituted to generate funds for "The Vision". Plans for an addition to the church building ("The Vision") are underway.
- In October 2014 improvements to the kitchen were made by the purchase of a Commercial Range and refrigerator.
- 2014 New plumbing was installed.

2014 has been filled with extensive travel due to Pastor Agard's numerous engagements, spreading the gospel and fellowshiping with various churches in and outside of Wake County.

- Bazzel Creek was annexed to the town of Fuquay-Varina and connected to town water on January 21, 2015.

- A portion of the cemetery land belonging to GCPS Group LLC was donated to Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church and the deed received on January 12, 2015.
- Security System updated in September 2015
- Downstairs repainted and rooms retiled in September 2015
- Bazzel Creek on Facebook 2015
- Plans for a new van are underway for 2015
- Director of Leadership Academy, Felicia Epps was hired (part time) in August 2015
- Approximately 75 members of BCMBC traveled with Pastor Agard to Montgomery, Alabama to celebrate the anniversary of her grandfather, Rev. Daniel McCall, on October 2015
- Electronic Doors Installed December 22, 2015
- New Van delivered January 15, 2016
- Youth & Young Adult Choir participated in MLK Celebration-First Baptist, Fuquay, January 18, 2016
- Bazzel Creek Mass Choir sang at the Universoul Circus on March 10, 2016
- (W.O.W.) Worship on Wednesday began on April 6, 2016
- In March 2016 Bazzel Creek's Outreach Ministry participated in the building of a home in Fuquay-Varina by Habitat for Humanity. In May, 2016, the Outreach Ministry also prepared and served lunch for volunteers working with Habitat for Humanity.
- Bazzel Creek celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary on Saturday, September 24, and Sunday, September 25, 2016. A Bush Harbor Jubilee was celebrated on Saturday with various games, food, the Fuquay Cruisers Car Club, music, etc. A play, **"If the Lord is Willing and the Creek Don't Rise,"** written by Shirley Williams-McClain, depicting the history of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church, was presented by the Drama Ministry on Saturday night. Sunday morning began with a fiery message from our pastor, Rev. Latonya L. Agard. The afternoon message was delivered by guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, Pastor of Mt Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Salisbury, NC, and President of the General Baptist State Convention of NC. Two former preachers, Rev. Norman T. Davis and Rev. Robert A. Horne, took part in the celebration. William Harris,



Commissioner, Rick Beech, Habitat for Humanity, and Carl Trice, Mortician, were participants also.

- September 2016, the Sound Booth was updated to improve the quality of the sound and transferred to an overflow room; allowing for more room in the back of the sanctuary.
- We celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> Homecoming on Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 11:00 am. Rev. Malcolm Eatmon, pastor of Arc of Faith Church, Raleigh, NC, delivered the Homecoming message.
- April 8, 2018. A groundbreaking ceremony was held to signify the beginning of an addition to the existing church.
- A baby nursery was installed in the Sanctuary in April 2018.
- May 25, 2018. Grading for the new addition to the church began.
- February 17, 2019. The Ugandan Kids Choir was a part of our Heritage Day Celebration.
- Sunday, June 2, 2019 the Ribbon Cutting and celebration for the new extension was held during morning worship. The administrative offices, multipurpose room and bathrooms are housed in the new addition. An elevator was installed, as well as screens and cameras in the sanctuary.
- Due to the Corona Virus outbreak, Sunday, March 8, 2020 was the last Sunday for indoor worship until..... Morning Worship, Bible Study, Daily Prayer & Fellowship Calls and some ministry meetings went virtual. Live streaming and conference calls was the new normal for the church family.
- August 31, 2020, Rev. Dr. Latonya L. Agard resigned from Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church.
- Rev. Gyasi A. Patterson, MDiv., ACPE Certified Educator and Director of Pastoral Care Services UNC Rex Healthcare, served as interim pastor from October 2020 until Saturday February 26, 2022, when he was elected as pastor of Bazzel Creek Missionary Baptist Church. His first sermon as Pastor-Elect was entitled, "It's All About Me". (You had to be there). Installation Service for Rev. Patterson was held Sunday, June 5, 2022. The morning message was delivered by Rev. John R. Lemons, Faith Community Church, Durham, NC. Afternoon message was delivered by Rev. Dr. Reginald U. Lowery, First Baptist Church, Fuquay-Varina, NC.

# HISTORY OF PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH 1820 - 1982

Piney Grove Baptist Church was established in 1820 and the land was given by John H. Burt, W.P. Burt, and Alfred Burt.

No official record of the church has been located for the period 1820-1869 other than word of mouth. The story goes like this: A small church building, log structure, stood across the road from the present building. At the time, there was no railroad. The road in front of the church was a deep sandy road. During the days of slavery the Black people attended this same little church. There was a partition to separate the Black and the White, but they listened to the same preacher preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. The slaves names were recorded on the same church roll. In 1869, there were eight Black members. The Black people later organized a church near Wilbon which they named "Bazzel Creek".

The following minutes are the first of any known record:

The church held its stated meeting Saturday before the first Lord's Day in January 1870. The pastor being absent, Brother A.N. Campbell officiated. The preliminary items attended to in their regular order. Minutes of the last conference read and approved. The clerk presented the book which he was authorized to purchase-price \$1.75. Bro. U.B. Price assigned as sexton and Bro. A.B. Betts appointed in line. The secretary was appointed church treasurer.

Closed in order,

J.C. Ballentine  
Church Clerk