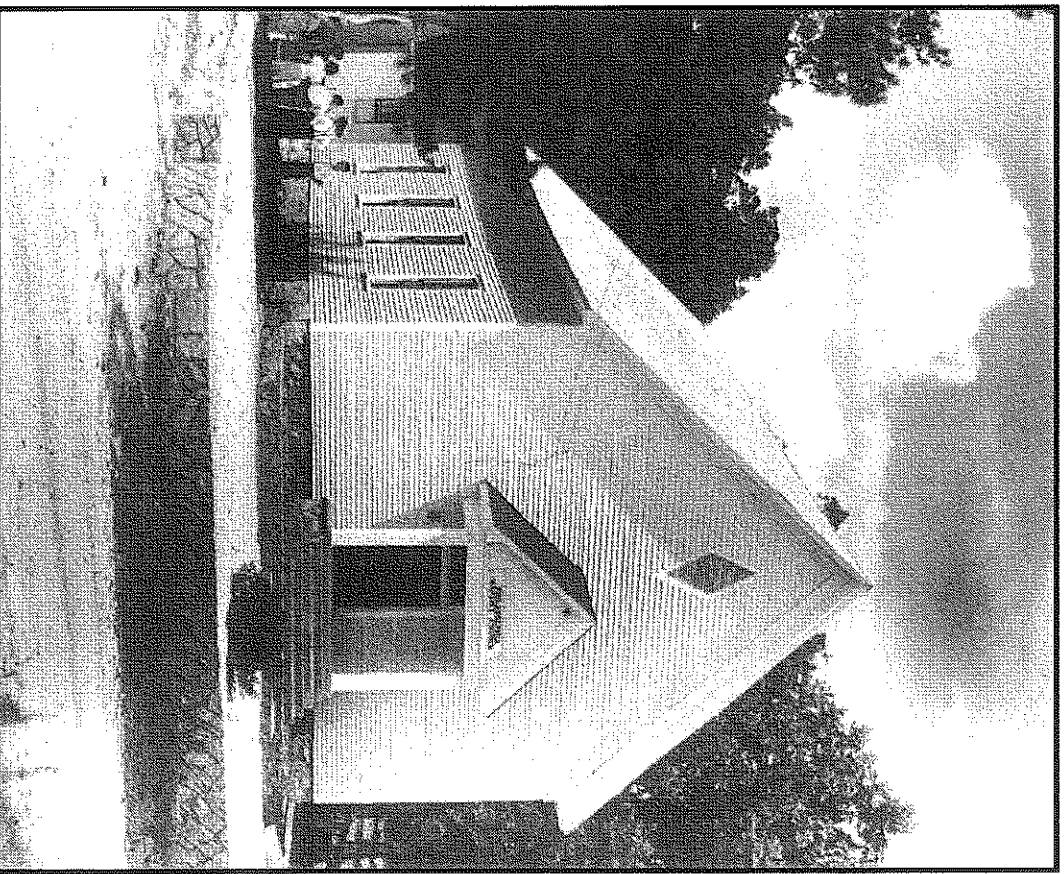
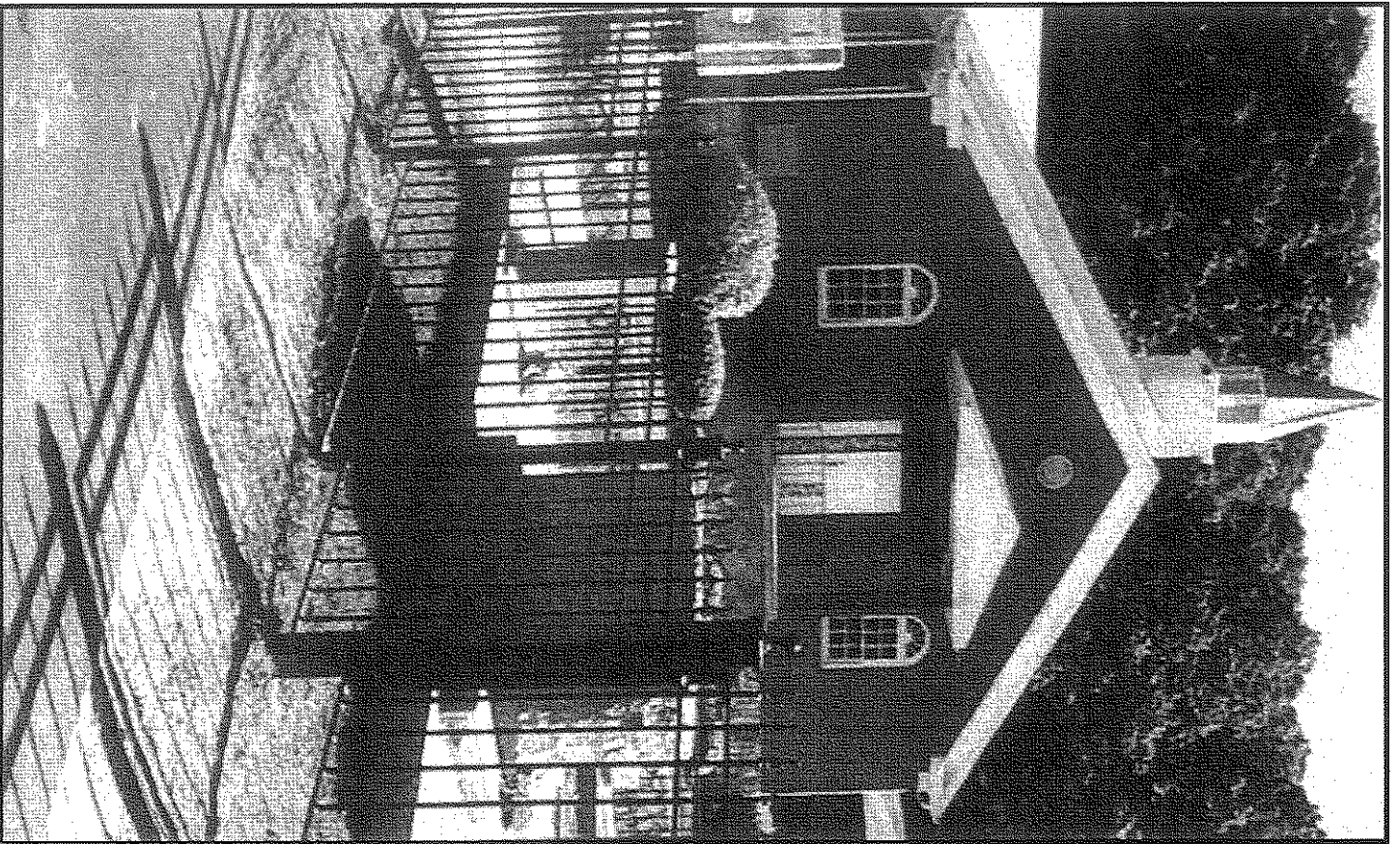


Philadelphia Baptist Church

Celebrating 130 years



June 27, 2004

Welcome to Homecoming
on Philadelphia's 130th Birthday.

Today we dedicate our newly refurbished
cemetery grounds on the
occasion of its 100th Birthday.

To those who have gone on before us and
left their legacy of sacrifice, service and love,
we dedicate this brief church history.

- Dr. Ceil Ethersedge

One hundred and thirty years ago, a group
of believers started a great work. It was
a work of integrity and personality. The
family names still ring out loud of the men
and women who believed in the purpose
of Philadelphia Baptist Church-to be a
light in the Klondike community. It is good
to see the work still going forward. My
family and I are happy to be included in the
contemporary history of "The Open Door
Church" as we continue the work of winning
our community to Jesus Christ.

- A Servant of the Kingdom of God,
Rev. Michael R. Pigg

The History of Philadelphia Baptist Church 1874-1900

On June 28, 1874, Brother J.S. Allen, a missionary from the Stone Mountain Association, and Brother Oliver Reagin assisted a group of people in organizing The Philadelphia Baptist Church, with Brother Reagin being elected as pastor. The six charter members were:

W.W. Williams	Mary J. Argo
Marilda Rogers	John C. Stephenson
	Sarah Williams
	J.T. Shaw

In August 1874, the first revival was held with the church receiving twenty-three new members by experience of faith. The new members were:

Nancy Stephenson	E.D. Jenkins	William H. Powell
Judah Wright	J.D. Johnson	R.M. Leftwich
Elizabeth J. Parker	Edwin O. Reagin	George J. Shaw
Sarah J. Stephenson	Thomas C. Homes	J.H. New
Sallie Warren	Nancy J. Shaw	Columbus A. Manning
William H. Shaw	Harriett A. Warren	Henry D. Stephenson
James M. Wright	Amanda P. Leftwich	Thomas H. Warren
Harriett A. Wright		

On October 30, 1874 a committee was appointed to select a site for the church, now being held in Powell School House. It was decided to purchase the old Smyrna Presbyterian Church building located about one mile from our present church property, on the left of Bertline Drive on the Phillip Housworth property. This was a one room, unceiled, crudely build structure that was build around 1824. It was a 20x30 ft. log building with a pulpit in one end a fireplace in the other.

The name of the church was changed on May 1, 1875 to Powell Springs Baptist Church, but on June 5, 1879, it was voted to change back to the original name of Philadelphia Baptist Church and then became a member of the Old Second Georgia Association. The church joined the South River Association in 1895.

On January 14, 1899, the church voted to relocate. There was a 19 to 6 vote in favor of the Powell location for a new building. On January 15, 1899, there was an 18 to 5 vote in favor of wood material rather than a stone building.

In the summer of 1900, it was decided to build a new church and the committee secured the present site for \$25.00, \$10.00 of which had to be borrowed. The members donated a great deal of the material and labor used in constructing the building which was a one-room structure costing about \$500.00. The building was dedicated on November 18, 1900.

The History of Philadelphia Baptist Church 1901-1927

The South River Association organized the first WMS on September 20, 1911. On November 21, 1911, the first Sunbeam Band was organized. Miss Lecta Robertson was elected the first WMS president and Mrs. J.A. Ford was the vice-president. Contributions for the first year were \$6.90. Dues were five cents per month.

In 1912, the church withdrew from the South River Association and joined the Stone Mountain Association, with which it is still affiliated.

The WMS collected \$5.75 and a small boy from an orphan home was sponsored. His name was Burdis Taylor and he was seven years old.

On February 27, 1915 the Y.W.A.'s was organized with Miss Berta Goddard as president and Miss Louell Rooks as vice-president. In the spring of 1922, the first B.Y.P.U. was organized.

The church gave \$3.60 to state missions in 1916, \$3.00 to home missions and \$4.20 to foreign missions. The total missions offering for that year was \$12.95.

The History Of Philadelphia Baptist Church 1928-1954

In 1935, four classrooms were partitioned off for use as Sunday school rooms, two on each side of the pulpit. The church was wired for electricity in 1939, but continued to use wood stoves for heating.

In 1945, the deacons were instructed by the church to raise funds in order to build a baptistry in the church. The project was not complete until sometime in early 1947.

Brother T. H. Howell was called as pastor in 1946. In December of that year, the church began having services every Sunday, except on the fifth Sunday of each month. This was the first step toward becoming a full-time church. Prior to this, services were held only on one or two Sunday afternoons per month.

In September of 1947, the first Brotherhood was organized. Sam Potts served as the first president. On October 19, 1947, plans were begun for building an annex to provide additional Sunday school rooms and a kitchen and dining room combination. In July of 1951, the Brotherhood was authorized to plan and sponsor the building of a pastorium on the church property.

The church began having Sunday morning and evening services in August of 1951, still with the exception of the fifth Sunday. In September of the same year, the church went into full-time service having morning and evening services every Sunday. An annex was added in January of 1954 to provide five additional Sunday school rooms.

Construction started on November 10, 1955 of a new brick church with a full basement to be used for Sunday school rooms. The dedication ceremony was held on June 24, 1956. This is the church building that is present today. The loan was granted on March 28, 1956 and the payment each month was \$240.00.

The History of Philadelphia Baptist Church 1955-1981

In 1959, Philadelphia Baptist Church, along with Mountain View Baptist Church and Indian Creek Baptist, co-sponsored a mission located in the Wesley Chapel school building. The mission was given the name of Chapel Hill Baptist and Rev. H.E. Pitard was the first pastor. The church was later constituted as Chapel Heights Baptist Church located on Snappinger Road.

The church sponsored a second mission on January 21, 1962. The mission was located at the intersection of Highways 155 and 138 in Henry County. Services were held in an old house. It was named High View Baptist Mission. Rev. Stanley Cheeley was ordained on November 11, 1962 becoming the first pastor. The church was later constituted High View Baptist Church, which is located on Fairview Road in Stockbridge, Georgia.

The note on the new building was burned on June 23, 1963 at 3:30pm. Raymond Robertson held the plate for burning. Rev. H.E. (Bill) Pitard held the note. Rev. K.L. Payton struck the match to set the fire and Rev. Ralph Bartlett had the closing prayer.

The church purchased the adjoining property from Brother Lamar Gattis in 1964. This home was converted into an educational annex. In 1965, Brother Lon White's property was purchased and remodeled into a new parsonage. This property was located on the corner of South Goddard and Klondike Road. The old parsonage that was located on the church property was then converted into a nursery.

Brother Lewis Merritt sold his property in 1971 to be used as additional parking areas. During the year of 1973, the total missions gifts were \$8,590.00. In 1974, the parking area and driveways were asphalted. Also, the Hooper Patillo family asphalted the drive around the cemetery. There were many other changes that took place in 1974. They were: a new master address was purchased to aide mailing; new light fixtures were donated to beautify the sanctuary, the first paid Music Director and Youth Director was employed and the first paid custodian. On September 8, 1974 the church celebrated its Centennial. There were all day festivities with members dressing up and having food. Decorations were done as closely to resemble 1874 as possible. A three-day revival followed which former pastors led.

In 1975, the church sponsored its first Men's softball team. The church elected a long-range planning and survey committee. Mr. Henry Whitehead and associates were employed to complete the survey. The church purchased a 16mm projector and stand. The long-range planning group began working for the new building being made. In 1977, the sanctuary was renovated. New carpet was purchased, it was painted and pads were added to the pews. The church participated in the Bold Mission Thrust Program. The construction on the new Sunday school annex began in October of 1977 and was completed by April of 1978. The cost was \$84,000.

The "Old Klondike School Building-Gattis Building" was demolished in April of 1978. The Alan Conner fund was established in April 1978. Alan Conner is the son of Carolyn and Perry Conner. The fund was created while Alan was awaiting a kidney transplant, which he later received. His brother, Todd, donated one of his kidneys.

In 1978, children's church began by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Smallwood. The church also purchased a new grand piano for the sanctuary.

During the year of 1980, the church sponsored a summer recreation program to be conducted on Saturdays. A ministry to senior citizens and shut-ins was organized as well as a tape ministry. The church began giving \$50.00 monthly support to the McCart family on the mission field. The basement rooms of the church were renovated which included: painting, adding new-carpet and air conditioning. The church sponsored the pastor on a mission trip to New York. The church van was purchased for the Youth and Senior Citizen programs. The library was renovated and named the "Sam Potts Library." The first full-time nursery workers were hired. The children's Sunshine Choir was organized and the parking lot on the left of the church was established.

A duplicating machine was purchased in 1981. There were four signs installed on roads near the church. The first deacon retreat was held at Camp Fortson in Hampton, Georgia. The church also purchased a new vacuum cleaner that year.

The History of Philadelphia Baptist Church 1982-2004

In 1982, the church gave \$1,000.00 to Calvary Baptist Church, Adirondack Association in Canton, New York. The church established handicapped and visitor areas in the parking lot.

The church participated in the "Feeding the Hungry" campaign in 1983 at Big Bethel Baptist Church in Atlanta. We helped sponsor the Honey Creek Baptist Mission giving \$300.00 per month until the church was able to sustain itself financially. The mission was later named Trinity Baptist Church on October 2, 1983 and was constituted June 3, 1984 at 3:00pm.

Safeguard Business Systems began doing the bookkeeping of the church in 1984. Philadelphia purchased playground equipment and had it installed on the church property. During the year of 1984, these events also occurred: participated in the Lithonia Crusade held in a big tent in Lithonia, sold the church bus, purchased color television, video player/recorder and tapes, church participated in the Christian Employment Corp., and a church-wide picnic was held on July 28th. In 1985, the sanctuary was renovated with a new sound system. The sanctuary was dedicated on June 23, 1985. The church also participated in the second Lithonia Crusade, which was held at Lithonia Park. During 1986, members in the church donated a 40-inch television and an electric typewriter. A Montessori school was operated for nine months and the church sponsored a Girl Scout troop. We participated in the "Good News America" and "God Loves You" simultaneous revival. We also participated in the Third Greater Lithonia Life and Light Crusade and continued its participation in the Christian Employment Cooperative.

During the year from June 1987 to June of 1988, there were several events that were recorded in history. They were as follows: the basement was renovated at a cost of \$25,000; the pavilion was built at a cost of \$10,000, which was both dedicated on September 20, 1987. The active board of deacons expanded from 9 to 12 members. The choir, which was under direction of Sam Dunaway, performed "It is Well", on November 15, 1987, "He'll Find a Way", featuring Hazel Howell, in March of 1988 and "All Rise" in May of the same year. The library was relocated to the basement and a burglar alarm system was installed for approximately \$1200. The music department secured temporarily, Robert Strickland, an accomplished pianist. Larry Ellington, a student at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, was hired for the summer months. The

16 youth raised approximately \$6,200 for the Van Project.

The membership recorded during 1988 was 460 members and the total offerings for the year of 1987 was \$158,000.00. Members of Philadelphia Baptist Church were concerned about missions. The church had already supported three mission churches which all became self-supporting churches. The church gave 18% of the undesignated offerings to missions through the Cooperative Program. The church was also able to purchase a 15-passenger van during 1989. Rev. Harry Wootan served as interim pastor until February 19, 1989 when Dr. J. Murray Edwards was called as pastor. During the summer of 1989, Dr. Edwards's family moved and the church assisted financially with the move. The year of 1989 brought on many more changes, which came from the growth of the church. The church entered into a contract to lease a new Ricoh copy machine, the former pastorium was renovated at a cost of \$4,500.00 and additional communion trays were purchased from a church in our area that disbanded. The music department produced six major concerts throughout the year. They were "Sunday Night Live", which featured a special emphasis to raise funds for new hymnals-the hymnals were in the pews the next Sunday! "A Mighty Fortress is our God" and "A Christmas Festival" closed out the year of 1989. In February of 1990, the Adult Choir performed "Undivided", which featured Keith Beatty and orchestra with special artist Kathy Seibert. In April on Easter Sunday night, Hazel Howell packed the sanctuary for "Jesus, the One and Only" and on May 20th, the Adult Choir performed "Praise Him" with guest artist Jackie Benson. The program was filled with tunes from the past decade as the church celebrated Sam Dunaway's tenth anniversary as music director.

During the year from June of 1990 until June of 1991, the church had several projects to improve facilities and grounds. A new refrigerator was purchased for the church kitchen, a new lighted sign was erected in front of the church, a new roof was put on the church building, new phones were purchased for the church office, the vestibule was refurbished and grass seed was sown on the church lawn.

The church had a great fall revival in 1990 with Norman Hunt as evangelist, and in February, Fred Overton, Jr. taught a very inspirational conference on "Biblical Reliability."

This year also witnessed the beginning of the Right Step ministry in our church. It is a support group for those members who have an alcohol or chemical abuse problem. In addition to the regular class fellowships and activities, the church also enjoyed some great picnics as a church family, and the annual Hallelujah party (alternative to Halloween), as well as the Senior Adult banquet which were all very successful. The church ball teams also provided many hours of fun and excitement for our youth and children.

The youth had two great retreats during this year. In the summer, they traveled to Orlando, Florida for a weeklong recording project with the Prism Music Company, which they helped supply vocals for the new youth musical "Light Your World." In the fall, they traveled to the North Georgia Mountains for a weekend of learning about the family of Jesus Christ. The young people also did a superb job of assuming leadership on Youth Sunday in March.

This year the music department presented seven major events to praise our risen Savior. Each one featured fine singers and instrumentalists each sharing their talents for the Lord.

Another highlight of this year was the experiment with an early worship service on Sunday morning. The effort was very successful and well attended, and plans were made to provide this additional service again beginning in the fall of 1991. During this year, Philadelphia received 32 new members by baptism and

16 by transfer of membership from sister churches.

As the next two years came to pass, Philadelphia Baptist Church continued to grow in many ways. The church received 16 new members by profession of faith and 12 other additions, bringing the total membership to 535 members by June of 1994. The Celebration Singers (the name of the choir) now had 40 voices. They performed for eight concerts and had a live orchestra at four of those. Even the nursery grew enough to purchase six new baby beds.

The church made the decision to continue participation in new missions by sponsoring the New Friends Baptist Mission with Lorenzo Crawford as pastor. He was ordained on May 29th.

A Summer Children's Ministry was organized with Neil Burfin as the summer minister. He directed children's events, enlisted workers, helped the church staff and conducted "Back Yard Bible Clubs." Neil would soon be added to the church staff as part-time Children's Minister.

One very meaningful highlight of this year was the commitment of the teens to remain sexually pure until marriage. Seventeen young people signed a "True Love Wats" commitment card. Those were sent to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando where they were displayed along with 102,000 more cards from young people across the nation.

During 1995, Gerald Johnson was employed as part-time Minister of Education. He had served as a pastor in California.

There were many changes in the area of growth. They were: The Oak Grove Junction store and adjoining seven acres of land was leased. The store building, which was called "The Rock", was utilized as a youth ministry facility and as the meeting place for our mission, New Friends Baptist. The land was graded and prepared by volunteers to make a softball field, a "Junior Church" was added to provide older children with a worship time designed especially for them, the "Celebration Singers" grew to 51 strong and performed nine major concerts. The Youth Ministry grew to having an average attendance of twenty and was very active attending conferences and youth events.

Some of the improvements to the church during the year included replacing the air conditioning in the pastorium, worship center and educational building and also repairing and striping the parking lot at a cost of \$3,706.00.

The highlights of 1996 include bringing Jeff Nelms on staff as the part-time Minister of Outreach, the "Celebration Singers" growing to 52 members and we received 48 new members within this year, 30 of which were by baptism.

The church elected a "Property Search Task Force" to find a suitable location for a future church facility that would allow space for expansion. This task force would find property on Hwy. 212 in Dekalb County and the church purchased for a future site for building. The church paid \$199,000 for this property.

Also during 1998, the church acquired a modular building (trailer) that would help with the need of more Sunday school space. Volunteer workers repaired and refurbished the trailer. The church office was modernized with a new computer software system for managing church records and a new copy machine was leased. Marie McElroy was hired as financial secretary and all financial data was kept on the computer. "Team Kid" was added to the Wednesday night agenda for our Children's ministry. Jeff Nelms was ordained for gospel ministry and as the associate pastor, he developed the discipleship ministries of the church. The church added 15 new members by transfer of letter and 20 new Christians by baptism.

From 1999-2003, there was no official history recorded. After a division of the church, Rev. Ken Kirby was called to lead Philadelphia an interim pastor. He led the church from 2000 - 2002. In 2002, Dr. Cecil Etheredge was voted in as new pastor. The property that the church purchased on Hwy. 212 in 1998 was sold for \$600,000. The church commissioned a "Vision Team" to continue searching for property for a new church. The purpose of this team was to seek God's vision for Philadelphia's purpose in the existing community. The demographics of the community changed to predominately black. During 2003, the church voted to call the first black staff member to Philadelphia Baptist Church. The church voted Rev. Michael Pigg in unanimously. His family relocated from Charleston, S.C. In April 2004, Ken Weathersby and his family joined the church. This was the first time that a member of the North American Missions Board joined the Philadelphia family.

The church commissioned a "Missions Research Team" in May of 2004. Their purpose is to acquire a location for a mission church. During this year, we have accomplished many things. Dr. Etheredge and Rev. Pigg have worked closely together to continue the work of the Vision Team. The "Mission Field" which is the community surrounding the church, have felt the arms of Philadelphia Baptist Church surrounding them by inviting them into the open door to God's kingdom. The church has grown by adding members from the black community. There are many ministries that are working to reach out to the existing church family as well as the community. Our cemetery has undergone renovation by building a beautiful fence surrounding our loved ones. The cemetery will be dedicated on June 27th, its 100th year in existence.

As we celebrate our 130th year on June 27, 2004 we are praying for guidance for our future. We are seeking God's will for continued growth and prosperity. Under the leadership of Dr. Cecil Etheredge and Rev. Michael Pigg, we can look toward tomorrow knowing who we are while remembering the blessings of our yesterdays.

Pastors of Philadelphia Baptist Church

1874-1880	Oliver Reagin
1881-1882	C.C. White
1883-1886	G.M. Phillips
1886-1887	Richard Floyd
1887-1891	H.H. Buckhaman
1892-1893	George Adams
1893-1894	Tom Jackson
1895-1896	G.W. Owens
1897-1901	T.J. Bledsoe
1902-	W.T. Grenade
1903-	J.W. Combs
1904-1909	J.I. Stephenson
1910-1911	J.H. Waller
1912-1917	T.E. McCutchen
1918-	J.A. Raizer
1919-1925	J.I. Stephenson
1926-1927	H.O. Fowler
1928-1933	W.H. Wages
1934-	D.T. Buice
1935-1937	W.M. Albert
1938-1942	C.C. Buckalew
1943-1944	Earl Fuller
1945-	C.C. Duncan
1945-	C.G. Johnson
1946-1950	T.H. Howell
1951-1952	W.A. Richardson
1953-1954	Ralph Bartlett
1954-1959	Howard E. Pittard
1960-1963	Kenneth L. Payton
1963-1972	Carl L. Lunsford
1972-	Jack Hanberry
1972-1977	Leon Anthony, Jr.
1978	D.D. Harris (Interim)
1978	Charles Worthy (Interim)
1978-1979	Wade Rollins
1979-	Howard Pittard (Interim)
1979-1988	Dr. Kenneth Z. Holt
1988-1989	Harry Wooten (Interim)
1989-2000	Dr. J. Murray Edwards
2000-2002	Ken Kirby
2002-Present	Dr. Cecil Etheredge

Licensed and Ordained by Philadelphia Baptist Church

R. O. Robertson	Licensed	September 1921
Stanley Cheeley	Licensed	August 1953
Aubray White	Licensed	August 1953
Charles Quick	Ordained	February 1959
Stanley Cheeley	Ordained	November 1962
Ernie Willis	Ordained	November 1977
Larry Ellington	Ordained	November 1988
Lorenzo Crawford	Ordained	May 1994
Jeff Nelms	Ordained	August 1997
Kevin Hansknecht	Ordained	November 1998
Nelson Goddard	Licensed	December 1998

Music Ministry

The following are the music directors who have served at Philadelphia Baptist Church:

Alan Smith	1974
Brother Czapalinski	1974
Joe Kiser	1974
Kenneth Parker	1975
Ray Carder	1976-1979
Eddy Thomason	1980
Sam Dunaway	1980-present

Deacons who have served Philadelphia Baptist Church

Bob Beatty	Frank Haynes	John Simpkins
Keith Beatty	Douglas Helms	Vernon Simpkins
David Brand	John Hickey	Paul Simpson
De Bryant	Ed Hodge	J. A. Stephenson, Jr.
Neil Burnfin	Bobby Housworth	John Stephenson
Ray Burnfin	Grady Housworth	Clyde Stephenson
Brian Cagle	Pete Keel	Harry Stockdale
Raymond Carder	Kevin Kelley	Buddy Tucker
Douglas Choplin	Doug Lauritsen	Leon Ward
Harvey Conner	J. J. Leftwich	Dee Whitaker
Perry Conner	Billy Lyon	J.E. White
Jim Davis	Harold Lyon	Jack White
Marion Davis	Ernest Mann	L. B. White
Bob Dorn	Mark Mann	Don Wood
Ron Duvall	Clyde Merritt	M. J. Wright
Lamar Gattis	Edd Mitchell	
Amos Goddard	Tom Morgan	
Clark Goddard	James Morris	
Eugene Goddard	Jeff Nelms	
Marvin Goddard	Tom Nichols	
Nelson Goddard	Barry Parker	
V.B. Goddard	Kenneth Parker	
Harold Gross	Randy Peppers	
James Hammonds	Clarence Pointer	
L. A. Harper, Sr.	Sam Potts	
David Hawkes	Michael Reagin	

This is a copy of a newsletter that was once circulated
in the Klondike community.

SPARK from LIGHT
K L O N D I K E
BY

Margaret Abbott - Connie Robertson

Klondike news is now going on the press. Same song, second verse, as pin
back your ears hold on to your hat or something.

First on the list is Religion. Revival begins at Philadelphia Baptist
Church Sunday, August 18th. All are cordially invited to attend. Hope we ain't
kidding. Anyway you can be talking and praying about it. We'll be thinking
of you.

Maas Dorothy Lyon is very sick. She is at Emory University Hospital.
Wallace Lyon is coming to be with his sister. The Red Cross is trying to get
him home. We hope that very soon she will be O.K. again.

Roger Wallace from the Mary spent an enjoyable weekend at home with his
parents. Clark Goddard has been home for a few days before taking a little
trip. We give you the details later. His brothers and sisters gave him an
ice cream supper on Friday night. You know he only have a few.

Rachel Robertson got her driver's license. We just hope she doesn't
kill anyone the first thing or hear up her Pappy's car. Watch out poor
little dogs, cats, rabbits, or ~~something~~! Each she will be able to lead
you now.

Mr. George Goddard and Mr. Vol Goddard are celebrating their birthdays
together at the residence of Vol Sunday. We wonder how many candles will be on
the cakes? They won't tell us, we bet.

Mr. Clyde Kerrett hasn't found a place with good-looking girls in it, so
we presume that he is still selling. Of course we don't know. And if we don't
who does.

Andrew Abbott (Bud) and Lonnie Jousworth are now working at Big Star.
They are in the West Market. There are a few hints going around that they
might start keeping house pretty soon. They say the girls are O.K. at Big
Star. Yes, Elizabeth Kerrett works there too. Why me and Connie don't.

Well, boys it is now time for us to take up where we left off several days ago. So much has happened around here until we just haven't gotten around to this paper.

The Festival is over at Philadelphia and it was really a swell R-E-V-I-V-A-L. The Factor's Family did the singing and they can really sing. That girl can make a piano talk. (Sister, she's cute too). Five new additions to the Church were: Martha Sue (Booby) Robertson, Elizabeth Robertson, Betty Jean Houseworth, Derwood Sims, and Bobby Houseworth. They were baptized at the Indian Creek Church in the Bahamas. (Just between us that is the artificial swimming hole).

Clyde finally arrived in the Aeolian Islands. They told him there was a girl behind every tree. But the good part about the matter is that there wasn't a tree to be found. Hei Hai!
We regret to report that Miss Dorothy Lyon had to leave us for the other world. Our deepest sympathy goes with the family.

Jack White got him another new stripe. He is now three up and two down in other words a Top Sergeant. Ernest Clark is also Top Sergeant. CONGRATULATIONS!!
Helen and Nancy Goddard journeyed down Mason way to Camp Wheeler and spent Sunday with their husbands. Pvt. Roy Goddard and Pvt. Curtis Goddard.

Clark Goddard is now sailing the deep blue sea. Wonder where he will land?
P/Sgt. Bill Powell will soon be married to an English girl. We don't know the details yet but will let you know all about it as soon as we get the inside dope on it. Oh yeah! He sent home for some more "-----" er er anyhow those little pink "unmentionables". Ah, you know what we're talking about.

We are happy to announce the arrival of a fat baby boy to Pvt. and Mrs. Audrey White. Audrey came home for several days.
Pvt. Raymond Fitcher and Gordon spent last week-end at home.

A bunch of us old maids went to the show last night. Oh yes! We carried two men along. W-S-L-L, they will be men. Give them a chance. It was Lewis Herritt and Lewis Stephenson. The picture was "Uncertain Glory", a war picture and we enjoyed it.

The watermelons and cantaloupes have been very good this year. They have been so plentiful we have been hauling them down to the river and dumping them to get rid of them. Poor fish. Hei Hai! (Why did you believe it?)

Thanks to all of you boys who have written us telling how much you enjoyed our first issue of this "Paper". We enjoyed fixing it up. If it gets so silly for you let us know. Also if you have any suggestions please send them.

P.S. FLASH!!! FLASH!!! LATE BULLETIN-- JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT J.A. HAS JUST BEEN MADE P.F.C.

Incidentally, if any of you feel a poem coming over you writes it down and send it to us and we'll put it in the paper.

Margaret is done Got two teeth lost. The old cow kicked two teeth plumb out of her mouth. She had to stay off work about a week. Kam always told her not to sit so close up under a cow when milking. Not Hei! Serious though she like to have died. She (na) went to the Dentist at Stone Mountain (Dr. Tuglie). Mr. Vel Abbott had two pulled and came home that very night and took a chew of Brown Tule Tobacco. Violet also had two pulled. We two had five. And I do mean fives.

Lennie Houseworth is riding high now. He has him a car now. It is a B-Model. Oh! Boy! now he can court Elizabeth in style.

P.F.C. J.A. Goddard finally landed in New Guinea. We hope he and Sam run across each other. By the way we heard (from Sam) that there are some right nice looking women over there. (Natives). They dress lovely. Grass skirts.

Pvt. and Mrs. Jim Steambridge are happy to announce the birth of a little baby girl. He is home on furlough at present.

Pvt. J.A. Stephenson Jr. has been moved to France. He said business was too slow in England. That is the first time he has been in a place and has plenty of money in his pockets. Can't even give the stuff away.

We had planned to ask Mr. R.O. Robertson about some news from Klondike and sure enough when we got home he had made the news of the day. He fell off a scaffolding while covering a house. His foot is severely dislocated. He just wanted to rest while his wife kept the store. One way of getting a vacation. But not a very pleasant one. He thing he will be O.K. He'll be wanting to go back to the Hospital for more than a few hours just to get one of those nurses to give him ether. Or is the ether what he's interested in? Jim Kiss (weir) and Carl Goddard also got a fall at the same time. However, they were only skinned and are sorta still from the fall.

Viola Stephenson went to see Clyde this week-end. Boy! ain't she lucky to have a Man to go see.

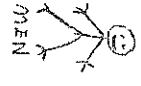
Fred Abbott is on his way over there. He had been transferred to the Marines. His brother Hubert is moving around over there so any of you boys might bump into him just any time. He gets around you know.

School starts here in ole Georgia Tuesday. All the little kids are getting ready to go back. They are even getting new shoes with their precious ribbon stamp. I wonder how some are going to get their big feet in such little shoes. Miss Rachel Robertson and Miss Elizabeth are going to The Big City to get glasses. So they won't have any excuse not to study. We wonder what they will make up this time. Just between us we think if they thought about something besides the boys they could make it O.K.

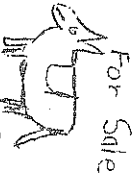
On the next page you will find ads from old Klondike. If any of you have any advertising to be done just send it to us and will print it along with complete illustrations. Specially if you want to advertise for a WOMAN. We'll draw a picture.

"WANT ADS"

By The Klondike Women -



Money



For Sale

Male - 15 yrs. old
See Hulien Kerrefte

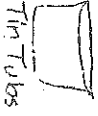


Corn - By Don L.

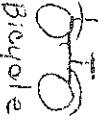
B. Macel
CAR. 134
Kornie H.



Tender Stake
R. O. Robertson - Gen. Mdse.



Tin Tubs



Bicycle

Wanted

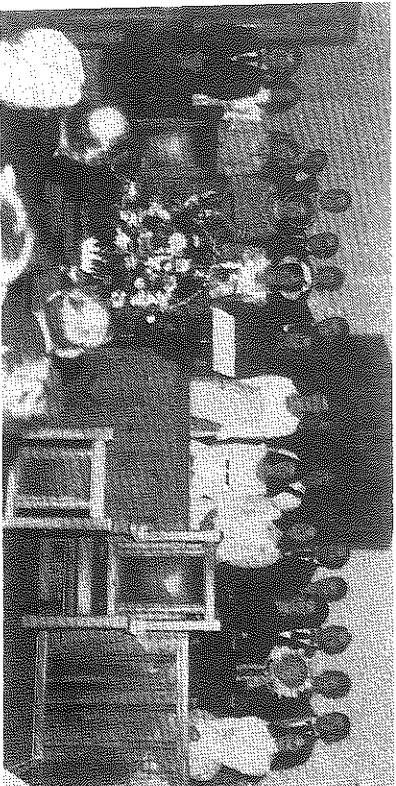
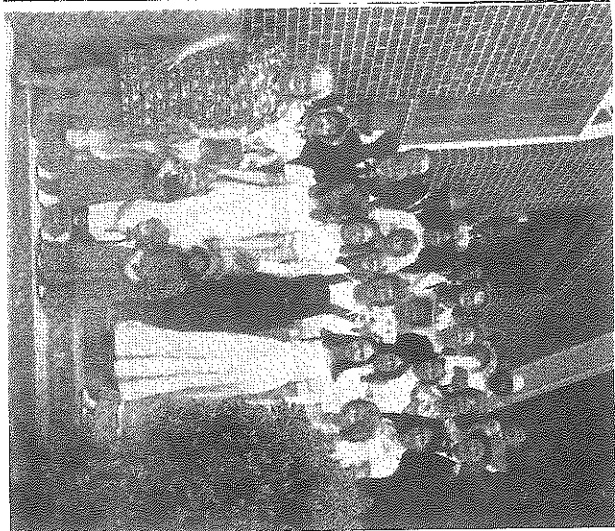
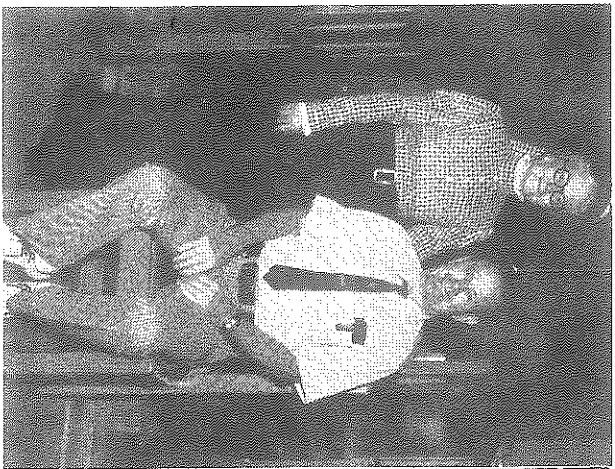


Letters from Soldiers
By Connie + Margon

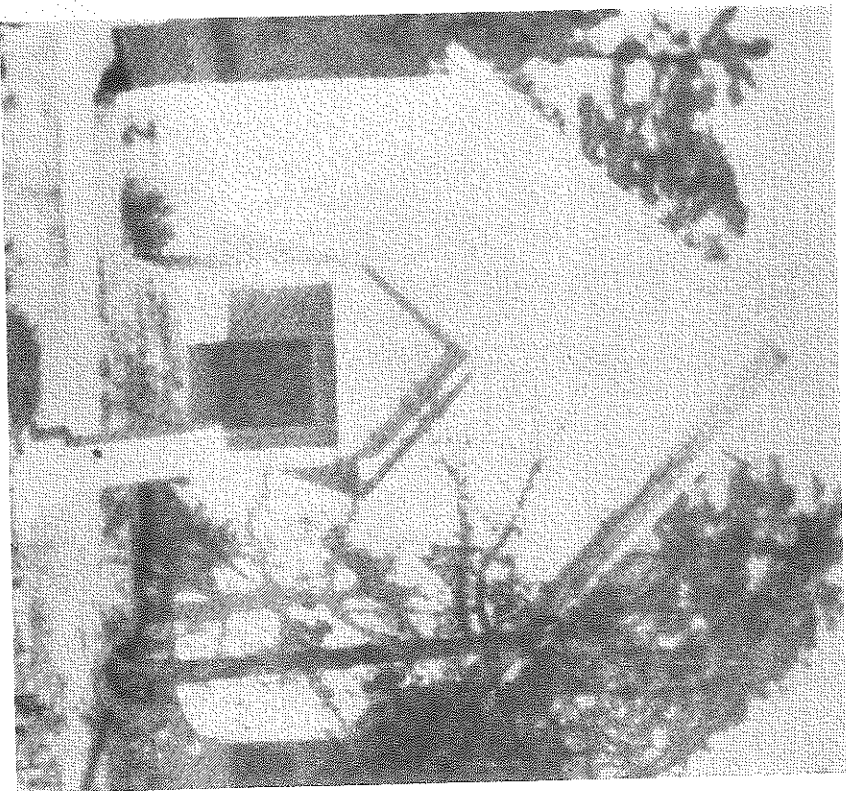
"No. 1"
Blot



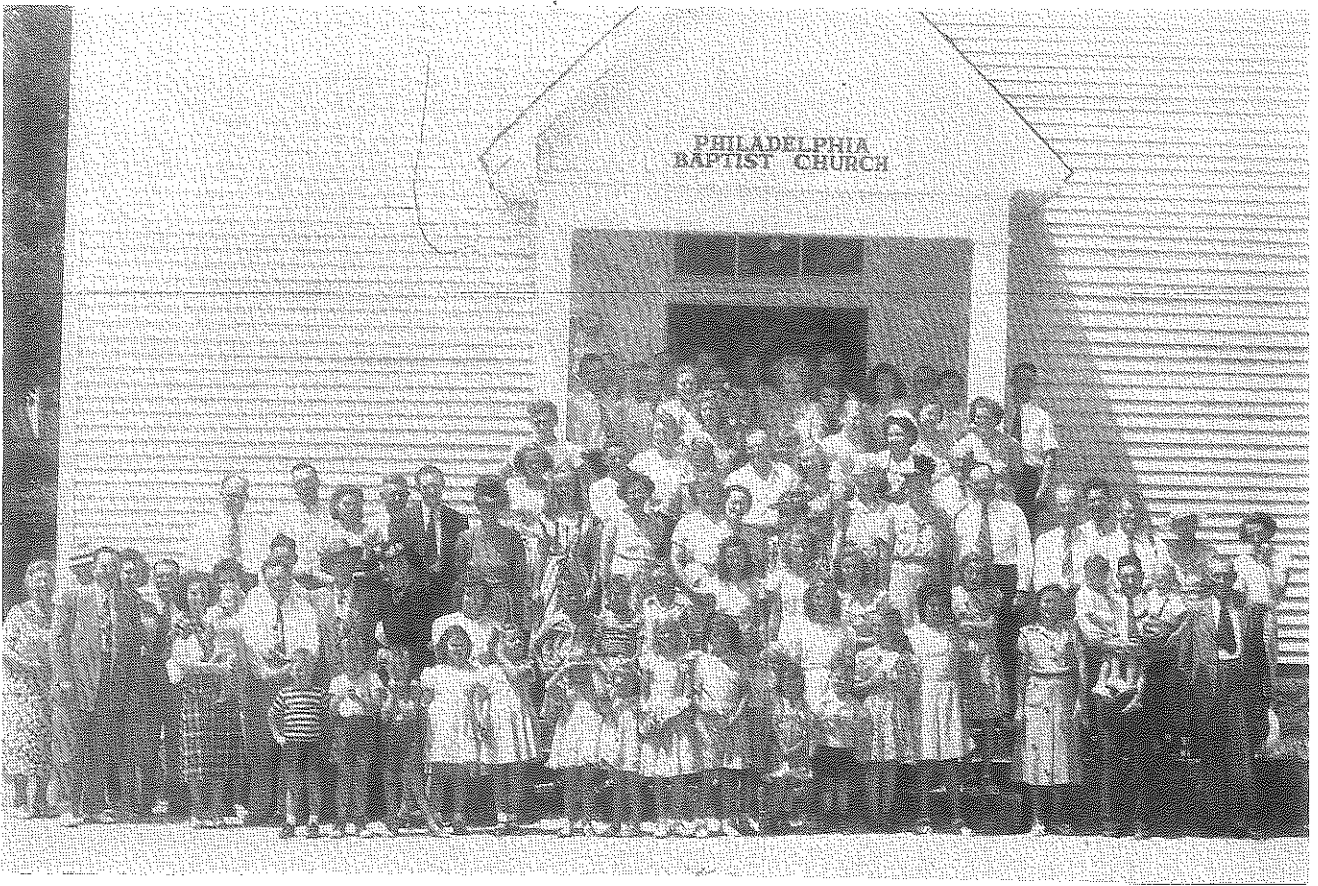
**THE OPEN
DOOR CHURCH**



Celebrating 125 Years



**THE PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH
1940**



Homecoming - 1949

FROM THEN TO NOW: A HISTORY OF THE PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH

CHARTER MEMBERS AND FACILITIES

On June 28, 1874, Brother J. S. Allen, a missionary from the Stone Mountain Association, and Brother Oliver Reagin assisted a group of people in organizing The Philadelphia Baptist Church. Brother Reagin was elected pastor. The six charter members were as follows: W. W. Williams, Matilda Rogers, Mary J. Argo, John C. Stephenson, Sarah Williams, J. T. Shaw.

In August of 1874 we held our first revival. We received 23 new members by expression of faith. This was an increase in membership of approximately 400%. The new members were as follows: Nancy Stephenson, Judah Wright, Elizabeth J. Parker, Sallie Warren, James M. Wright, Harriet A. Wright, E. D. Jenkins, J. D. Johnson, Edwin O. Reagin, Nancy J. Shaw, Amanda P. Leftwich, Sarah E. Shaw, William H. Powell, R. M. Leftwich, George J. Shaw, Columbus A. Manning, Henry D. Stephenson.

In the beginning services were held on one or two Sundays a month in the afternoon. Services were held this way until 1946.

In December of that year the church began having services every Sunday, except on fifth Sundays, this becoming the first step toward becoming a full-time church. In September of 1951 we became a full-time church with morning and evening services every Sunday. We have also had two names. When we were first started, the church was The Philadelphia Baptist Church, but on May 1, 1875 the members voted to change the name to Powell Springs Baptist Church. However, on June 5, 1879, the members voted to change it back to The Philadelphia Baptist Church and it has remained that ever since.

We have been a member of three different associations. These are the Old Second Georgia Association, South River Association, and the Stone Mountain Association.

Since the inception of The Philadelphia Baptist Church we have been located at the following locations:

Powell School House from June 1874 to October 1874 and Old Smyrna Presbyterian Church Building from October 1874 to November 1900. (This was located about a mile from our present site on the left of Berline Drive on the Phillip Housworth property. This was a one room, unceiled, crudely built structure. Built around 1824, it was 20 feet by 30 feet and made of logs. The pulpit was in one end and a fireplace in the other.)

We have been at our present location from November 1900 until the present.

Our present property was purchased for \$25.00, \$10.00 of which had to be borrowed. Members donated most of the labor and materials. A one room structure was constructed at the cost of \$500.00. The building was dedicated on November 18, 1900. In 1935 four classrooms were partitioned off for use as Sunday School rooms, two on each side of the pulpit. The church was wired for electricity in 1939, but continued to use wood stoves for heating. In 1945 the Deacons were instructed to endeavor to raise funds to build a baptistry in the church, the project was finally completed some time early in 1947.

In October of 1947 plans were begun for building an annex to provide additional Sunday School rooms and a kitchen-dining room combination. In January 1954 an annex to provide five additional Sunday School rooms was added.

On November 10, 1955, construction was started on a new brick church with a full basement to be used for Sunday School rooms. A loan was granted on March 28, 1956 with the monthly payments of \$240.00. The building was dedicated on June 24, 1956. The note was paid off in 1963. On June 23, 1963 at 3:30 p. m. Raymond Robertson held the plate, Reverend Bill Pittard held the note and Reverend K. L. Payton struck the match and the note was burned. Reverend Ralph Barlett had the closing prayer.

In 1964 we purchased the adjoining property from Brother Lamar Gattis and the home was converted into an educational annex. In 1965 the property at the corner of South Goddard and Klondike roads was purchased, remodeled, and made into a pastorium. The church held on to this property until 1997 at which time it was sold for \$65,000.00. The money was used to purchase property on Highway 212 for our future church site.

In 1971 the church purchased property from Brother Lewis Merritt to be used as future parking area. In 1974, parking area and driveways were asphalted. In 1977 the sanctuary was renovated with new carpet, paint, and pads for pews. Construction on a new Sunday School annex began in October 1977 and was completed in April 1978 at a cost of \$84,000.00. In 1978 the "Old Klondike School Building-Gattis Building" was demolished. In 1985 the sanctuary was renovated and redecorated and a new sound system put in. It was dedicated on June 23, 1985. In 1987 the basement was renovated at a cost of \$25,000.00 and a pavilion was constructed at a cost of \$10,000.00. They were both dedicated on September 20, 1987.

More recently, in 1995 we leased the Oak Grove Junction store and the adjoining seven acres. We called this "The Rock" and it was utilized as a youth ministry facility. In 1998 we acquired a modular building which is utilized for Sunday School space and a prayer room.

Also, in 1998, 35 acres on Highway 212 were purchased for relocation at a cost of \$200,000.00. In 1999 we retired the debt of the 35 acres. We have most recently voted to start the United We Build campaign to raise funds to start a new facility in the Springs of 2000.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dr. W. Brantley was the first Sunday School Superintendent. The oldest Sunday School record available was in 1921. The total present was 26. The largest enrollment in Sunday School is in 1964 which was 315. The highest attendance of 251 was in 1961. We almost matched that in October 1997 with 239. We now have sixteen Sunday School classes with an average attendance of 165 and an enrollment of 271.

MISSIONS

Our first WMS was organized on September 20, 1911. Dues were five cents per member per month. On November 21, 1911, the first Sunbeam Band was organized. Miss Lecta Robertson was elected WMS President and Mrs. J. A. Ford vice-president. Contributions for the first year were \$6.90. In 1916 the total mission offerings was \$12.95 as compared to our 1998 total of \$44,267.79.

On February 27, 1915, the Y.W. A. s were organized with Miss Berta Goddard, president and Miss Lowell Rooks, vice-president. In the spring of 1922, the first B. Y. P. V. was organized.

In September of 1947, the first Brotherhood was organized. Sam Potts served as the first president. In 1959, The Philadelphia Baptist Church, along with Mountain View Baptist and Indian Creek Baptist, co-sponsored a mission located in the Wesley Chapel School building. The mission was given the name of Chapel Hill Baptist. Reverend H. E. Pittard being the first pastor. The church was later constituted Chapel Heights Baptist Church located on Snapfinger Road. In the late 1980's Chapel Heights merged with South Metro Baptist Church which later became known as Metro Heights Baptist Church located on Highway 138 in Stockbridge.

On January 21, 1962, the church sponsored a second mission, located at the intersection of highway 55 and 138 in Henry County. The mission first held services in an old house and was called Highway Baptist Mission. Reverend Stanley Cheeley was called to be the first pastor. The church was later constituted Highway Baptist Church and is presently located on Fairview Road in Stockbridge, Georgia.

In 1982, Philadelphia voted to help start Calvary Baptist church, in Canton, New York. We initially gave \$1000.00 and continued to support the church for several years.

The first mission team that our church sponsored was sent to Buffalo, New York in 1991 to help Calvary renovate their one-hundred year old building. The Church is now known as Calvary Christian Church.

We sponsored Honey Creek Baptist Mission with \$300.00 per month until the church was able to sustain itself financially. Honey Creek was later named Trinity Baptist Church and was constituted June 3, 1984.

In February of 1994 the church voted to sponsor the New Friends Baptist Mission and called Lorenzo Crawford as pastor. The mission was unable to continue and in 1996 we discontinued our support.

We have been blessed with a Mission Team since 1991. The team is primarily a construction team that helps build churches or renovates old buildings. They also do VBS and outreach ministries. The team has been to the following locations:

- 1991 Buffalo, New York
- 1992 Ft. Worth, Texas
- 1994 Keaton Beach, Florida
- 1995 Erie, Pennsylvania
- 1996 Nuevo Laredo, Mexico
- 1997 Erie, Pennsylvania
- 1998 Meadville, Pennsylvania
- 1999 Harborcreek, Pennsylvania

In 1998, the church added a new program for the children on Wednesday nights. It is called "Team Kid." The program consists of Bible Verse memorization, Bible Stories, and teaching the children how God wants them to react in certain circumstances. We just recently started taking the church van to a Conyers apartment complex to pick up children for the program. We usually have about 35 children.

In 1999 the church commissioned three young ladies for mission work. Amber Sanford was commissioned to Wyoming, Marie Little to Virginia, and Ellie Porter to Clayton, GA. They will work sharing the Gospel with the youth for the summer.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth under the Direction of Sam Dunaway since 1980, have been on many retreats. They have participated in Super Wow at Jekyll Island, Oasis in Panama City Beach and participated in a week long recording project with Prism Music Company in which they supplied the vocals for the new youth musical "Light Your Words."

The youth also assume leadership by taking over services one day every year. One very meaningful highlight of the 1994 church year was the commitment that most of our teens made to remain sexually pure until marriage.

Seventeen young people signed a "True Love Waits" commitment card. These were sent to the Southern Baptist Convention and were displayed along with 102,000 more cards from young people across the nation. In 1999, Scott Glenn was called to be our Student Minister and has since had the youth participate in "Discipleship Now" and Saturday evangelism outings.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The first music director for the church was Alan Smith in 1974. Others that served are as follows:

1974	Brother Czaplinski
1974	Joe Kiser
1975	Kenneth Parker
1976-1979	Ray Carter
1980	Eddy Thomason
1980-present	Sam Dunaway

The Music Ministry under the Direction of Sam Dunaway has grown to a high membership of 52 and has performed anywhere from five to 14 Praise and Worship Concerts a year. The choir continues to have 35 to 40 members in the loft every Sunday. In August 1988, a concert featuring the Philadelphia musical family held a worship concert to raise funds for new church hymnals.

The hymnals were in the pews the next Sunday!
The church also has two children choirs who participate in the Christmas program and at various other services.

OTHER MINISTRIES

In 1994 the Philadelphia Pummies puppet ministry was started. The Pummies along with the Drama team have provided many funny and inspirational times for us all.

In recent years the church has also been involved in ministries specific to men and women such as a women's retreat and Promise Keepers. Jeff Nelms has also been ministering with classes such as New Membership, Witness Trainings, Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts, and Discovering Spiritual Maturity.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

- Pastor with longest tenure of service is Dr. J. Murray Edwards, who celebrated his 10th anniversary in February 1999
- First pastor living on church property was Rev. W. A. Richardson
- First member buried in church cemetery was Sister Delia Leftwich-1904

- First church clerk was Brother John Branfley

- Longest record for Sunday School attendance is held by Mr. L. A. Harper who attended from 1953 to 1985 without missing a Sunday for a total of 32 years

- Highest worship attendance was 317 on Easter Sunday 1999

- In our present congregation, Dora Conner and Nora McWilliams have been members the longest-a total of 73 years!

The challenge to reach the community and the world for Christ is tremendous. The community is increasing by leaps and bounds. Truly the fields are white unto Harvest. Pray that the Lord will send laborers unto the Harvest. Let us thank the Lord for blessing our church for 125 years! May He continue to bless us even into the new millennium!

PASTORS OF PHILADELPHIA

1874-1880 Oliver Reagin
 1881-1882 C. C. White
 1883-1886 G. M. Phillips
 1886-1887 Richard Floyd
 1887-1891 H. H. Buckhannan
 1892-1893 George Adams
 1893-1894 Tom Jackson
 1895-1896 G. W. Owens
 1897-1901 T. J. Bledsoe
 1902- W. T. Grenade
 1903- I. W. Combs
 1904-1909 I. J. Stephenson
 1910-1911 I. H. Waller
 1912-1917 T. E. McCutchen
 1918- I. A. Raizer
 1919-1925 I. J. Stephenson
 1926-1927 H. O. Fowler
 1928-1933 W. H. Wages
 1934- D. T. Buice
 1935-1937 W. M. Albert
 1938-1942 C. C. Buckalew
 1943-1944 Earl Fuller
 1945- C. C. Duncan
 1946-1950 C. G. Johnson
 1951-1952 T. H. Howell
 1953-1954 W. A. Richardson
 1954-1959 Ralph Bartlett
 Howard E. Pittard

PASTORS CONTINUED

1960-1963 Kenneth L. Payton
 1963-1972 Carl L. Lunsford
 1972- Jack Hamberry
 1972-1977 Leon Anthony Jr.
 1978 D. D. Harris (Int.)
 1978 Charles Worthy (Int.)
 1978 Wade Rollins
 1978-1979 Howard Pittard (Int.)
 1979- Dr. Kenneth Z. Holt
 1979-1988 Harry Wooten (Int.)
 1988-1989 Dr. J. Murray Edwards
 1989-present

LICENSED AND ORDAINED BY PHILADELPHIA

R. O. Robertson	Licensed	September 1921
Stanley Cheeley	Licensed	August 1953
Aubray White	Licensed	August 1953
Charles Quick	Ordained	February 1959
Stanley Cheeley	Ordained	November 1962
Ernie Willis	Ordained	November 1977
Larry Ellington	Ordained	November 1988
Lorenzo Crawford	Ordained	May 1994
Jeff Nelms	Ordained	August 1997
Kevin Hansknecht	Ordained	November 1998
Nelson Goddard	Licensed	December 1998

DEACONS WHO HAVE SERVED PHILADELPHIA

Amos Goddard	David Hawkes	Ron Duvall
Billy Lyons	L. A. Harper Sr.	Sam Potts
Bobby Howsworth	De Bryant	Harold Lyon
Bobby Beatty	Buddy Tricker	Joe Abbott
Clark Goddard	Ernest Mann	Don Wood
Clyde Merritt	M. J. Wright	Tom Morgan
Douglas Helms	Tom Nichols	
Ed Hodge	Barry Parkers	
Edd Mitchell	Clyde Stephenson	
Eugene Goddard	Gene Stephenson	
Frank Haynes	Mark Mann	
Harry Stockdale	Harold Gross	
Harvey Conner	John Simpkins	
J. A. Stephenson Jr.	J. E. White	
J. J. Lefrwich	Kenneth Parker	
Jack White	Douglas Choplin	
James Hammonds	Randy Peppers	
Jeff Nelms	John Hickey Sr.	
L. B. White	Frank Scott	
Leon Ward	James Morris	
Marvin Goddard	John Stephenson	
Michael Reagin	Perry Conner	
Nelson Goddard	Kevin Kelley	
Ray Burffin	Doug Lauritsen	
Raymond Carber	Lamar Gattis	
V. B. Goddard	Paul Simpson	
Vernon Simpkins	Clarence Pointer	



Homecoming 1974 - 100th Anniversary

HISTORY OF PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH - 1874 - 1974

On June 28, 1874, Brother J. S. Allen, missionary from the Stone Mountain Association, and Brother Oliver Reagin assisted a group of people in organizing Philadelphia Baptist Church, with Brother Reagin elected as pastor. The six charter members were:

W. W. Williams	Mary J. Argo	Sarah Williams
Matilda Rogers	John C. Stephenson	J. T. Shaw

In August, 1874, the first revival was held with the church receiving twenty-three new members by experience of faith, or an increase in membership of approximately 400%. These new members were:

Nancy Stephenson	E. D. Jenkins	William H. Powell
Judah Wright	J. D. Johnson	R. M. Leftwich
Elizabeth J. Parker	Edwin O. Reagin	George J. Shaw
Sarah J. Stephenson	Thomas C. Homes	J. H. New
Sallie Warren	Nancy J. Shaw	Columbus A. Manning
William H. Shaw	Harriett A. Warren	Henry D. Stephenson
James M. Wright	Amanda P. Leftwich	Thomas H. Warren
Harriett A. Wright	Sarah E. Shaw	

On October 30, 1874, a committee was appointed to select a site for the Church, now being held in Powell School House, and it was decided to purchase the old Smyrna Presbyterian Church building located about one mile from our present church property, on the left of Berline Road on the Phillip Housworth property. This was a one room, unceiled, crudely built structure. Built around 1824, a 20 x 30 ft log building, pulpit in one end and a fire place in the other.

May 1, 1875, the name of the Church was changed to Powell Springs Baptist Church. However, on June 5, 1879, it was voted to change back to the original name of Philadelphia Baptist Church, and became a member of the Old Second Georgia Association.

In 1895 the Church joined the South River Association.

January 14, 1899, it was voted to relocate church, vote was 19 to 6 in favor of Powell location for a new building. January 15, 1899, voted choice of wood material over stone building, vote being 18 to 5.

In the summer of 1900 it was decided to build a new church and the committee secured the present site for \$25.00, \$10.00 of which it was necessary to borrow. The members donated a great deal of the material and labor used in constructing the building which was a one room structure costing about \$500.00. The building was dedicated November 18, 1900.

The first WMS was organized on September 20, 1911, by the South River Association. On November 21, 1911, the first Sunbeam Band was organized. Miss Lecta Robertson was elected first WMS president and Mrs. J. A. Ford vice-president. Contributions for the first year were \$6.90.

In 1912 the church withdrew from the South River Association and joined the Stone Mountain Association, with which it is still affiliated.

On February 27, 1915, the Y.W.A.'s was organized with Miss Berta Goddard, president and Miss Louell Rocks, vice-president. In the spring of 1922, the first B.Y.P.U. was organized.

In 1935, four classrooms were partitioned off for use as Sunday School rooms two on each side of the pulpit.

The church was wired for electricity in 1939, but continued to use wood stoves for heating.

In 1945, the deacons were instructed by the church to endeavor to raise funds to build a baptistry in the church, but the project was not completed until some time early in 1947.

Brother T. H. Howell was called as pastor in 1946. In December of that year the church began having services every Sunday, except on fifth Sundays, this being the first step toward becoming a full-time church. Prior to this services were held one or two Sunday afternoons per month.

In September of 1947, the first Brotherhood was organized. Sam Potts served as the first president. October 19, 1947, plans were begun for building an annex to provide additional Sunday School rooms and a kitchen-dining room combination. In July 1951, the Brotherhood was authorized to plan and sponsor the building of a pastorium on the church property.

In August 1951, the church began having both Sunday morning and Sunday night services, still with the exception of fifth Sundays. In September of that year the church went into full time service with morning and evening services every Sunday.

In January 1954, an annex to provide five additional Sunday School rooms was added.

In November, 1955, construction was started of a new brick church with full basement to be used for Sunday School rooms. Dedication ceremony was held on June 24, 1956. (this being the present church building)

In 1959, Philadelphia Baptist Church along with Indian Creek Baptist Church co-sponsored a mission located in the Wesley Chapel School building. Mission was given the name of Chapel Hill Baptist Mission; Rev. H. E. Pittard being the first pastor. Church was later constituted into Chapel Heights Baptist Church located on Snapfinger Road.

On January 21, 1962, the church sponsored a second mission, located at the intersection of Highway 155 and 138 in Henry County. The mission held services in an old house. This mission was given the name of High View Baptist Mission; Rev. Stanley Cheeley was ordained November 11, 1962, becoming the first pastor. The church was later constituted into High View Baptist Church located on Fairview Road, Stockbridge, Georgia.

In 1964, the church purchased adjoining property from Brother Lamar Gattis. This home being converted into an educational annex.

In 1965, Brother Lon White's property on the corner of South Goddard and Klondike Roads was purchased and remodeled into a new pastorium. The old pastorium located on church property was then converted into a nursery.

In 1971, additional property was purchased from Brother Lewis Merritt to be used as future parking area. In 1974, parking area and drive ways were asphalted. Also, drive around the cemetery was asphalted by the Hooper Pattillo family.

PASTORS AND APPROXIMATE DATES AT PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH

1874-1880	Oliver Reagin	1928-1933	W. H. Wages
1881-1882	C. C. White	1934-	D. T. Buice
1883-1886	G. M. Phillips	1935-1937	W. M. Albert
1886-	Richard Floyd	1938-1942	C. C. Buckalew
1887-1891	H. H. Buckhannan	1943-1944	Earl Fuller
1892-1893	George Adams	1945-	C. C. Duncan (called but
1893-1894	Tom Jackson	served only until another could be secured.	
1895-1896	G. W. Owens	1945-	C. G. Johnson
1897-1901	T. J. Bledsoe	1946-1950	T. H. Howell
1902-	W. T. Grenade	1951-1952	W. A. Richardson
1903-	J. W. Combs	1953-	Ralph Bartlett
1904-1909	J. J. Stephenson	1954-1959	Howard E. Pittard
1910-1911	J. H. Waller	1960-1962	Kenneth L. Payton
1912-1917	T. E. McCutchen	1963-1972	Carl L. Lunsford
1918-	J. A. Raizer	1972-	Jack Hanberry
1919-1925	J. J. Stephenson	1972 (Oct.)	Leon Anthony, Jr.
1926-1927	H. O. Fowler		

LIST OF DEACONS WHO HAVE SERVED PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH

J. J. Leftwich	Kenneth Parker	J. A. Stephenson, Jr.
J. E. White	Billy Lyons	L. A. Harper, Sr.
U. B. Goddard	Paul Simpson	Harvey Conner
John Simpkins	Amos Goddard	Tom Morgan
Vernon Simpkins	Don Wood	Edd Mitchell
Clyde Stephenson	Clark Goddard	Ernest Mann
Clyde Merritt	M. J. Wright	Douglas Helms
Harold Lyon	L. B. White	Frank Scott
Marvin Goddard	John Stephenson	Raymond Carder
Lamar Gattis	Eugene Goddard	Gene Stephenson
James Hammonds	Sam Potts	Leon Ward
James Morris	Jack White	<i>Edus Goddard</i>
<i>Grandson of Merritt</i>	<i>Edus White</i>	

LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTERS BY PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH

R. O. Robertson	Licensed	Sept. 17, 1921
Stanley Cheeley	Licensed	Aug. 30, 1953
Aubrey White	Licensed	Aug. 30, 1953
Charles Quick	Ordained	Feb. 22, 1959
Stanley Cheeley	Ordained	Nov. 18, 1962

HIGHLIGHTS AND INTERESTING FACTS OF PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH

WMS: organized 1911

Dues - 5¢ per member per month

Total collection 1912 was \$10.80

Box to orphan home was \$5.75

1914 a small boy from the orphan home was sponsored (name Burdis Taylor, age seven)

1916 State Missions was \$3.60 - Home Missions was \$3.00 - Foreign Missions was \$4.20 - Total Missions Offering - \$12.95

1973 Total Missions Gifts \$8,590.00

Sunday School:

Dr. W. Brantley was first Sunday School Supt.

Bro. Lon White served longest as superintendent

Oldest Sunday School record available: Jan. 1921 - total present 26 - Offering \$.50 - L. B. White, superintendent, R. O. Robertson, secretary

Largest enrollment - 1964 - 315

Highest attendance - 1964 - 251 - Harvey Conner, superintendent

Training Union: organized 1947

Largest enrollment - 1961 - 105

Highest attendance - 1961 - 91

Revivals:

First revival was held under a brush arbour in 1874, 23 new members received by experience of faith.

Largest number received during revival - June 1958 - 30 baptisms - 10 by letter - C. C. Buckalew, Evangelist - Howard E. Pittard, Pastor

PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH HOST TO STONE MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION:

Years of 1927 - 1937 - 1957 - 1969 - 1974

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH - 334 (current)

PASTOR WITH LONGEST TENURE OF SERVICE - Rev. Carl L. Lunsford

FIRST PASTOR LIVING ON CHURCH FIELD - Rev. W. A. Richardson

FIRST MEMBER BURIED IN CHURCH CEMETERY - Sister Delia Leftwich - 1904

FIRST CLERK OF CHURCH - Bro. John Brantley

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Sam Potts, chmn.

Mr. L. A. Harper, Sr.

Mr. Eugene Goddard

Mrs. Margaret Merritt

Mrs. R. O. Robertson

'Like a church being reborn'

Philadelphia Baptist Church

6510 S. Goddard Road,
Lithonia

- > Phone: 770-987-0138
- > Services: 10:45 a.m.,
6:30 p.m. Sunday
- > Memberships: 150
- > Senior pastor: The Rev.
Cecil Etheredge
- > Associate pastor: The Rev.
Michael Pigg

Mission

Philadelphia Baptist long has called itself "The Church of the Open Door." Today, that statement has never meant so much. "Basically, here is a white church sitting in a black oasis and it's the mission field that has grown up to the door," said the Rev. Cecil Etheredge, who pastors the historically white Southern Baptist congregation.

History

The 19th-century church in southeast DeKalb County took root a decade after the Civil War. Philadelphia will mark its upcoming 130th birthday with grounds improvements and renewed commitment to the meaning of its name: brotherly love. "I generally say [love's] easier to preach than it is to practice," Etheredge said. Still, he's optimistic about the challenge of creating a church with an equal blend of black and white families.

Just a couple of years ago, Philadelphia was predominantly white. Changing demographics and aging members left the church struggling to keep its doors open. Rumbling about a possible move ensued. But the church, then led by the Rev. Ken Kirby, voted on a vision statement that said Philadelphia Baptist would remain at its South Goddard Road location. Etheredge, who is 73, became permanent pastor a year ago. His job is to reach the community and draw them into the idea of



LOUIE FAVORITE / Staff
The Revs. Cecil Etheredge (left) and Michael Pigg are ministers of a historical church, Philadelphia Baptist, in transition in Lithonia.

interacial worship with the help of associate pastor Michael Pigg, whom Etheredge considers more of a co-pastor.

Pigg, who's 45, came to the church in May. "It's a very historical church and was very comfortable with who they were," he said. "This is almost like a church being reborn."

Plans are for Pigg, who has experience with churches in transition, eventually to become senior pastor. "My job is to make the church look more attractive to younger people, while also keeping in mind what has traditionally been the flavor of the present church," he said.

Pastor's path

Etheredge was retired and worshipping with his wife at a Rockdale County church when he got the call to become interim pastor at Philadelphia. The Alabama native said he accepted, in part, because he's not afraid of change. "During all these

years, you hope and pray that you not only grow intellectually, but spiritually and psychologically," said

Etheredge, who is also a World War II Air Force veteran with a doctorate of divinity. "I say this often to the people of Philadelphia: 'I was born and bred in that brier patch, too, and it was a segregated brier patch, but one of the most difficult things to do on earth is to embrace change,'" he said.

Etheredge and his wife, Anne, have five children and 11 grandchildren. He spent 26 years working with the North American Mission Board.

Ministries

Pigg, a native Tennessean, is working diligently to ensure Philadelphia provides lots of fellowship opportunities. To that end, there are quarterly picnics and Sunday night improvisation shows.

This month, the church is host for the popular 40 Days of Purpose seminar, which

focuses on spiritual growth and determining one's life purpose. Outreach is growing, too. Members recently repaired and painted a woman's house who lived in the church community. They also have a door-to-door push to evangelize and get people in the church pews. The aim is to attract 50 new families by August. "We're going to do a community blitz," Etheredge said.

Thoughts from the pastor

"Here [at Philadelphia] you want to be a part of something that is great in the best definition of that word," Etheredge said. "To be a member of a group that determines that by the grace of God, we will do that which we think he not only wants us to do, but that we want to do also."

—Kysa Daniels
For the Journal-Constitution