

"Helping You Get Where God Wants You To Be."

Beulah Missionary Baptist Church

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Church History

The History of Beulah Baptist Church 1896- Present

"All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers comethither they return again." Ecclesiastes. 1:7

A river starts as a tiny trickle on a slope. Rainfall, snowfall, a spring or the melting of glacier ice may be its source. As it flows downhill, it is joined by other trickles to make a brook. Other brooks, catch their waters to form a stream which broadens into a creek. As the waters continue its downward journey, it gains in volume and becomes a river.

The *Beulah River* began as a small trickle as Reverend W. F. Paschall, Elbert Lofton, Sane Thomas, Easter Williams, Eliza Gaither, Will Rucker, Lou Reese and Lizzie Goldsmith gathered at Deacon Charlie Oliver's grocery store on Mayson Avenue in the northeast section of Atlanta, Georgia, in June of 1896. Prayers began to be said and regular prayer meetings were started. Out of the fellowship, seeds of faith sprouted, initiating the organization of a church and *Beulah became Brook*. It was in November of 1896 that Rev. W. F. Paschall formally proposed the organization of the Beulah Baptist Church. The following ministers were present; Rev. T. A. Seals, Rev. Dorsey Gordon, Rev. Sam Barnes, Rev. Henry White and Rev. Paul Scruggs and *Beulah became a Stream*. Sis. Lizzie Allen became the first baptized member and Sis. Lizzie Goldsmith was the first mother of the church. The Women's Home Mission Society, headed by Sis. Lula Paschall and the Sunday School were the earliest auxiliaries formed at Beulah.

Goals, new ideas and challenges were accepted by the congregation. Land was purchased for \$100.00 at the corner of Wesley Avenue and Hardee Street. While waiting on the construction of the wooden structure, believers were added and the congregation grew as they worshipped under the Brush Arbor. As the membership continued to increase, the need for a larger and more stable edifice was needed. At this time the wood structure was enlarged and bricked and the *Beulah Stream became a River*. Rev. Paschall continued his powerful preaching and faithful leadership for 33 years and the *Beulah River kept on rolling along*. Rev. E. M. Johnson, a dynamic leader and an eloquent speaker was called to Pastor from 1929 to 1935. He was succeeded by Rev. R. J. Hawk from 1935 to 1936. Rev. C. A. Moore served as Pastor from 1937 to 1942. Rev. B. R. Watts was the Pastor from 1942 to 1948.

After the death of Rev. Watts, Reverend E. D. Thomas was called as Pastor in 1948. He was a powerful and dynamic leader. The church continued to grow and prosper. His progressive thinking had been instilled in the mind of the congregation. A building fund was established as the church took on the task of building a seventy-six thousand dollar educational annex. Under his leadership the first organ was purchased, new pews and carpet installed, the first scholarships were given to college freshmen and additional property was acquired and Beulah became *the MIGHTY Beulah River*.

We thank God for Rev. Thomas and his twenty-six years of leadership as an humble and beloved Pastor. In January of 1975, the church was able to retire him with a pension so that he could enjoy his later years until his death in January of 1978. The hearts of many cherish the memory of the

mighty man of God.

At various points a river changes its course as it flows to its final destination. In 1975 the Beulah river changed its course. On the first Sunday in June the congregation moved from 1536 Hardee Street to 2046 Sage Lane, in a beautiful edifice located in the southeast section of Atlanta, Georgia. It was a glorious occasion long to be remembered by many. The location of 1536 Hardee Street will always be a cherished memory.

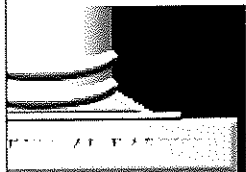
Rev. Littleton Price was the Pastor for a brief time and Rev. Jennie Jones served as interim Pastor after his departure. In 1978, Reverend Jimmie L. Smith, a youthful and dynamic preacher, was called. He was a modern and progressive leader. He reinstated prayer services, bible study, tutoring classes for young people, new member classes and counseling, four vans and two buses were purchased. The church's outreach into the community was evident by the organization of the Boy and Girl Scout troops, as well as many sport programs. Several auxiliaries and departments were formed and the church parking lot was completed. One of the great highlights was the burning of the church mortgage on January 27, 1985.

Reverend Zeddie Scott served as interim pastor from 1990 until 1991. In August of 1991, the Reverend Jerry D. Black was called to pastor of Beulah Baptist Church. He was officially installed in February of 1992 and this man of God, the former "Arkansas Hurricane", arrived with sleeves rolled up, an earnest commitment to God and an humble servant spirit. The charismatic leadership of the Reverend Jerry D. Black has led to additional auxiliaries being added to the church, the formation of many Christ-centered organizations, the establishment of a Department of Christian Education and growth in the Mission Department.

After much prayer and direction from the Lord, Reverend Black shared with the congregation his vision to construct a new edifice which would again change the course of the *Mighty Beulah River*. The congregation wholeheartedly embraced his vision and the work began to make the vision reality.

Blessings were showered down on the Beulah family, land was found, financing obtained and perhaps much quicker than expected, a buyer for the Beulah Lane (renamed in _____) location was identified. With the sale of this location in December of 1996, the Beulah family moved to the interim location of 3653 Memorial Drive. While in the interim location, various tributaries began to flow into the Mighty Beulah River causing many souls to be saved, the church to grow spiritually, numerically and financially.

The tiny trickle that began in 1896, the *Mighty Beulah River* once again will change its course as it moves to its third location in 103 years, to 2340 Clifton Springs Road on October 31, 1999. It is the same River with the same destination, the *Mighty Beulah River* that flows to the throne of God.

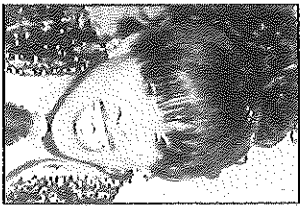


MINISTRY

With the opening of the new facility, the church will offer programs ranging from tutoring sessions and sports team to mentoring sessions and fitness classes.

Gospel music star to help celebrate opening of Family Life Center

Grammy-nominated gospel recording artist Vickie Winans will help Pastor Jerry Black and the Beulah Baptist Church family celebrate the opening of their \$13.5 million Community Family Life Center on Aug. 12.



Vickie Winans

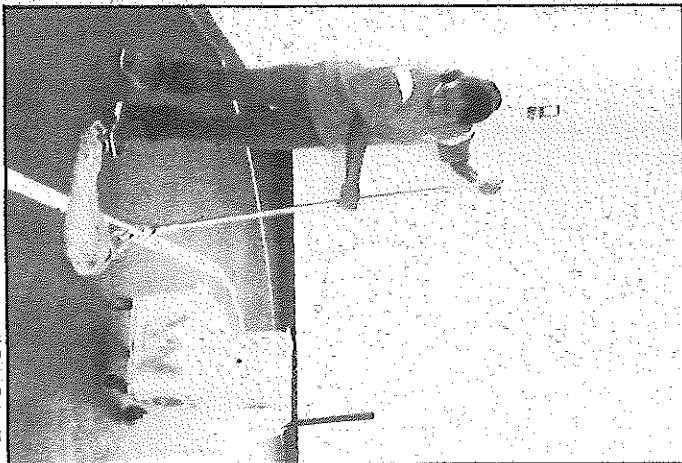
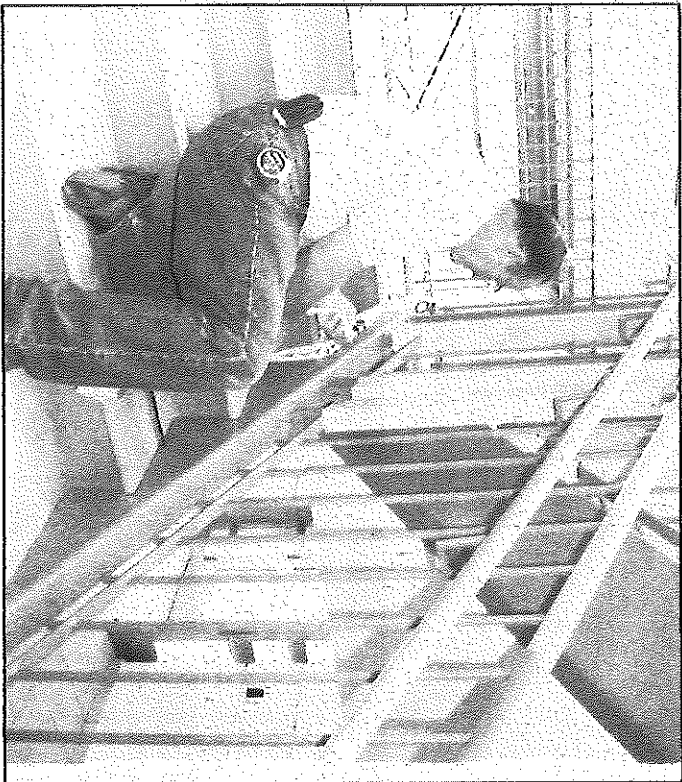
Winans, who is set to release her newest CD, "Woman to Woman" this month, will perform at a 7 p.m. concert that will culminate a day of tours and health screenings at the facility.

Winans has a Stellar Award for Album of the Year and has a Grammy nomination for Best Female Contemporary and for Best Soul Gospel Album. She has also been nominated as Best Female Vocalist and for Best Video.

The 69,000-square-foot center, built next door to Beulah's sanctuary on Clifton Springs Road in Decatur, features one of the few indoor heated lap pools in the county, a high performance wood basketball court with six goals, an elevated track, weight room that's equipped with free weights, and cardiovascular equipment like treadmills, stair masters and elliptical trainers.

The Beulah Community Family Life Center also has a theater that will seat more than 1,500 people, game room, book store, youth lounge, computer lab, library, arts and crafts room, concessions area and conference rooms with state-of-the-art audio/video capabilities.

With the opening of the new facility,



PHOTOS BY MCKENZIE JACKSON / CROSSROADSNEWS

Work crews were busy Monday putting the finishing touches on the 69,000-square-foot Beulah Community Family Life Center that is opening Aug. 12 with tours and other festivities and a free gospel concert.

the church will offer services and programs for youth and adults ranging from tutoring sessions, competitive, recreational and intramural sports teams to mentoring sessions and fitness classes.

The 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. open house that precedes the concert will include health screenings, tours of the facility and a variety of community vendors, food, prizes and giveaways. It is free and open to the public.

The concert is free and tickets can be picked up at the open house.

Beulah Baptist Church is at 2340 Clifton Springs Road in Decatur. For more information, visit www.beulahbaptist.org or call 404-241-3307.

First African Presbyterian Church

"Come on and be a part of the vision."

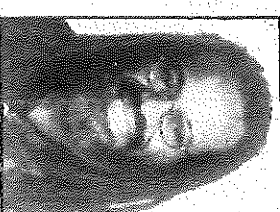
First African Church is an Afrocentric Christian Ministry that empowers women, men, youth and children to move from membership to leadership in the church, community and the world.

Praise & Devotion
Worship Service
Sundays at
7:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Join us for Bible Study
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.



5197 Salem Road
Lithonia, GA 30038
770-987-2607

"We are building far beyond our years."



Rev. Dr. Mark A. Lomax

MINISTRY

David H. Jones

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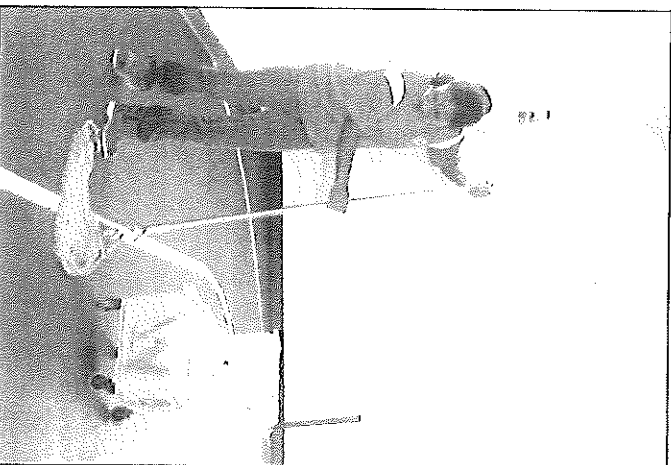
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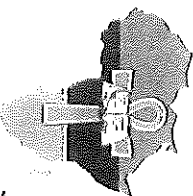
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Rev. Dr. Mark A. Lomax

BEULAH CHURCH.

Rules of Conduct for Choir No. 1.

1. Rehearsal begins promptly at 8:00 PM to 9:30. Business begins promptly at 9:30.
2. All members are to stay throughout the meeting, unless they have a lawful excuse.
3. Any member not present at rehearsal before the 1st and 3rd Sundays must not come to the choir stand.
4. Any member chewing gum during rehearsal or service, will be fined 25¢.
5. Any member talking except the president or pianist will be fined 25¢.
6. Members accessories that are placed on the pulpit bannister during rehearsal or service will be fined 25¢.
7. All heads, robes and collars must be neat at all times.
8. Each member is to be at service one Sunday night each month or be fined \$1.00.
9. Any member late and come in during devotion is fined 25¢.
10. Any member under the influence of alcohol at any time at the church will be sent down before the board.
11. Any invitation the choir received and vote to go and the members don't go will be fined 50¢ without lawful excuse.
12. Any member absent 4 meetings must go before the committee.
13. Each member must pay their anniversary fee.
14. All members must be robed at all time or pay a fine of \$1.00. It was motioned and seconded that the men must wear black robes in September.
15. Each member must pay their dues which is 30¢ per month and it must be paid within 4 meetings.
16. Any member sitting in the audience must pay a fine of 50¢ without a lawful excuse.

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17. Whatever the choir puts on each member must cooperate in it or be fined \$1.00 without legal excuse.
18. The pianist must hit the piano at 11:00, 3:30, and 7:30 on 1st. Sundays and 11:30 and 7:30 - 3rd. Sundays or be fined \$1.00.
19. A \$5.00 floral will be given to each member relative.
20. A telegram will be sent to distant relatives and flowers will be given to faithful mothers and deacons.
21. If you fail to notify the choir of death in your family you will not be given any money after funeral.
22. If the critic fail to bring in a report she is fined \$1.00.
23. These rules must be read as often as the president see fit.
24. It was motioned and seconded to have the rules typed.
25. It was motioned and seconded that the ladies could wear small ear rings.
26. Any member absent the first Sunday morning and evening without a lawful excuse will be fined \$1.00 each time. The president and vice-president will be fined double, which is \$4.00.

Note - These rules were adopted the first of the year 1958 in ^{Atlanta} ~~Decatur~~, Georgia. Given to Mrs. Percy Plant by one of their servants who is a member of the choir. This is a Baptist Church for Negroes. These were read to the ^{Reverend} DeKalb Historical Society on Thursday, February 26, 1959. RAB.