

---

***“We Have Come This Far  
By Faith”***

---

***Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.  
History Book: 1887 – 2002***

*Photo of Serenity Picture here*

***Volume 1***

***By the UGMBC History Committee  
With special thanks to Jermaine and Patrice Smith***

*This book contains scriptural quotations from the Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible.*

**Copyright (c) 2002**  
*UGMBC History Committee*

*All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review, without permission in writing from the authors or publisher.*

Library of Congress Control Number: 2003098816

***Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.***



***David Anthony Clarke, Sr., Pastor  
809 South Davis Drive  
Warner Robins, Georgia***

***Mission Statement:*** *To draw people to Christ, to provide for their spiritual growth, and to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of the church and community.*

**Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.  
History Committee**

**Chairperson**

*Marie Crosby-Anderson*

**Past Chairperson**

*Charles Lenoir, Sr.*

**Assistant Chairperson**

*Pearl Colbert*

**Assistant Chairperson, Research**

*Mary Burnam-Terry*

**Secretary**

*Janice Stephens-Scott*

**Typists**

*Marie Crosby-Anderson  
Angelia McKinney-Grant  
Janice Stephens-Scott*

**Editors**

*Marie Crosby-Anderson  
Theodolphus Caldwell  
Pearl Colbert  
Mary Burnam-Terry*

**Advisors**

*Marion Mathis  
Jerome Stephens*

**Photographer**

*James Wright*

## **Dedication**

In the year of our Lord 2001, we, the members of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church's Historical Committee, embarked upon an awesome task to write a complete history of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church from 1887 to 2002. Acknowledging the Holy Spirit as our guide and teacher, we stepped out on faith. With God's blessed assurance, we gained wisdom and knowledge to produce a quality history book.

Proudly, we dedicate this book to the memory of the warriors who have gone on to Glory, and to you--the remaining warriors and faithful believers.

*Marie C. Anderson*  
*Theodolphus Caldwell*  
*Pearl Colbert*  
*Angelia M. Grant*  
*Charles Lenoir, Sr.*  
*Marion Mathis*  
*Janice S. Scott*  
*Jerome Stephens*  
*Mary B. Terry*  
*James Wright*

## Acknowledgements

Acknowledging our faith that ***God is always in control***, we, the history committee members, have completed UGMBC's first history book. *We Have Come This Far By Faith: Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. History Book 1887-2002, Volume I*, has taken more than three years to write, compile, and edit. As I worked through this process, I was reminded of a statement that my mother had so often made, *Things happen in due season*. Remembering this statement, I knew that soon this book would be completed. As stated in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*" To God, I give thanks.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the following committee members for giving this project not just their time, assistance, and support, but their hearts and dedication to completing an awesome task.

Pearl Colbert – Assistant Chairperson, for wisdom, editorial skills, and research assistance

Mary Terry – Assistant Chairperson--Research, for editing, assistance in research, wise counsel and identification of former members

Theodolphus Caldwell - Co-Editor, for writing of several poems, editorial assistance, and continued support throughout this project

Jerome Stephens - for assistance, and providing us with use of the church's scrapbook and photo collections

Angelia McKinney-Grant - typist, for her dedication and devotion in the editing of this book

Janice Scott - Secretary, for her organization ability, record keeping skills and patience

James Wright - Photographer, for providing before and after photographs of the new sanctuary

Marion Mathis - for her assistance in research and identification of former members

I give a special thank you to Jermaine and Patrice Smith for their assistance in editing and typesetting some of the photos.

Because the size of this project had greatly increased, we may have omitted some information or names of some people. If so, I am sorry because I truly appreciate everyone's effort and support.

Lastly, I would like to thank Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church members for allowing me to chair the writing of the church's history. A special thank you to my husband, Oscar Edmund Anderson, and children, Orsino Edjuah, Anthony Edmund, and Alondra Marquita, for their love and patience. Most important, *I thank and praise God. It was through His guidance that this book has become a reality.*

*Marie Crosby-Anderson*

## Foreword

As I reflect, when I was approached to consider the possibility of helping Marie Anderson to compile a history book for Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, I was indecisive. I had no idea about what direction to take in pursuing this task. I began to pray to God for the guidance necessary to ensure that this task would be done well. I prayed continuously for spiritual guidance throughout this endeavor. Initially, the history committee members met and concluded that a total commitment of its members was necessary to complete a time consuming, awesome, and yet, an enjoyable task.

The success of the research and editing was dependent upon many factors: (a) the diligent and careful record keeping skills of past and present secretaries, and (b) the availability of historical letters and newsletters. After gathering most of the previously written materials, we (history committee members) thoroughly checked all information and sources available for accuracy and authenticity.

Prayerfully, we hope that the information written in this book is a blessing to you--the reader--as it has been for us. While pursuing this task, we did it with the aid of the Holy Spirit. We have put forth our best effort in publishing a history of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church that has expanded one hundred and fifteen years. Therefore, as you read the pages of this book, we pray that any judgment about its content is tempered with an “agape love” and understanding. The publication of this book has been a labor of love, and joy for all who were involved in its development and organization.

*Deacon Theodolphus Caldwell*



## ***Table of Contents***

<i>Greetings:</i>	
<i>Pastor David Anthony Clarke, Sr.</i>	10
<i>Deacon Willie H. McIntrye</i>	12
<i>Pastor Arthur Lee Hicks</i>	14

### ***Part I: Biographical Data***

<i>Former Pastors</i>	17
<i>Current Pastor</i>	24
<i>Associate Ministers</i>	27
<i>Trustees</i>	46
<i>Deacons</i>	51
<i>Deceased Deacons</i>	62
<i>Deaconesses</i>	69
<i>Mothers of the Church</i>	70
<i>Secretaries of the Church</i>	72

### ***Part II: Auxiliaries***

<i>Outreach Ministry</i>	76
<i>Worship Ministry</i>	80
<i>Teaching Ministry</i>	86
<i>Spiritual Enrichment Ministry</i>	90
<i>Business Stewardship Ministry</i>	96
<i>Operational Support Ministry</i>	99

### ***Part III: Historical Overview***

<i>Historical Overview: 1887-2002</i>	104
<i>Photos: Past to Present</i>	127
<i>Current Members</i>	132
<i>Deceased Members</i>	137

## Greetings

*Pastor David Anthony Clarke, Sr.*



Praise the Lord!

I am excited about what God is doing in our midst. People are being drawn to Christ, we're growing spiritually, and we're meeting the physical and emotional needs of our church and community. We can truly say that these things are of the Lord's doing and are certainly marvelous in our eyes (Psalms 118:23).

I cannot thank God enough for being a part of this wonderful church. We're blessed with a rich history of dynamic worship, relevant preaching, and kingdom building ministry. It is my prayer that we continue to contribute to the legacy of Union Grove by availing ourselves to prayer, teaching, and service.

As I look toward our future, I can hear someone say of the Grove that we have been consistent in addressing issues that not too many others want to address such as HIV/AIDS and gang violence. I can hear someone speaking of the lives and households dramatically impacted through our Life Changers Center. I can envision conversations of how our ministry has been a tremendous blessing to the Houston County School System as a result of our adoption of Pearl Stephens Elementary, Bert Rumble Middle, Crossroads, and Warner Robins High School. Many will speak of how we have made great strides in closing the digital divide that adversely impacts

our people. No one will be able to deny the dent we put in poverty through the businesses that shall be birthed through Union Grove. There will be leaders in various arenas to include government, education, finance, business, and church that will thank God for the leadership development training they gain at our leadership institute. I can hear testimonies of saints around the globe speaking of their coming to know Jesus as Lord and Savior as a result of a church we planted in their city, small rural town, or village.

Do you hear what I hear? Can you peek into our future as a church family and hear the conversations that speak of God's favor upon the "Grove Zone"? Much of what I hear people saying about us in the future haven't even been birthed yet. But by faith, I can hear these things and more being said of Union Grove. Can you? If you do, I exhort you in the name of the Lord to do all that God has ordained for you to help make it happen. Faith without works is dead. In other words, let's make history together by being involved in ministry and obediently following the Lord's leading. Let's walk in this new day and speak the required new language, "We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength." Nothing is impossible for Union Grove. Our history speaks volumes of doing the impossible. Truly, we can say that we've come this far by faith and by faith, we shall press on.

Be encouraged and thank God for our great history.

Growing in grace,

*David Anthony Clarke, Sr.*

***Deacon Willie H. McIntyre***



What an awesome God we serve! As we approach our 115<sup>th</sup> year church anniversary, we can truly say God has blessed our church family. As we reflect over all these years, we thank God for all his many blessings and where He has brought us. Our founding members must have had faith and trust in God as they gathered under a bush harbor in laying a solid foundation, one which has sustained us for 115 years. Oh yes, as we look at our current edifice, we realize this vision started with a few dedicated members under a bush harbor, and we give all praises, glory and honor to God for His grace and mercy. We know they must have been faced with many obstacles, struggles, and challenges, but their faith and trust in God would not allow them to turn back.

As it is told by the Saints of old, when it came time to physically relocate the church building from across highway 247, Deacon Marvin Colbert, with the assistance of others, used a mule and wagon to transport this building to its current location. What a challenge this must have been. One of our former Pastors, Rev. Bobby Smith put his faith and trust in God when it came to tithing. He recommended to the congregation to cease collecting tithes from members by Wardmen, but to trust in God and allow members to “Bring ye all the tithes into

the storehouse”(Malachi 3:10), and what a blessing this has been. Now that the road has been paved, it is time for us to pick up the torch and keep the flame burning.

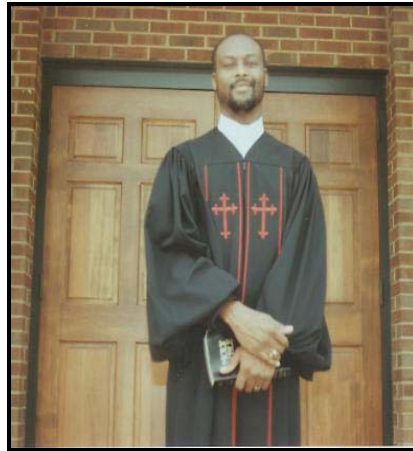
I would like to thank God for the opportunity to be a part of this great history and serve in such a great capacity. I want to thank all of our ministry leaders and members who have extended their support and prayers to me, and for their continuous support for the mission of this great church. Many thanks go to our former pastor, Minister Arthur L Hicks, for his spiritual guidance and leadership during his tenure as Pastor of this great church.

I ask each member to keep the faith and put your trust in God as we continue to lift up the name of Jesus. We must now carry the torch in a way that will pave the way for our children and grandchildren for years to come. We can expect some difficult days, but with our faith and trust in God, all things are possible. I am committed in carrying out the mission of this church, “To draw people to Christ, provide for their spiritual growth, meet the physical and emotional needs of the church and community.” It is time for all of us to search our heart and do the will of the Lord, to insure our future generations will be as proud of us a 115 years from now, as we are of our founding members. May God continue to bless you, your family, and this great congregation!

Yours in Christ,

*Deacon Willie H. McIntyre*

*Pastor Arthur Lee Hicks*



As the Church of Christ, we are commanded to glorify God in all we do. When I considered the work that our history committee is doing, I was reminded of what God told the Children of Israel after delivering them from Egyptian bondage: “Take care that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out” (Deuteronomy 6:12a). He further commanded them to share with their children all that He had done for them.

Preserving an account of the history of Union Grove puts us in a position to not forget the Lord. Also, it serves as a means for teaching our children. Therefore, it is my prayer that as we preserve and add to this account, we will look back and remember God first. Without God, this church would not have survived and progressed for one hundred and fifteen years.

As we read the pages of this book, we will--and should—have reminiscence of the precious memories of deceased Saints. Most important, we must see God in the things that have happened, good and bad. We must see Him blessing us during the good times and carrying us through the bad times. As we learn God's words and make adjustments, we will see His faithfulness because He responded by blessing us.

This history is a testimony and a lesson in what God can and will do. I pray that you will be inspired to declare, “What a mighty God we serve!”

*Arthur L. Hicks*  
Pastor (1992-2000)

## **Part I: Biographical Data**

### ***Colossians 1: 10-12***

*“And we pray this in order that you may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

*Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness;*

*Giving thanks to the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.”*



## Former Pastors

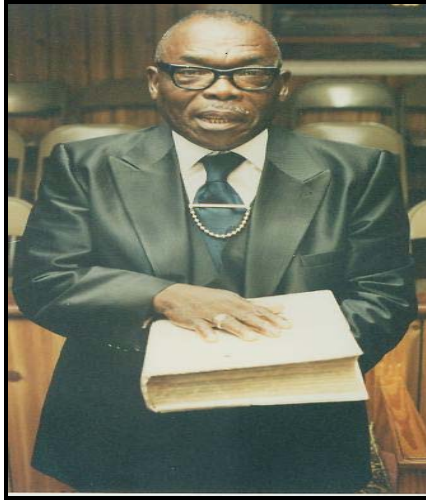
1887 - 2002

<b>Name</b>	<b>Time of Service</b>	<b>Total Years of Service</b>
*Min. Cleveland	1887 - 1898	11 years
George Banks	1898 - 1900	2 years
Cleveland Smith	1900 - 1903	3 years
*Min. Ray	1903 - 1906	3 years
*Min. Gibson	1906 - 1909	3 years
*Min. Maddox	1909 - 1913	4 years
*Min. Mallory	1913 - 1914	1 year
*Min. Matthews	1914 - 1916	2 years
George Washington	1916 - 1923	7 years
*Min. Gilmore	1923 - 1928	5 years
Oscar Edmond	1928 - 1938	10 years
Eugene Edmond	1939 - 1949	10 years
Vacancy	1949 - 1951	2 years
L. J. Ross	1951 - 1956	5 years
R. D. Cummings	1956 - 1959	3 years
J. H. Williams	1959 - 1968	8 years
A G. Tharpe	1968 - 1976	8 years
Bobby L. Smith	1977 - 1991	14 years
Vacancy	1991 - 1992	1 year
Arthur L. Hicks	1992 - April 30, 2000	7 years
Vacancy	2000 – Oct. 11, 2002	2.5 years
David Clarke, Sr.	October 12, 2002 - Present	

Note. \*First name was not documented in the church's history records.

1. Minister Bobby L. Smith was Interim Pastor from September 1976 to March 1, 1977
2. Pastor Bobby L. Smith resigned May 31, 1991.
3. Minister Arthur L. Hicks was Interim Pastor from June 1991 to December 12, 1992
4. Minister Arthur Hicks was installed as Pastor on December 13, 1992 and resigned April 30, 2000.
5. Pastor David Anthony Clarke, Jr. was elected Pastor of UGMBC on October 12, 2002 and installed as its 19<sup>th</sup> Pastor on December 15, 2002

### *Pastor James Henry Williams*



James Henry Williams was born in small town called Rochelle, which is located in Wilcox County, Georgia. He was married to the former Ruthie Mae Brown, and to this union three sons and six daughters were born. He was licensed and ordained at Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church, Rochelle, Georgia. Minister Williams became Pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church's congregation in 1959, and he remained in this position until 1968.

Under Pastor Williams' leadership, the following occurred:

1. New pews were purchased for the sanctuary.
2. Mission Department was reorganized.
3. Bible Study was organized.
4. Minister Johnnie Head, Jr. was licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ
5. Sarah Lawson was named Mother of the Church

### *Pastor Augustus G. Tharpe*

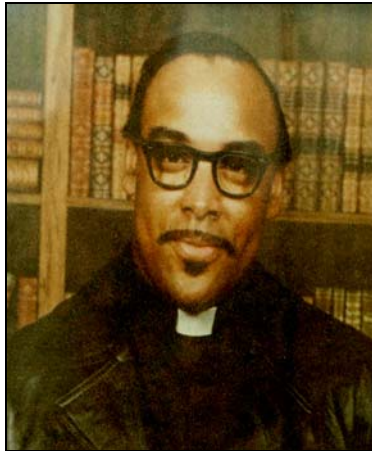


Augustus G. Tharpe was born in Houston County in the city of Centerville, Georgia. He married Mary L. Hickey, and to this union three sons were born. He served as the Pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church from 1968 to 1976. Under his leadership, the church building underwent many changes. It was remodeled to include a choir stand, central heat, air conditioning, carpeting, interior bathrooms in the front of the building, a baptismal pool, a three foot partition around the pulpit, new windows, lights and a steeple. Several departmental changes occurred during Pastor Tharpe's tenure as Pastor of UGMBC. These changes are as follow:

1. The congregation agreed to perform communion services on the First Sunday of each month.
2. Mary Terry reorganized the Youth Department.
3. Annie Shelling was elected Mother of the Church.
4. Mary Terry was elected Church Reporter.
5. Louis Laney was ordained as a deacon.
6. Minister Willie Brown was licensed into the ministry to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7. Stevie Allen came to UGMBC as an ordained deacon from First Baptist Church, Garmon Street, Warner Robins, GA
8. Virginia Kitchen was musician for the Youth and the Senior Choirs.
9. The Gospel Ensemble Choir was organized in 1974 under the direction of Ronald Franklin.
10. Maggie R. Cole was elected president of the Gospel Ensemble Choir.

### ***Pastor Bobby L. Smith***



A native of Wheeler County, Georgia, Bobby Lee Smith was born on January 7, 1940 to Willie and Dobbie Smith. He grew up and was educated in the public schools of East Orange, New Jersey. In later years, Bobby joined the United States Air Force and served until his retirement.

Pastor Smith married the former Carolyn Jean Hill and is the father of six children, Nina, Gail, Bobby, Jr., Mack, Robin, and Candace. Because of the Christian example set before him, he credits his wife for his conversion to Christianity.

Pastor Smith attended East Carolina University, El Paso Community College, Macon State College, and Moody Bible College. In 1983, he received a B.S. Degree in Music from Fort Valley State University. To enhance his knowledge of the Bible, Pastor Smith attended Moody Bible College, Augusta, Georgia and the Inter-Denominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia. In May 1986, he received a Master of Divinity Degree from the Inter-Denominational Center.

***Pastor Arthur L. Hicks***



Arthur Lee Hicks was born on May 13, 1955 to Josephine and Nebraska Hicks in Clarksdale, Mississippi. In 1981, he married Beverly Wilson of Warner Robins, Georgia. From this union two sons were born, Michael Brandon and Richard Kyle. Educated in the public schools of Clarksdale, Mississippi, he attended Myrtle Hall Elementary School, Higgin High, and Clarksdale High School. To further his educational career, Arthur attended Mississippi Valley State University and earned a B.S. Degree in Business Administration.

On a Saturday night in November 1979, Pastor Hicks accepted Jesus as his personal Savior and joined Union Grove the next day, the 3rd Sunday in November 1979, and on July 30, 1983, he was ordained as a minister. In 1998, he enrolled in several courses at Toccoa Falls Theological School in Toccoa, Georgia.

Pastor Hicks was actively involved in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and while at UGMBC he participated in the Gospel Ensemble Choir, the Combined Choir, Bible study, and taught Sunday school. He accepted his first pastor position with Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Ellaville, Georgia.

**Current Pastor**  
***David Anthony Clarke, Sr.***



David Clarke was born in Flint, Michigan on July 5, 1967 to Mr. and Mrs. Fred F. Clarke, Sr. He graduated with honors from Northwestern Community High School in June of 1985. On May 27, 1988, he married the former Michelle Wilson of Beaufort, South Carolina and they have three wonderful children: Janelle, Tenisha, and David, II.

In December of 1985, Pastor Clarke enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served for over twelve years until he was honorably discharged in July 1998. While serving in Okinawa, Japan, he acknowledged a call to the ministry in February of 1990 and he was licensed at the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Okinawa, Japan under the leadership of Pastor Charles S. Reynolds, Jr. Pastor Clarke began preaching in June of 1990.

Upon Pastor Clarke's return to the United States, he served as an associate minister to Pastor Clayton D. Smith at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church of Albany, Georgia until he assumed the



pastorate of Spring Creek Missionary Baptist Church of Leary, Georgia. Pastor Clarke remained at Spring Creek until the Marines Corps transferred him to Bridgeport, California where he eventually served as pastor of the Walker Baptist Church in Walker, California. Shortly after being discharged, he served as youth minister at St. John Baptist Church of Columbia, South Carolina under the leadership of Pastor Barry Wright.

In May of 1999, Pastor Clarke returned to Albany, Georgia and served as assistant pastor at Greater Second Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church under the visionary leadership of Pastor Lorenzo L. Heard.

On October 12, 2002, Pastor Clarke became the pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc., which he proudly calls "The Grove Zone." During installation service, On December 15, 2002, Pastor Clarke was installed as UGMBC's nineteenth pastor. The guest speaker for that occasion was Pastor Lorenzo L. Heard of Greater Second Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, Georgia.

Pastor Clarke's objective is to empower disciples of Jesus Christ, to pursue intimacy with God, caring relationships with one another, spiritual maturity, and salvation of the lost around them and the world. He states:

*"It's a new day, a new era, a new season and I have a new joy. A new joy because I can only anticipate God doing things with us, and through us that will blow our minds and make Satan tremble. Thank God for new things. New breath is a blessing from God because it is a sign of life. New insight is a blessing because it can serve as an antidote to confusion. New storms can even be a blessing because they are to serve to bring new revelation as to who God really is and new levels of adoration unto Him and obedience to His Word."*

Academically, Pastor Clarke received an Associate of Science Degree in Business Management from Barstow Community College, Barstow, California. Presently, he is enrolled as a Leadership major in the accelerated online program at Bellevue University of Bellevue, Nebraska. In his

spare time, he enjoys reading, traveling, playing golf and chess, listening to jazz, and spending time with his family.

\*\*\*\*\*



From the back row, Lee McCants, Charles Byrd, Paul Jenkins, James Gaines, Pastor David A. Clarke, Sr., Milo Bradley, and Rushia Jackson, Jr.

## **Associate Ministers**

<i>Charlie Blackmon</i>	<i>Michael Hunter</i>
<i>Milo Bradley</i>	<i>Rushia Jackson II</i>
<i>Charles Byrd</i>	<i>Paul Jenkins</i>
<i>Stephanie Campbell</i>	<i>Grace Lucas King</i>
<i>Michael Davis</i>	<i>Ronald Knight</i>
<i>Butch Dupree</i>	<i>Mary Ann Lollar</i>
<i>John Dukes</i>	<i>Gary Lucas</i>
<i>Paul L. Dunbar, Sr</i>	<i>Lee McCants</i>
<i>Ronald Franklin</i>	<i>Maurice Myers</i>
<i>James Gaines</i>	<i>Nicole Pelote</i>
<i>Gil Gordon, Jr.</i>	<i>Sabrina Perry</i>
<i>Michael B. Hicks</i>	<i>Homer Wright</i>

### **Charlie Blackmon**

Charlie Blackmon was born in Houston County, Georgia on October 27, 1949. He is the son of the late H. D. and Lillie Blackmon. He is married to former Ethel Farms and they have three children, Cheryl, Molly, and Tyrone. Minister and Mrs. Blackmon have 9 grandchildren.

Charlie was educated in the Houston County School System. He attended Pearl Stephens Elementary School and graduated from Pearl Stephens High School. After high school, he moved to New Jersey to participate in the Manpower Development and Training Act Program. After returning to Georgia, he acquired employment at Robins Air Force Base.

At the age of 10 years, Pastor James Henry William baptized Charlie at UGMBC. According to Minister Blackmon, in 1977, he was called to the ministry after being at UGMBC for a while. He stated that all of his biblical learning came from Union Grove under the teaching of Annie Ruth Simmons; She taught him well and was a great inspiration to him.

Minister Blackmon accredits Pastor Bobby L. Smith for teaching him the Plan of Salvation, and he gives him a big thank you. He stated that when he arrived at Union Grove, the

Plan of Salvation was waiting on him. As a member, Charlie was very active. He participated in Sunday school and Wednesday Night Bible Study. He sings well, and for many years, he was a lead singer in the Gospel Ensemble Choir

We, UGMBC family, have been blessed to have Minister Blackmon as one of our associate ministers. Over the years, he has been a viable force in this community, a descent, and a kind man. Currently, he is the Pastor of Smithville Baptist Church in Warner Robins. He has been called upon, on numerous occasions, to speak to our congregation, and to participate in many of the church's activities

### **Milo Bradley**

Milo Bradley was born on October 25, 1941 in Havana, Florida. His maternal grandparents, Grover and Rosa Lee Williams, were his guardians. Minister Bradley is married to the former Maggie Watson Mack and they have two children, Valerie Green and Willie Mack and one grandson Brian M. Green. Also, he has a host of spiritual sons and daughters. Minister Bradley acknowledged his acceptance of Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Consequently, he decided to become a member of Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Havana, Florida, in September of 1958.

Minister Bradley was educated in the public schools of Quincy, Florida and graduated from Carter Paramore High School in May 1961. Upon his graduation from high school, he entered the United States Air Force and completed two duty tours in Vietnam from July 1967 to October 1969. According to Minister Bradley, these tours positively affected his salvation experience.

While on active duty, Minister Bradley attended several USAF Technical Schools and graduated from the Air Force Leadership School and Academy. In 1984, he joined the Protestant Men of the Chapel Organization at Spangdalem Air Force Base in Germany.

In October 1986, Minister Bradley became an active member of the UGMBC congregation. As a member, he joined the Sunday school teaching staff and was named the Sunday School Teacher of the Year for 1988-1989. From 1989 to 1995, Minister Bradley served as the Sunday school Superintendent. In 1995, he became an assistant Christian education director. Later, he was chosen to be a Promise Keepers Ambassador and head of the church's Operation Support Ministry.

Additionally, while serving at Spangdalem in Germany, Minister Bradley was selected by the Wing Commander to serve on the Spangdalem Air Force Base Germany Finance Council from 1984 to 1986. He also served as the Spangdalem Gospel Choir president.

### **Charles Byrd**

Charles Byrd was born November 3, 1958 in a small southeast town of Jacksonville, Texas. He is the third child, the only male, of four children born to Jim Byrd, Jr. and Gladys Tatum Byrd. His family subsequently relocated to Tucson, Arizona, where he attended school and developed into a young man.

After high school, Minister Byrd enlisted voluntarily in the United States Air Force. After four years of service, he was discharged honorably from the USAF in Marysville, California. Upon being discharged, Minister Byrd immediately moved to Sacramento, California. While residing in Sacramento, he attended the Zion Church of Jesus Christ. While attending this church, God led him to a beautiful maiden by the name of Dorise Johnson. In April of 1982, they were married and spent about six years together before being blessed with children. Afterwards, God blessed them with four lovely children: one male child, Antwon, and three daughters, Charity, Ceondrea, and Jewel.

While in Tucson, Minister Byrd attended two elementary schools. The first one was Elizabeth Borden, located in a small suburb southeast of downtown Tucson. Next, Cavett

Elementary School, located approximately ten miles southeast of Borden. During those days, Tucson had what was termed junior high school, which included the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. In September 1970, he attended Utterback Junior High School, which is located about a stones cast distance from Cavett Elementary School. While attending this school, Minister Byrd had an opportunity to experience, Carpentry, Home Economics, Basketball, and various other courses designed to give him a well-rounded taste of the things that life had to offer.

After Utterback Junior High School, Charles attended Pueblo High School, located in the heart of south Tucson. Due to the location of the school, he was bussed a good distance to school daily for approximately three years. After graduating from high school, Charles immediately enlisted in the United States Air Force. His first year in the Air Force was spent completing basic training and attending electrical technical school in Texas.

### **Stephanie Campbell**

Stephanie Campbell was born in Columbus, Georgia on April 16, 1948. She is the only child of Beverly Wood Hill. At an early age, Mrs. Hill moved Stephanie to New York City. At 16 years old, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Minister Campbell attended the public schools of New York City and graduated from Martin Luther King Jr. High School. After graduating from high school, she attended the University of South Florida in Tampa where she obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Minister Campbell is married to David Campbell Jr. and they have four children, David III, Quiana, Tiffany, and Daniel.

To enhance her Biblical knowledge, Minister Campbell enrolled in the Baptist Church Theological Seminary. Presently, she is a substitute teacher for the Houston County School System while pursuing a Master of Education Degree from Troy State University. In 1975, she was licensed into the ministry and subsequently had ordained in 1992.

As a member of the UGMBC, Minister Campbell was a part of the ministerial staff. She founded the Liturgical Dance Troupe, a dance troupe who interprets the written word through dance. This dance troupe was awarded the RAFB Worship Dance Team Award at the Black Heritage Gospel Program on February 9, 1997. Additionally, she led the Women's Ministry Department.

Presently, Minister Campbell is serving as an Associate Minister of Springfield C.M.E. Church in Byron, Georgia. Minister Campbell owns Elegance Plus Clothing Store in Warner Robins, GA. and the Art Gallery in Byron, GA.

### **Michael Davis**

Michael Davis is married to Mickey and they have two children. After coming to Warner Robins in the early 90's, Michael and Mickey became active members of UGMBC. This couple was very kind and always willing to help others.

After graduating from high school, Minister Davis entered the United States Air Force. While stationed in Lompoc, Virginia, he became very active with the True Vine Independent Church. In 1993, under the leadership of Pastor C. J. Lubin, he acknowledged his call into God's ministry. However, Minister Davis was transferred to Robins Air Force Base prior to receiving his license.

Under the leadership and guidance of Pastor Arthur L. Hicks, Minister Davis was licensed to serve in the God's Gospel Ministry on March 13, 1994. On several occasions, while our sanctuary was being constructed, he was in charge of our Sunday services. These services were held in the life center of Springfield Missionary Baptist Church. Minister Davis was always kind and friendly. According to Pastor Hicks, he is a Christian gentleman, who is serious about his relationship with the Lord and his calling.

### **John Willis Dukes**

John Willis Dukes was born on April 30, 1942 in Mulberry, Florida to York and Lillie Mae Dukes. He is married to the former Dannie L. Speights. He has ten children, Jerome, Stephanie, Joe, John W., John F., Jimmy, Jerid, Tonya, Karen, and Vonda. Minister Dukes grew up in Mulberry, Florida where he obtained his elementary and secondary education. In 1960, he graduated from I.R.E. Lee Jr. High School. After graduation, he attended Union Academy in Bartow, Florida.

Minister Dukes stated that he was called into the minister in 1964. However, he did not accept this call. While stationed in Warner Robins and attending UGMBC, he participated faithfully in Mid-Week Worship services, Sunday school, and Bible Study and in 1990, he finally acknowledged his call to be accepted into the ministry. While under the leadership of Pastor Arthur L. Hicks, John Willis Dukes was licensed on March 27, 1994 before our congregation and ordained on December 14, 1997.

### **Paul L. Dunbar, Sr.**

Paul L. Dunbar was born in Thomas County, Georgia to Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Dunbar Jr. He is married to the former Sandra Ivey and they have two sons, Martin K. and Paul L. Dunbar Jr. At an early age, he accepted and dedicated his life to serving Jesus, and on January 10, 1989, Paul was compelled to rededicate his life to serving Him.

Minister Dunbar received his formal education in the Thomas County School System, where upon his graduation from high school, he attended Paine College and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics. While a student at Paine College, Minister Dunbar joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He later attended the International Seminary for ministerial training.

As a member of the UGMBC ministerial staff, he was an active participant of the Prison Ministry, Outreach Evangelism



Program, and the Drug and Alcohol Counseling Program. Minister Dunbar served as interim pastor at Springfield Baptist Church in Hawkinsville, Georgia for several years. However, the church's trustee board members and deacons appointed him to the position of pastor in 2001. The congregation has grown and Minister Dunbar is doing a wonderful job of conveying God's messages and saving souls.

### **Butch Dupree**

Butch Dupree was born to Charlie and Dashie Dupree August 2, 1937 in Eastman, Georgia. He is married to the former Quinelle Riley and they have one daughter, Bridget D. Sanders. A native of Eastman, Georgia, he was educated in the Dodge County School System. Minister Dupree stated that he felt the call to become a minister at 16 years old.

After graduation from high school, Minister Dupree attended the following institutions:

1. E-Z Go Service Maintenance School in Augusta, GA
2. Georgia Institute of Technology in Warner Robins, GA
3. Warner Robins Police Academy

Minister Dupree has worked with several churches in Houston, Dodge, Pulaski, Telfair, and Wilcox counties. He was named Pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, Perry Georgia. During his ministry at UGMBC, he served as a finance officer, President of the Mission, President of the Senior Choir, and founder of the Bus Ministry. At Ebenezer Baptist Church, he was elected church secretary. In addition, Minister Dupree was elected to be the moderator for the Houston Association Baptist Conference (Perry, Ga. District). He was named the President of the Warner Robins Day Care Board of Directors selected to be a member of the Houston County Ministerial Alliance.

## **Ronald Franklin**

Ronald Franklin arrived in Warner Robins, Georgia early January 1972. Although, a United States Air Force serviceman assigned to the Strategic Air Command, Robins AFB, he hastily sought involvement in the local church community. Often, he speaks of how the Lord led and guided him to Deacon and Sister Lawson's home. As Ronald Franklin, not yet called to the Gospel Ministry, and Deacon Lawson talked that Monday evening about the Union Grove Baptist Church, he was astonished to hear that the Senior Choir would be having rehearsal that very night. Ronald couldn't help but to think, "What kind of choir members would choose to have rehearsal on a Monday night? After all, didn't they just sing for yesterday's Sunday service?" And he thought, "Surely, by the upcoming Saturday night, anything learned earlier that Monday night would long since have been forgotten." Well, he attended choir rehearsal that night, assisting the musician and choir members however he could. Soon he accepted the position of musician for the Senior Choir.

Jerome Stephens, Maggie Pearl Rutledge, Charlie Blackmon, Sharon Colbert, and others wanted an outlet for the younger members to offer musical praise unto the Lord. Therefore, they petitioned Brother Franklin, identifying a "genuine need" and from thence birthed the Union Grove Baptist Church Gospel Ensemble, and indeed, a need was met.

Ronald Franklin accepted the call of the Gospel Ministry and on August 8, 1976, delivered his trail sermon to a standing room only congregation. His subject was "The Missing Corpse," Revelation 12: 3-4, 7-10. During the Pastorate of Minister Bobby L. Smith, the Union Grove Gospel Ensemble rapidly gained great notoriety. Whenever or wherever they sang, it proved to be a "high time" in the Lord. The Gospel Ensemble often teamed with the Gospel Movement of Macon, Georgia for combined choir performances. Throughout this period, Union Grove's membership grew exponentially.

A junior choir was formed whose members proved to be future Gospel Ensemble members, just waiting in the wings. Upon notification of a military change of station, (new duty station, Castle AFB, CA), Ministers: Smith, Kirvin, Savage and Franklin met during lunch when they imperatively stated to Minister Franklin their desire to facilitate his Ministerial Ordination. On Saturday, March 24, 1979 at 7:30 p.m., such an Ordination Service did take place. Minister David E. Savage delivered the message from I Corinthians 1:17-19. His subject, "The Foolishness of Preaching." To this date, Minister Franklin stated that he believes this sermon was the most powerful sermon that he's ever heard Minister Savage deliver.

Through the Gospel Ensemble, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, the attendance of numerous church congregations and faithful supporters was clearly enhanced. Even as they traveled, Minister Franklin always felt that there was absolutely nothing like hearing a good ole Hymn, led by Deacon J.B. Head, Jack Stephens, or Louis Laney. Such songs were sermons in themselves and often times they lasted longer than many sermons too.

Several years have come and gone, but Minister Franklin is not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, which he preaches. He proclaims that he will never be reluctant to express thanks to God in his infinite mercy and wisdom for allowing him the opportunity to render service and perhaps touch a "Heart or Two" at the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

### **James Gaines**

James Gaines was born in Paterson, New Jersey on February 12, 1967 to James Hobbs and the late Rosetta Gaines Robinson. He married the former Michelle Ware of Americus, Georgia on August 15, 1998. They are the parents of one son, Sheldon Williams.

Minister Gaines was educated in the school system of New Jersey. After graduating from Eastside High School, he enlisted

in the United States Army. From 1994 to the present, he has been an active member of United States Army Reserves. In the reserves, he works in the division of NBC/NCO, Nuclear Biological/Chemical Noncommissioned Officer Division.

At an early age, James was taught about the Lord by his parents and grandmother. He was saved and later began backsliding; Subsequently, he developed detrimental relationships without God. However, he has taken advantage of many opportunities to learn from God concerning His church. In 1996, James was licensed into the ministry in Sierra Vista, Arizona. He has been a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ since. As a member of UGMBC, he has been active in various capacities, and presently, he serves as chair of the worship ministry.

#### **Gill Henry Gordon, Jr.**

Gill H. Gordon, Jr., a native of Nashville, Tennessee, was born on August 20, 1950 to Pastor Gill Henry and Mary Frances Gordon. He married Lucille Gordon, a high school sweetheart. From this marriage six children were born, Malik, Gill III, Che, Carmen, Aisher, and Jonathan.

Minister Gordon's educational experiences began in the school system of Nashville, Tennessee. He completed his elementary and secondary education in the Davidson County School District. Upon his graduation from high school, Minister Gordon enlisted in the United States Air Force. As an Airman, he began to further his educational experiences by enrolling in various supervisory and management courses offered by the United States Air Force. In 1990, he attended Macon State College in Macon, Georgia.

Minister Gordon stated that his salvation experience began at a very early age. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior and was baptized at the age of 6. As he left home, joined the United States Air Force, and traveled extensively throughout his military tenure, he was led back to Christ. Because of many life experiences and circumstances, Minister Gordon requested a second baptism in July 1993.

While stationed in Warner Robins, Minister Gordon joined UGMBC and became a very active member. He participated in various activities and programs involving the church. In December 1993, he became a coordinator of the Substance Abuse Program. In January 1995, he was appointed to be the vice president of the Brotherhood Association and in June, Minister Gordon accepted the commitment to become a Sunday school teacher for the adult class.

Pastor Arthur L. Hicks licensed Gil Gordon to preach God's words on February 18, 1996 at UGMBC. Later, Minister Gordon was named an associate minister of UGMBC. He has served as an associate Pastor of St. Mary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia, and is currently, the pastor of Victory Baptist Church.

### **Michael Brandon Hicks**

Michael Brandon Hicks was born on July 9, 1982. He is the son of Arthur L. Hicks and Beverly W. Hicks. At the age of seven, Michael accepted Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior and in January of 1990, he was baptized at UGMBC. Michael's educational experience began at Warner Robins Christian Academy at the age of four. He entered kindergarten at Shirley Hills Elementary School and years later he transferred to Russell Elementary School. After completing elementary school, Minister Hicks entered Warner Robins Middle School and completed his secondary education, with honors, from Warner Robins High School.

Prior to and up to his call into the ministry, Minister Hicks attended Sunday school and Bible study faithfully. He served for several years as a Junior Usher. During his formative years, as a daily worshiper and server, Michael began to realize that something not quite so easy to understand, much less explains, must be happening to him. According to his testimony in August of 1997, he began to acknowledge his calling to preach

the Gospel of Jesus Christ before the congregation of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. It was also during this period that Minister Hicks began to develop into a marvelous musician and songwriter.

As his skills in writing and playing the keyboard improved, he became the musician for the Lord's United Voices Youth Choir. Another aspect of Minister Hick's ministry included his affiliation with the Mountain Movers Children and Youth Choir, a division of the Gospel Music Ministries of Middle Georgia. Michael's mother, Beverly Wilson Hick is the founder and C.E.O. of this Gospel music ministry.

**Michael Hunter  
(1957 - 2000)**

Michael Hunter was born in Effingham County, Georgia to Elder Boykin and Doris Hunter. As a child, he participated in many church activities and was baptized at an early age. One day Michael met a wonderful and gifted singer name Barbara. As time passed, he asked her to marry him, she accepted, and they were married. Michael and Barbara have two children.

While living in Warner Robins, Michael became a very active member of Union Grove. He was the musician for the Gospel Ensemble Choir and the Youth Choir; He played the organ and the piano. Aside from playing these instruments, he was an excellent singer; He sang with the Ensemble Choir and the UGMBC Male Chorus. Under the leadership of Pastor Bobby L. Smith, Michael was ordained as one of UGMBC associate ministers.

Minister Hunter moved to Eastman, Georgia. While in Eastman, he was called to pastor Mount Calvary Baptist Church and on November 20, 1994, he was ordained. In March of 2000, Michael died. The members of our congregation have sadly missed him.

### **Rushia Jackson, Jr.**

Rushia Jackson, Jr. was born on December 8, 1936, to Rushia Jackson Sr. and Leola Jackson. He is married to the former Altha Lee Stephens, and they have 10 children. In 1968, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. He was reared and educated in Houston County, Georgia.

In 1989, Minister Jackson accepted his call into the ministry and was ordained at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church on February 13, 1994. Prior to his ordination, he has served as the Food Service Director, a Sunday school teacher, a Sunday school superintendent, and a member of the Building Committee. Occasionally, he has been an acting pastor for UGMBC and several churches in Middle Georgia.

### **Paul Jenkins**

Paul Jenkins, a native of Russell County, Alabama, was born on October 26, 1967 to M. L. and Mary Jenkins. He was educated in the public schools of Phenix City and graduated from Central High School. Upon graduating from high school in 1986, he attended Mississippi Valley State University for two years. Minister Jenkins is married to the former Sonya Patrice Wilson, and they are the proud parents of one daughter, Aria Joy and two sons, Jeremy Paul and Joshua Dewayne.

On November 4, 1990, while attending a worship service at Wesley C.M.E. Chapel in Beloit, Wisconsin, Minister Jenkins had a significant salvation experience. As he participated in the worship service, he felt the Holy Spirit move as he acknowledged Jesus publicly as his Lord and Savior, surrendering his life to Him. This experience was signifying God's call on his life.

In 1995, he accepted the call to become a minister. As a member of U.G.M.B.C., he actively participated in the Gospel Ensemble Choir, singing in the tenor section. He made a very good impression on the youth because of his friendliness, and

genuine concern for them. Eventually, Minister Jenkins became the assistant director of the church's youth program, a job he did exceptionally well.

### **Grace Lucas King**

Grace Lucas King was born on October 16, 1960 in Pompano Beach, Florida. Her parents are Jim Shade and Trudie Randall. She is married to Wayne King, and they have three children, Christopher Lucas, Charity Lucas, and Steven Lucas. Minister King attended Charles Drew Elementary School in Pompano Beach and later moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to live with her godparents.

According to Minister King, she was brought up in a Christian home in Fort Lauderdale under the guidance of Pastors Willie and Grace Morman. She was baptized at the age of 12 years. In 1978, she graduated from Northeast High School. Upon graduation, she enlisted into the United States Air Force and at the age of 19 she joined the church.

After Minister King completed her tenure in the USAF, she attended Crandall College to pursue a degree in computer programming and in 1991 she completed the program and received an Associate of Arts Degree. While serving at Robins Air Force Base, she sang in the Gospel Experience Choir. As a member of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, she participated in Sunday School, Bible School, Summer Lunch Program, and she served on the ministerial staff.

### **Ronald L. Knight, Sr.**

Ronald L. Knight was born on October 20, 1964 to Buford and Bobbie Knight in Los Angeles, California. He is married to Phyllis, and they are the proud parents of three boys, Jecorey, Ronald, Jr., and Bryant. Minister Knight's early educational experiences were in California. He attended the public school system of Los Angeles and graduated from Gardena High School in Gardena, California. Upon graduation, he joined the



United States Army. During his tenure with the Army, he was stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. While stationed in Texas, Minister Knight attended Central Texas College.

Minister Knight stated that his salvation experiences began in early childhood. After moving to Warner Robins, he attended several local churches. However, one Sunday his family and he decided to visit UGMBC and began attending church regularly there. Minister Knight became very active in the programs offered at UGMBC. Under the leadership of Pastor Arthur L. Hicks, Ronald L. Knight, Sr. was licensed a minister in February of 1996 and served as one of UGMBC Associate Ministers.

### **Mary Ann Lollar**

Mary Ann Lollar was born in Pottstown, Pennsylvania on July 18, 1964 to Frank and Dorothy Lollar. She has one son, Terry Lollar. Minister Lollar was educated in the public schools of Lumberton, New Jersey. In earlier years, she attended F. L. Walton Elementary School and received a diploma from Rancocas Valley Regional High School.

Upon graduation from high school, Minister Lollar entered the United States Air Force. She traveled extensively and was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) and Shepard AFB in Texas, Torrejon AFB in Torrejon, Spain, and Robins AFB in Georgia. During her enlistment, Minister Lollar attended the Air Force Medical Technical School and became certified as an X-Ray Technician, an Emergency Medical Technician, Personal Financial Management Specialist, and an O.J.T. Supervisory Trainee.

In November 1993, while attending UGMBC, Minister Lollar was saved and in December she was baptized. As a member, she participated in the Gospel Ensemble Choir, the Sacrifice Choir, singer and violinist, Bible School, Sunday school, and Sunday Morning Worship, and the UGMBC Women's Retreat.

Under the leadership of Pastor Arthur L. Hicks,

Minister Lollar was licensed at UGMBC on January 30, 2000. After a rededication of her life to Christ, she was baptized on July 8, 2001 during our regular worship services. Minister Lollar has served as a minister for the Gateway Drug and Alcohol Transitional Center for Women, the Heritage House, and personal care home for the elderly. In the future, she plans to enroll in the C.F.C. Seminary Training Program.

### **Gary Lucas**

Gary Lucas was born in Wilson, North Carolina and has four siblings. He graduated from Fike High School. Upon graduation, he furthered his education at Delaware State University and Fort Valley State University; He obtained an Associate degree in Material Management and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

Minister Lucas is married and is the father of three children, Christopher, Charity and Steven. He is employed as a program coordinator in Warner Robins, Georgia. While living in Georgia, he has held the positions of an outreach minister, an assistant pastor, an interim senior pastor, and a U.S. Army Chaplin. Minister Lucas served his country in the military as a commissioned officer. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, NAACP, SCLC, and various civic organizations.

While attending Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Minister Lucas was baptized in 1979, licensed into the ministry in 1987 and ordained in 1992. He was an active member, and always served with a smile. Minister Lucas states:

*"I will always be thankful for the opportunity to serve others."*

### **Lee E. McCants**

Lee E. McCants was born in Ideal, Georgia to Arthur and Gracie McCants on April 19, 1955. He attended the Public Schools of Ideal, Georgia. After graduating from high school, he attended Fort Valley State University. At the age of 28, Minister McCants accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior

on March 23, 1983. He is married to Patricia McCants and they have six children, Lakeia, Ebony, Ashley, Jared, Arnece, and Aundra.

As a member of UGMBC, Minister McCants has been active in programs involving the youth. He has been a math tutor, a Vacation Bible School director, a Sunday school teacher, a Bible Study teacher, and just simply a listener for some. Minister McCants was licensed to preach at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church on February 17, 1996.

### **Maurice Myers**

A licensed minister, Maurice Myers was active with Nazareth Baptist Church in Washington, Pennsylvania before moving to Warner Robins, Georgia. While living in this area, he decided to become affiliated with a local church and he joined UGMBC on June 6, 1987. As a member, Maurice was very active in many of our church's functions. He sang as a tenor and a baritone in the UGMBC Gospel Ensemble Choir and the Male Chorus. Minister Myers was a Wednesday night Bible study teacher as well as a Sunday school teacher.

From 1989-1991, Minister Myers was assigned coordinator of Mid-week worship services. He also sang with the Warner Robins Air Force Base Gospel Experience Choir.

### **Nicole Pelote**

Nicole Pelote was born on January 11, 1981 at Loring Air Force Base, Maine to parents Alfonso and Donna Pelote. At five years old, Minister Pelote accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and was baptized On October 30, 1994, at UGMBC. As a member of this church body, she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and acknowledged her calling into the ministry on August 3, 1997.

Minister Pelote has attended school in various school systems throughout the USA and Japan. Some places are: (a) Yakota Air Force Base, Japan, (b) Holloman Air Force Base,

New Mexico, and (c) Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Georgia. However, while living in Warner Robins, Nicole attended Houston County High School until her parents received orders to relocate.

As a member of UGMBC, Nicole faithfully attended Sunday school, Bible Study, and all other worship services. Prior to accepting her calling into the ministry, she was a member of the Lord's United Voices Youth Choir and Youth Department. Nicole Pelote was licensed into the ministry December 7, 1997 at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church under Pastor Arthur L. Hicks.

### **Sabrina Patrice Perry**

Sabrina Patrice Perry, daughter of Mrs. Alphia R. Perry and the late Deacon Albert P. Perry, Sr., was born on July 20, 1960, Fort Knox, Kentucky. She accepted the Lord in June 1979 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Minister Perry attended Mt. Sinai Baptist Church until leaving North Carolina. She has one son, Kenneth Allen Chandler.

On October 14, 1990, Minister Perry united with Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. As a member, she participated as: (a) the Director of the Youth Department, (b) Wedding Coordinator and (c) a dedicated assistant of the Food Service Committee, the Flower Committee, the Singles Ministry, and the Adult Choir.

Minister Perry was an employee of Middle Georgia College, Cochran, Georgia. She conducted Bible study on this college campus, organized and directed the Middle Georgia College Gospel Choir. She has worked on a Master of Science degree in Christian Education and Counseling.

After announcing her call into the ministry, license service was held for Minister Perry on April 12, 1997 at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Arthur L. Hicks licensed her into the ministry.

## **Homer Wright**

Homer Wright was born April 19, 1957 to Jack and Katherine Wright. He is married to Gracie Jones Wright and they have three children, Travis Christopher, and Shauna. Minister Wright is a Native of Peach County, Fort Valley, Georgia. He attended Hunt Elementary and Peach County High School. He had additional training at the Law Enforcement Training Center of Middle Georgia.

On April 25, 1980, Minister Wright accepted Christ Jesus into his life, and some years later he was called to preach His Gospel. As a member of U.G.M.B.C., he participated in Bible study, Sunday school, and served on the ministerial staff. His favorite ministry has been the “Prison” Ministry. Minister Wright is associated with the Peach County Ministerial Organizations.



From left to right, Michael Hunter, Gary Lucas, Pastor Bobby L. Smith, Maurice Meyers, and Homer Wright

## **Trustees**

<i>Henry Zeke Allen, Jr.</i>	<i>J. A. Thomas, Jr.</i>
<i>Ellison Kendricks</i>	<i>Eugene Walker</i>
<i>Ben Respress</i>	<i>Willie White</i>
<i>John Smith</i>	

### **Henry Zeke Allen, Jr.**

Henry Zeke Allen was born on February 1, 1950 to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allen, Sr. He is married to the former Annie Jackson, and they have four children, Stephanie, Christopher, Keisa, and Kizzy. He attended the public schools in Houston County and graduated from Pearl Stephens High School in 1968. Brother Allen attended Macon Technical School and completed a major in Heating and Air Conditioning and he also received a Real Estate License.

In 1979, Brother Allen accepted the Lord after experiencing a near fatal accident. In 1982, he was ordained as a deacon at U.G.M.B.C. However, he presently serves in the capacity of Trustee. In the community, he has been a member of the Houston County Chapters of the SCLC and the NAACP.

### **Ben Respress**

Benjamin Respress was born on January 14, 1951 in Upson County, Thomaston, GA to the late Tommie L. Colquitt and Albert Respress. He is married to his high school sweetheart; Vacinta Walton Respress, and they have three children, Garrett, Candace, and Brandon.

Brother Respress attended church almost all of his life. At an early age of eight, he confessed Christ as his savior and joined the Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Thomaston, GA. He also attended his family's church, Shady Grove Baptist Church in Thomaston. After graduating from college, he was employed at RAFB. While in Warner Robins, he visited many churches

and in September 1978, he decided to unite with the Union Grove Baptist Church family.

Since joining Union Grove, Brother Respress has participated actively in many church activities. In 1986, He was ordained as a deacon and served on the Board of Deacons. He worked with the Usher Ministry, The Men and Women's Day Program (1984), Co-chairperson of the Building Committee, Outreach Ministry, served as Director of Recreation, chairperson of the Finance Ministry, and vice-chairperson of the Business Stewardship Ministry. Currently, he is Trustee and a member of the Finance Committee.

Ben was educated in the school system of Thomaston. Upon graduation from high school, he attended Albany State University. In 1972, Brother Respress received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics with a minor in Business Administration. Currently, he is employed at Robins Air Force Base in the Civilian Personnel Office. In his present position, he serves as Chief of the Affirmative Employment and Staffing Section. He has a diverse personnel management background in the federal government that includes Equal Employment Opportunity Program Management, Employee and Management relations, Position Management, Recruitment and Employment, and Equal Employment and Staffing.

Brother Respress is or has been affiliated with various civil and professional organizations. These organizations include the Federal Manager Association, International Personnel Management Association, Blacks in Government, a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. a life member of Doo Phi Doo Social Fraternity, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Outstanding Young Men of America, Air Force Association, Albany State University (ASU) National Alumni Association, and the Warner Robins Chapter of the ASU Alumni Association.

### **John B. Smith**

John B. Smith was born on December 31, 1943 in Innis, Louisiana to the late Wilson and Alberta Smith. He is married to the former Clara Baker of New Roads, Louisiana. From this union, two daughters were born, Teras and Cheryl.

John attended the public schools in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He graduated from McKinley High School in 1962. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1962 and served continuously for twenty-six years. His Air Force career culminated at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia in 1998.

At an early age, John accepted Christ and was baptized at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. However, soon after enlisting in the Air Force, he became a “prodigal son.” Until April 1987, John said that he went his own way until he surrendered his life to Jesus at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, and he was baptized in September 1999.

Currently, John is employed as a vehicle operator for the Robins Air Force Base Refuse Contractor. A pleasant and mild mannered person, he is actively involved in the Bus and the Media Ministries, and he also serves as one of UGMBC trustees.

### **J. A. Thomas, Jr.**

J. A. Thomas was born in Hayneville, Georgia on December 27, 1940 to Albert and Dorothea Thomas. He is married to the former Dorothy Smith Gibson, and they have two children, Dwayne Gibson and Avis Gibson. Brother Thomas received his educational training in the public schools of Houston County. He attended Hayneville Elementary and Houston County Training School. After graduating from high school in 1960, he entered the United States Air Force.

In July 1983, after 23 years of active duty, Brother Thomas retired from the USAF. However, during his active duty years, he attended several technical schools. He received training



while stationed at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois and Middle Georgia Technical School in the area of Air Craft and Sheet Metal.

In January 1984, Brother Thomas accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior and was baptized at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. As a member, he is an usher, and he serves on the Security System Team, the Trustee Board, and the Finance Committee. In 1997, Brother Thomas retired from Civil Service at Robins Air Force Base.

### **Eugene Walker**

Eugene Walker, a native of Burke County, Georgia, was born on June 13, 1946 in Waynesboro. The oldest of three children, he was reared by his mother. He has one brother and one sister. He is married to Earnestine Walker, and they have one son, one daughter, and two grandchildren.

Brother Walker grew up in a Baptist family and joined the church during his preteen years. After completing high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and served for three years. While in the Army, he established his career in Electronics. At the age of 27, he united with Warner Robins C.M.E. Church and began a faithful walk with God. He visited the nursing homes, made home visitations, and went door-to-door to witness for Christ.

As a member of UGMBC, Brother Walker has participated in Sunday school, Bible Study, Sunday Morning Worship, Stewardship Ministry, Board of Trustees, and the Finance Committee.

He has been actively involved in many activities and programs offered by this congregation. During his membership with Warner Robins C.M.E. Church, he served as chairperson of the Steward Board.

## **Willie White**

Willie White was born in Hopkinsville, Kentucky to Willie and Martha White. He is married to Paula White and they have two daughters, Olethia Marie White Thomas and Rebecca Cherie, and one granddaughter, Jordan Olivia Thomas. He was educated in the school system of Hopkinsville, and after graduating from Christian County High School, he joined the United States Army for three years. Willie is a graduate of Hopkinsville Community College and the Herald Institute of Technology in Santa Clara, California.

At the age of 12, Willie joined Moore Baptist Church in Hopkinsville and was a member of the usher board and the MBC choir. In 1983, he joined UGMBC. As a member, he serves on the usher board (1985 – present), directs the recreation department (twelve years), and coaches the women's softball and basketball teams (for over 10 years). Presently, he is a member of the Trustee Board and heads the Building Security Team.

## Deacons



From Left to Right, Lawrence Thomas, Michael White, Robert Simmons, Nathaniel Davis, and Monroe Clark Not Shown, Theodolphus Caldwell, James Ford, Louis Laney, Charles Lenoir, Sr., Willie McIntrye, and Jerome Stephens, Sr.

## Current Deacons

*Theodolphus Caldwell*  
*Monroe Clark*  
*Nathaniel Davis*  
*James E. Ford*  
*Edward Jarvis, resigned*  
*Louis Laney*  
*Charles R. Lenoir, Sr.*

*Willie H. McIntrye*  
*Ben Respress, Trustee*  
*Robert Simmons*  
*Jerome Stephens, Sr.*  
*Lawrence W. Thomas*  
*Michael G. White*

### **Theodolphus Caldwell**

Theodolphus Caldwell was born on March 14, 1951, in Panama City, Florida. His parents are Willie and Johnnie B. Caldwell. He is married to the former Carlotta E. Gialang; they have one daughter, Vanessa Z. Caldwell. He was educated in the public schools of Bay County, Florida. Deacon Caldwell attended Glenwood Elementary and Bay High Schools in Panama City. Upon graduation from high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force.

At an early age, Deacon Caldwell accepted Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior. In 1990, after retiring from the USAF and returning to Warner Robins, Georgia, he united with UGMBC under the leadership of Minister Bobby L. Smith. He served as Director of Audio/Media Program, Member of the History Committee, Former Assistant Director of Children's Church, and as the Assistant Director of the Bus Ministry.

In 1997, he answered the call to become a deacon, and he was ordained under the leadership of Arthur L. Hicks on January 18, 1998 at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

### **Monroe Clark**

Monroe Clark was born on June 11, 1949 to Freddie Lee and Evelyn Grier Clark in the community of Dawson, Terrell County, Georgia. He married the lovely Shirley D. Lyles in Holy Matrimony on August 22, 1970. To this union, God bless them with three children, Anquan Reynard (October 5, 1971), Latisha Lynette (September 6, 1976), and Quenton Monroe (October 11, 1980).

Deacon Clark was educated in the public schools of Dawson, Georgia. He completed his elementary education from Lillie Cooper Elementary School, and a high school diploma from Carver High School. Upon graduation from Carver High School, he attended and obtained a certificate in the Usage and Operation of Computers from Albany Area Technical School.

According to Deacon Clark, his salvation is based on his faith and belief in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and His word through the scriptures (Romans 10: 8-9). He stated that he was united with the Mountain Grove Baptist Church, Herod, Georgia, when he was twelve years old. He remained at this church, as a member, until he came to Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church in September 1988.

Deacon Clark states that his ministry has always taken him in the area of the elderly. He has frequently made visits to the sick members in their homes and in area hospitals and nursing homes. Deacon Clark said:

*"I was always blessed to be in the present of people singing, praying, and sharing in the Word and their life experiences."*

Additionally, he provides services where needed such as cutting and pruning shrubbery on the church's ground. He is a member of the AFL-CIO, CLC, and the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union.

### **Nathaniel E. Davis**

Nathaniel E. Davis was born on January 13, 1938 in Sylvania, Georgia to Jerome and Wilma Davis. He is married to the lovely Grace Anna Dandy. He is the father of two children, Pamela L. Price and Rodney E. Davis. Deacon Davis attended the public schools of Savannah, Georgia, receiving his elementary and secondary education.

Upon graduation from high school, he joined the United States Air Force. While in the Air Force, he enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force and received an Associate Degree in Work Center Management. While stationed in Alabama, he attended Troy State University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology.

Deacon Davis's salvation experience began when he was very young. As a child, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. In 1982, Deacon Davis rededicated life and continued to work faithfully for Christ.

As a member of UGMBC, Deacon Davis has served on the deacon board since 1991 and he participates in many activities and programs offered by the congregation. He is always pleasant and helpful.

### **James E. Ford**

James E. Ford, a native of Conway, South Carolina, was born on August 15, 1940 to Rev. Thomas J. Ford (deceased), Mrs. Elmita A. Ford. He is married to the former Anna Singleton, and they have five Children, Rodney I. Ford, Andrea Nicole Ford, Jennifer Ford, Sherolyn Lemorris Ford-Sellers, and Thomas J. Ford. He was educated in the public school of Conway, South Carolina graduating from Whittemore High School in 1959.

On February 26, 1974, Deacon Ford acknowledged God's miraculous healing/deliverance from Alcoholism. In March 1979, under the leadership of Pastor Bobby L. Smith, he accepted Christ's Plan of Salvation. He said:

*"Since 1978, his calling has been to minister to alcoholics and addicts in the Middle Georgia Communities including churches and prisons."*

Deacon Ford has had an extensive educational history. He has obtained a degree from each of the following institutions of higher learning:

1. The Community College of the Air Force, Associate Degree, 1977.
2. Ball State University, Muncie Indiana, Sociology Degree, 1976 to 1978.
3. Air Force Substance Abuse Technical Training, Basic School, June to September 1978, and Advanced School, March 1979.
4. Johnson Institute, Chemical Dependency Counseling, July to August 1979.
5. University of Georgia, Family Systems Theory and Counseling, August 1980.

6. Hazelden Institute, Individual, Group and Family Counseling, March 1981.
7. Moody Bible Correspondence School, Introduction to the Bible, 1982 to 1983.
8. Christian Counseling Concepts, Rev. Dr. Jay Adams, Nouthetic Counseling, (June to October 1983).
9. Rutgers University, Advanced Counseling Skills, June to July 1984.
10. Georgia Southern University, School on Addiction, July 1985.

While stationed at Warner Robins Air Force Base, Deacon Ford joined the UGMBC congregation and became a very active member. In 1982, he was ordained under the leadership of Pastor Bobby L. Smith. Since 1981, he has directed the Addiction Recovery Ministry.

In the community, Deacon Ford has been active with the Peachbelt Mental Health, Advisory Board, 1979 to 1988; Georgia Addiction Counselors' Association (GACA), Board of Directors, 1981 to 83; Georgia Addiction Counselors' Association, Certification Board, 1983 to 86; Minority Affairs Committee, Chairperson, 1987 to 1993; Counselors' Professional Development Institute (PDI), 1989 to 94; Crandall Junior College, Advisory Council, 1989 to 1992; Alcohol/Drugs Prison Ministry, Assistant District Representative, 1983 to 1988; and Alcohol/Drugs Prison Ministry, District Representative, 1988 to Present.

### **Edward Jarvis, Sr.**

Edward Jarvis was born on February 25, 1933 to Leslie W. and Helena V. Jarvis in Matthews County, Virginia. His friends have known him as "*Ed J.*" Since 1945 he has dedicated his life to serving Jesus and continues this desire today.

Brother Jarvis attended the public schools of Matthew County, Virginia. He graduated from Thomas Hunter High School. Upon graduation from high school he enlisted in the USAF. While serving his country, Brother Jarvis attended many

military schools, both technical and managerial training schools.

While stationed in Warner Robins, Georgia, Brother Jarvis was ordained a deacon at UGMBC in December of 1982, and served faithfully until he resigned on March 18, 1999. He provides services to this community by supporting and volunteering for organizations such as the Hospice of Houston County and the Houston County Board of Elections.

### **Louis Laney**

Louis Laney was born on July 1, 1944 in Knoxville, a small community in Crawford County, Georgia. He is the son of Louis Laney, Sr. and Ruby Porter. Deacon Laney is the father of two, Hosea L. Laney and Michelle Jackson. He received his formal education from Jerusalem Baptist Church and graduated on May 31, 1965 from Pearl Stephens High School in Warner Robins. After high school, he enrolled in the Career Training Institute and later received a diploma in Cashiering and Small Business Management on May 19, 1969.

Deacon Laney was baptized with the Holy Ghost on Friday, December 31, 1953 at New Smyrna Baptist Church in Peach County, Georgia. He was ordained to be a deacon on September 17, 1970 at UGMBC.

As a member of UGMBC, Deacon Laney participated regularly in Sunday school, Bible Study, and Sunday worship services. He served as a BTU teacher (1964-1976), church clerk (1973), and the Senior Choir clerk (1970). In the community, he has served with the Community Prayer Band, clerk for the Georgia Baptist Convention, and with the Smyrna Good Samaritan Lodge (No.2), Mount Zion Lodge (No.5), and the Oak Grove Brothers and Sisters of Love Lodge (No.7).



### **Charles L. Lenoir, Sr.**

Charles L Lenoir Sr. was born on December 9, 1941 in Sumarall, Mississippi to Walter Z. and Annie E. Lenoir. At an early age, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He attended the public schools of Birmingham, Alabama and graduated from Westfield High School. Upon graduation from high school, Deacon Lenoir enlisted in the USAF. Later, he married Mary Epperson. He is the father of two children, Charles L. Lenoir, Jr., and AnnJanetta Lenoir.

In 1982, Charles Lenoir was ordained a deacon for Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church and was later elected Chairperson of Deacons. He has worked faithfully in many capacities as it relates to UGMBC while serving as one of its deacons. As a Chairperson of the History Committee, he produced the church's first souvenir history booklet and served as Director of the Outreach Program. Recently, he completed one year of seminary training and serves as the Director of Evangelism.

### **Willie H. McIntyre**

Willie H. McIntyre, a native of North Carolina, was born on May 26, 1942 to Eugene Hansley and Carrie Fashaw. He received his elementary and secondary education from the public schools of Wilmington, North Carolina. He is married to Mary McIntyre and is the father of two children, Willie H. Jr. and Eric.

After graduating from Williston Senior High School in Wilmington, North Carolina, Deacon McIntyre enlisted in the USAF. In 1968, he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. While in the military, he attended the Community College of the Air Force and in 1980 he received an Associate Degree in Material Management. Later, Deacon McIntyre obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management, Park College in Parkville, Missouri.

Deacon McIntyre was ordained in 1990 at Joshua Baptist

Church in Charleston Heights, South Carolina. Assignments in the USAF have allowed Deacon McIntyre to travel extensively and to participate, in some capacity, in various churches and Air Bases throughout the USA. He has served as Gospel choir member, Crete AFB Chapel, Greece; Gospel choir president, Pope AFB Chapel; Usher, Joshua Baptist Church, Charleston Height, South Carolina; Usher, Base Chapel, Osan Air Force Base, Korea; and Usher, Base Chapel, Clark Air Force Base, PI.

As a member of UGMBC, he became part of the Deacon Board in May 1991. While serving as a deacon, he worked untiringly and faithfully for the congregation and the church's mission. Presently, he is Chairperson of the Deacon Board.

### **Robert Simmons**

Robert Simmons was born on December 29, 1938 to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Simmons in Augusta Georgia. He attended the public schools of Richmond County and graduate from Lucy Laney High School, June 1958. Upon graduation from high school, he attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, Paine College in Augusta, Georgia and the Community College of the Air Force and received an Associate Degree in 1988.

Deacon Simmons was ordained to become a deacon in 1974. He served on the deacon boards of Savannah Baptist Church, Marion, Texas; Macedonia Baptist Church, Denver Colorado; and Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Warner Robins, Georgia (1987 to present).

As a member of UGMBC, Deacon Simmons has served on several committees such as the Finance, the Library, and the Constitution Committees. He has been a very active member of this church congregation while serving as a loyal Adult Bible Study teacher

### **Jerome Stephens, Sr.**

Jerome Stephens was born in Atlanta Georgia, Fulton County, on April 10, 1947. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Stephens and Clara Mae Banks. He is married to the

former Shirley Buckner, and they have four children, Tangela Jones, Aisha Stephens, Jerome Stephens, Jr., and Jason Stephens. Also, they have two adorable grandchildren, Jade Jones and Jayden K. Golpton.

Deacon Stephens became a resident of Warner Robins in 1947. He attended Pearl Stephens School, Grades 1-12. On September 22, 1965, several months after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After four years, he completed his assigned duty with the USMC on September 19, 1969. Since February 2, 1970, he has been an employee of Robins Air Force Base.

Educationally, Deacon Stephens has attended Macon Junior College, Macon Area Technical School, and the Union Baptist Association. Spiritually, According to Deacon Stephens, it was early Thursday morning, February 3, 1973, in the Houston County Hospital that he had a salvation experience with Jesus. He stated that Christ came into his life and then, he accepted Him as his personal Savior.

In 1975, Deacon Stephens was ordained a deacon at U.G.M.B.C. While a member of this church, he has served in the following capacities:

1. A deacon board member; Chairperson, and Assistant Chairperson.
2. Building Committee Chair, 1976-1978, and member, 1990-1995.
3. Bible study teacher.
4. Sunday school teacher.
5. Church secretary.
6. Member of male chorus.
7. Adult Usher Ministry.
8. Secretary of Layman Department/Union Baptist Association.
9. Vice President of Layman.
10. President of Layman Union Baptist Association.
11. Member of men's softball team.
12. Spiritual Enrichment Ministry Leader.
13. Chairperson of Pastor Selection Committee.

14. Member of the Brotherhood Ministry.
15. Youth Ministry.
16. Security Ministry.
17. History Committee.

Additionally, he has worked for the Houston County Jury Commissioner; member, board of director for Christmas in April Program, Vice President; member of Union Baptist Association; member of Junior Baptist Association, Census Committee 2000, Warner Robin; American Cancer Society, Houston County Certified Literate Community Program Treasurer; American Heart Association; Houston County Team, Robins Development Authority; Houston County Gang Task Force; NAACP, National Youth Sports Program, Fort Valley State University; Pearl Stephens Memorial Scholarship Fund, Vice President; and voter registration.

### **Lawrence W. Thomas**

Lawrence Thomas, a native of Pennsylvania, was born on May 15, 1937 to Clarence and Hattie Mae Thomas. He attended the public schools in Philadelphia. After graduating from high school, he joined the United States Air Force. He is married to Sheila D. and they have five children, two are stepchildren.

In August 1977, Deacon Thomas accepted his call to become deacon at UGMBC. Presently, he is a soloist for the UGMBC Adult Choir and the President of the Brotherhood Auxiliary.

### **Michael G. White**

Michael G. White was born on June 19, 1954 in Lake Providence, Louisiana to Charlie and Clara Finley Carpenter White. He is married to Carolyn H. White, and they have three children, Roshaun, Letatia, and Ayanna. Deacon White attended East Carroll Parish Public School, Lake Providence, Louisiana

His educational experiences include studying at various universities and colleges. For Law Enforcement Training, he attended Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA;

Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, LA; and the State of Louisiana Law Enforcement Training Academy, Angola, Louisiana.

Additionally, he attended other institutions of study including Northwestern State University, Alexandria, Louisiana; Saint Leo College, Alexandria, LA; Louisiana Electronics and Drafting School, New Orleans, LA; The Community College of the United States Air Force; and several Military Schools.

On September 18, 1986, Deacon White had a salvation experience which inspired him to unite with Central Baptist, Number One, Lake Providence, LA and from July 1979 to 1980, he served as deacon. Also, he was a deacon at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist, June 1986 to 1991.

As a resident of Warner Robins, he united with UGMBC in 1991 and became an active member of the Deacon Board. As a member of UGMBC, Deacon White has been very faithful and dependable; he is presently serving as the Superintendent of Sunday school.



From the back row, Ben Respress, Rushia Jackson, Hank Allen, Charles Lenoir, Sr., Jerome Stephens, Kenneth Emanuel, Marvin Colbert, Johnnie Head, Pastor Bobby L. Smith, Edward Jarvis

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Deceased Deacons**

*Marvin D. Colbert*  
*Johnnie Head*  
*Henry S. Myles*  
*Alfonso "Jack" Stephens*

***Marvin D. Colbert***  
(1923 – 1999)



Marvin Colbert was born on April 5, 1923 in Roberta, Georgia to Freeman and Jennie Bell Jordan Colbert. He was married to Gertrude Mathis Colbert; they have eight children four boys and four girls. He received his formal education from the Houston County School System, and Memorial School in Macon, Georgia.

In 1935, Marvin Colbert joined UGMBC, and in 1952, he was ordained as a deacon. Deacon Colbert was church secretary for two years, church finance clerk for fifteen (15) years, and assistant finance clerk for six years.

***Johnnie Head, Sr.***  
(1912 – 1998)



Johnnie Head, Sr. was born on April 9, 1912 in Monroe County to Harrison and Addie Smith Head. He was married to Lois Head, and they had seventeen children. He received his early childhood education in Monroe County and later moved to Houston County.

In 1935, Johnnie Head, Sr. was ordained a deacon at Oak Grove Baptist Church, and in 1940, he came to Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church to fulfill the calling that God had on his life. Deacon Head was blessed with a unique voice that blessed those who heard him. He became well known in the Middle Georgia Community as “*the Singing Ethiopian.*”

In the 1970’s, Deacon Head participated in the renovation of the UGMBC to include:

1. Several classrooms
2. Pastor’s study
3. Fully equipped kitchen
4. Conference room
5. Two restrooms
6. Choir room
7. Administrative offices
8. Bricking of the newly annexed building

Additionally, he served as Chairperson of UGMBC Building Committee, Sunday school teacher, Bible school teacher, Sunday school Superintendent, and Chairperson of Deacon Board.



***Henry S. Myles***  
(1928 - 1995)



Henry S. Myles was born on September 8, 1928 in Burke County, Georgia. He was the second of five children, two sisters and two brothers. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. George Myles, Sr. He received his early education in Burke County.

At an early age, Deacon Myles accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. After this conversion, he was baptized and later was ordained to the deacon board at Palmer Grove Baptist Church. He served as deacon until he relocated to Augusta, Georgia.

As a resident of Augusta, Deacon Myles became an active member of the Mount Calvary Baptist Church. As a member, he remained faithful to the congregation for many, many years. He was chairman of the building committee, sang with the E.A. Moss Choir, a member of the September Birth Month Club, and several auxiliaries.

Deacon Myles was a man of great insight, vision, courage, and consistently ambitious in every endeavor. He would always “speak up” and never leave anyone wondering what his position

was on any and all issues—church, home, work or community. He was a strong believer in excellence and education achievement. Developing what started out to be a hobby, he enrolled and studied electronics at the Coyn Electronics School in Chicago and at Savannah State University.

Deacon Myles owned and operated his first business, Myles Electric, which opened October 1955. Later, he began to repair property for sale and rental. As time moved on, he began to enter the General Building Contractor field, restoring substandard homes for the Federal HUD Program. In the private sector, Deacon Myles also built homes, office buildings and churches.

In January 1985, Deacon Myles and his family, wife (Flossie), daughters (Michelle and Monica) moved to Warner Robins. His construction jobs dictated the move. Later, his son (Joey) and family, wife (Vernice), and two daughters moved too. The whole family joined UGMBC. By being added to the deacon board, Deacon Myles continued his involvement in church work. His focus was always for church improvement. He helped to accomplish the following improvements:

1. Renovated the rear area of the church to provide extra seating capacity until the new sanctuary was built
2. Encouraged the deacon board to discuss the benefits of certificates of deposits with the church family. Thereby, increasing financial growth in the already established building fund.
3. Organized committees for financial drives such as the “Green Tee.”
4. After five years in Warner Robins, Deacon Myles and his family moved back to Augusta. His mother was ill and preceded him in death. Deacon Myles retired from building in 1992, and he died on July 15, 1995.

*Alfonso “Jack” Stephens*  
(1909 – 2002)



Alfonso “Jack” Stephens was born on August 9, 1909 in Houston County that was formerly called Wellston, Georgia to Isom and Pearl Stephens. He has three sisters, Maggie L. Rutledge, Johnnie Mae Duncan, and Ella Stephens, and one brother, Ralph Clements. He was married to Fannie Stephens. His children are James, Althea Lee, Benjamin, Charlie Bryant, Willie, Jerome, and Will.

Deacon Stephens attended the church schools in Houston County (Elberta, Georgia). He was a farmer, employed with Lewis B. Wilson Airport; formerly Cochran Field, and Robins Air Force Base. He retired in April 1975 from RAFB as a steam plant worker.

In August 1936, he accepted the Lord as his Savior and was ordained a deacon of U.G.M.B.C. in 1937. Deacon Stephens has worked faithfully at U.G.M.B.C. and other local affiliations. He served in several capacities including the following:

1. Chairperson of Deacons (U.G.M.B.C.).

2. Chairperson of Building Committee (1968).
3. Church Treasurer and the secretary.
4. Superintendent of Sunday school.
5. The Mason Organization (Worshipful of Scottish Rite Masons, Central City #235).
6. President of the Helping Hand Society (Bibb County).
7. President of the Order of eastern Star #138
8. Affiliated with the Shriners of Macon, GA
9. Past Presiding officer for the building Sunday School Convention of Houston County
10. Liaison to the Mother Board (U.G.M.B.C.)

In 1941, Deacon Stephens assisted in moving UGMBC from the base site to its present location. As deacon, he was known to handle any task set before him; He always assisted whoever needed him.

On November 20, 2002, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in His infinite wisdom swiftly flew on wings of love and brought sweet relief to Deacon Stephens.

## Deaconesses



From top to bottom, Annie Lester, Grace Davis, Shirley Smith, Carolyn White, Mary Lenoir, Shirley Clark, Louise Waiters, Gertrude Colbert, and Mary Leonard (Mother of the Church) Not Shown, Jacqueline Fant, Ann Allen, Mary McIntrye, and Ollie Vann

The date of when the original deaconess board was established is unknown, and the names of members were not identified as well. However, records show that the deaconess board was reestablished in 1928. Sarah Crowder Lawson served as president and Gertrude Colbert served as vice president.

The members of the deaconess board are responsible for preparing First Sunday communion for the congregation and candidates for baptism.

**Mothers of the Church**  
***Annie Lou Shelling, Emeritus***



Historically, the Mother of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church has been a God given blessing from above to the members. During Sunday worship hour, you can look toward the “Amen Corner” and see a friendly middle aged or older lady dressed in white. She has been observed looking over the congregation with watchful eyes. She has been described as kind, compassionate, a great listener, and a motivator. We thank God for sending a mother of the church who is special and unique in many ways.

We know life is never measured by how many years we live, but by the kind things we do and happiness we give to others. For many years, you have been a positive role model for us. You have encouraged many people with just your smile and words of wisdom. Many members have appreciated your memorable slogan, “If you give out, don’t give up.” Oh, what a comfort to know that you care in words and in deed.

We love you Mother Shelling and thank you.

*Mary Terry*

## **Presiding Mother of the Church**

### ***Mary Leonard***

Mary Leonard was born on March 20, 1920 to the parents of William Cheney and Annie Owens. She has nine brothers and sisters of which four are deceased. In 1939, she married Robert A. Leonard, and out of this union two children were born, Bennie Leonard and Annie Leonard Johnson.

Mother Leonard completed the eleventh grade. However, before she could complete the 12th grade, she had a car accident. This accident hindered her from taking her G.E.D. Nevertheless, she stated that the Lord has taught her and He continues to teach her.

When asked about her salvation experience, Mother Leonard cited Roman 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and for also the Greek." She said:

"It gives me great joy and pleasure when I can share the word of God and see Christ manifest Himself in that individual's life."

As a member of UGMBC, she participated in Sunday school, Bible Study, morning worship services, and she has served on the Mother Board and the Deaconess Board.

## **Former Secretaries**

*Mary L. Lenoir*  
*Teras Smith-Jackson*

***Mary L. Lenoir***



Mary L. Lenoir is married to Deacon Charles R. Lenoir, Sr. Jesus Christ has blessed them to be parents of two beautiful children, Charles R. Lenoir, Jr. and Annjanette M. Lenoir. They have a lovely daughter in law, Tanya H. Lenoir and two lovely grandchildren, Tyler and Tayler Lenoir.

Sister Lenoir served faithfully as church clerk under the leadership of Pastors Bobby L. Smith and Arthur Lee Hicks. She is a member of the Deaconess Ministry, the Scholarship Ministry and an assistant at the Life Changers Center.

Sister Lenoir is a graduate of Middleton High School, Park College and Georgia College. She also completed one year of seminary at International Seminary College. Most of all, Sister Lenoir is a born again Christian and is willing to be used by the Lord for the uplifting and building of God's Kingdom. Her gift is serving others.



***Teras Smith-Jackson***



Teras Smith was born on June 1, 1970. She is the oldest daughter of John and Clara Smith. Teras is married to Keith Smith, and they have 3 children. As a child she traveled with her parents because they were a military family. Thereby, attending several schools. However, she received her high school diploma from Warner Robins High School.

Teras attended Fort Valley State University and was employed in the FVSU Foundations Department under Dr. Linda Hall. During this time, she served as UGMBC secretary until she relocated to Atlanta to work for Spellman College.

After joining UGMBC, Teras became very active in several youth programs, and she was a Soprano in the youth and the Gospel Ensemble Choirs. Presently, she is a deaconess at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Minister Timothy Fleming is her pastor.

## **Current Secretary**

*Janice Stephens-Scott*



Janice Scott was born on August 1, 1962 in Warner Robins, Georgia. Her parents are Ella Stephens and Odell Jones. She is married to Henry Abraham Scott, and they have three children, Lateshia, Marquith “Keith,” and Rashad. At a young age, Janice accepted Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior, and she was baptized and united with Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Her Christian development was enhanced through Sunday school, Bible Study, BTU, and Vacation Bible School while attending this church.

Sister Scott received her early, middle and high school education from Pearl Stephens Elementary, Bert Rumble Junior High, and Warner Robins High School. After she graduated from high school, Sister Scott attended Fort Valley State University and the Middle Georgia Technical College.

Presently, Sister Scott is employed as secretary for UGMBC. She is affiliated with the Middle Georgia Florist Association and the Georgia C.N. Association. She has been described as a dedicated, friendly, courteous, and hard working secretary. Our members are considered blessed because God has placed a person with these attributes in position that requires a great deal of patience.

## **Part II: Auxiliaries**

### *Outreach Ministry*

Brotherhood  
Evangelism  
Women Mission  
Recreation

### *Worship Ministry*

Ministerial Staff  
Music  
Ushers  
Children Church

### *Teaching Ministry*

Sunday School  
Bible Study  
Nursery  
Library

### *Spiritual Enrichment Ministry*

Deacons  
Deaconesses  
Serenity/Addiction  
Nurses Guild  
Women Ministry  
Singles Ministry  
Youth Department  
Wedding Ministry

### *Business Stewardship Ministry*

Real Estate  
Personnel Committee  
Trustee Board  
Finance Committee

### *Operational Support Ministry*

Bus Ministry  
Flowers  
Media  
Food Service  
Computer Support  
History Committee

## **Outreach Ministry**

*Minister John Dukes, Chair*

### **Brotherhood**

“But ye Brethren, Be ye not weary in well doing”  
(2 Thessalonians 3:13)

The Brotherhood Ministry was organized on December 6, 1976. Alfonzo “Jack” Stephens was selected chairperson. Franklin Greene has served as chair. Currently, this group has been under the direction of Deacon Lawrence Thomas.

### **Evangelism**

“Where no counsel is the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14)

In 1979, Minister Richard E. Spann organized this auxiliary to reach out and touch someone for Jesus through witnessing and saving souls. Efforts of the UGMBC Evangelism Team have permeated the immediate neighborhood and surrounding community. As a result, people have developed understanding and knowledge of the Bible. Most importantly, they have acquired faith in God. The Evangelistic Team’s service and influence have transmitted to people throughout the United States and abroad.

The Evangelism Team emphasizes that to witness and spread the Gospel of Christ one must share the love of God, the resurrection of Christ, and the fact that man’s response to sin is by repentance and faith.

Jesus is the message. Jesus Christ by his death and His resurrection, became the Gospel. The Gospel is so simple that even a fool could not error, but his demands of self-denial and cross bearing is difficult. The Evangelism Team realizes that they share with the urgency of a life and death message because some people may hear the Gospel for the last time. Also, Jessie Grice, Charles Lenoir, and Paul Dunbar were appointed leaders of this team from 1979 to 2000.

### **Women's Mission**

“But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only” (James 1:22)

The Women's Mission was established in the year of 1887 under the leadership of Minister Cleveland. On the third Sunday in November 1961, the women's mission was reorganized and Sarah Crowder Lawson was chosen to be the president and Kate Curtis Head was named vice president. The third president of the mission was Nancy Green and Mary Terry was the vice president.

Under the leadership of Minister Bobby L. Smith, Sarah Lawson was elected president of the Mission. As mission sisters, these ladies attended the National Associations of Missions and would hold yearly anniversaries. During this time, community activities were the main focus of the mission. The missionaries took the message of Christ to all, despite local, in homes, hospitals or nursing homes. Nancy Green was chosen to serve as president from 1980-1988.

Under Pastor Hicks' leadership, Mary Terry was elected president from 1988-1997. The motto of this group was “to help wherever there was a need.” This department was established by a select group of women with a mission of reaching out and touching someone for Christ. The mission meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. Efforts of these women were numerous. The following services were provided:

1. Anniversaries were held annually
2. Visiting the sick
3. Cards were sent to the sick and shut-ins
4. Christmas donations were given to the elderly members
5. Prayer Marches were organized throughout the neighborhood
6. Missionaries made visits to area nursing homes
7. Food was prepared for families of deceased members
8. Gift provisions were made for area nursing homes'

- tenants
9. Monetary donations were given to elderly members
  10. Under the direction of the mission, graduation exercises for high school seniors and college graduates are held annually
  11. A clothing bank was established for the needy
  12. Annual Black History programs are held in February

Significantly, in 1996, a prayer walk was done in the community and Mary Terry was named Middle Georgia Baptist Association Queen. In 1977, Wanda Verrett was elected to lead UGMBC Mission Department. Currently, she continues to serve in this capacity. Unlike previously conducted, this group is directed to help nonmembers. The current members are Dorothy Clay, Mary Terry, Pearl Colbert, Pearl Toliver, Anna Ford, Wanda Verrett, Cathy Jarvis, Louise Waiters, Annie Lamar, Margret Washington, Cordell Smith, and Mae Ola Williams.

### **Recreation**

“The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit”

A men’s softball team was organized in 1979 and In April 1981, a championship ladies’ team was organized. Also, in 1983, a men’s basketball team was organized. In 1996, local churches established annual summer basketball program for the youth. Our youth participated in this program with the guidance of Willie White and Robert Strickland. The youths included Alondra Anderson, Mickey Jackson, Anthony Anderson, Audra McCants, Quinton Clark, Arneice McCants, Santionne Collins, Ashley McCants, Carmin Gordon, Jared McCants, Asher Gordon, Keith Scott, Jonathan Gordon, Rashad Scott, Roderick Haywood, Jennifer Steward, Kyle Hicks, and Cherie White. The directors of the recreation department are Willie White and Robert Strickland. Ben Respress and Henry Allen served as assistant directors.

### **Disciplettes Softball Team**



### **God's Love**

You can't light a candle of kindness  
And not share in its warm, steady glow!  
You can't cheer a heart without cheering  
Your heart---it has always been so!  
You can't comfort a soul in its sorrow  
And speak words of hope and faith, too,  
Without showing the joy and the beauty  
Of God's love abiding in you!

Jon Gilbert

## **Worship Ministry**

*Minister James Gaines, Chair*

### **Ministerial Staff**

“ . . . they preach except they be sent? as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10: 14-15)

Twenty-eight ministers have been licensed into the ministry at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. These ministers are Willie Reid Brown, Ronald Franklin, Robert Sayles, Forrest Lester, Charlie Blackmon, Richard Spann, Jessie Grice, Sherman Crockett, Arthur L. Hicks, Raymond Hunter, Butch Dupree, Gary Lucas, Avery Whitley, Evangelist Grace Lucas King, Michael Hunter, Rushia Jackson, Michael Davis, John Dukes, Ronald Knight, Gil Gordon, Sr., Lee McCants, Milo Bradley, Sabrina Perry, Paul Jenkins, Paul Dunbar, Michael B. Hicks, Nicole Pelote, and Mary Ann Lollar.

Historically, Each of the following ministers has served as pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church: Ministers Cleveland, George Banks, Cleveland Smith, Minister Ray, George Washington, Minister Gibson, Minister Maddox, Minister Gilmore, Minister Mallory, Minister Matthew, Oscar Edmond. Eugene Edmond, L.J. Ross, R.D. Cummings, J.H. Williams, A.G. Tharpe, Bobby L. Smith, and Arthur L. Hicks.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is not a man living,  
however poor he may be,  
but has it in his power to leave  
as a heritage to those that follow him the  
grandest thing on earth---character

Author Unknown



## **Music**

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and administering to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossian 3:16).

This auxiliary was organized to provide ministry through songs. Members developed their talents in music, choir directing, and leading songs. Music has been provided for regular services, related church occasions, and engagements to other churches.

History records show choir groups of varied ages. In 1943, the senior choir was organized under the direction of Mattie Stephens Bonner. On January 12, 1974, Minister Ronald Franklin organized the Gospel Ensemble Choir. In 1978, Carolyn Jean Smith reorganized the youth and the junior choirs. Minister Ronald Franklin served as Junior Choir pianist and Jean Draper served as Junior Choir pianist. In 1979, the Combined Choir was organized. Barbara Johnson was pianist and Doris Harris was elected president. In 1979, Robert Heartwell was named pianist for the Youth Choir and Yvonne Branche was appointed pianist for the Junior Choir in 1980.

During the 1980's, Beverly Wilson Hicks served as choir director for the Ensemble; She also sang with Alto and Soprano sections. Robert Heartwell, Barbara Johnson, and Lee McCants served as musicians.

Michael Hunter was hired as music director in 1991. On September 1, 1992, Sonja Wilson Jenkins was hired as the musician for the Ensemble and Youth Choirs. Frankie Halliburton was selected to serve as the musician for the Senior Choir on October 1, 1992. Kay Simmons volunteered to serve as pianist of the Sacrifice Choir. This choir sang during the early morning worship.

Vaceinta Respress served as Youth Choir pianist/director and Wanda Ragin Verrett is the director. Some of the members were Alondra Anderson, Santionne Collins, Ebony Grant, Arneice McCants, Ashley McCants, Aundra McCants, Jared

McCants, Brandon Respress, and Cherie White.

The Junior Choir was under the direction of Michael Hunter. Some of the members were Keisa Allen, Kizzy Allen, Cheryl Blackmon, Lashandia Bracey, Keith Brooks, Sunny Colbert, Tori Falls, Garrick Respress, Sherolyn Ford, Thomas Ford, Venis Glover, Melonie Ham, Hurley Hughes, Rushia Jackson, III, Lawana Johnson, Dianna Lott, Lakeisha Martin, Candace Respress, Philisa Oliver, Africa Ragin, Rashee Ragin, Damon Reeves, Mark Smith, Nina Smith, Olethia White, Jennifer Wilcox, Kimberly, Reginald Wilcox, and Bruce Zellars.

### **Ushers**

“I would rather be a door keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness” (Psalms 84:10).

In 1938, an Usher Board was organized and Carrie Field Miller served as president. Mack Brown served as her assistant. Pearl Colbert served as an usher from 1951-1955. From the 1980's to 2000's, the following members have served as ushers, but are no longer active Georgia Ray, Woodrow Colbert, Freeman Colbert, Betty Ray, Mary Davis, Thelma Mathis, Nancy Green, Florether Stephen, Laurie Collins, Kathy Jarvis, Edward Jarvis, Orlene Billings, Margret Washington, Mamie Harris, Molly Medlock, Wila Mobley, Thelma Mathis, Vincent Booker, Tommie Cornich, and Anthony Purser.

Youths have served and directed our congregation faithfully for many years during each third Sunday service and other occasions. Youths from 1980's to 2000's were Kimberly Wilcox, Orsino Edjuah Anderson, Stacy Reeves, Garrick Respress, Mark Smith, Tito Jackson, Nina Smith, Chris Allen, Gail Smith, Reginald Wilcox, Camille Holmes, Andre Wright, Tiffany Emmanuel, Kimberly McNair, Olethia White, LaSaundra Wright, Jennifer Wright, Kizzy Allen, Keisha Allen, Quinton Clark, Deronda Harris, Keomba Walker, M. Walker, Anthony Anderson, Michael Hicks, Kyle Hicks, Martin Dunbar,

Keith Scott, Keith Brooks, Reshard Brooks, Reshard Scott, LaTeshia Scott, Erin Anderson, R. Knight.

Currently, members of the UGMBC Usher Board are as follows:

Irene Booker	Dorothy Clay	Barry Harwell
Louise Waiter	Jack Drake	Clarence Smith
Michelle Gaines	Tommie Cornich	Will Stephens
Pearl Toliver	Linda Davis	Dorothy McNair
Charlie Billings	Annette Granger	Mabel Wright
Martha Medlock	Willie White	Al Thomas
Jerelene Davis	Samuel Gude	Abraham Scott
Helen Doe	Marilyn Williams	Rosa Tharpe
Delores Simmons	Gertrude Walker	Bennie Leonard
Willa Flounoy	Julius Johnson	Georgia Johnson
Cleophus Tate	William Jackson	
Cynthia Mallard	Mamie Harris	

Currently, the members of the Youth Usher Board are:

Alondra Anderson	Keaya Reeves
Ceondra Byrd	Keith Scott
Charity Byrd	Ashley Solomon
James Fant	Jennifer Stewart
Roderick Haywood	Vincent Stewart, Jr
Ashley Mallard	Shannon Turner
Chris Mallard	Cherie White

## **Junior Usher Board**



Thomas Ford, Chris Allen, Rick Respress, Orsino Anderson, Kim McNair, Sister Dorothy McNair, director, Buffy Lipscomb, Andre Wright, and Sharod Brown

## **Don't For Ushers**

Don't be unpleasant, in words or action, in meeting those who are coming in or going out of the worship.

Don't be in too big a hurry in dealing with people who ask you for information or help . . . Remember, You are an USHER--not a RUSHER. Don't forget that your haughtiness, dumbness or unfriendly ways will drive away SOULS that are hungry and looking for GOD. If you meet and greet them friendly--smile and graciously greet them, they, most likely WILL COME AGAIN. By your COURTESY, KINDNESS and WINNING SMILE, you may be instrumental in bringing SOULS TO CHRIST!

Don't forget that just as the pastor is a Minister of the Gospel in the pulpit, you are a Minister of Courtesy and Goodwill at the door. If you, as Minister of Courtesy and Goodwill, insult and cause people to feel bad at the door--MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL will have a hard time preaching to people whose feelings have been rumpled by you.

Don't be irreverent. You can't bow your head for the prayer, take part in the singing, give in the offering, and still be a Good USHER . . . In fact, these observations will MAKE YOU A GOOD USHER.

## Children's Church

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

In 1979, Minister Robert Sayles organized the Children's Church Program. The purpose was to provide a level of spiritual understanding for the children, which will allow them *to grow in grace and not in disgrace*. Minister Jessie Grice accepted the position of director in 1982. In 1984, Shelby Heartwell became director and Minister Kenneth Emanuel was her assistant. In 1984, James Wright became director. He served in this position for eleven years. In 1995, Abraham Scott was elected director.

In the past, several persons have volunteered to aid the directors. They are James Wright, Kenneth Emmanuel, Rose Smith, Lisa Stanley, Lucille Gordon, Marsha Ham, Theresa Hughes, Chandra Emmanuel, Abraham Scott, Theo Caldwell, Marie Anderson, Marilyn Walker, Katie Kendricks, and Mack Woodard.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Teaching Ministry**

*Oscar Edmund Anderson, Chair*

### **Sunday School**

“Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as front lets between your eyes.”

“And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou risest up” (Deuteronomy 11:18-19).

The Sunday school program encompasses varied ages from infancy to adulthood. Classes include cradle roll, youth, and adult. Our records indicated that the Sunday school program was organized in 1944 under the supervision of Maggie Stephens Rutledge. Prior to this time, the records cited the church as a training place for school age children.

The first Superintendent of Sunday school was Charles Granville in 1945. In 1945, the Sunday school Department was reorganized under the supervision of Maggie Rutledge. Johnnie Head, Rushia Jackson, Milo Bradley, and Michael White have served in the capacity of superintendent, respectively.

In February 2001, Sister Pearl Colbert initiated an annual Black History Program. Having been led by the Holy Spirit, In July 2001, Sister Colbert accepted the role as chair of the UGMBC Vacation Bible School. Having a dynamite personality and the essential organizational skills, she reestablished a successful VBS program for our congregation.

## **What Have I Learned In Sunday School**

I've learned to treat my neighbor right,  
And do my best with all my might,  
And ever be a shining light,  
And obey the Golden Rule.

I've learned to lend a helping hand,  
And always do the Lord's command,  
I've learned His word to understand,  
By going to Sunday school.

I've learned to shun the evil crowds,  
And bring sunshine where there are clouds,  
To make mother and father proud,  
That I'm not a wicked fool;

When you get lonesome, sad, and blue,  
I'll tell you exactly what to do,  
Pull away from sin and Satan, too;  
And go to Sunday school.

Now when I reach a . . . . . age,  
And turn life's book to another page,  
The person I . . . . . must engage  
In Church and Sunday school.

When life begins to fade away,  
And all my past deeds I survey,

I'll thank the Lord for every day,  
I spent in Sunday school.

Author Unknown

**Bible Study**

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2: 15).

On January 6, 1962, Johnnie H. Head organized Evening Bible Study. Marian Ray Tharpe was elected secretary and Georgia Biggs was named treasurer. In 1977, Minister Arthur Hicks coordinated the Wednesday night’s worship services. Deacons Robert Simmons and Jerome Stephens instruct the adult Bible classes on Wednesday evenings. Classes are also available for school aged students through high school.

**Nursery**

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Ephesians 6:11).

The United Women’s Club opened the church nursery in 1977. Carolyn Jean Hill Smith served as director with the assistance of Annie Allen. Members in the department were instrumental in providing special care for the children. Nurturing and spiritual training were given to the infants, toddlers, and pre-kindergarten aged children during early morning worship, Sunday School, and regular worship services. Annie Allen, Pearl Pickett and Connie Roundtree have served as nursery directors.



## Nursery



Pearl Pickett and Betty Turner assisting children in the nursery

## Library

“Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with thy might”  
(Ecclesiastes 9:10)

A collection of church records, photographs, books, and artifacts were organized by Pamela Chambers, librarian. Initially, the library was opened in October 1995. Presently, Patrice Smith is serving as the director.

## **Spiritual Enrichment Ministry**

*Deacons Family Ministry*

*Deacon Jerome Stephens, Sr., Chairperson*

In the year of our Lord Jesus Christ, September 1887, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church came into existence. Since that year, the Lord has brought us a mighty Long Way. We thank God for the pastors, deacons, department leaders, secretaries, past and present members, and auxiliary leaders. These individuals have been patient, prayerful, faithful, committed and determined to do the Lord's work. Yes, if we just look around, we can see that God's handy work of faith, does work in the life of ordinary people. The Spiritual Enrichment Ministry leader is responsible, to God and the Pastor, for overseeing the following ministries:

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Deacons	Willie McIntyre
Deaconess	Mary McIntyre
Singles' Ministry	Fontella Hamilton
Youth Ministry	Tammy Davis
Serenity/Addiction Ministry	Robert Murphy
Nurses Guild Ministry	Ann Lester
Scholarship Committee Ministry	Janette Savage
Women's Retreat Ministry	Kaye Simmons
Women and Men Ministry	Emma Harrison

Note. Jerome Stephen is the Spiritual Enrichment Ministry leader.

The primary purpose of the Spiritual Enrichment Ministry is to minister to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of

many people within the church body and community. Also, the Deacons' Ministry plays an important and wholesome role in the life of the church. When a church is based on the word of God and ministry driven, the church will be healthy. Yes, the Deacons are trying very hard, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to (a) draw people to Christ, (b) provide for their spiritual growth, and (c) meet the physical emotional needs of the church and community. Jerome Stephens states:

*"I have been at Union Grove Baptist Church since 1947. At the age of 8, I joined this church body in 1955. The Lord is really good. A special thank you goes to the church's History Committee for allowing the Lord to lead them as they put this history book together."*

### **Deacons**

"Look among the congregation and observe men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit, and empowered with wisdom to serve in the office of deacon." According to I Timothy 3:10, "And let these also first be proved."

Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church records identified Samuel Faulkner, Dieb Goodson, Tom Bryant, and Primus Caldwell as Union Grove Missionary Baptist's initial deacons. Charles Granville appointed these men to the office of deacon.

Currently, the Deacon Board consists of the following members:

Theodolphus Caldwell	Willie H. McIntyre
Monroe Clark	Robert Simmons
Nathaniel E. Davis	Alfonso Stephens
James E. Ford	Jerome Stephens, Sr.
Louis Laney	Lawrence Thomas
Charles L. Lenoir, Sr.	Michael White

**Deaconesses**

“Even so much their (deacons) wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things” (I Timothy 3:11). “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband” (Proverb 12:4).

UGMBC records do not show when the original deaconess board was established and the names of members were not identified as well. Records show that the deaconess board was reestablished in 1928. Sarah Crowder Lawson served as president and Gertrude Colbert served as vice president. Deceased members are Fannie Stephens, Alberta Granville Hammond, Annie Mathis, Ethel Brown, and Kate Head.

Currently, the members of the deaconesses are Gertrude Colbert, Mary McIntyre, Anna Ford, Shirley Clark, Annie M. Allen, Ann Lester, Grace Davis, Carolyn White, and Mary Lenoir.

**Serenity/Addiction**

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Deacon James Ford organized the Serenity and Addition Program that expanded to include group meetings for all types of addictions. Gil Gordon and Paul Dunbar have helped in this program, as ministers.

**Nurses Guild**

“Casting all your care upon him, for He careth for you.” (I Peter 5: 7).

This department was organized in 1995. During the regular Sunday Church hours, this auxiliary usually provides services to the members. These members are professional nurses. The current members are Lois Thomas, Michelle Jackson, Louise Waiters, Betty Henton, Annie Abrams, Dorothy Clay, Dorothy McNair, Catherine Jarvis, and Ann Lester.

**Women Ministry**

“The things that you have heard...commit these to these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”  
(II Timothy 2: 2).

This ministry was organized in 1998. Sabrina Chandler Perry was elected director. The most recent director was Minister Stephanie Campbell. However, this position is currently vacant.

**Singles Ministry**

“Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths” (Psalms 25:4).

On September 18, 1993, Pamela Booker, Dorothy Carter, and Denise Davis organized this ministry. The officers were Pamela Booker, president, and Dorothy Carter, secretary.

**Wedding Ministry**

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh”  
(Ephesians 5:31)

Minister Sabrina Perry organized the wedding ministry in 1997. From 1997-1999, Earnestine Lester Anderson served as the wedding coordinator. According to her, the purpose of this ministry is to join people together in Holy matrimony and in doing so the following steps are taken prior to the wedding:

1. Attending Christian Counseling sessions.
2. Following God’s ordained orders.
3. Encouraging the couples to be saved and equally yoked.
4. Advising the couples about the importance of wearing Holy wedding attire.
5. Following the wedding procedures and regulations outlined by the pastor and other church officials.
6. Giving God the praise for putting the couple together.

As of today, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church's Wedding Ministry has conducted 13 weddings. God's love never fails. God's words are likened to an anchor. Strength and stability are drawn from them even during the rough times. With God's words in our hearts, we are an encouragement to others.

In conclusion, remember the greatest treasure of all is "love." Love is a precious gift because it is so rare. Love gives us a joy that is so special and unmatched by any other thing or emotion. *God is the greatest example of love* (Earnestine Lester-Anderson).

### **Youth Department**

"Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth" (Eccl 12:1). "Let no man despise thy youth; be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity" (I Timothy 4: 12)

The Youth Department was organized under the leadership of Minister R. D. Cummings in 1954. Mrs. Cummings served as director of youth church. The purpose of this department was to provide spiritual and enrichment services for all children attending UGMBC. Since 1968, history records show Mary B, Terry, Sarah Lawson, Pearl Colbert, Carolyn Jean Smith, Annie Ruth Simmons, and Wanda Ragin Verrett as youth directors. Currently, Minister Sabrina Perry and Paul Jenkins have worked jointly as directors for the youth.

The guidance of Mary Terry, matron and Pearl Colbert, assistant matron produced many changes for the youth department. These changes were:

1. Organization of the youth choir
2. Selection of boys to conduct devotional services
3. Supervision of youth ushers on every third Sunday.
4. Coordination of dressing for ushers and choir members (black and white uniforms).

5. Contribution to offering was recommended for children.
6. Restriction gum chewing in sanctuary.
7. Restriction frequent bathroom use during service hour.
8. Encouragement of appropriate ways of addressing an adult such as, Mr. or Mrs., Yes Mam and No Sir.

The third Sunday was designated as youth Sunday due to the efforts of Mary Terry. She wrote a letter to the Georgia Baptist Conference members requesting permission to change the regular format. Additionally, various activities were achieved during 1968-1975 such as:

1. Selling of candy, hotdogs, hamburgers, and engraved napkins
2. Car washes.
3. Three floats were built to enter the Christmas Parade. One was awarded third place in the Church Building division (City of Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce).
4. Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving plays and programs were given each year.
5. Thanksgiving feasts were given at the church, each member was asked to bring two covered dishes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Teach me, Lord, while looking up  
 In search of help from Thee  
 To drop my eyes to see who may  
 Require a hand from me.

Len G. Selle

## **Business Stewardship Ministry**

*Bro. Henry Zeke Allen, Chairman*

As we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we thank God for bringing us thus far as a church family. We have truly been blessed and God is continuing to bless us every day. We, the Business Stewardship Ministry, ask for continued prayers that God will enable us to use His finances for the uplifting of His kingdom. The Business Stewardship Ministry of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church consists of the Trustee Board, Finance Committee, Real Estate Committee, Personnel Committee, Security Team, Custodial and Lawn services. Our primary function is to take care of the business affairs of the church, but our primary goal should be to make it into the kingdom.

I have been a member of Union Grove since 1980 and have served on the Deacon Board for 16 years. I have gained much experience during those years and that experience has been invaluable in working to establish a Trustee Board along with the help of others. The Lord is truly good.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the UGMBC History Committee for its diligent work in preparing this history book. May God Bless!

### **Real Estate Committee**

In October 1996, the Real Estate Committee was formed because the church saw a need to find more land for future growth. Among the church body, a wealth of experience in the field of real estate existed. The committee chose Vincent Stewart, Sr. to be the chairperson and Harriet Steele to serve as vice president. The committee's first project was to find more parking spaces.

On October 29, 2002, the Real Estate Committee presented a letter of approval for a request to use 260 feet of the Warner Robins Housing Authority's land located behind South Davis Drive between Oak Grove Road and Beatrice Drive. This land was used for additional parking space.



**Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee was formed under the leadership of the Business Stewardship Ministry to plan and implement a benefit package for full-time employees and for some part time employees. The first chairperson of this committee was Emma Harrison with Harriet Steele serving as vice president. Successfully, they implemented a benefit package for the pastor and the secretary.

**Trustee Board**

“That they do good. That they do rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate” (I Timothy 6:18).

The UGMBC Trustee Ministry was founded in January 1996 to take on the responsibilities of the legal, financial, business affairs, and maintenance of the church. Therefore, the Deacon Ministry is given more time to assist the Pastor with the membership. The first members were Henry Zeke Allen, Chairperson; Ben Respress, Vice Chairperson; Eugene Walker; Ellison Kendrick; Emma Harrison; and John Smith. Later, Ellison Kendrick and Emma Harrison left the church and Willie White and J. A. Thomas were added to fill the vacancies.

**Thrift Note**

It is fine to bank on friendship,  
Using it in large amounts,  
But you must also make deposits,  
If you would balance your accounts

Mary Ellen Stelling,  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Finance Committee**

“The righteous considers the cause of the poor” (Proverbs 29:7).

This committee handles the financial affairs of the church such as payroll, spending, purchasing, payment of bills and maintenance of the building. The finance committee consists of Henry “Hank” Allen, Woodrow Colbert, Ben Respress, and Council Wilcox.

## **Operational Support Ministry**

*Edward Jarvis, Chair*

### **Bus Ministry**

“Let us consider one another.... exhorting one another”  
(Hebrews 10:24-25).

The Bus Ministry was established under the leadership of Pastor Bobby L. Smith, Sr. in 1979. As the result of purchasing two vans, growth of the Sunday school and church services was improved. Butch Dupree, dispatcher, trained and instructed the initial cadre of drivers. Franklin Green, Witt Mc Iver, Hank Allen, Edward Jarvis, Rushia Jackson, Kenneth Emmanuel, Avery Whitley, and Robert Sayles provided transportation services for church functions such as Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, annual church revivals, and Wednesday Night Bible Study. Currently, the drivers are John Smith, Theo Caldwell, Grace Davis, David Campbell, Carolyn Jackson, and Julius Johnson.

On Saturdays, the drivers visit the local communities to provide refreshments to the children. Opportunities were made available to the drivers to perform Evangelistic Services. As the children gathered to receive the refreshments, the drivers would encourage them, their parents, and other adults to attend church services.

Passenger vans were purchased to enhance this ministry. A passenger van for 15 was purchased in 1984 and 1994. Also, a handicapped van was purchased in March of 1991 for members with special needs.

### **Floral Committee**

“Consider the lilies how they grow; they toil not, they spin not, and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these” (Luke 12: 27).

Special care has been given to beautify the church with

lovely floral arrangements. These committee members select and create floral arrangements for the sanctuary, special events, and varied occasions. Cynthia Mallard served as chairperson and her committee included Irene Booker, Louise Waiters, and Janice Scott. Currently, the members are Dorothy Jackson, chairperson and Marie Anderson, assistant chairperson.

### **Media Committee**

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Mark 4:9).

Deacon Charles Lenoir, Sr., established the Media Program. He made tapes of all church services available for members and especially the sick and shut-ins. The sound system is high tech and demands trained individuals to manage the equipments. Therefore, a system has been devised to schedule and trained media operators to operate the sound track during church hours. The operators are Anthony Anderson, John Smith, J. Striggles, Mr. Scott, Franklin Green, and Theo Caldwell; director.

### **Food Service Committee**

“Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 10: 31)

This department was established in 1976 under the direction of Rushia Jackson. Presently, Dan Mitchell serves as director. Clara Smith, Annie Allen, Cynthia Mallard, Vickie Lattimore, Lena Mitchell, and Nannie Pearl Lane assist in the preparation and serving of food for numerous occasions.

### **Computer Support**

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6: 10)

This department is responsible for providing, upgrading or maintaining computer equipment and software. These services will enable others to perform their duties more efficiently. This

ministry comprises members who have volunteered their service, time and skills about management, operation, programming, and/or maintenance of computer hardware and/or software. These members are James Oliver and Patricia McCants.

### **History Committee**

“Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and thought upon His name” (Malachi 3: 16).

History is essential for any organization, group, nation, family, and/or individual. It provides a chronological record of significant events, which usually includes an explanation of causes for future generations (Webster Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary). Our founding members left no evidence of recorded church history. However, the information recorded in later years was deleted or misplaced. The quality and care of church records have been stressed consistently for many years. Subsequently, a history committee was established to secure and maintain quality and accurate records for future generations. Essentially, our past bridges the gap to our future.

The first history committee chairperson was Mary Burnam Terry. Annie Ruth Simmons, Charles Lenoir, Sr. and Bernard Mack have held this position respectively. Presently, the history committee chair is Marie Crosby Anderson, and the committee members are Pearl Colbert, Charles Lenoir, Sr., Theodolphus Caldwell, Mary Terry, Angela McKinney-Grant, Jerome Stephens, Janice Stephens-Scott, Marion Mathis, and James Wright.

## History Committee



Back row: Charles Lenoir, Theodolphus Caldwell; Front row: Marie Anderson, Mary Terry, Marion Mathis. Not shown: Pearl Colbert, Janice Scott, Angelia McKinney-Grant, Jerome Stephens, and James Wright

## A Family of People

*who  
grow together in faith  
work together in hope  
worship together in love  
bear one another's sorrow  
forgive one another's faults  
share one another's joy  
need one another  
love one another  
support one another  
look for God in one another  
see God in everyone  
live as individuals  
are separate yet one  
are joined by God's presence  
living in each other.*

Author Unknown

### **Part III: Historical Overview**

#### **1887 – 2002**

##### ***Deuteronomy 8: 1, 6-11***

*“Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the Lord promised unto your fathers.”*

*“Observe the commands of the Lord your God, to walk in his ways and to fear him.”*

*“For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out the valleys and the hill; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.”*

*“When thou has eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.”*

*“Be ware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day.*

## Historical Overview

We, the current members of the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, pay tribute to those of the past and present who strongly influenced the planning of the church. Through their consecrated service, continued prayers, and spiritual and physical contributions, our church has progressed greatly. In retrospect, one might visualize the first members as a band of God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians with a mission to serve God in spirit and in truth.

In the year of our Lord 1887, these members gathered under a bush harbor located on a tract of land adjacent to Highway 247. This land was approximately one block north of Green Street, Post Office Box B. According to the surviving descendants of the founding members, a bush harbor is a connection of branches from several large oak trees to produce a covering or shade. These spirit-filled members gathered to give thanks and to praise God for their many blessings. This assembly sparked the onset of Union Grove as a place of worship in a small farming town in Georgia called Wellston, which is known currently as Warner Robins.

The first group of deacons' names was written on the original deed. These deacons were as follows: Samuel Faulkner, Dieb Goodwin, Tom Bryant and Primus Caldwell (1887). In 1940, the following individuals were listed as members:

Addie Brooks	Hazel Ray
Mattie T. Jackson	Nancy Chapman
Hersey Brown	Noscis Reed
Beatrice T. Moore	Freeman Colbert, deacon
Mack Brown, deacon	Roger Sams
Rosetta T. Moore	Alford Cornelius
Micy Brown	Mandy Slocumb
Ellen Coswell	Ethel M. Statum
Carnie Field	Betty Mae Taylor
John Wright	Joe Taylor, deacon
Alberta Granville	Molly Taylor



Howard Granville, deacon  
Green Jackson, deacon

Henrietta Toliver

This documentation was the only recording of members since the church's existence in 1887. As the membership grew, the space under the bush harbor was inadequate to meet the needs of the congregation. To accommodate this need, in 1887, R.W. and J.W. Johnson granted land to Union Grove for public worship. A medium-framed building was constructed on this land where large, beautiful oak trees flourished. As the members moved from the bush harbor into the framed building, they decided to use several oak trees. These trees served a grand purpose because many dinners were served under them. It was during this period that Union Grove became a well established church in this small farming community.

In 1940, Robins Air Force Base was under construction and saw a need for this tract of land. Consequently, several church members searched for a new site and purchased land from Sherman Reid for \$50.00. This land, 809 South Davis Drive, is the present location of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

The first pastor of UGMBC was \*Minister Cleveland (1887-1898). From 1887 to 1940, the following men accepted the charge to lead this church body: George Banks (1898-1903); Cleveland Smith (1903-1908); \*Ray (1908-1915), \*Gibson (1915-1921); \*Maddox (1921-1924); \*Gilmore (1924-1928) George Washington (1928-1936); \*Mallory (1936-1937); \*Matthews (1937-1939); and Oscar Edmond (1939-1943).

Since 1973, the following individuals were licensed into the ministry while attending UGMBC.

Willie Brown (1973)  
Ronald Franklin (August 8, 1976)  
Robert Sayles (December 19, 1976)  
Forrest Lester (September 18, 1977)  
Charlie Blackmon (October 16, 1977)  
Richard Spann (January 4, 1981)  
Arthur Hicks (January 11, 1981)  
Raymond Hunter (May 13, 1981)

Butch Dupree (February 15, 1986)  
Gary Lucas (July 15, 1987)  
Avery Whitley (August 23, 1987)  
Evangelist Grace Lucas (January 27, 1988)  
Michael Hunter (April 13, 1988)  
Rushia Jackson (November 5, 1989)  
Michael Davis (March 13, 1994)  
John Dukes (March 27, 1994)  
Lee McCants (February 17, 1996)  
Gill Gordon (February 18, 1996)  
Ronald Knight (February 18, 1996)  
Sabrena Perry (April 12, 1997)  
Paul Jenkins (April 13, 1997)  
Paul Dunbar (April 13, 1997)  
Milo Bradley (April 13, 1997)  
Michael Hicks (November 30, 1997)  
Nicole Pelote (December 7, 1997)

\*Note: The first name was not written in the church's records.

The UGMBC Deacon Board was in existence from the beginning to the present. Several members have departed. Nevertheless, our current deacons are striving to fulfill God's plans for His people and the mission of the church. Prior to the 1930s, Charlie Granville, Joe Taylor, Howard Granville, Green Jackson, Warren Jackson, Charlie Miles, Mathis Brown, Alfred Cornelius, Freeman Colbert, Sr., Mack Brown, Ossie Brown, Daniel Head, Neil Granville, Hope Hunter, and Harry Davis served on the Deacon Board. Since the 1930s, the following men were ordained to serve as deacons while attending UGMBC:

A. J. Stephens (1937)  
Harry L. Davis (1937)  
Daniel Lawson (1950)  
Marvin Colbert (1952)  
Louis Laney (1970)  
Rushia Jackson (February, 1975)

Butch Dupree (February, 1975)  
Jerome Stephens (February, 1975)  
Herbert Glisson (1979)  
Jimmy Sorrell (1979)  
Leroy Hunt (1979)  
Edward Jarvis (1980)  
Jesse Grice (1981)  
Charles Lenoir (December, 1982)  
James Ford (December, 1982)  
Kenneth Emanuel (December, 1982)  
Avery Whitley (December, 1982)  
Hank Allen (December 1982)  
Ben Respress (December 1982)  
George Rayford (September 1986)  
Nathaniel Davis (1991)  
Lawrence Thomas (January, 1998)  
T. C. Caldwell (January 1998)

The following deacons came to Union Grove as ordained deacons from various churches throughout Georgia and the United States:

1. Johnnie Head (Warner Robins, GA).
2. Leroy Hunt (Topeka, Kansas).
3. Steven Allen (First Baptist Church--Garmon Street, Warner Robins, Georgia).
4. Henry S. Myles (Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia).
5. Robert Simmons (Macedonia Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado).
6. Willie McIntyre (Joshua Baptist Church, Charleston Heights, South Carolina), 1991
7. James Ash (New Hope Baptist Church, Perry, Georgia)
8. Monroe Clark (Mountain Grove Baptist, Terrell, Colorado)

Our records show that Franklin Green, Hank Allen, Raymond Hunter, Council Wilcox, David Turner, Kenneth

Emanuel, James Ford, Sammy Jones, George Rayford, and Whitt McIver served as junior deacons in 1936. Ellen Carswell became the first “Mother of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church” followed by Nancy Chatman, Carrie Field, Molly Taylor, Alberta Granville, Annie L. Shelling, and Mary Leonard.

### **1940-1950**

Many significant events and appointments were made during the 1940s. Union Grove served as a temporary school from 1947-1949 for approximately 75 students while Pearl Stephens School was under construction. Carrie Bell Anderson and Cora Wilson served as teachers. The first known graduates were Mary Francis Jordan, Lula Lawson, Vera Mae Ray, Mary Smith, David Jordan, and Douglas Duncan. Mattie Bonner established UGMBC Senior Choir. She was elected president.

Charles Granville was the first recorded, elected Chairperson of the Deacons and superintendent of Sunday school (1945). Reorganization of the Sunday school department was under the supervision of Maggie Rutledge. Johnnie Head became Sunday school superintendent in 1949.

### **1950-1960**

From the period 1950-1960, information recorded was as follows: (a) The ordination of Daniel Lawson as Deacon, (b) the ordination of Marvin Colbert in 1954, (c) the organization of the Youth Department in 1955, and (d) the selection of Ashley Madison, Jr., pianist of UGMBC Youth Choir.

### **1960-1970**

During the 1960s, Union Grove experienced a reorganization of the Missionary Department on the third Sunday in November (1961) with Sarah Lawson serving as president and Kate Head as vice president. Sunday evening

Bible study was under the guidance of Johnnie Head and Sarah Lawson became the Mother of the Church in 1964. In 1965, Ronald Franklin served as the youth choir pianist and Johnny Head, Jr. was licensed into the ministry under Minister Williams. Minister T. Carstarphan, a missionary from Pennsylvania, united with Union Grove on June 23, 1966.

Minister A. G. Tharpe initiated a remodeling of the church to include the following: a choir stand, bathrooms in the front, inside baptismal pool, a three-foot partition around the pulpit, new windows, lights and a steeple. During this time, Mary Terry was elected to the positions of Church Reporter and the Matron of the Youth Department.

### **1970-1980**

During the period 1970-1980, Virginia Kitchens served as musician of UGMBC youth and senior choirs. The Gospel Ensemble was organized on January 12, 1974, under the direction of Ronald Franklin. Maggie Harper served as President of the Gospel Ensemble. A Fifth Sunday Fellowship Program was organized to include Union Grove, Piney Grove, Springfield, and Greater Union Baptist of Perry. Walter Glover was elected president of this fellowship.

A piano rally was held in March to raise money for a piano. In 1976, Pearl Colbert was named “Matron” of the Youth Department. On December 6, 1976, Jerome Stephens organized the “brotherhood” program. Minister Bobby L. Smith served as interim pastor and Jerome Stephens served as chairperson of a building construction project to build a new fellowship hall. To accomplish this project, the deacons donated 3,000 hours of volunteer work. The improvements included a remodeled sanctuary, additional classrooms for Sunday school, a church office, a pastor’s study, a nursery, central heating and air, a baptismal pool, and a fully equipped kitchen.

Significantly, the food service department was established and Rushia Jackson was appointed director. During this time, John Terry served as printing officer. He was responsible for

printing church programs.

In February 1977, the United Women Auxiliary was organized. Mattie Bonner was elected to serve as the president. Meetings were held once a month and each member donated dues according to the activities assigned to her. This group bought carpet, draperies, and chairs. Bessie Burnam asked Evergreen Baptist Church leaders to donate furniture to our church's nursery and they complied. We were given our first nursery furniture. Members of the United Women's Club included Mattie Bonner (president), Mary Terry (vice president), Zenobia Gude (secretary), Pearl Colbert, Bessie Burnam, Ella Stephens, Joyce Washington, Nancy Green, Georgia Ray, and Johnnie Head.

Robert Heartwell assumed the responsibilities as pianist from Reverend Franklin. On February 28, 1977, a constitution of by-laws and regulations was established for the church. In March 1977, Minister Bobby L. Smith was called as pastor. The United Women's Club opened the first church nursery. The first director was Carolyn Smith followed by Annie B. Allen, Pearl Pickett, Connie Roundtree, and Clara Smith respectively. Boy's Scout #427 was organized and chartered. Mid-week worship service was established and Reverend Hicks served as the coordinator.

To display information and to announce happening within the church and community, Bessie Burnam and Mary Terry felt the need for a bulletin Board display in the annex and they began this project in 1977. After the death of Sister Burnam, Zenobia Gude assisted Sister Terry with this project. Due to the efforts of Pearl Colbert and Bessie Burnam, plays were performed at UGMBC; they organized and directed Christmas and Easter plays for the youth department.

In 1978, the Deaconess Board was reorganized. Sarah Lawson served as president and Gertrude Colbert served as vice president. The men's softball team was established in 1979. Wilton Hollis was appointed pianist/organist for the Youth

Choir. UGMBC Combined Choir was organized under the direction of Barbara Johnson, pianist, and Doris Harris served as president. The Evangelism and Counseling Team were organized under the direction of Reverend Richard Spann. Minister Robert Sayles organized the Children's Church. On January 27, Union Grove began a radio program to spread the gospel on WFNE Radio Station. During this period, Jean Draper served as junior choir pianist. Yvonne Branch assisted Sister Draper until she was assigned a tour of duty in Japan in 1980.

### **1980-1990**

Having been led by the spirit of God, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church has experienced many changes since its inception in 1887. We have grown significantly as a church body, spiritually and physically. The period from 1980 until the present encountered many of these changes. On January 4, 1980, the church's Constitution of By-laws and Regulations was ratified. In January 1980, Annie R. Simmons became youth "matron." The church's worship services were broadcast on Gospel Radio Station FM100 and WFNE (Forsyth) in January 1980. Charles Lenoir accepted the printing responsibilities from Pat Falls in 1981. Our ladies' championship softball team was formed in April 1981.

To purchase the lot that was next to our church, funds had to be conserved. Subsequently, Union Grove's radio program was canceled in 1982. The Youth Choir, under the direction of Annie R. Simmons, established the Adopt-An-Elder Program in January 1982. During this time, two significant purchases were made. These purchases were: (1) a tract of land next to the church was purchased for future expansions, and (2) two buses were purchased to enhance the growth of the Sunday school and church services. Also, a bus ministry was organized under the supervision of Butch Dupree (dispatcher), Franklin Green and Whit McIver, Jr. In December, an election was held to fulfill the

constitution's requirement for electing officers to a 3-year term beginning January 19, 1983.

In January 1983, the men's basketball team was organized. A new public address system was purchased and installed in February 1983. In March, a total of \$20,490.10 was raised to complete the second phase of the UGMBC Building Committee's objectives to pave and paint the parking spaces on the front and sides of the church. The paving and painting of the parking areas were completed in February 1984. UGMBC History Committee dedicated a historical souvenir journal to the senior citizens of Union Grove in December. Deacon Lenoir served as the chairperson. The souvenir journal was the first history committee's publication.

Additional purchases were facilitated in 1984. These purchases were: (a) black piano was purchased in February 1984 (Eighty members pledged \$30.00 for a piano key), (b) shrubbery was purchased to add beauty to the grounds, and (c) a Xerox 610 Memory Writer and a 15-passenger van was purchased. In March 1984, the Sunday school department purchased several new hymn books.

Also, during this period, Barbara Johnson accepted the position of pianist for the junior choir. Deacon Charles R. Lenoir, Sr. designed and painted a sign, which gave the church a landmark of identity. In addition, Annie B. Allen was elected Nursery Director. Shelby Heartwell became Director of Children's Church with the assistance of Kenneth Emanuel.

Annie R. Simmons, youth director, died on March 10, 1984. In her honor, a youth award was established. Cheryl Blackmon became the first recipient of this award--Annie R. Simmons Youth Award. Deacon Marvin Colbert's expert financial management skills enabled the church to make the final payment of its mortgage. Brother and Sister Roosevelt Morgan donated a window air conditioner to the nursery by June 1984.

Significantly, Union Grove became incorporated through the efforts of Attorney Kenneth Emanuel. In January 1986, Minister Arthur Hicks was appointed director of the education



department and Shelby Heartwell served as his assistant. Carolyn J. Smith was elected to serve as UGMBC Youth Matron and Pearl Pickett was elected to be the director of the nursery in January 1986.

The Outreach and Special Events Committee was organized under the chair of Deacon Henry S. Myles. As a multitiered, outgoing, task-oriented deacon, Henry Myles was able to initiate and organize this committee to include Ben Respress, Council Wilcox, Charles Lenoir, Marie Anderson, Gwendolyn Reeves, Mary Terry, Pearl Colbert, Mae Ola Williams, George Rayford, and Mabel Wright.

This Committee's primary purpose was to plan and implement strategies to increase the funds targeted for the building of the new sanctuary. These projects included a fashion show, a gospel concert, and a Men and Women Day Program. Through this committee's efforts, the building fund balance was increased, and careful financial planning allowed them to purchase money markets, certificates of deposits and so on.

In February 1986, Deacon Myles and several skillful men from the building committee and our church family renovated the front bathrooms to provide thirty additional seating spaces in the sanctuary. Joseph Brown donated the carpet for this project. In April 1986, the roof was replaced and Union Grove became a member of the Warner Robins Chamber of Commerce. To provide worship services to the sick and shut-in, Deacon Lenoir purchased a tape copier to begin UGMBC Tape Ministry. He monitored this tape ministry with the assistance of Lee McCants and James Wright. Deacon Lenoir organized a youth group to help operate the church's audio system and the tape ministry.

In 1987, a Minolta EP410Z was purchased. In June, Minister Hicks was called to pastor Mt. Zion Baptist church in Ellaville. On June 6, 1987, Maurice Myers joined UGMBC, as a licensed minister, from Nazareth Baptist Church, Washington, PA. A pictorial church directory was prepared to bring the church family closer. During the centennial celebration, on July 24, a

brief ceremony was held on the church's original site at Robins Air Force Base at 9:30 a.m.

On July 30, 1987, Pastor Smith, Deacon Lenoir, Deacon Colbert, and Deacon Jerome Stephens represented Union Grove's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on WMAZ with Doris Martin as narrator. On August 17, Warner Robins City Council presented a proclamation of the centennial celebration. As of November, the membership had grown to 504.

On January 27, 1988, Evangelist Grace Lucas delivered her trial sermon. On April 5, Minister Butch Dupree was called to pastor Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Elko and on April 13, Michael Hunter preached his trial sermon. In June 1988, the Annie R. Simmons Youth Award was presented to Sherolyn Ford and Charles Lenoir, Jr., co-recipient.

As we approached the end of the 1980s, Annie Shelling was named Mother Emeritus of Union Grove Baptist Church. Deacon Charles Lenoir, Sr. was elected Chair of the Deacon Board. Milo Bradley was elected Sunday School Superintendent. In August 1989, Union Grove agreed to sponsor the following Girl Scout troops: #42 Brownies, led by Pat Fall; #30 Juniors, led by Rose Smith; and #33 Juniors, led by Mary Lenoir and Clara Smith. Gil Gordon was named the 1989 recipient of the Annie R. Simmons Award. A most consecrated ministry of the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church has been SHARING AND HELPING WHENEVER POSSIBLE WHETHER LOCAL, STATE, and NATIONAL OR ABROAD. The building committee accepted Deacon Henry Myles' bid to build the new edifice.

### **1990-2001**

As time past, God continued to bless our church in the 1990s. On June 24, 1990, Africa C. Ragin was named the recipient of the Annie R. Simmons Award. Philisia Oliver was named the runner-up. On November 5, 1990, Deacon Rushia Jackson gave his trail sermon. In July 1990, the initial UGMBC Ladies' Retreat was organized under the direction of Kay

Simmons and Grace Davis. The purpose of this retreat is fourfold:(1) to give ladies an opportunity to spend a short time away from their families. (This free, unhindered time, will allow the Lord to minister to their spirits), (2) to experience a renewal of the Lord's Spirit, (3) to grow deeper in their love for the Lord, and (4) to minister to the needs of others.

On January 5, 1991, Minister Arthur Hicks was elected interim pastor. Barbara Johnson, director of music, died on July 3. Michael Hunter assumed the position of music director. Minister Gary Lucas was elected as Assistant Pastor of New Bethlehem Baptist church in November. Minister Rufus Person of the Brotherhood Ministerial Alliance of Warner Robins officiated the ordination service of Gary Lucas. Valerie Burnett was the 1991 recipient of the Annie Ruth Simmons Youth Award and Latasha Jackson was selected to be runner-up. On May 26, 1991, the theme for our graduation service was "Keep Climbing to Reach the Top." Minister Smith delivered the message to fifteen high school graduates. These students were:

Christopher Allen	Keshia Martin
Orsino Anderson	Darchell Mitchell
Valarie Barnett	Katrina Moore
Anquan Clark	Berneice Stanley
Thomas Ford	Tomika Strickland
Yonkita Higgins	Mark Smith
Latashia Jackson	Cleo Ray
Rushia Jackson, Jr.	

On January 12, 1992, Jerome Stephens was elected chairperson of the deacons. During this year, Minister Arthur L. Hicks became UGMBC 18th Pastor. On June 28, Minister Lucas was installed as Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Hawkinsville. Sonya Wilson Jenkins became the musician for the Gospel Ensemble and the Lord's United Voices Youth Choir (September 1). Frankie Halliburton was named the musician for the senior choir (October 1). Kimberly Wilcox was named the 1992 recipient of the Annie R. Simmons Scholarship

Award (December 20) and Rick Respress was named the runner-up. Keith Brooks, drummer and tape ministry aide, was a candidate for the A. R. Simmons Award. Sunny Colbert was chosen Miss Houston County High School; She was the first queen for this school.

On January 16, 1993, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church assisted Pearl Stephens Elementary School in Warner Robins to raise twenty thousand dollars for its disability playground equipment. On September 18, Pamela Booker, Dorothy Carter, and Denise Davis organized the single's ministry. The officers were Pamela Booker, president, and Dorothy Carter, secretary. On December 3, a church council was established and organized by Minister Hicks to evaluate and coordinate the function and programs of the church. On December 4, the following mission statement was adopted: "Union Grove Baptist Church's mission is to draw people to Christ, provide for their spiritual growth and meet the needs of the church and community."

Michael Davis delivered his trial sermon on March 13, 1994 and John Dukes on March 27, 1994. On June 11, 1994, the UGMBC Male Chorus was established. The elected officers were Milo Bradley, president; Charlie Mack, vice president; Alfonso Pelote, chaplain; and Reginald Adams, musician.

On June 29, 1994, a New Members' Fellowship Program was established by the Singles' Ministry to encourage fellowship and to introduce the new members to each auxiliary's members. Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church became a supporter of the Perry Teen's Pregnancy Care Center. The Alcohol and Drug Program was expanded to include group meetings for all types of addictions and a 15-passenger van was purchased.

Additionally, Pastor Hicks appointed Deacon Lenoir to head the Evangelism Ministry. Marie Anderson was named chairperson of the UGMBC History Committee after Bernard Mack, chairperson, received a military assignment to Colorado Springs. Pastor Hicks appointed Emma Harrison to be the

director of the education program. Jackie Stewart was appointed chairperson of the program committee.

Evangelist Stephanie Campbell united with Union Grove's Ministerial Staff on July 17, 1994. On July 27, 1994, a special call meeting was held to approve the building of a new sanctuary, a nursery, a library, and a media room. Deacon Respress and the building committee members briefed the congregation on this plan. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 13, 1994 and Stroud and Company was named the general contractor. Brother Raphael Ackey was selected to be the architect. Kenneth Emanuel was the legal advisor. Brother James Booker was named the project manager.

For the renovation of the church and the construction of the new sanctuary, a building committee was established that consists of the following members:

Henry S. Myles (deceased), Initial Chair  
Deacon Johnnie Head (replaced Myles), Project Chair  
Deacon Ben Respress, Co-Chair  
Brother Council Wilcox  
Lillie Porter, Recorder  
Deacon Jerome Stephens  
Deacon Charles Lenoir, Sr.  
Minister Rushia Jackson  
Deacon Edward Jarvis  
Brother Cleophus Tate  
Minister Arthur L. Hicks, Pastor

The Decoration Committee for this project was organized in May. The members consist of Mary Lenoir (Chair), Mary Terry (Co-Chair), Marie Anderson, Jackie Stewart, Sonya Jenkins, Zenobia Gude, Pearl Colbert, Vickie Lattimore, and Janice Scott.

During the construction period, worship and midweek services were held at the Greater Springfield Life Center beginning August 20, 1994. On the second Sunday in October

1994, Greater Springfield and Union Grove held a combined worship service in the sanctuary of Springfield. Pastor Hicks delivered the message. On the fourth Sunday, another combined service was held in the Life Center and Pastor Daniel Jackson, GSBC, delivered the message.

On November 20, 1994, Michael Hunter was installed as pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and Minister Hicks performed the installation service. On December 31, 1994, the membership of Union Grove Baptist Church was 541.

Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church conducted a combined fellowship service at Greater Springfield on September 10, 1995. On October 15, dedication service was held for the new sanctuary. The Nurses Guild sponsored an annual Hypertension Checkup at the church.

In April 1996, there was a special call meeting to discuss the opportunity to purchase the store next to UGMBC. After this store had gone on the Real Estate Market list, a local buyer had purchased it before the finance committee could submit a bid for it. Pastor Hicks presented the church body with a proposal that will provide a quicker response to potential land sales. He recommended that a committee be established to look into possible land acquisitions. A quorum of the members approved the establishment of this committee. Pastor Hicks and the deacon board gave this committee specific responsibilities such as:

1. Select a name for the committee
2. Research properties near and next to the church
3. Determine possible uses of the property
4. Find possible sources for financing the purchase

The members selected Vincent Stewart, chair; Harriet Steele, co-chair; Mary Lenoir, secretary; Dan Mitchell, Onnie Rowell, Leonard McNair, and Freeman Colbert.

While the committee researched the availability of property within five miles of the church, the Trustees decided that additional parking space was the congregation's most immediate need. In May, Pastor Hicks became UGMBC

full-time Pastor and Janice Scott became a part-time secretary. From September 14 through 19, 1996, the 130th Union Baptist Missionary and Educational Association meeting was held at UGMBC.

On October 29, 1996, the Real Estate Committee presented a letter that granted the Trustees permission to use 260 feet of the Warner Robins Housing Authority's land for parking spaces. This land is located behind South Davis Drive between Oak Grove Road and Beatrice Drive. In December, the Community Enhancement Group was approved.

In April 1997, the parking lot was opened to provide ninety additional parking spaces. In June, Faith Assembly of God on Moody Road began its worship services with our church congregation. In September, a basketball court was completed on this site for the Housing Authority residents.

According to Jerome Stephens, action was taken on May 27, 1997 to establish a lunch program at UGMBC called Youth Summer Lunch Program. According to Clara Smith, organizer, the purpose of this program is to provide youth ages five through sixteen with a nutritious lunch during the summer. She presented this idea to Pastor Hicks. Sister Smith said:

*"Children in the age group, five to sixteen, usually experience nutritional deficits when they are out of school during summer vacation. Therefore, I have targeted June, July, and August for this program."*

According to Pastor Hicks, usually the children's parents, because of training or economic reasons, do not provide them with three well-balanced meals each day. It is important that we, our church body, address this community need by providing this service. He further states:

*"A decision to remain in the Union Grove Community and to be a positive influence in it, has compelled the church body to address some community's needs. We must strive to make this community better for the people to live in it."*

According to Mary Terry, in 1997 as she began to think about troubles throughout the world with crime on every side, she had a dream about T-shirts for adults and children that

displayed the following scriptures: “If my people would pray....” Chronicle 7:14, “Children obey your parents...” Ephesians 6:1, and “Honor Thy Mother and Thy Father...” Ephesians 6:2 Sister Terry visualized that this could be a way of taking the Word wherever you go. While wearing these shirts people have stopped many wearers in the streets and asked about them and where could they be purchased for their groups/organizations.

After many years, these scripture shirts are still being sold. We have worn them to church programs, marches, picnics, and shopping trips. We give thanks to God for giving Mary Burnam Terry this vision that God’s Word will grow strong throughout the world.

On October 26, 1997, UGMBC and other concerned citizens from the Union Grove Community marched against violence, drugs, and other social ills. Armed with anti-drugs, anti-violence and anti-gang posters, marchers paraded through the streets singing songs of praise while handing out Christian literature to the residents. Mary Terry organized this project as a mission to continue the moral and spiritual growth in our church community. She said:

*“Our missionary group wanted to send the message that we are concerned about the problems in our community.”*

Additionally, in 1997 the Spiritual Enrichment Ministry members sponsored several workshops to work with the community on gangs and violence. Jerome Stephens, Sabrina Perry, Karen Stokes, Robert Davis and District Attorney Kelly Burke were involved. During this time Katie Kendricks sponsored a Youth Toastmaster Program. The participants were Alondra Anderson, Vanessa Caldwell, Torey Falls, Thomas Hartwell, Anjanette Lenoir, Letisha Scott, and Carlos Strudwick.

Union Grove Community Enhancement Group (UGCEG) was founded in 1997. On January 18, 1998, ordination service to install two newly elected deacons was held at UGMBC. The installed deacons were Theodolphus Caldwell and Lawrence



Thomas. On July 19, 1999, Lee McCants, Gil Gordon, and Ronald Franklin were ordained into the ministry.

The Lord had truly blessed, lives have been changed, and 48 people gave their lives to Christ in 1999. Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church's Community Enhancement Group opened the Life Changer's Center on 417 Orchard Way, Warner Robins, Georgia. This location provided easy access to the community. The purpose of this center was to transition disadvantaged persons from dependency to self-sufficiency. Since the center's opening a tutorial program was established and as many as forty people have been served.

Also, to strengthen our outreach ministry, a quorum of the congregation agreed to purchase the land located off South Davis Drive from Sister Mary Terry. A facility will be built on this land that will provide outreach services to the community.

On January 30, 2000 three ministers were ordained into the ministry. They were Milo Bradley, Paul Dunbar, and Paul Jenkins. On this date, Mary Lollar was licensed into the ministry. On April 30, 2000, Pastor Arthur L. Hicks resigned as pastor of UGMBC. After his resignation, a search/pulpit committee was formed to find a replacement for him. This committee included Deacon Jerome Stephens, Deacon Robert Simmons, Wanda Verrett, Jermaine Smith, Deacon James Ford, Minister Lee McCants, and Maggie Bradley.

In May 2000, the scholarship committee awarded members Anthony Anderson, Michael Hicks, and Dorondra Harrison a college stipend. On the third Sunday in May 2000, graduation service was held for our graduating high school seniors and college students. The high school seniors were Anthony Anderson (WRHS), Michael Hicks (WRHS), Derondra Harrison, (HCHS). The college graduates were Marie Anderson (Doctor of Education Degree), Jennifer Wilcox (Master of Business Administration Degree), and Darchell Mitchell (Bachelor Of Science Degree).

In February 2001, Sister Pearl Colbert reestablished UGMBC Black History Program. On May 20, 2001, the theme for our Sunday service was "The Future Lies Before

you—Class of 2001. The speaker for this service was Minister David Arnold. A combination of fourteen high school and college graduates were being recognized. Graduates representing Houston County High School were Felipe Antwon Price, Jecarey Smith, and Larry Cornell Spruitt, Jr. From Northside High, April McKinzy, Martin Xavier Dunbar, Latorra Shelley, Jason Stephens, Laurice Thomas, Stephanie Williams, and Crystal A. Pickett were represented. Lateshia J. Scott, Lleia Smith, Erin Anderson, and Tiana Tibbs were Warner Robins High school graduates. The college graduates were Rhonda Salone (Georgia College and State University), Lawana Johnson (Georgia State University), Latisha Baskerville (Fort Valley State University), and Bruce Zellars (Clark Atlanta University).

On July 28, 2001, a deacons and trustees retreat was held at Robins Air Force Base. The speaker/lecturer for this occasion was Minister Sam Davis. On August 2, 2001, a back to school rap session was held at UGMBC. The topics of discussion were “Spiritual Focus for Today’s Youth,” “Teen Depression in School,” “Gangs, Sex, and so on.” The speakers for this occasion were Commander Chief Karl Abernathy, II, Minister Daron Lee, and W.A.V.E. Officer Robert Davis. In July 2001, Sister Pearl Colbert implemented our annual Vacation Bible School program.

On August 5, 2001, Pastor Richard Spann was in charge of our annual homecoming service. From August 6-10, 2001, UGMBC held its annual church revival. The speaker was Pastor Michael Chambers. Under the direction of Robert Murphy, the Serenity Support Group of UGMBC held, on October 10, 2001, a semi-annual support group fellowship in the church’s annex.

On October 14, 2001, a Health Fest/Cancer Awareness Brunch was held at UGMBC. The objective for this event was to focus on the major concerns and prevention of cancer in men, women, and children: and other diseases prevalent in this community, thereby, taking actions for a healthy body and a long life. The Nurses Guild Ministry organized this awareness

program. The speakers were Sheila Thompson-Thomas, Tech Sgt. Ronald Quimby, and Russell Ackings, M.D.

Because we had an increase workload and a need for a more efficient way of storing information, new computers were purchased in January 2002. On March 18, 2002, the Warner Robins City Council agreed to sell about three acres on South Davis Drive to UGMBC so we, the congregation, can expand our community outreach programs. These acres are within a few blocks of the church. According to the agreement, our trustees have agreed to pay \$25,000 for this land. The lots are also in the city's downtown area, which the council has pledged to revitalize. Currently, these lots are vacant. According to a proposal presented to the city council on February 27, 2002, UGMBC owns another three acres adjacent to this city property, and plans to build a child-care center, fenced playground, softball field, and a basketball court.

According to Kathy Hart of the city's department of community development, when an offer was posted to sale the land, which was offered for sale through local advertisement, UGMBC was the only bid on the three acres of land. Jesse Fountain, department head, said that this land has been appraised at \$33,000, but the council accepted the lower offer because of Union Grove's plans. Deacon Jerome Stephens submitted a copy of the Warner Robins City Council's agenda, the resolution, and the ordinance for the history files. From February to June 2002, 4 lots (1.17 acres) on South Davis Drive were purchased totally \$49,000.00.

In May 2002, the choir loft was reconstructed for an orchestra area. Also, the Senior Choir held a Spring Musical at UGMBC. The mistresses of ceremony were Mary Burnette, Minister Grace King, and Jeanette Savage. The choir members are:

Amy L. Bell	Catherine Jarvis	Mary Terry
Grace Davis	Annie G. Johnson	Lawrence Thomas
Naomi Dawkins	Leroy Johnson	Marion Thorpe
Moses Dupree	Patricia Johnson	Council Wilcox
Frances Depree	Daisy Jones	May Ola Williams

James Ford	Annie Lamar	Janet S. Williams
Samuel Gude	Marion Mathis	Shirley Smith
Juanita Hogue	Thelma Mathis	Mattie Howard
Dorothy Jackson	Brenda Nichols	Robert Murphy
Edward Jarvis	Alonzo Smith	Lavonia Abrams, <i>musician</i>

The inactive members are: Mary Barnette, Mary Ann Hunter, Georgia Green, Linda Halliburton, Carolyn Martin, Quinell Dupree, Wylene Ray, Dan Mitchell, and Ruby Hughes. The deceased members are Annie Allen, Lillie Blackmon, Mattie Bonner, Ester Brooks, Bessie Bynum, Gwendolyn Bunch, Georgia Biggs, Barbara “B.J.” Johnson, Sarah Lawson, Emma Madison, and Annie Mathis.

For many years, members have participated with the rebuilding together with Christmas in April of Warner Robins. This program proves the funds and the manpower to help repair the homes of the elderly (age 62 and up). In doing so, the elderly is kept safe, warm, and dry.

On October 12, 2002, church members cast their ballots consisting of three names to replace Pastor Hicks as pastor of UGMBC. These names were Minister Vanable Moody, Pastor Frankie Rivers, and Pastor David Anthony Clarke, Sr. The final ballot tabulation revealed that Pastor David Anthony Clarke, Sr. from Second Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Albany, Georgia, received the majority of the votes and was named UGMBC’s nineteenth pastor. On December 15, 2002, Lorenzo L. Heard, Pastor of Second Mt. Olive Baptist Church, installed him as pastor.

Traditionally, our members have been God-fearing and Bible-believing Christians who supported the church spiritually and physically. We, the current members, will continue to do so. UGMBC church’s by laws read:

“We will be led by the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love;

To strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort;

To promote its prosperity and spirituality;

To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine;

And to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and spread the gospel through all nations.”

### **New Sanctuary Construction Site**



Deacon Marvin Colbert and Thomas Colbert

## **Memories**

Memories can be special thoughts  
on yesterday's past  
to reflect upon what they brought to us  
to search for a deeper meaning within them,  
within yourself and maybe within others  
to see things clearer for the first time  
and maybe to have a better understanding  
of who you are  
and actually what you are.

Memories can be loved and cherished  
long afterwards and can be beautiful if you like what you see  
but remember you cannot let them take over  
the realness of the world  
always remember them in a special way  
and they can seem true again, in your heart,  
remember the good with the bad  
for they can live within you  
forever if you let them

Kim Pharmer, ag

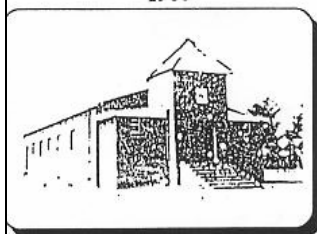
## Photos: Past and Present 1887-2002

1887



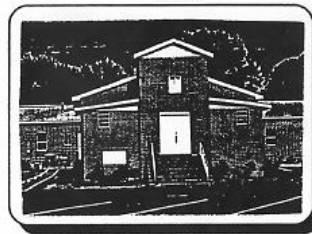
*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)*

1966



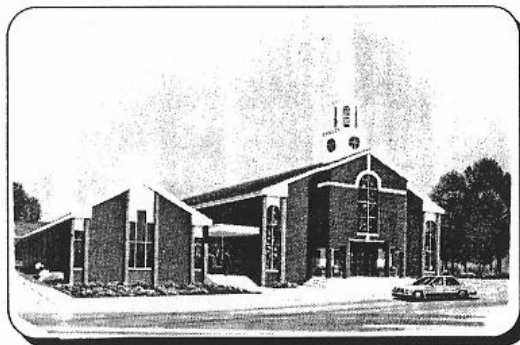
*"And let them make me a Sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8)*

1976



*"And the Lord added to the church daily as as should be saved." (Acts 2:47)*

1995



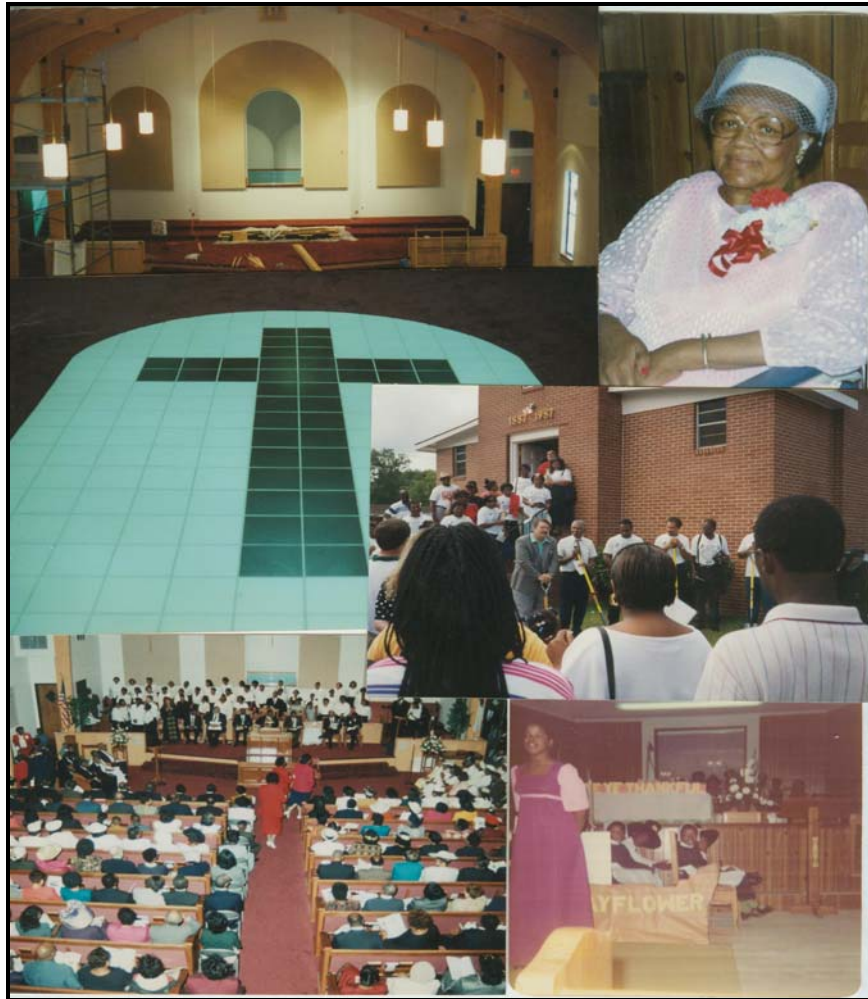
*"Except the Lord Build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127:1)*

\*Picture of sanctuary from 1894-1965 not available.



Clockwise: Mae Ola Williams, Sister Sweetwine, Jack Drake, ground breaking ceremony, Sister Ceola Cox, 100<sup>th</sup> year church celebration at WRAFB, youth play, church dedication procession led by Minister Rushia Jackson, Jr. and Altha Lee Jackson





Construction of new sanctuary, Sister Esther Brooks, cross tile in church foyer (creative idea of Marie Anderson, Mary Terry, and Mary Lenoir), ground breaking ceremony, new sanctuary dedication service, Greta Colbert



From top to bottom: Church family trip to RAFB,  
 Christmas bulletin board, Church picnic, New Sanctuary  
 Dedication Ceremony, Sister Kate Head, UGMBC Senior  
 Choir, and Christmas play

## **We Have Come This Far By Faith**

On the other side of the track  
from it's beginning under a  
bush harbor tree  
Union Grove became today the  
church you now see.  
Even now as we look back across  
the track, it's my prayer we  
never go back.

Yet down thru the years  
with the shedding of much blood,  
sweat, and tears God has brought  
us thus far by faith.

Still as we look back on the  
other side of the track  
at the years gone by we can see  
that the struggle of those faithful  
few that came before us are mere  
reflections of those who will come after us.

Yes as I look back across the track,  
I can see from whence we came and realize we should never  
ever compare back then to today.  
For as surely as God strengthened,  
comforted, and guided them with  
much prayer and faith, He will do the  
same for us.

Theodolphus Caldwell

## Current Members

Annie Abrams	Maggie Bradley	Dorothy Clay
Annie Allen	Milo Bradley	Mary Clayborn
Chris Allen	Debra Britt	Loretta Cockrell
Henry Allen	Joseph Britt	Juanita Cofer
Henry Allen	Bryant Brooks	Freeman Colbert
Odessa Allen	Rashard Brooks	Gertrude Colbert
Stephanie Allen	Alexis Brown	Lachandra Colbert
Alondra Anderson	Cassundra Brown	Loma Colbert
Anthony Anderson	Jason Brown	Margaret Colbert
Barnette Anderson	Soraya Brown	Pearl Colbert
Eddie Anderson	Velma Bryant	Thomas Colbert
Erin Anderson	Lillie Buckles	Tiffany Colbert
Ernestine Anderson	Mary Burnett	Woodrow Colbert
Lateshia Anderson	Valerie Burnett	Carol Coleman
Lena Anderson	Doris Burns	Emerson Coleman, Jr.
Marie Anderson	Rufus Burns	Erik Coleman
Oscar Anderson	Audra Butler	Tray Coleman
Toni Bacon	Dorothy Bynum	Crimisa Collier
Latisha Baskerville	Calvin Byrd	Laurie Collins
Bernice Bates	Ceondrea Byrd	Sationne Collins
Ebony Bates	Charity Byrd	Terrance Colvin
Kiara Bates	Charles Byrd	LaShondria Copeland
Lori Batton	Doris Byrd	LaDareon Copeland
Cleveland Beard	Theodolphus Caldwell	Sandra Cornish
Amie Bell	Vanessa Caldwell	Tommie Cornish
Rasheem Berry	Brenda Cephas	Chanel Crosskey
Charlie Billings	Theresa Clarington	Sandra Crouch
Oralene Billings	Theresa Clarington	Tracy Cuington
Toyce Billings	Anquan Clark	Michelle Culpepper
Evelyn Binns	Maria Clark	Quiniten Culpepper
Charlie Blackmon	Monroe Clark	Aaron Davis
Ethel Blackmon	Quenton Clark	Barry Davis
Sonya Bobo	Shirley Clark	Denise Davis
Irene Booker	David Clarke, Jr.	Grace Davis
James Booker	David Clarke, Sr.	Jerlene Davis
Vincent Booker	Janelle Clarke	Kenneth Davis
Linda Bracy	Michelle Clarke	Linda Davis
Zane Bracy	Tenisha Clarke	Michael Davis

Nathanel Davis	Shermeka Fuller	Cedrick Hayward
Rodney Davis	James Gaines	Hilda Hayward
Alando Dawkins	Michelle Gaines	Rodrick Hayward
Johnny Dawkins	Magnolia Gant	Betty Henton
Naomi Dawkins	Mary Gardner	James Henton
Kenya Dentsley	Kimberly Garnes	Beverly Hicks
Connie Dinkins	Ruby Gary	Josephine Hicks
Dorothy Dodson	Blanche Gilmore	Kimberly Hicks
Geradine Dodson	Carey Glover	Michael Hicks
Caleb Doe	Kamron Glover	Richard Hicks
Craig Doe	Kenyetta Glover	Andrea Hodges
Curt Doe	Kevin Glover	Joe Hogue
Curtis Doe	Leo Glover	Juanita Hagues
Helen Doe	Che' Gordon	Michael Hagues
Charlafinett Dukes	Angelia Grant	Mattie Howard
Dannie Dukes	Eboni Grant	Jakena Huggins
Homer Dukes III	Michael Grant	Yonkita Huggins
John Dukes	Sabir Grant	Armita Hughes
Martin Dunbar	Franklin Green	Hurley Hughes
Paul Dunbar, Sr.	Georgia Green	Ruby Hughes
Sandra Dunbar	Samuel Gude	Wendy Hughes
Butch Dupree	Zenobia Gude	Dorothea Humphries
Kay Dupree	Glenn Gulley	Christopher Hunter
Moses Dupree	Veronica Haggerty	Kentavius Hunter
Quinelle Dupree	Marsha Ham	Mary Hunter
Shirley Durden	Melonie Ham	Altha Jackson
Jacqueline Durham	Tenisha Ham	Chad Jackson
Chandra Emanuel	Fontella Hamilton	Corey Jackson
Fannie Epperson	Brittney Hampton	Darren Jackson
Patricia Falls	Kathy Hardee	Dorothy Jackson
Tori Falls	Shane Hardee	Latosha Jackson
Jacqueline Fant	Erice Harris	Mary Jackson
James Fant	Mamie Harris	Rushia Jackson III
Jerome Fant	Alfreda Harrison	Shalita Jackson
Vickie Floyd	Dearonda Harrison	Wanda Jackson
Sandra Fluellen	Emma Harrison	William Jackson, Jr.
Anna Ford	Latanya Harrison	William Jackson, Sr.
James Ford	Barry Harwell	Latasha James
Arie Freeman, Jr.	Netra Harwell	Catherine Jarvis
Arie Freeman, Sr.	Rebekah Harwell	Edward Jarvis
Lazarus Fuller	Thomas Harwell	Michael Jenkins

Paul Jenkins	Alma Lindsey	Christopher McNair
Sonya Jenkins	Danielle Little	Dorothy McNair
Syphronia Jenkins	Helen Llyod	Glenda McNair
Annie Johnson	Valerie Lockhart	Kimberly McNair
Bennie Johnson	Kathryn Logan	Leonard McNair
Cassandra Johnson	Mary Ann Lollar	Sharhonda McNair
Delores Johnson	Charity Lucas	Fannie Mclean
Elizabeth Johnson	Gary Lucas	Alphonso Medlock
Ella Johnson	Annie Lucious	Martha Medlock
Georgia Johnson	Derek Mack	April Mitchell
James Johnson	Marilyn Mack	Charles Mitchell
Julius Johnson	Shirley Madison	Dan Mitchell
Lakeshia Johnson	Ashley Mallard	Lorenzo Mitchell
Leroy Johnson	Christopher Mallard	Shanda Mitchell
Patricia Johnson	Lakeia Manor	Sarah Mofford
Ramon Johnson	Harriett Marlow	Quinton Moore
Cal Jones	Thelma Marlow	Robert Murphy
Daisy Jones	Rosemarys Marsalis	Markita Nathaniel
Debra Jones	Carolyn Martin	Briana Nesbitt
Jennifer Jones	Kimberly Martin	Stephanie Nesbitt
LaBrenda Jones	Lakeisha Martin	Marie Newell
Jerell Joyner	Sara Martin	Rieshun Newell
Grace King	Willie Martin	Brenda Nichols
Cheryl Knight	Antwanece Mathis	Gloria Oliver
Annie Lamar	Marion Mathis	Luther Oliver
Nannie Lane	Renita Mathis	Philisa Oliver
Hosea Laney	Shade Mathis	Phyllis Oliver
Louis Laney, Jr.	Shavine Mathis	Quinton Oliver
Vickie Latimore	Thelma Mathis	Bridgett Owens
Eric Leggette	Ashley McCants	Linda Parrish
Jabari Leggette	Jared McCants	Anthony Pegues
Joshua Leggette	Lee McCants	Gayla Pegues
Shwanda Leggette	Patricia McCants	Anthony Percy, Jr.
Annjanette Lenoir	Gary McCollum	Anthony Percy, Sr.
Charles Lenoir, Jr.	Minnie McCollum	Cornelius Percy
Charles Lenoir, Sr.	Mary McIntyre	Sarah Percy
Mary Lenoir	Willie McIntyre	Andrea Perkins
Bennie Leonard	Keokuk McIver	Antonio Peterson
Mary Leonard	Whitt McIver	Tisheka Phillips
Victoria Leonard	April McKinzy	Dennis Pickett
Annie Lester	Alesha McNair	Jermaine Pickett

Pearl Pickett	Maggie Rutledge	Patrice Smith
Charlene Pierson	David Salone	Quinton Smith
Ernest Pope	Kiera Salone	Rose Smith
Karen Pope	Rhonda Salone	Shirley Smith
Africa Porter	Jeanette Savage	Tasha Sniffen
Artis Powell	Henry Scott	Ashley Solomon
Debra Powell	Janice Scott	Brandon Solomon
Jackie Powell	Keith Scott	Catherine Solomon
Kenneth Powell	Lamar Scott, Sr.	Chelsea Solomon
Kenya Powell	Lateshia Scott	Curtis Solomon
Mattie Powell	Rashad Scott	Rodney Solomon
Rashard Powell	Jacolbi Seay	Stephanie Solomon
Antwon Price	Le'Tombria Seay	Keiara Springle
Mylika Pritchett	Mary Ann Seay	Larry Spruill
Christine Ragin	Jimmy Shade	Harriet Steele
Rashee Ragin	Jamarcus Shelley	Aisha Stephens
Cynthia Raines	Annie Shelling	Ella Stephens
Xavier Randall	Casey Sherman	Jason Stephens
Shirley Ray	Deshawna Shivers	Jerome Stephens
Wylene Ray	Delois Simmons	Will Stephens
Brandon Reeves	Kay Simmons	Jacqueline Stewart
Damon Reeves	Robert Simmons	Jennifer Stewart
Gwendolyn Reeves	Dondria Simon	Van Stewart
Stacy Reeves	Doris Sims	Vincent Stewart, Jr
Lavina Releford	J.D. Sims	Vincent Stewart, Sr
Ben Respress	Jeremy Sims	Judy Strickland
Brandon Respress	Karlton Sims	Robert Strickland IV
Candance Respress	Corey Sipp	Robert Strickland III
Garrick Respress	Kenyatta Sipp	Tameka Strickland
Vacienta Respress	Alonzo Smith	Alvin Striggles
Anita Reynolds	Antonio Smith	Brenda Striggles
Annie Reynolds	Carrie Smith	Nell Sweetwine
Gayprella Roberts	Cheryl Smith	Bobbie Tate
Kendall Roberts	Clara Smith	Charles Tate
Laverne Robinson	Clarence Smith	Cleophus Tate, Jr.
Rontavia Robinson	Condell Smith	Cleophus Tate, Sr.
Tameka Robinson	Darrell Smith	George Tate
Rosemary Rodgers	Ileia Smith	Diane Tennant
Tiney Rolle	Jermaine Smith	Mary Terry
Berkley Roundtree	John Smith	Rosa Tharpe
Buelah Rumph	Lillie Smith	Daniel Tharps

Evon Harps	Wanda Verrett	Marilyn Williams
Yanuve Harps	Jennette Wafford	Michele Williams
Antoine Thomas	La'Kita Wafford	Minnie Williams
Deja Thomas	Louise Waiters	Norrine Williams
J.A. Thomas	April Walker	Rhonda Williams
Kara Thomas	Earnestine Walker	Rickey Williams
Laurice Thomas	Eugene Walker	Terrance Williams
Lawrence Thomas	Gertrude Walker	Tracy Williams
Lois Thomas	Terrell Walker	Thelma Willingham
Olethia Thomas	Tiambi Walker	James Willis
Shayla Thomas	Tryphane Walker	Margaret Willis
Sheila Thomas	Greg Wallace	Teresa Willis
Brenda Thornton	Lora Wallace	Antuan Wilson
Desrick Thornton	Marcus Wallace	Lasandra Wilson
Marion Thorpe	Willie Wallace III	Mary Winston
Slater Thorpe	Willie Wallace Jr.	Donald Woodard
Anya Toles	Betty Ware	Maxine Woodard
Ayla Toles	Jasmine Ware	Everand Woodard
Byron Toles	Michael Ware	Urleaka Woodard
Shirley Toles	Cassandra Warren	Andre Wright
TaShay Toles	Maragret Washington	Chandra Wright
Charles Toliver	Felica Webb	James Wright
Goldia Toliver	Carolyn White	Mable Wright
Joseph Toliver	Cherie White	Brittany Wynds
Pearl Toliver	Michael White	Iris Wynds
Tarshea Toliver	Paula White	Bruce Zellars Jr.
Charlie Tuck	Willie White	Bruce Zellars Sr.
Margie Tuck	Council Wilcox	Yvonne Zellars
Nakeisha Tuck	Eva Wilcox	
Audrey Turner	Jennifer Wilcox	
Benedict Turner	Reginald Wilcox	
Catrina Turner	Dorothy Wiley	
Christopher Turner	Andrena Williams	
Lashesa Turner	Ashful Williams Jr.	
Shannon Turner	Cynthia Williams	
Shun'kia Turner	Dorothy Williams	
Monica Vann	Janet Williams	
Ollie Vann	Judy Williams	
McKinley Verrett	Mae Ola Williams	



## Deceased Members

### *“In Loving Memory”*

*Outstanding Spiritual Leaders, Faithful Warriors, Mothers,  
Deacons, Deaconesses, Secretaries, Selfless Sunday School  
Teachers, Chairpersons, and Just Good Ole’ Members*

Annie Allen	Milton Davis	Daniel Lawson
Annie Barney	Frank Dennis, Jr.	Sarah Lawson
Georgia Biggs	Frank Dennis, Sr.	Robert Leonard
Charles Billings, Sr.	Mae Dennis	Haywood Lloyd
Lillie Blackmon	Laura Dinkins	Emma Madison
Herman Blackmon, Jr.	Jack Drake	Annie Mathis
Valerie Blackmon	Calton Durham	Mattie Mikale
Mattie Bonner	Samuel Faulkerson	Carrie Miller
Ester Brooks	Francis Glover	Charles Myers
Ethel Brown	Hollis Glover	Marvin Ragin
Mack Brown	Dick Goodwin	Angela Ray
Mathis Brown	Charles Granville	Georgia Ray
Ossie Brown	Howard Granville	Hazel Ray
Willie Brown	Nancy Green	Jeannie Reid
Tom Bryant	Alberta Hammond	Will Rutledge
Gwendolyn Bunch	Jack Harvey, III	Annie Simmons
Bessie Burnam	Jessie Harvey	Francis Sims
Primus Caldwell	Johnnie Head	Vonzia Sims
James Chaney	Sarah Howard	Nancy Sipp
Clyde Chatman	Hope Hunter	Delia Smith
Nancy Chatman	Mable Hunter	Della Smith
Beatrice Childs	Michael Hunter	Elonzo Smith
Emory Childs	Daisy Iverson	Gerlene Smith
Mae Clay	Josie Jackson	Ida Smith
Freeman Colbert Sr.	Marie Jackson	Iola Smith
Marvin Colbert	Mattie Jackson	Tommy Smith
Alfre Cornelious	Neil Jackson	Willie F. Smith
Ceola Cox	Nettie Jackson	Willie Smith
Nancy Cox	Warren Jackson	Justine Stanley
George Crowder	Georgia Jenkins	Alfonso Stephens
Lula Crowder	Barbara Johnson	Fannie Stephens
Ben Curtis	William Johnson	Floretha Stephens
Nancy Davis	Louise Lango	Pearl Stephens

Lucille Stevenson  
Joe Taylor  
Mollie Taylor  
John Terry

Ora Thompson  
Deloris Toliver  
James Williams  
Johnny Williams

Mary Williams  
Rosalyn Williams

### **Tomorrow's Past**

The past is gone and can't be changed  
It is said by some, we know  
But I think a past is ours to form  
To build, to live, to grow.  
Tomorrow's yesterday is this morning  
Which we can mold at will  
To be a pleasant kindly past  
When past it is, and still.

Eleanor Trew Cooley, West Newton, Mass

\*\*\*\*\*