

History of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

1918-2021`

Three Names – One Community

Yates Baptist Church

The Beginning – Organized in a home located at 1517 Fitch Street. Pastor, Rev Bobo. Ford Parker was appointed as the Chairman of the Deacon Board. Serving with him were Deacons Wyatt Roseboro, Author Brown, Laurie Feaster and James Gaddy. The early membership was composed of the Parker, Feaster and Roseboro families. A storefront building located on Diggs Blvd was donated by a Mr. Yates was donated to the founders for worship. In honor of the donor, the church was named the Yates Baptist Church.

- Pastors – Rev. Stafford (1927), Rev. Powell, Rev. W. Scott, Rev. J.F. Patterson (1932), Rev. C.C. Clayton (1933) – sought to build a new facility; Rev. Mclver (1939), Rev. T.C. Phillips (1940s) Lot and lumber sold to the congregation by Mr. Charlie Jones, a realtor and bondsman. Location 1400 Fitch Street
- 1937- Members of the Yates Baptist Church completed the facility located at 1400 Fitch Street. Membership included the Caldwell, McDuffie and McCollum children. Name changed to Morning Star Baptist Church
- 1943- Morning Star Baptist Church was split due to financial issues. The remnant continued in its efforts to pay off the church
- 1947 – Members continued to negotiate with Rev. T.C. Harris over the financial obligations. These members included L.M. McCollum, James M. Lewis, Howard Chrisco and Willie McDuffie

Columbia Heights Extension Baptist Church

- Organized in 1934 at 1210 Hamlin Street by Rev. J. R Chandler and former members of the Second Calvary Baptist Church. The congregation included Laurie and Anna Belle Feaster (founders of Yates Baptist) along with members of the Coleman, the Wright, Felder and Feaster families. The congregation grew with the inclusion the Benson and Hughes children (1935)

- Pastors – Rev. W.M. Bines (1934), Rev. T.S. Staten (1938)
- Columbia Heights Extension continued to thrive under the leadership of Rev. Staten and the Coleman family.
- The major auxiliaries of the church were organized: Sunday School, Senior, Junior and Spiritual Choirs, Usher Board, Pastor's Aid Society and Missionary
- Between 1946 – 1947 Roland Harris and W.E. Brannon were licensed to preached

And two became one – Morning Star Baptist Church

- 1948 – Pastor and members of the Columbia Heights Extension Baptist Church and Morning Star Baptist Church paid Rev. T. C. Phillips \$1,500.00 to relinquish his title on the building at 1400 Fitch Street.
- May 31, 1948 – The membership of the Columbia Heights Extension Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. T.S. Staten, Joe L. Coleman (Chairman of Deacon Board) marched up the hill to their new house of worship. Rev. Staten carried the Bible and Deacon Robert Massey led the hymn. Two congregations merged, and a partnership was created. Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church formerly Yates Baptist and Columbia Heights had one common entity, Laurie and Anna Belle Feaster whose presence was noted and instrumental at the founding of each church.
- 1949 – Rev. W. J. LeGrant and Rev. W.E. Brannon were ordained as ministers of the Gospel.
- 1950 – The brothers of the church dug out and completed the basement. The basement included a kitchen, restrooms and served as an area for the Youth Sunday School.
- The early years – Serving as Deacons were: Brothers Howard Chrisco, L.M. McCollum, James Brown, James M. Lewis, Henry Settles, James Little, J.P. Benson, and Robert Massey. Later Deacons and Trustees were Lonnie Broadway, Ernest Fant, Joe Sippler and Theodore McCollum.
- Under the leadership lay members such as Pearl Caldwell, Daisy Brown Maude McCollum, Asia Benson, Corrine Bradley, Sallie Richardson, Annie M. Lewis, Victoria Sipplen and Aretha Broadway, the church's finances were supported by selling plate dinners, sponsoring baby contests, and cake raffles. Funds were contributed to the building fund, with the dream of improving the house of worship.
- 1954 – Deacon Joe L. Coleman was licensed into the ministry. He asked Rev. Staten to declare a Sunday as "Sinners Day". This day added to the congregation members such families as Cary and Julia McMillian, Francis Smith and Ella Mae Smith and Henry and Essie Mae Simmons.
- 1960-1964 James M. Lewis, L.M. McCollum and Lonnie Broadway became licensed ministers.
- 1965 – Rev. Staten retired after serving 27 years as pastor.
- 1965 – Rev. W. J. Robinson was elected as pastor. Under his leadership, the Youth Department took a more active role in Sunday services with the second Sunday of each month designated as Youth Day. The Senior Choir hired its first choir director, Brother Albert Samuels and presented its first Easter Cantata, "Ride on In Majesty", along with the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church where Rev. W.E. Brannon, a son of Morning Star served as pastor. Sis. Thelma Rice, the long-time organist for the church, along with Aldine Grimes of Mount Carmel rendered a musical experience that has not been forgotten. The Youth formed a spiritual choir under the leadership of Sis. Ella Mae Smith and Sis. Julia McMillan. The choir's membership consisted of The Simmons, McMillan and Smith children as well, Oscar and Carrie Beal, Carolyn McQueen and Constance Johnson. Youth ushers included Eloise Boyd, Carnell and Elizabeth Isom.

- 1966 – Francis Smith was licensed into the ministry.
- 1967 – Rev. Danial B. Salley, associate minister of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, was elected as pastor. During his ministry the membership grew. Young Adult ministries such as the Young Adult Choir and the Young Adult Missionary were organized. The Nurses Board expanded, and Deaconess Board was also organized (1978). It became the goal of the Church to build a new sanctuary. Under the leadership of Rev. Salley, the congregation continued to grow. The church was blessed both spiritually and financially. The Scales family, the return of the Lewis family (after the death of Rev. Lewis) and the return of Thaddeous McCollum from the military brought renewed energy to the church.
- 1968-1974 – Under the leadership of Rev. Salley Deacons serving were Henry Settles, James Brown, Henry Simmons, Cary McMillan, Lawrence Reaves, P. Thomas Scales, John Henry Benson, Howard Chrisco, Joe Sipplen and Samuel McCollum. They served along with Gregory Barnes, Oscar B. Beal, James Lewis, Jr, Thaddeous, McCollum, Joe Dendy and Walt Dendy. The church continued to labor toward its dream of a new worship edifice. Dinners were sold cakes raffled and contest were held. Sister Edna was crowned as the first Mrs. Morning Star.
- 1975 – Rev Tony Scales was licensed to preached. Serving as associate ministers were Rev. L.M. McCollum, Rev. Jimmie L. Montgomery, and Rev. Francis Smith.
- December 11, 1975, the last service was held in the building that had been the center of worship for twenty – seven years. The building was to be demolished but not the memories. The sermon was preached by Rev. Jimmie Montgomery
- December 18, 1975 – The membership worshipped in the chapel of the Winston-Salem Bible College for a period of twelve months.
- December 22, 1975 the building was demolished, making way for construction to begin.
- December 29, 1975 – The groundbreaking ceremony was held at 10 a.m. The Scripture read was Genesis 8:10-22, God’s Covenant with Creation. Rev. Salley led the Prayer of Thanksgiving. Deacon Howard Chrisco, Chairman of the Building Committee lifted the first shovel of dirt. This was the beginning of the realization of a dream.
- December 19, 1976 – Following Sunday School at the Wheeler Street location. A motorcade led by Rev. D.B. Salley, the members drove to Bowman Gray Stadium, Williamson and Timlic Streets, departed their cars and began marching and singing “Thank You Jesus” (led by Deacon Cary McMillan) into the new house of worship.
- July 3 and 10. 1977 – The church celebrated its 59th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of Rev. Salley. On July 24, 1977 a dedication ceremony was held led by Rev Salley. There followed a cornerstone laying conducted by Salem Lodge #139, 15th District.
- 1978 – Rev. Ronald Wilkins was licensed into the ministry. Rev. Francis Smith and Rev. Jimmie Montgomery were ordained as ministers.
The Church purchased its first van. The Missionary purchased a steeple for the Church.
- July 1980 – After thirteen years of dedicated leadership, Rev. Daniel Benjamin Salley was called into eternal rest. He served faithfully along with his wife, Lillian; mother, Ethel;

children, Ethel, Dan Jr., Richard, Patricia Donald and Avenel. Rev. Sally's leadership was honored in August 1980 with the dedication of the Church library in his name. The King James Version of the Bible was the first book to be placed in the Library (Salley Family).

- 1980 – 1981 – Rev. Francis served as the Interim Pastor
- 1981 – With a need for space the church purchased two lots and a house on Williamson Street to be used as a Christian Education Center. Completed in 1982.
- December 1981 – Rev. Dr. Bracy H. Bonham was elected as pastor. During the same month, Rev Henry Massey united with the Church
- 1981-1989 - The church progressed greatly under the leadership of Bonham. New organizations were added to the church. Among them being the Laymen's League, New Membership Committee, Finance Committee, Hospitality Committee. Memorial Committee, and the Executive Board. The Pastor's Aid was reorganized as the Young Women's Progressive Club and the Board of Christian Education.
- 1983 – The church paid off its 13-year mortgage, \$75,000.00 in seven years, saving the church over \$40,000.00
- 1984 – Rev Henry Massey was ordained by the High Point Association. Brothers Thaddeous McCollum. Eugene Caldwell, Tom Woods, William Summers, Robert Witherspoon, Hubert Glenn and Leroy Gilchrist were ordained as deacons. Sisters Clara Evans(Goode), Elizabeth Isom Penn, and Maggie Alexander were the first female trustees. Also appointed as trustees were Brothers Jerry Hughes, Frazier McCollum.
- 1986 – The balcony and administrative office were added.
- 1987 – Rev James Lewis was licensed into the ministry and ordained by the High Points Association
- 1988 – Baptist Training was re instituted. Two more lots were purchased on Williamson Street.
- January 1990 – Rev. Donald L. Salley was called as Pastor and installation services were held on June 10, 1990. Rev Salley was a teaching minister preparing the body to serve, fully equipped with the Word. Under the leadership of Rev. Salley Progressive Club was reorganized. Three Bible study classes were organized, along with the Good News Club. The youth Choir was reorganized. Community Outreach spearheaded by Christian Education serviced the community. Senior Citizen Day was instituted to recognize senior members of the congregation. I
- 1991 - Eight members restored their membership, eleven joined under Christian Experience and there were three candidates for baptism. Rev. Terrence Evans was licensed into the ministry.
- 1992 – Fourteen members restored their membership, twenty-two joined under Christian Experience and there were twenty-eight candidates for baptism. Brothers Clifton Benson, Robert Galloway, Larry Norvell, Curtis Delph and Carl Settle were appointed to the Trustee Board.
- 1993 – James E. Timmons (Jimmy) and Jacob Hughes, were ordained as deacons.

- 1994-1995 – Rev. Terrence Evans was appointed Youth Minister. Ministry classes were organized: Adult Women, Sis Dorena Scales; Young Adult Women, Sis. Parthenia Galloway; Marriage Enrichment, Pastor Salley; Singles Ministry and Laymen’s League(re-organized). Bother Carlton and Sister Willie Scales began a video Tape ministry for the sick and shut-in.
- 1996 – Rev. Parthenia Galloway preached her initial sermon, becoming the first female to be licensed in the ministry at the church. Evangelist Jean Salley was second and both ladies were ordained by the High point association in August 1996, Others licensed into the ministry in 1996 were Anderson Hicks, Bessie Massey, Myrtie Mitchell and Clara Goode. Also, that year, a Brotherhood class was organized, Uplift Services were held on Wednesday nights. A tutorial was implemented by Deborah E. Smith. Training classes were added for ministers and deacons. The Counseling Ministry was added. The building and expansion program continued with the purchase of additional lots on Williamson Street. These were cleared for parking.
- 1997 - Rev. Clara Goode was named Youth Minister. Brothers Clifton Benson, Joe Dendy, James Bowman and Nathan Wilkins were ordained as deacons. The Church Assistance Ministry was added.
- 1998 – Sisters Sonceray Montgomery, Jane Ingram, and Deborah H. Simmons along with Brothers Ernest Salley, Charles Smith, James Reeves, Willis Robinson and Eric Montgomery were appointed to the Trustee Ministry. Rev. Thalifero (Fella) Huntley and Evangelist Diane Mitchell preached their initial Sermons and were licensed by the church.
- 1999 – 2000- The First Junior Miss Expo was held. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new education wing, The First Deacons Recognition service was held. First Friends Day was held.
- June 1, 2001 – Phase 1 New building phase began for the church. For the second time in its history worship services were held offsite during the renovation process. For ten months services were held on the Campus of Winston-Salem State University at the Anderson Center, Dillard Auditorium.
- March 4, 2001 – After Sunday School, members assembled at the Anderson Center and drove in a motorcade to the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr and Williamson Street where family and friends had assembled. The group led by Pastor Donald Salley and Jeanine (pastor’s wife), associate ministers, officers, and members marched into a newly renovated church that no longer faced Fitch Street but now faced Timlic Ave. The address then and forever has remained 1400 Fitch Street. Deacon Cary McMillan raised his voice in song to lead the congregation in singing “I Have Another Building”. Remarks were made by Alderwoman, Jocelyn Johnson of the East Ward. The ribbon cutting was led by Pastor Salley. Dedication Services were held through March 7, 2001.
- March 11 -19, 2001 – Rev. Jane Robinson and Rev. Alexis Isaiah preached their initial sermons and were licensed by the church. Nathaniel Patrick was ordained as a deacon.

Reginald Harris and Jerry Isom were appointed as Trustees. Evangelist Louise Kirk joined our membership

- 2003-2004 Phase II of building process - renovation of the kitchen and the addition of the elevator – Bro Fred Johnson
- 2004- 2007 – The church grew spiritually as well as financially. It was mandated that the Church would no longer depend on contests and plate dinner sales for support. The church became a tithing church. The membership grew and lived up to its creed “A Harvester of Souls. Under this leadership the traditional Women’s Conferences was instituted as well as the Women’s Retreat. Completing the ministerial Staff were Rev. Jesse Jones, Rev. Deborah Evans and Rev. Reginald Harris. Deacon Thaddeous McCollum and Anthony Caviness held positions as Church Treasurer.
- October 2007 Rev Salley was called from labor to reward in 2007. This was truly a low point in the hearts of the church membership. Rev. Salley served with insight, humbleness and spiritually giftedness for seventeen years. How often he would say “to whom much is given, much is required’. Under his leadership the Church was abundantly blessed. We were saddened by his death, yet we had to carry on as generations before us had done.
- 2008– 2009– The Deacons supported by the congregation voted for Rev. Parthenia Galloway, a trailblazer in her own right to serve as the interim Pastor. In his own time God had prepared and ordained her for this leadership role. A dedicated teacher and preacher she was the glue that held us together. For eighteen months she walked in his way. Under her leadership those who remained faithful to this house were blessed for she served unselfishly as a leader not only to the congregation but to the associate ministers. She set the standard for service amid adversity as a search for a pastor began.
- The search committee. Elected by the congregation, was composed of Deacons Nathan Wilkins, Bobby Witherspoon, Robert McCollum, Rosa Harrell, Anthony Caviness, Kenneth Dodd and Carrie Barnes. Alternate members were Deborah S. Smith and Sylvester Young. Ex -officio members were Deacons Cary McMillan, James Timmons and Sister Sonceray Montgomery.
- September 2009 – Rev Dennis Leach, Sr. was elected Pastor. His wife, also a minister is Rev. Charlotte Leach
- October 2009- The first sermon was preached on first Sunday in The Topic was “At the Table”. On that date, Rev Leach decreed three items: 1. Those who currently were referred as Evangelists would henceforth be addressed as Reverend, if they so desired. 2. The Administration Building would be dedicated to the memory of Rev. Donald L. Salley and would be known as the Rev. Donald L. Salley Administration Building. 3. The third Sunday in November 2010 would be set aside to honor Rev. Parthenia Galloway for her untiring work, dedication and faithfulness as she served as Interim Pastor. The Church’s theme became “Love, A More Excellent Way”, 1Corinthians 13.

- February 28, 2010 – Pastor Leach was officially installed as the Pastor of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church. Services were conducted by Rev. John D. Fuller, Sr and members of the Lewis Chapel Baptist Church of Fayetteville, NC.
- 2010-2018
 - Rev Shirley Timmons, Rev Sylvester Young and Rev Michelle Hudson have been licensed and ordained to preach the gospel
 - The James Shedrick Reeves, a work in Progress, Scholarship was instituted supported by donations from the congregation
 - The Health Promotions ministry was organized under the leadership of Rev. Charlotte Leach
 - The first Women Deacons were ordained (2013), Carrie Robinson and Carrie Barnes. Kenneth Dodd, Herman Cuthrell, Robert McCollum were also ordained
 - The food Bank and out Reach Ministry were reorganized
 - The Beatrice Caldwell Rorie Oratorical Contest was instituted with Master Terrez Hudson as the first winning participant
 - The honoring of Senior member of the congregation was expanded to include a Bi-monthly Senior recognition. Men are presented with an authentic tribal cane and ladies with flowers. The Senior Ministry became known as the Golden agers under the Leadership of Trustee Fred and Constance Johnson
 - Deacon Jacob Hughes set forth an appeal to set a goal paying off the mortgage on the church
 - The congregation in association with Kimberly Park Elementary School began supporting the Backpack Program. Forest Park Elementary School was incorporated in Out Reach
 - January 30, 2018 – the church mortgage was paid in full
 - July 1, 2018, the 100th Anniversary was celebrated with a mortgage burning ceremony.

Because of the Global Covid-19 pandemic, the church closed its physical in March of 2020 doors and availed itself to the use technology. Blessed with the assistance of talented members services were continued virtually on Facebook and through telephone conference lines.

This is but a brief synopsis of the history of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church. Time and space will not allow us to identify everyone who has over the last 100 years, has dedicated their services to the spiritual success of this entity. The families and friends who have labored in the vineyard and left a legacy of love, loyalty and sacrifice. Every breath is sealed in these walls. Memories tease the corners of our minds. By the grace and mercy of God we are still here. He has been our dwelling place through all generations.

