

Church History

The First Bethel Baptist Church of Capitol Heights Maryland was organized and held our initial Worship Service on Sunday, December 23, 2012 under the dynamic leadership of our beloved Pastor and Organizer, Dr. Lehman D. Bates, **GOD BLESS our SECOND ANNIVERSARY!** The initial service was held at our present location, 9171 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD with a total of 47 members. The Lord allowed us to grow and we were officially incorporated in January 2013 with a Charter Membership of 83 Members. Today we thank God for a total of 112 members. In February the church created a new bank account “new location fund” as we continue to fast, pray and be lead by the Holy Spirit to our permanent worship location.

GOD has continued to bless us as our Pastor resumed his full schedule of delivering the Gospel Message too many local and out-of state churches for their special days. The Deacon’s Ordination Service was held on Sunday, June 29, 2014 for Deacons; Dwight S. Artis, Kelvin E. Cooke, Murphy L. Hackett and John Mozon. Rhonda L. Weaver was added to the Trustee Board as Trustee-in-Training. The church added three (3) new members; Patricia A. Pearson, Willie A. Hardy, Jr. and Felicia Theus. They attended the New Members Class and received the Right Hand of Fellowship. Our Spring Revival was held April 27 – 30 with Pastor Lehman D. Bates, II evangelist; and our Fall Revival was September 21 – 24 with Pastor Anthony G. Maclin evangelist. Our first Mission Sunday was July 20th with Dr. Winston Ridley as guest preacher. The Pastor and Church Anniversary was Sunday, July 27th with guest preacher Dr. Keith Rolle. The first Church Leadership Workshop was held on Saturday, May 3rd with Dr. Milton Lewis as the presenter.

After much prayer and planning the Travel Fellowship Committee sponsored three successful church trips and outings. First to see the production of Moses in March, the First Bethel Baptist Church Cookout in Greenbelt and a Crab Feast Dinner Cruise both in July. The Drama Group sponsored their first pizza party for the youth on August 21st.

Also, the church mourned the passing of our member, Mrs. Theresa Jeffries at the age of 93 on July 14th and the passing of Deacon Arthur Tyler of FBCMH and Dr. G. Thomas Turner of Columbus, Ohio. We have supported bereaved families within and outside our church, and we continue to pray for our members that experienced the passing of their husband, father, mother, daughter, sister, brother or other close relative. We stand with you in love and prayer.

Our congregation presently supports both foreign and local missions. We were honored to donate Thanksgiving Baskets to persons and ministries on Sunday, November 23rd. The Lord also blessed us to purchase, wrap and send Christmas Gifts to children at The Joseph Francis General Hospital, St. Kitts, West Indies, who was unable to go home for Christmas. Several of our mission members attended the Women's Auxiliary Prayer Breakfast of Baptist Convention of Washington DC and Vicinity. Several members supported the Central Mission's Annual Fundraiser in DC. The growth and stability of our congregation will lead to the continual support of education, foreign and local missions, and many of the areas that our Pastor envisions, encourages and the Lord allows us to participate.

With Christ and Pastor, our church will make a difference as we spread the love and peace of God throughout the world. Done by the order of First Bethel Baptist Church, Sunday December 28, 2014,

Dr. Lehman D. Bates, Pastor

Faye Highsmith, Church Clerk