

Anniversary Celebration

35^{Year}
LEGACY
1989 2024
THE LIGHT OF HOPE

First Northeast Baptist Church “Celebrating Our Living Legacy”

April 14, 2024

10:30am Worship Experience
311 Sparkleberry Lane
Columbia, SC 29229

12:30pm Anniversary Fellowship Dinner
Spring Valley High School Cafeteria
120 Sparkleberry Lane
Columbia, SC 29229

Guest Speaker
Pastor Walter Belton

Stephen Splawn
Senior Pastor



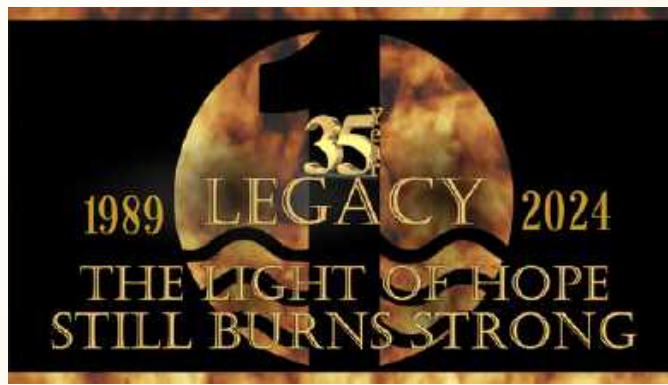


First, giving all glory and honor to our Lord and Savior, King and Redeemer, Father, Son, and Spirit, our Great God in whom salvation has been accomplished and we have been sealed by His Holy Spirit as a guarantee until the day Christ Jesus returns!

To think, in March of 2019, we celebrated 30 years, and all God has done and today we celebrate 35 years of Legacy and continued faithfulness of God. We are excited with Holy anticipation for What God has in store for our 40-year celebration and beyond!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Stephen & First Lady Jessica Splawn





Happy 35th Anniversary
First Northeast Baptist Church 🇸🇨
Pastor Stephen Shija & Deborah Pearson Masolwa

Greetings and grace to you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we celebrate 35th years of God's "Grace Root", we can truly say, "We've come this far by God's grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ". The Lord has brought us a mighty long way. Glory to His name!

This journey started a few years before in 1989, a seed was planted in the hearts of the Hinton family, the Boulware family and the Ouzts-Lawrence family to start a church in the northeast Columbia.

On behalf of the entire church, thank you and glory to God for all our founders and all who helped us along the way. On March 26, 1989, by God's grace the church was planted during the Sunday service in an Elementary School (L. B. Nelson Elementary). The original church vision was based on Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." On this Word of God, the seed of the Word of God germinated and took root in the hearts of His people, and the Church, in 1989, was born.

Thus, this celebration story is a story of God and His people, rooted and sharing the DNA of Christ (Eph. 3:17) and His Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). Consequently, the Gospel fruit is people's transformed lives. This is the story of God's grace saving people. To God be the glory!

Yes, we are ONE family of Jesus' followers, bearing spiritual fruit so that people may come to know CHRIST", to KNOW and MAKE HIM KNOWN. As we look to the future, it is important to know what we do today will have a far reaching impact of people that reaches to the utmost parts of the world to people we may never meet .As we seek to serve the Lord ,the fruit of this ministry will touch hundreds and thousands as we remain committed to Christ and His Word.

In many ways, By God's grace we have become a fruitful vine. We have entered into a season of fruitful multiplication. To God be the glory !





Walter R. Belton
LEAD PASTOR
walter@radiantcharleston.com

Pastor Walter R. Belton joined Radiant Church as the Lead Pastor on April 10, 2023. He and his wife, Sharon have been married for over 25 years and have four beautiful children.

Pastor Belton is a native of Ridgeway, South Carolina. He pursued his pastoral studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) of Atlanta, Georgia and earned his Doctorate of Theology from the Carolina College of Theology.

Pastor Belton has over 22 years of pastoral experience, beginning his pastoral career as a youth pastor at the Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Spartanburg, South Carolina. In 2004 He became the lead pastor of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Spartanburg. In June 2015 he planted the Word of Change Ministries Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Over the last ten years Pastor Belton's work in racial reconciliation among local pastors earned Him the E. A. McDowell Award which is one of the highest awards for service given by the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

His passion and burden is to love his city to life through the preaching of the Gospel and the love of Christ.



First Northeast, congratulations on 35 years of sharing the gospel and serving your community! It's our prayer that eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, nor has it entered into the mind what God has in store for you.

The Beltons





Order of Worship
April 14, 2024

Welcome	<i>Sis. Neisie Jacobs</i>
Prayer	<i>Pastor Stephen Masolwa</i>
Praise Team	<i>Songs of Praise</i>
Video Presentation	<i>Deacon James Pratt</i>
Introduction of Speaker	<i>Pastor Stephen Splawn</i>
Speaker	<i>Pastor Walter Belton</i>
Title	<i>'Leave the Light On'</i>
Text	<i>Matthew 5:13-16</i>
'Forever Flame' Presentation	<i>Deacon James Pratt</i>
Closing Remarks/Benediction	<i>Pastor Stephen Splawn</i>

Fellowship Dinner to follow at Spring Valley High School





House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

Beth Bernstein

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Committees:

Ethics - Secretary
Judiciary

April 14, 2024

Stephen Splawn, Senior Pastor
First Northeast Baptist Church
311 Sparkleberry Lane
Columbia, South Carolina 29229

Dear Pastor Splawn:

I would like to take this opportunity to offer congratulations on the commemoration of First Northeast Baptist Church's 35th Anniversary - *Legacy—The Light of Hope Still Burns Strong*, which is being celebrated on Sunday, April 14, 2024! It is a fabulous occasion to gather and give thanks for such a blessing.

Legacy—The Light of Hope Still Burns Strong celebrates 35 years of God's faithfulness to the local assembly at First Northeast Baptist Church and highlights its impact on The Woodlands' neighborhood, along with other communities in Northeast Columbia and beyond. This example of outreach and love is a beacon of hope for others as they come to understand God's love and compassion.

I know the Church has been a constant source of spiritual inspiration and place of worship for so many in our community and applaud your commitment to serving God. I know your ministry will continue to thrive and grow.

Wishing you all a beautiful day of celebration!

If I can ever be of service to you or the church family, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

With best wishes,


Beth Bernstein

BB/ss/apr3-24-1

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST NORTHEAST BAPTIST CHURCH COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

1989

A discussion between Melba Boulware, Earnestine Hinton and Sylvia Lawrence about planting the seeds for this new church in Northeast Columbia.

They approached Rev. Charles B. Jackson to provide guidance and insight on how to get started. He suggested printing flyers inviting people from surrounding neighborhoods to participate in the planting of this new Church. Rev. Jackson also suggested having Bible studies in their homes.

On March 11, 1989, our charter members, residents from the Columbia Northeast area, led by the Holy Spirit of God, came together. This was the result of a vision in the hearts of the same few people who loved the Lord and wanted to expand His Kingdom. There was deliberation over several names: Grace Baptist Church, Community Missionary Baptist Church and First Northeast Baptist Church. A final decision was made on the name: First Northeast Baptist Church.

Charter Membership List:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Avery; Dr. & Mrs. Raleigh Boulware; Mr. & Mrs. William Black;
Mr. & Mrs. John Cummings; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Diggs; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hinton;
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lawrence; Ms. Shirley Mack; Mrs. Lousie Smith;
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Stephens; Mr. & Mrs. John Tucker and Mr. & Mrs. Lee Woodbury.

The first Sunday worship service was held on March 26, 1989 at Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School, led by Reverend E.L. Sutton assisted by Reverend Edward Francis, fifty-two people attended; the first Holy Communion was administered by Reverend Eric Morris on April 2, 1989.

Church services were held at E. L.Wright Middle School and Carolina Dance Center.

The first Baptism was held at Ridgewood Baptist Church on August 27, 1989 and officiated by Reverend Ernest McClerklin.

<p>1989</p>	<p>On April 1, 1989 a public notice was filed for incorporation of The First Northeast Baptist Church as a non-profit organization. Public Notice was signed by Mr. Lee Woodbury, Dr. Raleigh Boulware, Mr. Larry Lawrence, Mr. John B. Tucker and Mr. William Black. Then, on June 25, 1989, the first election of church officers and committee members was done.</p> <p>First wedding ceremony: Tom and Renie Sanders who later had their first child born into membership. Our first home going service was also that of Mrs. Renie Sanders.</p> <p>The Proclamation Newsletter published on April 30, 1989.</p> <p>Mission & Outreach: Hurricane Hugo was a Category 4 hurricane with estimated sustained winds up to 140 mph when it came inland during the early morning hours of Sept. 22, 1989, near McClellanville, S.C.</p> <p>The church family of First Northeast Baptist Church (still in its infancy) extended relief efforts to victims of Hurricane Hugo providing food donations and other items.</p>
<p>1990 - 1994</p>	<p>Church Constitution and By-laws were approved and later ratified; the first committees formed: Program and Communications, Administration and Finance committee. Educational programs created for the Youth and a drug awareness program hosted for Adults. Choir rehearsals held at a member's home.</p> <p>There would be several ministers to lead and provide spiritual food to the congregation with the ministry of Deacons. 1989 - Deacon Willie Stephens – first Deacon.</p> <p>Second Pair of Deacons -John Tucker and Kenneth Moses Third Pair of Deacons – James Pratt and Kenneth Dodd</p> <p>Reverend Bobby Rice – the first Interim Pastor</p> <p>1st Permanent Pastor – Rev. James Brown (September, 1990) 2nd Permanent Pastor – Rev. Thomas Quick (November, 1991) 3rd Permanent Pastor – Rev. Melvin Hawkins (January, 1994)</p>

1995	<p>June, 1995 – Bought land on 311 Sparkleberry Lane.</p> <p>Minister Stephen S. Masolwa was appointed as Interim Pastor..</p> <p>October 8, 1995 – Church officially elected Stephen S. Masolwa as Pastor. Nurturing committee established to address the growth of the Church. Tape ministry was organized; the Children’s Church established.</p> <p>First families to join under Pastor Masolwa’s leadership: Kenneth Dodd, Hayward and Funneaser (Neisie) Jacobs.</p>
1996	<p>June 28, 1996 – Property loan paid off.</p> <p>June 30, 1996 - Celebration held.</p> <p>Building committee Chairs- James Pratt and Shirley Mack.</p>
1997	<p>June 15, 1997 - Building plans for the church approved. Gus Roberts and Associates selected as Architect.</p> <p>July 13, 1997 - Groundbreaking service held at 311 Sparkleberry Lane, Columbia, South Carolina – 29229</p> <p>August, 1997 – Site construction began.</p>
1998	<p>April, 1998 – Missions Program established to oversee the Church vision.</p> <p>December 13, 1998 – Building completed; First worship service held in new Church.</p> <p>Church Motto: ‘Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you’. Matthew 6:33.</p>
1999	<p>During the first ten years, addition of Deacons: John Tucker and Kenneth Moses; James Pratt and Kenneth Dodd.</p> <p>Trustees included the Charter member list to include Bill Gilcrist, James Pratt and Rudy Neal.</p> <p>Next set of trustees added: Charles Johnson, Hayward Jacobs, Richard Wilson and Welton Betts.</p> <p>Pianist and Choir Directors: Lola Green, Linda Marshall, Ralph Mills, Kevin Belton, Shirley Mack, Don Nichols and Dexter Campbell.</p> <p>First Drummer: Hayward Jacobs, III</p> <p>Faith McKie & Courtney Pratt recognized as the first recipients of ‘The Edward & Ernestine Hinton Memorial Scholarship’.</p> <p>The scholarship is named in honor of our charter ‘first family’.</p>

<p>2000 - 2002</p>	<p>Ministry Development: Board Members- added Deacons: John Cummings, Kenneth Dodd, William Maree, James Pratt, John B. Tucker and Donald Woodward.</p> <p>Trustees: Welton Betts, Raleigh (Jim) Boulware), Hayward Jacobs, Charles Johnson and Richard Wilson.</p> <p>First Northeast Baptist Church ministries: Brotherhood, Children’s Church, Cooperative Ministries, Crown, Deacons, Drama, Evangelistic Outreach, Health, HOPE, Hospital, Hospitality, Information Resources, JOY, Junior Ushers, Missions, MOVE, Music, Nurturing, Outreach/Oliver Gospel, Prison, Safety, Singles’, Shepherd’s Pantry, Sisterhood, Sunday School, Tape, Transportation, Trustees, Ushers, Young Men for Christ and Youth.</p> <p>Special Events: Adult Lock-In, Heritage History Month, Career Exposition, Church Retreat, Fall Festival, Spiritual Enrichment Week (S.E.W.), Summer Camp and Vacation Bible School.</p> <p>Special Programs: Architectural, Christmas Program, Drill Team(Male), Drill Team (Female), Easter Program, Father’s Day, Girl Scouts, Men’s Day, Mother’s Day, Retirees, Scholarship and Women’s Day.</p> <p>Leadership Growth: Deacons: Dennis Cannon, Kenneth Dodd, Raymond Jones Bobby Kemp, William Maree, Stan Nelson, Kenneth Peterson, Isaac Smith and Richard Wilson.</p>
<p>2009</p>	<p>Trustees: Raymond Bell, Welton Betts, Alric Blake, James Crawford, Hayward Jacobs, Mervin McLean and John Turton.</p> <p>March 27 – 29: Twenty Year Celebration Services – Pastor Charles Jackson, guest preacher. Followed by a combined Sunday service with Rev. Dr. Charles Young, President of Allen University, guest minister.</p>
<p>2010</p>	<p>Continuing the original vision to consecrate a building for Kingdom growth (according to God’s will). The Church voted to proceed with construction of ‘Phase II’.</p>

<p>2012</p>	<p>February 9, 2012, Church approved the Phase II construction project at a cost range of \$7.2 million - \$7.5 million.</p> <p>On November 16, 2012, we entered into a contract with CJMW Architecture to design Phase II.</p> <p>December 3, 2012 – the church closed on a \$3M loan with First Citizens Bank.</p> <p>Sis. Sheila Crawford appointed as Single Point of Contact (SPOC).</p> <p>As an integral member of the Steering Committee, Sis. Crawford served as the liaison between FNEBC Leadership and Construction Dynamics (CDC) for all communication between FNEBC and the CDC Construction Project Manager.</p> <p>This responsibility included attending weekly meetings, monitoring the construction project plan and reporting on the financial spending, communicating issues to be addressed by both entities. Bro. Glennith Johnson assisted Sis. Sheila Crawford in this effort as they reported regularly to FNEBC Leadership.</p> <p>Added Ministries: College Young Adult, Grateful Ones, Health, Jr. Usher, Marriage Enrichment, Outreach Evangelism, Prayer, Women, Senior Usher, Touch of Grace.</p>
<p>2013</p>	<p>June, 2013– Partnered with Centro Familiar Cristiano International (CFC) sharing the use of church facilities. Pastor Jaime Chacon, Pastor Israel Mojica. Signed lease agreement done in May, 2013.</p>
<p>2014</p>	<p>March 20, 2014, Contracted with Construction Dynamics, Inc. to build Phase II facility.</p> <p>May 18, 2014– A second groundbreaking ceremony– Phase II First Northeast Baptist Church.</p> <p>June 26, 2014– Richland County issued a building permit to commence construction which started on July 3, 2014.</p>
<p>2015</p>	<p>Building of His Kingdom - Phase II Main Sanctuary - weekend of November 6 – 8, 2015. Personalized memorial bricks purchased and laid in a memorial garden. The memorial garden was designed to create a unique tribute to members’ families.</p> <p>Ribbon cutting celebration.</p> <p>Dedication Services held in the Main Sanctuary.</p>

<p>2019</p>	<p>Chris Guiler and Barbara Jenkins-Reaves confirmed at the July 17, 2019 church business meeting to be added to the Trustee Ministry. Barbara Jenkins-Reaves confirmed as the first female added to the Trustee Ministry.</p> <p>The Covid 19 pandemic presented devastating challenges for churches and communities locally and globally. Pastor Masolwa appointed a task force composed of health care practitioners, trustees and members-at-large to guide the congregation through that tumultuous period.</p> <p>New Ministry added- Grief Support</p> <p>Pastor Stephen Masolwa announced retirement plans. Pastoral Search Committee formed to recruit and select a succeeding Pastor.</p>
<p>2020</p>	<p>March 15, 2020 - FNEBC last congregant gathering due to Covid 19 shutdown.</p> <p>March 22, 2020- Sunday Worship held on Facebook live only.</p> <p>March 2020- Prayer meetings and Bible studies were routed to teleconference and social media platforms that included Zoom, Freeconferencecall.com, Facebook live and YouTube.</p> <p>June 20, 2020- Due to limited in-person church attendance, a 'farewell drive-thru' held honoring Pastor Masolwa's retirement.</p> <p>Stephen Splawn was selected and approved by the members as First Northeast Baptist Church's next Senior Pastor on August 1, 2020.</p> <p>October 25, 2020 FNEBC reopened its doors to limited in-person worship.</p>
<p>2021</p>	<p>Vision Statement: We see a day when we are one family of Jesus followers who bear Spiritual Fruit so that all people will come to know Christ.</p> <p>Mission Statement: Everyone Is Making Disciples.</p> <p>Scripture Reference: Ephesians 4:4-6 <i>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.</i></p> <p>Stephen Splawn installed as the next Senior Pastor of First Northeast Baptist Church on Saturday, July 24, 2021.</p> <p>July 2021- Minister Rischard Brown added as Youth Coordinator, Sis. Launzetta Newsome added as Children's Coordinator, Sis. Jeanette Ralph added as Infant and Toddler Coordinator.</p> <p>New Ministry added- Helping Hands</p>

2022
-
Present

October 2022- First in-person Quarterly Church Business Meeting.
Reverend Howard Newsome added as FNEBC Education Pastor

Retirement Celebration held on October 28, 2022 for Pastor Stephen S. Masolwa.

January 2023- Bro. Stan Kennedy added to the Deacon Ministry.

February 2023- FNEBC approve new video security and access control for the building.

April 2023- Bro. John McCoy added to the Trustee Ministry.

Church Recap from Pastor Splawn

In the past three years, even with starting in a global pandemic, we have seen:

Over 47 professions of faith in Jesus as Savior

Over 31 baptisms, with an amazing 12 in one Sunday

Over 152 new members joining our FNE faith family

Over 75 new youth consistent and active in our Represent & First Kids' Ministries

Over 455 in worship on Good Friday and again on Resurrection Sunday

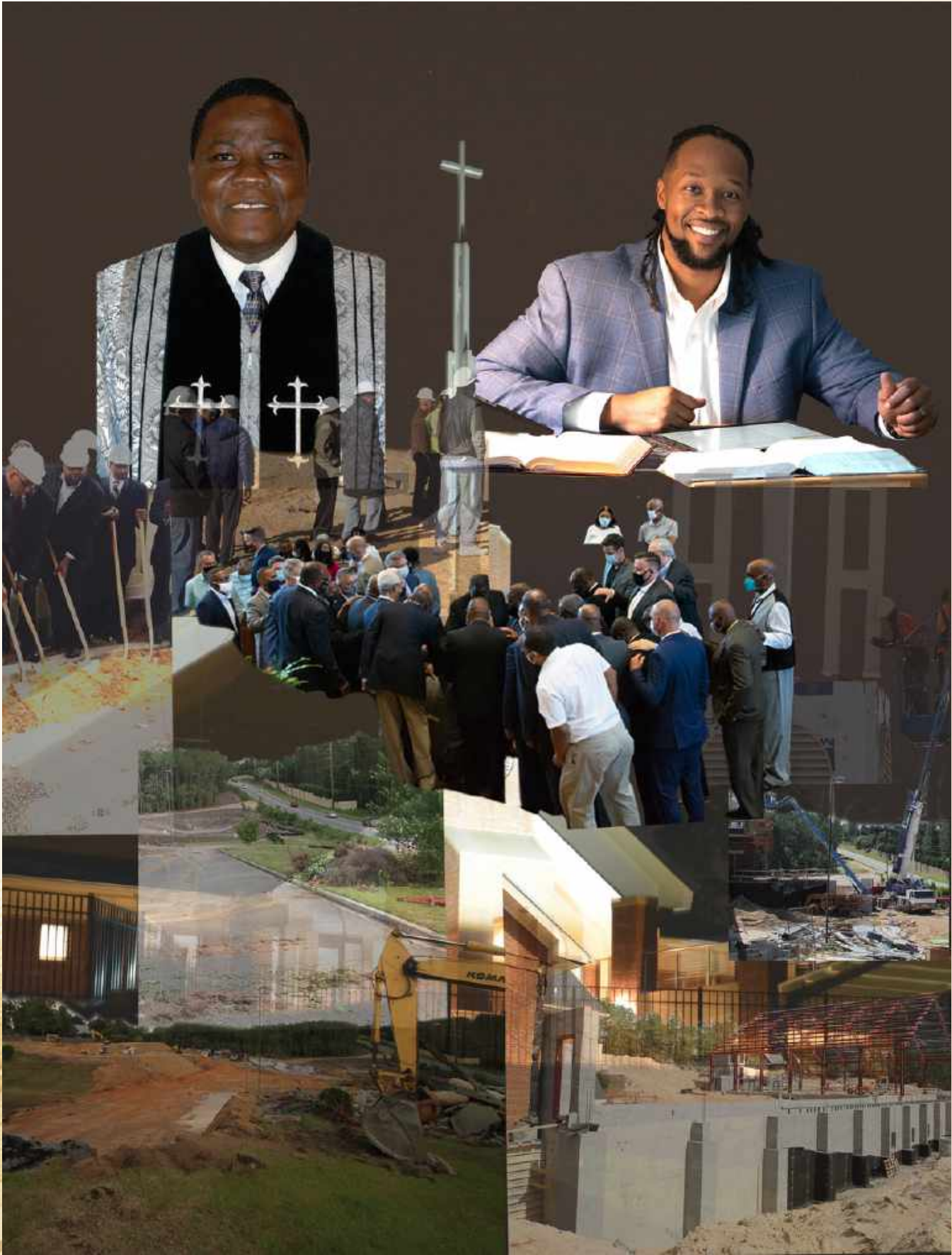
Over \$150k budget increase annually in giving with savings in spending

And it is not over yet! God is still working in magnificent ways!

April 14, 2024- Anniversary Celebration of 35 Years
Legacy: The Light Of Hope Still Burns Strong







FAITH FAMILY PLANNING TEAM

James Pratt
Anniversary Chair

Bernise Belcer	Greeters
Rischarad Brown	Youth
Ernest Brown	Support
Jackie Holman	Catering [T & F Catering, LLC]
Carolyn Howell	History Display
Rod Howell	Support
Hayward Jacobs	Support
Neisie Jacobs	Banquet Entertainment
Audra Nelson	Communications
Stan Nelson	Parking & Safety
Wanda Nelson	Decorations
James Pratt	History Display
Ronda Pratt	Decorations
Doris Smith	Decorations
Patrick Toland	Photographer, Videographer
Leola Wilson	Souvenir Program
Angela Wright	Communications, Souvenir Program

Special thank you to Sis. Carolyn Howell, Deacon James & Ronda Pratt, Angela Wright and Renee Grazette for depicting church's history with a poster display of FNEBC's timelines.

Special thank you to Bro. Patrick Toland for capturing the Charter families' interviews as they 'tell the story'.

Special thank you to Jackie Holman and Neisie Jacobs for the food and banquet reception.

Special thank you to our FNEBC Welcome Team!

Special thank you to the 35th Anniversary Planning Team.

First Lady Jessica and I would like to thank everyone for your contributions toward making our 35th Church Anniversary Celebration a resounding event.

'To God Be the Glory'!!! Grace and Peace...


Pastor Splawn



⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one⁵ Lord, one faith, one baptism;⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:4-6 NKJV

OUR VISION

We see a day when we are  family of JESUS followers who bear spiritual fruit so that all people will come to know CHRIST.

OUR MISSION

Every  is making disciples.

First Northeast Baptist Church

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10:00am to 4:00pm

Friday and Saturday CLOSED

Sunday 9am to 12:00pm

Phone: (803)736-5055

Email: FNEBC@fnebc.org





Scan for Copy of Souvenir Book

