

Church History

1900 - A group of interested Baptist Christians, who lived south of Adams Avenue and east of Decatur Street, met in a vacant building on Adams Avenue and decided that because of the difficulty in attending a church of their choice, they were going to organize a place where they could worship the Lord together. They sought the advice of the late Dr. N.N. Neeley, the Missionary of the Southeast District for the Alabama State Baptist Convention. They named the church the Peoples Baptist Church. Dr. Neeley recommended Rev. J.D. Williams as the pastor. Under the pastorate of Rev. Williams, from 1915 to 1916, the church membership reached 49.

1916-1931 - In 1916 Rev. J.D. Williams resigned and the church called the Rev. G.W. Williams, he served until 1931. The membership grew to over 200 members; Rev. G.W. Williams resigned in 1931.

1931-1933 - Rev. J.N. Hollis served the congregation for 18 months. Under his leadership the church burned the old mortgage and constructed a new wood-framed church with the most beautiful entrance. Rev. Hollis only accepted a mere \$20.00 a week for his ministerial service.

1934-1971 - Dr. H.H. Johnson was called in 1934. Three churches were built: one frame building on Hutchinson Street; a commodious brick structure on the same spot; and the present edifice on Grove Street. Dr. Johnson holds the distinction of serving longer than any other pastor in the church's history; he served untiringly and faithfully until his death on January 24, 1971. During Dr. Johnson's tenure, the church was a pivotal site for Mass Meetings during the 1955-56 Bus Protest Movement, because of this involvement; the Church was mysteriously bombed at 2:00 a.m. on January 10, 1957. Five other bombs exploded during this early hour and damaged several Churches in Black neighborhoods throughout this city.

1971-1978 - Rev. Henry Marion Steele's administration brought about significant changes and additions; programs were initiated to reach the youth and to improve the educational ministry; auxiliaries were revitalized; burning the church mortgage earlier than expected - after less than three years with the church. Rev. Steele is the son of Rev. E.K. Steele, one of the 1957 founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the first president.

1979- 2018 - On September 1, 1979, Rev. G.W.C. Richardson began his tenure at the church. Rev. Richardson implemented several programs: a tutorial program for grades K-12 with certified teachers; an evangelistic program; expanded Bible Study for children and adults; a volunteer secretarial service; expanded recreational activities for the youth and adults; a public relations department and a youth advisory committee. He ordained eight deacons 1981.

During the church's 87th year, the name was changed to Hutchinson Missionary Baptist Church. The 88th Founders' Day celebration marked the first anniversary of the completion of our new sanctuary and educational facilities, and the renovation of our old sanctuary. In the 1990s the church family reached beyond its doors to the community through efforts such as S.T.E.P. (Strategies to Elevate People), which tutored at-risk children, and a prison ministry with the Mt. Meigs Youth Facility. The church witnessed the revitalization of activities including the Youth Choir, Adult Bible Study, the creation of the Youth Church, Singles Ministry, the Family Life Ministry, and the Senior Fellowship Ministry.

In 2000, major projects were accomplished. The Church, through the Board of Trustees, was able to purchase land for the purpose of erecting a Family Life Center at some time in the future. Also, major renovations were made to the exterior and interior of the Church. The exterior of the Church was painted and received new roofing. The Church interior was painted, new pews were purchased, a new sound system was installed and other needed renovations were made. Rev. Richardson has mentored more than 150 ministers. Under this spiritual guidance the church experienced an active growth in the youth membership.

In 2008, TV One completed the **RESTORATION ROOM** (Young at Heart) on the lower level of the building. The HMBC Development Center was established and implemented on-going activities such as assisting the youth with educational opportunities through field trips and the GED Program. Several properties were donated to benefit the HMBC Development Center Project. In 2012, the church built additional parking, as well as launched the college feeding program. The Adult and Youth Praise Dance Ministry along with the Mime Ministry were established in 2013. In 2014, an Emergency Task Force Team was implemented and security cameras were installed to protect the members of the church.

Reverend Richardson retired in August 2018, due to health reasons. The church is actively seeking a new pastor for the 21st Century.

