

## CHURCH HISTORY

On a Sunday afternoon in 1892 a group of devout, dedicated Christians assembled to organize a church in Brookside, AL. We enjoy saying "They saw the light". That light led Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Lee and members of the Davis family to organize and later erect a church. Rev. Lee became the first pastor; the church was named Lee's Chapel in his honor.

Years later Rev. Lee returned to his home state to live. Rev. O.L. Gordon became the second pastor. In 1906, under the leadership of Rev. Gordon, another church building was erected in the section known as "Mississippi Hill".

The church continued to progress and years later Rev. J.J. Wills served as pastor. Rev. W.M. Coffee pastored the church for a number of years. He was followed by Rev. Walker from Alden. Rev. Walker served until his death. Rev. K.L. Adams served for many years, the church continued to grow.

Rev Phillips was pastor for several years, it was during his leadership that the church was divided, some members united with neighboring churches, some erected a tent in "Turner Town", while others stayed with the original church.

Rev. Allen Thomas came to us, things began to look brighter, the church re-united and again progress was made. Rev. Thomas served well until he was called to pastor a church in Birmingham. In 1949, God sent Rev. Frank Walker to fill the position left vacant by Rev. Thomas. With his careful guidance plans were made to move the church and re-build it at the present site. Great progress was made during the years he pastored Lee's Chapel.

Rev. W. M. Jefferson became the pastor in 1964. Rev. Jefferson, a powerful, dynamic preacher did great things at Lee's Chapel. He encouraged the members to remain united, to work hard and to finish the work started before his time. Many interior features were beautified under his leadership. In 1982 we, with God's help, completed the lower level of the church. Rev Jefferson served faithfully even after his health began to fail.

In 1989, Rev. Morrell Todd came to us as Rev. Jefferson's assistant. Rev. Jefferson was name Pastor-Emeritus in 1991 and Rev. Todd became the Pastor. He served until he was called to Pastor a church in Birmingham in 2004.

Rev. Herman Maxwell came to Lee's Chapel as ambassador in 2004. In February of 2005, he accepted the call to pastor Lee's Chapel Baptist Church. He has been a unique pastor, guiding us in love for each other; most of all, he has been a very devout spiritual leader. We have grown and are continuing to grow under his leadership. We have acquired a church van and sign. We also have a website and media ministry that streams the services LIVE Sunday and Wednesday during his tenure as pastor. +

On the First Monday in June 2011 at 5 o'clock in the morning the church caught on fire. The pastor and people watched in horror as it burned to the ground. We saw history, traditions, memories, hopes, dreams and years of working in the vineyard go up in smoke. But God is faithful who promised and we knew that He would see us through. In October, 2011 we broke ground to rebuild. Under the direction of Pastor Maxwell, the officers and our contractor, Mr. Thomas Winston, we began in May 2012 to build our new edifice after many struggles, toils and snares. On the first Sunday in March 2013 we had our Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Service with Dr. T. L. Lewis and the Bethel family. We are thankful to God for his unmerited favor and for our new place of worship. As a church following the will of God we will always "look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith to lead us to higher heights in Him. We have come this far by faith. Leaning on the Lord. Trusting in His holy Word. He's never failed us yet! Can't turn around! We've come this far by faith.