



First
Baptist Church

Main at Henry Street
Lexington, Virginia.



Rev Theodore Anthony Pastor

1867-1976

"HOPE FOR TOMORROW THROUGH-
FAITH IN CHRIST TODAY"

First Baptist Church
Main and Henry Street
Lexington, Virginia

Celebrates its

109th ANNIVERSARY

During the

BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF OUR NATION

Sunday, September 26, 1976

Guest Speaker

Rev. Artis Appling, Pastor
Union Baptist Church
7 McCullough Street
Glasgow, Virginia

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Immediately Following 3:00 p.m. Services
in Lower Auditorium

Deacon Edlow Morrison-General Chairperson
Reverend Theodore T. Anthony-Pastor

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE, BE YE THEREFORE.
REVERENT: IF YOU MUST TALK, LET IT BE WITH
GOD, IF YOU MUST WHISPER, LET IT BE A PRAYER.
10:55 A.M. September 26, 1976

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE:

OPENING HYMN:

**CALL TO WORSHIP:

PASTOR: Know you that the Lord He is God:
it is He that hath made us, and
not we ourselves.

PEOPLE: We are His people and the sheep
of His pasture.

PASTOR: Enter in to His gates with thanks
giving and into His courts with
praise.

PEOPLE: We give thanks unto Him and bless
His name: for the Lord is good.

**INVOCATION: LET US PRAY (UNISON)

Almighty God, from whom every good prayer
cometh and who pourest out on all who
desire it the spirit of grace and supp-
lication; deliver us, when we draw nigh
to Thee. From coldness of heart and wan-
derings of mind, that with steadfast
thoughts and kindled affections we may
worship Thee in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus the Christ, our Lord. Amen

**CHORAL RESPONSE: Spirit Of The Living God

***INTERLUDE

**HYMN OF PRAISE: Stand Up For Jesus

**RESPONSIVE READING:

***INTERLUDE

SCRIPTURE:

MORNING PRAYER: Deacon Edlow Morrison

RESPONSE: O God Our Help

***HYMN OF CONSECRATION:

WELCOME TO VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mrs. Alice Moore

OFFERTORY SENTENCE:

"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; bring an offering and come before Him. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." I Chron. 16:29

OFFERING

OFFERTORY BLESSING:

**DOXOLOGY: I'll Walk With God

Selected Music

PERIOD OF MEDITATION: Deaconess E. Johnson

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (UNISON)

"Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

HYMN: Wherever He Leads I'll Go

SERMON:

**INVITATIONAL HYMN: 264-I Surrender All

**CLOSING HYMN: Blest Be The Tie

**BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE

END OF WORSHIP.....BEGINNING OF SERVICE

**CONGREGATION standing.

***DOORS ARE OPENED for late comers.

Please join in singing the hymns.

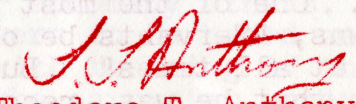
"BE STEADFAST, ENDURE THE TASK"

As America celebrates its bicentennial birthday, let us pause to thank God for the Christian pioneers who gave birth to our Church which has perpetuated for one-hundred nine years.

Jesus once said, a man ought to count the cost of a venture before launching it, or shame may come upon him when his efforts have ended in failure. But the beginnings we make in Christ have no failures because He is the supplier of our needs as well as our advisor and we shall not lack spiritual power as long as we look to Him for Leadership and guidance.

When we make our plans, center them in His will. When we desire to be successful, take it to Him in prayer. When we work, work with Him and we will never be alone. For as we work in His name, Christ's heeding voice will say, "I am the shepherd, the door, the resurrection, the way, the truth and the life." Just listen for His still small voice and know that He is with you as you pursue your task.

May this day be for each of us, a time for reflection, prayer and rededication to service.



Theodore T. Anthony
Pastor

CHURCH HISTORY
1867-1976

The organization of the First Baptist Church of Lexington, Virginia, was the bringing to life, of a beautiful dream, charged with prayer, hope, faith and an all consuming desire to carry out the very commandment of God Himself. And today we find ourselves reflecting on the days before the Civil War period. In all sections of the South, there were some slaves who were granted a few more privileges than others. This was true in Lexington: Hence some of the early slaves, living in Baptist homes, found themselves visiting the Baptist Church. These Churches were of course, owned and supported by the masters of the slaves. So great was the need of the Negro for a Church and so all consuming was his desire to learn more of Him who loved slave and master alike...that the masters knew that this was a desire that burned so fervently in the breast of the slaves that it could not be suppressed. As a result the White Baptist Church organized a slave branch of the church, which was under the strict supervision of the parent Church. The parent Church, therefore took full advantage of its authority and planned and selected, most carefully, the scripture readings and other proceedings of the slave branch. One of the most popular texts selected was, "Servants be obedient to your Master at all times", But the slave, child of God, that he was, recognized the true fact that, God alone was the only master to whom he must pledge allegiance with his soul, a soul apart from the work worn body, that must be forever free to soar to heights un-

CHURCH HISTORY
1867-1976

known in search of the supreme Master, the true Friend, the everlasting God. Loyal to his master, yes but loyal, true and in constant search of He who would some day cause him to "lay down his heavy load".

During these days the Church was located in the same building as the parsonage, however it grew to such heights that a larger building was needed in which to house these stalwart servants of God. The late Dr. David Humbles was the first to give toward the building of a larger edifice. Those courageous souls who joined in the crusade for this cause were: David Humbles, Richard Osborne, Robert Price, Harvey Harper, Jeff Shields, Hugh Harvey, Joe Edmonson, Phillip Pryor and Lylburn Downing

These men after completing their day's work in each walk of life, would gather at the "church" and proceed with the digging of the foundation...without the help of electric lights and tired though they were; the burning desire to have their church, spurred them to work with a strength, that only God Himself could supply. And the women of the Church were ever by their sides, to hold the lanterns as they worked and offered unlimited encouragement. There was Jane Mc Nutt, Fannie Payne, Cuteea Pryor and many others. There were fervent prayers to be heard as they seemed to mingle with the ring of the hammer of Dick Jones, the carpenter..prayers and song, and the ring of the hammer that seemed to echo and sound to heaven itself.

This body of worshippers were known as the Black Baptist, because they were determined to serve God in their own way.

CHURCH HISTORY
1867-1976

And so in 1867, the Negro members, were granted letters of dismission to organize a church of their own, which took effect September 22, 1867, as the Lexington African Baptist Church.

We have come a long way, from worshipping in the church of the masters, worshipping in a tiny structure, yes even serving our God in an old tobacco house, made of logs with dirt floor, humble, though courageous the group pushed onward, ever onward and we with just pride and gratitude say that it was truly, "five score and nine years ago," that our fathers planned wiser than they realized when they persisted in the face of every imaginable obstacle to bring into a reality the ever illusive dream.

As our country celebrates its bicentennial we should be aware of the fact that we have begun our second century of fulfilling the dream our great fore fathers had for this church. Ours is a great heritage, ours is still a great challenge; we should be grateful for this noble heritage and prayerfully accept the challenge. For our only hope for tomorrow is through our faith in Christ today.

Jannie Good

MINISTERS

- Rev. Milton Smith 1867-1872
- Rev. G. E. Elliot 1872-1875
- Rev. T. T. Jackson 1875-1880
- Rev. S. B. Howard 1880-1885
- Rev. W. M. Troy 1885-1886
- Rev. J. L. Barksdale 1886-1889
- Rev. W. M. Moss 1889-1893
- Rev. W. I. Johnson 1893-1902
- Rev. J. W. Lucas 1906-1906
- Rev. J. Carruthers 1907-1908
- Rev. J. W. Tynes 1909-1912
- Rev. J. A. Brinkley 1912-1915
- Rev. S. A. Thurston 1915-1920
- Rev. N. J. Gonsalves 1920-1927
- Rev. P. W. Cook 1927-1930*
- Rev. C. O. Mitchell 1937-1947*
- Rev. E. L. Green 1947-1952
- Rev. Peter G. Crawford 1952-1954
- Rev. John Cooper 1955-1958
- Rev. Virgil Simms 1958-1962
- Rev. C. M. Cofield 1963-1967
- Rev. John E. Trotman 1967-1969
- Rev. Lutrelle D. Rainey 1972-1974
- Rev. Theodore T. Anthony 1975

* J. W. Goodgame

3:00 P. M. Service

Mrs. Mary C. Lewis, Presiding

CALL TO WORSHIP: Mrs. Mary Lewis

LEADER: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PEOPLE: This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven.

LEADER: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.

PEOPLE: For the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Amen

INVOCATION: LET US PRAY (UNISON)
Almighty God, author of eternal light; illumine our hearts by the light of thy grace, that our lips may praise thee, that our lives may bless thee, that our worship may glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

SCRIPTURE:

PRAYER: Mr. Hugh E. Johnson, Jr.

RESPONSE: Thank You Lord

HYMN: If I Can Help Somebody

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER: Mrs. Alice Moore

HYMN: King Jesus Will Roll All Burdens Away

GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Artis Appling

INVITATIONAL HYMN: Oh, Lord Have Mercy

OFFERING: Deacons Lyle and Johnson

REMARKS: Dea. Morrison-Rev. Appling-Rev. Anthony

CLOSING HYMN: God Be With You

BENEDICTION: Rev. Appling

DEDICATION

It is with deep gratitude and great pride that we dedicate this Anniversary Program to the following:

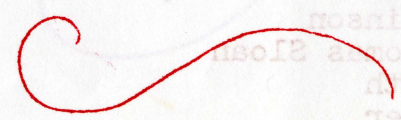
- Mr. Forest Beal
- Mr. Harry Kenney
- Mr. Ashby Alexander
- Mr. Nathan Morrison
- Mrs. Pauline Morrison
- Mrs. Mary Atkinson
- Mrs. Elizabeth Wright
- Mrs. Mae Etta Alexander

Who have refused to be invisible. Persons who are made of substance, of flesh and bone-and whom indeed possess the spirit.

These remind us always, that faith in Christ, is our only hope for tomorrow!

PATRON'S LIST

- Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lewis
- Ms. Laura E. Watts
- Mrs. Nannie Wood
- Mrs. Felicia W. Turner



PATRON'S LIST

Mr. and Mrs. Ashby Alexander
 Ms. Bertisdean Alexander
 Ms. Jane Alexander
 Ms. Mae Etta Alexander
 Mr. J. Arnold Anthony
 Master T. Kesmaer Anthony
 Mrs. Kinikia Anthony
 Mrs. Nannie Anthony
 Rev. Theodore T. Anthony
 Mrs. Mary R. Atkinson
 Mrs. Susie Barbour
 Mr. and Mrs. Percy Blackburn, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Brooks
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Butler
 Mrs. Elizabeth Caulbert
 Mr. Walter Gilliam
 Mrs. Waltina H. Gilliam
 Ms. Anita Johnson
 Mr. Edwin Johnson
 Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Johnson, Sr.
 Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Johnson, Jr.
 Mr. John S. Johnson
 Mrs. Eva Jones

Mrs. Sarah Lee
 Mrs. Lucretia Liggins
 Mr. Ollie Logan
 Mrs. Amanda Lyle
 Mr. W. C. Lyle
 Mrs. Kanzie Marshall
 Mr. and Mrs. James Mills
 Mr. and Mrs. Edlow Morrison
 Mrs. Bessie Nicholas
 The Shedrick Nicholas Family
 Mrs. Lillie Robinson
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sloan
 Mrs. Willie Smith
 Mrs. Alice Walker
 Mr. J. W. Washington

"IN CHRISTIAN TEAMWORK"

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Eloise Johnson-Exec. Sec't.*
 Shedrick Nicholas
 Colton Gill
 Reid Colbert

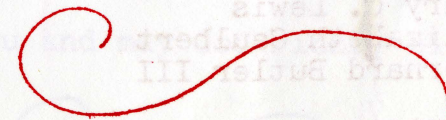
FINANCE COMMITTEE

W. C. Lyle*
 Laura Etta Rucker
 D. W. Mc Cutcheon
 H. E. Johnson, Sr.
 Prentiss Green

FOOD COMMITTEE

Bessie Nicholas*
 Clara Keller
 Alice Sloan
 Justine Johnson
 Louise Johnson
 Edwin Johnson
 James Brown, Jr.
 Jane Alexander

Chairperson of Committee*



"IN CHRISTIAN TEAMWORK"

FELLOWSHIP HOUR COMMITTEE

Nannie Wood*
Marie Kenney
Sarah Colbert
Lucy Jordan
Carrie Green
Vera Merchant

DECORATION COMMITTEE

Virginia Brown*
Leisley Butler
Constance Woodford
Jean Thomas
Ella White
Nora Lewis

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Felicia Turner*
Alfred Pleasants
Caldwell Lewis
Katherine Waller

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Elvia Brooks
Brenda Miller
Mary C. Lewis
Elizabeth Caulbert
Bernard Butler III

CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of all persons and committees whose aid made this program possible. Together we have labored and rightfully, each of us deserve words of commendation and recognition.

You have given time, talent, goods, well wishes and prayerful self-dedication to this effort. Unstintingly we have given our best. Now, we are finishing this task and must turn our attention to other great works.

We will always keep our hands in God's hand, because our hope for tomorrow constantly remains in the faith we have found in Christ today!

Thank you and may God richly bless you.

